

**TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION**

**&**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**SECITC 2016**

**09-10 JUNE 2016**

**BUCHAREST, ROMANIA**

## 1. THE CONFERENCE SITE

SECITC 2016 will take place at the National Military Palace in the heart of Bucharest, the capital of Romania. The address is:

**The National Military Palace**  
Constantin Mille 1, Sector 1,  
Bucharest, Romania  
Tel: + 40 21 314 95 51  
Fax: + 40 21 315 09 60



Standing guard imposingly, this neoclassical masterpiece, designed by Romanian architect Dimitrie Maimaroiu, was built in 1912 to serve the social, cultural and educational needs of the Romanian Army. Banquets and official events are still hosted in the ballrooms, while the upstairs area is reserved for the army's library, as well as offices and classrooms for officer instruction. The main part of the building is off-limits to civilians, but the sumptuous restaurant and summer terrace are open to the public.

### **How to get there**

The meeting site is in the city centre, close to “Universitatii” Metro Station. See map in Attachment A.

*Use the main entrance on the left side of the National Military Palace and take the elevators to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Follow the signs to reach the conference.*

## 2. ACCOMMODATION

Hotel reservations are the responsibility of each participant. Close to the conference site there are many nice hotels, including:

### **NOVOTEL BUCHAREST CITY CENTRE \*\*\*\***

Calea Victoriei 37B, Sector 1, Bucharest

Tel: +40 21 308 85 16

Fax: +40 21 208 85 77

Website: <http://www.accorhotels.com>

### **HOTEL CENTRAL \*\*\*\***

Str. Brezoianu 13, Sector 5, Bucharest

Tel: +40 21 315 56 35

Fax: +40 21 315 56 37

Website: <http://www.centralhotel.ro>

### **RAMADA MAJESTIC BUCHAREST HOTEL \*\*\*\***

Calea Victoriei 38-40, Sector 1, Bucharest

Tel: +40 21 310 27 15

Fax: +40 21 310 27 99

Website: <http://www.ramadamajestic.ro>

### **HOTEL CAPITOL \*\*\*\***

Calea Victoriei 29, Sector 1, Bucharest

Tel: +40 21 315 80 30

Fax: +40 21 312 41 69

Website: <http://www.hotelcapitol.ro>

## **3. TRANSPORTATION TO AND IN BUCHAREST**

### **Getting from the Airport to Bucharest**

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

**By Taxi:** Taxis from the airport to the hotels cost about 45 LEI (approx 10 EURO), as long as you take a taxi that has an association with a trusted taxi company. By law, all taxis have to display the company name and telephone number, as well as their tariffs on the outside of the passenger door.

To order a taxi, use *Taxi by Request* service available at the arrivals hall. The payment should be made in Romanian currency. Use the ATMs located in the arrivals hall.

**By Bus:** The Express Bus 783, which stops underneath the arrivals hall in front of the domestic flights terminal, leaves for the city centre (stopping at Piata Victoriei, Piata Romana and Piata Universitatii) every 15-30 minutes all day long. The Piata Universitatii (University Square) is the most suitable stop to get off and go to the recommended hotels. Tickets costing 7 LEI (1,6 EURO) valid for two trips, can be purchased from the little booth situated on your right side as you exit the airport building.

### **Public transportation in Bucharest**

**Metro:** There are four metro lines (M1, M2, M3 and M4). The system operates between 5:00 am and 11:30 am. The most frequently used is the North-South M2 line. Metro stations are indicated by white signs with a blue "M".

Tickets can be purchased inside the stations at counters indicated by a "Casa" sign. There are two types of tickets – two-trip 5,00 LEI and ten-trip 20,00 LEI. One-day and one-week passes are also available at the station.

The final destination is indicated on the front of the train. Each stop is announced as the train nears the station. At rush hours, they arrive every 4-7 minutes, off- rush hours every 15-20 minutes.

The National Military Palace is 5 minutes away walk from the "Universitatii" Station on Line M2.



