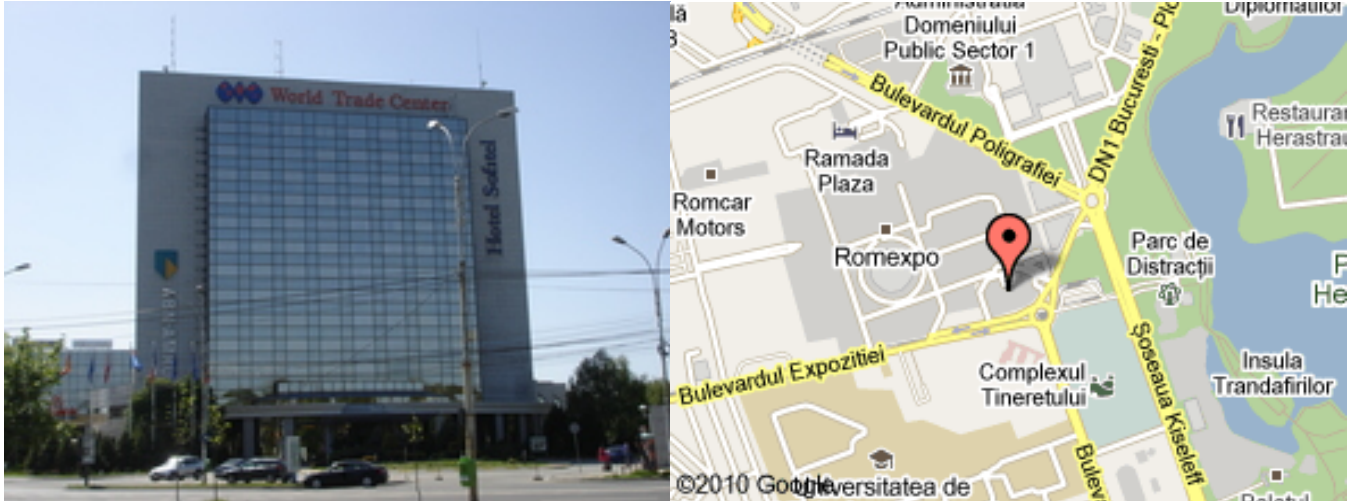


MEMSCON Workshop

Structural Monitoring and Status-Dependent Maintenance and Repair of Constructed Facilities

7 October 2010

Pullman Hotel, World Trade Center, Bucharest, Romania



VENUE

Pullman Hotel, World Trade Center

10 Montreal square, District 1

011469 BUCHAREST

ROMANIA

Tel. (+40)21/3183000 Fax. (+40)21/3162550

Pullman@Pullman.ro



Coming from the North and facing the glass dome of Romexpo (Bucharest's largest professional exhibition complex), take E85 (Sos. Bucuresti - Ploiesti). From the East, Constanta Bucharest highway. From the South, E85 Giurgiu Bucharest. From the West, E60 Oradea Cluj Napoca Brasov Bucharest or E68 Arad Sibiu Brasov Bucharest.

Access by public transportation

	Line	Station
Underground station	131/331/783/105	PIATA PRESEI
Bus	131/331/783/105	PIATA PRESEI
Tramway	41/42	PIATA PRESEI

Railway Station

GARA NORD (4.00 km / 2.50 mi)

Airports

OTOPENI INTL (15.00 km / 9.32 mi)

BUCHAREST BANEASA (4.00 km / 2.50 mi)

LOCAL ORGANIZER

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info@apc-promotion.com

www.apc-promotion.com

MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

Entry Formalities for Romania: a valid passport (or for some nationals, ID card only) is required for entry into Romania for delegates outside Romania. Participants from USA, Canada, most European and many non-European countries do not need Romanian visas. Please contact the Romanian Embassy or Consulate in your own country to verify whether you need a visa (www.mae.ro).

ACCOMMODATION

A special rate has been negotiated at the **PULLMAN Hotel**. If you wish to book with this hotel, please specify SITEX –APC /MEMSCON 7 OCT 2010 on your reservation request directly to the Hotel marketing/reservation department att. Ms. Laura Constantinescu laura.constantinescu@pullman.ro 0040 742 158 732. Your reservation option will be specified on the workshop registration form.

