

ELITE, INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL PROJECTS

ASPECTS CONCERNING THE HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION OF CITY HALL AND THE INSTITUTION OF MAYOR IN CRAIOVA FROM BEGINNING TO PRESENT (1864-2017)

Cezar AVRAM*, Mihaela BĂRBIERU**

Abstract: The authors present novel data concerning the evolution of the institution of city hall and institution of mayor of Craiova starting with the laws of administrative decentralization from Cuza's time to present. The mayors and interim commissions are presented in the chronological order of their mayoralties, as well as their main achievements.

Keywords: mayor, municipal council, Craiova, achievements, interim commission, decentralization.

1. The institution of city hall

During its evolution, Craiova, important political, administrative, economic, social and cultural centre of the country, represented a landmark and decision-making factor during the national history. On 31 March 1864, within the process of modernizing the administrative system, Alexandru Ioan Cuza promulgated the law for the county councils and the communal law which established the principle of administrative decentralization. Drawn up on the French and Belgian models, the two normative acts brought about the appearance of certain institutions with legal personality and new contents, such as the mayor, the communal council, the permanent committee, the county council, the prefect, the sub-prefect, the urban commune different from the rural one through the administrative organization and similar to it through its legal personality and autonomy¹.

* Scientific Researcher I, PhD., "C.S. Nicolăescu-Ploșor" Institute for Research in Social Studies and Humanities from Craiova, of the Romanian Academy; Email: avramcezar@yahoo.com.

** 3rd Degree Scientific Researcher, PhD., "C.S. Nicolăescu-Ploșor" Institute for Research in Social Studies and Humanities from Craiova, of the Romanian Academy; Email: miha_barbieru@yahoo.com.

¹ C. Hamangiu, *Codul general al României. Legi uzuale. 1856-1906*, vol. II, pp. 59-77; vol. III, pp. 780-811; Monitorul Oficial, nr. 76, 2/14, April 1864, pp. 349-353; Ion Scurtu, Ion Alexandru, Ion Bulei, Ion Mamina, *Enciclopedia de istorie a României*, Bucharest, Meronia Publishing, 2001, pp. 10-12; Gh. Chirișă, *Organizarea instituțiilor moderne ale statului român (1856-1866)*, Bucharest,

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Particular assignments were allotted to the county, the urban commune and the rural commune, both as units of administrative-territorial decentralization (having their own organs and legal personality) and as units functioning as external services of ministries (the mayor, after the French model, acquiring a double role, that of local representative of the government, but also organ of the decentralized administration).

The year 1864 marked the beginning of the modern functioning of Craiova's town hall institution and mayor institution – the mayor, as executive organ, together with the deputy mayor and a number of civil servants, and also with the communal councils having local role of deliberation, used to have all the authority and responsibilities over the town. The subsequent administrative laws concerning the organization of the urban communes (1874, 1894, 1906 and the modifications made in the years 1908, 1910, 1912) did not essentially influence the structure and vision of the local administration, the idea of territorial administrative decentralization being assumed by most of the political programmes of the governing parties. The administrative law of 1925 as well as the fundamental laws of the years 1923, 1938, 1940 and 1944 brought certain changes in the organization and duties of the administrative-territorial units as well as in the meaning of administrative decentralization².

During the period of the years 1948-1989 the responsibilities of the town hall authorities acquired a political connotation, the decentralization remaining only a forgotten principle. The local organs of the power were the elected popular councils having the aim of supervising the local economic, cultural and social activities, according to the higher administrative and political directives. The popular councils, local organs of the power, made up of deputies, could make decisions and work out directives “within the law granted rights”. The executive committees, elected by the deputies of the popular councils, according to the law no. 3/1968, had authority over the popular councils which had elected them and also over the mayor, who was given the name of president.

In accordance with the Constitution of the year 1991, modified in 2003 and the laws concerning administration, the principle of administrative-territorial decentralization was resumed as well as the role of the mayor, the local council and the clerks within the town hall during the consolidation of the democratic regime.

The institution of town hall is the basic unit of the local public “administration, with a very important role in the good functioning of the public sector at global level. Article 91 of the Law regarding the local public administration, no. 215/2001, stipulates that “The mayor, the vice-mayor or the vice-mayors, the secretary of the commune, of the town or of the administrative-territorial subdivision of the

Romanian Academy Publishing, 1999, p. 161; Ion M. Bujoreanu, *Apendice la Colecțiunea de Legiuri ale României*, Bucharest, 1875, pp. 83-107.

² Manuel Guțan, *Istoria administrației publice locale în statul român modern*, All Beck Publishing, Bucarest, 2005, pp. 80-135; Ion Scurtu, Ion Alexandru, Ion Bulei, Ion Mamina, *op. cit.*, pp. 9-11.

municipality, together with its own specific body of the local council, represents a functional structure with permanent activity, called the town hall of the commune or of the town, which carries out the local council decisions and the mayor's orders, solving the current problems of the local communities”.

