



Transilvania
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of Brasov

NEWSLETTER

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GRADUATES IN FRONT OF THE COMPANIES (AFCO 2025): AFCO 13-13 AT UNITBV

The 13th edition of the event [Graduates in front of the Companies – AFCO](#) took place in “Sergiu T. Chiriacescu” Conference Centre, on Tuesday, 13 May 2025.



Within the annual agenda of events developed in collaboration with the economic partners, AFCO has become one of the utmost notoriety, being practically the most important in terms of the level of interest shown by both students and representatives of the economic environment. AFCO, as a unique event in Romania, creates year after year the perfect setting for UNITBV's final-year students (and not only), regardless of the educational cycle (bachelor's, master's or doctorate) to present their diploma projects or other research projects in which they have participated or are participating, as posters, before the company representatives.

AFCO 2025 took place under the signs of professionalism, consistency and maturity, as the projects presented by the participating students were achieved in an academic, concise, clear and attractive manner, which aspects led to a higher competitiveness of the event and to the economic partners' major interest.

As regards the participants, AFCO 2025 was attended by over 450 students who presented their projects to the company representatives (30 partner companies) and the jury, whether we are referring to individual diploma projects or to other individual and team projects, within the 11 sections of the event.

Both the jury members and the company representatives had the opportunity to watch and assess the students' work, as well as to enter into a dialogue with the attending ones. The jury members

decided the prize winners for each of the 11 sections and the winners of the special AFCO 2025 awards. Thus, at the end, in the festive setting of AFCO 2025 Awards Gala, 46 prizes were granted within the sections, but also two special awards for outstanding contributions in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Green Development, and above all the AFCO 2025 Grand Prize.

UNITBV's main partner for the 2025 edition of AFCO was Transilvania Bank (BT). BT was joined by the other partners: BCR – School of Money, Bepco, Canam, Miele, Caditec - Automation, ARC Braşov, Schaeffler, Autoliv, Mitel, Flashnet, Weidmuller, DS Smith, Kronsoft Development, Auchan Retail Romania, EXELIA (Intesa SanPaolo), Siemens, PsiControl, Liamed, NBHX Rolem, Noventi, Infoprodigital Automotive, Hidroelectrica, Olympus, Terma, BNP Paribas Personal - Finance, Alstom, BRD, Premium Aerotec Romania, Stabilus.

The event culminated on the stage of “Sergiu T. Chiriacescu” Conference Centre with an exceptional concert performed by *Magna Voces* vocal group (Marcel Pavel, Iordache Basalic and Andrei Lazăr) and the Chamber Orchestra of Transilvania University of Braşov, having Traian Ichim as conductor.



Congratulations and continued success to all participants! We would also like to express our gratitude to the partners, jury members and organizing committee members.

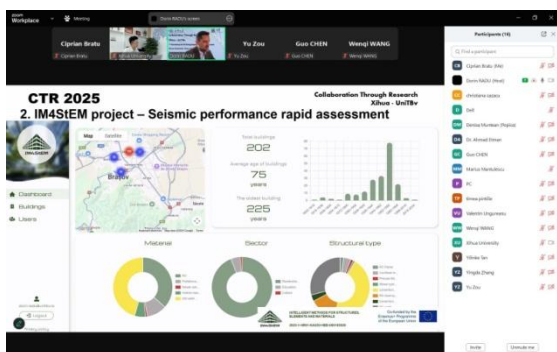
Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniel MUNTEANU – Vice-Rector
AFCO Coordinator

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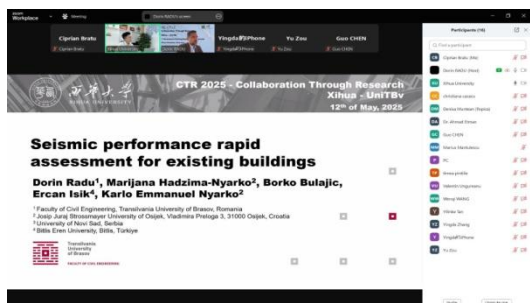
THE FIRST WORKSHOP OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN XIHUA UNIVERSITY AND UNITBV'S FACULTY OF CIVIL ENGINEERING



On 12 May 2025, the Faculty of Civil Engineering within UNITBV, together with *Xihua University, School of Civil Engineering and Architecture*, organised the first workshop of collaboration between the two institutions – *Collaboration through Research* (CTR) 2025.



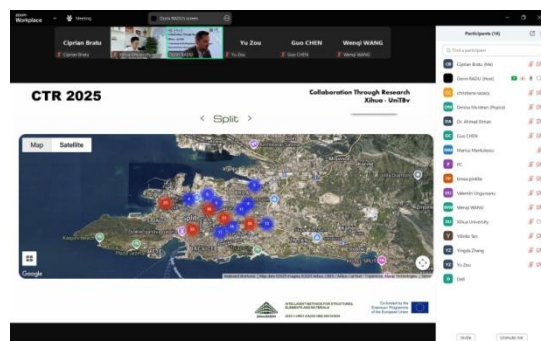
The event took place online and brought together over 25 presentations under this comprehensive field. The research results of the colleagues from Xihua University and UNITBV's Faculty of Civil Engineering, in fields such as seismic engineering, metallic structures, geotechnics and foundations or building materials.



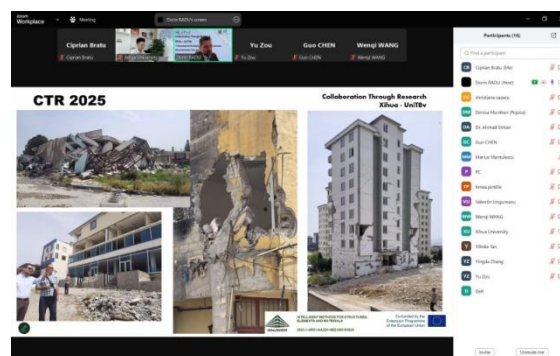
The event aimed at creating collaborative bridges between the two faculties, and at providing a platform for the teaching personnel, researchers and doctoral students to present their research results and development activities. It also provided

the participants with opportunities to exchange new ideas and experiences in the application of the research results, to establish research relationships, and to find partners for future collaborations.

During the event, we had the honour of having by our side Prof. Yong-Bo Shao, Vice President of Xihua University, who opened the conference proceedings.



Through the content of its presentations and debates, this scientific event achieved its goal, that is, to promote the exchange of ideas on current topics in the latest advancements in the field of constructions and civil engineering.



For everyone interested, details about the event are available on the conference website – <https://ctr2025.unitbv.ro>.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Dorin RADU
Vice-Dean for Research and Informatization
Faculty of Civil Engineering

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THE EVENT *INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CULTURAL NIGHT OUT*

On 15 May 2025, "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre hosted, after a break of a few years, the 8th edition of the multicultural event "International Students' Cultural Night Out", dedicated to UNITBV's international students.

The participants enjoyed an evening dedicated to the customs and traditions in the international students' home countries, with activities meant to highlight the cultural diversity of the academic community within Transilvania University of Braşov.

The event was attended by 40 international students from 30 countries across all continents: Algeria, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Kuwait, Libya, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Panama, Syria, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, USA, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Vietnam.

Each country was represented by thematic stands, decorated with photographs and traditional or symbolic objects for that culture.

The programme included three interactive competitions: a video contest entitled "Student Life at UNITBV", within which the students made one-minute clips where they presented, in a creative and personal way, their academic experiences in the city of Braşov; a team quiz, with questions related to the university campus, which tested the participants' knowledge in a fun and collaborative way, and a "Photo Hunt" competition, held in four emblematic locations of the university, where the student teams had to fulfill several tasks and complete the route in the shortest possible time.

The event ended with an awards ceremony, during which the winners were invited on stage to be presented with their gifts.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Corina Silvia MICU
Coordinator of the International Relations Centre

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UNITBV, A SCIENTIFIC PARTNER IN THE APPROACH TO CREATING THE FIRST BLUE ZONE AND AN INTERNATIONALLY ACKNOWLEDGED FOREST THERAPY ROUTE

Between 29 and 31 May 2025, an interdisciplinary team from Transilvania University of Braşov, made up of teaching personnel and students of the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, actively participated in the first national symposium dedicated to forest therapy, entitled "Forest Heals", held in the locality of Băiuţ, county of Maramureş.



The symposium brought together specialists in various fields: recovery medicine, silviculture, psychology, biology, physics, engineering, and local community members, in an interdisciplinary dialogue about the role of forests in supporting physical and mental health.

Transilvania University of Braşov played an essential role in shaping the scientific and interdisciplinary character of the symposium. Through the scholarly contributions of Prof. Dr. Phys. Doru Ursuţiu (*New Technologies – from Music Therapy to Forest Therapy*) and Prof. Dr. Eng. Florin Dinulică (*The Therapeutic Potential of the Internal Forest Environment*), the university has proven how the intersection of natural resources and cutting-edge technology can foster a new field of applied research – forest therapy.

