

LANDMARKS OF ROMANIAN SOCIOLOGY – SOCIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE BANAT-CRIȘANA

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ABSTRACT: *The direct research of the reality of society, which includes all the frameworks and manifestations of social life, the finding and interpretation of facts, is the science of sociology. Since sociology is the science of social reality, and social reality is made up of social units, it is only necessary to research in detail, in full, as much as possible the existing social units.*

In order to carry out this study, from a methodological point of view, a method of qualitative research, of document analysis was approached. In this sense, we will access the following sources: critical monographs of the Banat Cri ana Social Institute, the issues of the magazines of the Banat Cri ana Social Institute, the consultation of the specialized publications within the central university library Eugen Todoran Timișoara.

The case study contains summaries and essential ideas noted and specified after consulting the issues of the Institute's Banat magazine.

Keywords: *Banat; interculturality; social life; social life; minorities;*

The Banat-Crișana Social Institute is one of the strongholds of the Romanian intellectuals in Banat, through the creation of which some of Banat's problems were raised at national level, reaching to be debated by the entire press of the Capital, as well as in the Councils of Ministers. It is clear that the genesis of the Institute lies in the interest in the issue of minorities that Europe does not manage properly, in the opinion of C. Groșoreanu (lawyer, publicist and journalist, sociologist, mayor of Timișoara, prefect of Timiș-Torontal, deputy and founder of Banat sociological current), and Romania was committing gross errors in this regard.

First of all, towards her own minority, which she not only did not help, but also was not willing to create the necessary tools to know the situation, and the danger was huge at the western border of the country, for the young Romanian state unable to and inventory problems.

"If the state itself is not willing to set up such tools that, very sensitive, to scientifically report the problems, then civil

society, intellectuals must do it. Once the sensors are created, the collected ones, interpreted by specialists, will be presented to those who make the decisions, to the political class obliged to solve them" says C. Groșoreanu, (1932, p.50) aware of the need to create a political organization to defend interests Romanians.

The results of the research activity carried out under the aegis of this Institution, published in the pages of the journals it founded and led, stimulated the interest of the Romanian intellectuals to investigate the social reality, determining the creation of research associations and institutions, scientifically and morally supported by D. Gusti.

In the pages of this magazine, we find in detail the nature and particularities of communication between different structures or social segments, the relationships between individuals, groups, and the activity and social interest plans of that period, divided into fields: political science, economics, sociology, law, science, history, culture, education and politics.

The objectives of this study are the following: identifying the role and influence of the Banat-Crișana Social Institute; identifying the social problems and the dimensions of the existing social reality among the Romanian population; identifying ways and strategies to resolve existing social situations; identifying the efficiency of the implemented measures.

The orientation towards historical research in general, and that of Banat in particular, was a permanence of the journal's activity, which was accentuated during the Second World War, in order to mirror the life of the local population. Starting with the June-August 1943 issue, the magazine

On the whole journal, the share of sociology studies and articles from the total published ones is 52%, highlighting more conclusively the sociological profile of the journal, than the one reported from the number of published pages. The annual average is 13 articles, but this is exceeded in the years in which the results of the monographic research of the Institute were published.

From a structural thematic point of view, in the 13 years of publication of the journal, 262 units of analysis and 300 thematic units were identified (statistical data also highlight the structure of the sociological material of the journal - figure 1).

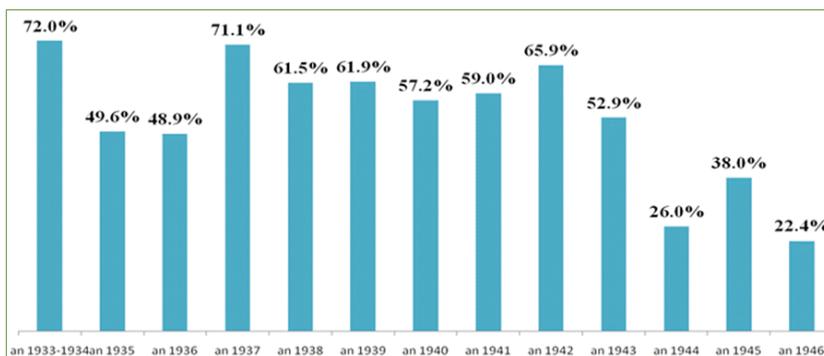


Fig.1. The share of sociology pages in the total published pages

appeared alternately, as a historical bulletin and as a sociological bulletin.

The issues of the magazine also included many articles of cultural, political and economic debates that sought to highlight the "cultural Banatism" (Miu-Lierca, 1938).

