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COMMEMORATIVE PLACE NAMING IN ROMANIA: A GIS-BASED ANALYSIS OF OIKONYMS DERIVED FROM HISTORICAL FIGURES

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Abstract: *Oikonyms or the names of human settlements represent an important component of geographical nomenclature and cultural heritage. A particular subcategory of oikonyms are those derived from the names of historical figures reflect commemorative practices and contribute to preserving collective memory. Despite existing extensive research on post-communist European space and on Romanian toponymy in particular, the spatial distribution of such oikonyms using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has received limited scholarly attention. This study aims to analyse the distribution of Romanian oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures. A total of 144 oikonyms were identified and mapped, with analyses conducted at county and development-region levels and in relation to Romania's major relief units. Kernel Density analysis was employed to identify spatial concentration patterns. The results reveal an uneven territorial distribution. The highest concentrations of settlement names of historical figures occur in the South-East, North-East, and South-Muntenia regions, while lower values are recorded in central Romania. Density analysis highlights significant clusters in eastern and south-eastern Romania. The relief-based analysis shows that 47% of the identified oikonyms are located in plains and 40% in plateau regions, indicating a strong association with areas characterized by higher settlement density. The findings demonstrate that oikonyms derived from*

historical figures represent valuable elements of Romania's toponymic heritage and provide insights into the relationships between historical memory, cultural identity, and geographical space.

Key words: *oikonyms; historical figures; GIS; cultural heritage; Romania.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Oikonyms are names of human settlements and constitute a category of geographical names whose origins could date back to mediaeval and even antiquity periods (Crețan, 2000). The scholarly place naming literature highlights the role of oikonyms in revealing historical characteristics and settlement place naming stratification (Crețan, 2007; Iordache, 2009), as well as their contribution to studies of place memory and identity (Alderman, 2022; Azaryahu, 1996; Basik, 2020; Gnatiuk, 2018; Light & Young, 2018). Through their names, settlements preserve information about the historical events and the physical characteristics of places that have shaped particular human communities (Biskupska, 2022; Krasnenko et al., 2020; Persu & Nancu, 2007; Săgeată, Buza & Persu, 2025). As Derek Alderman (2022) argues, commemorative place naming are relevant to claim the past and to repair the future.

The study of Romanian oikonyms represents a broad field of research, encompassing both their origins and their classification. For instance, Remus Crețan (2000) proposed several criteria for classifying oikonyms, one of which concerns their association with historical personalities. Within the Romanian context, substantial research has addressed oikonyms derived from anthroponyms, phytotoponyms, zoonyms, and hydronyms (Boamfă, 2011; Felecan, 2017; Pușcaș, 2021), as well as hodonyms or street names (Boamfă, 2024; Crețan & Matthews, 2016; Timofte et al., 2026a; Timofte et al., 2026b). However, oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures remain a relatively underexplored research topic.

This study aims to map the distribution of Romanian oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures. The research employs Geographic Information Systems (GIS) techniques to analyse and visualize the spatial distribution of these oikonyms, while also providing an inventory at both county and development-region levels. The objectives of the study are:

(O1) to map oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures in Romania;

(O2) to compile a comprehensive inventory of such oikonyms at county and regional scales;

(O3) to examine their geographical distribution in relation to major relief units.

Despite the extensive body of research devoted to Central and Eastern European toponymy (Basik, 2020; Foote et al., 2000; Forest et al., 2004; Gnatiuk, 2018; Gnatiuk & Basik, 2023; Light & Young, 2018) and to Romanian toponymy (Boamfă, 2011; Felecan, 2017; Crețan et al., 2000; Crețan, 2007; Crețan et al., 2014; Crețan & Matthews, 2016; Boamfă, 2024; Rusu, 2021; Timofte et al., 2026a; Timofte et al., 2026b) in particular, the spatial distribution and regional characteristics of oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures by using GIS techniques have received limited scholarly attention. This study seeks to address this gap through a nationwide GIS-based analysis.

2. CONCEPTUAL BACKGROUND

Toponymy is an interdisciplinary field concerned with the study of geographical names, focusing on their origin, meaning, linguistic structure, and historical evolution, while also providing valuable insights into the cultural, social, and geographical characteristics of a given region (see Crețan, 2000; Tichelaar, 2002; Poenaru, 2013). From a linguistic perspective, toponyms reflect the vocabulary as well as the phonological, morphological, and grammatical structures of the languages in which they originated, preserving traces of earlier linguistic stages and cultural interactions (Nash, 2015; Poenaru, 2013). Furthermore, toponymic research may follow two complementary approaches: *intensive toponymy*, which focuses on the in-depth examination of individual place names, and *extensive toponymy*, which investigates broader naming patterns and spatial distributions across larger geographical areas (Tent, 2015). By integrating linguistic, historical, geographical, and sociocultural perspectives, the study of geographical names contributes to a deeper understanding of settlement processes, population movements, cultural heritage, and the relationships between communities and the landscapes they inhabit (Tichelaar, 2002; Tent, 2015; Poenaru, 2013).

