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## **THE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITY BLAISE-PASCAL AND THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY OF CRACOW IN GEOGRAPHY, 1997-2002**

*Abstract:* The paper presents the history and results of cooperation between the Geography Department of the University Blaise Pascal of Clermont-Ferrand, France and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Economy of the Jagiellonian University of Cracow, Poland, during 1997 – 2002. In particular, the paper presents the implementation of the cooperation programme signed by representatives of both parties in 1996, as well as the overall strands in this relationship

*Key words:* cooperation, Blaise Pascal University, Jagiellonian University.

On 25 August – 1 September 2002, IGiP UJ organised a conference at Zatwarnica and Cracow to mark the end of another period of this long-term relationship in geography between the two universities.

The cooperation had been initiated by professors André Fel and Christian Mignon of France and professors Bronisław Kortus and Antoni Jackowski of Poland. The first agreement on cooperation was signed in 1985 and then extended in 1987, 1991, 1993 and 1996. Each edition involved direct exchange of research staff for projects in the Massif Central and the Polish Carpathian Mts., exchange of publications, experiences and scientific thought.

The geographical cooperation proved to be very fruitful. During 1985-1996, it involved roughly 30 research staff from both universities. Four conferences were organised and four collections of papers published to present the result of research projects carried out under the cooperation agreement. More papers were published in other volumes. Details of this period of the relationship can be found in M. Bąbka's paper (Bąbka 1995).

In 1996, representatives of the parties, i.e. Kazimierz Krzemień and Christian Mignon met in Clermont- Ferrand to extend the agreement for another 6 years. The programme envisaged visits by French geographers in Poland in 1997 and 1999, and visits of Polish geographers in France in 1998 and 2000. To facilitate the presentation of the results the Polish partner would organise a conference in 2002. The agreement also contained a declaration of intention to expand the area of research to include the Slovakian Carpathian Mts. and other parts of the Polish Carpathian Mts. Mr. Daniel Ricard and Ms. Katarzyna Rotter were appointed to assure the contact between the parties and the arrangement of the research visits. At the level of the universities, implementation of the cooperation

programme has been contributed by the assistance of Ms. Halina Michalik and Ms. Annie Veysseyre. Cooperation has availed also of the assistance of the C.E.R.A.M.A.C. (Research and Study Centre for the Massif Central, mountainous and delicate areas).

In 1997, following the agreed programme, Mr George Gay and Ms. Mauricette Fournier looked at the development of industry and small enterprises in the Beskid Niski Mts. In 1998, Mr. Jerzy Groch, Mr. Arkadiusz Kołoś and Ms. Katarzyna Rotter visited France to investigate the development of tourism, spa health care and public transport in Massif Central. The group also involved Mr. Maciej Dudka, an undergraduate. During 1999, Messrs. Daniel Ricard, Eric Bordessoule and Pierre Couturier researched the direction of rural development in Beskid Śląski Mts (Phot. 5). As a result of the newly established relationship between the Jagiellonian University and the Slovak University of Prešov, our French colleagues had an opportunity to visit the Slovakian side of the Carpathian Mts. and meet staff from Prešov. In turn, Messrs. Kazimierz Krzemień, Stefan Skiba, Rafał Szmuc and Krzysztof Sobiecki went on to study geomorphology and soils in the Mont Dore massif in 2000.

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Jagiellonian University celebrated a number of important anniversaries: the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Chair of Geography on the Polish territory was celebrated in 1999; and the 600<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-foundation of the Cracow Academy (the original name of the Jagiellonian University) was celebrated during 1999-2000. In 2000, Mr. Albert Odouard, a geographer, than the Dean of the Lettres et Sciences Humaines Faculty, took part in the official festivities.

In 2001 in Cracow, the two parties met to discuss details of the conference planned for 2002 and a potential and conditions for including the Slovaks in the cooperation. The meeting was attended by Mr. Christian Jamot (Head of the Geography Department, Blaise Pascal University), Mr. Daniel Ricard (responsible for the cooperation from the French side), Mr. Antoni Jackowski (Head of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Economy of the Jagiellonian University), Mr. Kazimierz Krzemień (responsible for the cooperation from the Polish side), and representatives of the University of Prešov: Ms. Eva Michaeli (Head of the Department of Geography and Geoecology) and Mr. Robert Istok. At the end of this meeting the French geographers participated in a trip in the Slovak Carpathian Mts. organized by the Slovakian colleagues.

The long-standing relationship laid the ground for extending the scope of contact to areas beyond the agreement itself. In 2002, Ms. Katarzyna Rotter visited the Departement de Geographie of the Blaise Pascal University under the Socrates programme for teaching staff exchange. In autumn 2002, Ms Tatiana Mintalova, doctoral student at Prešov University equally stayed in Clermont- Ferrand as a beneficiary of a EGIDE grant assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France. At last, Mr. René Matlovič participated in a conference of urban geography organized in Clermont- Ferrand in autumn 2002.

The conference at Zatwarnica, the results of which are presented in this volume of *Prace Geograficzne*, was organised by Institute of Geography and Spatial Economy of the Jagiellonian University with assistance from the Authorities of the Bieszczadzki National Park. 33 representatives from Poland, France and Slovakia attended (Phot. 1). Mr. Szczepan Biliński, Dean of the Biology and Earth Sciences Faculty who opened the conference on behalf of the hosts, represented the Jagiellonian University authorities. Heads of the Bieszczadzki NP, Messrs. Wojomir Wojciechowski and Tomasz Winnicki also attended the proceedings.

During a three-day programme, 19 papers were presented. Other items included a tour to show the local nature and the socio-economic environment of the Bieszczady Mts., as well as a visit at the National Park headquarters, including a presentation of the research and educational activity of this entity (Phot. 3, 4). Only through a considerable support

from the Head of the Bieszczadzki National Park such rich programme could have been prepared and executed.

The conference provided an opportunity for a discussion about the potential of future cooperation and its areas. As a result of this discussion, another six-year agreement was signed (2003 – 2008). Representatives of the Department of Geography of University Blaise Pascal (Daniel Ricard), and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Economy of the Jagiellonian University (Kazimierz Krzemień), and – for the first time – of the Department of Geography and Geocology of the University of Prešov (René Matlovič) declared their will for research cooperation and signed a framework programme that included, among other items, the topics of cooperation and a schedule of research staff exchange (Phot. 2).

In 2002, the cooperation between the University Blaise Pascal and the Jagiellonian University in geography had accumulated a rich product, expressed in the number of publications and enjoyed a continued interest from the existing and new participants. The addition of Slovakia in the form of the Prešov University as well as the membership of Poland and Slovakia in the European Union are bound to provide additional stimuli to this cooperation (Phot. 6).

## References

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