

THE ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL EVOLUTION OF THE BÂRGĂU DISTRICT**Timea Melinda Darlaczi****PhD Student, "Babeș-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca**

Abstract: The territorial entity situated in the north-east of Transylvania, in the Bistrița-Năsăud district, at the meeting point of Bârgău and Călimani Mountains, has undergone many changes over the time, both in the administrative, structural and functional aspects. The present limits, the surface, the form and the administrative structure haven't been preset, they have been gradually delineated, by assuming the general policies that followed the administrative-territorial changes that affected this side of Transylvania. The geopolitical situation of Transylvania, from the Hungarian conquest until its return in the territory of Romania, is accurately reflected in the forms of administrative-territorial partition to which it has been submitted.

In order to follow the administrative-territorial evolution of the habitations from this district, we have identified both the major historical-political events from Transylvania, and the normative acts specific to the Transylvanian territorial organization of high impact over the studied territory, from the Leopoldine Diploma (1691-1733) to those from the 21st century.

Keywords: district, the age of the habitations, the toponymy of the habitations, administrative-territorial evolution, normative acts.

1. Introduction

The spatial-mental entity in northeastern Transylvania, with a wide development in southern Bârgău Mountains to their contact with Călimani Mountains, in Bistrița County, has been subjected over the historical time to numerous changes of administrative, structural and functional nature. Limits, shape, surface, and the current administrative structure took shape gradually, through the acquisition of general policies aimed at the territorial administrative modifications in Transylvania.

The morphohydrographic axis Bistrița-Bârgău, which runs through the territory of this land from east to west and assured from ancient times the links between Transylvania and Moldova, favored the emergence and growth of habitation entities on both the depression corridor on Bârgăului Valley between Mureșenii Bârgăului and Rusu Bârgăului and in the microbasinet depression of Bistrița Valley upstream of its confluence with Bârgău, even having some impact in the shaping and delimitation of the administrative units that have succeeded by the time on this territory.

In order to seize the numerous structural and functional changes which have undergone on the Bârgău Valley settlements which led to the shaping of the current boundaries, I consulted papers with historical and administrative character, studies of political geography and some regulation norms. For the good graphic and cartographic representation of the data collected after reading, I used the Microsoft Office Excel 2007 and ArcGIS specific softwares.

2. Age settlements and place names.

The main tributary streams of Bistrița and Bârgău favored the emergence of distinct geo-morphological characteristics valleys, which led to the development of a "bârgău"-type *system of valleys* (C. Costea 2014), the required relief alternation of narrow and deep sectors referred by the locals as *narrows (strâmturi)*, with those of sculptural depressions. This alternation is due to the simultaneous deepening of the valleys in different rock types, but

with the same energy of the relief as the surrounding peaks. Therefore, deep valleys in some sectors shaped as cloughs, show depths of 500 m and reach altitudes of 1000-1100m. Lower slopes, long ridges of interfluves generate favorable conditions for the development of roads. Therefore the studied area has undergone a long process of human intervention, in which the hydrographic arteries Bârgău and Bistrița had a considerable share.

To establish the age of the settlements we considered the first documentary attestation year, even if the first documentary mention settlements does not correspond to their occurrence. The anthropic space in the southern Bârgău Mountains worked over time like a "unitary habitat complex" (M., Mureșianu, 2000) first mentioned under the name of *Borgo* in 1317, in a document sharing Mountains Bârgău between Bethlen and Appaffy noble families. A document of donation dated 1311 shows that the Hungarian king Karol Robert, gives Ioan the son of Geubul from Bistrîta an estate as a reward for his deeds loyalty estate that is called *Pettendorf*, a settlement "located between Iaad (Livezile) and mountains in the county of Bistrîta¹", extinct now, or possible ancient hearth of Rusu Bârgăului village. From the letter of the year 1328 the ruler of Transylvania and landgrave of Solnoc, Toma, to those on the estate of *Pettendorf et Purgo* <*Borgo*> we find out that the serfs of Ioan amid discontent would pass to Moldova (M., G., Buta A. Onofreiu, 2010).

