

CRONO-SPATIAL REPARTITION OF VOTE PRESENCE TO THE ELECTIONS FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (1979-2007)

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Abstract: The crono-spatial distribution of the presence of the electorate to vote in the elections for the European Parliament highlights features both nationally and throughout the European Communities (since 1992 - the European Union). Thus, the backdrop of successive enlargement of the EC / EU, noting a decrease in the presence of the vote share of the electorate, but also the maintenance of areas with the constant presence at high vote (Italy), and partly due to compulsory voting (Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece).

Keywords: vote presence, elections for the European Parliament, the European Parliament, compulsory voting, enlargement of the European Union

PROBLEMATIC

As regards the presentation of the division of space-time presence at the vote, was concerned about us as problematic, reflecting the evolution and spatial distribution presence to the vote in elections for the European Parliament of voters in EU countries.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology used to working under consideration:

- Collecting and processing statistical information using as sources, in particular sites with data election of the European Parliament and the Member States;
- Realization of the database (1979-2004/2007);
- Gross fund belongs ESPON map, each polygon, representing Member States and having a code identical to that used in Microsoft Excel file with the data (using the data file saved with an *. txt);
- Maps were made using Philcarto;
- AI each file, so processed, was then imported into the CorelDraw, where he was treated until the final;
- Fund map and colors used to represent the presence of vote respects the same scale;
- these files CorelDraw were exported as images with a *. jpg, where there can be inserted into files in Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint or PDF.

CRONO-SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION PRESENCE TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (1979-2007)

The first European Parliament elections held June 7-10 in 1979, have meant a great enthusiasm and as regards participation in the vote. Thus, the average of the 10 Member States (including Greece, became a member in 1981) is the situation at 63 %. Only voters Danish and the British were presented in

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proportion to the vote less than 50 %. The highest registered values are in Belgium and Luxembourg, where, but the vote is compulsory. Since accession, Greek voters were presented in large numbers to vote (here and there, but the obligation to vote), they are adding Italian electorate, which is very responsible in this regard (figures 1 and 2).

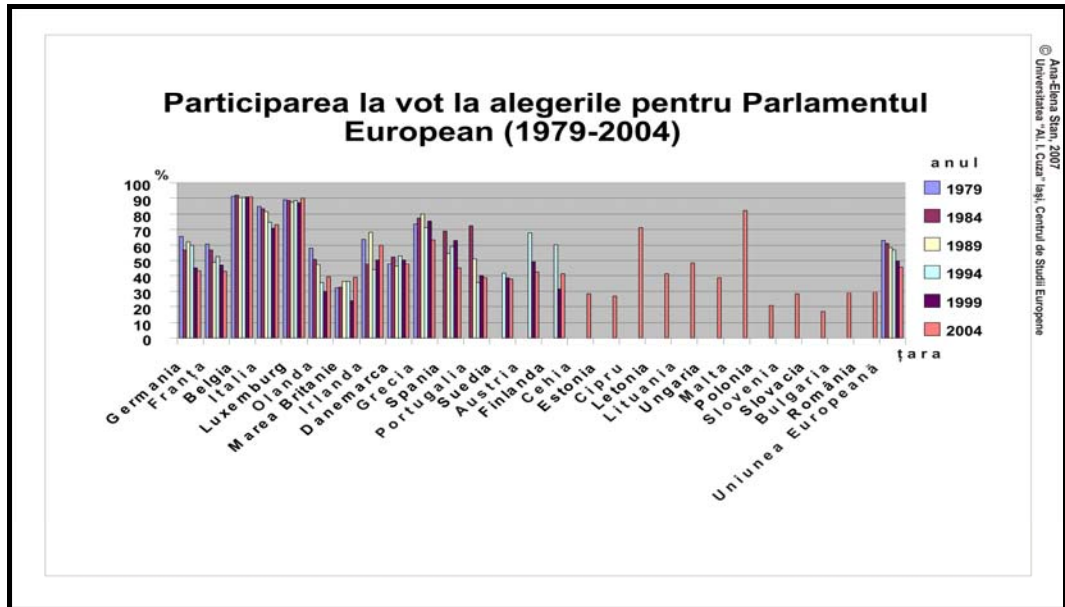


Fig. 1 Participation in the vote in European Parliament elections (1979-2004)

Between 14 and 17 June 1984 were held elections for a new European Parliament. Enthusiasm electorate remained at high levels, 61 % of citizens voting rights presented to turnout. In this percentage was included and citizens of Spain and Portugal, countries which have conducted elections for the European Parliament after joining them in 1986. The highest registered rates are the same in 4 countries (Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece, Italy), and in recently entries iberic countries, while in Britain is maintained non interest to electorate towards these elections, adding to, with a percentage below 50 %, Ireland (Figure 3).

