

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN HARGHITA, COVASNA AND MUREŞ COUNTIES (9TH DECEMBER 2012)

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Abstract: The study at hand intends to synthetically analyze aspects regarding the organization and the results of the 2012 parliamentary elections, for the designation of members of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, using Covasna, Harghita and Mureş counties as study cases, for the 2012-2016 time period. According to Romanian Government's Decision no. 888/1st September 2012, these elections were set on Sunday, 9th December 2012. The turnout was higher than the national average, the highest percentages being found in 21st electoral circumscription, Harghita County (44.34% of the total of 270,744 voters), followed by 28th electoral circumscription, Mureş County (41.62% of the total 484 889 voters), while 15th electoral circumscription from Covasna County registered a lower turnout than 39.38% of the total 185,680 voters. Taking into account the 5% electoral threshold for parties and 8% for alliances, solely one party, People's Party-Dan Diaconescu (PP-DD), one alliance - Right Romania Alliance (DLP+CDNPP+DF) and two unions, the Social-Liberal Union (SDP+NLP+CP+NUPR) and the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania, managed to fulfill the legal requirements to gain entrance in the parliament. The high percentage of Hungarians in the three counties meant that most mandates went to DUHR (three deputies and two senators, in Covasna; four deputies and two senators in Harghita; and three deputies and only one senator in Mureş). This region contains a total number of 29 lawmakers, out of which 17 deputies (4.1% of their total number), and 9 senators (5.1% of their total number).

Key words: deputies, senators, parliamentary elections, counties, parliamentary groups

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INTRODUCTION

Using the model provided by Gr. P. Pop, regarding the study of the 2008 parliamentary elections (Chamber of Deputies and Senate), I consider useful the in depth research of the results of the December 2012 parliamentary elections, using three counties as case studies (Covasna, Harghita and Mureş), with the highest percentages of Hungarians in the country. Just like in the previous

elections, deputy and senator selection was conducted through single vote, according to the proportional representation principle.

For the analysed area, 17 deputy colleges were set up (four in Covasna, out of which only two were set up during phase I; five in Harghita, with four seats assigned during phase I; and eight in Mureş, out of which only five were assigned in phase I) and 9 senator colleges (three in Covasna and two in Harghita (one seat each assigned in phase I), and four colleges in Mureş (two seats assigned in phase I).

The total number of listed voters was 185,680 in Covasna (out of which 183,321 on permanent electoral lists, 1,374 on suplimentary lists and 985 voters on special lists), while in Harghita, the total number of listed voters was 270,744 (out of which 267,755 on permanent lists, 1,767 on suplimentary lists and 1,222 on special lists). Mureş County had a total number of registered voters was 484,889 (out of which 479,309 on permanent electoral lists, 3,496 on suplimentary lists and 2,084 on special lists). Of the total number of registered voters in Covasna (185,680 people), the turnout was lower, in comparison with the other counties, that is 73,126 voters (39.38%), with 38.12% (70,783 people) being registered voters on permanent lists, 0.73% (1,374) on suplimentary lists and 0.52% (969) that voted on special lists.

In Mureş County, the turnout was slightly higher, of the total number of registered voters (484,889 people), 201,836 people turned out to vote (41.62%), 40.48% (196,307) being those who voted on permanent lists, 0.72% (3,496) on suplimentary lists and 0.41% (2,033) with the help of the special box.

The highest turnout was registered in Harghita County, of the total number of registered voters (270,744 people), 44.34%, (120,057) turned out to vote, with 43.24% (117,080) on permanent lists, 0.65% (1,767) on suplimentary lists and 0.44% (1,210 people) on special lists. In general, rural areas had a higher turnout than urban areas.

The total number of votes obtained by all parties registered in the *Unique Party Nomenclature* (alliances, associations, communities, federations, forums, parties, unions, etc), in Covasna County there were 70,230 valid votes, for the Chamber of Deputies and 69,537 valid votes, for the Senate; in Harghita County, 116,084 valid votes, for the Chamber of Deputies and 116,410 valid votes, for the Senate; while in Mureş Counties there were 193,290 valid votes, for the Chamber of Deputies and 194,714 valid votes, for Senate.

ELECTIONS FOR THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

In regards to this topic, based on the data provided by the Central Electoral Bureau, I was able to view the results for the Chamber of Deputies, for the three counties mentioned above.