In 1386 documents report about the existence of two habitat entities in Bârgău that in 1547 was called *Borgo Inferior* (*Bârgăul de Jos*) and *Borgo Superior* (*Bârgăul de Sus*). If at the beginnings residents of hamlets on Bârgăului Valley were freemen, documents 1759 highlights that *Borgo* was owned by Appaffy family, subsequently passing to the ownership of Bethlen family, and the inhabitants were brought into *subjection* to noble families, being called serfs. The two settlements were named this time *Unter Borgo* (*Bârgăul de Jos*) and *Ober Borgo* (*Bârgăul de Sus*). 1783 is the year of changes in both the social and economic life of the people and the systematization of the development of settlements on Bârgău. This is the year of recovery by the native population of the land, mountains and forests. It is the year of militarization of the Bârgăului Valley. In the 1760-1762 fiscal census carried out for the militarization process, the eight first settlements on Bârgău are mentioned, called depending on their geographical location within the valley, from downstream to upstream: *Alsó Borgó* (*Bârgăul de Jos*) et *Felső Borgó* (*Bârgăul de Sus*) cum filialibus *Zsoszény* (*Josenii Bârgăului*), *Mizslocsény* (*Mijlocenii Bârgăului*), *Szuszény* (*Susenii Bârgăului*), *Prund* (*Prundu Bârgăului*), *Tycha* (*Tiha Bârgăului*), and *Colibiza*.² According to the assessments *Bârgăul de Jos* consisted only of confusion Rusu Bârgăului, while the other seven villages have formed along the *Bârgăul de Sus*. (M. Mureșianu, 2010). According to Lenk's Lexicon from 1839 the eight towns lined the valley were: *Rusz Borgó* (*Rusu Bârgăului*), *Borgó Zsoszény* (*Josenii Bârgăului*), *Borgó Mislotsény* (*Mijlocenii Bârgăului*), *Borgó Szuszény* (*Susenii Bârgăului*), *Borgó Prund* (*Prundu Bârgăului*), *Borgó Bistrîta* (*Bistrița Bârgăului*), *Borgó Tiha* (*Tiha Bârgăului*), *Borgó Maroszány* (*Mureșenii Bârgăului*).³ Even if the documents from the XIV-XVIIth centuries the Bârgău settlements appear as two habitation entities respectively *Lower Bârgău* and *Upper Bârgău*, the cores of these eight settlements are much older. The mountain anthropization was realized by occupying this space by the native populations of the two main valleys Bistrița and Bârgău, being gradually outlined an anthropogenic axis which favored intensified oscillation between the slopes of the Călimani and Bârgău Mountains.

¹Zimmermann, F., Werner, C., (1892), *Urkundenbuch zur Geschichte der Deutschen in Siebenbürgen*, Verein für siebenbürgische Landeskunde, Hermannstadt, p. 103.

² Ciobanu, V., *Statistica Românilor Ardeleni 1760-1762*, p. 645

³ Buta, M., G., Onofreiu, A., (2010), *Bistrița Bârgăului. Contribuții documentare*, Ed. Eikon, Cluj-Napoca, p. 30.

According to Table 1, the first documented settlement of this district is Bistrița Bârgăului in 1317, followed by two other settlements, Prundu Bârgăului and Tiha Bârgăului in the same century. The XVIth century completes the range of settlements is completed by the villages of Josenii Bârgăului and Susenii Bârgăului. In the XVIIIth century, three villages are documentary mentioned in the Bistrița valley, respectively Rusu Bârgăului, Mijlocenii Bârgăului and Cobilița, and in the XIXth century on Bârgăului Valley came Mureșenii Bârgăului. In 1956, following the administrative-territorial correction by which hamlets were declared villages, four villages appear in the same area: *Ciosa, Piatra Fântânele Tureac and Strâmba*.

