



The Evolution of the Administrative and Territorial Organization of Cluj County between 1968 and 2006 and its Impact on Rural Areas

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The need for this analysis comes from the increased number of laws and regulations that were issued after Law no. 2/1968, regarding the administrative-territorial organization of the county and the changes caused by these normative documents.

The paper is a review of all the legislative events that influenced the administrative-territorial organization of Cluj county. Its base consists in all the normative papers issued by the central level (laws, decree-laws, decrees) and in the decisions of the local county authorities.

Law no. 2/1968 regarding the territorial administrative organization of the Romanian Socialist Republic brought a significant change to Romania's administrative-territorial organization.

The Soviet model of regions and departments was replaced by a new one, more appropriate, that of counties and communes. The initial model proved to be inefficient as it generated huge inter and intraregional disparities.

This fundamental change determined Cluj county to have the following administrative structure:

- 3 municipalities;
- 3 cities;
- 14 other urban structures that are parts of cities and towns; 8 of them villages that belonged to them;
- 74 communes, 5 of them being suburban communes;
- 420 villages belonging to communes.

The hydro-energetic improvement works on Someşu Cald river imposed the disappearance of two villages that belonged to Beliş and Gilău communes: Giurcuţa de Jos and Someşu Cald. The legal base for this change was the Decree no. 223/1972 for the first village and the Decree no. 201/1982 for the second village. Giucuţa de Jos was replaced with the Tarniţa reservoir and instead of Someşu Cald, Fântanele Dam was built.

In 1974, the county residence Cluj became Cluj-Napoca, based on the State Council Decree no. 194/1974.

The Law no. 2 from 1989 (republished in the Official Bulletin, Part I, no. 15, from 25th of April, 1989), regarding the improvement of the administrative territorial organization of the Romanian Socialist Republic, determined the following 8 county's communes to disappear, based on the 150/1989 Decision of Cluj county authorities: Aluniş, Aiton, Buza, Fizeşu Gherlii, Pălatca, Ploscoş, Recea Cristur, Vultureni.

In the same time, Dumbrava and Păniceni villages, belonging to the Izvorul Crişului commune, were transferred to Căpuşu Mare commune. The villages of Aluniş, Buza, Fizeşu Gherlii, Ploscoş şi Recea Cristur communes were all transferred to another commune, and the villages of Aiton, Pălatca and Vultureni communes became part of other two communes.

In this context, several important changes occurred: Aluniş commune was included in Iclod commune, Buza was included in Ţaga commune, Fizeşu Gherlii in Mintiu Gherlii commune and Recea Cristur commune was included in Panticeu commune. The villages from Ploscoş commune were part of Turda municipality.

When Aiton commune was disbanded, its villages, Aiton and REDIU, were transferred to Tureni and Feleacu communes.

From Pălatca commune, disbanded as well, Băgaciu, Mureșenii de Cîmpie and Sava villages were transferred to Geaca commune and Pălatca and Petea villages were transferred to Căianu commune.

From Vultureni commune, Băbuțiu, Făureni, Șoimeni and Vultureni villages passed to Așchileu commune, which was renamed Așchileu – Vultureni, and Bădești and Chidea villages passed to Borșa commune.

At the same time, the following villages were also disbanded: Aghireșu-Fabrici (included in Aghireșu village) from Aghireșu commune, Borșa-Crestaia (fused with Borșa village) from Borșa commune, Andici and Morțești from Ceanu Mare commune.

Law no. 2 from 1989, regarding the improvement of the territorial administrative organization of the Romanian Socialist Republic, disbanded the “suburban commune” category. As a consequence, in Cluj county the following 5 communes lost their “suburban commune” status: Cuzdrioara, Jichișu de Jos, Mica, Mihai Viteazu and Săndulești.

After the enforcement of this law, the administrative organization of Cluj county had a new display:

- 3 municipalities;
- 3 cities;
- 66 communes;
- 420 villages, 11 belonging to municipalities and cities and 409 belonging to communes.

