



**“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania**



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## EDITORIAL

### A SPECIAL ISSUE DEDICATED TO *ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION, SAFETY ENGINEERING AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT*

#### **ELSEDIMIA International Conference, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

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The 10th Edition of the **ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION, SAFETY ENGINEERING AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT – ELSEDIMIA** Conference took place on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The organizers of this edition was the “Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca - Faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering, together with the Ministry of Administration and Interior Affairs - General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations and Academy of Technical Sciences of Romania.

During the previous editions, the topics addressed by the ELSEDIMIA Conference covered major interest areas, such as: the SEVESO Directives, safety studies and reports, energy, environment and sustainable development, pollution sources, risk assessment and analysis, environmental management and monitoring, risk communication, decision making, emergency plans, residual risk level assessment, exposure analysis and public health, waste management etc. This year, the conference approached the following topics: Disaster Management and Disaster Risk Reduction; Aerosols and Remote Sensing; Infrastructure – Risks and Safety; Lifelong Learning (LLL) in Disaster Risk Reduction; Wastewater Treatment Technologies; Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection; Water Management; Environmental Chemistry and Physics; Climate Change and Renewable Energies; Waste Management. A short overview of these topics can be found in previous editorials, in scientific journals which have dedicated special issues to the ELSEDIMIA Conference (Ozunu, 2010; Ozunu, 2011; Ozunu, 2012; Ozunu and Ştefănescu, 2015).

The event addressed several target groups, with responsibilities in the field: academic space, industry (economic agents representing risk sources through their activities), competent authorities, civil society and the local community, other stakeholders. The conference gathered 220 participants and represented a good opportunity for the debate of common interests issues, for experience and knowledge exchange. This scientific event had an international impact, having participants from numerous organizations in the country and abroad: United States of America, South Africa, Belgium, Italy, Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Republic of Moldavia and Romania. The conference facilitated the dialogue between the stakeholders involved in environmental safety and emergency situations management.

This year, the “Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, based on the proposal of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, awarded the title of *Profesor Honoris Causa* to MD Dr. Raed Ararat, renowned personality and one of the most important professionals in Romanian emergency medicine.

Recent experiences in the field of emergency situations management in case of natural and technological disasters have shown a low level of environmental safety culture. Thus, it is necessary to develop some activities in order to raise the awareness degree on hazards within the communities. One of these activities was the implementation of the project **„Development of research infrastructure for disaster management based on high performance computing”**, within the “Babeş-Bolyai” University, co-financed by

the European Regional Development Fund. The objective of the project is to increase the research & development capacity of “Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, through advances in disaster management based on high performance computing. Furthermore, new laboratories and research centers will be founded and the existing ones will be updated, with the aim of creating new work places, intensifying interdisciplinary research and expanding the international cooperation.

Therefore, the **Research Institute for Sustainability and Disaster Management based on High Performance Computing – ISUMADECIP** was created. The main scope of ISUMADECIP’s activities is to create the premises for adequate prevention and response to disasters, in accordance with the specific national requirements, but also with the concepts promoted by NATO and the European Union. The Institute operates as a research unit dealing with topics like causes of disasters, the effects generated by various disasters, appropriate management strategies, short-, medium- and long-term effects on the population, economy and environment and proposed management strategies for various types of disasters. ISUMADECIP provides the framework for interdisciplinary research, setting the basis for addressing the challenges induced by the complex disaster management process. There must be mentioned the cooperation with one of the leading centers in the field of disaster management, The Disaster Management Training and Education Centre for Africa, within University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, which open opportunities for joint research and education programs and activities.

Finally, we are very thankful to the contribution of the authors, the members of the scientific committee and the reviewers. This special issue would not have been possible without the professionalism and hard work of the Editor-in-Chief of the journal - Professor Maria Gavrilescu.

## References

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## Guest Editor:

**Alexandru Ozunu**

*Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering within the “Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania*



Professor Alexandru Ozunu is the Dean of the Faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering within the “Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania. His most important contributions to research consist in the development of the field of risk assessment and disaster management in the “Babeş-Bolyai” University. He is the director of the Research Institute for Sustainability and Disaster Management Based on High Performance Computing.

Prof. Ozunu is President of the *Romanian National Society of Environmental Science and Engineering*. Also, he is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Civil Protection* and of the *Journal of Environmental Research and Protection – ECOTERRA*, and co-editor of the *Procedia Environmental Science, Engineering and Management Journal*. He also founded the Environmental Engineering field of study at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Engineering and the “Risk Assessment and Environmental Safety” master programme.

Prof. Ozunu has concentrated his work in some major directions, such as environmental engineering, risk assessment, Natche disaster risk reduction, assessment of hazards and risks in polluting industries, vulnerability assessment and critical infrastructure protection. The outcomes of these research activities were published in more than 150 papers. He has been involved in organizing numerous conferences and workshops.

Professor Alexandru Ozunu has a broad international experience and throughout his career he has developed and led several multi-partner research projects at national and European levels.