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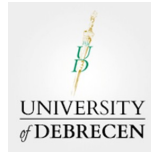
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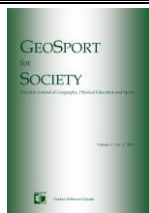
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Considerations regarding the evolution, distribution and dynamics of the romanian football (League I) between 1989 - 2016

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Abstract: The present study aims to highlight different issues related to: the evolution, repartition and dynamics of the Romanian football (League I) between 1989 – 2016 by using an analytical approach, from singular to particular, from the team (seen as a basic cell in football) to location, county, development regions, historical region and country (seen as administrative units that support football). The importance of the study emerges from the explanatory and logical approach, from the mechanisms that contributed to the development and consolidation of the Romanian football (League I), in close correlation with the post-communist socio-economic transformations which have defined each administrative unit involved as part of the Romanian national state.

Keywords: football, football dynamics, League I, sports

Introduction

The global dynamics of football generated the specific organizational framework for this activity. Thus, organizational structures were created in countries where football has become a social phenomenon. *"Sports, through its*

organization and manifestation forms, through its built specific infrastructure, has become an inseparable part of society in general, the differences being of quantitative and qualitative nature and whose value is generated by the involvement degree of each actor as part of society (of the whole)" (Ilieș et al., 2014a).

The implementation of new concepts within the cultural sports context (Bale, 2003; Calcatinage, 2013; Conner, 2014; Dragoș, 2015) supported by various case studies (Gaffnei, 2008; Ilieș et al., 2014b; Kozma, 2014) through different analogies and generalizations (Szabo-Alexi et al., 2008) could delineate a distinctive framework for sport practicing, and especially football.

In Romania, organizing things according to specific professional principles appeared in August 1990 once the Romanian Football Federation has become an independent leading organ of the football movement in our country¹. As a logical consequence, in 1993 the Romanian Professional Football League was founded².

The activity and performance of Romanian football clubs have generated real disputes and controversy, especially after the events of 1989. Their shift from amateur to a professional status generated significant changes in the dynamics of football organization. The clubs become more visible based on the socio-economic development of the country (Buhaș, 2015a). At the same time, we can observe a dynamics and a fluctuation of the existence and geographic distribution of tradition football clubs at national level, but also the emergence, development and performance of new football clubs.

Football was, is and will remain a social phenomenon that engages a large mass of consumers from different positions: either from the perspective of those who practice it, or from the viewer's perspective (Socol, 2016). There are no social distinctions in what regards those involved in this phenomenon. The elitist social classes generate, at the same intensity as the peripheral social classes, the same passion, "craziness" and involvement in the football phenomenon. *"Thus, it raises the need for cooperation in knowledge. Knowledge can not be a goal itself. Knowledge generates the human capacity of changing, transforming and modifying"* (Buhaș, 2015b, 13). The social importance of this phenomenon is highlighted by the magnitude of energy consumed around it. Televisions allocate an extremely wide space for this phenomenon. Some are exclusively dedicated to sports and particularly to football (Eurosport, Digisport, etc.) In addition to these, the printed media has also dedicated countless editions evoking sports and football industry in particular (Prosport, Gazeta Sporturilor, etc.).

In Romania, the 1989 – 1990 championship edition was the last in which football has been influenced by the specific social organization of the communist egalitarianism. Since 1990, football knows a wide restructuring process, adapted to the European and global organizational framework. Until 1997 the Romanian championship was called Division A and since then it is called League 1³. During all this period, various companies have associated their name with League 1: Ursus (1998-2004); Burger (2004-2008); Frutti Fresh (2008-2009); Gamebookers (2009-

¹ <http://old.frf.ro/public/images/uploads/Statut%202011.pdf>

² <http://www.lpf.ro/despre-lpf/despre-lpf.html>

³ http://www.liga-1.ro/content.php?c=articole&articol_id=9255&p=543

2010); Bergenbier (2010-2015); Orange (2015-2017)⁴. A number of tradition clubs strengthens thier existence (Steaua București, Dinamo București, Universitatea Craiova, etc.), while others (UTA Arad, F.C. Maramureș Baia Mare, F.C. Bihor, etc.) are struggling in a total anonymity. We can observe the situation of new emerging clubs in League 1 (Voluntari, F.C. Vaslui, Concordia Chiajna, etc.) which make impression based on their budgets, but also their results (Unirea Urziceni). This is the result of the fast socio - economic changes occurring in the Romanian society. These changes are also highlighted by the amounts of money paid by broadcasters for TV rights. The year 2004 represents a premiere for the Romanian football: the Telesport company pays for the football matches` broadcasting rights the sum of 28 million dollars for a four-year contract with the Professional Football League⁵. In 2008, Antena 1 and RCS & RDS pay for a period of three years the sum of 102 million Euros⁶. As a consequence of the phenomenon`s dynamism, we can observe a significant increase of transmission rights` value. At the same time, the number of foreign players and coaches in League 1 is growing from year to year⁷.

During the period approached in this paper, there is a pronounced dynamics of League 1 football team distribution in Romania. This geographical distribution is generated by a number of interrelated factors which we will discuss in our study. All this led in time to fluctuations related to League 1 organizational framework, leading currently to play off and play out system.

Methodology

The present study is the result of bibliographic research and analytical interpretations in time and space of the information from the literature review⁸. The analysis of the Romanian football (League I) between 1989-2015 was performed at team, location, county, development regions, historical region and country levels. Data from literature review have been translated into a pre-existing database (points, polygons), created in ArcGIS 9.3. Data analysis was performed at point level (45 locations) and polygon level (4 historical regions, 8 development regions, 42 counties). Data analysis for historical and development regions required also quantitative analysis based on summing up the total number of teams promoted in League 1 during the period 1989-2016. In order to highlight the dynamics in time of the total number of qualified teams, we elaborated graphs for the years: 1989/1990, 1994/1995, 1999/2000, 2004/2005, 2009/2010, 2015/2016; based on these, we conducted a comparative analysis (figures 2 and 3). Data analysis regarding the total number of qualified teams during 1989 -2016, at county level, involved a graphical spatial analysis, using columns shaded in different colors. Each column represents a year, respectively: 1989/1990, 1994/1995, 1999/2000, 2004/2005, 2009/2010, 2015/2016. In order to conduct a comparative analysis we elaborated a chart containing the total number of teams promoted within the period 1989 -2016, at county level (fig. 4). Data analysis regarding the total number of qualified teams

⁴ <http://www.gsp.ro/fotbal/liga-1/liga-1-are-un-nou-sponsor-oficial-cum-se-va-numi-campionatul-romaniei-463461.html>

⁵ <http://dictionary.sensagent.com/Telesport/en-en/>

⁶ <http://www.romanalibera.ro/sport/sporturi/102-milioane-euro-pentru-liga-i-130304>

⁷ <http://sporttim.ro/editorial/25-de-ani-cu-straini-in-liga-1>

⁸ <http://www.romansoccer.ro/competitii/fotbal/national/romania/liga-1/>

during 1989 -2016, at county level, involved a quantitative spatial analysis, by using conventional signs like circle with gray background representing five classes of value: 1 team, 2 - 10 teams, 11 - 50 teams, 51 - 100 teams, over 100 teams (fig. 5). Therefore, using ArcGIS 9.3 we managed to perform a series of specific analyzes regarding the spatial and temporal distribution of football teams from League I at location, county, development regions, historical regions and country levels.

Results and discussion

The evolution of football teams from League I was achieved by monitoring changes over time (1989 - 2015), individually (for each team) and in general, by highlighting the longest teams in time. The analysis regarding the spatial distribution of teams in League I between 1989 - 2015 was conducted at location, county, development region, and historical region levels in Romania. Between 1989 - 2015, the Romanian football from League I was represented by 476 promoted teams, located in 35 counties and 45 municipalities, some of them with rural status (fig. 1).

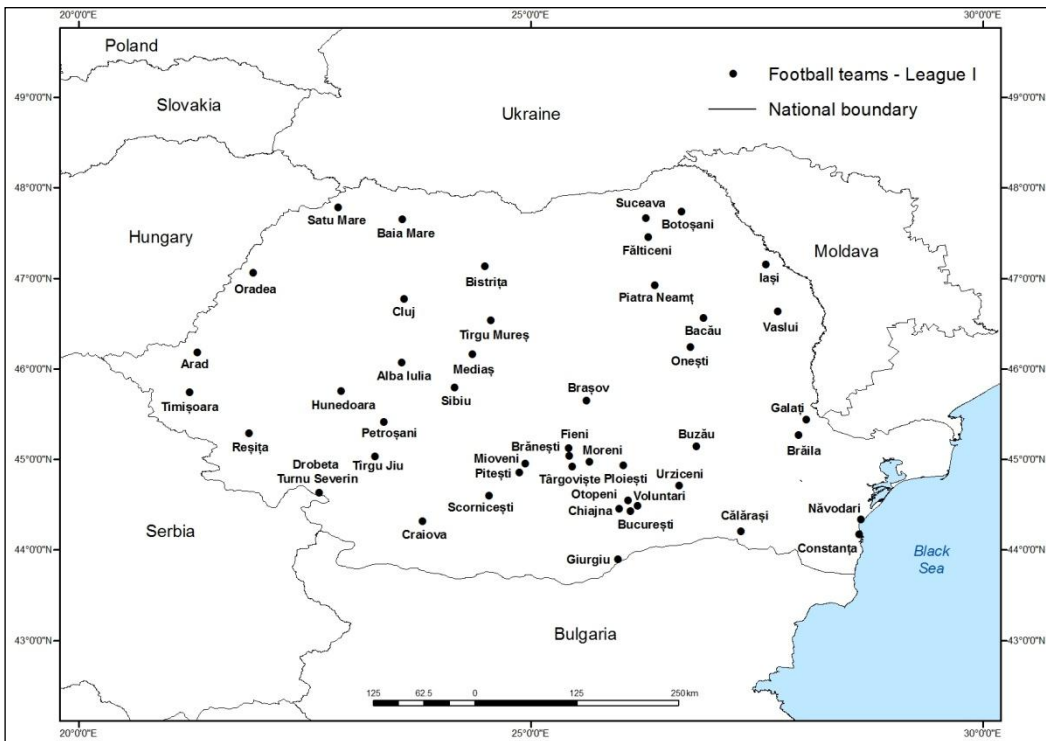


Figure 1. The teams` locations between 1989-2015 (League I)

The historical regions (Țara Românească, Transylvania, Moldavia and Dobrogea) were specific Romanian administrative units. The analysis of football teams` distribution and their representativeness has deep mental connotations in the way how Romanians perceive the current realities, with which they identify in one way or another as football supporters. The analysis of the number of teams in

League I at historical regions level between 1989 - 2015 highlights their proportion in Țara Românească (49%, 231 teams in 20 locations), followed by Transylvania (29%, 140 teams in 15 locations), Moldova (18%, 84 teams in 9 locations) and Dobrogea (4%, 21 teams in 2 locations) (fig. 2, table 1).

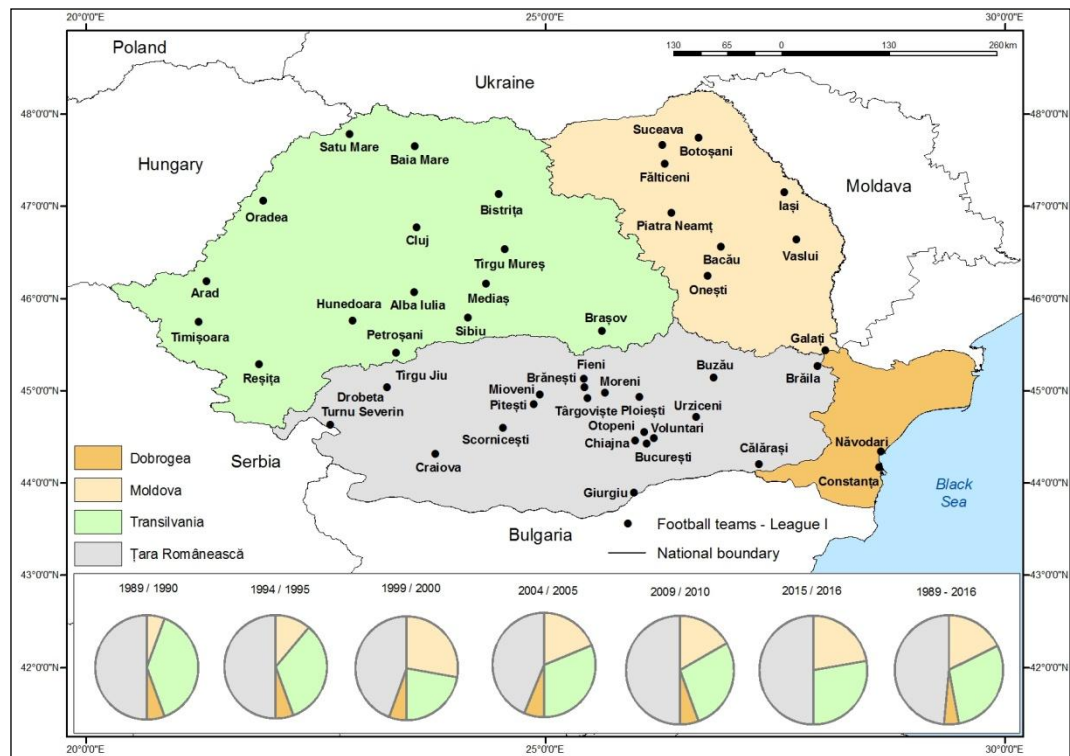


Figure 2. The distribution and dynamics of teams in League I on historical regions between 1989 – 2015

Table 1. The distribution of the number of teams in League I, of the number of locations and counties in which they were located between 1989 – 2015

Criteria	Romania	Historical regions				Development regions							
		Transylvania	Țara Românească	Moldavia	Dobrogea	Central region	Ilfov-Bucharest region	North-Eastern region	North-Western region	Southern region	South-Eastern region	South-Western region	Western region
No. of counties	35	13	14	7	1	4	1	6	5	7	3	4	4
No. of locations	45	15	20	9	2	5	4	8	5	11	4	4	5
No. of teams	476	140	231	84	21	46	122	60	56	64	49	41	38
The ratio between the no. of teams and no. of locations	10.5	9.3	11.5	9.3	10.5	9.2	30.5	7.5	11.2	5.8	12.2	10.2	7.6

In what regards the dynamics and consolidation of Romanian football in League I between 1989 - 2015, at the level of development regions we have a balanced representativeness, except for two regions (Ilfov-Bucharest region with 3% from the total number of teams; South Western region with 4% of the total number of teams); in general, the percentual values for other development regions fall between 11% and 18% (fig. 3, table 1).