The institution of mayor is represented by the mayor, whose position is eligible. The mayor functions – within the law – as autonomous administrative authority and acts as public authority, securing the observance of the Constitution stipulations, as well as the enforcement of the laws, of the decrees of the president of Romania, of the Government decisions and ordinances, of the Local Council decisions. Furthermore, he/she orders the necessary measures to be taken and lends support to implementing the orders and normative instructions given by the ministers, by the other leaders of the central public administration authorities, by the Prefect but also the decision issued by the county council, within the law. The mayor is elected through universal suffrage, equal, direct, secret and freely exercised vote for a four-year mandate, which can be extended – through organic law – in case of war, natural disaster or extremely severe calamity. From among the mayor's main responsibilities one can mention the organizing and holding of the elections, referendums and censuses; he/she presents to the local council annual reports on the economic, social and environmental state of the territorial-administrative unit, as well as other reports and information; he is the main authority responsible for credit and budget management; he acts as registrar of births, marriages and deaths and as higher authority; he draws up the local budget project and submits it for the approval of the local council; he coordinates the carrying out of the local public services, takes measures for averting or tackling the emergency situations, etc. The mayor's mandate ends of right, according to the statute of the local elected authorities, if he/she is no longer able to discharge the duties of his position because of a certified serious illness which prevents him from carrying out his activity for 6 months during a year or if he/she unjustifiably fails to carry on with his mandate for 45 days consecutively or as the result of a referendum organized in order to discharge him from office.

During the periods 1864-1948 and 1989-present, Craiova, “the capital of Little Wallachia”, as king Carol I used to call it, constituted the competition ground for the local political parties and also for certain notable personalities who had been invested as mayors through elections. During the period 1948-1989, the unique party periodically assigned to the position of mayor political figures, some of them good managers and administrators, who devoted themselves to modernizing the town.

The mayors of Craiova, either elected, designated or interim, engraved their names on outstanding achievements in the urbanistic evolution of Craiova, which represented, during modern and contemporary history, an administrative, political, scientific and cultural citadel of the country.

2. The mayors of Craiova: biographical key features and historic achievements³

2.1. The mayors of Craiova during the period 1864-1918

Gheorghe Chițu (1828-1897) – mayor of Craiova between 1864-1866 (president of the Interim Commission 1865-1866). Education: the Central School in Craiova, “Sf. Sava” College in Bucarest, the Faculties of Philology and Law of Vienna University. Doctor of juridical sciences, professor at the Faculty of Law in Bucharest. Full member of the Romanian Academy (1879), publisher of periodical magazines and founder of the printing house bearing his name. Magistrate, politician belonging to “the national party”, then to the liberal group (Member of Parliament, Minister of Public Education, Cults, Internal Affairs, Finance and Justice during 22 years – between 1866-1888). One of the participants in the 1848 Revolution, Gheorghe Chițu was also the first President of the Bar Association in Dolj. During his mandate repair work was done at the Central School for Girls, the cells of Obedeanu Church were restored and work of lane arrangement was carried out on the outskirts of Craiova.

Constantin N. Oțetelișanu (1810-1871) mayor of Craiova during the period November 1866 – February 1868, September-November 1870. Together with his family, founder of some seats of culture and cult, lawyer and deputy. Politician of conservative orientation (at the beginning of his activity he belonged to the National party). Together with the population of Craiova he welcomes Carol I on his visit to Oltenia. During his mandate the town's coat of arms, flag and seal were approved and legalized through Decree no. 1467/13 October 1867.

Interim Commission for April-May 1868 consisting of Petre Cotadis, G. Saita, Panait Teodoru, etc.