The classification of toponyms at the global level is a complex process, as geographical names can be categorized according to their physical characteristics, origin, motivation, structure, chronology, and spatial distribution (Ismatova, 2021; Shamsutdinova & Urazmetova, 2017). Major categories include hydronyms, oronyms, insulonyms, choronyms, and urbanonyms, which designate names associated with bodies of water, landforms, islands, territories, and urban features, respectively (Shamsutdinova & Urazmetova, 2017). Other classifications distinguish between indigenous, borrowed, and hybrid names, while also considering their motivations, such as descriptive, commemorative, locational, or associative naming practices (Ismatova, 2021; Tent & Blair, 2011). Moreover, geographical names may coexist in different forms, reflecting linguistic, cultural, historical, and political identities, particularly in contexts where official and vernacular names overlap (Giraut, 2020). Within this framework, oikonyms (occasionally referred to as *'oykonyms'* in the literature) represent the category of settlement names and include astionyms, denoting urban settlements, and comonyms, referring to rural settlements (Shamsutdinova & Urazmetova, 2017).

In Romania, toponyms reflect the country's historical, linguistic, and geographical context, with place names being analysed according to their physical characteristics, origins, and linguistic features (Crețan, 2000; Buza, 2011). From a geographical perspective, Romanian toponymy encompasses the names of continents, regions, countries, landforms, rivers and water bodies, winds, vegetation- and animal-related features, as well as settlements and streets (Crețan, 2000). From historical and linguistic perspectives, Romanian toponyms reveal pre-Indo-European, Thraco-Geto-Dacian, Latin, Slavic, Hungarian, German, Turkish, and other influences, illustrating successive layers of cultural contact and human settlement (Buza, 2011). Their spatial distribution also displays identifiable patterns, particularly in the case of settlement names containing suffixes such as '**-ești, -eni/-ani, -ari, and -ovți/-evți**', among which '**-ești**' is especially widespread (Boamfă, 2018). Within this classification, oikonyms represent the names of human settlements, whose distribution and morphological characteristics provide valuable evidence regarding Romania's historical and geographical identity (Crețan,

2000; Boamfă, 2018). Moreover, the politics of remembering is tightly connected to nation building and national heroes (Rusu, 2026).

Toponymic literature has presented different criteria of classification for oikonyms. For instance, Remus Crețan (2000) classified oikonyms according to several criteria, including oikonyms derived from historical names, names rooted in the appellative *saint*, names of historical and political personalities, names of native inhabitants, island names, city and capital names, oikonyms indicating that a present-day town originally developed from a village, oikonyms derived from the toponym *port*, and oikonyms based on the root *pod* ('bridge').

Although worldwide there are plenty of studies on commemorative names (Alderman, 2022; Azaryahu, 1996; Basik, 2020; Foote et al., 2000; Forest et al., 2004; Gnatiuk, 2018; Gnatiuk & Basik, 2023), oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures are particularly significant because they reflect commemorative naming practices and illustrate the ways in which collective memory, national identity, and historical heritage become embedded in the local cultural landscape. Consequently, their spatial distribution offers valuable insights into the geographical expression of historical memory and our case across Romania adds value to existing commemorative studies by highlighting their spatial concentration using visual identified patterns through GIS tools.

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodological approach adopted in this study combined bibliographic and webographic research, historical analysis, linguistic analysis of Romanian oikonyms, and GIS-based spatial analysis and mapping of oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures.

In recent place naming studies, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) play an essential role in the collection, organization, visualization, and spatial analysis of place names, enabling their examination in relation to geographical, historical, environmental, and cultural characteristics. By integrating toponymic databases with other spatial datasets, GIS facilitates the identification of spatial patterns, the reconstruction of historical landscapes, and the investigation of linguistic and cultural transformations (Fuchs, 2015; Frajer & Fiedor, 2018; Wang et al., 2012). Furthermore, GIS-based approaches contribute to the documentation and preservation of indigenous naming systems by highlighting the evolution, meanings, and dynamic nature of geographical names (Mamontova & Klyachko, 2022). Consequently, GIS represents an important methodological tool in toponymic research, bridging geographical analysis, cultural heritage studies, and human-environment relationships (Mitxelena-Hoyos & Amaro-Mellado, 2026).

The GIS analysis involved the mapping of 144 oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures in Romania, as well as the examination of their geographical distribution in relation to counties, development regions, and major relief units using GIS tools within ArcGIS Pro, version 7. The analytical process included a rigorous filtering of the database, whereby all settlements whose names were not associated with historical figures from Romania were excluded from the final dataset. The database of settlements was compiled using the Romanian settlement nomenclature available through national geospatial and administrative datasets. Following the initial compilation, all settlements

whose names were not associated with historical figures were excluded from the final analysis.