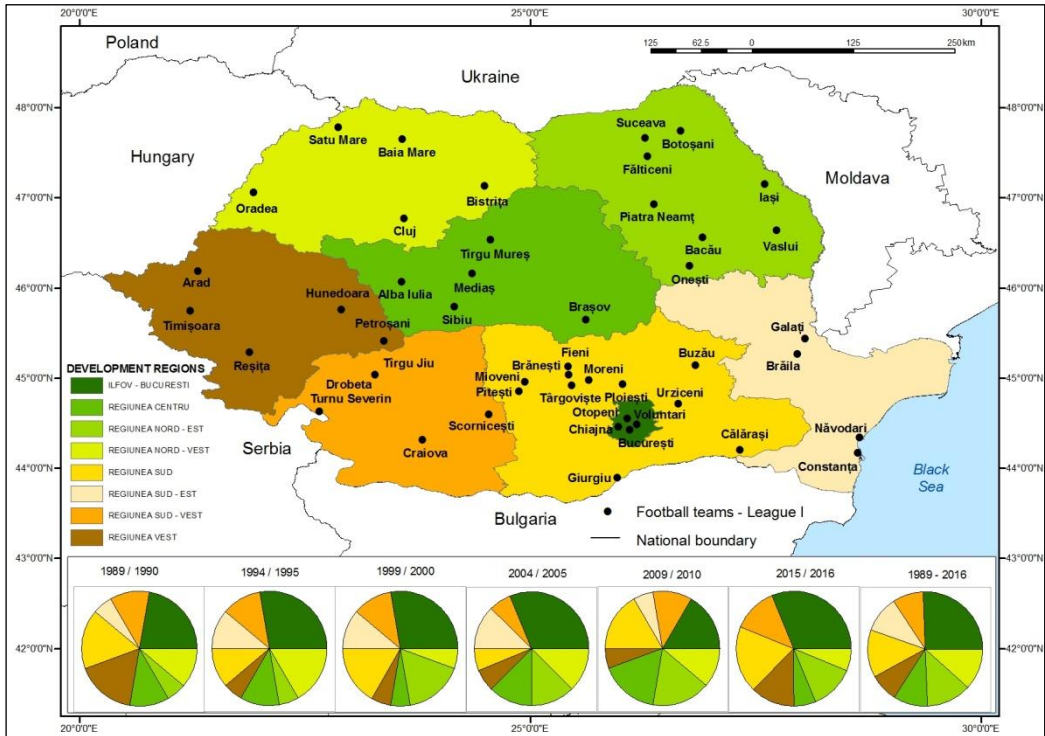


Figure 3. The distribution and dynamics of teams in League I on development regions between 1989 – 2015

A more representative image regarding the distribution of football activities in League I emerges from the analysis of the number of teams at county and local level. At county level one can observe that between 1989 - 2015, seven counties (Covasna, Harghita, Vrancea, Sălaj, Vâlcea, Teleorman and Tulcea) were not represented in football in League I, while at municipality level we can see that teams in the League I were located in 45 locations (Figure 4). The counties with most football teams in League I, during mentioned time range, are: Bucharest (111), Dolj (28), Cluj (27), Prahova (24), while to the opposite side were counties like Teleorman, Tulcea, Vâlcea, Vrancea, Covasna, Harghita and Sălaj with any team present in League I (fig. 4). We mention that the total number of teams is given by their annual summing (in most cases, can be the same clubs).

The graphical analysis of the total number of football teams in League I, at municipality level, reveals the dominance of the urban centers, some of them being county capitals: Bucharest (111), Craiova (28), Cluj (27), Galați (24), Ploiești (24),

Braşov (22), while at the opposite were localities like Moreni, Scorniceşti, Satu Mare, Fieni, Otopeni, Brăneşti, Drobeta Turnu Severin, Călăraşi, Năvodari and Fălticeni, each with one team (fig. 5).

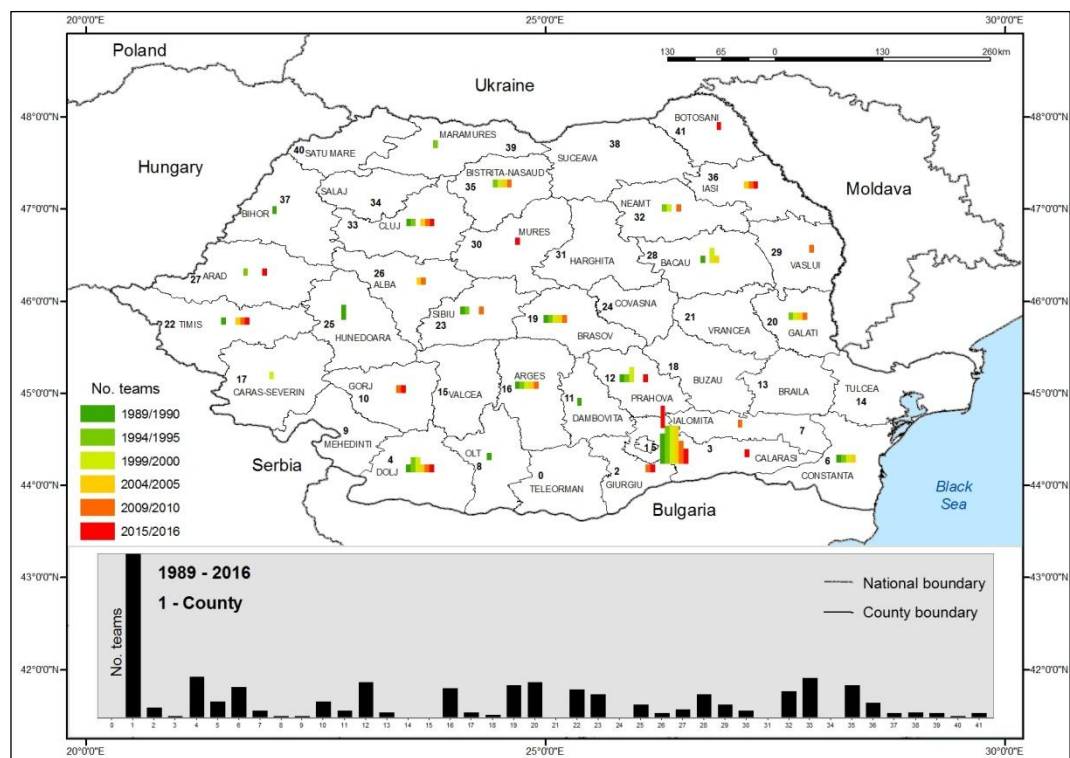


Figure 4. The distribution and dynamics of teams in League I at county level between 1989 – 2015

In order to create a spatial overview on the dynamics of the Romanian football in League I, we calculated the ratio between the number of teams and the number of localities in which they activate. For Romania, the value for this indicator was 10. A relatively similar situation can be drawn also from the analysis of this indicator at historical regions level: Ţara Românească, Dobrogea, Moldavia and Transylvania, which had values ranged between 9.3 and 11.5. Regarding this indicator, major differences were noted at development regions, county and municipality levels: its value was inversely proportional to the size of the administrative unit. The smallest the administrative unit (historical region, development region, county, city), the higher the value of the ratio between the number of teams and the number of municipalities in which they were located. At the level of development regions the highest value for this indicator was registered in Ilfov-Bucharest region (30.5). For the rest of the analyzed development regions the indicator value ranged between 12.2 and 7.6. At county level, Bucharest stands out (111), while at the opposite side we have counties like Satu Mare, Suceava and Călăraşi, with a value of 1. A similar situation was reported also at localities level (table 1).

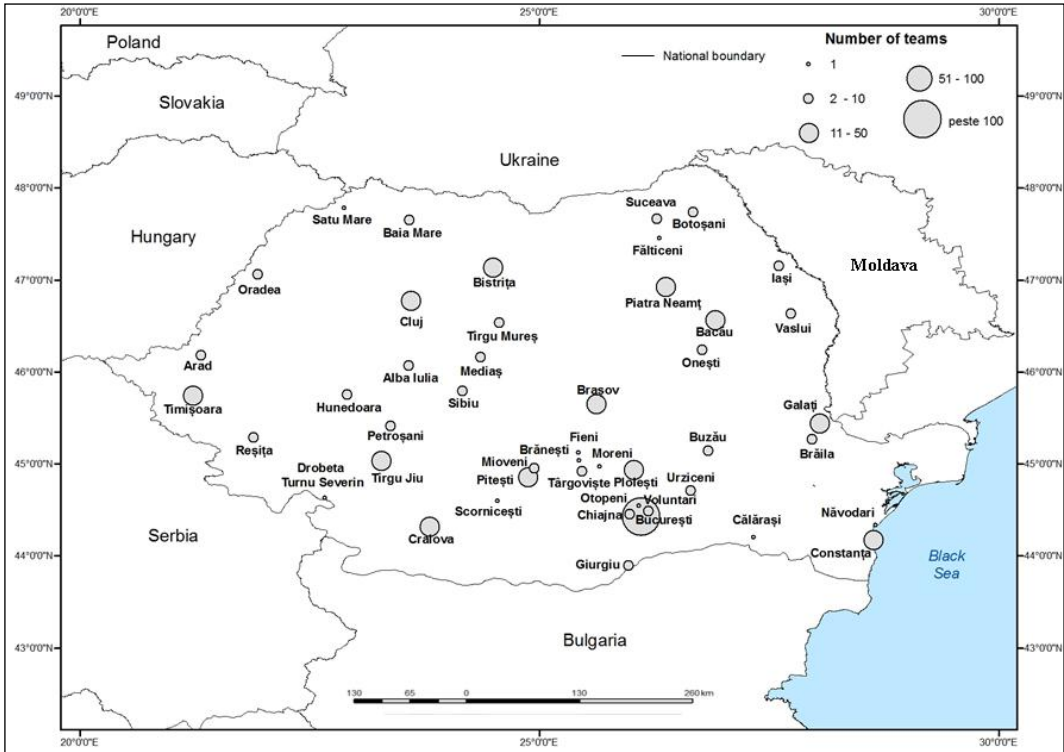


Figure 5. Distribution of the total number of selected teams in League I at locality level between 1989 – 2015

Conclusions

One of the most dynamic phenomena that define the post communist Romanian society is sport. Among other sports, football holds a special place due to its spread and social impact. In this context we have tried to outline an overview of the Romanian football in League I, between 1989-2016, highlighting the mutations that it had recorded in time (1989-2016) and space (at locality, county, development region, historical region and country levels).

On the presented maps one can observe an uneven distribution of all 476 football teams in Ligue 1 in the above mentioned time range. They are not different, and do not represent each one club. The number of outlined teams is given by their number of display in League 1.

In the studied time period, we can observe an unequal distribution of these teams. Only 45 municipalities in 35 counties are represented. The display, concentration, consolidation and stability of teams is closely related to the socio-economic dynamics of the area. There are areas in Romania where the existence of natural resources and the development of collateral industries influenced the emergence and consolidation of teams (Fieni, Moreni, Pitești, Reșița, Ploiești, Târgu Jiu, etc.) In the same context, we can observe that along with the degradation of industry in the communist period and the development of another economic sector, teams shift to more favorable areas. If at the beginning of the studied period, teams

from cities such as Arad, Timișoara, Reșița, Baia Mare, Hunedoara represented points of concentration and athletic performance, as the economic potential has deteriorated, teams migrated to regions such as Otopeni, Chiajna, Voluntari, etc. where new areas of business emerged.

Another cause for the spatio-temporal mobility of football teams is generated by the concentration of financial flows in certain areas (Bucharest, Timișoara, Cluj, etc.).

There are areas that endeavor to preserve the tradition of high-level football even in the context of low (or lack of) economic potential (Arad, Brăila, Bistrița, Suceava, Piatra Neamț, Bacău etc.), but these teams have a highly fluctuating dynamics in League I.

During 1989-2016 the division of football teams in League I has been highly uneven and strongly linked with the fluctuating dynamics of socio-economic development in Romania. An important contribution was brought by the sedimentation of sports and football culture especially through the protection and maintenance of some tradition football teams (Iași, Arad, Timișoara, Brașov, etc.), often with the involvement of local authorities.

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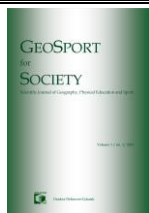
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FIFA World Cup. An analysis from the sport's history and geography perspective

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Abstract: Relying on data provided by the sport's history, the authors address the evolution of FIFA World Cup final tournaments, using in the analysis and presentation of data, along with the methods specific to the sport's domain, methods of geography. After motivating and presenting the importance of the subject, the work refers to the conditions and key events that helped organize the first edition of the competition. The qualifications, venues, participation of the teams in the tournaments, final ranking in the latter stages, medals that were obtained, are presented and analyzed by associating the map with different ways of graphic representation.

Keywords: football, World Cup

Introduction

FIFA World Cup, seen from the interest the point of view that arouses among sports lovers, the number of spectators and of those watching the matches on television transmissions, represents, after the Olympic Games, the most extensive sport competition. Therefore, the FIFA World Cup's different aspects of are studied by the specialists in various fields. Some papers analyze the world championships

competitions along with other worldwide competitions, (Antal, 1974; Áros, 1980), others refer to all the editions till the date (Vándor, 1986) or to a single edition (***) 1958; Chirilă, 1966).

