

Professor **Maria Patroescu** (University of Bucharest) – Honorary member of the Society for Urban Ecology

[Professor Maria Patroescu \(http://ccmesi.ro/?page_id=89\)](http://ccmesi.ro/?page_id=89) is professor emeritus of University of Bucharest (Romania), institution in which for the past forty years she has promoted the study of environmental sciences as a domain, and the fields of biogeography and urban ecology as a focus of her teaching and research activities. Through her entire career she aimed to foster and develop the knowledge and implementation of urban ecology from a geographical perspective, and also to promote the field in the academic community and beyond.

In 1993, Professor Maria Patroescu has been funded the Center for Environmental Research and Impact Studies - CCMESI, the first research unit in University of Bucharest. CCMESI conducts theoretical and field-based research on issues related to urban ecology and biodiversity conservation to help practitioners to address the local, regional, and national environmental.

Between 1997 and 2015 Professor Maria Patroescu was Director of the Centre for Environmental Research and Impact Studies, department which implemented under her direct supervision over 20 research projects in the field of urban ecology, with topics related with: urban green areas monitoring, environmental impact assessment of residential areas, environmental quality analysis in urban areas, ecological reconstruction of polluted areas or sustainable planning of cities. With her participation in the consultative structures of city-halls, environmental protection agencies and protected areas administrations Professor Maria Patroescu promoted the interactions of urban ecology with practitioners and city managers.

The international dimension of her work in the field of urban ecology is recognized by her stages as prestigious universities such as University Paris I Pantheone-Sorbonne, Universitatea Aix-Marseille, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Liverpool Hope College or Julius Nyéréré Institute. In the University of Bucharest she promoted the study of disciplines connected with the field of urban ecology in curriculum development: environmental sciences, environmental action plans, and analysis of human induced modifications.

Similar to the objectives of SURE she has promoted the organization of international scientific manifestations (such as ICERA 2003 and 2006) and national events for young researchers in the field (National Geography Symposium which awarded an urban ecology award at each edition).

Professor Maria Patroescu has also been an active participant in all the four workshops organized by the Society for Urban Ecology, South East Chapter in collaboration with the Centre for Environmental Research and Impact Studies in Bucharest in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Her list of publications includes a large number of scientific articles, books and books chapters, with most of the topic directly related to urban ecology. Articles such as “Is urban green space per capita a valuable target to achieve cities’ sustainability goals?” and “Dog walkers’ vs. other park visitors’ perceptions: The importance of planning sustainable urban parks in Bucharest”; the book chapter “Natural resources conservation in the influence areas of cities” or the book “Integrated environmental assessment of residential areas” all represent significant contributions to the advancement of urban ecology.