

The 3rd International Conference on
**Re-Shaping Territories,
Environment and Societies: New
Challenges for Geography**



Conference Book of abstracts

University of Bucharest
Faculty of Geography

15th -16th
November 2024

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Characteristics of the degradation of agricultural surfaces in the southern Bărăgan Plain

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Abstract: The Southern Bărăgan Plain is a geographical unit where the rainfall processes have a moderate action, even reduced in some places, taking into account the low rainfall as well as the morphology and morphometers of the relief. These processes have an impact on man and human activities, primarily through the action they have on land on which intensive agriculture is practiced or even on inhabited areas. From the lithological, morphographic and morphometric conditions of this relief unit and their interaction with climatic factors has resulted the rainfall relief that developed and is represented by forms with a degree of frequency and development appropriate to morphogenetic conditions. The morphogenesis of the pluvial relief has as modelling agent the water from precipitation. The action of this agent can be achieved depending on some factors, with influence on rainfall modelling, existing at the level of this plain unit. We include and analyse in this study, those forms of relief created by the processes of: rain-erosion, areolar erosion, diffuse flow and concentrated flow. The identification and typification of this genetic type of relief resulted from the field observations and the consultation of the theoretical aspects that genetically analyse the relief, as a need for the correct framing of the existing relief forms. We consider the fluvio-pluvial relief as a genetic category framed by the fluvial relief on the one hand and the pluvio-denudational relief on the other hand, being specific to a stage in which the relief forms evolve from the pluvio-denudational relief to the fluvial relief. As a special note of the study, spectral indices were used, these being parameters for quantitative and qualitative evaluation, on some elements of the environment, which are transposed on the satellite image.

Geomorphological risks associated with anthropogenic interventions for the construction of the Sibiu-Pitești highway in sector 2, lot 2

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Abstract: The construction of the Sibiu-Pitești highway in sector 2, lot 2, required significant anthropogenic interventions that heightened geomorphological risks in the area, exposing slopes to instability. This study assesses and validates susceptibility to geomorphological processes such as rockfalls, landslides, and detrital block displacements, employing a pre-construction multicriteria modelling approach, subsequently confirmed through field observations. The susceptibility analysis identified critical zones, and the models demonstrated a high level of accuracy, validating the identified risks by overlaying them with phenomena observed in the field post-excavation. The study highlights the direct impact of construction activities on slope stability, where excavations triggered rockfalls and minor landslides in areas initially identified as susceptible, thus confirming the applied methodology's effectiveness. The modelling demonstrated that, in the absence of preventive measures, anthropogenic interventions can amplify geomorphological risks, affecting the integrity of infrastructure and road safety.

Do heritage sites cope with land degradation through geomorphological processes?

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Abstract: Environmental degradation poses a significant challenge to lands, communities, and their natural, cultural, and historical heritage. One specific type of degradation is geomorphological processes, which affect most of the heritage areas. These processes affect the land, heritage buildings, their foundations, and the overall quality of the landscape, leading to significant economic losses. In recent decades, there has been increased attention to the damage experienced by heritage sites due to both natural and non-natural hazards, as well as the methods for their recovery. The intensification, magnitude, and frequency of natural geomorphological hazards pose a risk to the stability, integrity and quality of these heritage sites, potentially leading to their degradation or even destruction. Numerous factors contribute to the preparation and triggering of these hazards, which depend on the specific context of each site, including the geological, geomorphological, and climatic environment. Different heritage sites face these challenges uniquely and require a comprehensive understanding of the hazards and degradation processes they are exposed to. The goal is to reduce risks and preserve heritage through rehabilitation and protection programs. Addressing the complexity of these conditions necessitates interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches, along with minimal or non-invasive investigations for data collection and analysis. The findings of the study underscore the analysis of degradation processes threatening heritage sites, as well as the assessment of the current state of land degradation both within and near these sites.

Observed changes in magnitude and frequency of floods and maximum streamflow in the upper Ialomița River catchment

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Abstract: This paper explores the variability of the maximum streamflow in the upper Ialomița River watershed, overlapping the Carpathians and Subcarpathians, in order to detect changes in the maximum discharges and floods data series. Frequency (over statistical thresholds) was applied to the series of monthly and annual maximum discharges recorded at 9 gauging stations over a long period of 6 decades (1961 – 2020), and in two subperiods of 30 years each (1961-1990 and 1991-2020), which correspond to standard climatological normal periods (as defined by the W.M.O.). To identify the possible climate changes during the analysed period that could be responsible for the alteration of the maximum streamflow, we also explored the main climate parameters controlling the streamflow (i.e., air temperature, total precipitation, daily maximum precipitation and snow cover depth) at five weather stations located in the study area, and we compared the averaged values for the two 30-year subperiods (1961-1990 and 1991-2020). Both the analyses for the long period and the comparison of the results from the two sub-periods showed, as a whole, an increase in the frequency and magnitude of the maximum streamflow and floods in the last decades. This can be attributed, mainly, to the changes in the climatic parameters that control the discharge. In the case of rivers impacted by dams and reservoirs, the direct influence of the climate may be less clear, because of the operation of the reservoirs. Although a pattern in the variation of the maximum streamflow was identified, the results are not homogeneous throughout the study region.

Climate resilience in the EU: network analysis on the implementation of nature-based solutions

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Abstract: Climate change has become increasingly serious threats to ecosystems and communities, while nature-based solutions (NBS) have become sustainable alternatives that support adaptation and mitigation strategies. The implementation of nature-based solutions helps mitigate the negative impact of extreme weather events and improve environmental resilience, as well as increase citizen engagement and economic development of cities. Thus, the implementation of these innovative solutions requires a solid scientific analysis in order to understand the dynamics of ecosystems, to establish the most appropriate financing mechanisms for nature-based solutions projects, but also to understand the needs of local communities. Here, we present a framework for analyzing the implementation of public policies in the fields of biodiversity and climate change, by using network analysis to implement projects dedicated to nature-based solutions. This paper will present the synergies and gaps in the interactions between stakeholders, resources and ecosystems, and will highlight the link between project results and biodiversity policies. The study was built on the following steps: (1) Analysis of around 100 Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 projects; (2) Establishment of analysis elements, such as the level of funding, type of partners or geographical distribution and (3) Network analysis on the implementation of NBS projects. This approach shows that nature-based solutions implementation is science-based, focused on local needs and ensures their effective integration into urban planning.

High temporal-resolution satellite data analysis of deltaic shoreline evolution via Google Earth Engine

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Abstract: Through high temporal-resolution Landsat satellite imagery provided by Google Earth Engine between 1984-2024, this study explores the coastal surface dynamics in the most important deltas from the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins. The Danube, Rhone, Nile, Ebro and Po Deltas were analyzed in relation with their geomorphological response to environmental shaping factors such as sediment accumulation, erosive processes and extreme climatic events. Over the last 40 years, the Danube and Po Deltas revealed a positive (accumulative) trend, with an increase in land areas. On the other hand, the Nile and Ebro Deltas faced significant surface reductions, with more intense erosive dynamics, while the Rhone Delta maintained a quasi equilibrium net-balance between sediment accumulation and erosion. This research links surface reduction in deltas with the impacts of significant storm events, including the 1997-1998 events in the Danube and Rhone Deltas, 2012 in the Danube Delta and the Gloria Storm of 2020 affecting both the Rhone and Ebro Deltas. In contrast, the correlation with floods, particularly in the Danube Delta, indicates a slightly delayed response in surface growth, which needs further investigations. The majority of spectral indices used in the investigation (ANDWI, AWEL, MNDWI, SCoWI, WI₂₀₁₅) generally showed consistent behaviours in identifying the land-water interfaces, while NDWI tended to overestimate the land areas in shallow waters. This preliminary assessment highlights the importance of using the open-source databases for monitoring and understanding the complex dynamics of deltaic landscapes. These are crucial features for developing an effective environmental management and conservation strategies in the context of present climate change and sea-level rise.

Identification and evaluation of the touristic objectives of the Jewish cultural heritage in Bucharest

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Abstract: Heritage tourism is linked to cultural diversity – past or present, and ethnic minorities have become a significant part of the tourism industry, city of Bucharest continuing to offer numerous cultural and historical attractions. During the communist period, urban planning interventions affected many central historical areas, being remarkable the fact that not only there are still some historical buildings that belonged to the Jews, despite the demolitions, but also that the majority of those who visit these places are non-Jews, people who want to know and preserve the memory of Jewish Bucharest. Knowing the built Jewish heritage is the first and easiest step to understanding it, and, implicitly, a chance to recover the heritage and spiritual values. To approach this research theme, it started from the strictly qualitative aspect. Through this study, the values that can be attributed to the cultural assets of Jewish heritage were determined, these values supporting the valorization through tourism. The aims of this study are: the identification of heritage values and the evaluation of the tourism potential of the Jewish cultural heritage by using an index of tourist attractiveness and a set of values established as evaluation criteria, for the determination of the tourism potential, as well as the ways of development and promotion of it within the cultural tourism in Bucharest, in the context of preservation, conservation and restoration.

The sacred cultural landscape in the Baragan Plain

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Abstract: Many of the religious monuments in Baragan, as in the whole territory of Romania, are custodians of special symbols, of great value and cultural attraction. The entire geographical area analysed is an area with a large religious belief, Christian, predominantly Orthodox. This determined a certain organizational structure at the level of the lay community. There are thus village churches, whose cemetery is predominantly in the immediate vicinity - where space allowed, but also village churches whose presence is in the village, and the cemetery is positioned more secluded. Besides this offered religious attractiveness, many of the existing monuments can be considered an important cultural base for the community to which they belong, but also a potential cultural-tourist or just cultural attraction for those interested in the culture of the plain area. Thus, it could be said that cultural tourism is one of the forms of tourism that can highlight the cultural elements of a certain geographical area. Through this type of tourism, local values can become known and appreciated as they deserve.

The benefits of implementing nature base solutions (NBS) in urban areas. Case study: Crângași neighbourhood, Bucharest, Romania

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Abstract: In a world characterize by fast changes it become essential to be informed and aware of the environment transformations. Given the challenges made by climate changes, this study proposes to highlight the actual context of nature base solutions (NBS) and to approach critical aspects like adaptability of human condition to climate changes, their negative effects, but also how we can reduce

their impact to improve the quality of life. To highlight this context, we create a correlation matrix between NBS and climate changes. As well, we took inventory with each building of the neighborhood, following to extract land surface temperature (LST) from a satellite image of a summer day of 2023. The results show us that NBS are important in the current context of global warming, being one of the key elements that can help us to reduce the temperatures in urban areas. The scenarios are optimistic but require further studies to accurately show the benefits of NBS.

Exploring Urban Cyclist Safety: Factors, Behaviors, and Strategies for Sustainable Commuting

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Studies

Abstract: Cyclists are at risk as road users, facing disproportionately high rates of road injuries, especially in low- and middle-income nations. The behaviors of road users are influenced by the broader transportation system; therefore, analyzing cyclist behaviors can uncover systemic problems within the road transport network. This insight can lead to the development of effective and sustainable solutions aimed at improving cyclists' safety. This research investigates the emerging factors and phenomena threatening the safety and welfare of urban cyclists, focusing on sustainable commuting and the critical role of cyclists in reducing environmental impact and fostering healthier communities. Between August and November 2023, we conducted an online survey with 300 respondents to assess cyclists' perceptions and behaviors in urban settings across Romania. The study pursues three primary objectives: (i) to assess cyclists' perceptions of traffic safety, including their interactions with other road users and the correlation with conflict frequency; (ii) to identify both risky and protective behaviors exhibited by cyclists; and (iii) to evaluate cyclists' views on the effectiveness and need for safety improvement measures. By linking sustainable transport to cyclist safety and advocacy, this research provides practical insights and recommendations for developing a safer and more sustainable urban transportation system, highlighting the necessity for cyclist-friendly infrastructure and comprehensive safety measures to address the growing challenges of urban mobility.

The consequences of rainfall extremes on the dynamics of the relief in the area of Orsova Municipality

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Abstract: The increase of floods and droughts implies the increase of severe disaster frequency because the changes of precipitations, evapotranspiration and soil moisture content will affect to a great extent, water management, finally causing soil degradation. Practical importance is given by the necessity of studying atmospheric precipitations in order to avoid some unfavourable consequences (floods, slope modelling processes, soil erosion, agricultural terrains scrounging, environment quality deterioration etc.). The researches prove that climate changes are already taking place and estimate their evolution. Although their effects on flood regime cannot be quantified yet, changes in their intensity and frequency are expected and therefore, protection and adaptation measures are required when excessive precipitations cause floods.

Accessibility at primary healthcare in the rural Romania using grids and network analyst.

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Abstract: In this paper we are trying to quantify using GIS the accessibility to primary healthcare in rural environment of Romania at the present time, an environment with accessibility problems at national level and with increasingly obvious gap areas in recent years. Moreover, a good premise for starting this study was the fact that a good percentage of rural localities in Romania do not have primary healthcare infrastructure and travel times to the most important healthcare unit increase due to the need to travel to other neighbouring localities or beyond. Methodologically, grid-type distribution model will be calculated at the whole national level, starting from official data related to primary healthcare units, applying geocoding and network analyst functions, then standardizing the geolocated values, respectively values obtained in raster format on grids. Final results will demonstrate the discrepancy between accessibility to primary healthcare units in isolated and very isolated rural environments, compared to the rural environments from peri-urban zones or rural environments with higher concentrations of built space or those located on main communication routes. Furthermore, it will be possible to identify large discrepancies in accessibility values between villages that are commune residence and arrondissement villages. There is also important to mention that areas without primary healthcare infrastructure will be highlighted and will register very low accessibility values. Also, these parameters will be analysed qualitatively, having data related to classes of values regarding travel times, as well as data related to demographic size of localities, results being able to be broken down later even by regions or counties.

