

## CURRICULUM MATERIALS AND AUXILIARIES USED IN THE STUDY OF GEOGRAPHY OF THE LOCAL HORIZON

Prof. ANTONIU-IOAN BERAR, "Ioan Vlăduțiu" Secondary School, Luduș, Romania

Prof. MARCELA BERAR, Secondary School No. 1, Luduș, Romania

**ABSTRACT:** *The local horizon is the area where the locality we live in is found, including all the features of the topography and the natural scenery. The teaching materials belonging to the field of geography ensure a fully equipped study rooms, being especially useful in Geography lessons with the theme Local Horizon: mural plans, locality plans, QGIS maps made by the teacher, atlases and three-dimensional models, and so on. A curricular auxiliary used in the study of the geography of local horizon, both in secondary and high school, may be the course support for the optional "Geography of the Local Horizon". It may include elements of physical, human and economic geography.*

**Key words:** *local horizon; premises; development; curricular auxiliaries; methods; analysis; synthesis;*

### Geography of the local horizon

The local horizon represents the area where the locality we live in is found, including all the features of the topography and the natural scenery. It means the nature and the anthropic environment that surrounds us and which we are part of. The teaching-learning activity of Geography in secondary and high school must be completed with practical applications performed in the local horizon, thus forming the students with the necessary skills to learn geography. However, the theoretical activity should not be neglected, which cannot be achieved without the help of curricular materials and auxiliaries created specifically for the study of geography of the local horizon.

The teaching materials belonging to the field of geography provide a complete equipment of the study rooms and are particularly useful in geography lessons with the theme Local horizons: wall murals, town plans, QGIS maps made by teachers, atlases and three-dimensional models, and so on.

Curricular auxiliaries are curricular products used by teachers and pupils in the teaching process for the proper and efficient

implementation of the curriculum. According to the National Education Law, school textbooks are used in educational institutions in our country, as well as didactic auxiliaries approved by the Ministry. Through their content, in accordance with the legal provisions in force, teachers can select and use them in class, based on the freedom of professional initiative, in order to improve the quality of the educational process. A curricular auxiliary used in the study of geography of the local horizon, both in secondary and high school, may be the course support for the optional "Geography of the Local Horizon". It may include elements of physical, human and economic geography.

### 2. Physical and geographical premises in the development of Luduș

An example in this respect is, for the purpose of studying the geography of the local horizon of Luduș, Mure County, the book entitled "Physical and geographical premises in Luduș development", published by Mega Publishing House in Cluj-Napoca in 2018, achieved by the teachers Antoniu and Marcela Berar, helped by Levente Bagy and

Daniel Hădărig, the authors of the photos.

Luduş is an ancient settlement located in the south of the Transylvanian Plateau, documented since 1333. Favourable physical and geographical conditions have created the necessary living conditions since ancient times. We, the authors of this book, two geography teachers and two photographers, all of whom love our places of birth, introduced information, images, maps, charts and tables on the pages, regarding the natural setting: geographical location, topography, climate, hydrography, vegetation, fauna and soils, grouped in a physical-geographical presentation. We used various specialized papers on the topic that have appeared in recent years, but also the results of our own research, which we published in the form of specialized articles or papers.

Among the research methods specific to geography, we mention: the dialectical method (the correct way to decipher the relations between the components of the geographic systems), the method of analysis (whole dissection into parts and study in detail), the synthesis method (partial information in the unitary representation of the complexity of the study system), the comparative method (comparing processes and phenomena of the same kind to establish the similarities and differences between them) and the cartographic method (representation of the local horizon). As I have pointed out, this paper is addressed to all those studying the geography of the local horizon in the local educational establishments as well as those interested in studying the geography of these places. Each chapter contains explanatory texts accompanied by photographs, charts, tables, and maps.

Through its content, through the rich data and information, rigorously and scientifically presented, this book goes beyond a simple didactic material. The content of the paper, systemically and systematically, based on a rich and

long-lasting experience of its authors, expresses organic, well grounded connections between the physical-geographical components specific to the Middle Mureş Basin, allowing an overview of the territorial specificity of the analyzed unit. The well-selected bibliography gave the authors the opportunity to capture, on the one hand, all that has been investigated so far on the subject of research and, on the other hand, to approach in a condition of methodological modernity the entire complex of physical-geographical problems in the centre of the Transylvanian Depression Hillock.

