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Romanian university sports-cultural landscape defined by the sportive space determined by national competitions (in 2015) in team sports

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Abstract. The spatial analysis of sports competitions can be accomplished according to sports branch, specific infrastructure elements and the teams trained in competitions. By limits, geographic position, structure and dynamics, such an area is defining in outlining a type of university cultural-sportive landscape. In the case of this study, through specific analysis methods, tried in the specialty literature, our purpose is to analyze the spatial impact of team sports through the static component – infrastructure and the dynamic one – sports clubs (teams). The analysis may target especially the age group, gender group, the environment, amateur or professional level, etc. At the level of the Romanian political space, the present study will reflect from territorial point of view the relationship between the dynamic and static components at the level of the year 2015, on 7 branches with team sports, amateurs, professionals, which represent the university environment. The purpose is to outline the role of university sports in the unit of the Romanian sports through quantifiable elements, useful in the spatial planning and organization strategies.

Keywords: Spatial analysis, sport space, infrastructure, dynamic component-teams

Introduction

In the spatial planning and organization, the structural component has a major role and it is usually reflected in the final result. In the case of this study, we shall analyze the university sportive movement in Romania through two basic structural components: a static one – infrastructure and a dynamic one – sports clubs and

teams. The relationship between the two components, measurable under quantitative aspect-number and qualitative aspect-performance level, is analyzed structurally through the support component – the university environment, and dynamically through the competition level of representation. Defining and implementing new concepts such as cultural-sportive landscape and sportive space (Ilieș et al., 2014) may lead to many meanings certificated in the specialty literature (Bale, 1994; Augustin, 2007; Maguire, 1995; Cazalais et al., 2000; Ilieș & Josan, 2009; Ielenicz & Comănescu, 2013; Conner, 2014) and based on results of different study case (Bale & Vertinsky, 2004; Gaffney, 2008; Ahlfeldt & Maenning, 2010; Cho et al., 2012; Ostojic et al., 2013; Zarrilli & Brito, 2013). Together with the spatial component and its functions, we shall try to outline and define the sportive space as perceived space, extracting in the end the generalizing example, abnormalities, analogies, etc (Hagget, 1990; Cocean, 2002). Defining a cultural landscape with sportive valences also derives from its structure: “anthropic elements, natural elements (physical support) and derived elements” (Cocean & David, 2014, 35). Defining a type of cultural sportive landscape marked by continuous changes and adjustments to the demands of the anthropic component at the level of infrastructural diversity, fits the category of animated evolutionary cultural landscapes (Giulianotti, 1999; Voiculescu & Crețan, 2005; Bandarin, 2007; Hallinan & Jackson, 2008; Kozma et al., 2014; Gaceu et al., 2015). In the case of a cultural sportive landscape, the products of anthropic intervention are the result of a certain type of culture and in the case of the current study, culturalization refers to the sports activity at university environment level. Thus, culturalization is achieved through sportive activity and the specific and related infrastructure elements, “through them, the landscape role and functions being dictated by their amplitude, diversity, physiognomy, evolution (dynamics), their significance and durability” (Cocean & David, 2014, 35).

Methodology and tools

Starting from the purpose and objectives of this study, first a data base will be created, manageable through GIS (Rooney & Pillsbury, 1992; Favretto, 2005; Augustin, 2008; Wendt, 2011; Zale & Bandana, 2012; Gaffney, 2014; Ilieș et al., 2014). Statistical information is gathered related to all university clubs and associations in Romania which participate with teams to national competitions in the competition year 2014/2015. Using analysis methods and tools tested in the specialty literature (Coteț & Nedelcu, 1976; Ianoș, 2000; DeChano & Shelley, 2006; Ilieș M., 2007; Dehoorne et al., 2010; Ilieș et al., 2012; Conner, 2014; Gaffney, 2014; Ilieș & al., 2014; Kozma, 2014; Wendt, 2014), the final purpose is to answer the questions *where, why* and *what is the perspective?* The statistics and cartographic methods are the basic ones and the final product which can be used in the spatial planning and organization will be a thematic map (Muehrcke, 1986; Mathieu & Praicheux, 1987; Bale, 1993; Bale & Dejonghe, 2008; Hall, 2008; Bailey, 2009; Slocum et al., 2009; Wendt, 2012; Ilieș D.C. et al., 2013; Ilieș A. et al., 2015). “The perceived space” (Cocean, 2002, 53) will play an important role in this study as it is the reflection of community image about the sportive space limits and structure,

reflected at sensorial and mental level. It can be combined with "the lived space" (Cocean, 2002, 54) due to the consistency of the anthropic material. Such a space turned anthropic contributes fully to the determination of a cultural-sportive landscape by the fact that "the products of anthropic intervention become first, constituting its essence" (Cocean & David, 2014, 34). According to the classifications in the specialty literature (Committee of World Heritage), the cultural sportive landscape finds its place into the category of landscape intentionally conceived and created by people (Bandarin, 2007; Cocean & David, 2014). Equally, together with the specific infrastructure, sports, through its manifestation forms and its effects upon community (Bale & Vertinsky, 2004; Ilieș D. et al., 2011, Maguire, 2014), is the direct or indirect beneficiary of elements and infrastructure belonging to other activity domains (Bale, 2003; Castaldini, 2008; Gaffney, 2013; Kozma et al., 2014; Pop, 2014). Another important element in analyzing and defining a type of cultural-sportive landscape is the aesthetic and functional integration of sports complexes into the integrating anthropic or natural environment (Bale, 1982; Bale, 1998; Thornley, 2002; Castaldini et al., 2005).

Data base

The data gathered from the information sources refer to all sports branches with team sports existing in 2015, reflecting an economic and social system specific to a market economy of West-European type. The analyzed sports branches are: basketball, football, handball, ice-hockey, rugby, volleyball and water-polo. The infrastructure elements are the stadiums and own sports halls or those belonging to the public domain from the localities where the universities or their subsidiaries are. Logically, the localities where there are such sportive activities should identify themselves with university centers or their subsidiaries. In spatial analysis and representation of data (Beguin & Pumain, 2010), the difference will be provided by the number of teams, respectively by their performances, fact which may or may not be directly related to the size of the university center.

Typology

Different typologies used in specialty literature (Voiculescu & Crețan, 2005; Brabyn, 2009; Calcatinge, 2013; Cocean & David, 2014) are important in our research to create a special type of cultural landscape connected with university sports. The defining criterion of such a cultural-sportive space is typologically determined by the university environment and institutionally by the name of the university club and of the residence locality and at an inferior level, within the above, there will be additionally applied criteria of functional, structural and mental type. Once the spaces are outlined, we shall be able to notice the importance of such a delimitation in the systemic functionality of a locality and of the delimitation of such a cultural-sportive landscape. Usually, the infrastructure elements are grouped, generating sports complexes (fig.1) or can be isolated as it is the case of football stadiums (fig. 2a-c).



