Abstract. This paper aims to highlight several mapping methods for the elections within European territory, whether for the European Parliament or national parliamentary polls. Generally, the spatial perspectives are given at NUTS 2 level or their equivalent for the countries that are not EU member states. The statistical databases used regarding the elections for the European Parliament were Eurostat's Annual Statistics Books for the years previous to 1989, the European Parliament's website for the following years and also the websites of the national election authorities. For the national parliamentary elections, the data sources were the national election authorities, the Social Science Data Services (NSD), Oslo, www.electoralgeography.com website and also the paper *Elections in Europe: A data handbook*, published by Nohlen and Stöver in 2010.

The purpose of the study is to emphasize particularities of the European electoral geography for the national elections registered after the Fall of the Iron Curtain (1991-2010). The data for national parliamentary polls were processed for five-year election periods: 1991-1995, 1996-2000, 2001-2005 and 2006-2010. This method was used in order to analyze the regions of each European country in the same election cycle but also to offer a comparison between all election periods. The data were processed in Microsoft Excel and then used in different methods of mapping: graduated
circles, thematic maps, hierarchical ascendant classification, principal component analysis and/or spatial distribution coefficients. Using several mapping methods allows observing the geographical features of the election process like the lower (gradually) turnouts in European Parliament and also in national general elections or the electors’ diversification of political options (especially in the East part of the continent after the fall of the communist regime). The combination between principal component analysis and hierarchical ascendant classification emphasized another conclusion of the study related to the correlations existent between the indicated variables (low turnouts and variation of political choices) and different social, demographic and/or economic indicators like population density, share of urban population, GDP per capita in PPS, employment rate, professional structure of the population, unemployment rate, etc.).

**Keywords:** european elections, national legislative elections, principal component analysis

### 1. Introduction

We intend to highlight the peculiarities of chrono-spatial distribution vote in European Parliament elections (turnout, european voters’ political choices) and the correlation of these politico-electoral variables with different social, demographic and economic indicators (population density, urban population, professional structure of the population, the share of the active population, unemployment rate, GDP per capita, including PPP, and so on). In the present study we selected as complementary variables, population density, urban population, rural population and gross domestic product (both unadjusted data and those calculated at purchasing power parity).

We highlight the geographic-electoral particularities to legislative elections at regional level to European countries after the fall of communism. The variables selected are the turnout and political preferences of voters in national elections, coupled with the same additional variables. Data are grouped at NUTS 2 level for Member States of the European Union and European Economic Area and to an equivalent level to other countries (Turkey, Croatia, Serbia – including Kosovo, Bosnia-Heregovina, Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia, Albania, R. Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Russia – European side, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan).
2. **Methodological aspects**

2.1. **Problems**

Among the problems noted, first, that by 2004, some electoral information was obtained difficult, which is why in some cases we had to resort to recalculations.

An important issue is the variability of administrative boundaries (Russian Federation, Czech Republic, Poland, Croatia, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark), which led either to aggregation (Russia) or recalculations in proportion to their administrative units detached or attached to existing divisions, for the comparability of data. If in the communist period Berlin was divided, if we treated the range considered data for the entire electorate of the capital of reunified Germany. In Romania we not use the developing regions, but the historical regions which are relevant to the community conscience, which we added as a separate division of Transylvania, the eastern part of this region, inhabited mostly by Hungarians, and Bucharest, with former county Ilfov (this to be able to compare data on the same level with the prewar and interwar periods). A change we made in Ukraine, where the districts of the Odessa region, west of the Nistru River (Bugeac) were taken separately, to see if this area has a different behavior of the rest of Bessarabia remained part of Moldova.

The difficulty or impossibility of obtaining detailed data they put us in a position to use for mapping the European Union NUTS 2 level for Member States and the candidate countries of the Balkans (Croatia, Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, including Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina) or their equivalent (Republic of Moldova), Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Belarus, Russian Federation – in these countries are the regional leve, considered equivalent to NUTS 2) or in the Caucasus, where each country is equivalent to this level (except autonomous administrative units – Adjara, the exclaves – Nakhichevan, or political breakaway entities Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Mountain Karabakh). Including Caucasian states in the area analyzed by us based on their belonging to the former Soviet Union on their status as members of the Council of Europe and the OSCE and the intention, at least declared, of their accession to the European Union.

