

ERA-NET Urban Accessibility and Connectivity Joint Meeting & '15minC' Agora Strategic Dialogue

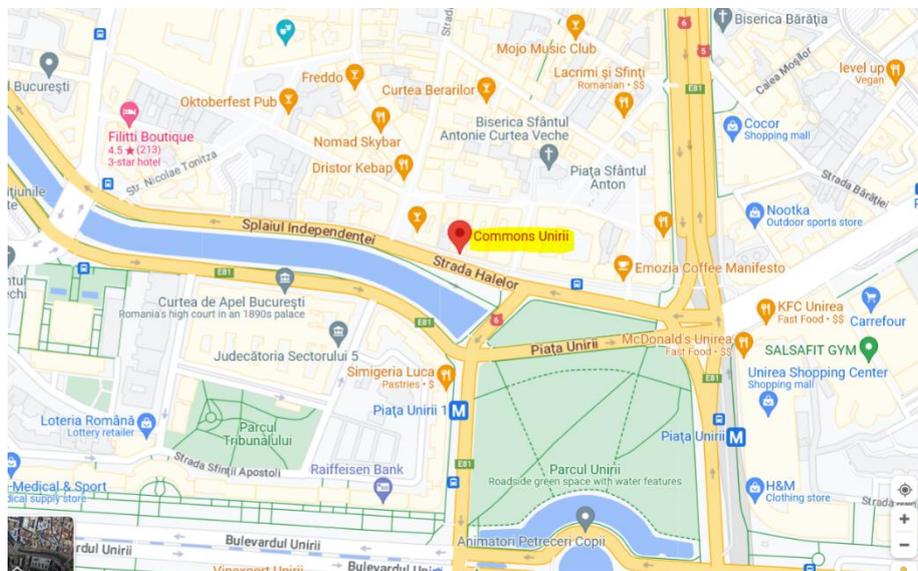
GENERAL INFO PACK, BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

MEETING VENUE

The workshop *Era-NET Urban Accessibility and Connectivity Joint Meeting & '15minC' Agora Strategic Dialogue* will take place between 15th -17th of May, 2023, at Commons Unirii – a co-working space.

Address: [Commons Unirii](#) – Strada Halelor 5, meeting rooms to be announced, subway station Unirii Station (M1, M2, M3), Bucharest, Romania

Map [here](#):



E-mail: crew@cafeneauadeinovare.ro; elena.simion@uefiscdi.ro; oana.ionescu@uefiscdi.ro

Distance from Otopeni Airport (OTP): approx. 15 - 17 km

Commons Co-working, Unirii

Located on one of the city's most prominent squares in the heart of downtown Bucharest, [Commons Unirii](#) offers three floors of coworking bliss in a historic building, just a stone's throw away from major transport lines. Commons is a family business at heart. Founded by a group of cousins we understand that community and a strong network are the driving force behind growth and success; Commons channels this energy directly into all that they are and do.

TRAVEL (plane, train, subway, surface public transportation)

By plane

International flights land at **Henri Coanda International Airport**, located in Otopeni, 16 km north of the city center. Henri Coanda (Otopeni) Airport is serviced by train, buses and taxis.

The easiest and direct option to get to the city center is by bus, train or taxi/ Uber app.

Express Bus 783 offers daily service to the city center with main stops at *Baneasa Airport, Piata Presei Libere, Piata Victoriei, Piata Romana, Piata Universitatii/Piata 21 Decembrie* and *Piata Unirii*.

The bus leaves from the international Departures terminal every 20 minutes. **This line runs day and night. At night, the bus leaves every 30 minutes.** The journey usually takes about 45-50 minutes. If it is a rush hour the journey could easily take more, even 1.15h. The approximate duration of one trip can be checked with the help of Google Maps.

The cost for one trip is 3 lei (0.6 euro). When you travel from **Henri Coanda International Airport** to the city center you can buy the ticket from the automatic vending machine located exactly in the bus stop. The bus stop is downstairs, in front of **Domestic Arrivals**.

