



Transilvania
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NEWSLETTER

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2026 GALA OF VALEDICTORIANS AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

The Gala of Valedictorians, to wit, the awarding of the graduates of the bachelor's educational cycle, class of 2026, who obtained the highest multi-annual average grade within the faculties they graduated from, took place at the Rectorate of Transilvania University, Studio 181 hall, on Friday, 26 June 2026.



The Rector of Transilvania University of Brașov, Prof. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, PhD, together with Prof. Eng. Daniel Munteanu, PhD, the Vice-Rector for Students and Liaison with the Economic and Socio-Cultural Environment, and the Faculty Deans congratulated the 18 award-winning graduates and expressed their appreciation toward their academic performance.

The honour students – valedictorians of the class of 2026 were: Faculty of Mechanical Engineering – Paul Andrei Ivan, Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management – Mihai Ionuț Vasile, Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering – Dumitru Sebastian Enescu, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – Anastasia Moraru, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering – Larisa Ștefania Burtea, Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering – Ștefania Obancea, Faculty of Civil Engineering – Norbert Gocz, Faculty of Food and Tourism – Andreea Mihaela Voaideş, Faculty of Product Design and Environment – Viviana Matei, Faculty of

Mathematics and Computer Science – Andrei Priboi, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration – Ilka Deak, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences – Georgiana Gabriela Horjea, Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports – Miruna Paula Zamfiroiu, Faculty of Music – Giulia Fâșie, Faculty of Medicine – Larisa Georgiana Hudiță, Faculty of Letters – Georgian Theodor Avram, Faculty of Law – Lenore Lăzăroiu, Faculty of Sociology and Communication – Bogdan Benjamin Matei.

During the gala, the Faculty Deans made short presentations about the awarded graduates, and each graduate expressed gratitude to his/her professors and loved ones, as well as forward-looking thoughts.



These best-achieving students received from the University various prizes in kind, but also 1,500 RON as the Valedictorian Special Prize. Moreover, the ones who choose to continue their studies with a master's degree programme at Transilvania University of Brașov will participate in a visit to a university abroad, for exchange of experience and good practices, during the 2026 - 2027 academic year.

Within the same festivity, Transilvania Excellence Prize (worth 2,500 RON) was awarded to Raluca Maria Șerbănescu, a student at the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, for outstanding extracurricular activities.

Prof. Eng. Daniel MUNTEANU, PhD
Vice-Rector for Students and Liaison with the
Economic and Socio-Cultural Environment

RALUCA MARIA ȘERBĂNESCU, AWARDED WITH 2026 "TRANSILVANIA" EXCELLENCE PRIZE

Raluca Maria Șerbănescu, a 2nd-year student in the Human Resources bachelor's academic programme, Faculty of Sociology and Communication, Transilvania University of Brașov, was conferred upon "Transilvania" Excellence Award", 2026 edition, within the Gala of Valedictorians, which took place in Studio 181 hall, Rectorate building, on 26 June. A graduate of "Grigore Moisil" National College of Computer Science - Brașov, she has acquired the exercise of argumentation and documentation since high school. The participation in debate olympiads and competitions enhanced her ability to analyse sources, build arguments and relate to verifiable facts. These skills were later valorised in her activity of academic research, begun in the freshman year, after the first exam session.



Albeit at the onset of university studies, her path has been built through hard work, scholarly interest and eagerness to capitalise on the received opportunities. One of the most relevant results of her activity is the co-authorship in two ISI-indexed scientific articles: *Vocational Counselling and Career Guidance: Premises for a Sustainable Educational Path, A Cross-Sectional Study in Brașov County, Romania* and *Navigating Opportunities and Challenges of Generative AI in Higher Education: Towards Responsible, Equitable and*

Human-Centred Integration. Her research activity culminated with the participation in national and international scientific conferences and events.

Another excellent result was the second prize at the Student Scientific Communications Session, under the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, for the article "The Ukrainian Refugees' Wellbeing and Social Integration in Brașov". During her academic training, Raluca also capitalised on the internationalization opportunities offered by the University. She participated in a BIP programme at Palacký University Olomouc, themed on *Empowering the future: Integrating technological advancements with a people-centred approach to enhance the meaningfulness of work*. This experience was relevant to her interest in the relations between people, work and the changes driven by the new technologies. Raluca believes that the academic fields should not be viewed in isolation, as there are always commonalities between specializations, which can generate valuable research questions. From this perspective, the involvement in various projects was an opportunity for learning, adaptation and development.

The conferral of "Transilvania" Excellence Award comes as a confirmation of her hard work and choice to get involved in research. At the same time, this distinction also reflects the significant support received from the academic teaching personnel who helped build her academic potential. In particular, her journey was supported by Prof. Claudiu Coman, PhD, and Lect. Cristina Maria Bularca, PhD, whom she thanks for their trust, guidance and educational opportunities.

Assoc. Prof. Luiza MESEȘAN-SCHMITZ, PhD
Vice-Dean, Faculty of Sociology and Communication

Academic support and coordination:
Prof. Claudiu COMAN, PhD
Lect. Cristina Maria BULARCA, PhD

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TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV MAINTAINS ITS FIFTH POSITION ON A NATIONAL SCALE WITHIN CWUR 2026 INTERNATIONAL RANKING



In the 2026 edition of the global classification under the *Centre for World University Rankings* (CWUR), Transilvania University of Brașov occupies the fifth position in the top of Romanian higher education institutions. At international level, our university has climbed 56 positions, as compared to the 2025 evaluation, thus reaching the 1,316th place in the world hierarchy. This evolution marks the highest climb for a Romanian university in this year's overall rankings.

CWUR 2026 global hierarchy analysed a total of 21,291 universities all over the world, with only eight Romanian ones included in the final ranking. As regards the national top, the first positions are occupied by "Babeș-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy - Bucharest, "Politehnica" National University of Science and Technology – Bucharest and the University of Bucharest, followed, in fifth place, by Transilvania University of Brașov.