The basic concern of the magazine is the social unit: the family, the school, the church, the court, but especially the village. The structure and social dynamics are captured in the monographs in four sub-themes, namely: the level of socio-economic, political and

Table 1. Distribution of the thematic units of the magazine

Thematic units	Nr. unity
Social units Social structure and dynamics	104
Social structure and dynamics	87
Theories on society	57
Socialization, communication and culture	27
Normative system, organization and management	16

cultural development of Banat; the issue of minorities; the problems of the depopulation of Banat and the problem of the urbanization of the peasant and of the Romanian village.

One of the priority tasks assumed by the Institute was "thorough examination of Banat in order to inventory all existing human and material resources", and the first conclusion was that of the superiority of the minority ethnic element in economic activities, but also in the management of economic life. Stoicănescu (1936) makes a nominal presentation of the entire staff of the enterprises in the county in order to highlight these aspects.

The Banat-Crișana Social Institute started its activity in 1932, with a handful of intellectuals from Timișoara, setting from the beginning a program of activity born from the very realities of the Banat villages. As a working technique, the bunch of enthusiasts accepted the monographic method of Professor D. Guțiu, experimentally useful by the Romanian Social Institute in Bucharest, offering along with the collected observations and remedies that they thought were welcome in the hands of the administrative leadership in Banat .

The monographic campaigns, carried out over several summers, resolved issues of provincial and national interest. We list some of the most complex: the problem of depopulation of Banat, the health and economic situation of the peasant, the problem of floods in Banat and its solution, political, cultural and legal unification.

I. S. B. C. came to pose specific and burning sociological problems for Banat. Thus, in the hierarchical order of their importance, the first and most capital sociological problem for Banat was reached, that of depopulation, treated with great competence by the distinguished specialist in the matter, dr. Iosif Nemoianu, then the problem of denationalization (Serbianization). of some regions from Banat (Valea Clisurei), to the problem of urbanization and industrialization of the Banat peasant" (Boțiș

1942, 35-45).

These concerns brought with them a multitude of monographic surveys which also followed the behavior of the rural population in contact with large industry, namely: whether the Romanian peasant urbanizes, proletarianizes or remains related to agriculture, if it can be at the same time and industrial worker and farmer through a family farm.

"A Romanian scientific prophylaxis service had to respond to foreign journalistic events, with a range of action on our entire border. This role of legitimately defending a border, discussed by opponents under the guise of science but not with respect for scientific truths, was assumed by the Banat-Crișana Social Institute" (Negru, 1942)

The entire activity of the members of the Institute was carried out out of a sense of idealism and patriotism, receiving no remuneration for their work. The monographers of the Banat Crișana Social Institute (Topliceanu, 1934, 90-93) were not limited to research. They participated directly in informing and guiding people on various issues, by moving teams of professionals and holding conferences on various topics such as:

- in Belinț between 15.08.1934 - 02.09.1934 celebrated the weddings of 21 couples of young and old, who until then, lived in cohabitation (the institute was the godfather, because these weddings were made on the advice of monographers);
- prof. Dr. Aurel Contrea spoke about the rational production of potatoes - this being the main occupation of Belinț en (within the monograph of Belinț);
- prof. Emil Mihai spoke to them about the importance of cooperatives;
- dr. C. Grofșoreanu held a meeting with the intellectuals and the most important inhabitants of the village, for the establishment of a "National House", which will be named King Carol II;
- dr. Isaia Popa spoke to people about tuberculosis - defense tips;

- dr. Virgil Popovici discussed the results of his research on how people understand to treat eye diseases;
- dr. Maria Popovici gave advice to women about their intimate life;
- dr. Augustin Maier debated topics related to sex life and sexually transmitted diseases;
- inv. M. Bucătura spoke to them about the national port;
- prof. L. Antilh on the importance of school;
- ing. Major methods of eradication of pests in agriculture;
- dr. Ilie Radu about the national idea;
- dr. Iosif Nemoianu gave advice to the peasants on how they can protect their children from dysentery;
- national-cultural discourses were held: Romanians' rights over the lands of Banat; The church in the service of the national idea; Monuments of church art in Banat; The social movements of Romanians in Banat and Transylvania in the past; Village and town; Horia's revolution;
- medical advice: child care; women's hygiene; Tuberculosis; Syphilis and marriage; venereal diseases; Eye hygiene; house hygiene; Large families and birth rates;
- talked to them about economics: conversion; the causes of the economic crisis; rationalization of agriculture; the causes of alcoholism;
- educational advice on: Raising and educating children; Parental care in children's education;

Since 1930 (Birăescu, 1942, 22-60) measures were taken for a methodical assistance of the unemployed, at the same time measures were taken for the creation of popular canteens, and for the preventive fight against unemployment it was decided to initiate the execution several public works, thus giving them a job. Food depots were also set up, where families of three

unemployed members received food on a weekly basis. Thus, the issue of social assistance and protection from state bodies also stimulated the private initiative and not only stimulated it, but also changed the citizen's conception of his duties towards his peers. Thus, in Timișoara (1941) there were 70 Institutions of assistance and social protection, both state and private.