The following European elections were held during 15-18 June 1989. The rate in the presence of voting is maintained at levels high, 58.5 %, but maintained the descending trend. The values are the highest registered in same 4 countries, followed by Ireland, whose electorate became again interested in this poll. The weights are below 50 % maintaining in Britain, but were recorded in other states: France, Netherlands and Denmark (Figure 4).

Year 1989 can be considered a turning year in the history of post-war Europe due crash of communist regimes in Member Central and Eastern Europe after 1945 left behind "iron curtain". On the one hand, this has the momentum to the efforts of these states to approach the level of economy and democracy member states of the European Communities and, on the other hand, the start for the reunification of Germany¹.

¹ For objective reasons, fund map of figures 2-4 includes territory of the former German DR, built-in FR of Germany in 1990.

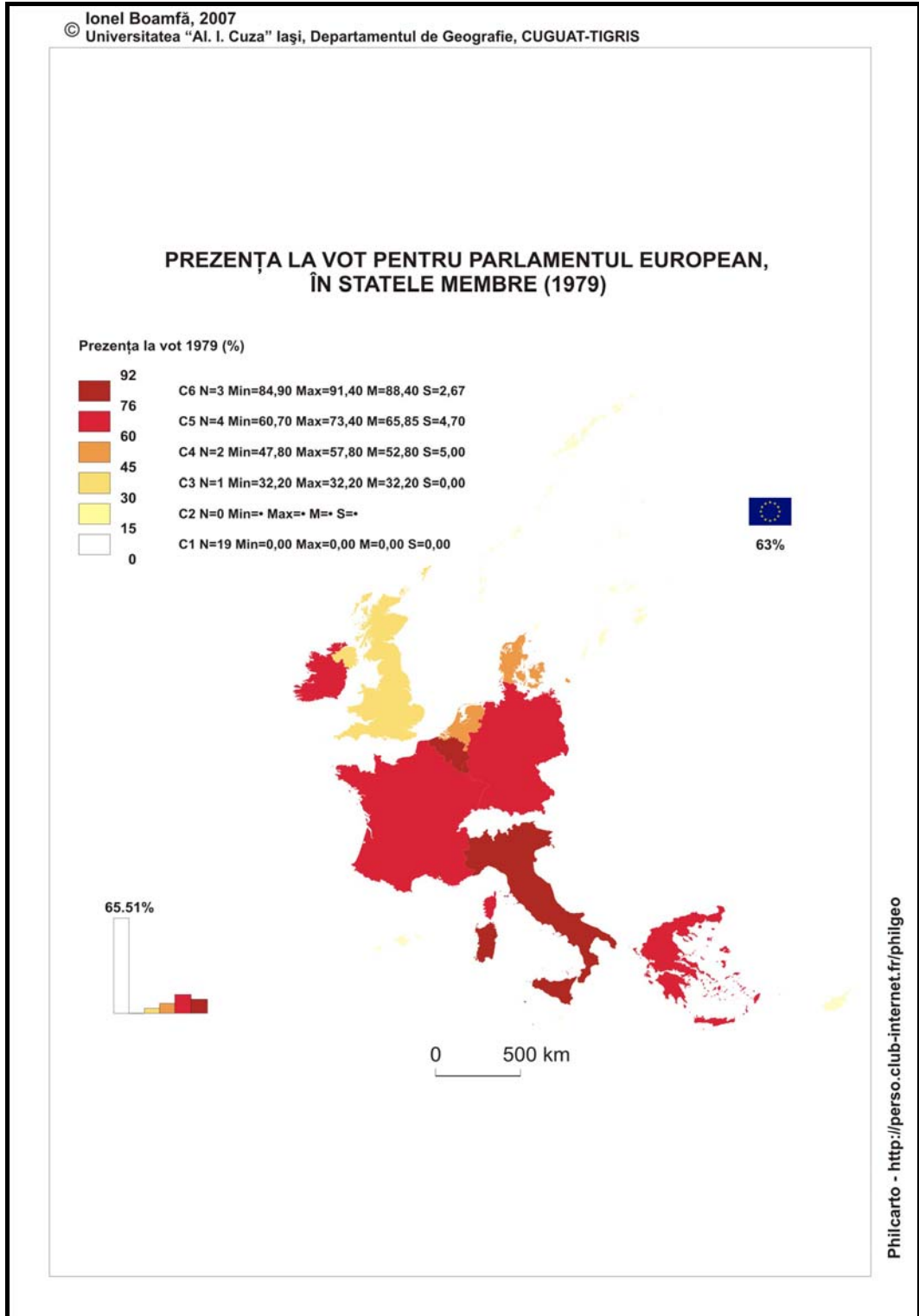


Fig. 2 The vote presence for European Parliament in the Member States (1979)

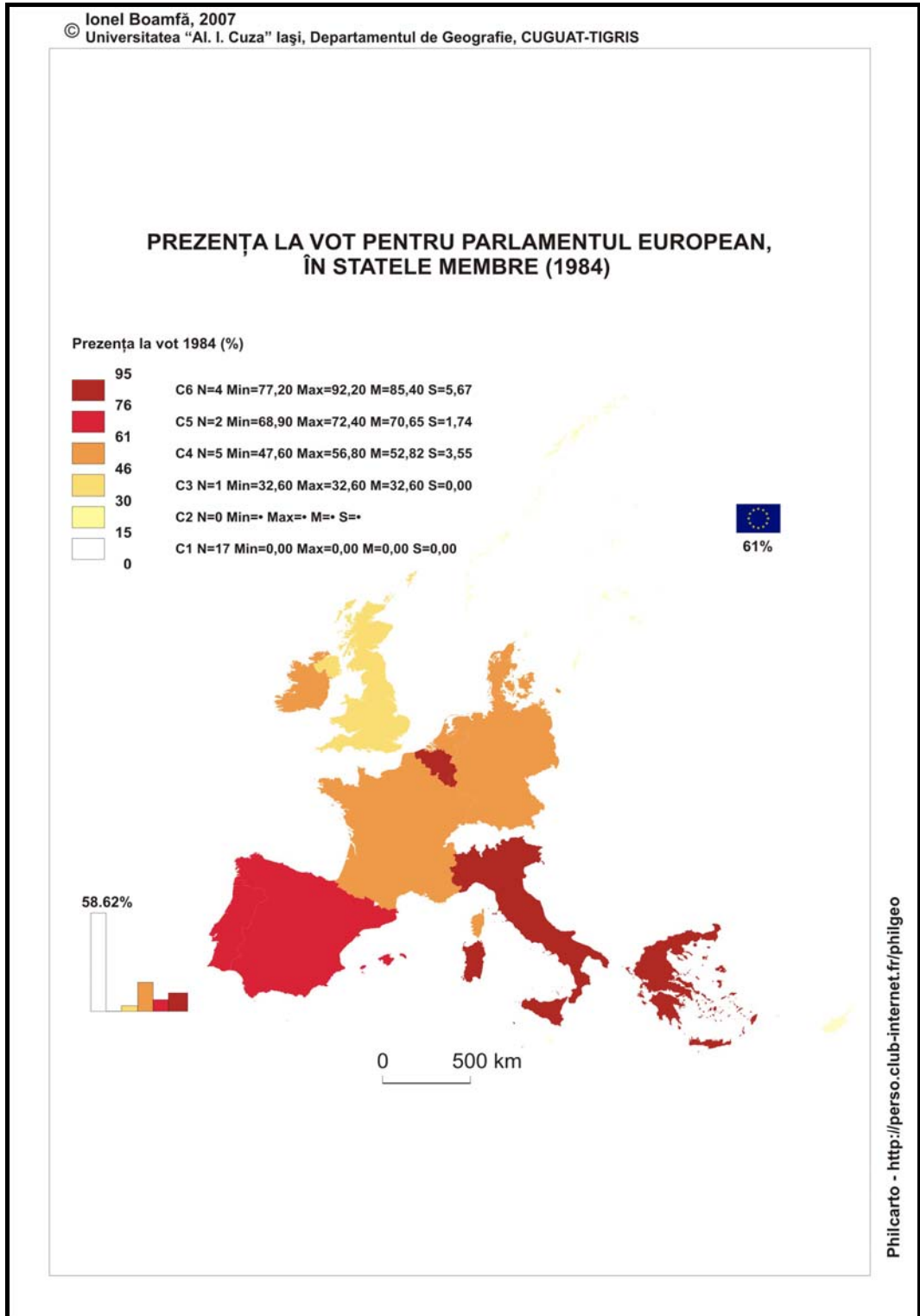


Fig. 3 The vote presence for European Parliament in the Member States (1984)

