

CLUJ-NAPOCA. A STUDY IN ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY. THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, 2009

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ABSTRACT. – *Cluj-Napoca. A Study in Electoral Geography. The Presidential Elections, 2009.* The analysis of the population's electoral behavior has only been a subject of interest in our country after the abolition of the socialist political-social system. This paper describes the differences in and coagulations of electoral preferences in the population of the city of Cluj-Napoca during the 2009 presidential elections. There were 156 permanent and 16 special polling stations set up in Cluj-Napoca, represented in both graphical and tabular form, in a suggestive and sufficiently statistically accurate manner.

Keywords: 2009 presidential elections, Cluj-Napoca Romania, polling stations, voter turnout.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cluj-Napoca has a residential population of 306,000 inhabitants. A seasonal student population of over 100,000 individuals needs to be added to it.

In terms of national urban hierarchy, Cluj-Napoca ranks second after Romania's capital, together with Iasi, Galati, Constanta, Craiova, Brasov and Timisoara. Due to both the high concentration of specialized services and highly qualified individuals (various university degrees, numerous medical, juridical, cultural and mass-media institutions) and its intellectual tradition, Cluj-Napoca draws its resources from the whole of Transylvania.

Even today it continues to be figuratively called a "provincial capital" (i. e., the capital city of Transylvania) (Fig. 1).

The city also enjoys a great potential due to its geographical position, at the contact between the Apuseni Mountains, the Transylvanian Plain and the Somes Plateau. It is one of Romania's main railway junction points, as well as an important center along the E60 route and the A3 motorway. Furthermore, the city is connected to all relevant European cities through its new international airport, which is expanding to this day.

From the point of view of the built-up area, the city, with a surface of almost 9000 hectares, is located on the banks of the Somesul Mic River, as well as on its terraces. The overall density consists of 45 inhabitants / hectare and 450 inhabitants per square kilometer.

2. PURPOSE

The relevance of our study consists in attempting to lay out the electoral behavior of a leading urban population in terms of collective responsibility, namely that of electing the

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president of Romania. In the same manner, the present study sheds light on the differences in electoral behavior at micro scalar level, analyzed in terms of the population allotted to each polling station.

3. METHOD

The main method used in the present paper is statistical analysis, correlated with cartographic and descriptive-interpretive study. A few important steps in composing the database behind the maps were: collecting statistical data about the presidential voting results in Cluj-Napoca at polling station level, the conversion of statistical data in a format that is compatible with the GIS software used, building the vector data and the final step was to combine the two data types through a GIS software.

Also, we can mention that this electoral study is the first in Romanian literature, by the level of detailed analyses.



Fig. 1. Cluj-Napoca and its influence area.

4. ANALYSIS

There were 156 permanent polling stations for the 2009 presidential elections in Cluj Napoca; these covered 279,140 voters in the first round and 279,908 voters in the second (Table 1). This number represents 91% of the residential population, meaning 68% of the total population (the sum of residential and seasonal population). Each polling station saw an average of 1789 voters cast votes in the first round and 1794, respectively 2667, voters in the second

round, if we add the seasonal population, composed mainly of students. The smallest number of voters was registered at Polling Station no. 44 ("Caritatea" Association, Mircea Eliade Street no. 22) with 790 voters, while the highest was at Polling Station no. 43 ("Radu Stanca" School, Zorilor Street no. 27) with 2512 voters.

