



Transilvania  
University  
of Brasov

# NEWSLETTER

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## IWEEK & UNITA DAYS - CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Between 31 March and 4 April 2025, Transilvania University of Braşov hosted the international event entitled *IWEEK and UNITA Days 2025 - Cultural Diversity in Higher Education*.

For five days, the 46 guests from partner universities across 21 countries – Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Ukraine, USA, Vietnam – attended workshops and activities dedicated to the cultural diversity in higher education.



UNITBV's Romanian and international *full-time* students shared, in their turn, their multicultural and intercultural experiences lived during the period of studies, contributing to the success of the event. The discussions also addressed the importance of the cultural preparation for both students and personnel in the context of the Erasmus+ mobilities, with a view to helping them develop the skills necessary for the exercise of global citizenship.

More details and the event schedule: <https://iweek.unitbv.ro>

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

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## THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION ON ONLINE ENGINEERING (IAOE) AS A BENCHMARK FOR THE STE2026 CONFERENCE OF BRAȘOV

STE2025 was the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Smart Technologies and Education, held between 9 and 11 April 2025 in Santiago, Chile. The event brought together experts from all over the world to discuss emerging technologies, online education, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and the Internet of things. The conference included academic presentations, networking sessions and forums dedicated to the collaboration between industry and the academic environment.



At STE2025, Prof. Dr. Phys. Doru Ursuțiu was special guest, presenting a plenary lecture on the online technologies and virtual instrumentation in fields such as monitoring, medicine and industry. He talked about Cloud Instrumentation and IoT, highlighting the role of these technologies for the modern education in the field of engineering.



Professor Doru Ursuțiu is the Honorary President of IAOE and Director of the Centre for the Valorization and Transfer of Skills (CVTC) within Transilvania University of Brașov, and he has an extensive experience in physics, electronics, virtual instrumentation and distance learning. All through his career, he has been internationally acknowledged for his contributions to engineering pedagogy, and received prestigious awards such as: IGIP (International Society for Engineering Pedagogy) "Honoris Causa (ENG.PAED.IGIP)" and IGIP "Nicola Tesla Prize with the Golden Chain".



At Santiago de Chile, Prof. Dr. Phys. Doru Ursuțiu was empowered by the Rector of Transilvania University of Brașov to officially announce the STE2026 conference, which will take place between 10 and 13 March 2026 in Brașov. The event will continue the tradition of the IAOE conferences on smart technologies and education, bringing together experts from all over the world to discuss artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, IoT and digital education. On the occasion of STE2026, the International Association of Online Engineering (IAOE) will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, together with the CVTC members, the ones who established it.

At the STE2025 Conference, Doru Ursuțiu also presented the paper of the CVTC Centre: "Build and Test one IoT Monitoring System for Student Training" (authored by D. Ursuțiu<sup>1,2</sup>, C. Samoilă<sup>1,3</sup>, C. Dolhascu<sup>1</sup>, C. Bogdan<sup>1</sup>, H. Modran<sup>1</sup>; where <sup>1</sup>Transilvania University of Brașov, <sup>2</sup>AOSR Academy of Romanian Scientists, <sup>3</sup>ASTR Technical Sciences Academy of Romania).



The four IAOE partners (EWA, UNITBV, IAOE Phoenix Contact) who signed, at STE2025, the agreement for STE2026 to take place in Brașov

Prof. Em. Dr. Eng. Cornel SAMOILĂ  
Technical Sciences Academy of Romania

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## THE FACULTY OF SILVICULTURE AND FOREST ENGINEERING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ERASMUS FORESTRY NETWORK(EFN)

In early April, L'École Nationale Supérieure des Technologies et Industries du Bois (ENSTIB) of Université de Lorraine hosted, in the town of Épinal, France, the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of *Erasmus Forestry Network*. EFN (<https://erfonet.com>) is a project started in 1991, currently reuniting over 35 prestigious universities (including Transilvania University of Braşov) from countries such as: Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Poland or the Czech Republic. Within the meeting, Transilvania University of Braşov was represented by Lect. Dr. Eng. Mihnea Căţeanu, as the Erasmus+ coordinator for the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering. Each of the partner universities offers study programmes in the field of silviculture and/or wood technology, as EFN is dedicated to developing collaborative initiatives, strengthening international cooperation and promoting Erasmus+ mobilities for students and teaching personnel.



The first day began with the presentation of the ENSTIB Centre, but also with a joint presentation given by *AgroParisTech* and *Fibois Grand Est*, which provided insights into the French forestry sector and into the collaboration opportunities

among the partners. The afternoon was dedicated to the presentations of the institutions, as well as to a guided tour on the campus, its laboratories and research centres, which enabled a deeper understanding of the ENSTIB Centre's facilities. The day ended with a brainstorming session on the potential synergies with other European networks, the prospects for international collaboration, but also the challenges in education, research and student recruitment.

