

- a/ Soil Types
b/ Soil Varieties.

It is characteristic of Eastern Europe that homogeneous soils are to be found uninterrupted in broad belts; in Western Europe, however, different sorts of soil appear in smaller spots and in a great diversity. The Eastern European type of soil is to be found to the east of the Carpathian Basin in the regions of Moldavia, Bessarabia and of the Ukraine; the Western European one in Silesia, in the Bohemian and Moravian Basins, in the Hungarian Little Alföld and its surroundings, as well as in the northeastern portion of the Great Hungarian Plain.

In the Ukraine, moving from the coast of the Black Sea toward the north the light-brown and shallow steppe-soil is to be found in regular formation; then follow the black steppe-soil /chernozem/ poor in humus or containing a medium kind of humus, and the deep chernozem rich in humus, which are continued again through the degraded steppe-soil in the brown, as well as in the fallow forest soils. About the same regularity may be noticed in the formation of the soil zones in the Carpathian Basin surrounding in a circular form the Great Hungarian Plain. In this latter great basin only the light-brown dry steppe-soil is missing; however, another type, that of the highland-soil is represented here.

The soil zones of the Rumanian Plain, the North Bulgarian table land and the Bohemian Basin show the same regular formations.

Beside the climatic conditions this zonal location of the soil led to the formation of regular belts of the plant growth being formerly natural and artificial today, as well as to the development of the directions of economic interdependence. In the Ukraine the barley, wheat, rye and potato-belts are alternating with each other in congruity with the climate and soil zones. In the Russian territories the closest connection between the different types of soil is to be found in a north-south direction. The situation is the same in the Rumanian Plain and in the North Bulgarian table land, while in the Carpathian Basin the interdependence between the central portions and the bordering areas shows a circular direction.

The fallow forest soil of the northern areas is in general less fertile than that of the southern ones and that of the Great Hungarian Plain. They offer, however, more possibilities for a careful cultivation and manuring. In consequence of the cooler climate summer droughts do not cause so much trouble even in the basins of the northern areas having a precipitation of about 450-500 mm as they do

in the south or in the east.

The transparent sheet placed on the coloured map illustrates the distribution of the different types of soil. In this respect too, wide-spread homogeneous zones are characteristic of the Eastern European table, while mosaic-like formations are typical of the northwestern regions.

As regards fertility, there are great differences between the types of soil. These differences, however, are considerable even on those spots which in the map appear as homogeneous. In the Great Hungarian Plain, for example, the fertility of the loess steppe soils in the areas of Bácska and Bánát lying to the south of the River Maros exceeds by far that of the same loess soils belonging to the same belt and lying to the north of the Maros. These differences are due to diversity in relief, to the different heights of subsoil water, to the degree of thickness of the ground-level, as well as to the diversified structure of the subsoil. However, the formation and the fertility of soils are considerably influenced artificially by different methods of cultivation, by the selection of plants and the succession of their growing, as well as by increasing the intensity of soils.

The construction of detailed soil-maps has started but recently in Central Europe. This work, as well as the classification of soil has been done with different methods in the various states. Consequently the construction of general maps is a hard task.

Our maps had been drawn on the basis of those large European soil-maps which were the result of the collaboration of the agro-geologists and soil scientists of Europe. The soil-maps given in the Atlases of different countries or published as special works had been also used in the work of simplification and reduction.

