

# Radio Civic Sfântu Gheorghe

## Research report

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# About Sfântu-Gheorghe



Sfântu Gheorghe is a village on the Danube arm of the same name, located at the Black Sea.

It is part of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO Biosphere Reserve - <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/521?language=en>), and is on the World Heritage List (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/588/>).



The Danube Delta is the largest and best preserved of Europe's deltas. According to The Convention on Wetlands website (known as the Ramsar Convention, which is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in 1971 by UNESCO): "The site supports a rich flora, fish fauna (75 species), and important populations of several mammals. The area is internationally important for breeding, staging and wintering water birds. Nesting species include internationally important numbers of cormorants and pelicans. The inhabitants of the many scattered villages have unique cultural links with the ecosystem. Human activities include fishing, forestry, small-scale cultivation, and tourism."

(<https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/521?language=en>).



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# About Sfântu-Gheorghe



## Demographic data:

According to the National Institute of Statistics (NIS), in December 2018 the population of Sfântu Gheorghe commune was 808 inhabitants. At the 2011 census, the population of Sfântu Gheorghe commune was 797 inhabitants, down from the previous census in 2002, when 971 inhabitants were registered. Most of the inhabitants declared themselves Romanian (91.84%) at the 2011 census, with a minority of Ukrainians (3.76%). For 4.02% of the population, ethnicity is unknown.

Also, according to data collected at the 2011 census, most of the inhabitants declared themselves as Orthodox (96.11%). For 3.76% of the population, confessional membership is unknown. Density: 1.32 inhabitants/kmp. 358 households.



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# About Sfântu- Gheorghe



## Characteristics:

- marginalized community - the city of Tulcea is 30 km away and is accessible only by water. The town of Sulina is also accessible by land, but only on an undeveloped, dirt road, which is often impassable.
- the population is aging.
- nature is beautiful, wild, quiet.
- fishing village, tourist.
- the population consists mainly of Haholi, a Ukrainian minority population.



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# About Sfântu-Gheorghe and Radio Civic



In June 2018, the National Audiovisual Council granted the first licenses for community radios in villages. Radio Civic Sfântu Gheorghe (Tulcea County) and Radio Civic Vârvorul de Jos (Dolj county) started broadcasting on May 30, 2019, respectively June 1, 2019.



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# A radio of the people, for the people

*Radio Civic Sfântu Gheorghe shows made by volunteers from communities*

## Hahols in Their Language Fishermen' Life

Alin Varenic (16 years)

Vasile Iaschiu (70 years)

### Local

### Announcements

Mira Bălan

### Local Jukebox with Jean Trofimov

### Buletin de Ştiri Local

Cristina Abaianeţ

### Good Word

Raluca Lisov

### Mira's

### Interviews

(Bălan)

### The Meomory of the Place

Raluca Lisov, Edi Acsente

### Health Pill

Laura Baraghin

Mira Bălan

### Spiritual Life

Vladimir Malcovici, priest

### In 19 months of existence of Radio Civic Sfântu

### Gheorghe:

- over 6000 hours of broadcast

- over 500 hours of content produced by volunteers

### Evening Story

Laura Baraghin

Sineta Badea-Cazacu

### Beauty Guide

Oana Dumitru

Elena Cristoiu

### Local music

Corul Ciornei More

Ana Cazacu

Xenia Cacencu

Dumitru Stan

Maria Babencu si

Condrat Artem

Natalia Palade si Steliana

Crimschi

Ecaterina Susciuc

Paulina Marcu

Adriana Constantin

### Daily/Weekly Recipe

Laura Baraghin, Raluca

Lisov, Adriana

Constantin, Emilia

Pădurariu, Mira Bălan



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# Research context

At the end of Horizon 2020 funding, which allowed the establishment of the two community stations Radio Civic, the partners who implemented the project wanted to measure the impact of radio in the community, in order to assess and ensure its sustainability.



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# Research context

To conduct this research we used the contact database of people in the community, created during the implementation of the Grassroots Wavelengths project, and the contacts available on the signed lists when 280 portable radios were distributed, within the project, to almost every household in Sfântu Gheorghe.

Interviews for this research were conducted in December 2020-January 2021.

The interviews were by telephone and an interview lasted between 10 and 60 minutes.

Approximately 80 people were contacted and 45 people, 24 women and 21 men aged between 18 and 79, answered the questionnaire.



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# Research highlights

## slide (1/3)

- Of the 45 respondents, only two said they did not listen to any radio stations
- Of the 43 who say they have heard of Radio Civic, only 3 do not listen to Radio Civic. The reasons for not listening to Civic Radio are: 1) listening only in summer, 2) radio programs are not varied enough.
- Half of those who listen to Radio Civic say that they listen daily or even several times a day, the other half a few times a week. Only two out of 40 respondents say they listen to Radio Civic once a week or less.
- The time interval in which it is most listened to: 17.00-18.00 hrs. Thus, 24 out of 40 respondents said that they listen to Radio Civic during this interval.
- Most respondents say they prefer to listen to local music: Ukrainian music has been mentioned 15 times, Russian music 8 times, music with voices from Sfântu Gheorghe 6 times and Greek music once. References to these types of music were repeated very often by most respondents in open-ended questions.

# Research highlights

## slide (2/3)

- More than half of those who answered the questions say that they have a favorite show on Civic Radio: Interviews of Mira (Bălan) (15), Local Jukebox (11), Local news bulletin (5) etc. Preferred presenters are: Mira Bălan, Cristina Abaianet, Raluca Lisov and Jean Trofimov.
- 65% of respondents say that Civic Radio is very important in people's lives. Other 22% find it to be quite important. They say that the Radio 1) helps them to be up to date with the news from the community, 2) brings back the local traditions, the music of childhood, brings back the pride of belonging to the community of Sf. Gheorghe 3) helps the isolated, the elderly, because it provides them with a connection to the outside world, 4) the radio is a point of connection between the locals 5) it is listened to by the people who left the village and that 6) the local announcements and advertisements help those in the community.
- Among the important things that could be changed on the radio were mentioned the greater involvement in community life, more interviews with local officials, councilors, representatives of the Biosphere Reserve, etc., more communications from the mayor's office.

