LibreOffice Conference 2023 – Survival Guide (v2 – 16 September)

Quick info

- **Conference location**: [Universitatea Naţională de Ştiinţă şi Tehnologie Politehnica Bucureşti – Facultatea de Automatică şi Calculatoare – PRECIS](#) (Bulevardul Iuliu Maniu 6d, Bucureşti 061344)
- **Community session**: Wednesday at 14:00, Room 2 (lunch available from 13:00) – details further in this guide
- **Community dinner**: Thursday at 19:30 – details at the end of this guide

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Details: transport, conference location and changing money

1. **Airport – Bucharest Henri Coandă International Airport**
   a) **Baggage claim zone exit.** Once you arrive at airport and claim your baggage you will exit the baggage claim zone on one of the two main levels of the airport depending on the baggage belt. See below.

   b) If you need **cash** - On the first floor there are some ATMs from which you can extract cash in EURO or local currency LEI/RON. See below.

c) Exchange – at airport the exchange offices can be found on the ground floor and they accept card payment.

1. **Exchange rates –**
   1. 1 euro ~ 5 LEI/RON
   2. 1 USD ~ 4.5 LEI/RON
   3. The official exchange rate can be found on the National Bank of Romania website: https://www.bnro.ro/Exchange-rates-1224.aspx . Of course this exchange rate differs at commercial banks and at exchange offices.
2. The exchange rate is disadvantageous at the airport. I recommend you to exchange in the city unless you want to exchange a small sum.

d) Rent a car – For those who want to rent a car there are some offices on the ground floor at the airport right next to exchange offices. I don't know if the price is reasonable.

2. **Reaching the city/hotel from the airport –** this depends on the hotel that you booked. I'll use as example ibis Bucharest Politehnica

   a) By train/subway – you have to take the train from the airport to the North Railway Station (Gara de Nord) and then take the subway and get off at Grozăveşti station.

