

Poenaru Post

Welcome to issue two of Poenaru Post and the second day of the 14th EASE conference! We hope you enjoyed your evening discovering some of the hidden gems of restaurants, bars and cafés of Bucharest in the beautiful weather.

In today's issue, we will recap the highlights of yesterday, and bring you more trivia about the fascinating history and facts of Romania.



Photo credit: Tudor Toma [@TToma](#)

EASE conference is underway!

The EASE Conference 2018 commenced with a welcome address from Professor Mircea Dumitru, Rector of the University of Bucharest. Professor Dumitru walked delegates through the history of education and science in Romania, from 1694 when teachings were primarily in Greek and Turkish, through 1818 when the first school of higher education began teaching in the national language, to 1859 when what is now the University of Bucharest's Faculty of Law was established - 5 years before the official establishment of the University of Bucharest itself.

Prof Dumitru acknowledged the effect of politics on higher education in Romania throughout the country's history, particularly the destructive effects of the communist period, and the ways in which the university has flourished since 1990, reflected by the present enrolment of more than 32 000 students, and employment of around 1500 faculty and 1500 administrative staff. Prof Dumitru concluded by giving examples of how the University has fought to foster honest research values—including supporting the case against the country's own prime minister regarding allegations that he plagiarised his PhD - and will continue to fight for the creation of an institutional environment that is conducive to good research. He wished EASE well for a successful conference, and we thank him for hosting us.

14th EASE Conference

Balancing innovation and tradition
in science editing
Bucharest 2018



Inside this issue

- EASE conference is underway!.... 1
- Would you bear-lieve it?! 2
- Annual General Meeting..... 2
- Opening plenaries..... 3
- A word from our sponsor..... 4
- Best conference bags ever!..... 4

Teaser - can you guess...

Why we needed to change the catering company on Monday?

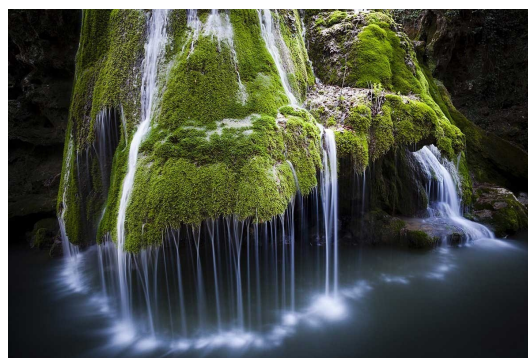


Would you Bear-lieve it?!

Romania has some impressive flora and fauna, particularly within the Carpathian Mountain range which includes of 100,000 hectares of conservation area, providing habitat for 400 unique species of mammals.

The ancient forests are home to Europe's largest mammal, the European Bison which weighs a mighty 630kg, the largest population of brown bears on the continent, and half of Europe's population of wolves and lynx.

The Romanian countryside also hides the worlds most beautiful waterfall; Bigar Cascade Falls in Caras-Severin, according to *The World Geography*, and even deeper—Scarisoara, Europe's second largest underground glacier which is over 75,000 cubic meters, and over 3,500 years old.



Social Media



Follow us at [@EASEeditors](#) and our journal account

[@Eur_Sci_Ed](#)

Tweet about the conference using the hashtag [#EASE18](#)

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Join our Facebook Group www.facebook.com/groups/EurSciEd/

Our Linked In Group www.linkedin.com/groups/2661379

Annual General Meeting

The EASE Annual General meeting 2018 was kicked off by outgoing President, Ana Marušić, who thanked the Programme Committee and welcomed new members. In the President's report, Ana outlined the past year of EASE activity; highlights included the launch of the new website and social media accounts, the continued updates to the EASE author toolkits, and the plans for an Indian chapter.

Treasurer Rod Hunt went on to outline EASE's positive financial standing before going on to introduce a vote on changing the standing of the EASE council with regards to their recognition as company directors under UK law. The amendment passed with no votes against and only one abstention, simplifying the system so that only the president, past president, and treasurer shall be henceforth be considered directors, thereby considerably streamlining the future of EASE's financing. The meeting rounded out with the declaration of the new council, new vice-Presidents Ines Steffens and Duncan Nicholas, and Pippa Smart as the incoming President. Congratulations, Pippa, and all new Council!



Challenges of running a traditional journal

In the first plenary lecture of the conference we appropriately started at the Age of Enlightenment with Eva Baranyiová's talk. The Editor in Chief of *Agricultura Tropica et Subtropica* took us from the beginnings of journal publishing by the learned societies of academics to the problems encountered in the current day by Czech journals. Eva expressed worry about the widespread prevalence of industry affecting not only what, but where, scientists publish. She also told us of the new trend of universities self-publishing a quality guarantee and means to fight the increasing problem of predatory publishers.

