



Universitatea  
Transilvania  
din Braşov

---

# NEWSLETTER

---

No. 76 August 2018

- ▣ SUMMER SCHOOL – TRANSILVANIA SUMMER EVENT (TSE) – THIRD EDITION
- ▣ ERASMUS+: BRINGING THE WORLD CLOSER
- ▣ LIVING THE DREAM – BLUESTREAMLINE CELEBRATES A DECADE OF STUDENT FORMULA
- ▣ ERASMUS+: CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH STAFF DEVELOPMENT
- ▣ SCHWEIGHOFER SCHOLARSHIPS FINAL COLLOQUIUM, CLUJ-NAPOCA
- ▣ BEIJING - A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE FOR TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
- ▣ 100 DAYS IN BEIJING: DIARY OF AN EMBASSY INTERN
- ▣ THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH *JSCHOOL*
- ▣ IN MEMORIAM DR STELIAN A. MUNTEANU (1918-1990)
- ▣ AMBASSADOR ALUMNI

## SUMMER SCHOOL – TRANSILVANIA SUMMER EVENT (TSE) – THIRD EDITION

The third edition of *Transilvania Summer Event* (TSE 2018) organized by our university between 16 and 18 July kicked off with a round of workshops targeted at students aiming for a career with multinational companies, or interested in entrepreneurial ventures.



The welcome speech was followed with a introduction of Continental Powertrain company and the workshop titled "Be the leader of your career" which allowed specialists from Powertrain to organize roleplay activities meant to gauge the creativity and other abilities of students who may seek employment with multinational companies.

The later half of the first day was devoted to entrepreneurial matters. The workshop "A career in entrepreneurship" was run by four young local entrepreneurs invited for the occasion: Ms Luminița Puia (*Licurici* Hair Salon), Mr Alexandru Pop (Smart Tours Agency), Mr George Cățean (*Cățean* Farm) and Mr Valentin Bărbat (*Tipografia* Tea and Coffe House). They took the opportunity to size up the students' entrepreneurial skills, while sharing their own expertise in this field.

The discussions touched upon the best ways to capitalize on a business idea, to build it into a viable business model, and to develop a product or service as an independent operator. These topics were aimed at boosting the participants' interest in developing creative entrepreneurial projects.

The second day started with a visit to one of the best known dairy producers in Romania: COVALACT Sfântu Gheorghe. This was also an opportunity to introduce the participants and trainers alike to the history and culture of Covasna city, by taking them on themed field trips.

The final day of the summer school concluded with another workshop centred around the challenges facing entrepreneurship in Romania and the determinants of success in business.



The participants also gave their feedback to the organizers, suggesting ways to increase the impact of the future editions of TSE.

Dr Oana Bărbulescu  
Dr Daniel Munteanu, Vice-Rector

■ CUPRINS

## ERASMUS+: BRINGING THE WORLD CLOSER

Ever since the spring of 2015, the European Union has fostered, via Erasmus+ (Action KA 107), the collaboration with partner countries, by providing financial support for student mobilities (for study) and staff (teaching or training). Throughout this period of time, Transilvania University submitted applications and managed to secure the financing for outgoing and incoming mobilities.



In the past few years, the development of international academic relations has become part of our academic development policy. Our entire community – from university management to staff – were deeply committed to initiating and maintaining partnerships with HEIs across the world.

This approach has definitely paid off in 2018, when the number of partner countries peaked to 34, as compared to the 23 countries included in the 2017 application. Similarly, there has been a significant increase in the number of partner universities: the 2018 application includes 74 universities, compared

to 45, in the previous year. The point of novelty in the 2018 application has been the traineeship mobilities for students, which will allow our students to develop professionally by taking part in internships at our partner universities.

According to the official results of the 2018 application, our university came third in Romania in terms of the financing secured, 464,924 Euro, and second in terms of the number of countries we have received financing for: 30. This result does us credit while it also motivates us to keep up the good work towards implementing the KA 107 project for the 2018/2019 academic year, as well as towards the internationalization of our university.