4. RESULTS

The geographical distribution of Romanian oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures reveals notable disparities both at the county level and across development regions. As shown in *Appendix 1 and Appendix 2*, the highest concentration of such oikonyms is found in the South-East region, which contains 42 oikonyms. By contrast, the Centre Development region displays the lowest number, with only five oikonyms. Moreover, several counties within this region contain no settlement names derived from historical figures.

At the county level, Botoșani County records the highest number of oikonyms derived from historical figures (17), followed by Călărași County (14), Constanța County (12), and Brăila County (10). At the opposite end of the spectrum, the counties of Caraș-Severin, Alba, Bistrița-Năsăud, Cluj, Maramureș, Satu Mare, Suceava, and Vrancea each contain only one such oikonym. Furthermore, the counties of Brașov, Covasna, Harghita, Sibiu, Sălaj, Prahova, Vâlcea, Dolj, and Gorj, as well as Bucharest and Ilfov County, do not contain any oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures.

At the national level, the distribution of oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures is markedly uneven. Some settlements were named to commemorate prominent historical figures, whereas others bear names associated with the lives, activities, or birthplaces of the individuals concerned. As illustrated in ***Figure 1***, the highest concentrations of such oikonyms are observed in north-eastern and south-eastern Romania, with secondary clusters in South-Muntenia and western Romania.

These spatial patterns may be explained, at least partially, by Romania's complex historical evolution. The concentration of commemorative oikonyms in these regions suggests that place-naming practices were particularly significant in territories historically associated with the formation of the Romanian state and the development of modern Romanian national identity. The repeated occurrence of settlement names related to rulers, political leaders, military figures, cultural personalities, and national heroes highlights the important role of historical memory in shaping local geographical nomenclature.

Conversely, central Romania records considerably lower frequencies, while several counties contain no such oikonyms. This pattern may reflect differing historical trajectories, ethnic structures, commemorative traditions, and administrative influences on settlement nomenclature. Consequently, the geographical distribution of these oikonyms appears to reflect both regional, historical identities and broader nation-building processes.

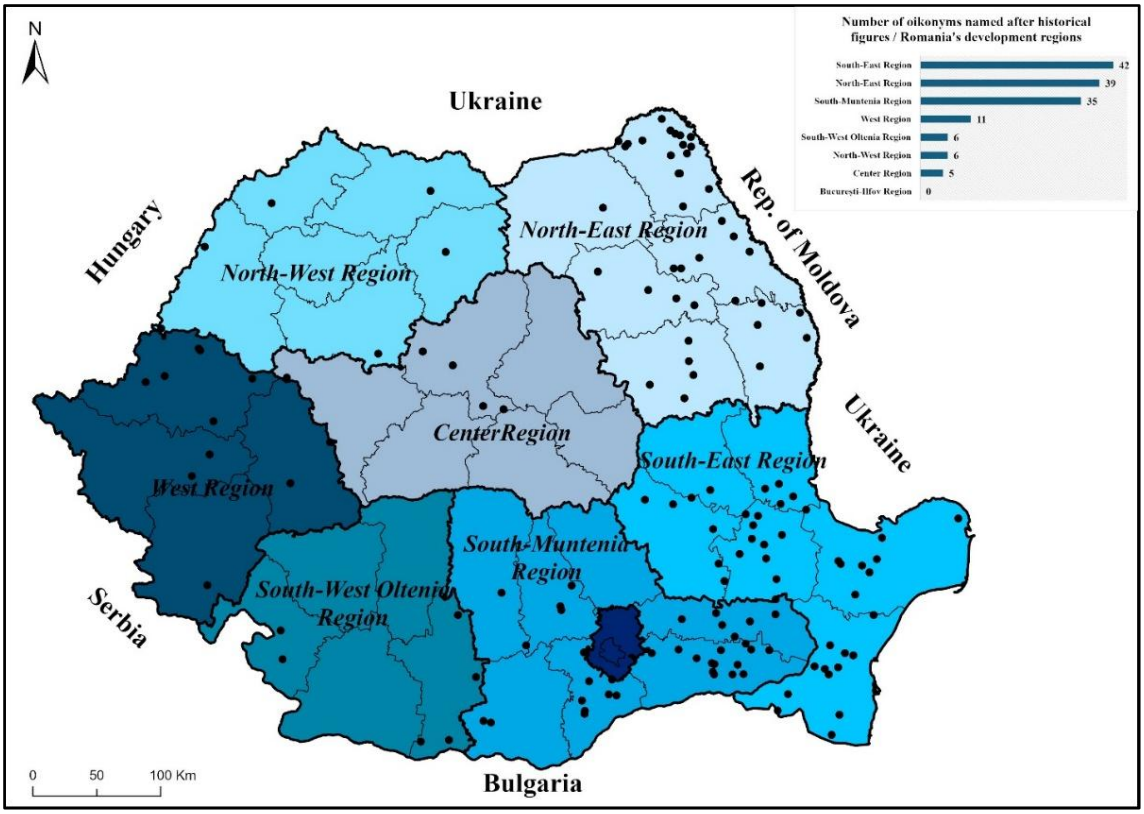


Figure 1. Geographical distribution of oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures by development region in Romania (data source: geo-spatial, 2026; authors' processing, 2026).