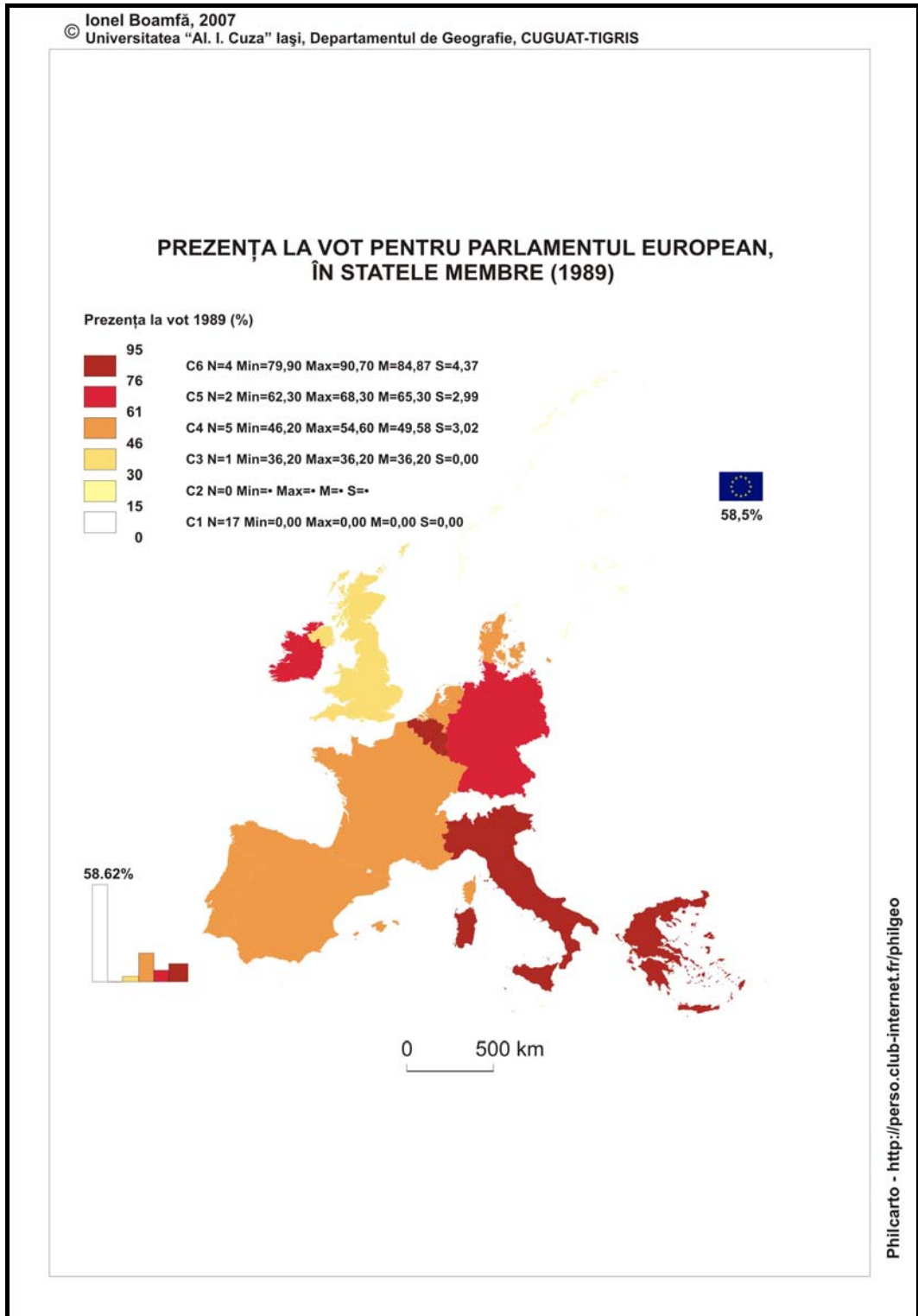


Fig. 4 The vote presence for European Parliament in the Member States (1989)

