



## PROFESSOR VICTOR SOROCOVSCI

**Petre GÂȘTESCU**

Hyperion University of Bucharest, Department of Geography  
Bucharest, Romania  
gastescu\_petre@yahoo.com

**Victor Sorocovschi, University Professor, PhD,** was born in Brașov City on April 25, 1940, from where he moved together with his family in Jibou Town, Sălaj County in 1945.

He completed *his primary and lower secondary school* between 1946 and 1953 in *Jibou* locality, and his *high school studies* during the period 1953-1956 at the School for Boys. No. 6 in *Cluj-Napoca*.

He began his *university studies* in the year 1963 at the *Faculty of Biology-Geography, the Department of Geography of Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca*, which he graduated in the year 1968, as *the best student of his cohort*. During his



last two university years, he specialized in hydrology, which then determined the orientation of his research and didactic activity later on.

Following the results obtained, he was appointed as trainee researcher by the ministry, in the **Geographic Research Sector, the Branch of Cluj of the Romanian Academy**. Within the geographic research sector, he gradually secured the positions of trainee researcher (1968-1971), scientific researcher (1971-1975) and principal scientific researcher (third degree) (1976-1991). During the period

1975-1990, he was the head of the geographic research sector, a position that he filled with a lot of competence.

Since 1991, the high-quality professional training and the experience gained in the domain of research allowed him to secure different positions at the **Faculty of Geography of Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca**, where he was appointed, after the afferent contests, in the following positions: lecturer (1991-1993), reader (1993-1996) and professor (1997-2005). In the autumn of the year 2005 he retired and since then he has secured the position of consulting professor, and, at the same time, since 2006, he has functioned as active professor of the **Faculty of Geography of "Dimitrie Cantemir" University of Târgu Mureş**.

The scientific research and the didactic activity of Professor Victor Sorocovschi has been oriented towards the domain of **Physical geography**, and especially towards **hydrology**. His professional training in the domain of hydrology was boosted by a specialization in the Soviet Union (Russian Federation, Moscow, Leningrad/Sankt Petersburg and Tbilisi), during the period August-October 1971, where he focused on aspects concerning the methodology of water resources research, the modification of the hydro balance under the anthropic activities' influence and the principles of the determination of the hydro-geographic regions. This specialization provided him with the opportunity of an in-depth study of certain research directions such as the evaluation of the water resources, the typification of the rivers' regime phases and periods and the determination of the hydroeconomic regions.

His doctoral thesis "**Resursele de apă ale râurilor din Podișul Târnavelor**" (The Water Resources of the Rivers in the Târnavelor Plateau) began under the coordination of the **Univ. Prof. Dr. Docent Tiberiu Morariu**, corresponding member of the Romanian Academy and was concluded under the guidance of the **Univ. Prof. Dr. Docent Petre Gâstescu**, in 1991 at Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, constituting an important step in the substantiation of the knowledge accumulated in the domain of hydrology.

He began his **didactic activity** since the period spent in the Geographic Research Sector, through participations to the students' practical applications out in the field, where he conducted the practical observations and the students' applications for the specializations hydrology and climatology.

Once appointed lecturer, his didactic activity became more intense and continuous. So, during his 20 years of didactic activity he has given numerous lectures in the domains of hydrology (*General Hydrology, Hydrometry, Hydrogeology, Urban Hydrology, Limnology of Storage Lakes, Special Hydrological Issues*), environment (*Environmental Science, The Environment of the Hydrosphere, Environmental Monitoring Techniques and Means*), meteorology and climatology (*Meteorology, Climatology, Climatic Resources Protection and Assessment, Medical Climatology, Quantitative Indicators and Methods Used in Climatology*), natural

hazards (*Local, Regional and Global Natural Hazards, Hydro Hazards, The Prevention of and the Fight against Natural Hazards*).

In support of the disciplines taught, Professor Victor Sorocovschi has published several courses, alone or in collaboration: *Hidrometrie* (Hydrometry), Litografia Universității “Babeș-Bolyai”, Cluj-Napoca, 1994 (collaboration with I. Buta); *Mediu hidrosferic* (Hydrospheric Environment) (part I), Litografia Universității “Babeș-Bolyai”, Cluj-Napoca, 1996; *Hidrologie* (Hydrology), Editura “Dimitrie Cantemir”, Tg.Mureș, 2001, *Hidrologia uscatului* (Land Hydrology), *Part I*, Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj - Napoca, 2002; *Hidrologia uscatului* (Land Hydrology), *Part II*, Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2002; *Hidrologia uscatului* (Land Hydrology), Casa Cărții de știință, Cluj-Napoca, Editions I, 2003, II, 2004, III, 2009 and IV, 2010); *Hidrogeologie* (Hydrogeology), Edit. Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2008 (collaboration with Șerban, Gh.); *Meteorologie și climatologie* (Meteorology and Climatology), Casa Cărții de Știință, Cluj-Napoca, 2009.