The complexity of this sport makes it to be studied, besides the researchers in the field, also by the researchers from other fields of science, within some multidisciplinary researches. Among these, there are some collaboration among the specialists in geography and sport. In this direction, we mention studies that examine, explain and show different aspects of the competition by associating the methods specific to the sports field with those characteristic to geography (Grama et al., 2015; Herman et al., 2016; Ilieș et al., 2015, 2016). By this approach, it can be presented, among other things, the relationships that are established among the spatial variations of distribution, structure, dynamics of the sports phenomenon, and its geographical framework (Ilieș et al., 2015). The association of the map with the diagram on columns, the frequency polygon, the static relief etc., it offers the possibility of presenting, analyzing and understanding the phenomenon, that is studied from another perspective than the usual one for those, who approach it only from the specialist's point of view in physical education and sports.

We believe that a paper, that studies the final tournaments of the FIFA World Cups from the historical and geographical point of view, is timely, it interests, and it contributes to a better knowledge of the phenomenon that is being studied. The cartographic representation and the analysis made together with the geographer complements the vision of the sports' specialist, providing a plus of information.

The events that led to the organization of the World Cup

Since its founding, on 21st of May 1904 (Moises, 1969) Fédération Internationale de Football Association (International Federation of Association Football -FIFA) has proposed that in 1906 to be organized the world championship. With all the enthusiasm showed, the low level of the development of football in the world at that time, the small number of national federations members, the lack of support for this project from their part, the low level of infrastructure and competition system in many member federations, the lack of determination of the international body governing football, its limited organizational capacity, the pressures from the British federations, headed by England, made the transposition into practice of this goal to wait for a quarter of a century.

In contrast to the representatives of the world body governing football, the members of the International Olympic Committee understood that the inclusion of the sport in the Olympic program, organizing a competition with a worldwide character can have a positive influence for guiding and developing this sport and the Olympic movement, and they acted for this purpose. Football has become an Olympic sport, and it has been included in the Olympic Games since 1908 (Wallechinsky, 1996).

After the First World War, at the Fédération Internationale de Football Association Congress, held in 1920 in Paris, the representatives of football resumed the efforts to organize a world championship. The contradictions among the members and the financial difficulties delayed the implementation of President's

Jules Rimet proposal (Áros, 1994). The decision¹ of the International Olympic Committee Session in Amsterdam, 1928, to prohibit the participation of the professional players in the Olympic football tournaments left this sport discipline without a world competition in which athletes can participate regardless of their status (***, 1996). This situation forced the members of FIFA to act without delay. The Congress in Amsterdam, 1928, after the preliminary talks conducted by FIFA with the federations from Central Europe, Mamusich Mihály, the representative of Hungary, presented the draft of the World Championships, which were to be held in the even years between two editions of the Olympic Games, with the participation of both professional players and amateurs (...). The collective, appointed to develop the Regulations of the FIFA World Cup presented at the Congress in Geneva, 1929, establishing that the first edition to be held in 1930. At the Congress in Barcelona, the right to organize the championship was assigned to Uruguay². Thus, FIFA was the fourteenth world governing forum that has managed to organize a world championship (Kun, 1984).

The evolution of qualifications for the final tournament of the FIFA World Cup

The survey on the number of the teams that participated in the qualification stage for the final tournaments of this competition provides information regarding the extent of this sport around the world; the popularity it enjoys world widely, the recognition it has at international level, the value achieved by this sport over time, the ratio of forces at a certain time etc.

If at the first editions of the FIFA World Cup the number of teams participating in the qualification tournaments was reduced, after a while, the participation in this stage grew in amplex, reaching for the 2018 edition to enroll 208 teams³. The increase of the number of participants in the qualifying rounds for the final tournaments was influenced by the development that football has seen around the world's countries, the growing interest it enjoyed among the young people, the increase in the number of the affiliated national federations, the support this sport enjoyed nationally, especially in the newly established states. In the new independent states, participating and achieving some performances in official international competitions, among them the FIFA World Cup, proved to be a way of mobilizing the masses, forming the national affection, a binder in achieving national unity national, an effective instrument of affirmation on international level, and a projection the country's image abroad (Simri, 1982). Thus, after a decade in which many former colonies declared their independence from the state, the number of national representatives belonging to the confederations from Africa, Asia and Oceania participants in the qualifications for the final tournament grew from one edition to another⁴. Another important period, which led to a significant increase of

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1928_Summer_Olympics

² <http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/fifa-congress/history/congress-barcelona-1929/index.html>;
<http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/who-we-are/history/first-fifa-world-cup.html>, vizitat la 21 februarie 2016

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup

national teams that signed up to participate in the qualifying rounds for the final tournament of the FIFA World Cup, was the early 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the apparition of the states member of the former Yugoslavia.

Participation in the final tournaments of the FIFA World Cup

Between 1930 and 2014, twenty final tournaments of the World Cup were played. They were hosted by sixteen countries. Nineteen editions were hosted by one country, and the right to organize the 2002 edition was awarded to South Korea and Japan. Mexico, Italy, France, Germany and Brazil organized two editions of the final tournament⁵. The distribution by continent shows that ten of them were played in European countries, five in South America, three in North America, one in Asia and Africa (fig. 1).



Figure 1. The repartition on continents of the countries in which the final tournaments were played⁶

In the history of the final tournaments, the number of teams participating in one edition has undergone many changes. If in 1930 their number was not brought under regulation, for the period 1934 to 1978 their number was set at sixteen, for that to grow to twenty-four between 1982-1994, reaching to thirty-two teams from 1998 until present⁷. Starting with the 1934 edition, the number of teams

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup_hosts
⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup_hosts
⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup

participating in the final tournaments of the World Championship and their affiliation to geographical areas has been influenced by the decisions regarding the seats assigned to each confederation. The disputing format of the preliminaries for the qualifications of teams is regulated by each confederation.

Table 1. The number of teams participating in the final tournaments of The World Cup

Number of participations	Team/Country
20	Brazil
18	Germany*, Italy
16	Argentina
15	Mexico
14	Spain, England, France
12	Belgium, Uruguay
11	Yugoslavia, Russia**, Sweden
10	United States of America, Switzerland, Netherlands
9	South Korea, Hungary, Czechoslovakia***, Chile
8	Scotland, Paraguay
7	Cameroon, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Austria
6	Portugal
5	Japan, Nigeria, Columbia
4	Saudi Arabia, Australia, Croatia, Tunisia, Algeria, Costa Rica, Peru, Morocco, Denmark, Iran
3	Ghana, Ivory Coast, Honduras, Greece, Ecuador, Norway, Northern Ireland, Ireland, South Africa, Bolivia
2	Egypt, Turkey, North Korea, El Salvador, New Zealand, Slovenia
1	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cuba, Indonesia, Wales, Israel, DR Congo, East Germany, Haiti, Kuwait, Canada, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Jamaica, China, Senegal, Angola, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Slovakia

*It includes the participation of West Germany;

**it includes the participation of USSR;

*** it includes the participation of Czechoslovakia

Analyzing the participation in the final tournaments of world football championships, it results that the four hundred twenty five qualifications were achieved by seventy-seven representative teams⁸. The distribution by continent (table 2) shows that Europe has the largest share, 54.35%, followed by South America, 18.82%, North America, 9.17%, Africa, 9.17%, Asia, 7.52%, and Australia/Oceania, 0.94%. Brazil is the only team that was present in all twenty editions. It is followed by Germany and Italy, each of them with eighteen attendences, and Argentina with sixteen attendences. The countries and their number of attendences to the final tournaments are presented in the Table (table 1).

A criterion, which we took in consideration in analyzing under the qualitative aspect the results achieved by the teams participating in the final tournaments was the qualification in quarter-finals (table 3). Of the total of 147 qualifications at this stage of the competition, there were carried out by European teams, 68.7% (101 ratings), 23.8% (35 qualifications) from South America, 4, 1%

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup

(101 ratings) from North America, 2% from Africa, and 1.4% Asia, with 3 or 2 qualifications. None of the teams of the Oceania confederation succeeded to rank among the top eight teams at the final tournament of the FIFA World Cup⁹.

Table 2. The distribution on confederations of the number of teams participating in the final tournaments of the FIFA World Cup¹⁰

Conf. Year	Africa	North America	South America	Asia	Europe	Oceania	Total
1930	-	2	7	-	4	-	13
1934	1	1	2	-	12	-	16
1938	-	1	1	1	12	-	15
1950	-	2	5	-	6	-	13
1954	-	1	2	1	12	-	16
1958	-	1	3	-	12	-	16
1962	-	1	5	-	10	-	16
1966	-	1	4	1	10	-	16
1970	1	2	3	1	9	-	16
1974	1	1	4	-	9	1	16
1978	1	1	3	1	10	-	16
1982	2	2	4	1	14	1	24
1986	2	2	4	2	14	-	24
1990	2	2	4	2	14	-	24
1994	3	2	4	2	13	-	24
1998	5	3	5	4	15	-	32
2002	5	3	5	4	15	-	32
2006	5	4	4	4	14	1	32
2010	6	3	5	3	13	2	32
2014	5	4	6	3	13	1	32
Total	39	39	80	30	231	6	425

Table 3. Records on continents according to the performances¹¹

		Continent/Confederation					
		Africa	North America	South America	Asia	Europe	Oceania
First Place I	nr.	0	0	9	0	11	0
	%	0	0	45	0	55	0
Second Place II	nr.	0	0	5	0	15	0
	%	0	0	25	0	75	0
Third Place III	nr.	0	1	3	0	16	0
	%	0	5	15	0	80	0
Fourth Place IV	nr.	0	0	5	1	14	0
	%	0	0	25	5	70	0
Place V - VIII	nr.	3	5	13	1	45	0
	%	4.5	7.5	19.4	1.5	67.1	0

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup

For the ranking among the first four teams, the situation is similar: 70% of these were achieved by teams from Europe (Germany, Italy, France, England, Spain, Netherlands, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Sweden, Poland, Austria, Portugal, Croatia, Turkey, Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union, Belgium, Bulgaria), 27.5% by those from South America (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile), and only one qualification for the representatives of the confederations from Asia (South Korea), and North America (USA), representing 1,25%¹².

The most important criterion for setting the value of a team participating in the FIFA World Cup is the number of medals that it had obtained. The sixty medals were awarded to the representatives from nineteen countries, 24.67% of the total number of participating countries. In the unofficial ranking on medals, first place is occupied by Brazil - five gold, two silver and two bronze medals, followed by Germany - four gold, four silver and four bronze medals, Italy, four gold, two silver medals and one bronze medals etc. (table 4).

Table 4. The national teams that were awarded medals at FIFA World Cup¹³

Edition	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1930	Uruguay	Argentina	USA
1934	Italy	Czechoslovakia	Germany
1938	Italy	Hungary	Brazil
1950	Uruguay	Brazil	Sweden
1954	Germany	Hungary	Austria
1958	Brazil	Sweden	France
1962	Brazil	Czechoslovakia	Chile
1966	England	West Germany	Portugal
1970	Brazil	Italy	West Germany
1974	RFG	Netherlands	Poland
1978	Argentina	Netherlands	Brazil
1982	Italy	West Germany	Poland
1986	Argentina	West Germany	France
1990	West Germany	Argentina	Italy
1994	Brazil	Italy	Sweden
1998	France	Brazil	Croatia
2002	Brazil	Germany	Turkey
2006	Italy	France	Germany
2010	Spain	Netherlands	Germany
2014	Germany	Argentina	Netherlands

70% of medals were awarded to fourteen national teams from Europe, 21% to three representatives from South America, and 9% to one national team from North America. The teams from the Oceania, Asia and Africa confederations have failed to obtain medals in the final tournament of the World Football Championship. In terms of gold medals, 55% was awarded to athletes from the

¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup#Teams_reaching_the_top_four

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup#Teams_reaching_the_top_four

European national teams (Germany, Italy, France, England and Spain), and 45% to national teams from South America (Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay) (fig. 2).

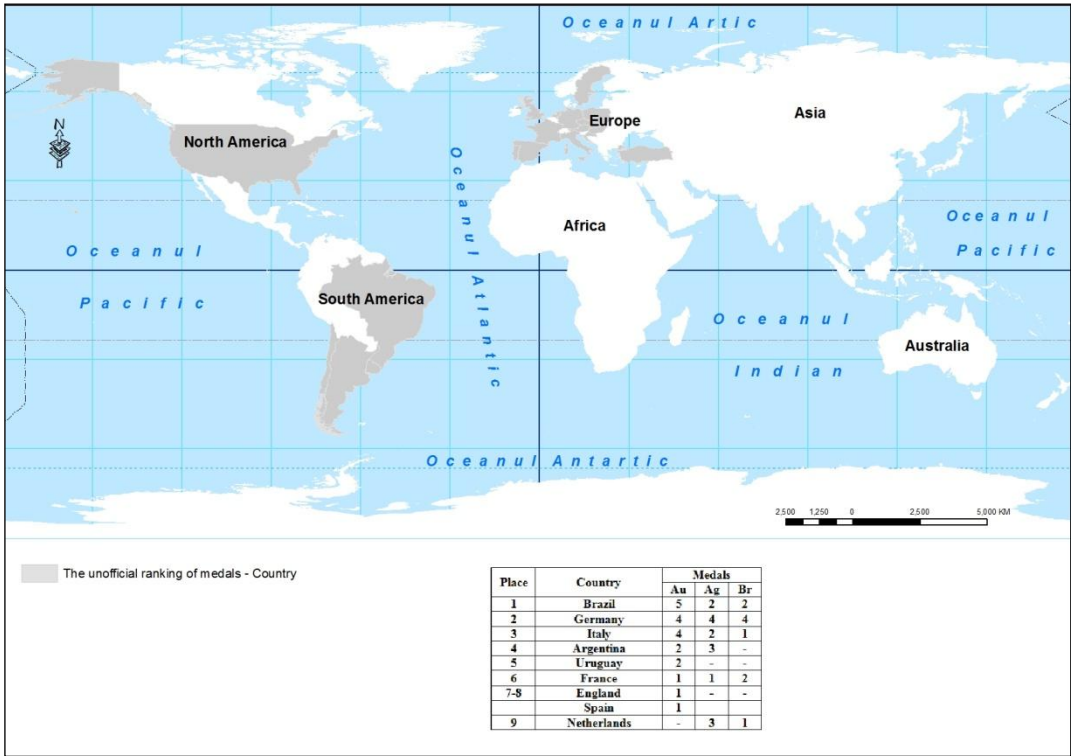


Figure 2. The unofficial ranking of medals

Conclusions

Football is, chronologically, the second team sport game that its world leading forum managed to organize a world championship. With the two hundred and eight teams registered to take part in the qualifying rounds for the last final tournament, by audience this competition enjoys among the viewers, the World Cup has become one of the most watched sporting events.