Figure 1. The Sports Complex including the Swimming Pool *Gheorghe Demeca* and outdoor swimming pool, the Sports Hall *Lascăr Pană* and the Rugby Arena *Lacăr Ghineț* from Baia Mare (where plays *Știința* rugby team) (image sources: <https://www.google.ro/maps>, 2015)

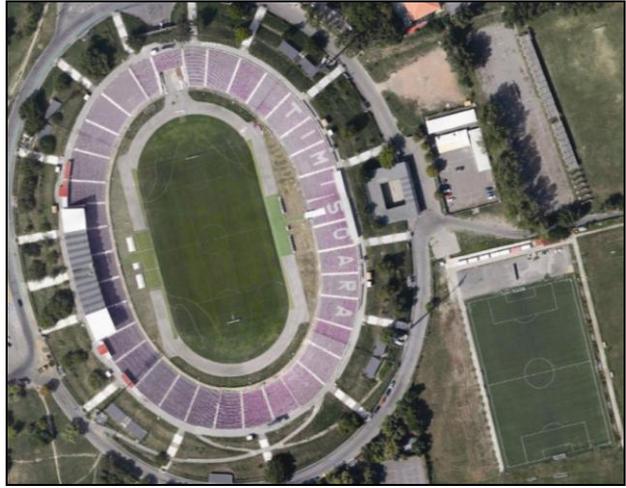


Figure 2a. The Football Complex Stadium *Dan Păltinișan* from Timișoara, where plays ACS Poli Timișoara football team (First Romanian League) (data sources: <https://www.google.ro/maps>, 2015)



Figure 2b. University of Oradea. The Sports Complex Stadium where plays the football university team FC Universitatea (IVth Romanian League) (data sources: <https://www.google.ro/maps>, 2015)

Figure 2c. The Sport Complex Stadium *Politehnica* located in the campus of Politehnica University from Timișoara, where plays the football university team ASU Poli Timișoara (Third Romanian League) (data sources: <https://www.google.ro/maps>, 2015)

In 2015, there are registered 52 university centers – localities with public and private universities which can be structured as follows (table1; fig.3):

A.) *University centers with headquarters of state and private universities* 22: Alba-Iulia, Arad, Bacău, Brașov, București, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Craiova, Galați, Iași, Lugoj, Oradea, Petroșani, Pitești, Ploiești, Reșița, Sibiu, Suceava, Târgoviște, Târgu Jiu, Târgu Mureș, Timișoara. Seven of them are identified with one university.

B.) University centers, branches of those in the first category: București (Călimănești, Buzău, Drobeta Turnu-Severin, Focșani, Piatra Neamț, Sibiu), Cluj-Napoca (Alba Iulia, Baia Mare, Bistrița, Blaj, Gheorgheni, Năsăud, Odorheiu-Secuiesc, Oradea, Piatra Neamț, Satu Mare, Sfântu Gheorghe, Sibiu, Sighetu-Marmației, Târgu Mureș, Târgu Secuiesc, Vatra Dornei, Zalău), Craiova (Drobeta Turnu-Severin), Galați (Brăila), Iași (Botoșani, Piatra Neamț), Oradea (Beiuș), Pitești (Alexandria, Câmpulung Muscel, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Slatina), Reșița (Caransebeș), Timișoara (Hunedoara, Lugoj).

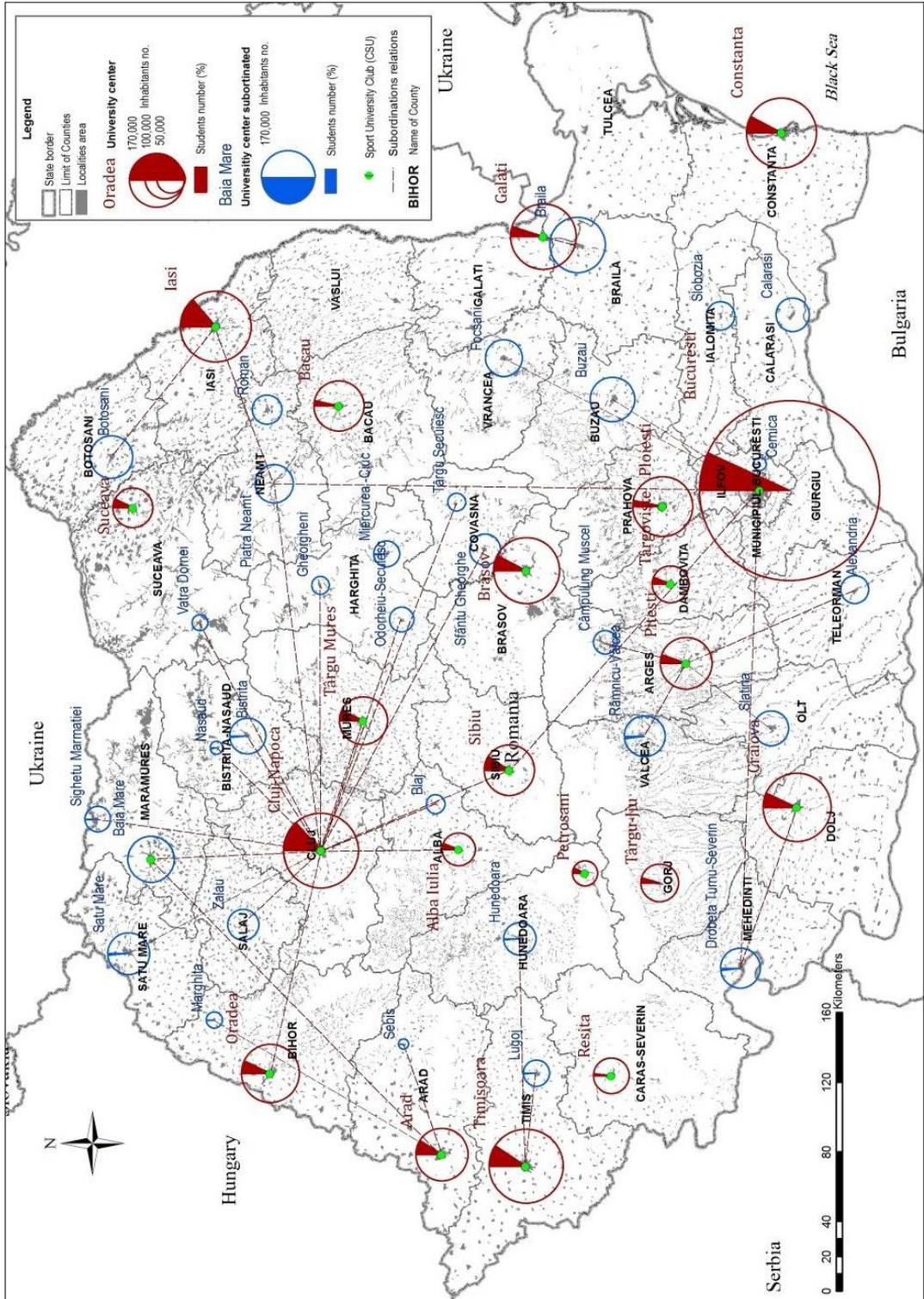
Table 1. The functional structure of the Romanian university system and its components
(data sources: www.edu.ro, 2015; www.insse.ro, 2015)

