

THE FACULTY OF SCIENCES - CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY



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Year 2013 has a double significance for Alma Mater Petrosenensis as it celebrates 65 years from the foundation of the University of Petroșani and 20 years from establishing the Faculty of Sciences.

The town of Petroșani displays a whole tradition in engineering higher education and mainly in the mining field, which, under the circumstances of the shift having occurred in Romanian society and education after 1989, forged the ground required by the extension of academic education domains.

The initiative of developing economic higher education first came out in 1990 and envisaged a first form of higher education dealing with a profile that was different from the technical one; it has also meant the initiation and development during the subsequent period of a vast range of programs of license and master studies.

The ground of such an initiative was to be found in the attempt to match higher education with social and economic conditions, with the demands on the labor market and the needs of the Jiu Valley and surrounding area; all these aspects were linked with the requirement to diversify the whole process of higher education carried on by the previous Mines Institute in Petroșani.

Such approaches were also determined by the existence of certain conditions that were able to provide a proper training of the future specialists within the University of Petroșani. The aspect regards the didactic and scientific potential of the teaching staff belonging to the economic, exact, social and human sciences departments that have provided the specialized training of the students attending technical education; it also regards the didactic experience accumulated during 50 years of higher education in the area as well as the existence of a proper material endowment able to determine the diversification of educational process.

This is the framework that allowed the foundation, within the Mines Institute, beginning with the academic year 1990-1991, of higher education through initiating – according to the Order of the Ministry of Education no. 7751/1990 – of the specialization entitled *Industrial Management*; it was subsequently changed in an economic specialization – *Company's Management* which today bears the appellation of *Management*. That was the beginning of a path further followed by the foundation, between 1992 and 1993, of the specializations: *Psycho-Sociology* – today *Sociology* – and *Mathematical Engineering*, which initially were active within the Faculty of Machines and Electro-mechanic Equipments.

The above nucleus determined the foundation within the Technical University of Petroșani – that was changed into the University of Petroșani, in 1995 – of a new organizational form – the Faculty of Sciences - beginning with the academic year 1993 – 1994, according to the Order of the Ministry of Education no. 4685/ April 7th, 1993.

The development of academic specializations further went on with the support of all those who contributed to the existence of higher education in Petroșani.

Accordingly, during the academic year 1993-1994 the following specializations were founded: *Finances and Insurances*, today *Finances and Banks* and *Administration Accountancy and Informatics*.

During the academic year 1997-1998 the specialization of *Mathematics-Physics* began its activity. Beginning with the academic year 2005-2006 the specialization *Mathematics-Physics* came to termination and issued the specializations: *Mathematics* and *Physics*.

Beginning with the academic year 2003-2004 the specializations *Informatics* and *Public Administration* went active while during 2004-2005 the specializations *Economy of Trade, Tourism, and Services* and *Social Assistance* came into being.

Consequently, at present the Faculty of Sciences displays nine domains with nine programs of full time license education: *Management; Finances and Banks; Administration Accountancy and Informatics; Economy of Trade, Tourism, and Services; Public Administration; Sociology; Social Assistance; Mathematics; Informatics*; we should mention that the programs: *Management; Finances and Banks; and Administration Accountancy and Informatics* also include distance courses. All these programs started during the academic year 2005-2006, according to the stipulations of Law no. 288/2004 issued in accordance with the principles contained by the Bologna Declaration of the European ministries of education, dated June 19th, 1999.



Master programs have gradually come into being so that at present they function according to Bologna system and develop as extensions of accredited license programs within the fundamental domains of Economic Sciences: *Management of Human Resources; Financial and Banking Management; Business Strategic Management; Administration Informatics Systems; Accountancy and Audit*, Sociology: *Social Policies and Social Protection* and Mathematics: *Didactic Mathematics*.

The faculty also displays post-academic programs of continual professional training and development: *Services Management in Public Institutions; Educational Management*, as well as post-academic programs for the professional conversion of didactic staff: *Mathematics; Economy and Entrepreneurial Education*.

Consequently, a varied curriculum offer has been established which addresses to young people, mainly living in the Jiu Valley and partly in Hunedoara and Gorj counties, who would like to attend an academic career or to continue their training in fields required by the economic and social environment. The efforts bear fruit: while in 1990 we started with a group of students, today the Faculty of Sciences includes 1380 license and master students guided by 64 members of the teaching staff.

