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OB PETNAJSTLETNICI USTANOVITVE INŠTITUTA ZA GEOGRAFIJO UNIVERZE V LJUBLJANI**

Petnajst let dela ni dolga doba za delavce, ki so inštitut ustanavljali leta 1961 in sodelovali pri razvijanju raziskovalnega programa od njegovega nastanka do danes. Če pa pogledamo razvojno pot in rezultate dela inštituta, lahko tisti, ki smo sodelovali pri ustanavljanju, delali na inštitutu ali kakorkoli prispevali k rezultatom inštitutskega dela, ugotovimo, da pomeni petnajstletno obdobje v razvoju inštituta tudi prispevek k napredku teorije, metodologije in organiziranosti geografskega raziskovalnega dela v Sloveniji. Inštitut je ustrezno integriral svoje delo z znanstveno raziskovalnim delom slovenske geografije ter se vključil v medrepubliško in mednarodno delitev dela na področju geografske znanosti.

Kot članu vodstva mi je težko ovrednotiti celoten razvoj in rezultate petnajstletnega inštitutskega dela. V pomoč so mi številni podatki o raziskovalnem delu in o drugih oblikah dejavnosti, ki jih je od 1961. leta spremljala tedaj ustanovljena centralna slovenska geografska dokumentacijsko-informativna služba. S podatki, ki jih hrani in sproti analizira omenjena služba, lahko vsaj do neke mere objektivno ocenimo izpolnjevanje nalog, ki jih nalaga ustanovni akt inštituta in kako smo sproti opravljali naloge, ki sicer niso bile zapisane v ustanovni listini, a so postale nujne zaradi hitrega družbenega razvoja Slovenije in Jugoslavije ter novih medregionalnih odnosov v Evropi. V ustanovni listini tedaj tudi niso mogle biti posebej zapisane nove naloge geografije v okviru celotne znanstveno-raziskovalne dejavnosti v Sloveniji, ki nam jih nalaga naša družba in ki daje poseben poudarek povezanosti znanstveno-raziskovalne dejavnosti s potrebami družbe. Tudi geografska znanost mora v konceptu raziskovalnega programa opredeliti naloge, ki lahko pripomorejo k pospeševanju družbenega razvoja, še zlasti k pospeševanju regionalnega razvoja in k varovanju človekovega okolja. V programe raziskovalnega dela so bile vključene raziskave regionalno- prostorskih učinkov hitrega družbeno-ekonomskega razvoja v procesu preobrazbe iz agrarne v industrijsko družbo v specifičnih pogojih samoupravnega socialističnega družbeno-političnega sistema.

Z angažiranjem sodelavcev, ki še danes sodelujejo z inštitutom, smo se opredelili za takšen znanstveno-raziskovalni koncept, ki zagotavlja enakome-

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** Uvodna beseda na simpoziju ob petnajstletnici Inštituta za geografijo Univerze v Ljubljani »Socialnogeografski problemi obmejnih območij Slovenije«.

ren razvoj geografije v teoretičnem, metodološkem in aplikativnem pogledu. Z delom smo uspešno kljubovali vsem ugovorom zoper takšno zasnovo dela. Čas in praksa sta potrdila, da mora biti v geografiji eno od osnovnih izhodišč povezanost z družbeno prakso. Ob raziskovalnem delu smo za timski način dela usposabljali nov raziskovalni naraščaj za potrebe raziskovalnih in pedagoško-raziskovalnih geografskih in drugih inštitucij. Upoštevanje potreb družbenega razvoja ter s tem povezano vključevanje inštitutskega dela v interdisciplinarne, medrepubliške in mednarodne raziskovalne akcije je prispevalo k razvijanju koncepta »regionalne kompleksnosti« inštitutskega raziskovalnega dela. Ob proučevanju Slovenije ali njenih posameznih delov razvija inštitut od ustanovitve teorijo in metodologijo socialnogeografskega proučevanja. S socialnim aspektom proučuje regionalne posledice družbenega razvoja, tako z vidika celotnega kompleksa družbenih procesov kot z vidika posameznih elementov človekovih dejavnosti: dela, oskrbe, izobraževanja, prostega časa itd. Socialna geografija se je uveljavila pri raziskavah problemov vse bolj socialno zdiferenciranega prostora, kot rezultata neenakih socialnih in ekonomskih učinkov industrijske tehnologije. Socialnogeografski način proučevanja je osnova regionalnemu planiranju pri ustvarjanju ravnotežja med človekom in naravo z uravnanim socialnim in gospodarskim razvojem.