Regarding the place names, along the time several hypotheses have developed. N. Șimon says that the name of this district, *Borgo*, an area inhabited only by Romanians continuously, is of *Roman* origin. It underlined that the name of *Borgo* is much older than the first certification (1317), arguing that even during Dacia dating from Roman colonists brought from Italy. He supports his assertion amid the existence of *opidums* in Italy, also called *Borgo*. In his view alongside "*Borgo- a pass in Transylvania in the Carpathians on the border between Nasaud County and Doboka, also the following opidums in Italy: Borgo a Buggiano in Tuscany, Borgo a Colle in Naples, Borgo di Val Sugana on the road between Trient and Venice, Borgoforte in Naples, Borgofranco, a village in Sardinia, Borgo-Lavezzaro in Navaro*"⁴.

Nr.Crt.	Locality	First attestation	Evolution of toponymy
1.	Bistrița Bârgăului	1317	1317 – <i>Borgo</i> , 1328 – <i>Purgo</i> , 1461 – <i>census quinquagesimalis de Borgo</i> , 1543 – <i>Burgo</i> , 1561 – <i>Burgheu</i> , 1566 – <i>Bărgău</i> , 1592 – <i>Bargo</i> , 1684 – <i>Bergheu</i> , 1687 – <i>Bergova</i> , 1699 – <i>Birgou</i> , 1750 – <i>Borgo pe Besztercze</i> , 1805 – <i>Bisritza</i> , 1850 – <i>Borgo Bisztritz</i> , 1854 – <i>BorgóBestercze</i> ;
2.	Colibița	1760	1760-1762- <i>Colibiza, Colibicza</i> , 1909- <i>Colibița</i>
3.	Josenii Bârgăului	1547	1547 – <i>Burgo Inferior</i> , 1733 – <i>Borgo</i> , 1750 – <i>Borgo Zsoszeny</i> , 1760-1762 – <i>Also Borgo, Zsoszeny</i> , 1805 – <i>Zsoszény</i> , 1850 – <i>Borgo Zsoszény</i> , 1854 – <i>Borgo Zsoszény</i> ;
4.	Rusu Bârgăului	1733	1733 – <i>Ruszi-Borgoului</i> , 1750 – <i>Ruschi Bergeuluj</i> , 1805 – <i>Rusz-Borgo</i> , 1654 – <i>Borgó Rusz</i> ;
5.	Mijlocenii Bârgăului	1733	1733 – <i>Borgo</i> , 1750 – <i>Mislocseny</i> , 1760-1762 – <i><Borgo> Misolszeny</i> , 1805 – <i>Mislotsény</i> , 1854 – <i>Borgo Mislocsény</i> ;
6.	Strâmba	1956	
7.	Prundu Bârgăului	1386	1386 – poss. <i>Borgo</i> , 1390 – <i>duae villae Borgo nuncupatae</i> , 1461 – <i>census</i>

⁴S., Nestor, (2012), editat de A., Onofreiu, *Restituiri*, Edit. Academia Română, Centrul de Studii Transilvane, Cluj-Napoca, p. 80.