Seventy-seven national representatives attended at the twenty final tournaments of the World Cup, for a total of four hundred twenty-four qualifications. The teams with the most appearances were Brazil, the only team that was present at all the final tournaments, followed by Germany and Italy with eighteen attendances, and Argentina with sixteen attendances.

The distribution by continents shows that the teams from Europe have had the most appearances at the final tournaments, 54.35%, followed by those from South America with 18.82%, from North America with 9.17%, from Africa with 9.17%, from Asia with 7.52%, and from Australia/Oceania with 0.94%. Apart from one bronze medal, all the other medals, twenty gold, twenty silver and nineteen bronze, were won by European and South American teams.

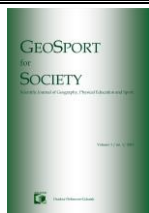
In the unofficial ranking of countries by medals, the podium is occupied by Brazil, with five gold medals, two silver medals and two bronze medals, followed by Germany, with four gold medals, four silver medals and four bronze medals, and Italy, with four gold medals, two silver medals and one bronze medal.

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Traian Constantinescu, iconic coach for basketball in Oradea

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Abstract. This paper work belongs to a cycle of articles which have as purpose to bring to the sport lovers' attention a number of coaches, teachers, sportive, sports managers from Oradea who have obtained remarkable results on national and international level. After the introductory part, which refers to the motivation of the endeavor and importance of the paper work, it is presented coach Traian Constantinescu's activity during the first years when, under his guidance, the female basketball team Crișul Oradea achieved their most valuable performances. A special place is granted to the years when Baschet Club ICIM Arad team, coached by Traian Constantinescu, won two national champion titles at seniors, participated to the Liliana Ronchetti Cup and European Champion Clubs Cup. There are also presented the results of Romania's national teams which he trained and guided to the Balkan Championships, European Championships and University World Games. In the end, the article contains the enumeration of the distinction which were awarded to him as acknowledgement of his professional value and as appreciation of his merits.

Keywords: Sport history, personalities, basketball, Oradea

Introduction

Female basketball has a special place in the history of sports from Oradea. By the affinity of the people from Oradea, by the obtained results, it is one of the sports games highly favored by the city's inhabitants. The performances achieved by the team from Oradea rewarded the love and support the received. Achieving those performances was possible due to the fact that the basketball teams benefited, along the years, by the succession of generations of remarkable players who had a major

contribution to the accomplishments of this sports branch. At the same time, during the years, the history of female basketball in Oradea was marked by a series of coaches who, by the way they did their job, take up a special place in the memory of those who love this sport in our city.

We consider that the elaboration of an article which should recompose and bring to attention Traian Constantinescu's activity, one of the most valuable coaches who activated in sports in Oradea, contributes to the promotion of basketball in our city, to the dissemination of certain information related to this specialist's personality, who served this sports branch with passion, faith and obtained remarkable results.

First years of activity

Traian Constantinescu (figure 3), ever since he attended secondary school, was attracted by physical exercises. When he was a student of an educational institution from Bucharest with old and valuable sports traditions, Spiru Haret High School, he practiced several sports, especially volleyball and basketball (***, 1990). During 1949 and 1952, he activated within certain sports structures in Valea Jiului and in Braşov (Constantinescu, 1958). During that period he discovered his calling for coaching. Experience strengthened his belief that in order to be a good coach, in addition to the experience gained while doing practical activity, he had to build his activity on a solid foundation of thorough and complex knowledge from domains such as theory and methods of sportive training, medical sciences, pedagogy, psychology, etc. Enlivened by this belief, Traian Constantinescu decided to attend the courses of the School for coaches within the Physical Culture Institute from Bucharest. At graduation, in the summer of 1953, he obtained the qualification of basketball coach (***, 1953a). Shortly afterwards, he transferred to Dinamo Sportive Collective Oradea, whose team was playing in the Republican Basketball Championship, A category, males (***, 1953b).

After a period when he was a coach-player, in the autumn of 1956, he decided to commit himself entirely to coaching. The passion he proved to have in his work, the results obtained in competitions – 4th place in 1957 and 1963, 6th place in 1964 and 5th place in 1965 (Albulescu, 1981) – the value of the players formed and promoted in the national lots – Iosif Ványa, Gyula Hoffman, Alexandru Bereczky, Titus Tarău, Vasile Hupoiu (Constantinescu, 1967) – have all led to the appreciation of his value as a coach, both locally and nationally.

These first years, with all their pluses and minuses, represented for Traian Constantinescu a consolidation period of methodic knowledge, a period of accumulations in his work as a coach and sports manager, contributing to the formation of a solid basis for the stage that followed in his evolution, that of consecration and acknowledgement of his professional value.

1967 – 1981. The years of great achievements at Crişul Oradea

The transfer of the male basketball section to Crişul Oradea, the demotion into B division and the lack of necessary support in order to successfully approach the promotion into A division, all these made Traian Constantinescu to transfer to the female basketball team of the Crişul Sportive Club Oradea. His appointment as the female basketball coach (***, 1974) represented a turning point in Traian

Constantinescu's activity. Being a good organizer, a skilled coach, driven by the thought of creating something special in the basketball played in Oradea, he worked, season after season, so as the teams coached by him would achieve performances that would honor sports in our town.



Figure 1. Crișul Sports Team, national champion
(source: Photo album Traian Constantinescu)

During those years he proved that he was one of the best prepared Romanian coaches who would accomplish the training process and would elaborate the team's playing tactics according to the players he had to work with. Besides the players with experience such as Ileana Nagy-Ghiță, Maria Zima, Ana Dudaș, Agneta Nagy-Bodor, Zsuzsánna Varga-Kiss, Iuliana Balogh, Ildiko Dávid-Mitilecis, Ecaterina Vigh, Mihuț Ana, one year after the other, he promoted new players, he diligently and continuously homogenized the lot. The main results during that period were 4th place in 1969, 6th place in 1970 and 4th place in 1971 (Constantinescu, 1974).

After almost 20 years when he was a coach in Oradea, he decided to leave town and in the competition year 1971/1972 he coached the male basketball team Universitatea Timișoara (***, 1971). After two years when he was executive chairman of Football Club Bihor Oradea (***, 1972), he went back to coaching.

In the summer of 1974 he was hired as coach of the Crișul Oradea female basketball team. The work he put in, his professionalism and exigency as a coach, the players' desire for progress and assertion led to the qualitative leap, the team improving its performances, one year after the other: 9th place in 1975 (***, 1976), 7th place in 1976, 5th place in 1977 and 2nd place in 1978 (***, 1981b).

In the competition year 1978/1979, under the circumstances of several favoring factors such as accumulations in training, experience gained in competitions, value progress of the nucleus formed by the basic players, the best conditions provided as a result of certain organizational measures and of the support of certain leaders such as Nicolae Nan, Matei Botici, Gheorghe Găgeanu, Traian Constantinescu could plenary manifest his ability to coach and valorize as well as possible the players from the team lot, his flair in playing tactics elaboration and team leading, his ability to successfully promote young talents, his pedagogical

tact in motivating the players. Combining the irrefutable value and rich experience of certain players such as Ana Dudaș, Viorica Boca, Adriana Niculescu, Maria Grigoraș, Viorica Jurcă-Moraru, Elena Tabără, with the enthusiasm and assertion drive of the young players promoted from the junior sections of Crișul Sports Club (figure 1.), Magdalena Szekely, Adriana Constantinescu and Gabriela Kerekes, of the Phylology History High School, Maria Varga and Franciska Funkenhauser, of the n^o 1 School Sports Club, Ecaterina Szabo, Crișul Oradea, with a homogenous team, with an aggressive defence and attack based of fast actions, dominated the championship and conquered the title of national champion (Stănculescu, 1979).



Figure 2. The senior national team of Romania in PR China
(source: Photo album Traian Constantinescu)

During the following years, the team from Oradea did not repeat the high performance but, by the way they played, they were amongst the teams with good results, 7th place in 1980 (***, 1981b) and 5th place in 1981 (***, 1982c). During all those years, Traian Constantinescu proved that he was a coach who knew his players and had the capacity to valorize them at their best for their interest as well as for the team's interest.

In the years preceding his retirement, Traian Constantinescu coached Dinamo Oradea, team which would activate in the Republican Basketball Championship, A divisionary, male (***, 1982d), and coordinated the basketball section within the n^o 1 School Sports Club Oradea (***, 1984).

Coach of Romania's national lots

Being a coach who made himself noticed for the results of the teams he trained, who proved the fact that he had special abilities to accomplish the ongoing selection of players, who managed to promote and successfully integrate numerous players in the A divisionary team, considering all these, in 1976, the Executive Bureau of the Romanian Basketball Federation appointed him coach of the junior national lot. In the final tournament of the junior European Championship from Szczecin, Romania's team, trained by Traian Constantinescu, main coach, and Gabriel Năstase, second coach, finished on the 7th place (***, 1970).

The corollary of his activity was represented by the period 1979 – 1981 when, as main coach, he led the crew of technicians who accomplished the training of the seniors' female national lot (figure 2). Many of the results on international level of female Romanian basketball from those years are related to the name of Traian Constantinescu: 7th place at the seniors' European Championship, Banja Luka, 1980, (Albulescu, 1981), and 8th place at Ancona, 1981 (***, 1982a). His most valuable performance achieved as lot coach was the one following which the student selection team, composed of Rodica Armion, Maria Bădinici, Diana Balaș, Nina Bara, Măndica Ciubăncan, Elena Filip, Constanța Fotescu, Magdalena Páll, Verginica Popa, Camelia Solovăstru, Magdalena Szélely and Maria Zidar, won the bronze medals at the University World Games, Bucharest, 1981, one of the best performances of a basketball representative team from Romania in an official international competition (***, 1981a).



Figure 3. Traian Constantinescu
(source: Photo album Traian Constantinescu)

The years after retirements

After he retired in 1988, in 1993 the ICIM Arad team managers considered that Traian Constantinescu had not yet spoken last in female basketball in Romania, that his expertise was still needed, that through his professional value he could still bring services to basketball in Arad. Shortly the decision to appoint him coach proved to be a wise move.

The work environment created by the coach, the exigency he showed in training, the players' drive for progress and assertion led to the increase of practice quality, to the improvement of the team's evolution. As a result, at the end of the 1993/1994 edition of the national basketball competition, ICIM Arad won the title of seniors' champion, opening a long series of valuable performances (***, 1994). In 1998, as technical manager, he repeated that performance (Iordache, 1998).

With Traian Constantinescu as coach, ICIM Arad entered the circuit of interclub official international competitions. In the 1993/1994 edition of the Liliana Ronchetti Cup, on their own court, they obtained prestigious victories with FM Sankt Petersburg, Elizur Tel Aviv and SCAB `63 Clermont Ferrand (Constantinescu, 1998). In the Europe's Champion Clubs Cup, 1994/1995 edition, with Traian Constantinescu as

coach, BC ICIM Arad won against KCTikves Florida Kavadarici in the first tour and had a good behavior against BC Sipox Ruzomberok (Schneider, 1994).

Awards received as acknowledgement of his professional value and appreciation of his merits

For his activity, for the results obtained by the teams coached by him, through presidential decrees, he was awarded with the following distinctions: The Order "Sports Merit", 3rd class (***, 1982b), The Medal "Sports Merit", 1st class (***, 2004). Acknowledging his merits in the development of Romanian basketball, in 1958 the Presidium of the Great National Assembly of the Popular Republic of Romania, awarded him with the "Medal of Work" (***, 1958).

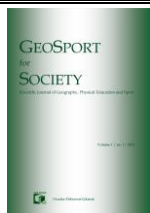
In 1991, The Ministry of Youth and Sports, at the proposal of the Romanian Basketball Federation, as acknowledgement of his professional value and appreciation of his merits in the development of basketball in our country, Traian Constantinescu was awarded with the highest national distinction for specialists in the domain of sports, that of emeritus coach (***, 1992).

For what he accomplished in his profession, Traian Constantinescu benefited of unanimous acknowledgement in the Romanian basketball, he was stimulated by sportives and all those he cooperated with and he remained in the memory and hearts of sport lovers from Oradea as a great coach, devoted to his profession, true to the last in his love for basketball.

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The effectiveness of dance therapy on pain in patients with venous insufficiency

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Abstract: Chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) is a condition that occurs when the venous wall and/or valves in the leg veins are not working effectively, making it difficult for blood to return to the heart from the legs. Exercise is a conservative treatment option which gives a potential of health benefits and also improves healing outcomes for people with venous leg ulcers. Dance therapy is an effective method for various disease. This study aimed to figure out the effects of dance therapy on pain of CVI patients. 40 patients were found to be available for this study and assigned to either the control group or the therapy group. Patients in control group received only medical treatment. Patients in dance therapy group received dance therapy in addition to medical treatment. 20 Patients in the dance therapy group had 3 times a week, for 5 weeks, totally 15 sessions of therapy, at Mustafa Kemal University Hospital. No differences between groups were observed in the pain ($p>0.05$). There was significantly difference in therapy group between pre and post-treatment results of rest and activity of VAS but in control group only activity score was significant ($p<0.05$). We found that dance therapy has positive effects on pain.

