

INTRODUCTION

Dear colleagues,

The 8th edition of the International Conference on Cartography and GIS (8ICC&GIS) will take place in Nessebar, Bulgaria. It was postponed twice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The conference is organized by Bulgarian Cartographic Association and University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG) in Sofia. The event is organized with the support of the Bulgarian Science Fund and Military Geographic Service. The 8ICC&GIS is dedicated to the 80th Anniversary of the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy and 10th Anniversary of the Bulgarian Cartographic Association.

The conference was planned for 2020 and the pandemic was a serious obstacle for its realization. Nevertheless, the organizing committee decided Proceedings Vol. 1 to be published in 2020 and Vol. 2 in 2022.

For the second time of the Conference's history, the ancient seaside town of Nessebar will host the Conference from June 20th until June 25th, 2022. It is one of the major seaside cities on the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Due to the city's abundance of historic buildings, UNESCO included Nessebar in its list of World Heritage Sites in 1983.

The organizers aim is to share knowledge and experience regarding the latest achievements in Cartography and GIS with a special focus on the Balkan Peninsula, Europe and global affairs. In Volume 2, you could find various topics such as development of cartography as a science and practice: from special use of historical maps to sustainable development, from BIM to GNSS and Lidar technologies, from geoscientific communications and geodiversity to velocity and dynamic maps. You will find more topics related to the web-based maps and information systems, digital atlases, mapping for natural disasters, earth observation, GIS, Covid-19, 3D cartography, and smart cities.

In the recent years marked by a pandemic, social and natural crises, these topics allow us to fulfill our users' desire for cartography achievements. They also prove to businessmen, government representatives and scientists the need for real-time cartographic representations and better SDI, GPS and GIS solutions. To deliver them, we need the support and cooperation of domain specialists in different branches of the Earth sciences.

During the conference, three ICA commissions will have their annual meetings:

- Commission on Cartography in Early Warning and Crisis Management
- Commission on Cartography and Children
- Commission on Maps and the Internet

A Seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction – Solutions and Innovations is organized by Prof. Dr. Milan Konecny, Vice-Chair of the Commission on Cartography on Early Warning and Crisis Management and former ICA President. The Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic is a Co-organizer of the Seminar.

A Workshop on the topic “Spatial information for Virtual Environments” is organized by ICA Commission on User Experience.

A special ISDE Plenary Session is organized and supported by International Society for Digital Earth.

The Conference is supported by different ministries and governmental institutions that expect significant results to be achieved and new projects to be started at the event. As a NATO member since 2004, and an EU member since 2007, Bulgaria welcomes all ideas for collaboration in the field of Earth sciences. An example for such cooperation is the above-mentioned Seminar that combined Bulgarian and Czech efforts and was recognized by the EU. Among the members of the Local Organizing Committee, numerous universities that specialize in the field of Cartography and GIS can be distinguished.

The organizers are proud to announce that ESRI - a leader in geo-informatics and cartography domains - will participate as a platinum sponsor of the event. Nick Land from ESRI Europe, United Kingdom, will be one of the keynote speakers. He will hold a presentation on the topic: Geospatial Infrastructure for an interdependent world. HERE Technologies and DataMap-Europe Ltd. are also regular sponsors of the conference.

The 8ICC&GIS media partners are GeoConnection, Coordinates, Remote Sensing Journal, and International Journal of Geo-Information.

The main international organizer of 8ICC&GIS is the International Cartographic Association (ICA) with the exclusive support from the President of ICA Mr. Tim Trainor, Vice-Presidents, and many Chairs of ICA Commissions. This cooperation draws interest among 400 authors and participants across 39 countries.

We would like to wish all colleagues successful work, inspiring ideas for future projects about present issues and many new opportunities for improvement and collaboration in the near future.

Prof. Dr. Temenoujka Bandrova and Dr. Silvia Marinova