Note: You must buy the card before you get on the bus because you can't purchase it from the driver. Some of the bus stops along the route may not have ticket booths so better buy this card in advance. Remember to validate your ticket on board the bus.

By train

Train from Otopeni to Gara de Nord. Otopeni Airport is linked by train to the centre of Bucharest, at North railway station (Gara de Nord). Trains leave from the airport approximately every 40 minutes, and the trip lasts 25 minutes. **However, the exact schedule needs to be checked in the station.** Tickets costs 5 lei (approx. 1 euro) and are available at the ticket office in Arrivals area. Gara de Nord station is linked by subway to other areas within Bucharest (see subway map below).

** For money exchange it is preferably to use the ATMs in the lobby for immediate needs and then change foreign money in local currency in the city.*

On-demand taxi services are available at Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport. You may order a taxi car by using the touch screen devices in the public area of the Arrivals Terminal. The passengers get on the taxicabs right outside the terminal, on the first floor, by showing the ticket issued by the automatic touch screen. The charges vary between 2,5 lei/km – 3, 50 lei/km.

Apps like **Uber** or **Bolt** can be used to order ride cars. Prices may vary depending on traffic or time.

Star Taxi is an app that can be downloaded from Google Play or App Store. It allows you to call a taxi in a fast, and simple way. The taxi order goes instantly to all taxi drivers in your area. However, you can pay cash only, not by card!