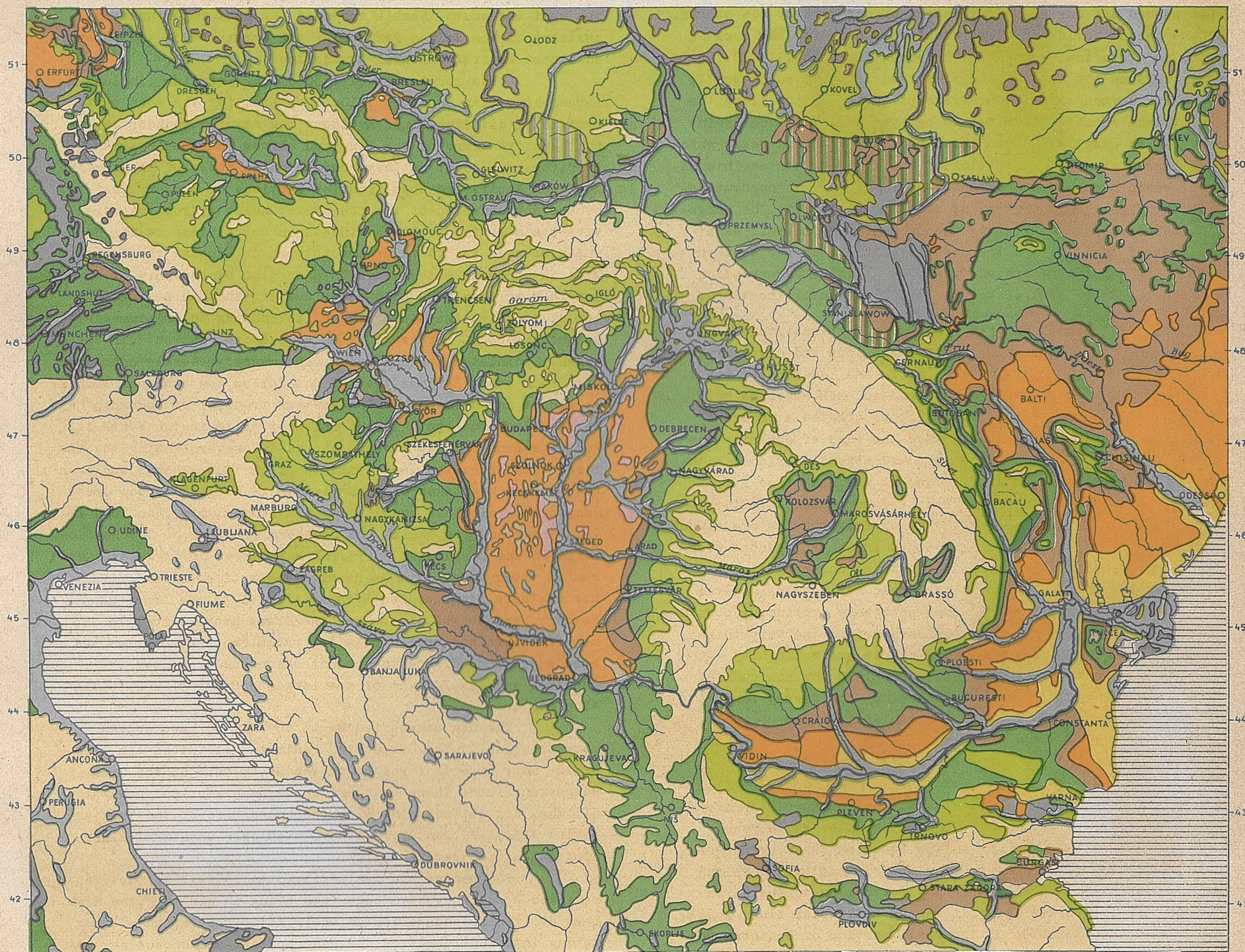
A large scale work in detailed topography had begun in Hungary at the end of the years of 1930 in connection with the scheme of irrigation of the Great Hungarian Plain. The data drawn up have been, for the most part, published in maps of scale 1:25.000, together with detailed explanatory booklets. The topographical data have been drawn up and elaborated under the control of dr. Lewis Kreibitz, Chiefgeologist.

We do not know of a detailed topographical work of such a kind in any other place of Central Europe.

TYPES OF SOIL

KÖZÉPEURÓPA TALAJTÉRKÉPE

Forrás: International Soil Map of Europe. Edited by: H. Stremme. Gea Verlag. Danzig—Berlin: 1927—1935 (1:2,500,000) (Egyszerűsítve és kibővíve.)



