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ORGANIZED HABSBURG COLONIZATION IN THE ROMANIAN BANAT, 1718-1787: THE PLANNED RECTILINEAR VILLAGES OF THE “DONAUSCHWABEN”

Timothy ANDERSON

Ohio University, USA

This paper addresses the origin, structure and meaning of planned, rectilinear villages associated with the 18th-century Habsburg colonization of the Romanian Banat. In an effort to repopulate and bring into agricultural production a territory that had been long neglected and devastated by years of warfare, the Habsburgs, under Maria Theresa and Josef II, devised and directed a series of large-scale efforts to colonize the region, largely but not exclusively with German-speaking peasants and farmers from the western reaches of the empire. One of the most pervasive and distinctive elements of the cultural landscape associated with this colonization was the design and construction of hundreds of centrally-planned agricultural villages for the peasant colonists, nearly all of which are gridded communities laid out according to a regular, rectilinear form. The paper begins by discussing the historical background of the Banat and the colonization efforts there. Particular attention is paid to the political meaning of the colonization for the Habsburg Empire and how the re-settlement of the Banat represented an opportunity to conduct a controlled experiment in the implementation of new policies and ideas meant to result in a model civilization. Next, employing maps, photographs and satellite imagery the paper turns to a discussion of the structure, morphology, and landscape significance of the planned agricultural villages. Finally, the paper concludes with a discussion of the significance of the colonization and the centrally-planned rural villages, particularly with regard to how they represent a distinctive historical political and social discourse materialized in the cultural landscape.

TERRITORIAL COHESION - BETWEEN POLITICAL DESIDERATUM AND TERRITORIAL REALITY

Tudor ANISTOROAIIEI, Octavian GROZA

“A.I.Cuza” University, Iași, ROMANIA

Used as a Trojan horse in the attempt to build an European spatial planning and territorial development policy, territorial cohesion has an ambiguous conceptual status. This ambiguity is also visible in its capacity as a operational term conveyed by different political actors (European Commission, European Parliament, national and regional authorities ...). This article aims to explore the articulation of scientific and administrative visions of this concept with the complex realities of the European Union.

EXTREME HYDROLOGICAL PHENOMENA ON THE TIMIȘ-BEGA HYDROGRAPHICAL BASIN (1968-2012)

Andreea Mihaela ARBA

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

The study of extreme hydrological phenomena or of the hydrological risks involve a wide range of issues, which should start with the climatic and hydrological data and should end with the monitoring of the risk factors, in order to pass from the diagnosis analysis to the prognosis one. We intended to draw up such a comprehensive study as well because it combines the classical methodology (field research, deductive, inductive, historical methods) with the specific methodology of the Geographical Informational Systems (G.I.S.). To analyze the hydro-meteorological phenomena on the basin, we used the climatic and hydrological data collected on the field from 6 meteorological stations and from 5 hydrometric stations, during a common period of 45 years (1968-2012). The extreme hydro-meteorological phenomena which were identified on the basin and which were analysed in the study herein are: the extreme temperatures, the periods with pluviometric surplus, the heavy rains, the drought and dryness phenomena, as well as the floods.

TOWARDS AN OBJECTIVE MAPPING OF GLACIAL CIRQUES. A CASE STUDY FROM ȚARCU MOUNTAINS, SOUTHERN CARPATHIANS.

Florina ARDELEAN

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Geomorphological mapping is an important tool in geomorphology and related disciplines, yet it depends on the expertise and experience of the practitioner. A quantitative assessment of differences in mapping applied on 5 datasets derived from maps of glacial cirques in Țarcu Mountains found notable differences from one dataset to another. Statistically significant differences were found between datasets based on different semantic models of glacial cirques. When mapping relied on an explicit semantic model (a geomorphometric approach), differences were significantly smaller. Therefore, explicit semantic models of landforms based on land surface variables can result in more similar maps and further facilitate the transition from manual delineation to automated recognition of landforms from Digital Elevation Models (DEMs). In this context we present a semi-automated method for detection of glacial cirques using a semantic model based on geomorphometric parameters derived from DEM. The model was integrated into a classification algorithm using OBIA (object based image analysis) in eCognition Developer® and the results were compared to the mapping by digitization, the two approaches being very similar in terms of area and location of the landforms. In the same time this method generates quick results as compared to the traditional approach and is very useful in rough terrain areas.

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS OF URBAN POPULATION IN VOJVODINA PROVINCE AT THE BEGINNING OF 21ST CENTURY

Daniela ARSENOVIĆ*, Branislav ĐURĐEV*, Aleksandar KNEŽEVIĆ**

**Novi Sad University, SERBIA, **Belgrade University, SERBIA*

More than half of world population lives in cities and process of urbanization is identified as one of the main forces of economic development. In this context, this paper analyzes growth of urban population in Vojvodina Province (north part of Serbia) as well as demographic aspects of urbanization during the first decade of 21st century. About 59% of total population in Vojvodina Province lives in cities. In the period between census 2002 and 2011 number of urban population has increased, but in most area of Vojvodina Province rate of urbanization has decreased. Only South Backa area has positive rate of urbanization. Highest contribution of urban population growth between two censuses goes to migration. Analysis in this paper indicated that population growth in several biggest cities in Vojvodina Province was result of mechanical movement of population from rural area of province. Such demographic development should focused sustainable development on poles of regional development.

KARST GEOMORPHOLOGY - A SCIENTIFIC FIELD OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Laurențiu ARTUGYAN, Petru URDEA

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Karst regions are characteristic for discontinuity and even lack of surface water drainage due to the fissured and porous rock, but the rivers are often flowing in the underground. In Romania almost 2% of its surface it's occupied by limestone. Karst geomorphology includes both surface and underground landforms research, landforms that develops on soluble rocks by solution and associated processes. Typical karst landforms develop best on pure, dense and thick limestones and marbles, and in consequence, it is very important to obtain various data regarding these two submediums. We consider that karstic geomorphology is an interdisciplinary scientific field because the research in a karst area from a geomorphological perspective involves different studies, belonging to many scientific fields: geology, hydrogeology, biogeography, pedology, geophysics, speleology, computer science. For karst geomorphology first of all we need to know the geology because we should speak about limestone, regarded as a rock with specific mineralogy and, on the other hand, the masses of rock with a certain structure and tectonics. Then, to get the morphometric characteristics we should use computational techniques associated to GIS and geomorphometry. Recognizing the essential role of groundwater in karst landscape genesis, hydrogeological approach is required to know the karst water circulation and their chemical composition. For karst

geomorphology it is very important to have information regarding soil cover and, also vegetation cover. Application of geophysical methods – Ground Penetrating Radar, DC electrical tomography, seismic refraction, self potential – enable the knowledge the structure of karstifiable masses, to identify karst cavities and morphology of karst landforms and, of course, water circulation in karst structures. And we may mention that in the scientific literature there are a large number of papers where speleology (cave's morphometry and morphology) is used as a tool for present some aspects for a certain karst area. Due to these scientific fields we consider that research on karst geomorphology may be considered a field with interdisciplinary properties. In fact, this manner of interdisciplinary approach is widely used to study karst areas in Croatia, Montenegro, Turkey and Slovenia. This paper tries to present some reasons with examples for which we consider that studying karstic geomorphology may be included in the area of interdisciplinarity, by presenting a study case in Anina karstic area.

IMPACTS OF THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE TITLE OF PECS ON THE CITY'S TOURISM

Antal AUBERT, Gergely MÁRTON, Zoltan RAFFAY
Pecs University, HUNGARY

In 2010 Pécs was the European Capital of Culture which is not a classic tourism title but it had numerous effects on the tourism of the city which induced new trends that can still be experienced. The primary aim of the lecture and the study is to demonstrate and evaluate how the ECC changed the demand and supply side of the city's tourism industry. The basis for this is provided by a guest flow questionnaire carried out on a sample of 1000 tourists. During the years after 2010 certain effects of the ECC title has been strengthened while other practically disappeared, but overall the tourism of the city has changed and by today it is mentioned as "the city of culture" in the Hungarian and international market.

SOCIAL-ECONOMIC FEATURES OF THE METROPOLITAN AREAS FROM THE SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

Sorin AVRAM, Cristina VÎLCEA
Craiova University, ROMANIA

The study aims to analyze the social-economic components of the metropolitan areas from the South-Eastern Europe as compared to the metropolitan areas from the Western Europe. The analysis allowed establishing the degree of development of the first category as a step in the identification of the mechanisms used to reduce the regional disparities in order to accomplish the objectives of the 2020 European Strategy. The analysis focused also on the spatial future of the social-economic features, the development of the intra-metropolitan settlement systems and their efficiency in a sustainable development approach and organization of the metropolitan areas. The conceptual framework considered, as a work hypothesis, the settlement system made up of a main urban pole, the rural-urban fringe and the secondary urban poles. The data used to verify the work hypothesis were obtained from Eurostat, Metrex, EUKN, ESPON, the official site of various metropolitan areas for each country included in the study (Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Italy, France and Germany).

ETHNIC IDENTITY ON THE BORDER-REGION OF AUSTRIA, HUNGARY AND SLOVENIA

Péter BAJMÓCY, Dániel BALIZS,
Szeged University, HUNGARY

The historical Vas County is a mesoregion lying on the borderland area of Austria, Hungary and Slovenia. It has multipolar ethnic structure (Hungarians, Germans, Slovenians and Croats in the three countries), with sizeable minorities along the borders. We can see the decline of ethnic diversity in the last decades because of the decline of small and/or scattered ethnic regions and also because of the different identity (dual identity, strong local/regional identity) and language using (double- or multilingualism) aspects. In this paper we focus on the settlements with mixed ethnic structure, their number and locality, and on the other hand we focus on define the number of the local people with dual identity. We made several fieldworks and interviews on the region of the research. In the villages with ethnic minorities 30-70% of the local people have a special local identity because of the differences of ethnic, national and local identities, the geographic and historic circumstances and observations. We can see this kind of think of view by the personal and public paths, the special (mixed) language using and the other representations of the ethnic senses.

ROMANIAN GEOGRAPHY – RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

Dan BĂLTEANU

Romanian Academy of Science, Bucharest, ROMANIA

After 1989, Geography in Romania has been experiencing a new development in existing traditional areas, in line with international trends and the freedom of circulation and information gained after the fall of the communist regime. It was Human Geography in particular, that registered unprecedented development, considering that in the past it had been limited strictly to Economic Geography and Toponymy. The traditional brunch of Physical Geography, namely Geomorphology, has devalorized, new aspects such as geomorphological risk, geomorphic sites and river processes being added. Studies of Hydrology, Biogeography and Soil Geography started being correlated with the impact of climate change on both environment and society. Regional Geography is being closely related to Euro-regions and sustainable urban and rural development. Research-work has resorted to GIS, remote-sensing data and model-based quantitative assessments.

The paper focuses on some characteristic aspects of Romania Geography:

- The enlargement and diversification of researches in newly-established academic centres went hand in hand with the ongoing activity of three university centres in Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca and Iași, as well as of the National Institute of Geography;
- Distinctively different specialisation terms associated with specific international collaborations. A special attention has been given to the Geography of Tourism.
- Participation in internationally-financed inter-disciplinary projects under FP6 and FP7 European programmes.
- Prospectively, a better-sustained future implication in the European Danube Strategy and Horizon 2020 European Programme is envisaged.

TOWARDS A RESILIENT ENERGY SYSTEM IN EASTERN ROMANIA - FROM FOSSIL FUELS TO RENEWABLE SOURCES

Alexandru BĂNICĂ, Marilena ISTRATE

"Al.I.Cuza" University, Iași, ROMANIA

The study takes into account the two Romanian Eastern regions (North East and South East) trying to emphasize the post-communist dynamics of the energy sector in order to draw a general perspective for the future evolution towards both energy security and a clean environment. Before 1989, the energy sector, that had to sustain not only the population needs, but also an oversized manufacturing industry, was based on big power plants usually using coal and oil and highly polluting the environment. The hydropower had a rather small share in the total energy production. This inherited system was very much resistant after the end of the centralized political system, therefore after the general industrial decline the energy sector remained the main source of air pollution in many towns and cities from Romania. Meanwhile, in the last 6-7 years, due to a favorable national political context, we assisted, especially in the analyzed area, to an important emergence of renewable energy investments (mainly wind and solar energy, but also biomass or hydro-energy). Our purpose is to evaluate, from a geographical point of view, the extent and the implications of a desirable progressive shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy that could radically change the territorial relations and sustain development on the long term.

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL RESILIENCE AND AIR QUALITY. RECENT RECONFIGURATIONS OF MAJOR ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION SOURCES IN WESTERN MOLDOVA

Alexandru BĂNICĂ, Ionel MUNTELE

Al.I.Cuza University, Iași, ROMANIA

The study identifies the main features of recent industrial activities dynamics in the historical province of Moldova by assessing the territorial impact of the major point sources of air pollution. The transition from a centralized communist economy to a market based one was a difficult process mainly because the forced industrialization before 1989 did not take into account the real regional resources and territorial potential for development. More isolated from the Western influences and inheriting social and economic drawbacks, in the last 24 years, the Moldavian Region was vulnerable to economic shocks, therefore highly affected by the diminishing of activities or by the closure of factories. In these circumstances air quality improved considerably in most of the towns and cities, a fact that was also enhanced by the delocalization of some industrial activities. Our overall purpose is to assess whether there is a relation between industrial pollution and recent development in Moldova and to what extent complex adaptive mechanisms of restructuring and innovation actually

reshaped industry. We also have into account the recent reindustrialization strategies that are oriented towards a competitive secondary sector by promoting best available technologies, energy efficiency, investments in top industries or the emergence of industrial parks that should all be a framework for economic sustainability and a basis for low atmospheric emissions.

THE ENERGETIC VULNERABILITY OF EU

Romeo BIBIRIGEA

Technical College No. 2, Tîrgu Jiu, ROMANIA

The most used energy sources in the EU are fossil fuels (oil, natural gas and coal) accounting for 75% of primary energy consumption, and in the following decades not foresee major changes in the energy structure. A constant preoccupation of energetic security policies at EU level is to reduce dependence on oil and gas. In 2010 the EU (27) imported more than half of gross energy consumption (54.1%). The main supplier of oil, natural gas and newest of coal, in the EU, is Russia. The share of oil imports from Russia in 2010 was 34.5%, representing a maximum in this decade. Coal imports from Russia accounted for 27.1% in 2010, far exceeding Colombia, South Africa and Australia. To note is that the share of Russia at natural gas imports has decreased from 45.1% in 1993 to 31.8% in 2010, while Qatar has risen its share to over 8.5%.

L'HYPOTHESE DE DIMENSIONS SPATIALES DANS L'IDENTIFICATION ET L'ACCOMPAGNEMENT DES PERSONNES EN SITUATIONS DE SURENDETTEMENT. (FRANCE ET IRLANDE)

Emmanuel Bioteau, Aurélien Martineau, Jérôme Prugneau

Université d'Angers, FRANCE

Cette communication postule qu'il existe des inégalités spatiales dans l'identification des situations de surendettement, ainsi que dans l'accompagnement des personnes en situation de surendettement. Ces inégalités naissent entre autres de la présence ou de l'absence de personnels salariés ou de bénévoles. Elles évoluent selon la capacité à comprendre les situations et à mobiliser des mécanismes juridiques, financiers afin de les traiter. Elles sont imputables, enfin, à la constitution et à l'animation des réseaux d'acteurs territorialisés amenant vers les structures d'accompagnement. La mise en évidence de ces diverses dimensions spatiales et des effets frontière induits pointe la nécessité d'une compréhension de la territorialisation des mécanismes de l'identification et de l'accompagnement des personnes en situation de surendettement.