At international level, the top three positions in the ranking are occupied by institutions of the United States of America: Harvard University,

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Stanford University, followed by two institutions of the United Kingdom: University of Cambridge and University of Oxford.

The Centre for World University Rankings is an organization specialised in strategic assessments and consultancy for the improvement of educational and research performance. In terms of methodology, this ranking resorts to the objective analysis of several performance indicators, grouped around the quality of education, the alumni's professional success (employability), the academic personnel's acknowledgment (top distinctions) and the research output (assessed by means of the volume of publications, quality of journals, influence and number of citations).

The evaluation is based on verified quantitative data, without resorting to opinion polls or the higher education institutions' self-reported information, which gives therefore a balanced weight to the educational and research dimensions.

The full results of the current edition are available on the [organization's site](#).

A synthesis by Assoc. Prof. Victor BRICIU, PhD
Compartment of Marketing and Image
Source: [UNITBV Website](#)

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BLUESTREAMLINE RINGS IN THE 2026 FORMULA STUDENT SEASON: NEW SINGLE-SEATERS OFFICIALLY UNBOXED ON UNIVERSITY COLINA CAMPUS

On 11 July 2026, "BlueStreamline", the car-racing team of Transilvania University of Braşov, officially launched its latest single-seaters within "Joyride 2026". This event, which took place on the University Colina Campus, in front of C building, marked an anniversary moment for the team: 18 years of activity, after an outstanding 2025 season, with them coming out on top in the Combustion class of the Formula Student competition.



This was the occasion for them to unbox the three single-seat race cars with which the University will be represented in this summer's international competitions: the 17th combustion-engine single-seater (BS26 CV), the second fully electric-motor one in the team's history (BS26 EV), and their traditional single-seater BS11 (under the Classic category). The latter has a special significance, being the first BlueStreamline car to take an international podium at Formula Student Spain 2011.



Honouring the event with his presence, Prof. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, PhD, Rector of Transilvania University of Braşov, reiterated our institution's unconditional financial and moral support for this elite project, emphasising that BlueStreamline has already become a veritable school within the University.

Assoc. Prof. Eng. Mihai Comşiţ, PhD, the team coordinator, praised the electrical department members' hard efforts to overcome the technical difficulties and make the car fully operational, during the last few weeks, while confirming that the



combustion-engine single-seater is ready for performance, already exceeding the targets set in the tests. The coordinator also reminded of the team's debut in the Romanian National Rally Championship (Argeş Rally), in May this year, as well as of the plans for 2027, when the team has already been accepted in the Moto Student competition.



This season's competitive calendar is an intense one – the team has already left, the very morning after the launch, to their first destination. BlueStreamline will compete on five international circuits:

- Formula Student Balkans, T&T Karting Transilvania, Dej (12 - 17 July 2026) – participation with the CV, EV and Classic single-seaters;
- Formula Student Czech Republic, Most racetrack (19 - 24 July 2026) – participation with the CV single-seater;
- Formula Student Spain, Circuit de Catalunya, Barcelona (1 - 7 August 2026) – participation with the CV, EV and Classic single-seaters;
- Formula Student Croatia, Rimac Test Track, Micevec (18 - 23 August 2026) – participation with the CV and Classic single-seaters;
- Formula Student Italy, Riccardo Paletti racetrack (2 - 6 September 2026) – participation with the CV single-seater.



We wish the best of luck to BlueStreamline team on this summer's racing tracks!

Assoc. Prof. Victor BRICIU, PhD
Compartment of Marketing and Image
Photo credit: AP Studio

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DoCo2026 – INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL CONFERENCE

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral School within Transilvania University of Braşov, in partnership with UNITA Alliance and *Enformation*, organised, on 24 and 25 June 2026, the third edition of the Doctoral Conference - DoCo2026, an event focused on doctoral research, which fosters interdisciplinary academic dialogue. The conference had sections for 23 doctoral fields, represented by over 170 doctoral students at universities of Romania and ten other countries.



This edition succeeded, just as the previous two, in bringing together students at various stages of their doctoral studies, thus providing them with the opportunity to present their ideas and doctoral project goals, as well as to discuss and share their research results, methods and conclusions. The presentation sessions brought forth constructive debates and interdisciplinary dialogues, thus opening up new perspectives for the participants on their research paths, and giving them valuable feedback from the fellow doctoral students, but also from the professors.

A highlight of the conference were the three plenary lectures delivered by internationally prestigious researchers. In the opening of the event, Kai Schafft, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Penn State - The Pennsylvania State University (USA), gave the lecture *Ethics and the Use of AI in Research*, on the ethical challenges generated by the integration of artificial intelligence in the research activity, on the researchers' responsibility in the use of this technology, and at the same time on the teaching personnel's difficulties in managing this relentless integration of AI in all aspects of the doctoral students' academic path.

On the following day, the second plenary lecture of the conference was given by Zoltán Kövecses, PhD, Professor Emeritus at Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, who, through the presentation *Conceptual*

Metaphor Theory: A Panoramic View, offered a broad perspective on the evolution of conceptual metaphor theory and its relevance for a deep exploration of language, cognition and communication across all disciplines.

The third lecture of the conference was given by Scott Slovic, PhD, affiliated with Oregon Research Institute and University of Idaho (USA), who presented the paper entitled *Moving the Needle (or not): A Psychological and Linguistic Analysis of "The 2024 State of the Climate Report: Perilous Times on Planet Earth"*, with an emphasis on the role of scientific communication in raising awareness about environmental challenges.

The topics addressed in the three lectures illustrated the complexity of contemporary research and the importance of integrating interdisciplinarity at any stage of one's studies, thus opening up new and complex perspectives for the doctoral students, on present-day subjects, from the ethics in the use of artificial intelligence and cognitive linguistics, to the effects of today's climate change.

DoCo2026 included an information session for the graduate students regarding the possibility of continuing their professional training with doctoral studies in the UNITBV academic community.

