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History and Tradition on the Maramureş County football map (period 1980-2016)

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Abstract. The map of traditional football from Maramureş County, with representation on the national competitions level, is outlined by the analysis of 38 national competition seasons (Ist, IInd and IIIrd leagues) and countys competitions seasons (IV-VI leagues) divided on three periods: the socialist one (1980-1989); the transition (post-socialist) one (1990-2000) and the actual capitalist one (2001-2016). The choice of Maramureş County has been made due to the fact that it represented an important polarization center of Romanian sports, especially during the socialist period. The accomplished data base provides quantitative information (number of localities, teams, number of teams, participations etc) and qualitative information (representation level, continuity) on the level of localities represented by football teams in national level competitions. With the help of the methods used and tools verified in the specialty literature, in the analytical part, there are outlined significant aspects for defining “tradition” on the map of football from Maramureş, through the number of seasons, level of participation and the frequency of names associated to each team. Out of the 241 localities from the county, 110 localities have re-drawn the contour of football tradition map of Maramureş County for the period 1980-2016. Each of the three analyzed periods stands out through specific features.

Keywords: traditional football map, national and local competitions, Maramureş County

1.Introduction

Maramureş County has been chosen as case study due to the fact that for the analyzed period of a quarter of a century (1980-2016), and especially for the

socialist period (Ilieș et al., 2016b), it represented a significant polarization center on the map of Romanian sports, from the point of view of participation in national sportive competitions. In conjunction with the county economy, the number of existing sport branches and the representation level, it was permanently a pole of Romanian sports. For this study we have considered as expressive the most popular team sport, football, with wide representation on county level and certain stages from the analyzed period are reflected upon it. We have identified three distinct periods for quantitative and qualitative analyses: the socialist period (1980-1989); the transition (post-socialist) period (1990-2000) and the capitalist period with actual market economy (2001-2016). Each period, through its particularities on one hand and overall on the entire analyzed period on the other, defines the map of traditional football (Ilieș et al., 2016a; Ilieș et al., 2016b) in Maramureș County.

2. Administrative background

The administrative component reflected by the number of localities supports our endeavor by the possibility of local identification of a team/club and of the used sports base. These are basic landmarks used in outlining the map of the analyzed sport. In the first case, to the locality where it is the team's headquarters it is added a name, usually inspired by the local social, cultural or economic realities. In the case of the sports base, it is used by sportives and by the target audience, the spectators. These are the main beneficiaries of the sportive show.

From the point of view of the structural-administrative component during the analyzed period, the most important changes occurred in the urban/rural ratio. From 7 towns in 1981, in 1988 there were 8, since Seini locality became a town and in 2004 there were 13. In the same manner, the number of communes increased with 6 by the division of the existing ones, from 62 in 1980 to 63 in 2016, with the specification that during this time interval 5 became towns. In 1989 there were 8 towns and 62 communes with 227 villages ([Main map](#)), a total of 235 localities. In 2016 the county territory was divided and administered by two cities, 13 towns and 63 communes with a total of 226 villages. The total number of localities has increased from 234 in 1980 to 239 currently. An important role in the existence of a team during the socialist period was played by the locality ranking as well. This, together with the political decision, also included the economic and financial support defined by the economic unit from the locality area which the sports club depended on (Luh, 2003; Delcea et al., 2008; Ilieș et al., 2014a; Ilieș et al., 2016b). For the transition period (1990-2000), the situation was chaotic, without organizational logics. After the year 2000, things started to settle politically and the factors that the existence of sports clubs depended on were economic power (Bale & Vertinsky, 2004; Ilieș et al., 2016b), the rank of the locality, the local authorities' wish to have representation through football and a certain inherited tradition. From the point of view of human resource, the three periods are distinctly marked both quantitatively (numerically) and qualitatively (age groups). From an average population of 510,484 inhabitants in 1979¹ (50.1% urban), the county population gradually reached 540,099 inhabitants (52.8% in urban) in 2002¹, after which a demographic decline followed, with an absolute minimum in 2011¹ of 478,659 inhabitants.

3. Data base and methodological component

The data base is made up of information gathered from field trips, institution archives⁴ such as Football County Association (FCA/AJF)², the newspaper collection entitled *Pentru Socialism (For Socialism -for the socialist period)* and *Informația zilei*⁵, *Sighet-online*⁶, *e-Maramureş*⁷, *gsp.ro*⁸, *Graiul Maramureşului*⁹, *Glasul Maramureşului*¹⁰ -after 1990, and specialized website *romaniansoccer.ro*³. The use of GIS has allowed us to create a digital and spatial analysis data base by using certain methods (Bale, 2003; Ilieş et al., 2013; Conner, 2014; Ilieş et al., 2014b; Buhaş, 2015; Ilieş et al., 2015a; Kozma et al., 2015; Ilieş et al., 2016c) which are specific to geography (spatial analysis; cartographic method; Ilieş et al., 2015a) or interdisciplinary (historiographies, statistics, sociology, economy) etc. The large amount of data on locality level was grouped on three distinct periods, determined by political and economic aspects (Bale, 2000; Bairner, 2011; Gilchrist & Holden, 2011; Kozma et al., 2015). Great attention has been paid to the transition period (Delcea et al., 2008), marked by frequent organizational and competition changes. In order to define tradition, a period of 10 years of the socialist era has been selected (1980-1989), considered to have been the most stable and prolific for the existence of a football team (fig.1). The interdisciplinary approach, specific to such studies (Luh, 2003; Reilly & Gilbourne, 2003; Shobe, 2008; Ilieş et al., 2015b), also completes the qualitative value of the present study by the application of certain methods and tools used and verified in other similar analysis situations (Ilieş et al., 2015a; Ilieş et al., 2015b; Kozma et al., 2015; Ilieş et al., 2016c). The analytical part is supported by a specific graphic and cartographic component. Finally, it resulted a geographic product has resulted, which is expressive and relevant through its components for the studied phenomenon, under the form of a map of traditional football from Maramureş at the intersection of two millennia.

4. Analytical background

The accomplished data base includes 113 localities on the territory of which there was at least one football team during the analyzed period. These represent 47% of the total of 240 localities from Maramureş County. All urban centers are active on the map of football from Maramureş. Tăuții Măgherauș was the only one represented only in county level competitions (Ilieş et al., 2016a). To the 13 towns, 17 villages, which are components of the towns, are added ([Main map](#)), increasing to 30 the number of urban localities with football teams (55%) of the total number of 54. In the urban area, out of the 186 villages, football has been present in 83 (46.2%) localities, out of which 43 are commune centers and 40 are component villages.

The local competition levels for the analyzed period, on a variable basis of team number (fig.1), oscillated between two and three: one county (League 4) and two territorial levels (leagues 5 and 6). Three competition levels have been identified for the socialist period and only two levels for the other two periods. The physical-geographic conditions often hall-mark on the county competitions organization, the mountain barrier Igriş-Gutâi-Țibleş „fragmenting” in most cases the county competition into two series, North and South, in alternation with a central series (Ilieş et al., 2016a). The territorial levels have been grouped around the towns of Baia Mare, Sighetu Marmăției, Tg. Lăpuş and Vişeu de Sus ([Main map](#)).

