

Albanian Geographical Research (1912–2024): Trends, Milestones, And Novelties

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Abstract: Following the fall of the communist regime in the early 1990s, Albania began its transition to democracy and a market economy, allowing geography as a scientific discipline to break free from ideological constraints. This shift enabled researchers to explore critical topics such as migration, economic restructuring, climate change, coastal management, urban and rural development, spatial planning, land use, territorial reforms, and tourism.

This paper traces the evolution of geographical research in Albania from 1912 to 2024, focusing on recent decades marked by thematic and applied approaches. Geography in Albania has transitioned from general, descriptive studies to more comparative, analytical, and prognostic research. This shift reflects a growing capacity to interpret the complex interactions between nature, society, and economic processes at multiple scales.

There has also been a notable movement from theoretical inquiries to those with practical relevance, broadening the discipline's scope across diverse subfields. Albanian geographers have increasingly contributed to national and regional development by offering spatial insights into contemporary challenges.

By analysing over a century of Albanian geographical thought, this study highlights the expanding role of geography in informing public policy and guiding sustainable development in a globalized context.

Keywords: Geography Education, Geography Research, Publications, New Concepts, Novelties In Methodology.

1. INTRODUCTION

The study of geography in Albania has undergone significant transformations since the country's declaration of independence in 1912. This evolution reflects broader socio-political changes, particularly the transition from a centralized communist regime to a democratic society in the early 1990s. During the communist era, geographical research was heavily influenced by ideological constraints that limited the scope and depth of inquiry. The regime's focus on state-controlled narratives often overshadowed diverse geographical perspectives, resulting in a narrow understanding of the country's spatial dynamics (Kaprata & Lubonja 2022). However, the post-1990 period marked a renaissance for Albanian geography, characterized by a shift towards more thematic, applied, and interdisciplinary studies that engage with contemporary global issues such as migration, climate change, and urbanization (Toto 2023).

Geographical research in Albania has historically been shaped by its unique geopolitical context, influencing migration patterns, economic development, and environmental challenges. The country's strategic location in the Balkans has made it a focal point for various migratory flows, both historically and in recent years. Studies indicate that approximately 52 percent of the Albanian population aged 18-40 years expresses a desire to migrate, reflecting ongoing socio-economic challenges (Kaleshi 2022). This increasing interest in migration studies within the geographical community underscores the need to understand the complexities of Albanian migration, including gender dynamics and the socio-economic implications of remittances (King et al. 2009; King et al. 2013).

This paper aims to analyse trends and novelties in Albanian geographical research from 1912 to 2024, highlighting key developments in methodology, thematic focus, and the impact of international collaboration on local research practices. The analysis will begin with the early years of geographical scholarship during the National Renaissance, where foundational texts laid the groundwork for future studies. It will then explore the restrictive environment of the communist regime, which, despite its limitations, produced significant contributions to physical and human geography (King et al. 2012). Finally, the paper will examine the post-1990 period, where Albanian geographers have increasingly engaged with global research agendas, utilizing advanced methodologies and technologies to address pressing national and regional issues (Vullnetari et al. 2015).

By tracing the trajectory of geographical research in Albania, this study seeks to illuminate the dynamic interplay between geography and society, emphasizing the discipline's role in informing policy and practice in a rapidly changing world. The findings will contribute to a deeper understanding of how Albanian geographers have navigated historical challenges and opportunities, ultimately shaping the field's development in the context of both local and global discourses.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study employs a comprehensive historical and thematic analysis to investigate the trends and novelties in Albanian geographical research from 1912 to 2023. The methodology is structured to encompass various phases of geographical scholarship in Albania, focusing on the evolution of research themes, methodologies, and the socio-political context influencing these changes.

The research adopts a chronological framework, dividing the analysis into distinct periods: the early years from 1912 to 1945, the communist regime from 1945 to 1990, and the post-1990 era. This design allows for an in-depth exploration of how geographical research has evolved in response to changing political, social, and economic landscapes. Each period is examined for its unique contributions to the field of geography, highlighting key figures, publications, and institutional developments. This approach aligns with the insights of Kaasch et al., who argue for the importance of contextualizing research within broader socio-political frameworks to better understand its evolution (Kaasch et al. 2019).

Data for this study are collected from various sources, such as:

Historical Texts and Publications: A review of geographical textbooks, monographs, and articles published during each period provides insights into the prevailing themes and methodologies. Notable works include Gaspër Mikelit's "Dheshkronjë për msojtore popullore e gjytnore" and Pandi Geço's "Physical Geography of Albania".

