



Annual Review 2017

SURE 2017 in numbers

SURE is a growing society. In 2017 we welcomed 46 new members (34 regular members, 12 student members). Currently, SURE counts 354 active members (28% student members, 70% regular members, 2% institutional members). The worldwide importance of urban ecology is reflected by the broad geographical background from the SURE members coming from Asia (45%), Europe (39%), USA/Canada (11%), Latin and South America (4%) and Africa (1%). To mirror and strengthen the topics and activities of the different regions, there are currently five SURE chapters installed: Latin America, China, South-East Europe, South Asia and Central Europe (<http://www.society-urban-ecology.org/chapters/>). All SURE members are invited to join the chapters.

SURE events and activities in 2017

In 2017 a range of SURE activities and events took place around the globe organized by SURE chapters and members.

The first SURE event in 2017 was a series of workshops and conferences on urban agriculture, 10-13 January 2017 in Bogotá, Colombia organized by EcoNat, Instituto Humboldt Colombia and the Society for Urban Ecology (Latin America Chapter).

The first South Asian Regional SURE Conference, 18-22 January 2017 was organized by Prof. Dr. Jamil Kazmi (SURE-South Asia, President) and Prof. Dr. Salman Qureshi (Humboldt University Berlin, Germany) in Karachi, Pakistan. Academicians, researchers and professionals from South-Asia and worldwide discussed in 47 oral presentations and 15 posters current issues in urban ecology such as related to urban ecosystem services, urban land use and planning, environmental deterioration and urban land resources, urban complexity and biodiversity.

The Symposium on Spatial Optimization and Sustainability of Social-Ecological Landscape Mosaics, 15-17 February 2017 was organized by the SURE China Chapter, Young Scholar Council Ecological Society of China, and Yunnan University in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. Prof. Dr. Zhiming Zhang (from Yunnan University) was the chairman of the symposium. More than 60 researchers and students from USA and China attended the symposium and shared more than 20 oral presentations on urban landscape ecology, landscape sustainability, urban sprawling, urban biodiversity, urban water pollutions, coastal line management, ecosystem services, and mountainous landscape pattern dynamics, etc.



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The 6th SURE Summer School took place in Salzburg, Austria from 3-8 July 2017. Twelve international reputed lecturers, experienced in urban and regional ecology from around the world introduced students from Austria, Germany, Romania, China and Argentina in the morning sessions to topics related to sustainability of environment and development in urban regions. The students had then the chance to apply the knowledge in the afternoon sessions on the case of Salzburg and Linz, Austria. The summer school was organized by SURE in partnership with the Urban and Landscape Ecology Research Group, University Salzburg, Austria (Prof. Jürgen Breuste).

Students from the SURE Summer School visiting SolarCity Linz, Austria



After the Salzburg Summer School the Centre for Environmental Research and Impact Studies, Faculty of Geography – University of Bucharest and the SURE South East Europe Chapter (Prof. Cristian Ioja) organized an international workshop, 6-9 July 2017 in Bucharest on “Green Infrastructure for Sustainable Urban Planning”. The workshop received 50 researchers and doctoral students from Romania, Slovenia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Algeria, Singapore and United Kingdom.

Besides SURE workshops, summer schools and conferences, SURE members actively used the network. For instance the SURE members Prof. Andrzej Mizgajski (University Poznan, Poland), Prof. Jürgen Breuste (University Salzburg, Austria), Dr. Salman Qureshi (Humboldt University Berlin, Germany) and Dr. Martina Artmann (IOER Dresden, Germany) visited SURE treasurer Prof. Cristian Ioja at the Centre for Environmental Research and Impact Studies, University Bucharest, Romania. The visits were used for instance for internal exchange, field trips and contributing to the master study module on “Multicriteria Environmental Assessment”. Besides, SURE member Prof. Dagmar Haase (Humboldt University Berlin, Germany) supported Prof. Cristian Ioja for his student fieldtrip to Berlin-Leipzig, Germany.

SURE INVITES ALL MEMBERS TO USE THE SURE NETWORK FOR PERSONAL AND TEACHING EXCHANGES.

