

SUMMARY

Muzslya is located in Central Banat, south from Zrenjanin (Nagybecskerek), on the right bank of the River Bega, 15–18 km from the River Tisza, 75–77 m above sea level.

The city's proximity was a major effect on the settlement's life, its development, on the shaping of its economic and cultural identity. It is one of the biggest local communities of Zrenjanin. Its population according to the latest census (2011) is 8045 together with the two settlements (Small colony and Fejős Klára) formed after World War II. Administratively it belongs to the city; nevertheless it retained the characteristic trait of the rural lowlands with an urban peculiarity. The ethnic composition of the population has continuously changed throughout the history of the settlement. At the beginning (1890), along with Hungarian families, Slav population also slowly established in the area. 60% of the population is Hungarian, 40% is Serbian and other nationalities. The settlement's name is disputed. According to one of the explanations it might come from the Serbian "muzara", as the shepherds grazed their flocks here. It was Felső Muzslya until 1918, Gornja Mužlja from 1918 to 1941, during the German occupation (1941–1944) it was Ober Muschla, and after World War II it is Muzslya (Mužlja).

Archaeological findings testify that in the prehistoric age on the high plateaus of this area settlements were set up and their inhabitants dealt with agriculture as well. In the Migration Period different ethnic groups also established settlements in this area for shorter periods of time. After the arrival of the Hungarians, these areas remained under Hungarian rule until 1552, when Zrenjanin was occupied by the Turks, after which most of the population fled. During the Turkish rule (until 1718) Banat became completely desolated. The Austrians settled people of different nationalities and religions to the reoccupied areas in order to form a strong border region and to prevent further Turkish invasions. The newly settled people were German, Hungarians, Serbs, and Slovaks.

Muzslya is a result of the Hungarian Royal Treasury's last settling policy. The preceding preparations started immediately after the Compromise of 1867, but it was put through only in 1890 when 420 Hungarian families were populated onto the Treasury

territory of Nagybecskerek (6000 acres) with agricultural policy purposes. With the foundation of the village, institutions satisfying the basic needs of the population were also built: a kindergarten in 1892, a school in 1893, the village hall in 1898 and a church in 1902. During its existence, Muzslya wa part of the city several times and was also many times an independent village. From the 1970s it is Zrenjanin's 14th local community. The so-called local contribution of 2% played a major role in the development of the settlement, which made it possible to build the organizations are a wealth that invigorates the Hungarian culture; it enriches and transfers our traditions and intellectual heritage.

The population's economic landscape changed when the previous agricultural workers began to work in factories. Carska Basta (Császárkert, Emperor's Garden) formed a few years ago is a success story of the joined kitchen gardeners who established a cluster that takes the local kitchen gardeners, fruit-growers and beekeepers up. Management based on family businesses is growing more widespread in flower cultivation, too.