# Research highlights

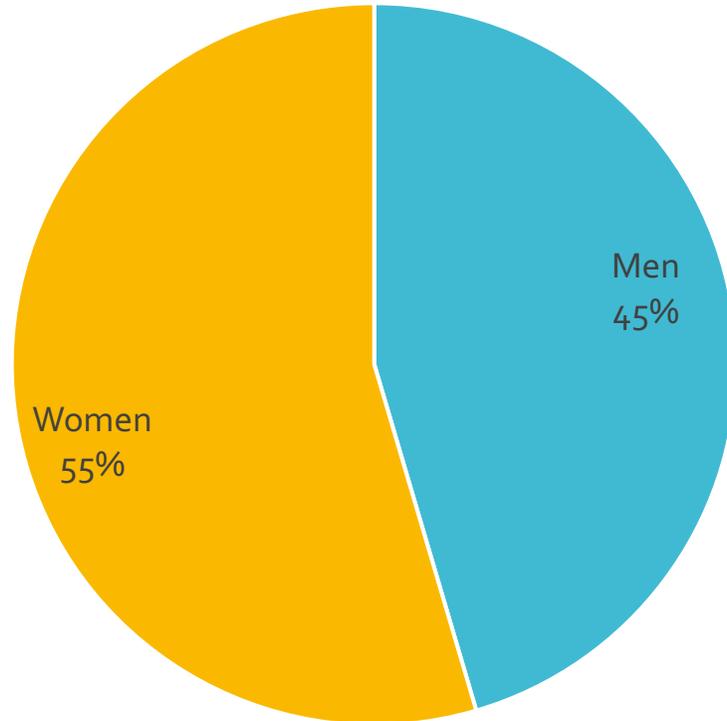
## slide (3/3)

- Almost three quarters of respondents say they happen to find out information for the first time from Radio Civic. This information is related to local events, the Navrom (the public boat transport company) program, fishing announcements or medical campaigns in the village, etc.
- The most important effects of Radio Civic are: 1) the programs improve the way the history of the commune is preserved, 2) the programs improve the relations between the inhabitants, 3) the programs support the communication on urgent problems and 4) the programs help people to know about the interests or talents of those who live in Sfântu Gheorghe.
- Respondents would like to hear on Radio Civic more information about the Biosphere Reserve Authority (DDBRA), decisions of the Tulcea County Council, the activity of the mayor's office, legislation related to fishing, to have shows related to fishing techniques, recipes, health or advice related to tourism, etc.