no	University Center	No. of universities	Name of universities (official name in Romanian)	University Sport Club
1	Alba Iulia	1	Universitatea "1 Decembrie 1918"	CSU
2	Arad	1	Universitatea "Aurel Vlaicu"	CSU
		2	Universitatea de Vest "Vasile Goldiș" (Baia Mare, Marghita, Satu Mare, Sebiș, Zalău)	1
3	București	1	Universitatea Politehnica	2 CSU
		2	Universitatea Tehnică de Construcții	
		3	Universitatea de Arhitectură și Urbanism "Ion Mincu"	
		4	Universitatea de Științe Agronomice și Medicină Veterinară	
		5	Universitatea	
		6	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Carol Davila"	
		7	Academia de Studii Economice	
		8	Universitatea Națională de Muzică	
		9	Universitatea Națională de Arte	
		10	Universitatea Națională de Artă Teatrală și Cinematografie "I.L. Caragiale"	
		11	Universitatea Națională de Educație Fizică și Sport	
		12	Școala Națională de Studii Politice și Administrative	
		13	Academia Tehnică Militară	
		14	Universitatea Națională de Apărare "Carol I"	
		15	Academia Națională de Informații "Mihai Viteazul"	
		16	Academia de Poliție "Alexandru Ioan Cuza"	
		17	Universitatea Creștină "Dimitrie Cantemir" (Brașov, Cluj, Sibiu, Timișoara, Constanța)	
		18	Universitatea "Titu Maiorescu" (Tg Jiu)	
		19	Universitatea "Nicolae Titulescu"	
		20	Universitatea Româno-Americană	
		21	Universitatea "Hyperion"	
		22	Universitatea "Spiru Haret" (Brașov, Constanța, Câmpulung Muscel, Craiova, Râmnicu-Vâlcea)	
		23	Universitatea "Bioterra" (Alexandria, Buzău, Focșani, Slobozia)	
		24	Universitatea Ecologică	
		25	Universitatea Română de Științe și Arte "Gheorghe Asachi"	
		26	Universitatea "Athenaeum"	
		27	Universitatea "Artifex"	
		28	Institutul Teologic Romano-Catolic	
		29	Institutul Teologic Penticostal	
4	Bacău	1	Universitatea "Vasile Alecsandri"	CSU
		2	Universitatea "George Bacovia"	
5	Brașov	1	Universitatea "Transilvania"	CSU
		2	Academia Forțelor Aeriene "Henri Coandă"	
		3	Universitatea "George Barițiu"	
6	Cluj-	1	Universitatea tehnică	CSU

	Napoca	2	Univ de Științe Agronomice și Medicină Veterinară	
		3	Universitatea "Babeș-Bolyai"	
		4	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Iuliu Hațieganu"	
		5	Academia de Muzică "Gheorghe Dima"	
		6	Universitatea de Artă și Design	
		7	Universitatea "Avram Iancu"	
		8	Universitatea "Bogdan Vodă" (Timișoara)	
9	Institutul Teologic Protestant			
10	Universitatea "Sapientia" (Mirecurea Ciuc, Târgu Mureș)			
7	Constanța	1	Universitatea "Ovidius"	CSU
		2	Universitatea Maritimă	
		3	Academia Navală "Mircea cel Bătrân"	
		4	Universitatea "Andrei Șaguna"	
8	Craiova	1	Universitatea	CSU
		2	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie	
9	Galați	1	Universitatea "Dunărea de Jos"	CSU
		2	Universitatea "Danubius"	
10	Iași	1	Universitatea Tehnică "Gheorghe Asachi"	CSU
		2	Universitatea de Științe Agricole și Medicină Veterinară "Ion Ionescu de la Brad"	
		3	Universitatea "Al. I. Cuza"	
		4	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Gr. T. Popa"	
		5	Universitatea de Arte "George Enescu"	
		6	Universitatea "Petre Andrei"	
11	Lugoj	1	Universitatea Europeană "Drăgan"	
12	Oradea	1	Universitatea	CSU
		2	Universitatea "Agora"	
		3	Universitatea "Emanuel"	
		4	Universitatea Creștină "Parțium"	
13	Petroșani	1	Universitatea	CSU
14	Pitești	1	Universitatea	CSU
		2	Universitatea "Constantin Brâncoveanu" (Brăila, Râmnicu-Vâlcea)	
15	Ploiești	1	Universitatea Petrol-Gaze	CSU
16	Reșița	1	Universitatea "Eftimie Murgu"	CSU
17	Sibiu	1	Universitatea "Lucian Blaga"	CSU
		2	Academia Forțelor Terestre "Nicolae Bălcescu"	
		3	Universitatea "Româno-Germană"	
18	Suceava	1	Universitatea "Ștefan cel Mare"	CSU
19	Târgoviște	1	Universitatea "Valahia"	CSU
20	Târgu Jiu	1	Universitatea "Constantin Brâncuși"	
21	Târgu Mureș	1	Universitatea "Petru Maior"	CSU
		2	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie	
		3	Universitatea de Arte	
		4	Universitatea "Dimitrie Cantemir"	
22	Timișoara	1	Universitatea Politehnica	2 CSU
		2	Universitatea de Științe Agricole și Medicină Veterinară a Banatului "Regele Mihai I al României"	
		3	Universitatea de Vest	
		4	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie "Victor Babeș"	
		5	Universitatea "Tibiscus"	

Notes: Universitatea de Arte – state university
 Universitatea "Tibiscus" –private university

Quantitatively, an important role as selection area and, implicitly, representation potential, is also played by the number of students per university center (fig. 3).



The definition of such a university center in this case is provided by the existence of a headquarters of a university and, in case **B**, by the existence of branches of **A** category universities. In terms of spatial planning, we can say that into the 2nd category there are the polarized centers, dependent of the 1st category. Their assertion on competitive level can be accomplished through partnerships with the local authorities having a double purpose: to represent the university and locality equally.

For example, the 5 state universities from Cluj-Napoca have branches in a significant number of localities, especially in Transylvania and even in localities where there are other universities as well (fig. 3). Practically, under functional, structural and mental aspects, the polarization area of Cluj-Napoca university center encompasses the localities with branches too. In the case of Cluj-Napoca university center, there are:

- Specific representation club (University Sports Club) which identifies itself with the university center and functions independently from universities;

- Clubs or associations belonging to certain universities;

- Clubs or student sports associations in branch university centers and which can be: dependent on the USC/CSU; on university or autonomous.

Based on such definitions of the key element-the university, so that a locality should be a university center (52 localities), we can define three categories of university spaces (tab.1; fig.3):

a.) *independent of base*: determined by universities placed in a single locality: in the case of this category there are 8 university centers with a single public university (fig.3): Alba Iulia, Oradea, Petroșani, Ploiești, Reșița, Suceava, Târgoviște and Târgu Jiu.

b.) *polarizing-independent*: determined by universities with the headquarters in a single locality and branches in one or several localities (9 centers): București, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Galați, Iași, Oradea, Pitești, Reșița and Timișoara (fig.3).

c.) *polarized-subordinate*: localities with university branches having the headquarters in a different locality (26 centers): Alexandria, Baia Mare, Beiuș, Bistrița, Blaj, Botoșani, Brăila, Buzău, Călimănești, Câmpulung Muscel, Caransebeș, Drobeta Turnu-Severin, Focșani, Gheorgheni, Hunedoara, Năsăud, Odorheiu-Secuiesc, Piatra Neamț, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Satu Mare, Sfântu Gheorghe, Sighetu-Marmației, Slatina, Târgu Secuiesc, Vatra Dornei, Zalău.

d.) *autonomous*: all university sports clubs (CSU/USC) which function nearby universities and are located in a single university center, respectively locality.

e.) To these 4 types, a fifth type is added, defined by the property regime, usually private, and which, under a university title, is not dependent on a university, functioning financially independently, similarly to a private club.

To the four types defined by the university function of the locality, in the case of this study, it is added the functional component determined by the existence of a sports branch with participation to national competitions.