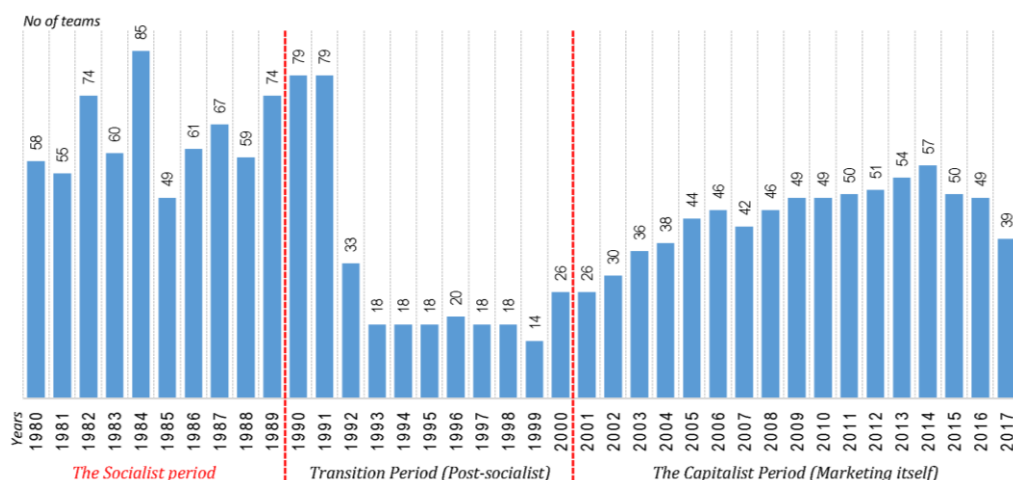
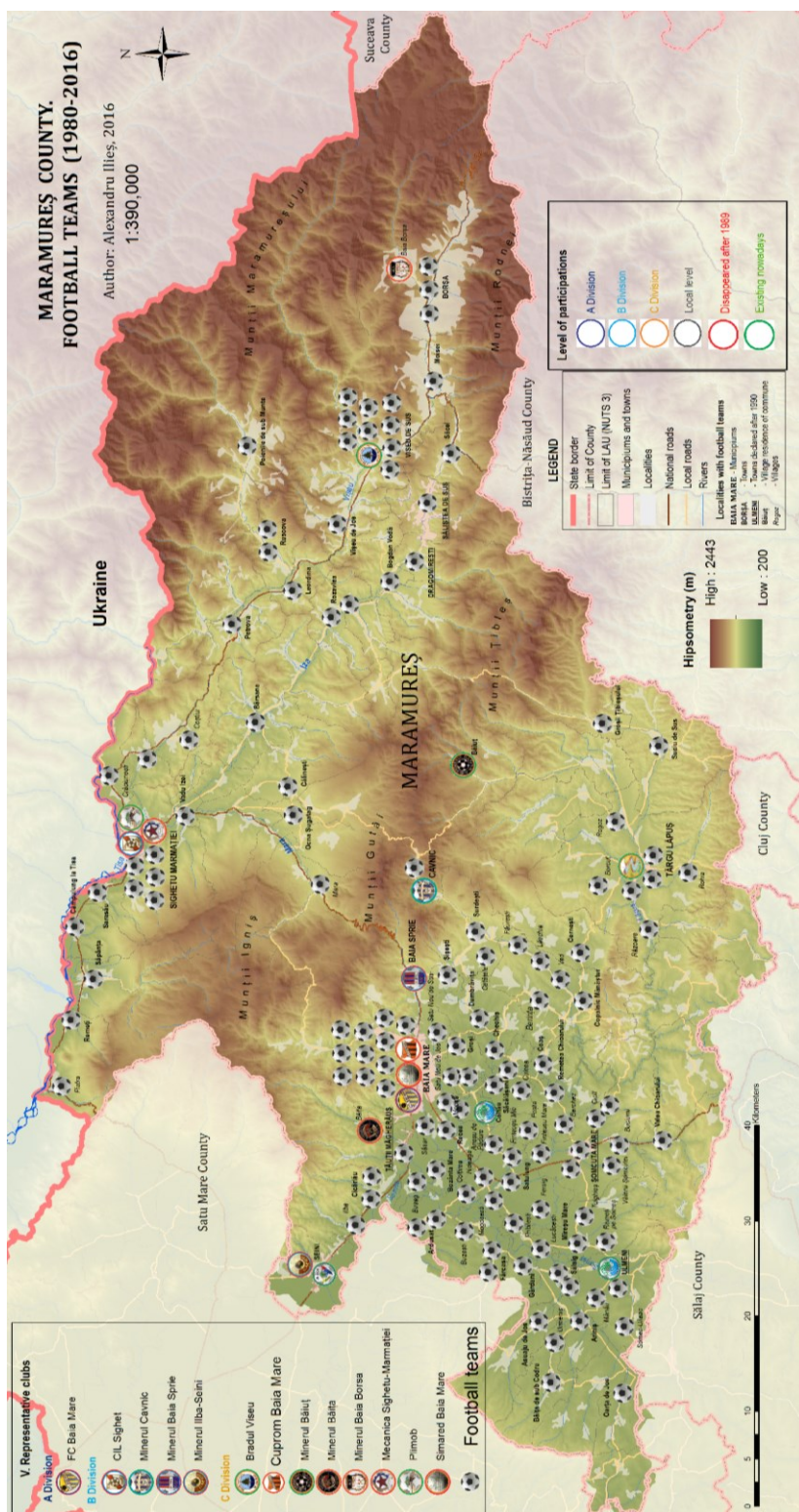


Figure 1. Evolution of the team number during the analyzed period (1980-2016) in Maramureș County (source: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and web: 2-10)

According to the data base, the political, social and economic conditions reflected in the number of participating teams, the time interval is divided into three distinct periods (fig.1): the socialist period (1980-1989); the transition (post-socialist) period (1990-2000) and the capitalist period (2001-2016). Each of the three periods is emphasized through features specific to the socio-economic background, to the political command and to the football tradition on locality level. Depending on the championship edition they took part in, representation level, belonging to a socialist economic unit (Ilieș et al., 2016b), the football teams from Maramureș are part of several categories: *continuous tradition*; *tradition with interruptions*, *ephemeral presence*; *permanent or temporal disappearance*; *continuity tendencies* etc. If some localities distinguished themselves through stability from the point of view of team name and competition continuity, others distinguished themselves through frequent name changes and alternation of periods with disappearance/re-foundation of the same or of another team.

On all **competition levels** (3 national and 3 local), the football game from Maramureș has been represented by a significant number of teams (fig.1), especially during the socialist period when there was a total dependence between the club and an economic unit. The mining and wood processing industries were the most represented ones, on the county territory being also national rank economic units (Ilieș et al., 2016b). After the effervescence from the years that followed after the fall of socialism, when the number of teams increased (1990-1992), the transition period was also marked by the economic regression reflected in the dramatic decrease of the participating team number (fig.1). Only since 2000, when the third period began, period marked by a certain economic stability, the football clubs have appeared both in the traditional localities and in the new ones. Unlike the socialist period, the support in these cases is dual: from the public system, that is from the city halls' budgets, and from private funds. A series of economic units which support sports have landed their names to the teams they sponsor, sometimes to the detriment of the traditional name.



Main map. Maramureş County. Football teams (1980-2016) [source: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989), Graiul Maramureşului (after 1990) and web sources: 2-10]

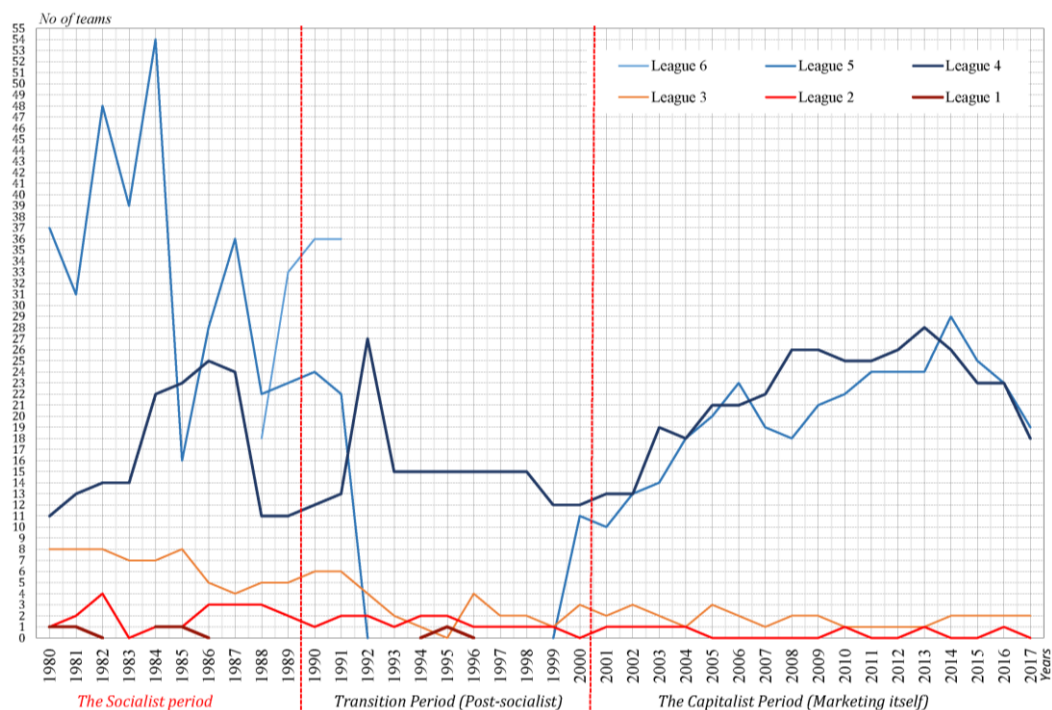


Figure 2. Evolution of team number on competition level during the analyzed period (1980-2016) in Maramureș County (data source: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

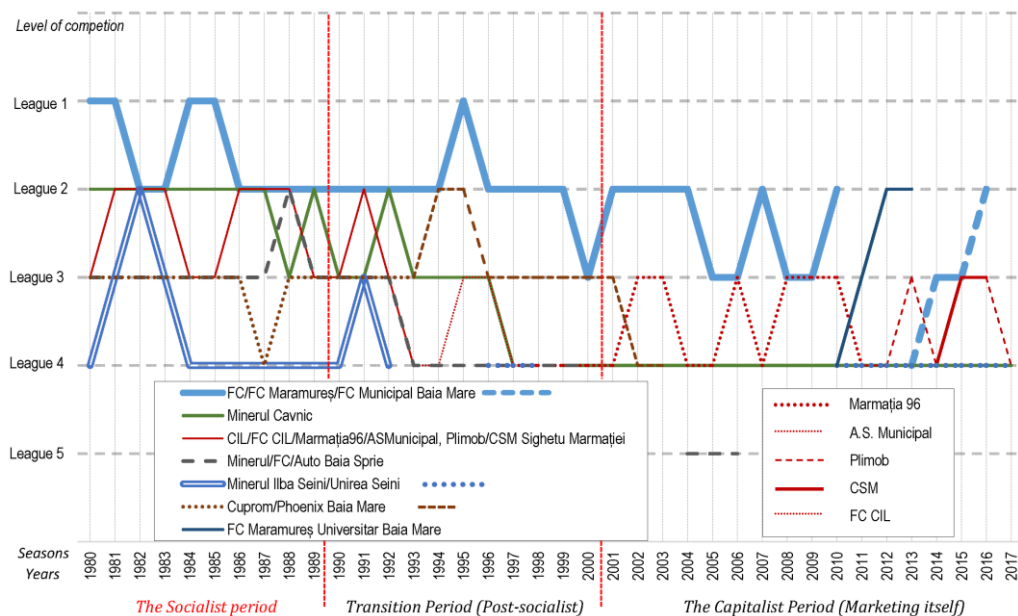


Figure 3. Settlements from Maramureș County with football teams who evolved in 1st and 2nd level of national competitions and its evolutions during the period 1979-2016 (data source: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

4.1. The national competitions include 3 levels with different names from a period to another: A, B and C Divisions for the first two periods and Leagues 1, 2 and 3 for the third interval. Maramureş County has been represented on all three levels, with fluctuations on the three intervals (fig. 2 and 3) and with a decreasing trend, the most fortunate period being the socialist one.

