

Greater Arad Planned. Access to Structure Funds of the EU Easier

In the Banater Zeitung (weekly insert of the ADZ) from August 16, 2006, a report (with a photo by Zoltán Pázmány) appeared about plans for the future for our, 170,000 inhabitants in size nowadays, district city Arad. The text is passed on here for information.

The European Union demands projects beyond the local borders; above all conurbations and cities are demanded for strategic reasons. For one, the expansion of the cities is able to be planned for the long term; for another, small projects are consequently prevented from being tackled which on no account coincide with the general interest.

The Mayor of Arad, GHEORGHE FALCA, probably also acted in this spirit when he recently suggested that the Arad District administrative headquarters and eight other communities should really soon constitute Greater Arad. Such a project of merger, but with independent administration, also makes the new structure in a conurbation palatable to the neighboring communities, since the rumor always goes around in such villages that the cities want to dissolve and annex the communities. Above all then, such aspects ensure plenty of irritations if it goes around communities in which true residential suburbs have formed and also investors have not stayed far away.

Glogowatz/Vladimirescu, Engelsbrunn/Fântânele, Saderlach/Zădăreni, Segenthau/Şagu, Şofronea, Zimand and Fakert/Livada are the communities which, according to the Mayor of Arad Falca, would come in question to set up a so-called metropolitan zone. This would have no negative effect on the communities since neither mayors nor local councils would be abolished. But they would be part of the new conurbation and have a status similar to the case in the districts of the capital Bucharest.

It is a fact that the City of Arad would grow by another 50,000 hectare¹ in the new dimension, and the individual communities could thus get hold of EU funds more easily. To be able to have structure funds of the European Union at one's disposal, local amounts² are necessary which, however, hardly one of the communities in the outskirts of the City of Arad is able to raise. Compensations on the part of the city also can only be reached in a well-ordered framework which, according to Gheorghe Falca, is only possible via the planned merger of the communities.

This offer actually is not entirely new since our hometowns and other villages near the city were already incorporated (i.e. into comună suburbană)³ for more than thirty years, however were able to keep their own administration. Now it is expected that seven communities immediately get a new status in association with the district city, which certainly will lead to considerable investments and thereby to the buildup of these localities.

In this spirit, cooperation of the hometowns in mutual interest, via the respective hometown associations with the resettled German inhabitants, would

¹ 123,500 acres, 193 square miles.

² Of money

³ Suburban commune

also be welcome. Offers have already come in; they must be examined and implemented if the occasion arises.