

Dan Bălțeanu, Monica Dumitrașcu, Sorin Geacu, Bianca Mitrică, Mihaela Sima (Eds.), (2016), *România. Natură și societate* (Romania: Nature and Society), București, 2016, Edit. Academiei Române, 685p., 260 figs., graphs, 59 tables.

This original approach brings up into discussion a series of complex and very topical problems, also ingeniously combining the text with the maps. This work is a continuation of fundamental productions on the relations between the Romanian land and its people (Revue Roumaine de Géographie/Romanian Journal of Géography, A Geographical Monograph of Romania, The Natural Geographical Atlas, A Geographical Treatise of Romania).

It is an update of the volume *Romania. Spațiu, Societate, Mediu* (2005), with its English version *Romania. Space, Society, Environment*, (2006), and synthesis of current geographical research into the Romania territory. It contains numerous theoretical-applied aspects derived from the national and international projects of the Institute of Geography. Recent data and information on the natural background, the society, the economy, environmental change and regional development, are also included.

The focus of this work is the post-EU accession period, with its common social, economic, political, and environmental evolution, but with regional differentiations, as well.

This five-part volume highlights the complexity of Romania as a Central-European country, with spatial, historical and geopolitical traits intimately connected with the Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic space.

The first part introduces the reader to such topics as Romania's geographical position and borders, Romania and the new architecture of Europe, historical landmarks and the development of Geography in Romania. Being situated at the Eastern end of the European Union, Romania's strategical position is of special interest, this country being an active factor of stability between the West and the East.

The second part covers the natural background and all its components: territorial built-up, geological structure and mineral resources, landform units, the climate, the waters resources, plant cover, animal world, and the soils. The natural background is depicted in all its complexity, with emphasis on the habitation potential of landforms, the climate change, sustainable use of water resources, soil diversity and protection of biodiversity.

The third part presents the Romanian society and its economy, population-dynamics and demographic structures, urban development and metropolitan areas, the village: territorial development and socio-demographic trends, land-use and the present development of agriculture, Romania's industry: from deindustrialisation to reindustrialisation, communication network and transport means, foreign economic relations, elements of social geography, ethnographic landscapes and tourism.

The socio-economic approach offers recent data on population, the urbanisation process within the context of the European Strategy and of town-village particularities.

An important chapter is devoted to the millenary-old traditional Romanian village and the types of rural habitants on various relief steps (plains, hills, tablelands, mountains, intra-montane and Subcarpathian depressions, as well as major valleys).

The fourth part enlarges upon the environment and its characteristic features within the context of climate change and intensification of extreme phenomena with major effects on society, regarding the quality of the environment, protected natural areas, natural and technological hazards, man-induced climate change and climate scenarios.

The fifth part which covers regional development, presents a synthesis of the eight development regions and of Cross-border Co-operation Euroregions which Romania is a part to. Some sustainable development prospects are also put forward. After 1990, Regional development has become a main study matter of scientific research for the authorities, entrepreneurs and public opinion alike. Assessing disparities in the socio-economic development at nation level became a priority issue, transition and the economic crisis that followed, stressing inter- and intra-regional disparities, regional polarisation being still very strong in Romania.

The elaboration of this volume benefitted from the contribution of many institutions, primarily The Publishing House of the Romanian Academy and The National Institute of Statistics.

In view of its theoretical-methodological characteristics, the information provided, the interdisciplinary character and the distinctive different analysis approach as well as the impressive graphic material, makes this work a reference for the study of the man-environment relations, a valuable landmark for tackling the problems of the present geographical situation.

Dragoș Baroiu

Vasile Cucu, Ion Velcea (coord.) (2013), *Satul și orașul în strategiile de dezvoltare regională* (The village and town in regional development policies and strategies), Edit. Universității „Lucian Blaga”, Sibiu, 474 pages.

The present volume includes the works of the 16th National Colloquium of Geography of Population and Human Settlements, held in Bucharest and Sinaia during 6th–8th June 2012 through 35 scientific papers, structured into 5 themes covering several topics of the regional development strategies.

The first part, *Socioeconomic implications on the population and human settlements*, includes various aspects related to socioeconomic components such as: migration, social and economic inequality, poverty, urbanization, tourism in the rural area. Special attention is paid to the regional development with a focus on the issues of village and town population (V. Cucu), but also to the interdisciplinary analysis focused on some aspects concerning demographic, morphostructural, functional and regional typology of rural settlements.

