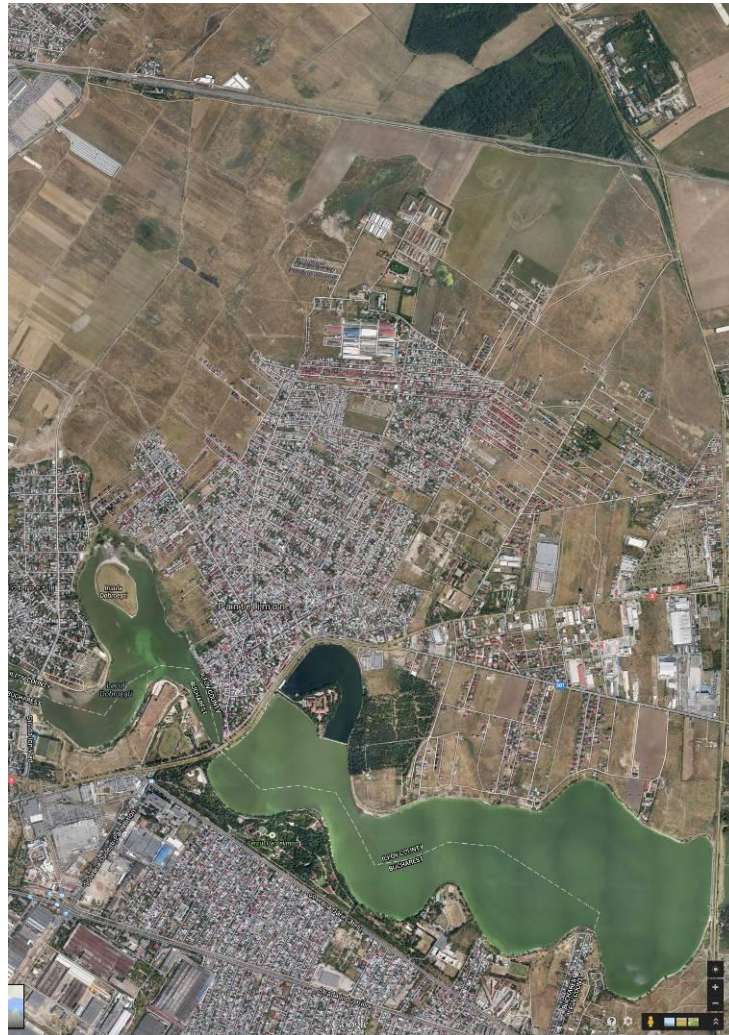


LE:NOTRE *Landscape Forum Bucharest 2015*

Working Group Rural fringe and productive landscapes

Multifunctional rural landscapes and the economic dimension

This workshop will focus on the landscape of Pantelimon Lakes that forms the most eastern part of the Colentina Emerald Necklace. It aims to investigate the fragility of the urban – rural boundary transformation and to make proposals for a sustainable development for the peri-urban area.



Pantelimon Lakes, at the crosses of rural and urban morphology | General map of the area showing the area| *source: Google Earth*

The Pantelimon area is part of Ilfov/Pantelimon administrative territory is located in the Bucharest city periphery.

Why is this case interesting?

The landscape of Pantelimon is of typical interest for the following reasons:

- **Productive value:** In this area still has rural morphology is still predominant, but the land use is changes continuous, under the pressure of economic factors. The social and urban characteristics of the area represent at least two issues:
 - There is an opportunity to boost agro-productive activities with a wide range of products and different type of food production. Depending on existing fragmentation, the size of the parcelling and distance to the urban area the business models and type of land use may differ.
 - The lake might provide opportunities for fishing or fish production depending on the water quality.
 - There are new developments of industrial and commercial activities and evolution of the existing activities, including a re-use of old brownfield areas.

In accordance with the actual use, local inhabitants may contribute to the productive land use a result of traditional activities with new technologies and activities.

- **Heritage value:** The high river banks and floodplain terraces of Colentina with its rich resources, have from prehistory on always been a favourable living environment, as evidenced by the abundance remains confirming the presence of the rural settlements in all historical periods. In the late Middle Ages the settlements are organised around the Pantelimon-island monastery that occupies a key position in scenography of the natural and historical site. The monastery plays an important role in the rural transition and forms the main heritage value of the area. For the peri-urban area historical agricultural patterns may be relevant, like the drainage system and land parcelling that dates from the communist era.

- **Water value:** The water is a resource for irrigation of the nearby agricultural land, the marsh lands are important for biodiversity, and the riverbanks provide value for recreation (walking, hiking, and fishing).

The extensive urban development, mostly private, has its effect on the perception, accessibility and biodiversity of the Colentina lakes. Mainly because houses are built near the water's edge. The effluent of the decentral sewage systems streams in the lake and also is dispersed in the groundwater.

The structure of the irrigation is related with the drainage system of Voluntari, but the system is no longer functioning as a whole.

There is an opportunity to create a greenbelt of the lakes. An integral approach of the relationships between the hydrological units on a local and a territorial level (the Colentina greenbelt) should include a careful management of the wetlands.

A greenbelt can provide a proper productivity of the land, high environmental quality of water and air and also healthy ways of spending leisure time.

- **Governance value:**

Pantelimon's potential is very high, to occupy a competitive position on the global productive market, but is at the same time, undervalued and not enough exploited. The priorities of quality of life, well being, and economic performance must be translated into a marketing vision, with precise strategies and objectives.

Taking into account the numerous challenges that Pantelimon presently faces, the capital of the productive landscape needs a solution that ensures not only its subsistence on the urban market, but a favourable and durable position and solution for improvement made in branding the products.

Aspects and questions this workshop is going to address:

- Which values and potential can we discern in the existing landscape?
- What are the demands of the different stakeholders in the area?
- How will the peri-urban develop without planned interventions?
- What is needed for a sustainable development of the area?
- How can the area contribute to the food production for the city?
- How to find an equilibrium between urban sprawl and policies, principles of respecting the history and finding common shared values?
- How can different typologies of values be negotiated and compromised if they are in conflict? What are the opportunities we have to reduce confusion?
- How to manage the development of the residential areas and the productive in combination with landscape and water ?
- What are examples of good practice or other reference studies that may serve as inspiration
- Which governance model could be suggested for achieving sustainable objectives for the area?

- Which tools for planning and design can various disciplines for spatial planning and landscape studies offer for this case study?
- How can the local value of the land use be restored in and around the Pantelimon Lakes?
- What is a good planning strategy for this area, which design concept can be adopted?
- Which spatial and planning measures can help to improve the quality of the (future) peri-urban landscape.

Working methods:

In advance of the forum studying the information and attending the e-lectures and e-meetings on this theme.

During the forum presentations by local experts and key note speakers, field trip to the area, stakeholder interviews and working sessions.

After the forum written contributions, sketches and plans for the report.

Output:

Joint report with a landscape strategy for the planning area, concept for food production, concept maps with alternatives. It also shows spatial solutions for fringe areas and the riverbanks. The report contains reflections and best-practices from research, education and professional practice relating the rural fringe problematic and comparable European situations.



View to Pantelimon Lakes | *image: creative common source: authors*

Stakeholders to be involved:

Local administrations: Ilfov/Pantelimon

NGO's: working in Pantelimon

Merchants in agricultural products

Farmer's organisations

Local inhabitants

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