Other accommodation options close to the event venue:

GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL BUCHAREST (4 stars),

<http://www.goldentulipbucharest.com/default.aspx?Language=EN>

166 Calea Victoriei, Bucharest. Romania

Tel: +40 21 212 5558

Fax: +40 21 212 5121

E-mail: sales@goldentulipbucharest.com; reservation@goldentulipbucharest.com

RADISSON BLU HOTEL

www.radissonblu.com

63 – 81 Calea Victoriei Street, 010065 Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +40 21 31 19 000

Fax: +40 21 31 39 000

Email: Info.Bucharest@Radissonblu.com

HOTEL DIPLOMAT

73-75, Poligrafiei Blvd. Dept.1, Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +4 021/311.87.66

+4 021/311.87.64

+4 021/311.87.62

Email: reservation@hoteldiplomat.ro

HOTEL RAMADA PARC

3-5 , Poligrafiei Blvd. Dept.1, Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +4 021/224.44.60

Fax: +4 021/224.29.84

HOTEL BEST WESTERN PARC

3-5, Poligrafiei Blvd. Dept.1 Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +4 021/549.2000

Fax: +4 021/549.23.30

www.parchotel.ro

HOTEL PLAZA FLORA

1, Poligrafiei Nr. Sector 1, Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +4 021/224.00.34

Fax: +4 021/2021026

HOTEL CROWNE PLAZA BUCHAREST

1, Poligrafiei Nr. Sector 1 Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +4 021/224.00.34

Fax: +4 021/2021026/224.11.26

www.bucharest.crownplaza.com

HOTEL PHOENCIA

87, Alexandru Serbanescu Blvd, Dept. 1, Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +4 021/3000.888/

+4 021/3000.889

+4 021/3000.890

Fax: +4 021.3000885

Email: reservation@phoencia.ro

HOTEL CARO

164, Barbu Vacarescu Blvd, Dept. 2, Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +4 021/407.47.20

Fax: +4 021/407.47.21

www.hotel.caro.turneo.ro

HOTEL RIN GRAND HOTEL

7D Vitan-Barzesti Street, Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +4 .031.106.11.11.

+40 .731.111.000

Fax: +40.31.106.11.19

TRANSPORTATION

Getting from the Airport to Hotels

All international flights land at Henry Coanda International Airport, which is a 30-60 minute drive (20 km) from the city centre, depending on traffic.

Hotel transfers: Transfer from and to the airport could provide for the PULLMAN Hotel guests if mentioned in the registration form, for 40 euro.

Bus: The bus 783, which stops underneath the arrivals hall in front of the internal flights terminal, leaves for the city centre (for **Pullman Hotel** stop at request **Piata Presei Libere.**) other stops to city center: Piata Victoriei, Piata Romana and Piata Universitatii) every 15-30 minutes from 05:23h until 23:53h. Tickets costing 7 Lei (1.7 euro valid for two trips) need to be purchased from the little booth which is situated on your right hand side as you exit the airport building.

Taxis: Taxis from the airport to the hotels cost about 20€, as long as you take a taxi that has an association with a trusted taxi company (e.g. Cobalcescu, Meridian, Grant, Taxi 2000, Fly Taxi, Cristaxi, Taxi Leone, As Taxi). By law, all taxis need to display the company name and telephone number, as well as their tariffs on the outside of the passenger door. The taxis rank is just outside the terminal exit. The payment should be made in Romanian currency (1 euro = 4.2 lei).

Tipping: It is customary to tip 10% for taxis and restaurants.

CITY AND COUNTRY INFORMATION



Geographical Location

Romania is situated in SE Central Europe, north of the Balkan Peninsula, on the Lower Danube, bordering on the Black Sea. Romania is located midway between the North Pole and the Equator and practically also midway between Europe's eastern and western limits.

Official name

ROMANIA (ROMANIA in English, ROUMANIE in French, RUMENIEN in German). This name was adopted in 1862, after the foundation of the nation-state through the union of the Romanian principalities of Wallachia and Moldova in 1859.

National flag

(proportion 3/2) Three equal vertical stripes of red, yellow and blue.

Neighbours

Romania borders on five states: the Republic of Moldova (681.3 km.) in the north-east and east, Ukraine (649.4 km.) in the north and east, Bulgaria (631.3 km.) in the south, Serbia (546.4 km.) in the south-west and Hungary (444.0 km.) in the west. The sixth neighbour is the Black Sea (193.5 km.).

Area

238,391 sq. km., comparable to the area of Great Britain; the country is ranked 13th in Europe and 80th in the world. Romania is oval in shape, the west-to-east straight line measuring 735 km while the north-to-south line measures 530 km.

