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**PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM
OF THE FACULTY OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY,
ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA UNIVERSITY OF IAȘI
“Present Environment and Sustainable Development”
XVIth edition**

18 June 2021 – ONLINE



In 2021, the 16th Edition of the Annual International Symposium “Present Environment and Sustainable Development” was held online, being organized by the Department of Geography, Faculty of Geography and Geology “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași in collaboration with CERNESIM, L4 – Laboratory of Geomatics from the same university.

The topics that were included in the program cover a very large range in Environmental Science and Geography: Sustainable Development, Atmospheric Environment and Climate Change, Environmental Geography and Urban Planning, Water Pollution and Waste Management, Soil Pollution and Systemic Impact of Land Use Change, Biodiversity Loss and Conservation Strategies, G.I.S and Remote Sensing in Environmental Studies, Natural and Anthropogenic Environmental Risks, Monitoring and Protected Areas, Environment Protection Laws and Policies, Sustainable Production and Consumption and Education for Environment Protection.

The participants represented various university centers from Romania such as Iasi, Suceava, Oradea, Galați, Bacău, Cluj and Bucharest. One can notice also the highest number and share of foreign

participants 36 (33%) in the last six years (Figure 1). Most of these participants were from Chişinău – Moldova Republic (22), but there were also guests from Nice (France), Shimotsuke City-Tochigi (Japan), Constantine (Algeria), Heerlen (The Netherlands), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Chernivtsi (Ukraine). Besides universities, other research or administrative institutions were represented by numerous contributors: Geography Institute of Romanian Academy, National Administration of Meteorology, Center for Study and Research for Agro-Forestry Biodiversity, One Health Association Romania, Regional Meteorological Center Oltenia, Craiova, Institute of Ecology and Geography, Republic of Moldova, National Institute for Research and Development of Isotopic and Molecular Technologies, Cluj-Napoca, Romania etc.

The total number of participants was 106, slightly higher than the previous year but around 50% under the average number before the COVID-19 crisis. 87% of the total number of papers that applied and were registered have been presented at this scientific event.

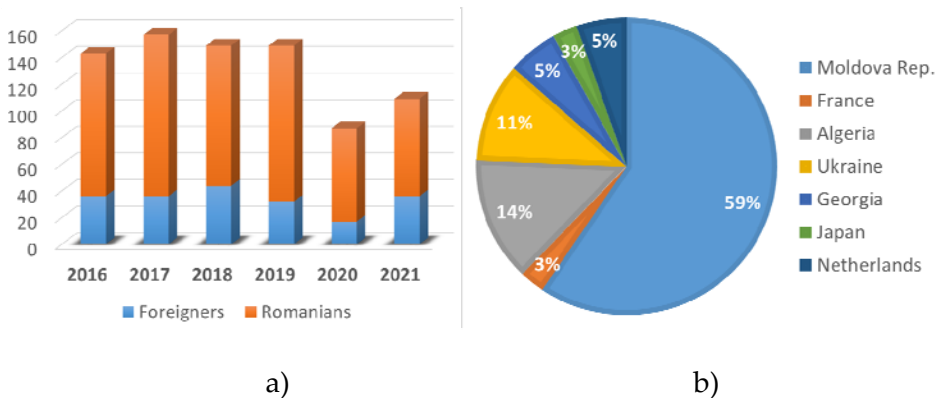


Figure 1. a) The number of participants in PESD Conference in the last six years; b) Papers presented by foreign participants (2021)

The scientific manifestation had the official opening at 9.20 am, while at 11:10 the plenary presentations addressed three hot topics of environmental science: urban ecology (Cristian Iojă), the impact of precipitation extreme changes (A.E. Croitoru) and water systems for urban and rural settlements in the Moldova Republic (Petru Bacal).

At 12.00, all regular sessions started, in parallel, and they all included a very diverse and highly interesting range of presentations.

	Title	Chairmen	Number of presentations	Number of posters
Session 1	Atmospheric Environment and Climate Change	N. Ionac, D. Mihăilă, L. Sfică	15	3
Session 2	Water resource management & Water pollution	I. G. Breabăn, I. Minea, M. Iosub	7	5
Session 3	Soil Quality	L. Niacșu, Gh. Jigău	8	2
Session 4	Natural and Anthropogenic Environmental Risks	M. Luca, A. Enea	13	3
Session 5	Environmental Geography and Energy Transition	C. Iojă, A. Ursu	12	3
Session 6	Nature Conservation and Ecotourism	P. Ichim, V. Jitariu	14	5
Session 7a	G.I.S and Remote Sensing in Environmental Studies	Gh. Durac, L. Roșu, V. Paraschiv	7	1
Session 7b	Environment Protection Laws		6	3
Session 7c	Environment education		3	0

Starting from 2 pm, in addition to the regular sessions, a workshop was held aiming to address specific issues, but also to propose conceptual and technical solutions for the finalization of *"The European Atlas of Resilience"*. The workshop, chaired by Alexandru Bănică, was an opportunity to discuss the spatial premises of resilience in European Union, by assessing the preliminary draft results of atlas, one of the future outcomes of ReGrowEU project (Advancing ground-breaking

research in regional growth and development theories, through a resilience approach: towards a convergent, balanced and sustainable European Union) financed by the Ministry of Research and Innovation of Romania.

Abstracts of all the papers from the conference were published in a Book of Abstracts available on the official conference website (http://www.pesd.ro/Symposium%20site/2021/Book-of-abstracts-PESD_2021.pdf). Full papers can be published in the Present Environment and Sustainable Development, a multi-disciplinary, open access and peer reviewed journal (<http://www.pesd.ro/index.html>).

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