The analytical component

The sports branches considered in this study are those specific to team sports: basketball, football, handball, ice hockey, water polo, rugby and volleyball, both

men's (M) and women's (W). There are considerable differences between the sports branches mentioned in the report with the number of participating teams and implicitly the representation level of the university center.

Basketball

Basketball is one of the team sports with the highest adherence in the university environment on representation level in the national championships with women and men teams. Structurally, it stands out on gender and age groups level (table 2; fig. 5), being organized from the competition point of view on 12 levels (table 3). Practically, the infrastructure elements and the dynamic component (the team) can be encountered in 11 university centers (50% of the total). Besides the qualitative component generated on competition level, an important role is also played by quantitative component by the number of registered sportive and the number of teams involved in national competitions. On the seniors' level, the national basketball championship includes The National League (NL), First League (L1) and Second League (L2), men and women, and the juniors' competitions are ranked on 9 age categories (fig. 4, table 3).

Table 2. University centers, teams and representation levels in men's (M) and women's (W) basketball competitions (Data's sources: Romanian Federation of Basketball, 2015: www.frb.ro, 2015)

no	University Center	Name of Team	University	National League		League 1		League 2	
				M	W	M	W	M	W
1	Arad	Univ Vasile Goldiș ICIM	<i>Vasile Goldiș</i>		W		W		
2	București	CSU Știința	CSU			M			
		ACS 4 Sports Agronomia	Univ. Agronomia			M			
3	Alba Iulia	CS Universitatea	<i>1Decembrie 1918</i>		W		W		
4	Brașov	CSU Cuadripol	<i>Transilvania</i>					M	
		Olimpia CSU	<i>Transilvania</i>		W		W		
5	Cluj-Napoca	U-Banca Transilvania	<i>private</i>	M					
		U Mobitelco	<i>private</i>			M		M	
		Universitatea	<i>Babeș-Bolyai</i>		W	M	W		W
6	Craiova	SCMU	Universitatea	M		M			
7	Iași	CS Politehnica Național	Univ Tehnică				W		
		Politehnica	Univ Tehnică			M			
8	Oradea	CSM CSU/CSM CSU LPS	Universitatea	M		M			
		Universitatea CSM	Universitatea				W		
9	Pitești	BCMU	Universitatea	M		M		M	
10	Ploiești	CSU	Petrol și Gaze					M	
11	Sibiu	CSU Atlassibi	<i>Lucian Blaga</i>	M		M		M	

On seniors' level (including Under 20), men and women, the sports space determined by basketball national competitions has a dynamic component grouped on the level of 94 teams distributed on the entire territory of our country. Out of these, the sports landscape of university basketball is formed of 33 teams (35% of the total), 21 men's teams and 12 women' teams.

Practically, out of the 11 university clubs (table 2), three are represented in all 3 leagues (Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu and Pitești); two only in L3 (Brașov and Ploiești); 4 only in L2 (București -2 clubs, Cluj-Napoca and Iași) and 2 in NL and L1 (Oradea and Craiova). Structurally, in the 11 university centers there are 13 clubs supported

through University Sports Clubs (CSU) by 11 universities (out of which only *Vasile Goldiș* University of Arad belongs to the private system) and, by association, by private partners and local councils (table 2).

Table 3. Hierarchic representation level of competition basketball on university centers
(Data's sources: Romanian Federation of Basket-ball, 2015: www.frb.ro, 2015)

Men's University center	Level of competition	Women's University center
<i>Cluj-Napoca, Craiova Oradea Pitești Sibiu</i>	National League (12 men's și 11 women's teams) with 5 men's și 3 women's universitie's teams	<i>Cluj Napoca Arad Alba Iulia Brașov</i>
București (2) <i>Cluj-Napoca (2) Craiova Iași Oradea Pitești Sibiu</i>	1st League (24 men's și 14 women's teams) with 9 men's și 6 women's universitie's teams	<i>Cluj Napoca Arad Alba Iulia Brașov</i>
<i>Cluj-Napoca Brașov Pitești Ploiești Sibiu</i>	2nd League (23 men's și 4 women's teams) with 5 men's și 1 women's universitie's teams	<i>Cluj-Napoca</i>
<i>Cluj-Napoca București</i>	Under 20 (7 men's și 4 women's teams) with 2 men's și 1 women's universitie's teams	<i>Cluj-Napoca</i>
<i>Brașov Cluj-Napoca București Pitești</i>	Under 18 (33 men's și 15 women's teams) with 4 men's și 1 women's universitie's teams U18	<i>Brașov</i>
<i>Cluj-Napoca (2) București Brașov Pitești (2)</i>	Under 17 (20 men's și 6 women's teams) with 6 men's și 1 women's universitie's teams	<i>Brașov</i>
<i>Cluj Napoca (2) București Brașov Sibiu Pitești</i>	Under 16 (44 men's și 24 women's teams) with 6 men's și 1 women's universitie's teams	<i>București Brașov</i>
<i>Cluj Napoca Ploiești Pitești</i>	Under 15 (16 men's și 17 women's teams) with 3 men's și 1 women's universitie's teams	<i>Brașov București</i>
<i>Cluj Napoca București Brașov Sibiu Pitești (2) Ploiești</i>	Under 14 (31 men's și 20 women's teams) with 7 men's și 2 women's universitie's teams	<i>Brașov Oradea</i>
<i>Cluj Napoca (2) București Pitești Ploiești</i>	Under13 (30 men's și 18 women's teams) with 5 men's și 1 women's universitie's teams	<i>București</i>
<i>Cluj Napoca Brașov</i>	MiniBasket-ball (12 men's și 12 women's teams) with 2 men's și 2 women's universitie's teams	<i>Ploiești Brașov</i>
<i>Cluj Napoca (3) Brașov Ploiești</i>	Baby Baschet 32 men's and 12 women's from which 5 men's și 2 women's universitie's teams	<i>Brașov Ploiești</i>