			<i>quingagesimalis de Borgo</i> , 1531 – <i>Bugow</i> , 1733 – <i>Borgo</i> , 1750 – <i>Prund</i> , 1854 – <i>Borgó Prund</i> ;
8.	Susenii Bârgăului	1547	1547 – <i>Burgo superior</i> , 1733 – <i>Borgo</i> , 1750 – <i>Szusseny</i> , 1760-1762 – <i>Felso Borgo Szuszeny</i> , 1805 – (<i>Borgo</i>) <i>Szuszény</i> , 1850 – <i>Felső Borgo Szuszény</i> , 1854 – <i>Borgó Szuszény (Felso Borgó)</i> , <i>Suseni</i> ;
9.	Tiha Bârgăului	1386	1386 – poss. <i>Borgo</i> , 1390 – <i>in duabus villis atriusque Borgo nuncupatis</i> , 1733 – <i>Borgo</i> , 1750 – <i>Tycha</i> , 1760-1762 – <i>Tiha</i> , 1835 – <i>Tyha</i> , 1854 – <i>Borgo Tiha</i> ;
10.	Tureac	1956	
11.	Mureșenii Bârgăului	1835	1835 – <i>Moroșenii</i> , 1854 – <i>Borgó Maroseny</i> , <i>Moreșenii Bârgăului</i> ;
12.	Piatra Fântânele	1956	
13.	Ciosa	1956	

1. Age settlements and place names. (Source, Suci, C., 1967).

N. Drăganu (1928) argues the Slavic origin of the word *Borgo*. According to him, *Borgo*, in the mouth of people *Bârgău*, means *end of the road*, a territory situated between mountains, reflected in the geographical reality that has only one exit. In the territorial reality the morpho-hydrographic axis Bârgău- Bistrița communicate with the outside only through Tihuța pass. The word *Bârgău* derives from the Slavic *brâg*, which in translation means *hiding*.

Gh. Rusu (1969) supports the hypothesis of the origin of the Slavic word *Bârgău*, toponym translated from *bregovo* which translates *village on the edge of the shore*. G. Weingand and G. Kisch support the hypothesis of the German origin. According to them, the word *Bârgău* comes from the German *Burg*, *Burgau*, (*Burg* = citadel). G. Kisch maintained that the German word *Burg* comes to Italian, through its association with the *Burgo* in the Italian Alps, however failing to explain the appearance of the Bistrița Valley of this Italian appellation.

T. Naum and Gr. Moldovan (1978) also support the *Borgo's* German origin, stating that the word derives from the German word *Berg* (mountain, hill), and *Bergabhand* (slope). This German origin of the word *Bârgău* is one forced, supported by the fact that the Saxons were settled only in the XII century in this part of Transylvania over Romanian native population, and before them part of the Slavic population was settled on these lands. The most relevant hypothesis is the Latin origin of the toponym *Borgo*, which through Slavic became *Bârgău*, perpetuating in the speech of the Romanian inhabitants from *District of Bârgău*.

Eight of the thirteen rural settlements of this district received the name *Bârgău*. Their name reflects either their position altitudinal to the axis of the Bistrița-Bârgău valley (*Josenii Bârgăului*, *Mijlocenii Bârgăului*, *Susenii Bârgăului*) or the hydrography site (*Bistrița Bârgăului*), geological features (*Prundu Bârgăului*) or most circulated names of settlements (*Rusu Bârgăului*, *Mureșenii Bârgăului*).

2. Administrative-territorial development

The geographical space called *Ținut of Bârgău* has undergone long process of humanization, whose beginning is lost in the mists of time. The archaeological traces, revealed by research conducted attest the continuity of its permanent habitation in the area of Transylvania Romanian population, it means "... a nation uninterruptedly living on the same lands, in times so deep that appear earth and man suddenly be conceived for each other. The enduring relationship with the land which swings us, harbors and cover, this continuity of ours was us and will be a treasure of vital force constantly refreshed by touching between the man and the mother dust"⁵.

