

UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)

ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(OECD)

Fourth Meeting of the Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable
Development

(Bucharest, 8-9 November 2007)

INFORMATION NOTICE No. 2

At the invitation of the National Institute of Statistics, Romania,
the meeting will be held at the National Institute of Statistics, 16 Libertatii Avenue, Sector 5,
Bucharest, Romania, from 8 to 9 November 2007

I. MEETING VENUE

1. The address of the **conference venue** is as follows:

**National Institute of Statistics
Bulevardul Libertatii, no. 16, Sector 5
Bucharest, Romania**

See the map in Annex I for further reference. The conference room is situated on the ground floor. The room is provided with the usual technical equipment (presentation computer, overhead projector, etc.)

II. ACCOMMODATION IN BUCHAREST

2. Participants in the meeting are requested to make hotel reservation using the **attached form** and send it by e-mail to Ms. Ionela Floricel at ionela.floricel@insse.ro or by fax to 0040 21 311 23 89, with a copy to Ms. Josephine Rauss at josephine.rauss@unece.org or by fax to 0041 22 917 0040.

3. The majority of reservations will be made at Hotel Central. This hotel is located in the area of the meeting venue and special rates have been negotiated for participants in the meeting.

4. **HOTEL CENTRAL, 3 STARS**

Address: No. 13, Brezoianu Street

- The hotel is situated right in the centre of Bucharest, near the City Hall and the Cismigiu garden, within walking distance of the banking district;
- Easy access to all public transport, near art and cultural institutions, banks, luxury shops, and restaurants.
- Rooms are equipped with phone, TV, air conditioning and minibar.

Rate for Hotel Central: Single room: **80 Euros** per night (breakfast included).

Transfers:

Airport – Hotel: Express Bus no.783 to Universitatii Square. From the Universitatii Square, take the trolley bus 1 stop (Parc Cismigiu).

Hotel – Meeting room: maximum 15-20 minutes' walk.

Rooms are allocated on a “first come, first served” basis. Since the rooms in Hotel Central are limited to a certain number, the last reservations will be booked at the more expensive Hotel Venezia.

5. **VENEZIA HOTEL, 3 STARS**

Address: No. 2, Pompiliu Eliade Street

- The hotel is near the City Hall, Cismigiu Garden, Opera, House of Parliament;
- All standard & executive rooms are equipped with the following facilities: air conditioning, high speed wireless internet (free of charge), direct dial telephone, minibar, satellite and cable TV.

Rate for the Hotel Venezia: Single room **100 Euros** per night (breakfast included).

Transfers:

Airport – Hotel: Express Bus no.783 to Unirii Square. From here, take trolley bus 2 stops to Kogalniceanu Square.

Hotel – Meeting room: maximum 10 minutes' walk.

III. TRANSFER FROM THE AIRPORT AND TRANSPORT WITHIN BUCHAREST

6. The 783 Express bus line connects Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport in Otopeni to the city centre (about 60 minutes). Express Bus No.783 runs between 6.00 a.m. – 11.30 p.m. (note: during weekdays until 8:00 p.m. the frequency is every 15 minutes; after 8:00 p.m. and during weekends, every 30 minutes). The price of a ticket is 5 RON (approx. 1 Euro); this ticket is valid for 2 rides. Until 9.00 p.m. tickets can be bought from the Airport ticket-office in front of the Domestic Flights Terminal, and after 9.00 p.m. should be bought directly from the bus driver. A map can be found on the website of the Romanian public transportation company www.ratb.ro.

7. Route of the 783 Express bus lines:

Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport
Domestic Flights Terminal
International Departures Terminal
Otopeni
"Aurel Vlaicu" Baneasa Airport
Piata Presei Libere
Arcul de Triumf
Piata Victoriei
Piata Romana
Piata Universitatii.

8. **Taxis**

Taxis in Bucharest can be reserved by telephone or hailed on the street. Authorized taxis can be recognized by the TAXI sign on the roof of the car. All taxis should be equipped with meters. Calling a taxi company is always a good idea. Drivers approaching you at the airport or at the train station in Bucharest are likely to inflate their rates: please avoid them.

9. Here are some names of taxi companies and their phone numbers:

COBALCESCU

Phone 0723-009.451; 0723-399.451; 0745-600.945; 9451

CRISTAXI

Phone: 0723-389.466; 0744-449.466; 9461; 9421

MERIDIAN

Phone: 0723-344.433; 0745-055.095; 9444; 9888

RODELL

Phone: 0744-669.415; 0723-399.415; 9415.

10. **Buses and trams**

There is a flat fare of about 0.33 Euro on **trolley buses** (*troleibuz*), **trams** (*tramvai*), and most **buses** (*autobuz*), all of which run from 5a.m. until 11.30p.m. Tickets should be bought in advance from street kiosks (Mon.-Sat. 5.30a.m.-9p.m., Sun. 6a.m.-2p.m.) and punched once aboard. Day passes cost 0.60 Euro representing excellent value. It costs about double the standard fare to travel on the city's **express buses**, using magnetic tickets, also bought in advance (day and weekly passes not valid). In addition, private **minibuses** (*maxitaxis*) operate along the major arteries; these too charge about double the standard bus fare, the current rate being posted in the window.

