

***FOURTH ROMANIAN-BULGARIAN-HUNGARIAN-SERBIAN
CONFERENCE***

**Geographical Research and Cross-Border
Cooperation
within the Lower Basin of the Danube**



Organised by:

*Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“, Faculty of Geology and Geography
„St. Cyril and St. Methodius“ University of Veliko Tarnovo, Department of Geography
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography
Association of Professional Geographers and Regionalists, Bulgaria*

in cooperation with:

**University of Craiova, Romania
West University of Timisoara, Romania
Romanian Academy, Institute of Geography, Romania
University of Szeged, Hungary
University of Pécs, Hungary
University of Belgrade, Serbia
University of Novi Sad, Serbia
University of Shumen, Bulgaria
ISS – Demographic Research Center, Serbia
Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Geographical Institute „Jovan Cvijić“, Serbia**



**VIDIN – BULGARIA
15–17 September 2016**

Dear Colleagues,

*On behalf of the organizing committee, we are pleased to invite you to **Fourth Romanian–Bulgarian – Hungarian – Serbian Conference** referring to the Danube lower basin, which will be held in Vidin, Bulgaria. The meeting is hosted by the Faculty of Geology and Geography – Sofia University, Department of Geography –University of Veliko Tarnovo, National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography – BAS, and Association of Professional Geographers and Regionalists.*

The roots of this conference go back to the year 2000, when the regional conference „Geographical environment and cross-border cooperation within the Danube lower basin”, was organized by the University of Craiova, Romania, gathering geographers and other researchers from European countries that shared their experiences, knowledge and research results about all aspects of geography.

In 2010, the Geography Departments of the Universities of Craiova and Timisoara organized the first conference, in 2012, the Department of Economic and Social Geography from the University of Szeged organized the second conference, and the third conference was organized in 2014 by the Faculty of Geography – University of Belgrade and Faculty of Sciences, Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management –University of Novi Sad.

*Following the success from the previous scientific conferences on the topic “**Geographical Research and Cross-Border Cooperation within the Lower Basin of the Danube**” the Faculty of Geology and Geography – Sofia University, Department of Geography – University of Veliko Tarnovo, NIGGG – BAS, and Association of Professional Geographers and Regionalists (APGR) organize the **Fourth Romanian – Bulgarian – Hungarian – Serbian conference**, which will be held on 15–17 September, 2016 at Vidin, Bulgaria*

The main goals are, to bring together geographers and institutions from the countries within the Danube basin and establish a working group to promote sustainable measures for the cross border cooperation and national phenomena.

We hope that you will be able to accept our invitation, and join us for what promises to be an interesting and fruitful meeting.

We are looking forward to welcome you and your colleagues in Vidin, Bulgaria

International Scientific Advisory Committee

COMMITTEES OF THE CONFERENCE

Scientific Advisory Committee

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Vesna Lukić, PhD., *ISS – Demographic Research Center – Serbia*

Organising Committee

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Mario Petkov, PhD student, *Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski” – Bulgaria*

Official e-mail for contact and information

danube2016@gmail.com

AIMS

This interdisciplinary and cross-cultural meeting welcomes presentations on geographic research and cross border cooperation within the Danube basin.

The event targets a broad spectrum of participants, recognizing the multidisciplinary research in geography and other related disciplines.

The conference aims to:

- *present the status of scientific approaches within the Danube lower basin*
- *discuss the role of geographical research in cross-border issues*
- *bring together scientists, academics, practitioners with a view to strengthening and promoting the cross-border cooperation*
- *define the priorities concerning various aspects of geographical research.*

CONFERENCE THEMES

1. **Geography, Governance and Local Development**
2. **Cross-border and Transnational Cooperation**
3. **Environment, Risk Assessment and Management**
4. **Climate Change and Water Resources**
5. **GIS, Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning**
6. **Cultural and Political Challenges in Geography**
7. **Population trends, Human Mobility and Emigration**
8. **Sustainable Tourism Policy, Planning and Development**
9. **Geography Education(NEW)**

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE

- The opportunity to present your research within a unique forum and collaborate with experts from wider regions and around the world.
- A chance to promote your research by presenting it to relevant people and organizations.
- Conference abstracts/papers will be peer-reviewed by members of the International Scientific Committee.
- Abstracts will be published in hard copy format and made available to the international scientific community.
- Abstracts will be public available on the website (<http://forumgeografic.ro/events/>)
- Conference participants will be invited to submit an extended version of their paper to the scientific journals indexed by the following databases: Elsevier's bibliographic database, ICI (Index Copernicus International); CrossRef; DOAJ – Directory of open access journals, EBSCO Publishing, Scipio Scientific Publishing & Information Online, WorldCat, ProQuest, SCI - Serbian Citation Index, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, CGP - Current Geographical Publications (American Geographical Society Library; University of Wisconsin Milwaukee), GeoRef (AGI - American Geological Institute)
- The conference will be an opportunity for strengthening the cooperation between the institutions within the region.
- Participants will have the chance to know the geographic realities better through field trips.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

The programme comprises plenary presentations, parallel sessions and poster sessions.