The second day was devoted to field activities. During the visit to *La Maison de la Belle Forêt*, deep into the Darney forest, a delegation of stakeholders in the project *Forêt d'Exception®* (FODEX) presented this ambitious certification initiative. The abovementioned region stands out for the diversity of ownership regimes

– state, municipal and private – which requires close coordination among stakeholders. The visit continued deep into the forest, where the participants explored the oak stands, as well as an over-planted reserve area, which illustrates the challenges of sustainable forest management. In the southwest of the Vosges area, the oak trees are renowned for the exceptional quality of their wood, highly valued by wine barrel manufacturers.

Finally, the group made a stop at *Hôtel Innovation Bois*, in Épinal, where Quentin Remy, an engineer with ENSTIB, presented this centre inaugurated in 2021. Designed to foster innovation and collaboration in the timber sector, this building, made of local *Douglas fir* timber, supports the business environment and serves as an example for regional expertise in sustainable construction.



The seminar organised by ENSTIB strengthened the links among the EFN network partners, expanded the prospects for international cooperation, and highlighted exemplary local initiatives, such as *Darney-La Vôge*.



These two intense days highlighted the richness of the European exchanges in the field of forestry and reaffirmed the central role of the training and teaching centres in the field of silviculture and wood engineering, as active stakeholders in the ecological transition, education and innovation.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Mihnea CĂȚEANU  
Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering



## SPORTS EXCELLENCE: TWO MEDALS FOR OUR STUDENTS AT THE MEDICINE CUP

In a vibrant and bustling atmosphere, five students of the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports proudly represented the institution at the *Medicine Cup*, table tennis, held on 11 and 12 April 2025, in Timișoara. The competition, which has already become a tradition among our country's medical faculties, brought together young sports enthusiasts from several university centres, willing to prove their skills in a competitive, but also friendly setting.



Our representatives entered the competition with great enthusiasm and determination, and the results were not long in coming. After two days of intense matches, well-thought-out strategies and intense focus, our faculty's delegation returned home with two precious medals: one gold and one bronze.

The gold medal went to Zoltan Bokor, who had a flawless run all through the tournament.

From the group stage matches to the spectacular finals, Zoltan proved not only excellent technique, but also admirable self-possession. His victory is all the more valuable as his opponents were well-trained players, some of them with rich competitive experience.

The bronze medal was won by Liviu Anghel, who stood out for his dynamic playstyle and exceptional adaptability to every opponent. In a steadfast way, Liviu successfully reached the semi-finals, where he determinedly fought for the podium. His performance once again confirms our students' high level of training, both academically and from a sporting perspective.

Apart from these remarkable results, the *Medicine Cup* was also an excellent opportunity for the students to socialize, exchange ideas and make friends with colleagues from other academic centres. Sports has thus become not only a competition field, but also a bond between future medical professionals.

This success reinforces the commitment of our faculty to encouraging the students' active and balanced lifestyle, where academic performance harmoniously interweaves with the involvement in extracurricular activities, including sports. The support offered by the teaching personnel, but also by the administrative structures, was essential for the participation in this competition, and the results are an acknowledgment for teamwork, too.



We congratulate the entire team for their dedication and sportsmanship! We hope that this success will inspire other students as well to get involved in sports competitions, follow their passions, and continue to proudly carry forward the name of our faculty.

Lect. Dr. Ștefan ALECU  
Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

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## BRILLIANT BRONZE AT THE NATIONAL ACADEMIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP FOR TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

The remarkable achievements of the students at Transilvania University of Brașov keep standing out nationally, this time in the framework of the National Academic Chess Championship, focused on the rapid chess and blitz events, and held between 25 and 27 April 2025, in Timișoara. In a competitive environment, which brought together passionate young people from all over the country, our university's team won a place on the podium, obtaining a well-deserved bronze medal. This honourable result confirms not only the quality of the education offered within the university, but also its students' exceptional potential.



The competition, known for its high playing level and match intensity, was a real challenge for all participants. The representatives of Transilvania University of Brașov performed with a mixed 6-student team, each from a different faculty, thus showing the diversity and talent present all over the university.

The team membership was as follows:

- ♟ Jemal Ovezdurdyeva – Faculty of Letters, preparatory year;
- ♟ Sabina-Andreea Pițigoi – Faculty of Sociology and Communication;
- ♟ Luciana-Gabriela Stan – Faculty of Medicine;
- ♟ Mihai-Octavian Dobrin – Faculty of Sociology and Communication;
- ♟ Vlad-Ionuț Toader – Faculty of Product Design and Environment;
- ♟ Armand Veress – Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science.