More information about past SURE events can be found on our webpage: <http://www.society-urban-ecology.org/meetings-conferences/past-events/>



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New SURE services

During the board meeting in July 2017 the SURE Executive Committee decided on two new SURE services: the 1) SURE student travel support and 2) SURE research publication service.

1) SURE student travel support:

SURE wants to support the active participation of high qualified students (Bachelor, Master PhD students) in SURE events (SURE conferences, SURE symposia, SURE workshops). This can include a reduction or skipped participation fee or subsidies of travel and accommodation costs. More information on the application and its guideline can be found on the SURE webpage: <http://www.society-urban-ecology.org/membership-benefits/student-travel-support/>

2) SURE research publication service:

SURE offers the SURE members the chance to share their current publications dealing with topics of SURE among the network. This should help to exchange knowledge and recent findings in the field of urban ecology between each other and to make the research of SURE members visible. A range of SURE members already used the service and an extensive list of high-quality research can be found on the SURE webpage: <http://www.society-urban-ecology.org/publications/research-publication-service/>. We invite the SURE members to further use the service and send us information about current publications.

In December, SURE set up a collaboration with MDPI (a publisher of peer-reviewed, open access journals) and its journals Sustainability, Environments and Urban Science. Through the collaboration SURE members benefit among other things from discounts for open access articles and books. More information about the benefits for SURE members and the MDPI journals are listed at the SURE webpage (<http://www.society-urban-ecology.org/publications/journalsarticles/>).

News from the SURE board

During the SURE Summer School, SURE had a board meeting at the 4th July 2017 in Salzburg, Austria. The board discussed among other things the SURE finances, SURE chapter activities and new SURE services such as the SURE student travel report and research publication service. During the board meeting Prof. D.A. Rademacher, New York University was invited to join the SURE Advisory Board. We are happy that Prof. Rademacher accepted the invitation to become member of the SURE Advisory Board to support SURE in particular in the USA.



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On August 22nd 2017 Prof. Dr. Maria Patroescu, University of Bucharest, Romania, was appointed as new SURE Honorary Member for her extended and valuable contribution in research and education on urban ecology and ecosystem management. SURE president Prof. Dr. Breuste delivered the certificate on behalf of the SURE Executive Committee in Bucharest, Romania. More information on the SURE board can be found at the SURE webpage: <http://www.society-urban-ecology.org/executive-committee/>

**Prof. Breuste (SURE President)
congratulates Prof. Patroescu**



SURE Outlook

Also in 2018 a range of activities and services are planned in the SURE.

The SURE board is also starting to work on a SURE book to be published for the Springer Cities and Nature Books series (<http://www.springer.com/series/10068>). The publication is expected in 2019. The book “Breuste, J.; M. Artmann; C. Ioja; S. Qureshi (eds.). Making Green Cities – Concepts, Challenges and Practice” will reflect the broad research and geographical background of SURE and its members.

Henry Garay Sarastri (EcoNat) will organize with SURE Colombia a SURE Regional Conference Latin America on “Urban Ecology in fast-growing Cities”. The event will take place in Medellin, October 2018 and will focus on 1) Urban challenges: the case of climate change, causes and effects in fast-growing cities, 2) The opportunities provided by Urban Biodiversity and 3) Strategies for big cities in transition.

The 1st SURE Summer School of SURE Central Europe will be organized by Prof. Martin Sauerwein (Germany), Prof. Jürgen Breuste (Salzburg) and Prof. Andrzej Mizgajski (Poznan), 13-20 July 2018 in Hildesheim, Germany. Prof. Junxiang Li will organize a 7th SURE Summer School in Shanghai, China (SURE China Chapter) which is expected to take place in August 2018. Besides, the East China Normal University (SURE China Chapter) will organize a second SURE China chapter conference in Shanghai, China in 2018. The first conference was held in Beijing in 2015.

The next SURE World Congress will take place 2020 in Poznan, Poland organized by Prof. Andrzej Mizgajski (University Poznan, Poland).