Urban art in public spaces analysis in Romanian cities

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Abstract: The present research focuses on the urban art analysis in Romanian cities, respectively in public spaces and from a geographical perspective. Spatial and functional transformations in the studied urban areas are explained in a complex approach in which territorial density of artworks is considered together with in time artworks increase. Whether it is about urban art participation in different projects of urban regeneration or just isolated art interventions in public spaces, the phenomenon is analysed taking into account both graffiti and street artworks. Relying on the understanding of the messages transmitted and the involvement degrees of different entities in the process of producing artworks, and necessarily based on the understanding of the local context of street art evolution, the results obtained in the study highlight the impact that artworks have directly or indirectly in urban regeneration, cultural revival, placemaking or tourism development, both in peripheries and city centers.

Forests and their related ecosystem services: Visitors' perceptions in the urban and peri-urban spaces of Timișoara, Romania

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Abstract: Urban and peri-urban forests serve as significant drivers, conferring benefits to humans through engagement with their ecosystems. These benefits encompass recreation, cognitive development, introspection, the acquisition of knowledge systems, social relations, and aesthetic values. Forests and their associated ecosystem services can therefore be regarded as both immaterial

and material contributions to human well-being. The aim of this study is to contribute to the advancement of existing knowledge on forests and their ecosystem services by focusing our investigation on urban and peri-urban ecosystem services and by providing new insights into visitors' experiences in two major forests of a Romanian city and its peri-urban area: Padurea Verde, the largest forest in Timișoara, and the Giroc Forest, one of the most frequently visited forest areas in the peri-urban zone of Timișoara. Thirty-six in-depth interviews were conducted with visitors to the two selected forests in September 2024. The findings indicate that visitors derive benefits from the ecosystem values of these forests, including recreational, aesthetic, and cultural values. However, there are also feelings of disappointment related to the lack of cleanliness and the presence of an excessive number of insects in the forests. The findings also indicate a necessity for the implementation of organized activities, such as sports competitions and more children-oriented events, while discouraging the organization of festivals and the excessive use of noise in forests. Furthermore, they suggest that forests should be maintained in a relatively undisturbed state. These findings could prove beneficial for local practitioners, enabling the continued provision of complex ecosystem services and recreational values by urban and peri-urban forests.

Romania Integrating Geospatial Open Educational Resources in Geography Teaching

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Abstract: Currently, students are highly visual and hyperconnected to the digital environment, easily accessing the visual, pragmatic, and applied elements of geographical content, yet show less interest in theoretical, abstract, and descriptive components. The inclusion of Open Educational Resources (OER) facilitates the learning of certain geographical phenomena, supporting a shift from inductive to deductive reasoning. This article highlights the importance of geospatial OER for a comprehensive understanding of geographical reality. Using OER promotes active learning, enhances digital competencies for both teachers and students and encourages discovery-based learning, fostering “savoir-être” and „savoir-faire” attitudes. However, the integration of these OER in the teaching-learning-evaluation process is limited by the reduced number of hours allocated in the core curriculum, which hinders the in-depth exploration of certain essential content.

Tackling cardiovascular care deserts in Romania: expanding population access in underserved areas

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Abstract: Cardiovascular deserts are areas with inadequate healthcare services for heart-related issues. These areas lack medical facilities, specialists, and equipment able to diagnose, treat, and manage cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) effectively. Romania registers the highest incidence and the highest mortality due to CVDs in Europe. Population ageing, which is a significant concern, increases the risk of CVDs and also demand for specialised care. Although over 50% of Romanians live in rural areas, most medical resources are concentrated in a few large cities, leaving many other areas underserved. Cardiologists are unevenly distributed across the country, with specialists being difficult to reach, particularly in the case of regions where they are most needed. This study used the Application Programming Interface (API) Matrix service from Google Maps and open data sources to identify cardiovascular deserts and estimate the population with limited or no access to cardiovascular care. We

measured the distance and travel time to the nearest hospital unit able to provide complex cardiovascular care. Results show that over 64% of the Romanian population live in cardiovascular deserts, having to cover over 60 km and travel more than 30 minutes to reach a cardiovascular hospital. These cardiovascular deserts were identified mainly in the country's west, southwest, and south-east regions and are characterised by higher mortality rates due to CVDs, a shortage of general physicians, a scarcity of cardiologists, and population ageing while also overlapping mountainous regions, the Danube Delta, and remote rural areas with sub-standard transportation infrastructure, with both sets of characteristics feeding into each other. The population living in the identified cardiovascular deserts often face mobility issues and low incomes, making it difficult to travel long distances or afford transportation costs. Implementing telemedicine or mobile healthcare services in underserved areas, involving community healthcare workers, and policy support could be solutions to expand the population's access to specialised care in cardiovascular deserts, ensuring equitable access to healthcare for all.

Managing suburbanization in Romania. Recommendations for a metropolitan territorial plan

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Abstract: The transition from centralized socialist planning to a decentralized, neo-liberal system has posed major challenges for urban planning in Central and Eastern Europe, including Romania. With the shift, private interests have spurred rapid suburbanization, leading to widespread, low-density development around major cities. However, this growth often lacks essential public infrastructure, and governance structures have struggled to manage it effectively across administrative boundaries. In Romania, metropolitan areas were defined legally in 2001 as voluntary associations of cities and their surrounding communes, and from 2008, seven National Growth Poles required Integrated Development Plans to access EU Regional Development Funds. Despite this, planning initiatives frequently remained nominal, and spatial plans lacked cohesion with broader regional policies. This disconnect has meant that land use is governed independently by local units, even within metropolitan areas, causing challenges in implementing cohesive urban plans. In 2022, new legislation (Law no. 246) allowed metropolitan areas to create comprehensive Metropolitan General Urban Plans. This law, part of an evolving code on urban planning, aims to address regulatory gaps, but lacks specific norms to guide its implementation. In response, this study proposes recommendations for a metropolitan planning framework, informed by a review of current Romanian legislation, expert interviews, and a comparative analysis of planning practices in other European countries. Findings indicate that a significant barrier to organized suburban development is institutional, as metropolitan areas lack robust authorities to steer urban planning. A successful metropolitan plan should align with overarching development goals, focusing on designated functional zones and infrastructure networks, while establishing detailed land-use regulations for suburban expansion areas. These recommendations could provide Romania's metropolitan areas with a stronger foundation for managing suburban growth and fostering coherent, sustainable development.

Assessment of the hydro-climatic drought in the Teleorman watershed based on the statistical analysis of some specific indicators"

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Abstract: The hydroclimatic drought represents one of the most common hazards in recent years both globally and regionally. Knowing the characteristics of this hazard is crucial, in order to mitigate its negative consequences by implementing appropriate management measures. In this context, the purpose of this study is to identify historical periods of drought, as well as their characteristics using various indices specific to this phenomenon within the Teleorman watershed. Several issues were addressed in this work: i) identifying the periods of hydrological droughts of the river Teleorman based on SSI at 1,3,6 and 12 months ii) identifying the period of climatic drought by using the SPI and SPEI indices at 1,3,6 and 12 months iii) quantifying the correlation between the magnitude of SSI and SPI/SPEI indices. The study is mainly based on hydrological and climate data. The hydrological data (monthly discharges) were recorded at Tătăraștii de Sus and Teleormanu gauging stations, for the period 1965-2013, and were provided by ABA Argeș-Vedea. Climatic data includes temperature and precipitation extracted from the ROCADA dataset for the same period, 1965-2013. Based on the climatic data, the potential evapotranspiration was calculated by using the Hargreaves method. R Studio software was used for the drought indices considered in the analysis, both hydrological (SSI) and climatic (SPI, SPEI). The SSI, which quantifies the drought of watercourses, was found to have a smaller magnitude than the SPI or SPEI, which quantifies the characteristics of climatic droughts. Regarding the correlation between climatic and hydrological indices, it has been proven that the SSI-SPEI correlation is stronger than the SSI-SPI correlation and the correlation coefficient (r) is quite similar (about 0.72) for the two analyzed gauging stations, especially for longer time intervals. Overall, the Teleorman watershed is characterized by moderate hydroclimatic droughts which occurred especially at the beginning of the 1990s.

Using Fuzzy, Multicriteria Decision Making Analysis and Index of Entropy techniques to evaluate flood susceptibility in Buzău Rivera basin

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Abstract: The global warming and climate changes determined a considerable increase in the frequency of floods and their related damages. Therefore, the high accuracy prediction of flood susceptible areas plays a key role in flood warnings and risk reduction. The main objective of this study is to propose the hybridizations of fuzzy Analytical Hierarchy Process (FAHP) and Index of Entropy (IoE) for predicting the areas susceptible to floods. Buzău river catchment (Romania) was the area on which the present study was focused. In this regard, a database with 205 flooded locations, 205 non-flood locations and 12 flood predictors was established and used to train and validate the flood susceptibility models. The performance of the proposed models was evaluated using the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) Curve and statistical metrics. The results show that hybrid model have a high prediction performance and outperform the stand-alone models. Thus, the FAHP-IoE ($AUC = 0.97$), exceeds the performance of IoE ($AUC = 0.969$) and FAHP ($AUC = 0.947$). These results highlight a very high efficiency of all the applied models. The application of the models mentioned above revealed that a percentage between 12.5% (FPIIoE) and 21.2% (FPIFAHP) of the study area is characterized by high and very high exposure to these hydrological hazards.

The Importance of Modern Digitalization Means in the Museum Space; Case Study – The Use of QR Codes in the National History Museum of Romania in Bucharest

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Abstract: Digitalization is the process that has an increasingly favourable effect for providing information. Generations of young people are more and more attracted to modern means to which they can turn for information. A large number of institutions, including museums, have applied to this message, which have adapted their exhibition offer by adding QR codes that contain rich information and to which visitors could not have access. The present study is an analysis at the museum tourism consumer, having as its central point the National History Museum in Bucharest. The observation is the main method of analysis, and discussions with 181 visitors over 60 days were important for achieving the clouds of words. The results of the study show that digitalization had the following effects: increase the tourist attraction, ease the activity of curators and guides in museums and increase the level of satisfaction of visitors for all age categories. Scanning QR codes is a fun activity in itself that additionally brings information that can be read later, after visiting the museum. The limits of the study are given by the number of visitors surveyed and the fact that a single modern means of digitization in the museum space is analysed.

Vulnerable Communities Fostering Innovation and Governance of Sustainable Food Systems in European Cities (FEED4FOOD)

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Abstract: The FEED4FOOD project aims to facilitate a transition towards sustainable, inclusive, and healthy urban food systems. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU) (The Netherlands), the Diethnes Panepistimio Ellados University (IHU) (Greece), the Ladies Union of Drama House of Open Hospitality (Lud) (Greece), AREA (AR) (Italy), the KES Research Center (KES) (Cyprus), VL Sustainability Metrics LTD (SuMe) (Cyprus), and the Municipality of Strovolos, Nicosia (MoS) (Cyprus). The project's objective is to enhance income and food security for vulnerable communities, while simultaneously optimising circularity and sustainability, and generating eco-services. The project is structured around three core elements: (1) Living Labs, (2) Central Knowledge & Learning Hub, (3) Transition Strategy. Each Living Lab has a specific focus on one or more vulnerable groups, including migrants, women, individuals with mental or physical disabilities, youth who have left the education system, and the elderly. The Living Labs facilitate the transfer of skills, the sharing of best practices, and the provision of coaching, training, and adjustments to workspaces, thereby addressing the challenges faced by participants. The concept of sustainability is guaranteed through the collaborative establishment of Living Labs with local stakeholders. The data collected in each Living Lab is analysed in the integrated Hub, which provides insights into the performance of the Living Labs and an evaluation of their success or failure. This analysis is used to inform the scaling process and derive lessons for future iterations. The Hub's tools are designed with environmental and social sustainability in mind. To initiate the expansion of the Living Labs, FEED4FOOD incorporates a structured approach to providing support and training to selected Living Lab participants, who are chosen by local communities to facilitate their transition to self-sustaining entrepreneurs.

The role of landscape in the tourism development of archaeological sites in Dobrogea

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Abstract: The attractiveness of a tourist objective is correlated with several factors and parameters. Through our study, we want to highlight the connection between the landforms and the tourist success of the archaeological sites, having the Romanian region of Dobrogea as the study area. This is one of the areas with the highest density of archeological sites, most of them being included in the list of historical monuments of the state. Both the historical value of the former cities or ancient fortresses, as well as the extraordinary diversity of the landforms from here represent important advantages of promoting and developing heritage tourism in the region. The geographical landscape of Dobrogea is different and special compared to the rest of the country, having old mountains, beaches, cliffs, deltas, canyons, caves or smooth areas. The applied methodology aims to use GIS technology to extract spatial information regarding the existing relationship between the landscape and archaeological sites. In addition, we will analyze the statistical data regarding the tourist flow from the tourist attractions within the study to identify possible correlations between the landforms and tourist success. By highlighting the interdependence between the natural relief and the archaeological heritage, the article underlines the need for integrated tourism promotion strategies that capitalize on both the natural landscape and the unique cultural heritage of Dobrogea.