An important aspect of this new structure is that Ocna Dejului was not mentioned as part of Dej municipality anymore, because it became part of the neighbourhood of Dej municipality.

The Decree-Law no. 38 from 22nd of January 1990, regarding the abrogation of Law no. 2 from 1989, referring to the administrative organization of the country's territory, reinstated the provisions of the Law no. 2 from 1989, regarding the improvement of the administrative organization of Romanian Socialist Republic, with further modifications, excepting the provisions of article 6 line 2, referring to the existence of suburban communes.

This intersession came out probably from political reasons. The statement can be sustained also by the fact that all the 8 disbanded communes by Law no. 2 from 1989, are on the county's list of communes with important population decline (whose population decreased over 50% between 1966 and 1998). Even today, keeping them as communes is a subject of dispute.

Through the Decision no. 309 from 17th of October 1991 of the Cluj county's Prefecture, the new organization of the administrative-territorial units was consented, based on Decree-Law no. 38 from the 22nd of January 1990.

Therefore, the 8 communes were re-established on the publishing date of the Decree-Law no. 38/1990. It was also a moment of withdrawing the disbandment or the transfer of villages, approved through the Decision of the Executive Committee of the Cluj county Popular Council, no. 150/1989.

Afterwards, Câmpia Turzii and Gherla cities were declared municipalities, the first one through the Law no. 204 from 11th of October 1998, published in the Official Gazette no. 429 from 12th of November 1998, and the second one through Law no. 172 from 16th of October 2000, published in the Official Gazette no. 516 from 20th of October 2000.

As a consequence of the local referendum, through Law no. 492 from 18th of July 2002, Negreni commune was founded, with the following villages: Negreni, Bucea și Prelucele - separated from Ciucea commune.

Considering the villages that are part of communes, an ascertained legislative ambiguity appears. Giurcuța de Jos and Somesul Cald villages are still mentioned in statistics although they are disbanded through decrees (category of official documents that cannot modify an organic law). In fact, Giurcuța de Jos village is totally disaffected and does not appear in censuses, while Someșu Cald village has been reconstructed on a side of the old village and it is still a part of Gilău commune, being mentioned, of course, in statistics.

As a consequence, nowadays, Cluj county has the following administrative display:

- 5 municipalities;
- 1 city;

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- 14 component settlements part of the municipalities and of the cities;
- 74 communes;
- 418 villages belonging to communes.