The conference agenda also featured the workshop *Read Fast. Read Slow. Strategies for Effective Research Reading*, organised by UNITBV's Academic Writing Centre in both English and Romanian. The workshop was designed so as to provide the participants with practical and efficient strategies for the critical and effective reading of literature in their field of expertise, thus contributing to the development of the necessary skills for the conduct of the research activity.

DoCo2026 reinforced its title as an essential event for the presentation of doctoral research results, the exchange of interdisciplinary ideas, and the consolidation of academic collaborations. The diversity of the topics, the prestigious guest's participation, and the doctoral students' active involvement were key elements to the success of the third edition of the conference.

Maria TATU, PhD candidate
Second year, Philology

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TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV, HOST OF ARA CONGRESS: SPECIAL PANELS DEDICATED TO THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROMANIA'S ACCESSION TO UNESCO

The 47th edition of the *American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences* (ARA) Congress, hosted by Transilvania University of Brașov, between 30 June and 1 July 2026, began with two thematic panels dedicated to the celebration of 70 years since Romania's accession to UNESCO. Grouped under the title "70 Years of Romania in UNESCO – Past Lessons, Future Horizons", the sessions provided an extensive opportunity to reflect on the role of the universities in shaping cultural and scientific diplomacy.



The first panel, entitled "High-Level Dialogue with University Rectors and High-Profile Academics", was moderated by Prof. Ruxandra Vidu, PhD, ARA President. The session foregrounded the role of the universities as actors of knowledge diplomacy, bringing together representatives of the academic environment: Ioan Vasile Abrudan (Rector of Transilvania University of Brașov), Mihnea Costoiu (Rector of "Politehnica" National University of Science and Technology - Bucharest, and Secretary-General of the National Council of Rectors - CNR), Steve O. Michael (Rector and CEO of "Danubius" International University of Galați), Bogdan Istrate (Associate Professor and Vice-Rector for Student Affairs at "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iași), Marius-Sorin Miclea (Associate Professor at "Babeș-Bolyai" University and former Consul

General of Romania in Montreal) and Codrin Tăut (expert of Romania's National Commission for UNESCO).

The second panel, conducted as a round table, was moderated by Gabriela Gabor and Codrin Tăut,



CNR UNESCO experts. The debates focused on the historical record and contemporary challenges of international cooperation, and featured contributions from prestigious guest speakers, including Andrei

Luca (Director within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Madlen Șerban (CNR UNESCO Secretary- General 2021-2025), Ioana Drăgan (Director within the Romanian Cultural Institute) and Sergiu Musteață (Secretary-General of the National Commission of the Republic of Moldova for UNESCO).

The discussions held in Brașov reconfirmed the strategic importance of the academic networks and heritage for Romania's international assertion. Moreover, for the success of this event, the Secretariat of the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO conveyed official thanks to the Management of ARA and to Prof. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, PhD, Rector of UNITBV.

A synthesis by Assoc. Prof. Victor BRICIU, PhD

Compartment of Marketing and Image

Source: <https://uzpr.ro>

Photo credit: <https://uzpr.ro>

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GOLD MEDALS OBTAINED AT *STUDENT GAMES RIGA* INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING COMPETITION

XLI SELL Student Games Riga 2026 International University Swimming Competition took place in Riga, Latvia, between 22 and 24 May 2026. This event brought together over 1,100 students from 17 countries, across 14 sports disciplines.



At this sports tournament, Transilvania University of Braşov was represented by Elena Bianca Botezatu, a student at the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports, who was coached and mentored by Assist. Prof. Simona Tomele, PhD, teaching within the aforementioned faculty.



Within this edition, the student of our university won two gold medals, ranking first in the 100-metre butterfly and 100-metre backstroke events.

The battle for the medal was tight. However, in both finals, our UNITBV representative succeeded in



outperforming the athletes of the host country, as well as the student competitors from Finland, Sweden, Lithuania or Ukraine.

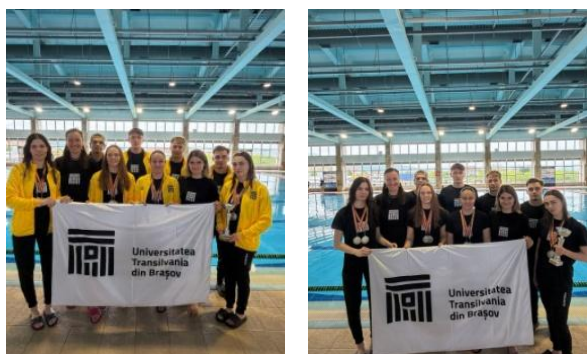
Congratulations for these outstanding performances on the global sports arena!

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

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AWARDS WON AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS OF ALBA IULIA

The National University Swimming Championships of Alba Iulia took place on 9 May 2026. At this competitive event, Transilvania University of Braşov was represented by a student squad consisting of Ema Achim, Elena Botezatu, Cătălina Comşa, Miruna Zamfiroiu, Denis Pădurariu, Andraş Barabaş, Attila Aranyi and Flavius Cernea. The athletes were coordinated by Assist. Prof. Simona Tomele, PhD, and Assist. Prof. Anca Ionescu, PhD candidate.



Within this competition, the students of our university marked a series of notable achievements. Thus, Elena Botezatu won first place in the 100-metre butterfly event, becoming the national university champion.



At the same time, the team's overall performance ranked Transilvania University second among higher education institutions, in the women's hierarchy, among all 14 academic centres and over 100 participating athletes.

As to the individual events, Cătălina Comşa took fifth place in the 100-metre freestyle, whereas Miruna Zamfiroiu - in the 100-metre backstroke, and Andraş

Barabaş - in the 100-metre breaststroke, came in sixth within the relevant rankings.



Peak performance was also attained in the team events. The women's 4x50 m mixed relay, consisting of Ema Achim, Elena Botezatu, Miruna Zamfiroiu and Cătălina Comşa, won the second place and the title of national university vice-champion. The same second position and the title of vice-champion were also obtained in the women's 4x50 m freestyle relay, with Miruna Zamfiroiu, Ema Achim, Cătălina Comşa and Elena Botezatu in the team structure. As regards the men's competition, the 4x50 m freestyle relay team, consisting of Andraş Barabaş, Attila Aranyi, Flavius Cernea and Denis Pădurariu, ranked ninth.

