

FORUM ROUMAIN-FRANÇAIS *HISTOIRE ET PERSPECTIVES DES RELATIONS  
GÉOGRAPHIQUES ROUMAINE-FRANÇAISES,*  
18 JUIN 2018, BUCAREST, ROUMANIE

L'Institut de Géographie de l'Académie Roumaine et les Comités Nationaux de Géographie de Roumanie et de France, avec la Faculté de Géographie de l'Université de Bucarest ont organisé le forum roumain-français – "*Histoire et perspectives des relations géographiques franco-roumaines*" – dédié au Centenaire de la formation de l'Etat National Roumain, qui a eu lieu le 18 juin 2018, dans l'Aula Magna de l'Académie Roumaine à Bucarest.

Les organisateurs du Forum roumain-français "*Histoire et perspectives des relations géographiques roumaine-françaises*" ont suivi à atteindre les objectifs suivants:

- la mise en valeur de la contribution du grand géographe français Emmanuel de Martonne pour la recherche géographique moderne en Roumanie et son implication dans le dessin de frontières roumaines d'après-guerre;
- l'accroissement de la visibilité enregistrée par la contribution de la recherche géographique roumaine au patrimoine scientifique international et l'augmentation de sa reconnaissance internationale;
- une intégration plus forte de la communauté géographique scientifique roumaine dans les activités de la communauté scientifique internationale, en connaissant les réalisations et le stade du développement des relations dans le domaine de la géographie entre la Roumanie et la France;
- établir les orientations futures de la coopération scientifique bilatérale dans le domaine géographique.

Le Forum roumain-français a réuni 57 universitaires et chercheurs géographes de 12 universités et 2 instituts de recherche de Roumanie, de France et de la République de Moldova. Le prestige scientifique du forum avait gagné par la participation des Prof. Nicolae Panin, membre de l'Académie Roumaine, président de la Section des Sciences Géonomiques de l'Académie Roumaine, Prof. Dan Bălteanu, membre de l'Académie Roumaine, président du Comité National de Géographie de Roumanie, Prof. Nathalie Lemarchand, vice-présidente de l'Union Géographique Internationale, Prof. Liliana Dumitrache, Université de Bucarest, Faculté de Géographie, Prof. Lydia Coudroy de Lille, Comité National Français de Géographie.

Le programme scientifique du Forum roumain-français "*Histoire et perspectives des relations géographiques roumaine-françaises*" a été structuré en trois sessions: une session plénière (*Géographie franco-roumaine: travaux de longue durée et diversité des coopérations scientifiques* avec 7 présentations et 10 participants) et trois sessions thématiques (*Emmanuel de Martonne*, avec 4 présentations et 8 participants, *Villes et sociétés en mouvement*, avec 6 présentations et 6 participants et *L'environnement et la société* avec 5 présentations et 6 participants).

À la fin des travaux du Forum roumain-français, à l'Institut Français (Direction Régionale de Bucarest), a été signée la *Convention de partenariat* entre le Comité National Français de Géographie, représenté par sa vice-présidente aux relations internationales, prof. Lydia Coudroy de Lille, d'une part, et le Comité National Roumain de Géographie, représenté par son président, acad. Dan Bălteanu, d'autre part. La *Convention de partenariat* encourage et promeut les relations scientifiques entre les deux pays, elle soutient le développement de la géographie et de l'interdisciplinarité et facilite la collaboration entre leurs membres, individus ou collectifs.

Le Forum a fini par une application de deux jours sur le terrain (Bucarest – Ploiești – Sinaia – Predeal – Brașov – Bran – Rucăr – Bucarest), avec la participation des professeurs et chercheurs roumains et français.

Le Forum roumain-français "*Histoire et perspectives des relations géographiques franco-roumaines*" a représenté la continuation d'une collaboration bilatérale à long terme dans le domaine de la recherche géographique.

Irena Mocanu

## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IGU COMMISSION ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AUGUST 1–4, 2018, KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN, USA

An important event of the *International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Local and Regional Development* is the annual meeting which, in 2018, was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA (1–4 August). The conference was jointly organized by Western Michigan University, Department of Geography, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA and the IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development.

The meeting gathered scholars from various research institutes and universities from four countries (Poland, Israel, Romania, and USA). In addition, the meeting was designed to bring together some of the members of the IGU Local and Regional Development Commission: Prof. Jerzy Banski, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences (Chair of the Commission); Prof. Michael Sofer, Department of Geography and Environment, Bar-Ilan University, Israel (former Chair and current Honorary Member of the Commission); Prof. Benjamin Ofori-Amoah, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA (Vice-Chair of the Commission); Dr. Ines Grigorescu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy (Full Member of the Steering Committee).

