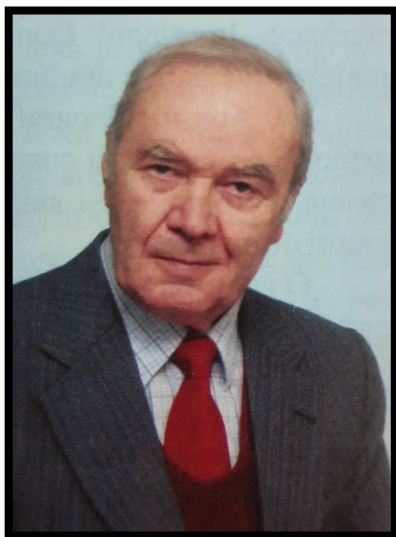


**IN MEMORIAM UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR  
DR. ION ZĂVOIANU  
(1932-2022)**



At the end of May of this year, our colleague and friend, university professor Dr. Ion Zăvoianu from "Spiru Haret" University, Bucharest, left us. The entire geographical community in Romania learned with sadness about the loss of a special, professionally valuable man, a perfect geographer and a genuine specialist in hydrogeography. He was born in the village of Racovila, Budești commune, Vâlcea County, where he attended general school, then secondary education at the "Nicolae Bălcescu" high school in Râmnicu Vâlcea. He continued his upper studies at Bucharest at the Pedagogical Instituted and continued them by transfer at the Faculty of Geology -

Geography, Geography Department of the University of Bucharest, which he graduated in 1957. He made a pilgrimage at the beginning of his career as a geographer through several institutions in secondary education (1957-1961) and water management institutes as a hydrologist at the Olt-Jiu Water Directorate, Sibiu, (1961-1963).

In 1963 he entered the competition at the Institute of Geology-Geography (currently the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy), where he carried out a large part of his research activity, passing successively through all stages of academic research, having also functions management, including that of director (1995-2000).

From 2000 to 2011 he was a full professor, head of department and dean (2004-2008) of the Faculty of Geography at the "Spiru Haret" University of Bucharest.

The field of research was limited to hydrology, the study of water resources, especially rivers, in which through persevering work and special scientific capacity, he obtained well-known results both nationally and internationally, as a specialist in morphometric analysis of river basins. From the

research activity carried out at the Institute of Geography it stands out the study carried out on the drainage regime of the Romanian Danube. At the National Geographic Atlas he worked as secretary of the Hydrographic Maps Commission and co-author of the 1: 1.00.000 map of the hydrogeographic map, the map with the hydrographic network and hydrometric stations, the longitudinal profiles of the main watercourses, etc. A substantial contribution to the synthesis of the main characteristics of water runoff and suspended alluvium he made in volume I of the Treaty of Geography of Romania through the collaboration with the late Dr. Eng. Constantin Diaconu, director of the Institute of Hydrology. In volume IV of the same Treaty he dealt with the hydrology of the pericarp regions, and in volume V as co-coordinator and author or co-author of the hydrography of the Romanian Plain and the Romanian Danube. It also had a significant contribution to the realization, in collaboration with the undersigned, to the realization of an analysis regarding the water resources in Romania and their state of quality as a premise of the contemporary development. In collaboration with the Bulgarian hydrologist Marina Yordanova, he conducted a comparative study of the spatial distribution of specific mean runoff in the Southern Carpathians and Stara Planina. In the research activity, Professor Ion Zăvoianu paid special attention to the drainage of suspended alluvium in Romania. Some of the unique results in this field have been published in the volume *Quantitative Relationships between the production of suspended alluvium and environmental factors*, published in Edit. Transversal, Bucharest (2011).

Flooding and floods as catastrophic phenomena that affected large areas of Romania (in 1970 and in 1975), or smaller (in 1991, 2005) were analysed in terms of spatial distribution in relation to their genetic factors, taking into account highlights the impact of such phenomena on human activities.

Knowing the importance of water resources for the regional and national economy, he worked with the hydrogeography team to find the most appropriate means of complex cartographic representation of water resources, their quality and quantity, changes in human intervention in the landscape, In order to discuss in a broader context the experience gained in the issue of hydrogeographic maps, in 1967, the Hydrogeography Sector of the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy organized the republican conference on "*The Legend of Hydrogeographic Maps*". This, in Romanian conception, was elaborated by the hydrogeography sector (Petre Găștescu, Ion Zăvoianu, Ariadna Breier, Basarab Driga), on the basis of which the 1: 200.000 scale maps were elaborated for the entire territory of Romania, theme in the plan Institute of Geography in the period 1915-1989 whose head was Dr. Ion Zăvoianu.

*The morphometry of the hydrographic basins and of the river network* was a continuous preoccupation in the activity of Prof. Dr. Ion Zăvoianu starting with the doctoral thesis entitled "Morphometric features of the hydrographic

network and riverbeds in the Ialomița basin" made under the guidance of Prof. T. Morariu from the "Babeș-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca. This work published by the Romanian Academy Publishing House in 1978 under the title "*Morphometry of river basins*" received the prize "*Gheorghe Murgoci*" of the *Romanian Academy*.

Professor Ion Zăvoianu also had concerns regarding the research of the state of the environment. Thus, starting in 1975, as coordinator of the topic: "Determining the methods of assessment, recording and mapping an alteration of the environment for synoptic surveillance" took into account the problems of studying the environment and assessing its quality in a region strongly influenced by the geographical specificity of the Curvature Subcarpathians and the impact of anthropogenic activities. In this sense, in 1989 he published the paper "The potential of the environment in the Buzău Subcarpathians". Professor Ion Zăvoianu contributed as a co-author or coordinator to the elaboration of the National Geographic Atlas and the Treaty of Geographers of Romania, with chapters or maps related to hydrography and water resources.

In the scientific activity presented by Professor Ion Zăvoianu we must also emphasize the participation in numerous national and international scientific events, documentaries, exchange of experience, jubilee sessions (France, Germany, England, Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Russian Federation, China and others) by who was appreciated and co-opted as a member of the profile commissions of the International Union of Geography.

As a PhD supervisor, after 1990, he undertook a sustained and careful mentoring activity of many young researchers and teachers. His activity as a doctoral supervisor materialized through the successful defence of nine doctoral theses developed under the guidance of Professor Ion Zăvoianu.

Professor Ion Zăvoianu's personality has established itself in Romanian geography and not only, through special contributions in promoting new directions in scientific research, especially in the fields of hydrography, continental water resources, materialized through a rich and varied publishing activity, specialized articles from the country and from abroad, through large-scale works (atlases, books, university courses) which are estimated at 200 spots.

**God rest him in peace!**

**Prof. Univ. Dr. Doc. Petre Gâstescu,**

**Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy**