



ORIGINAL PAPER

**Explaining European Parliament Voters' Choice: Competing
Insights on Elections and Elected from
Vâlcea County – May 2014**

Georgeta Ghionea*

Abstract

In 2014, Romania was facing the third round of European Parliament elections in its history. Following the two on term ballots (2009, 2014), we were able to make a comparative analysis about the manner in which the main actors of the Romanian political scene performed, from the general point of view, and in Vâlcea, from the particular point of view. The low voting presence proved that the citizens were less interested in the European parliament elections, for the Romanian public opinion the stake being lower due to the fact that the European topics were not perceived as having a direct impact on everyday life. Vâlcea County did not diverge, being perfectly framed in the limitations imposed by the rest of the country, with a low presence to voting and with results similar to the national ones.

Keywords: Vâlcea County, political parties, electoral process, election campaign, European Parliament elections.

* 3rd degree researcher, PhD, “C. S. Nicolăescu-Ploșor” Socio-Human Research Institute , Craiova, Phone: 00400251523330, E-mail: getaghionea@yahoo.com.

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Introduction

Both internationally and nationally, 2014 was a year rich in electoral events. Between 22nd and 25th of May, 400 million Romanian citizens having the right to vote were requested to report to the polls to choose their representatives in the European Parliament. Judging by the average presence to the voting, decreasing as compared to the previous years, citizens' contentment as concerning the evolution of the European Union is not satisfying. The European elections on May 25th, 2014 were held in our country according to legislation in force, Law no. 33/2007, republished in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 627 of 31st of August 2012 as a basic law, and modifying documents - Law no. 187/2012, published in the Official Gazette no. 757 of 12th of November, 2012, Government Emergency Ordinance no. 4/2013, published in the Official Gazette, Part I, no. 68 of 31st of January, 2013, Government Emergency Ordinance no.4/2014, published in the Official Gazette no. 111 of 13th of February, 2014 (Bărbieru, 2014: 137). Romanian representatives in the European Parliament are elected by universal, equal, direct and secret suffrage based on the voting list and the applications of independent candidates. In this Article we have intended to stop, beyond making an electoral analysis on the European Parliament elections from Romania in 2014, on the research of the phenomenon from Vâlcea County. For the drawing up of the material, we chose the analysis of the past voting, the polls and the consulting of electronic data bases that contain specialised publications, useful for the chosen topic. All these were completed after the reviewing of the studies containing this subject in the country, studies that offered us a general image on the way in which the elections for the European Parliament from 2014 took place, along with the way in which the main "actors" performed, generally, on the Romanian political scene, and particularly in Vâlcea County.

The European Parliament elections from 2014

The European Parliament elections from 2014 were characterised, both at European and national level, by a low voting presence of the electors. The specialised studies explained that these elections are perceived by the public as "second order" elections, having secondary importance, a tendency that persisted during the three ballots (2007, 2009 and 2014) from our country (Reif and Schmitt, 1980: 3-44; Dima, 2009: 32; Turşie, 2011: 83; Mihalache, 2014: 3). For the Romanian public opinion, the stake of the European Parliament elections from Europe is a low one, because the European interest topics – the economic situation of the European Union, the budget of the Union, the jobs, the quality of life, the role of the European Union in the world – were not regarded as having a direct impact on everyday life (Bărbieru, 2014: 138). Moreover, when these topics were included in debates, they were either lacking the interpretations for the understanding of all citizens, or they were presented from the national or local perspective, the citizens finding themselves in the impossible position of comprehending the European problems or to attribute political responsibility to some actors and institutions of the Union. The studies realised on this theme, shown that an important part in changing the attitudes towards the European Union is played by mass-media, which should adapt the European problems to the requests of people from a specific country. This adaptation was named "domestic adaptation with national colours" (Risse et al. 2001: 1; Schifirneţ, 2011: 34), or "the transfer of an exterior message towards interior, from outside the nation-state,

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into the nation-state” (Slaatta, 2006: 12). In a brief questioning, from 2014, of the citizens who had the right to vote, their response of them, on addressing the interest towards the European Parliament elections, was displayed as following: 4.8% - not interested; 21.7% - little interested; 35.1% - relatively interested; 20.1% - very interested; 2.8% - answered: Don't know; 15.7% - did not answer (IRES, official source).