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

Tickets can be bought from RATB kiosks at a significant amount of stops. If you are staying longer than a few days, your best bet is to buy a weekly ticket, which is cheaper and enables you to travel as much as you want. The ticketing system uses contactless smart-cards, called *Activ* cards. Once bought (you will need some ID to do that) the cards can be loaded with various ticketing options. To validate the card, after entering a vehicle (or metro station), hold it still in front of the validating device.

**Taxis:** Taxis inside Bucharest usually cost 1,4 LEI/Km (0,32 EURO/Km), as long as you take a taxi that has an association with a trusted taxi company. By law, all taxis need to display the company's name and telephone number, as well as their tariffs on the outside of the passenger door. Note that *Pornire* is the starting fee. It is the *Tarif* underneath you need to be aware of. All taxis will provide a receipt, if necessary.

**Car Rental:** Due to extremely heavy traffic and the difficulty to park, it is not recommended to rent a car, unless a tour outside the city is planned.

## **4. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Entry Formalities for Romania**

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

### **Climate**

The climate in Bucharest is temperate-continental with four clear-cut seasons. In June, you can expect summer conditions with temperatures between 23-27°C. We recommend that you check on weather websites prior to travelling.

### **Time Zone**

East European time zone (GMT+2 hours) is the standard time in Romania. Daylight saving time (GMT+3 hours) applies from March to October.

### **Telephone and fax numbers**

Telephoning to Bucharest from abroad: the international dialling code for Romania is +40 (country code) + 21 or 31 (area code for Bucharest) + telephone number (seven digit number).

### **Important phone numbers in Romania**

Unique National System for Emergency Calls (Ambulance, Police, Fire Department): 112

### **Electricity Standards**

The voltage in Romania is the EU standard of 220 volts/ 50 hertz. Please make sure you have the proper continental dual round pin adapters for your appliance needs.

### **Currency, Exchange Rates**

The currency used in Romania is the Romanian LEU. The plural is LEI. Since July 2005, it has been lightened by 4 zeros to become the New LEU or RON as you will see on certain prices. It is divided in BAN (plural BANI); 1 LEU = 100 BANI. The exchange rate at this time is around 1 EURO = 4.5 LEI and 1 USD = 4.0 LEI.

### **Banks, Credit Cards**

You can exchange your foreign currency at any bank or exchange office. Please be careful to check all the commissions applied.

Banks are open from Monday to Friday from 09:00h to 17:00h. ATMs are found at hotels, all banks and many other locations throughout the city.

### **Tipping**

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

### **Value-Added Tax (VAT) Refund**

If you are not a national of an EU country, VAT is reimbursed and you can claim it back at the Airport. Please ask the shop for a tax-free form and together with the form and the goods you buy, you will be reimbursed at the tax-free desk, at the airport.

### **Shopping and Opening Hours for Shops**

Since the 1990s, brand names and high-end stores have been pushing their way into the Romanian market. From high fashion boutiques to art galleries, shopping in Bucharest can fit any taste or budget.

You may either stroll down Blvd. Magheru from Piața Romană to Piața Universității for shopping or go to one of the many shopping malls favoured by the locals like Unirea Shopping Center, București Mall, AFI Palace Cotroceni, Plaza Romania Mall. All these centers are usually open from 10 am to 10 pm and remain also open on Sundays.

Handicrafts (artizanat), folk crafts like embroidered clothing and linen, painted or beaded eggs, carpets, pottery, woodcarving and icons, are the best souvenirs. Romanian peasants make magnificent embroidery on cotton, wool and leather.

### **Language**

The official language is Romanian, a Romance language which is unique in that it is the closest to Ancient Latin of the currently spoken Romance languages. Moreover, Romanian remained a Latin language despite its being spoken in a geographic area surrounded by languages of different origins from Latin (Slavic or Finno-Ugric languages). A 31-letter Latin alphabet is in use. Ethnic minorities can use their language in school, administration, and the judiciary. English and French are widely used.

