

EUROPEAN GEOSCIENCES UNION – GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2014
APRIL 27 – MAY 2, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) is the greatest geosciences union of Europe (over 12,500 members), the initiatives of which aim at strengthening the geoscience community by promoting the cooperation between scientists and advancing scientific research of excellence in geosciences, planetary and space sciences.

In 2014, the EGU was organized under the theme *The Face of the Earth – Processes and Forms*, intending to celebrate the diversity of geoscience processes and the great variety of associated forms at all scales and from the core of the Earth to interplanetary space. This diversity aimed to be reflected in the 2014 EGU meeting through special lectures and exhibition events i.e. a Union Symposium; keynote lectures and related exhibitions on five subtopics under the core theme of the Conference – *Rocks of the Earth, Waters of the Earth, Life of the Earth, Atmosphere of the Earth and Space and the Earth*.

The EGU General Assembly was attended by 12,437 scientists from 106 countries (93 researchers from Romania). The Conference program was organized in 568 scientific sessions, 9,583 Poster Summaries & Discussions, as well as 245 side-events. This EGU edition numbered 4,829 oral presentations, 9,583 posters and 483 PICO (Presenting Interactive Content) presentations, which addressed a wide range of topics grouped into 25 core Scientific Divisions (e.g. Atmospheric Sciences; Cryospheric Sciences; Energy, Resources and Environment; Geomorphology, Hydrological Sciences, Seismology, Natural Hazards).

The Conference hosted two great debates (*Metals in our backyard: to mine or not to mine; Geoengineering the climate: the way forward?*), 32 Medal Lectures, 13 Townhall Meetings, 96 Splinter Meetings (51 public and 45 based on invitation only), 24 short course sessions, most of them dedicated to young scientists (e.g. *Meet the expert in hydrology – how young scientists could contribute to hydrology in a changing world; Enhancing your career prospects – marketing yourself in job applications and interviews; Forecasting natural hazards: methods, limits and perspectives*) and 85 exhibitors (e.g. prestigious publishing houses, developers and manufacturers of instrumentation and measurement equipments for environmental, geotechnical, geochemistry research and applications, the European Space Agency, ESRI, international scientific societies). A number of 200 photos have been submitted to participate to the EGU Photo contest. A video competition on science communication dedicated to young scientists was also organized during the EGU.

The scientific results of participants in the EGU Conference are encouraged to be published in 16 open-access peer-reviewed journals of the EGU (e.g. Earth Surface Dynamics, The Cryosphere, Climate of the Past, Biogeosciences, Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences, Hydrology and Earth System Sciences). The impact factor of the EGU journals ranges between 1.37 and 5.51.

The Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy was represented by four researchers who gave presentations at four scientific sessions of the EGU Conference, namely: Natural Hazards – *A regional scale landslide vulnerability assessment using a First Order Second Moment approach* (Ciurean R., **Zumpano V., Micu M.**, Glade T.), *Using Formative Scenario Analysis approach for landslide risk analysis in a relatively scarce data environment: preliminary results* (**Zumpano V.**, Bălteanu D., Mazzorana B., **Micu M.**), *Typologically-differentiated landslide susceptibility assessment for Romania* (**Micu M.**, Malet J.-P., Bălteanu D., Margarint C., Niculita M., **Jurchescu M.**, Chitu Z., Sandric I., Simota C., Mathieu A.), *Multi-Model R-Tool for uncertainty assessment in landslides susceptibility analysis* (Sandric I., Chitu Z., **Jurchescu M., Micu M.**), *Landslide hazard scenario assessment at a large spatio-temporal scale: the case of a municipality in the Getic Subcarpathians, Romania* (**Jurchescu M.**, Dragotă C., Borcan M.); Climate: Past, present, future – *Climate services for adapting landslide hazard prevention measures in the Vrancea Seismic Region* (**Micu D., Bălteanu D., Jurchescu M., Sima M., Micu M.**); Soil system sciences – *Analysing connectivity through landslide-channel geomorphic coupling in a large drainage system of Southern Romania* (**Jurchescu M.**); Hydrological science – *Changes in annual temperature and precipitation extremes in the Carpathians since AD 1961* (Dumitrescu A., Birsan M.-V., **Micu D.**, Cheval S.).