Different dates of the election and the time intervals of the parliamentary legislatures (five years in some countries – Azerbaijan, Malta, Luxembourg, Transnistria, South Ossetia and Mountain Karabakh, but four years in most other countries), imposed, for comparability between regions, computation of statistics for all registered voters, turnout voters, votes cast, preferences by political families for equal periods of 5 years called five years period: 1991-1995, 1996-2000 2001-2005, 2006-2010. The recalculation was done by obtaining a weighted average that each parliamentary fragmentation meant that the number of weeks allotted electoral year period is equal to
(261), including the interval of 5 years from January 1 of first year of the five-year period to 31 December of the fifth. Political framing of formations (eg Polish Solidarity initially liberal but that developed a conservative party, the Czech Civic Forum, initially liberal but that Vaclav Klaus has developed a conservative party, dragging former NSF PD in Romania (now DLP), from social democracy to popular doctrine or the former Social Democratic Party of Slovenia, the Slovenian Democratic Party from social-liberalism to conservatism and others) were assigned the political orientation of belonging at that time. Some political parties have an orientation located at intertwining of political families: environmentalist-liberal (Politics can be different – Hungary), Christian Social (Christian Socialist-Liberal – Slovenia), social-liberal (Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatian People's Party- Liberal Democrats, Yabloko – Russian Federation), social-conservative (Party of Democratic Action – Bosnia-Herzegovina, People's Union "Our Ukraine") liberal-conservative (Democratic Party – Albania, Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria, Democratic Centre – Croatia, the Democratic Liberal Party – Romania, Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova), and so on, when we have taken into account their affiliation to the European political groups (in the case of those related to them) or international groups. Another problem is the existence of coalitions: either data were assigned to those belonging orientation to the dominant coalition formations or sometimes were distributed in proportion to the share of seats obtained by each party on political families belonging to these parties. Regionalist parties were included in the group of minorities (Croatian Democratic Alliance of Slavonia-Barania, Istrian Democratic Assembly – Croatia, the Party of Regions – Ukraine, Autonomous Democratic Movement-Party of Moravia and Silesia – the Czech Republic and others) to parties that have no clearly belonging to other formations were included.

Another problem is the political status recognized internationally for Kosovo, which were held both in Belgrade Parliament elections (boycotted by the Albanian majority in 1990) and the organized polls since the early Albanian majority 90s of last century, elections involving (in part), so the Serbian minority and other ethnic groups: Gorani, Gypsies, etc. Then we proceeded to sum data for each electoral period analyzed. Although not recognized as political entities, we have considered and treated separately, for strictly scientific point of view¹, the elections in

¹ Please note that in these cases, our choice is to respect internationally recognized status by the international community or most of it. Officially, Transnistria is part of Moldova, Abkhazia and South Ossetia belong to Georgia, and Mountain Karabakh is part of Azerbaijan. Also, for the period 1996-2000 we considered Chechnya as an independent political entity with which the Russian Federation signed a peace treaty in 1997, withdrawing its troops.
Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Mountain Karabakh\(^2\), Chechnya partially (temporarily detached from Russia in the last decade of the last century in this case, between 1990 and 2003, were not held elections organized by the Russian government, the only poll analyzed has that organized by independent Chechnya in 1997).

Conflict situation and/or refusal to participate in elections organized by the State that have emerged have made in some cases (Kosovo, Mountain Karabakh) for the years 1991 to 1995, to consider few weeks, for ballots in that range than the 261 weeks for each period of 5 years (Kosovo – 187, Nagorno-Karabakh – 212 weeks).

By applying the combination of ascending hierarchical classification and principal components analysis, the correlations established based on matrices containing coefficients of correlation is a generalization, the results should be viewed with caution.

Please note that all statistical information have been made in order mapping in percentage format.

2.2. Methodology

Working methodology includes two types of methods: information gathering, analysis, and interpretation respectively.

The first step was the introduction of electoral data in statistical database. The sources used was the Yearbooks of Statistical Office of the EC / EU (Eurostat) for both European election data (those from 1979 and 1984) and for those on other indicators (with information on the period before 1990), papers published by European Parliament (1989 elections), the European Parliament's website, the Eurostat website, Norwegian Social Science Data Services website (NSD) in Oslo, the paper published by Nohlen, D & Stöver, P (2010) – *Elections in Europe: A data handbook*, the website [www.electoralgeography.com](http://www.electoralgeography.com), national electoral authorities, the statistical database of CUGUAT-TIGRIS, personal calculations.