### **Useful Websites**

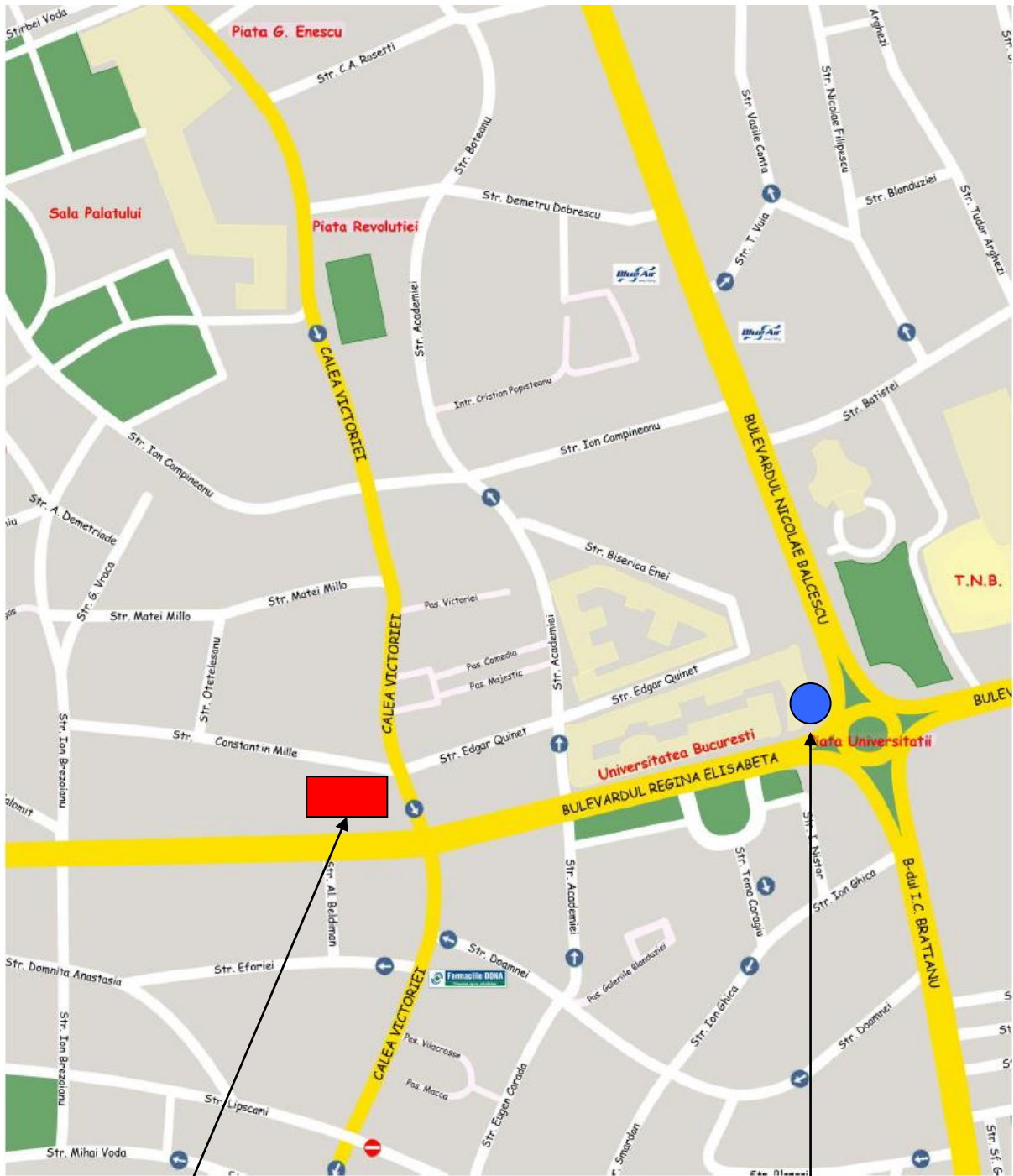
Explore Romania: <http://www.romaniatourism.com/>

