

**“BABEȘ-BOLYAI” UNIVERSITY, CLUJ-NAPOCA
FACULTY OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY**

DOCTORAL THESIS

**POLITICS, ADMINISTRATION AND
PARTY LIFE IN THE CLUJ REGION**

1945-1964

ABSTRACT

Scientific coordinator:

Prof. Univ. Dr. Sorin Mitu

Ph.D. Candidate

Romulus Călin Blanari

Cluj-Napoca

2015

Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
1. The methodology of research and the sources of documentation.....	3
2. The historiographical context.....	3
CHAPTER I	36
THE TAKING OVER OF THE POLITICAL POWER IN THE CLUJ REGION BY THE ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (R.C.P.) BETWEEN 1945-1947	36
I.1. Brief history of the territorial-administrative organization of the Cluj Region. Territory and population.....	36
I.1.1. The evolution of the territorial-administrative organization of Cluj county between 1918-1950.....	36
I.1.2. The ethnic structure of Cluj county between 1910-1948.....	46
I.1.3. The demographic evolution of Cluj county between 1910-1948.....	52
I.1.4. The evolution of the ethnic structure of the population of Cluj county between 1910-1948.....	54
I.1.5. The evolution of the territorial-administrative organization of Cluj Region between 1950-1968.....	56
I.1.6. The ethnic structure of the population of Cluj Region in 1956.....	59
I.2. The national and international political context (1944-1947).....	61
I.2.1. The evolution of international relations between 1936-1947.....	61
I.2.2. The establishment of communism in Romania between 1944-1947.....	72
I.3. The Cluj Region Organization of the R.C.P. and the mass-organizations subordinated to the Communists.....	80
I.3.1. The return of Northern Transylvania among the borders of Romania.....	80
I.3.2. Aspects regarding the evolution of the Cluj Regional Organization of the R.C.P. between 1945-1946.....	84
I.3.3. The relations of the Cluj Regional Organization of the R.C.P. with the mass-organizations.....	98
I.4. The parliamentary elections of November 19, 1946, in the Cluj Region.....	108
I.4.1. Preparations for campaigning.....	108

I.4.2. The first phase of the election campaign (June, 2 – August, 20).....	110
I.4.3. The second phase of the election campaign (August, 20 – November, 19).....	114
I.4.4. The election results of November 19, 1946.....	120
CHAPTER II.....	123
THE LOCAL POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES.....	123
II.1. The Cluj Regional Organization of the Romanian Workers’ Party (R.W.P.).....	123
II.1.1. The organizational structure of the Cluj Regional Organization of the R.W.P.	123
II.1.2. Aspects regarding the composition of governing bodies of the Cluj Regional Organization of the R.W.P.....	140
II.2. People's Councils of the Cluj region.....	163
II.2.1. The Organization and Functioning of the People's Councils.....	163
II.2.2. Aspects regarding the composition of the Executive Committee of the People's Council of the Cluj Region.....	182
II.3. Mechanisms to exercise power in the Cluj Region.....	192
II.3.1. The nomenclature of the Cluj Regional Committee of the R.W.P.....	192
II.3.2. The role of the Romanian Workers' Party in establishing the People's Councils. Study-case: the elections from December 3, 1950, in the Cluj Region.....	204
II.3.3. The political control over the People's Councils.....	215
CHAPTER III.....	224
ECONOMY.....	224
III.1. Industry.....	224
III.2. Agriculture.....	261
III.3. Commerce.....	277
III.4. Transportations.....	294
CHAPTER IV.....	308
SOCIETY.....	308
IV.1. Education.....	308
IV.2. Mass culture.....	328
IV.3. Health system.....	344
FINAL CONSIDERATIONS.....	361

BIBLIOGRAPHY	389
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	404
ADDENDA	407

Keywords: Cluj Region, communism, politics, administration, economy, society.

Introduction

Methodological and historiographical considerations

Since 1990, the Romanian historiographical research adopted, generally, the scientific principles of the Western democracy, but also maintained some characteristics specific for the prior period.

Thus, the historical reality was not always reconstituted according to objective criteria, but according to certain political interests and fleeting Western ideological influences, or simply on the basis of assumptions or subjective interpretation of various writers seeking to stand out by original and unique elements. Despite these shortcomings, there were published as well works of undeniable value that are placed in the category of the solid and genuine historiographical landmarks.