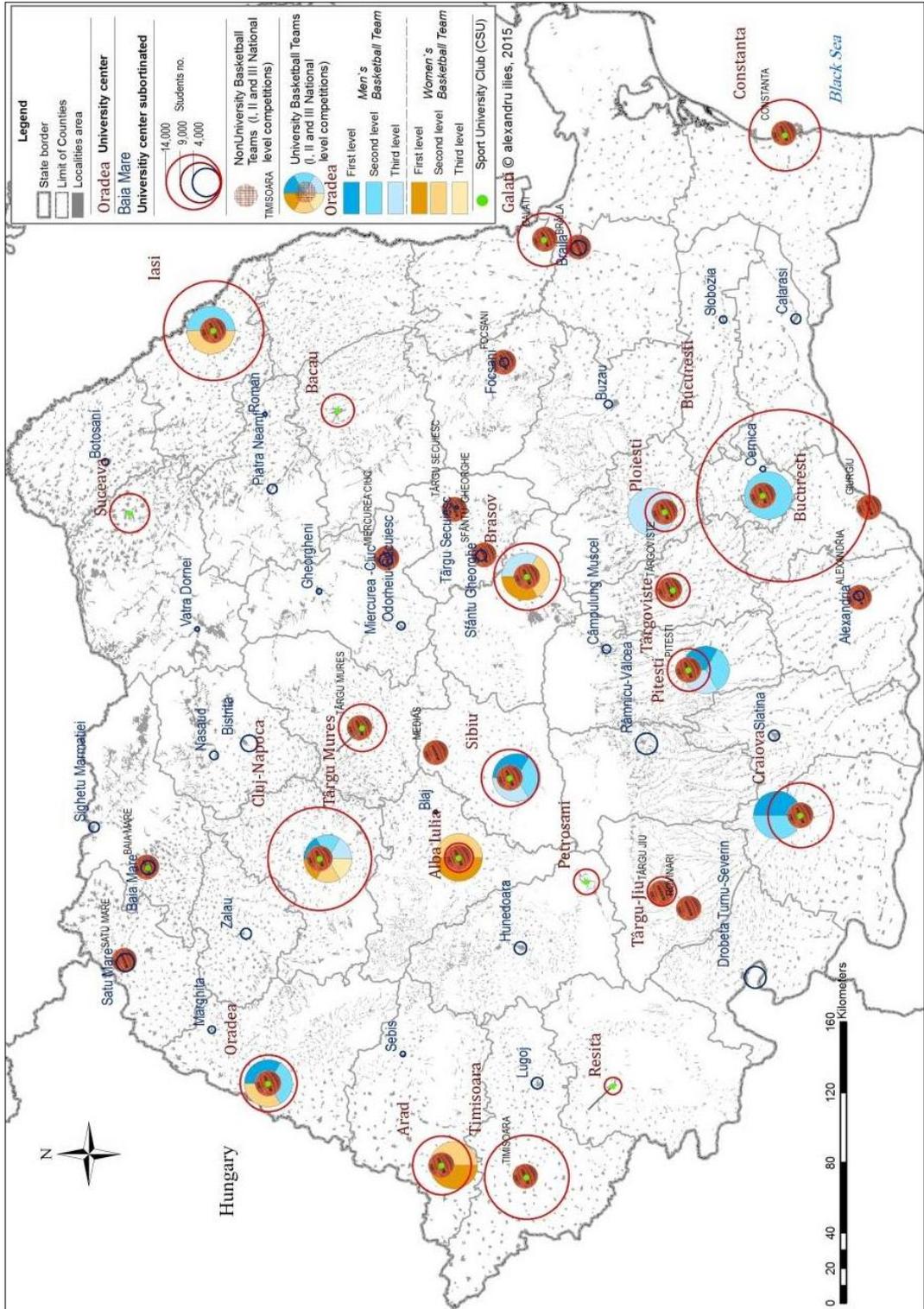


Figure 5. University centers, teams and representation levels in men's and women's basketball competitions (Data's sources: Romanian Federation of Basketball, 2015: www.frb.ro, 2015)

The popularity of the basketball game in the university environment is emphasized by the large number of teams in the seniors' national leagues, but especially by the interest in the juniors' teams. In figure 5 we notice that on the 9 competition levels, 353 teams function, out of which 51 (15%) belong to university clubs (table 3; fig. 5), even though the players do not have the age of students. We notice on this level 7 university centers, true poles of men and women junior basketball and these are (fig. 5): 13 competitions (6M and 7W), Cluj-Napoca 10 competitions (9M and 1W), Bucharest 9 (6M and 3W), Pitești 6M, Sibiu 2M, Ploiești 6 (4M and 2W) and Oradea 1W. From the gender point of view, men's basketball dominates with 39 teams (75%) compared to women's basketball with 14 teams.

Out of the more than 100 public and private universities, only 12 are involved in supporting basketball clubs (tables 2 and 3). Two of them are private and 10, through the university sports clubs (USC/CSU), are assigned to the 11 university centers. Regionally (fig. 5), in national competitions there are involved only 4 centers from Transylvania, 2 from Banat and Crișana, 1 from Moldova, 3 from Muntenia and 1 from Oltenia. Except Bucharest, present in only 3 categories of juniors, university women's basketball is present only in Transylvania region (Cluj-Napoca, Alba Iulia and Brașov) and in western Crișana (Arad and Oradea).

Volleyball

Volleyball is a team sport with adherence in university environment. The quantitative component is clearly inferior compared to basketball, the sports space defined by volley-ball is outlined in 2015 by 38 men's teams, out of which 7 are university teams and about 40 women's teams, out of which 14 are university teams (table 4).

The spatial distribution shows 11 university centers (50% of the total) (fig. 6): Baia Mare, Cluj Napoca, Craiova, Timișoara, Brașov, București, Bacău, Iași, Tg Mureș, Oradea and Galați.

Table 4. University centers, teams and representation levels in men's (M) and women's (W) volleyball competitions (Data's sources: Romanian Federation of Volleyball, 2015: www.frv.ro, 2015)

no	University center	Team	University or/and CSU/USC	A1 Division (12 men's teams and 12 women's teams) with 3 men's and 5 women's universitie's teams		A2 Division (13 men's and 13 women's teams) with 4 men's and 5 women's universitie's teams		Junior with 3 women's universitie's teams	
1	Baia Mare	Știința Explorări	Univ Tehnică Cluj	M					
2	București	CSU Știința	CSU			M			
3	Bacău	CS Știința	<i>Vasile Alecsandri</i>		W	M			
4	Brașov	CSU Brașov	<i>Transilvania</i>			M	W		
5	Cluj-Napoca	CS "U"	<i>Babeș-Bolyai</i>	M	W				
		LPS "U"	<i>Babeș-Bolyai</i>						W
6	Craiova	CSM U	Universitatea	M	W				
7	Galați	CSU	<i>Dunărea de Jos</i>				W		
8	Iași	ACS Penicilina	Univ de Medicină		W				
9	Oradea	CSU	Universitatea				W		
10	Timișoara	CSU Vest	<i>Univ de Vest</i>			M			
		CSU Politehnica	Politehnica				W		
11	Tg Mureș	CSU Medicina	Univ de Medicină		W		W		W
		CSU Medicina CNUe	Univ de Medicină						W

The qualitative component is defined by hierarchic levels; in the case of this sport, both in men's and women's, two levels function: A1 Division (24 teams) with 8 teams and 6 university centers; A2 Division with 9 teams from 7 university centers. On the juniors' level, the university clubs are represented only in women's category by 3 teams from 2 university centers: Tg Mureș (2) and Cluj-Napoca (1). Tg Mureș university center can be considered the pole of women's university volleyball by the representation of 3 women's teams on all levels. *Medicina CSU* is related to the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy from the locality.

On the level of the two genders, the men's teams represent 7 university centers and the women's teams represent 9 university centers. The only centers with representation from both categories are: Cluj Napoca, Craiova, Timișoara, Brașov and Bacău.

The sports cultural landscape, defined by the spatial positioning of the infrastructure elements and of the university teams (21) participating in national volleyball competitions, is identified on the level of 11 localities with university function, representing 50% of the 22 teams existing on national level.

Handball

It is a popular team sport in the Romanian space and Romania's national team won several world and Olympic titles. The national competitions are organized on 2 seniors' levels (National League-NL and A Division-AD), men and women, to which many junior competitions are added, ranked on age groups.

