

AT THE BEGINNING OF A LONG WAY

The publication of a new scientific journal cannot surprise anyone in a period when the innovative role of science is unanimously recognized. This editorial event belongs to the normal evolution of this eternal area of human preoccupations. Scientists' research results are first to be made known to those directly involved in disclosing the mysteries of nature and society and then also to those who apply them in the economic, political, and social practice.

*More interesting and important are certainly the general and the specific purpose of a new journal, in this case, the **Romanian Review of Regional Studies**. This is the first Romanian geographical journal specialized in regional studies. The journal will promote the activities and the approach of the Centre for Regional Geography in Cluj-Napoca. The Centre was founded in 2003 and NCSRA, the National Council of Scientific Research in the Academia, accredited it in 2004. NCSRA is also the sponsor of the Centre.*

The geographical region is becoming the territory for profound and many-sided researches that will be presented in the studies and articles published in our journal. These researches will belong mainly to geographers, but also to other specialists (economists, sociologists, architects, engineers) whose approaches may contribute to understanding various aspects of regional processes and phenomena. Still, without minimizing the importance of these other approaches, we believe that it is necessary to increase the geographers' presence in regional studies. Their approach is the most adequate because they are familiar with the actual territory and the way the regional system functions. This is the main purpose and the permanent policy of this journal.

Our journal will focus on the fundamental aspects of the study of regions, the evolution of regional processes and phenomena, the notions and concepts most used in this study and investigative methodology. In order to develop Regional Geography needs to enrich and improve its methodology and to separate from other geographical or non-geographical areas of knowledge or sciences.

Politicians, economists, sociologists, and geographers nowadays, use the syntagms "regional development" and "the management of territory". They are used both by "practitioners" and "theoreticians," by different decision-makers and by researchers in the sciences of the same or different geospheres. These syntagms have entered mass media and also became popular among the general public who is often ignorant of the profound significance of these terms. This explains the numerous meanings of the above-mentioned terms and shows the need to continuously explain their significance as they have often been used inadequately and still are. We consider that there is confusion as to assigning the same meaning to different terms, such as "the arrangement of the territory," "organizing the territory," and "territorial planning." We wish that this journal would be a fertile milieu for such debates, which aim at defining more rigorously, more precisely, and more adequately the notions and concepts we use.

As a consequence, geographers have to be ubiquitous when regional development strategies are discussed for they are the specialists who know the area in depth and in detail, in comparison to the above-mentioned specialists. They know better the space, the territory, on which all these studies focus. If these other specialists are asked to give punctual solutions from the perspective of their field, it is the regional geographer who conceptualises their sequential relevance to the entire approach and studies the becoming of an area on the terrestrial surface. The regional geographer understands the region as a functional spatial organism. Therefore, a new geographical approach must include global strategies of development or strategies for certain sectors. All these are the objects of regional geographers' researches. These pragmatic, practical-applicative studies emphasize the contemporary mission of the geographical approach: respond promptly to social need when obstacles appear in the development and progress of human communities.

*And a final point: the **Romanian Review of Regional Studies** is not interested only in the Romanian regional phenomena, but also aims at integrating this study into in the wide contemporary approach to the dynamics, the functions, and the becoming of geographical regions as specific territorial entities. Moreover,*

in the present globalising age, when the geographical region is becoming the opposite of standardisation, limiting our interest to only one territory would not be productive at all. Therefore, the representatives of other geographical schools will always find the “gates” of our journal wide open for their articles. We consider this is a lasting sign of our mutual recognition and efforts to research and decipher the unknown areas of the territorial system for the progress of Regional Geography.

*At the beginning of its way we wish the **Romanian Review of Regional Studies** would thoroughly follow its agenda.*

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