

# Protocol competition online colloquium on 26.11.2014

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## **Do you have any suggestions for people who are unable to visit Bucharest to get a feel for the area?**

We have significantly extended the image part of the repository for each detailing area. Please check again.

## **Additional video resources we would recommend are:**

Images with the amount of water in the lakes during the cold season (Plumbuita Lake) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ-eKKnIZNM>

Video from Fundeni Lake, constructions on the lake shore: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35ZWxlbW5Oo>

## **What is the maximum of participants per working group?**

We think that eight persons should be the limit. So you will be able to add that many persons to the declaration form when you submit the project. This size should encourage you to invite various disciplines to contribute to your project. But a larger number does not seem to be manageable.

## **Where can we find the declaration form?**

The declaration form will be submitted together with the project in a separate submission area. The form has not been published yet because there is still some time to go but we will inform everyone as soon as it is there.

## **How can we use the GIS layers (zone fonctionale)?**

This file does not contain the shapefiles themselves, it is a layer linking to a web server. So in ArcGIS you would add it to your data catalogue first (as layer) than drag it to the layers of your project. You also need to download the actual database. Direct link: [http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=cat\\_1602&client\\_id=hfwu](http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=cat_1602&client_id=hfwu)

## **What is the property situation along the lake shores?**

The territories surrounding the lakes have been expropriated for public use already back in the 1930s when the implementation of the project has started. After the fall of communism it happened that some territories have been claimed back, although the area has never been subject to nationalisation actions during the communist period.

In any case, even if the post-communists master plans of the city considered the lakeshore to remain free of construction, uncontrolled and arbitrary fencing appeared in many places. In addition, some private businesses, in particular in the recreation sector, started to seek for concessions for using the public land on the river. The contracts have been made partly for utopian periods (like ,99 years') and with vague limitations. So practically, the accessibility of the lake shore has become significantly more difficult and disrupted during the past 15 years.

### **How is the water quality of Colentina?**

A new slide is available with information on this issue. Direct link:[http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=file\\_10485&client\\_id=hfwu](http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=file_10485&client_id=hfwu)

### **Can the documentation ,Spatial context Colentina lakes' be fully translated?**

Yes, we are working on that.

### **Is there any list available of native plants?**

There is a documentation on the vegetation in Bucharest, and Colentina in particular, in the competition documentation. Please see also this direct links:

[http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=file\\_9924&client\\_id=hfwu](http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=file_9924&client_id=hfwu)

[http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=file\\_10484&client\\_id=hfwu](http://ilias.hfwu.de/goto.php?target=file_10484&client_id=hfwu)

### **Can we get than a short list of stakeholders, owners , administrative organs that are relevant in this project?**

Within the community boundary of Bucharest, Colentina is crossing two administrative sectors (Sector 1 and Sector 2). The adjacent communities located outside the administrative boundaries of Bucharest are shown in the document ,Spatial context Colentina lakes' on page 6. Colentina itself, as a water body, is managed by ,Apele Romane', the Romanian water administration. Inside Bucharest the planning and maintenance of green spaces is organised by the cities green space department called ALPAB - Administratia Lacuri Parcuri si Agreement Bucuresti.

The urban region of Bucharest exists so far only as a conceptual objective. At the moment, there is no administrative authority to which both the community of Bucharest and the adjacent communes would be subject to in terms of urban planning. So consequently, the functional and the administrative zones do not match at all. The region surrounding Bucharest is called Ifov. You may also read this article:

<https://aesopyoungacademics.wordpress.com/2014/07/24/planning-and-city-region-governance-challenges-for-urban-development-in-bucharest/>

**Will there be a territorial content about Pantilimon, the other sectors have one?**

Yes, we are working on it. An image documentation of Pantelimon has just been added.

**Are there any plans to improve the bicycle-network?**

In the last couple of years the number of cyclists in Bucharest has increased and now they are putting pressure on municipalities to develop a bicycle-network. There is no concrete data to indicate when this project will be ready but we think it will be implemented in the coming years.

**Can we work on the cadastral plans of Bucharest for the concept and the detailed area?**

Yes. The cadastral plans are based on a 1:2000 scale in the original, so that might not be so useful for the overall concept. It is important that your overall concept includes the full scope which goes beyond the communal boundary of Bucharest.