During the electoral campaign is decided, most of the times, the faith of the elections and, “if it does not always change the winner – said Vâlsan C. – then it definitely changes the percents” (Vâlsan, 1992: 15).

Depicted in many specialised papers as “the period before the day the citizen makes the political decision”, the period of the election campaign was the moment when the candidates and the political parties presented their electoral offer, and the electors, according to the information they had received, pointed towards their electoral preferences, expressed by voting on the day of elections (Ghionea, 2014: 203).

The same as in the electoral fights from the previous years, both the political parties and the independent candidates, resorted to different means to send the electoral messages to the electors. We were easily able to notice the fact that they resorted to campaign sites, blogs, socialising networks – Facebook – through which they informed the potential electorate, and even their supporters, about the events they were going to attend, the manner in which these events were taking place and the approached topics. All these means constituted a way of rapid, systematic and precise information, offering the advantage of a higher speed for the accomplishments of their projects, with reduced costs too (Abraham, 1995: 294-303).

The studies, realised over the last years on these modern means of socialising with the electors (especially the young ones, less interested in the European Parliament elections, or for the first time voting), have proved that they regard them as having a more credible character than the other traditional mass-media components (Stoiciu, 2000; Pripp, 2002; Beciu, 2002; Balaban, 2009; Foux, 2006: 38-39). A short incursion in the campaign sites, socialising networks, press and television, shows us that the dominant *political characters* were those of political people who were going to run for the presidential elections from November 2014, not those who ran for the European Parliament elections.

This was the reason for which there appeared information saying that the ballot from May preceded, from the electoral point of view, the presidential elections from November 2014, playing the part of the preliminary test for the political parties (Bărbieru, 2014: 138). With a total number of 5,911,794 citizens who went to vote, from a total of 18,221,061 registered on the electoral lists, the rate of attendance was 32.44%, with 4.77% higher than in 2009, when had gone to vote 5,035,299 citizens (27.67%) from 18,197,316 registered. As regarding the valid votes, in 2014 there were validated 5,566,616 (94.16%) and 345,011 votes (5.83%) were declared null.

Following the socio-demographic characteristics of the voters, we noticed the next aspects: 28.69% of the present voters were from the urban environment, and 36.88% were from the rural one (Canae, 2014:16); as regarding the age categories, the situation was presenting as following: 18-35 years old – 16%; 36-50 years old – 32%; 51-65 years old – 33%; 66 years old and over – 19% (Radu, 2009: 22).

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Table 1. The results of the European Parliament elections from the 7th of June 2009

No	Electoral performer	Votes %	Mandates No.
1.	Social Democrat Party-Conservatory Party (PSD-PC)	31.07	11
2.	Democrat-Liberal Party (PDL)	29.71	10
3.	National Liberal Party (PNL)	14.52	5
4.	Democrat Union of the Hungarians from Romania (UDMR)	8.92	3
5.	Elena Bănescu	4.22	1
6.	Christian Democratic National Peasant's Party (PNȚCD)	1.45	-
7.	Abraham Pavel	1.03	-
8.	Civic Force	0.40	-

Source: BEC

Table 2. The results of the European Parliament elections from the 25th of May 2014