During the entire analyzed period there were, on national division level, 24 teams representing 11 towns (urban/rural status at the representation moment): Baia Mare (6 teams), Sighetu Marmăției (5), Borşa (Baia Borşa), Baia Sprie, Căvnic, Şomcuta Mare, Târgu Lăpuş, Ulmeni and Vişeu de Sus; and 7 rural localities: Băiuţ, Băiţa, Coltău, Ilba, Recea, Suciul de Sus and Satulung.

A1. On the level of the first football level of Romania for the analyzed period, the football game from Maramureş was represented by a single team, *FC/FC Maramureş/FC Municipal*, with the headquarters in the county capital city, Baia Mare (123,738 inhabitants¹). Founded in the year 1948 with the name *Minerul (The Miner)*, the team disappeared in the year 2010 by the withdrawal from the IInd League. It was revived under other names and in 2016 it retired from the IInd League. The finalist of Romania's Cup also played in the *Cup of Cups* on European level, in 1982 having as opponent the famous team Real Madrid.

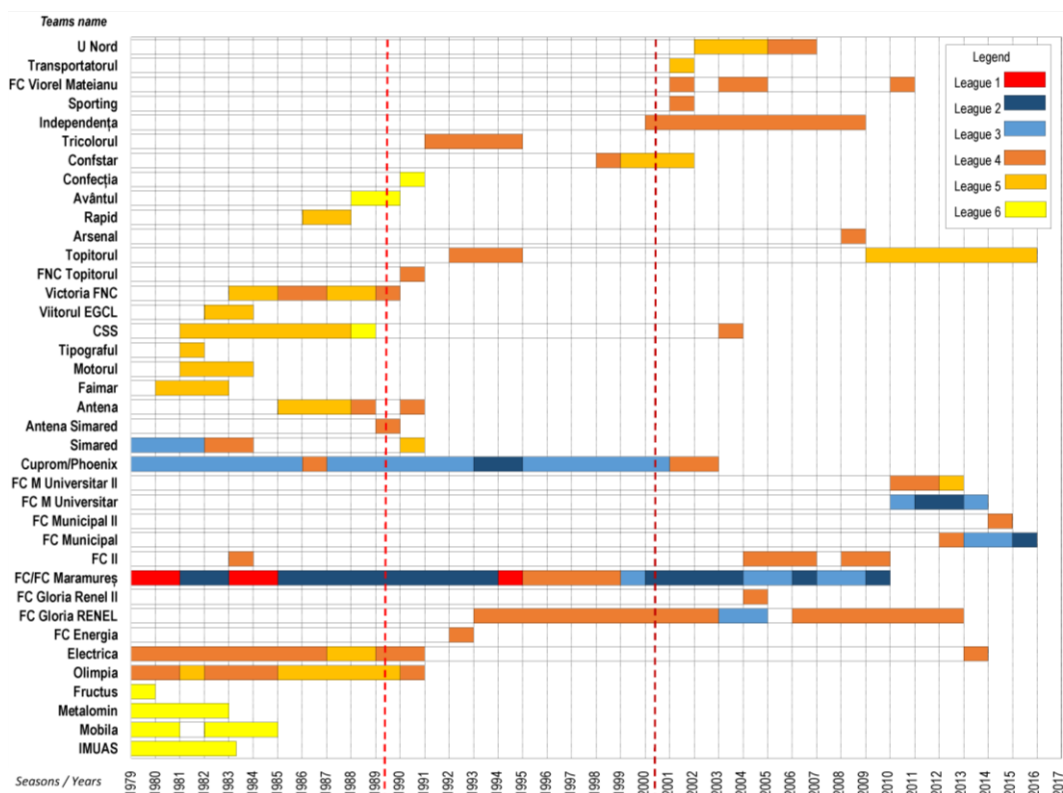


Figure 4. Football teams existing at the level of municipium Baia Mare between 1979-2017, in Leagues 1-6 (data source: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

Unfortunately, after moving between the IInd and the IIIrd levels, with name changes (*FC; FC Maramureș; FC Municipal*), after 5 seasons in the Ist League, 24 in the IInd, 3 in the IIIrd League and one season in the IVth League, out of the 38 analyzed ones (fig. 4), in 2016 the team of the county capital city withdrew permanently from the IInd League of Romanian football. During its history, the teams had many versions of logos (fig.4.1) and only one stadium (fig.4.2), with former name *Dealul Florilor* and actually *Viorel Mateianu* (name of famous player and coach).



Figure 4.1. Logos of the Football Club, the main football teams of Baia Mare city (*webservice: 11, 12*)



Figure 4.2. The Stadium "Viorel Mateianu" from municipium Baia Mare (2014) (*Source: Ilieș et al., 2014b*)

B.) On Division B (2nd League) the representation of Maramureș County was much more consistent, 9 teams from 5 towns activated during the analyzed period (fig. 2-3). Except the team from Sighetu Marmăției, financially supported by the Wood Industrialization Plant from the locality, national rank unit in the socialist period (Ilieș et al., 2016b), the other 4 clubs represented the mining industry.

B₁. The most present team on the IInd level of Romanian football was *Minerul* (*The Miner*), founded in 1934, with logos in fig. 5.1, in the small miner town Cavnic (4,862 inhabitants¹), with 10 editions in Division B: since 1980, continuously until 1987; seasons 1988/1989 and 1991/1992 and 7 editions in Division C (fig. 5). It is the only team on this level which activated without interruption throughout the entire analyzed period, 1980-2016 (Divisions A, B and C). The socialist period was more fruitful, the team finalizing most of the championships within the first half of the leaderboard. It is noticeable the fact that most players came from junior centers and the team from Baia Mare, being considered as the IInd team of the more famous FC Baia Mare. The position in the economic ranking was obvious in that case too.

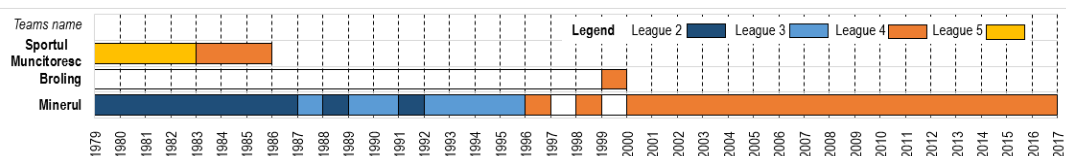


Figure 5. Football teams existing at the level of town Cavnic between 1979-2017 in Leagues 2-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

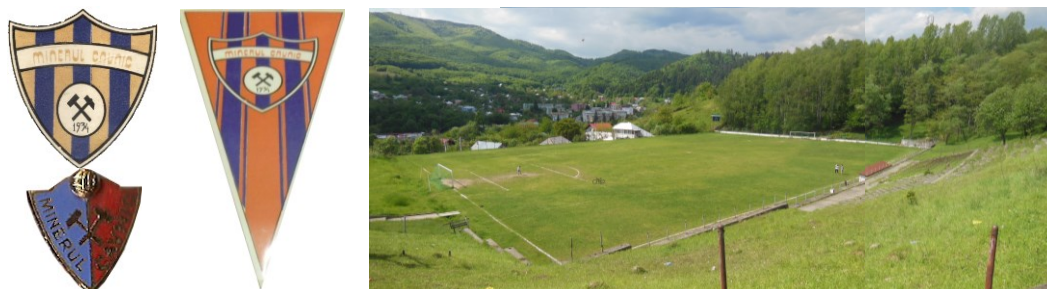


Figure 5.1. Logos of the *Minerul* (websource: 11, 12), the main football teams of Cavnic city and the stadium "Pintea Viteazul" (in 2016)

After 1990, during the transition period, the team from Cavnic activated only once in B division (1991/1992 season), preceded by two seasons in division C and other 4 seasons after the demotion from 1992 (fig. 5). In 1996 the demoted to the League 4 where it is still active (2016). The support of the mining company has gradually diminished, hence the degradation of the stadium (fig. 5.1), the football tradition being continued by the local administration and sponsors. If football and handball were main sports in the locality, especially during the third period, the town's profile has gradually changed from mining profile into the services and tourism one. In 2008, the locality was declared a climatic tourist resort of local interest with major investments into winter sports. Thus, the third period (2000-2016) is linear, with activity only in the League 4. Out of the 38 analyzed football seasons, the team activated under the traditional name of *Minerul*, with the exception of the 1999/2000 season when it activated under the sponsor's name of *Broling*. From the short period (fig. 5), between 1979-1986, at the local level (League 4 and 5), the second team of the towns was *Sportul Muncitoresc* (*Workers Sport*).

B₂). According to the number of presences on the secondary stage of Romanian football, the club *CIL* founded in 1936 in municipium Sighetu Marmăției (37,640 inhab¹) which participated to 6 seasons in Division B and 6 in Division C (fig. 6). In this case too, the team supported by industrialization and wood processing has known its heyday during the socialist system, 6 seasons in Division B were alternated with 4 participations in Division C. The decline was obvious after 1990, fact emphasized during the first years after 1990 when the team also activated in Division B in the 1991/1992 season, after which it was relegation in Division C (1992) and in the county championship where it activated under the name of *FC CIL* until the 1995/1996 season. At the same time, it permanently lost the support of the plant and it dissolved in 1996. The logos (fig. 6.1) used white and red colours and played on the municipality stadium with former name similar with the team- *CIL*, upgraded and renamed (1996) in *Solovan* (fig. 6.2).