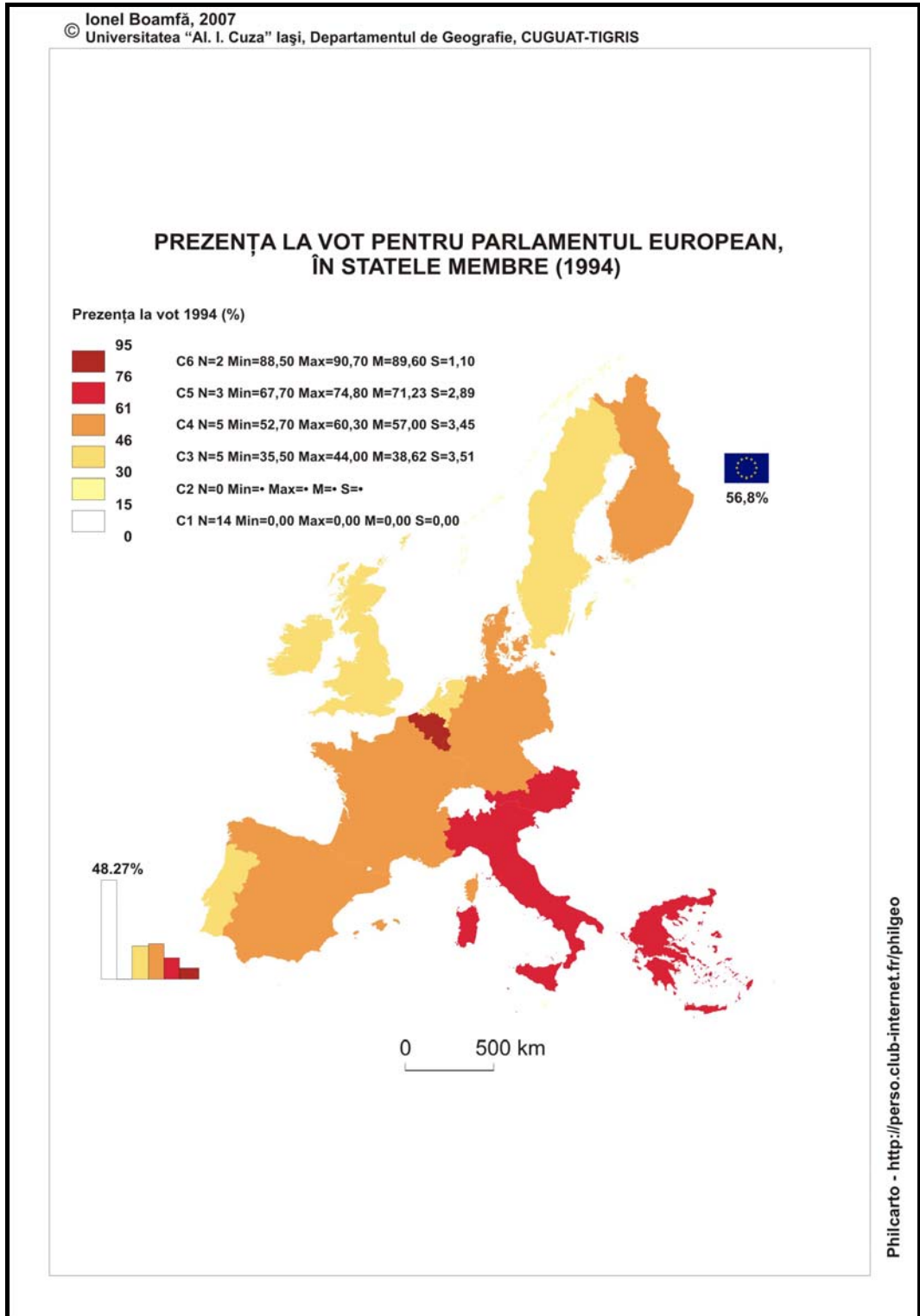


Fig. 5 The vote presence for European Parliament in the Member States (1994)

