



Transilvania
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of Brasov

NEWSLETTER

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OPENING OF THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

On 3 October 2022, during the opening of a new academic year, the teaching personnel, students, guests of honour, representatives of local and county authorities, and partners from the socio-economic and cultural environment received greetings of "Welcome!" in "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov, in the sound of the academic anthem *Gaudeamus igitur*.



The greetings for a new beginning were received, first of all, by the 5,806 students in the first year of the bachelor's cycle (of whom 4,683 in full-time study programmes), 1,613 master's students and 120 doctoral students in the first study year. Along with them, another 164 foreign students from 61 countries of the world, besides those from the Republic of Moldova, accepted to bachelor's, master's or doctorate study programmes, or to the Romanian language preparatory year, will step on a new path of personal and professional development.

The opening of the 2022-2023 academic year was a good opportunity for the Braşov higher education institution - the largest university in the centre of the country - to present to everyone present the milestones that led to its development as we know it today; with 18 faculties (9 with a technical profile and 9 with a non-technical profile), where over 20,000 students from all the counties of our country and more than 80 countries all over the world, within 100 bachelor's study programmes, 78 master's study programmes and 19 doctoral fields study.

In the introductory speech, Prof. dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, Rector of Transilvania University of Braşov,

emphasized the university's role and responsibility in relation to ensuring the quality of academic processes, stating that: "We are starting this academic year under normal conditions, a normality that our university has adopted since the previous academic year, despite the special conditions caused by the epidemiological situation".

Moreover, the Rector emphasized the support offered to the academic teaching personnel and researchers in the development of the scientific research activities, and the constant support given to students with high performances, stating that "we will promote an intelligent policy of attracting valuable human resources, both from the country and abroad, through the scholarship programmes that the university offers for doctoral students, young researchers and experienced specialists".

Mihai-Cătălin Văsii, Prefect of Braşov County, Adrian-Ioan Veşteea, President of Braşov County Council, Flavia Boghiu, Deputy Mayor of Braşov then addressed short speeches to the audience, emphasizing that the university can and must have an important role not only in promoting knowledge, but also in ensuring progress and freedom in the society of which it is a part.



The celebration ended with a musical moment appreciated by the audience, a preview of the opening of the university's 2022-2023 concert season, a violin-piano duo performed by Valentin Şerban (violin), a graduate of the Transilvania University in Braşov and Valentin Mureşan (piano), a doctoral student at the same academic institution.

Prof. dr. MD. Liliana ROGOZEA,
Vice-Rector for Public Relations
Assoc. Prof. dr. Victor BRICIU,
Office of Marketing and Image
Photo credit: AP Studio

TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV WILL RECEIVE AROUND 7 MILLION EUROS, THROUGH PNRR, FOR THE DIGITALIZATION OF THE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PROCESSES



The project “Digital Transformation for Innovation & Competitiveness” (code 1251096851) submitted by Transilvania University of Brașov within the PNRR competition “Grants for the digitalization of universities” has been approved for funding by the Ministry of Education. The project budget is 34,753,711 RON, of which the PNRR non-refundable amount is 29,204,799 lei and 5,548,912 RON VAT.

The objective of the project is to accelerate the digital transformation of Transilvania University, through investments in education and research infrastructure, through the development of digital skills and the improvement of IT services dedicated to students. Digital systems and equipment will be purchased that will stimulate the application of innovative teaching-learning methods and will contribute to the development of competitiveness in the research activity. Among the equipment to be purchased are: virtual reality systems, 3D scanners and printers, digital detection and analysis devices, integrated measurement, characterization and data processing systems, medical simulation equipment, an integrated line for the development of sensors and nanosensors with applications in medicine, environment and agriculture, as well as software packages. Moreover, training courses will be organized for the effective use of digital

technologies and the implementation of the principles of digital education. The project’s activities will contribute to the implementation of the University’s Digital Transformation Strategy for the period 2022–2032.

All students in the bachelor’s, master’s, doctorate cycles, as well as the teaching personnel of UNITBV will have access to the digital infrastructure developed through the project.

The project has a duration of three years, and its period of implementation is October 2022 - December 2025. It has been financed within the call Grants for the digitalization of universities, Component 15 - Education, of Romania’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR: Funds for modern and reformed Romania), Reform 5: Adoption of the legislative framework for the digitalization of education, Investment 16: Digitalization of universities and their preparation for the digital professions of the future.

Currently, more than 20,000 students are studying at Transilvania University of Brașov, in all study cycles, and there are more than 1,000 teaching personnel, in all 18 faculties.

The content of this material does not necessarily represent the official position of the European Union or of the Romanian Government.

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Mirela CORNEA
Office of Communication

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OPENING OF THE CONCERT SEASON: VALENTIN ȘERBAN AND DRAGOȘ DIMITRIU IN RECITAL

3 October 2022 marked the beginning of a new journey on the path of artistic excellence – a journey that the Music Centre of Transilvania University undertakes with dedication every year, upon the opening of a new Concert Season.



The audience in the concert hall and in the online environment was offered the opportunity to see and listen to the violinist Valentin Șerban and the pianist Dragoș Dimitriu, two outstanding musical personalities in the Romanian artistic environment, in an exceptional chamber recital that covered an itinerary as selective as possible among the most representative works for violin and piano.

Valentin Șerban is the winner of the Grand Prize of *George Enescu International Competition*, 2020/2021 edition, and of other reference international competitions. In addition to a rich solo activity, he is also a member of the *Les Dissonances* orchestra (Paris) and a guest concertmaster of the Romanian Youth Orchestra. Dragoș Dimitriu has collected in his portfolio, over time, no less than 25 first prizes won at international competitions, as a solo pianist or in chamber ensembles. He conducts an intense activity as a cultural-artistic ambassador, especially in favour of the talented young musicians everywhere, as Director of the Brașov Philharmonic and co-founder of the TAMTAM Festival.

The audience could meet this valuable duo and, implicitly, a perfect artistic moment in all aspects of top-notch artistic performance.