No.	Electoral performer	Votes %	Mandates No.
1.	Social Democrat Party – National Union for the Progress of Romania - Conservatory Party (PSD-UNPR-PC)	37.60	16
2.	National Liberal Party (PNL)	15.00	6
3.	Democrat-Liberal Party (PDL)	12.23	5
4.	Mircea Diaconu	6.81	1
5.	Democrat Union of the Hungarians from Romania (UDMR)	6.29	2
6.	Popular Movement Party (PMP)	6.21	2
7.	Dan Diaconescu Party of People (PPDD)	3.67	-
8.	Great Romania Party (PRM)	2.70	-
9.	Civic Force	2.60	-
10.	Romanian Ecologist Party	1.15	-
11.	National Alliance of Farmers	0.95	-
12.	Christian Democratic National Peasant's Party (PNȚCD)	0.89	-
13.	Capsali Pericle-Iulian	0.89	-
14.	Costea Peter	0.74	-
15.	Ungureanu Georgiana-Corina	0.49	-
16.	Green Party	0.34	-
17.	New Republic Party	0.27	-
18.	Social Righteousness Party	0.24	-
19.	Purea Paul	0.20	-
20.	Liga Dănuț	0.19	-
21.	Socialist Alternative Party	0.17	-
22.	Dăeanu Valentin-Eugen	0.15	-
23.	Filip Constantin-Titian	0.11	-

Source: BEC

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If we trace the two statistics, the first thing that we can notice is the increase in number of the electoral performers, in 2014, as confronted to 2009. If in 2009, the competitors were six political parties and electoral alliances and two independent candidates, in 2014, in the electoral race, there were registered 15 political parties and eight independent candidates. Because the electoral threshold for the designation of the mandates was of 5% from the total number of valid votes, in 2009, five political parties and an independent adjudicated the European Parliament mandates, while in 2014, six political parties and an independent obtained the mandates. For both ballots, PSD, PC, PNL, PDL, UDMR obtained the European deputy mandates.

In 2014, the main political parties entered the competition with their well known images. PSD participated as part of an alliance, along with PC and UNPR, after PNL denounced the functioning protocol and left USL political alliance. The debates around “the national pride” and the promoting of Victor Ponta’s image – Prime-Minister and president – were the main themes proposed by the electoral alliance, that were actually representing a national and not European concern.

The campaign of the alliance took place under three slogans: “USL is alive”, “A strong Romania in Europe” and “Proud to be Romanian”. PSD-UNPR-PC alliance won the elections detachedly, obtaining 37.60% from the valid votes, a much lower rate that the party’s leadership had hoped for (40%) (Mihalache, 2014: 8).

On the second place, at a considerable distance from the first place, there was PNL, which succeeded in surpassing the electoral threshold of 14%, which it had obtained in 2009. The main concept of the PNL campaign was “The Euro-champions”. Under the slogan “Support the champions”, the party presented its team, formed also from the European Members of the Parliament that were already filling the position and who were running for a new mandate (Mihalache, 2014: 8-9). The liberals’ campaign was done under the traditional logo and colours – yellow and blue, detaching themselves in this way by their former partners, of USL alliance.

PDL, the third political party, approached the electoral campaign for the elections from the position of opposing party against USL and Ponta governing (Mihalache, 2014: 10). The campaign led by PDL, under the slogan “Europe in each household”, had as a public image their own most known European MPs: Monica Macovei (former prosecutor and lawyer) and Theodor Stolojan (former Prime-Minister of Romania). PDL lost in percentage, as confronted to 2009, situating on the third place with 12.23% (835,531 valid votes), adjudicating 5 mandates. One of the surprises of the 2014 voting was the Popular Movement Party, which resulted after the dissidence from PDL. Founded only few months before the European Parliament elections, it participated, in a new formula, to the first electoral race under the slogan “We raise Romania”.

As we can notice from the above statistic data, the elections from 2014 had the largest number of independent candidates. Generally, they militated for: the promoting of natural family (Iulian Capsali), Romanians’ right to free medical and social assistance in Europe (Constantin Filip Tițian) or the promoting of interests in the private business environment (Valentin Dăeanu).

