

POLICY AND CITIZENS. RESEARCH ON THE PRE-ELECTION BEHAVIOUR

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Abstract

The sociologic study upon the pre-electoral political behaviour in Târgu-Jiu has led to the conclusion that we cannot talk about a typical perception of the political realities, that the regional element is conquered by the global comprehension, a comprehension enabled by the mass communication means.

Keywords: *pre-election behavior, policy, politics, Sociological research, opinion polls, elections.*

A sociological study thoroughly the pre-election behaviour is even more welcome than as is done on a regional group, a small city with special characteristics: mining area, almost single industry based. Sociological research is conducted, as a rule, large groups, big cities or representative samples taken throughout the country, much less the county groups [1]. He credited the idea that small and isolated groups or groups with socio-economic conditions, the options are, values and behaviors political inspiring. It is therefore all the more interesting to study a particular type of local political behavior on a sample far greater at the local level. Stake the study is to determine whether, in conditions of globalization render uniform database of information occurs and a uniform political opinion. Too, is to see what items can embezzle public opinion from a standardize perception of politics.

I chose the method of research and social survey of opinion polls conducted standardized face to face, at the domicile of the respondents on a representative sample with a random selection of sampling points and subjects. The sample was composed of 360 subjects, people with 18 years of age and older, validated sample data INS. They made weightings according to sex, age, profession, occupation, income.

Opinion poll was conducted between 2-9 April 2008. At the time in which it was made public, the data were already changed political: there were candidates or candidates in November notified previously withdrawn from the election race. Also, with regard to questions concerning the general elections was considered general political orientation that can be heavily distorted by uninominal vote and candidates carisma. The questionnaire included the following questions, most questions were closed, but questions were qualitative assessment of perceived political situation:

1. Do you think that in Romania things are going in a good direction or in a wrong direction?
2. What is the most important issue that you are experiencing personally at this time?
3. What are the main problems that should resolve the Government now?
4. What are the county and local institutions that have the greatest confidence?
5. How much confidence do you have in the local political figures?
6. If next Sunday would be parliamentary elections and would attend the games, you for whom you vote?
7. If next Sunday would be local elections and would attend the games, you for whom you vote?
8. If next Sunday would be elections for city mayor of Targu-Jiu, who did you vote?
9. You have participated in the vote in euro-parliamentary elections?
10. Why do not you participated? (only for those who respond negatively to the previous question)
11. You will participate in the vote following the parliamentary elections?
12. Why do not you participate? (only for those who respond negatively to the previous question)

Replies were following structure (Fig. 1-7):

Fig. 1. Do you think that in Romania things are going in a good direction or in a wrong direction?

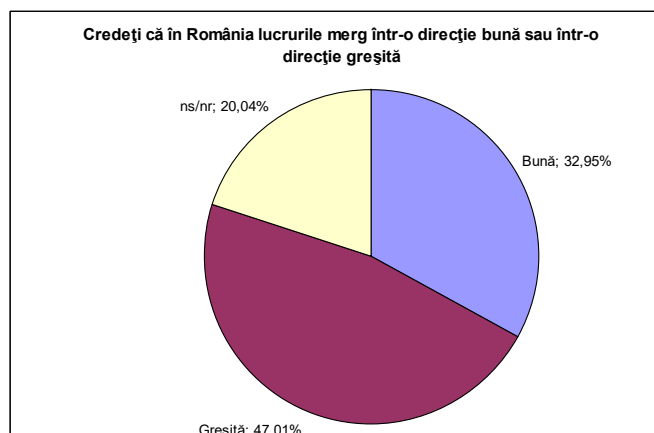


Fig. 2. What are the county and local institutions that have the greatest confidence?

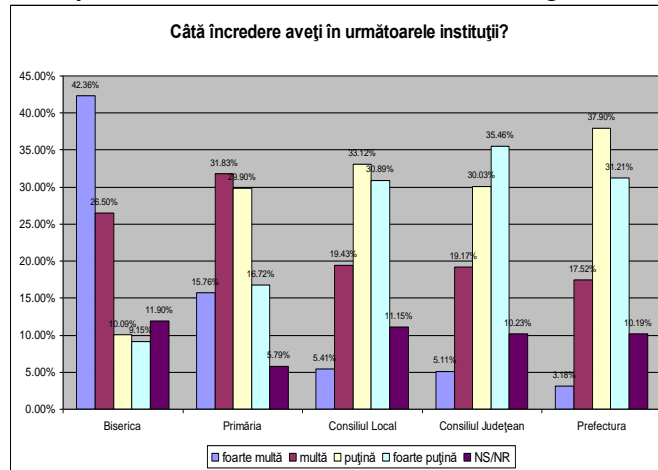


Fig.3. How much confidence do you have in the local political figures?