The entire recital was outlined in an abundant range of musical and affective colours, which only the master of complete instrumental technique can

build in such an articulate and natural manner. Authenticity is perhaps the most appropriate word to describe the spirit of the recital given on 3 October.



In our case, the authenticity sprang from the entire set of factors that give value to an artistic moment, from the mastery of the homogenization of a chamber ensemble (heterogeneous through the construction of the instruments) to the intended affect of the performers, in perfect agreement with the intentions of the score itself – a desideratum achievable only on the basis of a wide range of technical-interpretive availability.



Thus, the event held on the stage of “Sergiu T. Chiriacescu” Conference Centre was as concise a statement as possible of the ideal that the Music Centre mainly promotes, namely the integration of the local and academic community among the great European cultural centres.

Magdalena LAZĂR, doctoral student
Music Centre of Transilvania University

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A NEW WORLD CHAMPION AT THE FACULTY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND MOUNTAIN SPORTS

The month of October is the month of Raul Săpătaru, a student at the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports within Transilvania University of Braşov. Raul has recently won important titles in the fitness sport discipline, a sport he has been practicing since 2018.



The most important title is the one obtained in Lithuania, in Vilnius: World Champion in the "Male Fit Model", category. He is a part of the Romanian national team.

Raul Săpătaru is a second-year student in the Physical Education and Sport undergraduate study programme.



Apart from sports and student activities, Raul Săpătaru has employment contracts, being a model and participating in national and international representations (Kuwait, Kenya, Hungary, etc.).



A few of his significant sporting achievements include:

- 1st place, National Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship, Sibiu, 2019, Men's Physique Juniors;
- 1st place, National Bodybuilding and Fitness Championship, Sibiu, 2022, Men's Physique Seniors;
- 1st place, Fit Model World Championship, Vilnius (LTU), 2022, Male Fit Model;
- 1st place, Romanian Cup for Bodybuilding and Fitness, Dej, 2022, Fit Pairs;
- 1st place, University Cup for Bodybuilding and Fitness, Dej, 2022, Men's Physique.

We stand for performance!

Assoc. Prof. dr. Ioan TURCU, Dean
Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

UNITBV CLIMBS IN THE 2022 UNIVERSITY RANKING



In the latest University Metaranking ranking, for 2022, published under the auspices of *Qualitas* Centre within Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, by a team of internal and external experts, Transilvania University of Braşov is ranked 5th, climbing up one position compared to the previous edition of the National Metaranking, proposed by the Ministry of Education.

Tabelul 1. Metarankingul Universtar-2022 (incluzând rankingurile incluse în ediția inițială: ARWU, CWUR, CWTS, NTU, QS, SCIMAGO, THE-Times, URAP, US News).

Nr.	Universitatea	Punctaj cvintile	Pozitie
1.	Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai din Cluj-Napoca	20	1
2.	Universitatea din Bucureşti	16	2
3.	Universitatea Politehnica Bucureşti	15	3
4.	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie Iuliu Haieganu Cluj-Napoca	14	4
5.	Universitatea de Medicină și Farmacie Carol Davila Bucureşti	13	5
6.	Universitatea Transilvania din Braşov	13	5

Babeş Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, the University of Bucharest and the Polytechnic

University of Bucharest are on the first three positions.

The 2022 University Metaranking was made by a team of authors including professors from the following academic institutions: Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Transilvania University of Braşov, the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, the West University of Timișoara and University of Bucharest.

The 2022 University Metaranking was made on the basis of nine international global ranking where Romanian universities are also present: Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU); CWUR World University Rankings; CWTS Leiden Ranking; NTU Ranking - National Taiwan University Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities; QS World University Rankings; SClmago Institutions Ranking; THE World University Rankings; URAP University Ranking by Academic Performance and US News Best Global Universities Rankings.

Synthesis made by Victor BRICIU,
Office of Marketing and Image

Source: www.unitbv.ro/stiri-si-evenimente

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THE NINTH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “ADVANCED COMPOSITE MATERIALS ENGINEERING” (COMAT) 2022

Between 17 and 18 October 2022, the 9th edition of the international conference “Advanced Composite Materials Engineering” (COMAT) 2022 took place under the organization of the Department of Mechanical Engineering - Faculty of Mechanical Engineering within Transilvania University of Braşov.

The event, organized once every two years, is dedicated to the specialists in fields related to mechanical engineering, addressing topics oriented towards the use of innovative materials in mechanical engineering.



During the opening ceremony, the floor was taken by the organizers of the event, namely Prof. dr. Eng. Maria Luminiţa Scutaru, Director of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Călin Roşca, Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering.

Specialists and professors from technical universities stood out among the conference participants, both from our country (the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Transilvania University of Braşov, the University of Piteşti, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj, Gh. Asachi University of Iaşi, etc.) and from abroad (Tehcnical Science Academy - Germany, University of Miskolc, University of Applied Science - Germany, University of Birmingham-United Kingdom).

During this edition hosted by “Sergiu T. Chiriacescu” International Conference Centre, we were honoured by the presence of Prof. dr. Eng. Andreas Öchsner, Esslingen University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Germany (Lightweight Design/ Structural Simulation; Prof. dr. Eng. Hom N. Dhakal, FHEA, FIET, FIMMM, School of Mechanical and Design Engineering, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom

(“Investigation on the long-term durability of biobased composites for advanced applications mechanics”). Like the previous editions of the conference, the 9th International Conference on Advanced Composite Materials Engineering (COMAT) 2022 offered participants the opportunity to share the results obtained from the research undertaken, to participate in numerous interesting debates, but also to stimulate international collaborations among specialists, academics and researchers in the field of research-development.

For the first time, in this session, second- and fourth-year students at the study programme of Mechanical Engineering helped in the organization.

A selection of the best papers will be published in a special volume indexed in the SCOPUS database.



The 9th International Conference on Advanced Composite Materials Engineering (COMAT) 2022 contributed to the consolidation of existing partnerships but also to the creation of collaboration opportunities with research institutions and educational institutions from the country and abroad.