Keywords: dance, therapy, venous insufficiency, pain

Introduction

When the venous wall and/or valves in the leg veins are not working effectively chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) occurs, and this results in difficulty for blood to return to the heart from the legs. Approximately one third of men and women aged 18–64 years suffer from varicose veins and chronic venous insufficiency (Evans et al., 1999; Beebe-Dimmer et al., 2004; Gloviczki et al., 2009). Dance has been used therapeutically for thousands of years for its positive effects on all ages of people and various diseases (Ritter et al., 1996; Koch et al., 2007).

Dance therapy may support patient's wellbeing. This study aims to figure out the effects of dance therapy on pain with chronic venous insufficiency disease. Subjects with CVI were recruited for this trial from cardiovascular surgery clinic. Demographic data and pain level were recorded.

Subjects

Inclusion criteria were that patients that age between 18-60 years, who had evidence of venous incompetence demonstrated by physical examination or Doppler ultrasound examination with at least one significant reflux (of more than 1-second duration in a standing position) in the superficial, deep and/or perforator veins. Patients who had or planned to have surgical endovascular treatments were excluded.

Procedure and intervention

A number of 40 patients were found to be available for this study and randomly assigned to either the control group or the therapy group. Patients in control group received only medical treatment. Patients in dance therapy group received dance therapy in addition to medical treatment. 20 Patients in the dance therapy group had 3 times a week, for 5 weeks, totally 15 sessions of therapy, at Mustafa Kemal University Hospital. After performing 3 sessions of dance therapy, each for 45 minutes, done with the supervision of a physiotherapist. The remaining sessions were performed as a home-based exercise program by given video. The patients were followed with phone calls to control the regularity of given dance program. Post-treatment assessments were done at the end of the 15th session.

Dance Therapy

Dance therapy as a combination of proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation (PNF) exercise patterns combined with dance movements, diaphragmatic breathing exercises and breath retraining. The patterns were done with a folk and enjoyable, music.

Medical Treatment

Medical treatment includes Diosmin (450 mg) + hesperidin (50 mg) that is a semisynthetic and oral phlebotropic drug used in the treatment of venous disease, and used as 1000 mg total dose daily.

To figure out the effects of dance therapy on CVI; following assessments were done to each patient before the treatment and after the 15th session. Visual Analog Scale (VAS) was used to measure the intensity of pain felt during activity and rest (Myles et al., 1999). Patients marked their pain intensity on a 100-mm horizontal line, in which 0 expresses no pain and 100 mm expresses maximum pain the patient felt.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed by using statistical SPSS Package Program, version 18. To explore the treatment effects in each two groups Wilcoxon Non Parametric Test; compare two treatment Mann-Whitney U Test was performed. A type I error level of 5 % was used to infer statistical significance.

Results

We screened 46 patients for this prospective trial funded by the TUBITAK 2209-A between September 2014 and July 2015. Participants who had an objective evidence of chronic venous insufficiency (CVI), as determined by duplex ultrasound scanning (reflux or scarring), were included. Six participants were dropped out from the study.

40 subjects age's between 16-58 (38.55 ± 12.12) were included in the study. Twenty of them were in therapy (39 ± 11.58), 20 were in control (38.10 ± 12.93) group.

The pain decreased 0.8 points in rest and 2.05 points in the activity of the therapy group. But in the control group, the pain only 0.60 points in rest and 1.25 points in activity decreased. Clinically the therapy group had more positive effects on the pain. But it was not statistically significant (table 1).

Table 1. Clinical results of analyses between groups

		Pre-Treatment				Post-Treatment			
		Therapy Group	Control Group			Therapy Group	Control Group		
		X±SD	X±SD	z	p	X±SD	X±SD	z	p
VAS	Rest Pain	2.30±2.36	2.90±3.49	-0.198	0.843	1.50±2.06	2.30±3.41	-0.119	0.906
	Activity Pain	5.80±2.87	5.25±3.22	-0.572	0.568	3.75±2.17	4.00±3.35	-0.055	0.956

Table 2. Clinical results of intragroup

		Therapy Group		Control Group	
		Pre-post		Pre-post	
		p	z	p	z
VAS	Rest Pain	0.036*	-2.962	0.098	-1.653
	Activity Pain	0.003*	-2.962	0.005*	-2.795

Intra group results were shown in table 2. There was significantly difference in therapy group between pre and post-treatment results of rest and activity of VAS but in control group only activity score was significant ($p < 0.05$).

Discussion

Dance therapy is a conservative treatment option which gives a potential of health benefits and also improves healing outcomes for people with CVI. This study aimed to figure out the effects of dance therapy on patients with chronic venous insufficiency disease. We found that dance therapy has positive effects on pain.

Walking exercises are very important to get the best results from any form of compression therapy. So the exercises is a beneficial treatment method for CVI (Klyszcz et al., 1997; Gloviczki et al., 2009). PNF exercises were included in our therapy, PNF patterns were made by standing and reciprocal (plantar and dorsal flexion). So the PNF exercises provided pump of calf.

We combined PNF patterns with dance movements. The patients made these exercises accompaniment of the enjoyable folk music. This enjoyable program supported patient positively and the rest and activity pain decreased in therapy group.

There is an important muscular "pump" in the legs. The calf muscle is the responsible muscle for venous return. With each step the calf muscles contract and venous circulation increased. Loss of the normal calf muscle pump will result in swelling of the leg because of a decrease in venous return. Structured exercise required dorsal and plantar flexion of the foot such walking to strengthen calf muscles may improve calf muscle function and the activity of the pump¹ (Gloviczki et al., 2009; Roghani et al., 2013, Song et al., 2014). In our dance therapy exercises included dorsal and plantar flexion of the foot and we think these exercises increased the venous return and so the pain decreased in pain and activity.

Many studies suggest that aerobic exercise can promote positive changes in endocrine system² (Song et al., 2014). The endocrine system is an important balance factor for the body. So the patients should make exercises to support the venous system. Especially in up to date treatment, methods that save the patient from surgical intervention are the popular methods. We combined dance and exercises and found positive aspects of this method.

Two of the studies reported that exercise program provided a decrease in pain and edema (Klyszcz et al. 1995; Hartmann et al., 1997). Our study's results are compatible to the literature.

"Superficial veins can thrombose, result in painful thrombophlebitis and localized cellulitis. Deep venous thrombosis may lead to the development of venous claudication, a bursting pain affecting the buttocks, thighs, or legs when walking, requiring rest and leg elevation to achieve symptomatic relief" (Wittens et al., 2015).

We found that all the patients that included in the study had pain in rest and activity. And dance therapy that included leg elevation had positive effects on pain. When the venous circulation was better, the symptoms such pain relaxed.

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No conflicts of interest have been declared.

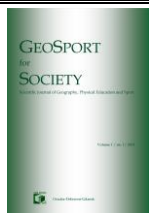
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Football and Geopolitics

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Abstract: The relationship between sport and politics is anything but a field on which moving easily, especially if you are not clear on what you want to focus your attention; but the football peculiarities in the process of defining its own geopolitics is widely comparable to that pure in the strict sense and even seems to be able to anticipate the latter in the process of defining the current international assets. This is because football is always one of the greatest expressions of the contact between sport, politics and reference civil society. The reflection of football in the geopolitics is a maze, it means to enter an intricate parallels system, because numerous are the points of contact and common elements between the two universes. This sport is one of the largest globally recognized phenomenon, is a huge empire: it is more widespread than democracy, the Internet and the market economy. An super ordinate institution to the standardized geopolitical system such as FIFA, has taken a leading role over the years and it has gone much further than the original powers conferred on it as a non-governmental institution. It has more members than the UN and within it there are federations such as Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan which have preserved their status of football autonomy despite the reunification with China and therefore not recognized by the UN as a state entity. Football allows to have great visibility and legitimize concretely the own international position. This sport enters, in fact, among the new criteria by which to evaluate an international power, like demography, technological development, economy and military power. The fact that a national football team or the recognition of a football federation by FIFA is so important in the affirmation of their own identity, is a symptom that football more of other elements can personifying the “real” state.

Keywords: football, geopolitics, conflict, power of sport, politics

*“Football is the art of compressing the entirety of history into 90 minutes.”
(George Bernard Shaw, 26 July 1856 – 2 November 1950)*

Introduction

The relationship between sport and politics is anything but a field on which moving easily, especially if you are not clear on what you want to focus your attention; but the football peculiarities in the process of defining its own geopolitics is widely comparable to that pure in the strict sense and even seems to be able to anticipate the latter in the process of defining the current international assets. This is because football is always one of the greatest expressions of the contact between sport, politics and reference civil society (Maguire, 1995; Giulianotti, 1999). Specimen is an aphorism uttered by William "Bill" Shankly, a former Scottish footballer and legendary Liverpool manager between 1959 and 1974: "Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that". In fact Sport can be considered as reflection of social dynamics and a particular political historical context. For example football, the most popular sport in the world is born in a particular context which is that of "England Industrial" ongoing democratization, and this sport, reflects its dynamics and the salient features. Subsequently, its export throughout the West made it one of the most persistent global phenomena thanks to its dual nature as a source of aggregation for the masses and the political and economic tool with which to assert its power in society.

Since its institutionalization with creation of FIFA, football was organized by acquiring rules off the court, necessary to legitimize internationally as an proper political institution, an organizational structure, its own government and a its legal system. And that's how football becomes politics, incorporating features found in a very special geopolitical system, as the organization of the continental confederations, who have the power of spreading widely the FIFA's power and each of them with a different political weight and a different role (Marinău et al., 2016). A geopolitical system to considered for all effects the anticipatory of future political balance in the world. The reflection of football in the geopolitics is a maze, it means to enter an intricate parallels system, because numerous are the points of contact and common elements between the two universes.

Definitions and methods

As defined in a standard way by numerous scholars, political scientists and sociologists, the geopolitical term it refers to a method of studying foreign policy to understand, explain and predict international political behavior through geographical variables; it focuses on political power in relation to geographic space (Ilieş et al., 2014; Ilieş et al., 2016). From this definition we can easily extrapolate all elements that are also found in the football phenomenon and which then give reason to exist to that which can be defined the football's geopolitical law. There are not in football strong relationships between land, human action, politics? Football is not affected by global phenomena such as the economy, culture and religion? Football is business, football is religion, football is a communication tool with an influence equal to that of politics worldwide.

This sport is one of the largest globally recognized phenomenon, is a huge empire: it is more widespread than democracy, the Internet and the market

economy. An super ordinate institution to the standardized geopolitical system such as FIFA, has taken a leading role over the years and it has gone much further than the original powers conferred on it as a non-governmental institution. It has more members than the UN and within it there are federations such as Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan which have preserved their status of football autonomy despite the reunification with China and therefore not recognized by the UN as a state entity. The same could say of Palestine, recognized by FIFA but not by the UN. This means that football has come to dominate politics: the national identity can be recognized also through a football national team, this step sometime can precede the recognition as a state in traditional terms (Giulianotti & Williams, 1994; Darnell, 2013).

The problem of the relationship of football and geopolitics requires on the one hand a simple research approach, mostly in the paradigm of classical descriptive. On the other hand, recognition of complex linkages geopolitical issues presented is possible by analysis of the relationship and inference based on such classic concepts geopolitical strength, impact zone, power (in this case, sports) or a sense of national identity. It is necessary in this case to take account of difficult-defined notion of what a globalized world - the national interest (Wendt, 2001)

Resort to the creation of an independent national football team from that of the state where this "land" it is included, is a sign of diversity: This community want at all costs publicize on the international level the desire for independence.

FIFA, World CUP and politics

FIFA, in this purview, has been and is still today, the first step that countries desirous of exist as independent states, and also desirous to be recognized by UN, they have to do. Probably because it is a simpler and less twisted road and with a "cost-benefit" ratio potentially very positive.

It's true that the FIFA statute recognizes only one federation per country, but there are cases such as that of the United Kingdom, that were able to keep its own football's specificity despite the common political, language and its traditions that unite in the British state. In contrast to the national team, Spain represents only one national team, despite the existing differences between exposed and teams of Castile and Catalonia, Real Madrid in FC Barcelona (Shobe, 2008).

This thanks to the distinction that has managed to maintain between State and Nation: England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are both unitary state, and separate nations.

Conversely there are also States Party to the UN but they are not represented in football as the Principality of Monk: the Principality has a club team, A.S. Monaco, it participating in the first French division and the most important continental competitions, but not a national team.

In the Marshall Palau Tuvalu's Islands. In addition to logistical and geographic reasons there are reasons attributable to a lack of national identity. For this there is little interest to want to expose through football. It can be said that football is a strong catalyst in the definition of national identity processes within the international political arena and the most important event for to express this big potential, is the football World Cup.

The World Cup is the main tool to assert own hegemony over the others, it is an instrument capable of concentrating attention and interest on it, and on the host country. From birth, the World Cup, has lent itself to meet the needs of purely political nature. In every World Cup it is possible recognize political and social elements that reflect more complex and diffuse dynamics in the organizing country: Uruguay 1930, to celebrate the centenary of independence; Italy in 1934 and Argentina in 1978, to promote the image of an authoritarian regime; USA in 1994, where soccer try to colonization a country where US football, basketball and baseball have a monopoly on the sporting passion of Americans; Japan-South Korea in 2002, first time in the tournament in Asia organized by alliance of two historical former enemies; South Africa 2010, to bring to the fore one of the countries and the continent most afflicted by social and economic problems.