³ County Service of Dolj National Archives (Serviciul Județean al Arhivelor Naționale Dolj) (hereafter will be cited as SJAN Dolj), Craiova Hall fund. Technical Service 1907-1937, files no. 28, 32/1904; 16, 22, 23, 28, 31, 32, 39, 40, 49/1907; 3, 4, 23, 26/1908; 3/1909; 20, 55/1912; 13/1915; 6/1919; 7/1920; 2, 19/1924; 10, 12/1925; 10/1926; 32/1927; 70/1929; 5, 27/1930; 13, 71/1936; SJAN Dolj, City Hall of Craiova fund. Administrative service 1940-1944, files no. 159/1940, 4/1941, 8/1943; Cezar Avram, Vladimir Osiac (coord.), *Dicționarul istoric al localităților din județul Dolj. Orașele, Craiova*, Alma Publishing, 2006; Cosmin Lucian Gherghe, *Emanoil Chinezu – om politic, avocat și istoric*, Craiova, Sitech Publishing, 2009; Petre Gigea-Gorun, *Oameni și evenimente craiovene*, Craiova, “Scrisul Românesc” Foundation, 2001; Mariana Leferman, Gabriela Braun, Adrian Năstase (coord.), *Dicționarul personalităților Doljene*, Craiova, Aius Publishing, 1999; Mariana Leferman, Gabriela Braun, Adrian Năstase, Tudor Nedelcea, Florentina Urziceanu (coord.), *Repere spirituale românești. Un dicționar al personalităților din Dolj*, Craiova, Aius Publishing, 2005; Dorina Nichifor, *Gheorghe Chițu – reprezentant al liberalismului modern din România*, Craiova, Sitech Publishing, 2009; *N.P. Romanescu. Către alegătorii craioveni. Cum mi-am îndeplinit mandatul de deputat*, neat edition, introduction and explanatory notes by Mihai Ghițulescu, Craiova, Aius Publishing, 2016; Bianca Maria Carmen Predescu, *Ioan B. Georgescu – Avocatul și Primarul Baroul Dolj*, Craiova 23 iunie 2012, available at http://www.barouldolj.ro/files/3221_Ioan%20B%20Georgescu%20-%20Avocatul%20si%20primarul.pdf.

Anastase Stolojan (1836-1901) – mayor of Craiova over the period November 1868 – March 1869. Studies at the Faculty of Law in Paris, Doctor in Law at the same educational institution in Paris. Magistrate, politician of liberal orientation, deputy at the electoral body III during the elections of 1867, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1875, 1876, 1879, 1883, 1884, 1888, 1892, 1895 president of the Chamber of Deputies, Minister of Justice (1879-1880), Minister of Agriculture, Industry, Trade and Domains (1885-1886, 1897-1899).

Interim Commission during the period November 1869 – March 1870, composed of Ilie Sfetcovici, I. Vârvoreanu, T. Teodorini, etc.

Mihai Măldărescu – mayor of Craiova from March to November 1869, March-June 1870 and 1896-1898. During this period the concession of the work for Craiova water supply was granted and also repair work was carried out at Mofleni Slaughterhouse and the Slaughterhouse for lambs. In 1896 works started for completing the “electric illumination of the town”, which ended in 1903, during Nicolae P Romanescu's mandate. In 1897 the streets Romul, Mântuleasa, Poteraș, Lipsșani, Pârâul and Știrbei Vodă were paved and levelled; Piața Veche (the Old Marketplace) was entirely paved and work began for draining Balta Craiovița (Craiovița Pool). In March 1898, the works started for creating the embankment for the horse-drawn tram in Craiova.

Interim Commission October-November 1870.

Ion (Iancu) Vorvoreanu (1837-1877) – mayor of Craiova over the period May 1869 – June 1870. Studies of law in Paris, magistrate, politician of liberal orientation, deputy. Big owner. In 1870 Sineasca, Ungureni and Dorobanția cemeteries were established outside the town, after the old ones in the churchyards were done away with. Over this mandate Piața Nouă (Marșeu) – the New Marketplace was set up in the place where now there is the National Theatre.

Interim Commission during June-September 1870, made up of I. Stănescu, I. Fratostițeanu, Elie Sfetcovici, etc.

Mihail Zavorof – mayor of Craiova from November 1870 to May 1872. In point of political orientation he belongs to the National Party. During his mandate several events took place which were to give an impetus to the life of the town, among which one can mention the erecting of the Hall of Marșeu Marketplace, the inauguration of Școala normală (the Teacher's Training school), the setting up of the School of agriculture at Balta Verde and the Industrial trade school. Measures were taken in order to systematize and embellish the town through demolishing the ilegal constructions and ruins or through paving the lanes and aligning the streets.

Gheorghe (Iorgu) Cacaleteanu (Cacaliceanu) (1826-1890) – temporary mayor during May-June 1872, incumbent mayor from July 1872 to January 1873, July 1889 – 3 January 1890 (deceased). Politician of conservative orientation. In his time they executed the fluid gas illumination of Craiova and finished off the telegraph wires between Craiova and Slatina and Craiova-Calafat.

Interim Commission for a short period in 1873, consisting of Costică Haralambie, Emil Chinezu, Ștefan N. Rusănescu.

Emanoil Chinezu (1817-1878) – mayor of Craiova during the period 4 July 1872 – March 1873. Studies of law in Austria and France, participant in the 1848 Revolution, political figure of liberal orientation, magistrate, publisher of periodical magazines. Arrested in 1854 and expelled to Siberia (two years). Opposing the dissolution of the National Guard, in conformity with the Law of army organization, promulgated by the conservative government, he loses the mayoralty through dissolution a month after winning the election, a period during which the town hall was led by an interim commission. He resumes his position of mayor at the beginning of the year 1873 till the new election in March.