**Polling stations and the number of allotted voters, Cluj-Napoca,
first and second round**

Table 1

Crt. no.	Adress	22.11.2009	06.12.2009
1	<i>Iulian Pop</i> Economy College	2181	2181
2	<i>Augustin Maior</i> Technic College of Telecommunications	1960	1960
3	<i>Augustin Maior</i> Technic College of Telecommunications	1537	1537
4	<i>Ion Creanga</i> School	1156	1156
5	<i>Ion Creanga</i> School	1725	1725
6	<i>Ion Creanga</i> School	1425	1425
7	<i>Dumbrava Minunata</i> Kindergarten	1197	1197
8	<i>Dumbrava Minunata</i> Kindergarten	1813	1813
9	<i>Dumbrava Minunata</i> Kindergarten	1754	1754
10	<i>Iuliu Hatieganu</i> School	1965	1965
11	<i>Curcubeu</i> Kindergarten	1858	1858
12	<i>Iuliu Hatieganu</i> School	1607	1607
13	<i>Iuliu Hatieganu</i> School	1696	1696
14	<i>Iuliu Hatieganu</i> School	1667	1667
15	<i>Napoca</i> Technic College	1862	1862
16	Sport program Highschool	1956	1956
17	Sport program Highschool	917	1495
18	Sport program Highschool	1478	1478
19	<i>Eugen Pora</i> Highschool	1851	1851
20	<i>Eugen Pora</i> Highschool	1812	1812
21	<i>Eugen Pora</i> Highschool	1945	1945
22	<i>Ion Lupas</i> School	2216	2216
23	County Library - Manastur	1753	1753
24	<i>Ion Lupas</i> School	1498	1498
25	<i>Ion Lupas</i> School	1664	1664
26	<i>Ion Lupas</i> School	1359	1359
27	Sports Hall Cluj-Napoca	2301	2301
28	Sports Hall Cluj-Napoca	1321	1321
29	Excelence Regional Center	1991	1991
30	<i>Onisifor Ghibu</i> Theoretic Highschool	1932	1932
31	<i>Mica Sirena</i> Kindergarten	1467	1467
32	<i>Onisifor Ghibu</i> Theoretic Highschool	1436	1436
33	<i>Onisifor Ghibu</i> Theoretic Highschool	1107	1107
34	<i>Onisifor Ghibu</i> School	1293	1293
35	<i>Onisifor Ghibu</i> School	2004	2004
36	<i>Steluta Fermecata</i> Kindergarten	1527	1527
37	<i>Steluta Fermecata</i> Kindergarten	1174	1174
38	<i>Raluca Ripan</i> Institute of Chemistry Researches	1975	1975
39	<i>Mica Sirena</i> Kindergarten	1758	1758

40	<i>Raluca Ripan</i> Institute of Chemistry Researches	1953	1953
41	<i>Raluca Ripan</i> Institute of Chemistry Researches	1821	1821
42	<i>Radu Stanca</i> School	2232	2232
43	<i>Radu Stanca</i> School	2512	2512
44	<i>Caritatea</i> Association	790	790
45	<i>Radu Stanca</i> School	2230	2230
46	<i>Radu Stanca</i> School	2082	2082
47	<i>Scufita Rosie</i> Kindergarten	1205	1205
48	Constructions Faculty Section Roards - Bridges	2018	2018
49	Constructions Faculty Section Roards - Bridges	1841	1841
50	Constructions Faculty Section Roards - Bridges	1792	1792
51	<i>T. Popoviciu</i> Informatics Highschool	1339	1339
52	<i>T. Popoviciu</i> Informatics Highschool	1916	1916
53	Children Palace	1824	1824
54	<i>Ioan Bob</i> School	1802	1802
55	<i>G. Cosbuc</i> National College	1302	1302
56	<i>Gh. Sincai</i> Theoretic Highschool	1762	1762
57	<i>Gh. Sincai</i> Theoretic Highschool	1239	1239
58	Eletrotechnic Scholar Group	1955	1955
59	Eletrotechnic Scholar Group	1754	1754
60	Eletrotechnic Scholar Group	1667	1667
61	<i>Liviu Rebreanu</i> School	1859	1859
62	<i>Universul Copiilor</i> Kindergarten	1605	1605
63	<i>Liviu Rebreanu</i> School	1635	1635
64	<i>Constantin Brancoveanu</i> School	1844	1844
65	<i>Constantin Brancoveanu</i> School	1922	1922
66	<i>Constantin Brancoveanu</i> School	1845	1845
67	<i>Liviu Rebreanu</i> School	1885	1885
68	<i>Buburuza</i> Kindergarten	1277	1277
69	<i>Buburuza</i> Kindergarten	1842	1842
70	<i>Academia Piticilor</i> Kindergarten	1898	1898
71	<i>Academia Piticilor</i> Kindergarten	1690	1690
72	Ex-School Nr. 6	1667	1667
73	Ex-School Nr. 6	1739	1739
74	Ex-School Nr. 6	1871	1871
75	Ex-School Nr. 6	1269	1269
76	<i>Octavian Goga</i> School	1926	1926
77	<i>Octavian Goga</i> School	1586	1586
78	<i>Octavian Goga</i> School	1357	1357
79	Army Sports Hall	1936	1936
80	<i>Lumea Copiilor</i> Kindergarten	2150	2150
81	<i>Poienita</i> Kindergarten	2102	2102
82	<i>Constantin Brancusi</i> School	1924	1924
83	<i>Constantin Brancusi</i> School	1789	1970
84	<i>Constantin Brancusi</i> School	1682	1682
85	<i>Mamaruta</i> Kindergarten	1049	1049
86	Special School Nr.1	1572	1572
87	Special School Nr.1	1805	1805
88	<i>Lumea Copiilor</i> Kindergarten	1602	1602
89	<i>Lumea Copiilor</i> Kindergarten	1861	1891