The history of tourism in Viscri

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Abstract: The village of Viscri in the commune of Bunești represents a model of rural development for the villages in the territory, but also at national level. Unlike most examples of tourism development in the Romanian countryside, here improvements have been made by preserving the architectural heritage and capitalizing on local goods produced by the villagers, without altering the local specificity. The village's popularity began to grow after 1912, when the Saxon artist Eduard Morres lived here and produced a series of paintings inspired by the idyllic landscape of the village. For a short period, postcards of the Fortified Church were also printed and distributed throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Viscri fortress is the only Saxon fortress from the Kingdom of Romania included in an illustrated album of Europe in 1935 by Martin Hürliman, and in 1938 photographer Kurt Hielscher immortalized scenes of village life, followed by Hans Retzlaff and Karl Hoeffkes who used the village for German Reich propaganda in the form of informational clips between 1933-1944. The first philatelic appearances of Saxon fortified churches appear after August 23, 1944 in a program about Romanian personalities in Transylvania, using them as Transylvanian scenery, without having any connection with them, including the fortress of Viscri. During the communist period, this heritage was considered taboo, therefore little mentioned and unknown to the general public, the only known map, a compilation of watercolors of various medieval churches, from 1980 was that of Iuliana Fabritius-Dâncu. In 1994, Viscri was mentioned in the famous French guide 'Routard'. However, the village was not consecrated as a major tourist destination until 1999, when the church was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, culminating in the purchase of a house in the village by Prince (now King of England) Charles III in 2006. In Romania, Viscri is the brand of rural tourism. The share of international tourists is higher than the share of Romanian tourists visiting the village.

Remote sensing techniques for investigating land use / cover dynamics as a driving force of land degradation

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Abstract: Remote sensing techniques contribute to the understanding and monitoring of land use and land cover (LULC) dynamics, which act as critical driving forces behind land degradation. Key areas of focus include: (a) Deforestation and Conversion to Agriculture (can increase soil erosion and nutrient depletion due to the removal of tree cover), (b) Urbanization and Infrastructure Development (rapid urban expansion often lead to soil sealing and increased surface runoff, reducing groundwater recharge and heightening the risk of flash floods), (c) Overgrazing by Livestock (can lead to a complete removal of vegetation cover, soil compaction, soil erosion), (d) Intensive Agriculture Practices (in the absence of sustainable practices, agriculture can lead to soil nutrient depletion, salinization, and chemical pollution). Remote sensing can deliver effective, continuous monitoring of LULC dynamics, which is essential for addressing land degradation challenges. State-of-the-art technologies can reveal patterns and rates of change, informing sustainable land management practices, mitigating degradation impacts and enhancing ecosystem resilience in the face of increasing pressures from human activities and climate change.

Approaching problems through the eyes of people with locomotor disabilities

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Abstract: Locomotor disability is a disability that society regards as a problem, more critical than mental. The study is based on discussions with people who suffer from a locomotor disability, or are listed as having this disability. The methodology is based on social survey, discussions and word clouds. The results of the study show what is the attitude of the society towards these people from their point of view, what is the attitude of their family members and friends, what are the difficulties they face and what legal regulations could make their life easier. Limitations of the study are provided by the small number of people with a locomotor disability with whom discussions were held, due to a reluctance to discuss the subject. The study aims to be ongoing and to reach as many of these people as possible.

Cross Border Bilateral Cooperation Agreements Concerning Covid Regulations as Survival Factor for Local Tourism: case study the Iron Gates Area

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Abstract: Cross Border Cooperation in a variety of bilateral agreements of regulations has been a long standing and historical reality in the Iron Gates Area covering wide sectors of activity with some particular focus on tourism. Covid reality through its specific regulations for the area has affected the Romanian side of the area in a rather positive but selective way during the pandemic. The post Covid situation did not hold the trend of during the pandemic and did not return to the pre Covid trend either even though tourism has remained the main activity of the area.

Bucharest Old Town: exploring city tourism experiences via the TripAdvisor

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Abstract: The tourism experience and the mode of communication are key expressions of the tourism industry. The development of Internet technology has significantly changed our travel behaviour, experiences, and communication. Digital tourism discourse is represented by online reviews hosted by global platforms such as TripAdvisor, Airbnb, and Booking.com. This study explores how tourists share their post-trip experiences online in the city's historic centre, known as The Old Bucharest. A corpus of data of reviewers' comments (606 posts in total) from the earliest reviews posted on the platform, beginning from April 2018 to December 2023, was created. We examine the personal, mundane, and social engagements in the online sharing tourist experience. Three themes have emerged reflecting the tourist experience: objective/aesthetic stimuli (architecture, art, history), emotional responses (love, fascinating, pleasant stroll), and geographical situation (visit, place, walk, stroll, city centre). This study broadens the purpose of exploring the cityscape of historical centres and how city attractions are changing and would support or challenge decision-makers in applying current regeneration practices and policies.

Barriers to accessing healthcare for homeless people in Bucharest, Romania

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Abstract: Homelessness is a pressing issue affecting disadvantaged groups worldwide, including Romania. Homeless individuals often experience poor health and premature death as their financial and social situation increases their exposure to chronic or communicable diseases and limits their access to regular or preventive care. This paper investigates experiences and perceived barriers to accessing medical services for homeless people in Bucharest, the capital of Romania. It is a qualitative study based on face-to-face semi-structured interviews with homeless people and representatives of different NGOs offering social support to these individuals. It aims to explore personal experiences and views on the difficulties homeless people face when seeking care. It uses the inductive-deductive approach, with the authors applying a thematic analysis to identify barriers homeless individuals experience when accessing healthcare services. Results indicate that numerous issues prevent this vulnerable population from receiving medical care. Due to their housing status, homeless individuals often face discrimination and stigmatization by healthcare providers and negative attitudes from staff and other patients when seeking healthcare services. Previous negative experiences thus contribute to a deep-rooted distrust of the healthcare system. At the same time, fear of judgment and mistreatment discourages homeless individuals from seeking the care they need. Addressing these barriers requires a comprehensive approach that involves raising awareness, improving financial support, expanding the healthcare infrastructure, combating discrimination, and providing health literacy assistance.

The Impact of Current Geopolitical and Geo-economic Factors Upon Trade Policies Strategies

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Abstract: Conducting a diagnostic study on current geopolitical and geo-economic factors is essential to explore the complexity of the global trade framework. The objective of this diagnostic study is therefore to synthesize studies that highlight trends and challenges driven by the shifting geo-economic

and geopolitical context. In detail, the analysis explores the economic and geopolitical tools discussed in the literature in order to achieve geopolitical objectives with a consequent impact on commercial strategies. The SCOPUS database query provided 4855 literature sources, which once filtered yielded 2913 articles specific to the geo-economic and geopolitical context in relation to trade issues. On the basis of the bibliometric analysis conducted, the following geopolitical and geo-economic factors are highlighted: a) Political stability, international relations, military conflicts, international and national regulatory frameworks, geography through distance between states and transportation routes, political issues related to the rise of nationalism and territorial disputes; b) Economic policies and trade agreements, market access and trade barriers, global supply chains especially for critical resources and rare elements, currency fluctuations, technological advances, environmental considerations along with energy transition. The approach allows not only an overview of the current state of the art studies, but also the identification of possible nuances of research capable of clarifying the complexity of trade relations in the dynamic context of global geopolitics. What seems to matter is given by the exploration of space as a framework of trade regulations, space as a stake for the control of markets and space as a theatre of economic operations.

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for predictive risk assessment and landscape management in urban areas

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As human activities continue to reshape landscapes in both urban and rural areas, the need for advanced tools that integrate environmental management with predictive risk analysis has become critical. AI₄RiSK will be a cutting-edge platform designed to analyze and manage multi-source data, using artificial intelligence to provide predictive insights into landscape transformations and associated risks. Through the fusion of satellite, aerial, and environmental data, AI₄RiSK will enable real-time assessment of geomorphic processes, urban density changes, and environmental vulnerabilities, supporting informed decision-making and sustainable policy development. This platform will leverage advanced AI models to assess and predict potential risks linked to physical and human-induced changes in landscapes, helping identify and address spatial disparities and converging standards of living across regions. By employing explainable AI, AI₄RiSK will offer visual and percentage-based risk predictions, aiding policymakers in proactive planning and mitigation efforts. With its capabilities, AI₄RiSK represents a significant advancement in integrating geomorphology and risk management, enabling sustainable development across diverse geographic areas. A relevant use case will focus on urban flood monitoring and prevention by analyzing multispectral and aerial data to identify vulnerable areas, assess population density in high-risk regions, and provide real-time risk predictions, enabling local authorities to implement proactive measures to protect infrastructure and communities.

Application of the Continuum suitability index (CSI) model to display the permeability of Transylvania Continental Biogeographic Region landscape.

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Abstract: Landscape permeability is an essential concept in landscape ecology, reflecting its capacity to facilitate the movement of species and ecological flows between habitats. This concept plays a central role in the planning and implementation of conservation and ecological restoration measures at a macro-regional scale, being crucial for maintaining ecological connectivity. The aim of this study is to assess landscape permeability and identify Strategic Connectivity Areas (SACA) in the Continental Biogeographical Region of Transylvania (CBRT). The main objectives were: (1) modelling landscape permeability using the Continuous Suitability Index (CSI), and (2) identifying SACA zones within the CBRT. The methodology involved the application of the CSI, a recognised tool for assessing permeability, based on five relevant indicators: land use, population density, topography, presence of protected areas, and the degree of landscape fragmentation. The CSI provides a quantified assessment of the landscape's capacity to support ecological connectivity, being used to identify areas with potential for ecological restoration interventions. The results show that in the CBRT, the CSI index ranges between 1.71 and 9.29, with an average value of 6.69. Approximately 93.38% of the CBRT area is classified as SACA₂, indicating high ecological potential for strengthening landscape connectivity, 5.24% represents SACA₁ zones, with high ecological value that need to be conserved and connected, while 1.38% are SACA₃ zones, where significant restoration measures are required. In conclusion, the CBRT has the potential to function as a focal point for conservation interventions (SACA₂), with a particular focus on developing ecological corridors and functional linkages, thus facilitating the connection of SACA₁ areas, which have high ecological value.

Balneary locations and utility of bioclimatic statistical data

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Abstract: Balneary tourism is the only form of tourism in Romania that is based on a complex and permanent, practically inexhaustible potential. Knowing that weather greatly influences human physiology and behaviour, we have conceived an interactive management system bioclimatic data, based on Visual Fox Pro. The program allows the query of real or predicted values bioclimatic. Thus, provides to any interested user, ready facilities to calculate the values of bioclimatic index. Calculations allow in order to assess the potential bioclimatic risk of overcooling or overheating risks. The physical-geographical coastal zone reflects the interaction between two distinct environments: land and sea, which create a specific bioclimate. Managing Visual Fox Pro database is useful in bioclimatic research because it provides various forms and reports of identifying specific critical problems, especially by using spatial operators allowing to create, identify, manage, update, remove alpha-numeric and spatial data through variable spatial relationship types. In Romania the balneary resorts have developed under the conditions of the existence of exceptional natural factors. These are important due to their multifunctional specialization: treatment, rest, leisure, etc. Balneary tourism remains an important segment due to the effects it has on increasing the quality of life.

Suivi de l'impact des activités anthropiques sur l'évolution du secteur Danube-Delta sur une période de 30 ans à l'aide de l'imagerie SAR

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Abstract: La disparition des zones sauvages menacerait la destruction du système écologique. La croissance des activités humaines le long du Danube, et en particulier au sein des îlots, nuirait encore davantage aux habitats écologiques. La croissance des zones urbaines et industrielles à proximité des rives augmenterait la pollution du Danube, infectant ainsi la flore et la faune de la région. L'objectif de ce travail est d'étudier et de suivre l'impact des activités anthropiques sur l'évolution du secteur Danube-Delta sur une période de 30 ans. Pour cela, nous avons comparé les scènes acquises à différentes dates, 1993 et 2023, par les satellites ERS1-2 et Sentinel-1, sur la zone d'étude qui s'étend sur 395,06 km de long et couvre une superficie de 15 043,77 km². Les premiers résultats révèlent une prolifération de l'activité humaine le long des berges et au sein des îlots, de l'ordre de 30 % en moyenne. Cela peut conduire à un déséquilibre environnemental important, nécessitant une meilleure gestion pour protéger l'environnement écologique dans cette zone d'intérêt qui définit le Delta et son Danube.

Considerații geografice privind evoluția populației urbane în perioada postdecembristă. Studiu de caz asupra orașelor de peste 200 000 locuitori (RPL 2021)

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Universitatea „Ștefan cel Mare” din Suceava, România

Abstract: Lucrarea își propune să analizeze din punct de vedere geografic evoluția populației orașelor cu peste 200 000 locuitori în perioada postdecembristă. Sursa principală de date este reprezentată de rezultatele definitive ale Recensământului Populației și Locuințelor din 2021. În completarea analizei datelor statistice am apelat la imagini de teledetecție pentru a surprinde amprenta teritorială a migrației populației dinspre oraș spre ariile administrative vecine. Rezultatele indică manifestarea unui proces intens de dez-orășenizare, mai accentuat în 2021 comparativ cu 2011.

