

**ASIA-EUROPE FORUM ON EDUCATION**

**THIRD EDITION**

October 7-11, 2015, Bucharest, Romania

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Organizers and Partners

Romanian National Commission for UNESCO (UNESCO RONATCOM)

Chinese National Commission for UNESCO (CNCUNESCO)

Romanian Government- Department for Interethnic Relations (DIR)

Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (MESR)

University of Agronomic Science and Veterinary Medicine (UASVM)

Chinese National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (CNFUCA)

European Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (EFUCA)

International Bureau of Education (IBE)

World Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (WFUCA)

Alumnus Club for UNESCO (ACU)

Asia-Pacific Federations of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (APFUCA)

Chinese Association of Non-Governmental Education (CAE)

Romanian Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (RFUCA)

Foundation for Education Development (FED)

Cultural Center of Bucharest Municipality (ARCUB)

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) - Romania

Elite Art Club UNESCO

“Thumbelina” Kindergarten

Ella Traveland

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4. Information about the Forum

This year’s edition of the Asia-Europe Forum on Education (AEFE) is dedicated to an important historical landmark: **the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of UNESCO.**

The Third Edition of the AEFE is the first one to be hosted on European soil, namely **in Bucharest, Romania from October 7-11, 2015**. The main pillar for discussion regards current challenges to education; AEFE 2015 is dedicated entirely to the themes regarding ***Sustainable Development in Education***.

The forum is organized in a manner which promotes a high level of interaction among the participants. In addition to the official forum related activities, the participants will go on several tours, a field trip, visits to relevant institutions and attend several official ceremonies.

The activities are scheduled to be as educational and as dynamic as possible, in order to encourage the participants to share ideas, experiences and good practices regarding current educational methods. Participants are encouraged to present a paper during the forum meetings in order to fuel a relevant debate regarding the forum’s theme on sustainable development in education.

It is paramount that relevant personalities who are active in the educational field come together and discuss from a global perspective the contemporary dilemmas regarding educational ethics. Constant, well-organized and efficacious dialogue is the only solution to the obstacles in education determined by issues such as economic globalization, computerization and ever-increasing cultural diversity. The Asia-Europe Forum on Education was established in 2013 as an international gathering where such problems are specifically targeted.

The first edition of the forum was hosted by the Huijia School in Beijing, China in 2013. The forum was a success, bringing together a vast number of participants. The first edition was themed *Ethics Education* and was centered on professors’ responsibility, efficient approaches and effects. The forum launched the *Passport for Global Ethics*, a ground breaking document aimed at promoting ethical education on a global scale.

The second edition of the forum, themed *The Multicultural Challenge*, was hosted by the Jilin HuaQiao Foreign Languages University in China. The participants discussed the importance of promoting multicultural education and concrete ways of improving international communication regarding educational issues.

1. Date and Venue

Date of Arrival and Registration: 7 October 2015

Date of Forum- Specific Activities: 8-10 October 2015

Date of Departure: 11 October 2015

Venue will be announced at a later date

All scientific forum activities will be held at the **University of Agronomic Science and Veterinary Medicine.**

Address: Mărăşti Boulevard, nr. 59, Sector 1, Bucharest

Tel.:+40 21 318 25 64

Website: www.usamv.ro

Email: post@info.usamv.ro

1. Registration

All participants are strongly encouraged to finish registration and the visa support document application before August 15, 2015 to provide the secretariat with sufficient time to facilitate relevant preparation for their participation.

Please make sure that the data you provide in the application form which you have received is complete and accurate. The data in your application form will be used in the official personalized invitation which will be issued later on.

If you decide that you want to sustain a paper, please send us a summary. The deadline for the summary is August 15, 2015 and the deadline for the paper is September 15, 2015. The summary cannot exceed 150 words for it will be published in the official journal.

When you send in the summary, please attach your photograph, preferably a high quality one which is not blurry or damaged in anyway.

