

CHECEA

Local Council Office: Checea no. 184, telephone 0256/360373, fax 0256/234862;

Coordinates:

45°45'10" N lat.;
20°50'05" E long.;

Historical landmarks:

-1470 -1482 - the current locality of Checea (Română/Romanian) was recorded in documents under the name of **Kocse**;

-close to the village of Checea Română, the locality of **Ujfalu** existed during the Middle Ages, as the property of **Blasiusz Szati** family, then of the brothers **Ladisaľu, Petru and Ioan Desi**;

-1717 - the Checea settlement had only eight houses, being plundered by the Ottomans;

-1761 - the locality was recorded as being once again inhabited by Romanians;

-1801 - the village was the property of the Roman-Catholic Bishopry of Zagreb;

-1802 - the village of Checea Croată was founded three kilometres away from Checea Română, by several noble families coming from the Turopoljje region (an area located between the cities of Zagreb and Sisak);

-1890 - the commune was part of Torontal county (the district of Cenei) and had 981 inhabitants in Checea Croată and 2,664 inhabitants in the mixed village of Serbian-Romanian Checea Română;

-1st -21st November 1918 – a local riot begins against the Austro-Hungarian authorities, but it is suppressed (the result: two insurgents died and one perished);

-1919 - approximately half of the commune (Checea Croată) fell under the ruling of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, the border being set through the local households (until 1924);

-1 March 1920 - the birth of academic painter **Gheorghe Saru** (d. 2003, in New York);

-1921 - Checea was a commune;

-1 January 1930 - Checea Croată and Checea Română united, resulting in the cur-

rent commune of Checea;

-1936 - the commune had a primary school, a cultural centre, a men's choir, two monu-

ments dedicated to

heroes, a train station and a postal office;

-15th February 1964 – a new school establishment is brought into service;

-24 August 1949 - the birth of poet **Tiberiu Florin Giulvezan**;

-1972 - Checea became a member village of the commune of Cenei;

- 2002 - the commune of Checea was

refounded, with a population of 1,854 inhabitants;

- February 2005 - **Dani Grosz** writes the monograph of Checea commune, the electronic edition;

Total population on 1 January 2010:

2,033 persons, of which:

- male = 1,022 persons

- female = 1,011 persons

Number of the households on 1 January

2010: 617

Educational institutions: Elementary School (I-VIII); Kindergarten with normal hours;

Health facilities: Local clinic; Drugstore; Sanitary-veterinary drugstore;

Cultural institutions: Community centre; Town Library (founded in 2005);

Fitness and sports facilities: Football pitch with locker rooms; Basketball court (on the premises of the Elementary School);

Churches: Orthodox (Rascian) Church (1772); Romanian Orthodox Church (1854); Serbian Orthodox Church (1875); Roman-Catholic Church (1926); Baptist Church (1936); Pentecostal Church;

Annual Church Festivals: - annual Romanian orthodox church festival (on Pentecost); annual Serbian orthodox church festival (6 May); annual roman-catholic church festival (25 November).



THE CITY HALL AND THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF CHECEA

Birdean Dorin Liviu	Mayor	Graure Gabriel, LC member	NGP
Stan Ionel	Vice Mayor	Grosz Iosif, LC member	NLP
Barbu Nelu, LC member	NLP	Mixich Dorina, LC member	NLP
Bechira Iova, LC member	NGP	Pascariu Mihai, LC member	NGP
Doboșan Melinda, LC member	NGP	Valea Viorel, LC member	CDNPP

CHECEA

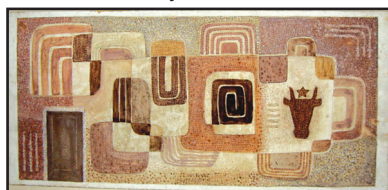
HERITAGE:

On the border of the Checea commune there is a small hill, called **“the Fountain of the Priest”**, where the village was located until the middle of the XVIIIth century, according to the old people. Another hill from

the village border was called **“the Greek’s Orchard”** and it is said to have belonged to a Greek merchant with a Serbian name, Popovici. The famous barrows from the Bronze Age were also discovered in the old village location.