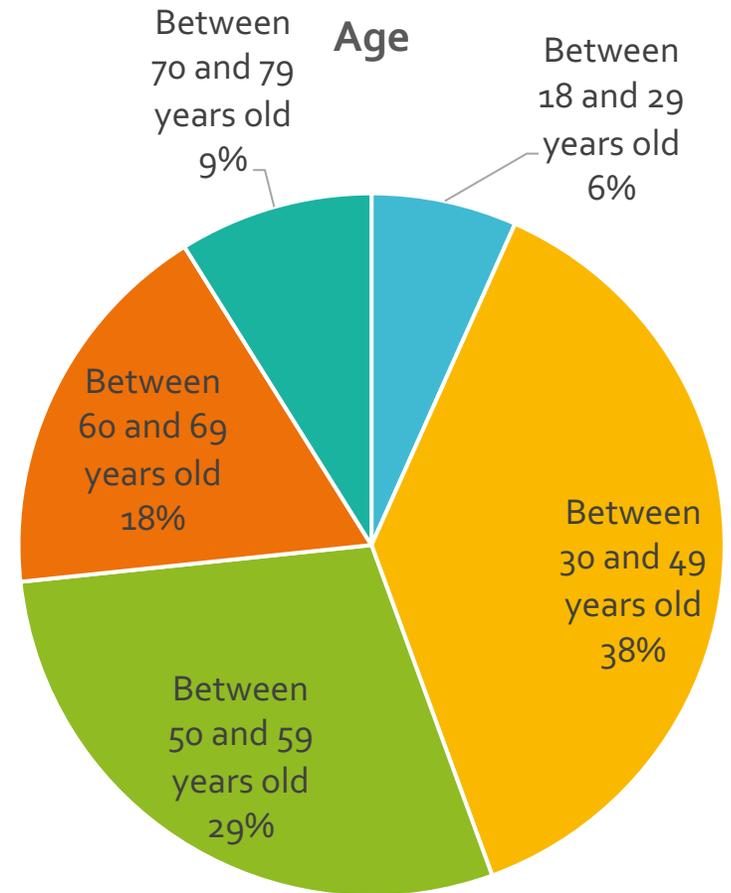
# Data on respondents

N=45 respondents

### Gender

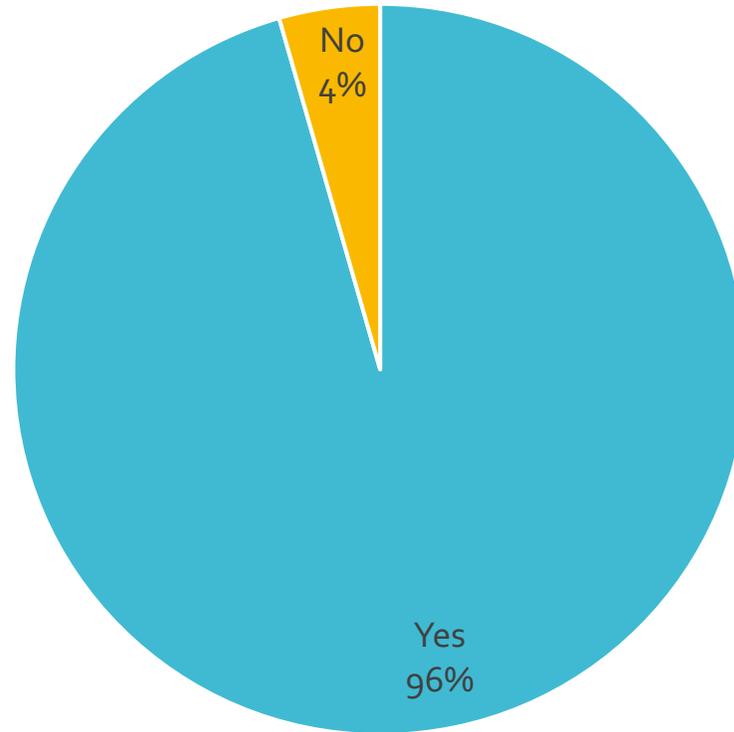


### Age



# Do you listen to programs on the radio?

N=45 respondents

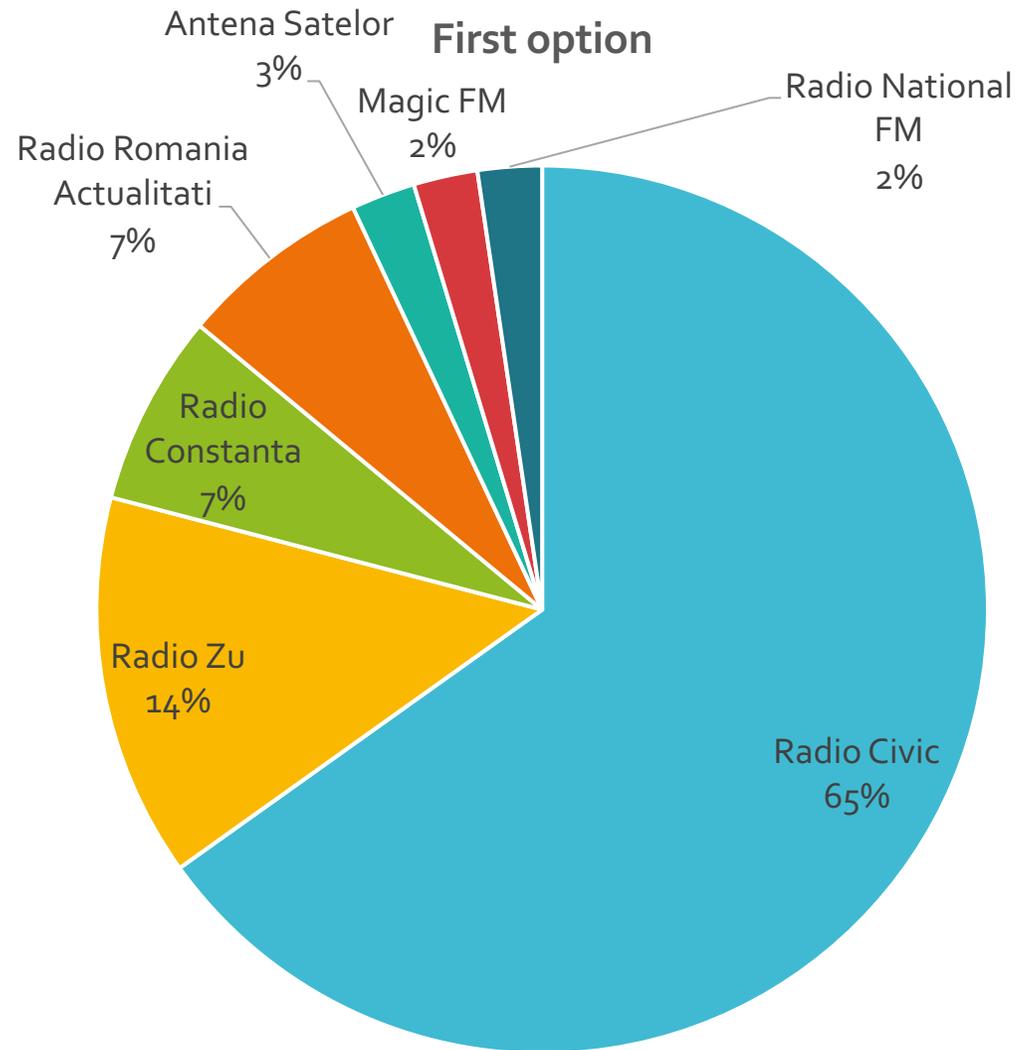


Of the 45 respondents, only two said they did not listen to radio stations

# What radio stations are you listening to?

1/2

N=43 respondents who listen to radio programs



# What radio stations are you listening to?

2/2

N=43 respondents who listen to radio programs

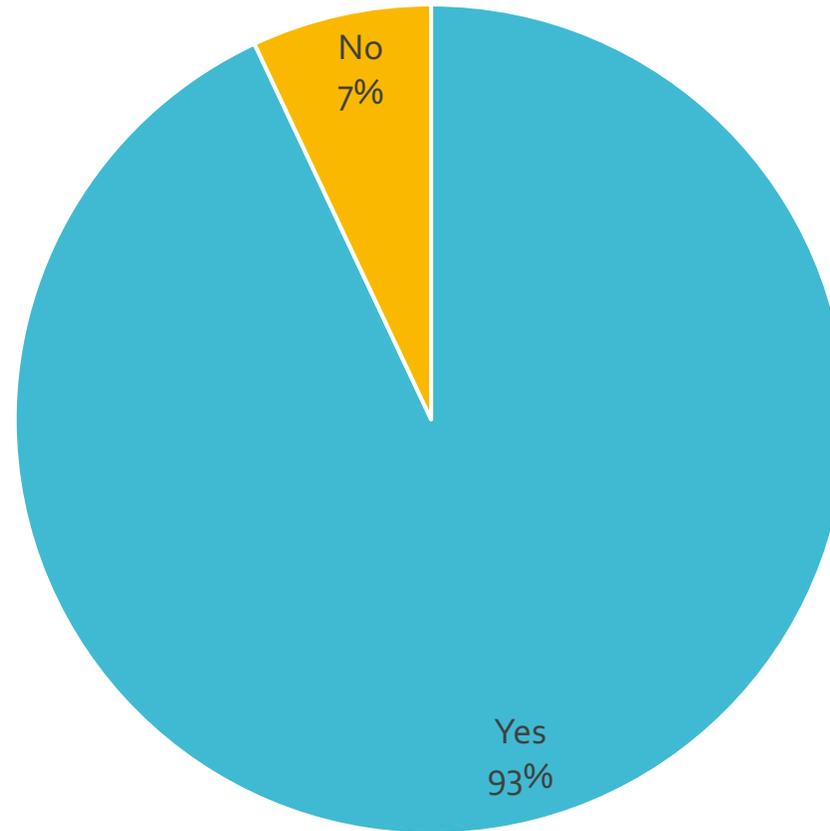
Second option	Number of mentions
Radio Radio Actualități	9
Radio Civic	6
Radio Constanta	6
Radio Zu	4
Europa FM	1
Kiss FM	1

Third option	Number of mentions
Radio Romania Actualități	3
Radio Civic	3
Radio Constanța	2
Radio Zu	1

Are you listening to Radio Civic?

If not: Why not listen to Civic Radio?

N=43 respondents who listen to radio programs



Of the 43 respondents who said they listened to the radio, 40 said they listened to Civic Radio.

