

“i-City”

Phase 1 – “Past – Present – Future Urban Design”

SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE OF GROUPS OF PUPILS

12– 16 November 2018

Liceo Statale Democrito, Rome, Italy

PRESENTATION HELD BY “Ion Bancila” Secondary School Team

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“Ion Băncilă” Secondary School

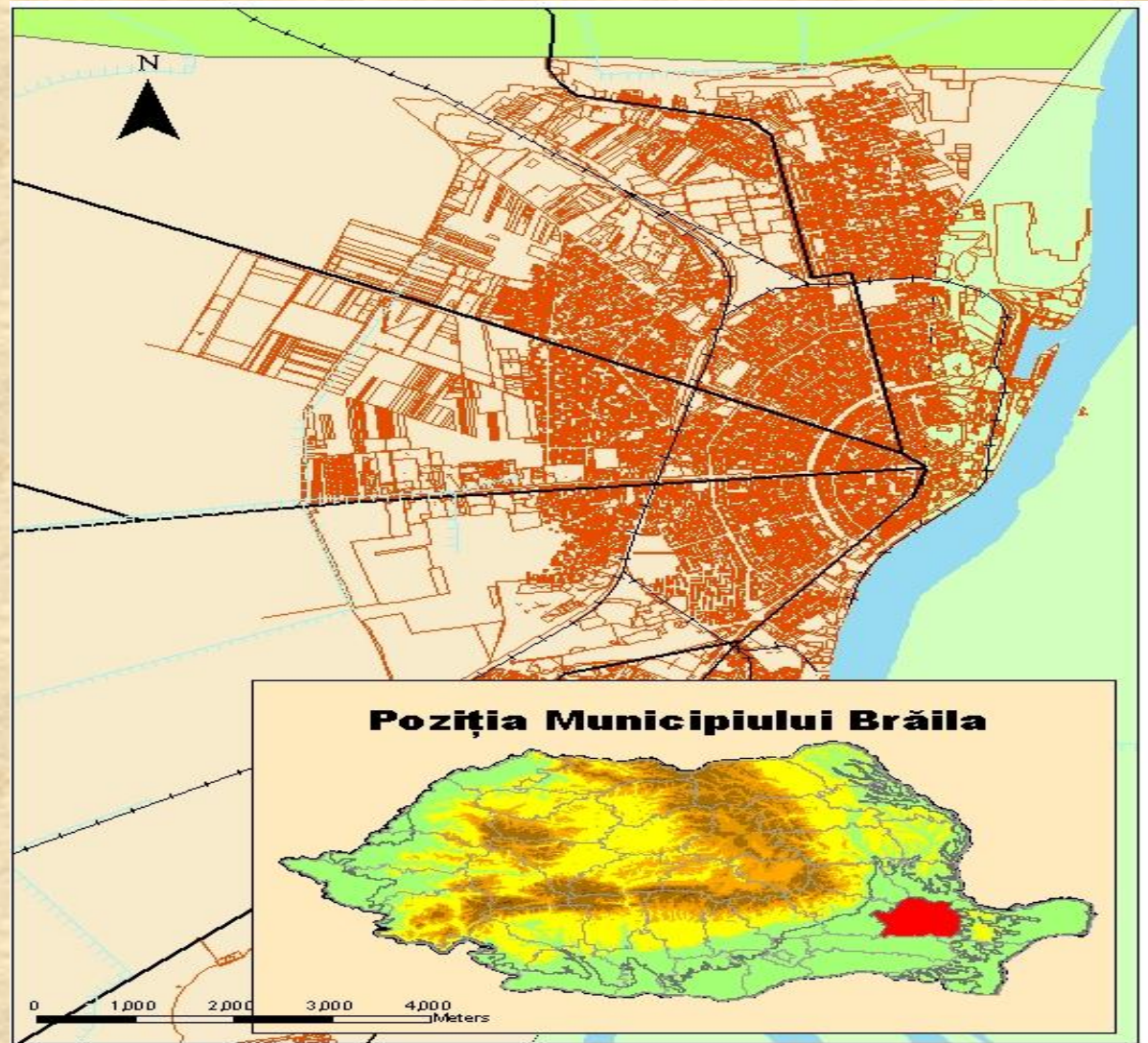
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BRĂILA THEN AND NOW

