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**2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “RE-SHAPING
TERRITORIES, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETIES – NEW
CHALLENGES FOR GEOGRAPHY” (RETES)**

20-21 November 2020, Bucharest, Romania



**The 2nd International Conference on
Re-shaping Territories, Environment and Societies:
New Challenges for Geography**

November 20 – 21, 2020, Bucharest, Romania



**UNIVERSITY OF
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The year 2020 marked 120 years of geographical studies at the University of Bucharest, the 30th anniversary of the Faculty of Geography and the 100th anniversary of the Department of Human and Economic Geography. Considering this important landmark and after the success of the first edition organised in 2016, the Department of Human and Economic Geography, coordinated by prof. Liliana Dumitrache was very happy to hold the 2nd International Conference “Re-shaping Territories, Environment and Societies – New Challenges for Geography” (ReTES) which took place on November 20th – 21st, 2020. This edition had to consider the severe limitations created by the COVID-19 pandemic. While face to face interactions and cooperation are the optimal medium through which ideas and experiences can be shared, the organisers embraced this challenge and strived to bring together all interested parties and reach as many members of the academic community and, more than that, attract those for whom a trip to Bucharest, Romania would have proven difficult even in normal travelling conditions.

The organisers were honoured to receive the interest of 91 professors, researcher, experts, specialists, PhD students or students who registered and participated in the 2nd International Conference “Re-shaping Territories, Environment and Societies – New Challenges for Geography”

(ReTES). They came from different corners of Europe: from Bucharest to Zagreb, from Târgoviște, Cluj Napoca, Pecs, Krakow, Ankara to Iași.

The conference was opened by the Vice-Rector of the University of Bucharest – prof. Laura Comănescu, the Dean of the Faculty of Geography – prof. Alexandru Nedelea and by the Head of the Department of Human and Economic Geography – prof. Liliana Dumitrache.

The importance of the event was further emphasised by the key speakers who presented their various and novel research results, who also reflected the diversity of themes and geographic territoriality of this conference: on behalf of the Romanian Government – Prof. Univ. Dr. Marcel Ioan BOLOȘ, Minister of the European Funds; on behalf of the Romanian Academy, IGU chair of Romanian National Committee – Acad. Prof. Univ. Dr. Dan BĂLTEANU; and Dr. Frédéric BEAUMONT – Attaché de coopération scientifique et universitaire, Institut Français de Roumanie.

The conference was structured in 5 main pillars: Physical and Human Landscapes in Urban and Rural Areas; Weather, Water and Climate: living sustainable, spatial disparities and persisting divisions; Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Sustainable Resource Management: concentrations, convergence and integration; Geography, Globalization and Smart Development and Teaching Geography: Trends, Frontiers and Barriers. The pillars of discussions mirrored the previous edition aiming to emphasise the progress brought forward by the developments in: physical and human landscapes in urban and rural areas; weather, water and climate: living sustainable, spatial disparities and persisting divisions; ecosystems, biodiversity and sustainable resource management; geography, globalisation and smart development; teaching geography: history, frontiers and trends.

Each session included topical themes for their sphere of interest. These were: Convergence of Geomorphic Spaces and Persisting Landscapes; Territorial Governance and Land-Use Challenges; Adapting to climate change and weather conditions; Living Sustainable and Persisting Divisions; Integrative Concepts and Field Actions; Sustainable Resources Management; Demographic Divide and Health; Territorial Infrastructure, Transport and Development; Tourism, competitive identity, places and destination development; Cities, urbanisation, planning:

Concentration is the rule; Convergence is the objective; Integration is the answer; Geopolitics, European policies and Regional Development; Teaching Geography.

The scientific event aimed to reidentify and debate the applied areas of the new geographies from the perspective of spatial analysis, which nowadays provide answers to our mediums and societies' evolution. The high-level governmental participation in the event was seen as a confirmation of the merits the researchers and the methodologies they proposed have for domains such as territorial governance, strategic development and investment planning of societal resources.

The scientific and organising committees intended to create a medium that would act as a conduit for decision-making actors and research results and guide them towards applicability, especially for societal needs in supporting orientating policies towards sustainable development. This was promoted through ample discussions on complex issues, both theoretical and methodological, on practical domains geographical. The themes of the presentations reflected the very topical interests of the registered geographers. These included: societal development, implementation of projects, climate and environmental changes, evaluation of territorial accessibility to main public systems, and many others. This was a recurrent idea and one that incited many discussion as it is essential for the future development of the Romanian, European and global societies posed by the challenges brought forwards by their interconnectivity both at territorial and structural levels.

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