This team has shown that not only the long hours of training and individual study, but also a well-knit team

spirit and a genuine desire for self-assertion underlie the tactical moves. The students competed confidently, successfully scoring valuable points against serious contenders.

The powerful leadership was an essential factor in the success of the delegation. The team was accompanied by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ion-Gabriel Stan, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, and by drd. Ciprian-Costică Nanu, adjunct professor and international grandmaster (GM). Under the coordination of these two prominent personalities in Romanian academic chess, the students received quality training and constant support throughout the competition.

The achievement of the team bronze medal is not only a confirmation of the individual talent, but also a recognition of the intense teamwork and fondness of chess. Moreover, in the individual event, Jemal Ovezdurdyeva ranked second in the rapid chess competition, and first in the blitz competition.

This is also an invitation for the university's all students to get actively involved in extracurricular activities, to capitalize on their passions and to enhance our institution's image nationally.



We congratulate the entire team for this great result and wish them the best of luck in the upcoming competitions. Transilvania University of Brașov remains a centre of excellence not only in education and research, but also in the sport of the mind!

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ion-Gabriel STAN, Dean  
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

Lect. Dr. Ștefan ALECU  
Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

## FIGHTING SPIRIT AND HONOUR: PROMISING RESULTS AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP

On 29 March 2025, our student athletes represented the University with distinction and honour at the National University Karate Championship, held in a special competitive setting, which brought together student enthusiasts of the martial arts from all over the country. Guided by the Dean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ioan Turcu, our team has proven that determination, perseverance and team spirit can lead to outstanding results even against formidable opponents.



Karate, as a complex martial art, requires not only physical strength, but also mental discipline, emotional balance and keen attention to detail. Our students met all these qualities and succeeded in obtaining beautiful results within a competition where every point was won through effort and strategy.

Alessio Toderel, a 1<sup>st</sup>-year student in Kinetic Therapy and Special Motricity (PSMS), won the bronze medal in the *Male Kata (+18 years)* event. Through his technical execution and precision of movements, Alessio impressed the jury and won a well-deserved place on the podium, bringing home a consequential medal for the university's team.

Raul Andrei, a 1<sup>st</sup>-year student at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport (EFS), honourably ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the *Male Kumite (+18 years), +84 kg*

category. Albeit in a difficult group, Andrei showed physical resistance, agility and courage, thus succeeding in reaching a top position and proving a genuine competitive spirit.

Dănuț Mîndrean, a 1<sup>st</sup>-year student at EFS as well, ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the *Male Kata (+18 years)* event, which confirmed our students' high level of training, even against opponents with remarkable sports experience.

Apart from these achievements, the participation in the National University Karate Championship was a key opportunity of personal and professional development for the students involved. The experience acquired in such a large-scale competition will serve as a benchmark in their sporting career, but also as a growth factor for their strength of character, in order for them to cope with the challenges of academic and professional life.

We congratulate the entire team for the exemplary way they represented the University! The presence of Prof. Dr. Ioan Turcu, the Dean, was an important support for the students' morale and motivation; and the involvement of the faculty's management in supporting the sports activities is proof of the commitment towards the future professionals' complete training.

We wish all our athletes the best of luck in their future competitions and hope that this participation is only the beginning of winning streaks in the world of martial arts!

Lect. Dr. Ștefan ALECU

Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

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## PATH - OPENING PARTNERSHIPS: *TOTALENERGIES* ROMANIA SA AND THE STEPS TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

On 29 April 2025, the students in the “Industrial Environmental Engineering and Protection” and “Engineering of Renewable Energy Systems” study programmes, within the Faculty of Product Design and Environment, participated in an important presentation delivered by Cătălin Cindea, Technical Manager, together with the representatives of TotalEnergies Romania SA company, leader in the energy sector. The event mainly aimed at presenting the company’s activity, but also at identifying concrete directions for the youth involvement in the organization’s projects, either through internships or through future professional collaborations.

The representatives of TotalEnergies company talked about the company’s main fields of activity, their guiding values and the role that the new generations could play in the sustainable development of the energy sector. They also presented the available jobs, the selection criteria, as well as the organizational culture based on responsibility, innovation and respect for the environment.

The meeting had an interactive nature, with the students asking questions about the internship programme, the types of activities to get involved in, and the long-term professional development opportunities. The company representatives’ open and supportive responses turned the session into a valuable and motivating dialogue. At the end of the presentation, the participants were surprised with a small symbolic gift, offered as a token of appreciation for their interest and active involvement.