By analysing the data from table 1, regarding the number of seats assigned per political parties, citizen associations belonging to national minorities, political alliances and electoral alliances, in descending order depending on the number of valid votes, several aspects must be emphasized:

- in Covasna County, out of the total 70,230 valid votes, *DUHR* won most of them (57.46%), thus obtaining three deputy seats (*Markó Attila-Gabor*, no. 1 college; *Márton Árpád-Francisc*, no. 2 college; *Fejér László-Ödön*, no. 3 college) followed by *SLU* (14.30%), with one deputy seat (*Grana Horia*, no. 4 college), while *HPPT*, although claiming a high percentage of votes (15.40%), did not gain any seats, due to the fact that the party did not exceed the 5% threshold at national level;

Table 1. The results of the parliamentary elections of December 9th 2012 in the counties of Harghita, Covasna and Mureş, for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, per political party

Political party	Chamber of Deputies			Senate			Total deputies and senators
	No. of votes	%	No. of deputies	No. of votes	%	No. of senators	
DUHR	40,352	57.46	3	41,025	59.00	2	5
HPPT	10,812	15.40	0	10,907	15.67	0	0
SLU	10,046	14.30	1	10,961	15.76	1	2
PP-DD	2,936	4.18	0	1,791	2.58	0	0
RRA	2,819	4.01	0	2,783	4.00	0	0
Minorities	2,231	3.18	0	-	-	-	-
GRP	574	0.82	0	1,184	1.70	0	0
REP	460	0.65	0	886	1.29	0	0
Total Covasna	70,230	100.0	4	69,537	100.0	3	7
DUHR	82,814	71.34	4	83,097	71.38	2	6
HPPT	17,069	14.70	0	17,749	15.25	0	0
SLU	10,683	9.20	1	10,219	8.78	0	1
RRA	2,507	2.16	0	2,633	2.26	0	0
Minorities	1,744	1.50	0	-	-	-	-
PP-DD	724	0.62	0	2,712	2.33	0	0
GRP	405	0.35	0	-	-	-	-
PP	138	0.13	0	-	-	-	-
Total Harghita	116,084	100.0	5	116,410	100.0	2	7
SLU	74,398	38.49	3	75,263	38.65	2	5
DUHR	66,447	34.38	3	67,519	34.68	1	4
RRA	22,499	11.64	1	23,358	12.00	1	2
PP-DD	16,833	8.71	1	18,300	9.40	0	1
HPPT	5,610	2.90	0	7,153	3.67	0	0
Minorities	5,570	2.88	0	-	-	-	-
GRP	1,859	0.96	0	3,121	1.60	0	0
REP	74	0.04	0	-	-	-	-
Total Mureş	193,290	100.0	8	194,714	100.0	4	12
Total	379,604	100.0	17	380,661	100.0	9	26

DUHR = Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania; SLU = Social Liberal Union (Political alliance made up of the Social Democratic Party + the National Liberal Party + the Conservative Party + National Union for the Progress of Romania); PP-DD = People's Party-Dan Diaconescu; RRA = Right Romania Alliance (Political alliance made up of the Liberal Democratic Party + Christian Democratic National Peasants' Party + Civic Force); HPPT = Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania; PP = People's Party; GRP = Greater Romania Party; REP = Romania Ecologist Party.

- with percentages between 0.65-4.18%: *People's Party-Dan Diaconescu* (4.18% of the total number of valid votes), *Right Romania Alliance* (4.01%), *national minorities* (with their 18 representatives), acquired, in Covasna, a total number of 2231 votes, representing 3.18% of the total number of valid votes, while *Greater Romania Party* and *the Romanian Ecologist Party*, got less than 1% of votes, with 0.82% and 0.65%;
- in Harghita, the situation was similar to that of Covasna, from the total number of 116048 valid votes, *DUHR* won 71.34%, gaining four deputy mandates (*Korodi Attilia*, no. 1 college; *Kelemen Hunor*, no. 2 college; *Antal István*, no. 3 college; *Moldovan Iosif*, no. 4 college), while college no. 5, the northern part of the county, where, according to the 2002 census, Romanians had a majority of 62.3%, was won by *Mircea Duşa*, a *SLU* representative, with 9.20%;
- *HPPT* obtained percentages of 14.70% of the total number of valid votes, but did not manage to secure a seat; with percentages between 1-2% there were *RRA* (2.16%) and *national minorities* (1.47%), the rest of the

participants scoring below 1% (*People's Party-Dan Diaconescu*, 0.62%; *Greater Romania Party*, 0.35%; and the *People's Party*, with a single candidate, in college no. 5, obtaining just 0.13%);

- in the last county, Mureş, out of the total number of 193 290 valid votes, the relatively close percentages, in terms of ethnic structure (53.3% Romanians, and 39.3% Hungarians), according to the 2002 census, lead to a balanced situation in regards to deputy seats, the second, seventh and eighth colleges being won by *SLU* (*Buicu Corneliu-Florin*, *Chirteş Ioan-Cristian* and *Gliga Vasile-Ghiorghe*), with 38.49%, while the first, third and fifth colleges, being won by *DUHR* (*Kerekes Karoly*, *Kelemen Attila-Béla-László* and *Borbély László*), with 34.38%;

- special situations were found in the fourth college, where the deputy seat was awarded, after vote redistribution, to an *RRA representative*, *Urcan Ionaş-Florin*, who obtained 11.64% of the total number of valid votes, and in the sixth college, won by *Sefer Cristian-George*, also through redistribution, a candidate supported by the *People' Party-Dan Diaconescu*, with 8.71%;

- percentages of almost 3% were won by *HPPT* (2.90%) and *national minorities* (2.88%), while *GRP* took 0.96% and the *REP*, just 0.04%.