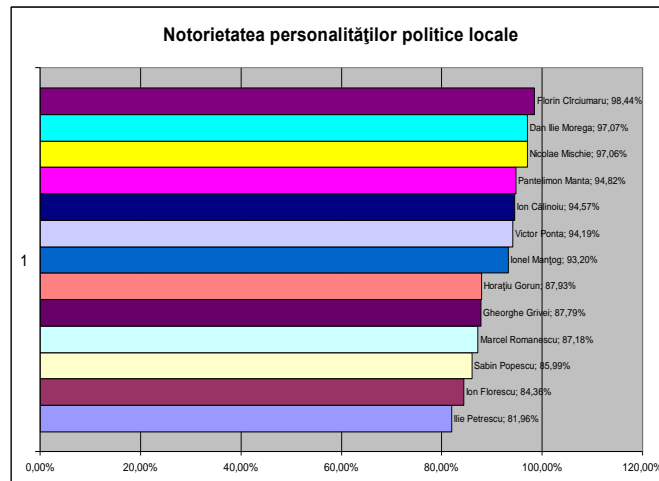


Fig. 4. How much confidence do you have in the local political figures?

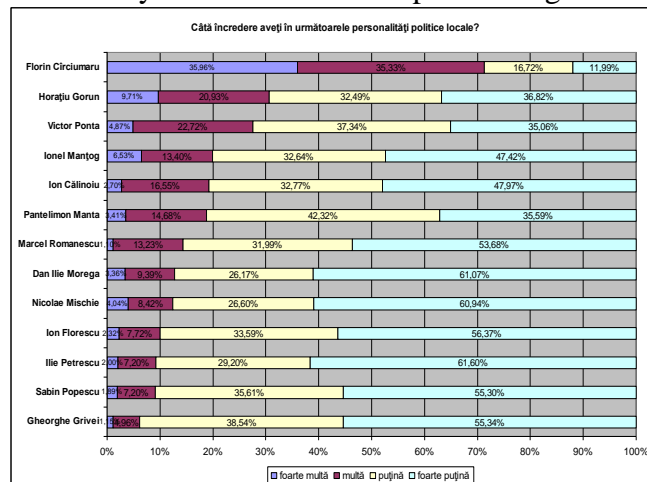


Fig.5. If next Sunday would be parliamentary elections and would attend the games, you for whom you vote?

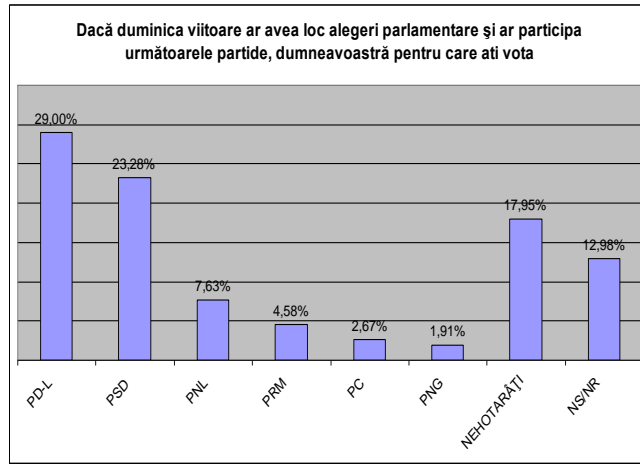


Fig. 6. . If next Sunday would be local elections and would attend the games, you for whom you vote?

