



From the geological museum collections to teaching Earth Sciences

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Part of the Geological Institute of Romania, the National Museum of Geology (NMG) was organized like a book of geology illustrating all the main areas of the earth sciences.

The Museum hosts paleontological and mineralogical collections and includes more than 80,000 specimens of minerals, fossils and rocks. The permanent exhibitions include the planetary system, mineralogy, petrography, paleontology, stratigraphy, the Black Sea, trace fossils, etc. A large room is dedicated to fluorescent minerals from the famous mining areas in Romania. This entire geological heritage underlies children's education in geology and its adjacent branches.

In the last few years, apart from the research activity, including the study of the material from the collections, the museum hosts an intense educational activity, materialized in educational programs, projects for the schools and more others. The purpose of these programs is to attract the attention of the public, starting with the children of different age segments, on the importance of Geology on the modern culture.

Due to the great impact on this particular category of public, starting with 2007 the museum activity concerning education in Earth Sciences became one of the priorities. Therefore, in 2009 successful summer schools, like "The Time Machine", "A, B, C, Dino to The Museum", "Fold and dream" were specially addressed to kindergarten children. Also, for school children in the primary and secondary cycles, three new educational programs started: "The Earth - a planet alive" and "A story about the water" for the primary cycle, and "Control Planet" for the secondary one.

In the next year, in 2010 the educational activity has intensified. The "Hunting Fossils" was an interactive summer program addressed to a large category of children (9-14 years old) and fossils lovers, ended with a practical application in several fossils areas from Romania. In addition, apart from the primary and secondary school programs: "Terra", and "Prehistory on the meaning of the children", respectively, a new step has been made for the teenagers. The educational program called "Geological patrimony - our heritage", that aims to increase the analysis capacity in order to stimulate the scientific curiosity, and a larger project called "The night of the researchers", a scientific challenge for all the young researchers, were really successful. We expect that through this last program, which still runs, the entire educational and scientific project of NMG be valued in order to educate the public about the importance and awareness of the Earth Sciences