



Geographical Research and Cross-Border Cooperation within the Lower Basin of the Danube

*The first Romanian- Bulgarian - Hungarian - Serbian
Conference*

Organised by:

*University of Craiova & West University from Timișoara
Romania*

**September, 23-26, 2010
Craiova**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the organizing committee, we are delighted to extend our personal invitation to you for joining us in Craiova, Romania for the first Romanian-Bulgarian-Hungarian-Serbian Conference referring to the Danube lower basin. The meeting is hosted by the Geography Department of the University of Craiova and West University from Timisoara.

The roots of this conference go back to the year 2000, when we organized the first international conference *Geographical environment and cross-border cooperation within the Danube lower basin*, which took place every two years in Craiova, Romania, gathering geographers and other researchers from European countries that shared their experiences, knowledge and research results about all aspects of geography.

One of our main goals was to bring together geographers and institutions from the countries within the Danube lower basin and establish a working group to promote sustainable measures for the cross border cooperation and any local phenomena. Finally, we are glad to announce that our demarche has good chances to be fulfilled.

We hope that you will be able to accept our invitation, and join us for what promises to be a most interesting meeting.

We look forward to welcoming you in Craiova, Romania.

On behalf of the Conference Management Board,

Dr. Sandu Boengiu,
Head of the Geography Department
University of Craiova

Aims

This interdisciplinary and cross-cultural meeting welcomes presentations on the geographic research and cross border cooperation within the Danube lower basin.

The event targets a broad spectrum of participants, recognising the multidisciplinary of research in geography and other related disciplines.

The conference aims to:

- present the status of scientific approaches within the Danube lower basin
- bring together scientists, academics, practitioners with a view to strengthening and promoting the cross-border cooperation
- discuss the role of geographical research in cross-border issues
- establish a working group that should meet every year to address this issue.

Conference themes

Possible directions may include, but are not restricted to, the following:

Cultural and Political Approach in Geography
Dynamics of Economic Spaces
Environmental Evolution
Geographical Education
Geography & Governance
Geography of Tourism,
Geographic Challenges
GIS and spatial analysis
Global Change & Human Mobility
Globalization & Regional and Local Responses
Hazard & Risk & Health
Land Use and Land Cover Change
Local Development

Benefits of attending

- The opportunity to present your research within a unique forum and collaborate with experts from wider regions and around the world.
- A chance to promote your research by presenting it to relevant people and organizations.
- Conference participants will be invited to submit an extended version of their paper to the Scientific Journal *Forum Geografic. Studii și cercetări de geografie și protecția mediului / Geographical Forum. Geographical studies and environment protection research* (www.forumgeografic.ro)
- Conference papers/Abstracts are peer-reviewed by members of the International Scientific Committee.
- Abstracts will be published in Abstract Book and distributed to all participants and relevant organizations.
- Abstracts will be published in electronic format, and made available to the international scientific community.
- The conference will be an opportunity for strengthening the cooperation between the institutions within the region.
- Participants will have the chance to know better the geographic realities through field trips.

Consortium

Organised by:

University of Craiova & West University from Timișoara

In collaboration with:

Geography Institute of the Romanian Academy	University of Belgrade, Serbia
<i>St. Kliment Ohridski</i> University of Sofia, Bulgaria	University of Szeged, Hungary
<i>Eötvös Loránd</i> University, Hungary	Institute of Geography <i>Jovan Cvijic</i> , Serbian
University of Novi Sad, Serbia	Academy of Art and Science
University of Pécs, Hungary	South-West University <i>Neofit Rilski</i> , Bulgaria

International Scientific Advisory Committee

Badea Lucian, Romania	Kovács Csaba, Hungary	Pap Norbert, Hungary
Bajmócy Peter, Hungary	Kovacs Janos, Hungary	Pleniceanu Vasile, Romania
Bălteanu Dan, Romania	Kovacs Zoltan, Hungary	Popa Nicolae, Romania
Boengiu Sandu, Romania	Lazar Lazic, Serbia	Radovanovic Milan, Serbia
Dragičević Slavoljub, Serbia	Loczy Denes, Hungary	Redey Maria, Hungary
Drenovski Ivan, Bulgaria	Lukovic Jelena, Serbia	Slaveikov Petar, Bulgaria
Hristova Nelly, Bulgaria	Markovic Slobodan, Serbia	Stoychev Kosyo, Bulgaria
Ianoș Gheorghe, Romania	Michailov Michail, Bulgaria	Tomescu Viorica, Romania
Ianoș Ioan, Romania	Nikolova Nina, Bulgaria	Urdea Petre, Romania