Using the Kernel Density function in ArcGIS Pro, a density map of oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures was generated for Romania (***Figure 2***). The Kernel Density analysis provides additional insight into the spatial organization of commemorative oikonyms. Rather than being evenly dispersed throughout Romania, the identified settlements form distinct clusters, particularly in the eastern and south-eastern parts of the country. These concentrations indicate that the process of assigning historical names to settlements was spatially selective and influenced by regional historical traditions.

The strongest hotspots correspond to areas where multiple settlements commemorate prominent figures such as Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Tudor Vladimirescu, Nicolae Bălcescu, and Ștefan cel Mare. The clustering effect suggests regional commemorative landscapes, where geographical names function as symbolic markers of collective memory and national heritage. Similar patterns have been observed in toponymic studies emphasizing the role of place names in reinforcing historical narratives and territorial identity (Giraut, 2020; Biskupska, 2022).

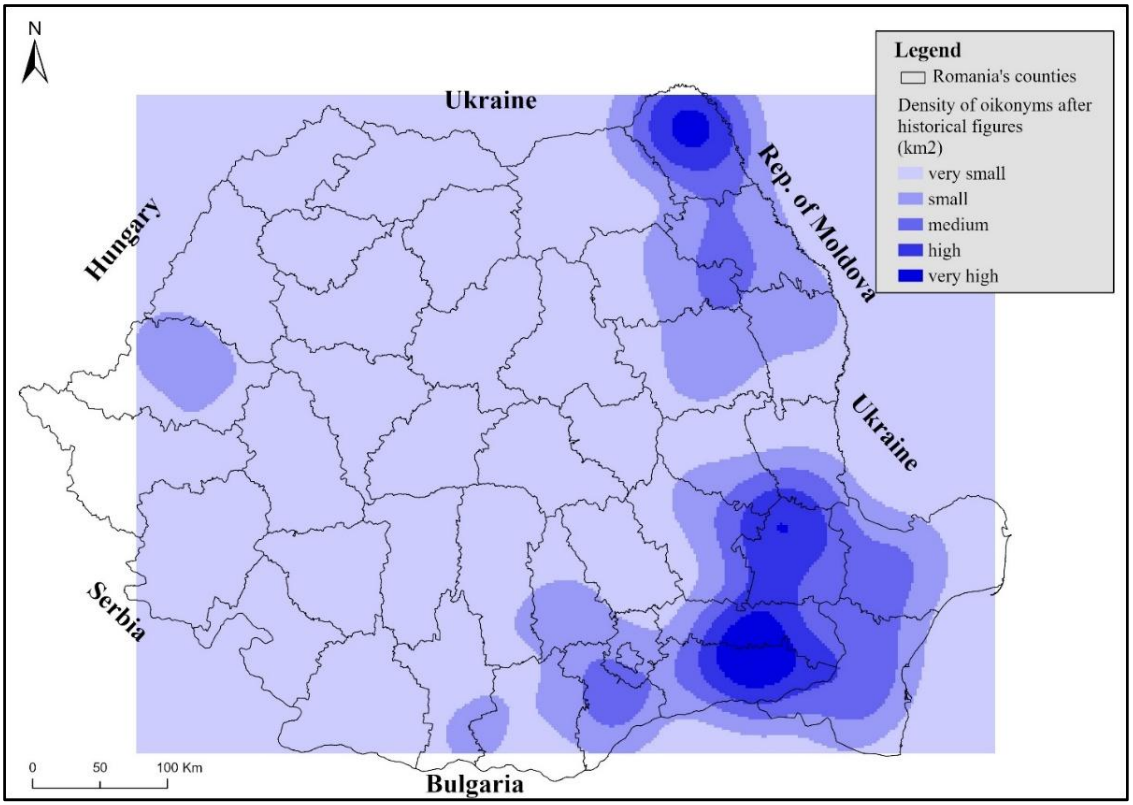


Figure 2. Spatial density of oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures in Romania (Kernel Density Analysis) (data source: geo-spatial, 2026; authors' processing, 2026).

The relationship between commemorative oikonyms and major relief units demonstrates that their distribution is not independent of geographical conditions. Nearly half of all identified oikonyms are located in plains, while a further 40% are situated in plateau regions. This predominance reflects the historical concentration of population, settlements, and economic activities within Romania's lowland areas.