   1. **Train**
      1. For the railway station at the airport follow the below sign.
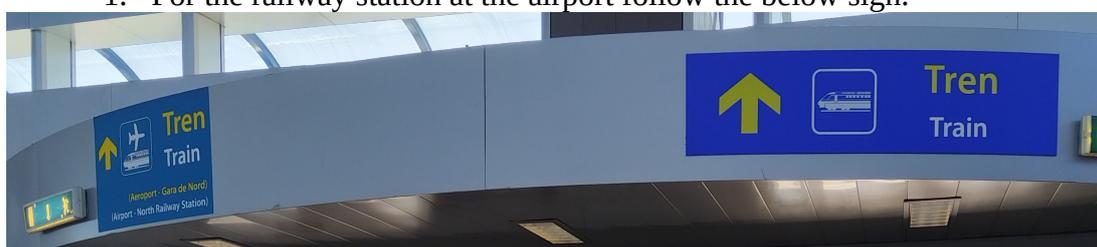
2. The railway station is in front of the airport building at ~100-200 meters. You'll recognize it by its shape of a semi-cylinder made of glass. See below.
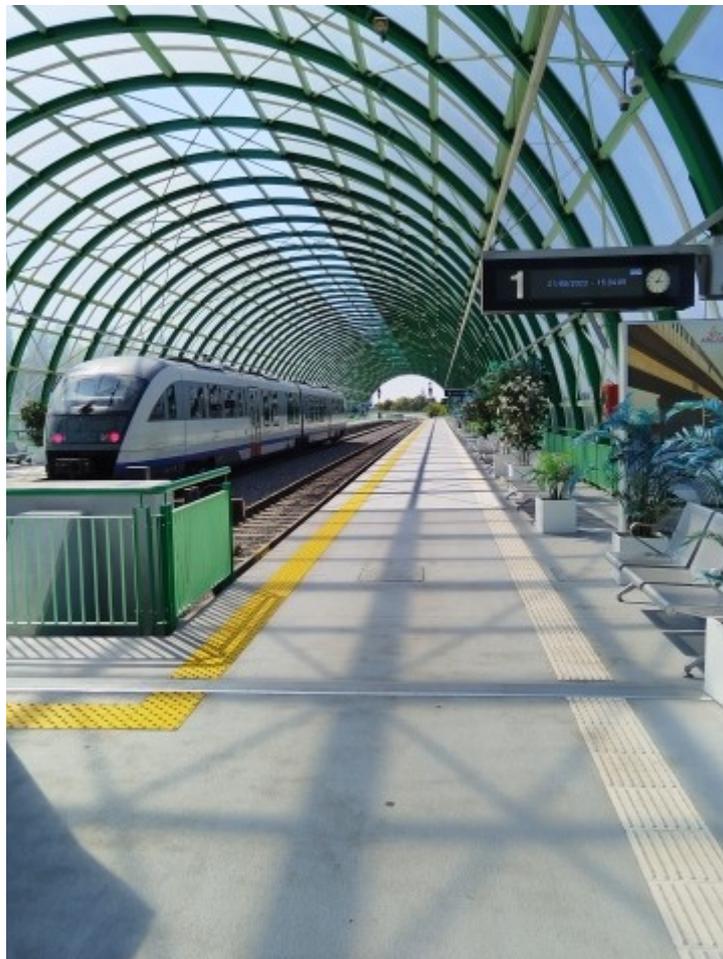
3. You can find the schedule here: https://bilete.cfrcalatori.ro/en-GB/Itineraries .
   Fill the necessary fields as follows:
   1. **From**: Aeroport Henri Coandă
   2. **To**: Bucureşti Nord
   3. **Departure date**: [your departure date].
   4. Press "**Search**"
4. The trip duration is ~25 minutes.
5. **Tickets**. A tickets costs 5 LEI/RON (~1 euro) or 6 LEI/RON (~1.2 euro). See below. **Beware that you'll be checked for the ticket by a controller during the trip.**
   1. Online (https://bilete.cfrcalatori.ro/en-GB/Itineraries): you have a "Buy" button for each entry in the schedules list. See below. Unfortunately you have to login/register in order to buy tickets online. I recommend the alternatives below.
   2. You can buy at the airport's railway station from the tickets office. See below.
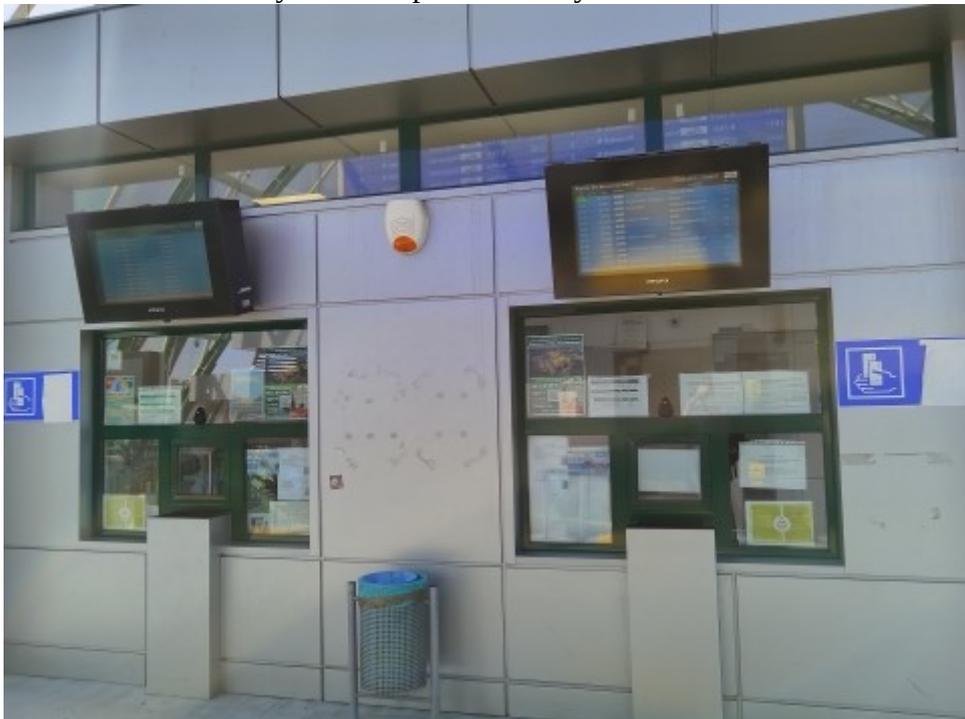
3. If you're in a hurry you can take the train and buy the ticket during the trip using your bank card from the below device. The tickets will cost 6 LEI/RON (~1.2 euro). You won't get a receipt. If you want multiple tickets with the same card use "+" button on the device's display. If the controller requests your ticket you have to use your bank card to check your payment on controller's device.
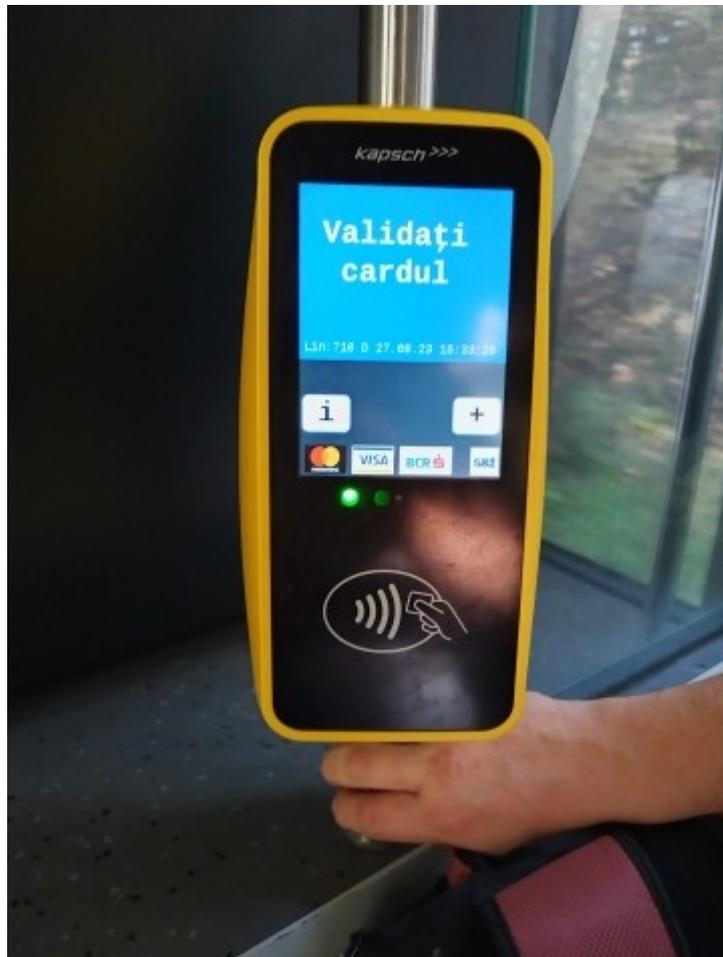
2. **Subway –** Use the M1 (yellow) subway line. Take the subway from "Gara de Nord 1" station to "Grozăvești" station.
   1. Once you step out of the train you have to follow the below sign.