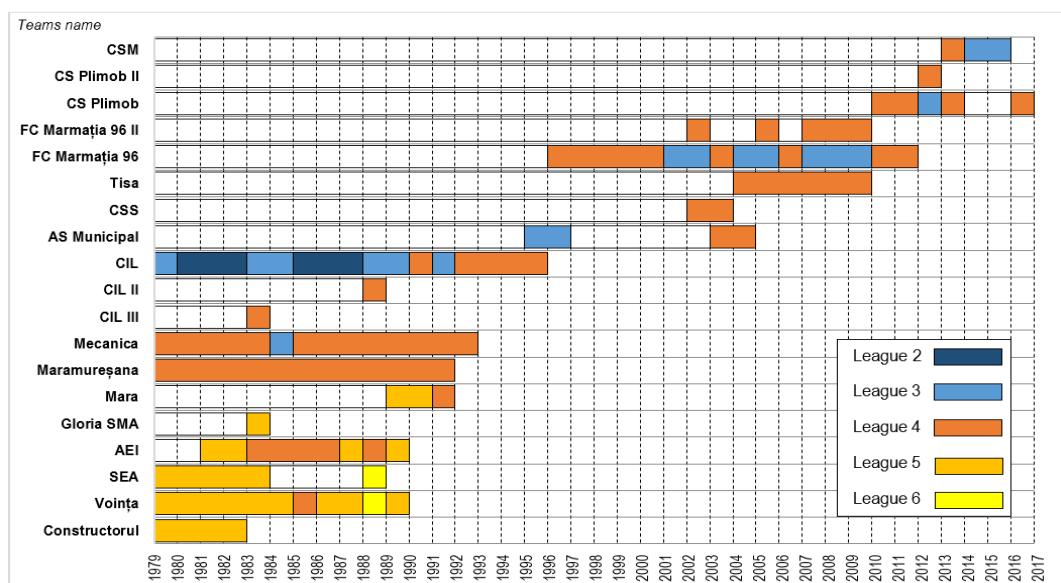


Figure 6. Football teams existing at the level of municipium Sighetu Marmatiei between 1979-2017 in Leagues 2-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

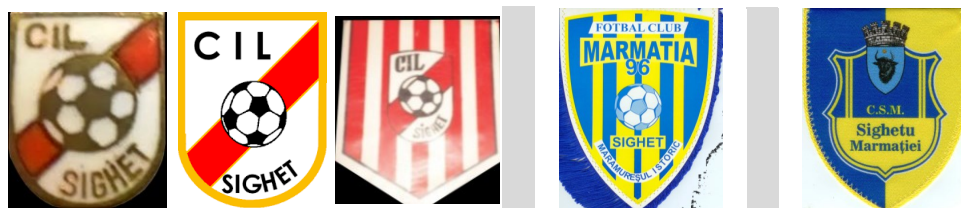


Figure 6.1. Symbols and flags of the *CIL*, *FC Marmația 96* and *CSM*, the main football teams of Sighetu Marmatiei (webservice: 11, 12)



Figure 6.2. The Stadium "Solovan" from municipium Sighetu Marmatiei (2014) (Source: Ilieș et al., 2014)

Being the second important town in the county (37,640 inhabitants¹), during the post-socialist transition period (1990-2000), the local administration tried to substitute for the decline of the plant and its implication in the football team support. There were set up under the sponsorship of the local administration and with support from local sponsors the following football clubs: *AS Municipal*

(*Municipality Sport Association*) (1993-1996), with two presences in Division C (1994/1995 and 1995/1996), *FC Marmația 96* (1996-2013), with activity only in the League 4 for the respective period. The period 2000-2016 was marked by the existence of 4 teams, with successive promotions in Division C, relegation and dissolutions (fig 6). *FC Marmația 96* participated in the IIIrd League to 6 editions (fig. 6), being dissolved in 2014. Its place was taken by *CSM* which, after a year in the League 4 (2013/2014), was promoted to the IIIrd League. In the 2014/2015 edition it lost its promotion to FC Municipal Baia Mare, and in the following edition, because of administrative and political reasons, in the middle of the battle for promotion, the team withdrew from the IIIrd League and was dissolved. During the same period, the team *Tisa* activated (only in the League 4 and with a participation in a rubber match for the promotion in the IIIrd League in 1996) and also the team *Plimob* (private club, founded in 2011 nearby a private wood processing and industrialization unit, the successor of *CIL* team), which also had a participation in the IIIrd League in the 2012-2013 edition. After the dissolution of *CSM*, at present, *CS Plimob* is the only representation team of the city, activating in League 4, county level. The infrastructure includes nowadays a modernized stadium with two playing pitches, a covered stand and a complex of about 5,000 places (figure 6.2).

B₃. *Minerul Ilba-Seini* appeared by the association of two rural localities, Ilba (1,220 inhab¹) and Seini (8,770 inhab¹), in 1977, with logo (fig.7.1) and the financial support of mining from the first locality and the infrastructure (the stadium) from the second one (fig. 7.1).

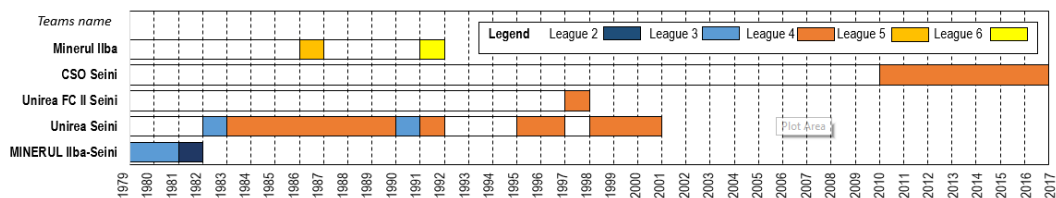


Figure 7. Football teams existing at the level of settlements Seini and Ilba between 1979-2017 in Leagues 2-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and webources: 2-10)



Figure 7.1. The logo of the team *Minerul Ilba-Seini* (websource: 12) and the Stadium *Dumitru Julia* from town Seini (2015)

The locality Seini was declared town only in 1988. Just as in the case of each mining team, its heyday was the socialist period when, after two seasons in Division C, for one year of competitions (1981/1982) it activated in Division B. The demotion in Division C led to the dissociation of the two localities and the team from the 1982/1983 edition would bear the name of *Unirea* from Seini. Under this name it

was demoted into League 4 (1983) where it would activate throughout the entire period until 1990.

During the transition period it returned into Division C for one edition (1990/1991) from where it was demoted in 1992 and it was dissolved. The local authorities brought the team back to the county level for the 1996-2001 period and after that it was dissolved again. The history repeated itself and since 2011 the team returned to county football where it still activates (fig. 7) under the name of *Clubul Sportiv (Sport Club)*.

The small mining rural locality Ilba (component of Cicârlău commune) had sporadically a team named *Minerul* in the territorial League 5 (1984 and 1989), without being active at present (fig. 7).

B₄. Minerul (The Miner) from the small mining town Baia Sprie (about 14,971 inhab¹), with specific logos (fig. 8.1), made history in the football game from Maramureș County for the analyzed period only until 2009, after that disappearing from the map of football in Maramureș County (fig. 8). Unfortunately, the same thing happened to the sports base (fig. 8.1). The playing surface has been recently renovated (fig. 8.1), a private club for children activating here (AS Kis).

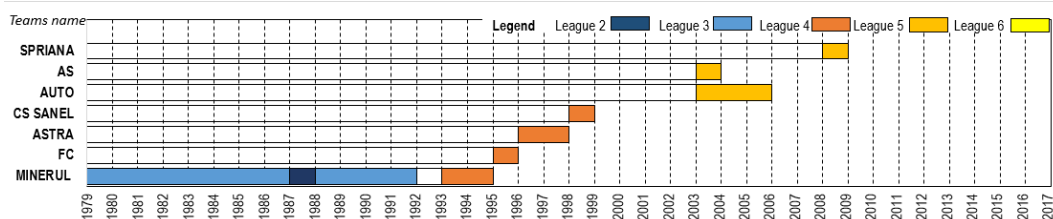


Figure 8. Football teams existing at the level of town Baia Sprie between 1979-2017 in Leagues 2-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)



Figure 8.1. Logos of the team *Minerul Baia Sprie* (websource: 11, 12) and the the former stadium "Minerul" from town Baia Sprie (2015)

During the socialist period, after 8 seasons in Division C (1980-1987), the team was promoted into B Division. It was demoted to Division C during the

following edition and after the fall of the socialist system it continued to activate in Division C until 1992. The transition period was strongly reflected in the evolution of the team which since 1993 until 2000 activated in the league 4. It lost the support of mining and with the support of sponsors, the team activated under various successive names: *FC, Astra, CS Sanel, Auto, AS* and *Spriana*. The team was dissolved in 2000 and, three years later, it reappeared in the league 5 where it activated for 5 more seasons (fig. 8). In 2009, a town with tradition in Romanian football permanently disappeared from the map of football in Maramureş County.

B5. A team with a long tradition in division football from Maramureş was the team *Cuprom* from Baia Mare, with a constant evolution in Division C since 1980 until 1992 and with logo from figure 9. During that period, only for the 1987/1987 season, it was demoted into the county championship (fig.3 and 4). During the transition period (1990-2000), unlike the other teams, it obtained its best results. Starting with the 1992/1993 season, it changed its name in *Phoenix*, together with that of the non-ferrous metals plant, its main financial supporter. After three more



Figure 9. Logos of the *Cuprom/Phoenix Baia Mare* football teams (webservice: 11, 12)

seasons in Division C, two seasons followed in Division B (1993/1994 and 1994/ 1995) and after wards it was demoted into Division C again for 6 seasons. During the last season (2000/2001), it withdrew from Division C. The history of this team ended in 2003 after it played for two more seasons in the county League 4.

