

The Collective of Geography, Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch

Brief history

This research unity was founded in March 1990 through the Governmental Decision no.209 in the same year, that approved the transfer of a small group of researchers from the Department of Geography from University „Al. I. Cuza” of Iasi to Iasi Branch (Romanian Academy).

The new collective opened a new step in geographical research within Academy, after a long absence impelled by the communist authorities. It was possible in this way an important geographical research activity of the remarkable scientists from Iasi, that contributed to the achievement of major work seven from the very beginning of the Geography Institute in 1944.

Among these scientists we can mention professor Mihai David (member of the Academy even from the beginning), professor Ion Gugiuman, who was the second-head of the Geography Institute and professor Gheorghe Nastase, who was also called the director of the same institution beginning with 1955.

After the December 1989 moment, the scientific research started develop normally and the Romanian Academy regained its research institutes, that where for a period of time, institutionally speaking, under the controll of the Ministry of Education.



The research team

So these were the favourable conditions for the creation of our collective in the domain of geography within Romanian Academy, Iasi Branch.

In this instant the Collective of Geography has 8 scientific researchers and

two technicians, among which one with superior studies. Among the researchers two are first grade scientific researchers, two are second degree scientific researchers, two scientific researchers and two are training scientific researchers. Five of our collective are doctors in geography and two of them are Ph.D. scientific coordinators. The last three members are Ph.D. students and they are coming closer to the finalization of their theses.

The director of the collective is I.Harjoaba, doctor in Geography, professor emeritus of University „Al. I. Cuza” from Iasi and owner of the governmental indemnity for special achievements in scientific research.



The director of the collective

Prof.dr.em. I.Harjoaba

Our collective's scientific achievements are considered by us as being very important. We must add that our successes are also due to the very close collaboration with the members of the Department of Geography from University „Al. I. Cuza” of Iasi. Our location is even in this department where we can use, without restriction, the laboratories of the department and our research plans are correlated to those of the Department of Geography. We may say that it is a case of wise and productive integration of our researches with those belonging to the university department.



Laboratory for the chemistry and biology of soils

Presentation of the research programmes

The major research themes that we have been working at in the last four years (2002 – 2005) regard:

- Romania's Population in an European context;
- Interdependance relationships of the geographical systems in local, European and worldwide context;
- Pedogenetic factors and processes in the temperate zone;
- Pedologic patrimony of Oriental Carpathians.
- Genetic and fonctional interpendance of soil and vegetation and the other factors of the north-eastern Romanian environment;
- Europe at the final of demographic tranzition;
- The influence of the Equatorial Pacific upon regional climates;
- The role of „far away” factors in defining the climatic character of Romania.



The soil laboratory

During this period the members of our collective achieved an important research within some projects.

Within Romanian Academy there have been achieved 2 major projects financed by CNCSIS:

1. „Structure and fonctionality of the geosystem. Aplication to Central Moldavian Tableland.”
2. „Spatio – temporal modelling of the dynamics of soil characteristics with evidence and quatification of disfonctionalities lead by human activities impact”.

Both projects were made by S.R. Cristian Valeriu Patriche, dr. in geografie.

Much more important was the participation of our collective to some projects from the Department of Geography from University „Al. I. Cuza” of Iasi and from other scientific institutions. In this domain we participated to 20 projects, from which 14 with national character and payment and 6 european character and payment.



One of the researcher working in the laboratory

Here there are some of these:

- „New methods for analysis and quantification for landscape dynamics. Application in Moldavian Tableland”;

- „Corine Land Cover 2000”;
- „Geochemical study and experimental modelling of zeolitic processes of volcanic ash from Romania”;
- „Use of digital means in thematic cartography”;
- „Repulsive rural spaces in Moldavia. Reability and fonctional insertion”;

- „ The Use of Geographic Information System in Climatology and Meteorology”. Colaborare cu Univ. „J. Fourier” din Dgrenoble Franta în cadrul proiectului COST 719.

