

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF URBAN LAKES IN THE PERCEPTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM CLUJ-NAPOCA, SIBIU AND TULCEA

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Gheorghieni Lake (also known as “Iulius Lake” or “Bottomless Lake”), the first landscaping works made for leisure has began in 1973. Subsequently, in 2013, the area around the lake was transformed into a green space for recreation, the arrangement of an artesian well and pontoons above the lake. The lake is populated with fish without fishing being allowed.



Binder's Lake, (also known as Tineretului Lake), appeared in the NW area of Sibiu municipality at the western limit of the Țiglar neighborhood in a clay mining area. The first attempt to arrange the lake as a recreational area was made in 1980, without this project being done. Subsequently, there were three more lake development projects in 2002, 2015 and the project started in 2018.



Lake Ciuperca is located in the western part of Tulcea. Its formation is closely linked to the Danube. The first landscaping works take place in 1860, when the rehabilitation of the ponds, from the flooded area of the Danube, begins. Between 1982 and 1983 the lake was drained and cleaned up, and two earth-filled islands were built. In 2008-2010, the reconstruction of the lake takes place through drainage, dredging the land, consolidating the shores, arranging the beach for bathing and the location of two artesian wells..

ABSTRAT: In the present study, the authors conducted an assessment of the level of youth perception on urban lakes in three cities (Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu and Tulcea) in Romania. In order to highlight the extent to which young people appreciate the value and benefits that the conservation of urban lakes can bring to local communities, this paper aims at a comparative analysis of their significance and importance for this category of the population.

METHODS: Data collection was carried out in the frame of **RainSolutions** project. The targeted audiences consisted of young people between 15 to 25 years. Survey participants were grouped by gender, education and health status. The surveys were held during May and August 2019, being conducted by face-to-face meetings, online dissemination of questionnaire and WhatsApp interviews.

RESULTS: The quantitative analysis highlighted the following aspects:

- the segment of the population included in the age category 15 - 25 years, regardless of sex, in good and very good health, considers that Lake Ciuperca is important for the local community because it can bring long-term benefits;
- for a relatively small proportion of respondents in the 15- to 25-year-old age group, Lake Binder is an abandoned area that cannot be considered a recreation area or an iconic area for the city;
- in the case of Gheorghieni Lake, it was found that in the analyzed population group, the significance of the recreation and leisure area dominates as an option, Gheorghieni Lake being a modernized one since 2013
- the comparative analysis of the answers received from the young people who participated in the survey highlighted the fact that a relatively small number consider urban lakes as natural areas or emblematic areas for the cities where they live
- regardless of the city to which the young people belonged, they considered more important the value of long-term benefits and nature conservation in the case of the three urban lakes than the one offered by the existence of recreational services