This work has been prepared in order to present the evolution of the Cluj region as a territorial-administrative unit between 1945-1964, a very little studied and known period, due to the low interest of researchers for local history. In an attempt to capture in a whole the most important political, economic, social and cultural aspects of the Cluj region during the aforementioned time slot, it was used a documentary base consisting of inedited and edited sources and editors. Since the building of any work that is intended to be prestigious in the field of historical sciences must be strongly built on original sources, the fundamental sources that served this approach are more than 80% of archive documents being in the custody of the Cluj County Direction of the National Archives, collected in the following main funds: R.C.P., Funds nos. 1 and 13; The Regional Direction of Statistics from Cluj, Fund no. 868; The People's Council of the Cluj region, Fund no. 219; The Cluj Enterprise of Vehicle Repairs and Transportation, Fund no. 1239; and The Cluj Enterprise of Vehicle Transport, Fund no. 1240.

Regarding the specialty literature, it includes works that deal with issues concerning the system of international relations between 1920-1947, the communist regimes in Eastern Europe and Romania between 1945-1947, Romania's territorial-administrative organization, and works that touch the topic of our thesis. In the latter category, most are monographs of the county and

the city of Cluj, the authors barely examining the history of the Cluj region as a territorial-administrative organization unit, as well as the doctoral theses, very few in number, which deal with singular, fragmentary themes, cut out from the overall view of the historical evolution of the region.

Chapter I

The taking over of the political power in the region of Cluj by the Romanian Communist Party (R.C.P.) between 1945-1947

Between 1936-1945, the evolution of the international relations was marked by strong tensions generated by the expansionist ambitions of the Great Powers which, finally, led to the outburst of World War II. The policies of the United Nations during the military confrontations, especially after the end of the hostilities, had a special impact on the European continent, whose countries have entered into spheres of influence of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., the two great powers which had decided the outcome of the war.

In Romania, the period between 1945 and 1947 was marked by the measures implemented by the Petru Groza government, in order to translate into reality the provisions of the political program, as well as the secret plan, designed to make the transition toward the socialist system and, in time, to the communist one¹.

The establishment in October, 24, 1944, of the military regime of Soviet occupation in northwestern Transylvania allowed the constitution in Cluj of the Regional Committee of the Communist Party from Romania, which has gradually extended its authority over the whole of Northern Transylvania, by creating and developing progressive party structures in the territories recently liberated from under the Hungarian occupation. Local organizations of the C.P. from Romania were created in the counties, the municipalities and nets and, in the same time, there were created party cells meant to include the communists from schools, clinics, hospitals,

¹ Ioan Scurtu, Gheorghe Buzatu, *Istoria românilor în secolul XX: (1918-1948)*, București, Editura Paideia, 1999, p. 511-512.

companies and neighborhoods, who had important roles in identifying political opponents, organizing the propaganda and recruiting new members².

In March 1945, the Cluj Regional Committee of the Communist Party from Romania comprised the counties of Cluj, Turda, Someș, Bistrița and Sălaj. In June, the authority of the Regional Committee extends over the county of Mureș, and in December the county of Sălaj was yielded to the Bihor Regional Committee. In May, 1, 1946, the county of Mureș passes under the newly set-up Mureș Regional Committee, and since June, 1, the county of Alba becomes part of Cluj Regional. At the head of this structure there was a committee made up of 23 members and a secretariat (regional bureau), made up of the political secretary and the officials for the four spheres: organizatoric, cadres, mass-organizations, political education (subsequent, there were added two more spheres, regional instructors and the peasant sphere, whose officials would become as well from the secretariat). This body had the function to transmit, monitor and control the execution of the plans and circulars issued by the Central Committee of the C.P. from Romania³.

In October, 1945, the Communist Party from Romania became the Romanian Communist Party, a political organization of the working class made up from proletariat, the peasantry and intelligentsia, whose final purpose was the achievement, in a first stage, of socialism, understood as a society free from „the exploitation of man by man”, in which individuals ensure their existence by an activity compatible with their psycho-physical possibilities and, in the second stage, of the communism characterized by the disappearance of social classes, based on the full unity of all the people⁴. The R.C.P. was led by the Central Committee at which functioned a Political Bureau, a Secretariat and a Board of Control. At the local level, there were functioning regional, districtual, county, net and sector organizations led by committees that chose from among themselves a Bureau, and from it, one or two secretaries for regional organizations. For the districtual, county, net or sector organizations, it was elected just one secretary, with the exception of the districtual or the county organizations of the more important industrial centers, which were entitled to choose one or two secretaries⁵. The whole political edifice rested on the

² Marcela Sălăgean, *Administrația sovietică în Transilvania de Nord: noiembrie 1944-martie 1945*, Cluj-Napoca, Fundația Culturală Română, 2002, p. 135.