Professor Victor Sorocovschi has competently filled administrative positions as well. So, during the period 1997-2005, while he was head of the Physical Geography Chair, Professor Victor Sorocovschi contributed to the good development of the didactic and scientific activity of the members of the academic team, to the promotion of the young teaching staff, to the arrangement and endowment of the chair’s laboratories and to the organization of three master degrees.

During the period 2006-2010, he was elected dean of the Faculty of Geography of the “Dimitrie Cantemir” University of Târgu Mureș, where he also contributed to the formation of a team of competent academics and to the improvement of the scientific and didactic research activity through the publication of courses and the participation to diverse scientific reunions in the country and abroad.

The **scientific research activity** of Professor Victor Sorocovschi has been oriented especially towards the domains of hydrology, natural hazards (mainly hydrological and climatic) and the valorization of the hydro and climatic potential in different activity domains. His scientific research carried out in the Geographic Sector was applicative, being based on contracts. So, during the 23 years of activity in the Geographic Research Sector, Professor Victor Sorocovschi elaborated alone and in collaboration 33 themes concerning the ground and underground water resources, the wind potential in different geographic units of the Transylvanian Depression and its surrounding mountainous area, and the prospecting and the evaluation of certain underground resources (peat, lignite) from the areas belonging to Banat and Transylvania.

He continued his contractual research activity as well at the Geography Chair in Cluj-Napoca, coordinating different research themes, such as “*Studiul posibilităților de alimentare cu apă a Câmpiei Transilvaniei*” (Study on the Water

Supply Possibilities of the Plain of Transylvania), being at the same time the coordinator of the team of hydrologists during the elaboration of some major research themes on the territorial organization in different regions of the Romania, especially in Transylvania and the neighboring regions. We shall mention only a few of them: *Planul de amenajare a teritoriului Regiunii de Nord-Vest* (The Arrangement Plan for the North-West Region), *Strategia de dezvoltare a microregiunii Tășnad* (The Development Strategy for Tășnad Micro Region); *Planul de Amenajare a Teritoriului Zonal – PATZ- periurbanul municipiului Bistrița* (The Arrangement Plan of the Zonal Territory – PATZ – Periurban to Bistrița Municipality); *Analiza strategică de mediu pentru planul de amenajarea teritoriului zonal Valea Hârtibaciului, județul Sibiu* (Strategic Environmental Analysis for the Zonal Territory of Valea Hârtibaciului, Sibiu County); *Plan de amenajare teritorială zonală – Mărginimea Sibiului* (Zonal Territorial Arrangement Plan - Mărginimea Sibiului).

He participated as head of the hydrologists' team to the realization of an international program "*Studiul privind stadiul actual al tendințelor dezvoltării teritoriale în bazinul românesc al râului Tisa*" (Study on the Actual Stage of the Territorial Development Tendencies in the Romanian Basin of Tisa River).

He coordinated three projects contracted with CNCSIS concerning: The Development of the In-Depth and Doctoral Studies in the Domain of Geography – Hydrology (*Dezvoltarea programului de studii aprofundate și doctorat în domeniul geografie-hidrologie*), Risks Induced by the Inundations on the Rivers in the North of the Transylvanian Depression (*Riscurile induse de inundațiile de pe râurile din nordul Depresiunii Transilvaniei*), Assessment of the Vulnerability to Natural and Anthropic Hazards of the Rural Settlements in the Plateau of Someș (*Estimarea vulnerabilității așezărilor rurale din Podișul someșan la hazarde naturale și antropice*). At the same time, he has participated as coordinator or team member in eight projects contracted with CNCSIS.

He has contributed to the elaboration of nine monographs, the most significant being the following: *Acțiuni umane asupra jnepenișurilor din Munții Maramureșului* (Human Actions on the Juniper Shrubs from Maramureș Mountains); *Munții Rodnei și din alte zone ale Transilvaniei* (Rodnei Mountains and Other Transylvanian Areas); *Amenajarea teritoriilor periurbane* (The Arrangement of the Periurban Areas); *Studiu de caz: zona periurbană Bistrița* (Periurban Spatial Planning. Case Study : Bistrița Peri-urban Area); *Synthetical Approach to the Romanian Tisa Basin; Mărginimea Sibiului. Planificare și amenajare teritorială* (Mărginimea Sibiului. Territorial Planning and Arrangement) etc.