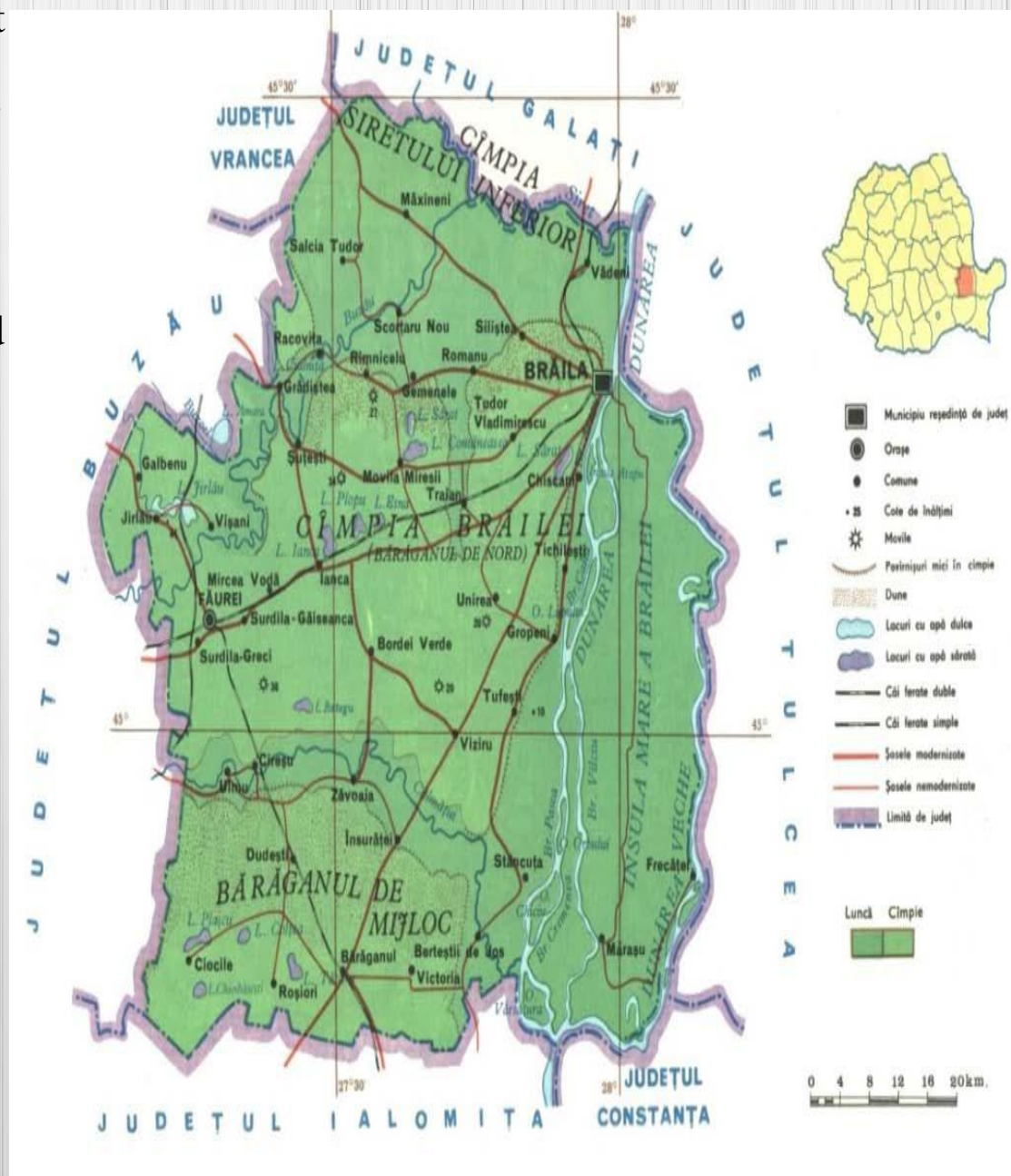


Geographic location and boundaries

- ❖ Within the country, the municipality of Brăila is located in the east-south-east of Romania, in the Field of Bărăgan.
- ❖ It is located on the left bank of the Danube River.
- ❖ Its relief is characterised by uniformity and monotony, on altitudes from 20 to 30 metres.
- ❖ It has a history of 650 years.
- ❖ It is a city-museum – representative for the medieval age.



- ❖ The city neighbours the Great Island of Brăila, an important agricultural area of the country which lies among the branches of the Danube.
- ❖ Location-related advantages:
 - ✓ the existence of the water and food resources, of fish
 - ✓ the possibility to practice agriculture
 - ✓ the development of transport, since Brăila is the first harbour on the maritime Danube
 - ✓ in relation to the capital of the country, the arc of the Carpathians and the Black Sea, the distances do not exceed 200 km;
 - ✓ the commercial exchanges
 - ✓ the existence of oil resources in the Field of Bărăgan, the development of industry



- ❖ The physical-geographical potential was the foundation for both the territorial development of the city and for the numerical evolution and territorial distribution of the population.

The current territory of the city of Brăila has favoured the appearance of the human communities and their development since the Neolithic Age, through the relief and the bio-pedoclimatic and hydrologic conditions.