Ștefan N. Rusănescu – interim mayor of Craiova during March-September 1873. During this short mandate, projects were designed concerning the streets modernization and also works started with the aim of remaking the sewerage system on the outskirts of the town.

Interim Commission during September-December 1873.

Gogu Vorvoreanu (1840-1911) – mayor of Craiova during December 1873-1874. Doctor in law, magistrate and member of parliament.

Interim Commission January-July 1874, the presidents being G. Măinescu (March-May) and Ion Petrescu (May-July). During this period the new Communal Law came into effect, with new regulations.

Barbu Bălcescu (1821-1884) – mayor of Craiova during the period July 1874 – November 1875. Studies of law in Paris, participant in the Revolution in 1848, magistrate, inspector of private institutes (1870), political figure belonging to the “national party”, later politician of liberal orientation. During his mandate repair work was carried out at the town hall building, at the Palace in the Bibescu Garden, at the Barracks-Firemen's Watch Tower, at Preda Hospital. Also repair work was started at Sf. Dumitru Church and the Metoh Houses of Jianu Monastery. After 5 April, Craiova train station set up, with four lines. The railway works were carried out with Italian, Serbian and Bulgarian workers and the railway station was built on Petre Blarovici's ground.

Statie Stoenescu (1819-1888) – mayor of Craiova over the period of November 1875 – July 1876. Important owner and philanthropist, the grandfather of painter Eustațiu Stoenescu. Political figure of conservative orientation. During that short mandate “the primary schools of the town” were repaired and arrangement works were realized at Fântâna cu Țeapă (the Fountain with Stake) and the fountain of the Central Marketplace. The projects contest with prizes, with a view to modernizing the town, was won by architect Miltiade Tzoni, with a documentation in eclectic “rather than harmonious style”.

Interim Commission July-September 1876, with Gheorghe I. Pessicu.

Gheorghe (George) I. Pessicu (1839-1909) – mayor of Craiova for several times: interim mayor 31 July – September 1876, incumbent mayor September 1876 –

November 1878, December 1878-1883. Studies at the Faculty of Law in Bucharest, magistrate and politician of liberal orientation. During the first year of mandate, repair works started at the buildings of Filantropia Hospital as well as the implementation of the plan of reconditioning the fountains in the town. In the second mandate the street of Sineasca cemetery was created. Together with the other local and central authorities, he transformed the town into the army's headquarters and supply base, the inhabitants of Craiova supporting the central authorities' efforts of providing foods, ammunition, clothing, arms, fodder and transport to the soldiers engaged in winning *de iure* the independence of the country. During the mandate of 1880-1883, Unirii street was paved with basalt; repair work was carried out at the buildings of Preda Hospital, Court for Appeal as well as at the fountains of the town and the most important bridge up to that time was executed, the one in Gării street, over Valea Orbeților, "where rains had formed a precipice" which blocked "the communication between the railway station and the town centre". During his mandates, the development and diversification of the industry constituted the major preoccupations of the local authorities (County Council and Local Council).

Dumitru Căpreanu – mayor in November-December 1878.

During July 1864-December 1878, Craiova was marred by a marked administrative instability which led to numerous negative effects on the town.

Alexandru D. Nicolaid (1840-1908) – mayor of Craiova during 1883-1887 and 1894. High school studies in Berlin (1860), bachelor of law in Bucharest (1871). Magistrate, deputy and senator during several legislative periods, vice-president of the Senate (1901). He organized the Bar of the lawyers in the Dolj county, he donated goods and the ground on which the first orphanage in Craiova was built and later the hospital for children situated in Calea Severinului street. During his mandates, ample works were carried out for the public illumination of Craiova; repair work was done at Elca Marketplace, while the old theatre was demolished by Opran the owner of the ground and building; and on the place named Farfaroaica they finished the building of a bathing establishment. In 1887, at the order of the town hall authorities, they executed the sewerage project for Valea Tabaci. During the interwar period, a street of Craiova bore his name.

Gheorghe M. Pessiacov – mayor of Craiova (1887-1888).

Nicolae Grigore Racoviță (1835-1894) – mayor of Craiova in the year 1888. Son of the great court marshal Grigore Racoviță. Law and doctor studies in Berlin, magistrate and politician (minister of Foreign Affairs, Cults and Public Education, president of Dolj County Council). He founded Craiova's weekly "Năpăstuitorul" (*The Oppressor*) and started the creation of a town history. He continued the work for sewerage and for macadamizing certain streets as well as for securing the hygiene of the fountains within the town.

Ulysse Boldescu (1850-1908) – deputy mayor of Craiova from January till 4 December 1890, in consequence of mayor Gheorghe Căcalețeanu's death on 3 January 1890. From 4 December 1890 incumbent mayor till October 1894, then re-elected mayor: 30 June 1899 – February 1901. A degree in law, doctor of political and administrative sciences in Bruxelles, lawyer, politician (with conservative background, several times) member of the parliament.