I. STEPPE SOILS

- Brown and chestnut coloured steppe soil
- Shallow a. deep, humus-poor chernozem
- Deep, humus-rich chernozem and degraded chernozem

II. FOREST SOILS

- Brown forest soil
- Bleached forest a. heath soil

III. WET SOILS

- Marsh a. meadow soil
- Peaty soil
- Saline soil, moist salty meadows a. salt lakes

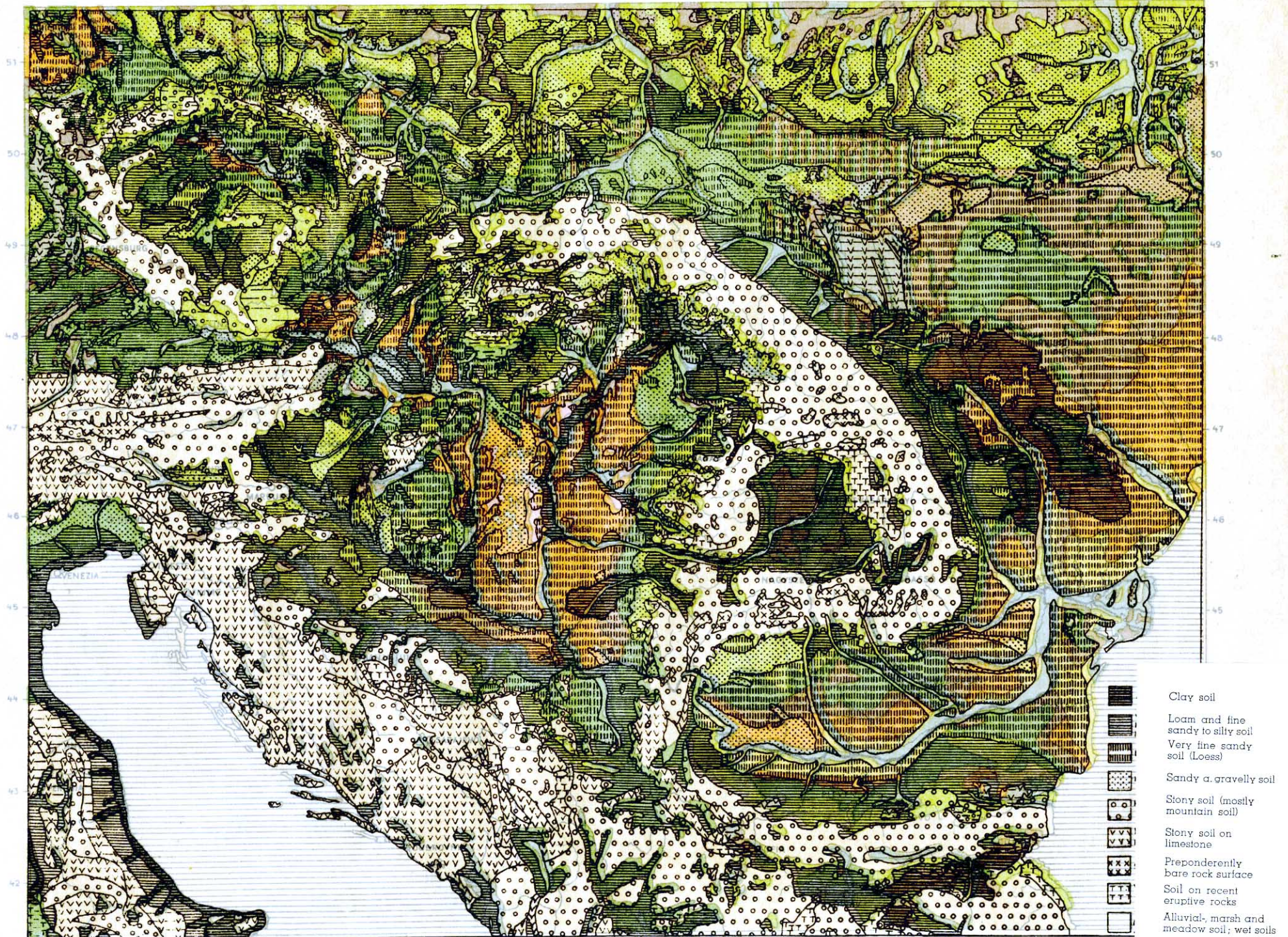
IV. ROCK SOILS a. MOUNTAIN SOILS

- Blown sand
- Soils on limestone (rendzina)
- Mountain soil

SOIL VARIETIES

KÖZÉPEURÓPA TALAJFÉLESEGEI

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