Institutional Reports and Archives: Documentation from educational institutions, such as the University of Tirana and the Higher Pedagogical Institute, is analysed to understand the development of geography as an academic discipline and its institutional support over time. The role of institutional frameworks in shaping academic disciplines has been highlighted in various studies, including those by Vannini et al., who discuss the significance of institutional support in advancing research agendas (Vannini et al. 2010);

Conference Proceedings and Research Projects: Analysis of proceedings from national and international conferences, as well as reports from collaborative research projects, provides a contemporary context for understanding current trends and future directions in Albanian geographical research.

Data collected has then been analysed both with qualitative and quantitative methods:

Qualitative data from historical texts, interviews, and conference proceedings are subjected to thematic analysis to identify key trends, themes, and shifts in geographical research focus over the decades. This includes examining the transition from descriptive studies to more analytical and applied research.

Quantitative data, such as publication counts and research project funding, are analysed to assess the growth of geographical research in post-1990 Albania and to provide a numerical perspective on the expansion of the field and its increasing relevance in addressing contemporary issues.

The study also includes a comparative analysis of Albanian geographical research with trends observed in Western Europe and USA. Comparative methodologies in geography have been advocated by Malik, who emphasizes the need for cross-national perspectives in understanding geographical phenomena (Malik 2023) and also helps us to contextualize the developments happen in Albania within broader regional and global trends.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The evolution of geographical research in Albania from the National Renaissance (1912) to the post-communist era (1990) showcases a transformation shaped by educational initiatives, political contexts, and scholarly contributions. Early scholars like Gaspër Mikeli and Ndoc Paluca laid the groundwork with foundational geography texts. Despite ideological constraints during the communist regime (1945-1990), figures such as Pandi Geço advanced the scientific basis of geography. The First Symposium of Geographical Studies in 1985 advocated for a broader understanding of the discipline. After the fall of communism, Albanian geographical studies embraced Western scholarship and interdisciplinary approaches, focusing on socio-economic and environmental issues, thus enriching the academic landscape and contributing to national development.

III.1. The beginning of Geographical research in Albania from National Renaissance (1912) to 1945: mainly textbooks

During the National Renaissance, the very few available Albanian researchers (Sami Frashëri, Lumo Skendo or Mit'hat Frashëri, Nuçi Naçi), being aware of their responsibility to address the need for education in the mother tongue (Albanian), were mainly focused in the writing and publishing geographical textbooks and other short essays, about the World and Albania's nature, population, settlements, underground resources, economy, territorial organization, governance, etc.

From the Declaration of Independence of Albania (November 28th, 1912) to the end of the Second World War, Albanian researchers, unable to develop genuine scientific research in most fields, continued to be focused on the publishing only textbooks, especially in the field of Geography. In 1912, Gaspër Mikeli (1879-1950) published "Dheshkronjë për msojtore popullore e gjytnore" (Gjeography for people and state teachers), which is considered as "the most modern geography text of its time and which has been a good reference for future studies for the Geography of Albania". In the period 1912-1926, other geographical texts were published, such as: dheshkronjë, dheshkronjtore, dheshkrimtare, dhетregimtare, atdheshkronjë etc. (all of them meaning "writing about fatherland"). The last in this line of titles is the text "Atdheshkronje praktike" (Practical writing of fatherland), written by P. Ikonimi.

The term "geography" in Albanian textbooks was used for the first time in 1927, by an anonymous author. The same year, Ndoc Paluca published one of the best textbooks of that time, entitled "Geography for secondary schools". In the 1930s, many geographers such as: Ahmet Gashi, Veniamin Dashi, Petraq Pepo, Sabri Repishti, Gasper Jakova, Baki Sinella, Ndoc Ndria, Aqif Selfo, Emin Çamo, etc., who had studied in the Western Countries' Universities, developed national geography as a scientific discipline. They began to

publish in the daily press and in magazines, articles about the wealth and natural beauty of Albania. It stands out A. Gashi, whose research was focused on the field works and exploration of the geography of Albania's regions and provinces.

During the Second World War (1939-1945) no significant achievements were made in the geographical research of Albanian scholars, due to the difficulties caused by the War.

III.2. Geographical research in Albania during the communist regime 1945-1990: the influence of Eastern Bloc schools

After the Liberation of Albania in November 1944, a small group of Albanian geographers—most of whom had completed their studies in European universities—continued their academic contributions through research and publications. Among the most notable figures was Pandi Geço, who earned his doctorate from the Sorbonne in Paris and played a foundational role in establishing scientific geographical research in the country.