TWO MODELS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: ROMAN EMPIRE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION – A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE

Ionel BOAMFĂ

Al.I.Cuza University, Iași, ROMANIA

Regional administrative organization is one of the traits that individualize the European Union, but such an organization has been practiced in various forms in the past, for example, in ancient times, by the Roman Empire. He has practiced in various forms, decentralization at regional / provincial and / or local level (in the urban settlements – the *colonia*, *municipium* – and even rural ones – *pagus*, *vicus*). Considering these issues, we conducted a parallel between the Roman Empire and the European Union, trying to highlight various demographic, social and economic peculiarities for the period 200-600 AD – for the Roman Empire and the period 1960-2009 – for the European Union. The indicators analyzed at regional level (the Roman provinces, respectively the NUTS 2 level for the European Union) are population density, structure of urban / rural population, the professional structure of the active population, age structure of the population, income per capita. Beyond the differences between the two political entities (in the territorial extension, the administrative divisions, etc.), the analysis of the problems of the Roman Empire – which are found in the European Union (the existence and increasing of regional disparities, the economic crises, the demographic pressure from outside limits of those entities: attacks of migratory populations, respectively the illegal migration from outside the EU, etc) – can provide possible solutions to avoid the consequences for the European Union which resulted for the Roman state in the first phase, the division of the Roman Empire (395 AD) and, finally, to the collapse of the western part (476 AD) and the Hellenization of the Eastern (VII century).

ANTHROPONIMICAL THESAURUS OF OLT COUNTRY – GEOGRAPHICAL PECULIARITIES REFLECTED IN THE FĂGĂRAȘ COUNTRY ANTHROPONIMY

Ionel BOAMFĂ

Al.I.Cuza University, Iași, ROMANIA

The anthroponomical treasure of any geographical areas provides a wealth of information regarding the geographical particularities. Based on the inventory of anthroponomical information sources – collections of inscriptions for Daco-Roman antiquity (second and third centuries AD), collections of documents, statistical records (urbaria, conscriptions), for the medieval and early modern times (centuries XIII - XIX), national yearbooks, phone books, electoral rolls, for the interwar period until today – we introduced these records in a statistical database at local level, which include both the registered name and the number of bearers. The anthroponomical information has been grouped in many Microsoft Excel worksheets, reserving one for each century. Processed data can be mapped using Philcarto program either at the settlements level or at the elementary administrative divisions (municipalities, cities, communes), highlighting the features related to the religious and ethnic composition of the population, the occupational structure of past active population, the geographical origin of residents, the share illiterate population, the age structure of population, etc. These maps can be made for either a single moment / period or to highlight the chronological and spatial distribution of these features.

ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA BETWEEN 2008 AND 2012. A GEOGRAPHICAL APPROACH OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND AND ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR

Voicu BODOCAN

Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

The developments of recent Romanian electoral processes were marked by substantial changes in terms of representation method and boundary delimitation. The paper tries to offer a geographical analysis and explanation of the system change, voting participation and parliamentary representation.

THE PRODUCTION OF SYMBOLIC MEANINGS OF SPACES IN BUDAPEST

Lajos BOROS, Viktor PÁL

Szeged University, HUNGARY

Our paper aims to explore the post-socialist transformations of certain types of public spaces which we call symbolic spaces. Symbolic spaces are important manifestations of local and national identities and are objects of power to create and maintain different forms of hegemony. Therefore, their construction is a highly contested phenomenon – especially in rapidly changing political and social environment such as post-socialist cities. The new regimes meant new place politics and re-interpretation of urban spaces. These processes are still ongoing and the political and economic elites constantly aim to use the symbolic spaces to (re)shape the power structures according their interests. In Hungary after the 2010 elections a new wave of public space renaming and transformation started as a part of the identity politics of the government. The paper examines the transformation of some symbolic spaces in Budapest focusing on the following questions: how were the most important symbolic spaces of the socialist era transformed, renewed or did they become forgotten and abandoned during the transition? Who were the key actors in these processes, and what kinds of interests, identities and shared meanings are manifested in the transformation? The study is based on critical discourse analysis of policy documents, media material and visual analysis.

REGIONAL IDENTITIES WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION. CASE STUDY: ȚARA MOȘILOR

Cristian-Nicolae BOȚAN, Viorel GLIGOR, Ion-Horațiu PAVEL, Silviu-Florin FONOGEA
Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

The present study tries to underline those elements and values which make Țara Moșilor - a mountain region in the Romanian Carpathians - contribute to the European Union's pack of identity values. The way we thought of looking into this subject has a double aim, that is: (1) the identification and ranking of those elements that define Țara Moșilor's regional identity, by analysing scientific works which focused on the above-mentioned region and (2) the comparison of the scientific conclusions drawn from those works to the local people's vision, as for the ranking of the elements and values that define the region which they took on living in. Thus, we analysed a number of 14 scientific works and, using the questionnaire method, interrogated a number of 320 people on this subject. The results show that both in the specific scientific literature and in the local people's perception, the main elements defining Țara Moșilor's regional identity are the same: the gold and silver resources and the already existent patrimony elements, the forest resources and the respective traditional occupations; the region's historical figures; the morphofunctionality, the ethnocultural possibilities; the structure of the human settlements and the organisation of the households; the collective mind and the speaking specificity (the rhotacism). But there are differences between the conclusions of the scientific literature and the local people's opinion, concerning the hierarchy and the importance of these elements in defining Țara Moșilor's regional identity.

ECONOMIC ISSUES AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES OF THE RUSSIAN POPULATION IN VOJVODINA

Milka BUBALO-ŽIVKOVIĆ, Tamara LUKIĆ, Bojan ĐERČAN, Gordana JOVANOVIĆ, Jovan PLAVŠA
Novi Sad University, SERBIA

Economic issues have had significant influence on demographic changes in the area of whole Serbia and Vojvodina ever since the eighties, and more intensively since the ninth decade of the twentieth century. Factory closures had led to the increase in number of the unemployed, which resulted in economic instability of the population. These changes have influence on both bigger and smaller ethnic groups. Within the ethnic groups with smaller number of members demographic problems are even bigger. Economic instability has resulted in even lower birth rates and in increase in emigration rates. Emigration is usually directed towards homelands and other lands. Intensive decrease in number of population of certain small ethnic groups leads to faster increase in the average age and aging index of the population. Solving economic issues would result in significant improvement and increase in number of members of smaller ethnic groups. Russian population is the only one with the recorded increase in number of its members in the first decade of the 21st century and the only one where due to immigration of the young population, positive demographic changes are evident.

THE PROJECTION OF THE EU STRATEGY FOR THE DANUBE REGION IN ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OF CARAS SEVERIN COUNTY

Ilie CHINCEA*, Maria PĂTROESCU, Martin OLARU*****
Environment Resource Centre, Reșița, ROMANIA, ** Bucharest University, ROMANIA, *West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA*

Until 2020 Romania, as a signatory, will implement national, county and local programs and projects complying the four axes and eleven priority areas of the European Union Danube Region Strategy (EUDRS). EUDRS aims better use of the socio-economic potential, improving the state of environment sanogenesis, reducing the effects of environmental conflicts, preservation of natural biodiversity, increasing institutional capacity and of individual security. Analysing the local and county level issued programs and initiatives targeting the implementation of the priority axes and areas provided by SUERD in Caras-Severin allowed us to highlight some visible weaknesses. There are obviously requirements for more harmonised socio-economic development programs with those at national, regional and European level. By 2020, it should increase the number of localities fully equipped with water supply and sanitation. It requires the development of a strategy for fishing on the Danube, with a focus on protected species and of community interest. The context of SUERD and the Strategy "Europe 2020" also requires rethinking job growth in rural and urban areas, reducing poverty and boosting socio-economic cohesion. Of great interest is to promote a more diverse education on environment, taking into account different levels of culturally, age and residence in urban or rural.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS SYSTEM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM?

Mariana Andreea CHINDRIS

Angers University, FRANCE

Today, tourism has an important role in the European countries economy. Developed countries assess enormously in tourism because it leads to many benefits for society. Stakeholders system mainly influence in the success of tourism development. This system is composed by cooperative and individual stakeholders. The cooperative system is revealed by the government and other public administrations. They are divided to different levels such as: national level, provincial level, local level and communal level. The wide range of individual stakeholders including several establishments involve in many services in the economy of tourism. Furthermore, a special part of stakeholder is the tourist who create the tourism purposes. The most relevant studies, focused on the stakeholders systems, appear in developed countries scientific literature. Cazes (1992), Violier (1999), Equipe MIT (2005) examined the stakeholders systems and their effects on the territorial development. The other researchers emphasized in the key role of stakeholders specifically in the countries which tourism is well developed. However, experimental researches on this subject in developing countries like Romania are rare. Therefore the present study aimed to address a significant literature review as systematically examine the role of stakeholders in the system, leadership style and decision making strategies particularly in developing countries.

SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTIONS IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES, CAUSAL FACTOR IN SHAPING THE URBAN LANDSCAPE IN TRANSYLVANIA

Iuliana CIANGĂ

Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

The study of the first urban interventions in the 18th and 19th centuries is important in order to fully understand some present day aspects of sustainable urban planning. Transylvanian cities, along with other European cities, experienced an unprecedented development during this period, prompting the adaptation to the necessities imposed by a growing population, with more varied fields of activity, but also influenced by the scientific and technological progress of the times. Among the most important measures imposed were those related to hygiene (canalization rehabilitation, sanitation of lakes and canals that surrounded the old fortifications), buildings safety (strengthening the buildings throughout maintainable materials), traffic flow decongestion (demolition of the walls of the fortified medieval city core and the extension of the street network), building aesthetics (street alignment of the buildings, uniform appearance of facades), or leisure activities (arrangement of parks, promenades and belvedere locations). All these measures are genuine sustainability actions in planning future Transylvanian modern city, compared to the previous period, actions which contributed to the changing of the urban physiognomy, especially to improve the living conditions at the community level and indirectly to the strengthening of civic consciousness.

TOURISTIC DEVELOPMENT, FORM OF ADAPTATION AND DURABLE DEVELOPMENT

Nicolae CIANGĂ, Cristina BOLOG

Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

Remodelling – profound change inside of a category of arrangement and touristic capitalization already existent, of structural nature, of functional profile, of legislative nature, intended to modify radically and positively the functionality, efficiency, amenity and touristic image.

Types of remodelling: are related to diverse factors:

- as a result of progressive and varied capitalization of the resources with touristic amenity;
- as a result of the geopolitical evolution and of the level of social-economic development;
- as a result of the profound changes of social-economic and political system;
- determined by the activities of knowing and research in tourism;
- as a result of changing the strategy in the direction of typology and of the touristic arrangements' content.

BUILT HERITAGE, TOURISM AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAND OF FĂGĂRAȘ

Paula Olivia CIMPOIEȘ, George GAMAN
"Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

The Land of Făgăraș represents one of the few „land” type entities which has a very diverse and authentic anthropic component of the primary tourism offer. Bearing this in mind, the present study aims at making a full inventory of the built heritage, based on the List of Historical Monuments and at estimating the touristic value of these resources through the geographic method, the graphic and cartographic analysis and the class of evaluation method. This paper also offers strategic guidelines for the development of the touristic phenomenon in the studied region, in order to efficiently value the built heritage, which is the tangible expression of the regional identity, by means of conservation, promotion and sustainable, rational use.

GEOGRAPHICAL MENTAL SPACE AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

Pompei COCEAN
"Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

Territorial cohesion is a summative concept, defined by the 4C rule: concentration, cooperation, connectivity, competitiveness. The association of the fourth collocation to the other three (defined by Ahner, 2011) must be noted and that is competitiveness, without which the sustainability of the spatial system cannot be conceived. The achievement of territorial cohesion requires, as a *sine qua non* condition, the prior achievement of economic and social cohesion. The resulted triad conceptually dominates the current spatial development strategies, at European level, and not only. Once achieved, it becomes a fundamental feature of territorial systems, whose structure and functioning is optimized, ensuring an increased productivity and the prospect of a definite sustainable development. Some of the catalysing factors of territorial cohesion are modern technical infrastructures, balanced environment, sufficient soil and underground resources, good governance, etc. The presence of a well-consolidated *geographical mental space* also plays an important role (Cocean, David, 2012). Since its main characteristic is the attachment of human being to place (going as far as the self-identification of the individual with his or her environment), its presence provides an increased concentration of creative energies, a major interest and a constant concern of the human factor for the development of the territory in question. A representative example of such a territorial system, with a geographical mental space coagulated by a secular autarkic development, is offered by *lands* (the so-called *țări* in Romania), which establishes these spatial structures as real models of territorial cohesion at continental level (Renard, 1995; Cocean, 2011). The positive influence of the geographical mental space on territorial cohesion becomes apparent through the harmonization of social relation between individuals and the related community as result of their inclusion into the same cultural model, secularly distilled and formed; the presence of a material and spiritual heritage acting as support for the current and future development; the resistance to the negative impact of some destabilizing factors (permanent migration, change of behaviour under the impulse of changes induced by the new economic and social development), etc. Simultaneously, territorial cohesion is, for any mental space, an expressive indicator of its full consolidation and individualization in relation to other similar neighbouring entities.

HAZARD PERCEPTION AND GEOMORPHOLOGICAL HERITAGE. CASE STUDY: THE CENTRAL AREA OF BUCEGI MTS. (SOUTHERN CARPATHIANS, ROMANIA)

Laura COMĂNESCU, Alexandru NEDELEA
Bucharest University, ROMANIA

This paper aims at presenting the opinion of the population (and especially of the tourists) about the natural and anthropogenic risks affecting the geomorphological heritage of the central section of the Bucegi Mts. Our scientific approach has been intended to raise the awareness of the authorities and tourists as well, with regard to the degradation risk of the geomorphological heritage through uncontrolled tourism activities, so that the most appropriate measures be taken for its preservation and protection. The study area belongs to the central section of the Bucegi massif, a realm characterized by many types of landforms and shaping processes, with many geomorphosites, which create a particularly valuable geomorphological heritage. The investigation relied on a sample of 158 tourists, whose perception was assessed based on a specific questionnaire. The general finding is that most tourists are familiar with the geomorphological heritage of this area, but few of them are aware of the existing risks and especially of their long-term effects.

USING THE RING ROADS – AN IMPORTANT FACTOR TO REDUCE URBAN ROADSIDE NOISE POLLUTION. A CASE STUDY IN THE CITY OF CARANSEBEȘ (ROMANIA)

Delia Covaci, Alina Satmari
West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Noise pollution is an increasingly worldwide environmental problem and one of the strongest inequalities at subregional and national levels (World Health Organisation 2012). In most Romanian cities, one of the main sources of noise pollution is road traffic. In this study we measured Caransebeș inner city roadside noise before and after the ring road commissioning. The spatial database consists in 214 observation points evenly distributed. The analyses of average sound level (LAeq) changes show that using the ring road the urban roadside noise pollution can be reduced up to 30dB.