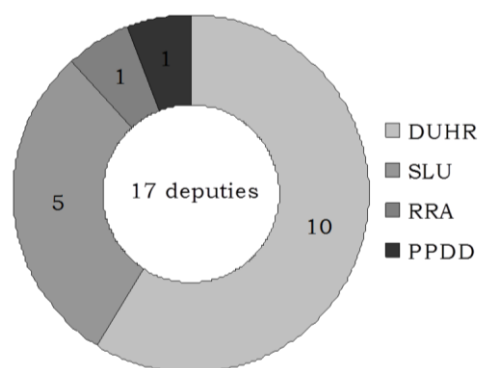


Figure 1. Deputy distribution per political parties at 9th December 2012 elections

According to the reglementations regarding the election of *the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate*, of 9th December 2012, the deputy number rose from 334 to 412 people, out of which 17 deputies (4.1%), are from Covasna, Harghita and Mureş, members of the two political alliances (SLU and RRA), and also of DUHR and PP-DD.

Deputy distribution per political parties at college level

Numerically, the presence of deputies from the above mentioned counties is determined by their population number, which is presented in table no. 2.

The number of inhabitants taken into account, at these elections, according to Law no. 35 of 13th March 2008, regarding the elections of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, paragraph 4, is taken from the 2002 census, since the data from the 2011 census were not yet published by the National Statistics Institute.

a. The deputies of the uninominal colleges of Covasna

In terms of deputy distribution per political parties at college level, in Covasna, one can observe the following:

Table 2. The list of candidates who received a mandate of deputy or senator, grouped per electoral circumscription and uninominal colleges

No.	Name of candidate	Political party	No.	Circ. name	Senate college	Deputy college	Total number of votes per college	Total number of present voters	Votes won	Assigned mandate	%
1	Markó Attila Gabor	DUHR	15	CV	-	1	21,461	21,947	11,297	1	52.64
2	Márton Árpád-Francisc	DUHR	15	CV	-	2	16,511	17,455	9,875	1	59.81
3	Fejér László-Ódón	DUHR	15	CV	-	3	17,462	18,210	13,018	1	74.55
4	Gramá Horia	SLU	15	CV		4	14,796	15,514	4,579	1	30.95
5	Klárík László-Attila	DUHR	15	CV	1	-	37,642	39,402	21,314	1	56.62
6	Obreja Marius Lucian	SLU	15	CV	2	-	31,895	33,724	5,953	1	18.66
7	Olosz Gergely	DUHR	15	CV	2	-	31,895	33,724	19,711	1	61.80
8	Korodi Attila	DUHR	21	HR	-	1	29,437	30,405	21510	1	73.07
9	Kelemen Hunor	DUHR	21	HR	-	2	20,231	20,948	16063	1	79.40
10	Antal István	DUHR	21	HR	-	3	26,279	27,069	19390	1	73.79
11	Moldovan Iosif	DUHR	21	HR	-	4	27,804	28,931	22005	1	79.14
12	Dușa Mircea	SLU	21	HR	-	5	12,333	12,704	5855	1	47.47
13	Tánczos Barna	DUHR	21	HR	1	-	49,830	51,353	37625	1	75.51
14	Verestóy Attila	DUHR	21	HR	2	-	66,580	68,704	45472	1	68.30
15	Kerekes Karoly	DUHR	28	MS	-	1	27,822	28,383	12209	1	43.88
16	Buicu Corneliu Florin	SLU	28	MS	-	2	29,530	30,279	11980	1	40.57
17	Kelemen Atilla Béla-László	DUHR	28	MS	-	3	23,606	24,959	13528	1	57.31
18	Urcan Ionaș-Florin	RRA	28	MS	-	4	24,386	25,472	4204	1	17.24
19	Borbély László	DUHR	28	MS	-	5	21,826	22,890	15925	1	72.96
20	Sefer Cristian-George	PP-DD	28	MS	-	6	21,632	23,014	3519	1	16.27
21	Chirteș Ioan-Cristian	SLU	28	MS	-	7	22,111	23,374	11572	1	52.34
22	Glîga Vasile-Ghiorghie	SLU	28	MS	-	8	22,377	23,465	13145	1	58.74
23	Pașcan Emil-Marius	RRA	28	MS	1	-	57,410	58,662	8,611	1	15.00
24	Markó Béla	DUHR	28	MS	2	-	46,028	47,849	30,144	1	65.49
25	Mora Ákos-Daniel	SLU	28	MS	3	-	46,430	48,486	22,536	1	48.54
26	Frățean Petru-Alexandru	SLU	28	MS	4	-	44,846	46,839	24,153	1	53.86

