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**ROMANIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
2-5 JUNE 2022, FOCȘANI, VRANCEA**

Between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, Vrancea was the host of Romanian Geographical Society Annual Conference, which happened under the supervision of the Minister of Education, the support of Vrancea County Council and Focșani City Hall, having "Geographical perspectives in the context of global changes" as a general theme.

The organisers, Vrancea representatives of RGS, through the organisation committee, led by PhD Răzvan Săcrieru, proposed a complex program that included: scientific conversations, field applications, commemorative moments, the awarding of students who participated in olympiads and school competitions with geographical theme, the awarding of teachers who have retired in recent years.

160 geographers from within the country and also from foreign countries (France, Germany, Moldova Republic) participated at the conference, talking about different themes, such as: Physical Geography, Human Geography, Geopolitics, Regional Geography, Environmental Geography, Tourism Geography and Didactic Geography.

Romanian Geographical Society Annual Conference debuted with a trip to Odobești, at Beciul Domnesc (Royal Cellar) winery, where a workshop with the theme "Tradition and current challenges in Odobești vineyard" took place.

In the first half of the day, on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the great hall of Municipal Theatre "Mr. Gh. Pastia" opening speeches and talks in plenary, moderated by PhD Răzvan Săcrieru, president of Vrancea representatives of RGS, and Professor Corneliu Iațu, president of Romanian Geographical Society were delivered.

The talks in plenary debuted with madam Sophie Lignon-Darmaillac's speech, who is a professor in Paris-Sorbona and who approached a theme about oenologic tourism in different regions of France. Professor

Corneiu Iațu emphasized the systemic approaches in the scientist Simion Mehedinți's fundamental piece "Terra". Professor Gilles Maignant from University of Nisa analysed the connection between air pollution and our health from a medical and philosophical perspective. Professor doctor Dan Bălțeanu, member of Romanian Academy, presented the work "From Simion Mehedinți to the geographical research of the environment and the society in Anthropocene". As an editor, Associate Professor Costică Neagu presented a unique book of scientist's Simion Mehedinți, "The geographical phases of humanity", the last book appeared on "Terra" publishing house. Geographical Society Award Gala awarded the professors who had recently retired and professor Corneliu Iațu got a special award "Carol I" for translating "Terra" in French, thus fulfilling the last wish of the great geographer born in Soveja. With the support of Vinexport SA Focșani a limited edition of Geographical Society's wine was released.



Răzvan Săcrieru, Corneliu Iațu, Monica Dumitrașcu  
Professor Corneliu Iațu receiving the "Carol I" award  
for translating "Terra" in French

After lunch break, conference's works moved to the University building, where conversations would happen in sections. The Physical Geography section discussed themes that surround changes in weather, methods of combatting hailstorms, seismic risk, landslides. In the

Human and Regional Geography and Geopolitics section the themes varied greatly: toponymy, human resources, the analysis of the Ukraine conflict from a geopolitical perspective.

At the section of Environmental and Tourism Geography discussions took place about a variety of ways to conserve nature, tourism in different regions of the world. The most discussions took place at the Didactic session developing aspects such as afterschool activities, the usage of I.C.T., revealing innovative solutions regarding the teaching of geography in pre-university education.

The field application conducted on Saturday, June 4th, with the name "In the footsteps of scientist Simion Mehedinți" had multiple stop points where problems of Geomorphology and aspects of Human Geography specific to communities of The Land of Vrancea and The Depression of Soveja were touched on. The first stop was made at The Grumaz Point, the junction between the Putna and Zăbala rivers, where the recent evolution of fluvial terrain was explained, measurements were taken by the county authorities for limitation of the effects determined by lateral erosion and in depth.



The field application "In the footsteps of scientist Simion Mehedinți",  
Bârsești, Vrancea

The activity continued with a visit to the seismic observatory in Vrâncioaia where guests received information from representatives of The National Institute of Research-Development for Earth Physics related to the way of the data handling registered during earthquakes

and transmission to the local authorities. Geographers halted at Vidra, at The Museum "Land of Vrancea", where they uncovered the busts of four big personalities of Vrancea: Simion Mehedinți, Ion Diaconu, Valeriu D. Cotea and Vasile Taftă.

The climax of the application was established by the visit to the former Soveja Monastery, foundation of Mr. Matei Basarab, the place where scientist Simion Mehedinți is resting, according to his testament wish. Evoking of the founding personality of geographical education in Romania was realized through an artistic program designed by The Cultural Scientific Foundation "Simion Mehedinți- Miorița" Soveja.

On Sunday June 5th, the last day of the Conference, a terrain application took place visiting geographical peculiarities of the Subcarpathian sector of Milcov, with the stops: The Living Flames of Andreiașul de Jos and The Reghiu-Scruntar Reservation. The last stop being Mera Monastery, the only foundation of the Cantemir family.

In all four days of Romania's Geographical Society Annual Conference, guests were able to appreciate the quality of communication held in plenary and in sections, the professionalism of lecturers, the diverse issues within the practical applications, as well as the high cultural level of the artistic moments.

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