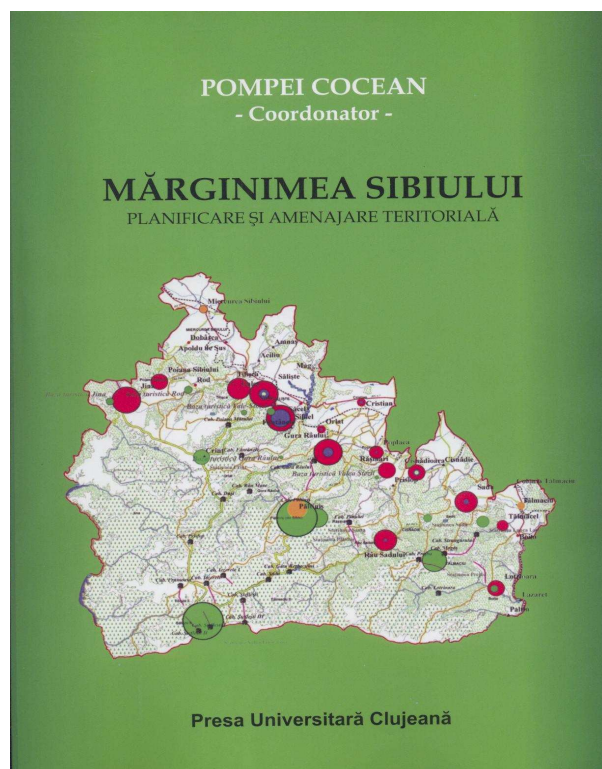


**POMPEI COCEAN (Coordinator)**  
**MĂRGINIMEA SIBIULUI. PLANIFICARE ȘI AMENAJARE TERITORIALĂ** [Mărginimea Sibiului. Spatial Planning], *Presa Universitară Clujeană*, 2009, 282 pages, 86 tables, 64 figures (36 graphs, 14 maps and 14 photos), a glossary and the corresponding bibliography, all these included in the text, the book ending, then, with five synthesis plates (maps).



In order to place our reference on the book under consideration into a context of normality and positioning, we consider as necessary to point, in the synthesis proper, the entire complex of contractual scientific research conducted by large collectives of scholars and researchers from the Faculty of Geography of Cluj-Napoca, under the careful, competent and assiduous coordination, in all aspects, of *Professor Pompei Cocean, Ph.D.*

Thus, among the numerous research contracts, until the one that had as result the book entitled *Mărginimea Sibiului. Planificare și Amenajare Teritorială* [Mărginimea Sibiului. Spatial Planning], the following must be mentioned:

- *Planul de Amenajare a Teritoriului Interjudețean (PATIJ)* [The Inter-County Spatial Plan], elaborated between 1997-1999, which had in view the entire complex of geographical issues on the inter-county stripes of the counties of Cluj, Bihor, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Maramureș, Bistrița-

Năsăud and Mureș, a project concluded between the seven county councils and the Faculty of Geography of Babeș-Bolyai University, the leadership of the project belonging to *Professor Pompei Cocean, Ph.D.* The study, which implied the collaboration of a large collective of the faculty's teaching staff, as well as a number of people from some specialized institutions in Cluj-Napoca, was handed to the above-mentioned county councils, and it was valorised, to a certain extent, by the publication in various scholarly journals;

- *Planul de Amenajare a Teritoriului Regional (PATR) a Regiunii de Dezvoltare Nord-Vest* [Regional Spatial Plan of the North-West Development Region] was elaborated between 2000 and 2003, the beneficiaries being represented by the county councils that are components of the region (Cluj, Bihor, Satu Mare, Sălaj, Maramureș și Bistrița-Năsăud), its achievement belonging to a group of 35 members of the teaching staff from the Faculty of Geography, Babeș-Bolyai University, and to five other specialists from several institutions, the project coordinator being the same *Professor Pompei Cocean*. The whole material, which integrates all the components from the Physical Geography and Human Geography fields, with a complex basis of cartographic material, as in the first case actually, was valorised, besides being handed to the beneficiaries, in a published volume, namely *Planul de Amenajare a Teritoriului Regiunii de Nord-Vest (PATR) – Coordonate majore* [North-West Region Spatial Plan – Major Coordinates], *Presa Universitară Clujeană*, Cluj-Napoca, 2004 (272 pages);