It is imposing the need to emphasize a major feature of this study, namely the coverage of the whole set of problems in accordance with the specificity of each physical-geographical component.

The studied unit is approached by the analysis of the variety of physical-geographical problems, according to the scientific research requirements in the studied field. It also emphasizes the analysis and rendering of the whole factual material in a balanced manner, in the appropriate logical sequence and in a scientifically required condition of such an approach, all of these facilitate the understanding of the multitude of components regarding the physical-geographical specificity in the Middle Mureş Basin. The methods, research resources and data sources, the thorough way to track these issues are proven to be particularly useful to co-worker Geography teachers. It is also worth emphasizing the quality and richness of the illustrative material, which allows easy reading and understanding of the presented material”.

In the elaboration of the paper I also used the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) for storing, querying and analyzing geographic data and, finally, for cartographic representations.

This proves the competences regarding the use of geo-informatics methods and techniques for the compilation of the

databases and their processing, the use of specialized software for the processing and representation of geospatial data, extraction and interpretation of satellite information in relation to various parameters and properties of the terrestrial surface (temperature, humidity, morphography and morphometry, resources, land use, using dynamics of biocenotic, geomorphological, hydric processes, etc.), integrated analysis of images obtained by remote sensing with the help of computerized technology.

Through the set of variables taken in the analysis and their spatial effects, we consider that this study is placed in the category of modern approaches with broad theoretical and practical applicability, we consider that this paper is a useful tool for the specialists engaged in the elaboration of local and regional development projects and programs.

The paper is structured in the following chapters: Introduction, Topography, Climate, Hydrography, Geography-Biopedagogy Elements, Natural Resources, Conclusion.

Each chapter contains texts, and additionally, images, graphics, and maps. The content of the paper, stated systemically and systematically, expresses well-founded organic connections between the physical-geographical components specific to the Middle Mureş Basin, allowing an overview of the territorial specificity of the analyzed unit.

The bibliography, well-selected, has given us the opportunity to capture, on the one hand, all that has been investigated so far on the topic of research, and on the other hand, to approach in a condition of methodological modernity the entire complex of physical and geographical problems in the center of the Transylvanian Depression Hillock.

## References

1. Berar, A. et al, *Physical-geographical premises in the development of Luduş*, Ed. Mega Publishing House, Cluj-Napoca, 2018
2. Grigor, P. Pop, *Transylvanian Depression*, Ed. Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 2012)
3. Andreica, I. et al., *Monografia Orasului Luduş*, Ed. Nico, Târgu-Mureş, 2008.

## Conclusions

Luduş is an ancient settlement located in the southern Transylvanian Plateau, at the confluence of the Câmpie Stream with Mureş, being, since 1968, part of Mureş County. The oldest document proving the existence of the locality dates back to 1333, and the locality has been inhabited since Prehistoric times, from the Neolithic period.

The extensive development of the Mureş Corridor in a transversal profile with a favorable climate and fertile soils (alluvial and clay alluvium chernozems) to which is added the possibilities of irrigation in the drier periods of the year, especially for vegetable crops, places this territory in a condition of the highest agricultural potential. At present, this settlement benefits from varied geographic landscapes, with favourable natural conditions, with important natural resources that contain deposits of methane gas and useful rocks. For its economic development, the city has used and continues to use the advantages deriving from the natural setting and from the economic ties existing with the other localities.

A basic element is the human factor, which cooperates with the functional and urban development of Luduş, a polarizing centre for the western part of Mureş County.

To study the geography of the local horizon in Luduş, Mureş County, the book entitled "Physical and geographical premises in the development of Luduş" published at the Mega Publishing House in Cluj-Napoca in 2018, authored by Antoniu and Marcela Berar teachers, helped by Levente Bagy and Daniel Hădărig, the photographs, may represent a true curricular auxiliary in teaching the geography of the local horizon.