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## *Present and Future Preoccupations of the Research Geographers in Timisoara*

The suppression suspended in 1978 of the Faculty of History and Geography in the University of Timisoara represented a strong strike both for the superior geographical Teaching in this part of the country and for the geographical research. The repairing act in 1990 that reset up the Faculty of Geography has reopened the possibility of evaluating the scientific potential in Timisoara in the geographical domain and of the re-loumeting of geography in this part of Romania. It is even more important the fact that the forbidden topics dissapeared and the Romanian geographical research could have been related to the values of the World and European geographical research by direct relationships with different research groups and professors at different universities.

We consider that during the present stage there cannot be throught a scientific system without geography because a series of papers that engage the transformation of the evironment cannot be done without a geographical documentation. The geographers have to prove that they can be useful.

In what the geographical structures are concerned expressing the staging of perceiving of the reality by research there can be distinguished three cathegories:

- Dualistic structures (general and regional geography or physical and economic geography)
- Multidisciplinary structures (the equivalent of the geographers and technosphere)
- The unitar systemic structure (geographical, enviroment, geosystem, sociosysteme).

The unity between the great compounds of the environment are eliminating the "dualism" between natural and social branches of geography.

In our opinion the present aim of the geographical research is the unitary systemic structure of the three compounds: natural, economic, demographic. We have to mention here that the Faculty of Chemistry - Biology - Geography in Timisoara has good interdisciplinary collaborated in ecology problems during the Tempus Programme when the three departments have worked together during the two symposiums organised by the University of Bremen and The Environment Agency in Timisoara.

In the preoccupations of the Romanian Geography and of the geographers in Timisoara there have been taking place changes both in the orientation of the content and of the typical methods revealing more and more the social aspect (although the social conception has shaped ever since the beginning of the modern geography in our country).

The social implication of the geographical research in new shapes due to the present rhythms of transformation and development linked with the abolishing of the communism from the Romanian society but also as a result of the actions of population on the compounds of the natural background by economic activity and urbanisation.

In front of such kind of problems our geographers have remodelated two concepts geography imposes as a science with transforming properties and prognosis. As a result the applied geography has proved its usefulness in the action of transforming of the Romanian society in all its compounds.

Having as a starting point the classical manners of research, the young group of Romanian geographers are considering that during the present stage of development of the geonomical sciences and of the geographical thinking it is imperiously necessary the system regarding of the research themes. This is answering to the scientific and social requests of orienting and managing the geographical environment, present and perspective request of the geography i.e. the prospective geography. Therefore geography is offering new possibilities in the determination of the basic processes that are conditioning the link between nature and societies at territorial level.

Even if our attention is mainly directed towards the geographical problems of Banat or of the neighboring areas the themes

are varied concerning both economical and physical geography. Taking into consideration the skills of some members of our department and also the spending towards some very present themes there have been shoped a few directions as if follows.

In the domain of the physical geography: - the relieving of some geocological particularities of the high zone of the dieridional Carpathiaus: detailed mapping and inverntory of the glaciari and periglaciari phenomena and the investigation of the mountain permafrost where both fossil statiped flopewaste deposits, rock glaciers and active phenomena have been studied. At the request of IPA Global Geocryological Database there was started the initiation of a data bank concerning the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the permafrost and periglaciari processes and forms in the Romanian Carpathians, as well as the monitoring and predictione activity of permafrost (*Mr Urdea*).

- the study of some methereological elements and climatological phenomena special in for the SWestern part of the country;

- hydrological studies on the small and middle hydrographical basins and towards the perfecting of the methods of hydrological prognosis;

- the elaboration of the monography of the Banat soils (I evolution and chemical characteristics; II natural and fertility conditions; III the monitoring of the state of quality; IV the state of quality of the agricultural lands and the protection of the agrosystems in N Romania).

In the domain of the human geography our researches are about: - population as an essential factor (the aim and the reason of all the activities) trying demographical analyses to find echoes in the territorial background.

- Urban and rural settlements in the Western Plenin of Romania and in the historical Banat analysing the space and case differences that determind the territorial links between the character of people establishing and the concret elements of the natural background the typical social historical and economical conditions.

- Urban ecology as "a new direction of geographical research in the system treating take into consideration especially the processes and the effects of the modernisation urbanisation and systematisation of the teritories and of the localities, the reducement of the environment pollution etc.

Other themes refer to: we analyses of the turistic potential in SW Romania

- the study of the ethnical and regions structures in Romania and Banat,

- the reshaping of the property and agricultural production in Banat.

The efforts of the erative group concerning the research by the year 2000 will get materialised in the make in together with the Universites in Novi Sad and Szeged of a geographical monography of the historical Banat.

The collective of our catheder has a project initiated and coordinated by the Geography Catheder for the Eastern European Countries in Tübingen - Germany for a study concerning the changing after 1989 in the bordering regions.

A part of the results of the research activity will be gathered in works that are going to be presented at he Congress of Geograp-  
hy in Hague - August 1996.