

FIELDWORK & MINI-RESEARCH

ORADEA

Geographers regard fieldwork as a vital instrument for understanding our world through direct experience, for gathering basic data about this world, and as a fundamental method for enacting geographical education.

Fieldwork is absolutely essential for applying everything that we learn in the classroom because until we get out and see things in real life it's very difficult to put things into scale and application. How do these theoretical concepts work in real life because there is often a disparity between theory and reality? So it enables us to think about the problems in actually applying what we are learning and we can see how the limitations of those theories can come up and maybe how we can come up with new ideas of how to tackle those problems.

The study of geographic features, such as those related to geology, water sources, plants and forms of relief, necessarily includes *field work*. We have succeeded in carrying out these workshops for a better understanding of the realities in the local area. We managed to get good results through teamwork. The outings helped us form an overview of the links between the natural elements of the Oradea geographical space.

The contact with the rocks that underlie the relief relieved the assimilation of notions learnt. We understood that the gravel and sand deposited were easy to model and did not allow for high altitudes in the Oradea area.

We worked in a team to tackle a problem of some description using the techniques that they are learning. So that is a really important skill for careers where we are applying our knowledge to solving problems; management problems, things to do with human issues. And that allows us to really practise those skills that employers are looking for.

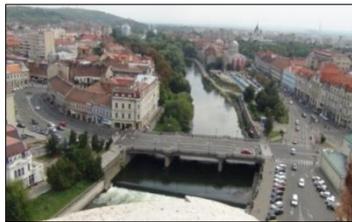
These activities encouraged us to engage with field-work critically and imaginatively, and linked fieldwork with wider academic topics.

The fieldwork helped us understand the different ecologies in the system, what different vegetations exist there, how the river moves and what organisms live inside the rivers. So it gives us a better understanding of the ecology of the environment.

ORADEA

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

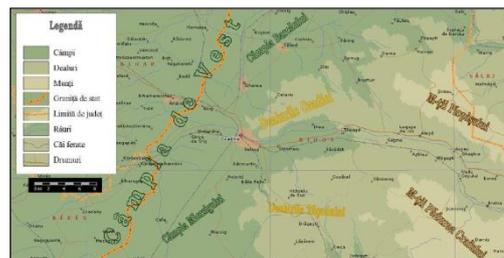
Oradea is located between the hills that harmoniously separate and unify the Crișana Plain with the piedmont looking endings of the Apuseni Mountains. Situated on the bank of the Crișul Repede River, the town is the connecting gate between the central and Western European world.



LANDFORM

The city lies at the height of 126 m above sea level, in a contact zone between the prolongation of the Apuseni Mountains and the extensive Banato-Crișana Plain. Its landform is a transitioning one, from hilly to plain. Oradea is located on the eastern side of the Western Field.

Oradea is situated on a territory that was formed through the gradually withdrawal of the Pannonian Lake forming at least four levels of terrace. After this retraction, the rivers that streamed from East



formed a wide and thick layer of alluvial deposits compounded of gravel, sand, clay and loess. The only existent bumps on the territory of Oradea are given by the terraces of the Crișul Repede River as well as the hilly landform situated in the Northern and East-Northern side of the urban location. Being elongated, the terraces follow, as direction, the flow of the Crișul Repede River. Their altitude decreases from East to West and passes progressively towards the lower plain and downstream to the municipality of Oradea. Having a fluvial feature, these are covered with loess type deposits or with deposits whose thickness decreases from East to West.



CLIMATE

The climate of the city is temperate continental with oceanic influences, being dominated the action of the winds from the West. The average multiannual temperature is 10.4°C. In July the average temperature is approximately 21°C, in January it registers an average of -1.4°C. The precipitations are relatively rich, registering an annual average of 585.4 mm. These are allocated in an uncertain way throughout the whole year.

HYDROGRAPHY



Repede River.

The Crișul Repede River crosses the city through its center creating a waterside in its zone and conferring a touristic attraction for the whole area. The thermal stream Peța crosses Oradea, as well as the streams Paris, Sălbatic, Adona – all being tributary of the Crișul

FLORA AND FAUNA

Oradea is part of the contact zone which occupies the lower rambling field and the oak forests in the high piedmont plain, as well as the piedmont eastern hills. The oak, linden, hornbeam, ash and maple species of the mixed forests are also representative.

Due to the development of the city, the primary flora of the territory of Oradea was only preserved on restricted areas, isolated from one another. The majority of changes were caused by mankind grubbing the forests that once covered high lands and the hills located in the northern part of Oradea (the reason behind the land clearing was introducing them in the agricultural circuit). The steppe meadows were maintained on the lands least likely to be used for agriculture.



The herbaceous layer of the piedmont hill region is formed by lettuces (*Mycelismuralis*), primrose (*Primula veris*), sedges (*Carex sylvatica*) etc., as well as the field region is by smooth meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*), fescue (*Festuca pseudovina*), false-brome (*Brachypodium silvaticum*), asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*) etc. In the meadow area as well as the alluvial terraces, the flora is formed by humidity-loving species. Thus, forest clumps existing here are formed by oaks (*Quercus robur*), field elm (*Ulmus foliacea*), aspen (*Populus tremula*) etc., and the bushes are composed by blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*) etc. The riverside coppices that stretch along the Crișul Repede River, on quite significant fragments, are characterized by the appearance of the

black poplar (*Populus nigra*), white willow (*Salix alba*) etc. In the Crișul Repede waterside, lands are occupied on large areas by various crops.



The thermal water-lily (*Nymphaea lotus var. thermalis*) grows on a small portion of the Peța stream, as well as in 1 Mai Spa. Representing a relic of the tertiary era, these were declared natural monument. The thermal lotus acclimatized itself also in the Băile Felix Spa lake where it was artificially planted.

The specific fauna of the steppe area compounds by rodents like: gopher, hamster; and birds like: quail, partridge, lark, pheasant. The specific fauna of the deciduous forests is the wild boar, deer, rabbit, badger, wolf, fox, wildcat, squirrel etc. These animals can be seen in the hilly zone of the city's outskirts.



POLLUTION

In the past, in Oradea, tons of ashes, resulted from coal burning, got in the atmosphere through the chimney of the plant and houses. Pollution with soot showed up every year when cold lead to burning large quantities of coal. The ash resulted from burning the coal put in danger the health of the population. Today, the coal using stations are not working anymore. They were replaced with the new gas using plants. The big factories that polluted the town in the past have closed down.



Nowadays, car traffic represents the biggest pollution element of the city.



ROCK COLLECTION

