

FOREWORD

The contribution of Romanian mathematicians to the field of geometry, especially differential 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 five years ago (in 1993) I began to organize every second year (together with some of my younger colleagues) a series of international workshops on differential geometry and its applications. The first twelve workshops were organized in various university centers from Romania.

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 – Sibiu and in 2003 – Cluj-Napoca) and two in Germany (in 2000 and 2007 in Dortmund).

In 2017, the organizers of the workshop (at Petroleum-Gas University, Ploiești, between 26–28 September) were Radu IORDĂNESCU and Florin NICHITA from IMAR, the local organizers being Cristian MARINOIU, Mihail MINESCU, 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.

It is worth being mentioned here the fact that these workshops were attended by almost all Romanian geometers of international level from Bucharest,

Braşov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanţa, Iaşi and Timişoara, 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.

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 organized (for the first time!) in the frame of the Workshop a round table on the teaching of geometry in secondary school. We organized this round table taking into account some proposals, as well as the present status of the study of geometry in our schools. In 2017, we extended the topic of the round table to the teaching of mathematics, and it was organized just before the workshop (in the morning of September, 25th 2017).

Last but not least, I would like to point out that the series of the above mentioned 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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