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\(^2\) This toponym fall in the group to which the so-called "partial translate" examples like *North Dakota, South Dakota*, translated by place names such as *Dakota du Nord, Dakota du Sud* or *Dakota de Nord, Dakota de Sud*. Given the fact that most of the mentioned administrative unit is not Russian, we avoided using the Russian version *Nagorno-Karabakh*, preferring partial translation using *Mountain Karabakh / Karabakh du Montagne / Karabahul de Munte*, etc.
In order mapping data were obtained on a percentage for the turnout data and for the weights obtained by each political family.

For mapping we used a background map based on the NUTS 2 level of European Union developed by EuroGeographics with our amendments.

Mapping methods used are the combination of ascending hierarchical classification and principal components analysis (for highlighting chrono-spatial evolution of turnout in European Parliament elections in the years 1979-2009, namely national elections in two decades of post-communist period and political choices of voters, and the spatial distribution of these options for each period of 5 years). Maps were made with the program Philcarto and were processed using Adobe Illustrator.

Please note that, as the correlation coefficients between the electoral variables and / or between them and other indicators analyzed, resulting maps highlight the main trends of the countries / regions listed, and not have an exhaustive character.

3. Peculiarities of electoral behaviour of the electors at the european and national legislative elections

We analyzed that geographical-electoral elements, turnout, or voter's political options, grouped under the political families$^3$ (left-right political spectrum) communist / far left, social democrats, environmentalists, agrarians / peasants, liberals / centrist, conservatives / Christian democrats, minorities / regionalist, nationalist / far right, other parties, independent. In the case of European elections we used the information by the political parties in the European Parliament$^4$.

$^3$ In the maps and the tables we used the abbreviations: Aleg prez % = voter turnout, Com/Extr st v % = communists/far left, Soc-dem v % = social democrats, Ecol v % = ecologists, Agrar/Taran v % = agrarians/peasants, Lib/Centr v % = liberals/centrist, Cons/Cr-dem v % = conservators/christian democrats, Min/Reg v % = minorities/regionalists, Nat/Extr dr v % = nationalists/far right, Altii/Neinser v % = other parties/non-inscrits, Indep v % = independents. All of the variables are in percentages of votes.

$^4$ In the graphic and cartographic representations we used the follow abbreviation: GCOMEU/GUE-GVN = Communist Group/European United Left/European United Left-North Green Left, GU = Left Union, GSPESD = Socialist Group Socialist/Party of European Socialists/Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in European Parliament, GVEPVEALE = Green Group/European Green Party/European Green Party-European Free Alliance, GAR = Rainbow Group, GGLDGLDR/PLDRE = Liberal Group/Liberal Democratic Group/Liberal Democratic and Reformist Group/Party of European Liberals, Democrats and Reformists/Alliance of Liberals and
3.1. European elections

In the 1979/1981 elections, turnout correlates with the Communists, Christian Democrats and other parties non-inscrits other formations and rural areas, characteristic for Italy, Greece, South East of Belgium and Northern Ireland.

Communists are correlated with turnout, Progressive Democrats, non-inscrits and other formations and rural areas. Socialists are about conservatives, urban and GDP per capita, situation common in the UK. Liberals and Democrats are correlated with Progressive Democrats, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). Christian Democrats are related to turnout, and rural areas and GDP per capita. Conservatives are correlated with the Socialists and urban areas. Christian Democrats are correlated with the communists and liberals and democrats. Non-inscrits and other parties are in connection with the turnout and the Communists.

Table 1

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</table>

In the 1984/1986 elections, turnout correlates with the Communists, the group Rainbow, Christian-democrats, right wing non-inscrits and other formations and rural areas, the situation is characteristic in Ireland, France and Italy. Communists are correlated with turnout, Christian-democrats, extreme right and the rural areas. Socialists are related to European Democrats and urban areas, situation recorded in the UK. Rainbow Group related to EPP, urban and GDP per capita (including PPP), the situation recorded in the Val d’Aosta, FR of Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland, Denmark. Liberals and Democrats are in relation to the European Democrats and urban areas. EPP correlates with turnout, the Communists, the Rainbow Group and rural areas. European Democrats are correlated with the Socialists, Liberals and Democrats, non-inscrits and other formations and urban areas. European Democratic Assembly correlate with the far right and the GDP per capita. The far right is correlated with turnout, Communists, European Democratic Assembly. Non-inscrits and other parties was in connection with the turnout, situation recorded in Northern Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Greece.
At the 1989 elections the turnout is correlated with the European United Left, Greens, Liberals and Democrats, EPP, urban and rural areas, which is typical in Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, FR of Germany, northern, eastern and southern Spain, Italy. European United Left is correlated with turnout, Rainbow Group, EPP and rural areas. Left Union is related with Liberals and Democrats, European Democrats Assembly, extreme right and...
the rural areas, the situation is observed in Portugal, central Spain and Greece. Socialists correlates with European Democrats, non-inscrits and other formations, urban areas and population density. Greens are related to turnout, Liberals and Democrats, EPP, European Democrats Assembly, far right, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP), a situation observed in France, Ireland.

