



7th Meeting
Cluj-Napoca, 17-20.09.2023

Central European Section
of the IUSSI

7th Meeting of the Central European Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects



Babeş-Bolyai University
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
17-20.09.2023



UNIVERSITATEA BABEŞ-BOLYAI
BABEŞ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT
BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY

TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



Welcome to the 7th Meeting of the Central European Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects

The conference will be held in Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania, Romania between 17-20 September 2023 after a long break imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

All those who love social insects from ants to spiders and from bees to termites are more than welcome. Come and join our community!

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The organizing committee

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The University

Babeş-Bolyai University (Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai/UBB in Romanian) is a public comprehensive university, whose main campus is in Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania, Romania. With an academic tradition starting in 1581 (founded as a Jesuit College, Academia Claudiopolitana, by Stephen Báthory, Prince of Transylvania, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania), today UBB is the largest (with approximately 55,000 student and academic staff) and one of the most representative Romanian universities having a unique multicultural profile with three official academic languages – Romanian, Hungarian and German –, consisting of 22 faculties and more than 15 campuses distributed all over the country. Indeed, at national level, UBB has been awarded the title of university of “advanced research and teaching” (i.e., a research-intensive university) and was ranked the best Romanian university in the national metaranking for the last eight consecutive years. UBB is also a constant presence in the most prestigious international university rankings as one of the best and most representative universities in Romania and Eastern/Central Europe. In 2021, UBB became the first world-class university in Romania, being awarded 5 stars (QS*****) following the academic audit carried out by QS. From 2020 UBB is also a member of the GUILD, the organisation of the most prestigious European world-class/research-intensive universities, and as of 2021, it is also a member of the EUTOPIA alliance of European universities.

<https://www.ubbcluj.ro/en/despre/prezentare/istoric>





The habitat

Cluj-Napoca, or Cluj as it is usually called, is **the unofficial capital** of Transylvania, a vibrant city of culture and youth, with more than 90,000 students out of the total of circa 300,000 inhabitants of the city itself, and 500,000 of the metropolitan area. A city centre filled with history, parks, beehive buildings of the communist era, new offices, student bars and restaurants make Cluj a mosaic worth visiting. And there are numerous **transport hubs**: an international airport (<https://www.airportcluj.ro/>) with connections to a large number of European cities, the climate-friendly possibility of using railway connections via Wien, Budapest, and of course travelling by car is also a viable option.

Don't forget: we are EU members, but, unfortunately, not yet Schengen. So if you are an EU citizen a proper ID card should do it at the **border control**, but if you are not from an EU or a Schengen country, then do check the list of needed entry documents.

The **climate** is continental, Septembers are warm and nice, sometimes though a bit rainy and the autumn chill can bite sometimes. So be prepared with raincoat and few warmer clothes. And don't get mad if you are not using them, that's a sign that September was favourable for IUSSI.

We are surrounded by hills, mixed forests of oak and beech, and forest steppe-like grasslands. Ants, bees and wasps? Of course! Termites? Well, not yet. In Southern Romania we have them (*Reticulitermes* spp.), so just not yet. The **fauna** is Central European with hints of Eastern and Balkan elements.

For a foreign visitor it should be no problem to get around. English is a **language** that many people, especially younger generation, speak, and you can use it even in shops, certainly there will be someone to help.

Cluj is amongst the top **safe cities** in Romania. Of course, you should look out for your belongings, but not more specific measures should be applied than in any European city.

Getting by is easy in Cluj. The traffic is heavy, jams are pretty much the norm. However, public transportation is of very good quality. Buses, trams, trolley-buses are available and will get you to your target location on time. You can buy tickets in the stations (free tickets are available in return for physical exercise), on the bus by card/telephone, or with the help of a [mobile application](#). Numerous taxi services are available. Uber is not working properly in Cluj, [Bolt](#) is though nicely functioning. **From the airport** bus no. A1E takes you in the centre. However, there are taxis at the airport as well. Beware of non-affiliated ones, and always ask before you jump in whether you can pay by card (it is mandatory to have this option, but some try to avoid).