Med svoja temeljna raziskovalna dela je inštitut na začetku uvrstil pravo Atlasa Slovenije. Po nekaj letih pa je pričel proučevati problematiko, ki je povezana s specifično politično geografsko lego Slovenije kot obmejne in mednarodne tranzitne regije, ki opravlja vrsto funkcij v povezovanju Jugoslavije s Srednjo, Zahodno, Severno in Jugovzhodno Evropo. Med tovrstne naloge, ki so povezane z vprašanji obmejnih industrializaciji, urbanizaciji ter deagrarizaciji podvrženih območij ob odprti meji, sodijo analize novonastalih socio-ekonomskih in prostorskih problemov slovenske manjšine v obmejnih območjih Italije, Avstrije in Madžarske ter proučevanje problemov prebivalstva italijanske in madžarske narodnosti na narodnostno mešanih območjih v SR Sloveniji. Med raziskovalne naloge socialno in politično geografske narave sodijo tudi prostorska relevantnost, medregionalna pretakanja delovne sile med Slovenijo in tujino ter vprašanja slovenskih izseljencev in območij njihove poselitve v svetu. Inštitut je dosegel prve rezultate tudi pri razvijanju teorije in metodologije geografskih proučevanj problematike človekovega okolja v specifičnih pogojih Slovenije in jih tudi posredoval družbeni praksi. Na začetku pa je z raziskavami na področju didaktike geografije.

Pogoj za izvajanje tako zasnovanega koncepta dela je v povezovanju inštituta z drugimi geografskimi in negeografskimi raziskovalnimi ustanovami v Sloveniji, Jugoslaviji in v inozemstvu. Zaradi intenzivne komunikativnosti in povezanosti Slovenije z drugimi območji Evrope, zlasti s severnojadranskim, alpskim in panonskim prostorom, smo morali za ovrednotenje delovanja zunanjih učinkov na regionalni razvoj Slovenije povezati inštitutsko delo z mednarodnimi raziskovalnimi programi. Ti programi obravnavajo problematiko sosednjih dežel, Julijske krajine in Furlanije v Italiji, Koroške in Štajerske v Avstriji ter županij Vas in Zala na Madžarskem, dežel SEV-a in Evropske gospodarske skupnosti. Metode socialnogeografskega proučevanja, ki smo jih razvijali ustrezno našim pogojem in potrebam, so se izkazale zelo uporabne pri proučevanju socialnega regionalnega razvoja Slovenije in še posebej pri opredeljevanju socioekonomskih in prostorskih značilnosti narodnostno mešanih območij s stališča položaja narodnih manjšin. Za spremljanje novih spoznanj na področju geografske teorije in metodologije v Jugoslaviji in v tujini smo ustvarili mrežo mednarodnega sodelovanja in izmenjav strokov-

nih izkušenj, in sproti dobivamo pomembne strokovne informacije še preden so dostopne v tisku.

Ker je potrebno posredovati rezultate dela družbeni praksi sorazmerno hitro in v razumljivi obliki, smo tem potrebam nenehno prilagajali tudi organizacijo naše dokumentacijsko-informativne službe.

Ob spremljanju regionalnega razvoja na celotnem slovenskem etničnem ozemlju in pri pripravi Atlasa Slovenije razvija inštitut tudi tematsko kartografijo. Z bogato zbirko tematskih kart lahko pojasnujemo tudi preprostemu človeku in učencem vseh stopenj šol zapletene procese urbanizacije in deagrizacije v Sloveniji in v zamejski Sloveniji. Zemljepisni muzej inštituta kot edina inštitucija v Sloveniji poseduje naslednje:

- gradivo, ki nazorno osvetljuje hitre in revolucionarne spremembe v pokrajinski podobi in funkciji slovenskega prostora po drugi svetovni vojni;
- serijo tematskih kart za celotno Slovenijo in za specifična območja slovenskega alpskega, kraškega, panonskega in primorskega sveta;
- serije tematskih kart, ki nam prikazujejo razvojne tendence povojne industrializacije, razvoj mreže in strukture izobraževalnih ustanov ter organizacijo oskrbe, razvoj prometa, spremembe v izrabi kmetijske zemlje in novo funkcijo prostora na splošno ter vrsto drugih prostorskih pojavov, ki spremljajo povojni regionalni razvoj Slovenije.