Prof. dr. Eng. Maria Luminiţa SCUTARU
Director of the IM Department,
Prof. dr. Eng. Ioan Călin ROŞCA, Dean
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SCIENCES AND COMMUNICATION - ACUM 2022, 11TH AND THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ROMANIAN SOCIOLOGISTS SOCIETY



From 27 to 28 October 2022, “Sergiu T. Chiriacescu” Conference Centre hosted the 11th edition of the International Conference on Social Sciences and Communication - ACUM 2022 and the National Conference of the Romanian Sociologists Society (SSR) – events organized by the Faculty of Sociology and Communication within Transilvania University of Braşov and the Romanian Sociologists Society.



ACUM 2022 conference was an open invitation to all interested academic teaching personnel, researchers and students in the country and abroad to contribute to the rise of the level of social sciences by studying unconventional topics, behaviours and processes that deviate from rules, relationships and institutions that (do not) adapt to the new.



The over 100 papers entered into the programme and presented were grouped into 13 major thematic areas, such as: Timescapes of Postmodernity, Digital Transition and Society, People in Emerging Social Network Contexts, Political Behaviour in a Disruptive Social and Political World, Acting and Thinking with Social Categories, Life in Troubled Times: Attitudes and Behaviours under Threat of War and Plague, Organizations and Work in the “New Normal”, Fair Movement on Open Science from Social Sciences Volunteering and Social Responsibility, The Social Bifurcation of Reality. Diverging Vocabularies and Ontologies of Science - Trusting and Distrusting Worldviews, Symbolic Geographies and Identity Landscapes: The Politics of Space During Postsocialism, The World of Illusory Communication and the Medialisation of Illusions, The International Relations in a Transforming World. Ongoing Issues and Global Challenges.



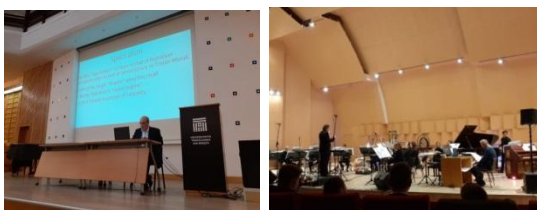
More details on the two events and the programme can be accessed here: <https://acum.unitbv.ro>.

Assoc. Prof. dr. Victor BRICIU,
Office of Marketing and Image

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"IANNIS XENAKIS" INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

The encounter with a prodigious art which does not easily enter the circuit of the easily represented ones, which reveals some assemblages that awaken new formulations in the observer's judgment full of images - was possible this autumn in our city. Organized by UNITBV as a tribute to one of the emblematic thinkers of the radical avant-garde music episteme, Iannis Xenakis (1922-2002) on the centenary of his birth, the first edition of the International Conference on Contemporary Music "From the hyperbolic shell to an unfolding universe. Different registers of alliance between extra-musical conceptual elements: music, mathematics, architecture" focused its attention on cutting-edge musicological research, on the analysis of Xenakis' work.



The festive opening took place on the evening of 20 October 2022 at the Braşov Philharmonic through a concert dedicated to some representative musical works born in the 20th century. In addition to *Rhapsody / op. 11* (1903) by Enescu, the ballet suite *Firebird* (1910) by Stravinski or the *Miraculous Mandarin* (1924) by Bartók, we were able to listen to Xenakis' music piece *Pitoprakta* (1956). Conductor Gheorghe Costin was at the lectern of the orchestra.

The versant of scientific allure, intended to put in a dialectic the ideation, theories and models of analysis circumscribed to the stream of implications of Xenakis' thought made his presence felt the following day, through the words of appreciation of the UNITBV representatives, Prof. Dr. Mădălina Rucsanda, Lect. Dr. Laurenţiu Beldean, initiator of the "Xenakis" event, as well as of some official figures of the Greek Embassy: Minister Plenipotentiary Nikolaus Vlahakis, Consul Dimitrios Karakonstantis – who are his cultural, moral supporters and sponsors. The "surprise" moment of this first day was marked by the online participation of the composer's daughter, Măkhi Xenakis, French plastic artist and writer who, during more than an hour, talked to us about Iannis Xenakis - his human side, about his reception by the ones close to him and

about his relationship with Romania.

In the next two days of scientific presentations, the participants, affiliated to important universities and research centres across Europe (Sorbonne, IRCAM Paris, Toulouse, Montpellier, Vienna, Cologne, Berlin, Rome, London, Salzburg, Brussels, Leeds, Edinburgh, Athens, Toruń, Evora, Bucharest, Cluj, Braşov) entered the "Xenakis" paradigm through different gates, grouping around it ideas of aesthetics and analysis that will be published in a special issue of the Transilvania University Bulletin. Resonant names such as Jean Marc Chouvel, Miha Iliescu, Makis Solomos, Emmanuel Amiot, Christoph von Blumröder, Peter Nelson, Lukas Haselböck, Benoit Gibson, Barbara Dobretsberger, Marios Elia Joannou, Peter Hoffmann, Malgorzata Lisecka, the famous cellist Alfia Nakipbekova, then the group of well-known Romanian researchers: Constantin Rîpă, Adrian Borza, Cătălin Creţu, Fulvia Constantin, Teofil Mihăilescu, made their voices heard in the Aula Magna of "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre.



Iannis Xenakis' reference works: *Mikka S - for solo violin*, *Nomos Alpha - for solo cello*, *Charisma - for clarinet and cello*, *Akanthos - for voice and 9 instrumentalists* were listened to alongside music pieces of other contemporary composers, such as Adrian Borza, Cătălin Creţu and Laurenţiu Beldean. The international conference continued its course on 24 October in Brăila. Here, the scientific guests and the performers had the privilege of seeing the place where Xenakis was born.

Upon a retrospective analysis of the event, we cannot but admit that we succeeded in advancing deeply into the universe of micro-perceptions, that we celebrated the meeting with a set of great ideas put into dialogue, with music that has already become classic and that nowadays fills the concert halls of Europe's truly cultural cities.