Dana Micu

THE 8th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS
HALTING BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS: FROM UNDERSTANDING
TO ACTIONS (NEOBIOTA 2014)
NOVEMBER 3–8, 2014, ANTALYA, TURKEY

The NEOBIOTA 2014 Conference, one of the core events of the scientific community involved in biodiversity conservation and biological invasions, was held in Antalya, Turkey between 3rd and 8th November 2014 having as main theme “*Halting Biological Invasions: from Understanding to Actions*”.

The scientific event was organised by the Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Turkey in collaboration with several scientific bodies, government entities and specialist groups such as: Ministry of Agriculture (Turkey), Mustafa Kemal University (Turkey), Düzce University (Turkey), ESENIAS, IUCN-ISSG etc.

This prestigious event was attended by over 270 participants from 43 countries which communicated their scientific results through presentations and posters in the framework of several Scientific Sessions on: *Drivers and Pathways of Invasions; Impacts of Biological Invasions; Prevention and Early Detection of Biological Invasions; Mitigation and Control of Biological Invasions; Biological Invasions Under Climate Change, Public Perceptions and Communication of Invasion Risks* etc.

On behalf of the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy two scientific papers were presented: “*Predicting the potential distribution of *Amorpha fruticosa* invasive plant species in the Mureş Floodplain Natural Park using bivariate analysis*” (Gheorghe Kucsicsa, Ines Grigorescu, Monica Dumitraşcu) and “*Invasive terrestrial plant species and climate – related variables in the Romanian protected areas. Selected case-studies*” (Monica Dumitraşcu, Carmen Dragotă, Ines Grigorescu, Mihai Doroftei, Gheorghe Kucsicsa, Marian Mierlă, Mihaela Năstase).

NEOBIOTA 2014 Conference had as main aim to provide an international high-level forum able to straighten the cooperation between the scientific community, conservationists, stakeholders and policy and decision makers in order to foster an efficient management of invasive alien species.

The next NEOBIOTA Conference will be held in Vianden, Luxemburg during 14th–16th September 2016.

Ines Grigorescu

THE 5th HALLE FORUM ON URBAN ECONOMIC GROWTH
HALLE (SAALE), GERMANY
DECEMBER 11–12, 2014

The *Halle Forum on Urban Economic Growth* was held in Halle (Saale), Germany on December 11–13, 2014. The event was organized by the Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH) in cooperation with the German Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL) with a special focus on Metropolitan Regions: *Is the Institutional Formation of Metropolitan Regions a Formula for Economic Success?*

This scientific event was attended by over 20 participants from 8 countries (Germany, Canada, Romania, Austria, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden) which communicated their scientific outcomes on topics related to: *cities and creative quarters as seedbeds for innovation; European and national policies for urban development; measurement of urban development; the impact of formal and informal institutions on the development of cities and metropolitan regions; the role of metropolitan regions as nodes in the network of global cities; the relationship between cities and polycentric metropolitan regions* etc.

In the evening of December 11, a special Policy Session was held at the Halle Chamber of Commerce with a special focus on *The Economic Benefits of Metropolitan Regions – Fiction or Reality?* With this occasion, academics and decision makers put together their concepts and ideas in the field of economic growth and development in urban environments, issues of metropolitan governance and finance in metropolitan regions.

On behalf of the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy two scientific papers were presented: “*Spatio-temporal dynamics of urban sprawl in the Bucharest Metropolitan Area*” (Ines Grigorescu, Gheorghe Kucsicsa, Bianca Mitrică, Irena Mocanu) and “*Socio-economic disparities of the urban development in the Lower Danube Basin. A showcase of the Romania’s border regions*” (Bianca Mitrică, Monica Dumitrașcu, Irena Mocanu, Ines Grigorescu).

The 5th Halle Forum on Urban Economic Growth had as core aim to bring together both researchers and Ph.D. Students in the field of geography, economics and planning with policy and decision makers in order to exchange knowledge and provide better governance in metropolitan regions.

Ines Grigorescu