By contrast, mountain and hill regions contain relatively few examples. This pattern is likely linked to lower settlement densities and a reduced number of administrative units available for commemorative renaming. Consequently, the observed distribution suggests that the geography of settlement development has played a major role in shaping the spatial pattern of oikonyms derived from historical figures. The commemorative process therefore reflects not only cultural and political influences but also the geographical structure of human habitation across Romania.

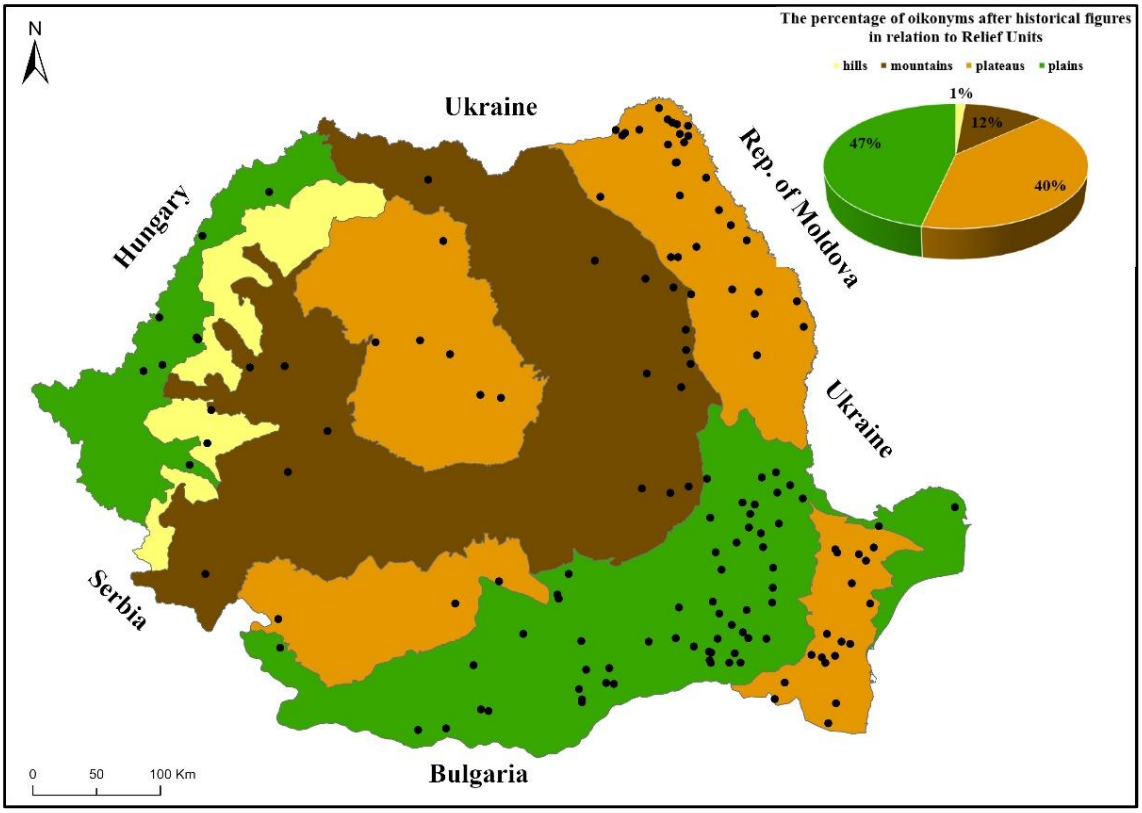


Figure 3. Distribution of oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures in relation to Romania's major relief units (data source: geo-spatial, 2026; authors' processing, 2026).

5. DISCUSSION

The results demonstrate that oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures act as spatial expressions of collective memory. Through their distribution, these settlement names preserve references to rulers, revolutionaries, political leaders, military commanders, writers, and scholars who occupy important positions in Romania's national historical narrative. Consequently, the geographical pattern identified in this study should be interpreted not only as a toponymic phenomenon but also as a manifestation of the ways in which historical memory becomes embedded within the cultural landscape (Crețan, 2000; Tent, 2015; Giraut, 2020).

The prominence of rulers, military leaders, and political personalities among the identified commemorative oikonyms suggests that the Romanian settlement naming system reflects a predominantly national historical narrative. Unlike descriptive or environmentally derived place names, these oikonyms actively transmit selected elements of historical memory across generations, transforming geographical space into a repository of cultural and symbolic meanings. Examples include settlements named after Alexandru Ioan Cuza, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Tudor Vladimirescu, Nicolae Bălcescu, Ștefan cel Mare, Mircea Vodă, and Vlad Țepeș. Their repeated occurrence across multiple counties demonstrates the significant influence of national historical memory on local place-naming practices.

The results also highlight notable regional differences. The South-East Development Region contains the highest number of oikonyms derived from historical

figures, while the Centre Region records the lowest concentration. These variations may reflect differences in settlement history, demographic evolution, local commemorative traditions, and administrative renaming processes that occurred during different historical periods. In many cases, the names of settlements were modified to honour prominent personalities associated with major events in Romanian history, particularly during periods characterized by strong nation-building policies and the consolidation of a shared national identity.

