



Transilvania  
University  
of Brasov

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# NEWSLETTER

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No. 91 November 2019

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## OPENING OF THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

On 1st October, the university's Aula Magna resounded with the anthem *Gaudeamus igitur*, a befitting welcome to a new academic year celebrated by all those present—teaching staff, students, guests, representatives of the local governing bodies, of the local industry and cultural establishments. In particular, the event was a moving experience for the 5,574 first year undergraduate students, 1,905 first year master students and 94 first year doctoral students at our university.



The festive opening of the 2019-2020 academic year presented the attendees with the opportunity of becoming acquainted with some of the landmark moments in the evolution of our HEI, from its beginnings in 1948 to its current status—from a Silviculture institute to the largest university in central Romania. Nowadays Transilvania University includes 18 faculties divided equally between technical and non-technical specialists that provide high standard education to 19,000+ students enrolled in 105 undergraduate study programs, 73 master's programs and 18 fields of doctoral study.



In his welcome speech the Rector, Dr Ioan Vasile Abrudan, referred to the possibilities, facilities and infrastructure that Transilvania university offers its 750

teaching and research staff in order to support their various activities, the ongoing support for the students and the variety of TUB's educational offer. As the Rector stated, "The most valuable resource that our university possesses are the people—our students and teachers. In this spirit, the top priority on the university management's agenda is supporting our faculty staff and students and motivating them by rewarding their top performance."

Subsequent speakers were Mr Marian Rasaliu, Prefect of Braşov County, Mr Adrian-Ioan Veşteu, President of Braşov County Council, and Mr George Scripcaru, Mayor of Braşov City, respectively. Three students also shared their success stories: Diana Buzdugan (Mechanical Engineering) member of the team behind the winning project "Twizy Contest 2019"; Lumina Dovletova from Turkmenistan, now a first year student at Faculty of Product Design and Environment; Costin-Tudor Gâdei, master's student in Mechatronics, a participant in WorldSkills 2019, Kazan.



The festivities concluded with a live performance by student Diana Ichim from the Faculty of Music, who delighted the audience with her singing, anticipated the beginning of the 2019-2020 concert season at our university.

Dr Victor BRICIU  
The Marketing and PR Office

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## ROMÂNIA – CHINA: 70 YEARS.

### A GALA CONCERT BY REPRESENTATIVES OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

Continuing in the series of events scheduled for the seven-week celebration of Romanian-Chinese cooperation, the Romanian embassy at Beijing organized a gala evening on the 17 October, at which participating Chinese and Romanian officials expressed their feeling of mutual appreciation and friendship.



The evening began with the official release of a commemorative stamp and "first time release" envelope designed jointly by two prominent artists originating from the two countries: Ioan Nemțoi, whose craftsmanship is often likened to that of Constantin Brâncuși, and Ma Zikai, a graphic artist reputed for his traditional techniques.

Students and staff from the Faculty of Music of Transilvania University of Brașov gave classical music recital which gradually faded into Romanian folk, to the delight of the 300+ members of the audience, who shared in the performers' artistic gusto.



From Beijing, the series of events changed the scenery to the China University of Petroleum at Qingdao, on 19 October. Here the gala opened with a performance by the teaching staff at the Faculty of Music within the host university and went on with a recital by five graduate and undergraduate music students from Transilvania University who performed classical as well as Romanian traditional music.



Guitar, flute, and piano joined forces to showcase the art and craft of the new generation of Romanian virtuosi. The two-hour recital fittingly concluded with a repertoire of traditional Romanian musical gems.

The representatives of Transilvania University had been invited by the Romanian Embassy in China to take part in the festivities organized at Beijing și Qingdao in celebration of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relationships between our two countries.

Ruxandra CIOACĂ, Attaché  
Romanian Embassy in China  
DR Victor BRICIU  
Marketing and PR Office

## OPENING OF THE 2019–2020 CONCERT SEASON AT THE UNIVERSITY’S MUSICAL CENTRE

The opening of the new academic year as well as of the new concert season at Transilvania University were marked by two special events: a memorable performance by pianist Szöcs Botond, and the debut of *Transilvania University Chamber Orchestra* (TUCO) led by maestro Traian Ichim, whose Honorary President is Dr Ioan Vasile Abrudan, the Rector of our university.