Lect. dr. Laurenţiu BELDEAN
Faculty of Music
Fulvia Anca CONSTANTIN

PUPILS AND TEACHERS FROM SPAIN, FRANCE, GREECE, LATVIA AND ROMANIA VISITING THE FACULTY OF FURNITURE DESIGN AND WOOD ENGINEERING

On 18 October 2022, the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering received the visit of a group of pupils and teachers from Spain, France, Greece, Latvia and Romania. The visit was paid within the Erasmus+ project "Forest and Art of the Country". The group of visitors was accompanied by Vanesa Iacob and Bianca Man, teachers at "Johannes Honterus" National College, and by dr. Eng. Mihaela Câmpean, Professor at the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering.



The pupils and teachers visited the Faculty's Exhibition Hall. On this occasion, Prof. dr. Eng. Lidia Gurău presented the study programmes offered by the faculty for the bachelor's degree cycle: *Wood Products Engineering and Design* and *Wood Processing Engineering*, as well as for the master's degree cycle: *Furniture Eco-design and Restoration* and *Furniture Design and Digital Technologies*. During the same presentation, the furniture items made by the students of the faculty and awarded at the editions of the National Furniture Design Competition were also highlighted.

The visit to the Permanent Restoration Exhibition in Hall L gave the group of Erasmus+ pupils and teachers an overview of the diversity of fields developed/ addressed in FDMIL, and of our students' significant concerns and achievements. Through effort and passion, strive and satisfaction, curricular activities and volunteer actions, the field of furniture/ wood conservation-restoration continuously developed, and is a business card of the faculty and university.

Thus, our visitors could see, understand and admire

pieces of furniture, different in type and way of realization and decoration, polychrome wooden objects, traditional wooden objects or even musical instruments, all brought back to life and highlighted through conservation-restoration by our students. polychrome wooden objects, traditional wooden objects or even musical instruments, all brought back to life and enhanced through conservation-restoration by our students. To understand the correct steps followed in a complex conservation-restoration process, as well as the effort, patience and passion with which each step is carried out, the guests were invited to the Restoration Laboratory, where all these aspects were explained and exemplified. This information was presented to the group of visitors by Prof. dr. Chem. Cristina Timar.

In the Wood Anatomy lab, Lect. dr. Eng. Mihaela Porojan and Prof. dr. Eng. Lidia Gurău spoke to the group of visitors about the importance of knowing the structure of wood, both for understanding the properties of wood, and for the technique of treating and processing this material. Assoc. Prof. dr. Emilia Salcă presented to the group of pupils and teachers, in the Wooden Structures for Furniture lab, the types of fixed and demountable joints, frame and panel structures, and mock-ups made by the students. Brief discussions were also held on the specific skills needed by students to participate in lab classes and those acquired after completing the disciplines.

Lect. dr. arch. Biborka Bartha showed the visitors the unique collection of over 30 famous seating objects signed by Mackintosh, Hoffmann, Rietveld or Gehry, the Modern Classics collection being the most important milestone of 20th century design. This collection is in the Auditorium hall.

Always happy to have guests, open to dialogue and collaboration, we hope to see some of the visitors again someday as students or volunteers in conservation-restoration actions.

Lect. dr. Eng. Bogdan BEDELEAN

Prof. dr. chem. Cristina TIMAR

Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering

THE PROJECT *DEVELOPING SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES* (DECIDE) AT THE FINAL CONFERENCE

The DECIDE project ran for four years and the final conference was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from 24 to 26 October 2022.



The EU partners, Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT), Ireland, Technical University of Dresden (TUD), Germany, University of Crete (UOC), Greece, Middlesex University (MDX), UK, and the partners from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, presented the results of the project.

The project promotes and develops the access to inclusive education and social integration, initiating the right of people with special needs to have access to education, to enjoy participation in everyday society and to combat discrimination against them by instilling awareness and acceptance in society.

The main project results include English for Specific Purposes (Special Needs and Disabilities) training for all target groups, DECIDE ECTS training, a full DECIDE curriculum for all institutions, a pilot of eight DECIDE introductory and advanced modules.

The Action Group responsible for Dissemination/ Sustainability and the Access Liaison Officer tool

(assistance to students with special problems in each tertiary organisation) was created. In addition, Support Centres for students with disabilities have been developed in each partner institution.

Transilvania University of Braşov was the coordinator of the project and succeeded in harmonizing different work practices and cultures.



The satisfactions appeared as soon as the project was promoted at a high level; in Kazakhstan students with disabilities benefit from scholarships, in Tajikistan success stories were presented with students who trained in the newly created centres, and in Uzbekistan, applications were created, namely robots that can help students with disabilities.

Prof. dr. Angela REPANOVICI
Project coordinator for DECIDE,
Faculty of Product Design and Environment

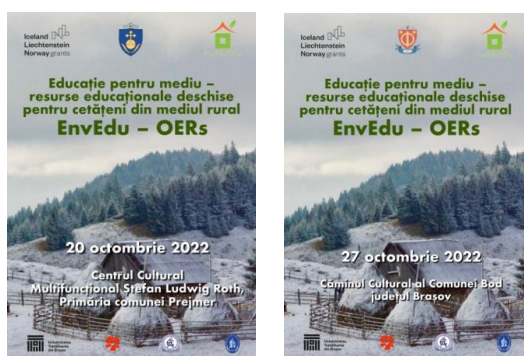
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EDUCATION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR CITIZENS IN THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Transilvania University of Braşov, in partnership with the University of Reykjavík (Iceland), the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest and Gheorghe Asachi Technical University of Iaşi, is running a European project on environmental education in rural communities.

The project entitled *Environmental Education – OERs for Rural Citizens, EnvEdu – OERs* is financed by the EEA Financial Mechanism, Programme for Education, Scholarships, Apprenticeships and Youth Entrepreneurship in Romania, Development of human capital and knowledge base, 2014-2021.