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90	<i>Lucian Blaga</i> Theoretic Highschool	1984	1984
91	<i>Lucian Blaga</i> Theoretic Highschool	1513	1512
92	<i>Lucian Blaga</i> Theoretic Highschool	1294	1294
93	<i>Lucian Blaga</i> Theoretic Highschool	1718	1718
94	<i>N.Titulescu</i> School	1704	1704
95	<i>Al. Borza</i> Scholar Group	1866	1866
96	<i>N.Titulescu</i> School	1625	1625
97	Transylvania Transportation Technical College	1704	1704
98	<i>Raluca Ripan</i> Technical College	2238	2238
99	<i>Energetic</i> Technical College	1766	1766
100	University <i>Babes-Bolyai</i> – <i>F.S.E.G.A.</i>	1976	1976
101	University <i>Babes-Bolyai</i> – <i>F.S.E.G.A.</i>	1843	1843
102	<i>Ion Agarbiceanu</i> School	1845	1845
103	<i>Ion Agarbiceanu</i> School	1849	1849
104	<i>Ion Agarbiceanu</i> School	2015	2015
105	<i>Mamaruta</i> Kindergarten	2079	2079
106	<i>Anghel Saligny</i> Technical College	1885	1885
107	<i>Anghel Saligny</i> Technical College	1822	1822
108	<i>Anghel Saligny</i> Technical College	2026	2026
109	<i>Ion Agarbiceanu</i> School	2063	2063
110	<i>Mihai Eminescu</i> Theoretical Highschool	1956	1956
111	<i>S. Barnutiu</i> School	1761	1761
112	<i>S. Barnutiu</i> School	1930	1930
113	<i>S. Barnutiu</i> School	1917	1917
114	MR <i>Unirea</i> Scholar Group	2157	2157
115	<i>A. Iancu</i> Theoretical Highschool	1922	1922
116	<i>David Prodan</i> School	1818	1818
117	<i>David Prodan</i> School	1304	1304
118	<i>Horea</i> School	1677	1677
119	<i>N. Balcescu</i> Highschool	1671	1671
120	<i>Brassai Samuel</i> Highschool	1652	1652
121	<i>Expo Transilvania</i> Pavilion	1916	1916
122	<i>Expo Transilvania</i> Pavilion	1946	1946
123	<i>Expo Transilvania</i> Pavilion	1961	1961
124	<i>Expo Transilvania</i> Pavilion	1961	1961
125	<i>Expo Transilvania</i> Pavilion	1921	1921
126	<i>Expo Transilvania</i> Pavilion	1919	1919
127	<i>Degetica</i> Kindergarten	1889	1889
128	<i>Degetica</i> Kindergarten	1958	1958
129	<i>Al. Vaida Voievod</i> School	1764	1764
130	<i>Al. Vaida Voievod</i> School	1684	1684
131	<i>Al. Vaida Voievod</i> School	1449	1449
132	<i>Al. Vaida Voievod</i> School	2033	2013
133	<i>Samus</i> Arts and Crafts School	1751	1751
134	<i>Samus</i> Arts and Crafts School	2079	2079
135	<i>Samus</i> Arts and Crafts School	1569	1569
136	<i>Terapia</i> Industrial Chemistry Scholar Group	1859	1859
137	<i>Terapia</i> Industrial Chemistry Scholar Group	1772	1772
138	<i>Protectia Mediului</i> Scholar Group	995	995
139	<i>Horea</i> School	1530	1530

