



"Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iasi, Romania



EDITORIAL

A SPECIAL ISSUE DEDICATED TO

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN MOLDAVIA REGION

Natural environmental hazards and risks appear in many forms: earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, landslides, floods, droughts, wildfires, commonly known as natural disasters. Earthquakes and floods are the best known because they are the most common. Nevertheless, modern society is also threatened by other risks, such as climate change, industrial pollution, and the hazard from outer space. While the risks induced by these hazards are worldwide, disasters affect local communities, which should try to find an appropriate response to them, since disasters could be a complex mix of natural hazards and human actions.

This special issue of *Environmental Engineering and Management Journal* includes some selections of the peer-reviewed papers presented at the international conference *MOLDAVIAN RISKS – FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL SCALE* organized in Bacau, Romania on May 16-19, 2012 (<http://mrconference.ub.ro>) by the "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacau, Romania, "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iasi, Romania and the Romanian National Institute for Earth Physics, under the patronage of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, European Geosciences Union and Institute of Geodynamics "Sabba S. Stefanescu" of the Romanian Academy.

The conference was organized as a result large cooperation of specialists from the "Vasile Alecsandri" University in the field of environmental protection, who acquired an international dimension by cooperating with prominent international researchers belonging to prestigious European and worldwide universities and research institutes.

The conference was chaired by Dr. Mioara Manda, General Secretary of the European Geosciences Union and Programme Manager for the Solid Earth Observation / Directorate for Strategy and Programmes of Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (French Space Agency), Paris.

Focused on climate changes, risks from space and from earth environments, the conference included an important section dedicated to earthquakes, geodesy and geophysics. The conference was attended by nine well known personalities as key-note speakers in the conference topics: Alexey Gvishiani – Geophysical Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Eigil Friis-Christensen – Technical University of Denmark, Gregory Houseman – University of Leeds, UK, Alik Ismail-Zadeh – Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany, Mioara Manda – Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, Paris, France, Jean-Louis Le Mouel – Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, France, Michael Purucker – Planetary Geodynamics Lab, NASA, USA, Mircea Radulian – National Institute for Earth Physics, Romania, Constantin Sava – Romanian National Committee of Geodesy and Geophysics, Romania.

The conference was attended by more than 100 participants coming from 11 countries. Participants came from 31 institutions: 13 universities, 15 public institutions and research institutes, two economic companies and an NGO entity.

A number of 83 scientific papers were presented during the conference, 39 of them being selected for publication in *Environmental Engineering and Management Journal*.

A students' scientific session and a presentation of the European Commission's *LIFE+* program, which celebrated 20 years of existence in May 2012 were also included in the conference program.

Encouraged by the success of this first edition of the conference, the organizers decided to organize it periodically, at intervals of two years and the topic of the conference will be expanded to include other aspects of anthropogenic risks.

Guest editors:

Gabriel Lazăr

Valentin Nedeff

**Department of Environmental and Mechanical Engineering,
"Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacau, Romania**



Gabriel Lazar (1965) is professor at the Department of Environmental and Mechanical Engineering – Faculty of Engineering of the „Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacau, Romania, where he teaches courses in Geographic Information Systems, Pollution Sources and Factors, Principles of Measurement. Laboratory Techniques. His research interests include GIS-based systems for environment monitoring and photocatalytic methods for wastewater treatment. He supervises doctoral thesis in the field of Environmental Engineering. Prof. Lazar has authored more than 120 articles and books in the fields of physics and environmental engineering. He is Managing Editor of the Journal of Engineering Studies and Research.



Valentin Nedeff (1958) is professor at the Department of Environmental and Mechanical Engineering – Faculty of Engineering of the „Vasile Alecsandri” University of Bacau, Romania, where he teaches courses in Procedures and Techniques for Environmental Protection, Superior Valorization of Resources. His research interests include sustainable development, study of soil and water pollution, and wastewater treatment. He supervises doctoral thesis in the field of Environmental Engineering. Prof. Nedeff has authored more than 300 articles and books in the fields of physics and environmental engineering. He is Associate Member of the Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Forestry “Gheorghe Ionescu Sisesti” Bucharest Romania and Chief Editor of the Journal of Engineering Studies and Research