Upon your arrival at the Otopeni International Airport in Bucharest you will be greeted by a member of the AEFE team and driven to the hotel where you will be registered and will receive the portfolio and all the necessary documents. In order to be registered, the observers will have to acquit the registration tax (for additional information regarding delegate and observer status please see point 5). All participants are kindly requested to bring with them their personal invitation letter for registration.

Participants are also advised to wear their identity badge at all times in order to guarantee their access to the venue and transportation service.

 3. Accommodation and Meals

Participants will stay near the venue of the forum. The Romanian National Commission for UNESCO is responsible for making hotel reservations. Participants are kindly requested to respect the accommodation provided. When you check in, you will be required to present your personal invitation, a valid credit card and your passport. The Romanian National Commission for UNESCO will pay your accommodation fees and will provide you with meals. Generally, the meals will consist mostly of traditional Romanian dishes and partly of other types of European traditional dishes.

If you are on a special diet, please send an e-mail at office@efuca-unesco.org detailing your alimentary requirements. Participants are advised to drink bottled or boiled water and not consume water from the pipe directly.

 4. Modalities for Participants

THIS PART DOES NOT APPLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED A PERSONAL INVITATION. If you have received a personal invitation, you will receive full accommodation, meals, transport for forum activities and you will not have to pay for any participation fees.

Full accommodation and meals shall be facilitated for two delegates per country. One of the delegates must be a representative of learning institutions, in a decision-making position within the represented institution (headmaster, rector, president, principal, director etc.).

We kindly advise that the second delegate be a member of the Executive Council of the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations or the Asia-Pacific Federations of UNESCO Clubs & Associations or President of the National Federation for UNESCO Clubs.

No participation fees are necessary for delegates.

We may receive up to 3 observers per country. Observers are representatives of learning institutions, UNESCO organizations representatives, researchers, representatives of education journals etc. Observers need to pay a fee of 300 euro (75 euro a day) which covers full accommodation in double rooms, meals and all forum related activities (including official receptions and concert). An additional fee of 35 euro will be charged for the field trip and city tour.

 5. Transportation Arrangements

Participants are responsible for their own international travel arrangements. You may arrive at the Otopeni International Airport and Gara de Nord (Northern Railway Station) by international flights and trains.

There will be special AEFE teams responsible with picking you up and dropping you off. For this reason it is important that you inform us early on about your travel arrangements and any changes that may occur.

The AEFE teams will also provide you with local transportation for all forum related activities.

The Otopeni International Airport is located 30 minutes away from the city center. The Northern Railway Station is located 15 minutes away from the center. As stated above, upon your arrival in Bucharest you will be greeted by an AEFE team, but in case of emergency we inform you that taxi service is available both at the railway station and at the airport. A taxi drive to the hotel will cost you between 5 and 8 euros.

You are responsible for making transportation arrangements for any spare time activities. Taxis are available at the front gate of the hotel or you may ask the concierge to call one. For information on local public transport please visit <http://www.ratb.ro/eng/index.php> for buses and <http://www.metrorex.ro/first_page_p785-2> for subways.

 6. Pick-Up at Arrival and Drop-Off at Departure

The AEFE team will be responsible for picking you up upon your arrival. All participants will be attended upon arrival by an AEFE team with a placard with your name on it and the forum’s name. This service will be available all day on the 7th of October, irrespective of your arrival hour.

The AEFE team will also be responsible with dropping you off after you check out from the hotel. The service will be available all day on the 11th of October, irrespective of your departure hour.

7. Visa

Visitors to Romania must obtain a visa unless they come from a European Union member country or a visa exempt country. You can apply for an entry visa to the nearest Romanian Embassy or Consulate. In order to help you with the visa process, the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO will issue a support document.

In order to obtain this document, we kindly request that you mail a copy of the relevant information page in your passport attached to the registration form at office@efuca-unesco.org. The deadline is 15 August 2015, 11:59 PM, Romania time (Romania is GMT+2).