As part of the project, two multiplier events took place with the role of presenting and disseminating it.



The events were hosted by the Town Hall of Prejmer village, on 20 October 2022, at Ştefan Ludwig Roth Multifunctional Cultural Centre, and by the Town Hall of Bod village, on 27 October 2022, at the Cultural Centre. The events addressed both the representatives of rural communities, local councils, local administration, and the members of rural communities.



At the two events, part of the results of this project were presented, the open educational resources (OERs), consisting of video and text materials, organized into six course modules (M):

- M1. Sustainable communities and social communication;
- M2. Environmental quality;
- M3. Environmental management, environmental impact and risk assessment;
- M4. Waste management in rural communities;
- M5. Water resources and the water balance for sustainable communities;
- M6. Management of environmental projects.

The course modules will be available on the e-learning platform of Transilvania University in Braşov, accessible by logging in from the project website (<https://envedu.unitbv.ro/>).



During the events, the presentation of the project and open educational resources took place, being followed by accessing them on the e-learning platform of Transilvania University of Braşov.

Prof. dr. Camelia DRĂGHICI
Project coordinator for EnvEdu-OERs

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MURALS RESTORATION PROJECT AT THE FACULTY OF PRODUCT DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT

At the initiative of the management of Transilvania University of Braşov, 15 students from the undergraduate study programmes Industrial Design and Industrial Design (taught in English) are restoring the mural in the E building.



This activity is carried out as part of the internship programme within the Design Club of the Department of Product Design, Mechatronics and Environment, with the support of the General Administrative Directorate of Transilvania University of Braşov and under the coordination of the teaching personnel of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment.



This project, considered an objective of the Braşov academic institution in the context of the rehabilitation of the other buildings located in Colina Campus, started in early November and is due on January next year, so that the murals made in the 70s will regain their beauty of old times.



The project is among the first activities of the Creativity Centre for students, established this academic year through the grant "UNINOVA - Innovative solutions and resources for cultivating student creativity" (CNFIS-FDI-2022-0391).



The ten large-sized compositions (3x10m) will this time follow another modern chromatic line, evoking the history of technical culture in images, with inserts of Romanian popular culture.



Assoc. Prof. dr. Eng. Mihai COMŞIŢ
Project coordinator

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LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN PROJECT AI4AGRI AT THE FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE



On 19 October 2022, the official launch of the European AI4AGRI project entitled *Romanian*

Excellence Centre on Artificial Intelligence on Earth Observation Data for Agriculture took place.

The event was organized within the Research-Development-Innovation Institute of Transilvania University of Braşov. The AI4AGRI project is a Twinning type project (HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03), being coordinated by Transilvania University of Braşov. The *twinning* exercise is carried out with partners from France and Italy, namely: Paul Sabatier University of Toulouse (together with Jean Jaurès University of Toulouse) and Tor Vergata University of Rome. The project aims to establish the Romanian Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence for the Analysis of Earth Observation Data for Agriculture within the R&D Institute and to train, within this centre, young researchers for a research activity at the international level.



As objectives, the project aims to align the research within the university, especially that within the future centre of excellence, to European standards, both by increasing the scientific production capacity of the team and by collaborating with professors from the top partner universities within the project. Furthermore, the project aims to mould young researchers through training and mentoring activities, summer schools and workshops, but also

to increase the attractiveness and visibility of the university at the national and international level through a series of dissemination, communication and popularization actions.



The meeting on 19 October was attended by members of the project implementation team, as well as by representatives of the partners - Prof. Josiane Mothe from Jean Jaurès University of Toulouse, France, and Prof. Fabio Del Frate from Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy. Cristina Marcone, the project officer who closely follows the implementation of the project, and Prof. Mihai Datcu from Politehnica University of Bucharest and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), Germany, member in the project advisory board, also participated from a distance. The project will last for a period of 36 months (2022-2025) and benefits from funding of approximately 1.4 million euros.



The AI4AGRI project is financed by the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme of the European Union through the financing contract no. 101079136.

Prof. dr. Eng. Mihai IVANOVICI
Project manager AI4AGRI
Vice-dean for the scientific research activity
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer
Science

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VISIT OF THE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE TO THE NAGARRO COMPANY

Between 20 and 21 October 2022, the second-year students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics participated in a workshop organized by the Braşov company NAGARRO. The set of themes was divided into fields of great interest, such as C#, Java programming languages and web programming.



During the two days, approximately 80 students participated with great interest in discovering and learning new things. The students were delighted by the warm atmosphere with which they were greeted. They liked the way of working, the technologies used and the honesty with which the company representatives presented the challenges encountered while working in an IT company. In general, the students were interested in participating in the trainings offered by NAGARRO company, and they will also register for an

internship.



At the end of the presentations there was a session of questions and exchange of ideas. The students were informed about the possibility of carrying out the internship, but also about the prospect of being employed in the IT field, after completing their university studies.

We thank everyone who participated in this event and we wish for an effective collaboration in the future!

Prof. dr. Dorina RĂDUCANU
Lect. dr. Nicoleta ENACHE-DAVID
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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EXHIBITION OF VISUAL SOCIOLOGY, FIFTH EDITION

On the occasion of the opening of the new academic year 2022-2023, the Faculty of Sociology and Communication of Transilvania University in Braşov, with the support of Braşov City Hall, opened the fifth outdoor exhibition of visual sociology, which this year brings together two projects of the students in the study programmes Communication and Public Relations and Community Assistance and Development: "People and Their City" and "Beyond the Fence".



Viewers could identify interviews and images of people from the cities and villages of Romania and the Republic of Moldova. The sociological research projects and the exhibition were coordinated by Professors Ştefan Ungurean and Cristian Bălăcescu.



The exhibition is designed in a double sense, so that in one direction the projects made by the 2nd and 3rd year students in Communication and Public Relations, dedicated to the people in the urban environment – "People and Their City" are displayed; and in the other sense, Braşov residents and tourists can learn the countryside people's life stories, in the "Beyond the Fence" exhibition, made by the 2nd and 3rd year students in Community Assistance and Development.