Building climate resilience with participatory tools – developing a Living Lab in the Brasov Metropolitan Area

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Abstract: Given the societal challenges of climate changes, building climate resilience has become a hot topic of action for policy development, governance and practical implementation. One approach to building resilience is the system innovation approach, as an analytical method geared towards catalyzing systemic transformation. In the framework of the Horizon project Carmine (Climate-Resilient Development Pathways in Metropolitan Regions of Europe), 8 case studies of cities from Europe will be used for building metropolitan climate resilience, with Brasov (Romania) being one of them. One of the main instruments is the development of Living Labs, as advanced participatory research tools which convene a diverse group of key stakeholders—including researchers, developers, end-users, and policymakers—to collaboratively investigate and address the issue of building climate resilience in Brasov metropolitan area, with a focus on the climate challenge of drought (number of months with the shortage of water resources is projected to increase by 21% until 2100). The living lab started with developing and ranking (on influence and interest) the list of stakeholders, and three workshops will involve these stakeholders in the living lab: (i) assessment of existing situation related

to collaboration for water management and drought, (ii) identification of the temporal and spatial hotspots related to water management and drought, (iii) co-creating nature-based solutions in hotspot areas identified before. The interactions will be sustained by the development of stakeholders' community hub and a geo-visualization platform. The findings of the living lab will be of high interest for local and regional planning and will contribute together with other results of the Carmine project (climate modelling, scenarios, climate adaptation pathways) to building regional climate resilience.

The Intersection of Citizen Science and Climate Action in Romania

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Abstract: Citizen science become an essential tool to access a new knowledge system represented by local communities. Local experiences and perspectives of addressing different challenges, as well as the increasing visibility of science, represent only the most important outputs of the citizen science initiative. Several Romanian citizen science projects related to climate change adaptation were reviewed. Multiple criteria were considered for evaluation, such as the aim and motivation of the CS project, involved resources, sustainability, replicability, scalability, outputs, the relevance of the CS or climate change adaptation, citizen scientist profile, scientist profile, barriers, and learning messages. The analysis pointed out the specificity of CS projects in Romania, which is strongly dependent on funding (dominant European) and has limited capacity to attend to the expected outputs related to climate change. Despite the increasing number of funding frameworks, the limited interest of scientists and citizen scientists is evident. The research provides important input for the project ScienceUs, ScienceUs: Integration of citizen SCIENCE best practices to UpScale and maximize projects impact related to Green Deal and EU missions, funded by European Commission HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01, which aim to develop a community of ongoing citizen science initiative related to climate change adaptation.

ScienceUs citizen sciences call – Upscaling and interconnecting ongoing citizen science projects relevant to the EU mission “Adaptation to climate change”

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Abstract: The ScienceUs project aims to establish an EU-wide network of interconnected citizen science initiatives across various research and technological fields aligned with the EU mission "Adaptation to Climate Change." To further this goal, the ScienceUs project is launching an open call to identify, scale up, and connect exceptional citizen science projects in these key areas, fostering collaboration and innovation in addressing climate adaptation challenges. ScienceUs will provide a 3-phase combined support program of direct funding and support services to the selected projects/initiatives. A robust set of communication, dissemination, and knowledge transfer activities will be implemented to help them scale up their activities and engage all relevant actors in the quadruple helix.

Semi-Automated Mapping of Patterned Ground Soil in Svalbard, Norway, Using Satellite and Ortho-Imagery

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Abstract: Patterned ground is a distinctive geomorphological feature found predominantly in periglacial and polar regions, where repeated freeze-thaw cycles shape the soil into organized patterns such as polygons, stripes, circles, and nets. These structures emerge due to cryogenic processes, including soil contraction, frost heave, and ice lens formation, which cause soil particles and stones to sort and segregate. Understanding the formation and dynamics of patterned ground is essential for studying ecosystem responses, soil stability, and landscape evolution in cold climates, especially in the context of climate change. Continued research is essential to understand the long-term implications of changing climatic conditions on patterned ground formations and their associated ecosystems, particularly as these areas are increasingly sensitive to environmental changes. In this study, patterned ground soils in Svalbard were mapped using satellite imagery and orthoimage, leveraging U-Net, a convolutional neural network architecture widely used for semantic segmentation tasks. The U-Net model was trained to detect and classify polygonal patterned ground, achieving over 80% accuracy in both training and validation phases. The model's strong performance indicates its capability to identify patterned ground across extensive surfaces, facilitating broader geomorphological analysis.

Railway accessibility as an opportunity for rural tourism sustainability in Romania

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Abstract: The close relationship between tourism and transportation is widely debated in the scientific literature in the context of sustainable mobility development and increased environmental and sustainability policies. The Romanian railway transport system may represent an ignored opportunity insufficiently considered and exploited for the rural growing rural tourism sector. This study aims to analyse, through empirical quantitative and cartographic mapping methods, based on extensive documentation and statistic metadata, railway accessibility variables and to propose a railway competitiveness index for tourism rural resorts in Romania. The main results show obvious discrepancies imposed mainly by the existence of a railway station for the resort and the number of trains stopping there during a day, as well as by the type of train and railway facilities potential travellers to the destination could benefit from. Research findings may be of interest to both railway transport and tourism stakeholders and policymakers in the attempt to find more sustainable ways for leisure mobility in Romania.

Untangling the Creative Tourism Potential of Bucharest

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Abstract: Creativity and the consumption of creative tourism have become fashionable trends in the leisure development policies of major cities around the globe nowadays, involving a great variety of stakeholders. Mainly connected to culture, art performances, and education, but also to tourism and leisure activities, creative industries are an essential element of recreational policies in prominent urban tourism destinations. This exploratory research aims to analyse the main elements for developing creative cultural tourism in Bucharest from the perspective of different groups of stakeholders

interested in the development of this domain. The study used in-depth qualitative interviews as the primary data collection method, which took place in several phases of research during May 2023 and September 2024. The resulting texts were further analysed using direct quotation extracts and adapted software. The stakeholders from the three target groups almost unanimously indicated a lack of local strategies and policies for entrepreneurial initiatives in the creative sector of Bucharest and identified the development of themed itineraries, art performances and dedicated events but also old traditions and authentic cultural resources as stimuli for sustaining and developing artists' communities while renovating and preserving old Bucharest architecture. Creative festivals, and social platforms are considered essential in building and promoting tourism marketing strategies and in further developing the creative tourism potential in Bucharest. This study may be of interest for integrated policy design and future better-adapted tourism development strategies.

Applied geomorphology study for the design and development of transport infrastructure in Dobrogea. Case study: Dual rail connectivity project at Mihail Kogălniceanu International Airport

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Abstract: The aim of the study is to identify the ideal surfaces for the construction and development of railway infrastructure through the use of applied geomorphology, respectively a multicriteria analysis was applied with the help of geomorphology and Geographic Information Systems to study the geodynamic factors. The methodology led to the identification of development alternatives by comparing the quantitative data extracted through a useful tool, which helps in identifying and establishing restrictive and favourable areas for the development of a railway link. This tool is based on a multi-criteria analysis for the aggregation of natural and anthropogenic factors, respectively, Geographic Information Systems were used for the processing of vector and raster data, which were reclassified for the homogeneity of the database. The quantitative data extracted following the multicriteria analysis were processed and analysed representing the decision-making tool regarding the alternative proposed for the development of an easier connection between Mihail Kogălniceanu Airport to the TEN-T Core railway network, respectively to the Constanta metropolitan service.

Ensuring access to essential services to vulnerable population groups. Case study: asylum seekers and people with refugee background in Romania

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Abstract: Despite being a country of transit for a long time rather than a destination for refugees and irregular migrants, Romania has recently experienced an increased migration influx. Unfortunately, the governmental and administrative infrastructure of the country has not kept pace with this change, which has translated into poorly developed instruments for dealing with and integrating migrants. As a result, they often face difficulties when meeting their needs and accessing essential services. This study explores the experiences and barriers of asylum seekers and people with refugee backgrounds in accessing healthcare services in Romania. The research was based on seven in-depth interviews with representatives of significant national or international non-governmental organisations assisting refugees and asylum seekers in Romania and 129 semi-structured interviews with different categories of people with refugee backgrounds from Southwest Asia, Eastern Africa and Ukraine. Insights were obtained into the challenges that asylum seekers and refugees experienced in accessing healthcare.

Cultural, linguistic, structural and financial barriers are perceived as the most significant. Improved public awareness, a better understanding of asylum issues, and strong community support are essential to addressing inequalities experienced by this vulnerable population.

Decoding the Colonial Discourse and Heritage Values of the Historical Oravița-Anina Railway (Romania) based on Postcards

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Abstract: The complexity of the railway heritage has justified the orientation of studies in recent years, focused on the approach from the perspective of visual imaging as an important methodological tool, through which the narrative is decoded. The importance of railway heritage assets results from the fact that they represent a particular category of industrial monuments and sites. Documenting industrial heritage requires the use of information from archives, including old photographs and postcards that incorporate economic, political and cultural details from previous historical periods. This study aims to identify and interpret the codified messages of the official colonial discourse and the heritage valences of the historical Oravița-Anina railway, located in the Romanian Banat. The dominant visual representations were interpreted through visual and content analysis in relation to the political discourse of the colonial period. The results showed that the official discourse is centered on three themes: the idea of technology, progress and modernity, industrialization and the cultural characteristics of the area served by the Oravița-Anina Mountain railway. At the same time, they were identified, based on the visual representations: the emphasis placed on the historical, technological and architectural importance of the analysed mountain railway, which are preserved even in the current period. These patrimonial values determined its classification as a historical monument of national importance and its use as a tourist railway line in the current period.

Urban dynamics and the challenges of adaptive reuse of cultural heritage in Romania

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Abstract: Since the second half of the 19th century, economic factors (e.g. rapid urbanization, development of the tertiary sector, globalization, urban regeneration projects) have influenced the preservation and reuse of historical monuments. Cultural heritage is often perceived as an obstacle to the development of cities, and the economic value often prevails in relation to other significant values (historical, cultural, architectural, symbolic). Thus, some projects are carried out that are based on an inadequate transformation of heritage buildings that generate irreversible negative changes in their appearance and/or compartmentalization. The aim of this paper is to analyse the impact of intensive urban dynamics on the conservation and conversion of heritage buildings in municipality of Bucharest, the capital city of Romania. The authors identified negative examples of reuse of heritage properties under the impact of accelerated dynamics of services (including tourism), real estate pressure and housing demand. Another common negative example is represented by historic buildings that are abandoned and in a state of disrepair, either as a result of the fact that the ownership regime is disputed in court, or that the owners do not have the funds to restore them. Positive examples related to the appropriate adaptive reuse of heritage properties (cultural activities, creative and cultural industries, etc.) were also highlighted. The main results highlight the fact that although there are cultural conversions of historical monuments, there is a pressure exerted by the accelerated dynamics of services, including tourism.

**Soil loss RUSLE integrated multivariate and predictive modelling on Bucegi Mountain plateau.
Between prediction and land use management issues**

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Abstract: Modelling of soil loss rates on high mountains is a challenge as the main aspect is the possibility to generate accurate digital layers in order to integrate on the RUSLE (Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation) empirical formula is relatively limited. Our approach focuses on searching an objective approach on the C-factor of the equation, in order to emphasize the role of the land cover change under the increasing impact of tourist traffic on the Bucegi Plateau area, integrated after 2000 in the Bucegi Natural Park. In this respect satellite data from 1977 (declassified KH-9 image orthorectified), to 2003 after the declaration of the protection regime of the region (Landsat ETM+ data) and 2020 corresponding to the current state of land cover (Sentinel-2 MSI image). The RUSLE models integrate as well the rainfall regime parameters and this makes a difference as well because of the increase of rainfall aggressive episodes of June-July in the same period with the peak of tourist traffic on roads and trails. A prediction of potential soil loss rate for 2030 and 2040 confirmed the general increase of soil loss index. The validation can be done only on point observation using some eroded podzolic soil sampling.

Spatial Dynamics of Dental Services in Romania and Their Impact on Population Oral Health: A Case Study of the South-West Oltenia Development Region.

Alexandru Mihăilescu

University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography

Abstract: Oral health is crucial for fundamental activities such as eating, breathing, and speaking, and it also includes psychosocial aspects like self-confidence, well-being, and the ability to socialize and work without pain, discomfort, or embarrassment. As access to dental services significantly impacts quality of life, this study aims to examine the spatial dynamics of dental services in the South-West Oltenia Development Region. Utilizing descriptive statistics and network analysis, GIS methods were employed to analyze the distribution of dental offices and dentists at regional, county, and locality levels, as well as the accessibility of these services to the population. Preliminary findings reveal significant regional disparities, with major urban areas concentrating most dental infrastructure and personnel, thus disadvantaging rural regions. Consequently, this concentration leads to limited access to quality dental services for the general population. Spatial analysis offers new perspectives for the development of public policies in oral health. It is imperative for health planners and policymakers to address health inequalities caused by inequitable access to dental services, particularly in rural areas.