³ Virgiliu Țărău, “Considerații asupra dinamicii interne a Partidului Comunist Român în anii 1944-1947. Studiu de caz. Județul Cluj”, *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie Cluj*, XXXV, 1996, p. 330.

⁴ *Statutul Partidului Comunist Român-1945*, București, Editura Partidului Comunist Român, 1945, p. 5-7.

⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 26-27.

party cell considered basic organization established in the factories and villages, neighborhoods, public and private institutions or their subdivisions. The cell had a minimum of three members and was headed by a desk or a secretary. Cells with more than 100 members would become organizations and would elect a Committee⁶.

The elections of November 19, 1946 represented an important moment which gave the Communists political legitimacy in the counties under the authority of the Cluj Regional Committee of the R.C.P. In power during the election campaign, the Communists and their allies have used all the means they had at their disposal to achieve victory, beginning with the apparatus of the state administration and ending with falsifying the elections. After reaching this goal, in the coming years they were able to move forward to communize legally⁷.

Chapter II

Local political and administrative structures

In February, 1948, by unifying R.C.P. with S.D.P. the Romanian Workers' Party was formed representing the unique party of the working class in Romania. With a structure based on the territorial principle and the place of production, R.W.P. had county, sector and grassroots organizations⁸. The entry into force of *Law no. 5* of September, 7, 1950, which divided the territory of Romania into regions, districts, towns and municipalities imposed the accommodation of the organizational structure of R.W.P. to the new administrative reality, the old organizations being replaced by entities created at the regional, districtual, city and local level. Thus, there were 28 such regional organizations including the Cluj Regional Committee; in September 1952, their number was reduced to 18, and in 1960 to 16 party regional committees.

The top management body of the Cluj Regional Organization of the R.W.P. was the Regional Conference, which had the powers to analyze the activities of the party, of the Regional Committee, of the Committee of Revision, of the People's Councils and the mass organizations, to identify and solve political, administrative, economic, social and cultural problems across the

⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 28.

⁷ Eugen Mioc, *Comunismul în Banat*, Vol. I, Editura Excelsior Art, Timișoara, 2007, p. 56.

⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 28-33.

region, to elect the Regional Committee, the Committee of Revision and the delegates to the R.W.P. Congress, to adopt measures to continually optimize the activity of the party⁹.

The Regional Committee was the body that, by its functions, would coordinate the entire activity of the party in the Region, ensuring the practical implementation of the decisions and directives of the CC and the regional conferences, the regional leadership of the party press, the political-ideological training of the members, the communist education for the working people, the selection and promotion of cadres, the finance and property management. In order to fulfill these tasks, the Committee would elect as an executive body the Bureau and would constitute the Party Board („Colegiul de partid”)¹⁰.

The Bureau had under its authority a helping executive apparatus composed of several sections, which oversaw the selection and the assignment of cadres, the providing of aid to the party organizations and the control of the execution of the decisions of the party and state bodies. The sections were led by heads of sections, assisted by deputies sectors, and had sectors composed of political activists and specialized technical staff. Each sector was led by a chief who would guide and control the activity of the sector¹¹.

The Party Board was a tool to check and control the way the provisions of the Statute on discipline and party morality were respected. At the request of the Regional Committee, the Board also had the duty to investigate misconduct by some party members, as well as to examine the appeals brought up by activists who challenged for various reasons the punishments applied¹².

The Committee of Revision would verify that the budget and the management of material assets of the party and how were examined and resolved the complaints of citizens and the applications submitted to the management bodies of the Regional Committee¹³.

On March, 6, 1951, the Cluj Regional Committee of the R.W.P. counted 40,077 members, serving in 1,248 grassroots organizations (604 in cities and 644 în villages) grouped

⁹ *Statutul Partidului Comunist Român-1965*, București, Editura Politică, 1965, p. 52.

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 53-56.

¹¹ Andrei Alexandrescu, *România 1945-1989. Enciclopedia regimului comunist: instituții de partid, de stat, obștești și cooperatiste*, București, Institutul Național pentru Studiul Totalitarismului, 2012, p. 452.