- *Relațiile transfrontaliere ale județului Satu Mare ca premisă a integrării euro-regionale* [The Cross-border Relations of Satu Mare County as Premise for Euroregional Integration], the beneficiary of this project being Satu Mare County Council, in 2004;

- *Plan de Amenajare a Teritoriului Zonal (PATZ) – Periurbanul Municipiului Bistrița* [Zonal Spatial Plan – The Peri-urban Area of Bistrița], elaborated in the same conditions of complex geographical analysis as in the first three contracts, between 2005 and 2006, having, of course, the appropriate territorial peculiarity, the beneficiary of the project being the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Tourism. As with the second contract, in order to offer specialists and other persons interested in the territorial realities of the analysed area the possibility to consult it, the results of this research were published in 2007, under the title *Amenajarea teritoriilor Periurbane. Studiu de*

## BOOK REVIEW

*Caz: Zona periurbană Bistrița* [Peri-urban Spatial Planning. Case Study: the Peri-urban Area of Bistrița], Presa Universitară Clujeană, in a volume of 273 pages, with numerous figures and 10 color plates;

- *Strategie de dezvoltare locală pentru municipiul Craiova* [Local Development Strategy for the City of Craiova], accomplished in 2006, at the request of the Mayoralty of this great urban centre of Romania;

- *Analiză privind stadiul actual al tendințelor dezvoltării teritoriale în bazinul românesc al râului Tisa* [Analysis of the Present State of Territorial Development Trends in the Romanian Tisa Basin], beneficiary: Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing, the project handover taking place in 2007;

- 2008 corresponded with the hiring and the accomplishment of another scientific research contract, namely *Strategia de dezvoltare economico-socială a comunei Sărmășag (județul Sălaj)* [Economic and Social Development Strategy of the Commune of Sărmășag - Sălaj County], the beneficiary of the project being, of course, the Mayoralty of this administrative-territorial unit.

After about a decade of laborious activity of contractual scientific research conducted by an even more powerful collective of the teaching staff from the Cluj Geographical School, constantly coordinated by a true scholar in this field now - *Professor Pompei Cocean* – the geographic-spatial investigation, even more requested by the practical-applicative field, necessary for the social-economic development of different compartments of the country, “runs”, with a single exception, namely *Reactualizare Plan de amenajare a teritoriului județean – PATJ – Județul Maramureș* [Update to the County Spatial Plan – Maramureș County], requested by Maramureș County Council in 2009, from the counties appropriate to Crișana and Maramureș geographical-historical provinces (Bihor, Satu Mare and Maramureș) and those approximately in the northern half of Transylvania (Sălaj, Bistrița-Năsăud și Cluj) towards the south of Transylvania (Sibiu and Brașov), and to a lesser extent, towards Wallachia (a small sector on the Prahova Valley, Prahova County).

As result, in the same condition of personnel engaged in the activity of coordination and research, the year of 2009 corresponded with the start and the achievement, total or partial, of other four contracts:

- *Plan de amenajare a teritoriului zonal – PATZ – Mărginimea Sibiului* [Zonal Spatial Plan –

Mărginimea Sibiului], proposed and funded by “Reuniunea Mărginenilor” Association of Săliște, which is naturally the beneficiary of the project conducted by the large team of geographers from the faculty in the city situated on the banks of the Someșul Mic river;

- *Analiza strategică de mediu pentru Planul de amenajare a teritoriului zonal Valea Hârtibaciului, județul Sibiu* [Strategic Environmental Analysis for the Zonal Spatial Plan of the Hârtibaciu Valley, Sibiu County], the applicant and beneficiary of this project being the Ministry of regional Development and Housing;

- *Plan de amenajare a teritoriului zonal Valea Hârtibaciului. Județul Sibiu – reconfigurarea relației urban-rural în contextul coeziunii teritoriale* [Zonal Spatial Plan of the Hârtibaciu Valley, Sibiu County – Reconfiguration of the Urban-Rural Relationship in the Context of Territorial Cohesion];

- *Plan de amenajare a teritoriului zonal inter-orășenesc – Sinaia, Bușteni, Azuga, Predeal, Râșnov, Brașov (Poiana Brașov)* [Sinaia – Bușteni –Azuga –Predeal – Râșnov – Brașov (Poiana Brașov) Inter-municipal Spatial Plan], the beneficiary of this project, as in the case of the previous one, is again the Ministry of Regional Development and Housing.