Rainbow Group is correlated with the European United Left, GDP per capita (including PPP). Liberals and Democrats are in relation with the turnout, the Left Union, Greens, EPP and European Democrats Assembly. EPP is linked with the turnout, the European United Left, Greens, Liberals and Democrats, the far right and the rural areas. European Democrats are related with socialists, non-inscrits and other formations, urban areas and population density, peculiar to the UK, Denmark and France's extra-european units. European Democrats Assembly is correlated with the Left
Union, the Greens, the rural areas. Far right is correlates with the Left Union, Greens, EPP, European Democrats Assembly, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). Non-inscrits and other formations are related with the Socialists, European Democrats, urban areas and population density.

Table 3

At the next European elections in 1994/1996, turnout correlates with the Greens, the Liberals, Union for Europe, the rural areas and the GDP per capita (including PPP). European United Left is correlated with the Union for Europe and the rural areas. Socialists are correlated with EPP, urban and population density, a situation encountered in most of the United Kingdom, the former German DR, Attica, northern, eastern and southern Spain. Greens are related to turnout, liberals, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP), as recorded in Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, the former FRG, Austria, northern Italy. European Radical Alliance is linked with the Union for Europe, Independents for a Europe of Nations and non-inscrits. Liberals are correlated with turnout, Greens, Independents for a Europe of Nations, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). EPP is in connection with the Socialists, the situation is characteristic for Portugal, central Spain and most of Greece. Union for Europe is linked with the turnout, the European United Left, European Radical Alliance, non-inscrits and rural areas, situation characteristic for northern Scotland, France and most of Italy. Independents for a Europe of Nations are related with European Radical Alliance, Liberals and GDP per capita (including PPP). Non-inscrits correlated with turnout, European Radical Alliance, Union for Europe and the GDP per capita (including PPP). Other parties are not related to any variables analyzed.
In the 1999 European elections, turnout is correlated with the far left, the Union for Europe of the Nations, Technical Group of Independents and rural areas, situation found in northern Sweden, Ireland, northern Belgium, France and Italy. The far left is linked with the turnout, the Union for Europe of the Nations and rural areas. Socialists are related to the EPP and population density, situation observed in Portugal, most of Spain, Greece,
France's overseas regions, Northern Ireland, mostly to Germany and Austria.

Greens and regionalists are correlated with liberals, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP), situation recorded in Britain, southern Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, southern Sweden, Finland, some regions of northern Italy and of Spain. Liberals correlates with the Greens and regionalists, Europe of Democracies and Diversity, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). EPP are related with socialists. Union for Europe of the Nations is correlated with turnout, far left and the Technical Group of Independents. Europe of Democracies and Diversity is correlated with the Liberals, urban areas and GDP per capita. Technical Group of Independents correlates with the turnout, the Union for Europe of the Nations and the GDP per capita (at purchasing power parity). Non-inscrits
not related to any variables analyzed. Other parties are not correlated with any variables analyzed.

Table 5

In the penultimate round, in 2004/2007, turnout correlates with socialists, liberals, right wing and GDP per capita (including PPP). The far left is not related to any variables analyzed. Socialists are in relation with the turnout, the situation registered in Ireland, Northern Scotland, Wales, eastern and southern England, northern Netherlands, Denmark, most of Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, mostly to France, Northern Spain, most of Italy, Bulgaria and Cyprus. Greens and regionalists are related to urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP), situation found in southern Scotland, the middle part of England, Ile de France, a large part of the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, western and southern Germany, Berlin, central Austria, northern and southern Spain, capital regions of Sweden, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Greece. Liberals are in relation with the turnout, Independence and Democracy group, far right, and GDP per capita (including PPP). EPP-ED correlate with rural areas, feature specific for Northern Ireland, Portugal, most of Spain, north-western Italy, western, southern and eastern Germany, western and north-western Austria, Poland, Latvia, Slovakia, Romania, Slovenia, most of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Greece. Union for Europe of the Nations is related with non-inscrits and rural areas. Independence and Democracy Group is in relation to liberals, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). The far right is correlated with turnout, liberals and urban areas. Non-inscrits are connected with the Union for Europe of the Nations, other parties and rural areas. Other parties are related to non-inscrits.

\[\text{Table 5}\]
In the 2009 elections, turnout is correlated with the Socialists, Greens and regionalists, liberals and GDP per capita (including purchasing power parity), the situation recorded in Ireland, south-east Scotland, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Denmark, a great part of Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, northern, eastern and southern Spain, north
and west of Italy, Sicily, western Slovenia and Austria, and the capital regions of Hungary, Bulgaria and Greece.

