NEW EARSEL MEMBER IN TARGOVISTE, ROMANIA

A new Remote Sensing Laboratory has been recently inaugurated at the Valahia University of Targoviste, Romania. Thus has been materialised a project created and promoted by Dr. Vasile Loghin (vloghin@valahia.ro), doctor of Geography, and sustained by our university’s management. This is one of the few RS Laboratories of Romanian universities. In spite of being newly created, it has become an EARSeL member in March 2002.

The RS laboratory was created as an interdisciplinary education and research centre, the main objectives of which include: improving the Earth and Environment Sciences in University and post-university education, by using high-technology spatial RS sensors, computers, and software in studying the Earth and drawing up the scientific papers – the practical classes in RS, GIS and Geo-Informatics take place in the new laboratory; development of interdisciplinary scientific research regarding resources, the environment and land planning in Romania – the research projects are oriented to use GIS; taking part in European and Romanian Research Programmes, national and international scientific meetings.

The RS laboratory will be equipped in two stages. In the first stage (2002), the data processing infrastructure is being set up, initially consisting of a network of six Intranet and Internet-linked computers. The laboratory has a small library with text-books and special reviews, satellite atlases, images and maps, multimedia materials (twenty-five titles of CD-ROM; slides). We also access a very rich information source, via the websites of different Spatial Agencies, RS Centres, Universities and companies providing spatial documents. Currently, two geographers, one computer operator and one informatics specialist work in the laboratory. In the second stage (2003-2004), spatial images and topographic maps for Romania (printed and electronic), will be acquired for use in our research. Then, we plan to buy advanced software programmes to extract information of interest from the satellite images and maps. The technical conditions to use GPS will be established. We will always train young specialists, therefore, our students and researchers are attending different training courses (university; master’s; doctorate; post-doctorate) from European universities and professional societies.

These achievements will be possible only by using Valahia University’s modest funds, by involving foreign funds, and by international and European fund programmes for higher education and scientific research development projects.