The municipal administration of Timișoara, proving that the school must be a generator of civilization and upliftment and wanting to correct the conditions of mental development of children from the oppressed classes of workers, organized summer camps. Thus, in 1929, he organized his own colony in Balcic, which housed 200 children every year during the holiday months in two series of one month each.

In 1936, he founded the colony from Poiana-Mărului, a real castle, with a reading room, infirmary and living spaces for the related staff.

Regarding the constructions in Timișoara, between the years 1900-1920, 1629 houses were built under the Hungarian regime, while under the Romanian regime, between 1920-1940, 5689 houses. During the same period, of the Romanian regime, 200 families with lots of houses were owned in Timișoara.

The length of operation of the tram lines in 1900 was 9,516 km, in 1920 it was 10,877 km, and in 1940 it had reached 18,846 km, doubling in 20 years (1920-1940).

Ana Percea (1938), highlights the importance of setting up a women's protection center in general, in order to protect women living in cities in Timișoara, especially those from rural areas to earn a living in factories, workshops and in the service of some families. This institution was named "Center for the Protection of Women" having, after completing the legal formalities, all the rights of legal entities. The purpose of this institution, in the organization and maintenance of which all local authorities and public institutions collaborated, was to supervise and guide the social life of

homeless women and girls in the cities of Timi County, in order to protect them from dangers, to take care of their placement in the master, to fight vagrancy, prostitution and social diseases, and last but not least to take care of their professional training. (32-35)

On October 15, 1933, the section of Romanian workers, merchants and craftsmen was established, with the intention of coming to support the working classes in the cities, which are economically and socially and culturally inferior to ethnic minorities.

In the meeting of November 2, 1934, it was decided to set up a women's subsection, being aware of the role of women in society and studying its specific problems, in order to guide research towards its integration into social activities.

The first maid dormitory in Timișoara (a city with the most maids after Bucharest) came into operation on October 15, 1934. Thus it was possible to keep records and control over this category of workers, who were medically examined. they procured identity documents, their antecedents were established, they were also given professional training and last but not least moral education and hygiene and cleaning lessons (Fischer, 1938, 23-35).

In conclusion, Nicolae L. Fischer (1938, 23-35) stated that, in addition to the huge role of social prophylaxis of the Institute, protection and guidance of maids, it also solves the problem of maids (which has become a major urban problem plan at that time), their lack of professional training, determining their orientation towards other professions, entering factories where they occupied the jobs of girls in the city, or worse becoming prostitutes (creating cities a parasitic overcrowding, vagrants, sick, with which the city spent considerable sums). Thus the Institute created a new generation of maids, well prepared, with multiple placement possibilities and consequently this occupation being considered honorable, like any other profession.

C. Stoicănescu (1936), reminds about apprenticeship schools and communal dormitories, in which boys learn various trades in order to become craftsmen, industrialists, traders, specialized in order to enter the field of work. (21-31)

In order to fight social diseases, at the beginning the "Romanian regime" established the Polyclinic Ambulance, the first hygiene laboratory, thus starting and modernizing the dispensary beginnings and increasing their number, and last but not least the creation of a systematic service of nurses (qualified staff through thorough studies). (Birăescu, 1942, 22-60)

In addition to the numerous monographs and field research through which they managed to capture a study of all frameworks (economic, social, psychological, political, historical.)

Historical publications in the journal of the Banat-Crișana Social Institute managed to paint a much clearer picture. regarding the historical past of Banat.

C. Miu Lierca (1938 p16-36) recounts some important moments from the cultural past of Banat, highlighting the positive aspects of the period of minority domination, namely:

- In Timișoara, the compulsory smallpox vaccination was started in 1801. In the city archives there are registers solidly bound in leather in large volumes, completed with great accuracy. It is assumed that the first vaccination was made on the entire territory of the Habsburg monarchy (Dr. Leonte Munteanu).

- Also in Oravița, the oldest stable theater in the former Hungary was built. Already after the reconquest of Banat, in 1756 the officials from Oravița arranged seats in which itinerant theatrical troupes of German nationality also participated. From these cultural movements the idea of establishing a stable theater crystallized, finished in 1817. In Lugoj, the headquarters of Caraș-Severin county, a stable theater was also established in 1836.

• Another interesting phenomenon can be deduced from the fact that, in Timișoara, the first telephone exchange was introduced in 1881, although in Vienna it was introduced only a year before, ie in 1880.

• In 1869, communal trams were installed in Timișoara.

• In 1882, electric lighting was introduced.

The city of Timișoara was the first on the European continent, whose streets were lost, on the extension of the city, with the help of electricity. The installation that served this purpose was built by International Electric Co. Lim. based on the contract concluded on December 15, 1882 in Vienna, between the commune of Timișoara and the Anglo-Austrian Brush company".

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