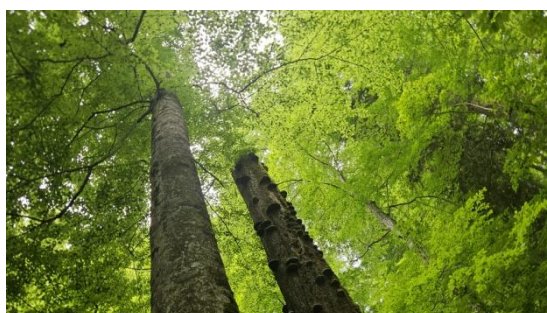


Moreover, under Prof. Dr. Dinulică's coordination, the team of researchers and students started a biometric, acoustic and environmental measurement campaign in several sights - including forest, woodside and anthropogenic spaces of Poiana Braşov.



These data will form the basis of several studies to be published in specialised scientific journals, contributing to the scientific substantiation of the centuries-old forests' therapeutic effect.

The symposium had two stages: a theoretical one, dedicated to multidisciplinary debates, and another one, practical, in which the participants explored the secular forest in Strâmbu-Băiuţ, part of the UNESCO World Natural Heritage, thus testing in the field the previously discussed hypotheses.



The event, supported by the biologist and novelist Walter Übelhart, was organised by the Romanian Balneology Association, in collaboration with Transilvania University of Braşov, Băiuţ Village Hall, Strâmbu-Băiuţ Forest District, "Johannes Banfi Hunyades" Multicultural Association, WWF-Romania and the county authorities of Maramureş.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Maria VASILESCU
Prof. Dr. Eng. Mariana Domnica STANCIU

YOUTH OF BRAȘOV ATTENDING THE CLOSURE OF "TOMORROW'S LEADERS" PROJECT, IN ITS 6TH EDITION

On 27 May 2025, Transilvania University of Brașov had the pleasure to host the concluding event for the sixth edition of the project "Tomorrow's Leaders".



Organised by the Association of Business Women and Woman Enterprise Managers (AFAFCI) Brașov, in partnership with Transilvania University of Brașov, as a strategic partner, and with Brașov County School Inspectorate, Brașov County Council, Brașov City Hall, Săcele Town Hall, Codlea Town Hall, Zărnești Town Hall and Bran Village Hall, the programme trained 40 high-school pupils to become active citizens and leaders in their communities.



Launched in September 2024, the project provided training sessions on key topics such as public administration, local economy, tourism, education and health. The pupils of "George Moroianu" Theoretical High School of Săcele, "Victor Jinga" Technological High School of Săcele, "Ioan Pascu" Theoretical High School of Codlea, "Simion Mehedinți" Technical College of Codlea, "Metropolitan Bishop Ioan Mețianu" Theoretical High School of Zărnești and "Sextil Pușcariu" High School of Bran interacted with experts in the local administration, economic environment and with

professors, getting concrete insight into the community's functioning.



During the event hosted in Studio 181 hall, Rectorate building, Gina Similie, president of AFAFCI Brașov, highlighted the complexity and success of this edition held in four localities and six high schools. Moreover, Prof. Dr. MD Liliana Rogozea, Vice-Rector of Transilvania University of Brașov, emphasised the formative impact of the project which helped pupils better understand the local reality and made them willing to contribute in their turn to the community's development.



"Tomorrow's Leaders" confirms the commitment of AFAFCI Brașov, an organization with over three decades of experience, to promoting economic development and leadership, by continuing the series of successful initiatives such as "Femina VIP Brașov".

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Victor BRICIU
Compartment of Marketing and Image
Photo credit: Cristian MILEA
student in Digital Media (English)

THE SECOND PRIZE OBTAINED AT THE NATIONAL STUDENT SESSION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATIONS IN MATHEMATICS AND INFORMATICS, CONSTANȚA



The Maritime University of Constanța and “Traian Lalescu” Foundation, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Research, organised the following events between 8 and 10 May 2025: “Traian Lalescu” National Student Mathematics Competition and the National Session of Student Scientific Communications in Mathematics and Informatics.

As regards the National Session of Student Scientific Communications in Mathematics and Informatics, Transilvania University of Brașov was represented by Miruna-Daniela Roșu, a 3rd-year student in Mathematics - Computer Science, who

participated in the Mathematics section, which was attended by five students representing three higher-education institutions, namely Transilvania University of Brașov, “Politehnica” National University of Science and Technology of Bucharest and Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca.

This scientific panel of this section particularly appreciated the novelty of the paper presented by the student Miruna-Daniela Roșu, who won the second prize with the communication “On Inequalities related to the Types of Standards for Pairs of Operators” (scientific coordinator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nicușor Minculete).

As regards “Traian Lalescu” National Student Mathematics Competition, the representatives of Transilvania University were Daniel Resitca and Matei Steavu, 1st-year students at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

The event was a pleasant experience for all participants, and the entire team performed very well. I would like to congratulate the students for their involvement and for the way they represented Transilvania University of Brașov!

Lect. Dr. Luciana MAJERCSIK
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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THE PARTICIPATION OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV IN “NICOLAE I. MANOLESCU” NATIONAL MECHANISMS OLYMPIAD – 2025 EDITION

Between 11 and 13 May 2025, on the premises of the University of Craiova, the Romanian Association for the Science of Machines and Mechanisms (ARoTMM) organised the 4th edition of “Nicolae I. Manolescu” National Olympiad of Mechanisms”, dedicated to higher education (with the first one taking place in 2019). This edition was attended by representatives from seven universities, namely: Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, “Politehnica” National University of Science and Technology of Bucharest, University of Oradea, “Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iași, Transilvania University of Brașov, University of Craiova, “Politehnica” University of Timișoara. On behalf of UNITBV, a three-member student team from the Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management, and the Faculty of Mechanics: Ștefan Cristian Codreanu, 3rd-year in CA, at ITMI Faculty, Mihai Nicolae Badea, 3rd-year in IEI, at ITMI Faculty, and Paul Andrei Ivan, 3rd-year in AR (English), at the Faculty of Mechanics, attended the competition.

The team was coordinated and accompanied to Craiova by three academic teaching personnel members of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment: Prof. Dr. Eng. Mircea Neagoe (incumbent president of ARoTMM), Prof. Dr. Eng. Radu Săulescu and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Nadia Crețescu. The Olympiad consisted of a

complex theoretical test covering the main chapters of the Mechanisms discipline, taught within the undergraduate specializations of Mechanical Engineering and Industrial Engineering. The participating students’ level of training was high as, following the evaluation of the papers, the UNITBV team obtained: in the individual the First Prize through Paul Andrei Ivan and the Second Prize through Ștefan Cristian Codreanu, as well as the First Prize in teams.

For these remarkable results, we congratulate the participating students and accompanying teaching personnel, as well as the other professors who coordinated the training for the participation in this event: Prof. Dr. Eng. Codruța Jaliu, Prof. Dr. Eng. Ionel Starețu, Prof. Dr. Eng. Antonya Csaba, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela Ciobanu.

In 2026, the next edition of the National Olympiad of Mechanisms will take place at “Politehnica” National University of Science and Technology, in Bucharest, where we look forward to participating and achieving equally good results.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Ionel STAREȚU
President of ARoTMM
Brașov Subsidiary

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THE STUDENTS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AT IESC ATTENDING THE NATIONAL SESSION OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATIONS, IN ITS 14TH EDITION, ORGANISED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ORADEA



Between 28 and 30 May 2025, "Gaudeamus" Didactic and Research Facility of Stâna de Vale hosted the Student Energy-Resources-Environment Symposium, SERM – STUDO, in its 14th edition, organised by the University of Oradea, Faculty of Energy Engineering and Industrial Management, Department of Energy Engineering. This event was organised with the support of the student members in the Oradea Energy Students' Centre for Scientific Creation and Innovation, and Oradea Student Union.

The symposium brought together 44 student papers grouped into four sections:

- S1. Electric power transmission and distribution systems. High-performance energy systems. Reliability;
- S2. Renewable energy sources. Sustainable energy technologies. Energy efficiency;
- S3. Environmental engineering and protection. Ecology;
- S4: Applied informatics.

The symposium was attended by students and coordinating professors from several academic centres of our country, including: "Politehnica" University of Timișoara, "George Emil Palade" University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology of Târgu-Mureș, University of Petroșani, University of Oradea and Transilvania University of Brașov.

On behalf of Transilvania University of Brașov, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Department of Applied Electrical Engineering and Physics, four papers were submitted to the aforementioned symposium, and then presented by the student authors: Florian-Emanuel Alecu, Andrei Volmer, Viviana Crihan and Bogdan-Ioan Oprea, 3rd and 4th study year in the Electrical Engineering and Computers (English) study programme.



Once again, our students' efforts and training were rewarded with a Second Prize, a Third Prize, and two Mentions.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Lia Elena ACIU
Director of Department
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer
Science

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THE PARTICIPATION OF THE IESC FACULTY IN "SERGIU RĂDĂUȚAN – MICROELECTRONIC SYSTEMS ENGINEERING" INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMPETITION, CHIȘINĂU



On 30 May 2025, Alexandru Ciprian Nistor, a student at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Brașov, accompanied by Lect. Dr. Eng. Alexandru Dinu, participated in "Microelectronic Systems Engineering – Sergiu Rădăuțan" International Student Competition, held in Chișinău. Now in its 14th edition, this annual competition brings together teams of students who develop functional projects in one of the two available sections: "Electronic Systems Engineering" and "Biomedical Systems Engineering".

