



Tirana (Albania) 26-28 September 2019

Soil's Contribution to People: from Food to Life Supporting Services

www.9ESSC.UBT.EDU.AL

3rd circular

Distinguished Colleagues,

On behalf of the ESSC (European Society for Soil Conservation) and the Organizing Committee, we are pleased to invite you to attend the 9th ESSC International Congress on 'Soil's Contribution to People: from Food to Life Supporting Services'

The Congress will be held at the Agricultural University of Tirana (Albania) from 26 to 28 September 2019. The objective is to present up to date research results, practical examples, and policies, to support the role played by soil resources on human existence and as a source of food and life supporting services.

The Congress is open to soil scientists, students, educators, advisers, professionals, policy and decision-makers. It will consist of invited lectures, scientific sessions with oral and poster presentations, and a scientific and cultural excursion.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Tirana and we are sure that this international congress will be a very good opportunity to prove that science and scientists are prepared to face the challenges of our common human future, where soils are a crucial component.

Carmelo Dazzi
President of ESSC

Pandi Zdruli
*Honorary Chairman of the
Organizing Committee*

Fatbardh Sallaku
*Chairman of the Organizing
Committee*

The 2019 ESSC International Congress is hosted by the:



*Agricultural University of Tirana
Albania*

<http://ubt.edu.al/sq/>

Program at a glance

Day		
25 September 2019 Wednesday	afternoon	ESSC Executive and Council meeting Registration Welcome Cocktail at the venue of the Congress
26 September 2019 Thursday	morning	Registration Opening ceremony Invited Lecture Oral and poster session Light lunch
	afternoon	Oral and poster session Social dinner
27 September 2019 Friday	morning	Invited Lecture Oral and poster session Light lunch
	afternoon	Oral and poster session Closing ceremony Election of the new ESSC Council
28 September 2019 Saturday	Full day	Scientific and cultural excursion
29 September 2019 Sunday		Departure

Scientific Sessions

The scientific sessions of the 2019 ESSC International Congress are organized into the following main topics:

1. Management of soil functions and services: monitoring and remediation.
2. Soil conservation issues in organic farming, agro-ecology and conservation agriculture.
3. Sustainable Land Management in a changing environment: examples from best practices.
4. Pedotechniques in large-scale farming and advances in soil survey and soil classification
5. Land Degradation Neutrality and food security.
6. Soil contamination across various scales and remediation practices
7. Soil fertility and plant nutrition
8. Soil carbon sequestration to combat and mitigate climate change
9. From research to policies supporting soil ecosystem services
10. National and international efforts to promote data collection and sharing on soil services

Registration and payments

	Early Registration (Before/On 31 st May 2019)	Regular Registration (Before/On 30 th June 2019)	Late Registration (After 1 st July 2019)	Scientific and cultural excursion
Regular participant	150€	200€	250€	50€
ESSC and Albanian SSS Members*	100€	150€	200€	50€
Students/PhD student**	50€	75€	100€	50€
Accompanying person	25€	25€	25€	50€
Gala Dinner	30€	30€	30€	

* Only for those members up-to-date with the 2019 fee.

** Proof of the student status must be provided by a relevant certificate signed by the tutor and must be sent by email to Prof. Fatbardh Sallaku (sallaku@albmail.com) and in cc to Prof. Pandi Zdruli (pandi@iamb.it) and Prof. Ferdi Brahusi (brahusi@hotmail.com) soon after the registration.

Payment of registration fees:

BANK NAME	RAIFFEISEN BANK SHA
BRANCH	RAIFFEISEN BANK SHA, RRUGA E KAVAJES
BENEFICIARY	ISTNJ Universiteti Bujqesor Tirane
BENEFICIARY ADDRESS	Rruga "PAISI VODICA", Koder – Kamez, Tirane
ACCOUNT NUMBER (EURO)	0040313128
IBAN (EURO)	AL51202110750000000040313128
SWIFT CODE (International)	SGSBALTX
Description:	Please describe the Fee is paid for the 9 th Congress <i>ESSC International Congress</i> and write your name and surname

The registration fee includes:

- Welcome Cocktail at the venue on Wednesday 25 September 2019.
- Access to the opening and closing ceremony.
- Admission to all scientific sessions.
- Congress materials (Congress bag, Name badge, Printed Programme)
- USB flash drive of Abstracts
- Coffee breaks and self-service lunches at the Congress venue.
- A Certificate of Attendance.

Accompanying persons:

- Welcome Cocktail at the venue on Wednesday 25 September 2019.

The registration fee does not cover hotel accommodation in Tirana.