In order to obtain all necessary information about the visa process we kindly ask you to contact the nearest Romanian Embassy or Consulate.

8. Meteorological Conditions

October is generally mild in Bucharest. The temperatures vary between 6°C and 18°C and are usually stable. We recommend that you bring warm clothes and rain gear with you, for rainy days are quite common during that period. It is important to note that the scheduled activities during the field trip are dependent upon the weather. For more information please see http://www.accuweather.com/en/ro/bucharest/287430/september-weather/287430?monyr=9/1/2015

9. Currency

 The currency unit of Romania is called LEU (LEU singular, LEI plural). One EURO is equal to 4.49 LEI. The exchange rate may vary a little in time. Most banks provide exchange service and there are special exchange boots located all over town which you may use.

You can pay with credit cards in most hotels, restaurants and big shopping centers but you may have to pay in cash in small shops and cafes.

10. Working Languages

The Third Edition of the Asia-Europe Forum on Education will have two working languages: English and Romanian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided at all times.

11. Time Zone

 Please remember that Bucharest is GMT +2.

12. Electricity

The standard electricity supply in Romania is 220V/50 HZ. Please find below a photo of a typical socket.



13. Telephone and Internet Access

The country code for Romania is 40. The regional code for Bucharest is 21. So the dialing code from abroad for Bucharest is +40 21. Free Wi-Fi will be available at the hotel.

14. Tips & Taxes

Taxes are always included in the stated price. Tips are very common in Bucharest but not mandatory. Tips will not be included in the bill.

15. Charged Items

Please keep in mind that the AEFE organizers are only paying for accommodation fees and the meals which are listed on the working agenda. Any other services you might require in addition to those provided for by the AEFE team have to be paid for such as laundry, telephone calls, and mini-bar.

16. Guarantee Deposit

You will have to pay a guarantee deposit with your credit card when you check in at the hotel. For those with no additional charges, the guarantee will be returned in full immediately after check-out.

17. Medical Insurance

Medical services are not provided for. The participants will be expected to assume full costs of any medical treatment they may need during their stay. We recommend the purchasing of a medical insurance prior to your coming in Romania.

1. Additional Information
2. Useful contacts

ALUMNUS Club for UNESCO (http://youthandmuseums.ro/alumnus/), a youth organization is celebrating this year 15 years of activity and will be coordinating the main forum activities.

 Should you require any additional information please contact:

Ms. Anca Maria PRICOP (Office of President): telephone: +40 74 810 0279; e-mail: office@efuca-unesco.org

Ms. Dana MOIA (Office of President): +40 72 295 2736, e-mail: office@efuca-unesco.org

Ms. Adeline POPESCU (Office of President): +03 36 9843 9030, e-mail: office@efuca-unesco.org

Or visit: <http://youthandmuseums.org/alumnus/>

[www.efuca-unesco.org](http://www.efuca-unesco.org)

1. Field Trip Information:

The field trip includes an elegant lunch and wine tasting.

**Pietroasa Viticulture and Enology Research and Development Station**

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The village of Pietroasele unwillingly became a part of history more than 170 years ago, due to the treasure discovered there – “Closca cu puii de aur”(the Hen with the Golden Chicks).

The second important historical event occurring in this area is represented by the establishment of the firs viticulture nursery in the country on the Pietroasa – Badeni Domain, secularized in 1864 from the Bradu Monastery, after the damage cause by phylloxera. This happened in 1893. For over 120 years, this nursery continued to adorn the hills with vines, to improve the types of grapevine, to create new types, to hide new “treasures” in the cellar, only bottled treasures this time. These treasures were honored and acknowledged by means of more than 120 medals obtained at national and international competitions, especially for sweet wines, some for flavored ones, for which Pietroasa has a matchless vocation.