THE ROMANIAN-AMERICAN PAINTER

A very important personality of the Romanian art from the second half of the XXth century, the painter **Gheorghe Saru**, was born in Checea on 1 March 1920. He finished his studies and he made his debut in the years of World War II. He was the student of the great artist and professor **Jean Al. Steriadi**. Dan Grigorescu presents the young painter from Banat in the following manner: **“following the tradition of Sirato, Ștefan Dimitrescu or Ghiață, he was interested in the integration of the folk art motifs into a modern synthesis that refused the picturesque and organised into a balanced structure. His work was always an elegy of reason that organised space, the visible shapes as well as the ones beyond the visible. When, starting with the ‘60s, he approached the experimental and abstract manners, Saru remained faithful to his ideas from his youth, which gave sense to colour effects, always subject to the acute sense of the logical construction. He tried complex compositional problems - some of them being considered a novelty in Romanian modern art.”**



In his adult years, Saru did not adhere to any fashionable trend. He adopted an original very modern and elegant style, preserving the thoroughness of the portrait painter, interested in colours at the same time. He was a professor at the Institute of Fine Arts of Bucharest, promoting the concept of modern art to his students. Around the beginning of the ‘80s, Gheorghe Saru settled in the USA, in New York, where he continued to create and exhibit for twenty years. He was dominated by a great passion for fine arts and continued to paint until the last moments of his life, although he had been declared legally blind! He departed this life in 2003.

“SAINT ARCHDEACON STEPHEN”
CENTRE

The “Saint Archdeacon Stephen” Centre for the elderly was founded in Checea, in 2008. The old people benefit from the accommodation services made available by the Archbishopry of Timișoara, which supplements the house care services. On Sunday, 1 February 2009, His Holiness Paisie Lugojanul answered the invitation to give the Mass sent by the parish of Checea, through the priest **Gheorghe Cucu**.

Besides the 200 believers from the parish, the beneficiaries of the “Saint Stephen” Centre from Checea, despite their old age and their bad health, also took part to the Divine Liturgy, standing beside the subjects of the Church of Christ.



CHECEA

THE CLEAN SCHOOL

There were three confessional schools in Checea, in the second half of the XIXth century: a school with instruction in Romanian, a school with instruction in Serbian, a school with instruction in Croatian. Their activity was coordinated by the church they belonged to independently from one another, and they were funded from the parents' money.

The school with instruction in Serbian was founded in 1872, but did not have a continuous activity, and the first teacher mentioned in a school document from 1904 was: **Mladen Boici**.

Regarding the school with instruction in Croatian, the teacher Cskany was mentioned in a document from 1877. **George Gătăianțu** was a teacher at the school with instruction in Romanian until 1872, and during the following decades until 1920, the following teachers worked there: Dan Teodor, Anuica Iosif, Iulian Bărbulescu, Eutimie Milosav, Ioan Rațiu etc. In **"The Monograph of the**

commune of Checea" (2005), the author **Dani Grosz** wrote the fact that "in 1883, on 25 January, the school was verified by the school inspector **Paul Tempea** who wrote in the Comments box of the register the following statement: **On 25 January 1883 I found here a clean school. Paulu Tempea school inspector.**"

The same school inspector Paul Tempea came back to the village and wrote in the register (on 11/23 November 1888), the existence of 70 pupils present in the Romanian confessional school; the curriculum of that time consisted of a large number of religion and religious singing classes, but also history and Romanian classes. According to Dani Grosz, there were 151 pupils between 6-15 years recorded in the register of 1892-1893. According to the author of the monograph: **"the fact that the comment «gipsy» was written next to the name of one of them is very interesting and it proves that the presence of this person at school was an event, a special event for those times.**

Also, the study of the school documents revealed the fact that girls were not matriculated at school."

In 1913, a new school was built in the village, with two classrooms, and the old building was demolished. The school built in 1913 was renovated between 1948 and 1963 and had four classrooms and a kindergarten.



"HIDDEN TOMBS"

Ioan Giulvezan from Checea was nicknamed Old Man Giul by the villagers, by shortening his name. His fellow prisoners from the '50s called him "Giul!", because he was a young man those days. He was a legionnaire and the communists did not forgive him for that, especially since his father was a notorious supporter of the Peasants' Party in Checea, the leader of the Peasants' Party branch of the commune. Old Man Giul spent almost 15 years in the communist prisons from Aiud, Baia Sprie and Capul Midia. One time, his cell was next to the Senior's cell, Corneliu Coposu, and they used to talk using

the Morse code. When he left prison, he barely recognised his son: he left when he was an infant, and meanwhile his son had become a young man! The 15 years of communist prison were remembered in the book entitled **"Hidden tombs"**. Even if only 100 copies were published, Old Man Giul was happy to leave behind a statement of the things he had lived, because such stories should not happen in Romania ever again!