THE SETTLEMENTS FROM THE PLAIN BIRDA-MORAVITA-CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

Raluca Narcisa COVACI
West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

The existence of early forms of settlement on the territory of the Plain Birda- Moravița dates back to prehistory. The historic record of many villages in the studied area is done starting with the papal taxes and the historic periods of intense colonization, especially those of Habsburg rule, led to the establishment of new settlements and made it possible the current detailed classification of settlements by age. However, the regressive demographic trend characteristic for the studied area, a trend reflected in the high level of mortality and the increased migration to other countries and regions, has made possible a classification of settlements by the number of inhabitants, classification whose purpose is to identify areas characterized by a steady decline in the number of inhabitants. These settlements, which were considered large and very large settlements during the migrations, suffered a drastic transformation after 1990, currently falling within the category of small settlements. The position the analyzed region in a plain area also requires a classification of settlements according to form, structure and texture, which show certain features depending on the position against major rivers but also by socio-economic or political influence reflected on the settlements from the Plain Birda- Moravița.

METHODS OF DETECTING HEATH WAYS

Adina CROITORU
Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

Heatwaves have been assessed, in a recent paper as the most dangerous weather events (weather killer no.1) in the United States, due to its major impact on human body. Under these conditions, detailed analyses of these weather events is needed, both at global and regional or local scales. In this study, we compared two methods in order to detect heatwaves: percentile based method and deviation from normal (mean) value method. For each of them, two thresholds have been considered: percentile 90 and percentile 95, as well as positive deviation from the mean values of at least 3°C and 5°C respectively. Regarding the duration, we considered a heatwave when the maximum air temperature of at least 3 consecutive days overpasses the considered threshold. As main result, we found that the deviation from mean value with at least 3°C method exaggerates the number of cases identifying too many heatwaves, while the percentile 95 based method diminishes the number of heatwaves. Consequently, we recommend to use the thresholds of 90 percentile or 5°C of positive deviation from the mean value as thresholds, in order to identify heatwaves.

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BY APPLYING THE DIMENSIONS OF LEARNING ORGANISATION MODEL

Nemanja DAVIDOVIĆ, Tanja ARMENSKI
Novi Sad University, SERBIA

The goal of this research is to critically evaluate the possibility of a strategic approach to tourism development in Novi Sad (Serbia) by applying the Dimensions of Learning Organization Model. The instrument that allows this is the Dimensions of the Learning Organization Questionnaire- DLOQ. In this research, the full version of the questionnaire was used, consisted of 43 items with a 6-point Likert scale (1-almost never, 6-almost always). Dimensions of Learning Organization Questionnaire (DLOQ) was translated and adapted so that it could be used with Serbian-speaking populations. Serbian version of DLOQ revealed similar or better characteristics in terms of statistical properties to the original. Using DLOQ instrument, organizations can determine their level of organizational development and learning culture, diagnose problems and offer solutions. This instrument has proved to have a great value in use for both academic and practical purposes. The sample consists of employees from tourism sector. The tourism stakeholders have been identified using stakeholder matrix method. The results presented extend existing theoretical knowledge of the DLO among tourism stakeholders in Novi Sad and its surroundings. The research has clearly laid the conceptual model that can successfully be applied to other spatial and conceptual areas.

QUELLE PERTINENCE D'UNE "QUESTION ROM" À L'ÉCHELLE EUROPÉENNE: ENJEUX ET DANGERS D'UNE APPROCHE ETHNIQUE?

Samuel DELÉPINE
Angers University, FRANCE

Il apparaît presque insensé aujourd'hui de remettre en cause l'existence de ce qui est appelé la «question rom» en Europe et notamment sa prise en charge sur le plan politique. En effet, le contexte serait celui-ci : la minorité rom est la plus paupérisée d'Europe, les mêmes problématiques de logement, d'accès à l'emploi, de scolarisation ou de santé se retrouvent dans tous les pays où elle est présente. A cela s'ajoute la question des discriminations dont les Roms font l'objet et un phénomène migratoire Est-Ouest qui aurait ses spécificités propres. Pourtant cela n'est pas si simple. Tout d'abord que recouvre la notion de «minorité rom» en Europe? Peut-on parler de minorité rom européenne, rien n'est moins sûr au regard de la diversité des individus concernés. Ensuite n'y a-t-il pas danger à ethniciser des questions sociales? Les «politiques en faveur des Roms» ont-elles fait leurs preuves depuis 1990? A travers des exemples en Roumanie et en France cette communication voudra montrer tous les effets pervers d'une approche ethnicisée dans la tentative de résolution de questions sociales.

ASSESSING PEDOLOGICAL DROUGHT THROUGH QUANTITATIVE AND HEURISTIC METHODS WITHIN THE REGION SIRET – PRUT (EASTERN ROMANIA)

Ioana DICU, Iulian Cătălin STÂNGĂ
A.I. Cuza University, Iași, ROMANIA

In the context of desertification and climate changes, under the pressure of a growing need for food all over the world, the increasing frequency and severity of droughts becomes an intensely debated subject by a great number of stakeholders, scientists, planners and decision makers. The complexity of drought phenomenon (from atmospheric to soil drought) requires a complex set of data (climatic, hydrological, pedological etc.) and an appropriate methodology suitable to provide accurate and useful results. This study aims at establishing correlations between the atmospheric and the pedological drought within Eastern Romania, modeling the role of soil properties on drought propagation within different types of soils. The authors processed climate data from fourteen meteorological stations to compute different drought indices (Palmer Drought Severity Index, Palfai Aridity Index, Aggregate Drought Index etc.) and they analyzed almost one hundred soils profiles, linking the drought to their analytical properties (texture, total reserves of humus, bulk density, pH, content of nutrients etc.). Finally, the results of the study led to the identification of the most susceptible soils to drought consequences, as an important preliminary step for drought risk management.

DEMOGRAPHIC RISK IN TIMIȘOARA MUNICIPALITY

Claudia DOICIAR

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

The Municipality of Timișoara is one of the most important cities of Romania, due to its social-economic development. Timișoara has always been among the first three major cities of Romania in number of population but the present demographic trends of the population give rise to a series of challenges, in the general trend of ageing in the EU population. The large majority of population born in the '50 and '60 or who have immigrated in the city in its peak of industrial development are now entering their sixties and are retiring. Although Timișoara is one of the most important university centres of Romania, attracting tens of thousands of young population in its universities, the increase in population, continues to be very slow due to the migration of the population, as fertility remains considerably below rates. The demographic changes have very important economic and social dimensions, the city facing important questions in terms of the future evolution of the structure of the population in terms of age, education, ethnic structure, socio-economic situation, immigration and emigration, all in relation with uncertain economic tendencies. The city will have to manage some issues as the dramatic outflow of the young and skilled population, the increase of the aging population and the shifts in ethnic structure of the population etc. Can the city adjust itself to the new realities? Will it preserve its role in the collective mental of the population as a multicultural center of excellence in several areas of activity?

A GEOGRAPHICAL APPROACH OF SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY. SOME PRELIMINARY RESULTS ON ROMANIA'S WESTERN REGION.

Alexandru DRĂGAN,

Angers University, FRANCE, West University, ROMANIA

Having an old tradition before the Second World War, the concept of "Social and Solidarity Economy" (SEE) appears in Romania only after the year 2000 (HG829/2002). The international cooperation of associations and foundation and the new orientation of researchers (mainly sociologists and economists) to a sector in accord with participatory democracy and sustainable development explain the raise of the new studies concerning this sector. However, geographical approaches remain limited, despite their necessity. Geography can measure and explain the "profit" induced by the SEE to each territory, from the point of view of its territorial anchorage, of its perpetuation and of resources mobilized at local level. This encourages the social networks, reinforce the collective identity of social groups and induce the local development, reducing social and affective isolation. Our contribution aims to apply the above mentioned characteristics on Romania's Western Region.

SOCIAL CHANGES IN DROUGHT AFFECTED SOCIETIES – HORN OF AFRICA

Milosav DUNJIĆ, Milica SOLAREVIĆ, Aleksandra KOSTOVIĆ, Jelena DUNJIĆ

Novi Sad University, SERBIA

Climate change affects almost every society nowadays. The developing world is the most vulnerable part of world, and every single change in every sphere of life has a great influence on the developing countries. Climate change is one of the most obvious influences on these countries. When it comes to the climate change, drought is one of the biggest problems of the developing countries in eastern Africa so called Horn of Africa (south - central Somalia, northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia). The aim of this paper is to make comparative analyses of a three largest droughts in these countries – 2002, 2008 and 2011 – with all other accompanying consequences such as hunger, poverty, high food prices, population mobility etc. It also indicates that household responses to drought are considerably more complex than it is commonly assumed.

CRONOLOGIC EVOLUTION OF DNIESTER RIVER AS GEOPOLITICAL BORDER

Vasile EFROS

Ștefan cel Mare University, Suceava, ROMANIA

The present-day antagonist issues on the river Dniester are situated on the former area belonging to the USSR, where, the geopolitical science, as it is well-known, was either neglected or interpreted from wrong angles. Thus, in *Dicționarul Enciclopedic Sovietic* (1988) geopolitics is viewed as “a political concept using geographic data (territory, position of the country etc) in order to consolidate its imperial expansion.” From the geopolitical point of view the river Dniester acted as border among different ethnical groups, separating different cultures, peoples and languages. The aim of the present paper is the study of the geopolitical position of the river Dniester, especially its middle and inferior course, during history, starting with antiquity, the Middle Ages and ending with the contemporary period. It's remarkable that the period of time when this river with a size similar to many European rivers represented a *limit* among different tribes, ethnical groups or state formations is longer than the period when Dniester represented an *internal fluvial* artery. A detailed analysis of the geopolitical spectrum delimited by this river clarifies the historical factors that influenced geopolitical criteria not only at a regional but also at an European level, influencing the dynamism of the force relationship in this region. Therefore, the question whether Dniester will become an element of regional integration or of geopolitical instability will be answered by politicians, but not before knowing the evolution and the role of this river in the integration or desintegration of the human communities on both banks.

AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AS SUPPORT OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS SUSTAINABILITY. CASE STUDY: ORADEA-BRATCA DEPRESSION

Claudiu FILIMON, Luminița FILIMON

Oradea University, ROMANIA

There are very close interrelationship between the rural territory and agriculture, all structural changes in agriculture (agricultural reforms, agricultural policies) usually have historical repercussions on rural territory. The main objective of the study is to analyze the extent to which agriculture is an element of sustainability for rural settlements located in Oradea-Bratca Depression. This goal can be decomposed into two lower-level goals: highlighting features of agriculture in rural Oradea-Bratca Depression and analyzing its perspectives for the 2014-2020 European financial period. As methodology, we include the analysis of several indices related to agricultural real estate, number of farms, characteristics of farms legal status, workforce characteristics (age, sex, time spent on agricultural activities), how farms have adapted to the European Union agricultural criteria and the perspectives for new 2014-2020 European agricultural horizon. The overall conclusion is that, despite its current shortcomings, agriculture can be the centerpiece of rural sustainability in Oradea-Bratca Depression.

THE VALUE OF TOURISTIC ATTRACTIONS AS PART OF PRIMARY AND DERIVED OFFER FROM MOINEȘTI, TÂRGU OCNA, SLĂNIC MOLDOVA

George GĂMAN

Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

Regarding these three urban settlements which have been chosen for this paper, Moinești, Târgu Ocna and Slănic Moldova, the most viable type of tourism is the curative one, thanks to the existence of several curative factors gifted with high therapeutic value as mineral water springs, mofets, local bioclimate, salt-mine microclimate. Given the modern patient-tourist preferences, it is required as a stringent necessity a balnear touristic offer diversification, giving him the possibility, besides health recovery, to rest and to relax. In this meaning, the present paper's objective is to estimate the value of all touristic attraction and to show which of these three localities is capable to realize the most attractive curative touristic offer, through a complex methodology use (analysis, geographic, comparative, graphic, cartographic, mathematics), not before determining the ideal touristic value graphic of a SPA resort's natural and anthropogenic resources.

CURRENT STAKES OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL POLICY

Octavian GROZA, Alexandru RUSU

"Al.I.Cuza" University, Iași, ROMANIA

The extensive construction of the European regional policy is far from over, and the current world situation only adds new barriers to its completion. The present article states the current stakes of the European regional policy in relation with different historical phases of its crystallization, with the difficult present of the European Union, especially with its uncertain future.

ASSESSING PHYSICAL VULNERABILITY TO LANDSLIDES AT MEDIUM AND SMALL SCALE

Adrian GROZAVU, Iulian Cătălin STÂNGĂ, Doru Toader JURAVLE

"Al.I.Cuza" University, Iași, ROMANIA

In landslide risk assessment there are a large series of studies regarding landslide hazard, but far fewer researches focusing on vulnerability measurement. Generally, the landslide vulnerability is defined as the expected degree of losses for an element or set of elements at risk as a consequence of a landslide event. The purpose of this study is to assess physical vulnerability to landslides at local level, based on some spatial data indicators. An indicator-based model is applied to urban areas and tested for Huși town, located in the Moldavian Plateau (Eastern Romania). The model is constructed by combining the susceptibility to landslides with a weighted kernel density of the elements at risk. Consideration of these two relevant parameters might prove useful in landslide vulnerability assessment especially in areas with little or no data on the landslide hazard (frequency, intensity and speed of landslides) and on the elements at risk. Both the landslide susceptibility and the kernel density can be correctly assessed applying different quantitative methods in GIS environment. Their adequate combination could provide a satisfactory image of landslide vulnerability, less than a complete picture, but more than the pure exposure.

COLLECTIVE MEMORY AND CRITICAL TOPONYMY IN MARAMURES (ROMANIA-UKRAINE)

Nicolaie HODOR*, Remus CREȚAN, Viorel PUIU***

** "Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA, ** West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA*

This study is focused on the cross-border Maramures area extended in present on two countries: Romania and Ukraine. The area has a Dacian and Daco-Roman historical matrix belonging to Maramures Romanian Voivodship. The leaders of this voivodship created the Moldavian Medieval State, participated in different military actions and founded settlements, monasteries and churches in all cardinal directions - mainly towards the northern and eastern parts of the Carpathians. When Maramures region became a comitat, the relationship with Hungary intensified, the region preserving its character of great autonomy. It was part of Austro-Hungary till 1918 and after the First World War the whole region belonged de facto to Romania for two years and a half, then its northern part belonged to former Czechoslovakia, while its southern area to Romania. During the Second World War the region was occupied by Hungary. When Ukraine was constituted as part of the Former Soviet Union, its northern part belonged to Ukraine. One-third of the country, the south, was incorporated again to the Romanian state. Thus, most of the Maramures people were citizens of six countries in the last century. Various populations came in the region. The geographical names have suffered profound changes and adaptations to different languages (Romanian, Hungarian, German, Idish, Slovak, Ukrainian and Russian), depending on the specificity of the political administration to which Maramures belonged.