Land degradation and geomorphological challenges in High-Speed Rail Infrastructure development: Solutions and strategies

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Abstract: The study addresses the issue of land degradation and the geomorphological challenges encountered in the development of high-speed rail infrastructure, as well as the solutions and strategies for addressing them. High-speed rail infrastructure often requires significant land expansions, impacting slopes, agricultural lands, urban areas, and protected zones, which can intensify land

degradation, landslides, and erosion. Adapting this type of infrastructure in areas with variable topography and complex geomorphological conditions raises significant issues related to soil stability and the ecological impact on the natural landscape. The main identified geomorphological challenges include slope stability, the risk of accelerated erosion, and topographical modifications affecting natural drainage and soil structures. The impact of these phenomena can lead to additional costs and the need for advanced technical solutions. In this context, proposed solutions include soil stabilization technologies, the implementation of anti-erosion structures, and the use of eco-compatible materials to minimize ecological impact. Additionally, adaptive strategies encompass evaluation and planning methods that integrate geomorphological modeling and impact simulations, aiming to reduce long-term negative effects.

The justice dimensions of nature-based solutions: A systematic analysis of European literature

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Abstract: Nature-based solutions (NbS) are important measures to support both climate mitigation and adaptation efforts while providing multiple ecological (i.e., enhanced biodiversity), social (i.e., socially inclusive approach for vulnerable or deprived social groups), cultural (i.e., inspiration and learning from nature), and economic benefits (i.e., provision of food). However, the implementation of NbS can have an exclusionary character or cause the degradation or destruction of ecosystems elsewhere. The socio-economic and environmental injustices generated by NbS are mainly linked to the purpose of the NbS interventions and how they are managed, the inclusion of consultation during all stages and the equal consideration of the interests of all relevant stakeholders. This study aims to crosscut through the three dimensions of environmental justice (i.e., distributional, procedural, and recognitional) in the context of NbS benefits and inclusiveness provision. Thus, we conducted a systematic literature review to identify and characterize the key particularities that define justice in relation to NbS. Our analysis has revealed that distributional justice generally links with the availability, allocation, and accessibility of NbS benefits or risks for different socio-economical groups. Furthermore, procedural justice is usually linked to fair planning processes, which focus on the decision-making and governance of NbS, particularly considering citizens' participation in the decision-making processes. Recognitional justice is directly related to the types and levels of needs, values, interests, or preferences of certain communities and, specifically, offers protection to vulnerable or marginalized groups. We further discuss how inclusive planning of NbS can create the context to eliminate distributive, procedural, and recognitional injustices while considering people' connection with nature. Our findings not only highlight the potential advantages of adopting a justice-oriented approach in NBS initiatives but also serve as a guide for practitioners and policymakers who are seeking to create sustainable and inclusive urban environments.

Insufficient Scientific Evidence Hinders Large Carnivore Management in Romania

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Abstract: Human-wildlife conflicts are constantly increasing due to growing competition for territory and resources. Romania hosts the largest population of European brown bears (*Ursus arctos arctos*) and gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) in Europe. Due to the rapid anthropization of the landscape, human-large carnivore interactions are increasingly common in Romania. These species are protected under

the European Habitats Directive, thusly, wildlife management aims to maintain and continue their favorable conservation status. Therefore, evidence-based management and conservation actions are central in preventing conflicts and achieving coexistence. This research aims to contribute to increasing the effectiveness of large carnivore management by (1) assessing the alignment of the conservation actions enforced in Romanian protected areas management plans by comparing these actions with evidence-based actions; (2) analyzing the perceptions of the local population regarding the national management actions of the European brown bear and gray wolf; and (3) exploring how the interaction with large carnivores influences the perception of the local population regarding the management actions applied. The results indicate that most enforced actions do not display convincing evidence base to support their effectiveness, many of which still have unknown outcomes on conservation efforts. Moreover, the application of an opinion survey exposed a low tolerance level among people, particularly towards European brown bears, and an openness towards hunting as a solution. Research also revealed a lack of confidence in the decisions made by the authorities among people living in areas with large carnivores. This study contributes to large carnivores' protection in Romania by aiding protected areas administrators to identify conservation actions with proven effectiveness while simultaneously considering local needs.

Multi-criteria favorability analysis for the development of high-speed road infrastructure.

Case study: Expressway in the Târgoviște – Ploiești sector.

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Abstract: This study represents an analysis of the area delimited between the cities of Târgoviște and Ploiești, in relation with the basic elements that influence the development of high-speed road infrastructure. The study aims to identify areas favourable for designing an expressway in the Târgoviște-Ploiești sector through a systemic analysis of physical-geographic and anthropic factors (slope, soil gleization intensity, floodability, geology, land use, and protected areas). In practice, through theoretical concepts and Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques, a working method was used to evaluate the environment in relation to natural and anthropic factors, namely multicriteria analysis. Based on the favourability map of the delimited area, 2 expressway alternatives were proposed, aiming at capitalizing on ideal surfaces. Subsequently, for the two road sections, the lengths and percentages corresponding to each favourability class were calculated. The comparative analysis revealed that the second proposed option is more advantageous and crosses more favourable areas.

Recent Trends in Air Pollution in the Most Important City of The Romanian Black Sea Coast

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Abstract: Air pollution is one of the biggest environmental issues of today's society, generally affecting all important cities in the world and in Romania. Therefore, assessing the dynamics of pollution conditions in urban environments is essential for designing the control measures and adaptation strategies to this environmental disturbance. This work aims to analyze the air pollution dynamics in Constanta, the largest city on the Romanian sea coast and one of the most important cities on the entire Black Sea coast. The investigations were performed based on the official concentrations of the main atmospheric pollutants, recorded at air quality monitoring stations located inside or near the Constanta city. The dynamic in pollutant concentrations were explored at the annual and seasonal time

scales and the results showed a complex picture of pollution changes in recent years, across the urban landscape of Constanta city.

Transformations of the demographic structures in the Mehedinți area of the Danube Gorge. Vulnerabilities and resilience.

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Abstract: The studied area presented a diversified ethnic structure over time, as a result of economically motivated migration, the proximity to Serbia, foreign domination, and wars. These ethnic groups that populate this territory lived peacefully, exchanged cultural, linguistic, technical information, made this area economically prosperous, imprinted a cultural identity specific to each ethnic group. The new economic and social realities induced an obvious vulnerability, the Czech, Serbian, Turkish, Romanian, able-bodied population migrated to the country of origin, or to the larger cities of Romania in search of a job, generating a decrease in the number of the population, a demographic aging, a decrease in the viability of the settlements in which they live, a loss of cultural heritage, this space going through a process of massive deindustrialization, and the agriculture practiced here with rudimentary means no longer pleasing the population young man. The difficulties encountered, the departure of the young adult population from this territory caused a part of the traditional peculiarities of the cultural heritage specific to each ethnic group to be lost. The development in recent years of tourist activity in this area has made part of the cultural-historical heritage of the ethnic groups to be reborn thanks to festivals, celebrations, balls, customs, encouraging local populations to preserve their identity, cultural heritage and even to reactivate it for that these riches bring economic benefits to communities (resilience). Tourism can be one of the local community's responses to the stress of losing their livelihood (job), but it is not the only one. There is a need for entrepreneurial spirit on the part of the locals, openness to market agriculture, the involvement of the state through sustainable development policies so that the population, the main resource of this territory, regains its vitality and generates economic, social and cultural development.

Variability and changes observed in the precipitation regime along the Lower Danube River (Romania)

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Abstract: Atmospheric precipitation is one of the main climatic elements with a major impact on the socio-economic activities of a region. The aim of this study is to analyze the variability and observed changes in the precipitation regime along the Lower Danube River between 1991 and 2020. The meteorological data used for the analysis of variability and identification of observed changes in the precipitation regime are pluviometric data (monthly amounts) registered at seven weather stations belonging to the National Meteorological Administration. Based on these data, the average monthly, seasonal, annual and decadal precipitation amounts were calculated, as well as the standardized anomaly (yearly, in January and July). The general linear trends in the pluviometric data series were identified by using the non-parametric Mann-Kendall test. The annual precipitation in the study area is characterized by a complex distribution, with a decrease in precipitation amounts from west to east as a result of the increase in continentalism and the weakening of thermal convection over water.

Identifying and understanding the characteristics of a region's precipitation regime is of great practical interest.

Assessment of the thermal regime of surfaces in an anthropogenic environment

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Abstract: Contextul climatic actual și cel preconizat pentru viitor aduce din ce în ce mai multe provocări de mediu în cadrul țesutului urban. Regimul termic în timpul sezonului cald, în special în timpul anotimpului de vară înregistrează valori tot mai ridicate, mai ales în ceea ce privește temperatura suprafețelor. Astfel, acest subiect prezintă interes pentru multiplii actori din cadrul mediilor antropice. Studiul de față își propune să analizeze temperatura suprafețelor dintr-un mediu urban, cât și diferența dintre distincte tipuri. Temperaturile fluctuează în funcție de caracteristicile suprafețelor. Cele naturale sunt în general caracterizate de valori mai scăzute comparativ cu suprafețe artificiale. Cu ajutorul imaginilor satelitare, aceste informații pot fi extrase cu ușurință prin intermediul programelor tip Sisteme Informatice Geografice. Datele furnizate de satelitul Sentinel 2 reprezintă principala sursă de date utilizate în cadrul acestui studiu. Prin intermediul metodologiei Object Based Image Analysis (OBIA) s-au obținut principalele clase cu tipuri distincte de suprafețe. Astfel, imaginea satelitară reprezintă o baza de date cu informații spațiale comprehensive. Conexiunea dintre regimul termic al suprafețelor și tipul acestora a fost extrasă prin intermediul utilizării unei Regresii ponderate geografice (MGWR), cu ajutorul programului ArcGIS Pro. Această analiză statistică a fost aleasă pentru a determina legătura dintre diferitele valori ale temperaturilor înregistrate de tipuri de suprafețe. Prin utilizarea acestor metode se poate identifica diferența dintre tipurile de suprafețe (antropice vs. naturale) și se pot înregistra date cantitative ce pot fi corelate cu alte locații, în contexte asemănătoare, pentru a determina posibile diferențe sau asemănări. De asemenea, un alt aspect benefic pe care îl aduce acest studiu este reprezentat de posibilitatea implementării informațiilor obținute din analize în cadrul politicilor de adaptare și reziliență a mediilor antropice la provocarea actuală reprezentată de schimbările climatice.

Carpathian geosite affected by gravitational hazards analyzed through dendrogeomorphological reconstruction.

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Abstract: Rockfall is a geomorphologic hazard prevalent in mountainous regions that can cause significant material and human damage. Although it is a frequent and widespread process in the mountain space, data on rockfall events are insufficient or missing from historical archives. The reconstruction of rockfall events with the help of growth anomalies recorded in the rings of impacted trees covers this lack of data and provides reliable chronologies for centuries-long periods. The objective of the present study is the spatio-temporal analysis of the rockfalls in a site of touristic importance in the Cozia Massif (Southern Carpathians), where the manifestation of the process is a risk factor for tourists. Dendrogeomorphological reconstruction of rockfalls was carried out over the last 215 years and was based on the analysis of 170 increment cores and stem discs taken according to the methodology of 40 *Picea abies* (L.) Karst mapped in the immediate proximity of the site. Growth anomalies generated by rockfall activity were recorded and validated, indicating several 928 different rockfall events. These values were compared with available meteorological data and seismic events recorded in the Fagaras-Campulung seismic area. The results of the study highlight the main trajectory

rockfalls detached from the source area, but also important temporal variations in their activity, which correlate differently with fluctuations in meteorological parameters and seismic events.

Assessment of soil degradation through erosion in Romania under current climate and future climate scenarios

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Abstract: Soil erosion is one of the main land degradation processes, often enhanced by unsuitable human activities. As a consequence of climate change, soil erosion also manifests quantitative and qualitative changes determined mainly by the time changing erosion factors, specifically rainfall erosivity and land use. Our study attempts to quantify soil erosion in Romania under current climate conditions and also to forecast its possible evolution in the future, according to climate change scenarios. We start with the application of the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE) methodology to derive a spatial model of soil erosion for the current climate conditions. Then, we use projections of rainfall erosivity to derive soil erosion models for two future climate change scenarios (RCP 4.5 and 8.5) and two periods of time (2041–2060, 2061–2080). To identify spatial patterns in soil erosion evolution, we compute the differences between projected and current erosion rates. The results show that soil erosion tends to increase during the next decades. Overall, an enhancement of soil erosion rates on 84–90% of the country is expected to take place. The most affected areas will be the soils situated in hilly and plateau regions, leading to an enhancement of their fertility degradation.

