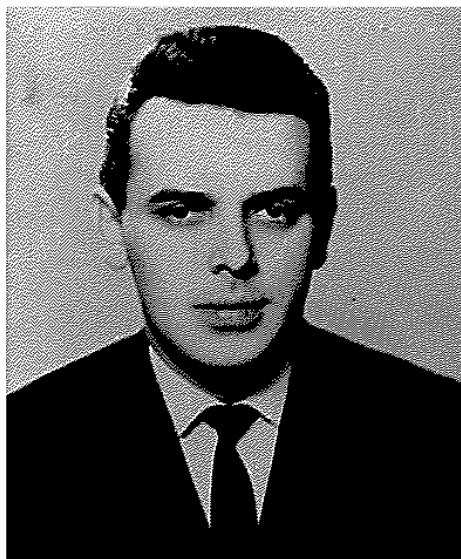


**IN MEMORIAM ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
IDU PETRU DAN
(1939-2022)**



Unexpectedly, on November 25 of this year, our colleague and friend, associate professor Dr. Idu Petru Dan, left us. The entire geographical community in Cluj-Napoca learned with sadness about the loss of a special man, an accomplished geographer, a specialist in the field of Human Geography and Toponymy.

Mr. Idu Petru Dan was born in Cluj-Napoca on September 28, 1939. Between 1946 and 1953 he attended primary and elementary school in Măgura commune, Buzău County, and between 1953 and 1956 the mixed secondary school in Pătârlagele locality in the same county.

He got his professional training by graduating, in 1963, from the Faculty of Biology, Geography and Geology of the "Babeș-Bolyai" University in Cluj-Napoca.

After graduation, he obtained, through a ministerial assignment, the position of trainee researcher at the Ethnography Sector of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, where he worked from 1963 to 1970, obtaining the degree of scientific researcher.

In 1970 he was transferred to the Department of Geography of the Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca Branch, successively passing the ranks of principal scientific researcher degree III and II, having also various responsibilities such as head of the collective in the period 1975-1980.

He got specialized in Ethnography in our country (Bucharest) and abroad (Poland) and in Human Geography (France), which give him the chance to obtain competence in the fields of Human Geography and Toponymy. In 1998, under the guidance of professor Dr. Posea Grigore, he obtained the title of Doctor in Geography with the work "Man and nature in the Carpathians of Maramureș and Bucovina", published in 1999 at the "Napoca Star" Publishing House in Cluj-Napoca.

The scientific activity is realized through the publication of more than 25 studies and the participation with several chapters in the *Romanian Geography*

(*Geografia României*) *Treatise* volumes II and III and in the collection of *Counties of Romania (Județele României)* (Cluj and Sălaj), edited by the Romanian Academy, as well as in the Bârsa Country Monograph and the Tourist Guide of Cluj County.

The activity of Mr. Idu Petru Dan is not limited to those mentioned above; he participated in numerous research topics of the Geography Sector of the Romanian Academy, Cluj Napoca Branch, with communications at numerous scientific events in the country and abroad.

The experience gained in the field of scientific research and the skills obtained during more than 35 years of research activity ensured him the chance to become an associate teacher at the Faculty of Geography of the "Babeș-Bolyai" University in Cluj-Napoca in 1990.

The year 1999 would mark an important change in the career of the researcher Idu Petru Dan, with the transition to higher education at the Faculty of Geography-History of the "Dimitrie Cantemir" University in Târgu Mureș, where he held the position of lecturer until 2005 and the position of Head of Department.

As a teacher, he taught several courses in the fields of Human Geography (Geography of population and settlements), Toponymy and Ethnography (Toponymy, Ethnography of the Romanian people). He published the course named "Geographic Toponymy".

Mr. Idu Petru Dan was married to Eleni, a geography teacher, known for her exceptional human and professional qualities, whom he lost in February 2022. The Idu family was blessed with a daughter Alina Hericleia, who benefited from a chosen education and took care of his parents until the last moments of their lives. With the passing away of lecturer Idu Petru Dan, the Geographical community of Cluj-Napoca loses a devoted and inspired researcher and teacher.

God rest him in peace!

Prof. dr. Victor Sorocovschi

Cluj-Napoca, 19 December 2022