Table 5. University centers, teams and representation levels in men's (M) and women's (W) handball competitions (Data's sources: Romanian Federation of Handball, 2015: www.frh.ro, 2015)

no	University center	Team	University or/and CSU/USC	National League (14 men's teams and 14 women's teams) with 2 men's and 1 women's universities' teams		A Division (27 men's teams and 22 women's teams) with 8 men's and 8 women's universities' teams	
				M	W	M	W
1	Bacău	Știința Municipal	<i>Vasile Alecsandri</i>			M	
		CS Știința					W
2	București	CSU Știința	CSU				W
3	Brașov	CSU CNOT	<i>Transilvania</i>			M	
4	Constanța	Universitatea Neptun	<i>Ovidius</i>				W
5	Cluj-Napoca	CS Universitatea	<i>CSU</i>			M	
		U Alexandrion	<i>CSU</i>		W		
6	Craiova	Universitatea	University			M	
7	Galați	CSU Danubius	<i>Dunărea de Jos</i>	M			W
8	Iași	Poli Unistil	Technical University			M	
9	Oradea	CSU	University				W
10	Reșița	CSU	<i>Eftimie Murqu</i>				W
11	Suceava	CSU	<i>Ștefan cel Mare</i>			M	
12	Târgoviște	CSU	<i>Valahia</i>			M	W
13	Timișoara	CSU de Vest	University de Vest				W
		CH CSU Politehnica	Politehnica University	M		M	

The handball landscape on the two divisions level is made up of 77 teams out of which 19 (25%) are from the university environment. On gender level, there are 41 men's teams (52%), 10 of them from universities and 36 women's teams (47%), 9 of them from universities.

Out of the 22 Romanian basic university centers, the space outlined by the handball game in the university sportive-cultural landscape is identified in 13 centers (60%). On gender representation level, 5 centers stand out with men's and women's teams: Bacău, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Galați, Târgoviște; 4 men's teams: Brașov, Craiova, Iași și Suceava and 4 women's teams: București, Constanța, Oradea and Reșița.

Both qualitatively (representation level) and quantitatively (number of teams), Timișoara university center features the most significant representation by two men's teams (NL and AD), belonging to the Polytechnic University and a women's team belonging to the Western University (AD). Through their support for handball, both men and women, the following universities stand out: Bacău, Galați and USC (Babeș-Bolyai) Cluj-Napoca.

Football

Football is, on world level, the most popular sport from the perspective of number of those who practice it, but especially from the perspective of attracting an impressive number of spectators. The specific infrastructure (stadiums and related elements) is ready to attract an average of over 10,000 spectators/match, especially on the first leagues level. Just as in the case of the other sports, the clubs and championships are organized on the two genders: male and female and from the competitions point of view, hierarchically, this sport, on seniors' level, has the most levels (1-7 leagues).

The infrastructure static component, regarding mainly stadiums and playing fields, features a large typological variety under architectural aspect, under the aspect of receiving capacity and of number of fields grouped in complexes.

The dynamic component (clubs and teams), by representation and number of teams registered in various events, reflects other elements of economic nature (financial power) or of social nature by the number of fans and spectators.

The features of the two components differ from one country to another, being determined by the demographic potential from where there can be established those who practice the sport on professional and amateur levels, as well as the most numerous component, the spectators. On European level, Romania fits the category of medium value countries from the point of view of the two components' quantitative values.

Within the Romanian space, the football game includes three categories: professionals, semi-professionals on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd leagues level (with national and regional extension) and non-amateurs and amateurs in the 4th-7th leagues (with county and local extension).

In the university environment there is no regular championship, although numerous attempts have been made in this respect, even during the communist era. We mention that during the communist period, there were top students' teams of 1st

league level: *Sportul Studentesc* Bucharest, *Universitatea Cluj*, *Politehnica* Timișoara, *Universitatea Craiova*, *Politehnica* Iași, or teams which emerged on the same level after 1990, such as: *CSU Voința* Sibiu. After 1990, when gradually they passed to professionalism, also materialized in the significant increase of budgets and expenses, most university teams from the top leagues were demoted, dissolved or became private or entered in public-private associations.

In 2015, football represented by university clubs (at least as name and brand) has remained significant compared to other European countries. We should mention that, although they have university team names, at least within the first two leagues, they are dominantly private or in public-private association. Out of the 18 clubs which activated in the 1st League during the 2014/2015 championship, the representative ones for the university environment were as follows: *CS Universitatea Craiova*, *Universitatea Cluj Napoca* and *CSM Studentesc Iași*. Bucharest, the capital, the biggest university center (29 public and private universities), does not have a representative on these levels. In the current championship edition (2015/2016, with a number of 16 teams), the number remained constant by the regression of the team from Cluj and the promotion of *ACS Poli* Timișoara.

On lower level, the 2nd League in the 2015/2016 championship has only one representative of a university center, "U" Cluj, regressed from the 1st league (fig. 8; table 6).

Table 6. University centers, teams and representation levels in men's (M) and women's (W) football competitions (Data's sources: Romanian Federation of Football, 2015: www.frf.ro, 2015)

no	University center	Teams	University or/and CSU/USC	I st League (14 men's teams) with 3 men's universitie's teams		II nd League (27 men's and 22 women's teams) with 1 men's and 2 women's universitie's teams		III rd League (27 men's teams) with 3 men's universitie's teams		IV th League with 4 men's universitie's teams	V-VII Leagues with 5 men's universitie's teams
				M	W	M	W	M	W	M	M
1	Alexandria	Universitatea	private				W				
2	București	SC FC Sportul Studentesc	CSU							M	
3	Cluj-Napoca	CS "U" AMEFA	mixte			M					M
4	Craiova	CS Universitatea	Universitatea	M				M			
5	Iași	CSM Studentesc	mixte	M							
		AS Poly 2014									M
		AS Academica									M
6	Galați	CSU	<i>Dunărea de Jos</i>				W				
7	Oradea	FC Universitatea	Universitatea							M	
8	Petroșani	Universitatea	Universitatea							M	
9	Sebiș	Național	Univ. de Vest <i>Vasile Goldiș</i>					M			
10	Timișoara	ACS Poli	mixte	M						M	
		ACS ASU Poli	Univ. Politehnica					M			M
		ASU Agronomia	Univ. Agronomia								M

