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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN EASTERN EUROPE

Banja Luka, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Wednesday 3rd July to Friday 5th July 2018

ORGANISERS

- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography, Serbia
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)

BACKGROUND

Climate change affects countries in Eastern Europe, i.e. the Western Balkans and Southeast Europe in a variety of ways. Apart from severe floods, there are records of decreasing water reserves in the southern part, and of gradual changes in biodiversity and agricultural production. In the South Caucasus area, for instance, climate change models project decline in precipitation by the end of the century, and suggest that it will continue to become drier this century.

Many Eastern European countries, especially the non-EU ones, are characterised by the fact that national climate policies on the one hand, and transboundary collaboration on the other are rather weak, and by the fact that the engagement of the general public on matters related to climate change is still rather limited. Climate change thus poses a serious threat to the economic stability and development of many Eastern European countries, and to the sustainable development of the region.

The above state of affairs illustrates the need for a better understanding of how climate change influences Eastern Europe, and for the identification of processes, methods and tools which may help the countries and the communities in the region to adapt. There is also a perceived need to showcase successful examples of how to cope with the social, economic and political problems posed by floods/droughts in the region, especially the ways of increasing the resilience of agriculture systems and of communities.

It is against this background that the “**INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN EASTERN EUROPE**” is being organized by the University of Banja Luka, University of Belgrade, the Research and Transfer Centre “Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), The International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP), Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency of the Republika Srpska, and Center for Climatic Research (CCR Banja Luka). The Conference will be a truly interdisciplinary event, mobilizing scholars, social movements, practitioners and members of governmental agencies, undertaking research and/or executing projects focusing on climate change in Eastern Europe.

The “INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN EASTERN EUROPE” will focus on “**Managing risks and building resilience to climate change**”, meaning that it will serve the purpose of showcasing experiences from research, field projects and best practice to foster climate change adaptation among countries in the region, which may be useful or implemented elsewhere.

AIMS

Consistent with the need for more cross-sectoral interactions among the various stakeholders working in the field of climate change adaptation in Eastern Europe, the aims of the “INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN EASTERN EUROPE” are as follows:

- I. to provide research institutions, universities, NGOs, government agencies and enterprises from the region with an opportunity to display and present their works in the field of climate change adaptation;
- II. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of climate change adaptation projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice across the region;
- III. to discuss methodological approaches and experiences deriving from case studies and projects, which aim to show how climate resilience may be enhanced in practice;
- IV. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences available today. To this purpose, the book “**Climate Change Adaptation in Eastern Europe: “Managing risks and building resilience to climate change**” will be published, with all accepted papers. This will be a further volume of the award-winning book series “Climate Change Management” published by Springer, which since its creation in 2008 has become the world’s leading book series on climate change management. The decision of the editors as to which papers may be selected and undergo peer review for the book is final.

COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs

- Professor Walter Leal, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
- Professor Goran Trbic, University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Natural science and Mathematics (Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Professor Dejan Filipovic, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography (Serbia)

Scientific Committee

- Professor Johannes Platje, Wroslaw, Poland
- Professor Violeta Loric, Belgrade, Serbia
- Professor Goran Trbic, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Professor Dejan Filipovic, Belgrade, Serbia
- Professor Davorin Bajic, Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Professor Vladan Ducic, Serbia
- Professor Vladimir Djurdjevic, Serbia
- Jelena Lukovic, Belgrade, Serbia

Scientific Support

- Svenja Scheday, International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)

Cooperating Organisations

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the “International Scientific Conference on Climate Change Adaption in Eastern Europe” will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

1. members of NGOs working with climate change;
2. researchers at universities and research centres;
3. farmers’ associations and organisations;
4. representatives from companies;
5. representatives from UN and national development and aid agencies working with climate change adaptation and funding/ executing projects on the ground;
6. members of social movements;
7. project officers and consultants;
8. other people interested in the topic.

The participation of doctoral students is warmly encouraged and supervisors/advisers are kindly requested to facilitate their participation. The sort of international exposure and the rich content of this Symposium will be beneficial to their training and to their future careers.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for and the usefulness of integrated approaches towards climate change adaptation and drought resilience in Africa, and hence contribute to the further consolidation of this thematic area.

