

RESEARCH PROJECT

ISPRON has submitted the following Research Project to be published in the Mediterranean Social Sciences Network Newsletter. Those interested in the project could write directly to Patrizia Manduchi, Istituto di Studi e Programmi per il Mediterraneo, Nuovo Grattacielo, Casella Postale 81, Sassari 07100, Italy. Tel: (079) 93.75.64.

Does a margin of extensibility of the idea of Europe exist?

Research Programme

The study of human peopling of the Mediterranean area and reconstruction of the history and biological structure of populations.

The biological reconstruction of populations starts from the study of diachronical variations of somatic, genetic, demographic peculiarities, analyzed in connection with the natural and anthropized environment.

Analysis of the importance of anthropical intervention on natural environments of the Mediterranean area and knowledge of the structure and dynamic of vegetable and animal cenosis.

In a first stage of the research the historical topography of Asia Minor and of the neighbouring islands will be traced to point out the stages of recent transformations and to compare them with the past. It will be possible, hence, to draw the lines of the development trend of this area.

The map of confessional, economical, regional tensions of the area allows to establish the limits of the possible integration and to single out the obstacles to dodge round of, in the correlation of different entities.

Finalization

1. Predisposition of an anthropic cognitive basis as introduction to a project



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of integrated interventions both economical-industrial and economical-ecological.

A project for the realization on Aegean coasts of a faunistic, floristical, ecological park whose protection could be entrusted to E.E.C and constitution of an inter-university association collecting several specializations (historical, geographical, biological, chemical, anthropological, economical, etc.). It will contribute to formulate an amplification project of the idea of Europe.

2. Establishment of a documentation centre and of a data-bank with a connected school for Documentarists that are able to move between bibliographical and documentary sources in the major languages.

Sintetically, the hypothesis of this research is to establish a scientific multidisciplinary laboratory characterized by countless cultural and diplomatic reflexes, that compares the Middle East pressure towards Europe, a cultural and European cultural basis in a middle and very sensible area, in equilibrium between East and West.

Biogeography Subproject

The study of human peopling in the Mediterranean area and the reconstruction of history and biological structure of populations is particularly interesting in the general context of this research project.

The paleoanthropologic, paleoecological, paleodemographic and historical-demographic aspects will be discussed.

Biological reconstruction of populations will be obtained with the study of diacronical changes of somatic, genetic, demographic, epidemiologic characteristics with respect to natural and anthropic environments.

The outcome offers applied prospects in preventive medicine and in territorial programming, that could create a social kind of utilization.

The second qualificative aspect of the project consists of "weighing" the importance of anthropic interventions on natural environments with respect to historical and present aspects as well as to the future.

Infact, only a serious and investigated study, through the alterations of vegetable and animal colonies, could avoid the heavy consequences that are already above the horizon.

This is particularly true in the Mediterranean region, exposed to intense processes of anthropic interventions from remote epoch.

It is necessary, therefore, to know not only the meaning of deforestation of a mountain, cultivation of semidry steppes or damp land reclamation under floristic and faunistic aspects, but it is also important to know the possible immediate and mediate repercussions on surrounding ecosystems and, consequently, on man.

To study these alterations we need to know structure and dynamics of vegetable and animal cenosis. Numerous scientific problems could find adequate solutions and suitable placing in this context, with applicable turnovers, regarding the utilization and preservation of natural resources.

Among these problems, the study of:

- medicinal plants of the Mediterranean area with an ancient or present utilization;
- ancient pastures and the problem of their better utilizations or reconversion;
- exploitation and degradation of the woods with regards to the fire problem;
- environmental impact to the big agricultural transformations and of hydraulic regimens;
- marginal lands and the problem of their recovery.

It is also important to study the present kind of anthropic impact, environmental pollution both modern and industrial, which is more extensive and dangerous than in the past.

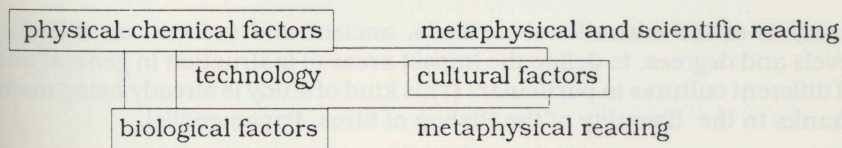
Studying this problem is fundamental for inventory and preservation of environmental resources. Among these we can include water, air and ground excluded until now from the number of natural goods, for it was thought they were unlimited.

Biology Subproject

(biological factors and human environments)

Cultural factors are of great importance in the concept of environment, when it is related to man. There are deep interactions between physical-chemical-biological environmental factors (the only prominent ones for life other than man) and cultural ones.

We can resume them, approximately, in the following flow chart:



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In this flow chart, biological factors are considered separately from physical-chemical ones because man clearly recognizes them as they are, although their reading would be finally done as for physical-chemical entities, in order to scientific knowledge.

Recently, scientific reading is highly brisk and an intense circuit among scientific reading, culture formation and technology has been established.

The study of this circuit presents the means that explain how science, culture and technology mutually influence and how they become characteristics of human environment.

Biological factors of human environment and biotechnologies particularly involve man because of the changes that they can possibly bring about to the concept of man himself and about his biological nature.

Before becoming object data, these eventualities involve consequences by the single fact that they are included in the number of possibilities.

History Subproject

In a first stage of the research the historical topography of Asia Minor and of the neighbouring islands will be traced to point out the stages of recent transformations and to compare them with the past. It will be possible, hence, to draw the lines of the development trend of this area. The map of confessional, economical, regional tensions of the area allows to establish the limits of the possible integration and to single out the obstacles to dodge round of, in the correlation of different entities.

Predisposition of an anthropic cognitive basis as introduction to a project of integrated intervention both economical-industrial and economical-ecological will be the finalization.

Methodology. Cognitive research of the available archives, beginning from the National Archives of Istanbul, progressing to the South, on the coasts and in the Aegean islands of the East Sea with a particular cure to Cyprus for its very delicate function of support in Middle East area. Gathering of available data in the Chamber of Commerce, in the port agencies of Turkish, Greek and Cypriot state bodies for a comparison with the historical dynamics.

Analysis of the educational methods, ancient and present, on different levels and degrees, to define the impact areas of instruction in general and of different cultures in particular. (This kind of study is already being made thanks to the liberality of the Bishop of Siros, Papamenolis).

Architecture Subproject

Architects, town-planners, territorial planners are interested in:

- transformations caused by man with the building and the determination to give shape and structure to town and territory;
- promoting studies and researches concerning materials, equipments, rules and development schemes pertinent to environmental formation with respect to territory, residence and green areas;
- applied technology;
- new machines and fire preventive systems in environments such as wood, bush and Mediterranean cultivations.

Psychiatry and Science of Behaviour Subproject

The connection between climatic ambient seasonal fluctuations and psychiatric suffering will be studied. Working environment will be examined with respect to its psychopathology. Epidemiology studies will complete the research.

Psychology and Sociology Subproject

Psychologists and sociologists will study the interconnections and reciprocal influences between man and environmental components besides the problems (of a conscience) of "environmental ethics".