

**SARMIZEGETUSA - HISTORICAL VALUE AND TOURIST  
ATTRACTION (PART I)**

**SARMIZEGETUSA, VALOARE ISTORIC I ATRAC IE  
TURISTIC (PARTEA I)**

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***Abstract:** Having regard to a sociologic research, this paper makes an analysis of the opinions those tourists which visited the vestiges of Sarmisegetusa in the month of July 2009.*

***Key words:** tourism, historic relics, tourist objectives, cordial reception, values and approaches*

**GEOGRAPHIC LANDMARKS**

Colonia Ulpia Traiana Augusta Dacica Sarmizegetusa - the capital of Roman Dacia – was built in the foothills Retezat Mountains in the south-western part of the present Hateg Country, being placed at 8 km away from the gorge that connects the and Transylvania, who was called Topae in in the ancient times, today called the Iron Gates of Transylvania. The Dacian site contained in the tourist circuit of Hunedoara County, is the most important objective in the area.

The distance from major cities in the area: 55 km east of Caransebes, 18 km west of Hateg, 40 km south-east of Hunedoara. The interesting tourist objectives are the following ones: Daco-Roman Ruins, Amphitheater For, the Archaeological Museum.

**PRONUNCIATION AND DESCRIPTION**

It is not known how the Dacians used to pronounce it and certainly its meaning. Both Constantin Daicoviciu in his *Ulpia Traiana* and Liviu

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M rghitan in *The Geto-Dacian civilization* present the theory of Professor Ioan I. Russu (in the Thracian-Dacians language, chap. 5) which assumes that the name is composed of two basic elements: *zermi* (rock , height) and *zeget* (stockade, fortress), from the Indo-European \* *gegh-* 'branch, pole (for stockade), ending with a determinative and given meaning of "Fortress on the rock", " High City ", "Castle with stockade (built) on heights (or rock). Since at the beginning Sarmizegetusa was not a military fortification, but a civil and religious location, the etymology should be considered with certain reservations. It may be that the name shows the sanctity of the place, or that it was a regal city originally.

Another theory says that the name would mean "the settlement of Sarmatians and Dacians" deriving from the Latin terms of: Sarmis et Getusa; nevertheless, Vasile Parvan rejected this hypothesis, showing that the Sarmatians began to enter the Getic territory only after Trajan age and the name capital was much older. Parvan proposed to read *Sarmiz-egetusa* as meaning " Sarmos'Egetusa" or "Zarmos", indicating that *Zarmos / Zermos* was a well-known Thracian name quoted by the Austrian researcher (Czech ethnic) William Tomaschek in his standard work called *The Ancient Thracians*, an ethnological study. Parvan's opinion was shared by the Bulgarian scientist Dimitar Decev expert in Thracology, which brought into question the personal names of Lycia (Licia) *Zermounsis*, *Ro-zarmas*, *Get zarmas*, *Troko-Zarmas* and Thracian version based on *Zermos*, *Xermo - sigestos* or *Zermo-sigestos*.

The Dacian capital reached its peak under Decebal king, defeated by the Roman Empire during his reign, led by Trajan Emperor. After the defeat of the Dacians, the conquerors established a military garrison there and began to demolish the city. The new Roman capital called Colonia Augusta Traiana Ulpia Dacica Sarmizegetusa was built at a distance of 40 km of *Sarmizegetusa Regia*.

Emperor Hadrian wanted that the new capital built by Trajan to be seen as a continuation of the Dacian one, and therefore he added the name of Sarmizegetusa. Today, the village called Sarmizegetusa is on the place of Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa.

The tourist attraction exerted by the vestiges found within the territory of Sarmizegetusa village has raised the interest for a sociological research with respect to the opinions of tourists which are visiting the area and on the local concerns on the preservation of the historic remains.

The survey was conducted in the month of July 2009: 214 tourists were interviewed, 57.5% female and 42.5% male (Figure no. 1).

Figure no. 1 (%)

**Structure of subjects according to their sex**

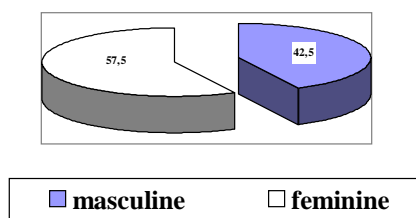
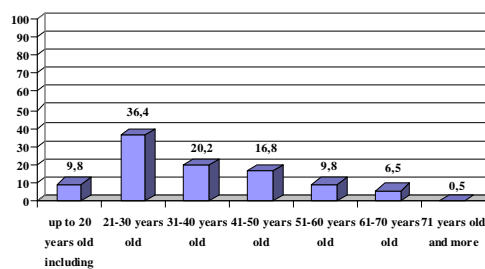


Figure 2 shows the structure of the investigated group of persons by different age categories; it can be noticed that most tourists are in the age category of 21-30 years old. Moreover, young people and adults up to 40 years weigh a share of two thirds of the total.