We express our gratitude to the TotalEnergies Romania SA team for their openness and support in facilitating our students’ transition to a professional career. Such collaborations are essential to turning the academic training into a practical one, adapted to the current demands of the labour market.

Prof. Dr. Cristina CAZAN

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cristina BOGATU

Faculty of Product Design and Environment

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## CodeStorm@MI TRANSILVANIA HACKATHON AT THE FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Artificial intelligence (IA) has become an indispensable partner in many modern applications. More and more companies are directing their efforts and research towards this fascinating, controversial and ever-developing field.



This year, the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science within Transilvania University of Braşov launched a challenge to both high-school pupils and students passionate about technology, by organising Transilvania CodeStorm@MI hackathon, in one of our university's buildings, P, between 4 and 5 April.

Thirteen of the twenty-three 3- and 4-membered teams, eager to test their skills and innovative spirit on the topic *AI Agents: Shaping the Future of Learning*, were selected, each of them with a mentor by their side. The event was attended by two high-school teams – one coming especially from Ploieşti, and the other from “Grigore Moisil” National College of Braşov – as well as by many undergraduate and graduate student teams, most of them from Braşov, but also from Alba Iulia and Bucharest. Thus, a diverse and colourful mix came into being, with creative ideas and good will animating the refreshment and coffee breaks. Plenty of coffee.

During a day and a half, the teams, together with their mentors – mostly specialists within IT companies, who have also supported us in the organization – developed original ideas and coded enthusiastically, even in the middle of the night, either in the dorms or at home. The participants explored ways in which AI can improve the teaching

and learning experience, while also trying to step out of the classic pupil/student role, only to step into the trainer's role.

The participants' work was rewarded in the presence of the faculty management's representatives, the sponsors from the economic environment and our University's Vice-Rector for Students and the Liaison with the Economic and Socio-cultural Environment, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniel Munteanu.

The event was highly appreciated, and we would like it to become a tradition, not an isolated event. The hackathon could not have been organised without the voluntary and enthusiastic involvement of many people – from students to professors – to whom we sincerely thank for their time and effort.



Our special thanks go as well to all the companies that supported us financially and logistically!

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandra BĂICOIANU  
Vice-Dean for Student Activities, Quality Assurance  
and Internationalization  
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

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## ECONOMICS PROFESSIONALS ALONGSIDE THE STUDENTS IN THE “INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT” PROGRAMME, AT THE FACULTY OF PRODUCT DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT



Within the “Integrated Environmental Management” master’s study programme, the students had the opportunity to participate in two particularly valuable sessions, held by experienced specialists from the economic environment. These meetings mainly aimed at combining theoretical knowledge with practical applications, giving the future professionals a real-life perspective on the requirements of this industry.

The courses were held by Ionuț Dan, environmental auditor with an extensive expertise, who addressed essential topics such as “Environmental Audit” and “Integrated Management Systems”. Through relevant examples, drawn from his daily professional activity, Ionuț Dan explained to the students the main steps of an audit, the importance of complying with the ISO standards, and the challenges brought along by their integration within the organizations. The presentation was clear, well-structured and succeeded in raising the participants’ interest, who asked questions and actively contributed to the discussions.

Along with him, Cristina Neagu, representative of EU Consulting Brașov company, complemented the sessions with interactive exercises and learning games, meant to facilitate a better understanding of the concepts under discussion. The activities

proposed by Cristina Neagu brought dynamism to the course and boosted the students’ involvement, who thus had the opportunity to immediately apply the theoretical concepts in a practical and collaborative way.

The students’ feedback was positive. They appreciated both the provided information and the interactive approach of the sessions. Many of the participants emphasised that such meetings are particularly useful for their professional training, giving them a clear insight into the responsibilities of a career in environmental protection.

We express our gratitude to Cristina Neagu and Ionuț Dan for the willingness to share their expertise and for their active involvement in the future specialists’ training in integrated environmental management. Such collaborations are essential for the strengthening of the liaison between the University and the economic environment; moreover, they significantly contribute to the development of our students’ practical skills.

Prof. Dr. Cristina CAZAN

Prof. Dr. Luminița ISAC

Faculty of Product Design and Environment

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## SEEN EVENT, PILOT COURSE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Between 7 and 11 April 2025, the Research and Development Institute within Transilvania University of Braşov hosted the pilot course in entrepreneurship, within the Erasmus+ project entitled *Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Network (SEEN)*.

The SEEN project is funded through the Erasmus+ programme, under the financing agreement no. 2024-1-BG01-KA220-HED-000255491.