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The “INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN EASTERN EUROPE” will be organised in two main strands:

STRAND 1: THE POSTERS

Participating organisations will be able to put-up posters describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The posters will be the backbone of the event and will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

STRAND 2: THE PRESENTATIONS

A set of presentations, divided into three main themes will be organised, distributed over parallel sessions dealing with some of the issues of strategic value in the field of climate change adaptation. These are:

Session 1 – Climate change and adaptation possibilities (agriculture, water resources, forestry, tourism, health, biodiversity)

Session 2 – Projected climate change in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans

Session 3 – Disaster risk reduction

Session 4 – Climate change and the housing sector

Session 5 – Resilience in the spatial planning, land use and environmental protection

Session 6 – Information, Communication, Education and Training

The plenary and parallel sessions, as well as the social events, will provide participants with an outstanding opportunity to interact, network and learn about the latest ideas, projects and practices, mainstreaming climate change adaptation in Eastern Europe.

TIME-TABLE

The “INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN EASTERN EUROPE” will be held on 3th-5th- July 2018 in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The schedule is as follows:

3th July 2018 (Wednesday)	4th July 2018 (Thursday)
<p>Afternoon: Arrival and set-up of displays</p> <p>Evening: Free for informal chats and networking</p>	<p>All day: Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>Morning: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Evening: Reception</p>
5th July 2018 (Friday) (morning)	5th July 2018 (Friday) (afternoon)
<p>Morning: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Exhibition and visit to displays</p>	<p>Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>Round-table with key experts & Conclusions with the hand over of the Awards for the best papers</p>

In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise their travel in a way that allows them to arrive in the course of 3rd July 2018, and travel back on or after the 5th July 2018, so they can fully take part in the Conference.

DEADLINES

Deadline for abstracts:	30th October 2017
Deadline for papers:	30th January 2018
Deadline for all reviews:	20th March 2018
Deadline for registrations:	20th May 2018

Since the conference book is expected to be launched shortly after the event, the deadlines need to be followed.

FEES AND CHARGES

A discounted fee of Euro 200 / Euro 100 (for students) plus 19% VAT, will be charged to those who register until **30th March 2018** (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of Euro 250 / Euro 125 respectively (plus 19% VAT). The fee includes lunches and coffee breaks as well as the evening reception on 4th July 2018. Furthermore, the fee includes a **on-line copy of the book “Climate Change Adaptation in Eastern Europe: “Managing risks and building resilience to climate change”** to be made available to those authors whose papers have been peer-reviewed and accepted.

Organisations or individuals not able to pay this fee should contact the Secretariat so that it may be reduced in special cases. Interested people and organisations are encouraged to register by completing the application form provided. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs** of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation.

REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until the 20th May 2018. Regrettably, logistical limitations mean that registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for posters and the time for presentations is limited, **delegates are advised to register as soon as possible**. The organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation in case there are any limitations with time for presentations or space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the Chairpersons, following consultation with the organising committee. Participants registering to the event will do so under the condition that they will cover their own travel, accommodation and incidental costs (e.g. visa fees) related to their trip to Rio de Janeiro. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind**. Letters of invitation can only be sent to bona fide, registered delegates, who have paid their fees and need a document to show their employers. For cancellations

of registrations up to 45 days before the event, a 50% refund may be made. For cancellations afterwards, no refunds will be possible. Registrations are now open and may be made on-line at: www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-nk/events/easterneurope2018.html

CONTACT POINTS FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS AND STRATEGIC COOPERATION

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
Professor of Environment and Technology
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
E-mail: info@iccip.net

and/ or

Goran Trbic (PhD)
Professor of Climatology
University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Nature and Mathematics (Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
E-mail: info@pmfbl.org

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to abstracts and registrations should be sent to:

Svenja Scheday
International Climate Change Information Programme
E-mail: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 max 300 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see below a sample abstract. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information.

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

PLEASE SEND YOUR ABSTRACT EXACTLY WITH THE FORMAT BELOW TO:

Svenja Scheday
International Climate Change Information Programme
E-mail: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de

Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Eastern Europe

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
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Abstract

The impacts of climate change to natural ecosystems, infra-structure and livelihood, means that the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in developing countries has become a pressing issue. Among other factors, the undertaking of adaptation strategies is made difficult by the general lack of awareness and spread misconceptions about the real impacts of climate change which, in turn, slow down the execution of the adaptation initiatives needed, and which may ameliorate them.

This paper presents an analysis about the misconceptions related to the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in Eastern Europe, and describes the most widespread ones, as well as their implications. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers caused by misinformation, which – in turn- prevent the promotion of adaptation initiatives at local level. Finally, some concrete steps which may be taken in order to break the misconceptions and foster a more systematic view of adaptation strategies, are outlined.