- Neolithic marks the existence of Bârgău society through the discovery of a perforated ax worked thoroughly in black quartzite⁶ sandstone in the locality Mureșenii Bârgăului;
- Bronze age imposez in the territory by the discovery of fragments of black and red ceramic, with waist bands⁷.
- Iron Age, known as the contour period of the Geto-Dacian society, marks the continuity of life in this land by discovering archaeological remains. Following the conquest of Dacia by the Romans, and its colonization between 106-275 through numerous reorganizations, it was transformed into a Roman province. This conquest left of the *Ținut of Bârgău* outside its administrative and political borders. Roman rule was extended to the western border of this land, as evidenced by the presence of Roman camps along the alignment settlements: Cășeiu - Ilișua - Spermezeu - Zagra - Năsăud - Livezile - Orheiu Bistriței - Domnești - Monor - Brâncovenești⁸. The camp ground in Livezile, situated close to the western of *Ținut of Bârgău*, had a supervisory role of movements, the barbarian invasions by Borgo pass. To Măgura Peak, arguing the existence of a reminiscent road of Roman origin, known to residents as the old Roman road or path that runs through this land on the valley and Borgo pass to the peak Măgura, which argues that the Romans controlled and Territories beyond the line.
- In the pre-feudal phase, even after the Roman withdrawal, the population of the Borgo Valley was organized as a *valley principality* being part like the whole county of Bistrita- Năsăud, from the principality of Gelu structured in a system of *village communities*, called *Borgo*, with late development subsequent as *Bârgăul de Sus and Bârgăul de Jos*. Residents, along with agricultural and pastoral activities provider and a security service on passers Borgo, being called *frontier guards*⁹. In comparison with the village communities of the upper valley of Someșul Mare, the two *Borgos* sites were characterized by poor organization, rural feudal communities becoming *subservient*, and by using the donations of Hungarian kings became feudal estates (T., Ghițan, 1939).

⁵Daicoviciu, C., Petrovivi, E., Moga, I., Vuia, R., (1943), *Problema continuității românilor în Dacia. Patru conferințe la Universitatea –Radio*, Edit. Astrei, Sibiu, p.5.

⁶Dănilă, Șt., Marinescu, G., (1974), *Unelte, arme și obiecte de piatră șlefuită descoperite pe teritoriul județului Bistrița-Năsăud*, în *File de Istorie*, vol III, Bistrița, p. 8.

⁷Dănilă, Șt., (1972), *Contribuții la cunoașterea unor cetăți din Nord-Estul Transilvaniei*, în *File de Istorie*, Vol.II., Bistrița, p. 102.

⁸Ilovan, Oana-Ramona, (2009), *Țara Năsăudului. Studiu de Geografie Regională*, Edit.Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, p. 140.

⁹Constantin G., Giurescu, Dinu C., (1977), *Scurtă istorie a românilor*, Edit. Științifică și Enciclopedică, București, pp.77-84. p 77-84.

During the centuries XII – mid-XIV- -century, Transylvania had the *voivodship* status and political-administrative organization was based on *ethnic* criteria (I. Baca, A. Onogreiu, 2006), thus outlining the regional level: *counties*, *Sekler Seats*, *Saxon Seats* and *Saxon districts*. The current territory of Bistrita County in that period intertwines Interior Szolnok, Turda counties, the Saxon district of Bistrița, and Dăbâca county that included the current territory of Bârgăul called *Cercul Bârgăului*.

After accepting the Austrian suzerainty in 1688, the Leopold Diploma is promulgated, which will adjust the relationship between the Court of Vienna and Transylvania. According to this, on the Transylvanian territory remain forms of organization and previous administration, divided as follows: the county of Bistrița, County Dobâca, Solnocul Dinăuntru and county of Cluj. County Bistrița (Bistriz, Beszterce) consists of two districts: Districtus Valachorum Rodnensis and Districtus saxones of Bistrița which incorporate settlements on Lower Bârgău, Upper Bârgău, and Bistrița Bârgăului.

During the *Josephine* period, due to administrative difficulties, the Transylvanian territory was divided into 11 counties organized in 2-3 circles and 8-10 hundreds. (I. Bâca, A. Onofreiu, 2006). In the county there appeared *Solnocul Interior*, *Dăbâca Superioară* and *Cluj*, *Turda Superioară*, *Dăbâca Inferioară* and *Border Regiment II Năsăud*.