The project coordinator is the Technical University of Varna, Bulgaria, with our university as a partner, alongside Jaume I de Castellon University of Valencia, Spain, the Bulgarian Business Forum, and "Dare to Develop" Academy of Bulgaria, "Innovation Education Lab" Association of Romania, Projects for Utility and Humanity (PUHU) company of the Netherlands, and "Efekto Grupe" company of Lithuania.

The course aimed at piloting complementary content, with a view to stimulating and training the entrepreneurial spirit, also by capitalising on artificial intelligence in support of entrepreneurial approaches. In contrast with artificial intelligence, the emphasis was placed on the future entrepreneur's social and human skills, and on their

harmonization in the context of the challenges of today's society.

The pilot course included a series of lectures on the following topics: entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence tools for entrepreneurship, research project management, human skills for entrepreneurs and team management. The event ended with two local entrepreneurs' presentations, who shared with the students the challenges they encountered, but also the difficulties they overcame in this capacity.

The lectures were delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dana Luşă Tătaru and Lect. Dr. Camelia Mîzgăciu, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration, but also by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandra Băicoianu, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mihaela Voinea and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Necşoi, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, as well as by Prof. Dr. Eng. Mihai Ivanovici, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

The course was attended by 41 professors and students of our university, as well as of the SEEN consortium partners.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Mihai IVANOVICI  
Project partner officer for SEEN

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SEEN Event 7 – 11 April 2025, Brasov, Romania

## THE CHINESE CULTURE GOES OUT IN THE CITY! THE PARADE OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE COSTUMES

With a view to celebrating the International Chinese Language Day, Confucius Institute within Transilvania University of Braşov (IC of UNITBV) organised a unique cultural event, outside the University's premises.

Our students, joined by a group of peers from the West University of Timişoara, where IC of UNITBV supports a Chinese language teaching point, took the Chinese culture out in the city.

Dressed in beautiful traditional Chinese costumes of nationalities from China's various regions, the students displayed an array of Hanfu patterns and colours from different dynasties, in the city centre of Braşov and Timişoara.

Hanfu, the Han Chinese people's traditional garb, has a history of over 5,000 years, dating back to the legendary Yellow Emperor's times.

Nowadays, the name of Hanfu usually refers to a long and flowing robe with large sleeves and a belt around the waist, and covers various dress styles throughout China's multi-millennial history.

The Chinese Language Day is celebrated on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, and its main purpose is to highlight the contribution of Chinese language, literature and poetry to world culture.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Corina Silvia MICU  
Romanian Director of Confucius Institute,  
Transilvania University of Braşov

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Braşov



Timişoara

## WORKSHOP UNDER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CAREER COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE CENTRE: ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

The workshop entitled “Academic and Professional Success – How to Find Balance” took place on the University Colina Campus, in AVII2 room – the premises of the [Career Counselling and Guidance Centre](#) (CCOC), on 10 April 2025. The event was dedicated to the students interested in identifying the strategies for the balanced interweaving of their education, career and personal life.



In an interactive atmosphere, the participants explored practical solutions for coping with the various aspects of life. During the workshop, the following topics were addressed:

- Efficient time management: methods for task prioritization, avoidance of procrastination and optimal use of time to maximize productivity were discussed.
- Burnout-free productivity strategies: efficient work techniques were presented, identifying ways to maintain energy and motivation on the long run, in order to prevent burnout.
- Practical techniques for the balance between job and studies: balance-targeting tools and tips for the interweaving of academic requirements and professional activities.



The participants' involvement in the practical activities contributed to the understanding of the concepts under discussion. The workshop was an opportunity for the participants to explore ways to achieve the balance between personal and professional life.

Therefore, this workshop provided the students with a valuable opportunity to explore strategies for achieving an efficient balance between education, career and personal life. Through interactive methods, the participants learned how to effectively manage their time, prevent professional burnout, and integrate academic demands with professional activities. This event was an essential opportunity to develop the needed skills for a balanced life, thereby contributing to the students' academic and professional success.

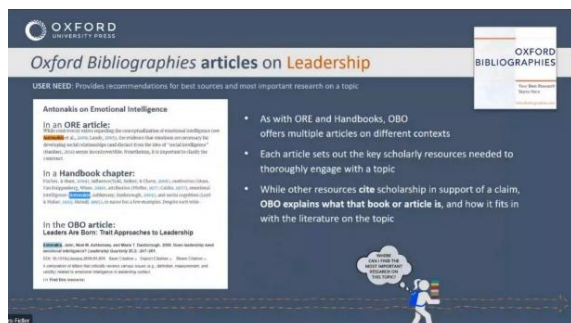
Andra Elena DAN, 2<sup>nd</sup>-year student,  
Communication and Public Relations,  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## INFORMATION SESSION ON THE ELECTRONIC RESOURCES OF *OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS*

An information session dedicated to the electronic resources offered by *Oxford University Press* took place on Friday, 11 April 2025, between 12:00 m. and 1:00 p.m. During the event, Marzena Giers-Fidler, *Regional Customer Training and Implementation Manager* within *Oxford University Press*, gave a presentation on a varied range of digital tools.