11. **Subway (metro)**

The metro runs from 5a.m. until 11.30p.m., with magnetic tickets costing from about 0.60 Euro for two rides to 3 Euro for ten rides. There is also a day ticket. A map can be found on the website of the Romanian metrorail company www.metrorex.ro.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ROMANIA

12. The country's name was adopted in 1862, after the formation of the national state by the union of the two Romanian Principalities of Walachia and Moldavia in 1859.

13. **Some facts:**

- **Population:** 21.623.849 people
- **National day:** 1 December was adopted as National Day in 1990, being the day of celebration of the Great Assembly of Alba Iulia which voted for the union of Transylvania with Romania and which symbolizes the union of all Romanians within a single state and the achievement of the unity of Romanian national state.
- **Language:** Romanian
- **Religion:** Eastern (Romanian) Orthodox (87%), Roman Catholic (4.7%), Protestant (3.2%), other (5.1%)
- **Climate:** Romania has a temperate-continental climate of transitional type, specific to Central Europe, with four clearly defined seasons. Local differences are caused by altitude and by slight oceanic (to the west), Mediterranean (to the south-west) and continental (to the east) influences.

14. **Practical information:**

- **Time zone:** Romanian Standard time is GMT + 2 hours.
- **Weather conditions in November:** Weather in Bucharest in November can be cool, with temperatures between 6° - 18°C. The nights are quite chilly. It is always a good idea to travel with a coat and an umbrella.
- **Currency:** The monetary unit in Romania is the leu.

Exchange rate: 1 EURO ~ 3,3 lei and 1 USD ~ 2,5 lei.

Very important: When changing money, please use only exchange offices and banks even though other offers may seem more advantageous.

- **Credit Cards:** Major credit cards (Visa, Eurocard and MasterCard) are accepted.
- **Stores:** Stores are generally open weekdays and Friday from 9 or 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturdays until 6 p.m.
- **Telephones:** Direct calls from and within Romania can be made from all telephone booths, all post offices and private telephones.
- **Post Office Hours:** Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 8 p.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Electricity:** The electrical power is 220 volt.
- **Passport and visa:** Citizens of the European Union and other countries do not need a visa to enter Romania. However, citizens from a number of countries do need visas to travel to Romania and in some cases an invitation letter and a visa. For further details, please visit the website of the Romanian Foreign Ministry at www.mae.ro.

V. TOURIST INFORMATION ABOUT BUCHAREST AND THE REGION

15. Historical and architecture monuments:

- The Old Princely Court (16th century)
- Manuc's Inn (1808), today a specific Romanian-style hotel and restaurant
- Palace of the Parliament and the Savings Bank (19th century)
- The Romanian Athenaeum (19th century)
- The University (19th century)
- History Museum of Romania, housed in an architectural monument building (19th century)
- History and Art Museum of Bucharest City, housed in Sutu Palace (19th century)
- Art Museum of Romania
- Art Collections Museum
- "Grigore Antipa" Natural History Museum
- Village and Folk Art Museum

16. Churches:

- Mihai Voda Monastery founded in 1591 by the great voivode Michael the Brave
- Radu Voda Church (17th century)
- Stavropoleos Church (17th century)

17. Contemporary buildings:

The **Parliament Palace** (former Palace of the People) in Bucharest, Romania is reputed to be the world's second largest building (after The Pentagon), measuring 270m by 240m, 86m high, and 92m under ground. It is 12 stories tall, and has four additional underground levels.



18. Built on the site of a hill variously known as Spirei Hill, Uranus Hill, or Arsenal Hill, which was razed for the project, the building anchors the west end of Unirii Boulevard and the City Center. Construction began in 1984. The building was originally known as the House of the Republic (Casa Republicii) and was intended to serve as a palace for

Nicolae Ceaușescu. However, the project was just nearing completion at the time of his 1989 overthrow and execution.

19. Nowadays, it has been officially renamed first as the House of the People (Casa Poporului) and later as the Palace of Parliament (Palatul Parlamentului). The building is constructed entirely of materials of Romanian origin; it is reported that, during the latter years of construction, this building and the City Centre in general created such a massive demand for Romanian marble that tombstones throughout the country had to be made from other materials.

20. Since 1994, the building has housed Romania's parliament; it also contains a massive array of miscellaneous conference halls, salons, etc., used for a wide variety of purposes.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

21. Ms. Lidia Bratanova of UNECE Statistical Division is in charge of the organization of the meeting. Should you have any queries concerning the meeting, please contact the UNECE secretariat for further information:

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Annex I Map of Bucharest city center