Standard time

East European zone time (GMT+2 hours). Daylight saving time (GMT+3 hours) applies from March to October.

Currency (since 1867)

The official Romanian currency is the Romanian Leu (RON). The exchange rate at this time is about 1\$ = 3.2 Lei and 1€ =4.2 RON. The *Leu* (plural *lei*), has the *Ban* (plural *bani*) as subdivision (1 *leu* =100 *bani*). Foreign currency can be changed at any bank or exchange office. Please be careful to check all the commissions applied. Banks are open on Monday-Friday from 0830h-1600h. ATMs are found at hotels, all banks and many other locations throughout the city.

Electricity standards.

EU standard 220 V / 50 Hz. Please ensure that you have the proper adapter for your appliances.

Physical features

The Carpathian Mountains occupy 31% of the country's area, the hills and plateaus take up 36%, while the plains account for 33% of Romania's total area. Maximum elevation: Moldoveanu Peak (2,544 m.) in the Fagaras range of the Southern Carpathians.

Climate

Generally, temperate-continental with four clear-cut seasons. In July, you can expect temperatures between 30 - 38°C.

(<http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=Bucharest>)

Area distribution

Arable area (39.2%), forests (28%), pastures and hayfields (20.3%), vineyards and vine nurseries (2.5%), waters and ponds (3.7%), buildings, roads and railways (6.1%).

Population

22,489,000 (ranked 13th in Europe and 43rd in the world). 55% of the population lives in the urban environment and 45% in rural areas.

Ethnic structure

According to the 1992 census, 89.4% of the total population was Romanian with 10.6% made up of ethnic minorities. There were 1,624,959 Hungarians (7.1%), 401,087 Gypsies (1.7%), 119,462 Germans (0.5%), 65,764 Ukrainians (0.3%), 8,955 Jews (0.04%).

Religion

The 1992 census indicated the following religious structure: 19,802,389 Eastern Orthodox (86.8%); 1,161,942 Roman-Catholic (5%); 802,454 Reformed (3.5%); 223,327 Greek-Catholic (1%); 220,824 Pentecostal (1%); 109,462 Baptist (0.5%); 77,546 Adventist (0.3%).

Official language

Romanian. The eastern-most representative of the Romance languages, Romanian is a continuation of the Latin spoken in ancient times in Dacia and Moesia, provinces of the Roman Empire. A 31-letter Latin alphabet is in use. Ethnic minorities can use their language in school, administration, the judiciary. Hungarian is spoken by the largest ethnic minority. English, French, and German is widely used.

Capital city

Bucharest has a population of 2,021,000 and an area of 228 sq.km. In 1459 it became the princely seat of ruler Vlad Tepes; in the 17th-19th centuries, it was the capital of the principality of Wallachia, and since 1862 it has been the capital of Romania.

Towns and cities

There are 263 towns, of which 25 have over 100,000 inhabitants, while eight have over 300,000. The latter group includes the capital and the following cities: Iasi (350,000), Constanta (344,000), Cluj-Napoca (334,000), Galati (331,000), Timisoara (327,000), Brasov (316,000) and Craiova (314,000).

HISTORY

Like all the Latin peoples, the Romanian people were born in the 1st millennium AD and have lived in the same territory where its ancestors, the Indo-European Dacians, who belonged to the large family of the Thracians, had lived since the 1st millennium BC. Today, the Romanians are the only descendants of Eastern Latinity. In the Middle Ages, the Romanians lived in three different principalities: Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania. The nation-state was founded in 1859, when Wallachia and Moldavia united, and the state proclaimed its full independence from the Ottoman Porte in 1877. In 1918, at the end of World War I, the other territories inhabited by Romanians - Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania - united with Romania. After World War II, Romania shared the same fate as the other Central and East-European states encompassed in the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union. The popular revolution of December 1989 overthrew the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu (1965-1989), relegated the communist system to the past and restored democracy based on a multi-party system and free-market. Romania is integrated into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures, being a NATO and European Union Member. In a zone of Europe troubled by inter-ethnic crises and conflicts, Romania has emerged in the last decade as an element of equilibrium, stability and cooperation.