- Covasna County, with a population of 222,449 (according to the 2002 census), is represented by three DUHR deputies and one SLU deputy;

- *Markó Attila-Gabor* was elected deputy in the *no.1 uninominal college*, which encompasses the City of Sfântu Gheorghe, together with its component settlements (Chilieni and Coșeni), representing *DUHR*, with 11,297 votes (52.64% of the total number of valid votes), third position on the ballot, thus obtaining the first parliamentary seat. Currently, he is a secretary in the Permanent Commission for Human Rights, Religions and National Minorities;

- *no. 2 uninominal college*, comprised of 19 territorial-administrative units, was won by *Márton Árpád-Francisc*, *DUHR* deputy, with 9,875 votes (59.81%), member of the Commission for Culture, Arts and Media, member of the Rule Commission, and also of the Permanent Commission regarding deputies and senators Statute, and the organisation of joint meetings;

- out of a total of 9,875 voters, I would like to present, in descending order, the situation of gained votes for every settlement belonging to the second uninominal college, as following: Baraolt 15.5% (1,535 in absolute values), Bodoc 9.7% (961), Brăduț 8.7% (864), Valea Crișului 7.7% (762), Ozun 7.6% (760), Bățani 7.4% (734), Reci 6.2% (613), Arcuș 5.3% (524), Ghidfalău 4.7% (466), Micfalău 3.9% (388), Ilieni 3.5% (353),

Bixad 3.4% (338), Vârghiş 3.1% (309), Aita Mare 3.1% (309), Vâlcele 2.8% (279), Malnaş 2.7% (267), Chichiş 2.0% (198), Belin 1.4% and Haghigh with 0.7% (74);

- the third DUHR deputy, in the third *uninominal college*, *Fejér László-Ödön*, was validated with 13,018 votes (74.55%).

- the votes from the 14 territorial-administrative units comprising the college were as follows: the City of Târgu Secuiesc (together with Lunga) 30.0% (3,913), Sânzieni 11.5% (1,506), Turia 9.0% (1,172), Catalina 8.7% (1,138), Gheliţa 7.8% (1,019), Cernat 7.0% (922), Breţcu 5.0% (653), Ojdula 4.2% (559), Poian 3.6% (475), Mereni 3.6% (473), Estelnic 3.1% (405), Lemnia 2.9% (384), Dalnic 1.6% (209) and Moacşa with 1.4% (190);

- the fourth uninominal college of Covasna County, where there is a Romanian majority, was awarded, after vote redistribution, to a USL representative (more exactly *the Social Democratic Party*), *Gramă Horia*, elected with 4,579 votes (30.95%);

- the situation of the 11 territorial-administrative units of this college was the following: Întorsura Buzăului (also comprising Brădet, Floroara, Scrădoasa) 25.7% (1 177), Covasna (with Chiuruş) 19.6% (901), Sita Buzăului 16.1% (740), Barcani 12.6% (579), Zagon 9.4% (434), Dobârlău 6.3% (291), Valea Mare 4.3% (201), Zăbala 4.0% (186), Boroşneu Mare 1.0% (48), Brateş 0.2% (13) and Comandău with 0.1% (9);

- the deputy for this college is a member of the Commission for Economic Policy, Reform and Privatisation.

b. The deputies from the uninominal colleges of Harghita County

According to population size (326,222 inhabitants in 2002), this county is represented by four DUHR deputies and one from SLU.

At uninominal college level, the situation is as follows:

- uninominal college no. 1, was won, with an overwhelming majority, 21,510 voturi (73.07%) by *Korodi Attila*, from *DUHR*, which gained his second deputy term, being a member of the Commission for European Affairs;

- in terms of the percentage representation of the 21,510 votes from the 14 territorial administrative units that compose the college, the following situation arose: the City of Miercurea Ciuc (with Ciba, Harghita-Băi, Jigodin-Băi) 49.3% (10,625), Ciucsângeorgiu 6.2% (1,351), Vlăhiţa (with Băile Homorod, Minele Lueta) 6.1% (1,317), Sâncrăieni 4.8% (1,034), Sânsimion 4.6% (990), Lelicieni 4.2% (910), Plăieşii de Jos 3.9% (855), Lueta 3.5% (766), Sântimbru 3.4% (746), Cozmeni 3.1% (680), Tuşnad 3.1% (671), Sânmartin 2.7% (600), Păuleni-Ciuc 2.6% (572) and Băile Tuşnad (with Carpitus) 1.8% (393);

- the second uninominal college was also awarded to a *DUHR representative*, *Kelemen Hunor*, at his fourth mandate, with 16,063 votes (79.40%), out of a total of 20,231 votes in the entire college, him being appointed member in the Commission for Culture, Arts and Media;