In defense of the northeastern borders of the Habsburg Empire (Bucovina and Moldova) to ensure the imperial stability in 1762 is established the *Romanian Caesar-royal Border Regiment Infantry nr. 17, headquartered in Năsăud*. This process of militarization involved incorporation of Someșul Mare Valley settlements, Mureș Valley and later Bârgăului Valley, by which a new politico-administrative organization and hence their detachment from the original counties were established. In 1783 took place the militarization of the population on Bârgăului Valley, through which a systematization of settlements was held, thus those first eight towns on Bârgău: *Borgo Rusz*, *Borgo Dzsoszény*, *Borgo Mizslocsény*, *Borgo Suseni*, *Borgo Prund*, *Borgo Beszterce*, *Borgo Tiha* and *Borgo Moroseny*. The towns from Năsăud Border Regiment were grouped into 12 companies (I. Bâca, A. Onofreiu, 2006) and the and those from Bârgău constituted Company III (*Tiha Bârgăului*, *Prundu Bârgăului*, *Mureșenii Bârgăului*, *Bistrița Bârgăului*) and Company IV (*Josenii Bârgăului*, *Susenii Bârgăului*, *Mijlocenii Bârgăului*, *Rusu Bârgăului*). Due to the historic conditions, following the revolution in 1848/1849 by the *Imperial Patent of 22 January 1851* this Romanian border regiment was abolished.

*The Imperial Patent of 12 March 1861*¹⁰ pursued the reorganization of the frontier villages of the former Romanian regiment Năsăud an Autonomous District of Năsăud. Thus the 47 municipalities were organized into 6 circles 4 opids and 43 towns. Along with circles *Năsăud*, *Rodna*, *Zagra*, *Sângeorz* and *Monor* also emerged the circle *Borgo-Prund*, consisting of the towns: *Tiha Bârgăului*, *Mureșenii Bârgăului*, *Bistrița Bârgăului*, *Josenii Bârgăului*, *Susenii Bârgăului*, *Mijlocenii Bârgăului*, *Rusu Bârgăului* residing in the opid *Prundu Bârgăului*.

Pursuant to Act XXXIII of 1876¹¹ Bistrița-Năsăud County is set, with the seat in Bistrița, made up of former District of Bistrita, former Romanian Autonomous District of Năsăud, the former eastern part of the Dăbâca county and former Solnocul Inferior county. The county was composed of six circles, including Prundu circle with all *bârgăuan* localities.

In 1883 the County of Bistrița-Năsăud undergoes restructuring, the number reduced to four circles (I. Bâca, A. Onofreiu, 2006). *Circle of Iad* embedded 29 settlements including

¹⁰V., Meruțiu, (1924), *Județele din Ardeal și din Maramureș până în Banat*, Edit. Ardealul, Cluj, pp.23-24.

¹¹*Collection of laws from 1876*, p. 394

those from Bârgău: *Tiha Bârgăului*, *Mureșenii Bârgăului*, *Prundu Bârgăului*, *Susenii Bârgăului*, *Josenii Bârgăului*, *Mijlocenii Bârgăului*, *Rusu Bârgăului*, *Bistrița Bârgăului*, *Cușma*, *Ghinda*, *Orhei*, *Jelna*, *Dumitrița*, *Pietriș*, *Uifalău (Satu Nou)*, *Aldorf*, *Pintic*, *Iad*, *Dorolea*, *Dumitra*, *Cepari*, *Târpiu*, *Sigmir*, *Ragla*, *Budacul Român*, *Șoimuș*, *Brașfalăul de Sus (Blăjenii de Sus)*, *Brașfalăul de Jos (Blăjenii de Jos)*.

The Decree IV from January 1914 of the Governing Council of Transylvania that aimed to modify the name of places, maintaining the earlier territorial organization, only changing their names:

- *shire* → *county*
- *circle* → *hundred*
- *supreme landgrave* → *prefect*
- *notary* → *secretary*

Therefore, the new *Bistrița-Năsăud County with the residence in Bistrița* was organized in four hundreds: *Beșineu*, *Năsăud*, *Rodna*, and *Iad* with 28 towns among which those from Bârgău. (I., Sigmirean, A. Onofreiu, 2001).