B6. *FC Maramureş Universitar Baia Mare* was founded in 2010 after the dissolution of the tradition team *FC Baia Mare* and its withdrawal from Division B championship in the season 2009/2010 (fig. 3 and 4). During the following season (2010/2011), it activated in Division C from where it promoted into the IInd Division for two seasons (2011/2012/2013). After two years in Division B, without financial support from the local administration, it was demoted into Division C in 2013 and it was dissolved. In the same year it returned into the League 4 the tradition successor *FC Municipal Baia Mare*, re-founded in 2012 by the local administration. The club also had a IInd team which activated for two editions (2010/2011/2012) in the League 4 (fig. 3 and 4).



Figure 10. Logo of the *FC Maramureş Universitar Baia Mare* football teams (webservice: 11, 12)

C.) The participation of teams from Maramures on the **IIIrd level** of national competitions (**Division C, League 3**) was very fruitful especially during the socialist period. During the season 1981/1982 (fig. 3), 8 teams activated, out of which 6 were representing the mining industry (4 activated in Division B). Out of the 38 analyzed championship editions, the 1994/1995 season was the only one when Maramureş County did not have any representative on national level (fig. 3), but it had two teams in Division B and one in Division A.

a.) For the *socialist period*, the Division C tradition of football in Maramureș was also provided by the temporary presence of those mentioned in Division B (fig. 3): *FC/FC Maramureș/FC Maramureș Universitar/FC Municipal Baia Mare* (8 seasons in C); *CIL Sighetu Marmăției* (9); *Minerul Căvnic* (8); *Minerul Baia Sprie* (12), *Cuprom/Phoenix Baia Mare* (19 seasons) and *Minerul Ilba-Seini* (2). To these, there were added 8 other teams which did not overpass the third performance level (Division C; Fig. 3). Some of these appeared after 1990 and continued the football tradition but under another name, different from the one during the socialist period.

With a tradition started on the level of Division C during the socialist period, there were the teams (fig. 3) *Minerul* from Baia Borșa/Borșa (14 seasons), Băița (11) and Băiuț (9), to which there were added *Bradul Vișeu de Sus* (11), *Lăpușul Târgu Lăpuș* (9), *Simared Baia Mare* (3), *Unirea Seini* (1982/1983) and *Mecanica (IS) Sighetu Marmăției* (1984/1985).

C₁. The mining town Borșa (about 27,611 inhab¹), the IInd in size from the Maramureș Land, was represented by the tradition team *Minerul* (logo in fig. 11) with its stadium in Baia Borșa neighborhood, situated in the northern part of the town, where the mine exploitation used to be. Borșa and Baia Borșa were found successively in its name. It activated in Division C for 14 seasons (fig. 11.1) between the years 1980-1985, 1986-1992 and 1995-1998. Throughout all that period it was



Figure 11. Logos of the *Minerul Baia Borșa/Borșa* football teams (webservice: 11, 12)

promoted from the county championship after the 1979/1986 season and it returned into the county championship for a season during the socialist period (1985/1986) and for three seasons during the transition period (1992-1995).

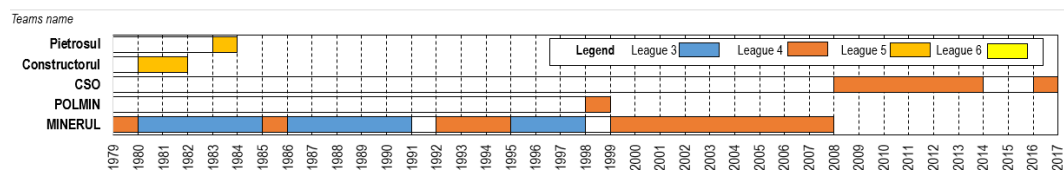


Figure 11.1. Football teams existing at the level of town Borșa between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

In 1998 it was permanently demoted into the county championship where it activated 15 seasons until 2013 when it was dissolved in the same time with the mine closing process from the locality. For one season (1998/1999), the name of the team was changed into *POLMIN* by the association between *Minerul* club and the *Police* from the locality. The name *Minerul* disappeared after the 2007/2008 edition and starting with the following season, the local administration founded on town level a new club named *Clubul Sportiv Orășenesc (CSO)/City Sport Club* which is still activating in the county championship (2016/2017 season; fig/11.1).

C₂. The small mining village Băița (1,700 inhab¹), belonging to the town Tăuții Măgherauș (since 2008), proved that for the socialist period, football was an ideal

representation and promotion means for the mining industry (logo in fig.12), irrespective of the demographic size of the locality (it was a village belonging to a commune). The Division C, 1979/1980 edition also included the team *Minerul*, the only one in the locality during the analyzed period, and it participated on that level for 11 seasons without interruption, until 1992. Since 1992/1993, it activated in the county championship for 7 seasons until 1998 when it was dissolved for two years (fig.12.1). It returned into the local football for 11 more seasons, until 2010 when it permanently disappeared together with the support and the closing of the mining process from the locality.

The name *Minerul* was used during the entire period of the team's existence in the locality for 29 years of competitions, thus being considered a conservatory and traditional division team.



Figure 12. Logos of the *Minerul Băița* and *Minerul Băiț* football teams (webservice: 11, 12)

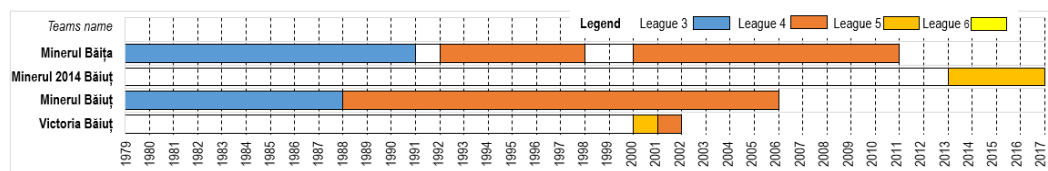


Figure 12.1. Football teams existing at the level of villages Băița (Fărcașa commune) and Băiț between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

C₃. Băiț commune (about 2,547 inhab¹) and the village with the same name, with about 2,200 inhab¹, with a mining economic profile, with logo in figure 12, made history in the football from Maramureş with its unique team *Minerul*. It activated in Division C for 9 consecutive seasons (1980-1998) and afterwards 18 seasons followed in the county championship, until 2006 when it was dissolved from the same reason as the other mining teams. In 2014 the local authorities re-founded the tradition team under the name of *Minerul 2014* and which still currently activates in the League 5 (fig.12.1). Just as in the case of the team from Băița, the one from Băiț fit the category of traditionalists through the 32 years of competitions when it activated only under the name of *Minerul*. In 1987, activating in Division C, it had the chance to play a match on their own field in Romania's Cup against Steaua Bucharest (score 1-7), the winner of European Champions Cup (1986 edition).

C₄. In Vișeu de Sus town (15,037 inhab¹) from Maramureş Land, the main economic activity has been and still is the wood exploitation and processing industry. This industry was at the basis of founding and supporting the locality's tradition team under the name of *Bradul*, founded in 1950, with logos in figure 13.



Figure 13. Logos of the *Bradul Vișeu de Sus* football teams (websource: 11, 12)

The history of this team was written by in Division C football with the 9 seasons it took part in: 1979/1989; 1981-1987 and 1988-1992 and 22 other seasons in the county championship (fig.13.1). During the socialist period, when it activated in Division C, there was a second team on county level, *Bradul II* (fig. 13.1). During the same socialist period, the ranking of economic units on economic branch on national level was reflected on

football level as well, the team from this town, with an industry subordinated to the branch industry from Sighetu Marmăției, could never overpass the team *CIL* from Sighet, supported by a republican rank plant.

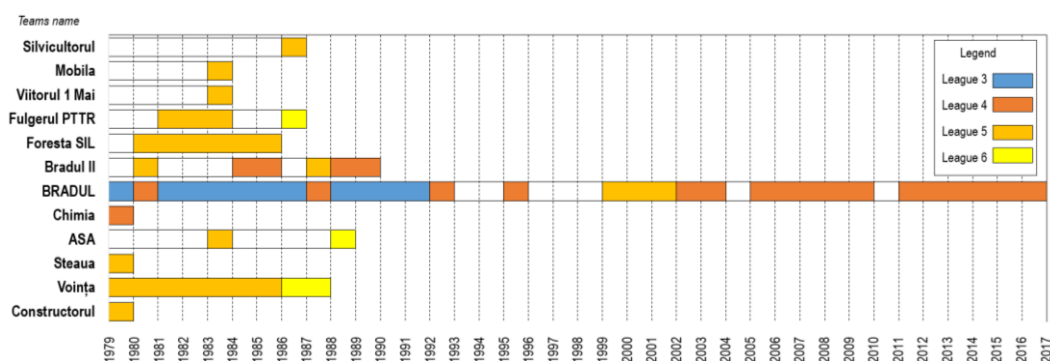


Figure 13.1. Football teams existing at the level of town Vișeu de Sus between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

After 1990, the lack of financial resources caused by the loss of support from the industry in the locality, led to the dissolution of the team for 5 seasons: 1994/1995; 1997/1998/1999 and 2010/2011 (fig.13.1). In the locality, during the socialist period, there were other teams too (League 5): *Foresta*, *Silviculторul*, *Fulgerul PTT*, *Steaua*, *ASA*, *Chimia*, *Constructorul* (Ilieș et al. 2016b) etc.

C₅. Târgu Lăpuș town (11,744 inhab¹), “the capital” of Lăpuș Land gets on the



Figure 14. Logo of *Lăpușul Târgu Lăpuș* football team (websource: 11, 12)

traditional football map of Maramureș with its activity in 37 seasons from the 38 analyzed ones. Football was not represented in this town only in the 1995/1996 season. With the name taken from the main river in the area, the tradition team was *Lăpușul*, with logo in figure 14, which activated in Division C for 9 seasons: 7 during the socialist period between 1980-1996 and two seasons between the years 2000-2002 (fig.14.1). The financial support during the socialist period was provided mainly by the wood processing industry, the light and food industry.