- with two more territorial units than the first college, out of a total of 16,063 votes, the situation is as follows: Sândominic 12.6% (2,037), Lunca de Jos 9.3% (1,497), Ciumani 8.6% (1,392), Suseni 8.2% (1,330), Siculeni 7.9% (1,272), Cârţa 7.6% (1,232), Frumoasa 7.2% (1,166), Dăneşti 5.5% (885), Tomeşti 5.1% (834), Mădăraş 4.8% (774), Lunca de Sus 4.7% (755), Ciceu 4.6% (747), Mihăileni 4.1% (670), Racu 4.0% (649), Bălan 3.6% (583) and Voşlăbeni 1.4% (240);

- *the third uninominal college*, also won by a *DUHR* representative, *Antal István*, voted by 19,390 (73.79%), out of a total of 26,279 votes per college, thus ensuring his continuous presence in Romania's parliament, him being a secretary in the Commission for Industries and Services and a member of the Permanent Commission for UNESCO Relations;

- out of the total votes obtained by the candidate (19,390), we have the following situation: the City of Odorheiu Secuiesc 49.8% (9 664), Zetea 9.5% (1,845), Mugeni 6.8% (1,326), Dealu 5.4% (1 058), Feliceni 4.3% (835), Brădești 4.1% (796), Mărtiniș 3.7% (726), Satu Mare 3.7% (721), Căpâlnița 3.1% (618), Merești 2.4% (470), Vârșag 1.8% (365), Ulieș 1.7% (335), Dârjiu 1.6% (322) and Ocland 1.5% (309);

- the former secretary in the Communications Ministry, *Moldovan Iosif* won the fourth uninominal college, being voted by 22,005 (79.14%) of the voters, him being a member in the Commission for IT and Communications;

- the highest number of votes was in Gheorgheni (together with Covacipeter, Lacu Roșu, Vargatac, Visafolio) 18.2% (4,018), followed by Cristuru Secuiesc (with Betești și Filiaș) 12.8% (2 835), Remetea 12.1% (2,664), Corund 9.2% (2,027), Joseni 9.0% (1,986), Praid 8.1% (1,787), Lupeni 7.9% (1,739), Șimonești 5.1% (1,124), Porumbeni 3.9% (860), Atid 3.8% (851), Lăzarea 3.5% (786), Secuieni 2.6% (592), Avrămești 2.5% (572) and Săcel with 0.7% (164);

- after vote redistribution, *the fifth college (Toplița)*, in the northern part of the county, was won, for a third term, (started in 2004), by the sole Romanian deputy in Harghita, *Mircea Dușa*, a representative of *USL (Social Democratic Party)*, claiming 5,855 votes (47.47%), out of a total of 12,333 votes;

- the representation of these 5,855 votes from the nine territorial-administrative units is the following: the City of Toplița (with Călimănel, Luncani, Moglănești, Secu, Vale, Văgani, Zencani) 48.7% (2,854 absolute value), Sărmaș 13.5% (794), Tulgheș 10.1% (596), Bilbor 7.8% (457), Gălăuțaș 7.3% (429), Subcetate 362 (6.1%), Corbu 3.2% (192), Borsec 2.3% (139), and Ditrău with just 0.5% (32);

- *Mircea Dușa* is a member in the Commission for Public Administration, Territorial Planning and Ecological Balance, in the current executive, after being Delegate Minister for the Relation with the Parliament, followed by Minister of Internal Affairs and Minister of National Defence.

c. The deputies from the uninominal colleges of Mureș County

In Mureș County, eight uninominal colleges were designated (580,851 people, in 2002), the winner for the Chamber of Deputies *SLU* with 38.49% of the votes, more exactly 74,398 of the total of 193,290 valid votes, gaining three seats, while *DUHR* came second, with 34.38% of the votes, meaning 66,447 (three seats), while *RRA* gaining 11.64% of the total number of votes, that is 22,499 (one deputy seat, the fourth uninominal college), and *People's Party-Dan Diaconescu* with 8.71% of the total number of votes, meaning 16,833 (one deputy seat, the sixth uninominal college).

I would like to emphasize the following:

- *the first uninominal college (Târgu Mureș, with Mureșeni and Remetea)* is held by *DUHR* representative, *Kerekes Karoly*, who received 12,209 votes (43.88%), after vote redistribution;

- *Kerekes Karoly* has been a deputy since 1990, and is a member of the Commission for Work and Social Protection;