On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, the Faculty of Sciences is the youngest of the faculties belonging to the University of Petrosani; nonetheless, over the years, it was the witness of the professional and scientific growth of its teaching staff whose activity is carried on within three departments: *Department of Economic Sciences, Department of Mathematics-Informatics and Department of Social and Human Sciences*. Such an increase of competence allowed the teaching staff, supported by a dedicated management, to support the previously detailed academic programs and to carry out didactic activities afferent to the license and master programs of technical faculties. A main component of the activities deployed at the level of the Faculty of Sciences is scientific research. Accordingly, in 2001, the Faculty of Sciences started publishing the volume *Annals of the University of Petrosani - Economics*, classified by CNCS as a *B+ Review* and included in international data bases beginning with 2007: EBSCO; RePEc, DOAJ; SOCIONET; SCPIO; Genamics JournalSeek, SUWECO, etc. Year 2009 also represents the foundation of a prestigious biannual mathematics review, *Transylvanian Journal of Mathematics and Mechanics*, indexed by Mathematical Reviews and Zentralblatt MATH.

At the same time, on the occasion of the International Multidisciplinary Symposium “*Universitaria Simpro*” organized by the University of Petrosani, the Faculty of Sciences administrates the sections belonging to the field of economic, social, human, and exact sciences. Beginning with 2012, the Faculty of Sciences started a workshop for the Ph. D. Students in the domain of Finances as well as a *working papers* section for the Ph. D. Students in the field of economic sciences.

Meanwhile, the Faculty of Sciences, through its Department of Social and Human Sciences, co-participated in organizing the International Conference *Best Practices in the Adult Education of People with Special Needs*; in May 2012 it also organized the International Conference *International Social Work – Working Together for Success*, in collaboration with the University of South Carolina, College of Social Work and Eastern European Sub-Regional Association of Schools of Social Work.

The research activity of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Sciences is also evident owing to the foundation of the *Centre for Interdisciplinary Researches in Mathematics, Informatics, and Physics* and of the *Centre of Economic and Social Researches for Regional Development*, whose mission is to stimulate scientific research through analyses that cover various areas and provide the organizational and informational background required in order to elaborate, carry out, and implement projects of research and development initiated by the members of the Centre.



The Faculty of Sciences organizes every year the national symposium “*Student, Science, Society*”, dedicated to the university’s license and master students as well as to those belonging to other university centers who accordingly find the opportunity – within the sections that show the curricula of the Faculty – to display their own researches and to share ideas, knowledge, experience, etc. Beginning with 2012, the students’ scientific activity is also supported by the *Scientific Group “Entrepreneurship and Tourism”*, initiated by the master students in the specialization *Business Strategic Management* and the students in the license program *Economy of Trade, Tourism, and Services* in collaboration with the Town Hall of the Municipality of Petrosani, Romanian Patronage and Hunedoara County Council. As a member of the Association of Economic Faculties in Romania (A.F.E.R.), the Faculty of Sciences hosted, in 2007, the National Olympiad of Economy Students, *Tourism and Long-lasting Development* while in 2011 it organized, under the auspices of A.F.E.R., the Olympiad of Economist Students, *Marketing* section. The students in the economic specializations of our faculty have participated in the National Olympiads organized in Romania by A.F.E.R., in various fields while their best works have been awarded prizes.

On A.F.E.R.’s initiative, in 2012, two events dedicated to “Economist’s Day” and to “Academic Economist’s Day” were initiated resulting in debates and lectures that regard the characteristics of educating human resources with economic skills; on the occasion of 170 years of economic higher education in Romania and 20 years of economic education at the University of Petrosani, the Faculty of Sciences is mentioned by the celebrating volume published by A.F.E.R., *Pages of the history of economic higher education in Romania, 1843-2013. 170 years from the first course of Political Economy performed by Ion Ghica at Academia Mihaileana in Iași*.

The Department of Social and Human Sciences, which is a member of the *European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW)*, of *Adult Lifelong Learning in Social Work (ALLISW)* and of the *Association of Social Assistance Schools in Romania (ASASR)* – organisms that target to match academic competences with national and international social reality – also participated in the students’ extracurricular activities; for instance, it started organizing, beginning with 2011, ‘Social Work Days’, owing to which the students and teaching staff in social sciences, together with the professional community in the field of social assistance and mass-media, promoted the academic and professional achievements and results in the field of social assistance.

We should also emphasize the fact that the students of the Faculty of Sciences are members of the rugby, football, and ski teams of the University and participate in academic sports competitions. Everything we strive to achieve is the materialization of the academic spirit that involves knowledge and collaboration. While knowledge is a step towards future, in order to build its future, Romania needs highly educated professionals.