**Figure 7**

The far left is connected with other parties. Socialists are related to turnout and EPP-ED, situation found in Lithuania, East and West Germany, Czech Republic, Vienna, Sardinia, Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Portugal, central Spain, eastern and southern Italy, eastern Austria and Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania, the largest part of Hungary, of Bulgaria and of Greece. Greens and regionalists are related with turnout, liberals, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). Liberals are correlated with turnout, Greens and regionalists, Europe of Freedom and Democracy, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). EPP are in relation to socialists and rural areas. European Conservatives and Reformists are in relation with Europe of Freedom and Democracy and population density, the situation is characteristic for most of the UK. Europe of Freedom and Democracy
correlates with the Liberals, European Conservatives and Reformists and GDP per capita (including PPP). Non-inscrits are related to the urban areas. Other parties are in relation to the far left.

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Table 7

3.2. National legislative elections

In the period 1991-1995, turnout correlates with Conservatives and Christian democrats. The far left is connected with other parties and independents, a situation encountered in Ukraine, east of Transylvania, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and most of Russia. The party is in relation to environmentalists, Conservatives and Christian democrats, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). Environmentalists are related with the Social Democrats, Conservatives and Christian Democrats, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP), situation characteristic of Iceland, southern Norway, Svalbard, Sweden, southern Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, the greater part of Germany and Switzerland, southern Poland, capital regions of Spain, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova, Serbia, Greece, Turkey and Russia, western Austria, most of Italy and Great Britain, France, northern, eastern and southern Spain cities St. Petersburg, Istanbul and Izmir. Agrarians are correlated with the Liberals, other parties and rural areas, this reality will be registered at the largest part of Norway, Finland, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Serbia, Greece and Turkey in Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Portugal and some regions of southern Switzerland, northern and southern Italy, a large part of Spain,
Wales, east Anglia, North Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland and some regions in southern Russia.

### Table 8

Liberals are linked to agrarians. Conservatives and Christian Democrats are related with turnout, the Social Democrats, environmentalists, population density and GDP per capita (including PPP). Minorities and regionalists are
correlated with other parties and GDP per capita (including PPP). The far right does not correlate with any of the variables analyzed. Other parties are in relation to the far left, the Agrarians and minorities and regionalists. Independents are in relation with the far left.

In the second period, 1996-2000, turnout is correlated with the Social Democrats, Greens, Conservatives and Christian Democrats, the far right and the GDP per capita (including PPP). The far left is connected with the Agrarians, other parties and independents, a situation found in Serbia, Eastern Slovenia, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, South Ossetia and Armenia. Social Democrats are in relation with the turnout, the Conservatives and Christian Democrats, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP).

Environmentalists are correlated with turnout, Conservatives and Christian Democrats, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP), reality feature for Iceland, southern Norway, Sweden and Finland, Svalbard Islands,
Southern Scotland most of England and the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, western and southern Germany, the Czech and Greek capital region, Austria, Switzerland, northern, eastern and southern Italy, Spain and France. Agrarians are correlated with the far left, other parties, independents and rural areas. Liberals are not in relation to any variable analyzed. Conservatives and Christian Democrats are in connection with turnout, Social Democrats, Greens and GDP per capita (including PPP), which is noted in most of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Romania, Czech Republic, Greece and Georgia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, East Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, much of France, Spain, Italy and England, Wales, Northern Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Portugal, Cyprus and Muslim-Croat Federation. Minorities and regionalists are correlated with rural areas. The situation is observed in eastern Transylvania, Republika Srpska, Turkey, Abkhazia and Azerbaijan. The far right is correlated with turnout, other parties and rural areas. Other parties are related to the extreme left, the Agrarians, far right and independents. Independents are in relation to the far left, the Agrarians and other formations and rural areas.