Alexandru Ciprian Nistor participated in the "Electronic Systems Engineering" section with two projects: "Candy Dispensing Robot" and "Music Synthesizer".

These projects were first presented on a theoretical level, through PowerPoint presentations, and then on a practical level, in front of the jury.

Both projects received special awards from the sponsors of the event.



The participation in this competition aimed at highlighting the complexity of the two student projects achieved within our faculty, at analysing other very good projects made by students of Romania and the Republic of Moldova, as well as at strengthening the relations with the academic personnel of the Technical University of Moldova.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Alexandru DINU
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer
Science

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR THE RULE OF LAW IN EUROPE" – AS FINAL EVENT OF THE *EUROPIA* PROJECT, ORGANISED AT UNIVERSIDAD PÚBLICA DE NAVARRA

Between 26 and 27 May 2025, the Public University of Navarra (Pamplona, Spain) hosted the international conference "Current Challenges for the Rule of Law in Europe", which also marked the final conference of the European project *On-Wheels Summer School for the Socio-Cultural Evolution of the European Values, Principles, Identity and Awareness (EUROPIA)*, developed through the KA220 Erasmus+ programme.



The conference brought together the project partners and researchers in the fields of law, sociology, political science and European studies, with a view to reflecting on the current challenges to the rule of law in Europe. The event began with a session dedicated to the presentation of the EUROPIA project and its interactive educational platform, followed by thematic panels, to which each partner contributed with relevant scientific articles and interventions. The international participation and the interdisciplinary dialogue emphasised the impact of the project in promoting the European values through education.



Apart from the academic contributions brought during the conference, the partners also met in a working session to discuss the last project stages, that is, reporting and closure. The quality of the final materials (Training kit, Textbook, Guide, as well as the digital platform) was highlighted; moreover, ideas for further collaboration and for the development of new joint initiatives emerged.

EUROPIA, the project coordinated by the University of Warsaw (Poland), brought together an international academic network consisting of Transilvania University of Braşov, the Public University of Navarra (Spain), the University of Zagreb (Croatia), the University of Belgrade (Serbia) and Pax Rhodopica Foundation (Bulgaria). All the developed educational resources are available on the project platform: <https://tp.europiaproject.eu>.

More details about the initiative, objectives and activities can be found on the official project website: www.europiaproject.eu.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arabela BRICIU
Project manager on behalf of UNITBV
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

THE EDUCATIONAL PROJECT "SCIENCE IS KNOWLEDGE" – THE 3RD EDITION, TO A CLOSE

Transilvania University of Braşov was host for the concluding event of the educational project "Science Is Knowledge" – the 3rd edition, organised by "Nicolae Titulescu" National College. The project took place over a period of three months, between 13 February 2025 and 27 May 2025, when, in a festive setting, at "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov, the conclusions were drawn.



Two hundred forty-six pupils of "Nicolae Titulescu" National College, "Dr. Ioan Meşotă" National College of Braşov and "Joseph Haltrich" Theoretical High School of Sighişoara participated in the aforementioned project. The goal of this project was the pupils' school and professional orientation.



During the three months, the pupils visited several faculties within Transilvania University of Braşov, "George Emil Palade" University of Medicine,

Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology of Târgu Mureş, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy, and American Hotel Academy.

Furthermore, the pupils visited a series of representative companies and institutions in the socio-economic environment of Braşov, such as Benchmark, ARC Braşov, Preh, Dr. Fogolyan Kristof Korhaz County Emergency Hospital, Premium Aerotec, Braşov-Ghimbav International Airport, Libris, "George Bariţiu" County Library of Braşov, Waters and Valentin Chiriac - First Aid.



During the concluding conference of the project, the pupils presented their impressions after these visits, unanimously agreeing on its importance and usefulness for their professional future and showing their delight at the visits, as well as at the warmth and professionalism with which they were greeted.

Teacher Anca CAŞAŞ
Nicolae Titulescu National College
Prof. Dr. Ioana CHIŢU
Compartment for the Liaison with the
Pre-university Environment

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THE CONFERENCE AND DEBATE *POLITICS AND DIGITALIZATION. OBSTACLES TO DIGITALIZATION IN INDIA*

On 19 May 2025, in the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov, the students of the Faculty of Letters and the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, majoring in Digital Media (taught in English) attended a consequential presentation on the obstacles that India faces in terms of digitalization and the challenges of digitalization.



Subhasree Chakravarty, professor at Ashoka University of New Delhi, India, lectured in an accessible style and interacted with the students.

The event gave the students the unique opportunity to understand the implications of the digitization process in a different cultural context, but highly relevant to today's global discussions.

Through concrete examples from the Indian society – starting with its impact on education and the access to information, to the problems of digital inclusion in rural environments – Prof. Dr. Chakravarty highlighted the complexity and nuances of digital transformation as a process. She also presented a few case studies and situations that some Indians are facing in terms of free expression in the online environment.

The presentation was dynamic, with an interactive approach encouraging questions and open dialogue. The students had the opportunity to develop their critical thinking and to broaden their academic horizons by comparing their own perspectives with the realities of another cultural space.

This meeting was not only a moment of interdisciplinary learning, but also a valuable exercise in reflection on how digitalization shapes contemporary societies in different ways, according to the social, economic and cultural context.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Vlad BĂTRÂNU-PINŢEA
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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THE SPRING SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ACADEMY OF ROMANIAN SCIENTISTS (AOSR)

The Awards Gala of the Academy of Romanian Scientists, followed by the Spring Scientific Conference of the same Academy took place in the Senate Hall of "Politehnica" National University of Science and Technology, Bucharest, on 23 May.



The Scientific Spring Conference of the Academy of Romanian Scientists (AOSR), organised by sections, took place on Friday, 23 May, between 2:30 and 7:00 p.m., as well as on Saturday, 24 May.

Within the Physical Sciences Section, 18 papers were presented.



On behalf of UNITBV, the team of the Centre for Skill Valorization and Transfer (CVTC) presented two scientific articles in the framework thereof:

1. Energy Harvesting Systems for Indoor Applications (EHS-IA); authors: D. Ursuțiu (UNITBV - AOSR), M.Kamesh (doctoral student - Sudan), H. A. Modran (UNITBV), C. Samoilă (UNITBV - ASTR).

In this study, we analysed the ambient energy sources (solar, thermal, vibrational, RF), and compared the strengths and limitations of each in the context of indoor applications. We highlighted the selection criteria for the optimal power supply solution, as well as its impact on human experience – comfort, customization, durability and security – with an emphasis on the importance of power, cost and size parameters in the design of IoT systems.

2. Active Artificial Intelligence (AAI) – Soft-Reconfigurable Hardware Systems (AAI-HRS); authors: H. A. Modran (UNITBV), D. Ursuțiu (UNITBV - AOSR), C. Samoilă (UNITBV - ASTR).

In this article, we explored the integration of reconfigurable hardware systems (PSoC) with Edge AI solutions, with a view to developing scalable IoT applications, capable of real-time processing. Our aim was to improve the performance in education, industry and research, through adaptive intelligent systems. The project advances innovative solutions for decision-making and automation, and includes a special session to be organised at the conference *Smart Technologies and Education* (STE) 2026, fostering the adoption of AI-based IoT technologies.



The presentations turned out successful, being appreciated by the chairman of the Physical Sciences Section within AOSR for the depth and originality of the approach, thus significantly



contributing to the exchange of ideas and scientific collaboration.

The AOSR 2025 award ceremony was followed by a memorable musical moment offered by the soprano Mădălina Stan and the tenor Andrei Manea, accompanied on the piano by Liana Mareș.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Horia Alexandru MODRAN
Prof. Dr. Phys. Doru URSUȚIU
Prof. Em. Dr. Eng. Cornel SAMOILĂ

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THE CONFERENCE "MODERN APPROACHES IN SPEECH THERAPY AND PSYCHO-PEDAGOGICAL COUNSELLING"



The 3rd edition of the national conference with international participation "Modern Approaches in Speech Therapy and Psycho-pedagogical Counselling", an event that has become a tradition in the professional landscape of experts in education, psychology and psycho-pedagogy, took place in our city, from 23 to 25 May 2025. This year as well, the main organizer was Brașov County Centre for Educational Assistance and Resources, with the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences as an active partner of the event.

The conference aimed at creating a real setting for dialogue and collaboration between teaching personnel, researchers, counsellors, psychologists and speech therapists, fostering the exchange of good practices, the presentation of recent research and the promotion of modern and effective relief and recovery methods.

The event programme was rich and well-structured, covering the relevant practitioners' concrete needs and topical issues.

The activities started on Friday, 23 May, with a round table for the conference speakers, themed on "Efficiency of Rules and Regulations on Educational Policies in the Current Context". This debate highlighted the importance of the legislative framework in supporting an inclusive education, adapted to current social realities.

