



# XII<sup>th</sup> International ProGEO Symposium

**Celebrating Geological Heritage and Geoparks**

30<sup>th</sup> September - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025,  
Tulcea, Romania

**1<sup>st</sup> Circular**





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# Welcome

The International Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage (ProGEO), the National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology (GeoEcoMar), the University of Bucharest, Gavrilă Simion Eco-Museum Research Institute (ICEM) and the Cimmerian Dobrogea Geopark are pleased to invite you to participate in the XIIth International ProGEO Symposium that will be held in Tulcea and Cimmerian Dobrogea Geopark, from 30th of September to 2nd of October 2025.

The Cimmerian Dobrogea Geopark has a unique geological and natural heritage and cultural values that make it exceptional at international level.

# Venue



The Symposium will be held in the City of Tulcea, the administrative center of Tulcea County and port on the Lower Danube. It is the main gateway to the Danube Delta and one of the gates to the Cimmerian Dobrogea Geopark. Tulcea is built on seven hills on the right bank of the Danube. It was founded in the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC under the name of Aegyssus, a name of Celtic origin derived from its legendary founder, Caspius Aegyssos. The city represented a strategic location especially during the



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Roman times, and at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, it was included in the Moesian defensive frontier system (Danubian Limes) as a military fort and port. Tulcea was first documented under its modern name in 1506 in Ottoman customs records, as an important center for the transit trade. In 1878, after the end of the Russo-Turkish war, Tulcea became part of Romania along with the rest of Dobrogea.

The official opening of the symposium will be held in the Mihail Kogălniceanu Conference Room of the Tulcea County Council. The scientific sessions will be held at the Hotel Delta. This hotel is situated on the Danube embankment, in the city center.

For more information regarding Tulcea's accommodation, restaurants, coffee shops, pubs, a touristic map and more can be found in the **Tu si Tulcea** application that can be installed both on Android and IOS devices, from Play Store and App Store.

## Meeting outline

The meeting will include three days of Symposium, social events and Field trips:

29 <sup>th</sup> September Monday	30 <sup>th</sup> September Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup> October Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> October Thursday	3-5 October Friday-Sunday
Pre-Symposium Field Trip (optional)	Opening Ceremony & Keynote talks	Scientific sessions	Scientific sessions	Post-Symposium Field Trip (optional)
	Scientific sessions		ProGEO General Assembly	
Icebreaker Party		Mid-Symposium Field Trip	Symposium Dinner (optional)	



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The meeting will include invited keynote talks, regular session talks and posters. Poster presenters will have 2 minutes to explain their work during the poster sessions. We expect to announce the keynote speakers on our website soon.

During the Symposium, awards will be given to students for the best oral and poster presentations.

The mid-Symposium half-day field trip to the Agighiol geological reserve is included in the Registration for all delegates.

## The Cimmerian Dobrogea Geopark

Our Geopark area is an eroded plateau with a protracted geological history that began in the Late Neoproterozoic. The Geopark territory includes two main geotectonic units, the Moesian Platform to the South, and the Cimmerian Orogen of North Dobrogea to the North, separated by a major crustal fault. Both these units are unconformably overlain by Late Cretaceous shallow marine clastics, connected to the formation of the West Black Sea Basin. In the Geopark area, the Ediacaran basement of the Moesian Platform consists largely of turbidites, with well-preserved sedimentary and sometimes biogenic structures. By contrast, the Cimmerian belt shows a very complex geology and structure, with Variscan roots exposed in the cores of Triassic anticlines.

The landscape of Dobrogea is very picturesque, with low altitude hills, isolated or forming elongated ridges. Many of them are covered in steppe vegetation, but there are also large areas topped by forests. The biodiversity is extremely rich, with habitats and species included in a network of 10 Natura 2000 sites, and 29 nature reserves, one of them a national park. The Geopark territory is mainly rural, and despite the increasing number of modern constructions, traditional houses, stone fences and old fountains are still preserved in some villages. Older monasteries are hidden in the woods, while a large number of churches of various religious cults are historical monuments. Archaeological sites are found everywhere, proof of human habitation in the area since the Paleolithic. The most important of these sites are fortresses and fortifications of the Moesian Limes, the fortified border of the Roman Empire.