**Are there some differences between society and its structure in that area?**  
(means rich people, middle class, lower class etc)...because of a possible impact after planning by changing it (unconsciously)

Along Colentina there are all sorts of housing classes. The danger of social segregation is indeed an issue here. In general Bucharest has still a big asset which is its mixity and density in the more central urban quarters. Uncontrolled construction of individual houses has appeared as a phenomenon in particular along the northern shore of Colentina, more intensively further north towards the airport, partly gated communities have appeared as well. So in short: yes, the danger of social segregation is existing and it would be a significant quality-loss with respect to the social mix that still exists in many urban areas.

**Are there some tensions regarding the development from the public? Have there been held some public participation sessions?**

In general, public participation processes are not yet well developed, so there is nothing to report with respect to Colentina for the moment.

**What is the feature of this necklace? Compared to the necklace in Boston?**

Boston is a connected system of parks, Colentina a system of lakes. However, connectivity is not yet existing, so it is rather an emerging necklace.

**Have the citizens of Colentina and Bucharest area been asked about their interests and wishes? Is a public questionnaire held till now?**

To my knowledge there has been no official city-wide initiative to provide accurate data about the interests and wishes of the citizens concerning Colentina chain of lakes. What we know on this subject comes from our research projects:

During the study we've done, about three years ago, we've found out that for the majority of the inhabitants of Bucharest Colentina chain of lakes is invisible, the only known lakes for the majority of the citizens are Herastrau, Floreasca, Tei which are relatively closer to the center of the city. Many people do not even know they are part of a chain of lakes on the river Colentina. They believe that Colentina is just a district located in the north-east part of Bucharest.

On the other hand, those who live in the proximity of the lakes do not have an overview of what can be done with the whole area. Their requirements are limited to infrastructure (roads, sewerage), sanitation and flood protection.

### **Which are the most visited spots on weekdays or weekends in Bucarest?**

For leisure most visited spots in Bucharest are: the historical center of the city (Lipscani - Universitatii - Romana area), the malls (each part of the city has 1-2 even 3 malls), the parks and gardens, especially those of proximity.

For the chain of lakes, the most frequented spots are primarily Herastrau Park, the private sports and leisure facilities, Floreasca, Bordei and Plumbuita parks. During the weekends people go to Mogosoaia Palace on Mogosoaia Lake and to Cernica Lake where there is also a forest and a monastery.

### **Are the existing bridges that cross the river accessible to pedestrians?**

Yes, but it is clear that the bridges were designed for vehicles and not for pedestrians. For example, you do not feel like stopping to admire the view, it is very noisy and you can smell the exhaust gases because of the intense car traffic.

### **Are there existing biodiversity enhancing initiatives?**

If you refer to a major program for all of the area coordinated by the authorities, no.

Both Cernica lake and forest have been declared Natura 2000 areas 2011. However, there is no management plan published yet.

There are issues with xerifauna: For example in the last 50 years new species of fish were introduced: Dwarf catfish (*Ictalurus nebulosus*) and Chinese carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) that have adapted perfectly to the local conditions and are now endangering the local fauna and flora.

### **Why did they stop sailing in the river? Is the water level too low or is it due to the quality of water or...?**

Navigation between lakes is not possible because of the dam system so only recreatioanal boating is practiced on Mogosoaia, Herastrau, Pantelimon II and

Cernica lakes. „Informal” boating (eg. For fishing) is probably practiced on all of the lakes. The only lakes that can communicate are Pantelimon I and II and also Herastrau and Baneasa.

**What kind of transportation the residents of Bucharest are using to approach the river?**

The river is not very accesibile. There are a lot of roads and means of transportation in the area but their aim is not to facilitate the acces to the shore but rather to cross over the lakes as if they are not a point of interest. If you want to go in one of the parks you can use the public transport (tram, bus, trolley) or the personal car. There are no bicycle lanes to connect areas of the city with the chain of lakes.

**Are people in the area of Colentina satisfied with the existing infrastructure?**

The infrastructure is one of the main problems people living near Colentina river complain about. The roads are very bad some of them unpaved - source of dust during summer and covered in mud the rest of the year (Areas near Straulesti and Fundeni lakes). There are also problems with the sewage especially after heavy rain when in overflows (Plumbuita, Fundeni). Also in the rainy years flooding occur. In some cases this happens because of non-compliance with the waterfront retreat urban regulations (Pantelimon I , Fundeni).