Congratulations to all the athletes for the results achieved at this edition of the championships!

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

STUDENT OF THE FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE, AWARDED AT TWO ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

The students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science constantly achieve excellent results at various relevant conferences, competitions and contests. A recent example is Andrei Priboi, a third-year student in the Applied Computer Science study programme, who, just a few weeks before the graduation exams, was awarded for two papers presented at student scientific events which took place in Sibiu and Alba Iulia.



Between 21 and 23 May 2026, Andrei participated in the tenth edition of *The International Conference on Applied Informatics, Imagination, Creativity, Design, Development* (ICDD), organised by "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu. Within the conference, he presented the scientific article "Ensemble-Based Anomaly Detection for Adaptive Threshold Tuning in Cloud-Native Monitoring Systems", written under the coordination of Assoc. Prof. Alexandra Băicoianu, PhD. The paper was awarded the ICDD Prize for *Development*.

Just a few days later, on 29 May 2026, our student Andrei Priboi participated in the 26th edition of IN EXTENSO Student Symposium, organised by the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering of "1 December 1918" University of Alba Iulia.

For his scientific article "Design and Implementation of a Mobile Application for Attendance Management", written under the coordination of Assoc. Prof. Răzvan Bocu, PhD, and Assist. Prof. Liana Boca, PhD candidate, Andrei Priboi won second prize under the Computer Science section.



It is worth noting that this is the third award received by Andrei within IN EXTENSO Conference of Alba Iulia, after the first prize - in 2024, and the second prize - in 2025, won together with his classmates, Dan Ignat and Rareş Şoltuz.

These two recent awards are a recognition of the work, perseverance and interest that Andrei Priboi has shown in the research activity during his studies. They also reflect the efforts of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science to create a supportive environment for the students to develop their skills, to collaborate with other colleagues, but also with the academic teaching personnel, and to present their results within the scientific community.

Assist. Prof. Liana BOCA, PhD candidate
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV HOSTED AN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOOL FOR THE DOCTORAL STUDENTS WITHIN LEVERAGE EUROPEAN NETWORK

The Faculty of Sociology and Communication, within Transilvania University of Brașov, was the local organizer for the second *Training School*, conducted within COST Action CA22120 – *LeverAge (A European Network to Leverage the Multi-Age Workforce)*, one of the most important European research networks dedicated to the challenges posed by the ageing working population and the intergenerational collaboration in the workplace



The event brought together 20 doctoral students from several European countries and Türkiye, offering them the opportunity to participate in intensive workshops led by internationally acknowledged researchers and to develop their academic skills in an interdisciplinary and multicultural environment.



The programme included sessions dedicated to the development of international collaborations in research, the conduct of systematic reviews, the use of artificial intelligence in the research activity, and the application of the *Necessary Condition Analysis* method in organizational and intercultural studies.

The workshops were delivered by experts from universities of Australia, Finland, Portugal and Romania, and contributed to the formation of a new generation of researchers connected to the current trends in the international academic environment

In addition to the academic activities, the *Training School* included networking sessions aimed at strengthening the LeverAge community and facilitating the development of future international collaborations. The participants thus had the opportunity to interact in an informal setting and discover the cultural heritage of the region through a visit to Bran Castle.



An important aspect of the event was the complimentary participation for the doctoral students of Transilvania University of Brașov, who had direct access to the international researchers' expertise, as well as to various collaboration opportunities within LeverAge European network.

By organising this international event, the Faculty of Sociology and Communication once again demonstrates its role as an active partner within European academic projects and networks, and contributes withal to an enhanced international visibility of the academic institution in the city of Brașov, offering the doctoral students access to top-tier learning and collaboration experiences.

Assoc. Prof. Horia MOAȘA, PhD, Dean
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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THE FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE HOSTED THE SIXTH EDITION OF MACOS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



The Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science organised, between 11 and 13 June 2026, the 6th edition of the international event Conference on Mathematics and Computer Science (MACOS).

The papers presented within the conference were grouped into nine sections: *Mathematical Analysis, Algebra, Number Theory and Discrete Mathematics, Dynamical Systems, Geometry, Applied Mathematics, Probabilities and Statistics, Big Data and Machine Learning, Computer Networks and Cyber Security, and Software and its Engineering.*

This event was attended by 69 members of the academic personnel teaching within the following universities across 10 countries: University of Padua – Italy, University of Wrocław – Poland, University of Massachusetts Boston – USA, University of Porto – Portugal, Institute of Computer Science under the Romanian Academy – Iași, Ankara University – Türkiye, The Ohio State University at Marion – USA, “Simion Stoilov” Institute of Mathematics under the Romanian Academy – Bucharest, University of Minnesota – USA, “Babeș-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca, University of Bucharest, “Politehnica” National University of Science and Technology, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Transilvania University of Brașov, Technical University of Cluj-

Napoca, West University of Timișoara, “Politehnica” University of Timișoara, University College Cork – Ireland, Academy of Economic Studies – Bucharest, Indian Institute of Technology – India, University of Oradea, “Valahia” University of Târgoviște, Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt, Bavaria – Germany, Technical University of Civil Engineering – Bucharest.

During the sixth edition of MACOS conference, the plenary sessions were held by five guest speakers: Assoc. Prof. Ioanna Kantzavelou, PhD – University of West Attica, Athens, Greece, Assoc. Prof. Giulio Peruginelli, PhD – University of Padua, Italy, Prof. Petrică Pop Sitar, PhD – Technical University of Cluj-Napoca and North University Centre of Baia Mare, Romania, Assoc. Prof. Aneta Wojnar, PhD – University of Wrocław, Poland, Prof. Cătălin Zara – University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA.