Dr Simona Lache, Vice-Rector,  
Institutional Erasmus+ Coordinator  
Dr Camelia Drăghici,  
Erasmus+ Coordinator, KA107 Project Manager

## LIVING THE DREAM – BLUESTREAMLINE CELEBRATES A DECADE OF STUDENT FORMULA

The year 2018 has been an emotional and important year for BlueStreamline as well as for the evolution of the racing team of Transilvania University of Braşov. This year, Formula Student UK is celebrating two decades of international competitions.



BlueStreamline is directly connected to the British competition, because 2009, the year of the eleventh edition on the Silverstone circuit, is also the time frame for the foundation of the team, the manufacture of the first Romanian Formula Student race car, and the first Romanian participation in international races.



During this anniversary season, BlueStreamline has entered the British competition with the most technically advanced race car-BS18. In the tenth participation with their own-manufactured race car, BlueStreamline was invited to showcase a historic racing car-BS10, by the *Institution of Mechanical Engineers-ImechE*, the organizer, in the anniversary park "20 years of Formula Student UK".



Entering the competition with the BS18 race car was quite gratifying, as the team ranked 34th out of 118 participant teams from around the world. The result and positive evolution of the team in the British stage motivated them to get back in the garage and prepare for the final stage of the Formula Student Spain 2018 season, which will take place between 22-28 August on Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.



It is a joy and honor that for a decade, through hard-work and the support of both Transilvania University of Braşov and our partners, we have managed to give Romania, Braşov, and the University the highest representation in one of the most competitive international student events.

Dr Mihai Comşit  
Coordinator of the BlueStreamline racing team

## ERASMUS+: CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Between 29 July and 4 August, our university hosted the meeting of the Evaluation Working Group including the Romanian, Greek and Bosnian partners in the *Library Network Support Services (LNSS)* project. The aim of this project is to contribute to the modernization of libraries in Western Balkan countries by training librarians and improving the library services.



The project is coordinated by four EU partners from Romania, Greece, Ireland and Germany, with expertise in the field. The partner countries are Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Montenegro, and Kosovo.

The project ends in October 2018, and this final evaluation meeting focused on the quality review of the LNSS project, the assessment of the LNSS website, and the final quality review of the LNSS eight curriculum modules. The curriculum consist of modules such as (1) English for Specific Purposes (libraries, library terminology); (2) Marketing skills

for librarians - Theory and practice; (3) Essential management and transferable skills for librarians and library staff; (4) Information literacy and research skills to help learners find and use information effectively and ethically; (5) Innovative online library services for the 21st century librarians; (6) The electronic library; (7) The access to libraries and the community of learners with special needs/disabilities; (8) Policies for library collection development.

The project reached its objectives, and demonstrated that the key to strengthening the capacity building of universities is the trained staff, implementing modern pedagogical approaches which take into consideration the education and research needs of the academic community.



Dr Angela Repanovici,  
Project coordinator

## SCHWEIGHOFER SCHOLARSHIPS FINAL COLLOQUIUM, CLUJ-NAPOCA

In July, the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Cluj-Napoca hosted the final colloquium for scholarships awarded by Holzindustrie Schweighofer, in which students at the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering in Braşov also participated. In front of professors and forestry specialists, students Florin Beleaua, Adrian Florea, Maria Iorga, Mădălin-Andrei Nicolae, Mihai Bratu, and Gabriel-Nicolae Dogaru presented their vision about the solutions to certain research topics which are relevant for the Romanian forestry sector.



The forestry students discussed issues related to the circulation of wood and wood materials, the current state and evolution of forest certification systems in Romania, the evolution of the wood market in Romania and the European Union, and the possibility of using certain modern technologies to measure and assess the volume of logs.