Zahtevno inštitutsko delo, povezano z napornim terenskim delom (anketiranje prebivalstva in kartiranje pojavov) ter z medrepubliškim in mednarodnim sodelovanjem in nenehnim kontaktiranjem z družbeno prakso, terja razvoj ustreznega raziskovalnega kadra. Povezanost inštitutskega raziskovalnega dela s prakso pogojuje tudi pretakanje kadrov med inštitutom in prakso, ki je bilo v vseh petnajstih letih zelo intenzivno.

Iz rezultatov raziskovalnega dela, opravljenega na inštitutu, je doktoriralo osem sodelavcev in dva sta dosegla naziv magistra geografskih znanosti. Dva sodelavca imata doktorsko disertacijo v zaključni fazi, pet sodelavcev pa pripravlja magisterij.

V petnajstih letih je pri inštitutskem raziskovalnem delu sodelovalo devdeset zunanjih in stalno zaposlenih sodelavcev, od tega štiriinšestdeset diplomiranih geografov. Od devetdesetih sodelavcev jih še danes sodeluje sedeminpetdeset; od teh je petdeset diplomiranih geografov, ki delajo kot učitelji geografije na pedagoško-znanstvenih ustanovah ljubljanske in mariborske Univerze ali kot sodelavci v zavodih za regionalno planiranje in za varstvo okolja. Sedem je stalno zaposlenih geografov v inštitutu in sedem v administrativnih in tehničnih službah.

V petnajstih letih se je po specializaciji v inštitutu zaposlilo v praksi 30 diplomiranih geografov, kar dokazuje intenzivno pretakanje kadrov med inštitutom in prakso. Večina teh še vedno sodeluje z inštitutom. Prav to omogoča povezanost inštitutskega raziskovalnega dela s prakso in njegovo interdisciplinarnost. Nekdanji stalni in sedanji zunanji inštitutski sodelavci so zaposleni v pedagoško-znanstvenih ustanovah ljubljanske in mariborske Univerze, v regionalno planskih in urbanističnih ustanovah Ljubljane in drugod, v Zavodu SR Slovenije za statistiko, Gospodarski zbornici SR Slovenije in Geodetskem zavodu SR Slovenije ter po srednjih šolah. Povezanost z njimi prispeva k vzgoji kadrov za širše družbene potrebe. S pomočjo zunanjih strokovnih sodelavcev se nenehno pretakajo nova inštitutska znanstveno-raziskovalna spoznanja v prakso in obratno. Ob sodelovanju z inštitutom se zunanji inštitutski sodelavci nenehno izobražujejo, kar vpliva na izboljšanje kvalitete in učinka njihovega dela v organizacijah združenega dela.

Koncept organiziranosti raziskovalne infrastrukture dokumentacijsko-informativne ter muzejske dejavnosti, povezanost inštitutskega dela na mednarodni, medrepubliški ter interdisciplinarni osnovi in z našo družbeno prakso, omogoča inštitutu poleg izvajanja raziskovalnega dela na zahtevnejših geografsko in družbeno pomembnih nalogah tudi prevzemanje širših nalog z organiziranjem strokovnih posvetovanj, zborovanj in kongresov na republiški, zvezni in mednarodni ravni. V letih 1972—1976 je bil v inštitutu sedež komisije za znanstveno raziskovalno delo Zveze geografskih društev Jugoslavije. Ta je pooblastila inštitut za posrednika in strokovnega koordinatorja pri povezovanju jugoslovanskih geografskih inštitucij s komisijo SEV-a, ki dela na raziskavah ekonomskih in neekonomskih učinkov človeka na okolje.

