



Greeting Message on the occasion of the 2nd International Conference on Rural Space and Regional Development

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The Romanian Geographical Society, by its President, expresses the warmest greetings and wishes success to the 2nd International Conference “Rural Space and Regional Development”, Cluj-Napoca.

I myself belong to Cluj-Napoca by my scientific education, because I did my Ph. D Stage here and I also thought some years from this very desk. Therefore, I know very well the traditions and the vitality of the geographical school here, in Cluj-Napoca.

The roots of these traditions are represented by a series of forerunners, some foreign influences and by the works and intelligence of the here present ones.

I would like to remind you that here, in Cluj-Napoca, the great Romanian geographer G. Vâlsan started his university career and founded the local Institute of Geography. Also, Emm. de Martonne, who had learned the Romania’s Geography by field’s studies upon the Carpathians and Romania as a whole, delivered many lectures here, at Cluj-Napoca.

It is from him and his Romanian and a French disciple (to mention but T. Morariu and R. Ficheux, only), that the geographical school in Cluj keeps its geographical tradition. Here I would like to mention that there is a street, here, in Cluj that has the name Emm. de Martonne; it is the street right below the windows of the office where the French geographer worked during his stay in this city.

The scientific activity at the “Babeş-Bolyai” University was also influenced by the Austrian and Hungarian traditions, before the World War I, the trends being to be more noticeable in the works of professors Sabin Opreanu, T. Morariu and others.

The present-day geographical school has reached this high standing by following its traditions and putting in value more roots, which melted here harmoniously.

On the other hand, and I underlined this on other occasions, the Romanian geographers also have permanently had a good teacher that lead their researches, whatever direction they followed. This teacher was and is the extremely complex structure of the Romania’s geography, that become more complex and diverse as man learned to live together within nature.

And this complexity is clearly reflected by the human settlement geography.

Therefore, I consider as happy the choice of Cluj-Napoca and Romania for the 2nd International Conference “Rural Space and Regional Development”. The organizers, lead by Prof. Surd, have a lot of experience, willingness and talent, thus the success of the Symposium being already ensured.

My best wishes and success!