IGU Thematic Conference on

LAND USE/COVER CHANGES, BIODIVERSITY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT, LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

First Circular
(updated December 2016)

11-15 September 2017
Bucharest, Tulcea

INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION COMMISSIONS:

LAND USE/COVER CHANGE
LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BIOGEOGRAPHY AND BIODIVERSITY
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Organised by:

Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy
Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:
Prof. Yukio Himiyama (Hokkaido University of Education; President of the IGU)
Prof. RB Singh (University of Delhi; Vice-President of the IGU)
Prof. Jerzy Banski (Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences; Chair of Local and Regional Development Commission)
Prof. Matej Gabrovec (Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Chair of Land Use/Cover Change Commission)
Dr. Suraj Mal (University of Delhi; Chair of Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission)
Prof. Thomas Kraft (Maastricht University; Co-chair of the Health and the Environment Commission)
Prof. Paula Santana (Coimbra University, Co-chair of the Health and the Environment Commission)
Prof. Dan Bălțeanu (Head of the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy)
Prof. Michael Sofer (Bar Ilan University, Ramat-Gan; Honorary Member of the of Local and Regional Development Commission)
Prof. Ivan Bicik (Charles University, Prague)
Prof. Udo Schickhoff (University of Hamburg; Vice-Chair of Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission)
Prof. Benjamin Ofori Amoah (Western Michigan University; Vice-Chair of Local and Regional Development Commission)
Dr. Monica Dumitrașcu (Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy)
Prof. Liliana Dumitrache (University of Bucharest)
Dr. Ines Grigorescu (Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:
Dr. Monica Dumitrașcu
Dr. Ines Grigorescu
Prof. Liliana Dumitrache
Dr. Bianca Mitrică
Dr. Gheorghe Kucsică
Dr. Nicoleta Damian

THE CONFERENCE RATIONALE:

Connecting land use and biodiversity is essential to understand the relationships between ecosystems and socio-economic systems, ecosystem services, and the potential risks and benefits to regional specialization and human welfare. Such topic calls for investigations on how human activities and global environmental changes affect terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, human well-being and public health, what are the feedback and the potential local and regional futures. In this context, the rationale of the conference is to bring together scientists and stakeholders from various connecting fields to address different effects of ecosystems changes, to set-up mitigation and adaptation strategies and contribute with scientific information to local/regional land use, planning and environmental policies.

MAIN THEMES:

Land Use/Cover Change and Land Degradation
Impacts of Land Use/Cover Changes on Biodiversity Loss
Causes and Consequences of Land Use/Cover changes
Biodiversity Conservation and Management
Extreme Weather Events, Socio-Territorial Vulnerabilities and Impacts on Public Health
Environmental Changes and Human Health: Impacts and Inequalities
Distribution of Health Resources, Access to Health Care and Spatial Justice
Local Resources and Regional Specialization
Local and Regional Development: socio-economic disparities
Spatial Development and Territorial Cohesion
Cross-border Cooperation and Neighbourhood Policies
Governance and Policies in Planning, Land use and Biodiversity
PROPOSED SCHEDULE:
September 10th – arrival of participants
September 11th – Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session (Bucharest, Romanian Academy);
departure to Tulcea
September 12th – parallel sessions in Tulcea
September 13th – one day boat trip to the Danube Delta
September 14th – field trip to Dobrogea Region and Black Sea Coast (Tulcea – Măcin – Babadag –
Jurilovca – Constața) – Bucharest
September 15th – departure of participants

CONFERENCE VENUE & ACCOMMODATION: Bucharest, Tulcea

Accommodation – Hotel Delta, Tulcea

Tulcea is a city located in the south-eastern part of Romania, Dobrogea Region, lying at the
entrance of Danube Delta. The town dates back to the Dacian period when was known as Aegyssus.
Consequently, it was under Byzantine (5th – 7th century), Genoese (10th – 13th century) and Ottoman
rule before finally being reunited with Romania in 1878. It has a population of 73,707 inhabitants
(2011). The economic activity is tightly connected with its harbour and three distinct sectors
(industrial, commercial and ocean fishing) and touristic activities. The main touristic landmarks
include: Danube Delta Museum, historical monuments, and ethno-folkloric elements such as the
characteristic Delta settlements. Tulcea also hosts the Authority of the Danube Delta Biosphere
Reserve, as well as an important research institute – Danube Delta-National Institute for Research
and Development.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:
Submission of Abstract: February 28th, 2017
Notification of Abstracts Acceptance: April 1st, 2017
Registration: April 1st – June 1st, 2017
Conference Dates: September 11 – 15, 2017