The performers in the chamber music orchestra are current and former students at our university, and the founding member of this unique academic project is prof. Stela Drăgulin. The orchestra premiered on 1st October. The concert began with the performance of the Anthems of Romania and China, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries. It went on with two pieces by Beethoven: the Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67, and the Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37 whose intense and deep-felt performance impressed the audience.

Pianist Szöcs Botond, a student at the Faculty of Music in prof. Drăgulin’s class, gave an outstanding performance of Concerto No. 3. His remarkable artistry allows him to approach a diverse and complex repertoire. This has been all the more evident in his

rendition of Beethoven’s Concerto No. 3—a combination of strength and sensitivity, reason and poetry—which appropriately reflects the tumultuous temperament of its composer.

Botond’s artistic rendition brings out these features, capturing the contrast between the dramatic and the graceful notes of this piece. Botond’s own artistic temperament and his powerful performance will endure in the memory of the audience, who gave him a standing ovation.



Worth mentioning here is the crucial contribution of maestro Traian Ichim—a prominent figure in the Romanian musical landscape—to implementing this project. Capturing the complex nature of Beethoven’s music requires deep understanding and virtuosity in its rendition. Both were manifest in the elegant and powerful performance on the 1st October that amply reflected the high standards promoted by our Musical Centre.

Noémi KARÁCSONY, doctoral student  
Faculty of Music

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## 70 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ROMANIA AND CHINA

### A Confucius Institute event in the University Auditorium

On the anniversary of 70 years of diplomatic relations between Romania and China, on 9 October, Transilvania University of Braşov hosted a conference attended by Professor Ding Chao, professor of Romanian studies at the Faculty of European Languages and Cultures in Beijing (BFSU) and director of the Central and Eastern European Studies Centre.



Romanian language and literature and the history of cultural relations between China and the countries in Central and Eastern Europe both fall under the purview of his research, and he authored several dictionaries, monographs and textbooks on these topics. The conference was accompanied by a photo exhibition presented on the ground floor of Aula Magna.



The delegation from China Public Diplomacy Association consisted of H.E. Ambassador Chen Yuming, Vice President of the China Public Diplomacy Association, Mr. Liu Quing, director of the Department for Asia-Pacific studies at the China Institute of

International Studies, Mr. Ding Chao, Director of the Central and Eastern European Studies Centre at the Beijing Foreign Studies University and Vice-President of the China-Romania Friendship Association, and Mrs. Xu Xinxin, Director of the Communications Department of China Public Diplomacy Association.



In his speech, professor Ioan Vasile Abrudan, Rector of Transilvania University, reminded the audience that the first Chinese Ph.D. student to graduate in Romania defended his thesis at the Faculty of Wood Engineering within Transilvania University, in 2017. He then noted that "what happened so far certainly helped strengthen the relations between Romania and China, and we hope our efforts to maintain this special bond of friendship and mutual support between our countries won't go unnoticed".

Transilvania University of Braşov has hosted a Confucius Institute (one of the four in Romania) since April 2012. Starting with the 2015-2016 academic year, the Faculty of Letters has a bachelor's degree program in Chinese.

Currently, Transilvania University of Brasov has 11 partnerships with academic institutions in China, and in the following months its management will sign a new collaboration agreement with a partner institution in this country.

Dr Adrian LĂCĂTUŞ  
Director of Confucius Institute  
Transilvania University of Braşov

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## 10 YEARS OF DREAMING, 11 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS FORMULA STUDENT - BLUESTREAMLINE

On 29 January 1889 the German engineer Karl Benz created the first four-stroke motorcar. 130 years later, this event was celebrated by the BlueStreamline team who represented Transilvania University in the event held at the Superland entertainment park at Braşov.