Besides the 11 spatial plans from the above-mentioned places across the country, the geographical research in Cluj-Napoca is directly involved in the elaboration of the international project *Tisa Catchment Area Development (SEE/A/638/4.2/X – TICAD)*, which involves national authorities, local and regional development agencies, planning and scientific institutes and public authorities from Hungary (including the Lead Partner), Austria, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine (2009-2012).

After presenting the particular facts of the complex activity of contractual scientific research of the teaching staff from the Faculty of Geography, Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, we can afford to stop at a more detailed level of presentation on one of the spatial plans offered to specialists and to those eager for knowledge after the publication of *Mărginimea Sibiului. Planificare și Amenajare Teritorială* [Mărginimea Sibiului. Spatial Planning], the coordination of this work belonging to Professor Pompei Cocean and the research team consisting of *Scientific Researcher III Ana-Maria Pop, Eng. Ovidiu Crișan, Professors Nicolae Ciangă, Victor Sorocovschi and Ioan Aurel Irimuș, Associate Professors Marcel*

Oncu and Radu Spânu, *Assistant Professors* Filip Ipatiov, Iuliu Vescan, Raularian Rusu, Cristian Nicolae Boțan, Oana-Ramona Ilovan, Sorin Filip, Ciprian Corpade, Adina Croitoru, Radu Cocean and Diana Alexandru, *Scientific Researcher* Ștefan Bilașco, *Teaching Assistant* Ciprian Moldovan and *Technician* Nastasia Boia.

Proceeding to the observation, with due attention, of the present book, we undertake, with full conviction, the statement made by authors at the very beginning of the book (p. 2) that < *The book sums up the defining elements of the project **Plan de amenajare a teritoriului zonal – PATZ – Mărginimea Sibiului**, proposed and funded by “Reuniunea Mărginenilor” Association of Săliște, whose publishing agreement we greet with the due appreciation* >.

Joining the aspects outlined above, certainly in terms of paying the due attention to the work under consideration, we are able to affirm that this is one of the most remarkable achievements of the above-mentioned group of authors, characterized by a *complete, profound approach, made in the most appropriate logical succession of the entire complex of particular issues*. Thus, the originality, with all its components, of the territory that corresponds with what is defined, in the most appropriate manner, as **Mărginimea Sibiului** (mountainous territory, situated between the valleys of Sebeș and the Olt, at the crossing line with the Apold and the Sibiu-Săliște depressions, corresponding to the Căndrel Mountains and to a part of the Lotru Mountains, where there lies the famous and the original “garland” of settlements belonging to Mărginime), is emphasized.

As a normal condition, the work elaborated by the valuable team of geographers from Cluj-Napoca, structured in three parts and five chapters, each of them dimensioned according to the particularity, begins, in the appropriate synthesis, with the analysis of the main **theoretical fundamentals**, where the essential aspects on *sustainable spatial development* and the definition of *Mărginimea Sibiului as a territorial system*, well-defined, over time, by its geodemographic and economic originality, are relevantly presented.

As fundamental support for formation, evolution and development, **Part II** of the book, **Mărginimea Sibiului – Present State and Dysfunctions**, is observed and rendered in Chapters 2 and 3 by all that is necessary in such an analysis, so that the territorial realities that characterise the area under consideration will become well-known.

Of course, according to the complexity of the particular issues of the theme, the most significant amount of analysis went, naturally, to the aspects regarding the **Support Base of Mărginimea Sibiului** (Chap. 2, pp. 14-173), which represent, in fact, the entire natural and anthropogenic contents of the considered territory, namely the physical-geographical and human-geographical components, each of them being given the significance of representativeness within the analysed area.

Taken seriatim, it can be observed that the authors of the book took great care not to lose sight of anything, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, to present and to render the entire complex of issues according to the scientific requirements appropriate to the present level of investigation.

In the same context, it is noteworthy that the authors knew how to capitalise the previous scientific accumulation and to subsequently add, in the most appropriate manner, the wealth of facts resulted from their own research in the field, the above-mentioned situation allowing the elaboration of a high-quality material.

Setting up, we emphasise that we are glad to underline the remark that the full range of the geographical issues is analysed in the most appropriate *logical succession*.

First, in a condition of natural normality, the *Natural Potential* is taken into consideration, within which the aspects regarding the potential of relief (geomorphologic, according to authors) and the associated risks, the climate potential and risks (the ski area in the mountain space is brought into discussion as conditioned by these two), the water resources and the bio-pedo-geographical potential are all analysed. Then, as conclusions, a series of aspects for defining the state of environment (particular resources, as basis for the sustainable local development, air, water and soil quality, followed by biodiversity and nature protection, with the mentioning of several natural objectives, namely parks, monuments, sites, etc.) are all pointed out.