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# Registration

The ProGEO members will have preferential rates for the Registration fee. It is always cheaper to join ProGEO and secure the discount rate, than pay the non-member rate. For more details, please visit <http://www.progeo.ngo/get-involved.html>.

Registration can be made via the website at [www.progeo2025.com](http://www.progeo2025.com). Payments can be made directly on-line through Symposium website, and all major credit and debit cards are accepted. This low prices have been possible due to the financial support from the sponsors.

	Early Bird Registration (until 31 May)	Registration (1 June – 31 July)	Late Registration (after 1 August)
ProGEO & GSA* Member	120 €	170 €	230 €
Non-Member	240 €	340 €	460 €
Students	80 €	100 €	120 €
Accompanying person	120 €	170 €	230 €
Symposium Dinner	50 €		
Pre-symposium field trip	85 €		
Post-symposium field trip	270 €		

\*The Geological Society of America (GSA) members will have the same discount as the ProGEO members. If a person is a member of both ProGEO and GSA, the discounts are not cumulative.

The registration fee covers:

- Symposium abstracts and materials;
- Ice-breaker party;
- Lunches;
- Coffee breaks and refreshments;
- mid-Symposium half-day field trip.



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## Social events

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, all the delegates are invited to the Icebreaker Party that will be held at the Avramide House – the House of Collections of the Center of Eco-Museum Research in Tulcea. The evening starts with visiting the art galleries of Avramide House and continues with the tasting of some Dobrogean wines and traditional snacks.

On the evening of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, we invite you at a special dinner at the Select Restaurant. Guests will have the opportunity to taste traditional fish-based dishes from the Danube Delta, try Dobrogea wines and attend a traditional dance performance. We encourage you to book alongside the registration.

## Pre-symposium field trip: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve

The pre-symposium field trip is a one-day trip organized on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. The trip is led by Dr. Silviu Rădan, senior researcher at GeoEcoMar, with decades of experience in sedimentological and geocological studies in the Danube Delta. Participants will travel by boat, touring many of the lakes, canals and backwaters between Mila 23, Letea Forest sand dunes and Sulina harbor. After a traditional lunch in the Letea fishing village, participants will visit Sulina, to see the palace of the European Commission of the Danube and the lighthouse. Delegates will return by boat to Tulcea on the Sulina Branch of the Danube Delta. Attendees will have the opportunity to discuss the processes of the Danube Delta formation, its current ecological state and the impact of tourism on biodiversity, sedimentation and erosion.





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## **Mid-symposium field trip: Agighiol geological reserve**

The mid-symposium trip includes a visit to the Agighiol geological reserve with Triassic ammonoids. This is followed by a visit to the Monument Hill in Tulcea, to see the ruins of Aegyssus fortress and the Museum of History and Archaeology, which hosts treasures and artefacts found in the Tulcea County. At the top of the hill, the Monument of Independence, built after the Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878), is one of the major attractions in Tulcea. This place offers panoramic views of the city, of the western part of the Delta and the north-eastern part of North Dobrogea.