Local Organising Committee

Conference management board: Boengiu Sandu & Urdea Petre

Scientific programme Coordinators: Popescu Liliana & Torok-Oance Marcel

Scientific committee: Martin Olaru, Voiculescu Mircea, Iordache Costela, Voiculescu Sorina, Marinescu Emil, Marinescu Ioan, Vlăduț Alina

Secretary: Popescu Liliana

Field Trip coordinators: Torok-Oance Marcel, Golea Cornel, Curcan Gheorghe

Web-site coordinators: Ardelean Mircea & Licurici Mihaela

Editors for Abstract Book: Ionuș Oana & Avram Sorin

Publication: Vlăduț Alina

Secretarial Support: Ardelean Florina, Bădiță Amalia, Domășneanu Andreea, Ianăș Ana, Jucu Sebastian, Mara Cristina, Negreanu Ștefan, Onaca Alexandru, Popescu Florentina, Vâlcea Cristiana.

Contact

Conference Secretariat

Address: Str. Al.I.Cuza, nr. 13, cod 200585, Craiova, Dolj, Romania

Phone: ++40.757034340; Fax: ++40.251.418515

e-mail: popescu.liliana.ucv@gmail.com

PROGRAMME

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

Key note speakers

- Bălteanu Dan, Geography Institute of the Romanian Academy
- Dénes Lóczy, University of Pécs
- Milan Radovanovic, Institute of Geography *Jovan Cvijic*, Serbian Academy of Art and Science
- Nikolova Nina, University *Saint Kliment Ohridski*, Sofia

Preliminary agenda

The programme comprises plenary presentations, parallel sessions and poster sessions. Visits to the town of Craiova are offered on the first day of the conference.

The first Romanian-Bulgarian-Serbian-Hungarian conference isn't just about listening to geographers and other researchers from the countries in the Danube's lower basin; it's also about engaging them in new and unique ways. The format, based on an interactive sharing of thoughts between participants and speakers, will serve as a springboard for the development of a sound, cohesive cooperation policy.

Each session consists of two types of specific formats.

- **Presentations:** Each session contains 15 minute presentations for specific topical perspective.
- **Roundtable Panels:** After the presentations are concluded, the speakers involved in that session will join the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee for a free-flowing, one-hour panel discussion about the challenges and future trends for the sustainable cooperation within the lower basin of the Danube. As part of that roundtable discussion, audience members will be asked to nominate and establish the work group and its Steering Board, that should meet every year to address this issue.

Pre-Conference Thursday, 23th of September, 2010

18.00. Registration

18.30 Welcome and ice breaker party; opening remarks

Location: Craiova, Green House Hotel

Conference Day One - Focus on resources

Friday, 24th of September, 2010

8.00 a.m. Registration

9.00 a.m Opening Ceremony

10.30 a.m. Start of the lectures & sessions with coffee breaks and lunch break

6.30 p.m. **Plenary session:** *Sustainable cooperation within the lower basin of the Danube – recent progress, new challenges and future trends*

Establishment of a work group that should meet every year to address this issue.

8.00 p.m. Conference Feast

Location: Craiova, University of Craiova, main building

Conference Day Two - Focus on policy and cooperation

Saturday, 25th of September, 2010

8.00 Conference fieldtrip Craiova – Drobeta Turnu-Severin – Iron Gates – Orsova – The Danube Defile - Băile Herculane

The fieldtrip costs are not included in the conference fee!

More information about the fieldtrip will be published in the second call.

Sunday, 26th of September, 2010

8.00 Conference fieldtrip Băile Herculane (local sightseeing) – Orșova - Drobeta Turnu-Severin - Craiova

Post-conference - International Workshop for Young Geographers

27-29 September, 2010

Râncă (Muntii Parang) - Field trips and discussions for young geographers (minimum number of participants: 10)

Poster session

Each presenter will be provided with a poster panel.

We suggest you post your contact information for those who may wish to contact you to discuss your research outside of your appointment time.

Poster Development Tips

- The presentation should cover the same material as the submitted abstract.
- Place the title of your paper prominently at the top of the poster with authors' names directly beneath, highlight the authors name, e-mail address in case viewers are interesting in contacting you for more information.
- Highlight your title and subheadings with colours or coloured lines.
- Don't crowd too much information on the poster; concentrate on 2 or 3 main points.
- Minimize complete sentences and paragraphs.
- Prepare all diagrams or charts neatly and legibly in a size sufficient to be read at a distance of 2 meters. Use squares, rectangles, circles, etc. to group like ideas. Don't clutter your poster with too much text.
- A serif font (e.g. Times) is often easier for reading main text, and a non-serif font (Arial, Helvetica) is suggested for headers and figure labels.

