

FOREWORD

The contribution of Romanian mathematicians to the field of geometry is very significant. In this context, the Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy from Bucharest (IMAR), has played an important role. The institute was founded in 1949 and, despite the period 1975–1990 (which was – from a social point of view – dramatic, and – from a cultural point of view – tragic) is still today an outstanding research institute of top scientific level.

Taking into account, on one hand, the long tradition in the study of differential geometry in Romania and, on the other hand, the fact that after 1989 organizing international meetings in Romania became easier, twenty three years ago (in 1993) I began to organize every second year (together with some of my colleagues) a series of international workshops on differential geometry and its applications. The first eleven workshops were organized in Bucharest, Constanța, Sibiu, Brașov, Timișoara, Cluj-Napoca, Deva, Cluj-Napoca, Iași, Constanța and Ploiești. Between 1997 and 2007, in cooperation with my colleague Tudor ZAMFIRESCU, I also organized a series of four German–Romanian Seminars on Geometry: two in Romania (in 1997 in Sibiu and in 2003 in Cluj-Napoca) and two in Germany (in 2000 and 2007 in Dortmund).

In 2015, the organizers of the workshop were Radu IORDĂNESCU and Florin NICHITA from IMAR, the local organizers being Cornel Constantin LAZĂR, Cristian MARINOIU, Gabriela MOISE, and Rafail Mihai PASCU from Petroleum-Gas University of Ploiești.

The main goal of these meetings was to offer, especially to young Romanian mathematicians, the opportunity of direct contact with outstanding personalities over the world and to establish further scientific cooperations with them. In this respect, more than 30 talented Romanian young geometers (from Arad, Bucharest, Constanța and Timișoara) obtained – through above mentioned workshops and seminars – grants for summer schools, as well as master, Ph. D. or postdoc grants in Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the USA.

As a consequence of these workshops three important and efficient scientific agreements were signed, namely: between the West University of Timișoara

and the University “La Sapienza” (Rome, Italy), between the “Ovidius” University (Constanța) and the University of Granada (Spain) and between the West University of Timișoara and the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). These agreements continue to offer an interchange of professors and students of the above indicated universities, the main beneficiaries being the young Romanian geometers having special abilities for scientific research. After the second workshop (Constanța, 1995), the “Ovidius” University of Constanța developed (and is still developing) a strong mathematical cooperation with IMAR: there are courses in Constanța given by members of IMAR, and part-time positions at “Ovidius” University.

It is worth being mentioned here the fact that these workshops were attended by almost all Romanian geometers of international level from Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanța, Iași and Timișoara, and also the fact that the invited lectures, as well as some communications, were published in special volumes, which was – again – for the benefit of young Romanian geometers (attending or not these meetings).

I think that it is important to point out that among the participants from abroad were outstanding mathematical personalities, and also brilliant Romanian mathematicians from famous universities over the world. I would like to remark here that two invited speakers at our workshop from 2007 (namely, Prof. Dr. Wend WERNER from Münster University-Germany and Prof. Dr. Dušan REPOVŠ from Ljubljana University-Slovenia) have been invited later as visiting professors at IMAR. In September 2011, Prof. Dr. Nicolae ANGHEL from North Texas University-USA, which was invited speaker at our workshops from 2009 and 2011, was visiting professor at IMAR. In December 2014, Prof. Dr. Dmitri ALEKSEEVSKY from Masaryk University – Czech Republic, who was invited speaker at our workshops from 1999 and from 2013, was visiting professor at IMAR.

The libraries of the universities which have co-organized with IMAR the workshops have benefited – also as a consequence of the workshops – from book donations and some facilities concerning mathematical journals, as well as a more easy and rapid access to the mathematical information (with the help of Zentralblatt für Mathematik).

The first four workshops have contributed to the very good evaluation of IMAR in the competition organized by the European Commission – General Directorate for Research – in the frame of the Programme “Confirming the International Role of Community Research” (Support for Centers of Excellence). Consequently, in 2000, IMAR became Center of Excellence of the European Union for the period March 2001 – June 2004.

It is worth being mentioned here that in 2015 we have organized (for the first time!) in the frame of the Workshop a round table on the teaching of geometry in secondary school. We have organized this round table taking into account some proposals, as well as the present status of the study of geometry in our schools.

Another fact which is worth being mentioned here is that some mathematical results due to Gheorghe VRÂNCEANU and Dan BARBILIAN, celebrating 115, respectively, 120 years since their birth, have been acknowledged in the lecture given by Dr. Florin NICHITA.

Last but not least, I would like to point out that the series of the above indicated workshops and seminars have stimulated other younger colleagues to organize international meetings on differential geometry and related topics at the University of Bucharest, at the University Transilvania of Braşov, at the University Politehnica of Bucharest, and at the University of Civil Engineering of Bucharest.

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