The second step of the book belongs, in the most natural way, to the *Demographic Potential* (geodemographic, in our opinion), in which the issues on the evolution of the number of inhabitants, their spatial distribution, the natural and migratory dynamics, population structures (by area, sex, age groups, occupation, ethnic group and religion) are highlighted in a normal condition of determination, this part ending with the presentation

of certain dysfunctions and risks peculiar to the territory of Mărginimea Sibiului.

The following three steps of the Support Base of Mărginimea Sibiului (Chap. 2) have in view, in the same selected condition of scientific approach, the issues peculiar to the *settlement network* (historical background, classification of settlements in connection to the peculiar factors, altitudinal distribution and distribution in relation to the main communication axes, hierarchy of settlements, public service facilities and public utilities, zones of influence of the towns in Mărginimea Sibiului, and the dysfunctions of the settlement system), to the *built heritage* (peculiar legislation, regional synthesis in Mărginimea, built heritage of the towns and communes, typology of historical monuments and variants of tourist valorisation), as well as to the *technical infrastructure of the territory* (transport ways, electric power and gas supply, heating, drinking water supply, sewerage and telephone network).

After highlighting the functional and territorial realities of the first five issues in Chap. 2, the last two are then taken into consideration, namely the *economic activities* (agriculture, forestry, industry, trade, and services) and some of the *social* ones (education, health care and culture), the level of observation being directly related to their development and peculiarity degree within Mărginimea Sibiului. Thus, in the case of *Economic Activities*, the priority is given to *agriculture* (land fund structure, economic potential of agricultural land, average farm size, occupational structure of population, valorisation of the economic potential of the area, etc.), to *tourism* (natural tourism potential, expressed by orographic, climatic, hydrographic and bio-geographic elements, then, the anthropogenic tourism potential, represented by the cultural-historical and economic objectives, the traditional rural culture and civilisation, the grazing impact on tourism, as well as the aspects related to the tourist facilities and tourism planning), *services and trade* (with the presentation of the peculiarity of each situation), while *education* and *culture* are emphasized among the *social activities*.

The last third of the book, defined as **Part III** (pp. 178-272), is structured in two chapters (Chap. 4 and 5), where the issues peculiar to the analysed territory are reflected, in every aspect and in the most appropriate manner, so that it allows the reader to draw the conclusions of maximum generalisation on the major directions of the **Development Strategy of Mărginimea Sibiului**.

As regards the contents of Chapter 4 – *Key Factors of the Planning and Development of Mărginimea Sibiului* – the aspects concerning the sustainable development of Mărginimea Sibiului are taken into consideration, based on several well-defined principles (integration, functionality, partnership, programming, complexity, profitability, etc.), on some development factors (geographical position, convergence towards Sibiu, diversity of resources, mosaic of relief forms, high degree of accessibility, compact Romanian background, high quality of education, etc.), the support base of the development of the territorial system and the stages of planning and development of the analysed area.

The quantification of the state of the entire complex of current issues has allowed the team of researchers to establish, in some of the most honourable conditions, the *Development Strategy of Mărginimea Sibiului* (Chap. 5), which includes the aspects regarding: the major coordinates of the strategy, the general strategic objectives, the sectoral strategic objectives on domains (functional structure of the territory, settlement network, technical infrastructure of the territory, socio-demographic structure, structure of economic activities, social aspects, territorial zoning and the choreme of the territorial development), the chapter ending with the proposals for the institutional development of an original area in Romania.

We conclude the brief considerations on the work under review by urging those interested to consult not only the present book, as well as those already mentioned above, but also two other books enlisted in the same thematic series on the spatial planning of different areas across Romania: P. Cocean, V. Zotic, V. Puiu, C. Moldovan (2010), *Amenajarea teritoriului suburban al municipiului Bistrița* [Suburban Spatial Planning of Bistrița], Presa Universitară Clujeană, 152 pp. and P. Cocean, coordinator (2010), *Planificarea și amenajarea teritoriului zonal. Studiu de caz: Valea Hârtibaciului* [Zonal Spatial Planning. Case Study: the Hârtibaciu Valley], Presa Universitară Clujeană, 216 pp.

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