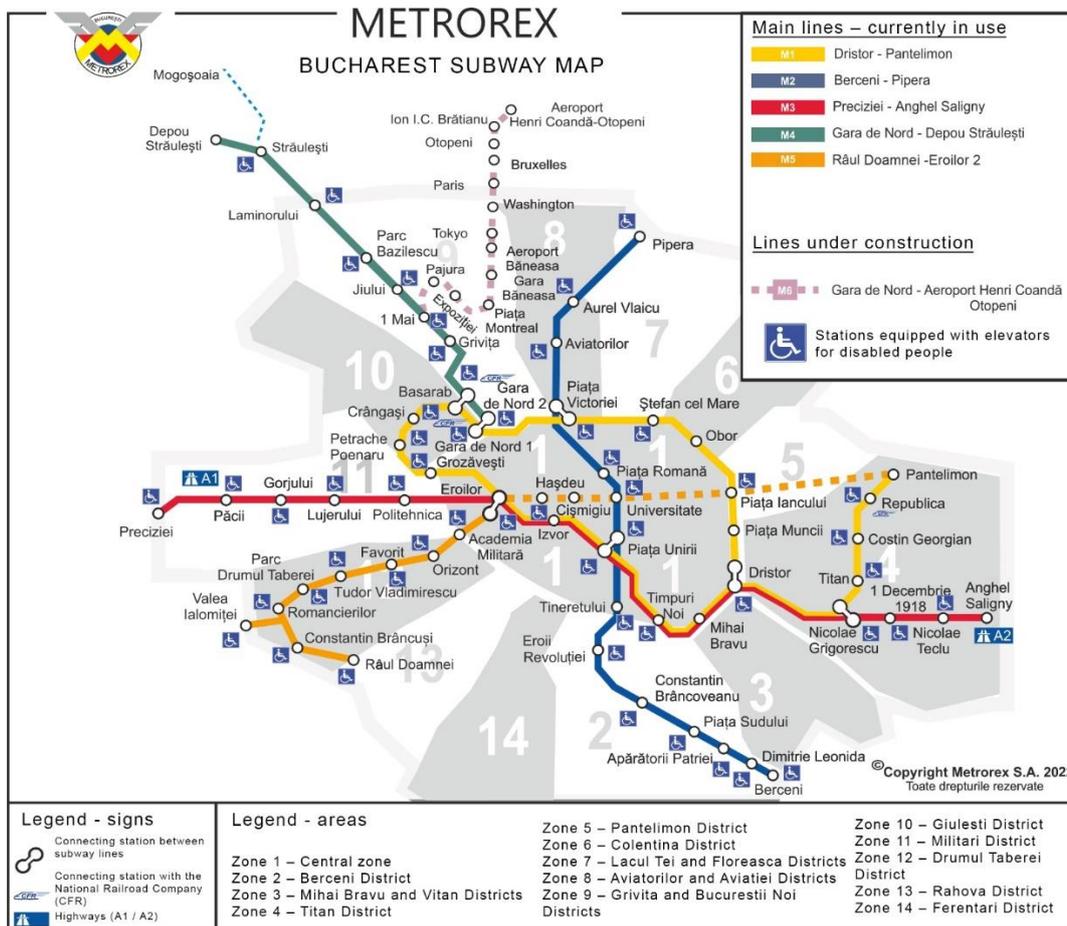
Bucharest Subway

The Bucharest Subway (Romanian: “Metroul din București”) is the underground rapid transit system that serves Bucharest, the capital of Romania. The network is run by the company named Metrorex and has 64 stations. There are 5 main lines (identified by different numbers M1, M2...M5, each represented in the map below with a different color. The closest subway station to the location is Unirii Station – which is a connecting station between M2 and M1 & M3.

Hours of operation: Trains run from 5 AM to 11 PM every day.

Fares and tickets: The network uses [magnetic stripe cards](#), that are not valid for use on trams, buses or trolleys. Payment by contactless credit cards is available directly at the turnstiles. Passengers can also opt to pay for the trip directly at the gates using credit cards or with Apple Pay/Google Pay. Tickets can be bought from any metro station, from both kiosks and vending machines. Prices:

- 1-trip card – 3 RON
- 2-trip card – 6 RON
- 24-hour card – 8 RON
- 72-hour card – 20 RON
- 10-trip card – 25 RON
- Weekly pass (full price) – 30 RON



Bucharest's public transportation network

Surface transport in Bucharest is run by Societatea de Transport București (STB) and consists of an extensive network of buses, trolleybuses, trams and light rail. Surface transportation, operated by STB uses a different ticketing system from the subway network, operated by Metrorex. The tickets and prices can be found on the company's website, available in English as well: <https://www.stbsa.ro/eng/index>.

Please note that you cannot buy tickets from the driver! However, you can pay by SMS or by card, if you could not buy tickets **before** getting on the bus. Before getting into the public transport vehicles, please make sure that you have the travel card or, where necessary, the requested documents to prove you can travel free. Validation is mandatory, at the electronic equipment installed for this purpose into the public transport vehicles.

ACCOMODATION:

For accommodation, please find below a few recommendations of hotels located nearby or in the close proximity (approx. 15min walking). Depending on your travel plans, you can use Booking or Airbnb to find apartments, lofts etc .

These are the hotel suggestions:

[Europa Royale Hotel Bucharest](#)

[Hilton Garden Inn](#)

[Concorde](#)

[Hotel Cismigiu](#)

[K+K Hotel Elisabeta](#)

[Grand Hotel Continental Bucharest](#)

[Novotel Bucharest City Center](#)

[Radisson Blu Hotel Bucharest](#)

[Hotel Capitol](#)

[Mercure Bucharest City Center](#)

[Hotel International Bucharest](#)

ENTRY FORMALITIES FOR ROMANIA

A valid passport (or for some nationals, ID card only) is required to entry into Romania for delegates outside Romania. Participants from USA, Canada, most European and many non-European countries do not need Romanian visas. Please contact the Romanian Embassy or Consulate in your own country to verify whether you need a visa (www.mae.ro).

Standard time

East European zone time (GMT+2 hours). Daylight saving time (GMT+3 hours) applies from March to October.

Currency (since 1867)

The official Romanian currency is the Romanian Leu (RON). The official exchange rate (National Bank of Romania) at this time is about 1€ =4.92 RON. The *Leu* (plural *lei*), has the *Ban* (plural *bani*) as subdivision (1 *leu* =100 *bani*). Foreign currency can be changed at any bank or exchange office. Please be careful to check all the commissions applied. Banks are open on Monday-Friday from 08:30h-16:00h. ATMs are found at hotels, all banks and many other locations throughout the city.

Electricity standards

EU standard 220 V / 50 Hz. Please ensure that you have the proper adapter for your appliances.