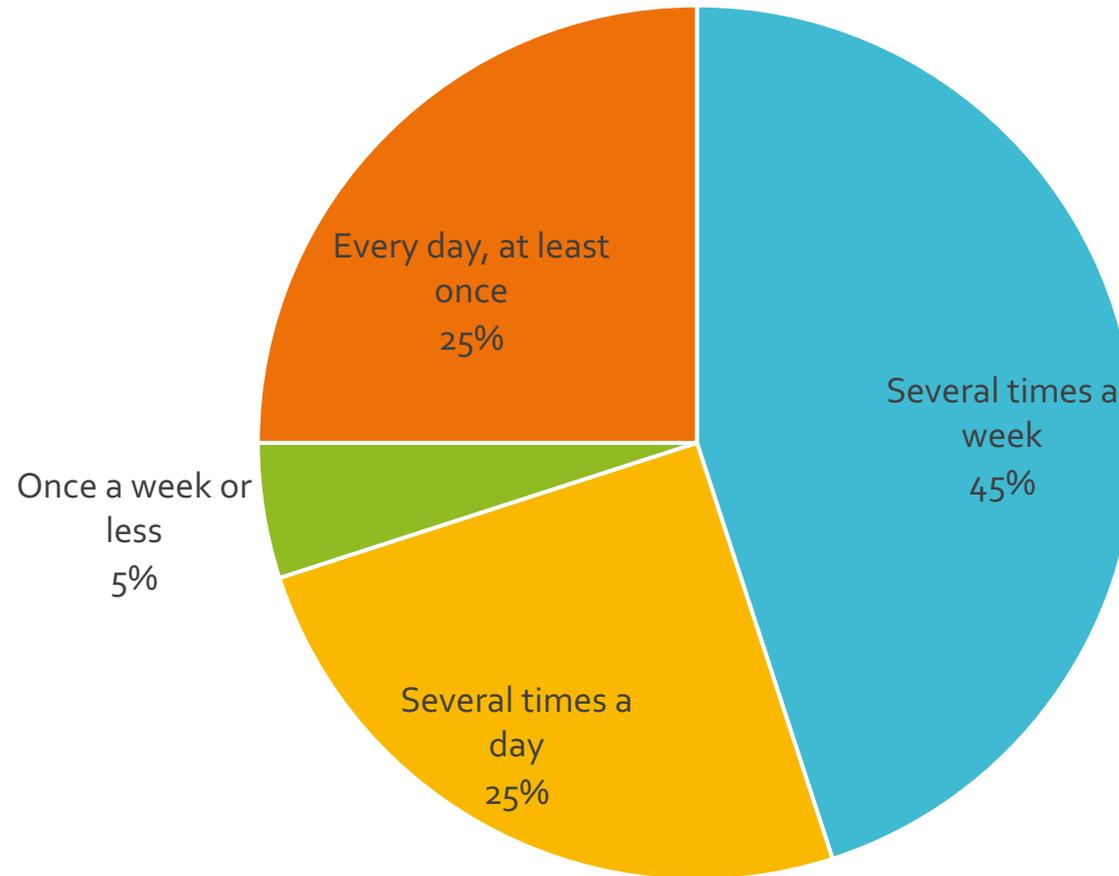
3 respondents said they did not listen to Radio Civic.

Reasons for not listening to Radio Civic are:

- They only listen in the summer
- Radio programs are not varied enough

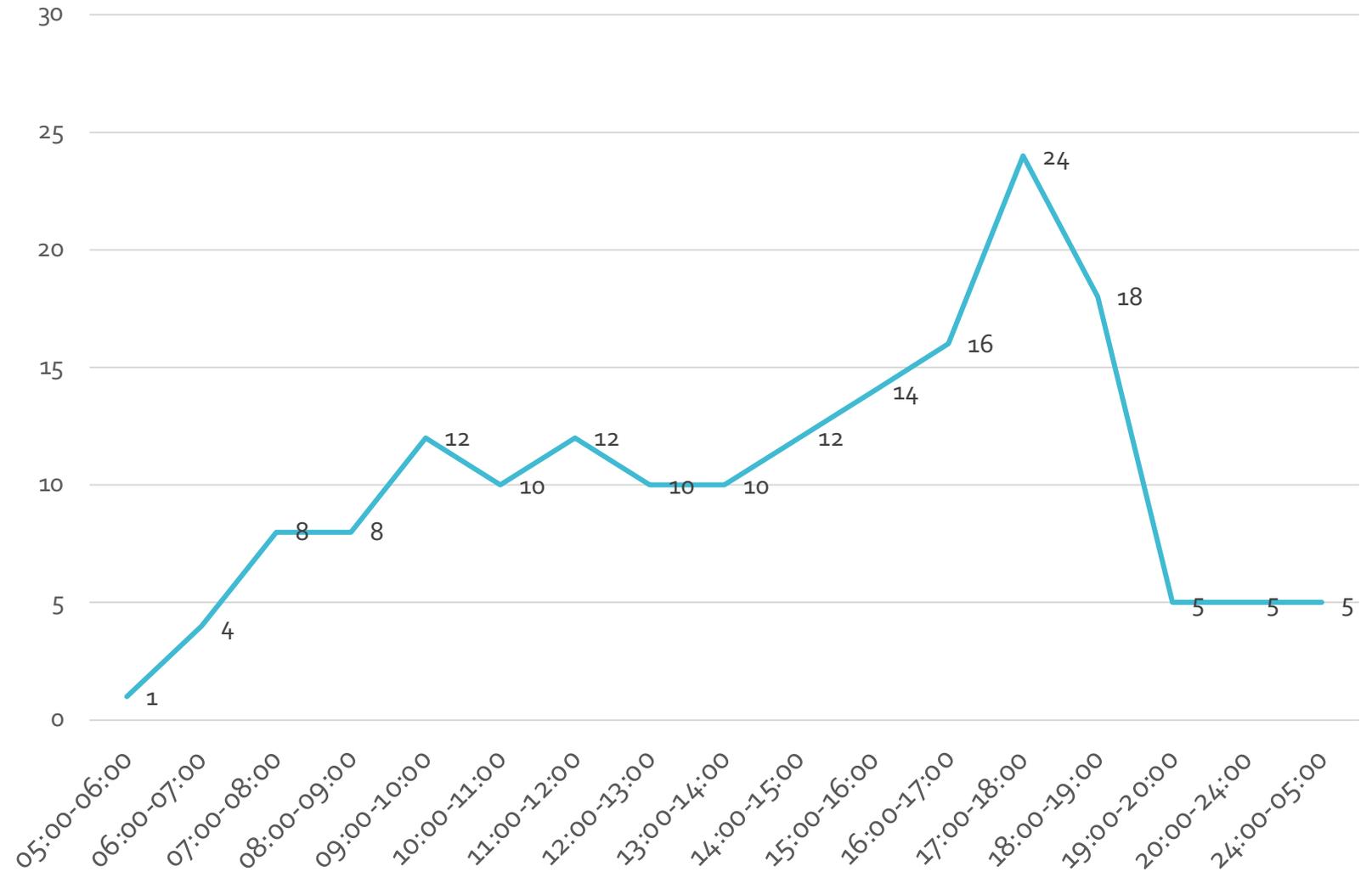
# How often do you listen to Radio Civic?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic



# What time do you listen to Civic Radio on an ordinary day?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic



# What kind of music do you prefer when listening to radio in general?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic



## Other

- The music of the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s
- Older Romanian pop music
- Macedonian, Armenian music
- Romances
- "Manele"
- "Lăutărească"