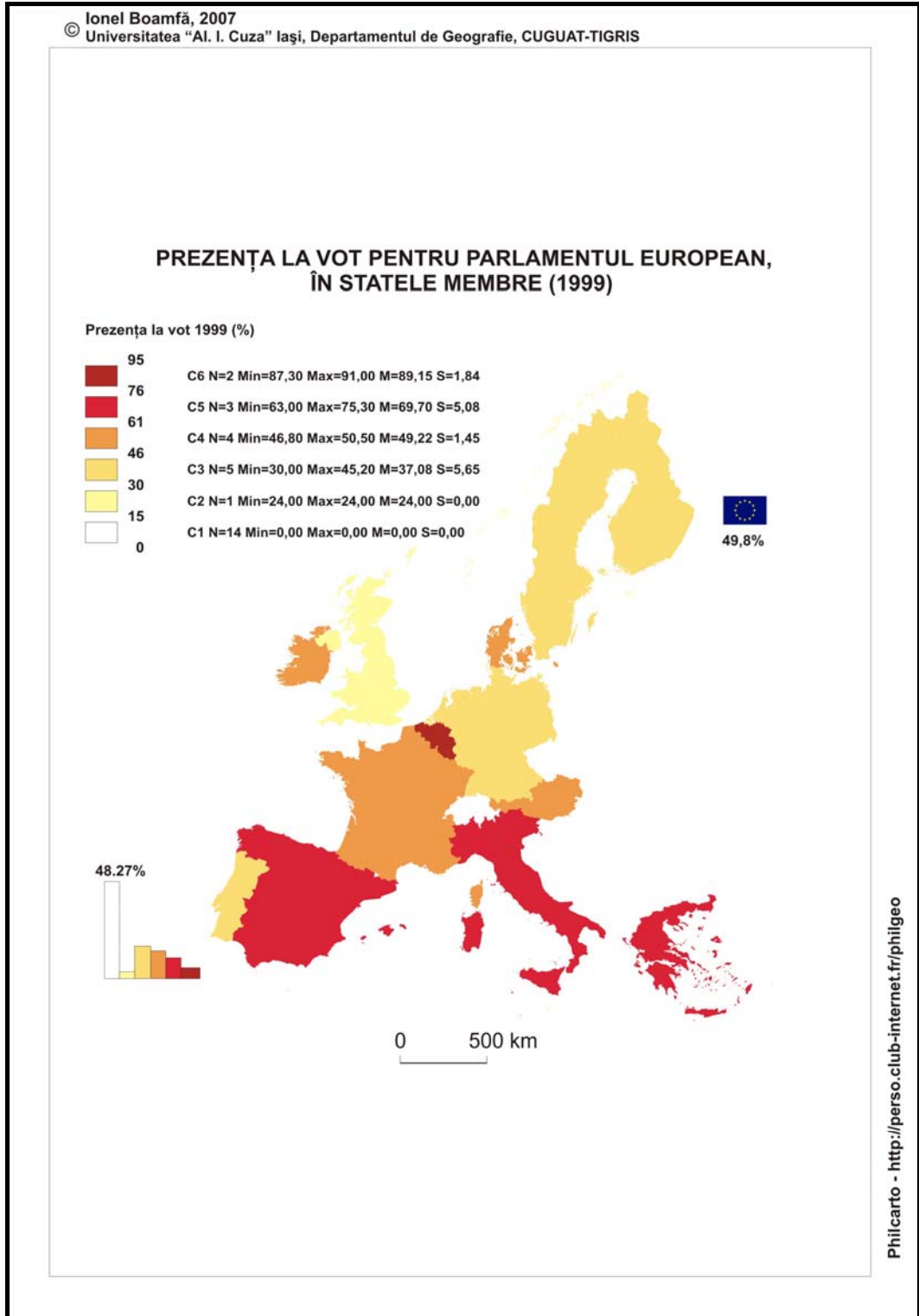


Fig. 6 The vote presence for European Parliament in the Member States (1999)