Table 9

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<tr>
<td>Green, % 1998-2003</td>
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</table>

In the period 2001-2005, turnout correlates with environmentalists, liberals, right wing and GDP per capita (including PPP), a situation characteristic of most of Finland, Latvia, northern Scotland, eastern England, Wales, Northern Ireland, western and northern France, northern, eastern and southern Germany, northern Netherlands, a large part of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Georgia, Greece, Italy and Portugal, Montenegro, Kosovo, Muslim-Croat Federation, northern Cyprus, central and northwestern Spain. The far left is connected with other parties. The Social Democrats is in relation to environmentalists, urban areas and GDP per
capita (including PPP). Environmentalists are correlated with the turnout, the Social Democrats, urban area and GDP per capita (including PPP).

Agrarians are correlated with rural areas, reality observed in Poland, French Guiana, Transnistria, Albania, Croatia and Belarus. Liberals are related to turnout, urban areas, population density and GDP per capita (including PPP), the situation was recorded in Iceland, Svalbard, Norway, Sweden, southern Finland, Latvia, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, western and southern Germany, eastern and southern France, mostly to England, Netherlands and Spain, southern Scotland and Ireland capital regions of Portugal, Hungary and Greece, north-western and southern Turkey, south Cyprus, western Slovenia, central and southern Italy, cities Moscow and St. Petersburg. Conservatives and Christian Democrats are in relation to GDP per capita (including PPP). Minorities and regionalists correlate with other parties and rural areas, reality
observed in most of Russia, Turkey and Moldova, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia, Eastern Slovenia, Republika Srpska, Serbia, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Northern Ireland.

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<th>Correlation</th>
<th>Confidence Interval</th>
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<th>Africa %</th>
<th>Latin %</th>
<th>Western %</th>
<th>Turnout %</th>
<th>GDP per capita</th>
<th>Social Democrats</th>
<th>Greens</th>
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<td>-0.639</td>
<td>-0.235</td>
<td>-0.191</td>
<td>-0.032</td>
<td>-0.154</td>
<td>0.872</td>
<td>0.457</td>
<td>0.987</td>
<td>0.823</td>
<td>0.363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social democrds 1995-2005</td>
<td>-0.984</td>
<td>0.374</td>
<td>0.808</td>
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<td>0.457</td>
<td>0.987</td>
<td>0.823</td>
<td>0.363</td>
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</table>

Table 10

The far right is correlated with the turnout and the rural areas. Other parties are related to the left wing, minorities and regionalists. Independents is not related to any variables analyzed.

In the last five-year period, 2006-2010, turnout is correlated with the Social Democrats, Greens and GDP per capita (including PPP), peculiar to Iceland, Norway, Svalbard, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Switzerland, France, UK, Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal, most of Italy, Slovenia, Montenegro, Greece, Cyprus, western and southern Turkey, capital regions of Serbia, Romania and Moldova, the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg. The far left is not related to any variables analyzed. Social Democrats are related to turnout, environmentalists, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). Environmentalists are correlated with turnout, Social Democrats, liberals, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). Agrarians correlates with Conservatives and Christian Democrats, other parties and rural areas. The situation is recorded in Belarus and Azerbaijan. Liberals are related with environmentalists and other formations, population density and GDP per capita (including PPP). Conservatives and Christian Democrats are correlated with the agrarians, as recorded in Poland, Slovakia, Latvia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, the largest part of Turkey, Moldova and Serbia, French Guyana, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Minorities and regionalists are in relation to other parties, case registered in Ukraine, mostly to Romania, Val d’Aosta, Åland Islands, Northern Ireland. The far
right is not related to any variables analyzed. Other formations correlate with the agrarians, liberals and minorities and regionalists. Independents are not related to any variable analyzed.

Figure 11

Table 11
4. Conclusions

4.1. European elections

Turnout is correlated with the vote for the far left (the first three elections and in 1999), environmentalists (generally from 1994, except 1999 and 2004), Christian Democrats, but also with non-inscrits and other parties (before 1994), rarely with liberals (in 1989 and 2004), the Socialists (2004), other parties and / or non-inscrits (in the first decade, and in 1999), or the far right (1984, 2004). Also turnout is linked to 1999, almost exclusively to rural areas, subsequently in relation to GDP (including PPP).

Far left bore different names, even having two EP groups (in the legislature from 1989 to 1994, a sign of dissolution of Eastern European communism and political unrest in the bosom of the family in the west of the continent). They were correlated with turnout (generally until 1999), with votes for PD / RDE / UFE / UEN (until 1999), support mainly from rural areas (before 1999). This political family was rarely related to the European People Party support and / or to far right (1984 and 1989), non-inscrits and / or other parties (the first and last European elections), with environmentalists (European United Left) or liberals (Left Union) – only in 1989. Probably as a result of EU enlargement to the former communist world (2004/2007), far left did not correlate with any variable analyzed.