During this post-war period, the first educational and scientific institutions dedicated to geography were also established. These institutions became crucial in training the next generations of geography teachers, experts, and researchers. As Albania became part of the Communist Bloc, the country adopted the Soviet (Russian) model of education and scientific research, shaping the structure and direction of academic work.

The first university lecturers and researchers were Albanian scholars who had studied in Eastern European countries. Despite the strict ideological oversight of the time, they made significant efforts to develop geography as a scientific field. Institutions like the 4-year Higher Pedagogical Institute (1951) and the University of Tirana (1957)—which launched its History and Geography program in 1959—became central to both education and research in geography.

Given the restrictions on independent thinking, researchers focused on areas where the risk of ideological conflict was minimal. Much of the early research cantered around Physical Geography, which was seen as politically neutral. At the same time, geographical studies were expected to serve state goals and contribute to the development of Albania's economy, infrastructure, and society.

In 1963, Pandi Geço published the first university-level textbook on Physical Geography of Albania, marking a milestone in Albanian geographical literature. He was soon followed by other geographers such as M. Kaprata, V. Kristo, P. Qiriaz, N. Meçe, and others, who contributed research and dissertations focused on various physical aspects of Albania's territory. Their studies were often published in journals like *Geographical Studies (QSGJ)*, *Geographic Research (University of Pristina)*, and *Albanological Studies (University of Tirana)*. A major accomplishment was the two-volume monograph *Physical Geography of Albania*, published by the Centre of Geographical Studies (QSGJ) in 1990 and 1991.

Geço also pioneered Human Geography in Albania, contributing articles on population distribution in both urban and rural areas. In 1970, he authored the textbook *The Economic Geography of Albania*, which became a key reference for university education.

Another important contributor was Vasil Naço, who wrote extensively on economic geography and the geography of world countries. His textbooks and articles enriched Albanian geographical literature and provided valuable models for young researchers learning how to produce scientific work.

During this period, demographic research also advanced. The book *Population of Albania* (1987), written by a group of authors, was a significant contribution. Other researchers such as A. Berxholi, S. Sheme, B.

Mezini, A. Aleksi, E. Yzeiri, and others published studies and dissertations on population, economy, and spatial organization.

Geço, influenced by the French Geographical School—which emphasizes the interrelation between society and nature—made a notable attempt to regionalize Albania in his 1964 paper *Some Thoughts on the Geographical Regionalization of Albania*. Although innovative, his ideas were not well received by the political authorities, and he was later pressured to align his work more closely with the Soviet model when he published *Albania: A Physical-Economic Survey* (1961).

Later efforts to develop regional geography came from researchers like A. Berxholi, S. Sheme, E. Yzeiri, and I. Kristo, who attempted to apply economic, industrial, and agricultural regionalization frameworks. Despite these efforts, Albania never fully implemented a Western-style regional model due to political limitations.

Throughout the communist period (1945–1990), geographical studies faced several major constraints. Human geography remained underdeveloped, regional studies were undervalued, and research often failed to reflect the real socio-economic conditions of the country. Environmental issues—such as industrial pollution, deforestation, swamp drainage, and terracing—were often ignored or overlooked in state-sponsored research.

A shift began in 1985 with the First Symposium of Geographical Studies, where scholars advocated for redefining geography as a science of spatial organization, sustainable development, and resource management. This event marked a turning point in recognizing geography's practical importance and influenced how central government viewed the discipline's role in national development.

Another significant achievement from this period was the publication of the *Albanian Encyclopaedic Dictionary* by the Academy of Sciences in 1985, which presented a comprehensive summary of geographical knowledge and concepts developed between 1945 and 1985. The entries were noted for their scientific accuracy and practical relevance.

True academic freedom in geography came only after the fall of the communist regime in 1990. The establishment of democracy in Albania opened the door for researchers to study a wider range of topics, free from political and ideological constraints. Since then, Albanian geography has continued to evolve into a more open, critical, and applied scientific field.

III.3. Geographical research in Albania from 1990 to 2024: new approaches and influences

After the fall of communism in 1990, Albanian geographical studies entered a new phase of development, marked by reform and the adoption of advanced research methods. This period saw increased use of Western literature, international collaboration, and participation of Albanian researchers in global conferences and joint projects, enhancing their skills and qualifications.