The success of this event would not have come to fruition without the full moral, material and logistical support offered by the Management of Transilvania University of Brașov. We take this opportunity to thank the team of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science for their commitment, but also our partners, Vass Eastern and Banca Transilvania, for having sponsored this event.

Assoc. Prof. Diana SAVIN, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Nicușor MINCULETE, PhD
Assoc. Prof. Gabriel STAN, PhD, Dean
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

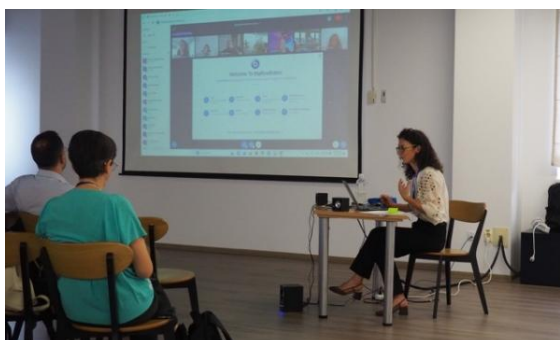
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TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV LAUNCHED THE EUROPEAN PROJECT *KNOWLEDGE2IMPACT: VALORISING KNOWLEDGE FOR EUROPEAN COMPETITIVENESS*



Knowledge2Impact

On 3 July 2026, the Research & Development Institute of Transilvania University of Brașov hosted the launch event (*Kick-off Meeting*) of the European project Knowledge2Impact, financed through the programme Horizon Europe, HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01.



Coordinated by UNITBV, the project brings together universities, technology transfer and innovation organizations of Romania, Ukraine, Turkey, Greece, Portugal, Germany, the United Kingdom and Norway, having as its main objective the enhancement of Europe's capacity to turn the research results into solutions with a significant economic and societal impact.

Knowledge2Impact takes on a major challenge of the European Research Area: how scientific excellence and the capitalization of research results translate into economy and society. Over the next three years, the partners will develop tools and methodologies dedicated to the technology and knowledge transfer offices (TTO/KTO), will create AI-assisted solutions in support of research valorization, and will implement training, mentoring and entrepreneurship programmes for researchers and students.



During the launch event, the project objectives, the structure of the seven work packages and the responsibilities of each partner were presented, too. The agenda includes sessions dedicated to project management, to the development of AI tools for technology transfer, to various programmes for the development of the organizational capacity, to Living Labs, to the communication strategy, to ethical aspects and data protection, as well as to activity planning for the first 12 months of implementation.

UNITBV holds a central role in the implementation of this project, coordinating not only the general management of the consortium, but also two work packages that amplify the European impact of the initiative. Through the work package *The European Open Call and the Cascade Funding Mechanism*, the University will ensure that other European organizations can benefit from the project activities and results, managing the launch, evaluation and monitoring of an open call dedicated to the KTO and TTO structures. In parallel, through the work package *Development of the Knowledge Valorization Competences*, we will focus on training the students and early career researchers. The initiative will include the creation and piloting of a modular curriculum, the organization of a summer school and a hackathon, thereby supporting the development of the practical and entrepreneurial skills. Through the project Knowledge2Impact, UNITBV strengthens its role in the European innovation ecosystem, facilitating the technology transfer and direct connection of academic research with industry and society.



**Funded by
the European Union**

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RESEARCHERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD DEBATED THE “GREY AREAS” OF LEADERSHIP IN THE CITY OF BRAȘOV

Between 3 and 5 June 2026, the Faculty of Sociology and Communication within Transilvania University of Brașov hosted the first edition of [*Dracula Conference on Bad Leadership*](#), an international conference centred around exploring the controversial, ambiguous and paradoxical forms of contemporary leadership.

Themed on “Beyond Black and White: Exploring the Shades of Grey in Leadership”, the conference brought together researchers and professors from Europe, North and South America, Africa, Australia and Asia, to analyse phenomena such as toxic leadership, narcissism, relationships between leaders and followers, abuse of power, organizational ethics and effects of destructive leadership.

The event benefited from the contributions of leading figures, including Barbara Kellerman (Harvard Kennedy School), one of the most influential voices in leadership studies worldwide, Birgit Schyns (Neoma Business School), specialist in destructive leadership and leader-subordinate relationships, Ståle Einarsen (University of Bergen), pioneer of the research on destructive leadership and organizational bullying, and Stephen Linstead (University of York), one of the best-known representatives of critical management and organization studies.



In addition to the scientific presentations, the conference included debate sessions, academic commentaries on each paper, and a special session dedicated to *Oxford Handbook on Bad Leadership*, the upcoming book release under Oxford University Press.



Through this initiative, Transilvania University of Brașov strengthens its presence in the international research networks, and opens up new strategic perspectives for leadership, in a global context marked by uncertainty, polarization and accelerated transformations.

Assoc. Prof. Horia MOAȘA, PhD, Dean
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD: CHOCOLATE WORKSHOP FOR THE WINNERS OF THE STUDENT SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATIONS SESSION AT THE FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

On 4 June 2026, the Research and Development Institute under Transilvania University of Braşov (ICDT) hosted a workshop of artisanal chocolate, offered by Luado Braşov. This activity was the award given to the students of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, who obtained first place in the 12 sections of the Student Scientific Communications Session, organized during the months of April and May 2026.



During the event, the participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the chocolate confectionery techniques, and to collaborate in an interactive setting.

This year's Student Scientific Communications Session offered a variety of research topics and applied projects, coordinated by the faculty's teaching personnel. The series of events began in April, with the sections coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Ştefan Ungurean, PhD, and Adj. Lect. Cristian Bălăcescu, PhD, within "Anton Golopenţia" Student Scientific Circle of Visual Sociology and History. They featured the projects "Man and His/Her City", focused on narrative research and photographic documentation in the urban environment, and "Beyond the Fence", dedicated to the rural environment. In the month of April as well, the section "Development of Social Services: from Idea to Project", took place under the coordination of Lect. Diana Bodi, PhD.