Bucharest Travel Guide: <http://wikitravel.org/en/Bucharest>

Bucharest Attractions: <http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g294458-Activities-Bucharest.html>

Henry Coanda International Airport: <http://bucharestairports.ro/otp/index.php>

**Attachment A**



The National Military Palace

“Universitatii” Metro Station

## **EXPLORING BUCHAREST**

Known for its wide, tree-lined boulevards, glorious Belle Epoque buildings (which in the 1900s earned its nickname of "Little Paris"), Bucharest, Romania's largest city and capital, is today a bustling metropolis. With more than 2 million inhabitants, Bucharest is one of the largest cities in Eastern Europe.

According to a legend first attested in the 19th century, the city was founded by a shepherd named Bucur (or, alternatively, a boyar of that same name). Like most of the older cities in Muntenia, its foundation has also been ascribed to the legendary Wallachian prince Radu Negru (in stories first recorded in the 16th century). Another more likely variant is that it was established by Mircea cel Bătrân in the 14th century after a victory won over the Turks (*bucurie* means joy in Romanian).

Bucharest was first mentioned on September 20, 1459, as one of the residences of Prince Vlad Dracula, also known as Vlad Tepes (Vlad the Impaler) (thought to have been the inspiration for Bram Stoker's *Dracula*). The Old Royal Court (Curtea Veche) was built during the rule of Radu cel Frumos (Radu the Handsome) becoming the summer residence of the court. In 1595, it was burned by the Turks but, after its restoration, continued to grow in size and prosperity and, in 1698, Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu chose it for his capital.

Bucharest enjoys a special historical charm evident in the Old City Centre, in the grand architecture of the Royal Palace and the lush green of Cismigiu Park. The city also claims a large number of museums, art galleries, exquisite Orthodox Churches and unique architectural sites.

Remodeled in the late 19th century by French and French-trained architects, the city features large neoclassical buildings, fashionable parks, and even its very own Arch of Triumph on the elegant Soseaua Kiseleff, an avenue longer than the famed Champs-Elysees and home to the city's mansion district.

The architecture of the old city, with its cosmopolitan air, was notoriously scarred by Ceausescu's redevelopment project, which demolished an immense swathe of the historic centre and replaced it with a concrete jungle. Nicolae Ceausescu's legacy, centered around its outstanding landmark the Palace of the Parliament (formerly called the People's Palace), provides an interesting insight into the dictator's megalomaniac vision.

### **THINGS TO SEE:**

#### **The Arch of Triumph**

Initially built of wood in 1922 to honor the bravery of Romanian soldiers who fought in World War I, Bucharest's very own Arch of Triumph was finished in Deva granite in 1936. Designed by the architect, Petre Antonescu, the Arch stands 85 feet high. An interior staircase allows visitors to climb to the top for a panoramic view of the city. The sculptures decorating the structure were created by leading Romanian artists, including Ion Jalea, Constantin Medrea and Constantin Baraschi.





### **The Victory Avenue (Calea Victoriei)**

Calea Victoriei is Bucharest's oldest and arguably, most charming street. Built in 1692 to link the Old Princely Court to Mogosoaia Palace, it was initially paved with oak beams. The street became Calea Victoriei in 1878, after the Romanian victory in the War for Independence. Between the two world wars, Calea Victoriei developed into one of the most fashionable streets in the city.

Stroll along this street from Piata Victoriei to Piata Natiunilor Unite to discover some of the most stunning buildings in the city, including the Cantacuzino Palace (now the George Enescu Museum), the historical Revolution Square, the National Military Palace, the CEC Palace and the National History Museum.

### **The Romanian Athenaeum (Ateneul Roman)**

The work of French architect Albert Galleron, who also designed the National Bank of Romania, the Athenaeum was completed in 1888, financed almost entirely with money donated by the general public. One of the preeminent public fundraising campaigns ever in Romania, the "Give a penny for the Athenaeum" campaign saved the project after the original patrons ran out of funds. With its high dome and Doric columns, the Athenaeum resembles an ancient temple with a Baroque addition.