These changes reshaped geography in Albania into a more dynamic and interdisciplinary science, with geographers taking active roles beyond education—contributing to national and international projects in spatial planning, land use, and resource management. Their academic approach evolved through exposure to Western schools of thought (French, German, Italian, Anglo-American), influencing both teaching and research (Laçi, 2012).

Research became more specialized and integrated across various disciplines. Albanian geographers contributed to:

- Administrative and political matters: territorial divisions, regionalization, geopolitics, and electoral mapping.
- Demographic and social studies: population trends, migration, infrastructure, social issues, marginalized groups, and cultural heritage.
- Urban and territorial planning: land use, rural/urban development, and spatial organization.
- Resource evaluation and planning: assessing and managing natural and human resources for sustainable development.
- Economic development: changes in agriculture, industry, tourism, trade, and services.
- Strategic planning: policies for economic sustainability and governance.
- Environmental issues: protection of natural areas, biodiversity, pollution, climate change, and disaster risk reduction.
- Landscape transformation: hydrological works, urbanization, infrastructure development, and environmental changes.
- Geospatial analysis: mapping and analysing spatial data for national development purposes.

III.4. Novelties in geographical scientific: research and publications

After 1990, Albanian geographers became more orientated in thematic specific research, leaving behind the time when their research was mostly general and excluding some hot topics such as environmental problems, land use and land cover management etc. Geographers have analysed the development of geographical processes in Albania, and they have offered solutions, according to the best models from developed countries in many International and National Conferences and publishing scientific articles, studies and monographs etc. The main topics and issues they dealt with were:

- soil erosion, degradation and desertification in the hilly and mountainous areas.
- biodiversity in Albania (funded by World Bank).
- the karst and karst ecosystems of Albania (funded by SOROS, 1998).
- changes in the coastline and beaches of the Republic of Albania.
- wetlands of Albania and the Mediterranean basin (funded by European Commission).
- floods, restoration of swamps and landscape changes of Western Lowlands of Albania.
- environmental issues and the need for sustainable development.
- climate change, effects and adaptation measures (funded by UNDP).
- local government in Albania (funded by French government, 2000).
- local units, regions, contrasts in regional development and administrative-territorial reorganizations in RSH.
- demographic changes and social issues in rural, suburban and urban communities.
- cooperation and development of the cross-border regions of Albania and neighbouring countries.
- unplanned spread of rural and urban residential areas.
- changes in the structure and development of the Albanian economy, as well as its branches and sub-branches during the transition.
- the effects of the development of infrastructure (roads, highways, corridors, ports, airports, water supply lines, electricity transmission lines, gas pipelines, etc.) on economic and social development, as well as on the environment.

Some of most important geographical publications after 1990 are:

- Albanian Encyclopaedic Dictionary, where geographers from all over Albania contributed with information on physical geography, demography, social issues, settlements, administrative units, regions, geographical concepts, main Albanian geographers, etc.
- Geographical Atlas of the Population of Albania, with the contribution of the Department of Geography of UT, in cooperation with prominent Albanian cartographers, historians, ethnologists etc.;
- Kosovo - a monographic study, with the contribution of geographers and researchers of related fields in the Republic of Kosovo.
- Lexicon of Kosovo Settlements, - the physical-spatial, demographic and functional characteristics, which was prepared by a team of researchers, geographers, sociologists, urban planners, economists, demographers, historians, ethnologists, planners, etc.

Many Albanian geographers have published their dissertations, the results of research projects as sole authors or co-authors. In these projects (finished or ongoing ones), they have been involved in analysing and highlighting the importance of researches for the improvement, updating and modernization of Geography programs curricula in the Albanian Universities, in order to fulfil their mission of preparing experts capable of responding to the actual and future demands and challenges, and to be competitive to the national and international labour market.

III.5. Novelties in geographic research: new methods, techniques and terminology

Albanian geographers, after year 1990, in their research papers and projects have widely used information gathered through questionnaires, surveys, fieldwork, etc., due to the lack of official statistical data and accurate information, which were destroyed during the revolts in the last years of the communist regime. An important change, evident in the last two decades (after year 2000), is the use of GIS and RS technology and applications to further elaborate and analyse geographic information (Papathimiu et.al 2022, 2024). This has increased the contribution of geographic research not only by enriching the geodatabase, supporting and facilitating graphic and cartographic presentations of geographical phenomena and processes, as well as the analysis and argumentation of facts, but it has significantly contributed to time savings and the level of results' accuracy.

