

CHRONICLE

In memoriam Saša Kicošev (1960–2015)

The Hungarian community of geography was depressed by the news that Saša Kicošev, full professor of the University of Novi Sad, passed away on 29 May 2015. Born in Novi Sad on 18th of November 1960, he graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Geography Major in 1983 in Novi Sad. After that he obtained his Master's degree in 1987 at the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Belgrade. His Master thesis was titled *Socio-demographic and geographical characteristics of ethnic Slovaks in the SAP Vojvodina*, which already indicated his future research interest. After receiving his master degree, he started to teach in primary schools in the vicinity of his home town and later in Novi Sad. In 1989 he received his PhD at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Novi Sad, after defending his doctoral thesis with the title *Geographic and demographic characteristics of ethnic Romanians in SAP Vojvodina*. He started his academic career in 1989 as an assistant lecturer and later he was promoted as an assistant professor in 1991 and as a full professor in 2001 at the Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Novi Sad. He was also for a time-being lecturer at the University of Skopje and at the University of Niš.

After its foundation in 1997, he became the Head of GIS Centre at the Institute of Geography in Novi Sad. Between 2002 and 2012, he was the Head of the Department of Hotel Management, and since 2012 the Head of Human Geography Chair as part of the Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management. He mentored 118 diploma papers, 5 master theses, 6 specialist papers, 7 magister theses and 15 doctoral dissertations. He also participated in many extra-curricular activities with the students of the department and he was the organizer of several fieldtrips and practical trainings abroad.

Saša Kicošev's research interest covered many fields of human geography including spatial planning, demography, geography of population, geography of tourism, ethnic geography, political geography, regional geography, environment studies and GIS. In these fields he (co-)authored 12 books (mostly textbooks), 234 scientific papers and several other publications like ethnic maps and regional atlases. He also held more than hundred scientific presentations. In his works he focused mainly on his home region, Vojvodina; analysed its demographic, ethnic,



social and economic processes; investigated its special multiethnic characteristics. He was also interested in the geopolitical issues of the Balkans and its demographic consequences.

He was actively involved in international co-operations

mainly with colleagues from the neighbouring countries. Beyond teaching in some of these countries, he had close links to universities and academic institutions in Greece, Romania (Cluj-Napoca and Timișoara), Bulgaria (Sofia), Macedonia (Skopje), Hungary (Budapest) and Switzerland (Bern). His intense cooperation with colleagues from the Geographical Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Science and the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest resulted in joint scientific projects (TRANSMIG: Integrating (trans)national migrants in transition states, 2009–2012) and several joint papers. He became member of the editorial board of Hungarian Geographical Bulletin in 2009 and supported the cooperation and joint publication activities between Serbian and Hungarian geographers also in this capacity. In addition, he was member of the editorial board of Institute of Geography – Collection of Papers and the editorial board of Human Geographies Journal in 2013. He was also member of the Committee for Social Sciences of Matica Srpska, the executive board of Serbian Geographical Society, the European Association for Demographic Research and the Association of Balkan Statisticians.

We Hungarian geographers will always keep a good memory of Saša Kicošev, as a distinguished scholar and close friend of Hungarian colleagues.

PATRIK TÁTRAI