On Saturday, 24 May, the conference proceedings were officially opened, being followed by an interactive panel themed on "Connection, Not Just Correction: Impact of New Technologies in Psycho-pedagogical Intervention". The guest experts discussed how technology can be an ally – and not just a tool – when working with the children with special educational needs. The day continued with an important editorial moment, that is, the release of two specialised volumes:

■ "Psycho-pedagogical Therapies and Interventions for People with Special Needs", coordinated by Alois Gherguț and Adrian Roșan;

■ "A Child in Two Homes. How to Protect the Child When Parents Split Up?", signed by Gabriela Dumitriu and Camelia Popa.



The afternoon was dedicated to workshops covering a variety of topics: from language development in SEN children to classroom anxiety prevention, assessment of adolescent gambling, animal-assisted speech therapy interventions or application of the Adlerian principles in working with teenagers. The topics were presented by experts of our country and abroad, including Alois Gherguț, Emilia Oprea, Nina Rusu, Christelle Schlöpfer and Krisztina Gaudry.

On Sunday, 25 May, the agenda included two training sessions on educational counselling and speech therapy interventions, giving the participants the chance to delve into techniques and tools useful for everyday practice.



This edition of the conference proved once again the value of the collaboration among experts, openness to innovation and importance of lifelong training for a modern, inclusive education centred on the child's real needs.

Prof. Dr. Ana-Maria CAZAN
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE UNITBV CONFERENCES: SCIENCE IN CONVERSATION

On 15 May 2025, at 5:00 p.m., in Studio 181 hall, Rectorate building, the series "UNITBV Conferences: Science in Conversation" took place in its fifth edition. This series of events aims at bringing science closer to the public, not through simplification, but through openness – launching the invitation to dialogue, genuine curiosity and connections between disciplines that, although seemingly different, are united through the same thirst for knowledge.



The guest of this edition was Dorin Radu, PhD, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, who delivered the presentation themed on "Integrity of Metallic Structures - Between Sustainability and Safety". The event was moderated by Cristina Maria Păcurar, PhD, Lecturer at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science.

During the presentation, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dorin Radu highlighted the importance of the integrity in metal structures, but also the way in which the sustainability and safety demands can be merged in structural design. The discussion was rich, with topics that surpassed the announced title: from integrity of metal structures and hidden earthquake risks, to rehabilitation of historic bridges and role of artificial intelligence in fault diagnosis. The ensuing question and answer session was interactive and dynamic, highlighting the audience's high interest in the topic. The participants' questions approached a wide range – from technical aspects, such as hidden

risks in the extant infrastructure, or how to integrate sustainability into structural design, to questions with a deeply personal note: what led the guest to follow this path or how he sees the world in ten years. The ensuing discussions were not only an opportunity to clarify specialised details, but also an occasion for common reflection, where professional experiences and human curiosities naturally met in a lively and sincere atmosphere.

The event brought together a varied audience, consisting of pupils, students, teachers, professors, but also engineering professionals, as well as other members of our local community. This diverse participation confirms the public's high interest in the proposed topic. Open dialogue and interactive atmosphere were the defining elements of the conference, enhancing its success and strengthening the aim of the project – the community's active involvement in scientific dialogue.



It was a lively meeting, which showed how connected structural engineering is to the realities around us. The series "Science in Conversation" goes forward with the same purpose – to create open spaces for ideas, questions and encounters among curious people.

Lect. Dr. Cristina Maria PĂCURAR
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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ACTIVITIES WITHIN "EUROPE'S MONTH IN CUBA"

Between 25 April and 2 May 2025, at the request of the Romanian Embassy in Havana, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena-Simona Indreica and graduate student Giulia Morariu, both from the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, represented Transilvania University of Braşov, conducting a series of activities within "Europe's Month in Cuba".



The first activity – "Study Fair in the European Union" – took place at *Fábrica de Arte Cubano*, on 28 April. The two representatives of Transilvania University of Braşov promoted the educational offer both at Romania's Stand and during the plenary presentations. The stand was visited by thousands of youth from Cuba, Peru, Jamaica, Honduras, Haiti, who had the opportunity to learn about the numerous study possibilities in Romania, especially at Transilvania University of Braşov.



The second activity – "Egg Painting Workshop" – took place on 29 April, being attended by pupils and teachers from *San Alejandro National School of Arts, Havana*. Our university's two representatives gave a presentation of the traditional egg-painting techniques and symbolism in their painting within Romanian folk culture. Then the students painted, under the direct coordination of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Indreica and graduate student Morariu, various motifs on eggs, resorting to acrylic colours. The young people combined symbols from both

cultures, on the grounds that "it was a joy to have representatives of both countries together".



The third activity – "Romanian Roots" – took place on 30 April, with the painted egg and traditional sewing workshop being hosted by *Casa de la Obra Pia* Museum. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Simona Indreica and graduate student Giulia Morariu, not only put the Easter egg painting tradition into practice, but also sewed traditional Romanian folk motifs on etamine. The event was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps, by members of the embroidery circle affiliated with *Casa de la Obra Pia*, by former Cuban graduates in Romania, as well as by young artists within "Manos de Oro" community programme of Old Havana.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elena-Simona INDREICA
Graduate student - Giulia MORARIU
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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MAJOR EVENTS IN NEUROSCIENCES BRING EXPERTS TOGETHER AT THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

In late May, in Brașov, at the Research and Development Institute of Transilvania University, two international neuroscience events took place, to wit EBRAINS - *Italy Brain Simulation Training Workshop* (27 - 29 May, <https://conf.snn.ro/ebrains>), and Conference of the National Society for Neuroscience (29 - 31 May, <https://conf.snn.ro/program/>). The EBRAINS workshop, held by Prof. Dr. Michelle Migliore, was attended by 12 trainers and 33 students. Elements of neural activity modelling were addressed, and mainly the research infrastructure of EBRAINS-Italy (<https://www.ebrains-italy.eu/>), which offers a variety of datasets and original software tools for the computational analysis of the neuronal activity, on neuron or neural population level.

Between 29 and 31 May, the conference proceedings of Romania's Society for Neuroscience were held, being attended by around 80 guests, including leading researchers from abroad, such as: Jeff Diamond PhD (Scientific Director, National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke, NIH, USA), Kapil Bharti PhD (Scientific Director, National Eye Institute, NIH, USA), Hannah Monier PhD (Director, Clinical Neurobiology, Deutsches Krebsforschungs Zentrum, Heidelberg, Germany), Daniela Popa MD, PhD and Clement Lena PhD (Directeur de Recherche, Neurophysiology of Brain Circuits, IBENS, Paris, France), Dirk Hermann MD, PhD (University Hospital Essen, Essen, Germany).

Our country's main neuroscience research centres (including UNITBV) were represented through presentations of Prof. Aurel Popa-Wagner MD, PhD (UMF Craiova), Prof. Bogdan Popescu MD, PhD (Carol

Davila UMF, Bucharest), Beatrice Radu PhD and Bogdan Amuzescu PhD (Neurobiology, University of Bucharest). The Romanian scientific diaspora was represented by senior and junior researchers (Mihai Moldovan, Florin Amzică, Mihai Stancu, Andrei Ilie, Robert Haret, etc.).

The conference covered a wide range of topics, from basic research studies in electrophysiology and neural circuit functions, to EEG pathology and coma states, neurodegeneration, recovery through neural regeneration after vascular accidents, and cognitive impairment.

The young researchers made up the participants' majority and presented their work in a poster session and a blitz communication session. Moreover, they could take part in two demo workshops on a) neural circuit tracing using intracranial stereotactic injections in genetically modified animals (Cre - FLEX systems) held by Edwin Humberto Hodelin Maynard MD and b) in vitro subcellular dynamic confocal imaging (*live imaging*) held by Vladimir V. Muzyka PhD.

I hereby express my gratitude to UNITBV, to *Neurogenetica* Lab team members and to Prof. Anamaria Zăgrean, MD, PhD (UMFCD) and her team.

Tudor Constantin BADEA, MD, MA, PhD
Senior Researcher, Scientific Director
Research and Development Institute
Faculty of Medicine, Transilvania University of
Brașov & National Brain Research Centre /ICIA/
Romanian Academy

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PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY AT THE INTERSECTION OF PSYCHOLOGY, MEDICINE AND SOCIAL WORK

On Wednesday, 21 May 2025, we had the honour to host "Psycho-oncology at the Intersection of Psychology, Medicine and Social Work", an event organised by "Restart to Life" Association of Chronic Illness Patients, in partnership with the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, represented by Prof. Dr. Ana-Maria Cazan, Dean, and the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, represented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marinela Cristina Şimon, Vice-Dean.



The meeting took place in WI6 room and brought together students, professors and experts interested in the integrated support given to oncological patients. The event brought to the fore a topical issue: the role of psycho-oncology in the oncological patients' treatment, assistance and recovery, emphasising the importance of the collaboration between psychologists, doctors and social workers.



The full room confirmed the genuine and rising interest in the field of psycho-oncology, among both students and teaching personnel. The event provided a valuable setting for open talks on the emotional and social impact

of the disease, as well as on the importance of empathy and communication-based specialised support. For many participants, it was an opportunity to reflect on how future psychology and social work professionals can foster a more balanced care system, which addresses the patients' both medical and psychological needs.