In this period, there is an evident increase in academic disciplines and new research fields, as well as an enrichment in the concepts and lexicon used by Albanian geographers. In this context, by introducing Rural Geography as a new course in the curricula of Geography at university programs (1993-1994), many new terms and concepts began to be used, such as rural space, rural planning, rural regulation, rural development, rural economy, rural infrastructure, rural community, rural exodus, rural heritage, rural environment, rural landscape, etc. The same applies to the terms used for urban areas after the introduction of the new course Urban Geography.

Other courses that were introduced in this period include Geography of Tourism, which introduced terms such as urban tourism, historical and cultural tourism, religious tourism, health tourism, rural tourism, agro tourism, ecotourism, mountain tourism, adventure tourism, and patriotic tourism. Environmental Geography, as an emerging academic field of study, has enriched the university curricula with various issues and concepts, such as pollution, degradation and desertification of the environment; polluting agents (asbestos, chemicals, poisonous gases, toxic and plastic waste, etc.); urban and industrial pollution; environmental hotspots, landfills, and incinerators; damage to the ozone layer, the "greenhouse" effect, climate change; global warming; protection, preservation, and rehabilitation of the environment; environmental policy and strategy; and sustainable development.

Undoubtedly, almost all other courses offered in the Geography Departments of Albanian universities have introduced many other new concepts in the last decades, such as Ponzi schemes, financial crisis, remittances, FDI, PPP, tender, integrated economic development, and sustainable development (Economic Geography); agro-industry, agro-business, and agricultural marketing; integrated, sustainable, organic, and biological agriculture (Geography of Agriculture); coexistence, demographic aging, fourth age, and brain migration (Population Geography); Western Balkans, Presheva Valley, functional democracy, rule of law, circulation of elites, rotation of powers, decentralization, and electoral map (Political Geography); mental health, bullying, autism, Down syndrome, paraplegia, tetraplegia, COVID-19, etc. (Geography of Health); highway, corridor, bypass, overpass, and roundabout (Geography of Transport and Communication), etc.

In today's scientific geographic terminology, phrases such as "pilot study," "unit, territory or pilot area," and "pilot group, category or social class," etc., have been introduced and are being used widely. This is a novelty for Albanian geographical research. For the purpose of testing, i.e., to verify the results of the study in advance in a limited space or group, a "pilot study" was found to be a solution, which requires less time, funds, equipment, and human resources, and which can correctly guide the continuation or not of further research on the territorial unit, phenomenon, process, or social category. On the other hand, "pilot studies" are also conducted in conditions of financial, time, or human capital impossibility to carry out studies in the real spaces of the extension of the phenomenon or process. In this case, the results of the "pilot study" are considered acceptable and applicable for the entire territory, phenomenon, or process.

The successful application of contemporary methods, technologies, and concepts has helped geographers to discuss and argue new research theories, write scientific papers, and contribute to the sustainable development of the country. In fulfilment of the requirements for scientific qualifications recognized in international networks, Albanian geographers are now becoming more active and publishing in international journals highly ranked in SCOPUS, Thomson-Reuters, Web of Science, or other relevant indexing websites, as well as in other international indexed journals.

Table I. Quantitative Framework of Geographical Research in Albania

Indicators	1912-1945 (National Renaissance - WWII)	1945-1990 (Communist Regime & Soviet Influence)	1990-2024 (Post-Communist Era & Modernization)
Number of Published Textbooks	~ 10-15 (focus on general geography & textbooks)	~ 30-50 (physical geography dominant)	~ 100+ (diverse fields, digital and applied geography)
Key Research Focus (%)	50% Physical Geography 30% Economic Geography 20% Human & Political Geography	70% Physical Geography 20% Economic Geography 10% Human Geography	40% Physical Geography 30% Economic & Human Geography 30% GIS & Applied Research
University Programs (New Introductions)	None (informal learning, early educational efforts)	University of Tirana (1957), Higher Pedagogical Institute (1951)	Expanded programs in Tirana & new private institutions
Notable Publications	First Albanian geography textbook (1912)	"Physical Geography of Albania" (1963, 1990) "Economic Geography of Albania" (1970)	Regional Development Reports and studies, Environmental Impact Studies, GIS-based studies