During the session, the following resources, as well as the way they can facilitate access to information for various projects, were analysed:

- ***Oxford Bibliographies***: the constantly updated research guides, which provide an overview of the main sources in a field, were presented. An emphasis was placed on how these expert-authored and peer-reviewed articles guide the users through the scholarly literature, with the recommendation of resources for further study on various topics.
- ***Very Short Introductions***: the collection of short introductions to various fields, useful for gaining a quick understanding of the fundamental concepts, was presented. The relevance of these titles for the acquaintance with a new field or the formation of a general perspective on a complex subject was discussed.
- ***Oxford Handbooks Online***: the emphasis was placed on the access to critical analyses upon the current state of the academic debates in a variety of disciplines. The way these reference works provide a detailed evaluation of the literature was explained, thus outlining the main debates and research directions.

- ***Oxford Scholarship Online***: The library of monographs and original research papers thoroughly exploring various topics was presented. The way that this resource provides the theoretical bases for the understanding and assessment of today's research was discussed.
- ***University Press Scholarship Online***: The platform that reunites releases of many university publishing houses was presented, thus offering a multidisciplinary perspective on academic research.
- ***Oxford Research Encyclopedias***: encyclopaedias with detailed and topical articles that provide in-depth analysis of specific fields were explored. The way that these resources contribute to gaining a detailed understanding of the key concepts, theories and significant research in a particular field was proven.



The presentation of the *Oxford University Press* electronic resources highlighted the value and diversity of the digital tools available for research. The way in which they can facilitate access to essential information and support the research process was also shown.

Andra Elena DAN, 2<sup>nd</sup>-year student,  
Communication and Public Relations,  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## ***WALK ALL LIES AWAY* – EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS, TEXTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

Between 4 and 30 April, the Multicultural Centre hosted the exhibition *Walk all lies away* signed by the Austrian artist Michael Höpfner and the writer Svetlana Cârstea, and curated by Alexandra Mihali (The Possible Gallery).



The exhibition features large-scale drawings, texts and photographs focused on the practice of walking and is the result of an interdisciplinary dialogue starting from such topics as endurance, the physicality of the process, the reasons why one sets out on the road, as well as searches and reflections on the landscape or the socio-political context.

"Michael Höpfner walks for himself, but also to draw our attention to the natural, social and geo-political environment lying at our feet. It is a solitary journey, but very much together with the outside, with all these small and large places and events that he travels through. (...)

Svetlana Cârstea embarks on a journey through words, through the image of what could exist beyond the text, in the street, in the city, at sea, or in vast expanses. Her poem becomes a space for reflection on what this act – sometimes daily and

necessary, at other times effort-focused, anatomical, and in the end perhaps even heroic – essentially is." (Alexandra Mihali, curator).

Born in 1972, Michael Höpfner's artistic practice has been linked, since his student days, to the exercise of walking. Since 1997 he has been travelling on foot through Western China, Tibet Autonomous Region of China and Qinghai, as well as across Tajikistan, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, South Korea, but also in the mountains of the Alpine arch.



Born in 1969, Svetlana Cârstea published her first volume of poems, *Flower of Vise*, in 2008, then *Gravitation* in 2015, followed by the tome *Trado*, written together with the Swedish poet Athena Farrokhzad, and *I Am Another* in 2021.

Anca PAPANA

Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

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## THE CANNIBAL GENERATION – BOOK LAUNCH



The volume *The Cannibal Generation* (2024), written by Vasile Ernu, was launched at the Multicultural Centre, on 20 February. The author had a dialogue with Adrian Lăcătuș and Cristian Pralea about the '90s "that never end". In front of a full audience, as happens at most events organised in this cultural space, Vasile Ernu talked about how he conducts his anthropological research and how he came to the topic addressed in his most recent volume, released by Polirom Publishing House. Intertwining personal history with that of friends or people met on his travels around the country, the writer outlines a post-December Romania's grim past, thoroughly analysing the reasons why it still seems to be hovering over the present Romanian society. "In the old days, the price tags of the products would be printed and remain the same for

years in a row; nowadays, this seems unimaginable" – the above is just one of the examples underlying his line of argument.

Vasile Ernu also brought into discussion the emotional legacy that today's generation has received, caused by the deprivations of the communist era. He talked about the working conditions, giving an example to be also found in the volume: women kept working in factories, even if their employers did no longer afford paying their wages, and received manufactured objects in exchange. All the stories he brought up lead to the topic of "cannibalization", of the people swallowing themselves, as in the image of the ouroboros.