Socialists title changed hands, over time, correlating with the Conservative (until 1989) or the European People Party (1994). Until 1994, they were in relation to urban areas, between 1989 and 2004 were correlated with densely populated areas. Since 2004, there is a correlation between this formation and the voters turnout. More rarely, the Socialists were correlated with GDP per capita (1979) or with non-inscrits and other formations (1989).

Greens group appeared after 1980, by the presence of Rainbow Group, participating in the polls of 1984 and 1989. From this last election the Greens was formed a group, which in 1999 added regionalist parties, constituted EFA. This formation was correlated consistently with urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP). Also, a good correlation was observed between votes for environmentalists and turnout (excluding ballots from 1984, 1999 and 2004). Other relationships are found with the
voters turnout (in 1984 and 1989) and, especially, with the Liberals (1989, 1994, 1999 and 2009), rarely with European Democratic Assembly or far right (1989) or the European United Left (1994).

Liberals has also held several names over time. Best correlations and constant over time were made between votes for this party and urban areas (except for the 1989 elections only), then GDP per capita (including PPP) – missing only the ballots in 1984 and 1989. Almost constant in 1979 and continuing in 1994, and noted a correlation between votes for liberals and for eurosceptics (PD / RDE / UFE / ELD or EN / IEN / EDD / ID). Since 1989 there is a continuing close relationship with the Greens and regionalists (exception – 2004). More rarely have correlation with Conservatives (1984), Left Union, or EPP (1989) or non-inscrits (1994).

The European People’s party had several name changes, and mergers and divisions. Thus, initially called the Christian Democratic Party, then took the name of the European People’s Party-Christian Democrats. In 1994, following the integration of European Democrats (conservative) party took the name of the European People’s Party-European Democrats. In 2009, after leaving conservatives – who formed European Conservatives and Reformists group, the party was renamed the European People’s Party. Christian Democrats and / or conservatives were correlated with the Socialists (in 1979-1989 – only conservatives, and in 2004 there was no such correlation). Also, there was a correlation between Popular Party and turnout (until 1989), or, especially, the rural areas (except elections of 1994). Conservatives were correlated well with the urban area (before the merger with the EPP-CD), and population density (1989, 2009). European Democrats were also correlated with non-inscrits and other parties (1984 and 1989) or the Liberals (1984), while the newly established European Conservatives and Reformists group (2009) are related to the Eurosceptics (ELD). European People Party have been isolated in connection with the far left and the Greens (1984, 1989), with liberals or extreme right (1989).

One of the political parties with heterogeneous (before 1994) and pronounced nationalist conservative was subsequently UPE / UEN. This has led both the frequent changes of name, the spatial distribution and the discontinuity correlations and, finally, the disappearance formation (2009), the remaining components to the European legislative groups affiliated to
the Liberal party (ALDE) conservative (ECR) or Eurosceptic (ELD). However, we can see some correlation with left wing groups (1979-1999, except 1984 elections), liberal (1979, 1994), the far right (1989), unaffiliated (1994, 2004), or the Technical Group of Independents (1999). Also, by the established correlations, the group is related generally to rural areas (period 1989-2004, except for the 1999 elections), the GDP per capita (1984) or the Greens (1989).

Eurosceptics with while, many changes in name and composition have emerged as the Europe of the Nations group. It was founded in 1994, proving the high stability over time correlations, manifested in connection with the Liberals (two groups in 1994) and GDP per capita (PPP including, in this case, except to poll 1999). This group is correlated in 1999 and 2004, with the urban areas, and in 2009 was in relation to the European Conservatives and Reformists group.

Far right has rare appearances in the European Parliament (1984-1989, 2007), the latter case failed to survive even a year. Paradoxically, there are some correlations, registered in each of the three participating, but only two: the turnout (in 1984 and 2007), the European Democrats Assembly, or the far left (1984, 1989 – another proof that "opposites attract") or urban areas (1989 and 2007). In 1989, the group was in a relationship with environmentalists and European People Party but also to GDP (including PPP).

Technical Group of Independents was an ephemeral party (in the elections in 1999, almost two years, in which he was suspended), formed by parties of the extreme right in France and Italian regionalists and liberals. Correlations were made visible with the turnout, with Eurosceptics from UEN and GDP per capita (PPP only).