Inštitut je bil organizator ali soorganizator petih za afirmacijo slovenske in jugoslovanske geografije pomembnih zveznih in mednarodnih prireditev. V Mariboru je organiziral zasedanje komisije za agrarno tipologijo Mednarodne geografske unije (leta 1964), v Ljubljani zvezni geografski simpozij o urbani geografiji (leta 1970) in zvezni simpozij o turizmu z mednarodno udeležbo (leta 1975). Skupaj z geografskim inštitutom Univerze v Skopju so inštitutski sodelavci sodelovali pri organiziranju poljsko-jugoslovanskega geografskega seminarja v Ohridu (leta 1974), z istim inštitutom ter z gospodarsko-geografskim inštitutom Univerze v Münchnu pa pri skupni medinštitutski raziskovalni akciji na območju Ohridskega jezera (leta 1974).

Inštitut je bil tudi organizator mednarodnih raziskovalnih akcij komisije za izrabo zemlje pri Mednarodni geografski uniji.

Sodelavci so se udeležili številnih geografskih akcij na Poljskem in Madžarskem.

Skupaj z geografskim inštitutom madžarske Akademije znanosti je bil inštitut med pobudniki proučevanja slovenskega Porabja na Madžarskem (leta 1966).

Sodelavci so kot predstavniki Jugoslavije sodelovali pri strokovnih pripravah mednarodne konference o manjšinah, ki je bila v Trstu leta 1974. Strokovno so sodelovali tudi na simpoziju o socioekonomskih in prostorskih problemih slovenske manjšine v Italiji ter na koroških kulturnih dnevih v Celovcu.

Organizirali so pet mednarodnih mladinskih raziskovalnih taborov na narodnostno mešanem ozemlju v Prekmurju. Vrsto let strokovno vodijo študijska potovanja slovenskih maturantov iz Celovca, Trsta in Gorice po Jugoslaviji.

Inštitutu za geografijo je Geografsko društvo Slovenije že nekajkrat zaupalo strokovno in tehnično organizacijo zborovanj slovenskih geografov.

Štirje zunanji inštitutski sodelavci so posredovali rezultate dela na XXIII. svetovnem kongresu Mednarodne geografske unije v Moskvi (leta 1976).

Inštitut je organiziral naslednje medinštitutske simpozije: Z Gospodarsko-geografskim inštitutom Univerze v Münchnu (1974) in Geografskim inštitutom Univerze v Frankfurtu (1975) ter s Katedro za ekonomsko geografijo Univerze v Bratislavi (1975). Skupno z Geografskim inštitutom fakultete za jezike in literaturo v Vidmu je že nekajkrat izmenično organiziral srečanje geografov Julijske krajine in Furlanije ter Slovenije.

Pri razvijanju svojega raziskovalnega programa vzdržuje inštitut stalne stike z naslednjimi inštitucijami v tujini:

- za proučevanje Alp z Gospodarsko-geografskim inštitutom Univerze v Münchnu;
- za spremljanje razvoja v panonskem prostoru z geografskim inštitutom madžarske Akademije znanosti v Budimpešti!

- za spremljanje razvoja v severnojadranskem prostoru z Geografskim inštitutom fakultete za jezike in literaturo v Vidmu;
- za raziskave človekovega okolja z geografskima inštitutoma čehoslovaške Akademije znanosti v Pragi in Brnu;
- za agrarno-geografske raziskave in varstvo okolja z geografskim inštitutom poljske Akademije znanosti;
- za proučevanje problemov obmejnih regij ter socioekonomskih in prostorskih značilnosti manjšin pa s Slovenskim raziskovalnim inštitutom v Trstu in slovenskim Znanstvenim inštitutom v Celovcu.

Intenzivna mednarodna povezanost se kaže tudi z naraščanjem interesa tujih strokovnjakov po strokovnem izpopolnjevanju na našem inštitutu. Doslej je bilo pri nas na večmesečnem strokovnem izpopolnjevanju osem strokovnjakov iz inozemstva. V petnajstih letih je inštitut obiskalo 580 strokovnjakov iz dvaintridesetih evropskih in izvenevropskih držav ter petintrideset geografskih študentskih ekskurzij s profesorji iz nekaterih evropskih držav in ZDA. Na mednarodnih kongresih in simpozijih pa je sodelovalo z referati 35 inštitutskih sodelavcev.

Na večmesečnem strokovnem izpopolnjevanju v tujini je bilo 18 sodelavcev.