In an attempt to better understand nowadays' socio-political and cultural context, Vasile Ernu traces, in the 500 pages of the volume, Romania's westernization, a process also captured from the perspective of the Bessarabian students who came to Romania in the early '90s.

An inborn orator, Vasile Ernu spoke about his book, offered autographs and entered into a dialogue with the audience, a dialogue that continued even after the closing of the event.

Cristina BONCEA  
Cultural Innovation, Faculty of Letters

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## RECITAL OF THE OLYMPIANS FROM "T. CIORTEA" VOCATIONAL HIGH-SCHOOL OF MUSIC, AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

On 8 April, starting at 4:00 p.m., Studio 181 Hall in the Rectorate building of Transilvania University of Brașov hosted the Olympians' Recital, an event dedicated to the pupils of "Tudor Ciortea" Vocational High School of Music who successfully represented the institution at the national stage of the Instrumental Performance Olympiad in the city of Iași.



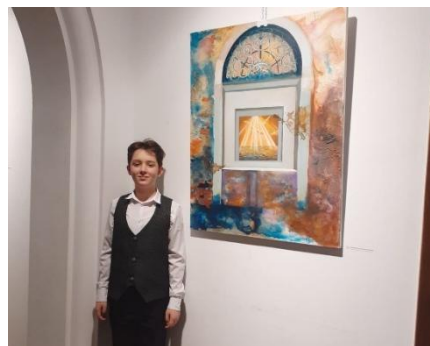
The young musicians who took the stage were:

- Sabin Patriche (6<sup>th</sup> grade, piano, teacher Mirona Dumitru's class);
- Natalia Preda-Uliță (7<sup>th</sup> grade, viola, teacher Leona Varvarichi's class);
- Andreea Rujan-Duția (8<sup>th</sup> grade, violin, teacher George Hociung's class);
- Luca Ungurașu (8<sup>th</sup> grade, clarinet, teacher Ciprian Solomon's class);
- Rareș Andrei Șerban (8<sup>th</sup> grade, piano, teacher Mihaela Itigan's class).



The teachers who trained these pupils also include academic teaching personnel of the Faculty of Music within Transilvania University of Brașov: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Leona Varvarichi and Mihaela Itigan (adjunct professor). Their presence strengthens the valuable connection between the pre-university and the

academic environments, in support of the artistic excellence.



The programme included pieces of the classical and romantic repertoire, signed by composers such as Locatelli, Haydn, Stamitz, Schubert, Chopin, Liszt, Bruch, Fiorillo, Sitt, Enescu, Dimitrescu, Silvestri, Rose and Dediu – a selection that highlighted the young performers' technique and expressiveness alike.



The event was not only a celebration of the high performance, but also a proof of the continuity of quality music education in Brașov, from the secondary to the higher education cycles.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anca PREDA  
Faculty of Letters

## CRISTINA RADU, LIVIU IFTENE AND BOTOND SZŐCS IN RECITAL



A refined melange between the descriptive echoes of vocal lyricism and the noblesse of piano texture, the evening of 25 April hosted in "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov, a vocal-instrumental recital that reconfigured, through artistic means of subtly manifest evocative force, the coordinates of musical Romanticism. Under the aegis of the Music Centre – ever-rising institution in the higher outline of the academic and cultural excellence in Braşov city's scenery – the soprano Cristina Radu, the tenor Liviu Iftene and the pianist Botond Szőcs built a veritable sound vault between the sensitivity of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century passions and the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century thrilling reverberations of the feelings.



Cristina Radu, with a voice of incandescent lyricism and all technical resources to propose phrasings structured with a goldsmith's minuteness, transfigured Schubert's scores into a royal of authenticity. Her stage presence, both discreet and jovial, gave each expressive nuance a poetic dimension, which transcended the conventional limits of concert performance.

Liviu Iftene, with his solar timbre and carefully calibrated inflections, added an additional dimension of affective confession to the repertoire. In his performance, the melodic line gradually unfolded into the fanciful contours of a sound

filigree, highlighting his ability to render, with equal intensity, both the ecstatic fragility and the intrinsic fervour of the romantic spirit.

Botond Szőcs, the pianist of a rare sensitivity, whose art unemphatically evokes the freedom of expressive naturalness, supported by the mastery of a vast ethnic repertoire, was at the heart of this creative architecture. Under his hands, the piano accompaniment shone with subtle performing intelligence and a sense of timbral colour of an intimidating complexity through its amplitude. Botond Szőcs supported the entire musical architecture with a serious discretion and, at the same time, with the emotional presence of a true craftsman of feeling rendered in pianistic timbre.