Along with the Dean of the Faculty of Sociology and

Communication, Prof. Dr. Claudiu Coman, and the Vice-dean Assoc. Prof. dr. Florin Nechita, the exhibition was also opened by the Deputy Mayor of Braşov, Flavia Boghiu, in a double capacity, as a representative of Braşov City Hall, partner of the event, and as a graduate of this faculty.



Out of the 300 projects made by the students in the two specializations, the 40 ones awarded by "Anton Golopenţia" Student Scientific Circle of Visual Sociology under the Faculty of Sociology and Communication within Transilvania University of Braşov were selected and exhibited.



The exhibition could be visited until 23 October 2022, on the esplanade of the Titulescu Park (opposite the T building of the university).

Assoc. Prof. dr. Victor BRICIU,
Office of Marketing and Image
Photo credit: Braşov City Hall

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"HAVING A TALK WITH..." ASSOC. PROF. DR. ADRIAN LĂCĂTUȘ



Through the project *Radio Campus Transilvania* we always succeed in highlighting the most beautiful and interesting topics that target and attract students and not only them. One of the most broadcast shows is, without a doubt, "Having a talk with...", a radio show format through which we want to invite the officials of Transilvania University of Braşov and other personalities from different fields of activity who have special achievements.

On Wednesday, 26 October 2022, the Radio Campus Transilvania studio had as a guest the Dean of the Faculty of Letters and the coordinator of the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov – Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adrian Lăcătuș.

The Multicultural Centre brings contemporary art in all its forms to the forefront. Whether we are talking about literature, painting, theatre or music, the organizers aim to harmoniously combine all of them so that they can surprise and earn the trust of any student within the university.

Inspired by the great art centres in the United States, the Multicultural Centre found many partners right there. Thus, all *Chamber Jazz* concerts are performed in collaboration with the Romanian pianist Lucian Ban, settled in New York. These events gather the largest number of spectators who sometimes exceed the maximum capacity of the centre. The access "to art" is becoming wider, especially since all the events organized are free.

During the discussion, Assoc. Prof. dr. Adrian Lăcătuș highlighted the role of contemporary art, which "is produced now, at this moment" and "forces a reaction and makes you think". In other words, art is a discovery of the world and plays an important role in the way we perceive the world. "Literature is the most meaningful, intelligent, original and courageous form in which we express our life experience", says the Dean of the Faculty of Letters, and the books he recommends and says everyone should read are "Don Quixote" by Miguel de Cervantes, "The Bible" and "Ulysses" by James Joyce.

Towards the end, Professor Adrian Lăcătuș' exhortation was for us to be curious and available for art. All that remains for me is to reinforce the exhortation and to encourage you, in turn, to keep an eye on the site cultural.unitbv.ro, so as not to miss any event within the Multicultural Centre.

Cătălina CHIRTOACĂ,
Radio Campus Transilvania
1st-year student, GDRU

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MIRCEA A. DIACONU – “CERNĂUȚI. LOST PROPERTY”

On Monday, 17 October 2022, the Faculty of Letters of Transilvania University of Braşov had the honour of having as its guest Mircea A. Diaconu, literary critic and professor at “Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava. He spoke about his book, *Cernăuți. Obiecte pierdute [Cernăuți. Lost Property]* (Cartier Publishing House, 2021), made up of news and announcements extracted from Bucovina periodicals from the period 1923-1926.



The presentation began with some information about the long process of writing the book (ten years), as well as about the difficulties encountered in finding a publishing house interested in the project. Mircea A. Diaconu highlighted the personal motivations behind the creation of such a volume: he told about how he discovered an issue of the newspaper *Glasul Bucovinei [Voice of Bucovina]*, he talked about (also visible in his enthusiasm) how fascinated he is by interwar Cernăuți and how he sometimes imagines what it would have been like to live there during that time.



Mircea A. Diaconu further revealed the expressiveness of these non-literary texts in the book, justifying the choice to arrange them in the form of verses and emphasising the “Caragialesque spirit” that can be found in some of them, and he read some texts from the volume highlighting the elements that led him to select those texts for the final version of the book.

Last but not least, during his presentation, he entered into dialogue with the master’s students and graduates of the Faculty of Letters, as well as with other people in the audience. The testimonies, the examples regarding the multi-ethnic character of the city of Cernăuți during the period concerned were of high concern. Mircea A. Diaconu spoke extensively about the fate of several people of that region, highlighting the multicultural character of the period, and, at the same time, demonstrating how blurred the borders are between the ethnicities/ cultures that coexist in the same space.

Andrei PETREA,
2nd-year student, Cultural Innovation

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"POEMS FOR CROSSING THRESHOLDS", BOOK LAUNCH



Two years after the publication of her latest volume, "The Reaper's Bazar", Doina Ioanid returns with "Poems for Crossing Thresholds", launched at the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University.



The poet does not give up on her style, already consecrated, prose poems in which the attention to detail and the passages through the planes, either presented or implied, blend together smoothly, seemingly effortlessly, creating the effect of an ancient chant. In fact, through this volume *of the thresholds*, we watch the passage over them, like a clock pendulum, never set. The poems are actually the result of long weeks of isolation, recording aspects of the pandemic, the mask, the loneliness, the distance, and we notice in them a transfer of focus from the windows, as in "The Reaper's Bazar", to the doors. It is only normal, since the living conditions compel one to relate to the outside world, now dangerous, which is reached through the door.



The bonds insinuate themselves imperceptibly: I and the other, I and the outside, I and the past that I now meditate on constantly, because I have nothing else to do. The poems cross these physical and metaphysical thresholds and represent them, at the same time, keeping the poet's alter-ego anchored in the middle of a world that is restructuring itself from the ground up. The physical threshold is a stopping point in front of the prohibition to cross it, and the metaphysical threshold thus takes over its attributions: the locking of the body forces the opening of the soul. The poems of this volume, unlike the previous texts, present a direct contact with the human interiority, after a long play of reflections and a look at the *self* through intermediaries.