Dinamično raziskovalno delo številnih sodelavcev najrazličnejših usmeritev in bogat spored strokovno-znanstvenih prireditev v organizaciji inštituta ter sodelovanje inštitutskih sodelavcev na številnih strokovnih prireditvah doma in v tujini se najboljše izraža v bogatem publiciranju raziskovalnih izsledkov v inštitutskem revialnem tisku in v revijah geografskih inštitucij Slovenije, Jugoslavije ter inozemstva.

Inštitut je izdal 5 številk publikacije *Geographica Slovenica* ter bibliografije slovenskih geografskih del za razdobje 1960—1975. V petnajstih letih so sodelavci objavili 345 tiskanih enot na 5.388 straneh, od tega 56 prispevkov v inozemskih geografskih in negeografskih revijah, 153 pa v jugoslovanskih.

Zemljepisni muzej je priredil 182 stalnih in občasnih razstav, dokumentacijsko-informativna služba pa je posredovala 7.680 informacij.

Z organizacijskim in tehničnim izpopolnjevanjem ter z vzgojo kadrov si je inštitut izoblikoval svoje mesto med geografskimi inštitucijami Slovenije in Jugoslavije in utrdil mesto v mednarodni delitvi geografskega dela. Nadaljnje delo bo moral razvijati po začrtani poti. V svoj program bo moral vključiti tudi proučevanje dežel v razvoju ter preiti na intenzivnejše oblike raziskovalnega dela z uporabo matematičnih metod in računalnika.

Ob zaključku se toplo zahvaljujem vsem za sodelovanje, še zlasti sodelavcem iz Maribora, ki so vsa leta uspešno sodelovali kot samostojna skupina, ki si je z aktivnim delom in vloženim trudom ustvarila vse pogoje za ustanovitev samostojnega geografskega raziskovalnega centra v Mariboru.

**FIFTEEN YEARS OF THE INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA***

For the workers who were in 1952 founding the Institute and who have ever since its founding been cooperating in the developing of its research programme the fifteen years of work represent no very long period. When taking a look back at the course of development so far and at the results of the work performed, those of us that have helped in founding the Institute, worked there, or in any other contributed towards the results of its work, can state that the span of fifteen years of the Institute's activities represents also for the Slovene geography a period which has genuinely contributed towards the development of theory, methodology, and organization of geographical research-work in Slovenia. The Institute has been carrying on the tradition of the Slovene geography and purposefully integrated its work into the research of Slovene geographers and become included in the inter-republican and the international division of labour in the field of the geographical science.

Being one that has directed the Institute, I find it personally difficult to evaluate the overall development and the results of the Institute's work in the past fifteen years. In my attempt at the evaluation I can draw on the detailed information about the research work and other activities as it has been collected ever since the founding of the Institute by a specially founded documentation and information service. By means of the information stored and appropriately analysed by this service we may at least to some extent objectively assess how we have been pursuing the tasks proceeding from the Foundation Act, as well as how we have been defining the tasks of the Slovene geography not specified in the Act but subsequently emerging as topical in the context of the rapid social development of Slovenia and Yugoslavia and of the new interregional relations in Europe. At that time the Act could not contain specifications of the new tasks of geography as emerging from the framework of the entire scientific research-work pursued in Slovenia — the tasks imposed on us by our society at large, which is giving particular emphasis to the inter-relatedness of the scientific research-work and of the current needs. It is hence demanded of the geographical science to focus in the concept of the research programme on those tasks and projects which will contribute towards a more rapid social development. In this context geography must concentrate on projects which will help to speed up the regional development and to protect human environment. The research programme carried out to date comprised also studies of the regional-spatial effects resulting from the rapid socio-economic development in the process of transformation from an agrarian society into an industrial one in the specific conditions of the socio-political system of self-managing socialism.