NATURAL HAZARDS WITH ANTHROPOGENIC FAVOURING FACTORS IN THE MARAMUREȘ MOUNTAINS

Mihai HOTEA, Simona Alina SIMION

"Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA, Sighetu-Marmației Branch

The Maramureș Mountains are situated in the northern extremity of Romania, at the border with Ukraine, having an area of 168,814 ha and a population of over 90,000 inhabitants. The issues related to disasters in this area have been frequently discussed over the last years. This paper tries to present a series of events based on biological hazards, geomorphologic hazards – manifested in the form of landslides and avalanches, hydrological hazards and those related to the mining industry, mainly generated by the existence of mine waste dumps.

THE IMPACT OF IONIZING RADIATIONS SOURCES ON THE STATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN THE WESTERN PART OF ROMANIA

Gheorghe IANOȘ

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

The main origin of ionizing radiations is likely telluric, due to the continuous emissions generated by certain radioactive minerals whose sources continuously recover (for some of them) or totally consume (for others). The normal dose of radiation depends on the altitude of the site, on the soil specificities or on the internal radioactivity concentration of each animal organism. The current research will present the existence condition of the radiations for an intensely ionized medium from the south-western part of Caraș-Severin County and it will illustrate an area that was strongly used in the extraction from subsoil of some ionized elements useful in economy, but very toxic in external handling.

THE DEATH OF GEOGRAPHY THROUGH THE SUICIDE OF GEOGRAPHERS?

Ioan IANOȘ

Bucharest University, ROMANIA

The evolution of geography in recent decades shows, paradoxically, the loss of interest of geographers in their science. Animated by a pragmatism dictated by the evolution of technology and by the desire to engage politically at several levels, geographers are being distracted by the attraction of niche research and forget to take the pulse of "the dead" which is the geography itself. Its pulse as a science is weakening and it is not far the moment when it will be "clinically" dead. How do geographers meet this challenge? By a mass suicide! What else are the centrifugal movements from substantial elements to the circumstantial ones, from the consolidation of the geographical thinking system to non-geographic methods and only to spectacular subjects? The interdisciplinary mermaids are fascinating, but to focus only on them leads us only to our mission as geographers' oblivion. The geographic literature is replete with opinions forecasting the death of geography, but it takes into consideration only the effect of digitization and globalization on the distance, space, location and mobility. Cyberspace doesn't appear as an alternative to the space, it only completes it. Therefore, we should not complain that the geography will disappear with classical space or due to the encroachment of other sciences. The "Achilles' heel" for geographers is somewhere else! Unlike other sciences, which have adapted their basic concepts to new trends, geography is losing references even to those that it had at a certain moment (region, geosystem and territorial system). In addition, geographers' inability to define and impose solid scientific concepts on the knowledge market, made the geography vulnerable compared with some related sciences, such as environmental sciences. For example: what is the socio-ecological system, recognized worldwide today, as a basic concept for contemporary environmental sciences? It is a modern, adapted form of ecosystem! Who stopped us in promoting the geosystem as a socio-geosystem or maybe as a territorial one? The ignorance or the outlandish assuming of some reported pseudo-research. Haven't we somehow ended up writing more than reading, and by writing all the time, we don't have the necessary time for "construction" through reflection? We should admit that we are in a vicious circle and my message is to save "Sleeping Beauty" (the Geography) before it is too late and prevent the mass suicide (professional) of the geographers.

BUDGET MANAGEMENT FOR THE BASIC ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL UNITS IN ROMANIA. POLITICAL-SPATIAL-TEMPORAL APPROACH

Corneliu IAȚU

"Al.I.Cuza" University, Iași, ROMANIA

The paper proposes a space-temporal analysis of the situation regarding the implementation of local budgets for revenues and expenditures on administrative-territorial units, insisting on their structural breakdown. In addition to reporting to population (per inhabitant), there will be followed a correlation with the political affiliation of the mayors to see if there is a link between the budget allocations and the political colour in the case they are a part of the governing parties. Another examined problem will be the one of the relation of their own income and expenses, trying to determine the subsistence level of some municipalities. In the end there will be tried a typology resulted from a hierarchical ascendant classification of the execution of the revenues and of the expenses of the local budgets at the administrative unit level.

GEOGRAPHICAL ATLAS CRISANA-MARAMURES (ROMANIA). TOURIST POTENTIAL.

Alexandru ILIEȘ, Dorina Camelia ILIEȘ, Ioana JOSAN, Maria GOZNER, Stefan BAIĂȘ

Oradea University, ROMANIA

The paper complete the list containing humanity's oral and intangible heritage, especially the cultural one, from Crisana-Maramures, Romania, subjected to a great risk of changing and losing its specific elements, on a background more and more affected by an aggressive and expansive process of globalization. The created database allowed later the occurrence of a wide process of the (re)evaluation, cartography and integration in the functional tourist system of a significant part of the tourist resources with high degree of specificity.

INTERVENTION POINTS REVEALED BY THE "STUDIES ON THE ZONE" OF LAGS

Gabriela ILIEȘ

"Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA, Sighetu-Marmației Branch

This study is based on analysis of the typology of the key points of intervention, identified by LAGs (authors of studies) in the determining of their development strategy. Organized around LEADER programme, LAGs needed a set of "studies on the zone". In accordance with the program's objectives, studies must be analysis that include the key problems and bottom-up solutions. This research started from a preliminary study on the general types of key issues. Further deepening using grounded-theory method has helped to shape the map. Analysis of this map will determine whether there is a correlation between the geographical vision, spatial data available and identified key problems at LAGs scale.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL IDENTITY ELEMENTS THROUGH MECHANISMS OF GEOBRANDING: CASE STUDY MARAMUREȘ LAND

Marin ILIEȘ

Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA, Sighetu-Marmației Branch

In Romania, along the Carpathian chain, there are some territorial entities known as regions of type "țară". Some of them have their own identity and have a well-defined rural high conservation of traditional. Over time interacted with various interfering factors, and the last decades are the subject of increasingly intense pressure, especially from globalization. Maramureș Land as the largest territorial entity of its kind in Romania, has an impressive heritage in terms of preservation of authenticity. Identity elements of a region is integrated also in the sphere tourism destination branding, the issue involves a special approach. The impact of globalization is evident in the dilution of authentic identity elements, so it is necessary to intelligently manage the situation. This study is a project for Association Mara-Gutâi GAL, the scientific foundation for future development projects. The study covered a number of aspects: maintaining and strengthening regional identity, identifying the perception of elements inside and outside the region, designing guidelines for future regional identity through the approach geobranding mechanisms, schemes of work designing standard local actors and so on.

CURRENT TRENDS IN THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH OF NATURAL HAZARDS AND RISKS

Ioan-Aurel IRIMUȘ, Dănuț PETREA

Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

The paper synthesizes the main arguments for the sustaining of the interdisciplinary research of natural hazards on a global scale but also in Romania, due to the complexity of the causes that relate the hazard production and their associated risks. The different approach of the hazards between academics and engineers determines disfunctions in risk's hierarchy and regionalization, inducing the necessity of general recognized criteria for the hazard analysis. For the engineers, the most important natural hazards include:

- Surface erosion, gully erosion, landslides, karstic land and mine falling.
- Aeolian erosion, dust storms and dune migration, deficitary hydric balance.
- Floods, shore erosion, river bed erosion, the instability of the drainage and water course changing (for rivers or fans), the sedimentary process of navigable rivers and estuaries.
- The erosion and the flooding of the low coastal areas caused by tsunami waves.

Academic research emphasizes in natural hazards analyse those processes and phenomena that are generated by the natural system disfunctions, either if it is about tectonical-lithological, climatic, hydric, geomorphological, biotic or pedological systems. Congresses, conferences, symposia, international and national workshops approach this issue and the tendency to unite these two applications in one interdisciplinary research is confirmed by the last International Geomorphology Congress – *Geomorphology and sustainability*, Paris 27-31 august, 2013.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOCIAL CAPITAL AND PARTICIPATIVE PROCESS IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT. CASE STUDY: CITY OF SULINA

Elena IRINCU, Rodica PETREA, Luminița FILIMON

Oradea University, ROMANIA

Considering that the involvement of the civil society in local development is essential, having a key role in identifying the directions of the development, the aims of the present study is to discuss a topical issue at European level, that becomes more present in today's Romania: the importance of social capital and participation in local development, process analyzed for the city of Sulina (Tulcea county, South East Romania). The guiding question for this study is: To what extent could the social capital of Sulina be an underlying factor for local development? Following the first part, aimed at presenting the theoretical backgrounds of the study, this paper offers briefly a territorial diagnosis for the city of Sulina. In the last part of the study, the possibilities of involvement of social capital in local development are being examined.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WITH COMPLEMENTARY ROLE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING GEOGRAPHY: THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND MUSEUMS

Ramona IVAN*, Adina-Ramona IȘFĂNESCU**

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA, Auto Transportation Technological High School, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Extracurricular activities are a set of educational activities, complementary to classical teaching classes, that take place in the educational institutes or outside. They regard the completion of the forming of students personality, that began during the instructive-educational process according to the contents of school curriculum. School must have an open approach of this kind of activities that give the students supplementary information regarding various domains of science. To value these activities, educational projects play an important part if they are accompanied by a partnership between the parts. Considered to be a place of informal education, the museum is becoming a place of formal education as the intellectual and ethical education of children is not limited to visiting exhibits but they can also be involved in practical activities that puts them in direct contact to a certain scientific phenomenon. In this way, the student has the possibility to understand certain processes and phenomena, to gather as well as to assimilate knowledge. The success of these activities is ensured by the way in which the teachers and the museum specialists work together in the educative act.

MAPPING OF INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE AND ANALYSIS OF URBAN BROWNFIELDS: TIMIȘOARA PERSPECTIVE

Liviu JIGORIA-OPREA; Flavius Sebastian IGNEA,
West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Started between 1970-1980 in the well-developed countries, the de-industrialization process covered Timisoara after 1990s. In most cases, industrial activities were suspended and spaces were abandoned or converted for other functions (residential, commercial etc.) There are some cases, where the industrial activities were refurbished, keeping the industrial function of the places. For the current research, all the industrial spaces from Timisoara were investigated using GIS techniques and from observation at the scene the main types of industrial landscape were established. From all, the brownfield type landscape, considered representative for the functional reconversion of the city, were analyzed. They represent an important land reserve, with obvious operational perspective and economical development.

ACTUAL TRENDS OF MEDICAL TOURISM IN HUNGARY

Mónika JÓNÁS-BERKI, Ádám KÖBLI, Andrea PÁLFI
Pecs University, HUNGARY

The leading tourism product of Hungary is health tourism. Both as an effect of the financial supports after the change of the regime and the national marketing strategy, health tourism is the first among the tourism products of the country. In the range of the top 10 most visited cities of Hungary annually the more and more strong health tourism resorts and spa towns are listed. The study researches the national trends of health tourism together with the peculiarities and restructuring of its visitors highlighted to the characteristics in Hungary. The study demonstrates the domestic trends through a case study in which the topic of sustainability is appearing as a priority.

THE MEANING OF BILINGUAL NAMING IN PUBLIC SPACE FOR THE CULTURAL IDENTITY OF LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Peter JORDAN,
Austrian Academy of Science, Wien, AUSTRIA

The paper attempts to find a response to the question, why geographical names have obviously such a symbolic meaning and are so important for space-related identity building that they give grounds to political conflict as we witness(ed) it in the cases of the quarrel on the naming of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or the double naming Sea of Japan/East Sea. It first highlights the basic role of the local human community in the naming process and the community/feature relation as the essential and decisive criterion for the endonym/exonym divide. It is argued that the endonym/exonym divide reflects the difference between what a community conceives as "its own" and "as theirs". Endonyms in this sense are then names for a geographical feature used by the population autochthonous in the feature's location. Exonyms are names adopted from other communities and used for features on their territory. They reflect the network of a community's external relations. Finally it is argued why publicly visible geographical names have specific significance for non-dominant communities.

THOUGHTS ON A CONCEPT OF LANGUAGE GEOGRAPHY

Peter JORDAN,

Austrian Academy of Science, Wien, AUSTRIA

The paper will highlight structure and contents of a possible language geography in the sense of studying the manifold relations between language and space from a geographical perspective. This field comprises the relation between language and reality, the conceptual division of reality by language, the temporal and historical variability of languages, the connection between language and social stratification, functional types of language (standard language - colloquial language - dialect) and their relations to social groups and space, languages as shaping factors of cultural regions, national and regional identities, spatial spread and retreat of languages, linguistic interference of adjacent languages, the specific space-related character of sacred languages, language rights (esp. of minorities), multilingualism and its impact on cultural and economic relations, trade languages and their expansion and regression, language transfer by migration, superimposition of languages, the meaning of official and military languages, the meaning of a language's cultural prestige, the relation of language and script, geographical names.

NEW CONTEMPORARY GEOGRAPHIES IN ROMANIAN POST-SOCIALIST CURRICULUM

Sebastian JUCU,

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Scholarly interest in educational curriculum has fueled a large interest during the last two decades. This paper unveils new visions and experiences concerning the relationship between new contemporary geographies and geographic curriculum within the Romanian education system. It deals with the new educational policies, strategies, contents and methods to ensure quality and competitive competencies to those who are trained in relation to the current demands of the Romanian and European society. Furthermore, it reveals some new perspectives on the current curriculum of geography connected to the new geographic contents as well as of their dynamics and functionalities. Finally, the paper set the scenes for further visions concerning the curricular management in the Romanian system of education

BORDRING THE BALKANS

Anna KRASTEVA

New Bulgarian University, BULGARIA

The Balkans are at the crossing of the effacement of borders by the Europeanization, from one side, and the construction of new borders - physical, national, cultural, symbolic, from another side, of the overproduction of borders and the overproduction of representations, meanings, imaginaries of boundaries. The objective of the paper is to analyze the Balkans as an intensive whirlpool of politics of bordering, ordering, and othering. *Balkan borders* and especially *Balkans as a border* have shaped the Balkan self-representation and Europe's representation of the Balkans. How do the Balkans reinterpret nowadays this controversial historical heritage of Balkans as borders is the question addressed in the first part. The paper distinguishes three main ways: strengthening the strong borders; crossing and softening the soft borders; overinvesting in symbolism and imaginaries. "There are borders on the map and borders in the mind" (Andreev 2004). Two opposite cases of new 'borders on the map' are compared in the second part: the new bridge between Bulgaria and Romania and the new wall under construction at the Bulgarian border with Turkey as a response to the Syrian refugees' crisis. The borders in Balkan minds are analyzed in the final part. It will present the results of a study of mental maps among three groups: immigrants in the Balkans; emigrants from the Balkans, mobile Balkan citizens.