¹² *Statutul Partidului Comunist Român-1965*, București, Editura Politică, 1965, p. 46.

¹³ *Ibidem*, p. 47.

into eight district organizations (Aiud, Câmpeni, Cluj, Dej, Gherla, Huedin, Jibou, Turda) and two town organizations Town (Cluj, Turda)¹⁴.

After the territorial reorganization carried out by *Decree no. 331* of September, 27, 1952 there were crystallized new structures of the party in the new administrative units, that is, districts, towns subordinated to the districts and communities, and the leadership of the Region, especially the sections thereof, make some changes imposed by the need to simplify bureaucracy and reduce expenditures. In this regard, the restructuring of the leadership of the Regional Committee aimed only to reduce the number of employees, but not also of the committee members who were part of the nomenclature, which were remunerated at their jobs. The employees of the Committees were secretaries, heads of sections and sectors, their instructors and the maintenance staff. The members, the referees and the technicians of the Party Bureau were employed too, but this body would operate only regionally, and not at the district or the city level.

On February, 27, 1957, the Central Committee of the R.W.P. sent a circular letter in the territory on improving the organizational structure of the Regional Committees. Thus, the Cluj Regional Committee Cluj was required to have a number of territorial instructors proportionally to the number of the district and city committees subordinated. Some of the sectors from the sections of the Regional Committee were dismantled, and the sections of the district and town committees were utterly abolished. Their secretaries would lead directly a group of territorial instructors and would oversee all of the activity of the party organizations that these instructors were dealing with. Some district and town committees which had under their authority a larger number of grassroots organizations there would operate a number of three secretaries. The territorial instructors of the districtal committees of the parties had under their authority six or seven grassroots organizations and those of the town committees subordinated to the regional committees, had each 16 to 17 grassroots organizations. The number of the secretaries and workers of party committees and organizations from enterprises has been reduced to decrease the number of activists taken out of production¹⁵.

In December, 1957, the Cluj Regional Committee of the R.W.P. would comprise 14 districtal organizations (Aiud, Beclean, Bistrița, Câmpeni, Cluj, Dej, Gherla, Huedin, Jibou,

¹⁴ D.J.C.A.N., *P.C.R., Fond 13*, Dosar 71/1951, fila 25.

¹⁵ Eugen Mioc, *Comunismul în Banat*, Vol. II, Timișoara, Editura Excelsior Art, 2010, p. 98-99.

Luduș, Năsăud, Sărmaș, Turda, Zalău), 2 regional town organizations (Cluj, Turda), 9 districtual town organizations (Abrud, Aiud, Bistrița, Câmpia Turzii, Dej, Gherla, Năsăud, Ocna Mureș, Zalău),¹⁶ 13 party organizations in enterprises and institutions, 254 communal party organizations, 2,532 grassroots organizations and workshop/ section organizations entitled to be considered grassroots organizations, 43,910 party members and 6,323 candidates¹⁷.

In 1961, after the administrative reorganization operated on 24 December of the previous year, the Cluj Regional Committee of the R.W.P. would integrate nine district organizations (Aiud, Bistrița, Câmpeni, Dej, Gherla, Huedin, Năsăud, Turda, Zalău), 2 regional town organizations (Cluj, Turda), 12 districtual town organizations (Aiud, Abrud, Bistrița, Câmpeni, Câmpia Turzii, Gherla, Dej, Beclean, Năsăud, Huedin, Ocna Mureș, Zalău), 21 party organizations in enterprises and institutions, 198 communal party organizations, 2,232 grassroots organizations and workshop/ section organizations entitled to be considered grassroots organizations, 52,858 party members and 7,815 candidates¹⁸.

The Decree no. 259 of December, 28, 1950, provided the legal framework for the organization and operation of the People's Councils, the local bodies of state power and the political basis of the regime of popular democracy. They would exercise state power throughout their territory according to the Constitution and the laws of the country and would organize the active participation of working people in the management of public affairs and the work of edifying socialism. The regional, districtual, town and village People's Councils were composed of deputies elected by working people for a period of 4 years, during which the deputies were directly responsible for all of their activities to the citizens who elected them. The deputies were required to make reports before the popular assemblies on the work of the People's Council they were part of and could be removed by voters before the deadline for which they were elected¹⁹.