In the end, the threshold becomes a possible starting point of a new poetic, but also personal path.



At the launch event, organized on 18 October, in collaboration with House of Literary Bets, where the volume was published, Doina Ioanid, Rodica Ilie and Adrian Lăcătuș, Dean of the Faculty of Letters, participated in the discussion.

Alexandra CONSTĂNDOIU
2nd-year student, Cultural Innovation

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TEACHME - INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO TEACHING AND LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE



Between October 19-20, the partners of the project "TeachME: The Art and Science of Teaching Host Country Language" met in Braşov to discuss the project preliminary results, to reach a common decision about useful methods for teaching neurodidactically, to agree communication and management standards as well as to design the action plan for the coming months.



The main aim of this Erasmus+ project is to establish a European role model by promoting a set of intensive language programs tailored to the needs of young adults who want to learn minor European languages at a foreign university. Thus, the first Project Result – University Roadmap for foreigners – is already available on the project website

(<https://www.teachmeproject.eu/interactive-map/>) as an interactive map providing useful information and even key phrases about arriving, studying, and living in one of the partner countries. An important aspect that is covered in this project is the cultural dimension when learning a foreign language, while

the key activity will aim to implement the neuro-didactic concept for intensive teaching of a foreign language through multimodal and blended learning approaches.



Neurodidactics is an interdisciplinary method that combines findings from neuroscience, educational science, didactics and psychology. In a nutshell, teaching neurodidactically means identifying those techniques that support brain-friendly learning.

At the same time, the partner institutions - Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz (Germany), PRISM Impresa Social (Italy), FRAME Foundation for the Development of International and Educational Activities (Poland), Pelican Language School (Czech Republic) and Universitatea Transilvania din Braşov (Romania) – will work together to identify and promote new methods and tools for teachers so that they adapt their learning methods to the digital environment.

Prof. dr. Răzvan SĂFTOIU
Faculty of Letters

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STUDENT LOGIN

Student Login is the event that opens the academic year at #UNITBV and is dedicated to first-year students, but also to more... experienced students.



The purpose of the event is to challenge students to interact, get to know each other, get in touch with student life and get to know the entire university campus.

This year, the event took place on 3 October, at Colina Campus.

The students interacted with their colleagues in senior years, learned faculty-related details and little tricks and also visited the stands of the student associations.



In addition, hundreds of students participated in the Treasure Hunt, Quiz competition or in other games specially prepared for the opening event of the academic year.



Obviously, all the winners were awarded.

The event ended with a super laser show and DJ Manuel Riva on the turntables.

Mirela CORNEA
Office of Communication

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THE EARLY ACADEMIC YEAR MEETING WITH THE VALEDICTORIANS

Transilvania University of Braşov has made a name for itself among Romanian universities over time, cultivating a dynamic environment in which diversity and academic performance are always encouraged and supported. Thus, both the pupils and the first-year students in the bachelor's and master's programmes who had the best results at the end of their high school years, respectively after completing their first academic cycle, were rewarded.



As in previous years, a meeting took place between the Rector of UNITBV, Prof. dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, the Vice-Rector for the students, Prof. dr. Eng. Daniel Munteanu, and the valedictorians, as well as the ones who got the highest mark in the baccalaureate exam, admitted to the first study year. The event took place in the Rectorate building, at the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University, on 10 October 2022, with the objective of rewarding those present, by offering freebies in the student canteens and in the dormitories, as well as distributing the laptops that they will use during the years of study. The meeting then took place around discussing two particularly important aspects, especially for those who are at the beginning of their journey: who we are and why we chose to spend the next years of our lives as students in Braşov.

Coming from all regions of the country, both shy freshmen and more self-confident graduate students, probably due to the experience of the first student years, introduced themselves one by one,

and the speeches that started from the two simple questions outlined a very clear picture of the conditions that lead a young man to join the academic environment of Braşov. We accordingly listened to stories about parents, siblings and teachers who encouraged students to give their vote of confidence to the faculties in Braşov, but also about the pleasant experiences of those who already completed their bachelor's studies, experiences that convinced them to continue their academic journey in the same landscape. Many confessed that the unique charm of the city under Tâmpa played a leading role in choosing the faculty. Other answers emphasized the view that personal and professional development take place best in a city in full swing, such as Braşov.

Next, we were briefly reminded of the multiple benefits that a student in Braşov has, among which the opportunity to obtain various scholarships (merit, social, excellence, etc.) and financing for student projects, Erasmus study and practice mobilities, or the opportunity to participate in student competitions are worth mentioning.

I return to my initial idea, namely that Transilvania University of Braşov holds up in the ranking of universities in the country, and I would like to add that a major contribution to this fact is precisely the pleasant atmosphere due to the close collaboration between students and the teaching personnel, but also the landscape full of historical charm of the city of Braşov. Without being, of course, the only promoter of academic performance, all these circumstances undoubtedly strengthen the determination of the students who choose to come here to study. As for me, I confess that the joy of receiving a laptop does not exceed that of studying in an institution that encourages its members to always be central.

Alexandra NĂSTASE
1st-year student, Digital Media

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PROMOTION OF THE FACULTY OF PRODUCT DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT

In the month of October, the Faculty of Product Design and Environment was visited by two groups of high school pupils.



The first visit took place on 5 October 2022, the guests of the faculty being 14 high school pupils accompanied by six teachers from "Szekely Miko" National College of Sfântu Gheorghe.



Teachers and pupils from Hungary and Germany also participated in this action, as part of an Erasmus+ project.

The second visit took place on 23 October 2022. The 40 students from "Sfântul Apostol Andrei" Technological High School of Ploiești were accompanied by teacher Otilia Bucur.

The high school pupils and teachers had the opportunity to explore the main laboratories of the faculty, to get to know the educational offer and facilities for students within the faculty.



We thank them for their visit and look forward to their return in October as students of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment!