Publishing activity is concreted into **7 books** in different publishing houses. Among these we can list:

1. A. Ungureanu, O. Groza, I. Muntele: „Moldavia. Population, labour and human settlements in transition”, Corson Publishing House, Iasi, 2003;
2. C.V. Patrichi: „Central Moldavian Tableland between Vaslui and Stavnic rivers—physical geography study”, Terra Nostra Publishing House, Iasi 2005;
3. I. Muntele, C. Iatu: „Geography of tourism. Concepts, methods and forms for spatial – temporary manifestation”, SedcomLibris Publishing House, Iasi, 2003.
4. C.V. Patrichi: „Biophysical and technical evaluation for agricol terrains”, Terra Nostra Publishing House, Iasi, 2003.

There were published an amount of 61 articles,among which 47 in scientific inner revues and 16 in different revues from abroad.



Prof. Viorel Barbu in the opening of the „Pedogenetic factors and processes in the temperate zone”session.

We mention that 4 articles were **published in the revues of the Romanian Academy:**

5. I. Hârjoaba: „ENSO Episod 1997 – 1998”, Mem. Sect. St.s.IV,

t.XXIV, Ed. Academiei Române., Bucuresti, 2003.

6. I. Muntele: „ La composition ethnique de la population en Roumanie de 1930 à 1992”, Rev. Roum. de Géogr., nr. 43 – 44, Ed. Acad. Rom., Bucuresti, 2003;
7. C.V.Patrichi: „ Considerations regarding cuestas’ relief in Central Moldavian Tableland”, Mem. Sect. Ale Acad,emiei Române, t.XXV, Ed. Academiei Române, Bucuresti, 2005.
8. O. Groza, I.Muntele:” L’effic acité du réseau ferroviaire et l’accessibilité territoriale en Roumanie”, Rev. Roum de Geogr, nr. 42, Ed. Academiei Române, Bucuresti, 2002;

Papers published in international revues:

9. I. Muntele: „ Migration internationalees dans la Roumanie moderne et contemporaine”, in Visible mais peu nombreux, Maison de la Science de l’ homme, Paris, 2003.
 10. A. Lupascu, L. Niascu: „ Synchronic holocene lanscapes in the western slope of the Oriental Carpathians revalated trough palynologic analyses”, Fiz.ic Geogr. Ta geomorf. , Nr. 46, t. 2, Lwiv, Ukraina, 2004.
 11. O. Groza, I. Muntele: „ Maillage administratifs officiels et identité territoriales officieusses: les echelons spatiaux de la differenciatiin identitire en Roumanie, in territoires d’Europe, la différence en partage”, ENS – Editions, Lyon – France, 2004.
- V.Capatina, A.Ursu, B.Rosca „The evolution of settlements on Putna valley”, Fizicina gheografiia ta gheomorfologhiia, Tom I, 4 pg., Lviv, Ukraina, 2004

The members of our collective made different official trips between 1 – 6 months

for documentations, perfection, change of experience and like associate professors in countries like France, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Poland. These collaborations made us know different places and closer relationships with researchers and universities.

and other soil interested scientific institutions.



Aspect from the geographical application of „Pedogenetic factors and processes in the temperate zone” session – Bivolari village, Iasi county.

Important was also the participation to different scientific sessions in our country (59) and abroad (11). Most of them were made in France, Hungary, Ukraine, Moldova Republic etc.

Our collective organizes every year two scientific seminars, both of them during the Romanian Academic Days, usually in September:

12. a session for geographical scientific problems, with a wider theme and a national character:
13. a session for geographical scientific problems with international participation „Pedogenetic factors and processes in the temperate zone”. Every year the theme changes and it has two parts: first - presentation of different results and articles and second – a geographical application for soil profiles that correspond to the scientific theme of the year. This scientific manifestation of a huge participation is organized in collaboration with the Department of Geography from University „Al. I. Cuza” of Iasi