By the Administrative Unification Law of Romania, promulgated in 1925¹² the 76 counties are restructured in 62 counties, and the hundreds were organized, urban towns and rural towns. According to it, *Bistrița Năsăud County* is the county with two urban communes (*Bistrița*, *Năsăud*) and organized in 100 communes and 6 hundreds. *Bârgău Hundred* residing in *Prundu Bârgăului* was composed of 18 municipalities: *Aldorf*, *Rusu-Bârgăului*, *Josenii Bârgăului*, *Mijlocenii Bârgăului*, *Sesenii Bârgăului*, *Bistrița Bârgăului*, *Prundu Bârgăului*, *Tiha Bârgăului*, *Mureșenii Bârgăului*, *Cușma*, *Dorolea*, *Ghinda*, *Iad*, *Orheiul-bistriței*, *Pietriș*, *Satu-Nou*, and *Slătinița*.

Royal Decree no. 2465 / September 25, 1925 amended the names of places, including these from the *Ținut of Bârgău*:

- *Borgo Bistrița* → *Bistrița Bârgăului*
- *Borgo Joseni* → *Josenii Bârgăului*
- *Borgo Mijloceni* → *Mijlocenii Bârgăului*
- *Borgo Mureșeni* → *Mureșenii Bârgăului*
- *Borgo Prund* → *Prundu Bârgăului*
- *Borgo Rus* → *Rusu Bârgăului*
- *Borgo Suseni* → *Susenii Bârgăului*
- *Borgo Tiha* → *Tiha Bârgăului*

The act of 1929¹³ organizing the local administration complements the *Post Bârgău* with localities: *Budacul de Jos*, *Buduș*, *Simionești*, *Monariu*, *Dumitrița*, *Budacul de Sus*, *Ragla*, *Blăjenii de Jos*, *Blăjenii de Sus*, *Caila* and *Târpiu*.

In the period 1940-1944 *Năsăud County* was under Hungarian military administration along with the other 10 counties in the northwestern Transylvania ceded to Hungary by the Dictate of Viena (August 30, 1940). In this sad period in the history of Transylvania a restoration to the situation before 1 December 1918 was held. This restored *Năsăud County* becomes *Năsăud shire*, divided into four nets: *Bistrița de Sus*, *Bistrița de Jos* (with *Bârgău* settlements), *Năsăud*, and *Rodna*. From April 26, 1941 *Bistrita County* will be officially called *Beszterce-Naszód*. In 1944 *Năsăud County* is recovering with four hundreds from the previous step.

In 1948 a reorganization occurs and *Năsăud County* was divided into 6 hundreds made up of 121 towns. *Bârgău hundred* consisted of: *Bistrița with Colibița*, *Dorolea with Cușma*

¹²*Administrative division of the Romanian Territory*, Bucharest, 1926, p.60

¹³*The Act of Local administration organization*, Bucharest, 1929

and Iad, Josenii Bârgăului with Rusu Bârgăului, Mureșenii Bârgăului, Tihuța and Dornișoara, Prundu Bârgăului, Satu nou and Petriș, Susenii Bârgăului with Mijlocenii Bârgăului and Tiha Bârgăului.

Law no. 5 / September 1950 there is a shift to the Soviet administrative organization. So they sketched regions and districts, and the People's Republic of Romania was made of 28 regions. In the second rectification of Soviet administrative organization of 1956 the number of regions was reduced to 16, and some hamlets were declared villages, among which the hamlets of Bârgău: *Strâmba* and *Cioasa*.