Tudor Toma, Journal Director of *Pneumologia*, addressed the isolation of publishers in eastern Europe in a fascinating talk in which we heard about the journal's origins under communism. How demotivating it must have been to know, as a chest physician, that you must be responsible for tuberculosis!



Madalina Georgescu of *Otomed Medical Center* in Romania told us that despite the challenges, new journal ventures were necessary for the development of scientific knowledge and the communication of clinical and research results. She told us of the aims in setting up ORL.ro, an Ear, Nose, and Throat journal, with an emphasis on the hope to increase recognition of Romanian physicians. Quality of the research to be published was a priority, and they would also require some generous researchers. We heard how ORL.ro started with some friends with only one open access option, to attract young researchers, and continues to grow, publishing four issues a year with several open access options, increasing the well earned recognition of Romanian doctors.



Photo credit Ana Marusic [@ana_marusic](#)

Tudor provided some excellent advice for smaller journals on the peripheries; avoid competition with high-impact journals, strengthen the important localised research big journals ignore, develop the abilities of developing researchers. He provided helpful suggestions for those trying to find a direction for their journal, such as to focus on education of new physicians with helpful clinical case studies, workshops, infographics or to disperse emerging research that is perhaps not yet at a level suitable for mainstream journals.



Photo credit Ana Marusic [@ana_marusic](#)

Welcome the new EASE Council 2018-2021

President:

Pippa Smart - UK

Vice-Presidents:

Ines Steffens - Sweden

Duncan Nicholas - UK

Past President (by default):

Ana Marušić - Croatia

Treasurer

Rod Hunt - UK

Chief-Editor

Ksenija Baždarić - Croatia

Council

Yateendra Joshi - India

Rachael Lammey - UK

Bahar Mehmani - Netherlands

Stephan Mertens - Germany

Flaminio Squazzoni - Italy

Jadranka Stojanovski - Croatia

Sylwia Ufnalska - Poland

Cem Uzun - Turkey

A word from our sponsor

We are grateful for the support from our Gold sponsors ARPHA, and asked them a few questions about themselves, how their platform fits with the conference, and what they are looking forward to.

What can the ARPHA platform offer the Editors and publishing professionals of the EASE membership?

ARPHA is specifically designed to meet the needs and provide efficient solutions for small and medium-sized publishers, such as learned societies and university presses. ARPHA does this mainly in two ways

Streamlining the processes and reducing the workload in the Editorial Office by providing an end-to-end seamless technological solution, with a number of useful tools such as automated alerts, weekly summary reports and direct mailing system.

Providing a technologically advanced and semantically enhanced venue for your published content.

How does the ARPHA platform and your mission fit with our conference theme of 'Innovation in science editing'?

ARPHA stands for Authoring, Reviewing, Publishing, Hosting and Archiving. Our platform is the first end-to-end publishing solution, meaning that once a journal joins us, we will be able to cater for it at any stage of the manuscript's life cycle, so managing or technical editors can benefit from not having to go through multiple platforms and service providers. What's more, you can rely on technical support and consultancy while going through the learning curve and beyond.

What are you most looking forward to about the conference?

From its very start ARPHA is a user-oriented solution and we really look forward to hearing what are the current difficulties that the community faces and what are the innovations, which would present meaningful help and solutions.

ARPHA's founder, Professor Lyubomir Penev will be speaking during the Parallel session 'Innovations in journal publishing' at 10.30 – 12.30 in the main auditorium.



Best conference swag bags ever!

We are delighted that everyone has been so happy with the conference bags!

They are so much more than your usual conference totes - these are produced by www.remesh.ro to the highest ethical principles, fairly-traded, upcycled, and hand-made, each one a completely unique design.

The bags make a positive impact on the environment, reusing banners and mesh advertising material which is usually very hard to conventionally recycle, and are made by low-income, disadvantaged people to help rehabilitate them, provide skills, work experience and financial support.

A wonderful initiative and fantastic result!



Jocalyn Clark
@jocalynclark

Following

Seriously best conference bag ever (fashionable recycled materials - no two alike). And cool coffee bar to boot. Great start to our @EASEeditors conference! #EASE18 #Bucharest #peerreview #journals



1:21 PM - 8 Jun 2018

3 Retweets 9 Likes

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European Association of Science Editors

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