International Collaboration Level (%)	~5% (limited to individual scholars trained in Western Europe)	~15% (mostly within Eastern Bloc)	~60% (EU-funded research, cross-border collaborations)
Number of Researchers Active in Geography	~5-10 (limited due to political instability)	~50-100 (state-supported but ideologically restricted)	200+ (expanded research areas & institutions)
Censorship Level (1-10, 10 = High)	4 (some political influence)	9 (heavy state control, ideological restrictions)	2 (mostly free, with minor political influences)
Use of Modern Tools & GIS (%)	0% (traditional cartography)	~10% (basic cartographic analysis)	~80% (GIS, remote sensing, spatial data analytics)
Publications in Scientific Journals (per decade)	~5-10 (mainly essays & textbooks)	~30-50 (state-controlled journals)	~200+ (peer-reviewed international & national journals)

(Source: Authors elaboration)

TABLE III. Albanian geography research achievements (post-1990) versus those in Europe and the USA during the same period

Category	Albania	Europe & USA
Shift in Research Focus	- Transition from general studies to thematic, applied research. - Focus on environmental issues, land use, and sustainability. - Adoption of models from developed countries.	- Already well-established in thematic research before 1990. - Focus on climate change, urbanization, GIS applications, and policy-oriented studies. - Extensive collaboration between academia, governments, and private sector.
Main Research Topics	- Soil erosion, biodiversity, climate change adaptation, coastline changes. - Urban and rural development, regional contrasts, infrastructure impact. - Tourism, economic shifts, demographic studies.	- More advanced climate modeling and impact assessments. - Urban sprawl, smart cities, migration patterns, globalization impacts. - Geopolitical studies, including EU integration, trade networks, and border studies.
Technological Advances	- Increasing use of GIS and Remote Sensing (post-2000). - Reliance on surveys due to lack of statistical data. - Limited access to high-tech research tools.	- GIS & Remote Sensing integrated before 2000. - Use of AI, machine learning, and big data in geospatial analysis. - Higher access to advanced technology and computational methods.
Academic Publications & International Reach	- Increased publications in indexed journals (SCOPUS, Web of Science). - Development of national geographical monographs and lexicons. - Research mainly applied to Albania's specific needs.	- High-impact journals, frequent international collaboration. - Multidisciplinary integration (geography + economics, social sciences, environmental studies). - Contribution to global policy discussions on climate change and

		sustainability.
Research Funding & Collaboration	- Limited funding, mostly from international donors (World Bank, UNDP, EU, etc.). - Collaboration mainly within the Balkans and some European countries.	- Substantial government and private sector funding. - Extensive collaboration between universities, research institutes, and policymakers. - Participation in large-scale global research initiatives (NASA, ESA, EU Horizon programs).
Methodological Innovations	- Introduction of GIS, remote sensing, and pilot studies. - Increased use of fieldwork and case studies due to data limitations.	- Advanced GIS, big data analytics, and AI-driven research. - Widespread use of predictive modeling, spatial econometrics, and satellite data for precision analysis.
Role in Sustainable Development	- Focus on environmental protection, land use, and regional planning. - Gradual policy influence, still developing institutional frameworks.	- Strong impact on sustainability policies, urban planning, and climate adaptation strategies. - Direct influence on national and international policymaking.

(Source: Authors elaboration)

4. CONCLUSIONS

The study proves that it has begun a new stage and focus on Albanian geographical research. However, there is always room for improvement, especially when it comes to catching up and keeping up with the geographic research tendencies in the developed countries. From this perspective, our suggestion is to increase and further deepen scientific research in the sectors which are of central and local government interest such as:

- Spatial and territorial planning is a necessity, as there are still observed many abusive, neglectful and wasteful use of the territory throughout the country with long-term impact on the environment, landscape, economy and Albanian society.
- Improvement of territory use and development control, especially related to the impact and consequences of climate change. Regarding this issue, research should focus on finding ways and means to reduce or eradicate the factors that cause global warming, adaptation measurements for population, settlements and economy etc.
- Geographers should be more active in research and projects related to environmental issues and the quality of the landscapes, which are still not sufficiently and properly brought to the attention of central and local government and related institutions. They should collaborate and increase the research also on other issues that Albania is facing in the last decades such as the abandonment of mountainous territories by the population, lack of investments in those areas, emigration of youth etc.
- The central and local governments should intensify their efforts and collaborate with experts of various fields of study (geographers as well) to provide better work conditions, health care, education, security, etc. so that the citizens of this country can live better, everywhere in Albania and not have to leave the country.

The successful development of research on these topics will be possible by increasing the active inclusion of geographers in interdisciplinary research groups and in National and International Scientific projects. With their expertise they will contribute to the updating, combining and constantly comparing information and scientific research methods for the contemporary approach to these issues and the provision of rational and sustainable solutions to the problems that Albanian society is facing.

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