Remarkable results in the town management and modernization. Donor and supporter of Alexandru and Aristia Aman Foundation. During the first year of his first mandate he started “the campaign of public works” which was to be finished at the beginning of the First World War. Initiator of certain works of building and arrangement at “Tudor Vladimirescu”, “Regina Elisabeta” and “Obedeanu” schools, at the big communal slaughterhouse (the most modern in the south-east of Europe at the time), at paving the town centre, the Carol I Boulevard and Convențiunei Boulevard and also of some important works concerning the electric illumination. The report on building the Palace of Justice was finalized and substantial repair works were carried out at the town hall building, at “Obedeanu” School and “Tudor Vladimirescu” School.

Ștefan I. Pleșa (1849-?) – mayor of Craiova from February to October 1895. Political figure of liberal orientation, member of parliament. During his short mandate, Piața Nouă was modernized, modernization works were carried out in the street and sanitation networks and the town was endowed with its own power station (as a result of the concession granted to the Company Allgemeine Electricitäts Gesellschaft).

Nicolae P. Romanescu (1854-1931) – mayor of Craiova during the years 1898-1899, 1901-1905, 1914-1916, 1929. Son of Petrace Romanescu – participant in the Revolution in 1848, sociology, literature, law and economy studies in Paris and Liege, radical follower of C.A. Rosetti, political orientation to the liberal party and to the national and peasant party, deputy, senator by right, vice-president of the Senate. During his mandates, he contributed to the town modernization through urbanistic and well-managed works: the introduction of public illumination; substantial works for the water supply and sewerage of the town; pavement of the streets; the arranging of the Central Marketplace of Craiova; building of and repair work at the fountains Crucea de Piatră (the Stone Cross), Iulius Cezar and Peștilor. At the same time, a commission set up by the town hall and presided by him renamed the streets by Romanian names from the historical past of the town and of Oltenia region. During 1901-1905 mandate the belt boulevard of the town was modernized and the morgue was built at Filantropia Hospital. In 1914, the architect I. Berindei and the engineer M. Colleanu drew up a Plan of alignment and systematization of Craiova, which was to be updated several times during the interwar period.

He set up the park which bears his name, making arrangements for creating the racecourse and the suspension bridge and donated to “Alexandru and Aristia

Aman” Foundation his library and art collection (paintings from the Dutch and Italian school, Romanian paintings, furniture, tapestry, chinaware, pieces of Romanian and foreign decorative art).

Mihail Chintescu (?-1919) – mayor of Craiova during the period 2 March 1905-23 March 1907. Politician of conservative orientation, magistrate and member of parliament. During his mandate, extensive works of sewerage and street modernization were executed. Continuation of draining work at Craiovită Pool.

Interim Commission 30 March – 24 June 1907.

Constantin M. Ciocazan (1854-1935) – mayor of Craiova over the period June 1907 – January 1911. Law studies in Bucharest and Paris, director of the National Theatre in Craiova, lawyer, politician of liberal orientation (several times deputy). During his mandate, the town borrowed the sum of 750,000 lei, money used for the modernization of the channels of water and sewerage, for the public illumination, for the street pavement in the town centre for the planting work and modernization of public services. At the same time they executed repair work at the National Theatre building and extensive works at the Weekly Fair, they built new primary schools, they did restoring work at Aman foundation, they made new fountains and renovated the buildings of Preda Hospital, as well as a new morgue at the Central Hospital.

Interim Commission from January to March 1911, led by I.K. Pessiacov (Peşacov, Pessacov) which organises the election for mayoratly.

Ion K. Pessiacov (Peşacov) (1854-?) – mayor of Craiova over the period March 1911 – November 1912. Trader and senator. He was engaged in building the Palace of Justice and the bridge over the Jiu river. As a good administrator, he contributed to Craiova’s economic development and modernization. He established the Urban Land Credit in Craiova, set up the Agricultural Society and the Conservative Bank. During his mandate, the first electric bulbs illuminated the Theodorini Theatre and “Elefterie Cornetti” School of Music was set up.

Interim Commission of November-December 1912, presided by N.P. Guran, organizes a new election for mayor.

Nicolae P. Guran (1861-1927) – mayor over the period December 1912 – January 1914. During his mandate, they elected the communal Palace, fenced the weekly fair and the Independence Park, they repaired several schools and churches, as well as the Watchman’s Cabin and the wells of the Giroc Valley. In 1913 they inaugurated the Monument “That’s the music I love”, in front of Nicolae Romanescu Park as well as Ion Maiorescu Monument. They paved 30,000 m² of streets, they built the Plant for refuse burning, as well as the Hospital for the people suffering from cholera. In September 1913, the town hall of Craiova bought from N. Glogoveanu the houses, the ground and outhouses in Traian street.

