



Consortium de Recherche Européen en Sciences Humaines et Sociales

**The XIIth International Seminar
Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Regional Development. International comparisons**

***Entrepreneurial Initiatives, Regional Development
and Decentralization
highlighting the EU 2020 Strategy***

22-28 September 2013

BUCHAREST – SUCEAVA

Organizers:

University of Bucharest

Interdisciplinary Center of Advanced Research on Territorial Dynamics (CICADIT)

Faculty of Geography

Professional Association of Romanian Geographers

“Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava

“Vasile Goldiș” Western University of Arad

University of Angers

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With the support of:

“Transilvania” University of Brașov
 Suceava County Council
 “ROMSILVA”, Forestry Department Vatra Dornei
 Marelbo Company - Romania, Vicovu de Sus

“ENTREPRENEURIAL INITIATIVES, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DECENTRALIZATION” *highlighting the EU 2020 Strategy*

The 2H2S Seminar “Entrepreneurial Initiatives and Regional Development International comparisons” takes place in Romania during 22th-28th of September. The Interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Research on Territorial Dynamics (CICADIT, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geography) is the main organizer of the 2013 2H2S regular meeting, in collaboration with the University of Suceava.

The current European context related to the economic and development decisions taken under a new financial plan (2014-2020) determined us to choose the “Entrepreneurial Initiatives, Regional Development and Decentralization” theme for the 2013 2H2S Seminar, with the aim to highlight the EU 2020 Strategy’s perspective. The topic we propose is complex, it involves numerous theoretical debates and it requires the explanation of different experiences and points of view.

This year, besides the group of European researchers that usually take part in the 2H2S Seminars, a group of American researchers from Shippensburg University and South Dakota University will attend the conference. The contribution of the participants outside the European Union is extremely important to accomplish the Seminar’s objective. The point of view of the United States on the European issues concerning regional development and decentralization opens new perspectives and the opportunity to include new good practices based on the experience of the best developed territorial entity at global level.

The debates during the Seminar will concentrate on achieving new understandings on the entrepreneurial initiatives issues through a comparison between European and American experiences. The aim is to get knowledge in order to apply the principles of high regional competitiveness in order to achieve the objectives of economic growth and territorial cohesion through implementing the EU 2020 Strategy.

In the same context, the discussions will concentrate on the interconnected relations between regional development and decentralization, based on the fact that the European experiences prove that the decentralization process represents an instrument in the regional development process and its directions were established in the 2020 Territorial Agenda.

The new European Strategy imposes certain effects and implications on the future EU’s regional development. This would require a multidisciplinary understanding and strong collaboration between researchers and territorial actors, especially if they correlate with the limits and obstacles that usually interfere in achieving an efficient decentralization process.

The European Union currently correlates the regional development with its economic growth objectives so that the regions become the main element in the continental cooperation and in order to reduce intra-national and interstates disparities. In the same time, the reciprocity between territorial cohesion and regional development is important for the European policies because it implies the achievement of social, economic, spatial and community development within the efficient frame that the region creates for high endogenous development.

The European cohesion policy makes use of the structural funds as main instruments to implement territorial changes that intervene at regional level. This is considered to be the ideal scale to promote

competitiveness and the intra-European cooperation. Moreover, the region represents the main framework of theoretical debate concerning territorial reality, but it is also the preferred administrative framework at European level to efficiently organize the territory and reduce territorial disparities. The region represents the European instrument through which territorial cohesion and national and European development might be achieved.

The current Romanian territorial, politic, social and economic reality is characterised by an active process of decentralization and administrative territorial reorganisation. This process represents a necessity because of the new European policies related to the territorial development financing in order to achieve the EU 2020 Strategy's objectives.

In this context, the 2H2S Seminar "Entrepreneurial Initiatives, Regional Development and Decentralization" contributes to develop knowledge related to these active territorial processes in Romania and to reveal the European good practices, in order to increase the efficiency of their implementation based on the debates' results.