Assoc. Prof. dr. Eng. Daniela CIOBANU, Vice-Dean,
Faculty of Product Design and Environment

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VISITS OF PUPILS TO THE FACULTY OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration was the host of several events held on the occasion of the visit of the 12th-grade pupils from "Carol I" Technological High School, Valea Doftanei - Prahova (on 29 September 2022), "Emil Racoviță" College of Natural Sciences - Brașov (7 October 2022), "Sfântul Apostol Andrei" Technological High School of Services, Ploiesti and "Profesor Ilie Gavrilă" Technological High School, Ciorani - Prahova (October 26, 2022).



The pupils visited our faculty, were introduced to what student life means at Transilvania University of Brașov and at the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration, and they could dialogue with representatives of the faculty and students.



We are happy and honoured by such visits and we hope that in the future we will be able to host as many such events as possible.

Prof. dr. Ioana CHIȚU
Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business
Administration

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NO RA – – THE FEMININE OF THE CLOUDS

On 21 October 2022, the Multicultural Centre hosted NO RA installation for art performances- the Feminine of the Clouds.



The show is based on a text inspired by the autobiographical novel *Hippodrome*, adapted by playwright Mihai Ignat and performed by actress Iulia Georgeta Popescu.

Nora Iuga, poet, prose writer and translator, was born on 4 January 1931 in Bucharest. She graduated from the Faculty of Philology of the University of Bucharest and worked as a German language teacher, bibliographer and editor at the Encyclopaedic Publishing House. Between 1977 and 1986 she was a journalist at the German-language publications "Neuer Weg" and "Volk und Kultur".



Nora Iuga's debut took place in 1968 with *The Fault Is Not Mine*, and the writer's best-known volumes of poems include: *Captivity of the Circle* (1970), *The Heart like a Boxer's Punch* (1982), *Night Typist* (1996), *Dangerous Whims* (1998), *The Bus*

with Hunchbacks (2001) and *The Girl with a Thousand Wrinkles* (2005). The author's first novel, *Leopold Bloom's Soap*, was published in 1993. The writer is also a well-known translator from German and Swedish. She has translated from authors such as Wilhelm Hauff, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Günter Grass, Elfriede Jelinek, Herta Müller, Nietzsche, Gershom Sholem and Oscar Pastior. In 2007, she was awarded the Friedrich Gundolf Award.



The show dedicated to Nora Iuga is built around several key moments in the author's life, as they were captured in the novel *Hippodrome*: childhood, the beginning of school as a student and then as a teacher, the first love experiences. The decor, minimalist, has the typewriter in the centre, which records this journey of memory that leaves and returns in a present marked by the problems characteristic of senescence and in which writing gives meaning and rhythm to everyday life.

In closing, Nora Iuga, Mihai Ignat and Georgeta Popescu answered the audience's questions on the creative process, but also the interpretive act. Nora Iuga spoke about her emotional experience every time she watches this show, but also about the relationship between reality and fiction, about how this book and this installation art performances came into being.

Anca PAPANĂ
Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University of
Brașov

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WALTER BENJAMIN IN NINE STEPS

On October 28, at the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov, a group of well-known researchers and authors presented nine works dedicated to the German thinker of Jewish origin Walter Benjamin (1892-1940).



Alexandru Matei's presentation, "Walter Benjamin and the ideological-aesthetic reading of the French literature", approaches the philosopher's attitude towards French literature. According to Benjamin, French literature was the most concerned with the social, among Western literatures. It was also the most promising from a political point of view as it generated, at the highest point of its ideological and aesthetic consciousness, *images* as literary representations of a historical and material dialectic.

In "Homogeneous time and vacuum: What Barthes tells us about the history of literature", Ana Delia Rogobete focused on Benjamin's writings on surrealism and especially on the analysis of the novel *Nadja*. The author established connections between Surrealist textual and photographic practices and Benjamin's theory of photography.

Adrian Lăcătuş discusses the Benjaminian text "The Task of the Translator" (1923) in "Benjamin and the gnosis of translation". The author critically questions the location of the translation under the sign of a unique, supreme language, in the Benjaminian text. The question arose whether Benjamin can still be considered a relevant author for the understanding of the contemporary world, a world defined by relativism.

The keynote presentation of the conference, "The Literaryization of Cinema", was given by Christian Ferencz-Flatz. He analysed the phenomenon of

literaryization as a Benjaminian feature in Godard's films and its variations in Romanian cinema. The emphasis was on the meandering and tense relationship of image to text in the last century.

In "«Wo viel Raum ist, da ist viel Zeit»: the «Asiatic» chronotope in Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain* and Walter Benjamin's *Moscow Diary*", Walter Waysband draws a parallel between the two important texts. An "Asiatic" spatio-temporality in Benjamin *Moscow Diary* would be tributary to the "Asiatic" features in *The Magic Mountain*.

"Benjamin and secularization: between dialectical mysticism and mystical dialectic" belongs to Caius Dobrescu, and speculatively analyses Benjamin's messianism. Caius Dobrescu believes that we should interpret the religious dimension of the German philosopher's thought in secular terms.

In "Benjamin on experience: from the silence of youth (1913) to the difficulties of «fun» (1936)", Lorin Ghiman brings up three theoretical systems of Messianism in Benjamin's vision. The central theme is the re-evaluation of the concept of experience in the German philosopher.

The presentation "The Task of the Translator. An attempt at Close Reading", given by Romulus Bucur, offers a textual analysis of Benjamin's vision of translation. We see that Benjamin's perspective violates basic principles of the act of translation, giving proof of authoritarianism.

In the last presentation, "Walter Benjamin Radu Jude's cinematographic vision", Bogdan Popa discusses the relation between Benjamin and Jude's cinematography. The author of the presentation expresses his reservations about the way history is approached in the film.

The audience, unfortunately in low numbers, witnessed a remarkable performance of living thought, a source of possible future research paths.

Lect. dr. Anamaria SCHWAB
Faculty of Letters

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