- *the second uninominal college*, corresponding to the same area, was also awarded after the redistribution of votes, but to a *SLU representative*, *Buicu Corneliu-Florin*, (SDP), with 11,980 votes (40.57%), secretary of the Commission for Health and Family;
- *the third uninominal college*, comprised of 16 territorial-administrative units, was won by *Kelemen Attila-Béla-László* (*DUHR*), with 13,528 votes (57.31%), deputy since 1996, vicepresident in the Commission for Agriculture, Forestry, Food Industry and Specific Services,
- the 13,528 votes were distributed as follows: Acățari 14.4% (1,960), Pănet 13.7% (1,855), Gornești 10.1% (1 368), Crăciunești 8.7% (1,181), Ceaușu de Câmpie 7.2% (983), Sânpaul 6.6% (905), Glodeni 6.0% (819), Gheorghe Doja 5.8% (795), Sântana de Mureș 5.6% (764), Sâncraiu de Mureș 4.8% (655), Păsăreni 4.8% (650), Cristești 4.7% (644), Mădăraș 3.1% (428), Voivodeni 1.4% (196), Ungheni (with Cerghid, Cerghizel, Morești, Recea, Șăulia, Vidrasău) 1.2% (165) and Șincai 1.2% (160);
- *the fourth uninominal college* was awarded after vote redistribution to an *RRA representative*, *Urcan Ionaș-Florin*, with 4,204 votes (17.24%), member of the Commission for Public Administration, Territorial Planning and Ecological Balance;
- for the 13 territorial-administrative units comprising the college the distribution of the 4204 votes was the following: Luduș (with Avrămești, Cioarga, Ciurgău, Fundătura, Gheja, Roșiori) 47.2% (1,987), Târnăveni (with Botorca, Bobohalma, Cuștelnic) 16.9% (714), Iernut (with Cipău, Deag, Lechința, Oarba de Mureș, Porumbac, Racameț, Sălcud, Sfântu Gheorghe), 16.3% (686), Chețani 3.8% (162), Ațintiș 2.9% (126), Cucurdea 2.8% (119), Bogata 2.7% (117), Cuci 2.0% (85), Adămuș 1.9% (83), Gănești 1.0% (43), Ogra 0.9% (42), Tăureni 0.5% (25) and Bichiș 0.3% (15);
- represented by 19 territorial-administrative units, *the fifth uninominal college* was won by *Borbély László* (*DUHR*), with 15,925 votes (72.96%), out of the 21,826 votes, deputy since 1990, president of the Commission for Foreign Affairs, minister in several governments (delegate minister, Minister of Transportation-2004-2007; Minister of Development, Public Works and Housing-2007-2008; Minister of Environment and Forests during 2010-2012);
- vote situation (out of 15,925), for the entire uninominal college, is the following: Sovata (with Căpeți, Ilieși, Săcădat) 14.6% (2,330), Sângeorgiu de Mureș 11.3% (1,803), Fântânele 9.3% (1,489), Miercurea Nirajului (with Beu, Dumitreștii, Lăureni, Moșuni, Șardu Nirajului, Tâmpa, Veța) 8.9% (1 429), Ernei 8.6% (1,372), Sângeorgiu de Pădure (with Bezid, Bezidu Nou, Loțu) 5.2% (841), Eremitu 4.9% (787), Neaua 3.7% (598), Ghindari 3.7% (593), Gălești 3.5% (565), Vărgata 3.4% (546), Corunca 3.3% (537), Bereni 3.2% (515), Hodoșa 3.1% (509), Măgherani 3.0% (479), Chibed 2.9% (462), Sărățeni 2.7% (442), Livezeni 2.3% (373) and Veța 1.6% (255);
- *the sixth uninominal college* (*Sighișoara*) was won after vote redistribution by a *PP-DD representative*, *Sefer Cristian-George*, with 3,519 votes (16.27%), member of the Commission for Work and Social Protection, and president of the Parliamentary Commission for the Revolutionaries of December 1989;
- the 15 territorial-administrative units (out of 3,519 votes) had the following vote distribution: Sighișoara (with Angofa, Aurel Vlaicu, Rora,

Șoromiclea, Venchi, Viilor, Hetiur) 33.0% (1,164), Daneș 8.2% (292), Bahnea 6.8% (242), Nadeș 6.4% (227), Albești 6.0% (213), Vișoara 5.7% (202), Mica 5.6% (198), Vânători 5.6% (198), Apold 4.4% (155), Suplac 3.5% (124), Zagăr 3.4% (122), Bălăușeri 3.3% (119), Băgaciu 3.0% (109), Saschiz 2.2% (80) and Coroisânmartin 2.1% (74);

- the seventh uninominal college, the largest of Mureș County (27 settlements) was won by *Chirteș Ioan-Cristian* (SLU), NLP representative, with 11,572 votes (52.34%), of the total number of 22,111 votes, member of the Commission for Agriculture, Forestry, Food Industry and Specific Services;