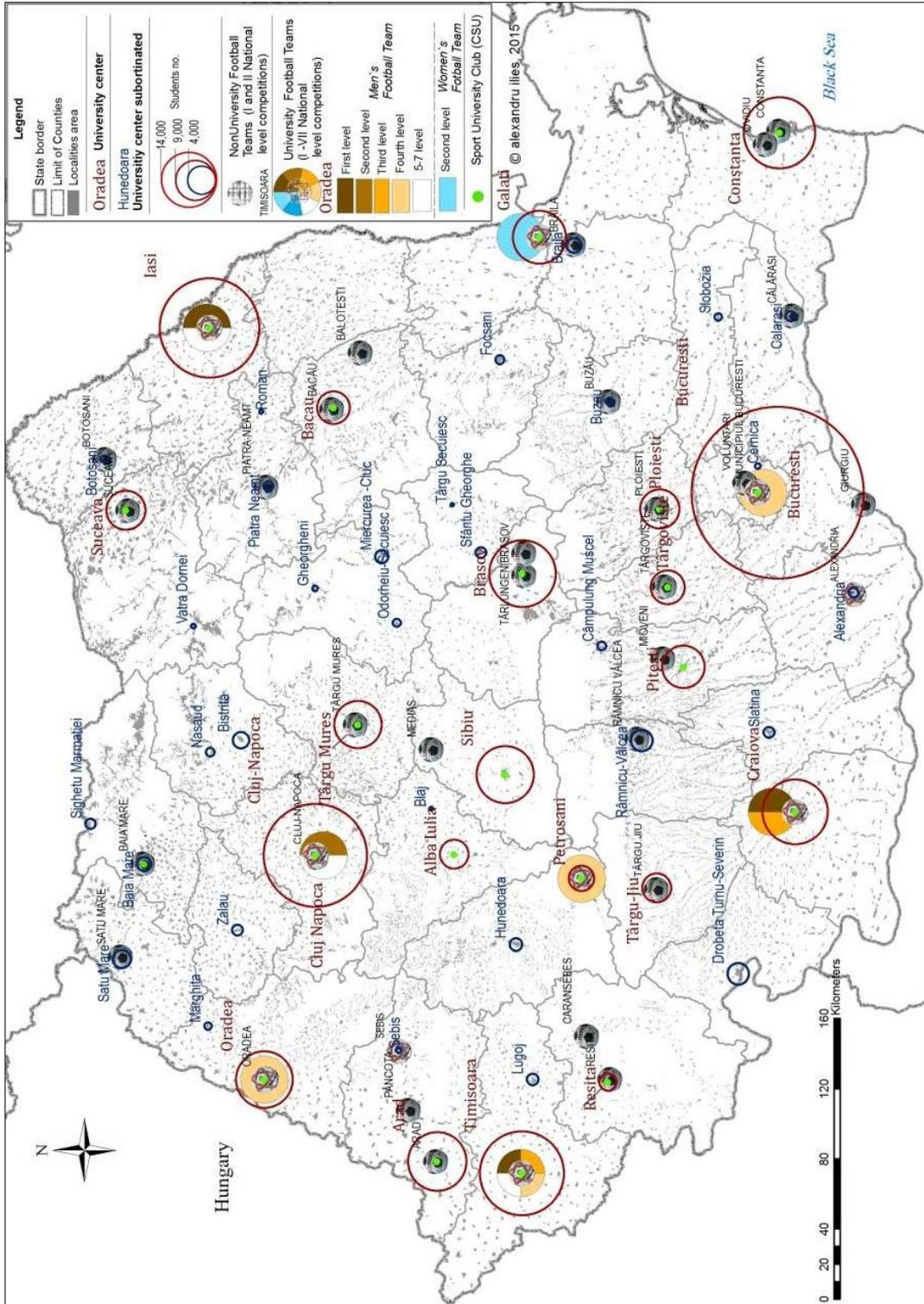


Figure 8. University centers, teams and representation levels in men's and women's football competitions (Data's sources: Romanian Federation of Football, 2015: www.fif.ro, 2015)

In the 3rd League, with a semi-professional status, with 5 regional groups, the university clubs are represented by two centers (table 6; fig. 8): Timișoara, with a 2nd club, *CSU Politehnica* Timișoara which belongs to the Polytechnic University from Timișoara and the private-public association *SC Național Sebiș*, having as partner *Vasile Goldiș West* University from Arad. The 2nd team of CSU Craiova 2 is added to this league.

The lower county leagues, with number of levels which differ from a county to another (4-7), with amateur or non-amateur status and implicitly lower budgets and expenses, include university teams which belong to certain universities in order to represent them. Out of the 22 university centers which include the headquarters of universities divided to 22 counties (fig.8, table 6), the football activity is represented by 9 clubs in the following centers: Bucharest (1), Cluj (1), Petroșani (1), Iași (2), Oradea (1) and Timișoara (3). Hierarchically, the situation is as follows (tab6; fig. 8):

-The 4th league with 4 teams from 4 centers: FC Universitatea Oradea, SC FC Sportul Studentesc Bucharest, Universitatea Petroșani and ACS Poli II Timișoara I.

-The 5th league with 3 teams from 2 centers: AS AMEFA Cluj Napoca, AS Poly 2014 Iași and AS Academica Iași;

-The 7th league with 2 teams: ACS ASU Politehnica Timișoara II and ASU Agronomia Timișoara II.

In the futsal national championship, out of 23 teams participating in the 1st and 2nd leagues, two are university teams in the 1st league: *CS Informatica* Timișoara and *CSMS* Iași.

In 2015, the Romanian Federation of Football and the Polytechnic University of Timișoara organized the university football national championship, with the participation of 19 universities from 14 university centers (8 centers were not represented), the title being won by University *Constantin Brâncuși* from Tg Jiu. The actual university space focused on football was outlined especially in the Central and Western parts of Romania.

Women's football, considerably less practiced than men's football, is organized on three levels with a total of 22 teams, out of which only 2 are university teams (fig. 8): *Universitatea Alexandria* (private) and *Universitatea Galați*, activating in the 2nd level (1st League).

The sportive-cultural landscape defined by the spatial positioning of the infrastructure elements and of university teams (21) participating in male and female football national competitions is identified in 11 localities with university function, representing 50% of the 22 existing on national level. From the universities with involvement by association in the university clubs, we mention the following: Craiova, Cluj-Napoca, Iași, Oradea, Petroșani, Univ. Politehnica Timișoara, Agronomia Timișoara and ANEF Bucharest.

Rugby

Rugby is a sport centered in the Romanian space on only two men's teams and hierarchically structured on 5 levels, out of which two of juniors (Under 20 and Under 18). The university tradition in practicing this sport is present ever since the beginning of practicing it within the Romanian political space.

The three senior levels encompass 22 teams, out of which 8 are university teams (36%) positioned in 8 university centers (36% of the total number of centers) and belonging totally or by association to 8 universities (fig. 9; table 7).

Table 7. University centers, teams and representation levels in men's (M) rugby competitions
(Data's sources: Romanian Federation of Rugby, 2015: www.frr.ro, 2015)

no	University center	Teams	University or/and CSU/USC	Super-League (6 men's teams) with 3 men's universitie's teams	National Division (10 men's teams) with 4 men's universitie's teams	A Division (6 men's teams) with 3 men's universitie's teams	Under 20 (5 teams) with 1 men's universitie's teams	Under 18 (11 men's teams at national level) with 3 universitie's teams
1	Arad	CSUAV	<i>Aurel Vlaicu</i>		M			
2	Baia Mare	CSM Știința	mixte	M				
3	Brașov	CSU CFR	CSU			M		
4	București	SC Sportul Studentesc	CSU			M		
5	Cluj-Napoca	"U"	CSU	M				M
		AS Mănăstur	mixte			M		
6	Iași	CS Politehnica Unirea	CSU		M			M
7	Petroșani	CS Știința	Universitatea		M			M
8	Timișoara	RCM-UVT <i>Saracens</i>	Universitatea de Vest	M			M	

The university sportive-cultural landscape, determined by the sports space defined by practicing the rugby game on three hierarchic levels, is identified through (fig.9, table 7):

-3 centers (50%) in the National Super League (6 teams): Baia Mare, Cluj-Napoca and Timișoara;

-3 centers (30%) in the National Division (10 teams): Arad, Iași and Petroșani;

-2 centers (33%) in A Division (6 teams): Bucharest and Brașov;

On junior level, 4 university centers registered teams in national competitions: Cluj Napoca, Iași, Petroșani și Timișoara.

On university clubs level, certain universities should become involved, such as (fig.9): the West University of Timișoara, University of Petroșani, *Transylvania* University of Brașov, *Aurel Vlaicu* University of Arad, Baia Mare University Center, Technical University of Iași, SC Sportul Studentesc (CSU) from Bucharest and CS University from Cluj Napoca.

Water Polo. A sport with reduced practicing area in Romania, organized on the level of senior's national league with 10 teams, also includes the university environment by the involvement of two teams: *CS Sportul Studentesc* Bucharest and *Politehnica* Cluj Napoca (fig.10).