The European elections were the only type of national voting from Romania, where the independent candidates registered success (Mihalache, 2014: 5). Therefore, in 2009, the mandate was obtained by Elena Băsescu, and Mircea Diaconu was the big surprise of the European Parliament elections from May 2014. The candidate obtained a good percentage, 6.8%, even bigger than that of some political parties, as PMP or UDMR. The electoral actor built his campaign on an “anti-system message” and succeeded in

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adjudging 379,582 votes. We considered to be interesting the characteristics of the social-democrat Mircea Diaconu, that were displayed as following: 78% in the urban environment and 22% rural environment; on age categories: 6% – 18-34 years old; 22% – 35-49 years old; 28% – 50-64 years old; 44% – 65 years old and over; on geographical areas: in the southern part of Romania, the actor obtained a percent of 37%; in Transylvania and Banat – 31%; and 16% for each Bucharest and Moldova (IRES, official source)

At national level, according to the information offered by the Central Electoral Office, the counties that registered the highest percentage were: Olt (46.57%), Ilfov (42.26%), Mehedinți (40.17%), Teleorman (39.84%), Giurgiu (39.12%), and a lower percent was registered in Maramureș (25.31%), Ialomița (27.12%), Tulcea (27.66%), Timiș (27.94%) and Vaslui (28.22%). In Bucharest, the same official sources, noted a percent of 26.93% (BEC, official source). From the evidenced percents, there can be easily noticed the low voting presence, even for the counties with the higher percentage.

As concerning the situation of the European Parliament from 2014, at national level, we can reach to the next conclusions: the results were not the expected ones, for neither of the electoral performers. PSD-UNPR-PC Alliance obtained a rate below the percent of 40%, a situation observed also in case of PNL, PDL and PMP, which obtained much less than they had proposed at the beginning of the campaign. Altogether, 17 political formations and independent candidates succeeded in reaching the electoral threshold of 5%.

From national to local, Vâlcea County case

In Vâlcea County, the County Electoral Office received, for the elections, 373,088 voting papers; among these, 253,278 of them were annulled, and 112,068 were valid. 7,742 votes were declared null. There were 119,810 electors who came to voting (BEC, official source). Following the electoral hierarchy in the already mentioned county, we noticed that PSD-UNPR-PC Alliance won the election detachedly, obtaining 40.90% of the valid votes, on the second place being PNL, with 20.55%, a good return, if it is to consider the fact that the county organisation surpassed the country average number of the party, of 15%. As we can effortlessly observe, the voting difference, between the first and the second place, was double. At a smaller distance from the second place was PDL, which managed to obtain 12.78% from the total number of the valid votes (in Rm. Vâlcea Municipality, the party obtained only 10.77%, a result with 2 percents lower than that registered in the county). The surprise of Vâlcea County, the actor Mircea Diaconu, who surpassed the threshold of 6% (in Râmnicu Vâlcea Municipality he even reached 13 percents, and in the second Municipality – Drăgășani – he passed over 8 percents).

The branch from Vâlcea of the Popular Movement Party reached a score of 5.56%, slightly under the national percentage of the political formations. Dan Diaconescu Party of People was excluded (3.26%), a party that at the local and parliamentary elections from the previous years had surpassed the Democrat Party and Civic Force (2.06%), and Great Romania Party had the same faith of exclusion (3.41%) (Vâlcea County Electoral Office, official source). On addressing the situation of the other political formations and independent candidates, they were distributed as following: Christian Democratic National Peasant's Party obtained, at the county level – 0.99%; Capsali Pericle-Iulian – 0.80%; National Alliance of Farmers – 0.62%; Romanian Ecologist Party – 0.57%; Socialist Alternative Party – 0.42%; UDMR – 0.38%; Ungureanu Georgiana-Corina – 0.30%; Costea Peter – 0.25%; Green Party – 0.21%; Social Righteousness Party – 0.21%;

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New Republic Party – 0.15%; Pura Paul – 0.14%; Liga Dănuț – 0.13%; Dăeanu Valentin-Eugen – 0.11%; Filip Constantin-Tițian – 0.05% (BEC, official source).