Football has been so successful because, like so many others sports team, it is a symbol of equal opportunity and change and it combines perfectly with the main characteristics of modern Western industrial society: teamwork and competition. In addition to these characteristics, the soccer keeps that "religious fervor" represented by salient features of his rite collective: the stadium is the place of worship, with its liturgical areas prohibited to the faithful (the playing field), the proclamation of one's identity through songs and colors to be identified. From the socially and politically point of view, all this helps to reinvigorate an own identity in an increasingly globalized world (Giulianotti & Robertson, 2007; Jackson & Haigh, 2009). However the relationship between football and politics is also linked to conflict and episodes of unprecedented violence (Kelly, 2010; Cha, 2013; Kelly & Mangan, 2014).

Geopolitics and football

In fact a geopolitical element like that of war, is also present in football both on a symbolic level, just think of the language used to describe a game, its technical and athletic gestures, the camaraderie within a team, the division of tasks to prevail in the battle on the field, both in real and concrete terms, such as violence in stadiums and political balances degenerates with the football such amplifier the negative effects. An example is the terror attack occurred on 8th January 2010 against the Togolese national football team in border between Congo and Angola. They were direct in Angola to play in the African Nations Cup but, a contingent of guerrillas opened fire against the Togolese bus wounding to death three elements of the team's technical staff.

This tragic event has broken the image of an Africa apparently pacified whom in the years had found in football a source of international legitimacy and social-political development, showing its bottom and conflict still unresolved. In this case the connotation of such an attack fits perfectly in a geopolitical chessboard. Football has become a powerful symbolic weapon for the demands of the local counter powers and warring factions against the government, in this case in Angola, where there is an authoritarian regime. The latter episode confirms, once again, the existence of the close link between football and geopolitics.

Soccer follows closely the developments, or even it anticipates, the geopolitics force, accelerating the key processes: it can help them assert their national identity in the process of recognition by the UN or it can improve relations between two or more countries in conflict. Contrariwise it can be tool with which to expose themselves, sometimes using violence, to claim own political positions by exploiting the huge media power of football.

As already mentioned earlier is the FIFA World Cup one of the most important events in the world of football. In fact, this great sporting event, in the course of history not only assumed political, economic and social significance. Its features have led him to be one of the moments that, together in the Olympics games, It can to attract the attention of all humanity almost it can hypnotizing them. It is thanks to this incredible media power, that the volume of interest around its assignment has soared.

We can see a competition between emerging states and football's super-powers present on the particular geopolitical map of football. Each country hopes to be chosen as the host country of the event because enticed by economic returns and a positive impact on the welfare of their country.

The assignment of a World Cup greatly consequences on the geopolitical borders of football, just think about the next two edition of the event. The exhibition in 2018 was assigned to Russia, which crushed the competition of a giant like England, and that of 2022 to Qatar, which has prevailed on Australia, USA and the former duo Japan-Korea, for the occasion loose, with the hope to reorganize a whole edition within national borders. Both editions have a clean break with the past, for years the award criteria were the same: from edition to edition, there were an alternation between an traditionally "football fans" country, to another an "football developing" country.

Not this time, from the Brazil's World cup in 2014, the "rotary criterion" was not more used, thus giving the green light to a discretionary choice for the following host countries. To what extent these decisions are revolutionary? For years now, we are witnessing a gradually political and economic shifting about the gravity center of the international football movement towards new horizons at the expense of the Euro-American duopoly.

Basically, the change reflects the geopolitics needs imposed by the new world order: with the new millennium there was the consolidation of Asian leadership from the economic point of view, thanks to the China and other realities in the growing rise as India and the UAE. The African continent, with South African World Cup has taken the opportunity to assert its presence on the political, economics and sports internationally. Russia in 2018 is, or should be, an opportunity to show a new image and a new political era in this country; shaking off the prejudices and limitations that always accompany it. Qatar 2022, it means organizing an event to promote the image of the Islamic world and make it more close to our West. From these examples it is clear that talk about new football frontiers means talking, no more no less, of how have changed and are changing the political and economic assets whom see Europe and all West lose gradually authority towards these new areas of the world.

Consequently, differ the new football assets: the growing popularity of football, the international movement of players around the world and the presence of substantial sources of financing are the three elements that most of all are favoring this process. These developments indicate that it came the end of the hegemony of European and South American power? Asia and Africa will be the new frontiers of international football? Mistaken! Everything was called into question again, the new configurations of power were again challenged by the events of recent months, just like a military conflict redraws the boundaries of nation states, the surveys on corruption, which involved the former FIFA President Sepp Blatter and his former “dolphin” Michel Platini, have had the effect of reshaping the geopolitics of the ball. It is a new turnaround in football world.

With the election of Gianni Infantino as the new FIFA President, it seems that Europe is back the most important continent for relationship in to the football world. This is because from Europe came the major impulses for a radical change in the governance board of football’s world: new development programs to introduce football in life for dozens of children in countries such as Hungary, Moldova, Poland and San Marino; the expansion of new models of governance for the football company; until the widening of the electoral base for the new FIFA governance, for states such as Andorra and Liechtenstein (which eventually have weighed in terms of votes to elect Gianni Infantino new president).

Not to mention the measures to the financial sustainability of clubs, or rather financial fair play. The UEFA idea was the same as the most important European institutions (Commission and ECB), have wanted to give some rules in terms of public finance governments.

However if Europe turned out to be the model to follow, the American confederations have been the most affected by corruption inquiries, fact were the federations with the highest number of arrests.

From this earthquake, even the World Cup was hit. The ex FIFA president, J. Blatter, in last December was clear: “If the World Cup (in 2022) had been assigned to the USA, all this would never have happened”. During the press conference after the disqualification of eight years by the FIFA Ethics Commission, the Swiss identifies very clearly his rivals and confirms the conspiracy against him started from Washington. Blatter’s faults are clear at all, but even in this case was a geopolitical case to trigger the whole. Retracing the main stages of this work, we may give a reason of how football is really a parallel world able to reflect, as if it were a body of water, the reality around it, while maintaining its specificity.

Conclusion

Geopolitics and football have become a universe now inseparable, which finds its celebration every time there is an international event will bind different cultures and it will compare these in a stadium. In addition to this, football allows to have great visibility and legitimize concretely the own international position. This sport enters, in fact, among the new criteria by which to evaluate an international power, like demography, technological development, economy and military power.

The fact that a national football team or the recognition of a football federation by FIFA is so important in the affirmation of their own identity, is a symptom that football more of other elements can personifying the “real” state.

From this framework just described, what are the dynamics for the future? The new football markets coincide with the new global economy forces, or with the developing countries that are increasingly present in the race for to host the main football event: the World Cup. Asia seems the real continent on the rise, China for some years now has become the favorite destination of world-class players or coaches. If Asia or Africa will be the new frontiers of international football we can't know yet for sure, but surely it can be said that football reflects more than we can imagine, the international geopolitics.

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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 county 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 Măgherauş 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*).

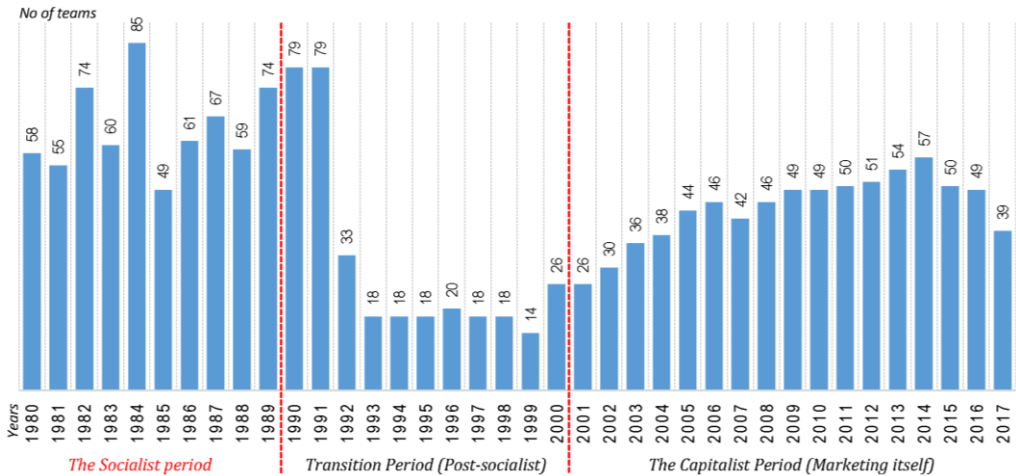
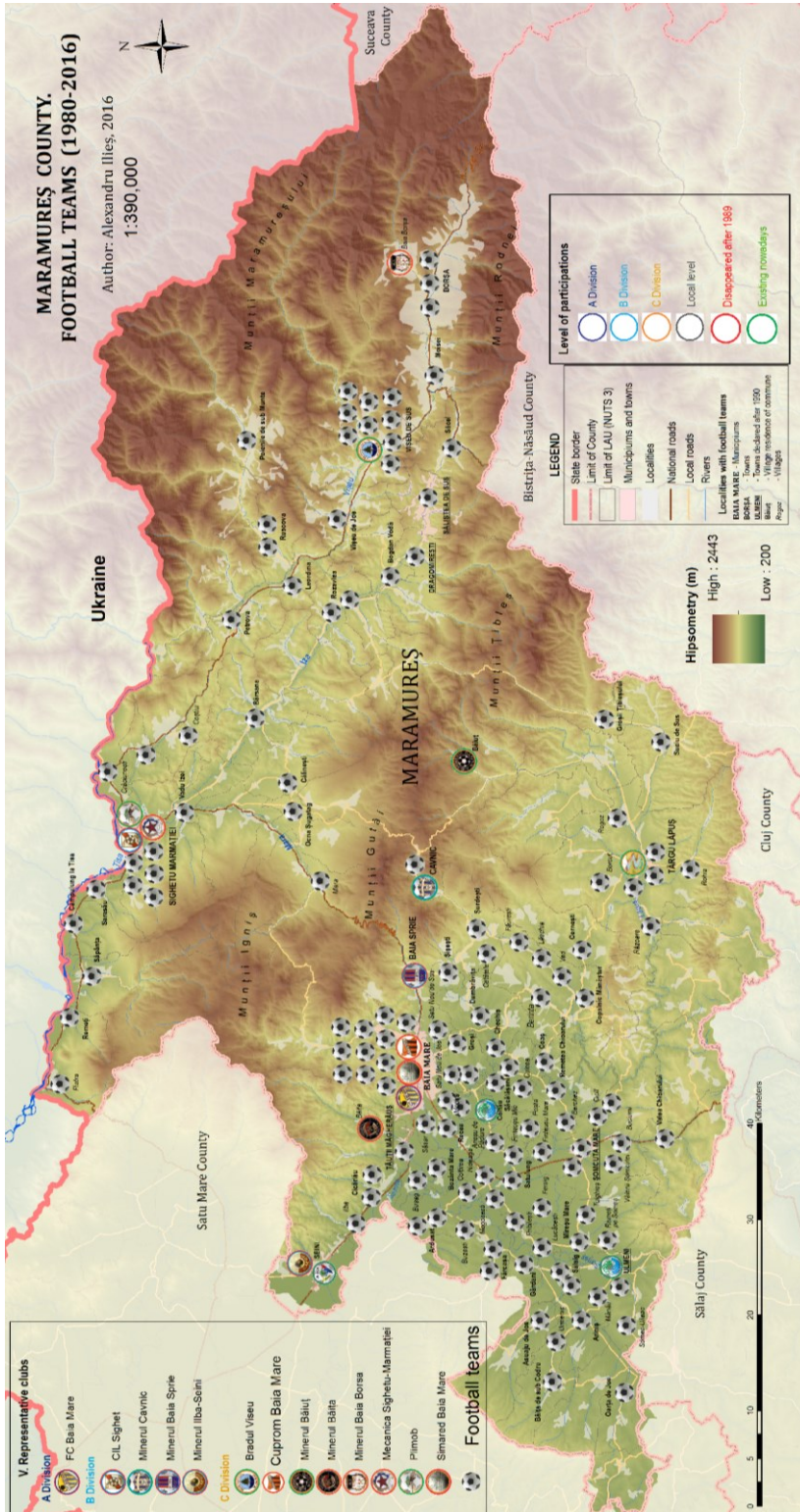


Figure 1. Evolution of the team number during the analyzed period (1980-2016) in Maramureș County (source: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and web: 2-10)

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)

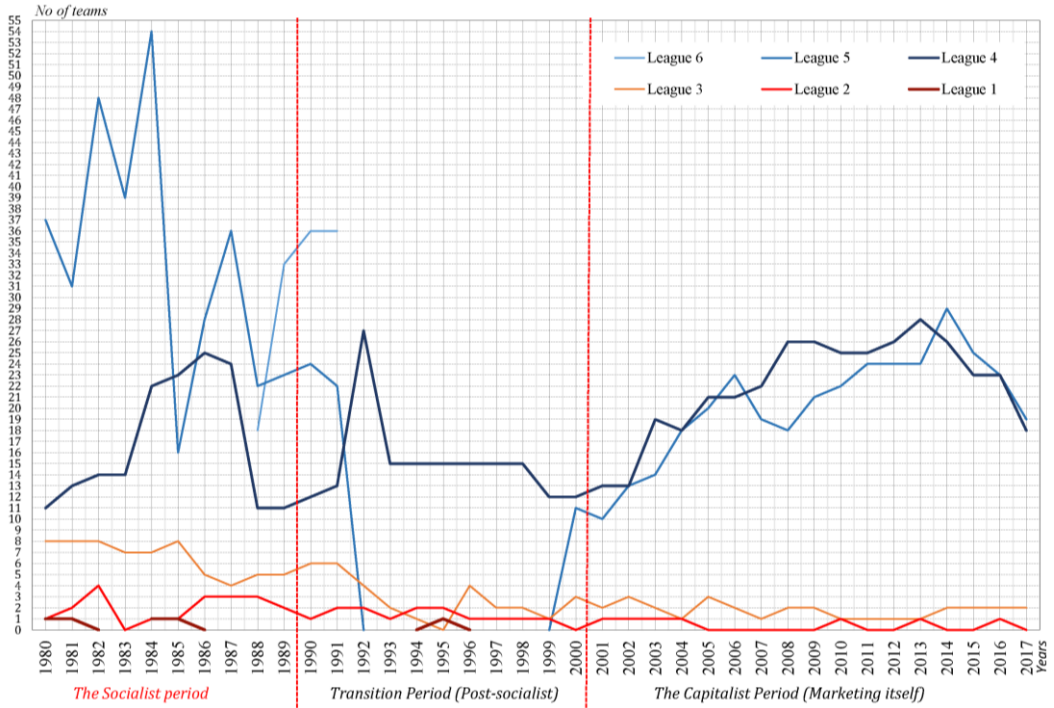


Figure 2. Evolution of team number on competition level during the analyzed period (1980-2016) in Maramureș County (data source: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989), Graiul Maramureșului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