# Who are your favorite performers?

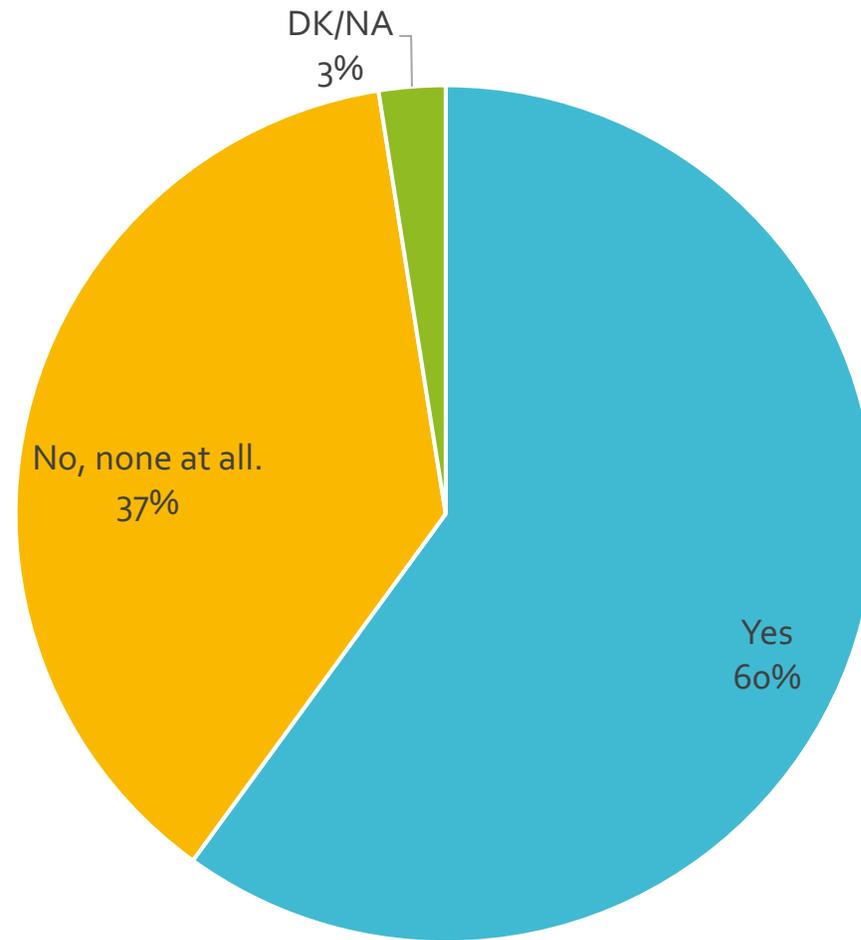
N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

Interpreți preferați	Menționări
Irina Loghin	4
Beatles	2
Dan Spataru	2
Delfin '90	2
Gica Petrescu	2
Mătu Stoian	2
Pink Floyd	2

Abba, Adrian Minune, Alex Velea, Azur, Bon Jovi, Caciuc, Cargo, Constantin Enceanu, Corina Chiriac, corul Ciornei More, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Dan Bitman, Dire Straits, Directia 5, Enrique Iglesias, Eros Ramazzoti, Garou, George Michal, Hulo Iglesias, Ilea, Ina, Iris, Jethro Tull, Led Zepellin, Leonard Cohen, Maria Dragomiroiu, Mariana Capitanescu, Metallica, Modern Talking, Natalia Kadisheva, Nicu Covaci (Sfinx), Obituary, Paganini, Paladi, Pasarea Colibri, Pavarotti, Pheonix, Salajan, Sepultura, Smiley Smokie, Vali Vijelie.

# Do you have a favorite program from Radio Civic?

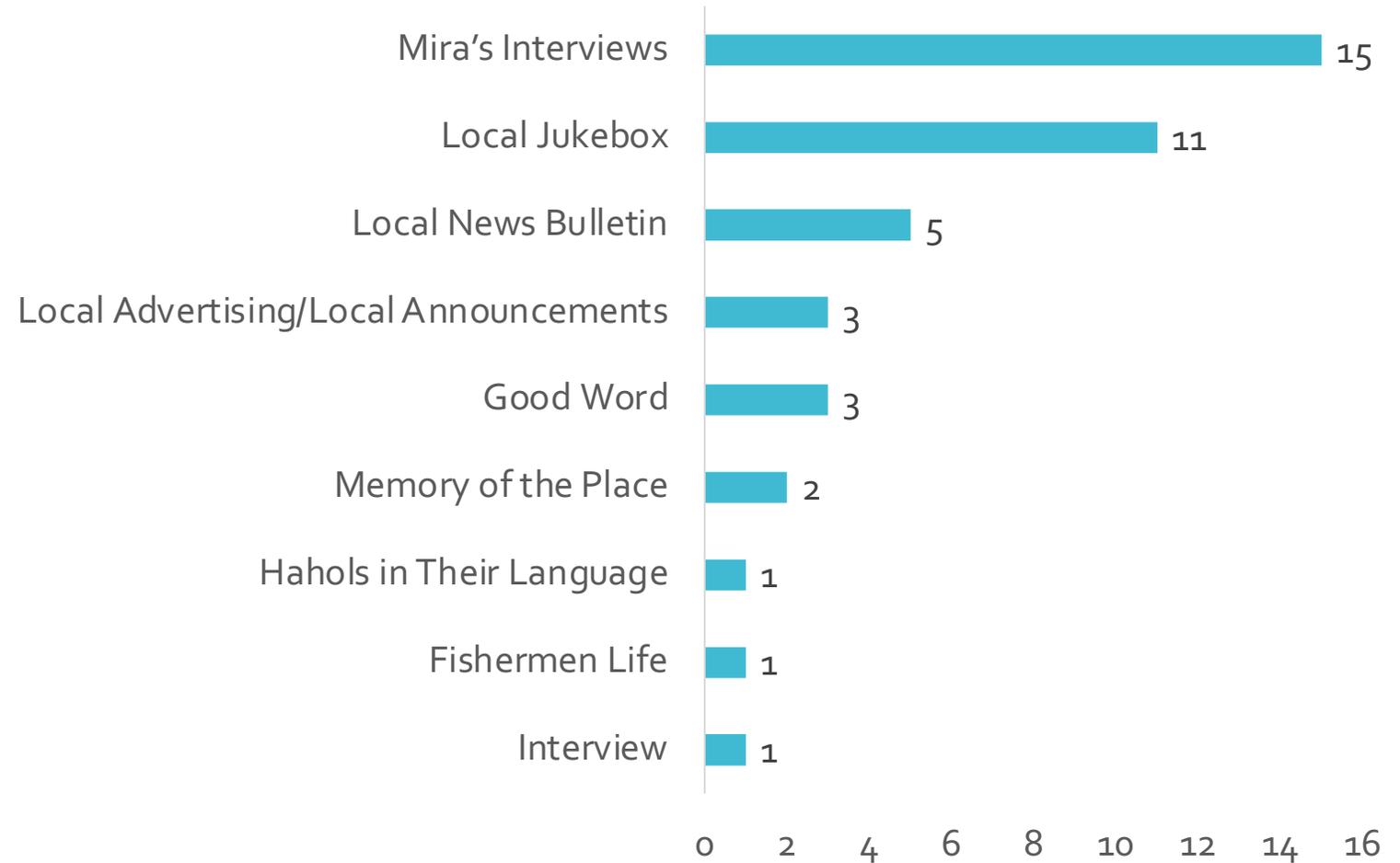
N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic