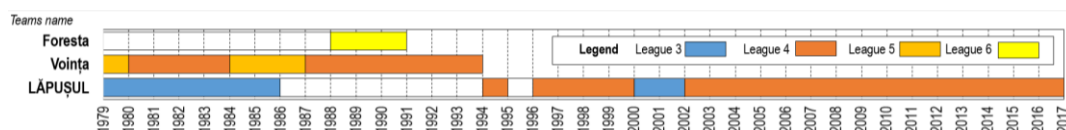


Figure 14.1. Football teams existing at the level of town Târgu Lăpuș between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6
(sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and
websources: 2-10)

Between 1987 and 1994, the only team from the locality was named *Voința* and activated only on county level. Out of the 37 analyzed years, the name *Lăpușul* was used in 29 editions of Division C championships and in the county championship (fig.14.1). Other teams which activated in the territorial championship (League 5) during the socialist period were *Foresta* and *Mobila* (Ilieș et al., 2016b; fig.14.1).

C₆. The locality Seini became town in 1988 and the representative teams had the name *Minerul* in association with Ilba locality, respectively *Unirea* after the association was dissolved (fig. 3 and 7; see chap. B₃).

C₇. In Baia Mare city, the third tradition team which activated in Division C only during the socialist period was *Simared*, club supported by the strong non-ferrous metals industry from the locality. After 3 seasons in Division C (1980-1982), the team was demoted in the county championship for two seasons (1982-1984) and it was dissolved afterwards. It returned in the territorial championship (League 5) under the name of *Antena Simared* (by association with another club, *Antena*) for three seasons (1986-1988). Under this name, it was promoted for two seasons into the county championship (1988-1990), then it was demoted again and it activated in the League 5 during the 1990-1991 season (fig. 3 and 4). When the team lost the financial support from the plant, it disappeared permanently from the football of Maramureș, in 1991.

C₈. In municipium Sighetu Marmăției, the second tradition team was *IS (Intreprinderea de Șuruburi – The Screw Factory)*, name changed in *Mecanica*, which, after 5 seasons of county championship (1980-1984), was promoted and it activated only one season (1984/1985) in Division C (fig. 6). In the same edition, the Division C championship, the first team of the town activated, named *CIL Mecanica*. At the end of the championship, *CIL Mecanica* was promoted in Division B and *IS Mecanica* was demoted into the county championship where it activated until 1993. In that year of the transition period, the club lost the financial support of the local factory and it was dissolved.

b.) During the transition (post-socialist) period (1990-2000), besides the 9 tradition teams mentioned above, including the former Division B teams (fig. 2 and 3), in Division C only one team appeared in Sighetu Marmăției.

C₉. The only team appeared during this period which managed to be promoted in the third group (Division B, former Division C) was SC Darcadia from Coltău village (fig.3). After the promotion, the team moved to Sighetu Marmăției and was named *AS Municipal* for two seasons on this level: 1994/1995 și 1995/1996. After the demotion, the team was dissolved, its place in the county championship being taken by *CS FC Marmăția 96*. It was the period when no less than 8 tradition teams (fig. 3 and 4) disappeared from the map of Division C football championship. Four

teams were dissolved and other 4 were demoted into the county championship. The only team present during the entire interval was *Cuprom/Phoenix* Baia Mare (fig. 4; Chap. C₄), which was demoted in 2001 on county level.

c.) The Capitalist period (Marketing itself) (2001-2016), that of actual capitalist economy, was marked by the lack of connections between the socialist economic units (dissolved or privatized) and the support of football. On county level, new team names appeared which can be categorized as follows (fig. 2 and 3):

c₁.) Teams founded in localities with previous tradition on national division level (fig. 2 and 3): *Gloria* Baia Mare (3 seasons); *CS Marmația 96* Sighetu Marmăției (6), *Plimob* Sighetu Marmăției (1) and *CSM (Municipal Sport Club)* Sighetu Marmăției (2). Even though it did not make it into the League 3 during the period 2005-2010, the team *Tisa* activated in the League 4 in Sighetu Marmăției, team which participated to the tie-break for the promotion into the League 3 after winning the 2007/2008 county edition.

C₁₀. The club *Gloria* from municipium Baia Mare activated on the IIIrd level between the years 2003-2006 for three seasons. Amongst the 35 seasons it took part in, we mention: 3 seasons in the IIIrd league; 30 seasons in the League 4 (county level) and two in the territorial one (League 5), the tradition of this team lasting throughout the entire analyzed period, with the exception of two seasons when it was dissolved: 1992/1993, 2013/2014 (fig.4). In the new season (2016/2017), the club was dissolved. In time, it had various names such as *Electrica* (socialist period; season 2015/2016), *FC Gloria* and *Gloria Renel* (Ilieș et al., 2016b).

C₁₁. In municipium Sighetu Marmăției, in 1996, after the demotion and dissolution of *AS Municipal* team, the local authorities founded the team *CS Marmația 96*, with logo in figure 15, which activated for 8 seasons in the League 4, in alternation with other 6 seasons in League 3 (fig.6): 2001/ 2002/2003; 2005/2006 and 2007/2008/2009/2010. After other 3 seasons in League 4, in 2013, the club was dissolved. For the 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 seasons, the club changed its name in *AS Municipal*, respectively *CS Municipal*. During the period when it activated in League 3, the second team, *CS Marmația 96 II*, was also maintained in the League 4 (fig.6).



Figure 15. Logo of
FC Marmația 96 team

C₁₂. In the same time with *CS Marmația 96* team, a private club was founded in municipium Sighetu Marmăției in 2010, *CS Plimob*, with support from the private wood processing economic unit (fig. 6). After two editions of county league, 2010/2011/2012, the team was promoted for one season into the League 3 (2012/2013), keeping the second team, *Plimob 2*, on county level (fig. 6). After the demotion, it activated one year in the League 4 and then it withdrew from the seniors' competitions for the following two seasons (it only activated on junior level) in favor of the new favorite team of the town, *CSM*. From the 2016/2017 it returned into county seniors' football, being the only representative of the city (after the withdrawal of *CSM* from the IIIrd League in the previous edition).



Figure 16. Logo of CSM football team

C₁₃. In 2013 in Sighetu Marmatiei, at one year after the dissolution of the *CS Marmatia 96* club, the local authorities founded *Clubul Sportiv Municipal (CSM) - The Municipal Sports Club*, with logo in figure 16. After one year in the county championship (2013/2014), the team was promoted into the League 3 where, for two seasons in a row, it struggled for the promotion into the League 2. During the first edition (2014/2015), it lost against *FCM Baia Mare* team and during the second edition (2015/2016), out of administrative and political reasons, it withdrew from the League 3 (in the middle of its fight for promotion) and it was dissolved (Fig. 6).

c₂.) Teams founded in localities with tradition in county football, yet promoted for the first time in a national level competition (League 3; fig. 2) during the actual capitalist economy period: *Progresul (The Progress)* Şomcuta Mare (3 seasons: 2000/2001/2002), *Plastunion* Satulung (2002/2003), *FC Suciul de Sus* (2004/2005), *Viitorul (The Future)* Ulmeni (2016-present) and *ACS Fotbal Comuna Recea* (2015-present).

C₁₄. The locality Şomcuta Mare (7,455 inhab¹) became a town in 2004. From the beginning of the analyzed period, there were football teams in the locality during 36 seasons out of the 38 analyzed ones. Only in the 1991/1992 and 2013/2014 seasons the locality was not represented in football competitions. After 4 seasons of territorial championships (League 5) and 15 seasons of county championships, in 1999, *Progresul* team was promoted into League 3 where it activated for two seasons: 1999/2000/2001. It returned into the League 4 for 15 more seasons, including the present one, with the exception of the 2013/2014 season when it was dissolved (fig.17).

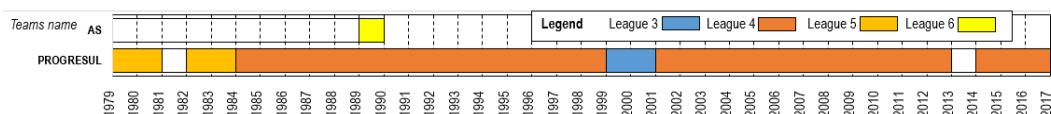


Figure 17. Football teams existing at the level of settlement Şomcuta Mare between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

During the entire analyzed period, the team bore only the name of *CS Progresul*, belonging thus to the category of traditional conservatory teams throughout the 36 championship editions it took part in.

C₁₅. Satulung commune with the homonymous capital village (about 1,462 inhab¹) made history in the IIIrd League for only one season, 2002/2003, under the name of *Plastunion*. The locality has tradition in the football game of Maramureş with a continuous participation in all 38 analyzed seasons, out of which 37 were on county championship level (League 4; fig. 18). The team's tradition name, used since the socialist period until present time, is *Tractorul*, which activates in the League 5 at present. Depending on the sponsors, the representative teams also had names such as *Vetrix* (fig. 18).

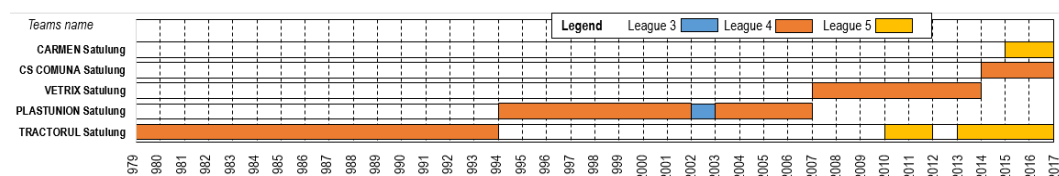


Figure 18. Football teams existing at the level of village Satulung between 1979-2016 in Leagues 3-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

In the 2016/2017 edition, on commune level, 6 football teams are supported by administration and local sponsors in the four villages and 4 and 5 leagues, out of which three are from Satulung village: *CS Comuna* in League 4 and the teams *AS Tractorul* and *AS Carmen* in League 5 (fig. 18).

