

FOREWORD

Editorial board of the geographic periodical *Folia geographica* of the Prešov University in Prešov accepted with pleasure an honor of three reputable Slovak geographers, whose work is closely connected with the beginnings of landscape ecology in Slovakia, to publish the monograph that describes the chronological overview of contribution of geography to the development of landscape ecology in Slovakia in the central European context.

It is important to stress that it is a unique theoretically-metascientifically oriented study that analyses to what extent the geographic disciplines represented by Physical geography, Land use science and Metageography influenced the development of landscape ecology at its theoretical-metascientific basis in Slovakia. The selection of those three geographic disciplines respects the fact that they presented the closest interconnection between geography and landscape ecology and thus they enabled geography to adjust its holistic-spatial features of the landscape ecology most effectively as it is relatively young and cross-section scientific discipline. Another fact is that Physical geography had the closest relation to Landscape ecology via Geoecology; Land use science was connecting the Physiogeographical and Human-geographical entity of a landscape and thus it enabled to understand landscape ecology in its broader sense and understanding, including the activity of a man as an important ecological factor and whatsmore meteogeography indicated the direction of a development of a newly created metalandscape ecology.

The strengthening of the landscape ecology spatial discriminating level at a landscape level can be defined as the main result of the contribution of geography to the development of landscape ecology in Slovakia and thus it also contributed to the intersection of geographical thinking in the sense of tradition of geography in the central European space. This presents one of the most important contributions of geography for development of landscape ecology that lies at the intersection of geography and ecology as one of the key scientific disciplines that mutually solve one of the most important social-natural paradigms of a permanently sustainable development of human society and its environment. What is also valuable is that the monograph is bilingual, Slovak-English, version that enables to enlarge the number of readers from outside Slovakia; as well as extensive list of literature, sources that enables those who are interested to acquaint more deeply with this issue.

The editorial board strives to publish such studies that present certain shift at the theoretical – meta-scientific and empirical-application field of geography and its related scientific disciplines and among which this monograph belong. This will also contribute to keeping high scientific-research and didactic level of the Department of Geography and Regional Development at the Prešov University.

It is also important to state that the activities of the authors directed towards our Department have to be assessed as contributory for a dynamic development of the workplace, for the qualification growth of the staff as well as intensification in the field of publication activity. This is one of the reasons why we are pleased by the authors' initiative to publish a related study in our periodical. At the same time we are looking forward to further cooperation in the field of scientific research.

prof. RNDr. Eva Michaeli, PhD.