In order to evaluate the interdisciplinary proposals concerning environmental protection and risks, socioeconomic vulnerability, scientific services for the decision-making process and integrated systems of data for research applications, the section was centered on particular case-studies concerning environmental pollution, related with population aging, poverty, unemployment, deindustrialization, lower living standards, rural-urban migration. Part of the analyses were realized in view of the specific methodologies using GIS (Geographical Information Systems) applications for mapping and spatial modeling.

The last section of the volume follows on the same line of regional development with highlight on tourism in the rural area and geopolitical implications, identifying tourist areas hierarchy approaches related to global sustainable development. This chapter deal with the complex analysis of the tourism potential of rural areas in Romania in accordance with some aspects: villages tourist attractions, policy structure for rural development, specific activities of certain components, diversification of the touristic services, improvement regarding the natural touristic resources, involvement in a main tourist activity (Ielenicz, M., Simoni, S.).

The importance of this volume is twofold: scientific and practical, with a strong interdisciplinary character and reflect the current orientation in human geography using a modern methodology of spatial analysis regarding regional development in line with international research.

Laura Lepădatu

Elena Teodoreanu, Ovidiu Gaceu (2013), *Turismul balneo-climatic în România* (Spa-and-health tourism in Romania), Ed. Univ. din Oradea, 228 p., 10 chaps., 58 figs., 15 tables, 165 refs.

Spa-and-health, basically therapeutic tourism, is a new interdisciplinary research field which associates climatic and spa conditions, particularly wide-ranging in Romania, as an opportunity for spending one's leisure time as agreeably as possible and recover the physical availabilities of the human body.

Although practiced in this country since historical times, first with a view to spatial movement in a variety of ways, and later as a means to recover one's physical capacity through a spa-and-health climatic cure, yet this activity did not go by this name. Spa-and-health tourism is a new applied research trend developed in the late 20th century, then a mass-practice, and in the early decades of the 21st century, when several other types of tourism business, cultural, history-related, hunting, sporting, etc.) fell into this sphere of interest.

As a new research direction, spa-and-health tourism benefits from a wide variety of natural cure factors (natural or anthropic salt-or-fresh-water lakes, mineral springs, therapeutic muds, mineral waters, aerosols, UV rays, and a moderate climate, natural, and very picturesque multicolour landscapes at different altitude steps), that contributed to making treatment and tourism in Romania a very attractive experience.

The genetic diversity of Romania's relief account for the wide and varied range of natural cure factors (systematically presented in this volume) and offer huge possibilities for using them in spa-and-health cure and tourism.

The present volume is authored by two highly professionally qualified people: Mrs. Elena Teodoreanu Ph.D., geographical background, balneoclimatology specialist at the Institute of Balneology, long-standing research practice, Assoc. Prof. at the Ecological University, and a young geographer Ovidiu Gaceu, Ph.D., Professor at the University of Oradea, a disciple of Mrs. Elena Teodoreanu, who has enlarged his scientific preoccupations to the spa-and-health area as well.

This work is actually a small encyclopaedia of tourism-associated bioclimate, and a study-book for the formation of new generations choosing to work in this domain. The wealth of scientific information on the *climate*, a basic natural factor for spa-related tourism (and all the climatic elements involved in both treatment and tourism), *aeroionisation* (a physical-therapeutic factor influencing man's health condition) and the *bioclimates* of Romania, never ever presented before as specific bioclimatic indices in connection with landform particularities, as well as some spa therapeutical procedures, e.g. *aerotherapy*, *heliotherapy*, *salt-mine therapy*, etc., *spa waters* (*mineral springs*, *salt lakes*, *muds*, *gases*, *marine waters* used in *hydrotherapy*, *talasotherapy* and *psammothrapy*). All these aspects are brought to the reader's attention by Mrs. Teodoreanu's rich experience in this research field.

The final part of this volume presents the spa-and-health resorts of Romania by steps of relief and their specific natural cure factors, which is a particularly useful guide for the specialist medical staff, as well as for everyone interested in choosing the desired resort.

The present work is the fruit of an assiduous activity of applied research, the first of its kind in the Romanian specialist geographical literature, as underscored by the appended bibliography. The message covered is to fully evaluate the country's spa-and-health potential, to present a model of approaching it by the specialist geographical literature and, last but not least, to meet some of the specific teaching demands of higher education, especially of tourism geography, of M.A. and Ph.D. candidates and initiation in scientific research.

A well-conceived work, with logical demonstrations, conclusions and an exceptional graphical illustration will undoubtedly arouse the reader's interest, and our well-deserved appreciation.