Registration fee cancellation policy:

- Cancellation before 30 June 2019: 80% of paid sum will be refunded.
- Cancellation between 30 June to 31 July 2019: 50% of paid sum will be refunded.
- After 31 July 2019: cancellation of participation will not be refunded.
- All refunds will be made within two weeks after the completion of the Congress.

Deadlines:

14 January 2019	Registration	Start of online registration
1 February 2019	Abstract submission	Start of abstract submission
31 May 2019	Abstract submission	Deadline of abstract submission
20 June 2019	Abstract submission	Confirmation of acceptance and inclusion of abstracts in the scientific programme of the Congress
30 June 2019	Registration fees	Deadline for regular registration fee payment
30 June 2019	Registration fees	Deadline for cancellation of participation with 80% refund of the registration fee pays (except bank charges)
31 July 2019	Registration fees	Deadline for cancellation of participation with 50% refund of the registration fee pays (except bank charges)
31 July 2019	Registration fees	After this date, cancellation of participation will not be refunded

Local Organizing Committee

Fatbardh Sallaku (Chairman of the Organising Committee)

E-mail: sallaku@albmail.com

Tel: ++355 684096180

Pandi Zdruli (Honorary Chairman)

Seit Shallari

Sulejman Sulce

Illir Kristo

Besnik Gjonecaj

Aida Bani

Fran Gjoka

Congress Secretariat

Ferdi Brahusi (brahusi@hotmail.com)

Erdona Docaj

Romina Kote

Fatos Huqi

Klodian Rama

Adri Erebara

A quick look at Albania



The Republic of Albania is located in South Eastern Europe bordered by Montenegro, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, Greece and Italy. It is a small country with less than 3 million inhabitants, despite a large number of Albanians live abroad. The total surface area is 28,748 km², out of which only 16.2% is less than 100 m above sea level while arable land covers about 28 % of the territory. The overall length of the border line is 1,094 km, of which 657 km is land and the rest 316 km are on the sea side. Climate is typical Mediterranean in the Western coastal plains but it changes towards the east throughout the territory from North (Albanian Alps) to the South.

The capital city of Tirana is the heart of the economic, political and social life of the country. It is served by the Mother Teresa (famous Albanian origin nun) airport or by the ports of Durrës and Vlorë. Durrës is only 44 km far from Tirana and is connected by ferries with the ports of Bari and Ancona in Italy. Albania has changed drastically after the political changes of the 90s ending a 50-years period of self-isolation and is now on the path towards EU membership.



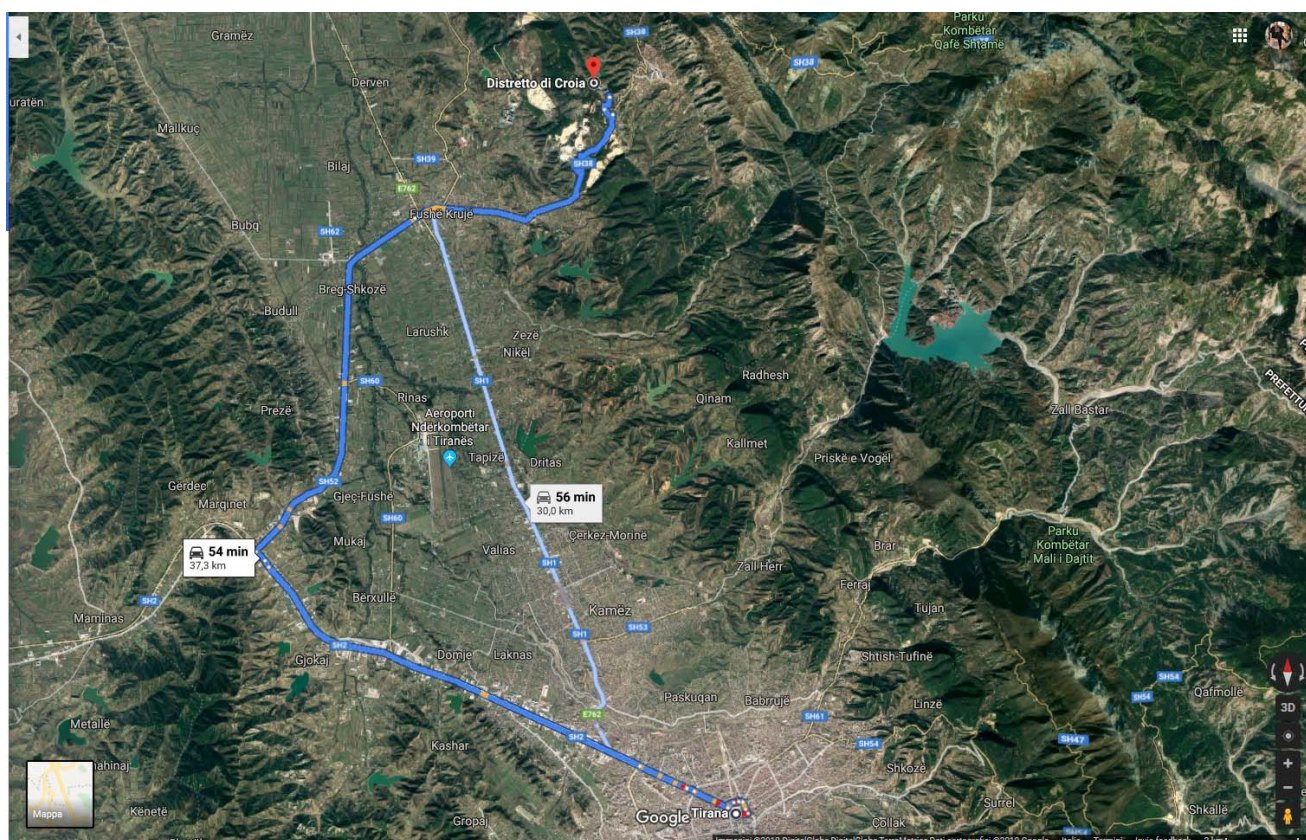
Description of the field scientific and cultural visit 28 September 2019

