

THE 65th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PETROSANI



Prof. Ph.D eng. ARON POANTA
Rector, University of Petroșani

The roots of the University of Petroșani are deeply anchored in the first higher education school in Romania – the Higher School of Bridges, Highways, Mines and Architecture – founded by Alexandru Ioan CUZA in 1864 through a Ruler's Decree. The school had been active in Bucharest and was the object of various changes. In 1920, owing to a decree given by King Ferdinand, the Polytechnic Schools of Bucharest and Timisoara were established; they both included a Faculty of Mines and Metallurgy. The 1948 reform of higher education laid the foundations the Mines Institute in Bucharest as well as of the Coal Institute in Petroșani. The last one comprised one faculty with two specializations: “*Exploiting and processing coal deposits*” and “*Mining Electro-Mechanics*”. In 1957 the whole mining education gathered in Petroșani within the Mines Institute which included two faculties: the Mines Faculty and The Faculty of Mining Electro-Mechanics.



The development of the mining industry determined a diversity of specializations and the increase of the number of students. While in 1948, there were only 135 students, in 1957 there were 980 students; after 1990 the number of students registered a decrease. At the same time, beginning with 1990, curricula witnessed a process of restructuring and diversifying that allowed the introduction of new specializations in the scientific, economic, and administrative fields. As a result, a new faculty was founded in 1995 – the Faculty of Sciences – so that, at present, the University of Petroșani includes three faculties: the Faculty of Mines, the Faculty of Mechanic and Electric Engineering, and the Faculty of Sciences. Meanwhile, the Mining Institute changes its appellation becoming the Technical University of Petroșani (1991) and subsequently the University of Petroșani (1995). Today it comprises 25 specializations in license education, out of which 7 belong to the Faculty of Mines, 9 to the Faculty of Mechanic and Electric Engineering, and 9 to the Faculty of Sciences. Master education that develops along two years includes 18 specializations while the three-year duration Doctoral School includes 4 specializations. All these forms of education comprise about 3,200 students and 175 doctoral students.

The mission of the University of Petrosani is to create and transfer knowledge towards society through:

- Students' initial and permanent training with a view to develop as individuals, to professionally insert on labour market, to match the economic and social environment and their scientific, technical, economic, IT, administrative, and management skills;
- Scientific research, development, innovation, and technological transfer in the fields of technique and engineering, of exact, economic, IT, and social and human sciences.

In order to carry out its assumed mission, the University of Petrosani focuses on the following priorities:

- Organizing the teaching and learning of professional and scientific knowledge with a view to train highly prepared specialists for the domains of education, science, culture, arts, economic and social activities as well as the continual improving of the graduates' evolution towards progress and knowledge;
- Organizing a competitive scientific research through developing powerful scientific groups and new directions of research as well as through responsibly participating in scientific projects of large interest;
- Constantly asserting its international, cultural, and artistic prestige through editing publications included in national and international exchanges and through organizing technical, scientific, cultural, and artistic events;
- Promoting relations of international cooperation and integration within the European system of higher education, targeting structural, quality, and economic efficiency parameters;
- Promoting the pluralism of options, critical and constructive analyses, the development of political and civic culture as well as defending democratic statute relying on the observation of the human rights and fundamental liberties of individuals and citizens according to the established status quo;
- Providing the proper material background required in order to promote all these activities as well as adequate work and life conditions for all the members of the University.



Academic scientific research represents an essential factor of social and economic development owing to its impact upon the development of knowledge and human resources. A performing higher education system involves the existence of an increased level of scientific research as well as the foundation of highly qualified human resources strictly connected with society's demands and needs. The academic community of our University has always focused on such requirements and they have materialized both in projects of fundamental research and, mainly, in projects of applicative research. Accordingly, the University implemented internally and externally financed projects; thousands of articles have been published both in the country and abroad; treatises and monographs have been written, numberless national and international conferences have been attended by our employees, and various invention patents have been set forth. Nowadays, the University has its own scientific publication - "Annals of the University of Petroșani", including four sections and being indexed by various international data bases; it also coordinates the "Mines Review" and undertakes all necessary actions with a view to ISI quote it in an America data base.

As regards its staff, the University of Petroșani includes 177 titular members of the teaching staff out of which 21 Professors, 60 associate professors, 73 university lecturers, 14 assistant professors and 9 teaching assistants. The rest of the staff includes 164 employees out of which 84 persons are employed as auxiliary teaching staff. Let's mention that the University of Petroșani also includes 14 Professors that coordinate doctoral students. The University targets to hire young and well trained people as assistants and also promote the existing staff to higher professional degrees.

The University's cooperation with countries in Europe and other continents is rooted in the past and is also successfully carried on today. Primarily it is accomplished through publishing articles and through the teaching staff's participation in various international conferences and symposiums or through editing didactic and scientific books. Also, the mobility of students and the teaching staff extended owing to programs financed by the European Union. At present, the University of Petroșani has concluded about 70 collaboration agreements with countries all over the world.



The material ground of the University matches the requirements of a higher education institution, beginning with the endowment of its laboratories and lectures halls, and continuing with its library, Students' Cultural Centre, administrative buildings, sports ground, hostels and students' restaurant. All computers display high speed Internet access while the lecture halls, hostels and auxiliary spaces are supplied with two heating sources – a thermal source and the University's own gas central heating.

On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the University of Petrosani we can only remember the words of our national poet, Mihai Eminescu, who addressed Romania when saying: "May thy glorious future follow thy glorious past!"