The lobby has a beautifully painted ceiling decorated in gold leaf, with two nicely curved spiral staircases. A ring of pink marble columns is linked by flowing arches where elaborate brass lanterns hang like gems from a necklace. Inside the concert hall, the round fresco covering the walls is a painted image of the Romanian history. Renowned worldwide for its outstanding acoustics, it is Bucharest's most prestigious concert hall and home of the Romanian George Enescu Philharmonic.



### **The Old Town (Centrul Vechi al Orasului)**

The Old Town is the most livable pedestrian entertainment area in the city center and the favorite meeting place in Bucharest. Also known as Lipscuri or the Historical Centre, it features a large array of themed cafes and bars, cozy clubs and international or traditional restaurants. Important landmarks such as Caru' cu Bere restaurant, Stavropoleos Church or the National Bank buildings are also located in this area.



### **University Square (Piata Universitatii)**

Buzzing with crowds and traffic from early morning until late at night, this area is one of the most popular meeting places in Bucharest. The square brings together some remarkable architectural masterpieces on each of its four corners, starting with the University of Bucharest, the School of Architecture, the Bucharest National Theatre, the neoclassical Coltea Hospital and its lovely church (1702-1794) and the Sutu Palace, now home to the Bucharest History Museum.

In the middle of the square, on a little island, 10 stone crosses pay respect to those killed during the 1989 revolution.



### **The Patriarchy (Patriarhia)**

Set atop one of the city's hills, known as Mitropoliei, the Metropolitan Church has been the center of the Romanian Orthodox faith since the 17th century. The church was built by Constantin Serban Basarab, ruler of the province of Walachia between 1656 and 1658, on a design inspired by the Curtea de Arges Monastery. It became the Metropolitan Church in 1668 and the seat of the Romanian Orthodox Church in 1925.

The Byzantine interior, containing the most dazzling of the city's iconostasis, as well as a couple of exquisitely carved side altars, bestows great beauty on the masses serviced by the Romanian Patriarch. A huge crowd gathers here for the Easter midnight service.

The outstanding bell-tower at the entrance was built in 1698 and restored in 1958. Next to the church, and closed to the public, is the Patriarchal Palace (1708), residence of Daniel, the head of the Romanian Orthodox Church.



### **The National Art Museum (Muzeul National de Arta)**

Romania's leading art museum was founded in 1948 to house the former Royal Collection, which included Romanian and European art dating from the 15th to the 20th century. Located in the neoclassical former Royal Palace, set amid a wealth of historic buildings such as the Romanian Athenaeum, Kretzulescu Church and the Hotel Athenee Palace-Hilton, the museum currently exhibits over 100,000 works divided into two major sections. Its National Gallery features the works of major Romanian artists, including Grigorescu, Aman and Andreescu. The museum has an important collection of early Brancusi sculptures. The European Gallery displays little-known art gems from the likes of El Greco, Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, Breughels (father and son) Cezanne and Rubens. If you only have time to visit one gallery, make it the Romanian one. It is the most complete collection of Romanian works of art in the country and quite possibly, the world.



### **The Village Museum (Muzeul Satului)**

Founded by royal decree in 1936, this fascinating outdoor museum, the largest in Europe, covers some 30 acres on the shores of Lake Herastrau in Herastrau Park. It features a collection of 50 buildings representing the history and design of Romania's rural architecture. Steep-roofed peasant homes, thatched barns, log cabins, churches and watermills from all regions of the country were carefully taken apart, shipped to the museum and rebuilt in order to recreate the village setting. Throughout the year, the Village Museum hosts special events where you have a chance to witness folk artisans demonstrating traditional skills in weaving, pottery and other crafts. Folk art objects and handicrafts are available at the museum gift shop.

