

REPORT ON THE 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ROMANIAN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

On May 12-13, 2017 the **11th International Conference of the Romanian Regional Science Association – “Future Dynamics of Regional Development and Planning”** - took place at Pitesti, in the South region of Romania. It was organized in partnership with the “Constantin Brancoveanu” University of Pitesti and the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency. More than 70 papers were included in the programme, the authors representing many important universities, research institutes and other organisations from various regions of Romania and also from abroad (United States, Hungary, Germany, Austria, France, Bulgaria, Morocco).

At the **Opening Ceremony, speeches** were delivered by Ovidiu Puiu – the Rector of “Constantin Brancoveanu” University, Daniela L. Constantin - Bucharest University of Economic Studies, President of the Romanian Regional Science Association, Serban Valeca - Minister of Research and Innovation, Alin Chirila – Secretary of State at the Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, Dan Manu – President of Arges County Council, Claudia Ionescu – Head of Investment and Promotion Department, Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency.

A **message** from Jouke van Dijk, University of Groningen, the Netherlands, President of the European Regional Science Association was also presented. It is posted on www.rrsa.ro

In the **Plenary Session** Professor Roger R. Stough, George Mason University, United States, Past President of the Regional Science Association International, delivered an excellent keynote speech entitled “Regional Governance and Innovation: Conceptual Framing and Examples”.

The keynote speech was followed by **the Jean Monet Workshop** “European Regional Policy in Action” conducted by Cristina Serbanica, with Mrs. Aura Raducu, Former Minister of European Funds, as invited speaker.

Then, the **parallel sessions** stimulated very challenging debates on issues of a great interest regarding: Recent trends in spatial development; Endogenous growth and territorial capital; Migration, employment and labour markets; Smart and sustainable cities; Innovation, entrepreneurship and regional competitiveness; Tourism and sustainable regional development; Institutions, investments and regional policy, etc. A **PhD student session** was also organized, with a prize for the best paper, to honour the memory of Dorel Ailenei, founder member and Vice-President of the RRSA, who passed away in 2015. The prize was awarded to Teodora Fulga, PhD student at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies.

The papers will be published – after the reviewing process completion - in special issues of the *Management Strategies Journal*, a journal of “Constantin Brancoveanu” University or in the *Romanian Journal of Regional Science*, both indexed in international data bases.

The members of the Romanian Regional Science Association also participated in the **RRSA General Assembly Meeting**. Besides the activity and financial report and plan of activities, this meeting had to elect the new board and the current leading staff of the Romanian RSA. As President has been re-elected Daniela L. Constantin, Bucharest University of Economic Studies. The Prime-Vicepresident and two Vicepresidents are Romeo V. Ionescu, “Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati, and, respectively, Dorin Jula, Institute of Economic Forecasting, Romanian Academy, and Erika Marin, Bucharest University of Economic Studies. Amalia Cristescu, Bucharest University of Economic Studies has been elected as the Secretary General and Treasurer. The whole elected board is displayed on the RRSA web page.

On the second day the participants enjoyed a wonderful **excursion** in Arges county, with visits to Curtea de Arges and Vidraru Dam.

Pictures from all conference events are posted on www.rrsa.ro.

The efforts of all members of the organising and scientific committee are gratefully acknowledged, with special thanks to the local organizers – the colleagues from the “Constantin Brancoveanu” University as well as to the Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency.

The venue of the next international conference of the Romanian RSA (2019) has been established, namely “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, located in the North-East region.