The Executive Committees, the executive bodies and decisive bodies of the regional, districtual, town and village People's Councils were made up of presidents, vice presidents, secretaries and members elected by People's Councils concerned. The main task of the Executive Committees was to lead the economic, social and cultural development throughout the territory they were operating on, within the rights conferred by law. The Executive Committees were

¹⁶ D.J.C.A.N., *P.C.R., Fond 13*, Dosar 15/1957, filele 31-32.

¹⁷ D.J.C.A.N., *P.C.R., Fond 13*, Dosar 48/1957, filele 2-4.

¹⁸ D.J.C.A.N., *P.C.R., Fond 13*, Dosar 27/1961, filele 2-4.

¹⁹ *Decretul nr. 259*, Buletinul Oficial nr. 122 din 28 decembrie 1950.

directly responsible for their activity to the People's Councils that had chosen them, as well as before The People's Higher Councils and their executive bodies²⁰.

In 1951, in the Cluj region there were functioning the following People's Council: the Regional People's Council; the districtual Aiud, Câmpeni, Cluj, Dej, Gherla, Huedin, Jibou, Turda People's Council; the People's Council of Cluj, a city subordinated to the Republic; the People's Council of Turda, a town subordinated to the region; the People's Councils of Abrud, Aiud, Dej, Gherla, Zalău, towns subordinated to the district, in addition to 201 communal People's Councils²¹.

In September, 27, 1952, it was promulgated *Decree no. 331*, by which it was created a new administrative reform: in the Cluj region there were organized the following local bodies of the power of state: the Regional People's Council; 14 districtual People's Council (Aiud, Abrud, Bistrița, Câmpeni, Cluj, Dej, Gherla, Huedin, Jibou, Luduș, Năsăud, Sărmaș, Turda, Zalău); the People's Councils of Cluj and Turda, cities subordinated to the region; 9 People's Councils of the towns subordinated to the district (Aiud, Abrud, Bistrița, Câmpia Turzii, Dej, Gherla, Năsăud, Ocna Mureș, Zalău); 318 communal People's²². This administrative-organizational configuration was maintained, too, after the enforcing of *Decree no. 12* from 1956, stating that the number of the communal People's Councils has increased from 318 to 326.

Law no. 6 from March, 28, 1957, maintains the quality of the People's Councils as local bodies of state power in regions, districts, towns and communes, states again their primary role in leading the economic and cultural activity in the territorial-administrative units in which they were elected and their specific task points: the local development of industry, agriculture and trade; a judicious management of forestry assets; urban progress; development of education, culture and mass sport; the enforcing the law; the protecting of citizens rights; the public health protection; ensuring a decent living for the population²³.

The Executive Committees, the executive and the decision of the People's Councils were made up of president, vice-presidents and members, elected in session by the People's Councils from the deputies. The number of the vice-presidents and members was established according to the norms set by the Council of Ministers, and the secretaries of the People's Councils were

²⁰ *Ibidem*.

²¹ Valeriu Ureche, *Organizarea administrativ-teritorială a României: 1918-2006*, Timișoara, Editura Eurostampa, 2006, p. 179.

²² Valeriu Ureche, *op.cit.*, p. 185.

²³ *Legea nr. 6/1957*, Buletinul Oficial nr. 11 din 28 martie 1957.

appointed according to the norms set by the Council of Ministers. These secretaries participated in the work of the Executive Committee with advisory votes²⁴.

In December 1960 there took place a new administrative reform after which Bistrita, Cluj, Jibou, Ludus and Sărmaş districts were abolished. Their index of profitability, excluding the district of Cluj, was unsatisfactory, given that these districts had under their authority a small number of communes, in their territory there were no big industrial units or significant bases of raw materials and their residences were in underdeveloped rural areas, lacking secondary schools and hospitals that would serve the population related²⁵.

Between 1961 and 1967 in the Cluj region there would function as local bodies of the power of state the Regional People's Councils, the People's Councils of Cluj and Turda, cities subordinated to the region; the People's Councils of the towns Aiud, Bistrița, Cămpeni, Dej, Gherla, Huedin, Năsăud, Turda and Zalău, subordinated to the district; the People's Councils of Aiud, Abrud, Bistrița, Cămpeni, Câmpia Turzii, Dej, Gherla, Huedin, Năsăud, Ocna-Mureș, Sângeorz-Băi and Zalău, towns of districtual subordination and a number of 268 communal People's Councils.