Cartography of Education: Assessing Spatial Accessibility to Upper Secondary Education in Romania

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Abstract: Under the evolving framework of national educational policies, Romanian public authorities are increasingly prioritizing spatial accessibility to educational institutions. In addition to socio-economic considerations, the concept of a “school desert”—defined as the absence of a school within close proximity to a settlement—has been recognized as a crucial factor impacting student academic performance and contributing to elevated dropout rates, particularly within the secondary education cycle. This study seeks to thoroughly examine the allocation and distribution of high schools across Romania and to measure the accessibility of secondary education for students residing in each administrative unit. The measurement of accessibility integrates three distinct dimensions: proximity, availability, and diversity, while also considering the educational quality provided by each institution. To assess distance, the study utilized API access to open-source driving data, relying on an extensive network of street-level mapping. The results highlight a significant urban-rural divide, with approximately 80% of high schools concentrated in urban areas, underscoring the vulnerability of rural communities where access to secondary education is limited. This considerable gap between urban and rural areas has been shown to correlate with poorer educational outcomes and increased dropout risks among rural students, as evidenced by primary data gathered. To bridge this gap, immediate intervention is essential, whether by implementing reliable school transportation options or establishing high-quality student dormitories. Further research is recommended to evaluate the educational quality of each high school and to incorporate standardized test results to provide a more comprehensive analysis of educational accessibility in Romania.

The socio-economic importance of recreation parks around Bucharest

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Abstract: The amusement parks around Bucharest play an important role in the socio-economic development of Ilfov County and the adjacent areas. The daily life and at the same time the urban bustle of the city of Bucharest make the citizens of Bucharest not only choose spaces outside the city to spend their free time, this is how it can be explained that the vast majority of these parks are located in the wooded area like Comana. Amusement parks around the city were created to be able to satisfy all age groups and create different recreational activities, some parks like Divertiland Water Park in Chiajna, Water Park Otopeni have a precise but seasonal functionality. These parks are located in different areas of Ilfov county, but most of them are concentrated in the northern area where there is also a greater flow of traffic. The most important parks are Edenland Park, Therme Bucharest being located in Balotești commune. In Cernica, Extreme Park Phoenix Cernica and Extreme Park Cernica are located, this being made up of two sections, one intended for children and the second intended for adults. Also in the northern part we also meet Water Park Otopeni, Artha Park from Snagov and Zumbaala Wake Park from Ștefănești de Jos. In the southern part at the border between Ilfov and Giurgiu counties is the Comana Adventure Park. Dinamic parc Chiajna and Divertiland Water Park from Chiajna are worth mentioning.

Romania Institutional Grammar Tool for policy analysis: a systematic review of literature

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Abstract: Institutional analysis has gained significant attention in mainstream science, driving a multidisciplinary exploration of societal institutions and their impacts. A key method for institutional analysis is the Institutional Grammar Tool (IGT), introduced by Ostrom and Crawford in 1995, which facilitates the breakdown of legal documents into components called institutional statements. This systematic review delves into the evolution and applicability of the IGT across scientific literature, aiming to elucidate its role in understanding institutional dynamics and policy formulation. Using bibliometric analysis and systematic literature review, we analyzed the content of 432 articles spanning 1995 to 2023, focusing on IGT usage and outputs, of which 62 articles were relevant for the present analysis. The analysis reveals a significant and promising trend in IGT's adoption, with a notable surge in publications since 2010. North American authors lead in IGT usage, particularly in legislative content analysis. The findings indicate that 39% of the analyzed case studies focused on environmental and social-ecological domains. While IGT remains a primary analysis method in most studies, complementary methods such as interviews and qualitative comparative analysis supplement its application. The advantages of IGT include enhanced institutional understanding and rigorous policy analysis, while limitations such as interpretational challenges and time constraints persist. Thematic clusters in keyword networks show how research interests are changing over time. For example, regulatory governance was more common in the past, whereas research now often centers on normative frameworks and computational modeling in conservation governance. This review underscores the increasing relevance of the Institutional Grammar Tool in institutional analysis and policy studies. By synthesizing trends and methodologies, it provides valuable insights into IGT's evolution and challenges, paving the way for future research endeavors aimed at refining its applicability and advancing governance theory and practice.

Exploring the role of PPGIS in urban green spaces planning and management

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Abstract: Planning urban green spaces represents a continuous challenge since their planning and design has to meet the everchanging needs of the population and the evolving political approaches, complying in the same time with the commitment of creating a sustainable society. Our study aims to identify which are the problems of small green areas using society perception and how can we plan and design those areas for a better living. We used public participatory geographic informatic system (PPGIS) for collecting data regarding the problems residents of Bucharest (Romania) perceive in relation to small urban green spaces, their characteristics and intensity, but also proposals for dealing with such problems. For collecting the data, we used a webapp created using the ESRI platform, which asked for the location of the identified problems and integrated a detailed form. The webapp, along with a visual tutorial was disseminated on social media. We focused our analysis on small green areas that are represented by: street alignments, residential gardens, pocket parks, squares, playgrounds (outside urban parks). The results indicate that most of the small green areas from Bucharest are dealing with waste pollution or inappropriate use of green, such as using small green areas for parking cars. Also, there are some issues regarding the quality of the green areas. Using PPGIS we pointed out which are the categories of small green areas people noticed nearby, if people are ready to participate in actions such as planning green areas and to express their needs and concerns. Collected data could be considered for a better planning of green areas, since it shows the most easily perceived problems affecting small green areas and their solutions as the population sees them.

Assessment of land suitability for transport infrastructure in the Rucăr-Bran Corridor

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Abstract: Land suitability assessment is a necessity in the preceding stage of any infrastructure project, as it highlights the degree of favorability of certain areas and avoids the likely additional costs of maintenance and rehabilitation in the post-construction phase, optimizing the reliability forecast of the projects. Land readiness for transport infrastructure is a current topic for the Rucăr-Bran Corridor, since in the last period of time, the network of communication routes has experienced an expansion and an increasingly accelerated diversification due to the intensification of road and rail traffic. This geographical space presents a pronounced morphodynamics of the relief, but also a fairly active process of anthropization. The analysis of each influence factor (geodeclivity, petrography, land use, intensity of soil glaciation) leads to the creation of a cartographic product related to the suitability of land for transport infrastructure, which is useful in designing the most efficient routes for new projects. The cartographic material drawn up shows a relatively low favorability for the development of a high-speed road. However, they are not considerations that represent a primordial impasse, but it is necessary to take into account the already existing road infrastructure and the complexity of the built space, the presence of the urban space and also the hydrographic network.

New results on cold scree investigations in Romanian Carpathians

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Abstract: Recognising the unique features and the importance of certain sites for the future generations, UNESCO adopted in 1972 the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural

and Natural Heritage, which now enlists 1223 world heritage sites. In Romania, there are nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites included since 1993 and comprise two natural and seven cultural patrimony sites. Due to their age, the local geology and geomorphology, and the human impact – by tourism and management, most heritage sites, especially the cultural ones, are vulnerable to geomorphological hazards. The present work is a first attempt to assess the vulnerability of four chosen case studies from the national cultural heritage sites – Sighișoara Citadel, Biertan and Prejmer fortresses, and Horezu Monastery. Factors like natural and human-induced processes, foundation depth, hydrostatic level and number of hydrostatic strata, lithology and others were integrated in a multicriteria analysis performed in the module SMCE of ILWIS software. The stages of the analysis included the standardization, the prioritization and the aggregation of the non-spatial factors considered. The results reveal different degree of vulnerability between the four case studies. To establish the robustness of the analysis, a sensitivity analysis was also performed.

Exploring the multidimensional land degradation crisis in Europe and Romania

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Abstract: The agricultural systems in Europe and Romania are threatened by the multidimensional crisis of land degradation, which across the continent acts through multiple and convergent land degradation processes, a state called land multi-degradation. However, the land degradation pathways that simultaneously affect the pan-European agricultural lands are not sufficiently understood at continental / national level. In this work we explored twelve converging land degradation processes across the agricultural environments of Europe and Romania, using large-scale spatial databases that were modelled using various GIS (Geographic Information System) and statistical tools. Our geospatial results of co-occurring land degradation pathways showed a complex pattern of agricultural land multi-degradation, both at the continental and national levels. The multi-scale findings can be highly useful for various land-related sustainable development policies, designed to combat land degradation and restore soil health in Europe and Romania.

Tattoos, a form of tourism memory: between perception and significance. Case study: Bucharest

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Abstract: Tattoos have always represented forms of cultural manifestation specific to signature groups (either ethnic or others). As a visual representation, they often transmit information about cultural characteristics through the use of symbols. In different periods, over time, society has frequently perceived tattoos as controversial due to their association with people who often showed antisocial behaviour and were usually part of the lower/poor social classes. Today, modern societies see tattooing as a form of art, and the creativity and ingenuity shown by tattoo artists produce genuine cultural and aesthetic currents, each with its own characteristics and manifestations. Romanian society has recently seen a significant emergence of artistic representations of tattoos due to a change in the perception of new generations regarding seeing and having tattoos. Tourism souvenir tattoos represent a relatively recent practice, and they have grown in scope and implementation in recent decades due to a more liberal perception of tattoos in general as well as an increase in tourists' mobility, which created a real enduring trend. In this context, this study aims to explore/analyze the role of purchasing tattoos as tourism souvenirs, highlighting the significance and emotional impact they have on tourists. This research aims to contribute to understanding the complexity of the

relationship between personal identity and travel experiences through tattoos using an interdisciplinary approach. The study's objectives include identifying why tourists choose tattoos as souvenirs and analyzing their perception and emotional response to tattoos' symbolism. The research methodology uses the survey method through 12 semi-structured interviews. The study's results prove that there is a strong correlation between getting souvenir tattoos and an emotional response from tourists, as the purpose of having one is to maintain an emotional connection with the place they visited and to have a reminder of the state of mind they were in during the visit and especially that fact that the destination had a positive impact on them. The tattoo acquired after a tourism experience represented, for the respondents, a form of storytelling that aims to evoke pleasant experiences, strong memories, or unforgettable places. The chosen symbolism is often closely related to the traveller's personality, beliefs, or passions, and its visual representation is very personal.

Integrated analysis of rockfalls and floods in the Jiului Gorge, Romania: Impacts on road and rail traffic

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Abstract: This study examines the impact of rockfalls and floods on road and rail traffic in the Jiului Gorge, Romania, a critical transportation corridor. Using Sentinel-1 radar imagery processed through Snap and ArcGIS Pro, alongside traffic detection facilitated by YOLO models, we assessed susceptibility to both rockfalls and floods. The primary aim was to enhance public safety for traffic participants by providing accurate hazard mapping. Our study focuses on the area from Bumbesti-Jiu to Petroșani, traversing the Southern Carpathians. The results demonstrate the utility of integrating remote sensing with machine learning to improve hazard management and inform more effective traffic planning. These findings contribute to safer, more resilient infrastructure in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.

Assessment of Connected and Isolated Protected Areas for Enhancement of Structural Connectivity in the Carpathian Ecoregion

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Abstract: Landscape and ecosystem preservation represents an integrated approach for conserving healthy and interconnected ecosystems. In order to maintain high-quality habitats and maximising the ecosystem services is crucial to have a good bond between connected areas. On both the Romanian and European levels, the backbone of these interconnected areas is formed by Natura 2000 networks (Carrao et al., 2020). The objectives of our study aim to address the Biodiversity 2030 Directive, which mandates the establishment of a coherent network of protected areas and the legal protection of at least 30% of the terrestrial surface of each EU country (EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030). Currently, Romania has 23% of its terrestrial surface under protection. Our analysis will focus on the Romanian Carpathian ecoregion, known for its high concentration of protected areas and dense biodiversity. This ecoregion features low-mountains, below 2600 meters, and abundant vegetation. Our main focus is the predominantly forested protected areas, we have identified 195 areas with significant habitats to analyse. Of the identified areas, 81% are directly connected by forest patches of at least 3,500 hectares (a threshold significant for transboundary connectivity nodes). The remaining 19%, representing 37 protected areas, have no direct connections. This study aims to identify connectivity facilitators for these areas and examine the isolated regions. Furthermore, identifying these connectors is intended to strengthen structural connectivity across the entire Carpathian ecoregion. In an attempt to identify the connectors that connect homogeneous landscapes, we will use open-source data and GIS analysis,

especially the patch cost function. To initiate this process, we will implement a suitable methodology for our objectives on the Corine Land Cover 2018 and Natura 2000 data. Considering that structural connectivity is a precursor to functional connectivity, our structural analyses are intended to serve as a foundation for future functional (ecological) studies.

Social treatment services and the perceptions of tourists from Romanian spa resorts. Case study: Călimănești - Căciulata resort, Vâlcea county

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Abstract: The access to social services is an important element in the functioning of a society, the European Union imposing a monitoring of the situation of social services at the level of each member state. In this context, a detailed knowledge of the particularities of the social services sector in Romania is required, as well as of the way of organization and financing, especially of treatment. The percentage of tickets granted is 80% for retired people and 20% for insured persons. The procedure for granting these tickets is standard, and the criteria consist of: receiving or not receiving a treatment ticket in the last 2 years, the beneficiary's pension category, the gross total amount of pension rights. The present study aims to present an overview of social treatment services in Romania, but also a more detailed one at the level of the subcarpathian Valcea region, as well as tourists' perceptions regarding the types of such services and how to benefit from them.

Some aspects regarding the economic profile of Vâlcea spa resorts. Case study: Băile Olanești resort

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Abstract: Valcea County is characterized by a diversified mineral potential, both from the point of view of the existing hydro-mineral sources, as well as the diversification of the chemical composition and the categories of ailments that can be treated. After 1990, the Valcea resorts attracted a significant number of tourists, both due to the expansion and diversification of accommodation units, and especially due to the modernization of the treatment facilities. The Baile Olanesti resort occupies a leading place among the Valcea resorts, thanks to a number of over 30 hydro-mineral sources, over 45 accommodation units and 40 treatment bases. The study wants to highlight the role that these opportunities have in local economic development, and the steps that the local strategy for exploiting the benefits of water and increasing the number of tourists has in mind.