**Are the existing parks accessible by cars and pedestrians, both?**

The parks are accesibile for pedestrians and there are parking lots nearby but the rest of the shores are rarely accesibile to both.

**For what do the residents of the area complain the most?**

The majority complains about the infrastructure (see answer for question 7), the sanitation and in some cases lack of flood protection. But they are not educated to understand the potential of the area so they really don't know what to ask for from the authorities.

**If the residents of the area would have all the possibilities to change the zone; what and how will they change it?**

The vast majority of the residents rely on the authorities but because they don't understand the potential of the area they don't know what to ask for other than sanitation, infrastructure and flood protection. These are of course very pressing issues but the regeneration of the chain of lakes involves a much more complex strategy and represents a big opportunity for both the neighboring areas and the entire city. When describing how they would like the place to be, the residents use vague words like: clean, safe, equipped etc.

**Why some shores of colentina river are not accessible?? it's happen because of the quality of water or exist other reason?**

Many banks are not accessible because they are private property. When the lake chain project was designed and implemented, the surrounding land was state property. After the communist period allotments were made without a long-term vision. The owners have fenced their properties and built up to the shore without taking into account the urban regulations which impose a withdrawal of 30-50 m.

**Are the roads which have direct perpendicular access to the river used for cars, pedestrians or both?**

They can be used by both. Althow some of them are not paved which means you can get stuck in the mud with the car (Pantelimon II north shore for example). The majority of these roads are also narrow and give you the sensation that you are entering a private area. Briefly, they are not designed to encourage you to reach the lake shore.

**What is the special function of the zone "a" called DAMAROAIA in the west side which is proposed to be a protected area? (find it on the Colentina general analysis\_02)**

Damaroaia quarter or "Bazilescu Parceling" was made in the early twentieth century and consists of relatively small lots with single-family houses. In 2010 the assembly was included on the list of protected areas in Bucharest. Despite the regulations inadequate new constructions alter the overall look of the area.

**Does the fact that the lakes get frozen at some places during the year, impact the life of the living organizms in river?**

The lakes are partially dried up during the cold season in order for the freezing water to not put pressure on the concrete banks; the water remains only in the deepest areas of the lake bed. This area is oozing and thus preserves certain species of plants and animals but every year the administration decided whether or not it is needed to repopulate the lakes with certain species of fauna and flora.

**Which are the industries that make it? are the chemical, metallurgy industries(like Metabo, or Oil company...) or ...**

During the communist and pre-communist period the industrial sector was very well developed along the Colentina River. Today the vast majority of the industrial buildings are converted into warehouses, abandoned, or demolished. The few production centers that remained on the site are small furniture and clothing factories, food production, small workshops etc.

**Does Bucarest has already experience with urban allotments, or do they have this tendencies and interest in it?**

If you're referring to community gardens, yes, there is a tendency both at city level and on the site. I saw such interventions nearby Grivita Lake on the south shore. In poorer areas (eg. Fundeni, Plumbuita, Dobroesti lakes) vegetable cultivation and grazing are ways of subsistence.

**Since monasteries are a very holy place, what is the public opinion/general attitude towards growing urbanization/function around these spaces? is it a strong preference so this places remain their peace?**

Often private interest is more important than the public interest. This explains why the waterfront is not accessible being built in many cases up to the shore. I think the majority of the citizens consider that the area nearby the monasteries should be protected but again, the private interest dominates the public one.

**Is there a space (in the manner of view for the competition ) and physical conditions (infrastructure) for a sustainable energy production that can be implemented through the design?(eg proposing solar energy or else through design ideas)**

In Romania there is a strong concern regarding alternative energies. Such projects were implemented in the last years with european and governmental funding. Such a proposal may be included in the project as long as a sustainable solution is presented (technical, economical etc).

**On which part of the river bank can we introduce some changes and if this is safe?(change the concrete river bed - is the river bed concrete all way long)?**

Only the banks are made of concrete, the lake bed (loamy soil) was once covered with gravel but now is just mud. In many places the concrete structure that protects the banks deteriorated and should be reinforced. Changes can be made anywhere along the banks as long as the project includes a viable technical solution.