# Do you have a favorite program from Radio Civic?

N= 24 respondents who say they have a favorite show

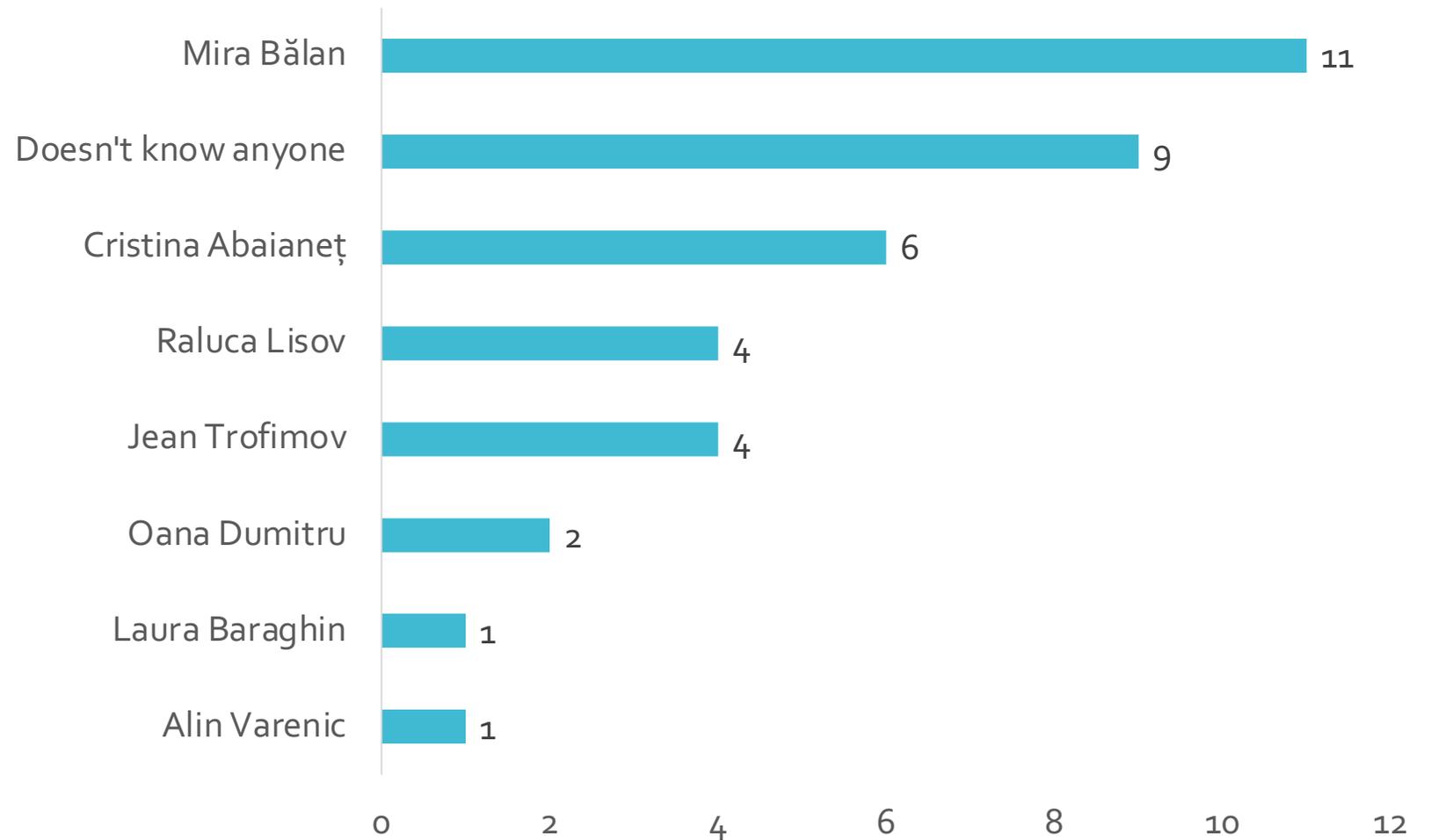
(spontaneous response)



# Who is your favorite Radio Civic presenter?

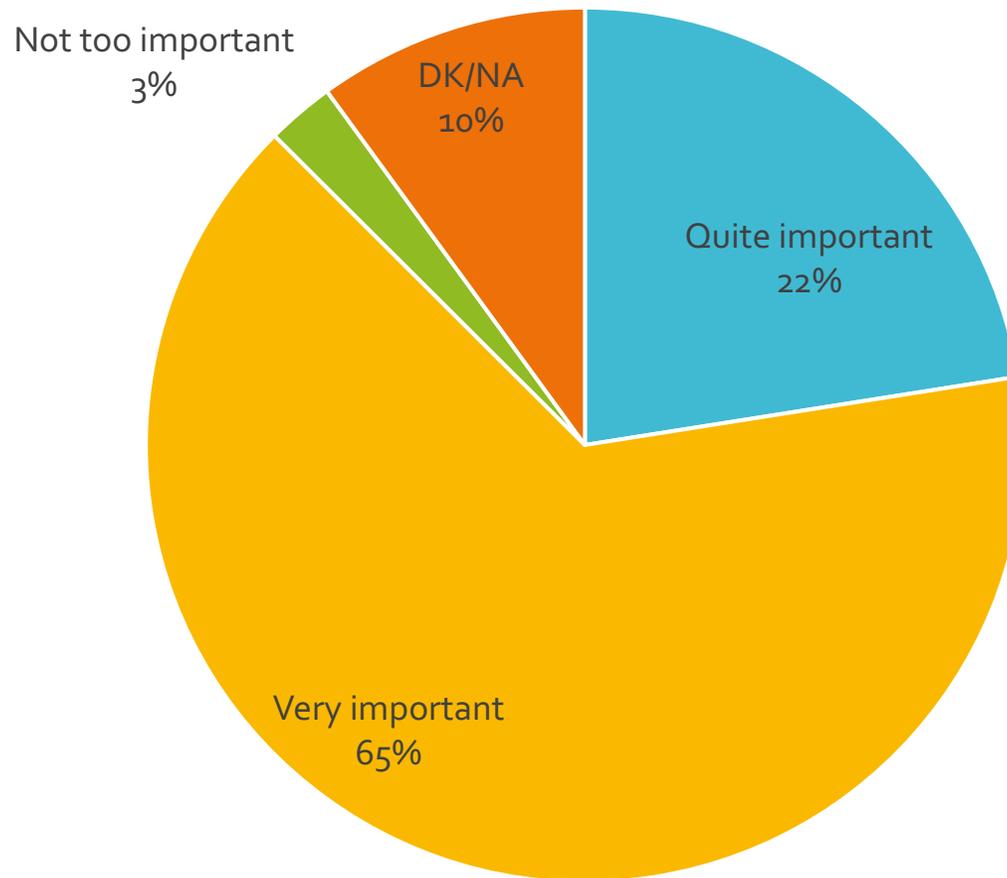
N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