The Schweighofer Scholarships program is greatly appreciated by the students and professors at the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering in Braşov, because it provides the financial resources necessary to conduct quality research, while also motivating outstanding students to delve further into forestry research. The program has become a tradition in the faculty, as the first edition took place at Transilvania University of Braşov, and later expanded to other universities.

The Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering in Braşov would like to thank Holzindustrie Schweighofer for their support in scientific research and for their involvement in training topnotch professionals.

Dr Stelian Alexandru Borz



## BEIJING - A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE FOR TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

"Understanding China through Music" represents one of the experiences which have left a mark both professionally and emotionally. Organized by CCOM Beijing (*Central Conservatory of Music*) between 13 July and 1 August, this program consisted in a three-week extraordinary cultural exchange.

The five students of Transilvania University of Braşov, together with Dr Stela Drăgulin, studied Chinese instruments, concluding the experience with an amazing recital, on 29 July. Students Magdalena Lazăr (Erhu), Corina Purcărea (Xiao), Botond Szocs (Sheng), Alexandru Manole (Pipa), doctoral student Claudia Şuteu (Zhonghu), and Dr Stela Drăgulin (on traditional drums) played in various musical ensembles, each group taking three weeks to prepare a piece selected by the organizers of the event.



Discussions and presentations on culture, particularly on oriental music, took place every day. A highly impressive moment was professor Joshua Chan's impeccable rendition of a Romanian traditional piece, "Ciocârlia" ("The Skylark"), on a

violin quite different from the traditional instrument, which added to the emotional impact felt by everyone. Professor Chan was also the one who introduced us to the basics of playing Chinese instruments.



The organizers wished to connect with their art, especially with their music, so visits to a series of cultural centres were arranged. Among them was the Beijing Opera, where the visitors watched a demonstration of Peking Opera, which was different from the classical opera.

Thanks are due to the professors, especially to Dr Stela Drăgulin and the organizers – CCOM and the Romanian Embassy in China, his Excellency, Ambassador Basil Constantinescu, who gave the Romanian delegation a warm welcome. This experience proved once again that music is a universal language.

Ligia Şuteu, doctoral student

## 100 DAYS IN BEIJING: DIARY OF AN EMBASSY INTERN

Sometimes in mid-May I was notified that I would leave for my post in two weeks. I had been looking forward to receiving this confirmation e-mail since February when, on finding out that Transilvania University of Braşov was sending a student to the Romanian Embassy at Beijing, I said I would be willing to go right away, if possible.



Having completed the undergraduate program at the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, I enrolled in a master's . But I felt that it was all too peaceful, too sedate for my taste. Too much spare time, too little work on projects – where did the excitement go? I needed a challenge, and I ended up with much more than I bargained for; because each day spent in Beijing proved a challenge: from bracing oneself for the scorchingly hot temperatures outside, stepping into the embassy and doing one's job – well, the whole package.



A young person fresh out of school finding herself in too large a country, in too large an embassy, with too much responsibility on her shoulders – that is how I felt shortly after my arrival there. But there was one thing that I was certain of: the amount of experience I stood to gain from this opportunity was proportional to the amount of effort and hard work I would put in. And I was so right!

I returned to my home university after three months of internship in journalism and diplomacy. But I return more passionate about communication than ever, more trusting in people and in my own abilities and more willing to do my best in order to make things happen.



A multicultural experience in a field one is passionate about can prove extremely useful. What it takes is the willingness to step out of one's comfort zone and take every opportunity that presents itself. Working in another cultural setting and with people one looks up to is likely to boost one's confidence both personally and professionally. Based on this, I would urge my peers to seek and capitalize on such opportunities as stepping stones on the path to self-improvement.

Ruxandra Cioacă, master student



## THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH *JSCHOOL*

If you are wondering what *jSchool* is, here is the answer: it is a one-week summer school which can turn your world upside down if you are contemplating doing research in psychology. This is because it is all about complex research designs with a high level of applicability.



