

Dedicated to all future generations,  
may the Transylvanian-Saxon cultural heritage remain alive in their hands.

## Transylvanian Saxons - A Portrait.

### **Generative Artificial Intelligence concerns Transylvanian Saxon Cultural Heritage: Opportunities and threats for its appropriation, preservation and further development**

With this **multilingual** and **multimedia book** and **internet project**, our goal is to connect not only all Transylvanian Saxons, but also everyone interested in Transylvania and the Transylvanian-Saxon cultural heritage. The project is designed to serve as both an **analog** and **digital “business card”** for Transylvanian Saxons and their institutions worldwide.

Beyond its multimedia presentation, a key distinguishing feature is its **multilingual approach**, the publication will be available in three languages: **German**, as the community's original language; **English**, for international accessibility; and **Romanian**, to foster regional cooperation.

The following specific **goals** will be pursued:

- I. The first section, "**Transylvanian Saxons – Origins and Growth of a Traditional Community**", explores the **settlement** history of the Transylvanian Saxons and Transylvanian Landlers in the region. It provides a historical overview from the first waves of migration in the 12th century to the large-scale **exodus** at the end of the 20th century. This section examines the historical **community formation** of the Transylvanian Saxons, discussing the following **community- and identity-building institutions**: the Andreatum and the Transylvanian Saxon University, customs and neighborhoods, foundations and associations, faith and church, language and schools. This is followed by an analysis of the **causes** and **motives** that led to the **dissolution** and **exodus** of this community from Transylvania. Furthermore, the **integration** into the most important **new settlement areas** is illustrated.
- II. The second part is dedicated to **Transylvanian-Saxon cultural heritage**. It first examines the **tangible** and then the **intangible cultural assets** ("invisible baggage"). The diverse dimensions of the Transylvanian-Saxon community, its culture, and its identity are highlighted, offering insights into the **community's traditions, identity, and cultural dimensions** that have shaped its legacy.



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Portrait of the Transylvanian Saxons. Current Situation and Future Prospects

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III. The third section, "**Assessing the Current Situation and Future Perspectives**," examines the state of the community in the 21st century. It first outlines the **current organizational structures** within associations, foundations, and neighborhoods. This section then explores **future challenges** and **opportunities** in preserving and adapting **Transylvanian Saxon cultural heritage**, particularly in the evolving landscape of **generative artificial intelligence (GenAI)**.

Here is the preliminary **table of contents**:

1. Introduction to Transylvanian Saxons: Settlement in Transylvania, Migration from Transylvania, Shaping the Future in the new locations

## **I. Transylvanian Saxons – Origins and Growth of a Traditional Community**

2. Maintaining independence despite changing national affiliations. An overview of a nearly 900-year history
3. Transylvanian Landlers
4. Significance of the Andreanum and the Transylvanian Saxon University for the community building of the Transylvanian Saxons
5. From the cradle to the grave – How customs and neighborhoods shaped community life
6. Associations as Drivers of New Forms of Participation Since the 19th Century
7. Faith and Community: Religion as Integration Force Among Transylvanian Saxons
8. Cultural Foundations of the Transylvanian Saxons: Language and Education
9. Resettlement of Transylvanian Saxons from Transylvania to Germany: Causes, motives and paths to integration
10. Migration from Transylvania to the USA
11. Migration from Transylvania to Canada
12. Relocation from Transylvania and integration in Austria
13. Deportation to the Soviet Union
14. Life in communist Romania



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## **II. The Material and Immaterial Cultural Heritage of the Transylvanian Saxons**

15. Architecture and architects
16. Fortified churches of the Transylvanian Saxons
17. Economic achievements
18. Science and Technology
19. Transylvanian Art and Artists
20. Transylvanian Saxon traditional costumes
21. Transylvanian Saxon folk dances
22. Music in Transylvania and Transylvanian-Saxon musicians
23. Transylvanian-German theatre
24. Transylvanian-German literature
25. The dialect of the Transylvanian Saxons
26. Poetry in the mother tongue (dialect poetry)
27. Transylvanian Saxon identity
28. Transylvanian-Saxon coats of arms and logos

## **III. Assessing the Current Situation and Future Perspectives**

29. The organizational structure of the Transylvanian-Saxon community today:  
associations, foundations, and neighborhoods
30. Philosophy of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI).  
Theoretical limitations and possibilities, practical opportunities and threats
31. Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) connects Transylvanian Saxon cultural heritage. Opportunities and threats for the appropriation, preservation, and further development of Transylvanian Saxon cultural heritage in the age of GenAI



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