The beginning of 2019 held the promise of a year filled with challenge, adrenalin, and amazing experiences. "When you want something, the entire universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.", said Paulo Coelho. Ten year have elapsed since our first dream. Today, BlueStreamline is a dream come true. The one-seaters BS9, BS10, BS11, BS12, BS13, BS14, BS15, BS16, BS17, BS18 are not just race cars. They are the mark of our —a mark created by tens of students over the years, students who shared in the same passion. This is why our team is the engine that sets our dream in motion. And our dream has been bigger than building a car and taking part in races: it was about building a team of people able to pursue their own professional path.



After one and a half years of unremitting work, on 19 April 2019, with the help of our university, we took the challenge of the *Racing Wheels* magazine and, for the first time, we ran our 10 one-seaters in the Prejmer racing circuit, on the occasion of the "10 Years of Dreaming", a celebratory event dedicated to our team.



Between 31 May and 2 June, the Ghimbav Airdrome and Braşov Airstrip were the venues of the first edition of the outdoors festival *Iron Dragons*. For three days and nights, Ghimbav was a place of fun and entertainment involving aviation shows, parachute jumps, balloon rides, concerts, street-food, light shows, etc. For three days, our BS18 car was admired by the public and the team had a great time. A great many questions came from the public, particularly from little boys who were given a chance to climb aboard. They decided on the spot that they would like to become engineers or racecar pilots when they grew up.



As in every year, we were at the line-up of the Formula Student competition. Organized annually, this student competition involves the well-known international circuits and brings together over 600 universities worldwide. Formula Student is a high scale

project combining academic knowledge and engineering skills. With every year, the experience gained in this high profile competition brings us closer to living up one of our dearest dreams—ranking in the top 10 competitors.

BS19 prepared and left for the first stage of the Formula Student competition in the U.K.; there This year's race—the 21st edition of the competition—took place on the legendary Silverstone circuit and lined up 130 competitors from all over the world. Our car passed all the technical inspections with flying colours.



The endurance test was less successful, as our car left the race earlier than we had intended. The new fuel we used (E 85) created some combustion problems. Frustration apart, we promised ourselves to truly show what our one-seater can do in the next competition.

On the 22 July, on our way back from Silverstone, we made a stop at Chipping Norton. There, we benefitted from the generosity of the Design Manager at *Renault Sport Racing*, who made it possible for us to visit the Renault Formula1 Team plant, the place where Formula 1 Renault monoposts are produced and assembled. This was a real opportunity for our team. Thank you, Mr Cristian Dan, for the time spent there!



Formula Student Spain—the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit—took place between 20 and 25 August. BS19 did us credit by passing all the tests and inspections, completed the endurance test in top 10, and came in 7th place out of 84 competitors.



Our efforts were well worth it. In the 11th year we managed to reach a goal that, a few years back, seemed out of our reach. We are truly proud of this achievement and grateful for the unwavering support of our university and of our partners.

Dr Mihai COMȘIȚ,  
BlueStreamline Coordinator,  
Faculty of Product Design and Environment  
Mădălina TANSANU, student  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS FOR A LOCAL INVENTOR

Between 16 and 18 October, Dr Valentin Marian Stamate from the Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management represented Transilvania University of Braşov at UGAL INVENT 2019 Innovation and Research Exhibition, organized by Dunărea de Jos University of Galaţi.



Dr Stamate introduced a series of products created at the university, some of them holding patents, others in the process of receiving a patent: the induction electric heater, the pressure-thermal polymerization machine, the thermal engine with 3D printed components from metal powder, and the 3D auto model from plastic powder. Out of these, the jury was particularly impressed with the induction electric heater and the pressure-thermal

polymerization machine, which were awarded the gold medal and the silver medal, respectively.



During his career, the inventor has created other patented products. Some of his innovative ideas are still waiting to take shape with the support of the university at the department and the research centre where he is currently working.

Dr Mircea-Viorel DRĂGOI  
Head of the Department,  
Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial  
Management

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## TWIZY CONTEST 2019

On 5 October, our university's InnovaTwiz team won the award for the best prototype at the international final of the Twizy Contest 2019, organized by the Renault Group. The team was made up of six students (two PhD candidates and four master students) from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, coordinated by prof. Horia Abăitancei. The product created by our students is a car with improved drivability which, besides the classical driving functions, includes ten additional ones in all possible directions: low turning radius, diagonal movement, on-the-spot rotation, etc.