Chapter III

Economy

The period of the socialist construction between the time slot 1950-1965 was marked by a strong development of the main industrial branches, a special progress being recorded in the sectors of machine building and chemistry, the first one being sustained by enterprises as *Unirea*, *Tehnofrig*, *Triumf*, *Metalul Roșu*, and the second one by economic units as *Terapia*, U.P.S.O.M. or The Chemical Factory from Turda. In the branch of machine building and metal processing, global production has increased more than 13 times and in the chemical industry, 11 ½ times. Impressive results are remarked in pulp and paper where there functioned the Compound of Pulp and Paper from Dej, the Paper Factory from Prundul Bârgăului and the Cartons Factory from Cluj, which in 1965 managed to achieve a global production of 886% higher than in 1950. At a

²⁴ *Ibidem*.

²⁵ Mihaela Cristina Verzea, *op. cit.*, p. 322.

level close to performance there stood the sector of logging and wood processing represented by forestry enterprises existing in all the districts of the Region, as well as the units of wood processing and industrialization of Dej, Gherla and Cluj. The development of this industry is underlined by the increase in global production by 747 percent in 1965 compared to 1950.

The 5th position in the ranking was owned by the sector of the construction materials which achieved a rise in global production of 671%. The raw material was provided mainly by the Cluj Mining Trust and by the Cluj Enterprise of Quarries and Gravel Pits, and the finished products were obtained in many specialized units, among the most important being the Cement Factory from Turda, the Factory of Tiles and Bricks Arieșul from Câmpia Turzii, the Terracotta Factory in Bistrita, the Factory of Refractory products from Dej and the Factory of Precast Concrete from Aiud.

Significant increases in global production achieved the sectors of glass, porcelain, tile (453%), by the contribution brought by the specific enterprises from Turda (the Glass Factory, *Electroceramica*) and Cluj (the Porcelain Factory) as well as the clothing sector (+428 %), where *Flacăra* Clothing Cluj enjoyed a special status.

The following places have been acquired by the following sectors: ferrous metallurgy, with an increase in global production of 327%; food, with an increase in global production of 191%; fur and footwear, with a global production increase of 155%; fuel, with an increase in global production of 152%.

The agrarian policies put into practice by the communist authorities had no beneficial effects on the development of main vegetable crops, given that, in the course of 15 years, they have generated 16% reduction in acreage and total production decreased by 1%.

Between 1951-1965, the area planted with cereals (wheat, rye, barley, oats, corn) diminished by 18 percent, as well as the areas cultivated with industrial (sunflower, sugar beet) and textile plants, which recorded losses of 2, respectively 61 percent. At the opposite end were the cultures of peas, beans and vegetables (potatoes, onions, cabbage, tomatoes), whose cultivated areas expanded 1% and 24% respectively.

In terms of total production, the grain harvest in 1965 reached only 90% of the amount produced in 1951, the vegetable for beans only 89% and the one of vegetables only 98%. A dramatic drop in production is found in the textile plants (-73%), unlike food production in industrial plants, where there was an increase of 54%, aspects illustrating that the party was more

concerned with providing raw materials for the development of food industry and less to the clothing industry, which was not a basic element of the regional economic progress.

The development of the movement of goods in the period 1951-1965 is illustrated both by the increase in the number of business units and the volume of retail food and non-food. Thus, while between 1951 and 1955, the socialist trade network extended with 561 units, between 1955-1959 a further 283 units were added, and in the next time slot (1959-1965) the number of units was increased further, reaching 3,311 units in 1965 (+54% compared to 1951). The strongest expansion is found in the network of the units for catering.

Regarding the evolution of the volume of sales of goods between 1951-1965, this was part of a growing trend, with a faster pace between 1959-1965 and 1951-1955 and slower in 1955-1959. Thus, if in 1955 the sales volume amounted to EUR 1.636 million Lei (186% compared to 1951), in 1959 it reached to 2,115 million Lei (234% compared to 1951) and 3,889 million lei (431% vs. 1951) in 1965. The highest amounts were collected from the sale of non-foodstuff, because their price was higher, but the biggest increases were recorded in the sale of food, in terms of demographic growth and, therefore, of a growing need of food for the population.