Having secured the cooperation of a wider circle of coworkers, who still today continue to cooperate with the Institute, we have decided on pursuing a scientific research concept in which a harmonious development of geography as regards its theoretical, methodological and applicative aspects will be guaran-

* Introductory words at the symposium "Socio-geographical problems of the border regions of Slovenia", held during March 10—11, 1977, in Ljubljana, to mark the fifteenth year of the Institute of Geography at the University of Ljubljana.

teed. Our work was our reply to those who were trying to turn us away from such a working concept. The time and the practice have confirmed that in geography one of the starting principles must be the relatedness with the social practice. Along with the pursuit of the research-work we have been engaging new, younger geographers and trained the oncoming generation for team-work — for the needs of the research institutions, schools, as well as other, non-geographic institutions. Due attention paid to needs of the social development and the related integrating of the Institute's work into interdisciplinary, inter-republican, and international research activities has only contributed towards the developing of the concept of the "regional complexity" of the Institute's scientific research-work. Ever since its foundation, the Institute has along with its study of Slovenia as a whole and of its individual parts — been developing the theory and methodology of socio-geographical research. With the social aspect in mind, we seek in our studies to identify the social-regional consequences of the development — both from the standpoint of the whole complex of processes and from the standpoint of the individual elements of man's activity: work, supply, education, leisure-time, etc. Social geography is becoming increasingly important in the investigations of the problems emerging from the growing degree of differentiation inside the geographical space — a differentiation resulting from the uneven social and economic effects of the industrial technology. The socio-geographical approach in the investigations provides a basis for regional planning and in this way for creating an equilibrium between man and nature through a harmonious social and economic development of individual regions.

Already at the start the Institute had decided to include in its research tasks the preparation of a National Atlas of Slovenia; a few years later it began to study the problems related to the specific geo-political position of Slovenia as a type of an international transit region performing a series of functions in linking Yugoslavia with Central, Western, Northern and South-Eastern Europe. Among such tasks that have reference to the newly emerged questions of border regions affected by industrialization, urbanization as well as deagrarization along the open border belong the analyses of the recently emerging socio-economic and spatial problems of the Slovene minority in the border regions in Italy, Austria, and Hungary as well as the investigations of the problems felt by the Italian and Hungarian minorities on the nationally heterogeneously populated border regions of Slovenia. Problems of social and geopolitical nature that need to be geographically studied are represented also by the spatial relevance of the inter-regional fluctuation of manpower between Slovenia and other European countries as well as by the questions of the Slovene emigrants and the areas populated by them in Europe and America. The Institute has already achieved the first results in the field of the theory and methodology of the geographical study of human environment in the specific conditions of Slovenia and has made these results available to the social practice. Research in the field of the didactics of geography, however, is only in its initial phase.

The condition necessary for the pursuit of a concept of work as defined above is a cooperation between the Institute and other, geographical as well as nongeographical research institutions in Slovenia, Yugoslavia, and abroad. Because of the intensive regional communicability and relatedness of Slovenia with other regions, in particular with the North-Adriatic, the Alpine, and the Pannonian areas, it was for the purposes of evaluating the external effects as operating on the regional development of Slovenia found necessary

to establish contacts also with international research programmes. Among these belong programmes dealing with the problems of the neighbouring countries: Friuli — Venezia Giulia in Italy, Carinthia and Styria in Austria, Vas and Zala in Hungary, the COMECON countries and the Common Market countries. The methods of the sociogeographical research that have been developed in accordance with our social conditions and needs have proved particularly useful in the study of the social and regional development of Slovenia and especially in the defining of the socioeconomic and spatial characteristics of the nationally heterogeneous regions from the standpoint of the position of national minorities in the circumstances of the industrial society. To keep up with new findings in the sphere of the geographical theory and methodology in Yugoslavia and abroad, particularly in connection with the study of phenomena and processes which are characteristic of the regional development of the S. R. of Slovenia and which are an expression of external effects, we have built up a network of international cooperation and exchange of professional experiences — so that we have a ready access to all significant technical information already before it has been made available in print.

Since the results of the work have to be made available to the social practice comparatively quickly and in an understandable form, it has been necessary all the time to adapt to these needs also the organization of our documentation and information service.

In the following-up of the regional development throughout the Slovene ethnic territory and also in the preparation for the National Atlas of Slovenia the Institute has been developing also the thematic cartography. With the help of our rich collection of thematic maps we can explain to the man in the street and to pupils at any stage the complex processes of urbanization and deagrarianization in Slovenia and in regions across the border populated with Slovenes. The Geographical Museum at the Institute keeps as the only institution of its kind:

- material which clearly elucidates the rapid and revolutionary changes in the external physiognomy and function of the Slovene geographical space since the last War;
- a series of thematic maps for the whole of Slovenia as well as another series for the specific regions of the Slovene Alpine, Karst, Pannonian, and Littoral areas;
- several series of thematic maps showing the developmental tendencies of the post-war industrialization, the development of the network and structure of educational institutions and the organization of supply, the development of traffic, changes in the use of agrarian land, the new function of the geographical space on the whole and a series of other spatial phenomena accompanying the post-war regional development in Slovenia as a whole and also in its individual parts.

