

Review

Regional Geographic Conference "Danube – Mures – Cris–Tisa Euroregion, Geoeconomical Space of Durable Development"

In order to foster neighboring scientific cooperation Department of Geography from the West University of Timisoara organized a conference with a general title "Geographical Research in the Carpathian – Danube Space" in 1994. This initiative was the step in right direction. Geographers from Novi Sad and Szeged universities accepted invitation and participated and organized their own conferences with similar scopes, in return.

The specific theme of the third edition of Timisoara conference was emerging gradually during those six years of intensive cooperation. At the beginning research interest of participants was strictly tied to localities in their home countries. Second stage was parallel joint research of Banat Region, common historical province of Romania, Yugoslavia, and Hungary. The latest stage is a result of common awareness that scholars ought to point out needs and possibilities for creation of modern European province, e.g. Euroregion. It should be admitted that geographers are slightly lagging behind politicians. Namely, county representatives of Arad, Timis, Hunedoara, Caras-Severin (all from Romania), Bacs-Kiskun, Csongrad, Bekes, Jasz-Nadjkun-Solnok (all from Hungary) and representatives from Voivodina Province (from Yugoslavia) signed a protocol on regional cooperation, at the end of 1997.

Those are reasons that all three universities jointly organized the latest conference, together with the Institute of Geography from University of Tubingen. Conference was held in Timisoara between May 29 and June 1, 1998 and there were almost one hundred participants. Ten papers were presented at plenary and almost 70 at poster presentations. Abstracts of all papers

were published before the conference. While plenary sessions were devoted to the emerging new Euroregion, poster presentations showed colorful topics among which interest for Banat Region prevailed.

To mention key speakers and their papers only. H. Forster discussed problems of the integration of the Middle-East and South-East European countries in the European Union. V. Coifan praised successful cooperation within Danube-Cris-Mures-Tisa Region. H. Rieser presented his reflections on the base of the new political-geographical constellation in Europe. P. Deica and V. Alexandrescu criticized the territorial arrangement of the new Euroregion and suggested that it should comprise only counties of Arad, Timis, Bacs-Kiskun, Csongrad, Bekes and Voivodina Province. V. Surd spoke about three-part space of Banat. S. Balasa depicted regional economic development concept of the West Region. O. Mandrut and A. Ardelean depicted territorial ensembles of Romania in Arad-Zarand Zone and Danube-Mures-Cris-Tisa Region.

Closing session elected scientific board which is supposed to suggest methods and offer the first draft of the scientific project with the title: "Danube-Mures-Cris-Tisa a New Euroregion". As a rough outline of a new scientific project, proceedings about Danube-Mures-Cris-Tisa Euroregion are the natural successor of the Banat project and demonstrate continuity of our cooperation.

Last two days a field trip to Voivodina province was organized. Participants visited largest fish pond in Yugoslavia which nature is partly protected, Titel's loess plato and facilities within University of Novi Sad.

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