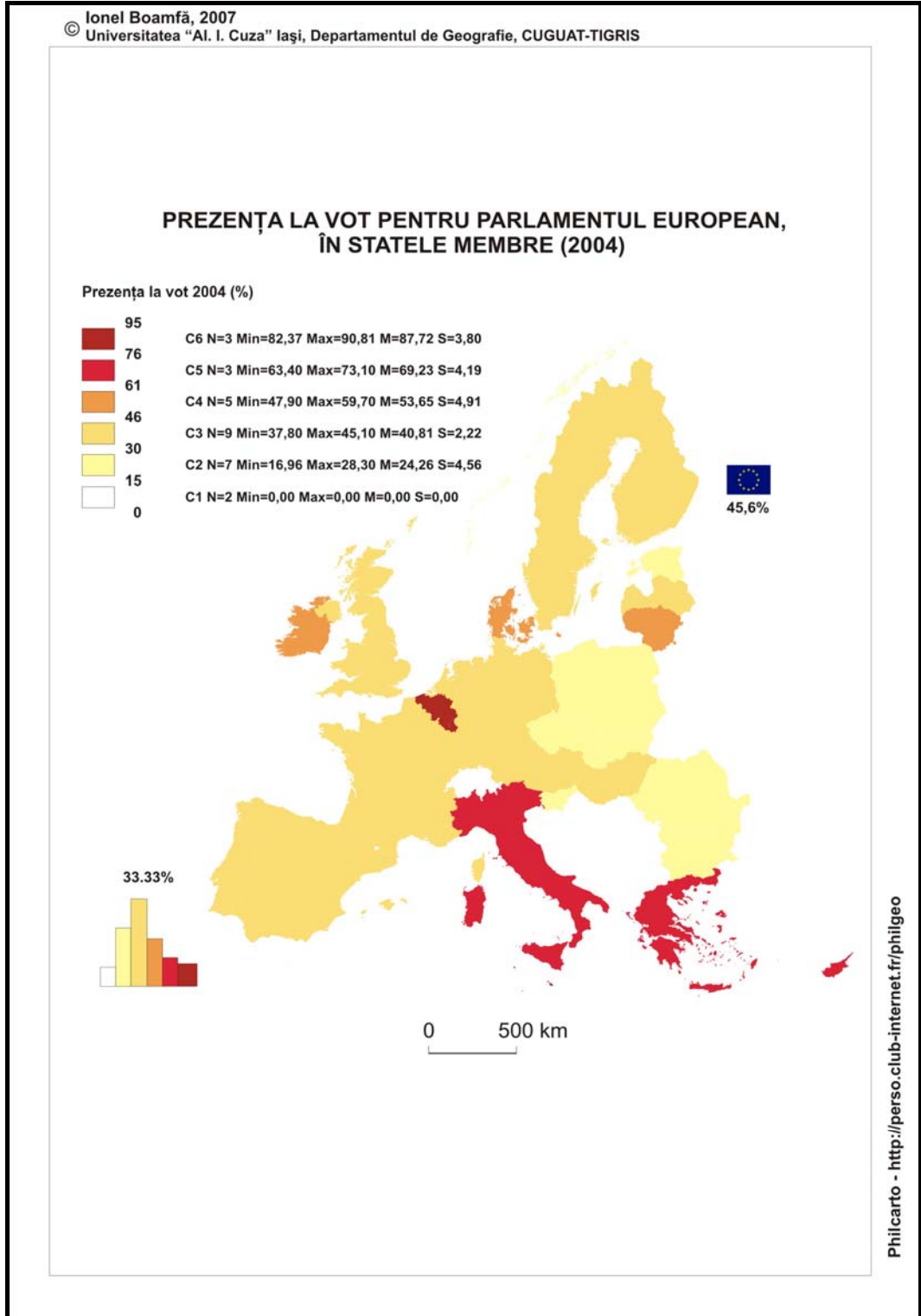


Fig. 7 The vote presence for European Parliament in the Member States (2004)