For one week, graduate and undergraduate students from Psychology study programs across Europe and beyond had the opportunity to be instrumental in creating a design for intercultural research. Various topics were suggested, which brought together students from many countries, aiming at a diversity in the environments for subsequent data collection. The topics were supervised by graduate and undergraduate doctoral students from top universities in Europe, which represent valuable resources both in terms of knowledge and personal experience.

This year I have had the opportunity to be among those admitted and thereby enjoy my first international experience as the only Romanian student in the group. It all began in Siena, a medieval city in central Tuscany and part of the UNESCO patrimony due to its architecture, which inevitably takes one back

in time. Certosa di Pontignano, our home for a week, was the place where I participated in daily group meetings of intense work to create the design, preceded by objectives and hypotheses, research results dissemination and so on.

The week ended in a festive atmosphere. The last evening, the "Gala Night", was aimed at presenting the projects and enrolling the students officially in the *Junior Researcher Programme*, with a duration of 13 months to ensure the conclusion of the research. The study may be published in the journal *Frontiers in Psychology* and the students must present the results at a Cambridge conference when the program ends.



There are more surprises to come, but those curious and willing to discover them can visit the <http://jrp.pschoolars.org/> and start writing their applications.

Cătălina Bunghez, master student

■ CUPRINS

## IN MEMORIAM DR STELIAN A. MUNTEANU (1918-1990)

“The right to not be forgotten”, which any of the great professors of the University should benefit from, is observed by the homage we pay Dr Stelian A. Munteanu, on his 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



*J. Munteanu*

It is thus our duty to remember Dr Stelian Munteanu, who was born on 6 August 1918 and passed away in 1990.

Professor engineer Stelian Munteanu taught “Torrent Control” at the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Transilvania University of Braşov, between 1948-1981. He became a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy (the Agricultural and Forestry Sciences department),

and a tenured member of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (the Forestry Sciences department) in 1974. He was vice-president (1967-1970), president (1970-1982), and honorary president (1982-1990) of the Work group for the creation of mountain hydrographic basins within the European Forestry Commission – F.A.O. He was also a member in the Executive Committee of this Commission.

In 1998, the then Rector, Dr Sergiu T. Chiriacescu, President of the National Council of Rectors, described Professor Munteanu as *“a memorable personality in forestry higher education, creator of a study program in designing torrential hydrographic basins, professor Stelian Munteanu contributed to the elevation of the prestige of the University of Braşov, which he represented successfully abroad. Through the European dimensions of his work and personality, the following truth is confirmed: the teachers’ reputations lend their aura to the school.”*

Dr Ioan Clinciu  
Tenured member of the Academy of Agricultural  
and Forestry Sciences

■ CUPRINS

## AMBASSADOR ALUMNI



**Dr. eng. Heinrich - Johann PETRA**  
**Graduate of the Polytechnic Institute at Braşov**  
*Faculty of Mechanics, class of 1967*

After his 1967 graduation of the then Polytechnic Institute at Braşov, Dr eng. Heinrich-Johann Petra worked between 1967 and 1972, as a design engineer in Bucharest and Braşov, and then in the gearbox design and implementation department of ZF Company in Friedrichshafen, Germany, between 1977 and 1981. Within the same interval he was a

doctoral student and teaching assistant at the Technical University in Munich, where he earned his doctoral degree.

Between 1982-2007 he worked for BMW, serving as manager, project coordinator in charge of implementing innovative design techniques, such as FMEA, and WEIBU. Between 2007 and 2009 he coordinated two special projects of LINDE company, in the UK, and between 2003 and 2012 he developed the FISKER vehicle in Finland. Since 2012 he has acted as advisor for special projects and operations with BMW.

The German automobile makers acknowledged and rewarded Dr Petra's impressive professional abilities, output and research record by electing him President of FVA (the German Association for Research in the Transmission Technologies – the gearbox technical group), as well as President of VDA – System Technology. Since 1994, he is an honorary professor of Transilvania University.

Dr Bianca Tescaşiu

■ CUPRINS