Since the work at the Institute is anything but easy, requiring also hard fieldwork (putting questions to inhabitants, mapping of phenomena), inter-republican and international cooperation as well as continuous contacts with the social practice, the Institute has to ensure an adequate development for its research staff to be able to physically fit for the strenuous work and truly capable of communicating with the social practice as well as with the research institutions at home and abroad. The relatedness between the Institute's research activity and the social practice entails a considerable fluctuation of the labour force: throughout the fifteen years of the Institute's work this fluctuation has been highly intensive.

Engaged in research-work at the Institute, eight of its members have so far obtained the Ph. D. degree, and another two the degree of Master of Geographical Sciences. It should also be mentioned that two Ph. D. theses are at the moment almost finished, whereas five members are working towards the Master's degree.

During the past fifteen years the number of both external and permanently employed members of the Institute participating in its research-work totals 90;66 of them being graduates in geography. Today, of those 90 members there are 57 who in one form or another continue to work for the Institute. 50 of them are graduates in geography, teaching geography at the University of Ljubljana and the University of Maribor or working at the Institute of Regional Planning or at the Institute for the Protection of Environment, whereas the remaining 7 work full-time at the Institute. At the Institute there are another 7 full-time employed administrative and technical workers.

In the course of the fifteen year period, 1962—1977, the Institute has provided specialisation for 30 graduates in geography, who have subsequently become employed elsewhere — this testifies to a comparatively intensive fluctuation of manpower between the Institute and the social practice. A large majority of younger geographers employed in practice continue to cooperate with the Institute. All this gives as one of its results the close contact between the Institute's work and the practice as well as interdisciplinary contacts. Former permanent members and currently external members work at the University of Ljubljana and the University of Maribor, in institutions responsible for regional planning and urbanization in Ljubljana and outside it, at the Institute of Statistics, at the Chamber of Economy, at the Institute of Geodesy, and at secondary schools. The contacts with sometime permanent members of the Institute but currently employed in other organization of associated labour contribute towards a better training of geographical workers for broader social needs. External professional coworkers help to bring the findings reached at the Institute at the disposal of the social practice and keep the Institute well-informed about what is needed by the social practice. Through participation in the Institute's work there coworkers are increasing their professional knowledge and this has a favourable effect on the quality and effects of their work in their organizations of associated labour.

The concept of an organized research-work infrastructure in such respects as documentation-information service and museum activity, the well-established contacts of the Institute at the republican and the inter-republican level as well as at the inter-disciplinary basis and with the social practice makes it possible for the Institute — in addition to carrying out research-work into complex socio-geographical problems — to take up bigger tasks such as organizing professional meetings, conferences and congresses at the republican, federal, and international levels. During 1972—1976 the Institute was the seat of the commission for scientific research-work at the Association of Geographical Societies of Yugoslavia. This commission had authorised the Institute to coordinate the work of the Yugoslav geographical societies and establish working contacts with the COMECON commission engaged in studying the economic and noneconomic effects exerted by man on his environment.

The Institute has been the organizer or co-organizer of five federal or international meetings significant for the affirmation of the Slovene and Yugoslav geography. At Maribor it organized a meeting of the Commission for Agrarian Typology at the International Geographical Union (1964); in Ljubljana a federal geographical symposium on urban geography (1970), as

well as a federal symposium on tourism, with international participation (1975). Together with the Institute of Geography at the University of Skopje our Institute has organized the Polish-Yugoslav geographical symposium in Ohrid (1974); and again with the same Institute and the Economic-Geographic Institute at the University of Munich a joint, inter-institute research programme for the area of Lake Ohrid (1974).

Likewise, it has organized several research programmes for the purposes of the Commission for Land Use at the International Geographical Union.

Members of the Institute have cooperated in numerous geographical investigations carried out in socialist countries, notably in Poland and Hungary. Together with the Geographical Institute at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences the Institute started with the initiative to make a study of the Raab basin, populated with Slovenes (Hungary) (1966).