The percentage of 40.90%, obtained by PSD-UNPR-PC alliance, in Vâlcea County, proves that there was followed a direction traced for the rest of the country too, the alliance being able to impose itself in most of the county localities. It won in 72 of the 89 localities, PNL was the winner in 15 of the localities and PDL in two of them. Mircea Diaconu did not succeed in obtaining the majority in any of the county's localities. The socialists registered – according to the information published in Vâlcea County Electoral Office – record returns in the following localities: Prundeni (little over 70%), Bunești (65%), Cernișoara (65%), Gușoeni (67%), Pesceana (69%), Voicești and Scundu (69%); PNL, led by the deputy Cristian Buican managed to impose himself in the northern part of the county in Perișani (73%), Titești (47%) și Căineni (49%), but also at Băile Govora (45%), Grădiștea (43%), Măciuca (54%) and Orlești (59%).

The same sources informed us that a special situation took place in Lungești, where PSD-UNPR-PC alliance and PNL, had a tied rate, each of the two groups getting 36.23% of the votes. PDL obtained bigger returns in two localities from the county: Oteșani (37.49%) and Mitrofani (35%). As regarding the Popular Movement Party, it passed over the percent of 10% in Ghioroiu and Voineasa (16%) (ziare.com, 2014). The situation in the cities and municipalities from Vâlcea County was presented this way: PSD-UNPR-PC alliance won in ten on the 11 localities: Râmnicu Vâlcea, Olănești, Călimănești, Drăgășani, Ocnele Mari, Bălcești, Berbești, Brezoi, Horezu and Băbeni; PNL won only in Băile Govora, and PDL had a good return at Berbești (19%) (ziare.com, 2014).

Teacher and municipality counsellor, Adina Dobrete – the candidate of PSD Rm. Vâlcea, place 21 on the electoral register of PSD-UNPR-PC alliance – started the election campaign with the clear intention to not just make promises to the electorate, but to explain the people both the importance of the elections from May 25th 2014 and how “significant it is for Vâlcea County to have a representative in the European Parliament”.

Her electoral campaign was a dynamic one, the candidate proving, above all, seriousness. Intensely mediated, the performance of the PSD candidate came to be appreciated as a winning one, not only locally, due to the correctly led campaign, observing the law, and considering the respect and the common sense. The main topic for which the above mentioned candidate militated was “Oltchim Chemical Works”. The company has been in insolvency since January 2013, it functions at approximately 23% of its capacity, with 2,300 employees. The future of the Chemical Works from Vâlcea – as Adina Dobrete declared – will be decided in the summer and all depends on the majority of the European Parliament. Having a left government at Bucharest and a left European Commission at Brussels too, we can create a successful team for Romania (Ramnic.ro, 2014). The results obtained by PSD Rm. Vâlcea were not satisfying for the staff of the campaign. “I have worked in a team and I am proud of the work I have invested in. I have traversed thousands of kilometres, over a thousand on foot. I thank the people from Vâlcea because they have chosen to vote, I thank them because they have trusted us and have put us on the first place” – said Adina Dobrete.

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Table 3: For exemplification, we are presenting the percents obtained by the main electoral alliances and political parties in the cities and municipalities from Vâlcea County

No	Locality	PSD-UNPR-PC	PNL	PDL	PMP
1.	Rm. Vâlcea	35.26	10.75	10.80	8.76
2.	Băile Govora	29.39	45.18	4.10	2.84
3.	Băile Olănești	56.38	8.82	9.38	4.89
4.	Brezoi	29.42	22.64	10.96	8.90
5.	Călimănești	37.52	13.75	16.49	5.97
6.	Drăgășani	44.90	13.82	10.00	6.15
7.	Horezu	31.89	28.17	15.67	4.36
8.	Ocele Mari	51.86	9.57	15.99	2.79
9.	Băbeni	34.22	27.22	18.35	9.00
10.	Bălcești	41.96	27.32	12.69	4.90
11.	Berbești	41.21	21.38	19.13	4.78