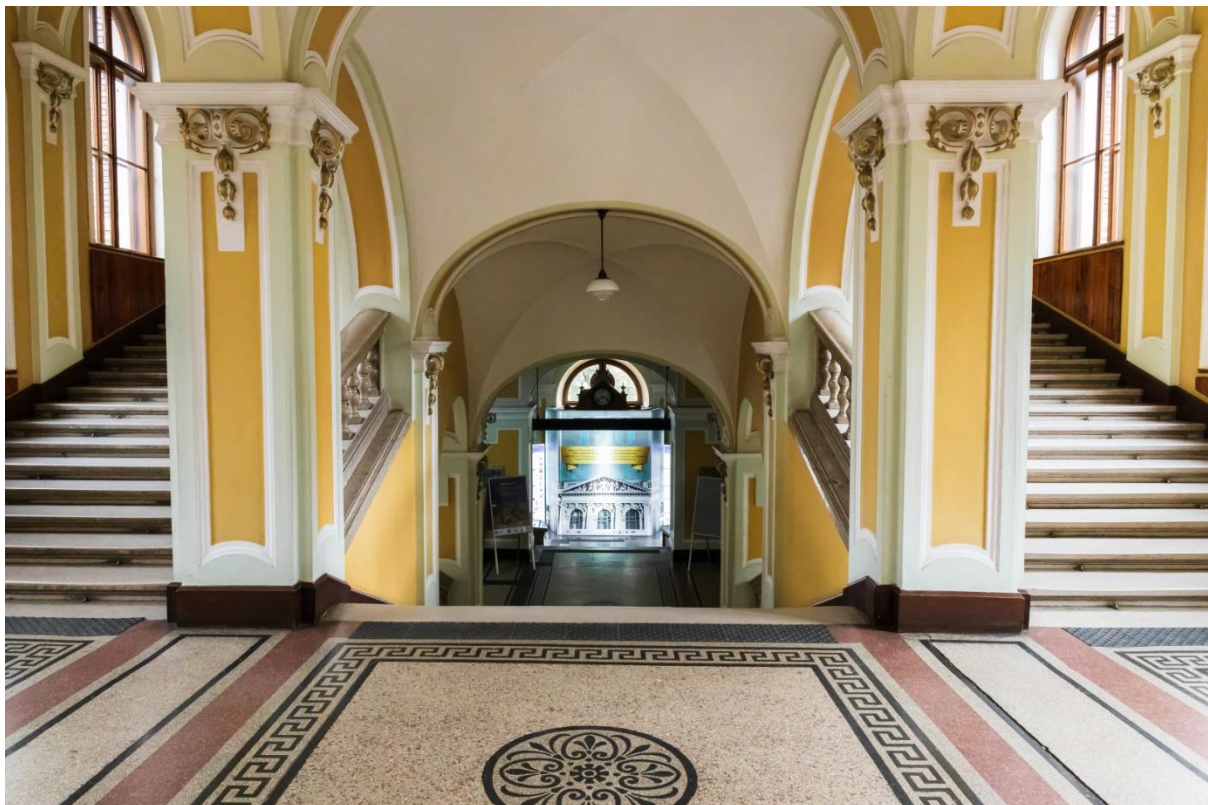


The city, while it is well known for its booming IT-sector, is also home for numerous clinical facilities, so should any **health** issue arise, you should be in safe conditions. Health insurance works here as well. But hey, let's not make that part of your IUSSI-experience.

And last but not in the least: when toasting we say *Sănătate* or *Noroc* in Romanian, and *Egészségedre* in Hungarian. But *Prost*, *Na zdrowie*, *Cheers*, *Santé* and all others will do just fine.

Want to know more about Cluj?

<https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Cluj-Napoca>





The programme

This is the tentative programme of the conference. Minor changes might be applied though.

17th of September

- 17:00 – Arrival and registration of participants
- 19:00 – Welcome cocktail

18th of September

- 8:00 – Registration of participants
- 9:00 – *Invited speaker* – TBA
- 10:00 – Presentations
- 12:30 – Lunch
- 14:00 – Presentations
- 17:00-19:00 – Poster session with drinks
- 19:00 – Dinner

19th of September

- 9:00 – *Invited speaker* – TBA
- 10:00 – Presentations
- 12:30 – Lunch
- 14:00 – Presentations
- 18:00-20:00 – General Assembly of the CE section of IUSSI
- 20:00 – Farewell dinner

20th of September

Postworkshop trip to Rimetea (*available for max. 40 participants, separate registration is required, first come first served*)

Useful information

Oral presentations should be of 10 minutes with +5 minutes allocated for discussions. Pdfs, Microsoft PowerPoint presentations and Prezi are supported formats for presentations. Please, bring a backup version with you and/or upload it in the cloud for any case. If video/audio files are inserted, do check with us for useable formats.