Non-inscrits are represented by MEPs who have tapped into Parliament but not joined any of the existing groups and other parties include the votes of citizens groups unreacted continental legislature. Data published before 1990, joins non-inscrits and other parties, which is why their situation presented separately only since 1994 (in this case, the legislature from 1979 to 1984, we could not separate from other parties, unreacted European Parliament, the votes for Technical Group of Independents, made after the first round and made of a variety of members of the dissident communists
and radical Italian to Irish Republicans, Danish Eurosceptic and Flemish nationalists in Belgium). However, it noted some elements of continuity. The non-inscrits and other formations are related to turnout (in 1979 and 1984), continued by correlation of non-inscrits with turnout (1994). Also, there is a certain continuity of the correlations between non-inscrits and others and Eurosceptics (1994, 2004), and a discontinuous presence of the link between unrelated parties and other urban areas (1989), followed by the relationship between unrelated and urban areas (2004). Non-inscrits and other parties correlated with the Communists (1979) and other parties was in connection with the far left (2009). Punctually, were recorded links of non-inscrits and other formations with socialists, conservatives and population density (1989) and the liberal parties (ERA) and GDP per capita (1994). The 2004 elections saw a correlation between unrelated and other parties, while in 1999, non-inscrits and other parties were not correlated with any variables analyzed (other parties have not been correlated with any variable in 1994 too).

4.2. National legislative elections

Turnout correlates with Conservatives and Christian Democrats in the first decade analyzed. Since 1996, it is correlated with environmentalists (until 2010), extreme right (during 1996-2005), the Social Democrats (in the second and fourth five-year period), while GDP (including parity purchasing power) is correlated from 1996 to 2010.

The far left shows a long-standing relationship with other parties (until 2005), with independents (first decade), and isolated with the Agrarians (the five-year period 1996-2000).

Social Democrats / Socialists is almost continuous relationship with environmentalists (except 1996-2000), with turnout (in the second and fourth interval), or with Conservatives and Christian democrats (in the years 1991-2000) and permanent with urban areas and GDP (including PPP).

Environmentalists are continuing relationship with the Social Democrats, urban areas and GDP per capita (including PPP), and with the turnout – from 1996 to 2010. In the first decade, these formations have been
correlated with Conservatives and Christian Democrats and in the 2006-2010 five year period – with the Liberals.

Agrarian and peasant parties were correlated continuously with rural areas and almost constantly – with other parties (except, in 2001-2005). A relatively isolated, for each of a range is observed with the Liberals (1991-1995), with the left wing and the independents (1996-2000), but also with Conservatives and Christian Democrats (in 2006-2010).

Liberal and centrist parties were correlated with different variables, but the correlations were discontinuous due to changes in Central and Eastern Europe (especially in the first decade analyzed). In fact, as a result of these changes, in the years 1996-2000, could not establish any correlation with any of the variables analyzed. Since 2001, there is a stabilization, remarking correlation between votes for these parties and the population density and GDP per capita (including PPP). More rare correlation, is with Agrarians (1991-1995), with the turnout and urban areas (2001-2005), or with environmentalists and other parties (in the last five year).

Conservatives and Christian Democrats are correlated continuously with only GDP per capita (including PPP), but only until 2005, explaining the changes by refocusing on ideological affiliations of parties from Central-and Eastern Europe. Correlation with the turnout, with the Social Democrats and environmentalists noted only in the first decade of the period. Isolated us note the correlation with density of population (1996-2000), respectively with Agrarians (2006-2010).

Minorities and regionalist groups correlates almost continuously, with other parties (except the five year period 1996-2000), as well as rural areas (in 1996-2005). Isolated observed links with GDP per capita (including PPP – the first five-year period).

Far right, present in national parliamentary elections throughout the range, not in connection with any variables analyzed than in 1996-2005. However, even for this decade, there is a certain continuity, pointing out the connection with the turnout and the rural areas. In the years 1996-2000 there was a correlation with other parties.
Other parties are correlated, in almost all analyzed interval with far left (1991-2005), the Agrarians (except in 2001-2005), as well with minorities and regionalists (no five-year period 1996-2000). On the other hand, there is a connection to the far right and the independents (1996-2000), or with the liberals (the last five-year period).

Independents are characterized by correlation with some variables only in the first decade. The only element of continuity is the link to the far left. Isolated, between 1996-2000, is also found correlations with the Agrarians, with other parties and the rural areas. Mismatch in the past decade with no variable analyzed must be made in relation to reducing the votes for independent candidates.

References
http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/, accesat 6 decembrie 2010-5 martie 2011