Source: BEC

The list of the Liberal National Party for the European Parliament elections started with Norica Nicolai, and the next six positions were filled in by Adina Ioana Vălean, Ramona Mănescu, Cristian Bușoi, Renate Weber, Eduard Hellvig, Mihai Țurcanu. Some of these were designated due to their previous activity from the European parliament, others because of their activity inside the party. On the list, Victor Giosan from Vâlcea was also present, who had the 14th position (viatavalcii.ro, 2014). The candidate is a graduate of the Faculty of Economic Planning and Cybernetics from Bucharest. A PNL member since June 1995, vice-president of the county organisation (1995-2009; 2013 – present), counsellor of Rm. Vâlcea Municipality (1992-2000), vice-mayor of the same municipality (1996-2000), Victor Giosan was remarked both through his political activity and his quality of state secretary at the General Secretariat of the Romanian Government(2005-2009). His experience and training, in the public management, financial and budgetary management were just few of his strengths that recommended him for filling a position on the list for the European Parliament elections. In his television appearances, but also in his interviews in the press, the candidate exposed few of the projects for which he entered the election campaign, briefing them as following: the consolidation of the European common market; the promoting of the Romanian culture – Romanian culture, as part of the European culture; the promoting of the tourism in Vâlcea, especially the balneary one; the promoting of fruit growing, viticulture, zootechny and agriculture in Vâlcea, generally through specific European programmes (Barbu, 2014: 1) etc. In Vâlcea, the Liberal Democrat Party obtained very low returns. Five representatives of the party also entered in the European Parliament: Theodor Stolojan, Monica Macovei, Traian Ungureanu, Marian Jean Marinescu and Daniel Buda (who was registered on the list in the last moment). As regarding Ștefan Prală, the candidate proposed by PDL Vâlcea,

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he was on the list for the European Parliament on the 24th place. The county organisation of the Popular Movement Party considered that this party has the best list of candidates for the European Parliament elections. The president of PMP Vâlcea branch, Marian Mirea said that at PSD and PNL, “the candidates placed on eligible places are related or are friends with the leaders of the sustaining parties”. Marian Mirea criticised harshly some people who he considered to be non-competitive, among which: “Ecaterina Andronescu and Maria Grapini, both of them with weak results as ministers and recognised for their non-reformist options”. Moreover, Marian Mirea underline that PMP “promoted on the eligible places the candidates with results in the European Parliament, young people with a remarkable professional activity and people with a respectable professional career and policy”. On the list with candidates proposed for the European Parliament elections, there was also a candidate from the region of Drăgășani, Marius Condoiu (place 28), a lawyer, the vice-president of the PMP Vâlcea County and leader of the PMP Drăgășani organisation (Bălțeanu, 2014: 1). “The obtaining of European funds, the development of industry, the subvention for agriculture” were only few of the points on which the candidate from Drăgășani insisted, for the European Parliament elections.

In the European Parliament, the party has two MPs: Cristian Preda (professor) and Siegfried Mureșan (BEC, official source). The two visited Vâlcea County during the election campaign. Initially, the actor Mircea Diaconu was on the list of the Liberal National Party at the European Parliament elections. Being excluded after the incompatibility decision, he ran as an independent, the former minister being able to reach an unexpected high percent at the national level – 6.81% – but also in the county, where he obtained a percent of 6.03%. At the county level, the hardest loss was suffered by Dan Diaconescu Party of People. Although the political formation has county and local counsellors, along with a member of the Parliament, who also fills the position of county leader, he obtained but 3.27% of the votes. The percentage placed the party way low below the returns from the local and parliamentary elections, a situation similar to that of other two parties: Great Romania, 3.41% and Civic Force, 2.06%. We cannot reach a conclusion before presenting the data that refer to the situations registered in Drăgășani Municipality (the second municipality from the county). At the elections from the 25th of May 2014, the voting presence was of 23%, below 2007 and 2009. Among the urban localities from the county, in Drăgășani, PSD-UNPR-PC alliance obtained the highest returns – 44.8%. On the second place there were PNL, with 13%, at a distance of 4 percents from PDL – 9.8% and 5 percents from Mircea Diaconu – 8.3%. We show below the situation of the European Parliament elections, registered in Drăgășani Municipality.