C₁₆. Suciul de Sus village (2,450 inhab¹), situated in Lăpuș Land and main village of the homonymous commune (6,222 inhab¹), appeared on the football map of Maramureș without a tradition dating back to the socialist period (fig. 19). The new groundfield was built in village after 2000 (fig.19.1).

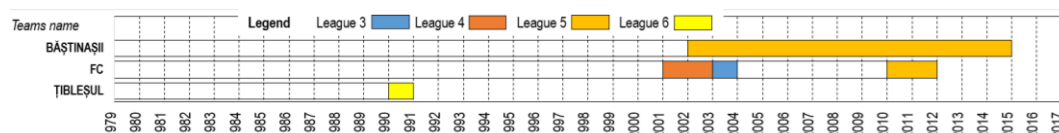


Figure 19. Football teams existing at the level of village Suciul de Sus between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

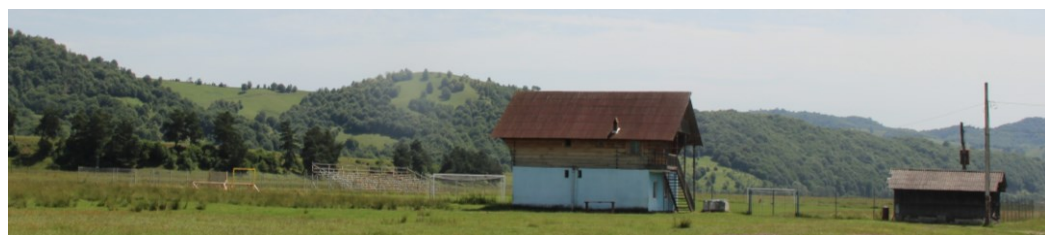


Figure 19.1. The groundfield from Suciul de Sus village (2015)

The team was founded in the season 1990/1991 of the League 5, with a name taken from the nearby mountain unit, *Țibleșul*. Starting with the 2001/2002 season of the territorial championship, the locality reappeared on the map of county football under the name of **FC** Suciul de Sus and it would have a history of 5 seasons. After the 2003/2004 season, it was promoted into the League 4 and, a year later, into the League 3 (2003/2004). Unfortunately, in the 2004/2005 season, out of financial reasons, the team withdrew from the League 3 (after 21 rounds)¹⁰ and it was dissolved. It returned into the League 5 for two editions, 2010/2011/2012 (fig. 19). At the same time, there was another team in the locality named *Băștinașii* (*Autochthonous*) during the seasons 2004/2005-2014/2015, which took the tradition to the territorial championship level for 11 seasons, until 2015 when it was dissolved. The two teams performed in parallel for four seasons in the territorial championship (fig. 16).

C₁₇. Recea village (1,187 inhab¹), nearby Baia Mare city, is the main village of the homonymous commune (6,000 inhab¹) and it has a tradition in county football ever since the beginning of the analyzed period (1980) throughout 29 seasons. After a continuous activity during the socialist period, in the 1989/1990 season the traditional team *Stăruința* was dissolved. Since 1990 and until 2003 (fig.20.1), for 14 years, the inexistence periods alternated with sporadic participations in the League 4 (1993/1994/1995) and League 5 (4 seasons). From the 2003/2004 season, the team was re-founded in the League 5 under the name of *Star*. After 9 seasons in the League 5, in 2013, it was promoted and started to activate in the League 4 for three seasons. In 2015 the team was promoted in the IIIrd League. Starting with the 2015/2016 season, it started to make history and continues to do so under the name of *ACS Fotbal Comuna Recea* (logo in fig. 20). Since 2015 the second team has activated in parallel, *ACSFC II* in the League 5.



Figure 20. Logo of ACS Fotbal Recea football team

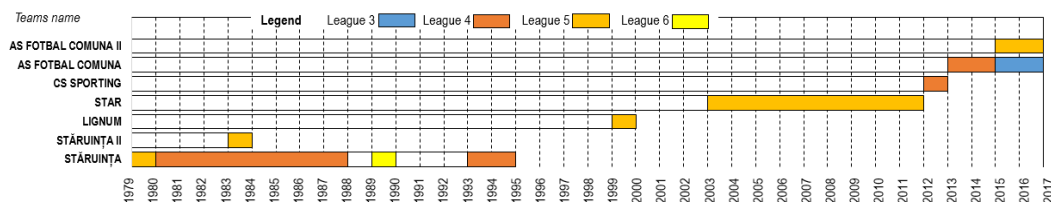


Figure 20.1. Football teams existing at the level of village Recea between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

The name of the team was constantly *Stăruința* during the socialist period and the editions to follow until 1995. During the two editions in the League 5 (1998/1999/2000), it activated under the name of *Lignum* and when it was re-founded in the 2003/2004 (League 5), it returned to the name *Star* until 2013. In the League 4 (2013/2014), it changed its name into *CS Sporting* and since the following year (2014) until present, it has activated under the name of *ACS Fotbal Comuna Recea* (fig. 20.1).



Figure 21. Logo of CS Viitorul football team

C₁₈. Ulmeni locality (7,078 inhab¹), which became a town in 2014, appeared on the map of football in Maramureş for 23 seasons, starting with 1980. With 5 successive names (*Voința*, *Sticla*, *CS*, *Someșul* and *CS Viitorul*), the team activated continuously during the socialist period in the League 5 (5 seasons) and in the League 4 (6 seasons) and it was dissolved in 1991 from the county championship level (fig. 21.1). During that period the team's name was *Voința* (1980-1983) and *Sticla* (1983-1991). For the League 5 edition (2000/2001), the name was *CS*. Starting with the season 2005/2006 when the team was re-founded for an edition in the Leagues 5 and 4 seasons in the League 4, its name was *Someșul*, and it was excluded from

the championship in the 2009/2010 season. After two seasons of absence, since the 2012/2013 edition in the League 4, the team from Ulmeni has reappeared under the name of *CS Viitorul*, with logo in figure 21, and name under which it would activate since the 2016/2017 edition in the League 3 too (fig.21.1).

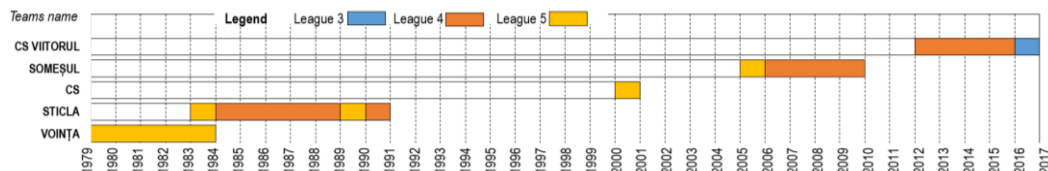


Figure 21.1. Football teams existing at the level of settlement Ulmeni between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

D. At the level of county and local championships (League 4, 5 and 6) the situation is shown in figures 22 and 23. Some logos of the representatives teams are presented in figure 24. In the Land of Maramures were represented 25 villages and 41 football teams with different names (fig.22). In the southern part of the county, 69 settlements were represented by 101 football teams from rural areas (fig. 23). At the county level throughout the 38 seasons analyzed there were 142 teams that represented 94 villages.

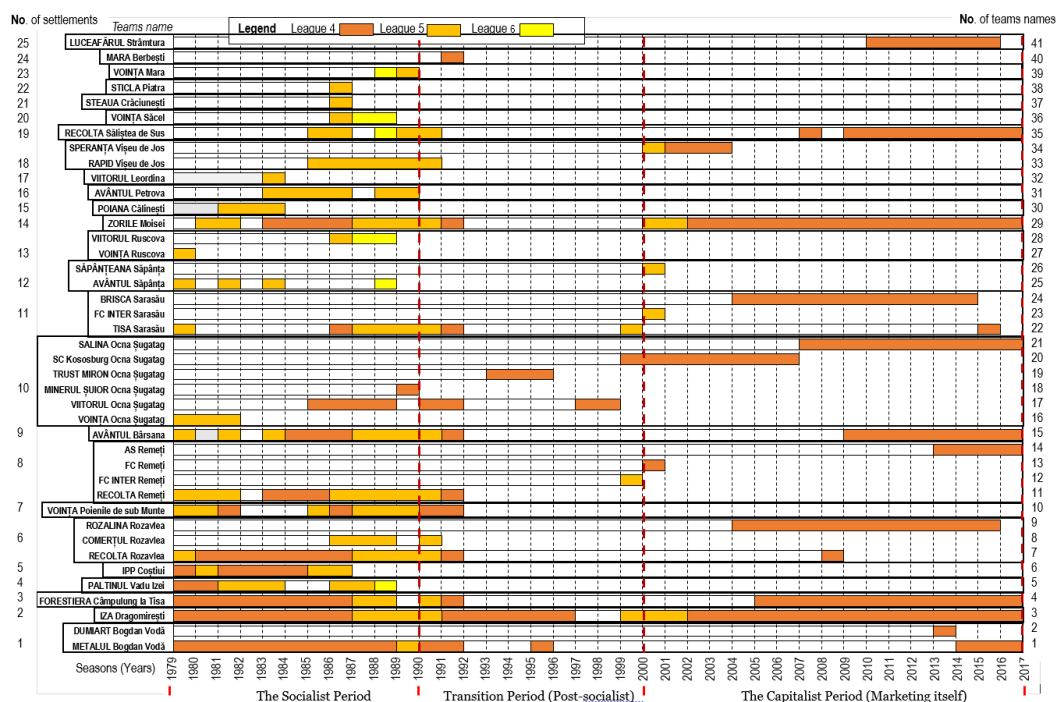


Figure 22. Football teams existing at the level of Maramureş Land (Northern part of county) between 1979-2017 in Leagues 4-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