Departure from Tirana at 09:00 from Doro City Hotel (Rruga Muhamet Gjollësia Md.38 H.1.)

The technical excursion will start with a short visit at the Agriculture Technology Transfer Centre (QTTB) located in Fushe Kruje, about 10 km north of Tirana. The Centre was established in 2006 following the Scientific Research Institutional reform and is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Its objectives are focused on generation, adaptation and transfer of agriculture technologies in the function of technical and technological progress enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of agricultural and livestock production, sustainable development and environmental production. The Centre builds upon the experience of various research institutions that were grouped together, among them the Soil Science Institute that was established in 1971. The Centre is equipped with a laboratory that conducts soil, water and plant analyses and serves also as Extension Service for farmers.

The first part of the field trip visit is devoted to the observation and discussion on a benchmark soil profile in Fushe Kruje. Problems linked to soil management and conservation in one of the most crop production areas of Albania will be also illustrated and discussed, stressing the differences between the “old” and “new” Albania’s agricultural systems.

In the second part we will visit the town of Kruja that is close also to Mother Teresa Tirana International Airport in case some participants would like to depart on the same day home.



Kruja

Over the last years Albania has become an attractive tourist destination after many years of isolation that ended in the beginning of the 90s after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the changes in Eastern Europe. Some 4.3 million tourists visited the country in 2018 and the government's goal is to reach at 10 million in the next few years. Albania has much to offer from its sandy and rocky beaches to high mountains and rolling hills. Furthermore, the tourism industry is supported by the delicious food of Albanian cuisine that offer a mix of Ottoman and Westerns style.



If you're visiting Albania it is worthy to know that 2018 was the Nationwide Year of Skanderbeg. Albanian institutions and citizens all over the country observed the 550th death anniversary of National Hero Gjergj Kastrioti Skenderbeu. The name and life of the most prominent personality in the Albanian history are strongly connected to the city of Kruja, a must visit destination in Albania, located about 37 km away from the capital city, Kruja lies on the lower rugged slopes of a mountain named after the city.

After the field visit at the benchmark soil profile in Fushe Kruje, participants will follow the itinerary towards Kruja. With the exception of a few road sections near Fushe-Kruja that need improvements, the road is mostly fine. It meanders through olive groves in the beginning and into a pine forest as the bus climbs the hilly terrain. The city is quite vertical, not to be confused with the modern architectural trends, but small enough to explore on foot. It shares some common traits with the southern coastal villages in the Ionian Riviera, but the sudden cold gust of winds even in summer days remind you that the south is far away.

Now you're here, what to do? Do what Albanians do, find a coffee with a view and enjoy the view over the terracotta roofs to the Adriatic Sea, a trophy that can be earned as soon as you order a nice espresso, a Turkish coffee, or any type of raki (the Albanian name of grappa) that the house has.

The Old Bazaar

The next place to go is the Bazaar of Kruja or Pazari i Derexhikut for Kruja people. The local people and Albanians take pride in the old Bazaar of wooden shops, one of the best preserved in the entire region. Along with the castle, it is the main source of income and economic growth for local people.



Here you can find souvenirs that vary from handmade rugs, jewelry, traditional clothing, old tools, and items. The cobblestone street of the bazaar is often full of tourists and this explains why almost all the shopkeepers, young and old speak English and Italian. If you like something, don't hesitate to negotiate the price and to make sure that it is a local handmade product. Be careful as there are a lot of products arriving from China and Turkey that are sold in the market, a phenomenon that is affecting local artisans. The counterfeit copies of Skenderbeu's statue, traditional clothes, and qeleshe (the Albanian wool hat) are cheaper and easy to produce, compared to handmade rugs and other products that need weeks of work. The artisans of Kruja are worried that their crafts and skills are dying out because younger generations have other interests or want to leave Albania.