Interim Commission of January-March 1914, presided by N. Romanescu.

C.D. Poenaru – mayor of Craiova from November 1916 to November 1918.

2.2. The mayors of Craiova during the years 1918-1944

Gheorghe D. Pencioiu – mayor of Craiova during 1918 – January 1919.

Interim Commission – January 1919-January 1920 (C.N. Popp, Raliu Georman, I.C. Popescu).

I.C. Popescu – mayor of Craiova in 1920.

I. B. Georgescu (Beyon) (1882-1958) – mayor of Craiova during several mandates: 1920-1922, 1926-1927, 1941-1942. The first two mandates were obtained through universal suffrage, while the third one was through appointment to the post by marshal Ion Antonescu, by a decree. Studies at the Faculty of Law in Bucharest, magistrate, deputy for 4 mandates. First he belonged to the People's Party (Averescu) and then to the National and Peasant Party. He edited Revista "Năzuința" (the Magazin "Striving") and set up the first Penal Magazine in the country. Arrested in 1947. During his mandates they modernized the street networks, they performed works at the sewerage network of the town and at draining the pools around the town, at water supply to Craiova, at Balta Verde purifying station, works for the public illumination, building of new schools and fountains. During the last stage of his mandate, he finalized the works concerning inauguration of the first tram in Craiova (a short period, till 1944).

Interim Commission September-November 1921, led by N.N. Pop.

Dr. Ilie Antonoini – mayor of Craiova in 1922.

C.N. Pop – president of the interim Commission of Craiova (mayor) in 1919, mayor of the town for a short time in 1922. Descendant of Brăiloiu and Glogoveanu families, doctor in law in Paris and prefect of the Dolj county (1914-1916). During his mandate the watching service and public sanitation of the town were reorganized. At the same time, the population were supplied with wood, after the period of foreign occupation.

Constantin Neamțu (1868-1962) – mayor of Craiova between 1923-1924. Economist, promoter of Oltenian economic and financial movement, the founder of the Bank of Commerce in Craiova, politician.

Constantin Negrescu – mayor of Craiova during 1924-1926. He started building the popular bathing establishment and working at the weekly Fair.

Emanoil Tătărescu – mayor during the period 1927-1928. Repair work at "Sf. Grigore Decapolitul" High Theological Seminary.

Iuliu Vulcănescu – mayor during the period 1928 – March 1929. During his mandate the ten-year Plan of urbanistic works was created.

Interim Commission March-June 1929, presided by C. Potârca.

Constantin Potârca – mayor of Craiova in June 1929-1930, 1932-1933. During his mandate, the plan for a new systematization of Craiova was elaborated and works started for renovation of Casele Băniei (the Ban's Residence).

D.T. Angelescu – mayor of Craiova during 1931-1932. Modernization works of the peripheral street network.

1934 – **Interim Commission**.

1935 – **Interim Commission.**

1936 – **Interim Commission.**

1938 – the interim commission is dissolved in January and another one is designated in February, which would be dissolved in March. A new commission is named in April and dissolved at the end of October, when an interim commission was going to be named until the year 1939, when the general C.Z. Vasiliu-Piki would be named as mayor.

Generalul C.Z. Vasiliu-Piki (1882-1946) – mayor of Craiova during the period 1938-1940. Studies at the School of Infantry and Cavalry Officers, the Special School of Knights in Târgoviște. General, commander of Romanian Military Police Force (1940-1944), Sub-secretary of State at the Ministry of Internal Affairs (1942-1944).

Dr. I. Trifan – mayor of Craiova in 1940-1941. They performed modernizing works at the Outer Fair and paving of some peripheral streets.

D. Popescu – mayor of Craiova over the period 1942-1944. During his mandate, they carried out modernizing works at the street network and sanitation, they made a plan of systematization, a brickyard was made, the Service of trams and trolleybuses, was created in Craiova. At the same time the efforts of the local administration focused even more on sanitation.

2.3. The mayors of Craiova during 1944-1989

Dr. Zeno Vasilescu – mayor between 1944-1946, a period in which Craiova turned into a battling arena for the political forces. Works of small dimensions are performed at the street network.

Ion Dina – mayor in the period 1947-1953. They did works of modernizing the street, sewerage and district heating networks. “Electroputere” and “7 Noiembrie” enterprises will come into being. After the nationalization act in June 1948, they focus on the industrial development of the town, old enterprises being extended and modernized at the same time with building new enterprises and departments.

Romulus Năzdrăvan – mayor of Craiova during 1953-1958. Important works are in process concerning streets pavement and feed pipes for drinking water.

Gheorghe Arustei – mayor between 1958-1961. In 1960, Craiova was connected with the National Power system, which allowed the introduction of street illumination by fluorescent lamps. During the same period, the old “Electrica” building was extended and a new seat for the Power Station was built.