In November 2018, three teams from our university participated in the national stage of the TwizyContest. The winning team qualified for the international final which was held this year in Paris, at the headquarters of *Techno Center Renault* (TCR). Our university's team competed against teams from France, the Russian Federation, Turkey, South Korea and Brazil.

According to the representatives of the PR department at Renault Romania that evaluated the winning project, "It was a successful project from at least three points of view: (1) implementation, finalised through a concrete result of basic project training to support the alternative and/or complementary training methods of the people who will be in charge of the technical solutions of the future. The additional training also included, besides the technical details, financial information, which is at least as important; (2) proof that obstacles are made to be overcome through the collaboration

between the university and the important research centre of a major car manufacturer. The successful collaboration will represent a basis for future projects; (3) a fascinating experience showing how an idea becomes a sketch, then a computer image and finally an actual car that can do amazing things".

*Renault Technologie Roumanie* offered the Renault Twizy to the winning team, while the university supported financially the process of implementing the technical idea and finishing the prototype. Gabriel Popa, PhD candidate and member of the InnovaTwiz team, highlighted the fact that this contest was "a fascinating experience because it allowed us to look for or change solutions as we worked, without access to the concrete result of our team work. This was appreciated at the local level where we competed against our colleagues, but also at the national level, and especially in Paris, in the main hall of the TCR, where we won the award for the best prototype. In addition to the contest experience and discussions with students from other participating countries, one unforgettable moment was the group photo of all teams gathered around our prototype.



We take away the confidence and pride of having created a technical prototype, an experience which is the foundation of any professional career."

Dr Horia ABĂITĂNCEI,  
Coordinator of the InnovaTwiz Team

## AWARD AT THE SWS (SGEM) CONFERENCE IN ITALY

Between 22 and 25 October, I participated in the sixth edition of the International Scientific Conference on Arts & Humanities "The Magic of the Renaissance", in Florence, Italy, which is part of *(SGEM World Science) International Scientific Conferences*.



The conference sessions facilitated the exchange of both research ideas and cultural values among the participants, academics from the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Canada, Italy, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Slovakia, Croatia, Egypt, Turkey, etc.



On 22 October, as a representative of Transilvania University of Braşov, I had the honour to be the keynote speaker at the official opening ceremony of

the conference, which took place at the Conference Centre of Grand Hotel Baglioni. Also, during the following days, I presented two papers, published in the conference proceedings.

At the end of the conference, I was happy to learn that my presentation had been appreciated by the organizers and the public, and I received the Crystal Plate Art Florence Award 2019 and the *Best Speaker* diploma.



The award is valuable because the SGEM World Science Conferences are well-known and prestigious international scientific events, organized, among others, by the European Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Science Council of Japan, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Bulgarian Cultural Institute – Vienna, Austria, the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, etc.

Dr Corina IBĂNESCU  
Faculty of Music  
Photo: SGEM Florence 2019

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## THE IEEE AWARD FOR STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

At the beginning of November, Dr Bogdan-Alexandru Deaky from the Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management, received an award for outstanding contributions to the development of IEEE Standard 1876™ - 2019.



This standard details methods to access and communicate with online laboratories in order to integrate them in the educational environment through IoT (*Internet of Things*).

The online laboratories are a modern version of the classical laboratories. Most often they use real laboratory equipment and can be accessed from all over the world. For example, "you can participate in a lecture on solar energy online, but the homework must be done on the real equipment. This equipment is available right now in Delft, the Netherlands, and you can work with it directly from Braşov, Romania, via an Internet page or a *smartphone* application", Bogdan Deaky explained. He also added that he played an important part in developing Standard 1876 – 2019 especially in the early stage because one of his articles was the basis for creating the standard, and that he will continue to be involved in developing the standard through digitization.

This type of laboratories digitizes the practical activities, and facilitates the access to expensive or

rare equipment. Standard 1876 – 2019 was officially published on 30 May 2019. It is currently in the "10 years maintenance" stage, in which it is being disseminated and improved for easier adoption.