- the total of 11,572 votes, were distributed as follows: Sărmașu (with Balda, Larga, Moruș, Sărmășel, Sărmășel-Gară, Titiana, Vișinelu) 9.3% (1,080), Band 9.0% (1,052), Deda 8.6% (996), Batoș 5.7% (671), Lunca 5.6% (652), Ruși Munți 5.5% (648), Zau de Câmpie 5.1% (593), Vătava 4.5% (523), Fărăgău 3.9% (456), Valea Largă 3.5% (410), Sânpetru de Câmpie 3.2% (379), Sânger 3.0% (351), Săulia 2.9% (346), Grebenișu de Câmpie 2.9% (339), Miheșu de Câmpie 2.9% (338), Iclânzul 2.9% (337), Stânceni 2.6% (301), Râciu 2.4% (286), Brâncoveniști 2.4% (279), Crăiești 2.0% (232), Lunca Bradului 1.8% (219), Răstolița 1.7% (199), Pogăceaua 1.3% (158), Aluniș 1.2% (143), Băla 1.1% (131), Cozma 0.8% (93) and Papiu Ilarian 0.3%;

- the last uninominal college (no. 8) is held by *SLU*, namely *Gliga Vasile Ghiorghie* (SDP), elected with 13,145 votes (58.74%), of a total of 22,377 votes, a dignitary which was also elected for the 2008-2012 term, vicepresident of the Commission for IT and Communications;

- out of the 10 units, the highest number of votes was in Reghin 53.7% (7,069), followed by Ibănești 9.9% (1,307), Gurghiu 9.3% (1,233), Solovăstru 5.7% (760), Hodac 5.3% (697), Ideciu de Jos 3.9% (520), Beica de Jos 3.1% (420), Petelea 3.0% (398), Breaza 2.9% (387) and Chiheru de Jos 2.6% (354).

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS FOR THE SENATE

Of the total 176 senator seats, the three mentioned counties have nine seats (5.1%), with the following distribution: 5 (55.5%) for DUHR, 3 (33.3%) for SLU and 1 (11.2%) for RRA.

Senator distribution per political parties and administrative units

The territorial distribution of the nine senators, as representatives of the three analysed counties, is as follows:

- in Covasna, the turnout was 73,126 people (39,402 for the first uninominal college and 33,724 voters for the second college), out of which 69,537 were valid votes (37,642 votes for the first college and 31,895 for the second college), being won by UDMR with 59.00% of the total number of votes (41,025 votes, absolute value). The first college was awarded to *Klárík László-Attila*, (56.62%), member in the Commission for Regulations, Public Administration, Territorial Planning and Environmental Protection; in the second college, the voters elected *Olosz Gergely* (DUHR), with 61.80%, (vicepresident of the Commission for Privatisation and State Administration, and also member of the Judicial Commission, and member of the Validation Commission) and *Obreja Marius-Lucian* (SLU, NLP member), with 18.66%

(member of the Special Commission of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate for Parliamentary Control over the External Intelligence Service);

- in Harghita, both senator seats were won by DUHR, the turnout being 120,057 people (51,353 voters present in the first uninominal college and 68,704 voters in the second college), while the total number of valid votes was 116,410 (49,830 votes in the first college and 66,580 votes in the second college), awarded to *Tánczos Barna*, with 75.51%, for the first college (secretary of the Commission for Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development), and *Verestóy Attila*, with 68.30%, in the second uninominal college (questor in the Permanent Bureau and member of the Joint Commission for Parliamentary Control over the External Intelligence Service);
- in Mureş, there were four colleges, the turnout being 201,836 (58,662 for the first college, 47,849 people for the second college, 48,486 people for the third college and 46,839 people for the fourth college), with a total number of 194,714 valid votes (57,410 votes for the first college, 46,028 votes in the second, 46,430 votes in the third and 44,846 votes in the fourth);
- the first college was won (through vote redistribution) by the RRA representative (DLP), *Paşcan Emil Marius*, with 15.0%, while the second one by *Markó Béla*, with 65.49%, leader of the DUHR parliamentary group, senator since 1992, member in the Commission for Education, Science, Youth and Sports;
- the last two colleges (the third and the fourth) were won by SLU representatives, *Mora Ákos-Daniel* (NLP representative, third college, with 48.54%, after vote redistribution, member of the Commission for Budget, Finances, Banking and Capital) and *Frăţean Petru-Alexandru* (SDP representative, fourth college, with 53.86%, member of the Commission for Work, Family and Social Protection).

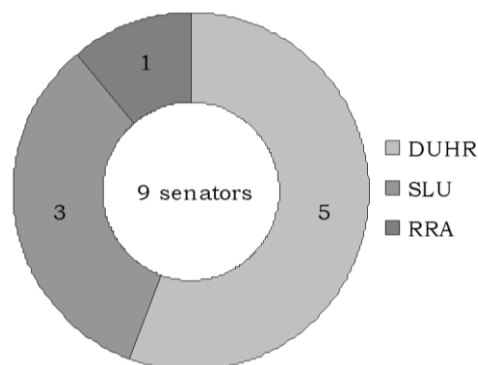


Figure 2. The distribution of senators per political parties at 9th December 2012 elections

CONCLUSIONS

In order to get an overview on the formation of Romania's Parliament for 2012-2016 time frame, for the three counties, some aspects must be emphasized:

