

The elaboration of this Dictionary benefitted from the contribution of over 40 specialist geographers from the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy, who had a vast field and laboratory experience in various domains. Beside the topographic maps on the scale of 1:100 000, documentation work involved a wide-ranging bibliography (treatises, encyclopaedias, locality sign-marks, geographical dictionaries, etc.), as well as dictionaries of historical provinces toponyms elaborated by linguists.

Unlike the other dictionaries of geography and toponymy, the present one has all the characteristic features of a Gazetteer based on the recommendation of the UN Group of Experts for the Standardization of Geographical Names.

As a result, a series of qualitative and quantitative elements are attached to the entries, such as the category which the respective name belongs to, its exact geographical position within the natural and administrative regions, the number of inhabitants (according to the latest population census), minimum, medium and maximum altitude (as the case might be), length of running waters, the surface-area of counties and of nature reserves, latitude, longitude, etc.

The Dictionary contains 40,000 terms: place names 14,000, landforms and administrative units 1,000, forest names 1,000, names of rivers and lakes 6,000, names of mountains, hills, plains, peaks, protected areas, etc. 18,000. The elaboration of this work has taken nearly 20 years.