The dynamics of the volume of goods transported by road between 1955 and 1965 enrolled on an ascending course at a much faster pace than in the period between 1959-1965. If in 1959 the amount of goods transported was by 327% higher compared with 1955, in 1965 it increases more than 24 times, compared to the same reference year (1955). A similar situation is seen for transporting travelers by road, given that, compared to 1955, their number increased by 38% in 1959 and by 554% in 1965.

Finally, between 1955-1959, the road freight grew by 89 percent, plus other 1,066 percents achieved from 1959 to 1965. Similarly, the road journeys of travelers increased in 1959 by 38% compared to 1955 and in 1965 by 320%, compared to 1955.

The development of the road transport was accomplished in close connection with the industrial development, the main factor behind the profound changes occurring within the regional society of Cluj. The industry was the fundamental economic component which provided the material and technical basis indispensable for expanding the fleet, assured volume of goods that were to be shipped to various locations and offered travel, mostly to the people living in rural areas, which were to go to work in companies located in cities or in their outskirts. Without

industry, the transportation would not become an economic sector in the true sense, given that the activity in the sector would be carried forward with rudimentary means and in a very limited space.

Chapter IV

Society

The profound changes which affected Romanian society beginning with March 6, 1945, did not circumvent the educational sphere, whose evolution was strongly marked by the communist conception regarding the purpose of the educational system: the creation of the “New Man”, gifted with reason and free will, - a strong, energetic and disciplined man, who responsibility assumes the mission to build socialism.

Between 1950-1951 and 1965-1966, the number of children enrolled in preschool learning system increased by 72 percent, more rapidly between 1950-1951 – 1957-1958 and more slowly during following years. This continuous raise was sustained mainly within the urban environment, where the housewife model started to become anachronic, for the effort to build up socialism required as much labor force as possible, disregarding the tradition. In this new economic, social and cultural context, the city woman – forced to integrate into the workforce – was deprived of the possibility to raise home the children still little, a task that was gradually assumed by the socialist state.

In the general education system, in the year 1957-1958 were enrolled 6% more students than in 1950-1951. This insignificant growth is explained by the fact that, up until 1956, mandatory schooling was only 4 years, - reason for which many young students were giving up studies after finishing primary school.

In the mentality of the Romanian family, the success in life of an individual was not conditioned by the education received in the official education system, but by applying the teachings of elders and the wisdom acquired through personal experience. Moreover, the great majority of their parents had not had – in their turn – but only an elementary education and, consequently, the adults were not expecting that their children should surpass them from this point of view. It was only after the generalisation of the 7 years mandatory study in 1956, and

especially after 1961, when they introduced 8 years mandatory schooling, that the number of students enrolled in general education system began to increase, as the young generations were forced to conform to legal requirements.

The technical and professional learning system was tightly connected to the economical development of Cluj region. Thus, in 1950, when the industrialization process began – a process which could not be sustained without personnel with proper training – there were 27 technical schools that integrated 6,945 students and 49 professional schools with apprentices, in which were enrolled 6,985 students. Yet, as the objectives of the first five-year plan were met, the regional economy gradually reaching a certain development level and the need for specialists being progressively covered, - the need to prepare new cadres diminished and, consequently, it decreased both the number of technical and professional schools, and the number of those attending their classes. For instance, in the school year 1955-1956 there were still functioning 11 technical schools with 1,873 students and 24 vocational schools with 5,311 students.²⁶

Once the objectives of the second five-year plan were established, the regional economy resumed its development rhythm, giving technical and professional education a new dimension of growth, a tendency which will last until 1966.

Regarding the number of students enrolled in higher education, it constantly increased between 1950-1966, a growth which had several main causes: firstly, the evolution of the Cluj society required the presence of highly qualified specialists in all fields; secondly, the general education graduates did not have a proper training to be integrated on the labor market in the context of industrialization, being thus forced to attend higher education institutions in order to obtain a specialization diploma in one field or another; thirdly, it was much easier for the higher education graduates to occupy important positions in the party, than for those who only had graduated a medium or basic education level.