140	<i>Emanuel</i> Theoretical Highschool	1851	1851
141	<i>Emanuel</i> Theoretical Highschool	1376	1376
142	<i>Emil Isac</i> School	1664	1664
143	<i>Emil Isac</i> School	1253	1253
144	<i>Waldorf</i> Highschool	1477	1477
145	<i>Waldorf</i> Highschool	2046	2046
146	<i>Emil Isac</i> School	2021	2021
147	<i>Nicolae Iorga</i> School	1556	1556
148	<i>Nicolae Iorga</i> School	1963	1963
149	<i>Nicolae Iorga</i> School	2049	2049
150	<i>Tehnofrig</i> Scholar Group	1867	1867
151	<i>Tehnofrig</i> Scholar Group	1205	1205
152	<i>Aurel Vlaicu</i> Scholar Group	2087	2087
153	R.A.T.U.C. Garages	2037	2037
154	<i>Traian Darjan</i> School	2498	2498
155	<i>Traian Darjan</i> School	1653	1653
156	<i>Traian Darjan</i> School	1437	1437

Source : Biroul Electoral Central 2009

The highest density of polling stations is registered in the Manastur district, correlated linearly to the large number of inhabitants and the compact built structure of this residential unit. Average distances between the extremities of the polling stations are not exceeding 750 meters, which demonstrates the ease of access, within 30 minutes maximum isochronous from the place of residence to the polling station (Fig. 2).

The special polling stations and their voters

Table 2

Crt. no.	Adress	22.11.2009	06.12.2009	Difference	Percent %
157	Cluj-Napoca International Airport	1171	1246	75	6.40
158	Cluj-Napoca Railway Station	787	1702	915	116.26
159	Cluj-Napoca Railway Station	1017	1493	476	46.80
160	Observator Canteen Student Complex	959	2059	1100	114.70
161	Marasti Student Complex	925	1660	735	79.46
162	Hasdeu Canteen Student Complex	1109	1985	876	78.99
163	Hasdeu Canteen Student Complex	983	1702	719	73.14
164	Recuperatory Hospital	642	966	324	50.47
165	Emergency County Hospital	430	519	89	20.70
166	Cluj-Napoca Municipal Hospital	146	174	28	19.18
167	<i>Prof dr. Octavian Fodor</i> Emergency Hospital	319	444	125	39.18
168	Cluj-Napoca Infectious Diseases Hospital	174	184	10	5.75
169	<i>Prof. dr. Ion Chiricuta</i> Oncological Hospital	673	740	67	9.96
170	<i>Nicolae Stancioiu</i> Hearts Institute	673	930	257	38.19
171	<i>Dr. Constantin Papilian</i> Military Emergency Hospital	566	994	428	75.62
172	<i>Babes-Bolyai</i> University – <i>F.S.E.G.A.</i>	976	2118	1142	117.01
	Total	11550	18916	7366	63.77

Source : Biroul Electoral Central 2009.

To the 156 permanent polling stations 16 secondary polling stations were added; these included college campuses, clinics and central points of transportation hubs (railway station, air station, and airport) (table 2).



Fig 2. Polling stations in Cluj-Napoca.

5. THE ANALYSIS OF THE VOTING ACT

5.1. The first electoral round

The election of the Romanian President in 2009 took place only in the second round of voting; in the first one the absolute majority needed was not met.

In the first round (November 22, 2009), 145,346 individuals decided to vote, i.e., 52% of the total number of voters. The highest turnout was recorded at polling station number 17 (Sports High School, Arinilor Street No.9), accounting for 86.04% of the voters allotted to it, while the lowest turnout was recorded at polling station number 150 (High School "Tehnofrig" Maramures Street No. 165 / A), accounting for 34.82%.

At the special polling stations 11,550 individuals cast their vote in the first round, which means 7.4% of all voters (156,896).