The heritage of a long history as the one of the Pietroasa Station is difficult and honorable for the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest (UASVM) because, “a glorious past” requires “a glorious future”! After taking it over, in 2005, UASVM laid two cleverly selected foundations in rebuilding the station: young plantations and the provision of primary winemaking based on modern principles, at the same time giving the students the possibility to acquire practical skills, in addition to the theoretical knowledge taught in the specialized faculty lecture rooms.

Pietroasa Viticulture and Enology Research and Development Station has recently resumed the production of its own exceptional wines, under its own brand name – “Pietroasa veche” (Old Pietroasa).

After the discovery of the treasure, the inhabitants have not yet found “a bird” to lay a golden egg every day, but they have found another “treasure”: in good or bad times, in the limestone fields on Istria hill, a place was crystallized and it produced “treasures” year by year. And this God-blessed place is simply called PIETROASA.

**The Mud Volcanoes**

 

 The Mud Volcanoes – or ‘the gates of hell’ as the locals call them – are one of Romania’s best known geological reserves, about 30km northwest of Buzau, near the tiny village of Berca.

The Mud Volcanoes in Buzau country are not the volcanoes you would expect. They’re not the big, real volcanoes that scare off people and clog the European airspace with volcanic ash. Not by far. But they’re a pretty amazing place, hidden somewhere in the Buzau mountains.

The Mud Volcanoes are formed from the gas which comes from 30,000 meters underground. The gas goes through a clay sector, then through the underground water. So the gas pushes the water and the clay to the surface (which by that time become mud), creating small cones which resemble the shape of a volcano. Extremely rare in the world, the mud volcanoes give the area a lunar tone and form fantastic images in a scenery taken from another world.

The entire area lays over several hectares of gray, dray and rift land, with little plants and herbs. It’s almost the size of a football court and it pretty much resembles a lunar area. Large crevasses have been created in time by the water.

Volcano cones up to 6m high dribble mud with surprising colors – gray, brown, ochre or simply shining black – while the chocolate borders of the craters are adorned with the white crust of crystallized salt and belts of yellow Sulphur mud.

Local superstitions regarding the origin of this muddy curiosity are profuse. A mild stench of oil and the “bloop-bloop” noise of the gas bubbles coming up to the surface, create an eerie background as you observe mud eruptions ranging in size from marbles to pitcher’s mounds.

The reservation is unique in [Romania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romania). Elsewhere in [Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe), similar phenomena can be observed in [Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy) (northern [Apennines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apennine_Mountains) and [Sicily](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sicily)), [Ukraine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine) (in the [Kerch Peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kerch_Peninsula)), [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia) (in the [Taman Peninsula](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taman_Peninsula)) as well as [Azerbaijan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azerbaijan).

The mud volcanoes create a strange lunar landscape, due to the absence of vegetation around the cones. Vegetation is scarce because the soil is very salty, an environmental condition in which few plants can survive. However, this kind of environment is good for some rare species of plants, such as [*Nitraria schoberi*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nitraria_schoberi&action=edit&redlink=1) and [*Obione verrucifera*](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Obione_verrucifera&action=edit&redlink=1).

The phenomenon can be observed on two separate locations near the Berca commune, dubbed *the Little Mud Volcanoes* and *The Big Mud Volcanoes*.

1. Summary of Useful Contacts

Please find below a list of all the useful contacts mentioned in this brochure.

University of Agronomic Science and Veterinary Medicine.

Address: Mărăşti Boulevard, nr. 59, Sector 1, Bucharest

Tel.:+40 21 318 25 64

Website: www.usamv.ro

Email: post@info.usamv.ro

Forum e-mail: office@efuca-unesco.org

Buses: <http://www.ratb.ro/eng/index.php>

Subway: <http://www.metrorex.ro/first_page_p785-2>

Weather:http://www.accuweather.com/en/ro/bucharest/287430/september-weather/287430?monyr=9/1/2015

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Information about the forum:

 <http://youthandmuseums.org/alumnus/>

[www.efuca-unesco.org](http://www.efuca-unesco.org)

Should you need any other information, do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to meeting you in Bucharest!