REGISTRATION FEE (without accommodation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Delegates</th>
<th>Before May 1st, 2017</th>
<th>After May 1st, 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Developed + EU</td>
<td>Developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Countries</td>
<td>Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>300 euro</td>
<td>200 euro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD Students</td>
<td>250 euro</td>
<td>180 euro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanying persons</td>
<td>250 euro</td>
<td>180 euro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The conference fee includes: coffee breaks, lunch, gala dinner, conference proceedings, field trip to
the Danube Delta (September 13th, 2017), field trip to the Dobrogea Region (September 14th, 2017),
organized transfer from/to Bucharest.
**Post-conference excursion (15-16 September 2016) – optional** Bucharest – Sinaia – Brașov – Sibiu – Râmnicu Vâlcea – Pitești – Bucharest (overnight in Sibiu) – around 150 euro (depending on the number of participants) – the fee includes transport, accommodation and full board.

**FIELD TRIPS:**

**Danube Delta** (together with the Razim-Sinoe Lacustrine Complex) is known to be one of the largest wetlands in Europe, famous for its original landscapes, morphology, hydrography and fauna. Due to the harmonious interaction between man and wildlife, Danube Delta won the UNESCO’s Heritage Reserve status in 1990 and included on the UNESCO’s Heritage List and, in 1991, on the List of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat. More than 90% of its surface is covered by lakes, ponds and swamps with reed and club rush. Danube Delta provides nesting place or passage for over 325 bird species, some of them of European or global interest (e.g. *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, *Tadorna tadorna*, *Egretta alba*, *E. garzetta*, *Cygnus olor*). A characteristic feature of the Danube Delta is the alternation of populated areas and unpopulated areas. The settlement systems, developed in-between the Delta arms, consists of one town (Sulina), and 7 LAU, totalling 23 settlements. The economic activities are mainly related to fishing, animal breeding (sheep and cattle), navigation and tourism. The area’s tourist potential resides in its natural diversity. The Danube Delta has a multi-ethnic structure, alongside the Romanians, several nationalities live and cohabit together (e.g. Lipovan Russians, Ukrainians, Turkish-Tatar).

**Dobrogea Region** is a very attractive region which incorporates the oldest (Caledonian - Central-Dobrogea Plateau and Hercynian mountains – Mâcin Mountains) and the newest Romanian territory (Danube Delta). It shelters a combination of Pontic, steppe and well-preserved Sub-Mediterranean and Balkan forest ecosystems (Luncavița beech forest is a Tertiary relict), as well as endemic and protected species (e.g. *Vipera ammodytes*, *Testudo graeca ibera*). It hosts two major protected areas in Romania: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and Mâcin Mountains National Park. It is renowned for its varied landscapes which include Hercynian mountains, karst forms, mesophyllous – thermophilous forests, xerothermophilous bushes, agricultural areas, traditional villages and houses, cities dating back to the Greek or Byzantine periods etc. In the east, stalks the Romanian Black Sea Coast (245 km). Dobrogea has a diverse ethnic structure which includes, alongside the Romanians, Ukrainians, Lipovan Russians, Turkish, Tartar, Jewish, Greek, Armenians, Germans etc. The largest city of the region is Constanța, the fifth largest in Romania with a population of 470,961 inhabitants (2011 census). It is also the biggest port at the Black Sea and the fourth in Europe. The continuous expansion of the city over the surrounding territories favoured the development of a functional metropolitan area stretching north-south along the Black Sea coast.
**PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

**SYMPOSIUM FEE:** ...... € (price includes coffee breaks, lunch, gala dinner, conference proceedings, field trip to the Danube Delta (September 13th, 2017), field trip to the Dobrogea Region (September 14th, 2017), organized transfer from/to Bucharest).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Professional title</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postal address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>(maximum 200 words)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information for preparing the receipt /Institution, address, NIP number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-----

Account name: Institute of Geography  
Bank name: Banca Comerciala Romana, Bucuresti, Sucursala sector 2, Str. Popa Lazar 8  
Swift code: RNCB RO BU  
Account number/IBAN code: RO86RNCB0073049976740012  
Payment purpose: IGU_TC 2017 + Participant(s) name(s), conference fee

-----

**Account name:** Institute of Geography  
**Bank name:** Banca Comerciala Romana, Bucuresti, Sucursala sector 2, Str. Popa Lazar 8  
**Swift code:** RNCB RO BU  
**Account number/IBAN code:** RO86RNCB0073049976740012  
**Payment purpose:** IGU_TC 2017 + Participant(s) name(s), conference fee

-----

**Please return the pre-registration form with the abstract before **February 28th, 2017** to e-mail:**  
igu.tc.2017@geoinst.ro

-----

**For any further information or suggestion do not hesitate to contact us at**:  
igu.tc.2017@geoinst.ro