Several hypotheses may be issued on the differential percentage of turnout at the polling stations. Certain is that the reduced share of voters in the Iris district (Polling Station number 150) can be combined with the dominance of conventional urban space; added to it is the behavior of the compact group of Roma population that, along with many of the voters allotted to polling stations in the area, can be suspected of a certain feeling of indifference towards the electoral process.

Of the 12 candidates enrolled in the electoral race, on municipality level the candidate Traian Basescu received the largest sum of votes (64,084 votes, or 41%), followed by Crin Antonescu with 36,861 votes (23.5%), who was nevertheless third on national level. The third candidate according to votes in Cluj Napoca, with 24,044 votes (15.3%), was Mircea Geoana. Each of the other candidates gained less than 10% of votes.

From this point of view, Traian Basescu was voted by the majority in 152 polling stations out of the total of 172 (an overwhelming 88,3%). In the same manner of subordination, Crin Antonescu won a majority in 19 of the polling stations (11%), being on equal footing with Traian Basescu only at one single polling station (Polling Station No.91, *Lucian Blaga* High School).

5.2. The second electoral round

The second round, which took place on December 6, 2009, saw 169,428 voters turn out at the polls, in excess of 12,532 compared to the first round (i.e., 7.9% more voters). Of the additional 12,532 votes in the second round, 7366 (58.7%) were cast in special polling stations. It should also be mentioned that the turnout at special polling stations, in relation to the first ballot, grew by 63.7% voters. The most significant increases were registered at the polling station number 172 of Gheorgheni district, located inside the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, followed by polling station number 158 and 160, all three registering more than double the number of votes compared to the first round. It is worth mentioning that only 12 (7.7%) of permanent polling stations recorded increases in the numbers of voters in the second round of elections, compared to the first round. In all other stations the decrease was usually between -0.1% (Polling Station No. 2) and -7.7 (Polling Station No. 148) (fig. 3).

The decision in the second round was between Traian Basescu and Mircea Geoana. Overall, the candidate Traian Basescu received the majority of votes (63.5%), winning the election and a second term as president of Romania. When analysing the elections by polling stations, it is visible that Traian Basescu won the majority of votes in Cluj Napoca in 166 polling stations (96.5%). No polling station recorded equality between the candidates (Fig. 4).

6. RESULTS

The specific graphical and cartographic exercise was able to highlight in a very distinct manner the differences in voting preferences on the level of the municipality; this facilitates the overview of electoral behavior of an urban population with primary importance in the administrative hierarchy of Romania, a population characterised by a remarkable cultural and ethnic diversity. Moreover, the way in which the mapping software was designed and developed allows for a wide conceptual continuity on the same mapping block, which in time is capable of offering a view of the metamorphoses in electoral behavior in the municipality of Cluj Napoca.

In Table 3 we can see that in the special polling stations, in the first round the candidate Crin Antonescu secured majority in 13 from 16 polling stations.

The reason of this turnout are the students composing this stations that as we know, throughout the country this age group supported Crin Antonescu as president. The candidate Traian Basescu gathered the majority votes in just three stations and at a small difference to Crin Antonescu. In the second electoral round we can see that with the absence of the PNL representative the votes were divided between the two last candidates Traian Basescu and Mircea Geoana.

The result is that the first one secured majority in all 16 polling stations with a greather difference between him and the second candidate. Mircea Geoana, the PSD representative even if he was the second candidate in Romania, he scored majority in none of the special polling stations.

The number of votes for each candidate in special Polling Stations

Table 3

Polling station	First Electoral Round			Second Electoral Round	
	Crin Antonescu	Traian Basescu	Mmircea Geoana	Ttraian Basescu	Mircea Geoana
157	509	376	119	804	437
158	285	281	92	1117	569
159	386	340	130	941	532
160	433	251	103	1295	715
161	318	338	97	1123	519
162	517	288	90	1217	720
163	434	230	99	1032	630
164	216	229	79	605	346
165	147	140	41	360	152
166	64	46	7	103	71
167	103	101	39	255	182
168	67	72	13	107	72
169	258	205	89	418	310
170	266	170	74	537	377
171	209	177	68	589	396
172	399	270	137	1357	741

Alltogether we have seen that in Cluj-Napoca the PDL party and the candidate Traian Basescu have a great influence, thanks to the former mayor of the city Emil Boc (now prime minister), and current mayor Sorin Apostu that like Emil Boc is also head of the PDL party in Cluj-Napoca.