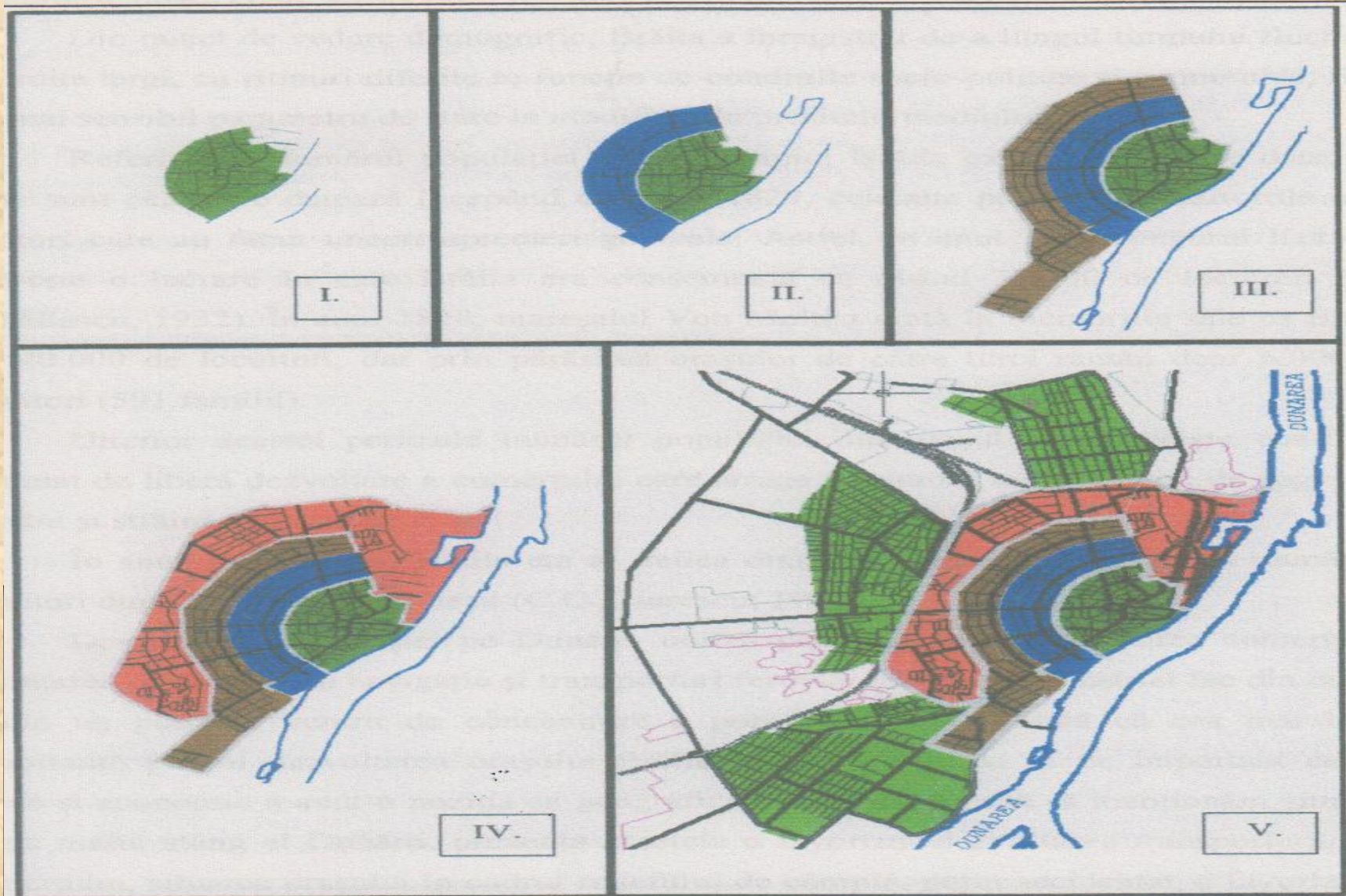


❖ The first documentary proof of the existence of the city is the commercial privilege granted to the merchants from Brasov by the ruler [Vladislav Vlaicu](#) on the 20th of January, [1368](#).

In [1463](#), the Byzantine chronicler [Laonic Chalcocondil](#) depicted Brăila as “the city of the Dacians, in which the trade is bigger than in all the cities in the country”.



The city of Brăila – the territorial development



LEGENDĂ:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| înainte de 1830 | între 1830-1856 | între 1856 – 1888 |
| între 1888-1900 | după 1900 | |

Sursa: Municipiul Brăila – evoluție teritorială (după D. I. Oancea, 1973)