The representatives of "Restart to Life" Association—psych. Lidia Stoica, its president, psych. Camelia Moraru, psych. Amalia Tamas and psych. Cristina-Andreea Lechintan, along with psych. Ovidiu Herciu, president of the Braşov subsidiary under the College of Romanian Psychologists, shared their own experiences in supporting cancer patients and sent a clear message: "Cancer does not only affect the body!". Therefore, psychological and social assistance can complement medical treatments to improve the patients' quality of life.



The atmosphere was warm, open and full of empathy. The collaboration with "Restart to Life" Association of Chronic Illness Patients highlighted the importance of the partnerships between the academic environment and civil society in training future professionals and promoting a multidisciplinary approach to support people in need. The discussions foreshadow future directions of collaboration, especially since this presentation was a satellite event of the International Psycho-Oncology Conference to be held in Bucharest, in October 2025.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Camelia TRUȚA
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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THE UNITA RESEARCH SCIENTISTS MET IN BRAȘOV WITHIN A NEW *MATCHING EVENT* FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION

As part of the activities dedicated to the UNITA Alliance, Transilvania University of Brașov organised a *Matching Event* on 22 and 23 May 2025.



This event, managed by “Inclusive Societies” research hub, was focused on the scientific topic “Pathways to Inclusive Societies: Exploring the Role of Democracy, Institutions, Politics, Citizenship and Information”. The main purpose of this meeting was to strengthen and support the UNITA community by bringing together researchers and academic personnel with similar or complementary interests in the aforementioned hub’s field of research.



During the two dedicated days, the twenty-nine participants got involved in a series of dynamic and interactive activities aimed at stimulating the exchange of ideas and building partnerships.

The agenda included a welcome speech delivered by Prof. Dr. Carmen Buzea, Vice-Rector for Scientific Research and Informatization within Transilvania University of Brașov, and Prof. Dr. Monica Răileanu-Szeles, co-leader of “Inclusive Societies” research hub under the UNITA Alliance. On the first day of the event, the special guest was Assoc. Prof. Dr. Antonio

Momoc, from the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences, University of Bucharest, who presented the results of the research conducted on topics such as populism, democracy, disinformation and polarization.

Next came brief “elevator pitch” presentations, which highlighted all the participants’ research interests, followed by dedicated individual “matching” sessions to identify potential collaborators.

Thematic working groups were organised in order to have in-depth discussions and develop concrete directions of action, along with various networking activities, both formal and informal.

The structure of this event was planned to foster the identification of new fields for collaboration and to lay the bases for future projects of international cooperation.

The aim was to amplify the impact of the research and initiatives developed within the UNITA University Alliance.

Moreover, as a natural follow-up to this networking event, a call for the “UNITA Starting Grants” programme is planned for the month of June 2025.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Victor BRICIU
Compartment of Marketing and Image

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THE EUROPEAN MENTAL HEALTH WEEK | MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

The *European Mental Health Week*, themed on "Mental Health and Social Rights" was marked by the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences as well, through meetings with mental health specialists.



In the framework thereof, the importance of mental health in everyday life, its integration into social policies, as well as the affected people's challenges and decision-makers' role in developing effective strategies were discussed. Topics such as poverty, disease and inequality, but also what to do for better mental health, were addressed in the meetings organised at Libris Bookstore and moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramona Henter. The aim was to bring up ideas that would generate better social rights into the discussions in the public space, in order to address the root causes of impaired mental health, which can affect anyone, at any time.

The first meeting was with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laura Teodora David and psych. Beatrix Fridl, who presented their own experience and the theoretical substantiation for the importance of providing emotional, social and psychological assistance to the support network (family, friends, caregivers) of the people afflicted by chronic mental or physical diseases. This is crucial because, when a mental illness or chronic physical illness occurs in the family, everything changes radically: the family members (spouse, children) change their habits in a split second, give up on themselves and enter a saviour state.

The psychologist Roxana Hosu shared from her own experience what it means to work with people who see

reality in a different way. Together with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Camelia Truța – they emphasised the importance of providing specific services to the ones in distress. Mental health problems are still seen as a stigma, hence the need to create social policies that foster the setting for society as a whole to grow mentally healthy. The discussions under the *European Mental Health Week* can provide a platform for future initiatives.

The series of events ended with a scientific approach to dreams and aspirations, with Prof. Dr. Ana-Maria Cazan alongside psychotherapist and *dream manager* Cornelia Crîșmăreanu as guest speakers.



Authentic dreams, the energy replenishing ones, help us maintain our well-being and implicitly mental health, whereas the obstacles to the achievement of our dreams are just milestones marking the transition to a new stage. The proposed method, namely CHILD, highlights each step we can take towards our dream, for the dream to be naturally achieved, as a genuine part of the journey through life.

We thank Libris Bookstore as they made it easier for us to fulfill our dream of joining all mental health advocates!

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramona HENTER
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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HUMLITPROJECT – AN INVITATION TO INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE THROUGH HUMOUR

Transilvania University of Braşov, through the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics within the Faculty of Letters, is a partner in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) research project under the Horizon Europe programme, *Developing humour literacy: analysing production, content and reception of humour to bring positive change in the public sphere* (HUMLIT), coordinated by the Jagiellonian University of Kraków, Poland. Spanning between 2025 and 2028, the project aims at analysing and promoting humour literacy in the European public space. The project team brings together specialists from 23 academic and non-academic institutions of 14 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Kosovo, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain). Our country is represented by four teaching personnel members from Transilvania University and another four from the University of Bucharest.

The first work package of the project, *Humour production*, is coordinated by Transilvania University of Braşov. This includes compiling and piloting the research tools, as well as taking interviews to humour producers, performers and exhibitors of all the countries involved. In this stage, the UNITBV team also conducted two research mobilities in Poland and Spain.



During a 30-day mobility (March–April 2025) to the *Museum of Caricature* in Warsaw, the team made up of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stanca Măda and Lect. Dr. Violeta Ioana Irimie selected and organised relevant visual materials for the project database. The team also took interview to the Romanian cartoonist Costel Pătrăşcan, followed by the transcription, translation and annotation of its content, in order to increase the cultural and linguistic accessibility of Romanian humour for the project partners.

At *Maldita* (www.maldita.es), an independent journalism platform committed to fighting misinformation in the public space, Lect. Dr. Violeta Ioana Irimie and Assist. Prof. Dr. Noémi Tudor (Ureţu) conducted activities of selection and organization on the humorous content in the media, adapted to the project needs, during their mobility to Madrid (April–May 2025). In the same period, an unprecedented interview was taken to the Romanian humour producer Daniel Făt. The artist's specific mix of folk music, stand-up comedy and improvisation adds an original expressive dimension to the Romanian humour phenomenon. The interview was fully processed (transcribed, translated and annotated), while preserving the expressive singularity of the artistic interventions.



Through its collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, HUMLIT capitalizes on humour as an essential tool for social reflection, critical education and enhanced intercultural dialogue. The first activities conducted by the team members from Transilvania University of Braşov have laid the foundations for solid methodological milestones and have generated valuable resources that will support the continued development and growth of the project.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Stanca MĂDA
Faculty of Letters

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THE SYMPOSIUM - COMPETITION FOR PUPILS AND TEACHERS "PHYSICS - PAST AND FUTURE", IN ITS 15TH EDITION

The symposium "Physics - Past and Future", organised by the Chair of Physics within "Radu-Negru" National College of Făgăraș is an event that emerges from the idea according to which physics is the discipline underlying the comprehension of the world as a whole, thus being the link between the abstract nature of mathematics and our present century's multitude of practical applications.



The initiator of the event, teacher Ioan Bogdan, spoke to us about the progress of all previous editions: "We are at a new edition of the Symposium «Physics - Past and Future». 15 years ago, I was the initiator of this activity that we succeeded in conducting year by year. Upon looking back at the activity of the symposium, 723 papers were presented in the teachers' section and over 780 papers in the pupils' section. Of course, as far as we are concerned, the most important contribution is for physics to keep pace with the progress of science and technology; and we have collaborated with seven universities to this end."

The symposium aimed at being a forum for the exchange of ideas and practices in the field of physics learning, with the following objectives:

- To present modern teaching-learning methods appropriate to the pupils' learning needs;
- To disseminate examples of good practice in the field of education and, in particular, of the interdisciplinary teaching of physics;
- To promote and capitalise on lifelong learning;
- To identify and disseminate good practices while developing the children's creativity.

This year's symposium was attended by 56 teachers from Brașov county, Bucharest and other 10 counties of our country, 23 of whom also

coordinated the participating pupils' papers. The 74 pupils of renowned colleges in Făgăraș municipality presented papers on topical issues and highly interesting experiments, which revealed passion, skill, scientific rigour, originality. Their papers were evaluated by a jury who awarded prizes in money worth 1.800 RON.