Recently, the group that worked on creating the standard (there are 45 people and entities remaining out of the initial 250) received another IEEE SA Award for Emerging Technologies. This award is granted for initiating or participating in developing new technologies.



Bogdan Deaky is well known nationally and internationally in the field of online laboratories for his innovations, such as developing the first mobile application in the world compatible with the iLabs system at MIT (*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*). He expressed his gratitude to IEEE SA and to Professor Hamadou Saliah-Hassane from the University of Quebec for their support.

Dr Victor BRICIU  
The Marketing and PR Office

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## ERASMUS+ EVENT. *WELCOME MEETING* FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The beginning of the academic year is a busy period for the Erasmus+ Office of our university. The number of Erasmus students who chose our university is increasing every year for all faculties.

This year we also invited to the *Welcome meeting* the international students who are enrolled at our university for the entire duration of their studies.



On 3 October, the *Welcome meeting* was organized at our university's Aula Magna with the aim of offering information about the academic and extra-curricular activities available to students, about the national and local cultural environment, and about the events that these students can attend during their stay at our university. At the meeting, there were also present members of the *Erasmus Student*

*Network*, organization which supports the integration of foreign students in the local academic community through many cultural and social activities specific for the Romanian context.



The high number of participants, their enthusiasm and interest in learning more and in acquiring a memorable experience, all contributed to maintaining our motivation to increase the university's participation in the Erasmus+ program, and to continuously improve our offer.

Dr Laura Teodora DAVID  
Incoming Mobilities Coordinator

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## COLLEAGUES FROM LAPLAND VISIT OUR UNIVERSITY

Between 15 and 18 October, three teachers from Lapland University of Applied Sciences in Kemi, Finland: Kaisu Vinkki (Senior Lecturer, International Coordinator), Merja Hjulberg and Voitto Kuosmanen, visited the Faculty of Sociology and Communication through the Erasmus+ program.



The visit of our colleagues from Lapland comes one year after the department Erasmus+ coordinator went to Lapland University through the Erasmus+ mobility program in order to conclude a interinstitutional agreement after meeting the faculty dean, the student practicum coordinator, the representatives of the library and of the International Relations Office. At the end of the mobility, Mrs

Kaisu Vinkki (Senior Lecturer, International Coordinator) assured us that our partners are interested in our proposal and intend to come to get to know us better, to see how and where our Social Work students do their practicum.

As a result, the mobility of our colleagues focused on visits to the partner institutions of our faculty in this field, mainly the SCUT Braşov Association, the Crystal Children Association, the Joy of Giving Foundation, and the Diaconia Association. Our colleagues from Lapland had the opportunity to talk to the dean of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, Professor Claudiu Coman, and learn more details about the students' practicum from our colleague, Dr Mihaela Gotea.

We are confident that in the following years, within the frame of the Erasmus+ program, we will be able to conclude a bilateral agreement with Lapland University for the practicum of Social Work students.

Dr Ana-Maria BOLBORICI,  
Erasmus+ Coordinator

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## ACUM 2019. THE 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCES

Between 17 and 19 October, the university's Aula Magna was the venue for the 10th International Conference on Social and Communication Sciences – ACUM, an event organized by the Faculty of Sociology and Communication. With 36 professors and researchers from eighteen countries and 60 participants from Romania in attendance, ACUM 2019 enjoyed the highest international turnout.



The 106 papers presented were grouped according to eight areas such as *Human resources and organisational behaviour, International perspectives on policies and practices of childcare, Social development and inclusion, Anthropology, Digital media and social diversity*. A section for papers presented by our faculty's students was included this year as well, and the most active were the first year students specializing in Digital Media.



The 90 years since the first monographic campaign in Romania by a team from the Bucharest School of Sociology founded by Dimitrie Gusti, were celebrated in a special section, namely an exhibit set up in collaboration with the Ethnography Museum of Braşov and a presentation of the documentary made within the framework of the CarPaTO project – *Mapping the immaterial cultural patrimony of Făgăraş Country* that was financed through the University program *Grants for interdisciplinary teams*.