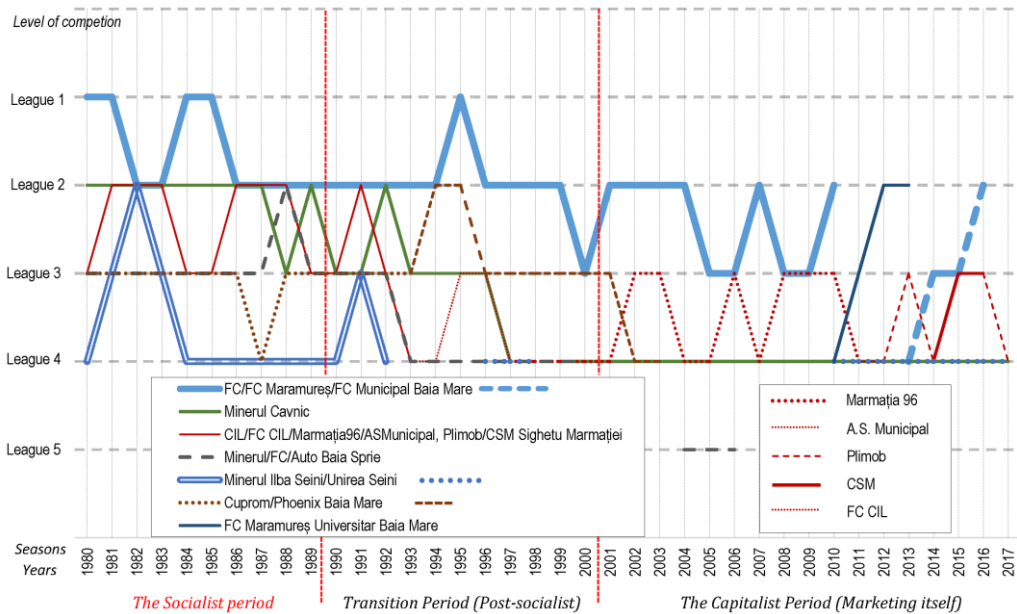


Figure 3. Settlements from Maramureș County with football teams who evolved in Ist and IInd level of national competitions and its evolutions durring the period 1979-2016 (data source: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989), Graiul Maramureșului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

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 Marmăţiei (5), Borşa (Baia Borşa), Baia Sprie, Cavnic, 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.

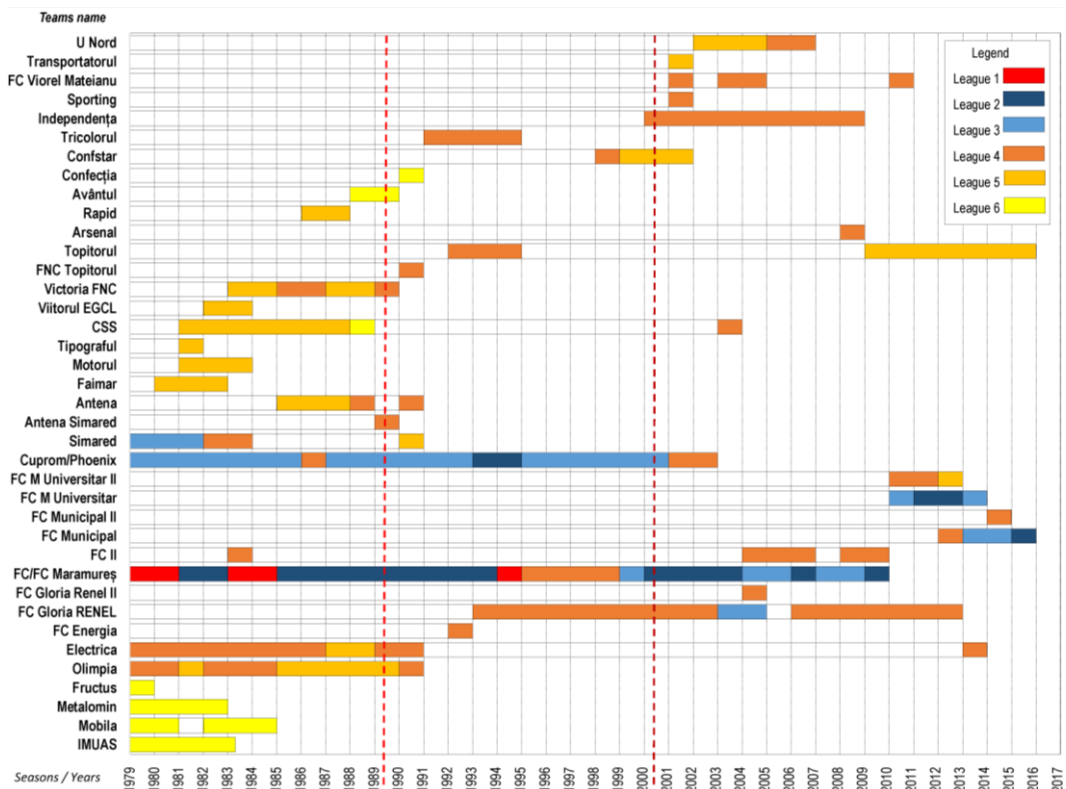


Figure 4. Football teams existing at the level of municipium Baia Mare between 1979-2017, in Leagues 1-6 (data source: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989) and Graiul Maramureşului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

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.

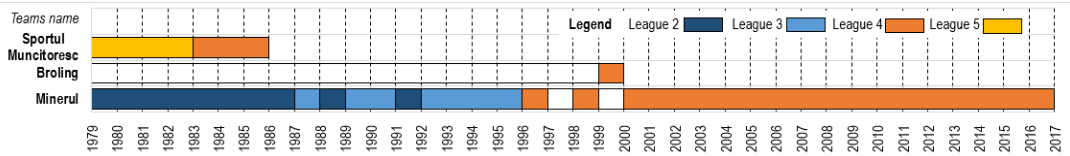


Figure 5. Football teams existing at the level of town Cavnic between 1979-2017 in Leagues 2-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989) and Graiul Maramureşului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)



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).

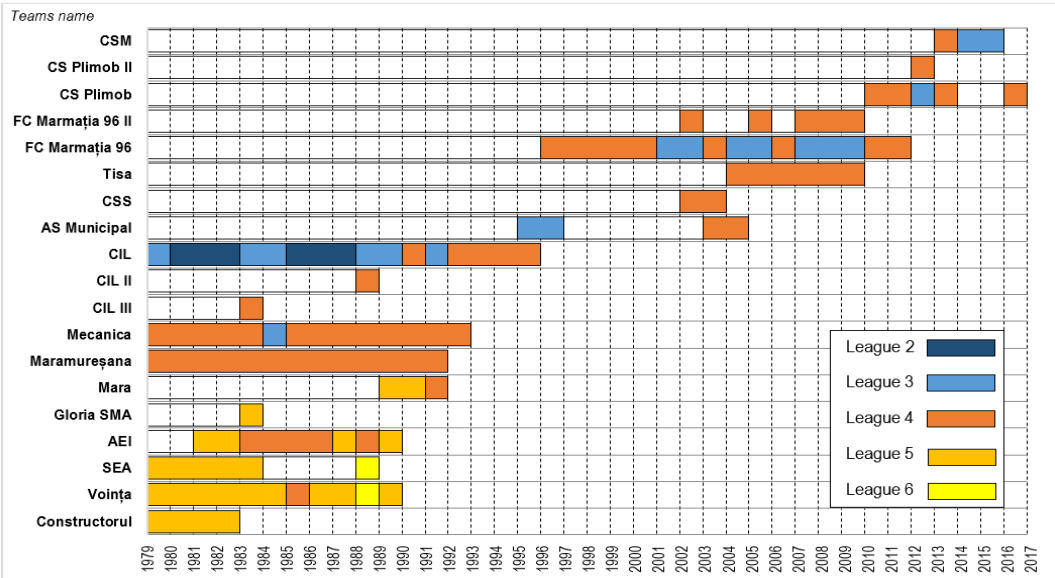


Figure 6. Football teams existing at the level of municipium Sighetu Marmatiei between 1979-2017 in Leagues 2-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989) and Graiul Maramureșului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)



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).

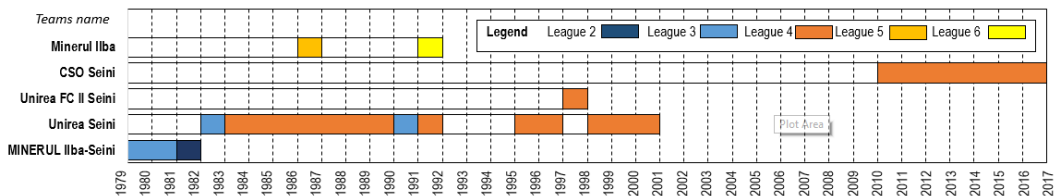


Figure 7. Football teams existing at the level of settlements Seini and Ilba between 1979-2017 in Leagues 2-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)



Figure 7.1. The logo of the team *Minerul Ilba-Seini* (webservice: 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).

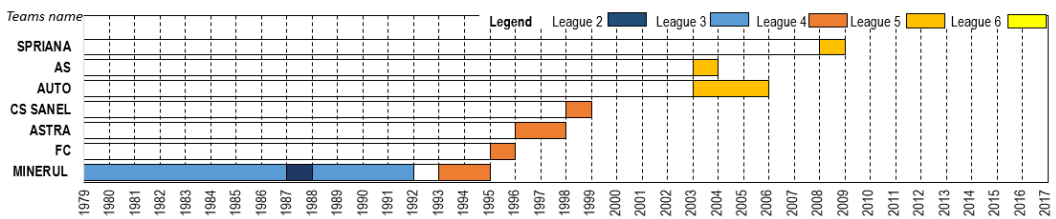


Figure 8. Football teams existing at the level of town Baia Sprie between 1979-2017 in Leagues 2-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graiul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)



Figure 8.1. Logos of the team *Minerul Baia Sprie* (webservice: 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 Marmației* (9); *Minerul Cavnic* (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 Marmației* (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 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. Logos of the *Minerul Baia Borșa/Borșa* football teams (webservice: 11, 12)

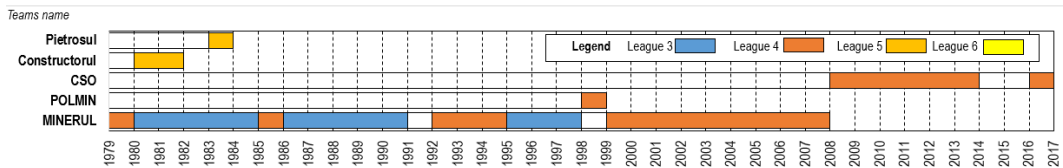


Figure 11.1. Football teams existing at the level of town Borșa between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

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.

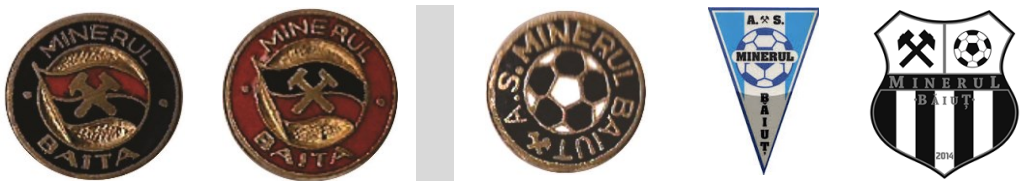


Figure 12. Logos of the *Minerul Băița* and *Minerul Băiț* football teams (websource: 11, 12)

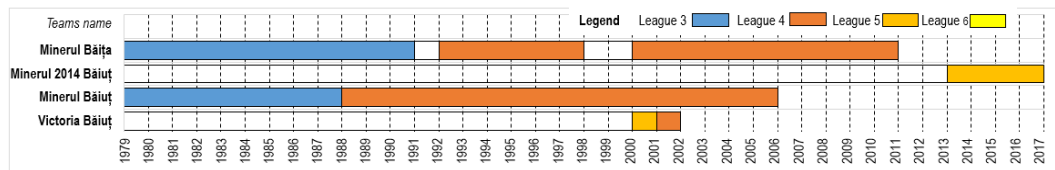


Figure 12.1. Football teams existing at the level of villages Băița (Fărcașa commune) and Băiț between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graiuul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

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 Vişeu 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.