TOURISM

The variegated landscape, from the peaks of the Carpathian Mountains to the sunny coast of the Black Sea, attracts visitors year-round. There are many ancient and mediaeval historical vestiges, the folk culture has preserved unaltered islands to this day and, last but not least, the peoples' hospitality is spontaneous and remarkable. The capital city, Bucharest once called Little Paris, is one of the biggest cities in the area. The Romanian riviera includes 16 resorts stretching over 50 km of the Black Sea shoreline. The Danube Delta boasts a landscape and wildlife unique in Europe. Southern Transylvania harbours Romania's most beautiful mediaeval towns: Sibiu, Sighisoara and Brasov. Ara Barsei, deep within the Carpathian arch, is Europe's most compact zone of fortified village churches. The same area is known for the Bran Castle, connected to the legendary Dracula. Northern Moldavia is famous for the 15th-16th century churches whose exterior is covered with paintings and which are UNESCO-protected monuments. The town of Targu Jiu proudly harbours a complex of monuments in the open - the Endless Column, the Table of Silence and the Gate of the Kiss - all works of sculptor Constantin Brancusi (born in the nearby village of Hobita).

ABOUT BUCHAREST (BUCURESTI).

BUCHAREST is [Romania](#)'s capital and largest city, as well as the most important industrial and commercial centre of the country. With its 2 million inhabitants in the city proper and more than 2.4 million in the urban area, it is also one of the largest cities in Eastern Europe. At first sight, the city is a chaotic jumble of traffic-choked streets, ugly concrete apartment blocks and grandiose but unfinished Communist developments. Lying 64 km from the Danube, Romania's southern border, but 600 km from its northern frontier, it is also far removed from the country's more obvious attractions. And yet, it is Romania's centre of government and commerce and site of its main airport, so most visitors to the country will find themselves passing through Bucharest at some point.

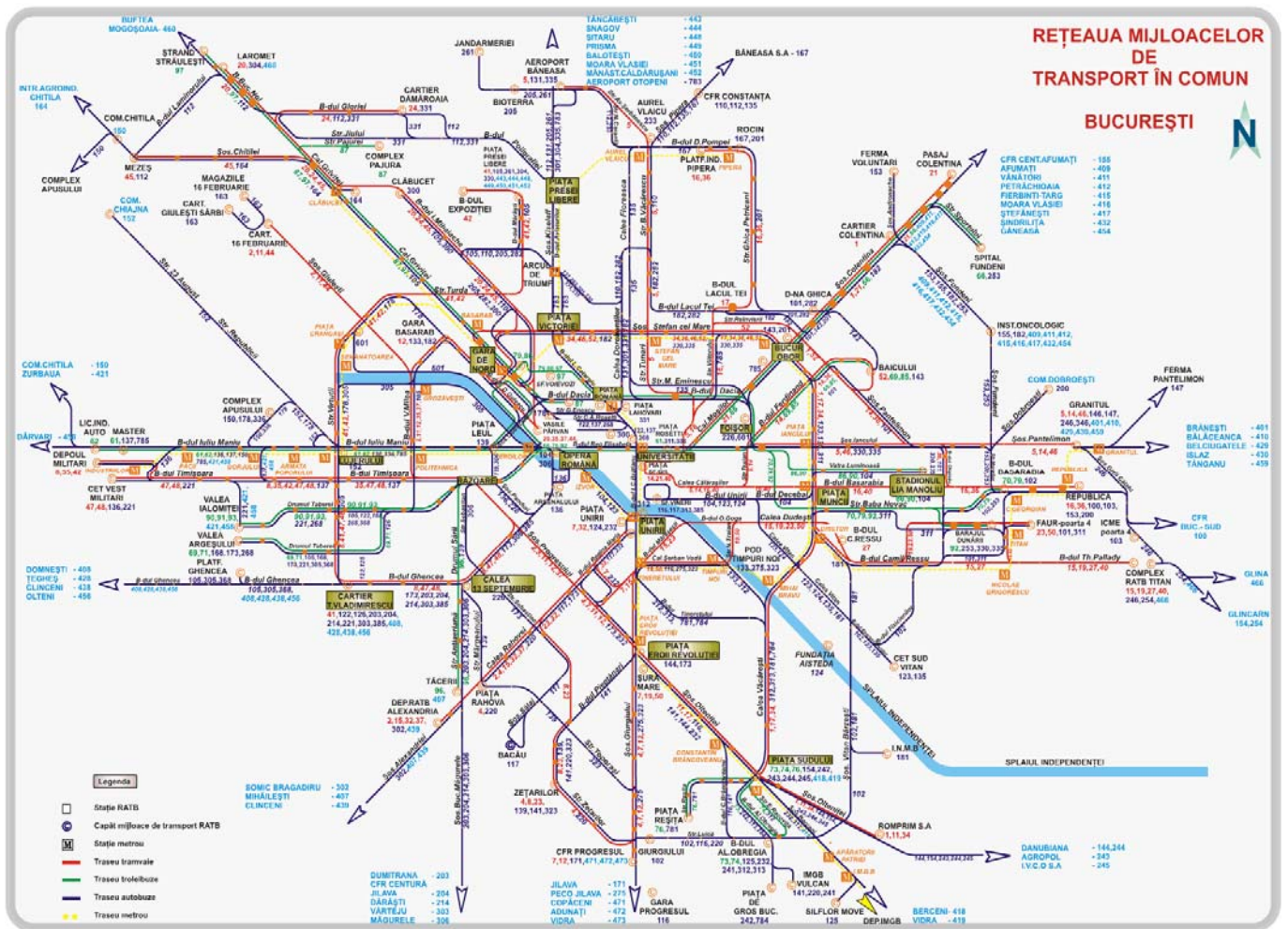
Legend says that Bucharest was founded by a shepherd named [Bucur](#); another more likely variant is that it was established by [Mircea cel Bătrân](#) in the [14th century](#) after a victory won over the Turks (*bucurie* means joy in Romanian). Like most ancient cities of Romania, its foundation has also been ascribed to the first Wallachian prince, the half-mythical [Radu Negru](#). *Bucharest* is first mentioned under its present name as a residence in [1459](#) of the Wallachian prince [Vlad Tepeș](#) (Vlad the Impaler). It was then that the Old Royal Court ([Curtea Veche](#)) was built and, during the rule of [Radu cel Frumos](#), it became the summer residence of the court. In [1595](#), it was burned by the Turks but, after its restoration, continued to grow in size and prosperity and, in [1698](#), Prince [Constantin Brâncoveanu](#) chose it for his capital.

