

REVISTA MINELOR – MINING REVUE, PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PETROȘANI

The University of Petroșani, which is more than 70 years old, is the continuator of the Institute of Mines in Petroșani that had been founded in 1864, when, owing to the decree of ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the *School of Bridges, Mines and Architecture* began functioning in Bucharest. In 1920, through the decree of King Ferdinand, polytechnic schools were founded in Bucharest and Timisoara, each of them owning a *Faculty of Mines and Metallurgy*.

The development of the mining industry and the important coal deposits in the mining basin of the Jiu Valley (1868 – year when coal industrial exploitation was first mentioned) determined the foundation of the ***Coal Institute – the Faculty of Coal Deposits Exploitation and Processing***, in 1948, through the publishing, in the Official Gazette no. 177 / August 3rd, 1948, of **Decree no. 175/ 1948 concerning the educational reform** and of the **Decision of the Minister of Public Education regarding the organizing of higher education**. The institute was located at Petroșani and started its 3-year duration courses on December 7th, 1948.

The first year students entered the institute by contest, while the 2nd and 3rd year students were transferred from the faculties of mines in Bucharest and Timisoara. In year 1950, the first 35 mining engineers graduated the institute, followed, in 1953, by the first 17 engineers specialized in *mining electro-mechanics*. In 1957, the whole mining higher education moved to Petroșani, at the **Institute of Mines**, based on the **decision of the council of ministers no. 1003/ 1957**. The institute had remained, for a long period of time, the only mining higher education school in Romania.

The strong development of the engineering school in Petroșani, after 1948, was also influenced by the central positioning of the town within the Romanian geographic areas, which equidistantly covered all the mining regions of the country.

The Institute of Mines included the faculty of Mines and the Faculty of Mining Electro-Mechanics, the last one having changed its

appellation several times so that, in 2003, it was called the Faculty of Mechanic and Electrical Engineering.

Immediately after the foundation of the **Institute of Mines**, in fact after two years, ***Revista Minelor (Mining Revue)*** was set up, out of the need for disseminating the technologies and techniques used in the Jiu Valley coal mining and the innovative solutions of the specialists in all mining fields.

After 1990, the diversification of the profiles and specializations determined significant changes within the university, where, besides the technical specializations, academic economic, socio-human, public administration or mathematics education acquire consistency. This fact determined the change of the name of the higher education school in Petroșani, which not showed an administrative modification but also a content change. In accordance, through the **Order of the Minister of education no. 4894/ 1991**, the Institute of Mines in Petroșani became the Technical University in Petroșani, and through the **government decision no. 568/ 1995**, the Technical University in Petroșani became the **University of Petroșani**.

In 1993, they founded the Faculty of Sciences, so that, at present, the University of Petroșani includes three faculties with 23 specializations in bachelor studies, 22 specializations in Romanian master studies, 2 specializations in English master studies and five doctoral specializations.

From the beginning, the Institute of Mines in Petroșani was the beneficiary of an exceptional teaching body that included both members of the teaching staff detached from Bucharest and Timisoara, with academic and doctoral studies attended during the interwar period in the Western European countries that, unfortunately, under the political circumstances of the time, were marginalized and exiled at Petroșani. Those were individuals owning a thorough scientific training and displaying an exemplary moral probity; as a result, they did not go down to the less elevated level of their students, but they elevated the students to their standards, while training national and

worldwide acknowledged specialists. Then followed a second wave of professors, owning doctoral degrees acquired in the Eastern European countries, who were also very well trained. These professors wrote the textbooks and treatises that today still represent didactic and scientific models for specialists and students. As a result, the fame of the institute was quite significant and the entity represented a model for the whole higher education in Romania.

Young persons from all the regions of the country as well as from almost 20 countries on four continents, a total of about 40, 000 individuals, have graduated courses at Petroșani, and have further been acknowledged as very good specialists in all fields and branches of activity. Besides them, almost 800 Ph.D. titles, under the guidance of 51 scientific coordinators, have been issued by the university.

The University's honour book mentions this aspect, too, and throughout its history the appreciations of a large number of personalities can be read there: three Romanian Presidents, ambassadors and important scientists and men of culture.

The body of specialists in the university have also actively involved in the research area, especially in the applicative one, which can be noticed in the perfecting of the methods and

technologies of exploitation and processing of useful mineral substances, in the ecological rehabilitation of the environment, the elaboration of the standards for providing labour health and safety, as well as in producing equipment, machines and devices, which have become patented trademarks and have been manufactured by various productive branches. The members of the academic staff of the university have published over 8,500 scientific works, of which 2,000 abroad; they carried out over 5,000 contracted works of research and designing and got about patents of invention, most of them having been awarded at national and international fairs. Meanwhile, approximately 1,700 didactic manuals, treatises and monographs have also been published.

Within the results of the scientific research of the mining field specialists, spread over 70 years, a significant part is being played by *Revista Minelor (Mining Revue)*. A large number of scientific articles of great value, belonging to the Romanian academic environment and to the economic one as well as to various countries with a mining tradition have been published in our prestigious journal. This makes clear the permanent presence of the journal in the international data bases and its internationally acknowledged value.

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