



Preface

The contribution of Romanian mathematicians to the field of geometry, especially differential geometry, is very significant. In this context, the Institute of Mathematics of the Romanian Academy from Bucharest (IMAR), has played an important role. The institute was founded in 1949 and, despite the period 1975 - 1990 (which was - from social point of view - dramatic, and - from cultural point of view - tragic) is still today an outstanding research institute of top scientific level.

Taking into account on one hand the long tradition in the study of differential geometry in Romania and, on the other hand, the fact that after 1989 organizing international meetings in Romania became easier, eighteen years ago (in 1993) I began to organize every other year (together with some of my colleagues) a series of international workshops on differential geometry and its applications. The first nine workshops were organized in Bucharest, Constanța, Sibiu, Brașov, Timișoara, Cluj-Napoca, Deva, Cluj-Napoca and Iași.

Between 1997 and 2007, in cooperation with my colleague Tudor ZAMFIRESCU (professor - until now - at the University of Dortmund - Germany), I also organized a series of four German - Romanian Seminars on Geometry: two in Romania (in 1997 - Sibiu and in 2003 - Cluj-Napoca) and two in Germany (in 2000 and 2007 in Dortmund).

This year, the organizers of the workshop were Radu IORDĂNESCU and Sergiu MOROIANU from IMAR, the local organizers being Vladimir-Georges BOSKOFF, Alexandru BOBE and Marian-George CIUCĂ from the "Ovidius" University of Constanța. I have the pleasure to mention that the organization of this workshop has been done in this year 2011 which is an anniversary year for the University "Ovidius" of Constanța: there are 50 years since its foundation.

The main goal of these meetings was to offer, especially to young Romanian mathematicians, the opportunity of direct contact with outstanding personalities over the world and to establish further scientific cooperations with them. In this respect, more than 30 talented Romanian young geometers (from Arad, Bucharest, Constanța and Timișoara) obtained - through above

mentioned workshops and seminars - grants for summer schools, as well as master, Ph. D. or postdoc grants in Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the USA.

As a consequence of these workshops three important and efficient scientific agreements were signed, namely: between the West University of Timișoara and the University "La Sapienza" (Rome, Italy), between the "Ovidius" University (Constanța) and the University of Granada (Spain) and - recently - between the West University of Timișoara and the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain). These agreements continue to offer an interchange of professors and students of the above mentioned universities, the main beneficiaries being - also this time - the young Romanian geometers having special abilities for scientific research. After the second workshop (Constanța, 1995), the "Ovidius" University of Constanța developed (and is still developing) a strong mathematical cooperation with IMAR: there are courses in Constanța given by members of IMAR, and part-time positions of them at "Ovidius" University.

It is worth being mentioned here the fact that these workshops were attended by almost all Romanian geometers of international level from Bucharest, Brașov, Cluj-Napoca, Iași and Timișoara, and also the fact that the invited lectures, as well as some communications, were published in special volumes, which was - again - for the benefit of young Romanian geometers (attending or not these meetings).

I think that it is important to point out that among the participants from abroad were outstanding mathematical personalities, and also brilliant Romanian mathematicians from famous universities over the world. I would like to mention here that two invited speakers at our workshop from 2007 (namely, Prof. Dr. Wend Werner from Münster University - Germany and Prof. Dr. Dušan Repovš from Ljubljana University - Slovenia) have been very recently invited as visiting professors at IMAR. In September 2011, Prof. Dr. Nicolae Anghel from North Texas University - USA, which was invited speaker at our workshops from 2009 and 2011, will be visiting professor at IMAR.

The libraries of the universities which have co-organized with IMAR the workshops have benefited - also as a consequence of the workshops - from book donations and some facilities concerning mathematical journals, as well as a more easy and rapid access to the mathematical information (with the help of Zentralblatt für Mathematik).

The first four workshops have contributed to the very good evaluation of IMAR in the competition organized by European Commission - General Directorate for Research - in the frame of the Programme "Confirming the International Role of Community Research" (Support for Centers of Excellence). Consequently, in 2000, IMAR became Center of Excellence of the European

Union for the period March 2001 - June 2004.

Last but not least, I am happy to point out that the success of our series of workshops and seminars have stimulated our younger colleagues to organize international meetings on differential geometry and related topics at the University Transilvania of Braşov (in 2007 and 2008) and at the University Politehnica of Bucharest (every year, since 2005).

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