

Preface

In 1989 a Bilateral Agreement was signed by the Geological Institute of Hungary [Magyar Állami Földtani Intézet (MÁFI)] and the Geological Survey of Slovak Republic [Geologický ústav Dionýza Štúra (GÚD)] later Geologická služba Slovenskej republiky (GSSR) since 2000 [tátny geologický ústav Dionýza Štúra (GÚD)] concerning joint geological research of the border zone on both sides of the Danube, aiming at the joint production of pertinent maps. In 1990, the Geological Survey of Austria (Geologische Bundesanstalt, GBA) joined in as a third partner. The geophysical tasks were performed by Geocomplex a.s (Bratislava), by the ELGI (Budapest.) and by the Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics, University Vienna (Vienna) and by OMV (Vienna).

This trilateral research programme figured as one of the potential projects of the PENTAGONALE already in 1991, and in 1994 it became formally one of the projects of Section A Geology of the Earth Science Committee of the Central European Initiative (CEI).

The basic aim of the “Danube Region Environmental Geology Programme” (DANREG) was to arrange the geological and geophysical data of the border zone of the three partner countries in a unified framework, in particular of the band along the Danube where the three capitals (Vienna, Bratislava and Budapest) are situated, and to undertake their uniform interpretation. This was meant as a significant assistance to the decision makers dealing with the management of the region.

The tools of implementation were: compilation and plotting of thematic maps, application of GIS techniques, respect of different approaches, cooperation, communication, and above all patience.

Not all of the original goals have completely been attained. However, the different thematic maps of

1:100 000, 1:200 000 and 1:500 000 scales and the cross sections represent an unprecedented achievement of collaboration of the three countries concerned. As a quite special success has to be pointed out the solution of the difficult problem of the different projection, co-ordinate and GIS systems and the unified synthesis of the data that have been produced by research and exploration activities of widely different goals, extent and level (including the different techniques used) and based on different national traditions.

The result is a set of thematic maps and their explanatory notes, a fine example of cooperation in a region which is divided into three parts by state borders but is coherent from geological point of view. One of the main conclusions of the cooperation is that the setting up and the consequent use of international standards are indispensable also in the field of Earth sciences.

All thematic maps have been produced by using GIS, and their full data content has been entered into databases in both the Intergraph and ArcInfo systems. CD-ROM of the database are available upon request. The distribution of the results of the DANREG programme on the www is under consideration.

The DANREG programme and its results meet very well the major European programmes having similar aims such as IGME-5000 (the 1:5 000 000 scale International Geological Map of Europe and Adjacent Areas) and GEIXS (Geological Electronic Information Exchange System).

The basic scientific work, which was financed from national sources, was completed in 1998. Funding for the publications of the maps and their explanatory notes was kindly provided by the Federal Ministry of Science and Transport (now: Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture) of Austria. The full unification by means of

GIS, the preparation for printing, as well as the editing of the explanatory notes were performed by the Geological Institute of Hungary (MÁFI).

A worthy recognition of the cartographic achievements of the DANREG programme is that the DANREG map set won the first prize (“The finest map of the year 1999”) in the category of scientific maps and atlases at the competition organized by the National Széchényi Library of Hungary and the Lázár Deák Cartographic Foundation.

At the termination of the DANREG programme sincere thanks are due to those who initiated, managed and supported this undertaking, as well as to the participating scientists of genuine cooperative spirit. Respectful collegial commemoration is due to those who in the meantime most regrettably have left us forever.

We, the Directors hope that the results of the DANREG programme contribute to healthy and sustainable development in the region, and could be a good example for similar international joint programmes.

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ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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