The Kernel Density analysis further emphasizes the existence of regional clusters rather than a uniform national distribution. The hotspots identified in eastern and south-eastern Romania indicate areas where commemorative naming practices became particularly widespread. Such concentrations suggest that the process of assigning historical names to settlements was influenced not only by local circumstances but also by broader political and cultural dynamics operating at regional and national scales. Similar patterns have been identified in studies examining the relationship between place names and collective memory, where geographical names function as symbolic markers of identity and historical heritage (Persu & Nacu, 2007; Giraut, 2020; Biskupska, 2022).

Another significant finding concerns the relationship between oikonyms and Romania's major relief units. Nearly half of all identified oikonyms are located in plains (47%), while a further 40% are situated in plateau regions. In contrast, mountainous and hilly areas account for a much smaller proportion of the total. This pattern appears to be closely related to the geographical distribution of settlements in Romania, as plains and plateaus have historically supported higher population densities, more extensive agricultural activities, and larger settlement networks. Consequently, these regions provided a broader framework for the establishment, development, and subsequent renaming of settlements. The results therefore suggest that the spatial distribution of commemorative oikonyms is influenced not only by historical and cultural processes but also by underlying geographical factors. This is important because historical memory is tightly connected to places (Doiciar & Crețan, 2023).

Overall, the findings demonstrate that oikonyms derived from historical figures constitute an important component of Romania's cultural landscape. Beyond their linguistic and geographical significance, these settlement names preserve historical memory and contribute to the symbolic representation of national identity in space. Their distribution reflects the interaction between historical events, political decisions, cultural values, and geographical conditions, highlighting the complex processes that shape the Romanian toponymic system.

6. CONCLUSIONS

This study examined the spatial distribution of Romanian oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures through the use of GIS techniques and cartographic analysis. A total of 144 oikonyms were identified, inventoried, and analysed at county, development-region, and relief-unit levels. The results reveal a pronounced territorial unevenness in the distribution of these oikonyms. The highest concentrations were recorded in the South-East, North-East, and South-Muntenia Development Regions, while the Centre Region displayed the lowest number. At the county level, Botoșani, Călărași, Constanța, and Brăila stand out as the most representative areas for this category

of settlement names. The Kernel Density analysis highlighted the existence of distinct spatial clusters, particularly in eastern and south-eastern Romania, demonstrating that commemorative naming practices are concentrated in specific regions rather than being uniformly distributed across the country. These patterns reflect the influence of historical, political, and cultural processes that have contributed to the preservation of collective memory through geographical names. The analysis of relief units showed that the majority of oikonyms derived from historical figures are located in plains and plateau regions, whereas mountainous and hilly areas contain significantly fewer examples. This distribution suggests that settlement density and accessibility have played an important role in shaping the spatial pattern of commemorative oikonyms.

The study confirms that oikonyms derived from historical figures represent valuable elements of commemorative naming (Alderman, 2022) and are key elements in Romania's toponymic heritage. As mentioned in a recent study on national heroes, modern states like Romania and Republic of Moldova codify their heroic heritage through a certain dispersed but institutionally structured pantheonic arenas (Rusu, 2026). Therefore, oikonyms preserve information about historical personalities, commemorate significant events and achievements, and contribute to the construction and maintenance of local, regional, and national identities (Basik, 2020; Foote et al., 2000; Forest et al., 2004; Gnatiuk, 2018; Gnatiuk & Basik, 2023; Rusu, 2021). Furthermore, the integration of GIS methods into toponymic research demonstrates the potential of spatial analysis for investigating the relationships between geography, history, and cultural memory.

Certainly, there are some limitations of this study. The study is limited to spatial representation of oikonyms and we do not have space to present a deeper spatial statistical analysis. Therefore, future research could expand our analysis by investigating the temporal evolution of commemorative oikonyms, the historical circumstances of settlement renaming processes, and comparative patterns across other categories of Romanian place names as well as a more in-depth spatial statistical analysis. Such approaches would contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of toponymy in shaping and preserving cultural landscapes.

Note: *All authors contributed equally to this research.*
Authors have not used AI tools to generate ideas in this study. Grammarly software was used only to finally proofread the English language of this paper.

