



NOVEMBER 17 - 18, 2018, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE FACULTY OF GEOGRAPHY
“GEOGRAPHY IN THE ROMANIAN CENTENARY”
DEDICATED TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF SIMION MEHEDIȚI**

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The Annual Conference of the Geography Faculty, planned by the Meteorology-Hydrology Department, was held on 17-18 November 2018. This year's main themes were Romanian geography in the Centenary Year and the celebration of 150 years since the birth of Simion Mehedinți.

During the conference kick-off, attended by the prorector of the University of Bucharest, Professor Laurențiu Vlad, PhD, Simion Mehedinți's polyvalent personality and his interest in various scientific fields (geography, history, ethnography, pedagogy, philosophy, etc.) were highlighted. Having studied at Titu Maiorescu's school, Simion Mehedinți set out on a journey of professional growth that materialized in a vast cultural activity as an educator of the masses and especially of the youth, through his thought-provoking writings and numerous conferences held before Romanian students at universities countrywide; he was also one of the most valuable school textbook authors of his time.

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The scientific event also featured a series of presentations, held during both plenary and thematic sessions, on his scientific work (*Romanian geography before and after 1918. Documents and events, Simion Mehedinți – founder of the higher geographic education at the University of Bucharest*), which were received by the attending geography community with high interest and excitement. The conference also highlighted the geography education tradition of the University of Bucharest, which goes back over a century and is sourced in an enduring effort to better understand the Romanian and European territories.

The thematic conference sessions were centred around the following topics:

Monitoring the weather and climate to reduce their impacts and effects.

Efforts are being made to understand whether the intensity and frequency of potential future extreme weather and climate events could be expected to change as result of a changing climate. These events will continue to determine important environmental changes and to pose additional challenges to current and future populations.

Water – Society – Environment. Water is a vital element for the living world and an essential factor of socio-economic development. It is also a risk factor, as hydrological hazards are generating important human, economic and environmental losses. The growing pressure of the human society on water resources may lead to quantitative and/or qualitative conflicts that can affect the overall water-society relationship, and to competition between users/actors, at various spatial scales (local, regional or international).

Applied geomorphology – analysis of geomorphic and soil systems as a synergic interface of natural processes, against the background of extreme events and the need for environmental protection and sustainable development; the role of applied geomorphology in spatial planning issues and GIS solutions; geomorphic hazard and risk modeling; geomorphosite conservation and geopark development; present-day morpho-dynamics and relations with soil degradation.

GIS, remote sensing and geotechnology – the main fields of geomatics development and research. The discussion platform is open for all specialists that integrate these technologies in their research in order to find solutions for an adequate analysis of geographic phenomena and for the management of environmental and social issues.

Environmental Challenges and the Human Dimension. Understanding environmental challenges and the human dimension means to integrate all actors in an interdisciplinary academic field for finding common solutions to environmental problems. We invite researchers from the fields of Environment, Biodiversity & Landscape Diversity and Social Sciences.

Recent Dynamics and Challenges of Territorial, Economic and Social Processes The rhythm of human life and activities, focused on development, progress, modernization and globalization, with significant effects on land use and urbanization, is leading to rapidly changing environmental conditions in terms of territorial challenges and dynamics, and spatial progress. These changing conditions engender new societal challenges and opportunities.

Teaching Geography, between tradition and modernity. Geography is one of the most important means of promoting individual education, which substantially contributes to environmental and sustainable development education. Research and teaching have always been tightly linked together. Geography entails the study of a wide range of specific human and spatial aspects, both theoretically and experimentally.

Research challenges in a changing world – PhD Students Scientific Session. This session aims to grant PhD students the opportunity to present their work, before an audience of doctoral students, where they can discuss their current research ideas and methodologies.

The 142 presentations tackled climate change, landscape transformation, geomorphic, demographic and social processes, as well as geography education trends. The presentations were held by specialists from national (Bucharest, Iași, Cluj Napoca, Arad, Brașov, Ploiești, Constanța, Târgoviște) and international university centres (Kosice, Freiburg, Marseille, Constantine, Belgrade, Grenoble, Budapest, Barcelona).

Additionally, a high number of PhD students of the “Simion Mehedinți” Doctoral School registered at this year’s edition, which shows the interest of the young generation in geography, in their academic training and in how geoscience is perceived by the geography community.