(spontaneous, multiple response)



In general, how important do you think Radio Civic is in the lives of people living in Sfântu Gheorghe?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic



# Why do you think that?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

Motivation	No. of mentions
It helps them keep up to date with what's new in the community	26
It brings back the traditions of the place, the music of childhood, it brings back the pride of belonging to the community of Sf. Gheorghe	15
It helps the isolated, the elderly, because it provides them with a connection with the outside world.	10
The radio is a point of contact between the locals	8
It is listened to by people who have left the village	2
Local ads and announcements help those in the community	1

# Why do you think that?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

## RELEVANT QUOTES

*"People say you did a miracle here in our village. That people listen to music from childhood. The village is very happy with this music. Ever since this radio started, I've been singing with it. There is joy in my soul and the whole village says that, not just me. We find out on the radio what program the shops have, that we don't walk around the village much anymore, because it's slippery. Through Radio Civic we also find out what is happening in the village. It's very good. Because we are become more joyful. Before, there were speakers on the street, in the house. If I didn't hear this music too ... Ukrainian, ours. We grew up with that. "*

*"Because first of all it maintains this spirit of the community, then because it provides the main information in the community even for those who do not have much opportunity to get information, e.g. the old people sitting in bed. And, thirdly, because our tradition is promoted. And for that we thank Radio Civic. "*

*"I believe it was necessary. There are few [inhabitants] anyway. People these days tend to mind their own issues, they don't visit like before, they don't socialize like before, it's good that the radio brings people together. I like the interviews with people from the village. "*

*"How we are isolated here, it is indeed important, even essential."*

*"Because we who are a little younger still go on the internet, we look [for information]. There are old people who listen, they have the devices set on Civic Radio and they find out from there. I, from my point of view, find it really super the radio channel. I appreciate the music that Jean Trofimov puts on. I like the voices on the radio, because they are warm, pleasant. "*

# If you were to change one thing on Radio Civic, what would it be?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

- Greater involvement in community life, more interaction with the community - programs about how local public money is spent, local issues
- Interviews with local officials, councilors, representatives of the Biosphere Reserve, etc. (including criticism, not just praise)
- More news from the area, utility news, town hall communications
- More time for local music programs
- More modern music
- More information about the posted photos (name, location in time) should be given on the Facebook page
- The ads are a bit too frequent
- Cancel the exact time

# If you were to change one thing on Radio Civic, what would it be?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

## RELEVANT QUOTES

*"I honestly wouldn't change anything from my point of view. They are all pleasant, they are informative. Us, being young, we look on the internet, but the elder people only stay on that [Radio Civic]. I also have a grandmother who only stays on that. That our choir, of which I am also a part [Cionei More's choir], is heard [on the radio], the old songs with the locals can be heard. "*

*"There are people past a certain age who, you should know, really listen. They have that little radio, which is really holy. I would like more Ukrainian music. It's true that my working hours do not overlap with Jean's jukebox. "*

*"To tell you the truth, 6.30 pm seems like a rather late hour for interviews. It's too late to turn on the radio, turn off the TV, and listen to the interviews. If it was earlier it were better. Around 15.30-16.00 were better. "*

# What do you like most about Radio Civic?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

Favorite things	No. of mentions
programs about the locals, traditions	14
local news	13
local music	11
Mira's programs	9
music	6
everything	2
diversity	2
involvement in community life	1
that it is made by the people of the village	1

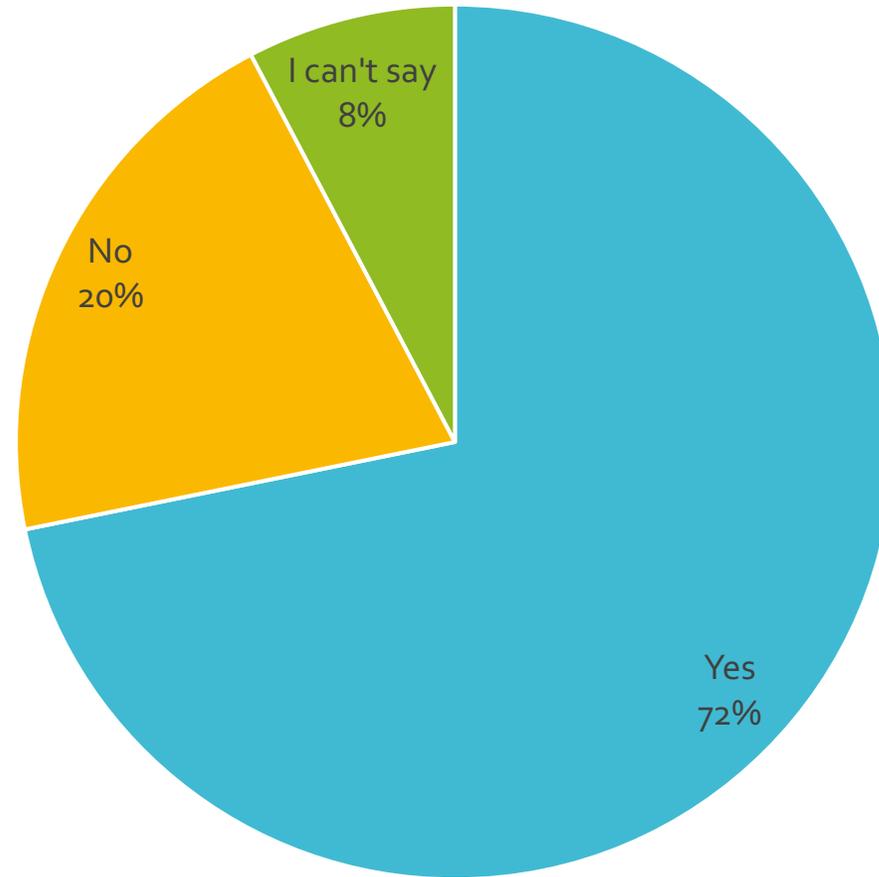
## RELEVANT QUOTES

*"I like that old people fall into nostalgia. I like how they fall in awe, especially those in my yard, when I hear Russian music. "*