The current Romanian development regions network was established in 1998 having the role of provisional framework for implementing policies related to the Romanian's integration in the European Union. The current Romanian regions were established on an associative basis, having reduced attributions related to territorial development. The financial resources of the current regions are distributed at a county level, for local projects.

The new territorial requests of the EU 2020 Strategy impose a new regionalisation process in Romania so that the current regions achieve administrative and decisional powers and become forms of territorial management to support the multilevel governance. The new regions need to have their own elective structures and assumed responsibility within the process of regional development through providing support for collaboration inside and between counties.

The current financial and social crisis increased the territorial disparities in Romania, so that the current territorial structure limits the recovery of the development disparities for the poorly developed counties. In the same time, Romania is confronted to a low absorption rate of the EU structural funds due to the counties' general incapacity to support large scale projects with a regional impact. The EU 2020 Strategy establishes that the States with a good level of attracting the allocated funds should enter the redistribution process of the amounts unabsorbed by other States. In this context, regions represent the basis for the improvement of the national instruments and the internal capacity to absorb distributed and redistributed European funds. Also, through the creation of some territorial structures in Romania, structures that have similar competences with the regions from the majority of the European states, the European interregional cooperation would increase and Romania would enter the European networks of regions, with positive effects on the regional and national territorial development.

As a conclusion, the completion of the regionalization process in Romania conducts to an efficient decentralization; to optimized processes of territorial governance; to a well-balanced social and economic development, in the spirit of the territorial cohesion; to the reduction of the social costs; it improves the regional policy and the absorption of the European funds destined to regional development; it creates an optimal framework to initiate and implement large regional projects; it helps to harness the endogenous potential; and to create competitive regions at the European and international level.

PROGRAM

Sunday, September 22: Bucharest

University of Bucharest

Arrival of the participants

Monday, September 23: Bucharest

University of Bucharest

8h15-8h45 **Registration**

8h45-9h00 **Opening session**

Guest of honor: *PhD. Mircea Dumitru (Rector, University of Bucharest)*

9h00-11h00 **Scientific Plenary session (I)**

Chairmen:

PhD. Jean-Pierre Housnel (University Lumière-Lyon 2)

PhD. Ioan Ianoş (University of Bucharest)

- Regional development and decentralization. European profiles. Barriers and obstacles for a real decentralization

11h00-11h15 **Coffee break**

11h15-13h30 **Scientific Plenary session (II)**

Chairmen:

PhD. Daniel Göler (University of Bamberg)

PhD. Jan Wendt (University of Gdansk)

PhD. Martin Olaru (West University of Timișoara)

- New dimensions of Entrepreneurial Initiatives by applying the EU 2020 Strategy
- Decentralization, as an instrument for regional development. Effects of the EU 2020 Strategy

13h30 -14h30 **Lunch**

15h00-18h30 **Travel to Braşov**

Tuesday, September 24: Suceava

8h00-14h30 **Travel to Suceava**

15h00-16h00 **Lunch**

16h30-19h30 **Meeting and discussions at the Departmental Council of Suceava**

Chairmen:

PhD. Vasile Efros (University of Suceava)

PhD. Viorel Chiriță (University of Suceava)

PhD. Margarita Ilieva (Institute of Geography, Kazimierz Wielki University)

Guest of honor: *Cătălin-Ioan Nechifor (President, Suceava County Council)*

20h00-21h00 **Dinner**

Wednesday, September 25: Suceava

Suceava County Council

9h00-9h30 **Opening Session Suceava**

Chairman:

PhD. Vasile Efros (Dean, Faculty of Geography and History, University of Suceava)

Guests of honor:

PhD. Valentin Popa (Rector University of Suceava)

PhD. Liviu Popescu (President, Senate of the University of Suceava)

9h30-11h30 **Module 1. Recent evolution of different concepts applied to the regional development and decentralization**

Chairmen:

PhD. Ronan Paddison (University of Glasgow)