Recent Demographic Trends in Hunedoara County

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Abstract: Hunedoara County has experienced a sharp demographic decline since the 1990s and this trend is very likely to continue in the next decades due to the current demographic features. The birth rate has reached a record low in 2023, 5.1‰, and is not going to increase much in the near future, because the smaller generations born after 1990 are now at fertility age. The mortality rate, on the other hand, experienced a surge during the pandemic, reaching a record high of 17.86‰ in 2021, but has decreased since to 12.5‰ in 2023 and will probably remain stable in the future. The natural balance rate has therefore negative values, reaching record lows in recent years (-7.4‰ in 2023). In terms of migration, Hunedoara County is recognized as one of the countries that has experienced huge

outmigration since the 1990s due to the social and economic problems linked to the decommissioning and closure of mines and factories. The emigration rate continues to be very high (20.52‰ in 2023) and above the immigration rate (15.69‰ in 2023), resulting in a negative migration rate of -4.83‰ in 2023. As a result, the total balance rate is -12.23‰ in 2023, very close to the record low of -15.84‰ in 2021. There will be negative demographic consequences on the short, medium and even on the long term, as the weight of the young population will continue to decline, while the process of demographic aging will accelerate, leading to a downward spiral in demographic terms for years to come.

Enhanced Detection of Periglacial Features in the European Arctic Using Super-Resolution Deep Learning

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Abstract: Thermokarst, resulting from the thawing of ice-rich permafrost, poses a significant threat to Arctic landscapes and ecosystems. Rapid detection and monitoring of thermokarst features are essential for understanding their impact on geomorphology, hydrology, and greenhouse gas emissions. Traditional remote sensing techniques, while effective, often lack the spatial resolution necessary to capture small-scale thermokarst features accurately. In this study, we propose a super-resolution deep learning approach to enhance satellite imagery resolution and improve the mapping accuracy of thermokarst in the European Arctic. By applying a generative adversarial network (GAN)-based super-resolution model on medium-resolution satellite images, we can generate high-resolution outputs capable of distinguishing subtle thermokarst features. The model was trained and validated using high-resolution datasets from selected Arctic regions, and preliminary results indicate a significant increase in feature detection accuracy compared to conventional interpolation methods. This super-resolution framework offers a scalable solution for monitoring thermokarst dynamics across large areas, providing a critical tool for climate change research and environmental management in the Arctic.

The influence of petrography on the relief of the Bistriței Mountains (the Eastern Carpathians)

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Abstract: The influence of petrography on the relief of the Bistriței Mountains (The Eastern Carpathians). The petrographic characteristics impose certain general aspects in the morphology of any region. The geological composition of the Bistrița Mountains is varied, being dominated by epimetamorphic rocks (sericitic, chlorite, graphite and quartzite schists) and mesometamorphic rocks (paragneisses, mica schists, crystalline limestones and dolomites, amphibolites). To these, some isolated island-like areas of Mesozoic sedimentary rocks are added in the southern part, while in the eastern and southeastern parts, Cretaceous flysch, belonging to the Ceahlău Nappe is common. In the central axis there is a porphyroid dyke. From a geomorphological point of view, metamorphic rocks have encouraged the formation of dull, widely vaulted ridges, domes and deep valleys, with slopes having a convex profile. The porphyroid gneisses generated a relief of sharp, lofty ridges and peaks, with steep slopes. Long, narrow crests (called "obcine" in this area, too) and wide valleys develop on the sandy-shale flysch in the southeastern part. In the south, slender hills appear, due to the presence of dolomites and limestones, whose hardness exceeds that of the metamorphic rocks surrounding them. Levelled surfaces are very well preserved on the crystalline rocks. Where the valleys cut the Pietrosu gneiss bar or the epimetamorphic schists, gorges and defiles come into existence.

Preventing and Combating Extremism: The Link Between Migrants, Refugees and Extremists

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Abstract: The management of the international migration or refugees flows is a crucial challenge facing states in a globalized international security environment. In this context, trying to put into perspective the relationship between migration and violent extremism is important. It is necessary to analyze the links between migration and violent extremism for several reasons: first, there have been isolated incidents of violent extremism perpetrated by migrants and it is necessary to understand why they occurred; second, it is important to bring data and evidence to bear on an often misinformed public debate; and last, there are links between migration and violent extremism, but not the ones that normally attract attention. Finally, looking ahead, the risk of radicalization among migrants may increase if comprehensive policies to prevent violent extremism are not developed as we speak. The issues addressed in this paper require a global, integrated and multidimensional framework combined with country-specific regional analyzes and initiatives. While regional and country-level solutions are needed, it is equally important to provide a global strategic framework and policy guidance to support progress and a coordinated long-term response. In this sense, international cooperation on migration and border control is essential in order to maintain a state's ability to regulate population flows and is therefore a vital component of a state's national security policy.

Economic transformation and brownfields mapping in Bucharest and Vienna

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Abstract: Vienna, the capital of Austria, and Bucharest, the capital of Romania, have been selected for a comparison of the transformation of industrial sites. Both cities are representative of the Central European economy and were decisively influenced by their functions as country capital and by political systems. Bucharest was intensely industrialised during the socialist period and today represents the leading tertiary, cultural and academic city in Romania. Our research approach focuses on contextualising both cities with their economic and political landscape during deindustrialisation while offering a comprehensive view of the brownfields regeneration policy programme. We applied a mixed methodology to analyse the relationship between deindustrialisation and spatial transformation of Vienna and Bucharest. To investigate how the industrial areas have changed over time, we need a cartographic record showing the location of factories and the buildings in the area. Recent expansions of publicly available high-resolution satellite images, like Google's, have increased temporal resolutions and brought substantial flexibility in spatial scale analysis.

Entertainment industry interferences with tourist heritage in rural tourism

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Abstract: In most of the former socialist countries, rural tourism has developed continuously, managing to attract more and more tourists. Today, Romania is positioned very well at the European level, from the point of view of agritourism and rural tourism. This form of tourism offers an alternative to urban destinations and offers the opportunity to discover the authentic lifestyle of rural dwellers. The increasing number of tourist and agri-tourism guesthouses, the special natural setting, well-

preserved traditions and customs are positive aspects. But the development of this type of tourism involves more and more leisure activities. The attractiveness and better promotion of tourism depends a lot on the diversification of services, guesthouses support and promote the leisure part more intensively. The leisure industry is focused on the tourism heritage of a rural community. Knowing the typology and types of activities specific to this industry represent opportunities for the development of rural tourism. This aspect is addressed in the authors' article.

Urban Expansion and Sustainable Water Resource Management in Agartala City: Challenges and Prospects

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Abstract: Agartala is the capital city of Tripura, India, and is known for its rapid urban growth, which causes many difficulties in natural resource management and environmental sustainability. This paper aimed to investigate the influence of urbanisation on the changes in ecosystem services, land use, and resource utilisation in Agartala for issues like deforestation, water scarcity, and loss of biodiversity. We analyse the spatial and environmental changes of the two-decade growth of Agartala through analysis using satellite imagery, GIS mapping, and field surveys. From the findings, there has been a decrease in the green cover of up to 30%, together with an equally substantial depletion in the water table for this region and is the cause of long-term instability in the ecosystem. Expanding urban areas into peri-urban and rural zones has disturbed traditional land-use patterns, creating conflict between conservation needs and developmental pressures. Additionally, the study examines the current resource management practices in the city and evaluates gaps in policies and infrastructure that worsen resource depletion and environmental degradation. The paper suggests sustainable urban planning solutions, which would incorporate green infrastructure and rainwater harvesting with community-led conservation initiatives to improve the resilience of Agartala against environmental threats while preserving balanced urban growth. This research adds to the discourse on the sustainable development of rapidly growing cities in developing regions because it provides insight into handling the pressure of urbanisation while conserving ecosystems for the future.

The insular distribution of beech forests in Romania, reminiscent of the glaciation period, induced by species genetic and ecological plasticity.

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Abstract: This work attempts to explain the presence of *Fagus sylvatica* (European beech) and *Fagus orientalis* (Oriental beech) species outside the usual climate limit of their geographic range, where they occur as small forest islands. According to the European distribution map of European beech, on the Romanian territory there are 12 such islands. Four of them are Oriental beech. The occurrence of these beech islands can be explained by the ecological, morphological and genetic plasticity in the case of *Fagus sylvatica* species, and by the local pedo-climatic conditions that allowed the migration of *Fagus orientalis* species from its natural range toward north-west. Outside of the areas with optimal ecological conditions, in arid areas or with a higher thermal regime, the European beech occupies small, insular areas it being mixed with other tree species such as: *Carpinus betulus*, *Quercus petraea*,

Q. robur, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Tilia tomentosa*, *T. cordata*, *Populus tremula*, *Ulmus glabra*. The European beech can even hybridize with *Fagus orientalis*, as in the case of Valea Fagilor Forest, where the hybrid *FAGUS* × *TAURICA* Pop. formed (*Fagus sylvatica* × *Fagus orientalis*) called Crimean beech. These beech adaptation mechanisms have determined the appearance of unique habitats present only in Romania (ȝ1Yo Dacian oak & hornbeam forests and ȝ1Xo* Dobrogean Beech forests).

Modern and Traditional in Museum Activity

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Abstract: Cultural tourism is one of the most attractive resources for a community to leverage its culture. Oltenia is a region with rich cultural and touristic resources. Museums are one of the ways to explore the local cultural potential. The study aims to analyse the extent to which the use of modern means of digital tourist accessibility can increase the tourist attractiveness of museums. The working methods are specific to the analysis of accessibility, but the evaluation of tourist consumption was carried out differentiated by age groups of consumers, in the case of the museum managed by the Gorj County Museum in Targu Jiu (Museum of Popular Architecture). The results show that modern means are attractive for all age groups, but there are differences in the degree of horizontal transmission of information (within the same target group). The limitations of this study are represented by the limited digital accessibility resources present in the museum analysed. The study highlights the need to offer varied digital accessibility options that cater to modern consumers' preferences, such as QR codes tailored to the museum content.

Cave restoration, depollution and monitoring in the Cheile Nerei-Beușnița Natura 2000 site (ROSCI0031, SW Romania)

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Abstract: We present the results of restoration and depollution actions for 110 caves in a bad state of conservation from the ROSCI0031 Cheile Nerei-Beușnița (SW Romania), with the aim of restoring a favorable conservation status of the 8310 habitat – caves not open to the public. These actions are core activities of the project „Conservation of 8310 habitat in the Cheile Nerei-Beușnița Natura 2000 site” (LIFE 13 NAT/RO/001488), implemented by the Timiș Environmental Protection Agency and the partner „Exploratorii” Speleological Association between 1st July 2016 – 15th December 2024, with financial support from the Life Natura + Program of the European Commission. Examples of key restoration actions consisted in: extraction and removal of sediment excess, rockfall deposits, wood, waste, and animal remains; speleothem, cave floor, and cave wall cleaning (e.g., graffiti, smoke); speleothem and cave floor repair. Monitoring in the 2021-2023 interval has revealed the effectiveness of these restoration works, the favorable conservation status of the habitat reached at the end of implementation period being maintained.

**Practical approaches to the use of educational software created personal in school learning,
in the discipline of Geography**

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Abstract: Starting from the premise that the teaching-learning-evaluation system through an educational software represents an accessible and relevant way to approach the educational process centered on the student, I carried out an experimental research that consisted in the teaching-learning-evaluation of some contents in the field of geograph , using as research methods - observation, psychopedagogical experiment, test method, comparative method and statistical methods of data interpretation (parametric and non-parametric statistical tests), on a sample of 340 students. At the same time, as the feedback provided by the students is constructive for the teacher, I identified the opinion of the students, but also of other teachers regarding the integration of the personally created educational software in school learning, through the questionnaire, aiming to identify the advantages and disadvantages of teaching-learning- the assessment of geography through the educational software and the eventual necessity of its reuse. As the results showed that there is a statistically significant difference between the experimental and the control group, it indicates that the educational software had a positive impact on learning and the increase of students' interest in it, confirming the advantages of learning through their own created educational software. Finally, the major implications derived from these findings are discussed, such as the creation of a well-being on the learning and evaluation of the main beneficiary of education - the student and the full active participation of a class of students during a lesson, demonstrated by the results obtained , whose main result is ensuring the quality of the instructional-educational process and the valorization of all students. This study can also be recommended in pre-university education in alignment with modern training to keep pace with development.

Dark tourism and its bright future. Case study: Bellu Cemetery, Romania

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Abstract: As a consequence of the contemporary tourist sophistication and the constant effort to preserve heritage, dark tourism has recently become more popular mainly due to its notoriety, uniqueness and learning dimension. The present study aims to present the premises for the development of Bellu Cemetery, Bucharest, Romania, as a significant tourist attraction while identifying the attitudes Romanians have towards dark tourism and the challenges this complex process is subject to. The methodology consisted of structured questionnaires with the general population and two unstructured interviews with actors directly involved in preserving Bellu Cemetery's cultural heritage as well as its tourism promotions. The research results pointed out that, despite the population's reluctance towards dark sites, there is an unmistakable demand mainly for cultural events related to them. Difficulties in successfully using Bellu Cemetery as a dark tourism site revolve primarily around receiving sufficient financial support. As cemeteries are public spaces managed by local public authorities and tourism activities are per design private enterprises, cooperation between the two is essential. Activities in Bellu Cemetery cannot be currently monetised, and both authors and experts believe that allowing this, combined with more substantial financial support from local authorities, would improve the quality and quantity of tourism and educational activities and events related to dark tourism in general and cemetery tourism in particular.