The Castle of Kruja

The cobblestone street takes up to the Castle of the city. Advice: Wear comfortable and nonslip shoes. The castle was a stronghold and the heart of resistance and a major obstacle to the expansion of the Ottoman Empire in Western Europe. The castle resisted three sieges and it finally fell in 1478, ten years after the death of Gjergj Kastrioti, followed by the first wave of Albanian immigration towards Italy between XV and XVIII Centuries. Many of them known as Arberesh (the old name of Albania was Arberia) were located in Calabria and Sicily (Piana degli Albanesi).



The castle has an elliptic shape and it is found on a rugged hilly terrain and it covers an area of 2.5 hectares. Due to the presence of a water spring within its walls, the castle never suffered from the lack of water supply. Nowadays, visitors to the castle can explore the Skanderbeg's and the Ethnographic Museums. The ticket for entering the each of the museums is Lek 200 (or about 1.5 EUR). Tourists can see a copy of the helmet and the sword of Scanderbeg in the

main hall, the flags, and stems of important families of that time who supported the national hero.

In the meantime, the National Ethnographic Museum is located in an old building of the Toptani family, built in 1764 in the courtyard of the medieval castle, in front of the National Museum of Scanderbeg. The walls of the museum have 250 years original murals, ceilings carved in wood, very rare furnishings, old style rugs and traditional costumes. Inside the house is a steamy Turkish bath, one of the only left in Albania. The museum has also 1,200 original objects, which are a living proof of old Albanians' lifestyle and traditions, mostly in XVIII-XIX centuries. In the premises of the castle, there are the ruins of buildings from different periods and a few restaurants.

What to eat?

When you start to get hungry the best thing to do is to go where locals eat. Don't look for international cuisine. Instead, try local dishes and specialties. Kruja is not the place to eat pizza or spaghetti. Lunch will be offered at a local restaurant inside the castle.

Return in Tirana at about 19:00

Accommodation

Tirana has numerous 3 to 5 stars hotels. Booking.com and many other web sites offer detailed information on hotels and rates. Please visit also: <http://www.visit-tirana.com/>

Congress address:

Web: www.9ESSC.UTB.EDU.AL

International Scientific Committee

Wim Cornelis, Belgium; Edoardo Costantini, Italy; Carmelo Dazzi, Italy; Mihail Dumitru, Romania; Michael Fullen, UK; Donald Gabriels, Belgium; Raimonds Kasparinskis, Latvia; Ádám Kertész, Hungary; Lillian Øygarden, Norway; Saulius Marcinkonis, Lithuania; Mark Nearing, USA; Ildefonso Pla Sentis, Spain; Endla Reintam, Estonia; José Luis Rubio, Spain; Li Rui, China; Fatbardh Sallaku, Albania, Thomas Scholten, Germany; Peter Strauss, Austria; Pandi Zdruli, Albania.

Sponsored by:



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and Water Conservation*



*International Soil
Conservation Organization*



Global Soil Partnership



*World Agricultural
Heritage Foundation*



Università degli Studi di Palermo



Eurosoil 2020



European Commission

How to Submit an Abstract

Abstracts must be submitted by email to:

carmelo.dazzi@unipa.it; and pandi@iamb.it; and edoardo.costantini@crea.gov.it;

Please, indicate in the email subject: ESSC congress

Each submission will be peer-reviewed by the Scientific Committee.

Important Elements

1. Title (Calibri 14, bold):

Abstract title should be concise and should be entered in title case format. In general, you should capitalize the first letter of each word unless it is a preposition or article. Titles should be bold.

2. Authors (Calibri 12):

Enter first (given) name, and last (family/surname) name for each author plus institution/affiliation. Please do not list the department/branch in the institution/affiliation field. One person must be identified as the presenting author.

3. Abstract Text (Calibri 12):

All abstracts should be 350 words or less. Tables are permitted but should be simple and concise. Graphics/images are not recommended unless they are integral to the abstract and should be limited to no more than one or two.

4. Content of the Abstract:

Title, authors and authors' affiliations are not included in the 350 word limit. The abstract must contain a brief statement of:

- a. The objectives of the investigation;
- b. Experimental methods used;
- c. Essential results;
- d. Conclusions.

5. Keywords:

All abstract submissions may present up to five keywords. Two keywords are required.

6. Scientific session & presentation:

Indicate the number of the scientific session & if oral/poster presentation.