VILLAGES FROM THE COMMUNE OF BRUSTURI, BIHOR COUNTY: PROPOSAL OF TOURISM CAPITALIZATION

Anamaria LĂZURAN (GIURĂU), Mihaela UNGUREANU
Oradea University, ROMANIA

The aim of the following paper is to present a model of touristic capitalization of the villages from the Brusturi commune in Bihor county by means of a thorough analysis of the touristic resources and of the possibilities of the involvement of the local human resources in deploying tourist activities as a sustainable solution for the development for the future of the community as well. The area taking into study is little known and promoted although it can be distinguished by few important landmarks such as: one of the oldest wooden churches in the county - Sf. "Arhangheli Mihail și Gavril" Church - built around 1600; un still untainted traditional architecture of several houses in some villages; an untouched landscape waiting to be discovered in an absolutely serenity and last but not least, the hospitality of the people living here. We've considered that the statements above were enough reasoning's to begin a research in order to highlight the importance of the development of the tourist activities in the Brusturi commune' territory.

TOURISTIC MAP OF NĂDRAG COMMUNE (TIMIȘ DEPARTMENT)

Ribana LINC*, Gheoghe NEDELCU**
**Oradea University, Romania **Bihor County Council, ROMANIA*

In terms of tourism, Poiana Ruscăi Mountains almost do not matter, not in any national strategy for tourism development or even in special literature. We believe that the cause of this situation is on the one hand the vicinity with loftier mountains with a well-known and capitalized tourism potential (Retezat Mountains, Țarcului Mountains, Semenicului Mountains, Anina Mountains, Apuseni Mountains). On the other hand, the tourism resources of this mountain massif are not known, there aren't many studies, much less published books. In this context, how can be known and capitalized the tourism potential of a rural administrative unit? By drawing this map (part of a book under publication), we want to bring to light some of the Timiș sector of Poiana Ruscăi Massif and indirectly to push Nădrag commune into the Romanian tourist scene.

WATER RECHARGE AND REHABILITATION OF THE DRAVA RIVER FLOODPLAIN IN HUNGARY

Dénes LÓCZY, Ervin PIRKHOFFER, József DEZSŐ
Pecs University, HUNGARY

In Hungary the lower Drava is part of the Danube-Drava National Park and extensive areas are included in the Natura 2000 system. An assessment of hydromorphological and biological reference conditions in the morphological (protected) floodplain seems to be necessary. Observations indicate dynamic channel and floodplain development. The survival period (assumed to be up to 200 years) and connectivity of oxbows and backwaters is central for the assessment of the ecological conditions of the morphological floodplain. Therefore, in our typology the environmental conditions over the entire width of the morphological floodplain (with its fossilized landforms, levees, oxbows, backswamps) will be considered. Our research intends to supplement this hydromorphological survey with more detailed assessment of floodplain subsections along the Hungarian Drava River from the viewpoints of water availability, soil conditions, vegetation and nature conservation. It is closely linked to the Ancient Drava project, which envisions major transformations in water management and land use of this region, and has numerous implications for regional development.

THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ON THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROBLEMS OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN VOJVODINA (SERBIA)

Tamara LUKIĆ, Milka BUBALO-ŽIVKOVIĆ, Bojan ĐERČAN, Branislav ĐURĐEV, Gorana JOVANOVIĆ
Novi Sad University, SERBIA

This paper presents the most common demographic problems of ethnic groups in Vojvodina, in the late 20th and early 21st century. Some problems occur frequently in many ethnic groups, while others are present only in some of them. During the research, attention was drawn to the ethnic group in which the number of members is rapidly decreasing; the gender ratio is disturbed; the aging process is at least galloping. In order to explain these phenomena, analysis of literature and conduction of interview with members of certain ethnic groups have been necessary. The results showed the existence of various economic reasons which directly or indirectly affect the demographic characteristics. Research has shown that some factors, like: tradition, the process of globalization, the political situation in the country and the world, greatly affect the economy. The paper is a contribution to the enrichment of knowledge about economic situation and demographic characteristics of ethnic groups in Vojvodina.

AGEING POPULATION - A PROBLEM OF CONTEMPORARY ROMANIAN SOCIETY

Maria – Magdalena LUPCHIAN
"Ștefan cel Mare" University, Suceava, ROMANIA

Romanian population ageing is a phenomenon that begins to manifest increasingly stronger. With an average of 16.14% older people, there are significant differences both as far as residence is concerned and at territorial level. The problems of the older people are multiple and increasingly intractable in the context of external migration of young adults and of health system challenges. This article aims, on the one hand, to analyze the size of population aging at the local level, and secondly, to identify possible answers of Romanian society to the problems of older people. In this context the attitude of society's members - seniors or not - to the problems of older people is analyzed. How does society respond to the needs of older people? Who are the actors involved in solving the problems of older people? Do Romanian authorities succeed in solving this challenge? Is the Romanian society aware of the change in family structures and of the consequences that this implies?

BEST PRACTICES MODELS AND PROPOSALS FOR INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ELEMENTS REUSE AS TOURISM RESOURCES

Cristina MERCIU*, Loreta CERCLEUX, George MERCIU****
**Advanced Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Territorial Dynamics, Bucharest, ROMANIA, **Bucharest University, ROMANIA*

The purpose of this study is to highlight how the cultural reuse of industrial plants may act as a real challenge meant to reflect the variety of the means to capitalize industrial assets. Two types of case studies have been used: the first includes several examples of good practice in the cultural reuse of the industrial heritage in Romania. The examples of good practice were selected using the criteria of industrial heritage types variety and the moment of their reconversion; in this respect, there have been chosen various conversions of the technical and industrial heritage assets that have taken place in Romania since the 1990s. The second set of examples is grouped into a set of suggestions, made by the authors and referring to cultural reuse of the industrial heritage. Focusing on the good-practice examples and the authors' suggestions consisted in emphasizing the actions taken in Romania concerning the degree of involvement in the conservation and capitalization on the industrial heritage and, at the same time, to indicate the need for the continuation of these actions. Although cultural re-use is not the single option, when we refer to an industrial building classified as a historical monument this is the best option.

ETHNO-DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES OF THE ROMANIAN MINORITY IN SERBIA DURING THE PERIOD 1948-2011

Saša MILOSAVLJEVIĆ, Jovo MEDOJEVIĆ, Bojana JANDŽIKOVIĆ
Kosovska Mitrovica University, SERBIA

From ancient times Romanians have been an integral part of a multi-ethnic population in Serbia. Today Romanian's population lives in about 90 settlements in the Republic of Serbia: Bor, Branicevo, Zajecar, Pomoravlje, Podunavlje, Nišavska and Rasina districts. The largest numbers of Romanians are living in the autonomous province of Vojvodina, making 1.5% of the total population. Paradigms of ethno-demographic processes, observed in the period from 1948 to 2011 years, indicating a very complex changes in the Romanian minority in Serbia, characterized by: a total population reduction, population aging, immigration, assimilation.

INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS IN THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OF BIHOR COUNTY, ROMANIA

Cezar MORAR
Oradea University, ROMANIA

Tourism development results from engaging various stakeholders in the decision-making and planning process, targeting an effective and sustainable regional development. The many advantages and disadvantages resulting from the planning and development process involves a wide range of stakeholders, representing the public and private fields, the non-profit sector, the local communities, various professionals and the tourists. Tourism delivers various social, economic and cultural effects on a region, the success of the process being based on the specific input of each stakeholder. The present study is focused on Bihor County, Romania, the results showing that carefully planned tourism developments are likely to experience besides high level of tourist satisfaction, important socio-economic benefits, with minimum negative environmental and cultural impacts.

SYNOPTIC STRUCTURES ASSOCIATED WITH DANGEROUS WEATHER PHENOMENA: BLOCKING HIGH AND RAPID CYCLOGENESIS

Cristian Iosif NICHITA, Iuliana Anca VASILACHE
Banat-Crișana Regional Meteorological Centre, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Risk phenomena triggering slow and catastrophic, droughts and floods cause significant economic damages and can also cause casualties. Atmospheric structures such blocking high or, on the contrary, rapid cyclogenesis, with explosive character, cause such weather phenomena. Atmospheric blocking lead to stagnation of meteorological characteristics over a particular region. In the case of blocking some pattern of weather was repeated for a few days or even weeks. This can lead to droughts, higher or lower than normal temperatures, floods or other extreme weather. Extratropical cyclon, whose pressure decrease in its center with a ratio of 1hPa/1 hour at least during 24 hours (Sanders and Gyakum, 1980) is called „meteorological bomb”. Atmospheric pressure reaches in a short time critical values, being characterized by abundant rains, strong winds (average wind >17 m/s) and dangerous significant wave height (swell) for the human activities, as the sea navigations and air navigations.

WINE TOURISM. THE PROJECT WINE ROAD - VINEYARD DEALU MARE: PLANNING AND TOURISTIC ARRANGEMENT

Adrian NEDELICU

Petroleum - Gas University, Ploiești, ROMANIA

The cultivation of vineyards as well as the production and consumption of wine in Romania is directly related to the history and cultural traditions of its inhabitants. Wine tourism is not a new phenomenon. The concept of "wine route" as it is known today began to materialize about a century ago in Germany, along the Rhine and an extension to the Alsace region. Currently, wine tourism is regarded generally as one of the most significant forms of tourism, many countries of the Old World or New World considering it as a basic means to promote travel and tourism industry, a viable local development and regional development. In this study is presented Wine Road of Dealu Mare Vineyards (Prahova County), through which wine tourism can help increasing number of visitors and to improve the quality of the tourism phenomenon. More specifically proposed other thematic routes are complementary and necessary conditions for the successful operation of the network. These include establishing winery visit, tour operators working with agents, synergy between the parties, and finding opportunities to increase the efficiency of investment in wine.

MIGRATION AND EMIGRATION IN EUROPEAN UNION

Anda Veronica NEDELICU-IENEI

"Vasile Goldiș" Western University, Arad, ROMANIA

The EU is a very populated alliance, with a cultural diversity of the 28 states members. The EU population counts/numbers 505,5 million of inhabitants since July 2012. Nowadays more persons want to emigrate in EU than they want to emigrate from the EU. In many member states the migration is a controversial phenomenon, like in Belgium, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Holland, Spain and Great Britain. Spain is the state that receives the most immigrants who enter illegally in Europe from Africa. This significant circulation/movement of the persons within EU, namely the internal migration of EU followed two ways/models: a) the model concerning the young workers from the less economically developed regions and from the EU member states that tend to change from their country/region in other regions, more prosperous, of their country or in the EU countries that have good economic perspectives/expectations such as Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, Holland, France, Portugal, Spain, Poland and b) the pensions from the rich lands/places, with cold weather, such as Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Great Britain and Germany who tend to move in the South of Europe, where it is warm and sunny, in states as Spain, Portugal, South of France (Loire Valley, Italy and Greece). The migration is an important factor in the evolution of the contemporary European society with many facilities, it is a demographic phenomenon, with socio-economic reasons and effects. But the migration has a price too, the EU set down important efforts for the migrants' integration, the combat and the prevention of the illegal immigration, the control of the external/outer frontiers lines. The migration phenomenon belongs to the co-existence of the numerous societies on the globe, as the latest years, on the EU territory grew the flows of migration, both the aspect of the number and the density. It has been necessary an efficient administration of this phenomenon through the **elaboration of a common policy in the domain of the migration**. The free/independent/open circulation inside the European space is one of the fundamental/basic freedoms/liberty of the European citizens, that it is at the **foundation of the construction/building of the European Project**. The Directive 2004/38/EC recognizes/legitimizes/admits in a single instrument the whole legislation regarding the right to enter and stay/remain/reside for the EU citizens with the purpose to simplify the formalities required for the EU citizens and for their families members to practise **their right at the open circulation and sitting/sojourn/stay**.

TRANSBOUNDARY ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS WITH NATURA 2000 SITES ALONG THE ROMANIAN – HUNGARIAN BORDER – PREMISES FOR A SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Stelian NISTOR, Ribana LINC

Oradea University, ROMANIA

There is no doubt that within Europe Natura 2000 is one of the strongest, if not the strongest, instrument for nature conservation. There is reason to assume that for practical reasons measures to enhance ecological coherence are planned and implemented most effectively on the regional level. However, to resolve border-crossing issues, some form of supra-regional, or even supra-national coordinating framework is obviously useful. Although it seems to be simple and easy, the implementation of this goal is not simple at all. Nature conservationists on different sides of a border work under different legal and policy systems, have to deal with different agendas, use different data sets, and sometimes even adhere to different ecological theories. And of course – sometimes they literally speak different languages. In this sense, establishing ecological networks is as much about connectivity between social and policy systems as it is about connectivity between ecosystems.

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS IN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSEMENT. CASE STUDY: SWITZERLAND AND ROMANIA

Andreea NIȚĂ*, Alexandre BUTTLER, Laurențiu ROZYLWICZ*, Ileana PĂTRU-STUPARIU***

**Bucharest University, ROMANIA, **Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) SWITZERLAND,*

The landscape aspects are basic elements to be analyzed when elaborating an EIA study. Identifying these is known as being subject to criticism with respect to the lack of transparency and reproducibility. Since 2010, the demand to develop wind-farm projects in Romania has recorded a massive raise. The study consists in a comparative analysis between the Swiss and Romanian EIA practical systems, with a focus on landscape, trying to see if the Romanian EIA reports are considering not only the economic advantages, but also the impact of these on the landscape. In addition, a Romanian guide for landscape impact evaluation was performed by adopting the Swiss method which is now being implemented by the federal and cantonal agencies. Check-lists are used in order to assess the compatibility of projects with the landscape perspective from three points of view: landscape use value, heritage value and existence value. In Romanian EIA documents, these issues are rarely described or included, whereas this perspective would lead to an improved landscape representation in terms of positive and negative characteristics allowing a more objective evaluation. Thus, this approach would better show threats and consequences of landscape usage and would lead to a sustainable development.

PERMAFROST IN ROMANIAN CARPATHIANS: A REVIEW OF A YOUNG RESEARCH FIELD

Alexandru ONACA

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Recent years have witnessed a growing interest in mountain permafrost and its sensitivity to climatic changes. Degradation of the alpine permafrost generates changes both in the dynamics of the ecosystem and in the local hydrological system. Moreover, melting of the ground ice may compound the instability of the slopes which in turn, influences the occurrence of natural hazards. This fragile equilibrium between slope stabilization and potential trigger for geomorphic processes is controlled by the thermal and mechanical state of alpine permafrost, which is strongly influenced by climate warming. Therefore, in the future, mountain permafrost is likely to become an important cost factor in the equation concerning the costs of construction and maintenance of high-mountain infrastructure. In the particular case of Romania, studies of contemporary permafrost are scarce because limited scientific information exists that could certify the existence of permafrost conditions in the Romanian Carpathians. However in the last few years the number of scientific publications concerning the permafrost mapping in Romania increased substantially. In all the cases the authors signaled the occurrence of permafrost in some rock glaciers from Southern Carpathians, using indirect methods (geophysical and thermal methods), but the information regarding permafrost thickness, active layer depth, the ice content and the permafrost dynamics are still missing.