Moreover, UNITBV's Skill Valorization and Transfer Centre (CVTC), together with the Academy of Romanian Scientists (AOSR) and the Technical Sciences Academy of Romania (ASTR) offered three prizes and two mentions to the pupils who authored outstanding papers within the relevant competition "Physics - Past and Future".



The abstracts of the papers presented in the symposium were published in the journal released on this occasion and called "Symposiums of Sciences", now in its 15th issue.



The novelty of the 15th edition was the online connection with Professor Doctor Chemist in Inorganic Chemistry, Mircea Dincă, teaching at Princeton University, in the United States. Furthermore, Prof. Dr. Eng. Dan Daniel ("Politehnica" University of Timișoara), Prof. Dr. Elena Cocoradă (UNITBV) and Prof. Dr. Phys. Doru Ursuțiu (UNITBV, AOSR) participated and presented their papers, too.

Teacher Ioan BOGDAN
Teacher Manuela DRENEA
Prof. Em. Dr. Eng. Cornel SAMOILĂ
Prof. Dr. Phys. Doru URSUȚIU

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THE THIRD EDITION OF THE FUNCTIONAL VERIFICATION FORUM OF BRAȘOV

On 9 May 2025, on the premises of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, the technical event Functional Verification Forum of Brașov took place in its third edition.



During the event, the works of digital design and functional verification on the integrated circuits achieved in the laboratories of the 2024-2025 academic year's second semester were presented by 12 teams of students majoring in: Applied Electronics (Bachelor's), 4th year, Computers (Bachelor's), 4th year, as well as in Electronic and Communication Integrated Systems - Embedded Systems (Master's), 1st year.



The students' projects were made in teams of four or five, and included the steps needed to conceive, design, verify and substantiate digital circuits. The event attracted the interest of both integrated circuit companies and academic teaching personnel. Its audience (allowing both physical and online participation) included teaching personnel of four universities ("Politehnica" National University of Science and Technology, Bucharest, "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași, "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy of Brașov and Transilvania

University of Brașov) and employees of four integrated circuit companies headquartered in Brașov and Bucharest.

The Verification Forum of Brașov, now in its third edition, aims at reassuring the students that the concepts which they studied in class are appreciated and valued in the industry. Furthermore, it sets out to further strengthen the ties between the academic environment and the labour market. Not least, the purpose of this event is the relevant academic teaching personnel's meeting in order to analyse the effectiveness of various didactic approaches appropriate to the engineering field.



At the closure of the event, the students received participation diplomas with the logos of the faculty, as well as of Infineon and Microchip, two integrated circuit companies; and the best-performing teams were awarded.

We would like to thank the guidance team (Liviu Manole, Ioana Ailenei, Oana Ursu, Andreea Păscociu, Florin Deneș, Mădălina Dedu, Alexandru Dinu) who supported the students in achieving their projects. We want to turn the event into a permanence in the years to come, promoting a professional working environment within the faculty's laboratories, in line with the standards of the industry.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Alexandru DINU
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer
Science

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THE SPECIALISTS OF PREMIUM AEROTEC GHIMBAV, TOGETHER WITH THE GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE *SIMULATION AND TESTING IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING* PROGRAMME

On Friday, 30 May 2025, in CP8 room, on University Colina Campus, the 1st-year students in the *Simulation and Testing in Mechanical Engineering* master's programme attended a technical presentation given by the specialists of ECB (Engineering Centre Braşov) within Premium Aerotec company of Ghimbav (Eng. Liviu Rodeanu, Dr. Eng. Florin Dogaru, Eng. Alexandru Stan, Eng. Ana-Maria Nica and Eng. Botond Varga-Orbán), as part of a life-service-based design course. The event was dedicated to delving deeper into topics of major relevance in the advanced fatigue-strength calculations of the aerospace mechanical structures and related simulation and testing techniques.



This initiative aimed at promoting a closer connection between the academic and the economic environment, in order to support a relevant professional training, anchored in the current demands of the labour market. The direct dialogue with the Premium Aerotec specialists in the field of structural calculation provided the students with a realistic picture of the challenges and demands

specific to mechanical engineering, contributing to their enhanced technical skills and better understanding of the responsibilities awaiting them in the career of design engineers.



The event was a step towards integrating the academic training of the students at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering with practical experiences in the field of structural fatigue and sustainability analyses, offering young people the opportunity to learn from active professionals and to better understand the modern techniques that underlie the design and development of safe, high-performance and sustainable finished parts or structures.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Marius N. BABA
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Marian N. VELEA
Faculty of Mechanics

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TEDx UNITBV - *THE FUTURE OF HERE AND NOW*

The first TEDx UNITBV event, themed on *The Future of Here and Now* took place in Studio 181 room, on 9 May 2025.



The event was organised with the support of Transilvania University of Braşov, by a team of volunteers from the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration, consisting of: Răzvan Alexandru Prundiş and Darius Streşină (2nd year, Management), Iulia Sandu and Andreea Pascu (2nd year, Management), Roxana Bătuşaru, Andreea Clondireanu, Cristiana Comîrdici (1st year, Management) and Ilinca Vişioanu (1st year, Business Administration), coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dana Adriana Lupşa-Tătaru. Moreover, the event enjoyed the involvement of other students who joined this initiative, contributing to its smooth running: photographer Vlad Radu, Instagram corner – Ana Maria Butoi, pianistic art moment – Sabin Bănescu (student at the Faculty of Music).

TEDx UNITBV addresses everyone who is curious, passionate about change and willing to share ideas, and is an event where at least one inspiring and action-impelling perspective can be discovered, thus shaping our own future and the future of the community we are part of. The mission of TEDx UNITBV is to facilitate a framework for critical reflection on the current socio-economic and technological transformations. The event aims at fostering intellectual debate, at strengthening awareness on emerging challenges, and at highlighting the importance of the teaching and

research processes for generating sustainable solutions. By promoting innovative ideas and diverse perspectives, TEDx UNITBV contributes to the development of a community capable of managing the complexity of the future, having a clear vision and acting with the outmost responsibility.

The first edition of TEDx UNITBV had *The Future of Here and Now* as its main topic. In an ever-changing world, adaptability and the ability to embrace change are essential. Through this event, the team of volunteers aimed at encouraging the academic and local community to look beyond uncertainties and turn challenges into opportunities, exploring ideas on how the future can be anticipated and influenced through the power of now.

The purpose was to present new perspectives, providing the participants with valuable information and ideas through the guest speakers' experiences and vision. Each speech, delivered for the 100 participants (UNITBV's teaching personnel, students, graduates) was an invitation to reflection and action, proving that the future is not just a distant destination, but is being built here and now, through the choices we make today: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Băicoianu challenged us to think not only about AI, but also about how to ask the right questions; Iulia Hermeneanu (FSEAA student) talked about the portfolio-type career; Prof. Dr. Ana-Maria Cazan invited us to introspection, speaking about decisions; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anca Preda connected us through music, beyond notes and language; and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mihaela Voinea concluded with a profound message about human values.

Congratulations to everyone who presented their points of view during the event, and especially to the student volunteers who epitomize commitment, determination, enthusiasm and contribution!

Prof. Dr. Gheorghița DINCĂ, Vice-Dean
Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business
Administration

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IESC STUDENTS AT @ CODE THE FUTURE HACKATHON 2025 POWERED BY SIEMENS



On the occasion of Siemens company's 120-year presence in Romania, the Brașov team of this important partner for our university, together with the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, organised a first edition of the student competition *Code the Future Hackathon*. Its theme is described by the organizers as "Digital Transformation: it explores the connection between tinkering and software development, creating innovative solutions based on embedded systems or artificial intelligence, merging engineering and creativity".

The event took place between 8 and 10 May 2025, with the competition launch at the company's branch office of Brașov, on the first day, followed by two days full of creativity in the L6 Laboratory of the Research and Development Institute within Transilvania University.

The competition was attended by 39 students in the faculty's various bachelor's and master's programmes, and in all years of study, including an ambitious team of freshmen. The students were organised into teams of three, with each benefiting

from the guidance of a professional in the Siemens team. The students had the opportunity to work on applied solutions, in a setting where learning and innovative thinking come first.

The material support required for the competition was provided by Siemens: Raspberry PI development modules, Arduino robotic arm development kits, compatible video cameras, sensors and various consumables.



The event was promoted on the faculty's and company's websites, as well as on [@IESC](#) and [@SiemensRomania](#) online social networks.

The organizers consider this event a success due to the intense learning experience; and one of the conclusions is their intention to make this competition an annual one.



Lect Dr. Cristian BOLDIȘOR
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer
Science

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"MYTH BUSTERS" IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

Starting from two premises, namely: *Laboratory experiments are the scientific approach to understanding the secrets behind food* and *Myth-busting is a form of interactive exploration that stimulates curiosity*, the 4th-year students in the Food Control and Expertise programme, organised an experimental workshop themed on *Myth busters in Food Industry*, together with pupils at the Energy Technological High School of Câmpina and Brâncoveanu Vodă Theoretical High School of Urlați.



During the workshop, the students took on the role of teachers and proved both analytical and scientific demonstration skills, as well as communication and relationship skills, and thus

involved the curious and enthusiastic pupils in debunking food industry myths through experiments. The three myths debunked during the first *Myth busters in Food Industry* workshop were: (1) Brown-skinned bananas are not good, (2) Alcohol-free beer does not contain alcohol and (3) Can yogurt be adulterated?