The scientific events continued in May with the section "Conflict and Knowledge. Dynamics of Social Interactions", coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Ana-Maria Bolborici, PhD, and with the section "Theory and Methodology in Social Research", coordinated by Assoc.

Prof. Luiza Meseşan Schmitz, PhD, and Assist. Prof. Mara Panaite, PhD. Moreover, Prof. Claudiu Coman, PhD, and Assoc. Prof. Iulia Para, PhD, coordinated the section dedicated to branding strategies and image building in contemporary society.



A significant component of the session was dedicated to digital communication, public relations and branding. In this regard, the sections coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Victor-Alexandru Briciu, PhD, focused on communication and PR concepts for the design of a mobile application destined to the students, on integrated strategies for Digital Media and mobile applications, as well as on online PR concepts and strategies applied to the launch events for electronic products and services. They were added the sections coordinated by Prof. Florin Nechita, PhD, under the title "Top-tier Brands of Braşov" and "Behind the Scenes: Successful Advertising Campaigns".



The faculty management congratulates the winning students for their academic results and thanks the partners at Luado Braşov for the support provided in rewarding student performance.

Assoc. Prof. Horia MOAŞA, PhD, Dean
Faculty of Sociology and Communication
Photo credit: Cristian-Florin MILEA

BIP INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY IN SWITZERLAND FOR THE STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Teodora, Alina, Maria and Elena are the four students in the General Nursing study programme, who, accompanied by a teaching personnel member of the Faculty of Medicine, participated, between 15 and 19 June, in the *Blended Intensive Programme* (BIP) international mobility scheme, dedicated to the management of vital emergencies, which took place at *La Source – Haute École de la Santé* of Lausanne, Switzerland.



Established in 1859, La Source is acknowledged as the world's first secular nursing school and is a European milestone in the healthcare professionals' education and training. During an intensive week, Maria Mustăță, Teodora Oros, Elena Coșconea and Alina Drăgănuță had the opportunity to learn and collaborate with students and professors from Switzerland, Finland and Italy, developing essential skills in life-saving emergency management, interdisciplinary communication and international teamwork.



The commitment, professionalism and training level evinced by our students also reflected in their results, as they accumulated 17 points out of 18, the highest score awarded by the evaluators within the programme.

"As far as I am concerned, this Erasmus+ mobility in Switzerland was more than an academic opportunity – it was an experience that confirmed my choice of profession and strengthened my eagerness to assist in patient care with professionalism and dedication. Within this *Blended Intensive Programme* dedicated to emergency management, I had the opportunity to develop my professional skills in an international environment. This intense week helped me develop my practical skills and professional confidence, taught me how to act more safely in emergency situations, and made me discover, through collaboration with students and academics from different countries, how valuable intercultural exchange, teamwork, and friendship beyond borders are. I returned home not only with the latest professional knowledge and expertise, but also with a broader perspective on the role we have as future nurses in patient care. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity, which has given me inspiration, confidence and memories that I will carry along throughout my career." – Teodora



The participation in such international mobilities contributes to the future healthcare professionals' vocational and personal development; moreover, it strengthens European academic collaborations. True to the motto of the International Council of Nurses for the current year, namely "Empowered Nurses Save Lives", this experience confirms the importance of investing in education, cooperation and professional excellence.

Adjunct professor,
Vlăduț BURLACU, RN, PhD candidate
Faculty of Medicine

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THE STUDENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATION SCIENCES AND THE CHALLENGE OF COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE FEUERSTEIN METHOD

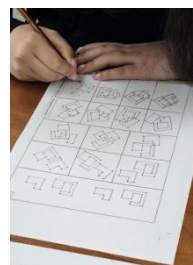
In the months of April and May 2026, 40 students of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, in the Psychology and Special Psychopedagogy study programmes, participated in a special personal and cognitive development programme, based on the Feuerstein method.



Internationally recognised and used in the world's schools, universities and educational centres, Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Programme is based on a simple but powerful idea: people can permanently develop their way of thinking, learning and solving problems, regardless of age. More than a set of exercises, the programme challenges the students to discover their own working strategies, to develop their patience, perseverance and ability of approaching difficult situations in an organised and efficient way. The students learn not only to look for the right answer, but also to understand the process by which they reach it.

At a time when youth are often pressured by the fast pace of academic activities and the large volume of information, such experiences help them build more effective learning habits, develop confidence in their own resources, and view challenges as opportunities for growth.

During the workshops, the students discovered that the difficulty of a task depends not only on its complexity, but also on how we choose to approach it. By constantly practicing and reflecting on their own strategies, many participants could notice changes in the way they organise their work, analyse information, and cope with challenges.



The experience was appreciated not only for its educational value, but also for the working atmosphere created within the group. The participants' feedback reflects the impact that the programme had on them:

"Evolution is a defining word for this workshop."

"The exercise seems to have carried great weight; if I had the opportunity to repeat the workshop, I would try to be highly attentive during each meeting."

"It makes you think a little bit more «out of the box». Moreover, you learn problem-solving strategies."

"The exercises themselves are addictive, especially the rated ones."

"I felt very good and at ease."

"I have learned, I dare say, to undertake my tasks step by step, without «rushing headfirst»."



Apart from the conducted activities, one of the most important lessons of the programme was the awareness that development never stops. The ability to learn, find solutions and adapt can be cultivated and improved through practice and reflection. As regards the students, the Feuerstein programme was not only a learning experience, but also a deep dive into one's own potential – an invitation to look at challenges with more confidence and to turn difficulties into opportunities for growth.

Assist. Prof. Roxana Elena STOICA, PhD candidate

Lect. Nicoleta LUPU, PhD

LYNX FESTIVAL – FOURTH EDITION

Between 1 and 7 June, the city of Braşov hosted the 4th edition of *Lynx Festival*, the only event of its kind exclusively dedicated to nature photography and documentary film.



During the festival, the Multicultural Centre hosted the photography exhibition *Danube Delta*, signed by Dan Dinu, as well as a series of workshops organised on the International Children's Day.