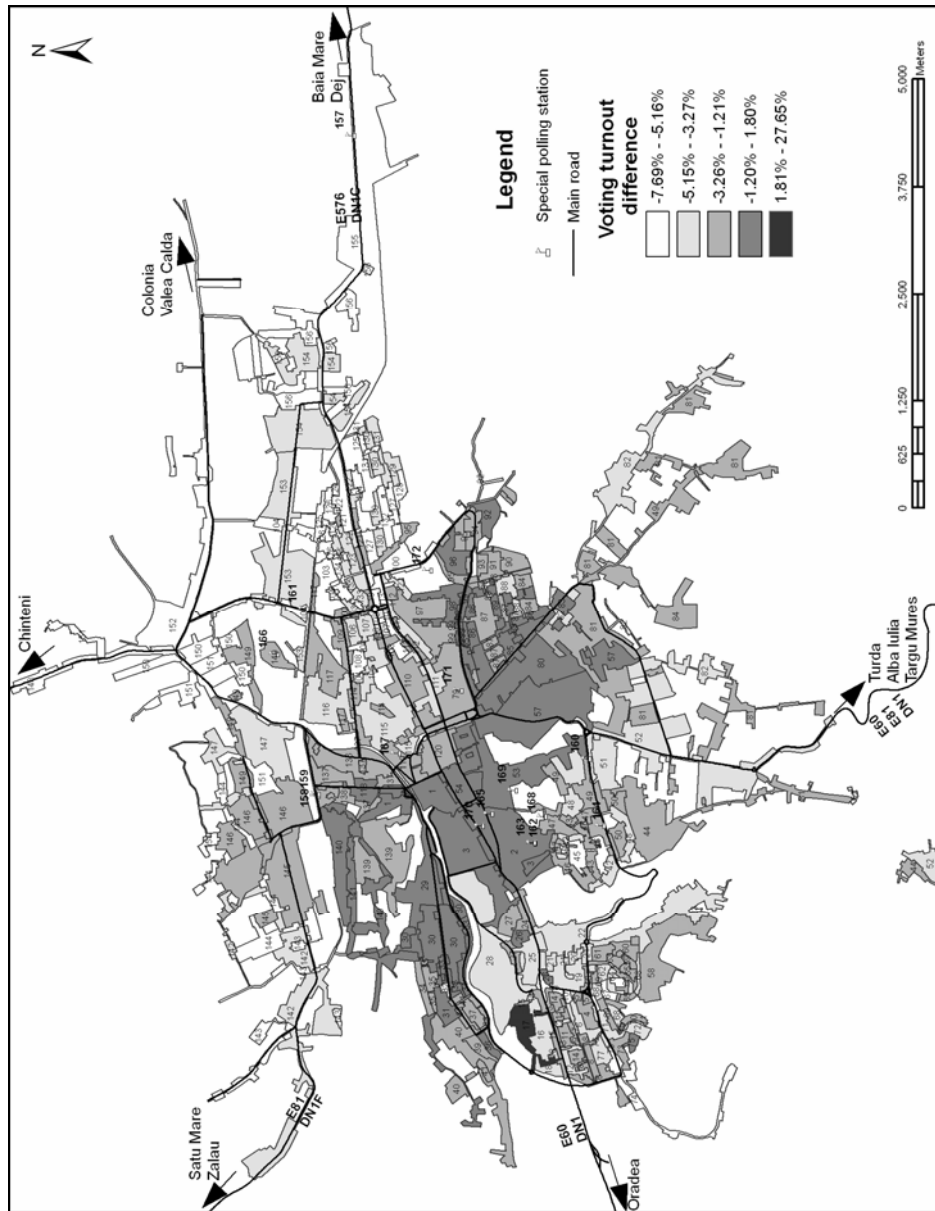


Fig. 3. The share of voter turnout by polling stations.

On the choice for one candidate or the other, we are not able to deliver any valid general or particular conclusions, this being a subject for specialised sociological surveys.