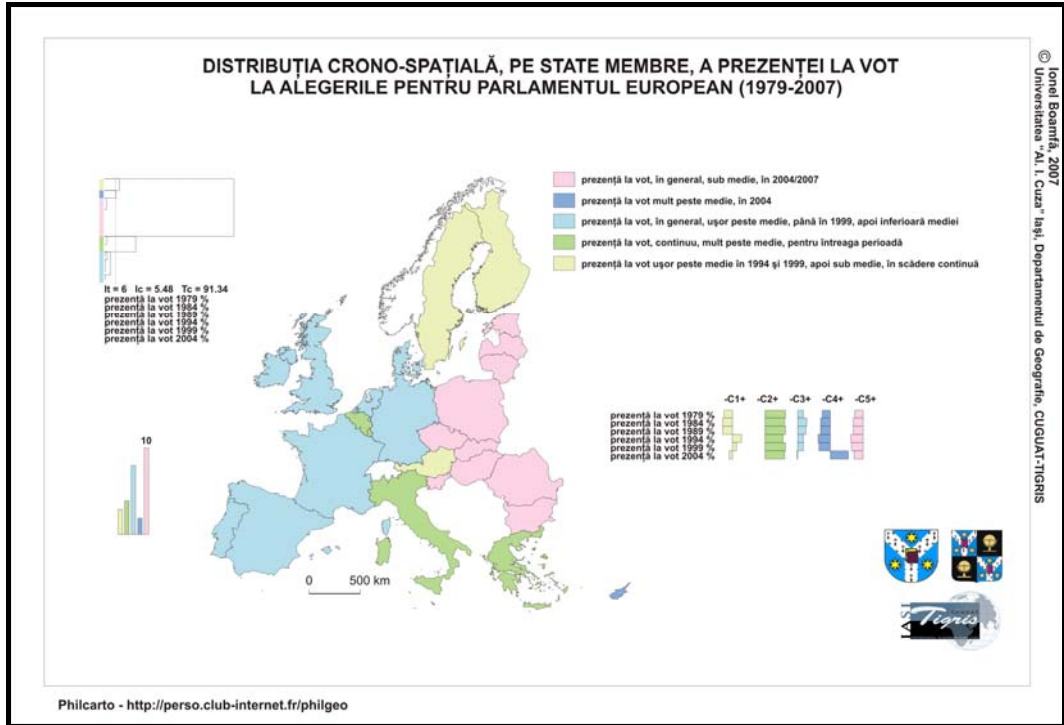


Fig. 8 Crono-spatial distribution, by the Member States, to the presence at the vote in European Parliament elections (1979-2007)

On 3 October 1990, by decision of leaders of the two post-war German states, former German DR has been incorporated in FR of Germany². On 7 February 1992 was signed at Maastricht Treaty on European Union³. Expanding its continued through the admission in 1995-1996, Austria, Sweden and Finland, in 2004 Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Malta and Cyprus, and in 2007 for Bulgaria and Romania.

Thus, European Parliament elections from 9-12 June 1994 were presented at 56.8 % turnout of voters Member States. Observe maintaining the same trend slightly negative. Again, the first states with regard to vote turnout were Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece and Italy. Instead, and the backdrop of a mild increase in the presence of the British electorate to vote, the last place is taken over by Portuguese voters, close to their percentage falling at the Dutch electorate. Very close we find, too, and the inconstant Irish electorate (Figure 5). Among the new entries Member during 1995-1996, Austrians and Finnish had a presence overseas to vote easily average European, while only the Swedish value exceeded 40 %.

The fifth European poll, conducted during 10-13 June 1999, and brought the first situation of vote presence at the 50 % vote, a percentage of 49.8 % for the 15 Member States. In leadership, the hierarchy has been preserved almost unaltered, is merely noted that the first 3 positions to the state electorate of the

² Until 1989, including data refers only to FR of Germany (without the so-called "eastern Laender").

³ European Communities prior to 1 November 1993, when the Treaty on the European Union was adopted.

countries in which the vote is mandatory, they were followed by Italy and Spain (Figure 6). With presence in the vote fewer than 50 % were the electorate in 8 states, in descending order they are: Austria (with an average very close to the European one), France, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands and Britain. The other two countries (Denmark and Ireland) have seen very little value over 50 %.

European ballot since 2004 took place between 10 and 13 June, with a presence in slight decrease in turnout, closer to that of 1999 (45.6 %). In Bulgaria, elections were held on 20 May 2007 and in Romania - on 25 November 2007. Only 9 states register values above average: Belgium, Luxembourg, Malta, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania and Denmark in the other register worth between 45.1 and 16 %. Last position was occupied by Slovakia (16.96 %). On the background of a modest presence at the voting electorate in numerous countries (Germany, Great Britain, France, Spain), capture small percentage of the vote in the presence of almost all Central and Eastern Europe, former communist. There would have been expected, taking into account the enthusiasm towards joining the European Union as a presence at the massive turnout to be. Probably, due to abstention and dissatisfaction against national political class, but as in the founding Member States that joined or above, and a lesser interest in European institutions. Have been taken into account and dates for the new Members Bulgaria and Romania, whose electorate had joined the general trend, states admitted to the Union in 2004 (Figure 7).

Conclusions

The vote in elections for European Parliament showed a continuous downward trend which will continue in the next decade, consistently above average were presented to voters to vote in Belgium, Luxembourg, Greece (where the vote is compulsory), and Italy Ireland, Austria and the Scandinavian countries have registered slightly above average share, which will see, and probably in the next 10 years, the presence, generally slightly above average, older members – and, it seems, and many state and Central – Eastern Europe – is manifested, in 2004, lower than the average values of the European Union (figure 8).

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