An experienced nature photographer for over 20 years, Dan Dinu is especially known for *Wild Romania*, the largest photography and documentary film project dedicated to our country's nature, launched in 2010.



He is a founding member of the Romanian Nature Photographers Association - [FORONA](#) and gets involved in many photographic projects focused on

environmental protection, alongside the most relevant NGOs such as [WWF Romania](#) or [Conservation Carpathia](#).

Within *Lynx Festival*, on 1 June, the Multicultural Centre hosted a series of workshops for children. During the four interactive educational workshops, they learnt about the green jobs in our country's protected areas, explored how animals find their way and survive without maps, discovered the Danube Delta's wild nature, as well as the herbs used in medicine, gastronomy and everyday life. The workshops were organised by Milvus Group, Rewilding Romania, Krontechies and EcoEdu Natura.



Moreover, on Friday, 5 June, the teaching personnel of Braşov were invited to attend a workshop organised by Krontech Association, so designed as to promote creative activities which combine digital education with nature protection, and are easy to implement in the classroom.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre,
Transilvania University of Braşov

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LETTER TO HIS FATHER – A THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE



The stage production *Letter to His Father*, adapted by Edith Negulici from Franz Kafka's eponymous autobiographical masterpiece, and directed by Cătălin Bocîrnea, was available to watch on 12 June at the Multicultural Centre. The cast included Mircea Dragoman, and the script was signed by Raul Cioabă.

Starting from one of Franz Kafka's most important autobiographical writings, the performance *Letter to His Father*, which was conferred upon the Award for Best Documentary Theatre Performance, premiered

in 2024, at Goethe-Institut Bucharest, as part of the events dedicated to the Kafka Centenary.

From its opening night to date, the production has enjoyed constant success, having numerous performances at HEARTH Association, the Jewish State Theatre of Bucharest, Traube Hall of Mediaș, the Hall of Mirrors of the Democratic Forum of Germans - Sibiu, "Vasile Pogor" Museum of Iași, the Multifunctional Hall of Timiș County Council – Timișoara, and "Satiricus" I.L. Caragiale National Theatre of Chișinău.

The show dramatises the father-son relationship through a performative multimedia installation, which combines elements of theatre, video art and sound to recreate the specific atmosphere of Kafka's writings.

The performance was produced with the support of the German Cultural Centre - Brașov and Goethe Institut, in partnership with Transilvania University of Brașov, the Jewish Community of Brașov, the German Cultural Centre - Iași, the Austrian Cultural Forum and UNITER.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre,
Transilvania University of Brașov

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MR. NOBODY AGAINST PUTIN – DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING



The screening of the documentary film *Mr. Nobody against Putin* took place during the 12th edition of KineDok festival, in Studio 181 hall, on 16 June. The production, directed by the filmmaker David Borenstein, and starring Pavel Talanki, won, this year, the Oscar and BAFTA Award for the best feature documentary.

The documentary film *Mr. Nobody against Putin* follows the story of Pavel “Pasha” Talankin – a beloved teacher, event coordinator and videographer at a school in the industrial city of Karabash, Ural Mountains. With the onset of Russia’s invasion against Ukraine, the school where Pasha grew up and worked becomes a space of militarization and propaganda, and he must document the “patriotic education” classes entered into the curriculum. Shot secretly over two years, the documentary is a personal testimony, a close and captivating portrait of contemporary Russia, seen through the eyes of an

ordinary man caught in the mechanism of the regime.

KineDok is a unique programme in Europe, taking place simultaneously in five partner countries: the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia and Romania, where it is coordinated by One World Romania Association, in close partnership with the film festival.

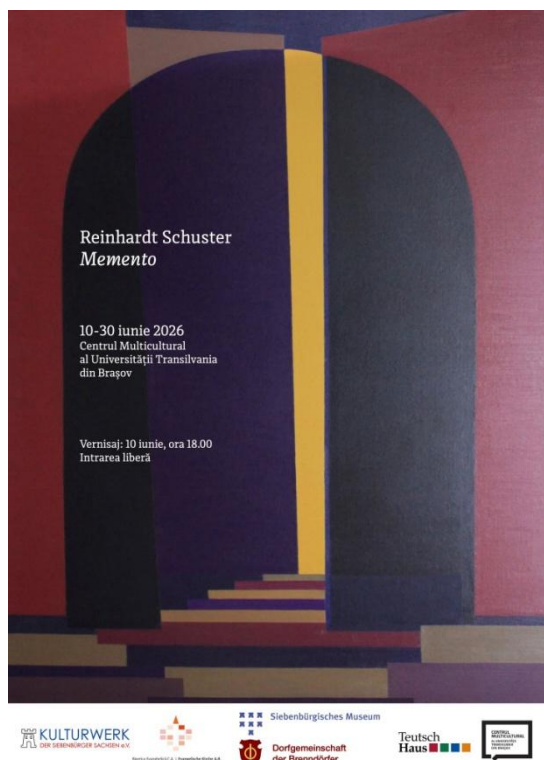


Each of the participating countries contributes its latest documentaries, which are then screened in hundreds of alternative venues across the five countries; thus, an impressive cultural community comes into being. The audience has the chance to watch a selection of films that are not shown in mainstream cinemas, and to participate in the post-screening animated debates, where local directors and experts in various fields are invited. As regards the city of Braşov, every year, Kinedok festival takes place at the Multicultural Centre.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre,
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EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS – REINHARDT SCHUSTER



Reinhardt Schuster's exhibition, *Memento*, which groups the visual artist's most important artworks achieved in the last 40 years was open to the public at the Multicultural Centre, in the month of June 2026.

Reinhardt Schuster is a famous painter of German origin, born in the village of Bod, county of Braşov, Romania, on 1 September 1936, but settled down in the city of Bonn, Germany. Reinhardt Schuster took his first drawing classes in 1952, at Braşov, under Hans Mattis-Teutsch' guidance. He graduated from the High School of Fine Arts – Braşov; and, from 1958 to 1964, he attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Bucharest. It is there that he lived, worked and taught until his departure, in 1983, to the Federal Republic of Germany. In Düsseldorf, between 1985 and 2004, he taught a painting course at Lernort Studio Centre.