CULTURAL REGENERATION, DIVERSITY AND THE MAKING OF DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC SPACES

Ronan PADDISON

Glasgow University, UNITED KINGDOM

Cities by definition are places of diversity, a reality which has become emphasized through deepening globalization. Fostering international migration globalization has spurred the development of the super-diverse city redefining their social composition and the basis on which they should be planned. In particular, the (re-)emergence of ethnicity has lent renewed attention to key questions of city living, of the need to create respect between diverse social groups so as to create in turn the conditions for community cohesion within the city. This paper explores the problems and contradictions of how the cultural regeneration of cities, confronted by deepening diversity, has and should address the issue of respect and recognition through the remaking of public spaces. It is argued that the recapitalization of city spaces fostered through neoliberal practices tends to favour dominant, sometimes revanchist, interests. Spaces able to be sympathetic to diversity develop in 'in-between' locations resulting from grassroots activism operating beyond the 'entrepreneurial gaze'. Less recognized is how recognition of diversity can be problematic to social cohesion – ethnicity has its 'dark side', recognition of which problematises the democratic city.

OPTIMIZATION POSSIBILITIES OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN TIMISOARA

Sorin PAVEL; Alexandru BIROU, Flavius IGNEA

West University, Timișoara. ROMANIA

Timisoara holds several national premieres in the public transportation sector: the first electric tramway on the present territory of Romania (1899) and the first trolleybus in the country (1942). The public transportation network developed continuously, so that the Municipality of Timisoara has at the moment a dense public transportation network which serves all the quarters of the city. As researches reveal that in Timișoara of the year 2030 the private car will remain one of the main means of transportation, a fast and functional public transportation system becomes an imperative condition to ensure urban accessibility and mobility. The projects of the local authorities aim to give the public transportation system of the Municipality of Timisoara European features: speed, efficiency and modernity, to develop the local public infrastructure to ensure mobility in the historical center and to render accessibility to the suburbs of the Municipality of Timisoara.

AXES -NATURAL, ECONOMIC- AND GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE ORGANISATION

Călin Cornel POP

"Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

The geographical axis works by integrating the elements of formation, thereby being connected, so that each organizing order, point, place, level, secondary axis, main axis, particular places etc. can achieve their own organization laws. In an axis the relationships are different, complex and fulfill material, energetic, informational and relational (the relational eco-field) goals. The relationships are influenced by permanent, temporary and own decision factors, which influence and direct them. The relationships are synergetic, and self-sustaining, and by reflecting the relations at different times there can be observed various states of fragility, degradation, stability or regress. *The axis is withhold within certain limits, it has a certain material component, it has a (geometrical) shape, it has (dynamic) functions* etc. Following these facts we can define the geographical axis in several ways: *space-time line force, line that allows the geographical diagnosis and prognosis of a certain territory in time and space, territory that can have different geometrical conformations and dimensions in conformity with their capacity of polarization* (C.C. Pop, 2003, pg.78). This kind of geographic organizations, the axis kind, must function in accordance with the principle of maximum efficiency with minimum waste of substance and energy so that the evolution trend of such an organization can go on a direction inverse to that of the entropy's growth. The axis (the geographical axis) talks about individuals, groups, animals, generally solid, liquid, gas, energy and information, with the goal of conserving or informing, eliminating the entropy, or producing by transforming the evolving cycles, by any way or treatment. These roads can be available to everybody or can be restrained at certain products, certain exploiters or consumers, in both cases with or without works: they can be technical, geographical (functional), aesthetic and cultural. Also these roads form program elements as well as at the level of their creation, but also at the level of their exploiting, provoking mobile interference, diverse in expansion and regression, in the complex of the so created axis. Structurally speaking a geographical axis has at its basis the present state, but it also takes in consideration the potential guided interventions, not neglecting the random ones, and also the territorial evolution, regarding the principles of co-evolution and polarization.

55 YEARS OF ACADEMIC GEOGRAPHY IN TIMISOARA: STEPS, OPTIONS, CERTITUDES AND UTOPIAS

Nicolae POPA

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Founded 55 years ago, as a faculty of History – Geography within the Teaching Institute for three years, the academic geography of Timisoara had several stages of evolution : 1959-1965, the beginning, marked by insufficient human resources and by efforts to create the basics of material and documentary necessities; 1965-1972 the period in which the Faculty of History and Geography was integrated in the University of Timisoara and strengthens its scientific component; period 1972-1979 of structural instability and institutional marginalization, completed with the dissolution of study program in history and geography; 1979-1990, stage where geography continued to be taught only at the Faculty of Economics; the years 1990-1994, animated by the reestablishment of geographic higher education in WUT, through the foundation of the degree program in Geography, with the enthusiasm and difficulties inherent of any new beginning; 1994-2001 years of institutional strengthening and scientific shaping to the geographers collective; 2001-2010, with the diversification of educational offer and the affirmation of Timisoara geography in Romanian network of geographical centers; the last period, after 2010, marked by the strengthening of the scientific basis, the introduction of doctoral studies and by the increasing international resonance of the Geography from Timisoara. In this evolution, there were many moments of bifurcation, in which the strategic choices were unsafe. Their validation was made, selectively, only by the test of time. We are now at a new moment of possible bifurcation. The reducing in number of new generations of high school graduates, coupled with the orientation of some of the best from them to universities of abroad, put the Romanian university in a new context: increasing competition and self-shrinkage, after two decades of continuous expansion. Will succeed, the geography of Timisoara, to choose the best strategy to maintain and develop its scientific and educational offer?

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN THE OLTENIAN SUBCARPATHIANS: WHY, HOW MUCH AND HOW?

Antoaneta Carina POPESCU

"Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

Tourism is considered to be an activity that can produce territorial development, because, in the case of tourism destinations created a century ago, the majority were built and developed due to tourism, which proved to be a continuous source of benefits. Moreover, many regions in economic difficulty, or marginalized, that chose to open to tourism, discovered its *colonization power* (Cazes and Knafou, 1995) and capacity to revalue underestimated objects. Still, can any space become touristic? Is tourism an activity that can support a sustainable territorial development? We shall try to answer these questions by studying the case of the Oltenian Subcarpathians, a region with a high cultural potential, hardly used at present. Our research focuses on establishing the areas where tourism can develop as a main activity, the complementary activities that can be associated to tourism in order to support territorial development, as well as the tourism types that can be best developed, according to the existing potential.

GIS-BASED MULTI-CRITERIA ANALYSIS FOR PLANNING SKI AREAS

Florentina POPESCU

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Ski resort development and planning is usual undergone by consulting companies which rely on a limited number of parameters used in the feasibility evaluation process, and as a consequence the planned endeavor fails to be sustainable. Moreover these studies are followed by a laborious terrain study which should involve an important number of specialists, hence the resulting high cost of such studies. The present paper has the scope of enhancing the accuracy of the feasibility study, therefore reducing the number of technicians needed in both phases of feasibility assessment. We propose a multi-criteria analysis (MCA) of the important terrain parameters and the land-use – land-cover factors. These are firstly individually analysed, before being introduced in the MCA, were each criterion and restraint is weighted in terms of importance to the study using an analytical hierarchical process. Thereafter, a model is employed, which through a set of rules considers all afore normalized factors; so as to determine a scale of favourability of ski resort development in a certain area. This model was run through two separate GIS programs which displayed similar results. The next step implies terrain calibration of the model, in test areas, so that it can be used as a preliminary evaluation tool for planning or developing ski resorts in (almost) any given area.

CAN RURAL TOURISM FOSTER LOCAL DEVELOPMENT? PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF RURAL TOURISM IN ROMANIA

Liliana POPESCU, Amalia BĂDIȚĂ, Mirela MAZILU, Sandu BOENGIU
Craiova University, ROMANIA

Rural space cannot be considered any longer as being destined only for agriculture, since it has been increasingly used for the construction of second homes or for the entertainment of people living in the crowded urban areas, picturesque villages having a special appeal to tourists. Consequently, there have been extensive research on the various issues involved by rural tourism. The present paper has two main goals; firstly, it aims at examining the role of tourism for the development of rural areas in Romania, taking into consideration six tourism development factors, as indicated by international literature, namely attractions, promotion, tourism infrastructure, services, hospitality and entrepreneurship. Secondly, it identifies the most important factors needed for successful tourism development, amongst which particular attention in the Romanian context must be paid to strategic planning, proper marketing, a complete tourism package and technical assistance for tourism development and promotion in order to capitalize the local, traditional heritage, while still preserving the local natural resources. It is concluded that although there are a lot of opportunities for the development of small scale tourism, with mostly family run businesses, in many cases Romanian rural communities have limited economic development options and possibilities.

INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF SLOPES AFFECTED BY LANDSLIDES USING ELECTRICAL TOMOGRAPHY TECHNIQUE. CASE STUDY- BUZAD LANDSLIDE

Mihaela POPESCU, Alexandru ONACA, Petru URDEA, Raul David ȘERBAN
West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Electrical resistivity imaging is a widely used tool in near surface geophysical surveys with practical application in various geological, environmental and engineering problems including landslides, being in the same time suitable for very different tasks. This technique was used more and more due to its relative simplicity and time effectivity. In this study, an electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) survey was conducted with the GeoTom resistivity instrument, in a landslide area, located in the Buzad village, county Timis, Romania. This slide occurred for the first time in 2006, but only in 2007 and 2014 it had been investigated using geophysics. For this study area we performed a 2-D resistivity survey along four profiles over the landslide mass using a Wenner and a Schlumberger configuration. The results obtained provide useful information about the geometry and characteristics of the landslide, but also about the depth and extension of landslide bodies.

THE MAIN PRINCIPLE FOR THE GEOGRAPHICAL- TERRITORIAL REGIONALIZATION OF ROMANIA

Grigore POSEA
"Spiru Haret" University, Bucharest, ROMANIA

The paper first analyses the role of geomorphologic limits in geographic regionalization. Next it analyses the ground principle of administrative-territorial regionalization. The difference between strictly geographical delimitation and the way to shape and limit present counties (delimitation made by water basins and watersheds). The starting principle is the shaping of some large sustainable development regions in a potential future European Union Federation which should connect morally and naturally the individual with his region. Just in this manner it is possible to preserve in the history and culture of the future EU something of the space of the ancient state Romania. Several concrete aspects compulsory for our future regions are presented. These have to be complex and especially have to include plenty of aspects which should show that the region belongs to its inhabitants and not conversely, and especially not to others from outside the region who might impose to the locals what should do or whom should they vote. A simple regional emblem is also proposed, simple (e.g. Canada) but specific. Such an emblem is also indicated for Romania, i.e. the Romanian Sphinx, because the present emblem does not clearly represents Romania and is highly complex, impossible to be preserved in memory.

DEMOGRAPHIC SPAMS - A LIMIT OF SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT. CASE STUDY: CICEULUI LAND

Alexandra Camelia POTRA

"Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

The demographic decline recorded, obviously after 1990, in most of the countries of the earth's surface, counting Romania also, is produced, at the level of every territorial unit in part by a series of negative demographic phenomena, such as the decrease of birth rates and their maintenance to a low value, infant mortality, population exodus from the countryside to town, massive emigration of adults, which determines a decrease of the ratio of the middle age, of the active population, of the fertile female population and of the children. Therefore, these are the main reasons which directly contribute to the aging of the population (increase of the consumer population), to the damaging of age structure, of the socio-professional structure, therefore, of the entire demographic mechanism, in other words, it causes an imbalance between the inbounds and the outbounds of the demographic system. This imbalance is and must be seen as a reverse of the demographic growth, meaning that at global scale there are territorial units where there is no counterbalance between the demographic growth (demographic explosion in poor countries) and the biotic capacity and the ability to feed a population in continuous growth. All these processes are understood as demographic spasms as an amalgam of demographic phenomena, constraining the sustainable territorial development, tracing a limit in its path, beyond which the demographic system becomes incapable to support it. This study aims, but without claiming to be an exhaustive one, to analyze the phenomena seen in demographic spasms, implicitly of their influences (conditionings, concordances, possible challenges) in the context of sustainable regional development. The study shall focus on the analysis of these problems existing at the level of Ciceului Land, an eminently rural micro-region that has experienced demographic decline, but, for a broader image, shall also be exemplified certain cases existent at global level. The study also aims to fire a warning to prevent the population of this micro-region from entering into an imminent slideslip, whose consequences are currently difficult to assess.

SMALL TOWNS OF BIHOR COUNTY AND URBAN SHRINKAGE

Mariana PRAȘCA, Rodica PETREA, Mălina Ilia FILIMON

Oradea University, ROMANIA

The majority of the studies that have as subject the phenomenon of urban shrinkage, a process with multiple socio-economic implications, focuses on large cities. But the negative effects of urban contraction are even more difficult to counteract in case of small and very small towns, which are the most affected. This study shows the particular situation of the nine small towns from Bihor County, which in the post-communist period undergone a series of important political and socio-economic changes, that caused structural and functional modifications, with significant effects on their role at local and regional level. Deindustrialization and incoherent development policies are the main causes that have triggered the urban shrinkage phenomenon, in its turn responsible for the reduction of economic competitiveness and of the attractiveness of these towns. Based on the analysis carried out, have been identified three patterns of urban shrinkage corresponding to small towns of Bihor County.

RELATIVE DATING THROUGH LICHENOMETRY OF THE PERIGLACIAL LANDFORMS FROM THE UPPER BASIN OF CAPRA VALLEY, FĂGĂRAȘ MOUNTAINS

Roxana PUTAN

West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Făgăraș Mountains were an interesting subject for many researchers during time, for they are the highest mountains in Romania, and they represent the place where glacial and periglacial landforms are specific. We will analyse the specifics of periglacial landforms in the Upper basin of Capra Valley in Făgăraș Mountains, as being representative for this area. Periglacial landforms as debris slope, rock glaciers, avalanche paths are very complex and various. For a better understanding of the dynamism of these landforms, determined by the frosting-thaw processes, different lichenometric methods and Schmidt Hammer tests were apply. The largest lichen from a landform is the oldest from that area, so we measured the period when the surface of the rocks started to weathered. We determined the relative age of the landform and periods with intense dynamism. For a better understanding of the frosting-thaw processes, the Schmidt Hammer tests were applied on the landforms but also on the steep slope nearby. We compared the results with other similar studies from

Alps and Tatra Mountains, to improve the understanding of periglacial landforms dynamism of the last 200 years or even more, from the Romanian Carpathian Mountains, being the first study that used lichenometric methods on this area.

TYPES AND FORMS OF TOURISM INDUCED BY NATURAL TOURIST RESOURCES AND HUMAN-BUILT ENVIRONMENT IN APUSENI MOUNTAINS. CASE STUDY: RURAL MOUNTAIN AREA OF CLUJ COUNTY

Bianca RĂCĂȘAN

Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, ROMANIA

Economic activities unfolded within an area are both generated by the existence of some resources and depend on their exploiting availability (i.e. forest exploitation and wood processing, animals and plants cultivation in the mountain sector). Likewise types and forms of tourism developed within a territory represent the valorization of a series of resources endowed with tourist attractiveness. This article focuses on the identification of natural tourist fund components and objectives pertaining to human-made and purpose-built tourism patrimony in order to establish the main forms of tourism which can be practiced within the rural mountain area of Cluj county. Furthermore, the paper proposes some typologies and hierarchies of the territorial-administrative units integrated within the studied area in terms of tourism potential, estimated through bonitation method. All these actions will serve the main purpose of this research, namely, highlighting and promoting the elements of the tourism potential related to the area of overlap between the rural space and the mountain sector. Finally, the types and forms of tourism induced by the existing resources will also contribute to the valorization of tourism potential, whose pattern could attract a large enough number of tourists whose spendings would definitely act like a catalyst in the economic development of both the examined territory and Cluj county.