Ice Hockey. It is a sport with narrow area representation, situation which is also determined by the positioning of skating rinks, and it is organized in only one national competition with 6 teams, the university environment being represented by CS Sportul Studentesc, club from Bucharest which will celebrate 100 years of existence in 2016 (fig.10).

Conclusions

The university sportive-cultural landscape in Romania is defined by the sportive space specific to team sports through the static component – infrastructure and the dynamic one – university teams. In order to outline a very suggestive image related to the territorial realities of the year 2015, 7 sports branches from the team sports category have been analyzed. The analytical component has referred to the relationship between the university centers, the universities and the university clubs participating in national competitions. The basic ground has been made up of about 100 public and private universities, the 22 university centers where the headquarters of the universities are and the university centers which are branches of the first category.

The study focused on the 22 basic university centers as the data base has not registered any university competition sportive activity in branches, except Baia Mare University Center which belongs to the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca. In all these university centers, in autonomous regime, university sports clubs function (CSU/USC) which can be associated to one or several universities from the same center.

The share of university teams' participation in national competitions from the total number of teams reflects greatly the involvement of the university environment in defining the particularities and the boundaries of a sportive-cultural landscape. Thus, on seniors' competition level, the university sports space is outlined by (fig.11):

-33 basketball teams (21 men's and 12 women's; 35% of the total number of participating teams) from 11 centers (50% of the total number of university centers): Arad, București, Alba Iulia, Brașov, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Iași, Oradea, Pitești, Ploiești and Sibiu;

-21 volleyball teams (7 men's and 14 women's; 27% of the total): Baia Mare, București, Bacău, Brașov, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Galați, Iași, Oradea, Timișoara and Tg. Mureș;

-19 handball teams (10 men's and 9 women's; 25% of the total) from the one centers (60%): Bacău, Brașov, București, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Craiova, Galați, Iași, Oradea, Reșița, Suceava, Timișoara and Târgoviște;

-15 football university teams (from which 2 women's team) representing 7 university centers: Craiova, Cluj-Napoca, Iași and Timișoara on the level of the first two leagues; Bucharest, Iași, Oradea, Petroșani and Timișoara on lower leagues level and with total involvement of certain universities. The localities Alexandria and Sebiș from the private area are added to these.

-8 teams of men's rugby from 8 centers (36 % of the total): Arad, Baia Mare, Brașov, București, Cluj-Napoca, Iași, Petroșani și Timișoara;

-One ice-hockey men's team (16%) of 6 participants: CS Sportul Studențesc București;

-2 water-polo university men's teams (25% of the total, București and Cluj-Napoca) in the national super-league formed of 8 teams;

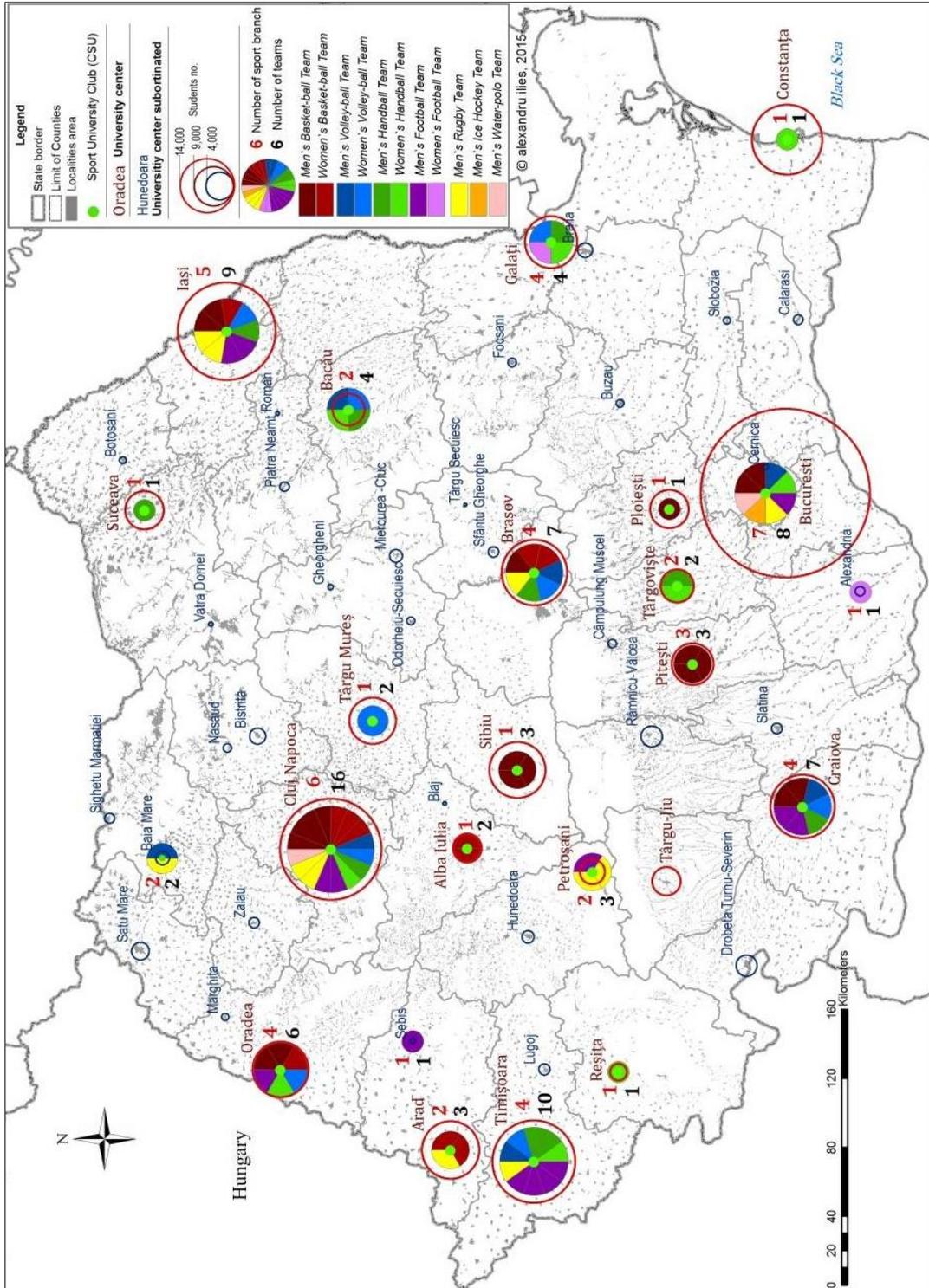


Figure 11. University centers, sport-teams and their representation levels in different branch of national competitions

Correlating the 7 sports branches with the represented university centers, the outlining of the sports-cultural landscape also derives from the polarization degree of university sports on the level of the 22 centers. Thus, all 21 centers (except the water-polo and ice-hockey games, more reduced in space) are represented on competition level and define a space formed from the centers (fig.11): Bucharest (7 sports), Cluj-Napoca (6), Iași (5), Brașov (4), Craiova (4), Oradea (4), Timișoara (4), Arad (2), Baia Mare (2), Bacău (2), Galați (2), Petroșani (2), Târgu Mureș (2), Alba Iulia (1), Constanța (1), Pitești (1), Ploiești (1), Reșița (1), Sibiu (1), Suceava (1), Târgoviște (1).

The cartographic representations from this study fully feature the outlining of a university sports-cultural landscape defined by the sportive space of the 21 university centers related to the national competitions through the 99 university teams specific to the 7 team sports.

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