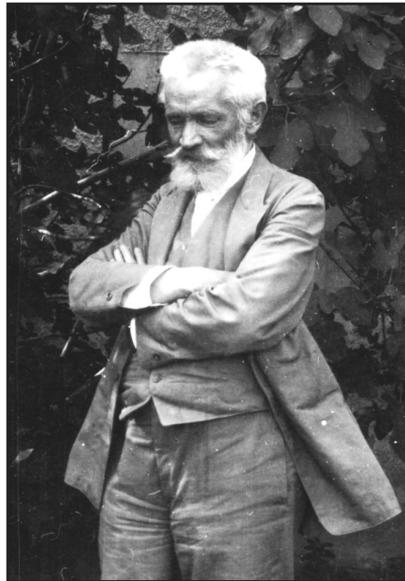


Prologue

The Alps-Adria scientific cooperation has a long history by now. No one knows whoever has launched the idea to collaborate in the field of various sciences within the region. There is one exact date – namely 2002 – when the first Alps Adria Scientific Workshop was organized in Opatija, initiated by specific committees of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Since that time the conference series have been wandering around the region like a “travelling circus”. We went as far as Dubrovnik and as high as the Gross Glockner regarding the venues of the scientific meeting. However during the past period several times we returned to the birthplace – Opatija.



Professor Jenő Cholnoky (1870-1950)

Organizers of the 16th workshop have chosen a unique subject to discuss; economic geography. What is that? What are the aim and the scope of this branch of science? Economic geography is the study of the location, distribution and spatial organization of economic activities across the world. It represents a traditional subfield of the discipline of geography. Economic geography has taken a variety of approaches to many different subject matters, including the location of industries, economies, transportation, trade, development, tourism, land use, the relationship between the environment and the economy, culture-environment interaction, and globalization.

Geography of agriculture is traditionally considered to be the branch of economic geography that investigates those parts of the Earth’s surface that are transformed by humans through primary sector activities. It thus focuses on structures of agricultural landscapes and asks for the processes that lead to these spatial patterns. While most research in this area concentrates rather on production than on consumption, a distinction can be made between nomothetic (e.g. distribution of spatial agricultural patterns and processes) and idiographic research (e.g. human-environment interaction and the shaping of agricultural landscapes). The latter approach of agricultural geography is often applied within regional geography.

The conference is dedicated to the memory of Professor Jenő Cholnoky (1870-1950). He was one of the last scientists who's work yielded axiomatic results in various fields like earth sciences, geology, hydrology, geography, ethnography, as well as published and disseminated postulates of his research in relation with society, demography and economy.

The 16th Alps Adria Scientific Workshop is intended to provide floor for scientific lectures, presentation of research results and discussion of the subjects that belong to the broader field of economic geography. The conference is clustered into three branches: natural sciences, including environment, earth sciences, soil science, hydrology and geography. Life sciences, covering the fields of agronomy, biology, land use, crop production, animal husbandry. Social sciences, including economy, health, society, demography, tourism and migration.

The conference is held in the Grand Hotel Adriatic, a really comfortable, friendly and cooperative hotel on the Adriatic and one of the most popular convention venues in Croatia. Situated in the beautiful surroundings of the Opatija Riviera this unique sea side resort will link science and leisure, touristic and intellectual interest. The historical roots of Dalmatia, the royal dignity of Abbazia, and the mutual interest of the participating scientists will result in a successful conference.

Opatija, April 2017

Márton Jolánkai