The architecture of the old city, with its cosmopolitan air, was notoriously scarred by Ceausescu's redevelopment project, which demolished an immense swathe of the historic centre and replaced it with a concrete jungle, the **Centru Civic**, including a huge new palace for the Communist leader, now known as the **Palace of Parliament**. The palace has become one of the city's prime tourist sites and is best viewed along the approach from Piata Unirii. The other site that justifies a visit to the city lies to the north of the centre: the **Village Museum**, a wonderful collection of vernacular buildings collected from all regions of Romania. Between these two poles, in the centre of the city, the **National History Museum** lays out the story of Romania's development from prehistoric times to the 1920s. It is in much the same style as every other county museum, but this is the biggest and best in the country.

METRO

The metro system, which has four lines and covers the city quite extensively, is usually a good way to get around even though there are surprisingly few stops in the city centre, since the system was originally built to transport workers and commuters from outlying quarters into the city. The network is very frequent and fairly comfortable, reliable and easy-to-use.

See metro map at: http://www.miculparis.ro/html_misc/harta_metrou_bucuresti.html



BUSES, TRAMS AND TROLLEYBUSES

Bucharest has a very complex network of buses, trams and trolleybuses which is, at first glance, fairly confusing to the tourist. This is not because of any inconsistencies within the network, but rather due to the intricate web of hundreds of bus, tram and trolleybus routes found in the city. Once you know your way around the network, however, public surface transport can be a very good way of getting around since there is a bus, tram or trolleybus stop virtually *everywhere* in this city. The vehicles are usually very frequently, although they can also get terribly crowded at peak hours. Make sure you know the stop you are getting off at - in most trolleybuses or buses, following stops are announced automatically and displayed on a screen inside the vehicle.

Tickets can be bought from RATB kiosks at a significant amount of stops. If you are staying longer than a few days, your best bet is to buy a weekly ticket, which is cheaper and enables you to travel as much as you want.

TAXIS

Taxis inside Bucharest usually cost 1.5 Lei/Km (0.35 Euro/Km), as long as you take a taxi that has an association with a trusted taxi company. By law, all taxis need to display the company's name and telephone number, as well as their tariffs on the outside of the passenger door. Note that **Pornire** is the starting fee. It is the **Tarif** underneath you need to be aware of. All taxis will provide a receipt, if necessary.