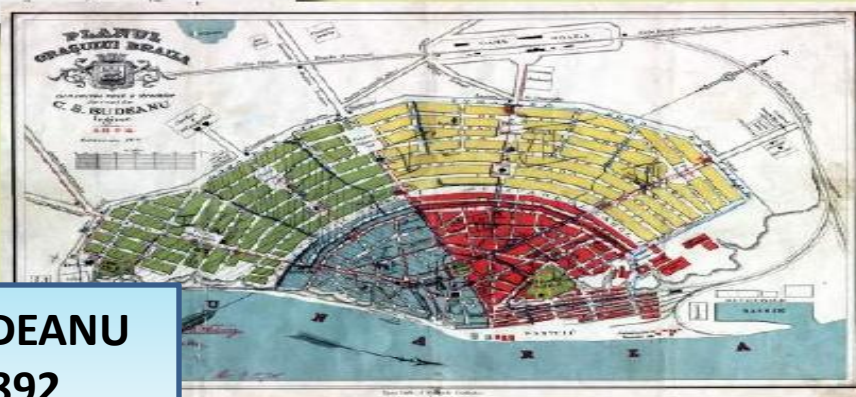
**THE RINIEV
PLAN 1830**



**THE BERROCZYN
PLAN 1834**

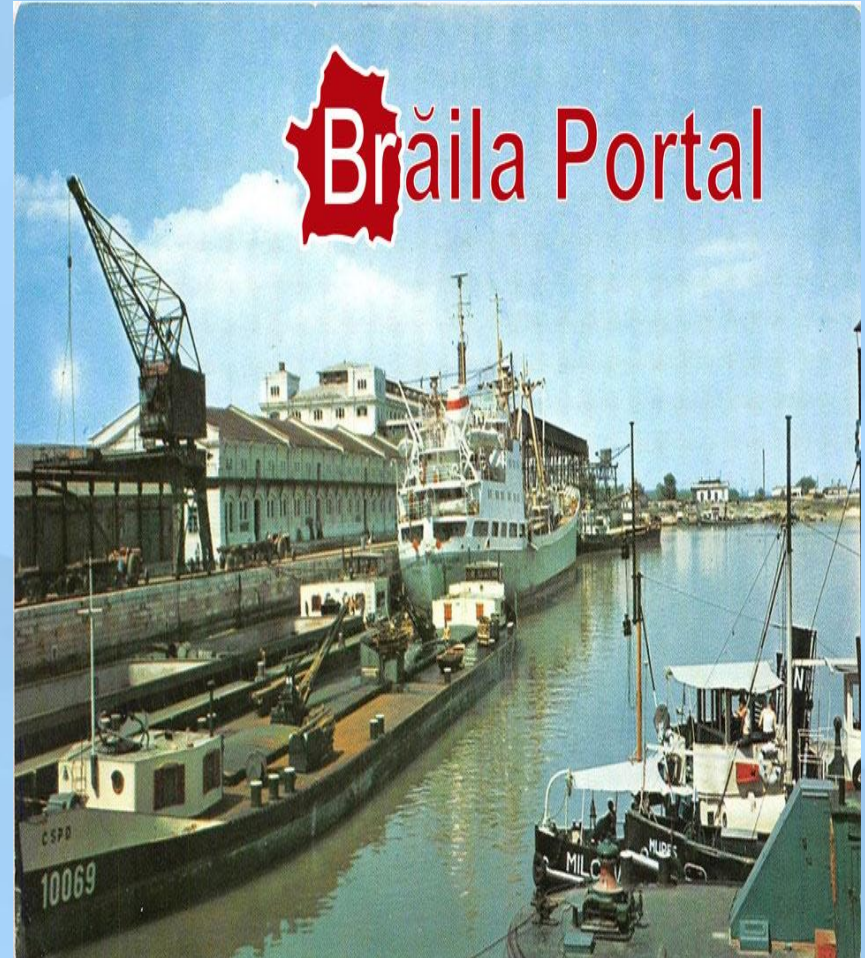


1867 PLAN



**THE C.S.BUDEANU
PLAN 1892**

- ✓ The city of Brăila has its destiny and development linked to the waters of the old Danube River.
It used to be the biggest harbour on the Danube in the country, also called „maritime route head”.



- ❖ A semicircular/ray-shaped concentric plan – it has got a linear physiognomy, determined by a natural element (the Danube River)

- ❖ Advantage
 - ✓ Easy access to the centre from the outskirts or any other location in the city
- ❖ Disadvantage
 - ✓ Reduced traffic visibility because of the circularly disposed streets



The EMBERICOS house

The historic centre of Brăila

Completed in the year 1912, its first use was as the headquarters of the Ship Agency M. Embericos & Co and as the dwelling place of the Greek shipowner Menelaos Embericos.

The company M. Embericos & Co, which had its headquarters in London, carried out cereal export and coal import, and owned a traveller transatlantic line with luxury ships, on the route Costanta (Romania) – New-York (the USA).

Since 2002, it has hosted the Cultural Centre „Nicăpetre”.

The old city centre concentrates the old architecture, which struggles to resist in time and has the regime of an urban reservation.