Marin Iordache – mayor of Craiova between 1961-1964. They carried out urbanistic works simultaneously with the development of the local industrial sector.

Petre Gigea (born 1930) – mayor of Craiova during 1965-1968. Economist, diplomat, writer, minister of finance, governor for Romania at IMF and World Bank, ambassador of Romania in Paris and ambassador of Romania to UNESCO. During his mandate, several urbanistic and managing problems, some of them

being of national interest, were partially or completely solved: building the Central Marketplace, starting to erect the National Theatre, rearranging Nicolae Romanescu Park, works in progress at the new railway station of Craiova, Bariera Vâlcii passage, carrying on with the feed pipe for bringing water from Isvarna source, the inauguration of the Central Stadium (later learning the name of Ion Oblemenco) housing 30,000 spectators. The young administrator of the town (aged 34) received visits from certain foreign high officials – Charles de Gaulle, the president of France, the mayor of the French city Nanterre, the visit of the Chinese prime minister Ciu-En-Lai.

Ion Zăvăleanu – mayor of Craiova during 1968-1973. During his mandate they completed the constructing of the present building of the National Theatre, a real architectural masterpiece. They placed the statues of Tudor Vladimirescu, Nicolae Titulescu, as well as the statuary group Mihai Viteazul, objectives which had been started during Petre Gigea's mayor mandate.

Ștefan Negreț – mayor of Craiova during 1977-1980. They carried on with the social projects and measures (blocks of flats, sewerage in the peripheral area).

Constantin Chițimia – mayor of Craiova during 1981-1984. The measures of social interest were continued (housing, sewerage, water, street pavement, development of the industrial area).

Marin Lungu – mayor of Craiova during 1984-1988. They modernized the street, water and sewerage networks and carried on with the social measures.

Ion Voiculescu – mayor of Craiova over the period 1988-1989. They modernized the street, water and sewerage networks and carried on with the social measures.

2.4. The mayors of Craiova during the period 1989-2017

Ion Botofei – mayor of Craiova chosen by the demonstrators in the street, as a consequence of events of 1989.

Constantin Bușoi – mayor for a short time in 1990.

Tudor Rădulescu (born 1944, Apele Vii commune, Dolj County) – mayor of Craiova during the years 1990-1992, as representative of FSN political structure. Studies at the Polytechnic Institute in Timișoara, Engineer, head of departament in Craiova Chemical Combine Group and TSP HOMS, Aggregate Works in Syria. In 1990 he was sub-prefect of Dolj and during 1992-1996 president of the Dolj County Council. During the mayor's mandate the first Plans of General Town-planning (PUG), the Plans of Zone Town-planning (PUZ) and the Plans of Detailed Town-planning (PUD) were initiated and approved. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works, they finalized the methodology of building authorization, they started research aimed at obtaining the second Isvarna source of water and they also began the project for the equipment of filtering the residual water of Craiova. The main sewer was cased in proportion of 80%, the night installation was placed on the former central stadium, the French Library was, set

up in Craiova, Mihai Viteazul (equestrian statue in the Prefecture Square) was inaugurated and the Senior People's Home in Craiova was renovated.

Dan Nicolae (1945-1995) – mayor of Craiova during the period 1992-1995. Studies at the Institute of Architecture in Bucharest. Political, senator of Dolj, Minister of Public Works and Territory Arrangement. During his mandate modernizing works were carried out at the street network, district heating, water and sewerage.

Ion Șuvaina (28 April 1939, Siliște commune, Alba county) – delegated mayor during the period 1 April 1995 – 1 August 1996. Studies at the Faculty of Electromechanics in Petroșani. The works of modernizing the street, water and sewerage networks which had started during Dan Nicolae's mandate were continued. Other achievements were: removing the alluvial matter from the bottom of the lake of the Nicolae Romanescu Park, the illumination system in Romanescu Park, the initiate and signing of the contract for rehabilitating the sources of water in Craiova, the establishing of a close friendship between the towns Craiova and Skopje (Macedonia) as well as the finalizing of the Project of General Town-planning (PUG).

Vasile Bulucea (1931-2008) – mayor of Craiova over the years 1972-1977, 1996-2000 (from PSM, after several ballots and 2000-2004 from PDSR political structure). Having a Bachelor degree Engineering from Bucharest Institute of Railways, he was an engineer and politician, Prime vice-president of the Gorj County Council (1977-1979), minister of transport (1979-1986), president of the Popular Council of the Gorj county (1986-1988), minister secretary of state (1988-1989), prime vicepresident of Bucarest city hall (1989-1990). During his mandates, works of modernization were carried out at the street, heating, water and sewerage networks in Craiova. During his first mandate, the day of celebrating the city was chosen through contest as well as the anthem, the flag and the coat of arms. The institution of the Honorary Citizen of Craiova was set up.