Challenges and priorities in designing a smart youth work – an international viewpoint.

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Abstract: This study seeks to identify the problems encountered by youth workers and young individuals from five countries (Romania, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Finland) in the development and accessibility of smart youth work. The study highlights the diverse difficulties that must be addressed at personal, social, and institutional levels to facilitate a more sustainable and customised educational approach, based on findings from 15 focus groups and 68 interviews performed in the specified regions. A key focus of the research pertains to the mental health of both educators and youth, which requires specific attention in light of the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional intervention domains encompass online safety, addressing deviant behaviours (inside educational institutions, domestic environments, and online), and resource management (including time, space, money, and human resources). From a geographical perspective, what captured attention was the universality of the difficulties faced, with minimal variance depending on the organisation of youth work and access to resources.

Grassland degradation in northeastern Romania. Climate influences vs anthropic impact

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Abstract: Grassland degradation in northeastern Romania is a complex and challenging process to assess, shaped significantly by climate influences and anthropogenic activities. Over recent decades, a decline in land quality has been observed globally, primarily driven by these two factors. As climate change and anthropogenic processes reshape these ecosystems, critical questions arise regarding the sustainability of these grasslands. While current degradation levels have not reached alarming thresholds, ongoing monitoring, and robust assessment methods are essential to prevent irreversible damage. This study employs the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) as a reliable indicator of vegetation vitality, utilizing a comprehensive dataset spanning over 40 years. The NDVI data, analyzed at various spatial and temporal resolutions, focuses primarily on grasslands and is validated across multiple land-use types. Employing a statistical approach through the R greenbrown package, we detect positive and negative trends in vegetation health, indicating a general degradation of grasslands. Our findings reveal a significant correlation between NDVI values and climate trends, which positively influence grassland vitality. Additionally, hydrological factors emerge as key drivers of vegetation health, alongside geological influences linked to degradation and geomorphological processes. However, anthropogenic interventions are identified as the primary catalysts for grassland degradation in northeastern Romania. Field and cartographic validation underscore the impact of human activities on their temporal evolution. This research demonstrates that remote sensing techniques are theoretical tools and practical solutions that effectively identify the main triggers of pasture degradation. The findings contribute valuable insights for future management strategies, highlighting the need for continuous monitoring of the grassland ecosystems.

Evaluation of Measures to Reduce Fragmentation and Increase Habitat Connectivity in the Protected Areas of Romania

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Abstract: This study examines the management plans of protected areas in Romania to evaluate strategies for reducing habitat fragmentation and enhancing ecological connectivity. Habitat fragmentation—intensified by human activities such as agriculture, infrastructure expansion, and urbanization—disrupts species migration and reduces biodiversity by isolating habitats. Despite these concerns, Romania’s management plans still lack adequate and comprehensive measures, such as ecological corridors, restoration zones, and buffer areas, which are essential for mitigating fragmentation and improving habitat connectivity. Through qualitative and quantitative analysis, this study reviews specific connectivity-oriented actions in Romanian protected areas, particularly within national and natural parks. The findings show that management plans emphasizing ecological corridors and coordinated landscape-level interventions are still a minority. There is a general lack of uniformity in implementation and state of the art approaches are still ignored, hindering a broader impact. This research highlights that while Romania’s management plans have a foundational framework for addressing fragmentation, successful connectivity requires more integrated, cross-sectoral planning and policy alignment. The study recommends policy adjustments that emphasize long-term ecological stability and improved collaboration among land-use sectors, thus supporting Romania’s biodiversity conservation goals and compliance with international environmental agreements. The insights provide a framework for policymakers, environmental managers, and planners to strengthen habitat connectivity through more cohesive management strategies in protected areas.

The potential effect of cinematographic industry on tourism in Romania. Case study: the Wednesday series

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Abstract: Cinematographic tourism in Romania constitutes a new tool for the development of the national tourism sector. The choosing of the theme was based on numerous elements of attractiveness regarding this type of tourism and also elements that led to the evolution of cinematographic tourism. The purpose of the study is directly related to highlighting the impact of the film industry on tourism by analyzing the frames presented in the Wednesday film production that illustrate certain cultural touristic objectives of local or national interest. The methodology approached for the realization of this study referred to the analysis of specialized literature on the evolution of cinematographic tourism and the incipient analysis of the proposed case study, which was completed by the method of observation and the qualitative method by realizing the comparison between the frames from the Wednesday series and the reality. The result of the study highlighted how cinematographic industry can influence the tourists motivations for travelling and how this industry can provide new opportunities in the local economy. At the same time, the research results also emphasized the cinematographic elements that make up this type of tourism and their degree of attractiveness. Cinematographic tourism represents

for Romanian tourism industry a new exploitation niche that can bring numerous benefits from an economic point of view, but which can also increase the visibility of the country and national identity elements at a European or even international level. Keywords: cinematographic tourism, Cantacuzino Castle, qualitative analysis, cultural heritage, potential effects

Analysis of management measures regarding traditional agricultural practices in Natura 2000 sites - Case study: Southeast Development Region, Romania.

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Abstract: Our study focuses on the analysis of the management measures developed and implemented in the Natura 2000 sites in the South-East Development Region of Romania that could influence and/or be influenced by the maintenance of traditional agricultural practices. Although agricultural practices and natural protected areas can be interpreted as having different roles, they can play important complementary roles, especially when Natura 2000 sites are explicitly managed to support traditional agricultural practices. The complementary roles between agricultural land management and Natura 2000 sites refer to the use of agricultural practices favorable to the maintenance of important habitats or ensuring the requirements of feeding, reproduction, shelter in all seasons for protected species. The methodology includes three stages: i) the inventory of the Natura 2000 sites in the South-East Development Region and the context regarding the approved management plans, respectively the specific conservation objectives ii) the identification, based on evidence from the literature, of the key agricultural habitats in the inventoried Natura 2000 sites, which are dependent or partially dependent on agricultural activities; iii) identification and analysis of management measures, respectively conservation objectives that could influence the state of conservation of the identified key agricultural habitats. Result: The results show that out of the total of 12 analyzed habitats, 6 identified habitats are fully dependent on agricultural management, 2 habitats are partially dependent on agricultural management, and for 4 habitats there are still uncertainties regarding their dependence on agricultural management. Conclusion: From our analysis, we have identified that the unfavorable conservation status of the habitats can also be caused by inadequate agricultural management, such as the abandonment of traditional agricultural practices, overgrazing, etc. Also, the favorable conservation status of the habitats can be determined by the continuity of the practice of traditional agriculture, respectively of a low-intensity agricultural management.

Foreign tourists' perception of Bucharest street food

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Abstract: Street food is sold by a vendor on a street or in another public place, such as a market, fair, or park. It is often sold from a portable food booth, food cart, food truck, or small display kiosks and is meant for immediate consumption. For most tourists, travelling to a new destination means broadening their horizons - visiting new sights, meeting new people and understanding new cultures. At the same time, travel can also be about gastronomy. Each country has a unique cuisine, often inspired by the local environment, historical influences left behind by past occupations or migrant flows, but also by the ever-larger immigrant communities that bring new flavours to the table. The national cuisine is the business card of every country. In this context, this paper aims to analyze the perception of foreign tourists about Bucharest's street food. The research methodology used the survey method, having the semi-structured interview guide as a tool, and applied it to a sample of 100 respondents from

among foreign tourists visiting Bucharest. The study results show that tourists are looking for the local flavour and the small details that provide colour to the city, wanting to see the daily life of ordinary Romanians. In order to consume the local culture of Bucharest, they often visit the less explored markets, fairs, streets and neighbourhoods. At the top of their culinary preferences regarding authentic or imported street food, there are „micii” from Piața Obor, „merdenelele” from Piața Amzei, the pretzels from the street corner, the shaorma from Dristor, the slice of pizza from Treevi, etc. Tourists were disappointed by local authorities’ poor tourism promotion of these places, mentioning that they had learned about them from sources such as Tripadvisor, tour guides, or even by talking directly with locals. In conclusion, in recent years, the popularity of street food has grown significantly in Bucharest as well, a place where traditional Romanian cuisine is intertwined with culinary influences from all corners of the world.

Evaluating the impact of RUSLE Cover Management (C) and Support Practice (P) factors estimations on soil loss in non-arable areas of the Romanian Subcarpathians

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Abstract: Water-induced soil erosion is a global environmental issue and one of the most prevalent forms of land degradation in Europe (European Commission, 2020), driven by both natural and human factors. Soil erosion modelling based on empirical equations, as the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) and its revised version (RUSLE) are the most used approaches worldwide, aiming to identify the soil loss potential under different static and temporally dynamics factors. Beyond climate change, often identified as a primary driver of soil loss (Borrelli et al., 2020), the unsustainable human activities are responsible for the acceleration of soil erosion (Brandolini et al., 2023). Accurate mapping of vegetation cover management requires a special attention, being considered one of the main sources of uncertainties in USLE/RUSLE-based modelling (Estrada-Carmona et al., 2017), because of its spatial and temporal variability. This study aims to compare different approaches for estimating the RUSLE Cover Management (C) Factor and to evaluate the impact of various cover management (C) and Support Practice (P) scenarios on soil loss. Our focus is a heterogeneous, non-arable region in the Romanian Subcarpathians, which encompasses a diverse range of land cover and land-use types. Accurate mapping at local level of the potential soil loss rates provides useful particular value to policy makers in searching for sustainable soil-use solutions, while the scenario-based analysis proves the effects of different land management practices over soil loss rates, as a decision-making instrument for sustainable management strategy.

Towards the achievement of specific ODD6 targets and indicators in Romania

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Abstract: This paper aims to investigate the dynamics of some targets and indicators specific to the UN’s 6th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Clean Water and Sanitation, in order to assess the stage of their implementation in Romania. The analysis focuses mainly on the targets 6.1 and 6.2 which envisage, by 2030, to reach adequate and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all, and respectively to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene. The study is mainly based on statistical data related to water services and sanitation, as well as on demographic data, extracted from the databases belonging to the National Institute of Statistics and Eurostar. The results showed in

recent years significant progress towards SDG 6.1. and 6.2. targets, but with notable spatial disparities and differences between rural and urban environments. Between 2008 and 2022, the rate of the population connected to public water supply system increased from 55% to 75% and the rate of population with access to sewerage system raised from 45% to 59%. The rural environment shows significantly lower weights of the population connected to water supply systems compared to the national average (41% versus 75% in 2022), and of the population connected to sewage systems (16% versus 59% in 2022). Despite the obvious progress, there are still great challenges in achieving the SDG 6.1 and 6.2 targets especially in the counties in the NE and SW development regions and in the rural areas. Therefore, Romania needs increasing political will to accelerate actions aiming to reach the SDG 6 targets, by implementing investment programs, financed from national and European funds.

Analyzing the top instagrammable tourist spots in Bucharest, Romania

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Abstract: Instagram has become an important tool for promoting tourist attractions globally. By offering various promotion methods, the platform enables each user to try to promote tourist attractions in unique and appealing ways. The objectives of the present study were to spatialize and highlight the 30 main Instagrammable points in Bucharest by March 2024 and to analyze the perceptions of the Instagram and Google users regarding the main 30 Instagrammable places in Bucharest by March 2024. The result of the quantification through social media networks of the distribution of resources and the use of GIS methods in spatializing them can answer a series of key questions about how the city values its material and immaterial heritage, as well as other elements of social-cultural valorization of the city.

Demographic features of mountain areas: spatio-temporal patterns and current challenges.

Case study: Carpathian Mountains, Romania

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Abstract: In the last decades, many settlements from the mountain areas have faced demographic and economic challenges, and therefore, tailored policies are needed to foster their revitalization. To achieve this objective, it is essential, first of all, to understand local features and identify territorial patterns. Against this background, the present study investigates the demographic features of the settlements in the Romanian Carpathian Mountains, capturing their evolution over 30 years, starting in 1991. The research was carried out in several phases as follows: a preliminary step to delineate the study area and the settlements located inside it, collection of a series of statistical data from the National Institute of Statistics, calculation of some indicators, computing an aggregate index, interpretation of the results in relation to socio-economic, political, historical factors, etc. The results highlight a heterogeneous situation, with some settlements thriving while at the opposite pole others are facing a sharp demographic decline. Clusters of settlements with common patterns are identified, such as settlements registering a process of returning migration, which led to a positive migratory balance in the last years or an increase in the attractiveness of settlements located near some of the major cities. At the same time, there are some clusters of settlements with high negative values of the rate of natural change of population. Anyway, the index values show that around 31% of settlements fall into the category of high demographic vulnerability, denoting the synergetic effect of a profound

demographic ageing process, an intense population decline and a negative net migration rate. Overall, the outcomes provide an overview of the demographic perspective in mountain areas, which can be useful for policymakers and can contribute to raising awareness about the very problematic situation of some places.