Law 2 from 1968 makes changes in the administrative-territorial organization of the Socialist Republic of Romania, which is set up in 39 counties nationwide. This is the time of lining the limits of the current form and structure of Bistrița Năsăud County and the four communes that are part of mental space called *Ținutul Bârgău*. (Fig.1.).

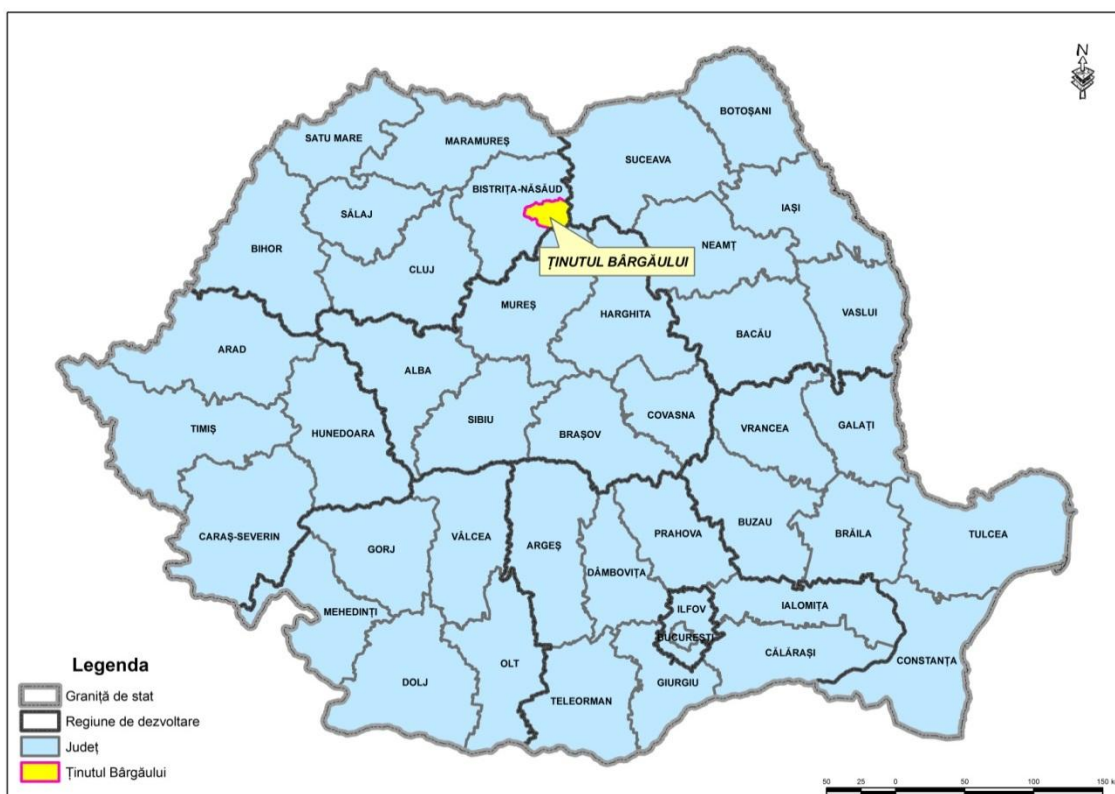


Fig.1. The "Ținutul Bârgău". Territorial delimitation.

4. Conclusion

At present the *Ținutul Bârgău* is part of the Bistrița-Năsăud county or the macro system of territorial Northwest Development Region, which consists of four municipalities: *Bistrița Bârgăului*, *Josenii Bârgăului*, *Prundu Bârgăului*, and *Tiha Bârgăului*. With a central position in the province crystallized during *Prundu Bârgăului* habitation entity, the *over-commune centre* with a polarizing role of this micro-region.

Whatever the intensity of the impact that each stage of administrative-territorial exercised rough this land, inside it was shaped and maintained over historical time some territorial unit, based on the spiritual cohesion of the residents by preserving elements of identification (language, customs, traditions) with Romanian space.

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