In December 1967, the National Conference of the R.C.P. decided to extend the limit of mandatory education to 10 years, to optimize the organisation of general and specialized high schools – the latter one in 1966, of professional schools for workers and foremen and to develop the evening and low attendance learning. The educational system ought to have all resources to

²⁶ *Anuarul Statistic al Regiunii Cluj-1960...*, p. 144.

ensure the training of the youth, the formation of its political, moral and spiritual profile, in agreement with the requirements of the socialist ideology.²⁷

After 1948, within the context of the beginning of building up the process to construct socialism in Romania, when the working class, in alliance with the working peasantry, under the guidance of the R.W.P.²⁸, came to govern the economical and political life of the country, the completion of cultural revolution represented an important desideratum of the communist regime.²⁹ The building of the socialist culture, as Lenin and Stalin stated, was directly conditioned by political activity, by socialist consciousness, by the cultural level of the masses and by their contribution to edifying the culture. This involvement of masses in the field of culture finds its expression in the Cultural Revolution, an integrating part in building up the socialism.³⁰

The process of enculturation of masses in the Cluj region was accomplished in a significant measure due to the efforts of the village teachers who, more or less constrained, helped through their activity to the socialist education of the peasantry and to transpose into practice the party decisions regarding the building up of a new society. In their turn, the directors of community centers, the cultural activists, the librarians, the officials with the study circles and the “red corners”, along with all others involved in the cultural field, have been persuaded by different means that their work is of extreme value, for it conditioned the orientation of the peasants towards integration in the collectivist structures of the agriculture and the socialist transformation of the rural life, according to the statements of Gheorghe-Gheorghiu-Dej: „The effort allocated to the socialistic change of agriculture became a central task of the party, the completion of which depends the final triumph of socialist regime in our country”³¹. Any form of opposition which manifested against this current would have been useless in the context in which the politics of the Romanian state were dictated by Moscow, and the Soviet Union was an international power which absolutely dominated Eastern Europe and was exclusively centered upon its own interest.

²⁷ Ștefan Bârsănescu, *Educația, învățământul, gândirea pedagogică din România: dicționar cronologic*, București, Editura Științifică și Enciclopedică, 1974, p. 166-167.

²⁸ P.M.R. (Partidul Muncitoresc Român, i.e. Romanian Working Party)

²⁹ *Instrucțiuni pentru intensificarea activității culturale-educative în lunile de iarnă ale anului 1951/1952*, București, Editura de Stat pentru imprimare și publicații, 1951, p. 3.

³⁰ *Ibidem*.

³¹ *Ibidem*, p. 20.

In November 3, 1948, through the *Decree no. 302*, issued by the Healthcare Ministry, there were nationalized all sanitary institutions that weren't property of the state, with their trade fund and all the obligations contracted with the purpose of their running. Thus, the state assumed the task to take care of the health of the entire population: preventing sicknesses, active and precocious diagnosis of diseases and their early treatment; the appropriate rehabilitation and reintegration in social life and, especially in the labor field of the former patients; the improvement and promoting physical and mental health of the population; the growth of the work capacity, the prolonging of life and active period.³²

To this end, the state elaborated the necessary legislation, the requirements and measures concerning food hygiene and the hygiene of the populated areas, meant to protect the health of community, the mother, children and youth, measures of protecting the work of employees in the factories, institutions, construction sites, and handicraft cooperatives. Moreover, the socialist state financed and guaranteed the fulfillment of tasks in the health department, in order to ensure the development of the health institutions and to endow their technical equipment, to ensure the proper functioning of the health-care network, the expansion of the gratuitousness of health-care and medicine, as well as the wages system of the medical workers.³³

Based on socialist views of public health, starting with 1950, in the Cluj region there was created a unitarian system of state and public measures to protect the health of the population, which was developed and consolidated under the state plan, in parallel with the progress registered in the economical field³⁴. Despite its shortcomings, the medical system significantly contributed to the improvement of the psycho-physical health condition of the citizens living in the urban area and especially in the rural environment, and influenced in a positive sense the demographic evolution, by expanding the life expectation of the inhabitants and by reducing the infant death rate. The communist regime needed individuals gifted with a great work capacity and stress resistance, to be efficiently involved in the production process, to ensure the economic development in a proper manner and to apply the politics of the state and of the party.

³²Theodor Ilea, *Sănătatea publică în mediul rural*, București, Editura Medicală, 1964, p. 29.

³³ *Ibidem*, p. 30.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 28.

Final considerations

The political regime established in Romania and, implicitly in the Cluj county after the elections in November 1946, generated substantial changes at all society levels. At the socio-economical level there was made important progress, but in the cultural and spiritual area it began a slow – yet certain – process of alienation of the human being, provided that man began to be perceived as a simple instrument for accomplishing the political agenda and by no means as a purpose in itself.