The Fourth Romanian– Bulgarian– Serbian– Hungarian conference is not just about listening to geographers and other researchers from the countries in the Danube lower basin. It is also about engaging them in new and unique ways. The format, based on an interactive sharing of thoughts between participants and speakers, will serve as a springboard for the development of a sound, cohesive cooperation policy.

Each session consists of two types of specific formats.

Presentations: Each session contains 10 minutes presentation for specific topical perspective.

Roundtable Panels: After the presentations are concluded, the speakers involved in that session will join the members of the Scientific Committee for a free-flowing, panel discussion about the challenges and future trends for the sustainable cooperation within the lower basin of the Danube.

Thursday, the 15th of September 2016

14:00 –17:00 – Registration– Hotel Neptune Reception, Dunavska 8 str. Vidin

–<http://hotelneptunvidin.com/en/index.html>

17:30 –Welcome cocktail (Baba Vida fortress)

Friday, the 16th of September 2016

08:00 –09:00 – Registration – Congress centre of Regional Governor of Vidin, Dunavska 6 str. Vidin

09:00 – 09:30 – Official opening

09:30 –11:30 – Plenary Session

11:30 –12:00 – Coffee break

12:00 –13:30 – Parallel Sessions - Congress centre of Regional Governor of Vidin and Vidin Municipality Council Hall

13:30 –15:00 – Lunch break

15:00 –16:30 – Parallel Sessions

16:30 –16:45 – Coffee break

16:45–18:00 – Parallel Sessions

20:00 – Conference feast

*09:00 – 17:00 – Poster presentations

Saturday, the 17th of September 2016

09:00 – 11:00 – Parallel Sessions

11:00 – 11:30 – Conclusion

FIELDTRIP

Saturday, the 17th of September 2016

12:30–20.00–Belogradchik, Belogradchik rocks and Magura cave

http://bulgariatravel.org/en/object/187/Belogradchik_grad

http://bulgariatravel.org/en/object/32/Magurata_peshtera

PARTICIPATION FEE

REGISTRATION TYPE	EARLY until 15May 2016	STANDARD from 16May 2016
Regular	€75	€90
Reduced (Students)	€40	€50
Field trip	€ 40	€ 40

Participation fee includes: participation at the Conference, Conference Certificate, Abstract book, Conference and promo materials, Welcome cocktail, visit Baba Vidafortress, Lunch on 16 September, Coffee breaks, and Conference feast.

Field trip fee includes: transport, entrance fees and lunch

All the fees mentioned to be transferred on the following bank account

DSK Bank

Bank address: 5 Georgi Benkovski str., 1036 Sofia, Bulgaria

IBAN - BG61STSA93000022093749

SWIFT BIC - STSABGSF

Beneficiary: APGR

Address: 64 A, Rodopski izvor str., 1618Sofia, Bulgaria

Please be aware that all bank transaction fees should be at the participant's expenses

Please, indicate the Conference participation and/or Field trip on the payment document.

After the payment, please send a copy of your bank transfer document to: danube2016@gmail.com

ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS

Abstracts should clearly state the purpose, results and conclusions of the work to be described in the final paper. **Technical details for the abstract:**

TITLE TITLE TITLE TITLE (14pt, bold)

First name Family name¹, First name Family name² (12pt, bold)

¹ institution, ² institution, e-mail of corresponding author (Times New Roman 12pt, Italic)

Text of the abstract
Not longer than 300 words. (Times New Roman 12pt, Single, Justify)

Key words: *Maximum 5 words (Times New Roman 12pt, Italic)*

Specific guidance for paper formatting and submission will be available in second circular.

Abstracts submission deadline– 20 April 2016 (extended)

IMPORTANT DATES

Early registration starts – 20 November 2015

Abstracts submission deadline– 20 April 2016 (extended)

Notification of results of abstract reviews – 15 April 2016

Deadline for early registration fee payment – 15 May 2016

Deadline for regular registration fee payment – 1 September 2016

ACCOMMODATION

We recommend two hotels which are very close to the conference location:

- Hotel Neptune, Dunavska 8 str., Vidin – <http://hotelneptunvidin.com/en/index.html>
- Hotel Dunav, Edelvays 3 str., Vidin – <http://www.hoteldunav.eu/en/>

For booking rooms please contact directly the hotels. When you contact the above mentioned hotels please write “4-th Danube Conference, SofiaUniversity”

TRAVEL

Vidin is situated in north-western part of Bulgaria, on the right bank of the Danube. The Danube Bridge Vidin – Calafat (<http://www.vidincalafatbridge.bg/en/page/2>) connects the region and Romania. Vidin is about 20 km away from the Serbian border. In the region there are two border checkpoints Vrashka Chuka (Bulgaria – Serbia) connects the towns of Kula (Bulgaria) and Zaychar (Serbia) and Bregovo (Bulgaria - Serbia) connecting the towns of Bregovo (Bulgaria) and Negotin (Serbia).

The nearest international airport is Sofia airport. The distance between Sofia and Vidin is about 230 km. From Sofia you might rent a car (from the airport for about 40 euro per day) or take a bus from central bus station. There are about 5 busses per day from Sofia to Vidin and the price for one-way ticket is 10 euro.