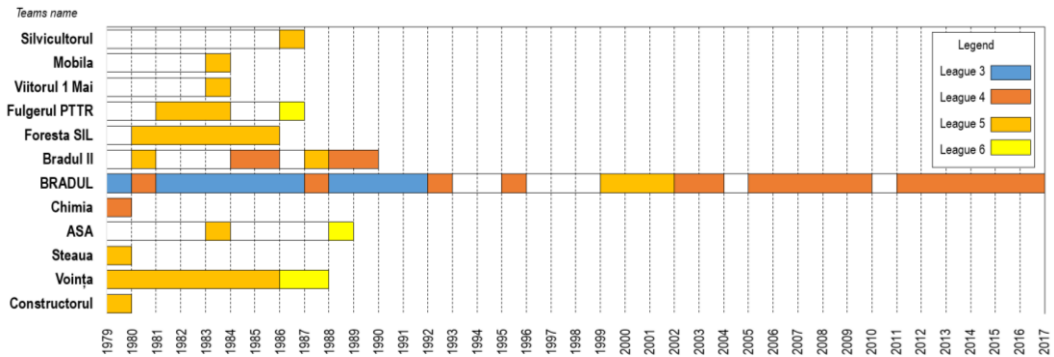


Figure 13.1. Football teams existing at the level of town Vișeu de Sus between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989) and Graiul Maramureșului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

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

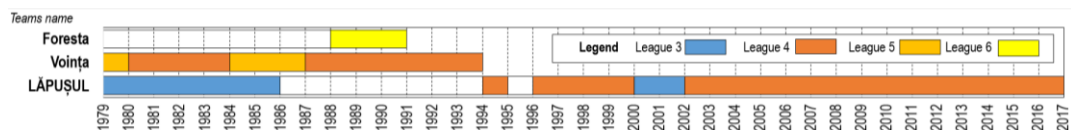


Figure 14.1. Football teams existing at the level of town Târgu Lăpuş between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989) and *Graul Maramureşului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

Between 1987 and 1994, the only team from the locality was named *Voinea* and activated only on county level. Out of the 37 analyzed years, the name *Lăpuşul* 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* (Ilieş 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 Maramureş, in 1991.

C₈. In municipium Sighetu Marmăţiei, the second tradition team was *IS (Intreprinderea de Şuruburi – 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 Marmăţiei.

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 Marmăţiei and was named *AS Municipal* for two seasons on this level: 1994/1995 şi 1995/1996. After the demotion, the team was dissolved, its place in the county championship being taken by *CS FC Marmăţia 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 Marmației (6), *Plimob* Sighetu Marmației (1) and *CSM (Municipal Sport Club)* Sighetu Marmației (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 Marmației, 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 Marmației, 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 Marmatia 96* team

C₁₂. In the same time with *CS Marmatia 96* team, a private club was founded in municipium Sighetu Marmației 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 Marmatieia 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).

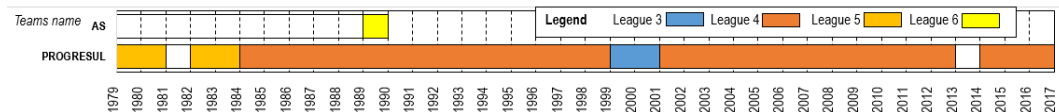


Figure 17. Football teams existing at the level of settlement Şomcuta Mare between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism (1980-1989)* and *Graiuul Maramureşului (after 1990)* and websources: 2-10)

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).

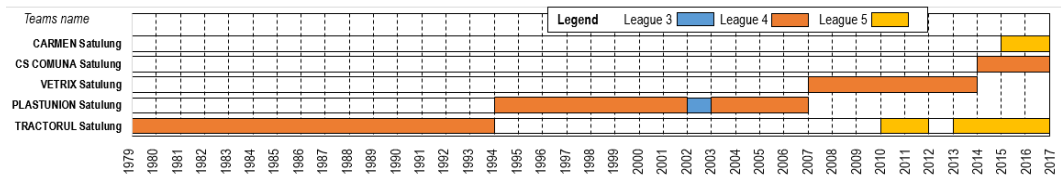


Figure 18. Football teams existing at the level of village Satulung between 1979-2016 in Leagues 3-5 (sources: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989), Graiul Maramureșului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

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. Suci 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).

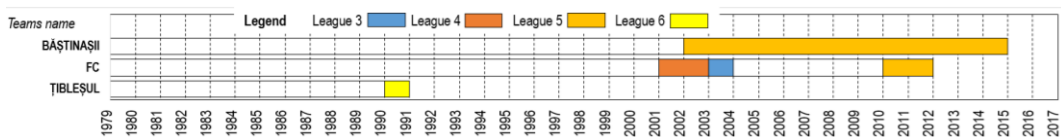


Figure 19. Football teams existing at the level of village Suci de Sus between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989), Graiul Maramureșului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

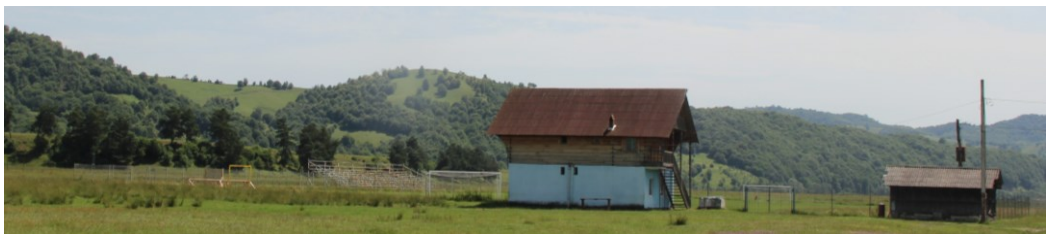


Figure 19.1. The groundfield from Suci de Sus village (2015)

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** Suci 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

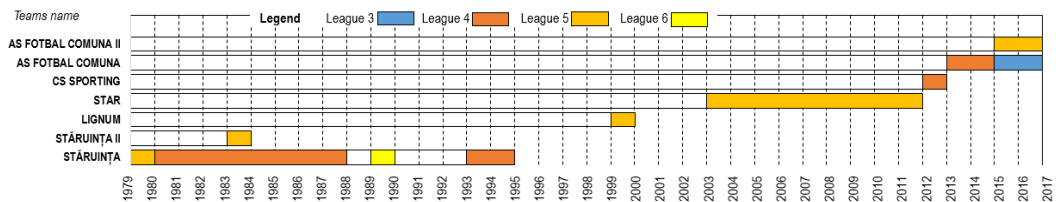


Figure 20.1. Football teams existing at the level of village Recea between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989), Graiul Maramureşului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

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).

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*, *Someşul* 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 *Someşul*, and it was excluded from



Figure 21. Logo of CS Viitorul football team

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).

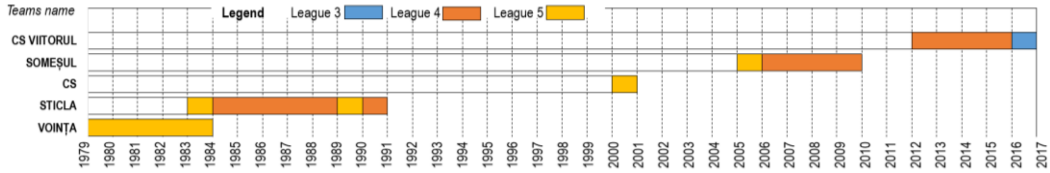


Figure 21.1. Football teams existing at the level of settlement Ulmeni between 1979-2017 in Leagues 3-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

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.

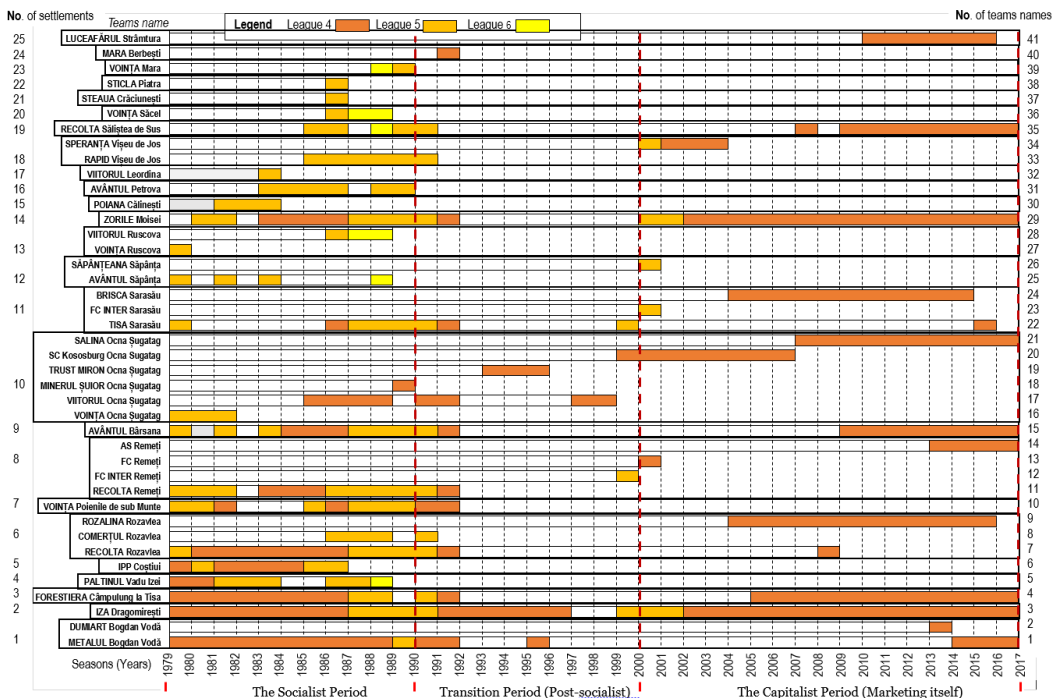


Figure 22. Football teams existing at the level of Maramureș Land (Northern part of county) between 1979-2017 in Leagues 4-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers *Pentru Socialism* (1980-1989), *Graul Maramureșului* (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)

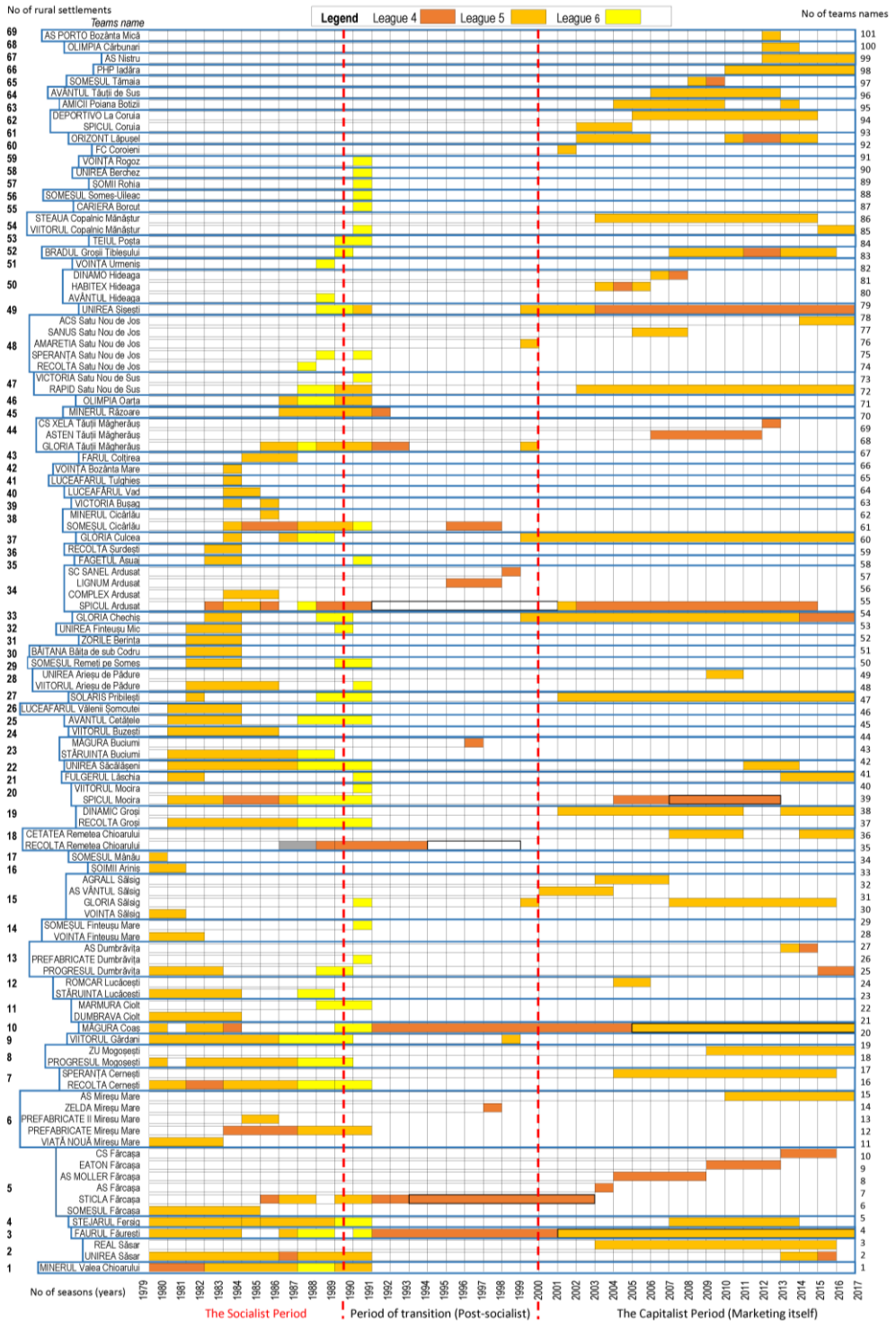


Figure 24. Football teams existing at the level of the South part of Maramureş County between 1979-2017 in Leagues 4-6 (sources: the archives of newspapers Pentru Socialism (1980-1989) and Graiul Maramureşului (after 1990) and websources: 2-10)



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 Marmaţiei*, 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*, *Lăpuşul Târgu Lăpuş*, *Bradul Vişeu de Sus*, *Progresul Şomcuta Mare*, *Minerul Băiuţ* 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 Maramureş*. 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 Marmaţiei 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 Vişeu 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, Dragomireşti, Ocna Sugatag and Remeţi and in South part of county: Coaş, Dumbrăviţa, Făureşti, Mireşu Mare and Mogoşesti ([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 Marmaţiei* 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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