The numerical evolution of the population in the city of Brăila

Ani	1930	1956	1966	1977	1985	1989	2005	2008	2017
Nr. Locuitori	68.317	102.500	144.551	195.659	240.971	242.592	213.814	212.981	180.302

The most important factors of the increase in the number of inhabitants have been:

- ❖ the economic development, especially of the industry, which determined the migration of a large number of people from rural areas, in order to cover the necessary workforce
- ❖ the pronatalist demographic policy during the socialist period, which led to high birth rates

The causes of the decrease in the number of steady inhabitants are the following:

- ❖ the economic restructuring – a lot of people lost their jobs and went to live in the countryside
- ❖ the considerable decrease in natality, with rates lower than those of mortality, leading to a negative birth rate
- ❖ the large number of people who have migrated to countries of the European Union more economically developed, in search of work

The ethnic structure of the population in Brăila

Years/ Nationality	1930		1992		2002		2017	
	Absolute Rate	%	Absolute Rate	%	Absolute Rate	%	Absolute Rate	%
Romanian	61.621	90,2	223699	94,4	209.406	94,2	162565	90,15
Rroma	887	1,3	4.265	1,8	1556	0,7	2025	1,12
Jewish	1912	2,8	236	0,1	155	0,03	25	0,01
Russian Lipovans	341	0,5	2606	1,1	3557	1,6	1926	1,06
Greek	409	0,6	1153	0,5	235	0,09	174	0,09

- ❖ Braila is considered to be a cosmopolitan city, where tolerance towards other ethnic groups has always been valued.



- ❖ Thus, throughout the history, there have been no major conflicts between the preponderant population of Romanians and members of other ethnic groups or communities.



THE VIOLATTOS MILL

Built in 1898 by the architect [Anghel Saligny](#), the Violattos Mill was, at the time of its inauguration, an engineering masterpiece – it used to be the biggest steam mill in the eastern Europe and it became the pride of the entire country.

Later on, a printing house and a sculpture camp were set here. Currently, it lies in oblivion, waiting for another architectural mastermind to turn it into a tourist attraction.



THE ITALIAN ROMANIAN BANK

The existence of the Italian School within the area of the Public Garden proves that there used to live a great number of Italians in our city.

The initial building used to be a bank; meanwhile, it was turned into the Brăila Restaurant , the Select Confectioner's, and, at present, the Carol Restaurant.



Foto: Florentin CUMAN

THE SAINT ARCHANGELS SQUARE/THE TRAIAN SQUARE

Its modern disposal as an English park dates back to 1906.

It used to be the heart of the city, the public square where the trade and all the civic life were concentrated, the business card of the city.

It bears three elements of urban furniture: the public clock, the artesian well and the Traian statuary group.



THE TRAIAN SQUARE

The public clock was inaugurated in 1909 and it represents a time mark of the city. It was commissioned in Vienna and manufactured in Baroque style.

The artesian well is also in the Baroque style characteristic to parks and gardens.

The Traian statuary group was set to commemorate 1800 years since Dacia was conquered by the Romans, and 40 years of Carol I's reign.



The average number of employees in the city of Brăila, on fields of economic activity, in the year 2017

Economic activity	Agriculture	Industry	Constructions	Commerce	Transport
Number of people	777	17.754	2.977	10.573	3.115
Economic activity	Real estate	Public administration	Health	Education	Other activities
Number of people	951	2.457	5.263	3294	4.313

❖ ECONOMIC CHANGES AFTER THE 1989 REVOLUTION

The Chiscani Chemical Plant played an important part in the industry of the city, with 12,000 people working here. After 1989, it was no longer owned by the state and it underwent restructuring stages. The workers were made redundant and the plant was closed in 2009.

“The rolling mill”, a landmark of Băila’s industry which produced metallurgical items, became insolvent in 2013 and made redundant 3,500 people.



ECONOMIC CHANGES

The Brăila Shipyard produces fishing vessels, cargo boats, tanks, tugboats, barges. The „Promex” Excavator Factory produces heavy machines for the metallurgical industry and represents a positive example of rendering industry to the private business, of technological upgrading and efficient business.



BRĂILA NOW AND THEN



The kinetic fountain



The bridge across the Danube – year 2022

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD
TO YOUR VISIT!**