Thus, the recital stood out not only as an exercise of virtuosity and expression, but also as an act of encapsulation of the most important resources in the romantic ethos – a most valuable undertaking in the contemporary context devoured by a haste in the constant preoccupation with sacrificing the profound experience to the ephemeral.



The hard work and constant endeavours of the Music Centre to patronize such artistic events emphasises in the light of certainty its essential role in consolidating a high-quality cultural and academic identity, anchored in the perpetual dialogue between tradition and innovation.

Dr. Magdalena SUCIU

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## CHAMBER JAZZ RECITAL



In the month of April, the Multicultural Centre hosted a new event in the Chamber Jazz @ Transilvania University series. *Bach and Monk* is the name of the solo recital given by the Italian artist Marco Cappelli and organised with the support of the Italian Institute of Culture, Bucharest.

Marco Cappelli, born in Naples, Italy, in 1965, studied classical guitar with Oscar Ghiglia at Musik Akademie Der Stadt Basel (Switzerland). At the present time, Marco Cappelli lives both in Palermo, where he teaches classical guitar at the Conservatory of Music, and in New York, where he successfully performs on the contemporary music stage.

The eclectic nature of Marco's music originates in a spectacular variety of collaborations (Avi Avital, Anthony Coleman, Michel Godard, Butch Morris, Franco Piersanti, Enrico Rava, Marc Ribot, Adam Rudolph, Raiz, Elliott Sharp, Giovanni Sollima,

Markus Stockhausen, Cristina Zavalloni and many more). His rich discography includes two CDs with Ensemble Dissonanzen, dedicated to the chamber music of G. Petrassi, L. Dallapiccola and H.W. Henze (Mode Records), three CDs with Marco Cappelli Acoustic Trio (Mode Records, Tzadik, Da Vinci), three CDs with Marco Cappelli's Italian Surf Academy (Mode Records, 41st Parallel Records). In 2022, Marco founded 41<sup>st</sup> PARALLEL RECORDS record label.



As a composer or musician, he collaborates with internationally renowned dance companies (such as Armitage Gone! Dance and Young Soon Kim Dance Company, both of New York), but he also stands out in the field of theatre (through his collaboration, in Italy, with the writer Maurizio De Giovanni and the actor Andrea Renzi) or of cinematography (through his collaboration with directors such as Leonardo Di Costanzo and Salvo Cuccia). Another original project is the DVD (and live performance) *In The Shadow of No Towers*, made together with the comic book author Art Spiegelman and the actor John Turturro.

Anca PAPANA  
Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

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## CONTEMPORARY CUBAN MUSIC CONCERT AT THE MULTICULTURA CENTRE

Five young Cuban artists performed at the Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov, on 22 April 2025.



Espirales, as that's the name of the ensemble, shared the emotion of Cuban jazz with the audience of Braşov attending the concert. The project, started in 2023, is defined by its members as "endless", with the metaphor of spiral underlying everything they achieve.

Tania Haase (violin & voice), Olivia Rodríguez (double bass), Rodrigo García (piano), Alejandro Aguiar (drums & percussion) and Jesús Estrada (drums & percussion) are all from Cuba and attended the University of Arts in Havana.

The concert performed by Espirales in Braşov bears the same name as their current album and tour: *En busca de un espacio* (In Search of a Space).



In the interview with the artists, Rodrigo explained to us how he sees this process: "The search is about how to be a family, how to move our music around the world."

Every piece in the repertoire of the concert at the Multicultural Centre

was carefully selected from the Cuban composers, themselves young, looking for a space for self-expression.

Espirales fluidly move across genres. The five artists set no boundaries in styles. On the contrary, they seek sonorous expressiveness, meaning, and authentic experience. Their goal is to create a unique sound – a blend of disciplines, cultures and moods that become recognizable, yet are always in transformation.

"I like to see music as colours". Jazz, traditional Cuban music, classical music and chamber music are the "colours" through which they communicate.

In the same interview, I asked them what kind of food Espirales would be. Out of the several options up for debate, I also received the winning answer – *ajjaco*. It's a traditional soup with many different ingredients, tastes, and textures – a mix – just like them.



For Tania, Olivia, Rodrigo, Alejandro and Jesús, Espirales has become "home". It is a space where they develop as people and artists, where friendship is as important as the music they create. Espirales do not seek just one answer, but spaces – of creation, of friendship, of transformation. Each concert is a new spiral that opens up to the audience. Whether it's about a theatre in Havana or a concert hall in Braşov, their music never ends.

Larisa CIULEI, student  
Faculty of Letters

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