Members of the Institute have participated as Yugoslav representatives at technical preparations for the international conference on minorities, held in 1974 in Trieste. Again, they actively participated at a symposium on the socio-economic and spatial problems of the Slovene minority in Italy and at the Carinthian Cultural Days in Celovec (Klagenfurt).

They have organized five international 'research camps' on the nationally mixed territory of Prekmurje; for a number of years now they have worked as professional guides on study-excursions through Yugoslavia, organized for students completing secondary school in Celovec, Trst, Gorica (Klagenfurt, Trieste, Gorizia).

The Geographical Society of Slovenia has several times entrusted the Institute with organizing, professionally and technically, meetings and consultations of Slovene geographers.

Four external members of the Institute presented the results of their own work as well as of the Institute's activity at large at the 23rd World Congress of the International Geographical Union, held in 1976 in Moscow.

The Institute has organized several inter-institute symposies: with the Economic-Geographic Institute at the University in Munich in 1974, with the Institute of Geography at the University of Frankfurt in 1975, and with the Chair of Economic Geography at the University of Bratislava in 1975 as well. In cooperation with the Geographical Institute of the Faculty of Languages and Literature in Videm (Udine) it has organized several meetings of geographers from Friuli — Venezia Giulia and from Slovenia.

Developing its overall research programme, the Institute maintains constant contacts with the following institutions abroad:

- for purposes of studying the European Alpine area — with the Economic-Geographic Institute at the University of Munich;
- for purposes of following-up the development in the Pannonian area — with the Geographical Institute at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest;
- for purposes of following-up the development in the North-Adriatic area — with the Geographical Institute at the Faculty of Languages and Literature in Videm (Udine);
- for purposes of research concerning human environment — with the Geographical Institutes at the Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences in Prague and Brno;
- for purposes of research concerning agro-geographical situations and the protection of environment — with the Institute of Geography at the Polish Academy of Sciences;

— for purposes of studying the problems of border regions and the socio-economic and spatial characteristics of minorities in the urbanized society — with the Slovene Research Institute in Trieste and with the Slovene Research Institute in Celovec (Klagenfurt).

The intensiveness of international contacts is manifested also in the growing interest of non-Yugoslav geographers for specialisation at our Institute; to date 8 experts from abroad came to our Institute for several-month long specialisation with us. In the past fifteen years as many as 580 foreign experts from 32 European and non-European countries visited the Institute, and also 35 geographical excursions, for students and their professors from some European countries and the U.S.A., came to our Institute. On the other hand, from the ranks of the members of the Institute it is 35 members who have at least on one occasion participated with a paper at international congresses and symposia.

Eighteen members have been on several-month long specialisation abroad.

The dynamics of the research work, including the participation of numerous coworkers from a variety of professional orientations, the rich programme of professional and scientific events in the organization of the Institute, as well as the cooperation of the members at numerous professional meetings abroad are clearly evident from the comparatively rich publication of research findings in the Institute's periodical press and in the periodicals published by the geographical institutions in Slovenia, in Yugoslavia, and abroad.

The Institute has so far published five numbers of **Geographica Slovenica** and the bibliographies of Slovene geographical works during the 1960—1975 period. In the period of 15 years, the members have published 345 bibliographical units, comprising 5388 printed pages. 56 of them were published in geographical and other kinds of journals abroad, 153 in Yugoslavia.

The Geographical Museum has prepared 182 permanent and occasional exhibitions, while the information and documentation service helped with information in 7.680 instances.

In the course of the past fifteen years, with the organizational and technical advances and with the training of professional workers, the Institute has won for itself a place among the geographical institutions in Slovenia and Yugoslavia; it has also become established in the international division of geographical labour. In the future, its work will have to be carried on the course espoused so far. Its overall programme of work, however, will have to include also the developing countries, while for more intensive forms of researchwork it will need the support of mathematical models and of the computer.

In the conclusion I should like to express my warm thanks to all of you for your participation — but particularly to our fellow-workers from Maribor, who have for a number of years been successfully cooperating as an independent group and have now — with active endeavours and labour invested created all the conditions for establishing an independent geographical research centre in Maribor.