Antonie Solomon (born in 1955) – mayor of Craiova as representative of PSD during the period 2004-2008 and PDL during 2008-2012 (suspended in 2009). Economic studies at the University of Craiova. During his mandates, works of modernizing the parking areas in Craiova's centre were performed, as well as the modernization of the road infrastructure, of the heating, water and sewerage networks of the city. The modernization of Craiovița and Valea Roșie neighbourhoods started (through planting ornamental trees and arranging green spaces), the city centre (through modernizing the park in front of the prefecture and making a new location for Mihai Viteazul statue). There began a vast programme of modernizing the Central Marketplace and Craiova Fair. The mayor especially focused on the events dedicated to Craiova's days, being the initiator of the programme of reorganization of some cultural institutions. The title of Honorary Citizen was awarded to remarkable local and national personalities.

Mărinică Dincă (born on 4 August 1976) – vice mayor of Craiova during 2008-2012. He fulfilled the duties of an interim mayor during the period 2009-2012, as a consequence of Antonie Solomon being suspended. Law studies at the Faculty of Law of Craiova University, senator representing PDL political structure over the years 2012-2016. He carried on with the previous projects of city modernization (the subterranean passage and the on the surface passage, etc.).

Lia Olguța Vasilescu (born on 18 November 1974, Craiova) – mayor of Craiova from June 2012 to June 2016 and June 2016 to January 2017. Studies at the Faculty of Letters of Craiova University, Doctor in Sociology at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance, University in Bucharest. Politician of social-democratic orientation (from December 2007 until present, PSD member before 2007 she belonged to PRM). Member of Parliament (deputy, senator) in several legislatures, minister in the Government (January 2017-present).

During the mandates of mayor she had remarkable achievements in several fields of activity, as follows:

- health – rehabilitation of the Filantropia, Victor Babeș and Neuropsychiatry hospitals; the constructing in proportion of 80% (up to the present) of a new hospital: purchasing of new equipment for hospitals, modernizing of the consulting rooms.

- education – rehabilitation and sanitation of the schools and kindergartens in the city (33% of the pupils in Craiova are awarded prizes and social scholarships, grants for study, for performance or merit from the city hall funds.

- parks and gardens – rehabilitation of Nicolae Romanescu park (a total rehabilitation for the first time in its existence), of the little parks in the neighbourhoods and the Zoological Garden; the Botanical Garden was revitalized.

- transport – the tram-way was rehabilitated (for the first time in 30 years, using irredeemable funds) as well as all the trans in the RAT park (under own management), 24 new buses were purchased.

- public utility networks and services – networks of drinking water supply were introduced in all the streets of the public domain of Craiova and sewerage networks in 30 per cent of the city: through European funds, the construction of feed pipe 2 for Izvarna water was continued and casing work was started on Cornițoiu canal and also the canal on Râului street; at the same time, open canals, pools and areas with risk of flooding were desilted and a dog shelter was built at Breasta. In partnership with the Dolj County Council, a project was started for arranging the platforms for buried containers.

- road infrastructure – an underground parking area with 600 places was created in the centre of the city, 50 per cent of the road surface of the city was covered with asphalt, the traffic lights system on the big boulevards was modernized and automated.

- culture and tourism – a remarkable achievement was that of revitalization of the old commercial centre of Craiova which enhances the value of Craiova's touristic

area. Rehabilitation procedures were started for the building of the Romanian Opera in Craiova, and Carol I College; a new seat was provided for “Cilibri” Puppet Theatre, the amphitheatre in the Romanescu Park was rehabilitated by means of European funding, the largest aquatic park in Oltenia was built by 90 per cent and far-reaching cultural events were organized and held, such as Craiova's Days, Europe Season, Puppets Occupy street, Shakespeare Festival, etc.

– sport – on the initiative of the mayor and Local Council works started for erecting the Football Arena, a construction 80% ready.

– projects and measures of social interest – projects and measures of social interest were carried out (200 social dwellings, modernization of the Home for Senior Persons, heating subsidies, free of charge transport for persons over 70, 50 per cent transport subsidies for pupils and students; co-financing of therapeutic services for disabled persons; emergency aids offered for expensive operations and treatments; works were started for the thermal rehabilitation of the blocks of flats in Craiova and for erecting a residential neighbourhood of about 1,800 apartments, etc.); new jobs have been created and a Job Market was set up; in partnership with the Dolj County Council, the second Industrial Park of the County has been created, stimulating, important investors from Turkey and Great Britain (Craiova is the only city in Romania which has opened a business centre in Great Britain).

Mihail Genoiu (born 1956) – vice-mayor of Craiova 2012-2016, interim mayor January 2017 – June 2017, Mayor 11 June 2017-present. Studies of engineering at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Craiova, studies of Law, Spiru Haret University. He continued of the previous projects.