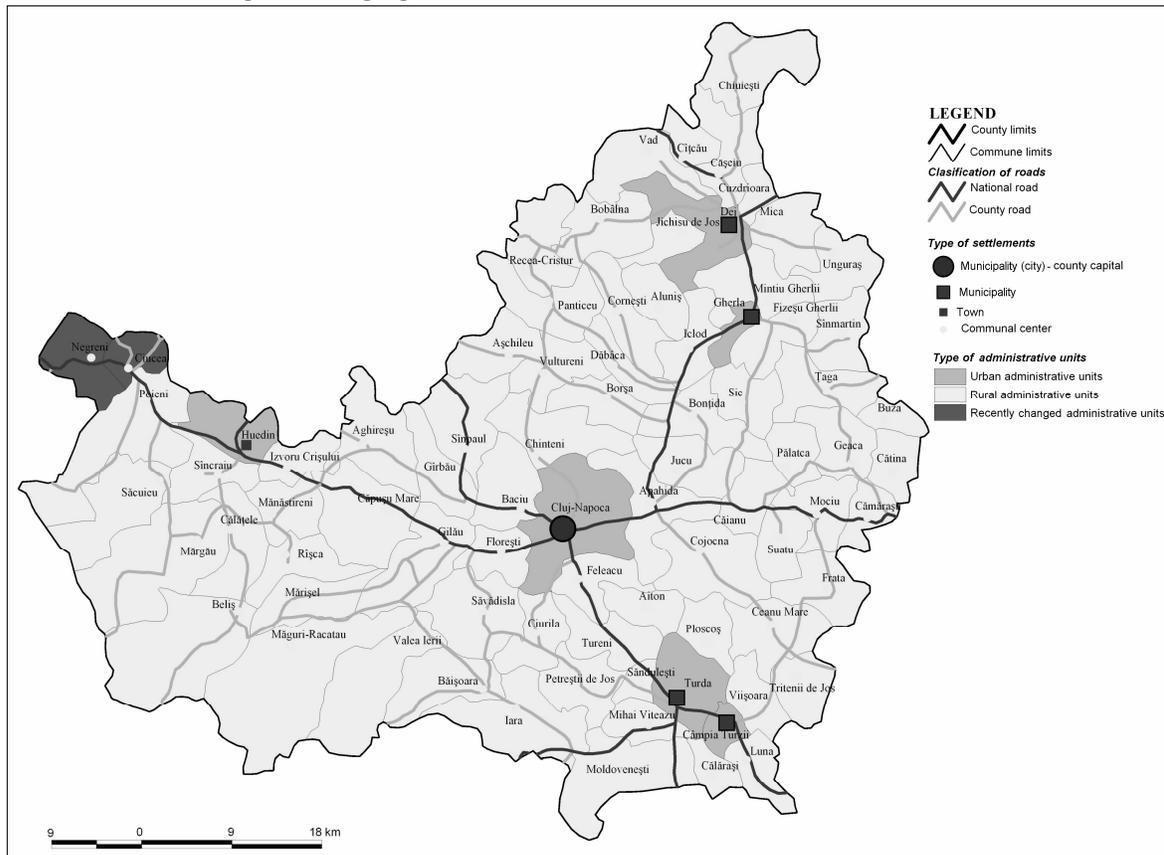


Figure 1. Cluj County. Territorial-administrative structure.

Concerning Cluj county, there were no important changes taking place in the territorial - administrative structure, compared to the one established in 1968. But it must be mentioned the foundation of Negreni commune through the detachment of three villages, initially part of Ciucea commune, this event being part of a general one, promoted and encouraged at national level during 2000-2004 period, when a number of 222 new communes was registered.

Negreni commune with Negreni, Bucea and Prelucele villages, having a population of 2706 inhabitants has taken over economic units, important income sources: Seats Factory from Bucea, Traditional Fair of Negreni, and the properties situated along National Route No.1, where lots of motels and restaurants are placed. The foundation of the commune supposed large financial efforts if we only consider the establishment of new institutions like: Police, Medical units and Veterinary units, library or employment of personnel for the Mayor's Office – 13 persons and a local development agent.

Ciucea commune, with its two villages – Ciucea and Vânători – and a population of 1.751 inhabitants, has inherited only problems, such as: very few income sources, lots of citizens exempted from tax payment based on displacement legislation, difficulties in sustaining financially the local administrative structures.

An analysis of the 2003 “own incomes”, the first year after the detachment of the two units, indicates a level of income situated around 301.070 lei/inhabitant for Ciucea and 400.279 lei/inhabitant for Negreni.

Till now, a new cultural establishment has been built in Ciucea, and important public works are handled for the commune development and modernisation. Ciucea's administration is waiting for financial resources from the County Council based on the Ordinance no. 45/2001. Still, an important problem regards the hiring of a competent agriculture specialist.

On the whole, irrational decisions concerning the administrative territorial organization cause major imbalances in rural areas. If the local political interests are leading, then those centrifugal tendencies do not follow the specifics of the territorial equilibrium principle and of the cooperation process in order to manage the problems that exceed their administrative capacity.

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*** *The Decree no. 201 from 1982, regarding the disaffection of Someșu Cald village from Gilău commune.*

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*** *The Decree-Law no. 38 from 22nd of January 1990, regarding the abrogation of Law no. 2 from 1989, referring to the administrative organization of the country's territory.*

*** *The Decision of Cluj County Prefecture no. 309 from 17th of October 1991.*

*** *Official Gazette of Cluj County, 2nd Year, no.3, October 1991.*