Beside his contractual research activity, Professor Victor Sorocovschi has taken part (alone or in collaboration) to the elaboration of certain chapters from *Geografia României* (Romania's Geography) as follows: a chapter – *underground waters* in tome 1, *Geografia fizică* (Physical Geography), five chapters in tome 3, *Carpații românești și Depresiunea Transilvaniei* (The Romanian Carpathians and the

Transylvanian Depression), issued at the Publishing House of the Romanian Academy. He has published as unique author five books on themes in the hydrological domains - *Podișul Târnavelor. Studiu hidrogeografic* (Târnavelor Plateau. Hydrogeographic Study), *Câmpia Transilvaniei. Studiu hidrogeografic* (The Transylvanian Plain. Hydrogeographic Study), *Resursele de apă. Potențial și valorificare turistică* (Water Resources: Tourist Potential and Valorization) -, climatology - *Climatologie și aplicații bioclimatice în turism* (Climatology and Bioclimatic Applications in Tourism) -, and environmental geography - *Probleme de mediu și turism* (Tourism and Environmental Issues) -, and in collaboration the *geographic monographs of Cluj and Sălaj County*, in the collection "Județele Patriei" ("Our Country's Counties") under the coordination of the Geography Institute and published by the Publishing House of the Romanian Academy. Out of his published books, *Câmpia Transilvaniei. Studiu hidrogeografic* (The Transylvanian Plain. Hydrogeographic Study) obtained the prize of Babeș-Bolyai University.

Beside the above-mentioned books, his scientific activity has materialized as well in the publication – alone or in collaboration - of 194 studies in specialized reviews, of which 156 in Romania and 38 abroad, whose thematics concerns mainly the domains of hydrology, climatology and natural hazards. Out of the papers published abroad, eight have appeared in reviews acknowledged by ISI.

He has participated with 138 scientific papers in the domains of hydrology, climatology and hazards to different scientific reunions in Romania (Cluj, Bucharest, Iași, Timișoara, Oradea, Constanța etc.) and abroad (Hungary, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Germany, Greece).

**Doctoral coordination.** Since the year 1999, when he was awarded the right to coordinate doctoral students' theses in the domain of Physical Geography, he coordinated the activity of doctoral students, of whom 15 have defended their theses and 14 are preparing to do this. Most of the theses defended have been published by accredited publishing houses. Out of these theses, we shall mention the ones referring to: *Calitatea apei râurilor din bazinul hidrografic al Târnavelor* / The Quality of the Rivers Water in the Târnave Hydrographic Basin (Vigh Melinda Timea), *Lacurilor sărate din Depresiunea Transilvaniei* / The Salty Lakes of the Transylvanian Depression (Alexe, M.), *Lacurile dulci din Podișul Transilvaniei* / The Sweet Lakes of the Transylvanian Plateau (Fodoreanu, I.), *Studiul lacurilor de acumulare din bazinul superior al Crișului Repede* / Study on the Storage Lakes of the Upper Basin of Crișul Repede (Horvath, Cs.), *Studiul viiturilor de pe cursurile de apă din estul Munților Apuseni și riscurile asociate* / Study on the High Floods of the Water Courses in the Eastern Apuseni Mountains and the Risks Associated to Them (Arghiuș, V), *Bazinul Târnavelor. Amenajări și scurgerea lichidă* / The Târnave Basin. Arrangement and Liquid Flow (Vodă, M.), *Culoarul Mureșului din Reghin și confluența cu Arieșul. Studiu de hidrologie urbană* / The Corridor of Mureș from Reghin and the Confluence with Arieș (Coțiu, H.), *Studiul calității apelor de*

*suprafață din bazinul Arieșului / Study on the Surface Water Quality in the Arieș Basin (Bătinaș, R.).*

Due to the skills acquired in the domain of scientific and didactic research, Professor Victor Sorocovschi has been appointed president or member in diverse commissions for the promotion of the academics from different universities (Cluj, Iași, Oradea, Tg. Mureș) and in Doctoral Commissions led by professors from different university centers (Cluj, Oradea, Iași, Bucharest) and from the Geography Institute in Bucharest.

The professional prestige of Professor Victor Sorocovschi has also led to his being appointed member in the editing boards of different specialized reviews (*Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai*, series: Geografie (Geography) and AMBIENTUM), executive editor (*Geographia Napocensis*) and editor (*Riscuri și catastrophes* (Risks and Hazards)). At the same time, during the period 1999-2005, he was a CNCSIS evaluator, member of different scientific societies in Romania - Societatea Română de Geografie (The Romanian Geographic Society), Asociația Română de Științe Hidrologice (The Romanian Association of Hydrological Sciences), Asociația Română de Limnogeografie (The Romanian Limnogeographical Association) - founding member / vice-president - and abroad - International Association of Climatology, International Association of Scientific Hydrology.

**The University Professor Dr. Victor Sorocovschi**, with his prodigious didactic and scientific research activity in the domain of hydrology, limnology and environmental geography, is part of the myriad of scientists formed at ***alma mater napocensis***.

The Scientific Board of the Romanian Limnogeographical Association wishes him a long, happy and healthy life, with new accomplishments in the Romanian geographic domain.