Oral Presentation

- Prepare a 15 minute presentation to allow time for your introduction and questions from the audience – which are very important – in your 20 minute time slot.
- Arrive at your session room 20 minutes before the session begins to upload your presentation.
- Use Microsoft PowerPoint for your presentation.
- Projects and Microsoft Windows-based laptops with Microsoft Office 2007 will be provided.

REGISTRATION

Important dates

- Early bird registration deadline: May, the 1st 2010
- Abstract submission deadline: June, the 1st, 2010
- Acceptance notification: July, the 1st, 2010
- Full paper submission deadline: onsite
- Conference: 23-26th of September, 2010

Abstracts

Papers are invited on the topics outlined and others falling within the scope of the meeting. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted **until June, the 1st, 2010**. Abstracts should clearly state the purpose, results and conclusions of the work to be described in the final paper.

- **Late paper submission**

Papers may still be accepted for oral presentation shortly before the conference takes place. It may not however, always be possible to include late Papers in the Abstract Book. For further details please contact the Conference Secretariat.

- **Submit an abstract**

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail at the following e-mail address: popescu.liliana.ucv@gmail.com

Conference fees

Registration fee includes conference materials, book of abstracts, refreshments, welcoming reception and conference feast. Participation to the field trip to Băile Herculane is additional to the regular fee. Romanian attendees should use the local currency.

Regular conference fee:

- * Early bird fee: 50 euros / 200 RON
- Standard fee: 70 euros / 300 RON

Field trip: 60 euros/ 250 RON (for at least 30 persons). The field trip fee includes accommodation dinner, breakfast, transport for the round trip and a short cruise on the Danube.

**Early birds should be registered until May, the 1st, 2010*

***Onsite registration** will be available September, the 23th, 2010.*

TRAVEL AND LODGING

Recommended accommodation

Hotel	Rate single room €	Rate double room €
Hotel <i>Green House</i> ***	32	39
Plaza Hotel ***	45	75
Golden House ****	106	138

The organizing committee members are pleased to announce **specially negotiated rates for conference delegates** at the ***Green House Hotel*** on September 23-24, 2010.

Participants should fill out the Hotel Reservation Form and send it to: popescu.liliana.ucv@gmail.com by June, the 1st, 2010. A **limited number of rooms** have been reserved for the conference delegates at the *Green House Hotel*. The rooms will be released on a first-come, first-served basis. So, early registration is suggested.

About Craiova

The settlement with the name Craiova was documentary attested in 1475, on the 1st of June. In 1968 Craiova is declared municipality. The city has a population of 308.000 inhabitants and a surface of 8.141 hectares.

Historical place of the great boyars Craiovești and Buzești – *chief town of the Little Wallachia* – old settlement, with rich cultural traditions, Craiova is located on the left bank of the Jiu river, in the north-eastern part of Dolj County, at 44°2' N and 23°5' S and it is characterised by altitudes comprised between 75 and 116 meters.

The seat of Dolj County is located almost in the centre of the Oltenian region, on a depression waterpot contoured at the contact between the Getic Piedmont and the Central Oltenian Plain.

Craiova is located at the crossroads of important communication lines that connect Bucharest and Timișoara from east to the west and, respectively, the fluvial port Calafat with the Transylvanian region, from the south to the north. Craiova always represented a passing point towards the Danube region, that of the Iron Gates, the Olt Valley, the Eastern Plain and Transylvania. Taking into account the wider European framework, there is to be mentioned the city's location on the European Priority Transportation Corridor IV, being easily accessible.

During its existence, the city benefited from favourable natural conditions that enabled its continuous development.

More information about the city's rich history and culture, you can find on the specialized page of Craiova City Hall (<http://www.primariacraiova.ro/pcv/servlet/portal?action=Welcome&lang=en>)

For more information about the transportation towards Craiova or within the city, please consult the following addresses:

- Romanian railways, Timetable of the passenger trains:
http://www.mersultrenurilorcfr.ro/default_engleza.asp?lng=2
- Craiova International Airport:
<http://www.aeroportcraiova.ro/index.php?lang=en>
- Craiova Autonomous Transportation Direction:
<http://www.rat-craiova.ro/>
- Craiova City map:
<http://www.primariacraiova.ro/pcv/servlet/portal?action=ContentAction&actEvent=showRubric&id=craiova-city-map>

