

FACULTY OF MINES - 65 YEARS OF EXISTENCE



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The Faculty of Mines, is the oldest in the University of Petroșani; it was founded once with the Coal Institute of Petroșani on 7 December 1948 transferring the students from the Faculties of Mines of Timisoara and Bucharest Polytechnic Schools, registered in IInd and IIId years of studies and for the first year of studies the students were recruited through matriculation exam. The Institute was led, by Professor Basil Poboran, as dean.

Even if the origin of mining education in Romania is linked to other places, in 1844 in Ocnele Mari from Vâlcea county it was stipulated to establish a Mine School of rock salt exploitation, and in 1848 in Bucharest a public school for mines managers was founded, finally the mining education focused in Petroșani.

As higher education, we can speak in terms of mining education, starting with 1864 when it was founded in Bucharest the "School of Bridges and Highways, Mines and Architecture" and then in 1920 was established mining and metallurgy specializations in the Polytechnic School of Bucharest and Timisoara.

About the mining education in Petroșani, it can be spoken since 1905 - 1919, when a Coal Mining School for preparing the inferior techniques worker functioned. From August 1st, 1920 the opening of the Miners Foreman School of Petroșani was approved, depending on the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Therefore, there were premises and justification to establish the higher school of mining in Petroșani.

On August 3, 1948 by Decree no. 175 for education reform and by the Minister of Public Education Decision regarding the organization of higher education were established: Institute of Geology and Mining Technique of Bucharest with two faculties (Geology, Mining Technique) Institute of Ferrous Ores of Timisoara, Institute of Nonferrous Ores of Brad, Coal Institute - Faculty of Exploitation and Processing of Coal Deposits in Petroșani. In these technical high colleges, the university studies duration was 4 years.

In 1952, with the reorganization of higher education mining, the Coal Institute changes the name into the Institute of Mines Petroșani. In the same year, both the Institute of Timisoara and the one from Brad, are abolished and students were transferred to the Institute of Mines Bucharest.



Between the years of 1952-1957 in Romania, two higher schools of mining functioned: Institute of Mines Bucharest and Institute of Mines Petroșani. From the university year 1957-1958, both with H.C.M. 1003/1957 and once stopping the activity of the Institute of Mines Bucharest, the Institute of Mines Petroșani stayed for a long time as the only higher school of mining in Romania. It should be noted the special contribution of Professor Stefan Covaci in concentration of higher mining education in Petroșani.

In the faculty of Petroșani there were two sections: Mining Exploitation and Mining Electromechanics (founded in 1949). At the section of Mining Exploitation there were the following specializations: Mining Exploitation, Mining Survey (founded in 1950) and Preparation of the useful mineral substances. Since 1957 the two existing sections here, are becoming faculties: Faculty of Mines and Faculty of Mining Electromechanics.



Until the 90s the Faculty of Mines has prepared the following categories of specialists: mines engineers (underground exploitation), open-cast mining engineers (quarries exploitation), mining surveyor engineers, preparation engineers, mines sub-engineers (underground exploitation), open-cast mining sub-engineers (quarries exploitation), and mining surveyor sub-engineers.

The students from the mining engineers groups, surveyors and preparation studied in common trunk in the 1st and 2nd year and then, in the 3rd year they were separated into optional groups. There was also the form of evening classes in addition to the form of this day education. The duration of studies was 5 years for engineers from day education respectively 6 years for evening classes and 4 years for sub-engineers from evening classes.

Since the 90s, when upgrading to the market economy, in the range of educational offerings of the Faculty of Mines other majors specializations have been placed, such as: geology, environmental engineering and economic engineering.

Also the education changed after the Bologna Convention from 1999; it was placed on a two-stage structure: undergraduate studies (4 years) and Master's Degree (2 years). Over these stage is located the Ph.D studies stage.

At present in the Faculty of Mines there are the following undergraduate programs: Mining Engineering, Mine Surveying, Mining Construction, Engineering and Environmental Protection in Industry, Waste Management Engineering, Economic Engineering in Construction, Engineering and Quality Management and Security Engineering in industry.



There are currently the following Master's degree programs: Security and Health Management, Computerized and Cadastral Surveying Mining, Mining Construction Engineering Design, Environmental Impact Assessment and Ecological Reconstruction, Control and Monitoring of Environmental Quality, Engineering and Project Management.



If in 1948 the faculty had 135 students, today it has more than 1000 students.

If in 1948 there were 28 teachers, of which only 8 with a basic function in the Institute, today there are 54 teachers having a basic activity of the Faculty of Mines to which is added more than 10 teachers associated. At the study programs of the Faculty of Mines also teach the didactic staff from the other two faculties of the University of Petrosani, some of these people being included in collective belonging of the Faculty of Mines and were separated from it in the 90s in order to form the Faculty of Science.

If in 1950 the first series of graduates was made up of 35 mining engineers today, after the 64th series there can be counted more than 16660 graduates of Faculty of Mines among which a large number of foreign graduates from about 20 other countries Asia, Australia, Africa, South America, North America and Europe.

In the Faculty of Mining, until the 90's there were several chairs namely: Mining Exploitation and Surveying Chair, General Mining Technique Chair, Mathematics – Mechanics Chair. After several stages of reorganization and regrouping of chairs in the university, in the Faculty of Mining, the following chairs remained: Mining Engineering and Safety in Industry Chair, Surveying and Underground Constructions Chair, Environmental Engineering and Geology Chair and the Management Chair. The chairs functioned until 2011 when they were replaced by other structures of organization - the departments.

At present in the Faculty of Mines it operates Mining Engineering, surveying and Construction Department and respectively Management, Environmental Engineering and Geology Department.

At present, the Faculty of Mines has the following teachers as PhD coordinators: Fodor Dumitru, Dima Nicolae, Georgescu Mircea, Arad Victor, Cozma Eugen, Rotunjanu Ilie, Krausz Sanda, Sârbu Romulus, Bădulescu Dumitru, and Gâf Deac Ioan.

Among the teachers from the Faculty of Mines, the following were rectors: prof. Ph.D doc. eng. Covaci Ștefan, prof.em. Ph.D doc. eng. Popa Aron, prof. Ph.D eng. Fodor Dumitru, prof. Ph.D eng. Iliăș Nicolae and prof. Ph.D eng. Dima Nicolae.

The Faculty of Mines leadership deans were the following: Vasile Poboran (1948-1954), Claudiu Mititelu (1954-1957), Nicolae Lețu (1957-1962), Emil Pop (1962-1963), Nicolae Lețu (1963-1967), Nicolae Iliăș (1967-1968), Nicolae Lețu (1968-1976), Aurelian Simionescu (1976-1978), Nicolae Dima (1978-1980), Cornel Hirian (1980-1984), Ilie Rotunjanu (1984-1990), Mircea Georgescu (1990-2004), and Ioan Dumitrescu (2004-2012).

At the anniversary moment, the teaching staff of the Faculty of Mines is looking back with admiration to all peoples who, for 65 years have contributed to the building of higher mining education in Faculty of Mines. Example of their living through hard times and their achievements, give us hope and give us the necessary impetus to carry on the prestigious reputation of the Faculty of Mining.