    2. In general you have to take to the left and at the end you'll see the entrance into the subway station "Gara de Nord".

b) By BUS 783 – This will take you from the airport to the city center. And then you'll have to change the bus line or take the subway or taxi/uber/bolt to reach the hotel. It gives you an opportunity to see the city.

    1. BUS
        1. During the day
            1. Step down at "Piața 21 Decembrie 1989" bus station
            2. Take the 201 bus from "Universitate" bus station and step down at "Complex Regie". The hotel is just across the river.
        2. During the night
            1. Step down at "Piața Unirii 1" bus station.
            2. Take the bus N110 from "Piața Unirii" and step down at "Complex Regie" bus station. The hotel is just across the river.

    2. Subway – I recommend you to step down at "Piața Unirii 1" bus station. Use the M1 subway line and take the subway from "Piața Unirii" and step down at "Grozăvești"

    3. Taxi/Uber/Bolt
        1. Uber/Bolt applications are available in Bucharest. They display the price for the trip on your phone, the driver has no saying about the price. Depending on the rush-hour a trip from the airport to the city can cost around 120 Lei/RON (~24 Euro)
        2. Taxi
            1. You can order authorised taxis from touchscreen terminals, you will get a receipt with the order number, the car number and the tariff per km. The taxy will arive around the terminal exit doors.
            2. At the airport there are also "preordered" authorised taxis. You find them at the terminal exit doors. The tariff is 2,29 - 3,50 lei/km.

3. Payments – In principle card payment can be used almost everywhere. But if you want to be on the safe side you can exchange a small amount of cash, just in case.

1. Paying at restaurants – You can pay cash or with the bank card. The same with the tips, can be payed with card/cash. Also, you can ask for the tip to be included in the bill if you wish, but is not mandatory.

4. **The conference venue – <u>Universitatea Naţională de Ştiinţă şi Tehnologie Politehnica Bucureşti – Facultatea de Automatică şi Calculatoare – PRECIS</u>** (click the link to open a map – full address is Bulevardul Iuliu Maniu 6d, Bucureşti 061344)

  a) **Naming** - They recently changed their name from "Universitatea POLITEHNICA din Bucureşti" to "Universitatea Naţională de Ştiinţă şi Tehnologie Politehnica Bucureşti"
  b) **Reaching the venue**
      1. Subway
          1. Use the M3 line and step down at "<u>Politehnica</u>" station. This is the best option.
          2. Use the M1 line and step down at "<u>Grozăveşti</u>" station. This is pretty far from the venue but it could be an option.
          3. Use the M1 line and step down at "<u>Petrache Poenaru</u>". This is pretty far from the venue but it could be an option.
      2. Bus
          1. <u>Universitatea Politehnica</u> – bus station. This is right in front of the venue.
          2. <u>Bd. iuliu Maniu</u> – tram station - this is close to the subway station <u>Politehnica</u>
          3. <u>Bd. Iuliu Maniu</u> – bus station - this is close to the subway station <u>Politehnica</u>.
      3. Taxi/Uber/Bolt
          1. Ask the taxi driver for the following address: Bulevardul Iuliu Maniu 6d - Politehnica/Automatica/PRECIS
          2. Politehnica, entrance from Iuliu Maniu