As always, the field of nutrition was approached in a scientific spirit, but also in the friendly way that characterises the Faculty of Food and Tourism.

The event was held under the auspices of the university's projects, and mainly aimed at establishing connections between high schools and Transilvania University of Braşov.

Lect. Dr. Simona ȘOICA
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Mirabela-Ioana LUPU
Project coordinators

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SELF MAKING AND THE HUMANITIES IN THE POSTCOLONY – PROF. SAIKAT MAJUMDAR AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

On 20 May 2025, the Multicultural Centre within Transilvania University of Brașov hosted an outstanding conference given by Saikat Majumdar, writer and professor at Ashoka University of New Delhi, entitled *Self Making and the Humanities in the Postcolony*. The event, part of “Transilvania University Guest Lectures” conference series, brought together a large audience of students, professors and enthusiasts of postcolonial studies and modern theorizing of contemporary literature.



Saikat Majumdar is a reference voice in the international academic space, known both for his novels – such as *The Scent of God* or *The Middle Finger* – and for his transdisciplinary theoretical contributions in the field of literary and cultural studies. His recent book, *The Amateur: Self-Making and the Humanities in the Postcolony* (Bloomsbury, 2024), was the highlight of the conference, opening an essential dialogue about the relations between amateur readers and the process of intellectual formation in certain postcolonial contexts.

In his speech, Majumdar brought up concepts such as “poor reading” and “weak theory”, by which he challenges the elitist and professionalized critical-reading model promoted by British colonial education. He highlighted the formative value of self-taught reading and brought back to the fore figures of marginalized, peripheral intellectuals (in relation to their positioning towards the intellectual-power centres) of India, the Caribbean and South

Africa – such as C.L.R. James, Nirad C. Chaudhuri or Dionne Brand, proving that they reconfigured their cultural identity through reading.



The conference was followed by a substantial debate, moderated by Lect. Dr. Ileana Botescu-Sirețeanu, Lect. Dr. Cristian Pralea and Prof. Dr. Alexandru Matei. The discussions explored the relevance and current implications of Majumdar’s theory in the context of the digitalization of knowledge and increasingly “democratic” access to the information sources. Constructive and challenging, the dialogue emphasised the tension between academic authority and individual reading experience.

The event reconfirmed the high interest in revising knowledge paradigms within the postcolonial era and sparked a critical impetus needed for the debate on the role of humanities in shaping identities outside the traditional, conventional educational structures. The substantial intellectual dialogue and the audience’s active participation turned the event into a memorable benchmark for the academic community of Brașov.

Miruna CARP, 2nd-year graduate student,
Faculty of Letters

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THE STUDENTS PROMOTE INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION THROUGH THE *LANGUAGE MENTORSHIP* INITIATIVE



The meeting between academic excellence and social impact has taken an important step forward with the UNITBV students' participation in the *trainer training* programme held in Malta, within the *Language Buddy* project. The graduate student Amalia Varga (Teaching, Learning and Counselling in Intercultural Contexts – in English) and the students Alisa Florescu and Alessandra Muscă, who attend the psycho-pedagogical training programme for the teaching profession in parallel with the bachelor's studies within the Faculty of Letters, were selected out of the volunteer mentor group to attend this important event of the AMIF project: *Supporting language learning of migrant children and young adults through language buddies (Language Buddy)*.



This international training opportunity is a notable achievement in the field of applied educational research, where theoretical knowledge merges with practical application. The participants collaborated to develop an innovative mentoring framework designed to support the integration of refugee/migrant youth aged 12 to 17, through non-formal and informal learning programmes.

Transnational Language Buddy Training of Trainers (ToT), an event organised in Malta between 8 and 10 May 2025, was integral part in the 3rd work package of AMIF *Language Buddy* project. Hosted

by Advenio eAcademy as the leader of the 3rd work package, the workshop consisted of eight intensive modules which covered intercultural understanding, critical pedagogy, innovative language learning tools and the implementation of the *Language Buddy* system.

In total, 24 students (three from each partner country) were selected by the higher-education institutions of the eight participating countries. The participants were chosen based on the educational background and commitment to developing their mentoring skills.



During the three-day intensive programme, the participants got involved in interactive training activities designed to explore the structure and content of the training modules, the course platform, and to develop effective mentoring techniques for the successful conduct of the *language buddy* sessions. The workshop ended with comprehensive feedback and assessment questionnaires for the enhanced impact and effectiveness of the programme.

This international experience defines our students as qualified trainers and ambassadors of intercultural mentorship, who will contribute to the wider implementation of the *Language Buddy* methodology in the participating European institutions.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela POPA
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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THE LITERARY FRANCOPHONIE CONTINUE ITS TRADITION AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

For more than a decade, the students majoring in French at the Faculty of Letters in the city of Brașov participate in Prix Goncourt - Romania's Choice. Since 2023, following a joint action of the Centres for Academic Success within Transilvania University of Brașov, and respectively, Ion Creangă Pedagogical University of Chișinău, the selection of Romania and the Republic of Moldova has become a shared one. This year, Andreea-Luana Petre, a 1st-year student, was our university's representative at the final debate that took place in Bucharest, on 28 May.



This year, the prestigious competition Prix Goncourt - Romania's Choice was attended by seven students, each representing a university of Romania and the Republic of Moldova. The event, which took place on the occasion of Bookfest Fair, in Bucharest, was honoured by the presence of the writers Gabriela Adameșteanu and Caroline de Mulder, two prominent figures in the Francophone literary world.

Prior to the start of the debate, the coordinator of the event, Lyla Messad, Director of the Book Office within the French Institute, together with her team, organised an informal brunch, meant to facilitate socialising and give us the opportunity of meeting the other participants. The meeting took place in the library of the French Institute, in Bucharest, a

welcoming space that provided the ideal setting for the ensuing discussions.

Once the participants arrived, we were presented with the rules and way of proceeding of the debate. Each of us in turn introduced him/herself, mentioning the university of origin and justifying the personal choice of the favourite book. Each presentation was accompanied by a well-structured argumentation, convincingly substantiating the literary value and impact of the selected opus. After all contestants had the opportunity to express their viewpoint and defend their option, the final vote was held. Following deliberation, "Jacaranda" by Gaël Faye was designated the winning book, being appreciated for its thematic depth and stylistic quality.



The event ended with a few free hours, which allowed us to reflect on the experience and explore the book fair. The official announcement of the winning book took place later, on the Bookfest stage, in the presence of the audience and organizers. For me, this experience was not only a competition, but also a valuable opportunity to engage in intercultural dialogue, to delve into the Francophone literature, and to develop my argumentation and academic expression skills.

Luana-Andreea PETRE, 1st-year student,
English-French, Faculty of Letters

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LAN PARTY TRANSILVANIA – A NOSTALGIC EVENT EXCLUSIVELY SUPPORTED BY OUR UNIVERSITY!



On 30 May 2025, for the first time, Transilvania Radio Campus team organised an event that sparked nostalgia, competitiveness and good cheer among our students fond of gaming.



It took place in the living room of Magnolia Shopping Centre, a welcoming space, specially arranged for the young people eager to socialize and mainly to engage in a fierce competition. The gamers, upon arriving at the location, connected their laptops to a local area network, which the LAN abbreviation derives from, and then the magic started.

In the first part of the live broadcast event, the well-known game *League of Legends* heated up the atmosphere, and after a short break, next came *Counter Strike: Global Offensive*, the game that brought both successes and memorable defeats. The number of participants was impressive: about 70 people were present – from the radio members and supporters to the eight competing teams.



Throughout the competition, our moderators commented on every move, and in the end awarded the winning teams prizes customised for each game.

Meanwhile, the organizers went through a rollercoaster of emotions – from worry to ecstasy and back – yet skilfully solved every problem, making sure they would not be noticed by the participants.



To round off, the event was a real success, raising the competitors' adrenaline to the highest levels. Late in the evening, everyone was smiling and full of unmatched energy, the best reward for Transilvania Radio Campus team, who is already training for the next edition of *LAN Party Transilvania*.

Stay tuned on the online social networks and don't miss the next events prepared by the radio station of your student years!

Daria RUȚĂ and Teodora BĂJAN
Transilvania Radio Campus

"GREEN DAY" BOOK SWAP FAIR, ORGANISED ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD BIODIVERSITY DAY

Under the aegis of UNITA University Alliance, a special event has been recently organised, that is, the *Green Day* Book Swap Fair. This initiative took place on 22 May 2025, between 12:00 m. and 6:00 p.m., on *University Colina* Campus, E building. The event gave the academic community members, both students and personnel, the opportunity to trade their personal books in an environmentally friendly way, thus marking the World Green Day.



The fair was designed as a platform where the participants could give their already read books a new life, by sharing them with other readers. This concept promotes the reuse of resources, contributing to a greener, more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

The atmosphere was feisty and welcoming. The participants eagerly explored the makeshift shelves, discovering various genres and titles – from classic and academic books, to novels and self-development books. Many of them found surprising books and socialised with other reading enthusiasts, exchanging ideas and recommendations.



