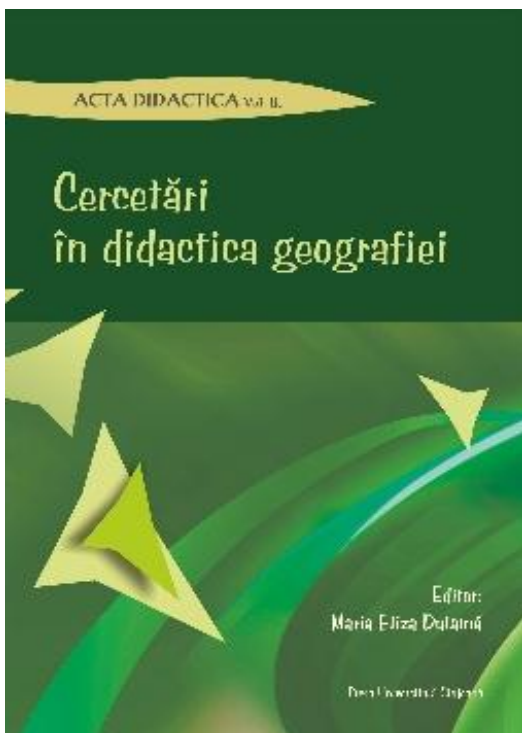


DULAMĂ Maria Eliza (ed.) (2017). *Cercetări în Didactica Geografiei* [Researches in the Didactics of Geography]. Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană, 97 p., ISBN 978-606-37-0278-5



This volume comprises ten researches realized by both M.Sc. students and pre-university and university teachers. Pre-school teachers presented the first two researches and they aimed at some learning activities in the extracurricular activities context. In one of the chapters, there were described some learning activities which could be organized within a monastery in order to analyse the environment's natural and anthropic components, the specificity of the territorial arrangement and the religious and touristic valorisation of this area. Another chapter was consecrated to the educational valorisation of the recreational park "The Wind Mill" located close to the Cluj-Napoca County and which shelters more animals. In this experimental research, the

emphasis was put on the studying of the pre-schoolers' behaviour in relation to animals.

The primary education students realized four studies in order to emphasize the learning process. There were organized two experimental researches inside some ethnographic museums: The Romanian Peasant Museum in Maramureș, Dragomirești Commune, and the outdoor section of the ethnographic Museum "Romulus Vuia" in Cluj-Napoca. In these museums, the students can study the built heritage, specific to Maramureș and to others places in Romania, the rural cultural landscapes, and through their involvement in learning activities, they could acquire new knowledge and could develop some skills provided in the curriculum. In these learning activities, designed from the perspective of an open class paradigm, student's curiosity is stimulated and their wish to explore the reality. These researches affirm that museums, along with other institutions, are important in the built heritage, in the knowledge and promotion of the cultural landscapes and of the territorial identity within some tourist circuits, contributing to the visitor's education.

A novelty research was organised in the Maramureș Mountains close to the Ukraine border, on the Vaser Valley, where the narrow gauge railway of 760 mm is situated and on which is moving a train called Mocănița. This organized extracurricular activity, intended to make students aware of and study the mountain natural potential, attractive for tourists, the Maramureș

cultural landscape, with the two important elements of the anthropic heritage – Mocănița and the narrow-gauge railway. The study argues that these values should be preserved and capitalized inside the tourist regional circuits in order to promote Maramureș identity.

There is a study consecrated to the representation of the major relief forms through the mockups and castings to the *Visual Arts and Practical Activities* discipline. The experimental activity was organized by the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, after the studying of the relief forms at the *Mathematics and Environmental Exploration* discipline.

During the diploma paper writing, three researches have been realised, these being presented at the Faculty of Geography of Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, the July session of 2016. These geographical researches were analysed from a didactic perspective in this volume, focusing on the research and learning analysis attended by students, on the difficulties they faced, on the advantages and disadvantages of some methods of data collection and representation of results they used. The visual and cartographic materials realized by students and included in the works, were also analysed from a didactic perspective. In a study, it was presented the favourability degree of developing the demographic potential of Cluj-Napoca metropolitan area and it was analysed how to use credit points to illustrate this favourability degree. In the second study, there were analysed both the three morphometric maps (the map of slopes exhibition, the map of the relief fragmentation density, the map of the relief fragmentation depth) and the 3D models of slopes exhibition, realized and included in the diploma paper referring to the relief of isolated volcanic structures of the Gutâi Mountains. In the third study, was analysed the presentation way of the dysfunctionalities characteristic of Galda de Jos Commune, Alba County, in written text and photos, but also the solutions proposed in the diploma paper.

In the last chapter, there were presented and analysed some activities taking place during a workshop, with a group of Geography teachers attending the activities of the International Conference called *Contemporary Trends in Teaching and Learning Geography*, in 2016. In this study, it was analysed teachers' involvement in activities of professional development. In this case, it was created an optimal context for experimenting with various forms of organizing the activity and with some activating methods and techniques through which the acquisition of Geography specific skills and other transversal skills would become easier.

*Raluca-Claudia CASSIANU*

*Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, ROMANIA*