PhD. George White (South Dakota State University)

PhD. Valerià Paül Carril (University Santiago de Compostela)

Speakers:

PhD. Daniel Göler (University of Bamberg)

PhD. George Pomeroy (University of Shippensburg)

PhD. Ruben Lois (University Santiago de Compostela)

PhD. Lucian Brujan (University of Tübingen)

PhD. Cătălina Ancuța (West University of Timișoara)

PhD. Hilary Hungerford (South Dakota State University)

MSc. Danielle Guthrie (South Dakota State University)

11h30 – 11h45 **Coffee Break**

11h45-13h30 Module 2. European entrepreneurial culture in the context of the increasing regional competitiveness

Chairmen:

PhD. Ruben Lois (University Santiago de Compostela)

PhD. George Pomeroy (Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania)

PhD. Annett Steinführer (von Thünen Institute)

Speakers:

PhD. Carlos Macia (University Santiago de Compostela)

PhD. Rafael Viruela (University of Valencia)

PhD. Antoni Tulla (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

PhD. Cristina Merciu (CICADIT, University of Bucharest)

PhD. Daniela Stoian (CICADIT, University of Bucharest)

PhD. Andrei Schwab (CICADIT, University of Bucharest)

PhD. Student Irina Saghin (CICADIT, University of Bucharest)

PhD. Student Mirela Paraschiv (CICADIT, University of Bucharest)

PhD. Student Alexandru Drăgan (University of Angers)

13h45-15h00 Lunch

15h15-18h00 Module 3. Entrepreneurial experiences and local models for a spatial cohesive EU development

Chairmen:

PhD. Cătălina Ancuța (West University of Timișoara)

PhD. Serafi Bernat (University of Castellon)

PhD. Rafael Viruela (University of Valencia)

Speakers:

PhD. Martin Olaru (West University of Timișoara)

PhD. Francesco Bonsinetti (University Mediterranea of Reggio Calabria)

PhD. Margarita Ilieva (Institute of Geography, Kazimierz Wielki University)

PhD. Igor Sîrodoev (Institute of Ecology and Geography, Moldavian Science Academy)

PhD. Ramona Ivan (West University of Timișoara)

PhD. Sorin Pavel (West University of Timișoara)

PhD. Valentina Stoica (CICADIT, University of Bucharest)

PhD. Cristian Drăghici (CICADIT, University of Bucharest)

PhD. Radu Pintilii (CICADIT, University of Bucharest)

MSc. Ioana Vancea (University of Castellon)

18h30-19h30 Dinner

Thursday, September 26: Vicovu de Sus, Vatra Dornei

8h00-9h30 **Travel to Vicovu de Sus**

9h30-11h00 **Visit to Marelbo enterprise in Vicovu de Sus**
Local organizer: *PhD. Viorel Chiriță (University of Suceava)*

11h45-12h15 **Visit to Sucevița Monastery**
Local organizer: *PhD. Viorel Chiriță (University of Suceava)*

12h30-13h45 **Lunch**

14h00-16h00 **Travel to Vatra Dornei**

16h15-19h30 **Module 4. An example of “laboratory-space”: Bucovina – signs of decentralization**

Chairmen:

PhD. Viorel Chiriță (University of Suceava)

PhD. Carlos Macia (University Santiago de Compostela)

PhD. Lucian Brujan (University of Tübingen)

Meeting with local authorities and different territorial actors

Guests of honor:

Ilie Boncheș (Mayor, Vatra Dornei)

Ionuț Abutnăriței (Director, ROMSILVA, Forestry Department Vatra Dornei)

20h00-22h00 **Friendly meeting (including dinner)**

Friday, September 27: Focșani, Bucharest

8h00-13h30 **Travel to Focșani**

13h30-14h30 **Lunch**

14h45-17h00 **City Center visit**
(organizer: PhD Alexandra Tătaru)

17h15 **Departure to Bucharest**

Saturday, September 28: Bucharest

Guests' departure