*My husband listens to the song "Black Sea, Blue Sea" [composed by Jean Trofimov] every morning, first he listens to the song [and then he goes to do his household work]. Russian music that is for our soul. I like the discussions with fishermen, elder people, those in their 70s. I lived next to those people and I didn't know their life story. We really enjoy it. The life stories of women, that I didn't know what they were going through. We listen to the news, local news, the weather. In the summer we are constantly by the radio set. "*

Do you happen to find out information for the first time from Radio Civic, that is, before you find it from other sources in the community?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic



# If so, do you have an example?

N= 24 respondents who say they find out information for the first time

- Most of the information that people first learn from Radio Civic is local news and announcements:
  - Navrom program and changes related to the boat used - important information for those in the community, as they may or may not carry various products
  - Fishing announcements
  - City Hall announcements
  - Announcements related to garbage collection, taxes, bill payments
  - Announcements about local humanitarian campaigns
  - Ads about the shop program in the village
  - Announcements about the medical campaigns carried out in the village

# If so, do you have an example?

N= 24 respondents who say they find out information for the first time

## RELEVANT QUOTES

*"I do not hear until I go to the village. From here [on the radio, n.n.] I hear. "*

*"The news from the village. During the winter, you don't see each other and that's how you hear something new on Radio Civic. In the summer we are busier and we meet each other and we find out. "*

*"The opening hours, which the stores can offer us. I didn't know we could call and order products to be brought home. The mayor's office announces something, the girls announce it to us on the radio - the electricity stops, the fishermen should go and submit their fishing documents. We're not going out. If we go out, we pass or don't by to the [City Hall] notice board. This way, through Radio Civic, everyone knows. "*

*"The boat program, which we did not know, although we are locals. Mira's health campaigns. Store ads. You only find them if you go to the center and chitchat. So, from home, it's harder. "*

*"It is a very important source to find out information and especially credible. I know there has been talk on the radio including the vaccination campaign and I think it is important especially in a small village where people count on what they heard from the neighbors and then the information can be a little distorted and it is important to hear on the radio and know they can count on it. "*

# What do you think are the effects of Radio Civic in general?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

slide 1/2

Radio Civic programs help the inhabitants of Sfântu Gheorghe to improve their educational or career opportunities.



Radio Civic programs improve the way the history of Sfântu Gheorghe commune is preserved.



Radio Civic programs help to develop business or livelihood of the people who live in Sfântu Gheorghe.



Radio Civic programs improve relations between people living in Sfântu Gheorghe.



■ Yes, I think so. ■ No, I think not ■ DK/NA

# What do you think are the effects of Radio Civic in general?

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

slide 2/2

Radio Civic programs make authorities be more transparent in their decisions



Radio Civic programs support communication on important issues in Sfântu Gheorghe.



Radio Civic programs help people find out about the interests or talents of others who live in Sfântu Gheorghe.



■ Yes, I think so. ■ No, I think not. ■ DK/NA

Please describe a situation in which you or the community have benefited from the fact that Radio Civic exists in Sfântu Gheorghe.

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

### Community benefits

Improves relationships between people, brings people together through music, finding traditions (21)

Local announcements and information, that are very important (14)

Helps the elderly a lot, through information, through campaigns dedicated to them (8)

Local people are involved (3)

Local advertising helps locals and small businesses in the community (2)

Helps / would help to make decisions of local authorities more transparent (2)

It is an attraction for tourists, a novelty (1)

I don't know any benefit (5)

Please describe a situation in which you or the community have benefited from the fact that Radio Civic exists in Sfântu Gheorghe.

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

## RELEVANT QUOTES

*"I spoke to someone on Facebook, who has gone abroad and works and lives in Spain and who told me that he is extraordinarily delighted that this radio exists because he finds out a lot of things about Sfântu Gheorghe that he would not otherwise would find out and listens to it with pleasure in the evening when he gets home."*

*"Especially the old people in the village listened to a lot of Ukrainian music and listened to the show" Hahols in their language" and interviews and remembered events from their youth. That made us a little happier and lifted our spirits, first of all. "*

*"Everyone benefits. First of all information, which you can rely on. I saw that dedications can be given. And that's a fantastic thing, especially for those who are gone. I think it changes the lives of the people there for the better. "*

*"Tourists are very excited about the radio and they like the idea. When they come here, many of them listen. Locals who are abroad who are very happy to hear their parents, grandparents. These are benefits. "*

Please describe a situation in which you or the community have benefited from the fact that Radio Civic exists in Sfântu Gheorghe.

N=40 respondents who listen Radio Civic

### Personal benefits

Funeral support, memorial service

Finding a job

### RELEVANT QUOTES

*"For example, I lost my job, I talked to Mrs. Mira if she can help me with a job, if she knows someone who needs a hand. And she said on the radio and I immediately started getting calls, come to me, come to me, and I didn't know where to go. It was super fast, one day, the next, I started getting calls from here and there. That there are still many guests houses and everyone needs manpower. It was in June." [n.n. the announcement was not actually made on the radio, but only communicated directly to potential employers]*

*"I took the initiative to make a memorial for an old priest who served us and for a church servant. And Radio Civic was there and they filmed. And I wanted to call more local people. And everyone in the village got involved. A store gave bread rolls. It was well."*

*"Old men, yes. Or those with health problems who had to go to the hospital and had no money. Or there was no money for a funeral. There was a message on the radio and everyone helped."*

# What other programs do you want to listen to on Civic Radio?

N=40 respondents who  
N=40 respondents who  
listen Radio Civic

Programs examples	No. of mentions
It's ok as it is	19
Cultural events in Sf. Gheorghe (when choirs meet, shows, etc.), the history of the place	3
More music	3
Information about DDBRA, decisions of the Tulcea County Council	2
Programs about the activity of the mayor's office	2
Recipes	2
Programs about fishing techniques, laws related to fishing	2
Programs about the elderly	1
Programs about plants and animals	1
Tourism tips	1
More communication with ordinary people	1
Health interviews	1

## RELEVANT QUOTES

*"The ones with the representative music of the village and the interviews. I would probably be interested to find out more about what the people from Tulcea, from DDBRA do, this is information that you don't have access to so easily, unless you find out about something and look for it on the net and you understand. Let it be said that it was decided at the Tulcea Local Council, when there is something that affects the life of the people in the village."*

*"I would have liked to have a fishing program. For example, there are a few fishermen in Sfântu Gheorghe who have enough experience to talk about fishing methods, about fishing tools, how to use them. So these things will remain."*

*"Maybe some ideas regarding tourism. Maybe someone, a consultant, because there are a lot of housewives who do this and have a lot to learn. Some tourism tips would be helpful. As we evolve, tourists no longer need only food, but also spiritual food. And then someone who is good would be useful."*

# Annex

## Other Quotes

*In Annex „Selected quotes” (in Romanian).*