

**IGU Thematic Conference
on**

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

First Circular
(updated March 2017)

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**

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Prof. Liliana Dumitrache (University of Bucharest)

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ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

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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 & ACCOMODATION: 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, **Extended to June 20th, 2017 (for grants application)**

Notification of Abstracts Acceptance: **Extended to July 10th, 2017 (for grants application)**

Registration: April 1st – June 20th, 2017

Conference Dates: September 11 – 15, 2017

REGISTRATION FEE (without accommodation)

| Conference Delegates | Before May 1st, 2017 | | After May 1st, 2017 | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | Developed + EU Countries | Developing Countries | Developed + EU Countries | Developing Countries |
| Participants | 300 euro | 200 euro | 350 euro | 250 euro |
| PhD Students | 250 euro | 180 euro | 300 euro | 200 euro |
| Accompanying persons | 250 euro | 180 euro | 300 euro | 200 euro |

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 – Braşov – Sibiu – Râmnicu Vâlcea – Piteşti – 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 Biosphere 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 2, 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 – Măcin Mountains) and the newest Romanian territory (Danube Delta). It shelters a combination of Pontic, steppe and well-preserved Sub-Mediterranean and Balkan forest ecosystems (Luncaviţa beech forest is a Tertiary relict), as well as endemic and protected species (e.g. *Vipera ammodytes*, *Testudo graeca iberica*). It

hosts two major protected areas in Romania: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and Măcin 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, stretches 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 Constanţa, 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).

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| Abstract <i>(maximum 200 words)</i> | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Information for preparing the receipt /Institution, address, NIP number | <input type="text"/> | | |

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Payment purpose: IGU_TC 2017 + Participant(s) name(s), conference fee

Please return the registration form with the abstract before **June 20th, 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