5. **The main means of transportation in Bucharest**
    a) **Subway –** this is the recommended way of transportation in Bucharest due to the congested traffic on the surface.
        1. Map - <u>http://www.metrorex.ro/Resurse/Harta/HartaMtx%202022.png</u>
            1. You can find maps inside subway trains.
        2. **Signs** – follow the below sign to identify the entrance into subway stations. Usually there are two entrances.

3. **Tickets -** There are multiple ways of paying the trips with the subway.

1. You can pay directly with your bank card at the entrance. In general a trip costs 3 LEI/RON (~0.6 euro). You won't get a receipt. If you want multiple tickets with the same card use "+" button on the device's display. Use "I" button for information.

2. You can buy from the vending machines or from the ticket office. You can find the options here: http://www.metrorex.ro/travel_tickets_p1382-2 . I recommend four types of tickets, depending on your needs:
    1. **1 trip** – costs 3 LEI/RON(0.6 euro) – this is not a physical ticket. You can only pay it at entrance.
    2. **2 trips** - costs 6 LEI/RON (1.2 euro)
    3. **10 trips** – costs 25 LEI/RON (5 euro)
    4. **Weekly pass** - costs 30 LEI/RON (6 euro). This allows you to travel unlimited number of times during one week starting with the moment the ticket was bought. **Beware that once you use it for entering a station, there is a 15 minutes timing until you can use it again.**
3. **Vending machines** - you can by tickets using card payment or cash.

b) **Bus/Tram –** use this transportation mean if you don't have an easy access to the destination by subway.
1. **List of bus/tram number -** https://www.stbsa.ro/eng/index and their routes. **Beware that there are different bus numbers and routes during the night. They start with an "N".**
2. **Schedule –** In principal during the day the schedule is between 04:30 AM and 10:30 PM and during the night between 10:30 and 04:30 AM. You can access the schedule for any bus line here: https://info.stbsa.ro/traseu/ . Just type the bus line number in the search box and press enter. The itinerary will be displayed on the map and on the left side you'll see the list of stations, first in one direction and then in the opposite direction. By expanding a station you'll see the approximate schedule of bus arrival at that station.
3. **Tickets and payments methods -** please visit this page: https://www.stbsa.ro/eng/index and choose "Payments" menu option.
4. **You can plan your route by using:**
   1. the usual map (e.g. Google maps)
   2. The application from the offical website of the transport company (STB) https://info.stbsa.ro/ Unfortunately is available only in Romanian.

c) **Taxi/Uber/Bolt**
1. **Uber/Bolt** applications are available in Bucharest and they are recommended over yellow taxies. They display the price for the trip on your phone, the driver has no saying about the price and it's a very good service. You can choose between the 2 apps as you wish. Sometimes they have good deals and you can check which one of the 2 apps has the better price. Invoice can be downloaded from the apps easily.
2. Bolt has integrated Bolt Food service where you can easily order take-out food.
3. Bolt also has "Women for women" service.
4. **Taxi –** most of the taxies require cash (RON) and you can grab them from the streat. Please ask the driver to start the taxationmeter. In case they don't do it, please ask them to get out of the taxi cause they would probably want to bargain the price at the end of the trip. Safe taxies are: Cobalcescu, Leone, Cristaxi, Meridian, taxi 2000.

Community session

For those who registered for community session: it will take place on Wednesday at the venue (room 106) starting with 2PM. Also, the lunch will be available for all participants starting with 1PM.

The community session is a gathering especially for community members but anyone interested in meeting them and learn about community can join.

This is the agenda of the community session:

- Liaisons introduction, present what they have done, their needs
- Weblate improvements
- presentation of TDF, different bodies, its role...
- feedback from audience

- share plans and ideas, find out if help is needed
- encourage communities to build social media activity in their languages

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EVENTS

a) **Dinner –** will take place on Thursday evening, 21st September, at **Hanul lui Manuc** restaurant, starting with 19:30. Just use the metro: from Grozăveşti or Politehnica to Piaţa Unirii 1

b) Hackfest will take place on Friday evening, 22nd September, at La Măria şi Ion restaurant, in the middle of student dorms! This is just across the the Dambovița river and you can reach it from the venue by walking. For those who'll need transportation just use the metro and step down at Grozăveşti station.