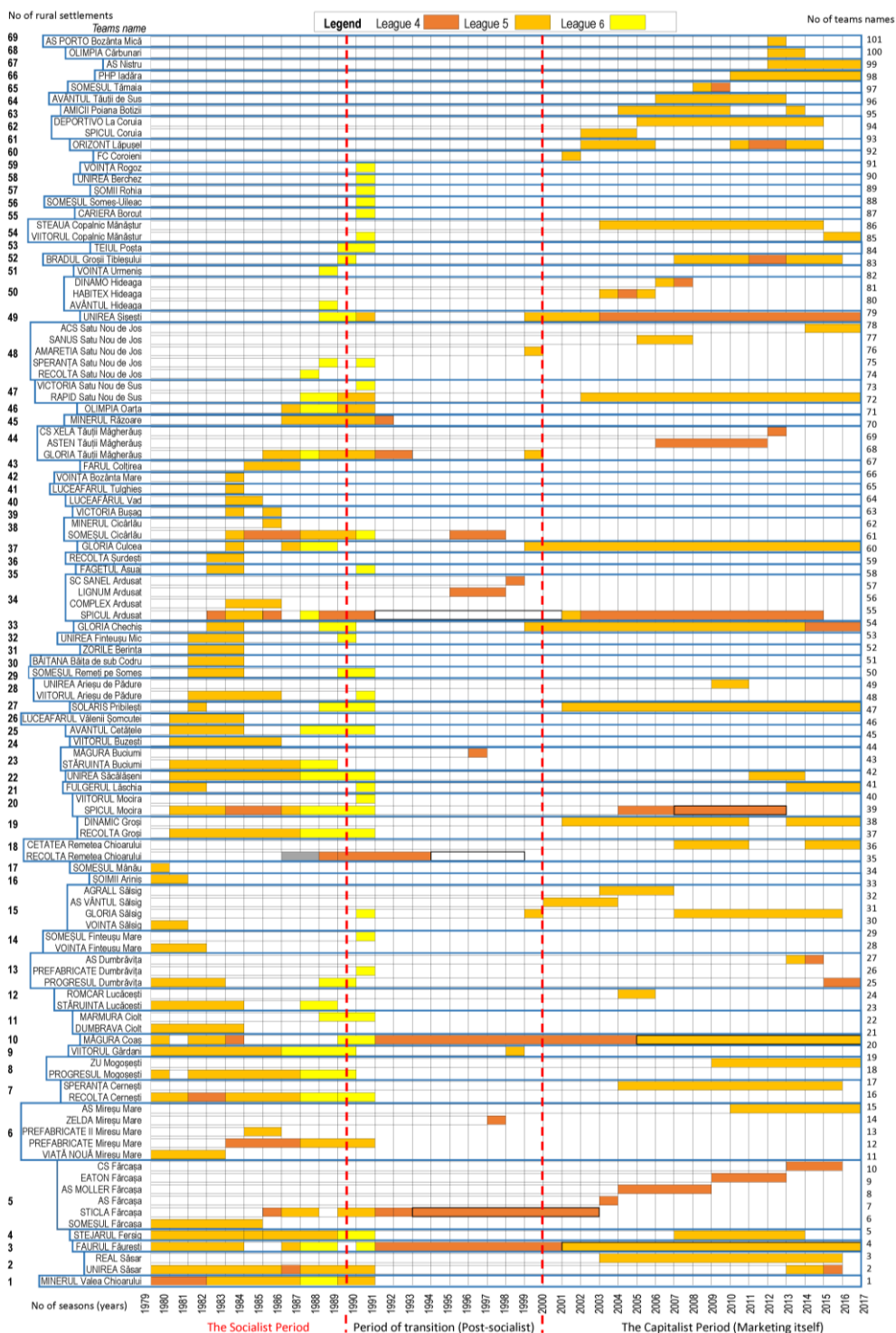


Figure 24. Football teams existing at the level of the South part of Maramureş County between 1979-2017 in Leagues 4-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989) and Graiul Maramureşului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

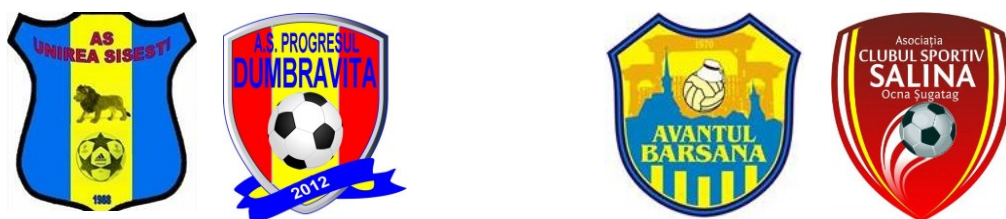


Figure 24. Logos of the teams from Șișești, Dumbrăvița, Bârsana and Ocna Șugatag

As representation, 37 villages were represented at the League 4 level, 49 to league 5 and 8 localities have not exceeded League 6. Among the localities represented in the 1979/1980 season, currently, in seasons 2016/2017 at leagues 4 and 5, are represented only one town: Dragomirești and 10 villages: Bârsana, Bogdan Vodă, Câmpulung la Tisa, Ocna Șugatag and Remeți from North and from south: Coaș, Dumbrăvița, Făurești, Mireșu Mare and Mogoșești ([Main map](#))

Conclusions

The map of the traditional football in Maramureș with participation on national divisions level (I, II and III) includes, for the 38 analyzed seasons during the 1980-2016 time interval, a number of 17 localities, out of which 12 towns and 5 rural localities: Băița, Băiuț, Coltău, Satulung and Suciul de Sus. Out of the present towns of the county, only Tăuții Măgherauș has never had representation on this level. There have been 48 different names for the teams which have represented the 16 localities. Out of the 241 localities from the county, 110 localities (45.6%) have re-drawn the contour of football tradition map of Maramureș County for the period 1980-2016. The socialist period (1980-1989) was the most constant from the point of view of team number, representation and name continuity. The teams *Minerul* Cavnic and *Progresul* Șomcuta Mare have activated throughout the entire analyzed period under the same names for 38 seasons. Municipium Sighetu Marmăției, Cavnic town and Satulung village have been represented in all 38 football seasons and Târgu Lăpuș city in 37 seasons. On the first division level, for three seasons, *FC* Baia Mare was the only one represented. On IInd League level, football in Maramureș has represented 6 localities with 7 teams: Baia Mare (3), Sighetu Marmăției, Cavnic, Baia Sprie and Ilba-Seini. The third level added other 11 localities to the 6 mentioned above and 13 teams. During the socialist period, the team name used to reflect the economic profile of the locality as well, hence the frequency of the name *Minerul*.

The transition period (1990-2000) stood out through the gradual disappearance of tradition teams as a consequence of losing the economic support and of closing or privatizing the socialist economic units which provided their financial support. The third period (2001-2016), with a more stable market economy, has not led to the revitalization of division football. The number of teams has been significantly diminished and the participations to the division championships have been occasional, maximum 2 or 3 seasons/team. The tradition clubs were either in the county championship (*Minerul* Cavnic, *Minerul* Băiuț) or they disappeared from the map of football: Baia Mare, Sighetu Marmăției, Baia Sprie, Băița. Unfortunately, because of financial reasons, the county's representative teams

from the past years, *FCM Baia Mare* and *CSM Sighetu Marmăției*, withdrew from the IInd, respectively IIIrd League level competitions. Tradition and history through continuous participation (up to present) and through the use of the same name were represented by the teams *Minerul Cavnic*, *Lăpușul Târgu Lăpuș*, *Bradul Vișeu de Sus*, *Progresul Șomcuta Mare*, *Minerul Băiuț* and *Tractorul Satulung*. In consequence, throughout the 38 analyzed seasons, out of the 241 localities, only 16 have been represented on national competition level.

The most number of teams that have performed at the 6 echelons at the settlement level throughout the analyzed period were:

- municipium Baia Mare with 38 teams in all 6 echelons (fig.4). The best performance at first level being touched by *FC/FC Maramureș*. In 1992/1993 season, 12 teams have evolved simultaneously. The longest team was *FC/FC Maramures/FC Municipal* (31 seasons) and *Cuprom/Phoenix* (24). In 2016/2017 season, in the municipality no longer any football team.

- municipium Sighetu Marmăției with 17 teams (fig.6), with the best performance in the Division B (League 2) by *CIL* team. Most teams that have performed simultaneously at all levels was 7 in seasons 1983/1984 and 1987/1989. Neither team activated during the 18 seasons. Currently (season 2016/2017), the city is represented in the League 4 by *Plimob* team.

- town Vișeu de Sus had 11 teams on 3 levels, and most that existed at one time was 7 teams during the 1983/1984 season (fig.13.1). The team *Bradul* is the longest with 38 seasons still active.

Only 11 villages represented in the 1979/1980 season there are currently in the north: Bârsana, Bogdan Voda, Campulung la Tisa, Dragomirești, Ocna Sugatag and Remeți and in South part of county: Coaș, Dumbrăvița, Făurești, Mireșu Mare and Mogoșești ([Main map](#)).

After 2010, the number of teams diminished considerably because of financial reason, the county representation in the national divisions being sporadic. After the disappearance of *FCM Baia Mare* team from the IInd League (2016) and that of *CSM Sighetu Marmăției* team from the IIIrd League (2015), the only representatives in the national competitions are *ACS Fotbal Comuna Recea* and *CS Viitorul Ulmeni* teams in the IIIrd League, in the 2016/2017 edition.

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