Internet access

Romania has several Internet access providers offering advanced services such as Internet messaging via mobile telephone, Internet paging, international roaming and more. Internet access via Wi-fi hotspots is available in almost every restaurant, café or hotel for free.

Security and emergency phone number

The general emergency phone number is **112**.

BUCHAREST – A CITY OF CONTRASTS

With an official population of approximately 2 million inhabitants (and unofficial estimates of over 3 million), Bucharest is the sixth largest city in Europe, after London, Paris, Berlin, Madrid and Rome. The city offers an incredible blend of European culture, but without the crowds that are so typical to well-known tourist destinations.

Situated at the crossroads of Central and South-Eastern Europe, Bucharest is a city of cultural contrasts. In just a few hours, a traveler can experience both the urban atmosphere of narrow streets with Beaux-Art buildings and elegant cafés as well as the simplicity of rural art and life in one of Europe's largest open-air museums – the Village Museum. Beautiful byzantine churches dating from the late Middle Ages, such as the Radu Voda monastery, are just blocks away from the Palace of the Parliament, the largest civilian building in the world and a symbol of the communist "Golden Age". In less than ten minutes, one can go from the vibrant streets in Bucharest's historic centre, with their numerous shops, bars, restaurants and clubs to beautiful and tranquil nineteenth century parks such as Cismigiu and Gradina Icoanei.

It is thus not surprising that Bucharest has been known for over two centuries as "Little Paris" or "Paris of the East". Its impressive architecture, its bohemian atmosphere and the busy lifestyle of its inhabitants bare much resemblance to that of the French capital. But Bucharest has a life of its own – a life that is strongly rooted in its turbulent past and still reflects the daunting years of communism. Still, it is a life that boasts energy, optimism and vitality. A visit to Bucharest will be more than a tourist experience – it will be a life experience.

Best places to visit

The city's unique charm is perhaps best reflected by its **historical center**: the area of Lipscani - named after the numerous German traders from Lipsca or Leipzig that used to own shops here in the 18th and 19th centuries. Today, Lipscani hosts a variety of art galleries, antique shops, coffeehouses and restaurants.

The historical center is also home to the remains of the Old Princely Court and Church built in the 15th century by Vlad Tepes (known as Dracula due to the fact that he was a source of inspiration for Bram Stoker's book), as well as to other historical landmarks, such as the History Museum, the National Bank of Romania and the CEC Palace. Moreover, the center is home to **some of the best restaurants in Bucharest**, several of which are hosted in spectacular historical buildings: Manuc's Inn (Hanul lui Manuc), the Beer Cart (Caru' cu Bere), the Beer Maker's Inn (Hanu' Berarilor – Casa Soare), or the Linden Tree Inn (Hanul cu Tei).

Overall, the city's main attractions include:

- ✓ the "Dimitrie Gusti" National Village Museum (<http://muzeul-satului.ro/en/>), one of the largest open-air museums in Europe;
- ✓ the National Museum of Art (<https://www.mnar.arts.ro/en/visit>)
- ✓ the Palace of Parliament, one of the largest buildings in the world (<http://cic.cdep.ro/en/opening-hours-and-tariffs>)
- ✓ the Romanian Athenaeum (<https://www.fge.org.ro/en/vizitareteteneu>)
- ✓ the Cotroceni Palace / National Museum (http://www.muzeulcotroceni.ro/index_eng.html)
- ✓ the Arch of Triumph
- ✓ Victoriei Avenue – one of the oldest and one of the most beautiful streets in the city, home to the Cantacuzino Palace ("George Enescu" Museum), the historical Revolution Square, the Military Club, the National History Museum, the Romanian Athenaeum, the Athenee Palace Hotel, Kretzulescu Church, the Royal Palace Great Concert Hall, the Palace of the Savings Bank and many others.

Other wonderful places to visit in Bucharest are its historic churches (such as the Apostles' Church, the Metropolitan Church, the Stavropoleos Church, St. Joseph's Cathedral, St. Nicolas Church) and its beautiful parks and gardens - like the Cismigiu Garden, the Botanical Garden, Herastrau Park or Carol I Park.