Grouped under the title *Memento*, the selected artworks have suggestive titles, referring to Romania's recent history, but also to the artist's personal history: *Barricades in Timişoara*, *Endangered House*, *Collapse*, *Locked Entrance*, *Broken Stained Glass*, *Homeland*, *Spanish Impressions* series. Beyond these interpretative suggestions, "the lines, colours and dynamics of the composition give rise to a refined game of associations and ever-new interpretations. They overlay memories onto the emotions generated by colour and image." (Irmgard Sedler, PhD)

Highly appreciated for his abstract style and strong chromatic features, the artist enjoyed many personal exhibitions both in the country and abroad. His artworks are grouped under national collections in Romania and Germany, but also under private ones in the United States of America, Japan, Great Britain, Austria or Denmark.

The opening took place on 10 June, in the artist's presence, and the introductory speech was given by Radu Popica, PhD, historian and researcher at Braşov Art Museum. The exhibition actualised with the support of "Friedrich Teutsch" Centre for Dialogue and Culture under the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania, and of the Association of Bod Transylvanian Saxons in Germany (*Dorfgemeinschaft der Brenndörfer*).

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CHAMBER JAZZ | TRIO ESCARO



The last concert of the 2025-2026 Chamber Jazz season took place at the Multicultural Centre on 25 June, and was performed by Trio Esaro, a formula which brings together, under this name, three musicians with distinct artistic personalities, namely Miles Perkin on the double bass, Jeremy Viner on tenor saxophone and clarinet, and Simon Jermyn on the electric guitar. The repertoire interweaves original compositions, a few of their favorite musicians' pieces, as well as free improvisation, in an open, flexible and always surprising musical dialogue.

Simon Jermyn is an Irish guitarist and composer settled in Berlin, after more than a decade spent in New York. Leader of Obsany project and collaborator in many other formulas, Jermyn is an active presence on the jazz and contemporary experimental music stage. His successful collaborations include artists such as John Zorn, Jim Black, Aaron Parks, Chris Speed, Gerald Cleaver or Chris Lightcap. He has performed on famous stages and at important festivals in Europe and the United

States, including the legendary Village Vanguard of New York.

Double bassist, composer and music producer, Miles Perkin stands out for the flexibility in his approach to jazz, experimental music, pop, but also through his interdisciplinary projects. Settled, in 2010, in the city of Berlin, he constantly explores new sound possibilities of the double bass, combining traditional techniques with unconventional methods, electronic technologies and amplification processes. His recent projects feature the albums *Subtones* (2020), *The Point in Question* (2019) and *This Old Song* (2022). Throughout his career, he has collaborated with a great many leading musicians of the international stage and composed music for over twenty-five theatre and dance productions performed in important cultural institutions of Germany and Europe.

Jeremy Viner is a musician, improviser, composer and educator settled in Berlin. After almost twenty years spent in the metropolis of New York, in 2023 he moved to the European continent, enjoying the same success all over the world. He is well-known as a member of Battle Trance tenor saxophone quartet and Bing & Ruth minimalist music ensemble, two benchmark projects for his interest in group sonorities and large-scale music pieces. As a collaborator, he has performed and recorded with artists such as John Hollenbeck, Steve Lehman, Tim Berne, Tyshawyn Sorey, Anna Webber, Kate Gentile and Rafiq Bhatia, being appreciated for his creative approach.

Anca PAPANA
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GRADUATES WE TAKE PRIDE IN – MARIA-ALEXANDRA FETICU



Maria-Alexandra Feticu graduated from the Faculty of Law within Transilvania University of Braşov in 2025, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Advanced Private Law within the same faculty.

The passion for the legal field, curiosity and constant desire of professional development led her to pursue further academic studies, in an effort to expand on the knowledge acquired during the undergraduate years, and to enhance her training for the legal career she has aimed for ever since childhood.

Her path in the legal world began in 2021, when she first stepped into the halls of the Faculty of Law, driven by the desire to understand the complexity of the legal phenomenon and by the dream to become a successful lawyer. During the years of study, Maria stood out for her seriousness, perseverance and outstanding academic results, being one of the student grantees of the merit scholarships awarded by the faculty. At the same time, she understood the importance of getting involved in extracurricular activities, therefore actively participating in the projects of ELSA Braşov organization, an experience that gave her the opportunity to develop communication, teamwork and organizational skills.

Out of a desire to acquire as much practical experience as possible and to thoroughly understand the mechanisms of the legal system, she completed an internship at Sinaia Courthouse during her first student year. This experience opened for her the first outlook on the activity conducted in courts and on the responsibilities incurred by the legal professionals.

Eager to discover the multiple valences of the legal professions, Maria also completed an internship in a notary office during her student

years, which was an experience that deepened her insight into the notarial activity and the essential role of this profession for the architecture of the legal system.

The theoretical and practical knowledge acquired under the guidance of the academic teaching personnel within the Faculty of Law, enhanced by constant individual training, contributed decisively to her academic and personal development. The perseverance, discipline and seriousness she evinced both during the student years and after graduation were rewarded with an outstanding achievement: the highest score on the bar admission exam, April 2026 session. This achievement is proof that excellence is the result of hard work, constant training, and passion for one's chosen profession. Her journey proves that success in the legal field is not random, but requires determination, discipline, sacrifice and the ability to remain consistent with one's goals.

Through her academic results, Maria-Alexandra



Feticu is an example of perseverance, ambition and excellence for both current and future students of the Faculty of Law. Her story confirms that success is built step by step, through work,

dedication and permanent desire for self-improvement, and that performance becomes attainable when passion for the profession is doubled by seriousness and consistency.

Lect. Georgeta-Bianca SPÎRCHEZ, PhD,
Alumni Coordinator, Faculty of Law

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