DELINEATING ALTERNATIVE GEOMETRIES FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES - PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM ESPON DATABASE II (M4D)

Alexandru RUSU, Octavian GROZA

"Al.I.Cuza" University, Iași, ROMANIA

With more than 128 000 LAU2 in the ESPON Space, using the classical tools of the spatial analysis in order to define the territorial structures at local scale is a massive challenge of geo-processing. That's why the use of an alternative geometry is often needed and the construction of a spatial frame (as size, between the LAU2 and the NUTS3) was build for scientific use, in the ESPON Database II (M4D). These alternative spatial units were derived using algorithms from the graph and network analysis, that are similar to some of the multivariate statistical tools (hierarchical clustering and k-mean classification). The test of these algorithms was implemented on some selected Eastern European countries and spatial or territorial constraints were added to the basic methodology of delineation. The algorithms were transformed in tools ready to be used in GIS software (ArcGIS) and they are subject to multiple improvements - refinement of the similarity matrix used in the model, spatial constraints based on an inverse distance weight, multiple territorial belonging, automatic labeling of the alternative geometry etc. Flexible enough to behave as a districting model, the methodology we propose is intended to serve as a scientific tool of investigation for policy and decision support at multiple territorial scales.

CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT THE ANDOSOLISATION PROCESS FROM CĂLIMANI – GURGHIU – HARGHITA VOLCANIC MOUNTAINS (EASTERN CARPATHIANS, ROMANIA)

Constantin RUSU, Dumitru BULGARIU

"Al.I.Cuza" University, Iași, ROMANIA

In Romania, area occupied by andosol is estimated at 8900 km², the higher surfaces being situated in Eastern Carpathians (Oaș-Gutâi Țibleș-Bârgău and Călimani-Harghita volcanic chain) – around 6.2 % from entire pedological coverlet. The andosol formation is connected to the two volcanic areas: Apuseni Mountains – with andosols developed on rhyolite and rhyodacite pyroclastic materials; Eastern Carpathians – with andosols developed on andesitic and dacitic pyroclastic materials. Our studies, performed on soils from Eastern Carpathians, bring several new data about the andosolisation process: (i) pedogenetic context – typology of parental material, altitudinal spread, geomorphological specificity, bioclimatic assembly; (ii) particularities and pedogeochemical diagnosis criteria of andosols. In Eastern Carpathians, even the volcanic rocks and products associated with eruption occupies considerable areas, the formation conditions of andosols are practically limited to the perimeters with pyroclastic rocks and derived deposits, where are included hialocrystalline rocks (different varieties of andesites), vitreous rocks, pyroclastic products, including deluvial mixtures from the slopes level. The spatial distribution and andosols share in different mountain massifs form Eastern Carpathians are below those given in the literature from Romania. This observation is based on the fact that every time they met strict taxonomical criteria, as certain stages of evolution of some soils were evaluated incorrectly.

GIS BASED MORPHOMETRY AND EVOLUTION OF EȘIKOVAČKI STREAM (FRUŠKA GORA MNT., N SERBIA)

Ivan RVOVIĆ, Mladjen JOVANOVIĆ, Minučer MESAROŠ, Rada ŠORAK, Stefan KOTRLA

Novi Sad University, Serbia

Ešikovački stream drainage basin covers an area of 13,5 km² on NE slopes of Fruska Gora horst. GIS and a high-resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM) based on topographic map in scale 1:25.000 have been utilized for the morphometric analysis of basin and stream channel. According to acquired DEM with a horizontal spatial resolution equals 10 m, in total 28 morphometric parameters have been computed and analyzed. Four longitudinal profiles of streams in basin have been constructed, as well as 30 cross-sections. Our analysis based on DEM gave the most accurate data about the morphometry of the studied area. Prior to our analysis, only 6 parameters have been calculated with average error of 15-20% compared to recent results. The evolution of basin have been reconstructed since Lower Pliocene and closely associated with the process of uplift Fruska Gora horst uplift and continued subsidence of bottom of back-ark Pannonian Basin. The analysis reveals that the influence of drainage morphometry is very significant in understanding the landform processes and erosional characteristics. The results demonstrates that remotely sensed data and GIS based approach is found to be more appropriate than the conventional methods in evaluation and analysis of drainage morphometry, landforms and land resources and to understand their inter-relationships.

THE UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, AN APPLIED POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

André-Louis SANGUIN

Paris-Sorbonne University, Paris, France

The UN peacekeeping operations make up a not very scrutinized issue of political geography. A theoretical assessment is proposed about the relationships between peace, geography and United Nations as well as the spaceness of peacekeeping operations. The paper shows a new typology of the UN peace spaces: interposition, survival, covering, governance, marking. The conclusion identifies some observable trends and conceivable prospects for a political geography of peace.

END OF GEOGRAPHY OR REVENGE OF GEOGRAPHY? THE HUMAN SOCIETIES BETWEEN A SMOOTH WORLD, A SPIKY WORLD OR A FLAT WORLD

André-Louis SANGUIN

Paris-Sorbonne University, Paris, France

At the beginning of the 2000s, some American foreign affairs columnists and intellectuals of statecraft promoted the theory of the end of geography and the emergence of a flat world. For them, the world integration of finance sounds the end of geography due to the standardization of culture and communications within the international system. The world has become flat because of a general, inexorable and invasive globalization. Globalization may hold the promise its proponents proclaim, but it also inevitably creates inequities that can bring out the worst in human nature. This theory ignores the local and regional scales as well as two strong and absolute realities, namely distance and non-ubiquity of the human being. By almost any measure the international economic landscape is not at all flat. On the contrary, our world is amazingly "spiky". The Earth, physically as well as culturally, still is very rough terrain. The power of place still holds the vast majority of us in its thrall. For all the "flattening" perceived and relished by globals, the world still is dauntingly rough field for many more locals. Geography matters more than ever and remains today one of the most powerful drivers of world events.

FOEHN WIND IN MOLDAVIA

Lucian SFÎCĂ, Pavel ICHIM, Liviu OANĂ, Cătălin MIHĂILESCU, Cristina NISTOR, Andreea STOICA

"Al.I.Cuza" University, Iași, ROMANIA

The classical theory of foehn wind explains the temperature difference between the two slopes of an orographic barrier by air cooling according to the moist adiabatic lapse rate during the ascent, while on descending the warming is produced according to dry adiabatic lapse rate. This type of foehn is indicated by precipitation affecting the exposed slope. Often, however, the high temperatures associated with moderate or high wind speeds in some regions are not accompanied with precipitation on the opposite side of the orographic barrier. In this case we talk about a second type of foehn wind, called hydraulic foehn. In this case, one slope is situated in a lake of cold air which comes from a previous synoptic period, while the other slope is subjected to a spill over the ridge of warm air from a corresponding warm advection that is ongoing in altitude. This "discharge" leads to additional heating of hot air by dry adiabatic lapse rate during descent. In this study we identify parts of the Moldavia region in which this phenomenon is very common, we analyzed its frequency, together with synoptic conditions that occur and how it affects the general climatic characteristics of the region.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SERBIA

Milena SPASOVSKI, Dejan FILIPOVIĆ, Marija MARTINOVIĆ, Danica ŠANTIĆ

Belgrade University, Serbia

Demographic phenomena are one of the key challenges of sustainable development which has resulted in a wide range of socio-economic issues. New regional distribution of the population, coincidence and dynamics of population decline and aging pose a new challenge for a sustainable development for which there is no historical precedent. Shaping the future politically means facing up to the challenges of the demographic change and thus trying to answer the question about their consequences on a sustainable development in Serbia. The way they are handled will decide on the ability of society to meet the needs of its current and future citizens in a constantly changing environment. New thinking is needed to address the planning, employment, and social implications of demographic change dynamics; sharing of current new experiences, policies, programs and initiatives is a key knowledge intensive activity for addressing global challenges at the local level.

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON DEMOGRAPHIC BEHAVIOR OF THE POPULATION FROM BIHOR COUNTY

Marcu STAȘAC, Marius SUPARIU
Oradea University, Romania

The vitality of a nation, its dynamism and economic strength will always be relative to its demographic component. A healthy and vigorous population will ensure a prosperous future. Unfortunately current realities demonstrate a clear decline of population in the entire country generated, as is well known, by a phenomenon of decreasing birth rates and a high degree of demographic aging, to which are added, of course, other factors. This situation is the result of specific factors to local communities, which in turn, led to a certain demographic behavior. Therefore, within this study we want to turn our attention to the analysis of those elements which have a major influence on population dynamics (demographic potential, fertility, family stability, etc.) and which can generate a specific demographic type of behavior as a result of major changes that have occurred lately

THE PERCEPTION OF STUDENTS/GRADUATES OF GEOGRAPHY DOMAIN RELATED TO OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. CASE STUDY: SPECIALIZATION OF TERRITORIAL PLANNING

Ilinca Valentina STOICA, Daniela ZAMFIR
Bucharest University, ROMANIA

The paper is based on the analysis of the data obtained by applying some questionnaires to the students/graduates of the Faculty of Geography (specialization of Territorial Planning), University of Bucharest, in order to identify occupational opportunities and also ways by which their insertion could be improved on the labor market. In this way, the questions had as target the degree of knowledge on the existent professions in this field, the role of the professional counseling, the quality of the studies, the identification of the strengths/weaknesses of the bachelor studies, auto-evaluation of the level of acquired competencies, the benefit of these studies from the perspective of the factors that determine a better insertion of graduates on the labor market. The centralization of the answers emphasize the fact that, in the students'/graduates' opinion, there is a series of weaknesses that generate difficulties in the process of integration on the labor market, such as: absence/insufficiency of the specific practice, diminished relevance of some matters, insufficient knowledge on the potential companies as employers of the students, lack of an 'aggressive' marketing campaign related to the field and the specialization itself etc. Among the strengths, there are the following benefits: a quite high level of knowledge, adaptability to different situations, and awareness of the necessities for adaptation of knowledge based on the employers' needs etc. At the same time, it is obvious that certain measures can be implemented by the institution in order to improve their successful insertion rate on the labor market.

USING ESDA (EXPLORATORY SPATIAL DATA ANALYSIS) TO STUDY THE DEMOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES IN THE AREAS WITH LOW URBAN POLARIZATION IN ROMANIA

Bogdan SUDITU*, **Daniel Gabriel VĂLCEANU****, **Mariana NAE***, **Gabriel SIMION***, **Daniel VÎRDOL*****

Bucharest University, ROMANIA, ** URBAN-INCERC¹ Institute Bucharest, ROMANIA, * National Statistical Institute, Bucharest, ROMANIA*

Demographic aging and decreasing population viability are processes that cause significant challenges for developed economies. Description and analysis of spatio-temporal patterns of specific demographic structures of the areas with low urban polarization is becoming a priority for sustainable development, balanced, coherent and integrated various categories of disadvantaged territories. This article attempts to describe the spatial and temporal patterns of demographic structures, using a type analysis ESDA (Exploratory Space Data Analysis) for Romania between the last two censuses. Using GIS and visualization methods using the technique LISA (Anselin, 1995), were detected spatial patterns of population structure and highlighted the existence of clusters and spatial polarization trends. Demographic aging and consequently reducing the proportion of young people from regional demographic structures, is the main phenomenon underlying socio-economic disparities, increase their in poorly polarized urban systems and highlights the relationship between socio-demographic dynamics and regional economic change.

¹ The National Institute of Research and Development in Constructions, Urban Planning and Sustainable Territorial Development

“TOT BANATU-I FRUNCEAI!” – TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL - SCIENTIFIC PRIORITIES IN BANAT REGION

Vasile SURD

"Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj Napoca, Romania

Timisoara is well known as a city of premiers, by excellence a city of TECHNICAL PREMIERS. Being located on a swampy land, there is an old tradition in the field of the hydrotechnical works. At the beginning of the 14th century, the castle of the emperor Charles Robert could not be built without having the necessary knowledge for building the foundations of the constructions in swampy regions. In 1514, the army of peasants led by Gheorghe Doja (Dozsa) tried to deviate the course of the Bega River to dry the water from the ditches surrounding the city. At the end of the 17th century, Andrea Cornaro, from Crete, rebuilt banks of the river “through the middle of the city of Timisoara”.

THE BARANYA GREENWAY AS THEMATIC TOURISM PRODUCT AND REGIONAL BRAND IN CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION

Géza SZABÓ, János CSAPÓ, Katinka SZABÓ,

Pecs University, HUNGARY

In the present lecture and study, the authors reveal and present the innovative (eco) rural tourism product brand, the greenway, namely the “Baranya Greenway” of the South Transdanubian Region, Hungary from the point of view of regional brand creation and cross-border cooperation. After the development process (creating the Baranya Greenway) in this study our research group focuses on the regional brand creation processes in a cross-border cooperation between Hungary and Croatia and its contribution to rural development from the point of view of this sustainable and bottom-up initiative.

PREDICTING AREAS WITH POSSIBLE BLOCK STREAMS OCCURRENCE USING MULTIPLE LINEAR REGRESSION IN RETEZAT MOUNTAINS

Raul David ȘERBAN, Alexandru ONACA, Petru URDEA, Mihaela POPESCU

West University. Timișoara, ROMANIA

Many predictive models are used to map the spatial distribution of surface processes and landforms. In the present study a statistical approach was used to identify the most predisposed areas with the presence of block streams in alpine area of Retezat Mountains. The aim of this approach is to improve the semi-automated digital mapping and to reduce the field work for investigating and quantifying these landforms. A multiple linear regression analysis and GIS-based technology was used to determinate the most suitable areas for block streams occurrence. In the field campaigns 82 block streams were mapped using a differential GPS. The sampling strategy was focused on uniform coverage of the alpine area. Using block streams contours the explanatory variables were determined on fieldwork, or extracted from a digital elevation model. Statistical analysis emphasized the most useful variables for the multiple linear regression equation. The accuracy of the models was statistical and spatial calculated using a validation dataset. Validation dataset was randomly selected from the mapped field samples. The models results achieved an accuracy ranged from 65 % to 80 % and a predictive area most suitable for block streams occurrence ranged from 26,3 % to 39 %.

RECENT MUTATIONS IN THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF CRAIOVA MUNICIPALITY AND ITS PERIPHERIES

Cristina ȘOȘEA,
Craiova University, ROMANIA

The spatial profile of the economic analysis is both pertinent and necessary in order to identify the disparities arisen in the context of economic restructuring. The structural changes bechanced in Craiova municipality's economic profile have gained momentum during the post-communist period, which determined a considerable territorial stress on the urban space, manifested through permanent land-use changes and restructuring of urban spatial organisation, both for the city and its peripheries. These profound changes, which took place in a relatively short period of time, are due on the one side, to the internal triggers of the analysed urban system (local economic potential, transformations within other demographical structures such as the deterioration of age groups pyramid and emigration, importance of Craiova in the local and regional economic assembly), but also to the external triggers imposed by the difficulties our national economic system confronts with: collapse of the secondary sector, the emergence of the tertiary, private sector dynamics, agricultural lands split, rudimentary techniques. In order to quantify the impact of the economic restructuring on the local labour force, several variables have been analysed and correlated: the active/inactive population and its percent within total population, labour force participation rate (total, ratio of male activity, ratio of female activity), unemployment rate, the raport of economic dependency, the occupied population according to sexes, age groups and national economy activities, the active population according to sexes and level of education, the female population aged 15 and over, according to their professional status and number of children.