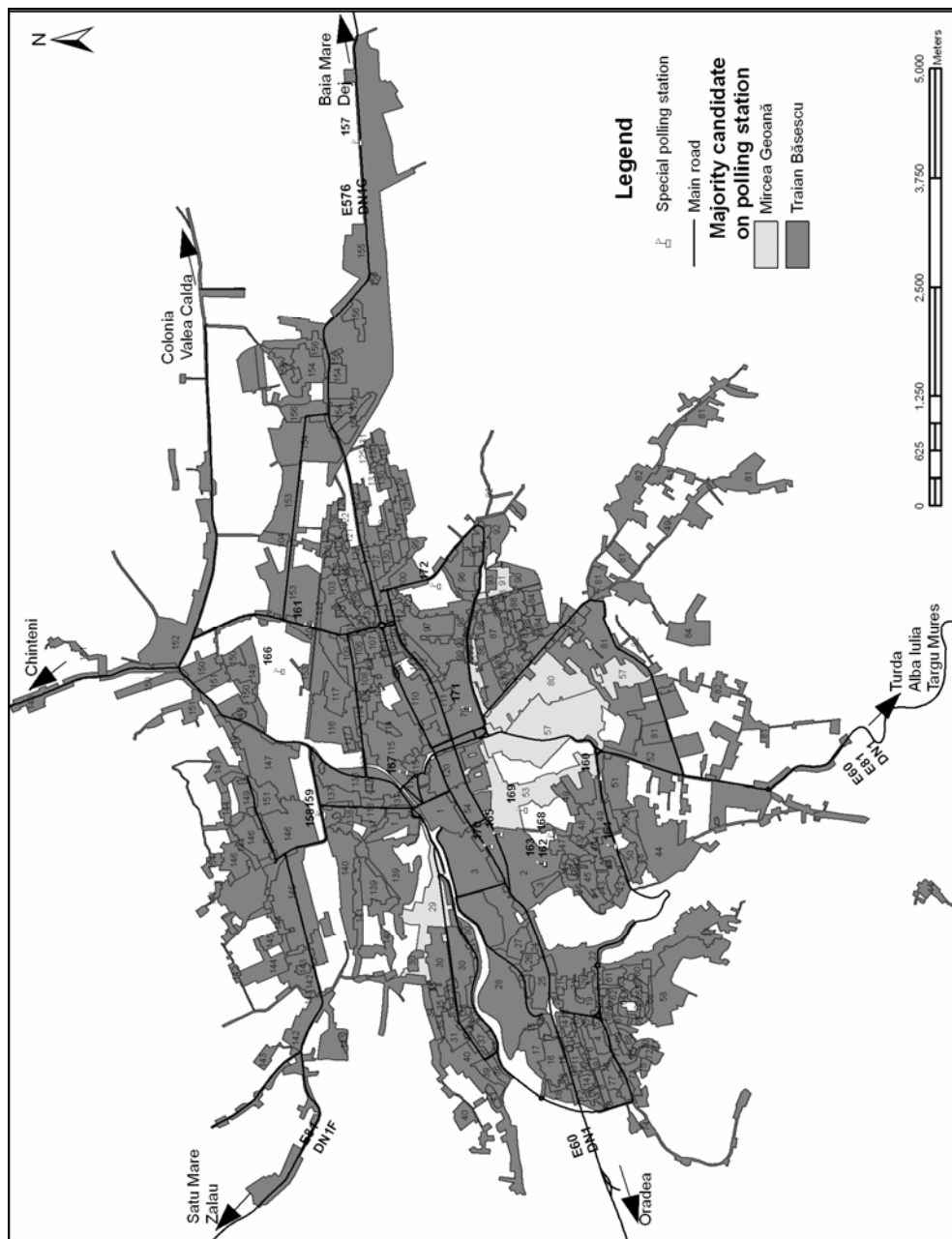


Fig. 4. The majority candidate by polling stations after second round.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The cartographic method presented in this study represents a more than useful tool for policy makers and local administration, as well as for those interested in fast and correct information in the field. The predominance and the success of Traian Basescu in a city with tertiary activities and population can be attributed mostly to the strong reminiscence in collective workers' mentality, as a reflection of temporal inertia in social systems as a whole.

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