Apart from the benefits of the book swap, the event also had an important educational role, highlighting the importance of biodiversity and environmental protection. Aligned with the World Green Day, the UNITA Alliance's initiative reminded all participants of the value that natural resources hold and of the positive impact that our actions can have on the environment. By encouraging the reuse of books, this event showed that sustainability can be easily and pleasantly integrated into everyday activities.

Andra Elena DAN, 2nd-year student, CRP,
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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THE LIVING LIBRARY: "OPEN A LIVING BOOK - LISTEN TO A REAL STORY"



On 29 May, the 1st-year graduate students majoring in Community Assistance and Development within the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, organised a non-formal education event entitled "The Living Library", which gave the participants the opportunity to face their prejudices, develop tolerance and empathy in an open and friendly environment, through dialogue.

The event was part of a joint project, developed within the discipline *Intervention Models for Risk Groups*, under Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gabriela Dima's guidance, in collaboration with SCUT Association.

The Living Library brought together 17 "living books" – people with valuable life experiences: social work professionals, active volunteers, as well as people and youth belonging to vulnerable groups, who face stigma and discrimination on a daily basis.

The participants had the opportunity to borrow a human book for 20 minutes and develop empathy through listening, thus breaking down the barriers of stereotypes. The Living Library was not only a practical exercise for students, but also a shaping

experience for the community, an event with real social impact, held outside the strictly academic framework, but deeply anchored in the University's human and educational values.



We thank everyone involved in the organization, the readers who had the courage to face their own prejudices and, above all, the living books who chose to open themselves to the public.

Irina ENOIU – student
Event coordinator

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RETRACING BARTÓK – EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE

Within the project dedicated to the musicologist Béla Bartók, hosted by the Multicultural Centre in the month of May, a documentary exhibition produced by Jazz Updates Timișoara was presented, a lecture was delivered by László Vikárius, Director of Budapest Bartók Archives, and a concert was performed by the musicians Lucian Ban and Mat Maneri.



Retracing Bartók is a multimedia exhibition telling the story of Béla Bartók's passion for Romanian folk music, of his innovative audio recording methods, as well as of the way in which the recordings have been reinterpreted and performed by the artists invited to the homonymous project since 2018 so far. Within the exhibition, the photographs taken by Bela Bartok during his folklore-collecting travels were available to watch; and the music recorded by him on the phonograph, on wax cylinders, was available to listen to, as played and sung more than 100 years ago.

Within the exhibition, László Vikárius (Budapest Bartók Archives, Institute for Musicology, HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities) delivered the lecture entitled *Béla Bartók's Devotion to the Romanian Folk Music of Transylvania*.

László Vikárius studied musicology at Franz Liszt Academy of Music between 1984 and 1989, and at the Institute of Musicology in Basel between 1992

and 1993. Since 1988, he has been a member in the team of Budapest Bartók Archives, within the Institute for Musicology (currently HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities), which he has been leading as Director of Department since 2005. He is the editor-in-chief of the series "Béla Bartók Complete Critical Edition" (BBCCE). He is also a professor of musicology at Franz Liszt Academy of Music, and director of programme for the doctorate in musicology.



His doctoral thesis was published under the title "Model and Inspiration in Bartók's Musical Thinking" (Pécs, Hungary: Jelenkor, 1999). His main field of research is the study of sources, the stylistic analysis and the history of reception. He publishes academic articles in English, German and Hungarian, and he has attended conferences in Hungary and abroad, organising in his turn international Bartók-dedicated conferences in Hungary. He has curated several exhibitions at the Music History Museum within the Institute of Musicology, and developed databases for the Institute's website together with his team members at Bartók Archives.

Anca PAPANA

Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

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THE CAPTURE. MOVIE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

In the month of May, the Multicultural Centre was host for the project *The Capture*, a film and photo installation achieved by the director Adi Voicu and the photographer A. I. Bumbac. In directing the movie *The Capture*, Adi Voicu starts from a personal experience lived during the protests that took place in Bucharest in 2012: "The way I related to that event, the fact that I was dragged into the crossfire by the gendarmes and forced to delete everything I had filmed, the terrifying drive in the gendarmerie van to the police station, and the policemen's friendly but treacherous treatment became sources of inspiration for the movie *The Capture*".



If the movie fictionally documents the experience lived by Adi Voicu, conversely, A.I. Bumbac documents various shooting instances through photography. Thus, two artistic products are placed face to face, which, starting from opposite poles (reality in the former case, fictional product in the latter), problematize and bring to the fore the ever-thin and fluid boundary between fiction and reality.

A.I. Bumbac is a photojournalist for national and international agencies, a member in Romania's Association of Professional Journalists - Reportage Photography Section, as well as a member in the Visual Artists' Union of Romania. His photographs have travelled the world at critical moments of our history: the Revolution of '89, the Miners' Riots of '90 and of '98 - Costești, the war in Transnistria, as well as the one in Yugoslavia. He has contributed to international publications such as *International Herald Tribune*, *Paris Match*, *Der Spiegel*, *Der Stern*,

The Sun, *Le Monde* and *National Geographic*. He has received awards such as the gold medal – under the press report section at the International Photography Salon of Bucharest, and the first prize – under the photo section, awarded by the Romanian Press Club.

Adi Voicu is a film director and a member of the Romanian Filmmakers Association. He teaches at the National University of Arts in Bucharest. He has made several documentary and fiction films that enjoyed international acclaim, both at prestigious festivals and on international platforms. *Metrobranding* (2010) was selected in Doc Alliance as one of the year's ten best documentaries. *Victory* (2010) was screened at Jihlava and *Visions du Réel*, as well as broadcast on HBO. *The Mist* (2016) premiered in Rotterdam and won numerous international awards: Golden Centaur at Sankt Petersburg, Grand Prize at *Premières Plans*, etc.



The Last Trip to the Seaside (2019) premiered in the official selection *Semaine de la Critique*, Cannes (2019), and won numerous awards at prestigious festivals. *The Capture* (2023) was awarded at Sofia International Film Festival; and in November 2024 it was released in cinemas.

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CHAMBER JAZZ: LUCIAN BAN AND MAT MANERI

The pianist Lucian Ban and the violist Mat Maneri returned in the Chamber Jazz @ Transilvania University series, as part of an international tour to launch their new duo album, *Transylvanian Dance* (ECM Records, 2024), which brings back to life the traditional folk songs collected by Béla Bartók, reinterpreted in the language of contemporary jazz.



The folklore performers' voices recorded by Béla Bartók more than one hundred years ago on Edison wax cylinders resonated in tandem with the two musicians' live improvisations, while video projections specially created for the performance brought before the audience Béla Bartók's original scores and rare photos, taken by him himself in the villages of Transylvania.

The Hungarian composer Béla Bartók, one of the 20th century's prominent figures, dedicated an important part of his career to the study of Transylvanian traditional folk music. Between 1909 and 1917, Bartók transcribed thousands of songs and recorded hundreds of folklore performers on wax cylinders. The thorough study of these songs made an indelible impression on the composer's vision.

A century later, two exceptional improvisers – the violist Mat Maneri and the pianist Lucian Ban – find inspiration in the music that sparked Bartók's imagination. The two reinterpret carols, elegiac songs, love songs, dowry songs, and many more

For two decades, since the beginning of their collaboration as a duo, Lucian Ban and Mat Maneri have been acknowledged for the innovative fusion of Transylvanian folklore and improvisation, the exploration of 20th-century European classical music through the prism of jazz, and the search for a contemporary ideal of chamber jazz. The two musicians first worked together in 2009, within *Enesco Re-Imagined* octet – a project conceived as a celebration

and contemporary performance of the great Romanian composer George Enescu's music oeuvre, along with Ralph Alessi, Tony Malaby, John Hebert, Gerald Cleaver, Albrecht Maurer and Badal Roy, the legendary player of Indian table (hand drums). The album was recorded live within George Enescu International Festival of Bucharest, in 2009, it won many prizes, such as Best Album of the Year, awarded by Jazz Journalists Association, was acclaimed by the international press and was followed by concerts in major festivals and concert halls.

In 2013, ECM Records label released their duo album *Transylvanian Concert*, acclaimed for "original voice and unconventional beauty" (The Guardian), followed by international tours. Their 2020 album *Transylvanian Folk Songs* was included in NPR 2020 Jazz Critics Poll, in Balkan World Music Charts, in the selection New York City Jazz Record – Best of 2020, and in many other charts. In 2023, Ban and Maneri released, under Sunnyside Records, the album *Oedipe Redux*, a radical performance of George Enescu's masterpiece, *Oedipe*, along with Jen Shyu, Theo Bleckmann, Tom Rainey and the renowned French bass clarinetist Louis Sclavis.



The concert offered by Lucian Ban and Mat Maneri was part of a project that took place between 20 and 31 May 2025; it also included László Vikárius' lecture (Budapest Bartók Archives, Institute for Musicology, HUN-REN Research Centre for the Humanities) and the exhibition *Retracing Bartók*.

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