

International Conference

AIR AND WATER COMPONENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

March 17–19, 2017, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

On the occasion of World Water Day (March 22) and World Meteorology Day (March 23), specialists from Romania and abroad of the two domains meet annually in Cluj-Napoca at a **Conference** entitled "**Air and Water - Components of the Environment**" (<http://aerapa.conference.ubbcluj.ro/>). The participants are members of teaching staff from universities, researchers from the institutes of profile, practitioners from the hydro-meteorological network, representatives of companies which carry out activities in this area, PhD. candidates, Master and Bachelor students etc. (approx. 100 participants).

The scientific event, that became international since its second edition, arrived currently at its ninth consecutive year, and is organized by the prestigious Babeș-Bolyai University from Cluj-Napoca, through the Faculty of Geography, and by the "Air and Water" Association, in collaboration with "Romanian Waters" Administration – Someș-Tisa Water Branch, „Someș” S.A. Cluj Water Company, Hidroelectrică S.A. – Cluj Hydropower Plants Branch.

The results of the conference are prerequisites for: the exchange of ideas and experience, making new relationships and partnerships between Romanian and foreign experts, identification of solutions for the hydro and climatic risk situations assessment and management. Also, the results are prerequisites for the cooperation with Central and local administration, in order to combat the risk generator hazards, for promoting programs to support the research and education activities in this field, for developing of research projects with the involvement of young researchers, projects whose results are placed at the disposal of society.

The papers presented at the Conference are published in a printed version and virtually on the Conference website version of a proceeding, indexed in the major international databases, that provides visibility and opening up to the scientific world (<http://aerapa.conference.ubbcluj.ro/BDI>): DOAJ - DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS (<http://www.doaj.org/>), ProQuest (<http://search.proquest.com>), EBSCOhost - world's foremost premium research database service (<http://search.ebscohost.com/>), ULRICHSWEB Global Serials Directory (<http://ulrichsweb.serialsolutions.com/login>), CiteFactor Academic Scientific Journals (<http://www.citefactor.org/>). Also, the proceeding/volume of the Conference was submitted for evaluation and indexing to Thomson-Reuters.

All the papers published in volume have assigned D.O.I. (Digital Object Identifier) codes, and are first reviewed by the major international personalities from the fields of Hydrology and Climatology and related domains, from countries like Italy, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Georgia, Switzerland, Hungary, Germany, Belgium, Israel, France, Slovakia), personalities which honour the Scientific Committee list of the event ([http://aerapa.conference.ubbcluj.ro/COMITETUL ȘTIINȚIFIC](http://aerapa.conference.ubbcluj.ro/COMITETUL_ȘTIINȚIFIC)).

At the March 17-19, 2017 current edition, together with the regular and consistent presence of Romanian specialists, a growth of a foreign participants number was observed: experts from 10 countries from 4 continents (U.S.A., France, Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, India, South Africa, Iran, Vietnam, Algeria) honoured us with their presence.

Three personalities from the fields of Hydrology and Climatology (Martina ZELENKOVA – Slovakia, Yang ZHANG – U.S.A., Ionel Sorin RÎNDAȘU-BEURAN – Romania), started/opened the works of the Conference with their presentations in plenary session.

Organized into 7 sections, an amount of 50 scientific communications in PowerPoint format were presented. Also, 20 communications in poster format were presented, in a special section dedicated to them.

The topics in which the papers have been framed and published were up-to-date and important ones, in accordance with the new trends pertaining to the scientific areas and with the conference policy: Air and Water Environment Monitoring, Climatic and Hydrological Hazards, Water Resource Management, Climatic Changes and Their Impact, Pollution and Protection of Air and Water Environment, Weather and Hydrological Forecast, Tourism Potential of Hydro-Climatic Resources.

On the March 18, 2017, the second day of the Conference, an interesting field trip on a cultural topic was organized in the central part of the Transylvanian Basin, in the medieval fortified citadels area. The field trip was planned to be carried out on the route Cluj-Napoca – Turda – Iernut – Târgu Mureș – Sighișoara – Biertan – Mediaș – Iernut – Cluj-Napoca, where, in addition to specific natural objectives, three significant anthropogenic/anthropic goals were visited: Târgu Mureș municipality: *Culture Palace*; Sighișoara municipality: *Sighișoara Fortress*; Biertan village: *Biertan Fortified Church*.

On the March 19, 2017, the third day of the Conference, a sightseeing tour on foot of the Cluj-Napoca city Centre was organized, for foreign and Romanian participants who have opted for this activity.

Gheorghe ȘERBAN, PhD. Associate Professor,
Cluj-Napoca, Babeș-Bolyai University