The focal theme of the Conference, *Appreciating Difference in Restructuring Local and Regional Economies*, revolved around general and particular aspects of local and regional development, diversity of local and regional economies, restructuring issues, and stakeholder-oriented approaches. The main topics were grouped into four sessions: *I. Agriculture and Industry in Local and Regional Development; II. Disparities in Local and Regional Development; III. Socio-economic Changes in Local and Regional Development and IV. National Development Policy and Local and Regional Development.*

The conference agenda also included a two-day field trip showcasing some examples of post-industrial economic development and revitalization in the Great Lakes area. Thus, on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the field trip to South West Michigan (Hartford – Benton Harbour – St. Joseph – South Haven – Grand Rapids) was focused on the functional relocation and revitalization activities after deindustrialization and economic decline in the area. The August 4<sup>th</sup> field trip to post-industrial Detroit (US leading heavy manufacturing centers during most of the early part of the 20th century) was centred on issues such as: social segregation, industrial decline, abandoned buildings vs. downtown revitalization and the rise of the creative class.

On behalf of the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy two scientific papers were presented: “*External migration and children left-behind in Romania – a consequence of the post-communist socio-economic changes. A territorial multi-level approach*” (I. Grigorescu, I. Mocanu, B. Mitrică, M. Dumitrașcu) and “*Territorial disparities in the socio-economic development of rural areas of Romania. Focus on the social disadvantaged areas*” (B. Mitrică, I. Mocanu, I. Grigorescu, P. Șerban, M. Dumitrașcu).

The upcoming annual meeting of the IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development is projected to be held in Fiji (June 2018) with the support of the University of the South Pacific, School of Geography, Earth Science and Environment.

*Ines Grigorescu, Bianca Mitrică*

## THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION REGIONAL CONFERENCE, AUGUST 6–10, 2018, QUEBEC, CANADA

One of the leading scientific events of the world's geographical community in 2018 was the *Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union (IGU)* which was held in Quebec, Canada (6–10 August). The central theme of this event was “*Appreciating Difference*”, a topic with which brings into discussion *differences* stemmed from the diversity of landscapes, people, and knowledge.

The IGU Quebec Conference was jointly organised by the Université Laval (North America's oldest French-language university), International Geographical Union (IGU), the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) and the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG). Due to the large number of attendants (over 1,500) from over 30 countries (e.g. Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Israel, Japan, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Switzerland, USA, Turkey), this scientific event have become the “biggest geography get-together in the history of Canada”. With this occasion, fifteen plenary talks on topics such as resources and communities, indigenous-related studies, globalization, borders and borderlands, geography and Giscience and education geography, as well as over 1200 oral papers and one hundred posters were presented. From Romania, the conference was attended by researchers and professors from the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy and the Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest. Throughout the conference, the IGU Commissions and task forces integrated their business meetings on the current topics of modern geography and the participating scientists displayed their scientific results during the Plenary Sessions, as well as during Commissions sessions (e.g. Local and Regional Development, Land use and Land Cover Change, Biodiversity and Biogeography, Population Geography, Transport and Geography, Urban Challenges in a Complex World, Water Sustainability).

The conference agenda also included different workshops and ten interdisciplinary field excursions in the Quebec City area enabling the participants to get in touch with the particular features of the Canadian natural and cultural landscape.

Associated to this event was the 15<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad (iGEO) organised through the IGU Olympiad Task Force. From July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>, iGeo 2018 unfolded in the campus of Université Laval (Quebec City) and in the surrounding region and gathered students from over 40 countries. The 2018 theme of the Olympiad was “Appreciating landscape”. Once more, the Romanian Geography obtained significant success, being awarded with four medals: three gold and one silver, ranking first among the participating countries both by score and by medals. The iGeo gold Medal Ceremony took place during the IGU-CAG Opening Ceremony.

On behalf of the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy four scientific papers were presented: “*Forest cover changes in the Apuseni Mountains Natural Park. Romania*” (M. Dumitraşcu, I. Grigorescu, R. Cuculici, C. Dumitrică, C. Dumitraşcu), “*Urban-rural interactions in Romania. Regional spatial and statistical analyses*” (I. Grigorescu, Gh. Kucsicsa, B. Mitrică, I. Mocanu, M. Dumitraşcu), and “*Changes in the dynamics and demographic structures of the Romanian rural population. An overview of the post-communist period*” (B. Mitrică, Persu M., Damian N., Şerban P., I. Grigorescu, M. Dumitraşcu), and “*Apportioning sources of streambank sediments by using coal mining tracers The case of Jiu River Basin (Romania)*” (G. Moroşanu, E. Traista, L. Zaharia, P. Belleudy, G. Minea).

One of the future events of the geographical community will be the Thematic Conference on “*Transformation of Traditional Cultural Landscapes*” which will be held in Koper, Slovenia, September 24–26, 2019. The Thematic Conference will assemble five IGU Commissions: Land Use and Land Cover Change, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Local and Regional Development, Mediterranean Basin and Land Degradation and Desertification.

*Monica Dumitraşcu, Ines Grigorescu, Bianca Mitrică*