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Appendix 1. Distribution of oikonyms derived from the names of historical figures by county and development region in Romania

Development Region	Number of oikonyms derived from historical figures	County	Number of oikonyms derived from historical figures	Oikonym names
West	**11**	Arad	6	Vasile Goldiș, Avram Iancu, Caporal Alexa, Nicolae Bălcescu, Avram Iancu, Andrei Șaguna
		Caraș-Severin	1	Eftimie Murgu
		Hunedoara	2	Aurel Vlaicu, General Berthelot
		Timiș	2	Traian Vuia, Victor Vlad Delamarina
Centre	**5**	Alba	1	Avram Iancu
		Brașov	0	-
		Covasna	0	-
		Harghita	0	-
		Mureș	4	Aurel Vlaicu, Gheorghe Doja, Papiu Ilarian, Mihai Viteazu
		Sibiu	0	-
North-West	**6**	Bihor	2	Avram Iancu, Mihai Bravu
		Bistrița-Năsăud	1	Liviu Rebreanu
		Cluj	1	Mihai Viteazu
		Maramureș	1	Bogdan Vodă
		Satu-Mare	1	Ady Endre
		Sălaj	0	-
North-East	**39**	Bacău	5	Ștefan cel Mare, Ștefan Vodă, Nicolae Bălcescu, Gheorghe Doja, Bogdan Vodă
		Botoșani	17	Tudor Vladimirescu, Aurel Vlaicu, Dimitrie Cantemir, Tudor Vladimirescu,

				Avram Iancu, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Nicolae Bălcescu, George Enescu, George Coșbuc, Mihai Eminescu, Hilișeu-Horia, Hilișeu-Cloșca, Hilișeu-Crișan, Nicolae Bălcescu, Mihai Viteazu, Cuza Vodă, Miron Costin
		Iași	7	Ion Neculce, Alexandru I. Cuza, Cuza Vodă, Tudor Vladimirescu, Cuza Vodă, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Alexandru cel Bun
		Neamț	4	Ion Creangă, Petru Vodă, Ștefan cel Mare, Miron Costin
		Suceava	1	Ciprian Porumbescu
		Vaslui	5	Alexandru Vlahuță, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Emil Racoviță, Budu Cantemir, Ștefan cel Mare
South-East	**42**	Brăila	10	Constantin Gabrielescu, Mircea Vodă, Țepeș Vodă, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Cuza Vodă, Nicolae Bălcescu, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Cuza Vodă, Tudor Vladimirescu, Mihai Bravu
		Buzău	6	Alexandru Odobescu, C. A. Rosetti, Varlaam, Sergent Ionel Ștefan, Vintilă Vodă, Heliade Rădulescu
		Constanța	12	Remus Opreanu, Tudor Vladimirescu,

				Cuza Vodă, General Scărișoreanu, Ion Corvin, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Mihai Viteazu, Mircea Vodă, Ștefan cel Mare, Negru Vodă, Nicolae Bălcescu, Țepeș Vodă
		Galați	4	Vasile Alecsandri, Cuza Vodă, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Tudor Vladimirescu
		Tulcea	9	Tudor Vladimirescu, C. A. Rosetti, General Praporgescu, Mircea Vodă, Mircea Bravu, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Nicolae Bălcescu, Vasile Alecsandri, I. C. Brătianu
		Vrancea	1	Alexandru Vlahuță
South-Muntenia	**35**	Argeș	2	Radu Negru, Ștefan cel Mare
		Călărași	14	Radu Negru, Cuza Vodă, Constantin Brâncoveanu, Dragoș Vodă, Radu Vodă, Nicolae Bălcescu, Alexandru Odobescu, Tudor Vladimirescu, Ștefan cel Mare, Ștefan Vodă, Vlad Țepeș, Mihai Viteazu, Alexandru I. Cuza, Nicolae Bălcescu
		Dâmbovița	3	I. L. Caragiale, Cuza Vodă, Mircea Vodă
		Giurgiu	8	Varlaam, Mihai Vodă, Vlad Țepeș, Valter Mărăcineanu, Dimitrie Cantemir, Petru Rareș, Radu Vodă, Mihai Bravu,

		Ialomița	6	Ion Ghica, Gheorghe Doja, Gheorghe Lazăr, Mihail Kogălniceanu, Mircea cel Bătrân, Ion Roată
		Prahova	0	-
		Teleorman	2	Nicolae Bălcescu, Tudor Vladimirescu
București-Ilfov	**0**	București	0	-
		Ilfov	0	-
South-West Oltenia	**6**	Dolj	0	-
		Gorj	0	-
		Mehedinți	2	Nicolae Bălcescu, Ștefan Odobleja
		Olt	4	Tudor Vladimirescu, Nicolae Titulescu, Cuza Vodă, Ștefan cel Mare
		Vâlcea	0	-

Appendix 2. Selected historical figures reflected in Romania's oikonyms

Historical figures	Occupation	Lifespan
Ady Endre	Poet, journalist	1877-1919
Alexandru cel Bun	Voivode and Prince of Moldavia	1370-1432
Alexandru I. Cuza	Prince of the United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, military officer, politician	1820-1873
Alexandru Odobescu	writer, archaeologist, historian, politician	1834-1895
Alexandru Vlahuță	writer, poet	1858-1919
Andrei Șaguna	metropolitan bishop of Transylvania, theologian, advocate for Romanian rights	1808-1873
Avram Iancu	Lawyer, leader of the 1848 Revolution in Transylvania	1824-1872
Aurel Vlaicu	engineer, inventor, aviation pioneer	1882-1913
Bogdan Vodă	Voivode of Maremureș	1307-1367

