

GENERAL INFO PACK, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

Tandem AEROdays 19.20

MEETING VENUE

The Tandem AEROdays 2019 Bucharest Conference will take place at the Palace of Parliament. The building selected for the conference is the second largest administrative building in the world and houses the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate but also serves as an international conference center, with modern facilities designed for high level meetings and events.

Address: 2-4 Izvor Street, C1 Entrance, Bucharest, Romania

E-mail: info@tandemaerodays19-20.eu

Subway near the Palace of Parliament: Izvor

Distance to Otopeni Airport (OTP): aprox 20KM

TRAVEL

By plane

International flights land at **Henri Coanda International Airport**, located in Otopeni, 16 km north of the city center. Henri Coanda airport is often referred to as Otopeni on airline bookings because it is located in Otopeni City. Henri Coanda (Otopeni) Airport is serviced by train, buses and taxis.

The easiest and direct option to get to the city center is by bus or taxi.

Bus

Express Bus 783 offers daily service to the city center with main stops at *Baneasa Airport, Piata Presei Libere, Piata Victoriei, Piata Romana, Piata Universitatii/Piata 21 Decembrie* and *Piata Unirii*.

The bus leaves from the international departures terminal every 30 minutes. **This line runs day and night. At night, the bus leaves every 40 minutes.** The journey usually takes about 45-50 minutes. If it is a rush hour the journey could easily take more, even 1.15h.

A card for 2 trips costs 7 lei + the cost of the card 1.6 lei (2 euro). When you travel from **Henri Coanda International Airport** to the city center you can buy this card from the automatic vending machine located exactly in the bus stop. The bus stop is downstairs, in front of **Domestic Arrivals**.



Note: You must buy the card before you get on the bus because you can't purchase it from the driver. Some of the bus stops along the route may not have ticket booths so better buy this card in advance. Remember to validate your ticket on board the bus.

** For money exchange it is preferably to use the ATMs in the lobby for immediate needs and then change foreign money in local currency in the city.*

Taxi

On-demand taxi services are available at Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport. You may order a taxi car by using the touch screen devices in the public area of the Arrivals Terminal. The passengers get on the taxi-cabs right outside the terminal, on the first floor, by showing the ticket issued by the automatic touch screen. The charges vary between 1,69 lei/km – 3, 50 lei/km.

The estimated distance between Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport and Palace of Parliament is:

	Dist. (km)	Estimated price			
		Lei		EUR	
		Min.	Max.	Min.	Max
Palace of Parliament	20	34	70	7.5	15

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

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

BASIC WORDS ENGLISH – ROMANIAN:

Good Morning	Buna dimineata
Good Afternoon	Buna ziua
Good Evening	Buna seara
Good Bye	La revedere
Do you speak English?	Vorbiti engleza?
I do not speak Romanian.	Eu nu vorbesc romana.
Thank you	Mulumesc
Please	Va rog
Where is...?	Unde este...?
How much is that?	Cat costa asta?
I would like...	As dori...

For taxi



Fare	Tarif
Start	Pornire
Stop	Oprire

CITY AND COUNTRY INFORMATION

Geographical Location



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

Official name

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

National flag

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



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Neighbours

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

Area

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

Standard time

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

Currency (since 1867)

The official Romanian currency is the Romanian Leu (RON). The official exchange rate (National Bank of Romania) at this time is about 1€ =4.76 RON. The *Leu* (plural *lei*), has the *Ban* (plural *bani*) as subdivision (1 *leu* =100 *bani*). Foreign currency can be changed at any bank or exchange office. Please be careful to check all the commissions applied. Banks are open on Monday-Friday from 08:30h-16:00h. ATMs are found at hotels, all banks and many other locations throughout the city.

Electricity standards.

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

Physical features

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

Climate

Generally temperate-continental with four clear-cut seasons.

Area distribution

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

Population

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



Ethnic structure

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

Religion

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

Official language

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

Capital city

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

Towns and cities

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

HISTORY

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



In a zone of Europe troubled by inter-ethnic crises and conflicts, Romania has emerged in the last decade as an element of equilibrium, stability and cooperation.

TOURISM

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

ABOUT BUCHAREST (BUCURESTI)

BUCHAREST is Romania's capital and largest city, as well as the most important industrial and commercial center of the country. With its 2 million inhabitants in the city proper and more than 2.4 million in the urban area, it is also one of the largest cities in Eastern Europe. Lying 64 km from the Danube, Romania's southern border, but 600 km from its northern frontier, it is also far removed from the country's more obvious attractions. And yet, it is Romania's center of government and commerce and site of its main airport, so most visitors to the country will find themselves passing through Bucharest at some point.

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

The architecture of the old city, with its cosmopolitan air, was notoriously scarred by Ceausescu's redevelopment project, which demolished an immense swathe of the historic center and replaced it with **Centru Civic**, including a huge new palace for the Communist leader, now known as the **Palace of Parliament**. The palace has become one of the city's prime tourist sites and is best viewed along the approach from Piata Unirii. The other site that justifies a visit to the city lies to the north of the center: the



Village Museum, a wonderful collection of vernacular buildings collected from all regions of Romania. Between these two poles, in the center of the city, the **National History Museum** lays out the story of Romania's development from prehistoric times to the 1920s. It is in much the same style as every other county museum, but this is the biggest and best in the country.

If you'd like to take a city tour you will find more information at: <http://bucharestcitytour.stbsa.ro/>

Or

You can ask at the hotel reception

METRO

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

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

BUSES, TRAMS AND TROLLEYBUSES

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

Tickets can be bought from STBSA 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.