Poster presentations will be of max. A2, portrait orientation. We are working on an environmentally friendly format of online posters. We'll let you know soon.

Abstracts should be of max. 200 words. The abstract book will be made available exclusively online.

WiFi will be available at the venue.



While we are aware of the advantages of online/hybrid conferences, this conference will be with physical presence. Come here rather than Zoom in, let's just Meet without Google, and the Classrooms won't be in MS Teams that we can promise.

Central place foraging

The **conference is located** in the campus of the Faculty of Biology and Geology, Zoology Building (Clinicilor street 5–7, <https://goo.gl/maps/pVRX3Q252mcbKrRN8>) located in the centre of the city (10-15 mins from the central square). The campus is in a small forest, surrounded by student dorms, bars and restaurants. Meals will be offered in the nearby (10-15 mins walking distance) Piramida Restaurant (Emanuel de Martonne Street, <https://goo.gl/maps/RKmuf974BsCmgcXg9>) of the UBB.



The campus of the Faculty of Biology and Geology

There are a lots of **accommodation possibilities** in and around Cluj. Hotels, hostels and pensions are everywhere, and they come in every shape and with very different prices. The middle of September should be ok, all the big festivals (Untold, Electric Castle, Jazz in the Park, Transylvania International Film Festival) are already over. For up to 15 participants we can offer accommodation in the Universitas Hotel of the UBB for 155 RON/night/person (circa 34 €). Breakfast is not included, it should be paid separately. Would you be interested, let us know in an e-mail. First come, first served.

For a limited number of students (up to 40 persons) we can also offer **accommodation** in student resident halls for 45 RON/night/person (circa 9 €). The dormitories are in the campus



(1 mins from the conference venue, 10 mins from the central square, <https://goo.gl/maps/H966UBPsMxvjE3kdA>). Rooms are fully equipped, two-bed rooms. If not indicated otherwise, we can assign a roommate for you, of course, on your approval. Breakfast is not available, but there are a number of smaller are bigger markets, cafés around, where you can easily manage. Should you be interested, please fill out the form <https://forms.office.com/e/eiQ4iS5DVM>. The payment for the room should be made on the spot.

Colony membership

If you wish to become member of the Central European Section of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects please consult the [section's website](#).



The Zoological Museum of the university in the campus of the Faculty of Biology and Geology.



Registration

The participation fee includes conference pack, the opening cocktail and farewell dinner, as well as lunches on the 18th and 19th of September

The participation fee is:

for students

- IUSSI members: 120 €
- non-members: 150 €

for non-students:

- IUSSI members: 200 €
- non-members: 250 €

The participation fee should be paid beforehand. Bank details will be communicated later.

The participation at the postworkshop trip to [Rimetea](#) is conditioned by the payment of an additional 40 € fee. The fee includes transport and meal. Rimetea is a famous village with traditional white houses and unique rural setting close to Cluj. The rocky warm hillsides are perfect habitats for ground living *Camponotus*, *Bothriomyrmex*, *Messor* and other interesting species, while the rock crevices are inhabited by *Temnothorax* species. We will climb the Szekler Rock (1129 m a.s.l.) and have meal nearby. It is a one-day trip, hiking boots and good mood are required. Not to mention magnifying lense.

Would you like to participate at the conference, please fill out the registration form below
<https://forms.office.com/e/uuduLHMBMs>

Deadline for registration: 22 July 2023



Ethical considerations

We reject non-ethical behaviour, any type of discrimination, harassment, bullying. UBB adopted clear guidelines with regards to [ethical behaviour](#), [rejecting different forms of discrimination](#), [promoting gender equality](#), and we are also signatories of the European research assessment reform, and members of [CoARA](#). We promote gender equality, open science, constructive scientific debates and believe in collaboration as a motor of progress in science. The conference is intended to help early career researchers in networking, and generally to connect research groups for the benefit of scientific knowledge specifically concerning social insects.



Science Café – the place where students can meet, work, relax between courses