Budu Cantemir (Dimitrie Cantemir)	Prince of Moldavia, historian, writer, philosopher	1673-1723
Caporal Alexa (Ion Alexe)	military figure	1897-1919
C. A. Rosetti	politician, journalist, publicist	1816-1885
Ciprian Porumbescu	Composer, violinist	1853-1883
Constantin Brâncoveanu	Prince of Wallachia	1654-1714
Constantin Gabrielescu	jurist, politician	1865 -1947
Cuza Vodă (Alexandru Ioan Cuza)	Prince of the United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia, military officer, politician	1820-1873
Dimitrie Cantemir	Prince of Moldavia, historian, writer, philosopher	1673-1723
Eftimie Murgu	philosopher, professor, politician	1805-1870
Emil Racoviță	biologist, zoologist, polar explorer; founder of biospeleology	1868-1947
General Berthelot (Henri Mathias Berthelot)	French general	1861-1931
General Praporgescu	Romanian general	1865-1916
General Scărișoreanu (Constantin Scărișoreanu)	Romanian general	1866-1936
George Coșbuc	poet, translator, publicist	1866-1918
George Enescu	composer, violinist, pianist, conductor	1881-1955
Gheorghe Doja	leader of the 1514 peasant uprising in Transylvania	1470-1514
Gheorghe Lazăr	educator, founder of Romanian-language education in Wallachia	1779-1823
Heliade Rădulescu	Writer, poet, philologist, teacher and politician	1802-1872
Hilișeu-Cloșca (Ion Oargă)	Cloșca - leader of the 1784 peasant uprising	1747-1785
Hilișeu-Crișan (Marcu Giurgiu)	Crișan - leader of the 1784 peasant uprising	1733-1785
Hilișeu-Horia (Vasile Ursu Nicola)	Horia - leader of the 1784 peasant uprising	1731-1785
I. C. Brătianu	Pplitician and Prime Minister of Romania	1821-1891

I. L. Caragiale	playwright, prose writer, journalist	1852-1912
Ion Corvin	politician	1473-1501
Ion Creangă	writer	1837-1889
Ion Ghica	politician, diplomat, economist, writer	1816-1897
Ion Neculce	chronicler, historian, politician	1672-1745
Ion Roată	peasant, representative of the peasantry in the Ad hoc Divan	1806-1882
Liviu Rebreanu	novelist, playwright and publicist	1885-1944
Mihai Bravu (Mihai Viteazu)	Prince of Wallachia, Transylvania and Moldavia	1558-1601
Mihai Eminescu	Poet, prose writer and journalist	1850-1889
Mihai Viteazu	Prince of Wallachia, Transylvania and Moldavia	1558-1601
Mihai Vodă (Mihai Viteazu)	Prince of Wallachia, Transylvania and Moldavia	1558-1601
Mihail Kogălniceanu	historian, writer, journalist, lawyer, politician	1817-1891
Mircea Bravu (Mircea cel Bătrân)	Prince of Wallachia	1355-1418
Mircea cel Bătrân	Prince of Wallachia	1355-1418
Mircea Vodă (Mircea cel Bătrân)	Prince of Wallachia	1355-1418
Miron Costin	chronicler, historian, politician	1633-1691
Nicolae Bălcescu	historian, writer, revolutionary, politician	1819-1852
Nicolae Titulescu	diplomat, lawyer, professor, politician President of the League of Nations	1882-1941
Papiu Ilarian	historian, lawyer, politician	1827-1877
Petru Rareș	Prince of Moldavia	1487-1546
Petru Vodă	Prince of Moldavia	1537-1594
Radu Vodă	Prince of Wallachia and Moldavia	1586-1626
Remus Opreanu	lawyer, politician	1844-1908

Ștefan cel Mare	Prince of Moldavia, military leader	1438-1504
Ștefan Odobleja	military physician, researcher, precursor of cybernetics	1902-1978
Ștefan Vodă	Prince of Moldavia, military leader	1438-1504
Traian Vuia	inventor, engineer and aviation pioneer	1872-1950
Tudor Vladimirescu	military leader, revolutionary, leader of the 1821 Revolution	1780-1821
Țepeș Vodă	Prince of Wallachia	1431-1476
Valter Mărăcineanu	Romanian army officer, hero of the Romanian War of Independence	1840-1877
Varlaam	metropolitan bishop of Moldavia, religious scholar, writer	1580-1657
Vasile Alecsandri	poet, playwright, prose writer, diplomat, politician	1818-1890
Vasile Goldiș	teacher, journalist, politician	1862-1934
Victor Vlad Delamarina	poet, Austro-Hungarian army officer	1870-1896
Vlad Țepeș	Prince of Wallachia	1431-1476