- the number of registered voters, for the Chamber of Deputies, as well as for the Senate, was 941,313, out of which 395,019 voters (41.96%), and 760,265 valid votes, plus 18,625 null votes and 11,125 blank votes (table 1);
- carefully following the minutes regarding the voting results for the election of the Chamber of Deputies from 9th December 2012, DUHR

representatives of Covasna and Harghita held the no. 3 spot on the ballots, while in Mureş, no. 1 position; the SLU representatives of Covasna and Mureş held the no. 2 position on the ballots, while in Harghita the first one, RRA representatives, the no. 3 and PP-DD the no. 4 position, found only in Mureş;

- the same situation can be found at the Senate level: DUHR, no. 3 position on the ballot, in Covasna and Harghita, and no. 1 position in Mureş, SLU, no. 2 position in Covasna and Mureş, while RRA (solely in Mureş), no. 3 position;

- *the Chamber of Deputies* is represented by 17 deputies, out of which 10 (58.9%) are DUHR representatives, five (29.5%) from SLU, one (5.8%) from RRA and one (5.8%) from PP-DD;

- in the same conditions for result and vote redistribution towards the parties that reached the 5% electoral threshold, *the Romanian Senate* was constituted, the analysed counties being represented by nine MPs, out of which five (55.5%) are DUHR representatives, three (33.4%) SLU representatives and one (11.1%) from RRA.

The atypical character of the analysed electoral pool is due to the ethnic structure of the area at hand. If usually electoral campaigns are aimed at certain types of voters, I would like to bring forth a special electoral pool, the *ethnic electorate*, this category being a constant block of voters which will always vote solely based on ethnic reasons. This aspect is also obvious from the results of the presidential elections, when, during the first tour, Hungarians voted, almost exclusively, with the DUHR representative, while during the second tour, when the Hungarian representative was no longer in the race, their votes split in different directions.

Therefore, the result of the 2012 parliamentary elections is influenced by the ethnic component of the area. Even though, at national level, SLU won the elections with an overwhelming majority, the representatives of the Hungarian parties won the electoral race in the three counties mentioned above.

For example, in Covasna County, DUHR won 57.46% of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies, while HPPT obtained 15.40%, SLU 14.30%, the remaining votes going to other parties.

One might expect for Romanian parties to gain more votes in this region, but GRP only managed 1% of the votes. In Harghita County, for the Chamber of Deputies, DUHR won 71.34% of the votes, HPPT 14.70%, SLU 9.20%, RRA 2.16%, the rest of the votes being divided between the rest of the parties.

In Mureş County, SLU reached 38.49%, DUHR 34.38%, RRA 11.64%, PP-DD 8.7%, HPPT 3%, while other parties 2.88%. One must take into account the ethnic structure of Mureş County, comprised of 53.3% Romanians and 39.3% Hungarians, in contrast with Covasna County, where Hungarians have a percentage of 73.8%, while Romanians only 23.2%, and in Harghita County, with 84.6% Hungarians, while the Romanian population only reaches 14%, according to the 2002 census.

The electoral behaviour is determined by the candidates' discourse and their degree of implication, not to mention the work of the campaign staff. Regarding the parties representing the Hungarian population, DUMR and HPPT, the difference in votes is clearly determined by the former's experience on the political stage, HPPT being a new party, the sum of the percentages won by the two parties being the percentage of Hungarians in the area.

Romanians, however, divide their votes among the Romanian parties.

In Harghita and Covasna counties, they remain faithful to the Romanian deputies who also won in 2008, the voters cautious behaviour being caused by the political discourse and by mathematical calculations. If the votes are more and more divided, the chances for a Romanian to gain a deputy seat are smaller.

Thus, in the above mentioned counties, in 2008 as well as in 2012, one college per county was won by a Romanian politician, Mircea Duşa (SDP) in the fifth Harghita college and Horia Grama (SDP) in the second Covasna college.

A senator interacts less with the citizens than a deputy, during the term, as well as during the campaign, due to the larger geographical extent of the senatorial college, but also due to the citizen's degree of civic education who generally are interested in voting what they understand and what affects them more in their relation with the authorities.

Therefore, even though they will vote, especially in rural areas, they will elect the deputy, but will not show the same interest for the senator ballot, a phenomenon also noticed at local elections, where the election of the mayor will arouse the most interest, followed by the interest in the election of the local council, while the least interest is aroused by the county council and its president. Due to this circumstance, the senatorial colleges of Harghita and Covasna counties are held exclusively by DUHR representatives. One exception of the 2012 elections is that one electoral college in Covasna County was won by a SLU representative.

We can deduce that the turnout and the voting results heavily depend on education levels, on the implication of political parties in the electoral campaign, and also on population awareness, as well as on the ethnic structure, which means that the areas with a specific ethnic structure must be approached differently and analysed accordingly.

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