Figure no. 2 (%)

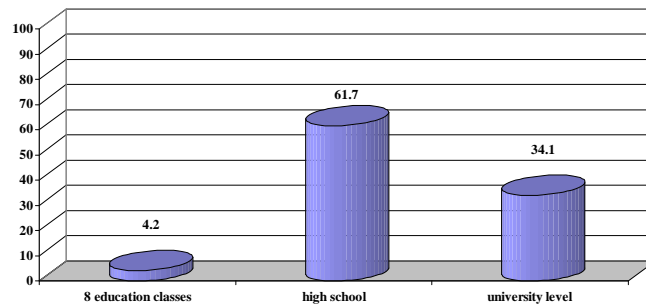
**Structure of subjects according to different age categories**



The education level of the questioned persons is a high one; only an insignificant part of them having only primary education.

Figure no. 3 (%)

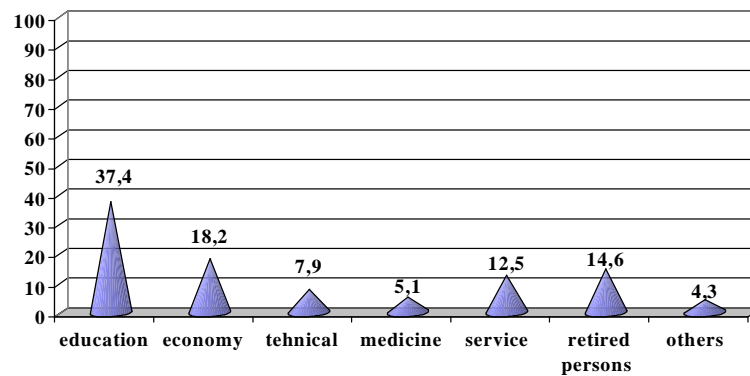
**Structure according to the education level**



The overwhelming majority of tourists are active people, most - more than one third - working in education, only about 15% being retired (Figure no. 4).

Figure no. 4 (%)

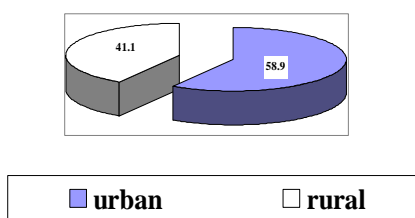
**Structure according to professional / occupation domain**



Regarding environment these tourists come, surprisingly, the situation is relatively balanced, the rural persons holding 41% (Figure no. 5).

Figure no. 5 (%)

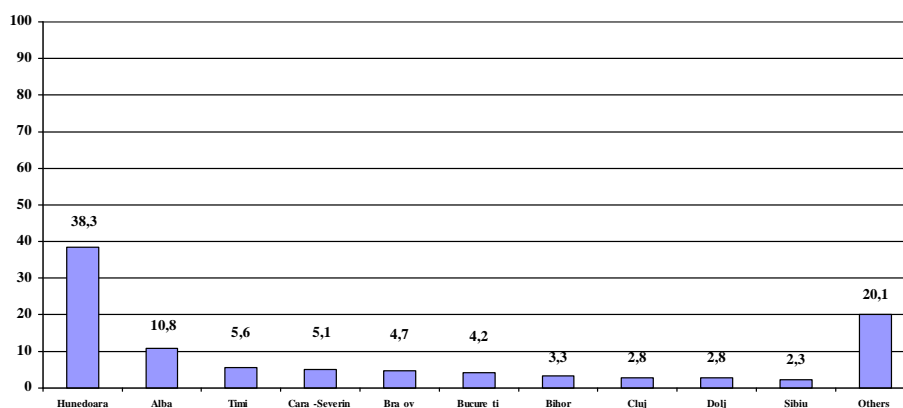
**Place of origin**



It is normal for most tourists come from Hunedoara County, following the neighboring counties or those slightly farther such as Alba, Timis, Caras-Severin (Figure no. 6).

Figure no. 6 (%)

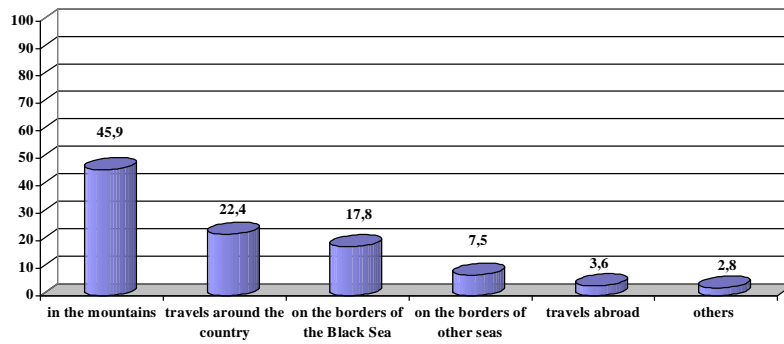
**Residence counties of subjects (the first 10 counties)**



The interviewed tourists agree mainly with spend their holiday / vacation in the mountains or travel around the country (Figure 7.).

Figure no. 7 (%)

**How to spend holiday / vacation**



**REFERENCES**

1. [http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarmizegetusa\\_Regia](http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarmizegetusa_Regia)