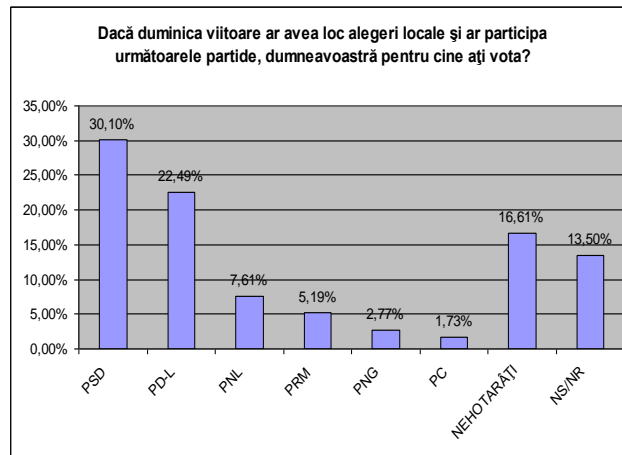
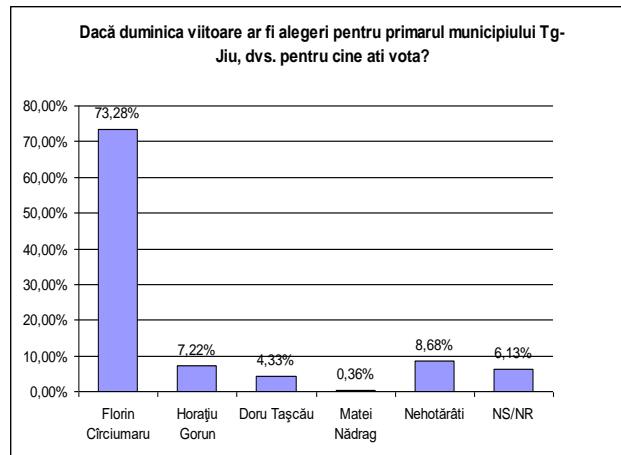


Fig. 7. If next Sunday would be elections for city mayor of Targu-Jiu, who did you vote?



The interpretation of responses has led to a series of conclusions.

With regard to the stability of the electorate, we can say that the electorate PNL and PSD is stable, namely those who declare that they will vote PNL or PSD to general elections, have the same option and local elections; 14.75% of the electorate PD-L (from general elections) declares that the PSD will vote in municipal elections; 62.74% of the electorate PD-L (local elections) declare that they will vote for Florin Cîrciumaru. We can talk if the PNL and PSD of the so-called kernel countries to vote the party's political symbol, regardless of candidates, parties and non-electorate will lose it or in the uninominal vote. In the L-PD, it enjoys a popularity of this moment, to risk to lose ascendancy if not managed well-election campaign. Without having electorate as a stable, it is proceeding smoothly towards more popular candidates of other parties.

An important indicator is the intention of presenting or not vote. Although to a questionnaire conducted face to face or non-answers percentage of negative responses is low, we find that 10.24% of citizens are decided not to participate in the vote in local elections, 10.65% of citizens are decided not to participate to vote in elections for mayor, 16.03% of citizens are decided not to participate in the vote in general elections. Adding to them and the high non-answers see the figures above, we can say that over 40% of citizens will not participate in the vote or do not know/have not decided who to vote. The task to persuade the political parties within the short time that remained electorate to participate in the vote, especially the smaller parties will be able to increase in proportion to the percentage obtained. Also, the result of our study may be corrupt by participation of a greater or lack of voting undecided (average 30%), because those 30 percent will distribute the participating parties in proportion, so that a party which obtains 30 % of votes, will get 30% of the percentage of those who gave non-answers and will not participate in the vote, reaching almost 40% in elections. Political parties will need a professional campaign to recover the spread of mistrust before the election campaign for votes from buying-up undecided electorate (otherwise, the absence will be much higher, to 50%). Anyway would not achieve results were accurate quantitative aim of November, but the observation of Tg-Jiu electorate trends compared with the national electorate.

Results of the election will depend on activism than political parties, electoral campaign can change radically pre-election forecast, but now the target electorate is more refined in expectations, demands and criticisms.

It may also notice that the electorate from Tg Jiu is informed regarding local political personalities (Fig. 3), but their notoriety, with a single exception, is negative (Fig. 4). Class current policy seems to be no longer citizens, is compromised in the opinion of the electorate, solutions are being sought young politicians who are among front places confidence.

A worrying fact is poor understanding of the role of local government institutions, especially the consultative bodies (councils), less personalized, which is expressed a high level of mistrust.

See, so that at city - Tg Jiu there are substantial differences of views, options and electoral behavior than those at the national level. In a global society in which mass-media were generalized, the Internet is a banal fact, communication is easy is expected to see a certain level of social perceptions. It has already been observed that there are real electoral currents, both European and even at the level of the world itself; yet the countries with charismatic leaders lack from this gallery; we refer to the electoral years favourable to the left or right orientation, nationalist or globalism or to a certain type of leader.

Romania, and in Romania, the Gorj country, no longer discordant note, do not have many elements in the interpretation of a local social behavior, the globalization being coordinated fundamental to understanding the behaviour of a group with possible information.

References

[1] A proper sampling throughout the country, for a margin of error is 3.5% of 1100 respondents subjects. Or, Gorj county represents less than 2% of Romania's population, which means that it will be distributed questionnaires 20-25.