Table 4. The situation of the European Parliament elections on the 25th of May 2014, in Drăgășani Municipality, on constituencies

Const. no.	Name	Potential electorate	Valid votes
1.	Tudor Vladimirescu School	1,487	300
2.	Tudor Vladimirescu School	1,553	360
3.	I.C. Brătianu School	1,486	192
4.	I.C. Brătianu School	1,423	265
5.	Cămin Copii Al. Muncii (Fireplace Baby Al. Labour)	1,445	271

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6.	I.C. Brătianu Garden	908	139
7.	Nicolae Bălcescu School	1,165	239
8.	Gib Mihăescu National College	1,563	321
9.	I.C. Brătianu School	1,176	253
10.	Birsanu School	974	282
11.	Rudari Garden	530	176
12.	Nicolae Bălcescu School	1,334	279
13.	Momotești School	809	221
14.	Capu Dealului School	814	216
15.	Zlătărei School	1,221	286
16.	Total %	17,888	3,800

Source: BEC

Table 5. The situation of the European Parliament elections on the 25th of May 2014, in Drăgășani Municipality, on constituencies

Const no	Name	Party				
		PSD	PNL	PDL	PMP	Mircea Diaconu
1.	Tudor Vladimirescu School	114	43	21	28	29
2.	Tudor Vladimirescu School	148	52	26	39	46
3.	I.C. Brătianu School	81	24	16	12	17
4.	I.C. Brătianu School	126	27	14	24	30
5.	Cămin Copii Al. Muncii (Fireplace Baby Al.	127	30	18	18	40
6.	I.C. Brătianu Garden	54	19	14	4	18
7.	Nicolae Bălcescu School	96	37	16	14	27
8.	Gib Mihăescu National College	143	35	34	20	29
9.	I.C. Brătianu School	105	20	59	15	14
10.	Birsanu School	157	24	29	10	25
11.	Rudari Garden	117	10	34	2	1
12.	Nicolae Bălcescu School	122	45	21	19	20
13.	Momotești School	98	30	22	10	17

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14.	Capu Dealului School	107	17	37	7	16
15.	Zlătărei School	107	111	18	11	9
Total %		1,702	524	379	233	338
		44.78%	13.78	9.97%	6.13%	8.89%

Source: BEC

The reports of observers, relating to the way in which the local elections took place, showed that: in neither of the polling stations the vote was suspended; there were no cases of lost or stolen stamps during the voting; there were not registered situations of voting papers removed from the polling stations, except for those necessary for the mobile ballot box; there were no cases of prolonging the voting process after 9 p.m.

Conclusions

At both national and local level (the case of Vâlcea County), the USD-UNPR-PC electoral alliance obtained in 2014 a good percent, keeping its leading position. The outrun parties, PNL and PDL, did not succeed in obtaining the electoral returns expected at the beginning of the campaign. The weak results obtained by PNL attracted a lot of resignations, both at national and local level. The new formed party, PMP, succeeded in adjudging two mandates, which represented a success for a party that was for the first time in such an electoral competition. At national level, and not only, the elections proved to be a failure from the point of view of the reduced attendance. They played the role of a preliminary test for the political parties, because they preceded, electorally, the presidential elections from November, the same year.

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