## **Post-symposium field trip: An excursion through the Cimmerian Dobrogea Geopark heritage sites and landscapes**

The 3-day post-symposium field trip will explore the main geological and cultural heritage sites of the Cimmerian Dobrogea Geopark. The trip will be led by Dr. Antoneta Seghedi, senior researcher at GeoEcoMar and coordinator of the Geopark initiative, along with several co-leaders from other institutions. Each day the coach will leave Tulcea to explore different aspects of the Geoparks exceptional geological and cultural heritage. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit a number of the nature reserves and geosites within the area, and see historic and modern quarries, as well as archaeological sites. The first two days will be dedicated to sites in the Paleozoic and Mesozoic formations, with focus on Variscan and Cimmerian deformation and structures and Paleozoic and Mesozoic lithologies and fossils. In the last day we will examine Ediacaran turbidites in the Moesian Platform, in geosites showing the oldest life forms and trace fossils in Romania, and spectacular sedimentary structures. Field trip stops will also facilitate discussion on exploring geo-heritage using archeological sites, local buildings and stone fences, or the terroir, by visiting the wine-cellar in Măcin, where we will taste wines from Sarica Niculițel, the oldest vineyard of Dobrogea.



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## Abstract submission

We welcome abstract submissions on various topics of the broad themes of geoheritage management, geoheritage and mining heritage, geoheritage and cultural heritage, movable geoheritage, geoconservation and Geoparks, including methodologies, site management, interpretation, education and good practices.

Deadline for Abstract Submission: 10 June 2025 23:59 EST (GMT+2).

Each registered delegate can submit two abstracts as the presenting author. Talks will be 12 minutes in length, with 3 minutes for questions. Posters should be presented in A0 portrait format.

Abstract submission is through the website: [www.progeo2025.com](http://www.progeo2025.com).

## Key dates

15 February 2025 Opening of Registration and Abstract Submission

10 March 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular

31 May 2025 23:59 EST (GMT+2) Early-bird Registration Closes

1 June – 31 July 2025 23:59 EST (GMT+2) Regular Registration

10 June 2025 23:59 EST (GMT+2) Abstract Submission Closes

25 June 2025 23:59 EST (GMT+2) Abstract decisions

1 August – 15 September 2025 Late Registration

15 September 2025 23:59 EST (GMT+2) Registration Closes

29 September 2025 Pre-Symposium Field Trip (optional)

30 September – 2 October 2025 XII ProGEO International Symposium

2 October 2025 ProGEO General Assembly

3-5 October 2025 Post-Symposium Field Trip (optional)





## Accommodation

We negotiated special fees for the Symposium participants and strongly advise you to book rooms at Hotel Delta (which has two wings, 3 and 4 stars) by contacting the hotel directly at the address [hoteldeltatulcea@gmail.com](mailto:hoteldeltatulcea@gmail.com). In order to qualify for the discounted fees, it is necessary to specify the participation in the ProGEO Symposium, both in the mail subject and in the mail body. For this particular booking the payment can be made only upon arrival at the hotel front desk, either cash or credit card. We strongly recommend delegates to book accommodation at the earliest opportunity – there is limited availability in Hotel Delta.

Hotel Delta	3 stars	4 stars
Single room	49 €	65 €
Double room	56 €	76 €

The prices include breakfast, local taxes, Wi-Fi, access to SPA (sauna, jacuzzi, fitness, pool). If you want to take advantage of these facilities, we encourage you to take your bathing suit.

Tulcea also has a number of larger and smaller hotels, situated quite close to the center. More details on accommodation will be available soon on the symposium website, [www.progeo2025.com](http://www.progeo2025.com).

## Getting here

Visitors can travel to Tulcea via Henri Coandă International Airport in Bucharest, located 280 km, from Tulcea. There are minibuses taking passengers from Bucharest Airport to Tulcea and back.

More information on transport links to Tulcea from the Henri Coandă International Airport can be found on the Symposium web-site [www.progeo2025.com](http://www.progeo2025.com).



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## Passports and Visas

Romania is in the European Union and traveling between EU countries can be made without passport, only with ID card. For more information regarding Visas please visit this link: <https://www.mae.ro/en/node/2035>.

## Currency and Exchange

The national currency in Romania is Leu (RON). 1 EUR is approx. 5 RON. We don't recommend to exchange money at the airport due to very inconvenient exchange rates. There are many banks and currency exchange offices in Romania. All major credit cards are accepted and can be used to pay for virtually anything. ATM/Bank machines are found in all banks and many other locations throughout the country.