BUDOVAR STREAM VALLEY – AN UNIQUE LANDFORM IN EASTERN SREM REGION (N SERBIA)

Rada ŠORAK, Mladjen JOVANOVIĆ, Minučer MESAROŠ, Ivan RVOVIĆ
Novi Sad University, SERBIA

Drainage basin of Budovar stream is located in the eastern part of Fruska Gora horst. Basin covers 246 km² and represents the biggest drainage basin on the horst and only stream system (in total length of 110 km) that drained the entire eastern part of the Fruska Gora. The analyses of drainage and stream morphometry, as well as that of the landform processes, have been done according to high-resolution Digital Elevation Model (DEM) based on topographic map in scale 1:25.000. In total 28 morphometric parameters have been analyzed. Longitudinal profiles for all streams in basin have been constructed, as well as 40 cross-sections. The entire catchment area is characterized by very gently slopes – an average of 1.8°. Beside tectonic relief, which had, and still has a dominant role in the organization of stream network, slope relief covers the largest area of the basin. The drainage direction is determined by uplifting of Fruska Gora, as well as by rising of Kalakača and Koševac gredas on the northern edge of the basin. Also, the development of a network of drainage direction in middle part of basin is controlled by sinking blocks in south and southeast of Fruska Gora. Recent depression on the southern part of basin reflects mentioned subsidence.

SPATIO-TEMPORAL EVOLUTION OF THE LOWER MUREȘ RIVER BETWEEN LIPOVA AND NĂDLAC IN THE LAST 150 YEARS

Fabian TIMOFTE
West University, Timișoara, ROMANIA

Mureș River is one of the most dynamical watercourses in Carpathian basin because of a great sediment budget, and a relatively high slope that accelerate the geomorphologic processes. The investigations were focused on the ~ 120 km between Lipova and Nădlac in order to evaluate the changes of the river channel and its response to anthropic activities. The recent dynamic is influenced both by tectonic activity in the pre-regulation period and anthropic activity in 19th century through the meanders cut off. In the last few years the mining changed the configuration of the waterflow because the sediments are extracted directly from its channel. The analysis of old military maps, topographic maps and orthophotos highlighted that Mureș River reached the same hydrostatic equilibrium only after a century and a half after cutting meanders. Other morphometric variables (river total length, river bed width, sinuosity index, meander morphometry and island surfaces) were measured in order to assessment the long term evolution. The morphometric sectors and the test zones were created to show off the most sensitivity areas and to estimate the change rate for each of them.

GIS- & PHOTOGRAMMETRY-BASED ANALYSIS OF THE CHANGES OF BROWNFIELD ZONES IN BUDAPEST (A CASE STUDY OF SOROKSÁRI ROAD)

Gábor TOLNAI

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, HUNGARY

The former industrial and traffic zones constitute significant parts of urban territory of Budapest. Due to the remarkable decrease of industrial production during the transition and the uneven development in the new market-based capitalist system, recent condition of these areas is absolutely diverse. As a subject for urban geography and city-framework researches, the study of spatial and temporal changes of these zones is worth dealing with. In the interest of their rehabilitation and transformation environmental focused surveys are required. To complete this double purpose, recent and archive aerial photographs can be considered as ideal visual resources to follow the historical development and the decline of these zones, meanwhile actually available large-scale photos make possible to analyse the environmental condition of these areas. In addition GIS softwares give the opportunity to analyze the dynamics of the changes and to visualize them. This paper deals with some possible methods of the above-presented survey. The analyzed aerial photos are gathered from the Archive of the Institute of Military History and the database of the Interspect Ltd. The chosen area is the neighborhood of Soroksári road, which was one of the most important concentrations of industrial and traffic zones of Budapest.

WINE TOURISM IN ROMANIA - AN OVERVIEW OF THE POTENTIAL AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS

Mihaela UNGUREANU, Anamaria Liana LĂZURAN (GIURĂU)

Oradea University, ROMANIA

This study focuses on a relatively new concept, developed between the tourism industry and the wine industry, called the wine tourism, and aims to stress the potential of the wine tourism in Romania and how to exploit its potential. The wine tourism development is in an incipient stage in Romania, compared to other European countries holding an extraordinary heritage in vine and wine (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal), but has good prospects, supported in particular by the heritage value of the wine tourism, the legislative measures taken in this respect, and the cooperation initiatives between public and private organizations in the two sectors: tourism and viticulture. Romania is among the countries with old traditions in Europe in terms of viticulture and winemaking, is a member of the International Organization of Vine and Wine since 1927. The high quality international reputation of the Romanian wines with certified designations of origin (CDO) and the geographical indication (GI), the diversity of landscapes in wine attributes conferred by physical-geographical, cultural, social, historical and economic aspects of each wine regions in Romania, facilitates the development of wine tourism and offers a comprehensive approach and a competitive environment compared with other countries in Europe and beyond.

DIGITAL CARTOGRAPHIC RELIEF MODELLING OF VRSAC MOUNTAINS EXPOSTIONS

Aleksandar VALJAREVIĆ, Dragica ŽIVKOVIĆ

Kosovska Mitrovica University, Serbia

Abstract: Vrsac mountains (Rom. *Munții Vârșeț*, often called to Vrsac Hill, rum.Dealurile Vârșetului) rising from the midst of the Pannonian Plain, east of the town Vrsac, on the border with Republic Romania .Extend in an east -west, with a length of 19 kilometers, a maximum width of 8 kilometers. Their surface is 170 km² , which belongs 122 in Serbia. Gudurica top, with 641 m above sea level , the highest point of the mountain and the whole of Vojvodina. Northern slope is steep , while the south gradually descends into hills , where there are Vrsac vineyards. Replacing traditional analog sources to digital data, the application of the algorithm for the calculation of certain morphometric parameters forms of relief, allowed the precise determination of certain quantitative parameters relief. 3D visualization can be defined as a method of calculation that includes data collection, organization, modeling and three-dimensional representations of geographic data. Visualization involves mapping the selected data using a variety of graphic or visual variables. The paper presents the morphological analysis and modeling of the Vrsac mountains in the GIS environment DEM- in. For analysis of digital elevation model was used to program Global Mapper 13.

QUALITY OF LIFE OF OLDER PEOPLE IN ROMANIA BETWEEN REALITY AND PERCEPTION

Despina VASILCU

"Stefan cel Mare" University, Suceava, ROMANIA

In the Romanian society, which is continually getting older, the social services for the elderly are in deficit. The social issues related to retirement and social isolation, as well as the economic ones, are amplified by the moral problems connected to the failure as far as their lawful rights are concerned. Despite its status of member of the U.E., Romania cannot be compared to the developed countries that possess a proper system of social protection. The explanation resides in the huge difference of development influencing the elderly. Our paper aims to analyze the evolution and the dimensions of the demographic aging phenomenon in Romania, using data offered by the census, by the National Retirement Office and by rich bibliographic sources. These sources of information will be completed by an undergoing survey focused on the living conditions of the elderly, because the quality of living in general is reflected more and more accurately by the quality of living of this segment of the population. The partial results of our analysis highlight the lack of measures concerning the public health, the disparities between the rural and the urban environment, the precarious economic situation, the poverty and the social exclusion. All these are just several aspects that reflect the huge vulnerability of the seniors. The elderly are thrown to the periphery of the society living in poverty and suffering because of the improper social policies and because the legislation lacks the norms that would allow their application.

ASPECTS REGARDING LAND TAKE AND SOIL SEALING IN NORTH-EASTERN ROMANIA

Ionuț VASILINIUC, Cristian SECU, Anca MORUZI

"Al.I.Cuza" University, Iași, ROMANIA

Statistical data from Corine Land Cover, topographic maps and aerial image interpretation have been used to monitor land take in the northwestern part of Romania and soil sealing in the largest city here. Land take and soil sealing have been recognized as important problems and included by the European Union on the main list of threats to soil quality. In Romania in 2006 artificial surfaces occupied 6.3%, while sealed terrains held 1.6%, under the European mean. During 1990-2006, in the northeastern part of Romania, land take increased from 9.14 to 9.26%. At the country level the rate has started to grow gradually, from 1218 ha/year after 1989, increasing to 1515 ha/year during 2000-2006. From this surface the study region accounts for 101, respectively 335 ha per year. It can be seen that in this part of Romania, changes in urban sprawl, land take and implicitly soil sealing have started later than compared to other countries, but are continuing at a faster pace. This is probably best shown by the territorial evolution and soil sealing of Iași, who after 1990 witnessed a decrease in population of 7.8%, but an increase in the built surface of 18.5%.

RURAL SPACE –FUNCTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Ion VELCEA

Sibiu University, "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University, Bucharest, Romania

The rural space includes primary and residential forces, amplified with secondary and tertiary structures in tight connections with the productive potential of the environment. Rural space has known a high tendency of diversification and specialization in the last years. Thus subfields new research subfields emerged for the study of the dimensions and complexity of economic phenomena, the evolution of the rural habitat, the changes in the structure and function of rural settlements. The subfields of rural geography dealing with **land use, agrarian geography, rural habitat, rural tourism, and rural industry** emphasize the zonal areas that need to be revitalized in productive areas according to geographical favorability factors.

SILK AS A BANNER: USING A POSITIVE HISTORIC REFERENCE TO VALUE A BIG URBAN PROJECT, CARRÉ DE SOIE IN THE GRAND LYON

Vincent VESCHAMBRE
ENSA de Lyon, France

With Lyon-Confluence and Lyon-La Duchère, Carré de soie is one of the most important project in the urban area of Lyon. This vast territory, in the east of the center area, which was an industrial estate, will be one of the biggest service area of the town. This project began with the creation of a new subway station : Vaulx-la-soie. The use of this precious reference is able to value a suburb area, associated to industry and misery. The word "silk", which refer to a prestigious history in Lyon, is a great advertising campaign, without a real ground in this place. Admittedly, there was here an ancient artificial silk industry : but it wasn't "natural" et "prestigious" silk (but nylon, rayonne...) and this factory was almost destroyed. Since the beginning of this project, the word "silk" has been used by private investors (shopping centre "carré de soie") and promoters (housing called "silk" for example). We want to establish how this word "silk" was chosen and to show the difference between speeches and actions about silk heritage in the Grand-Lyon.

STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENTS IN LEARNING GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHTED BY ROMANIAN RESULTS OF TIMSS INTERNATIONAL TESTS

Mihaela VERGA, Mioara CLIUS
Bucharest University, ROMANIA

In a globalize labor market is necessary to ensure equal access to quality education for all students in Romania. This can be achieved by developing curriculum and promoting innovative teaching practices focused on student learning needs. TIMSS assessments provided significant information on how it is learned mathematics and science in Romania. The comparative studies - based on a statistical method applied and validated internationally - indicates areas deficient in terms of understanding by students to concepts and techniques work and emphasizes teaching routines that determine these deficiencies. Analysis of results from the 2007 TIMSS test allowed us to identify two major categories of failure: *structural*, revealing a geographic mismatch secondary curriculum at rated international tests and insufficient description of main contents for understanding geographical phenomena and *functional* determined by a number of conceptual and procedural mistakes and teaching routines wich occur and perpetuate year by year. These diagnostic tests generated recommendations and underlying toolkits for teachers and students, claiming to improve geographic secondary curriculum.

OPTIONS MEANT TO REGAIN BOCȘA'S INTER-WAR TOURIST BRAND

Mihai VIȘAN, Mihaela MARTIN
Eftimie Murgu University, Reșița, Romania

Our approach aims to provide a historical and chronological outline on the evolution, over centuries, of the three communities that form the present Bocșa. Therefore, we focused on the spa status that Bocșa Montană acquired during ante and inter-war period. Thus, there are presented the most important leisure tourist sights which were used until mid-twentieth century, well-known local tourist routes, promenade area 'Izvor' set up by StEG and UDR, the network of local tourist units. Given the World Bank report on West Region (2011), West Region Development Strategy between 2014-2020 and the Development Strategy of BOCȘA (2014-2020) we assume that one of the most important axis of local and regional development in the next six years is tourism. Hence, in terms of tourism Bocșa aims to become the 'gateway' in the mountainous tourism. To sum up, in the final part of our study we stressed the need to regain the inter-war tourist brand by reopening the local tourist niches, such as ecumenical tourism (monastery and churches within the locality) industrial tourism ("iron" road, - Bocșa -Ocna de Fier), cultural tourism ("Constantin Lucaci" and "Constantin Gruescu" museum), leisure tourism (local pensions' system).

NATURAL HAZARDS AND RISK MANAGEMENT. CURRENT STATE AND PERSPECTIVES IN SOUTHERN CARPATHIANS (ROMANIAN CARPATHIANS)

Mircea VOICULESCU

West University, Timișoara, Romania

Snow avalanches, rockfalls, erosion processes are very active geomorphic processes and major natural hazards, which acting on the mountain environment and cause each year damage on human settlements, on tourism activity, such skiing and infrastructures and several fatalities and burials/injuries. These hazards represent an unquestionable reality in the Southern Carpathians, in Făgăraș massif and Bucegi mountains, especially. The present paper aims to analyze the current state of risk management and perspectives. Therefore, we focused on: (i) old protective strategies (temporary or permanent), (ii) intervention points of passive and active defense, and (iii) protective forests against snow avalanches and danger levels of snow avalanches. The management of present emergencies and future misfortunes needs to be prepared and also the blue-prints of the territory need to be revised, by making natural hazards zoning maps. Romania needs to achieve international standards through the provision of a good education regarding the understanding and management of natural hazards or risk phenomena.

THE INTERCONNECTIONS BETWEEN TOPONYMY AND IDENTITY

Paul WOODMAN

There are four players involved in the interconnections of toponymy and identity. There are those who give and use toponyms *in situ*, there are those who do so from afar, there are also the toponyms themselves, and finally there are the places and features to which the toponyms relate. These players act out a complex relationship between toponymy and identity that is intimate, intricate, ongoing and sometimes changing. Drawing on examples principally from Europe, Asia, the United Nations and even the imagination, this paper explores the dynamics of this relationship.

LUGOJ HILLS AGRICULTURAL LAND QUALITY AND ITS CURRENT UTILIZATION

Ionuț ZISU, Andrei DORNIK

West University, Timișoara, Romania

The assessment of the quality status of agricultural land from the Lugoj Hills has been realized according to the Methodology of soil surveys development – vol. II, made by ICPA Bucharest in 1987, using Banat soil map, on scale 1:100,000, and data from OSPA Timiș archive. The land grouping according to its capability and suitability for different agricultural uses and crops offer direct results, structured in an accessible style, easy to be analyzed and interpreted even by those without advanced agricultural knowledge. The data conferred by this theoretical approach has been analyzed in relation with the current land use and occupation. So, it can be observed in which situation they are now and, if is necessary, how their agricultural use can be changed for optimizing their performance and thus increase the quantity and quality of the crops.