Octavia Bogdan

Lucian Badea, *Dicționarul unităților de relief din România* (Le Dictionnaire des unités de relief de la Roumanie), Editions de l'Université de Craiova, 2014, 181 p.

Après 60 ans dédiés à la recherche du relief de la Roumanie dans l'Institut de Géographie de l'Académie Roumaine, période dans laquelle il a collaboré ou a coordonné maints travaux de valeur de la géographie roumaine, le dr. Lucian Badea accomplit le projet d'âme de l'ancienne équipe de géomorphologues de l'Institut, conduite par lui, à savoir *Les unités de relief de la Roumanie*.

Comme part et but final de le projet de recherche, le dictionnaire se propose, selon le témoignage de l'auteur dans son avant-propos, la découpage du relief de la Roumanie, si varié et complexe, dans la support des particularités morphométriques et morphographiques, de la constitution, de l'évolution et de la dynamique actuelle, y compris des possibilités de valorisation, sous-divisions identifiables par les dénominations recommandées.

Ce volume se présente comme une finalisation des huit volumes antérieurs donc est considéré comme le neuvième de ce sériel de présentation unitaire de toutes les unités et sous-unités du relief de la Roumanie, dans les volumes parus entre 2001 et 2014. Il est, en quelque sorte, par les noms, des vrais noms-clés, un sommaire de tous les volumes parus.

Le volume offre, d'une manière succincte, en ordre alphabétique, selon un schéma unitaire, qui indique l'individualité topographique, physiographique et socio-humaine de tant les unités et sous-unités du relief complexe de la Roumanie. Il s'agit de 1.280 entrées pour des noms de sous-unités jusqu'un cinquième ordre. Ce schéma unitaire suivi avec rigueur assure une facile comparaison de toutes des sous-divisions.

La parution de ce volume a été devancée par l'inclusion de toutes ces dénominations dans le sommaire du *Dictionnaire géographique de la Roumanie* (2 volumes, 2008–2009, environ 1400 pages, avec plus de 40.000 termes), rédigées selon les recommandations des conférences des Nations-Unies pour la nominalisation des noms géographiques.

La nécessité de compter sur une forme unitaire des noms géographiques de toutes les unités et sous-unités de relief a été ressentie non seulement dans la littérature géographique roumaine. Répondant à cette exigence, l'auteur, Lucian Badea, a essayé d'illustrer de manière cartographique ce thème, avec le professeur Grigore Posea, en 1994, sous la forme d'une carte murale, à l'échelle 1:400.000e.

Dans le volume que nous commentons, l'auteur utilise de suite la forme génitive des noms, parfaitement légitime dans les textes, mais moins acceptée par les cartographes, obligés d'inscrire dans un espace limité, une

dénomination plus longue avec quatre lettres. Dans le passé, l'originalité des contributions scientifiques géomorphologiques était parfois jugée, aussi par l'utilisation de nouvelles dénominations des sous-unités, différentes par rapport aux précédentes. Pour les dénominations doubles en usage, par exemple Monts de Gârbova (de Baiu), le Balta de Ialomița (de Borcea), l'auteur, d'une manière sage, les inscrit, toutes les deux, laissant la communauté scientifique, aussi bien que celle locale, de décider. Les exigences lexicographiques auraient imposées l'inscription dans le Dictionnaire aussi du deuxième nom, entre parenthèses, avec renvoi au premier nom.

Le niveau différent de connaissance des sous-unités de degré inférieur, consacré par des thèses de doctorat, a obligé, bien sûr, l'auteur de recourir, pour des lieux moins connus, à des noms repris de la toponymie locale. Le temps va prouver en quelle mesure ceux-ci vont s'imposer.

Un parcours soigné de l'entier fichier permettra l'auteur d'introduire des corrections à une prochaine édition. Par exemple, les monts Vlădeasa ne pourront pas être inclus, de manière topographique, dans les Monts d'Arieș. On va se dédire du principe, très rationnel, d'intégrer la dénomination au bassin hydrographique afférent.

60 ans se sont écoulés depuis la parution de la carte de la régionalisation géomorphologique du territoire de la Roumanie dressée par le Professeur Vintilă Mihăilescu, une borne difficilement à atteindre. Une riche expérience de terrain, ainsi qu'une approfondie analyse cartographique et de la riche littérature géomorphologique plus récente ont autorisé le Dr. Lucian Badea d'offrir un nouveau découpage, plus détaillé à cette préoccupation permanente, de deux générations de géographes, liée au relief de la Roumanie.

Șerban Dragomirescu