Dr Luiza MESEŞAN-SCHMITZ, Vice-dean  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication  
Photo: Dana POPA, student, Digital Media

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## THE GERMAN THEATRE ENSEMBLE DIE GRUPPE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GERMAN STUDIES AT SIBIU

Between 24 and 26 October, the Department of German Studies of the University „Lucian Blaga” from Sibiu celebrated its 50th anniversary by hosting the International conference on German Studies.



The focus of the conference this year was *Literature and Language in South-Eastern Europe*, a topic which gathered numerous papers belonging to Germanists from home and abroad. The conference began on the evening of 24 October with a theatre show performed by the German theatre ensemble “Die Gruppe” from Transilvania University of Braşov. Guests at the conference were able to watch the play *HADES. Carpatesca cum figuris*, an adaptation by group mentor Dr Carmen E. Puchianu, based on the story *Hades* by Joachim Wittstock. The play premiered on 15 April in Braşov.

The rhythm of the narrative set by Joachim Wittstock’s deep, encompassing voice, his presence on the stage as a discrete mentor and narrator, and the theatrical choreography of the members of the ensemble “Die Gruppe” came together to form a complex and unique show, which provoked the audience to reflection and interpretation even after the performance.



The theatre ensemble “Die Gruppe” would like to thank the Prof. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, Rector of Transilvania University of Braşov, for the logistical support, and *Gong Theatre* at Sibiu, for hosting our play.

Mădălina MATEI,  
DIE GRUPPE team member

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## STUDENTS AT THE FACULTY OF FOOD AND TOURISM PARTICIPATE IN *THE 5<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (ITHMC)*

The students at the Faculty of Food and Tourism conducted scientific research within the framework of the Master program Hospitality and Eco Agri-Tourism Management (MOEAT).

To disseminate the results of their research, the undergraduate students wrote papers that were accepted for presentation at the 5th *International Tourism and Hospitality Management Conference (ITHMC)*, which took place between 2-6 October in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The international conference brought together specialists, scientists, and researchers to share experience and results, ideas and applications regarding all aspects of hospitality and tourism management, with the following topics: Protected areas and tourism, Urban tourism and cultural patrimony, GIS applications in tourism, Hospitality, tourism management, and marketing, Marketing and tourist destination management, Sustainable tourism, Tourism and the environment, Tourist

planning and regional development, Tourism and hospitality entrepreneurship, Gastronomic tourism, New types of tourism, Animation in tourism, etc.



Participants in this international event were Raphaela Ioana Pascu, Eugen Andrei Popa, Laurențiu Constantinescu, Nicolae Claudiu Ochenatu, Alice-Ioana Munteanu, Georgiana Magdalena Anghel, 2nd year students in the Master program Hospitality and Eco Agri-Tourism Management, together with Dr Diana Foriș.

This was an interesting experience that we would like to renew in the future.

Dr Diana FORIȘ  
Faculty of Food and Tourism

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## RESEARCH SEMINAR OF THE INTRAC NETWORK AT THE FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

This year, the Faculty of Sociology and Communication of Transilvania University of Braşov hosted the annual research seminar of INTRAC – *International Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood from Care*. Globally, this network consists of 155 members interested in the research, social policy, legislation, social services, and practice of social work with youth who leave the protective system.



The network's mission is to promote research at national and international level in this restricted field, by facilitating dialog between researchers worldwide, promoting transnational research regarding the transition of institutionalized youth to adulthood, facilitating the use of the results to support the social policies and practices, creating opportunities for the publication of national, international, and comparative studies on this topic, encouraging and supporting young researchers and doctoral students in this field (<https://globalintrac.com/>).



The seminar took place on 15 and 16 October at Aula Magna, with participants consisting of sixteen researchers, professors, and four doctoral students representing nine countries (Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland, Norway, Spain, Israel, South Africa, Canada, the United States, and Romania). During the seminar, studies which were underway in various countries, potential collaboration projects, target publications, and future conferences were presented for result dissemination.



An important item on the agenda was the time allotted to our country as host, for a complex presentation of the social services system in Romania, the progress throughout time, the current challenges and the situation of the youths who leave foster care, including post-institution support services. Familiarization with the Social Services Association SCUT was facilitated, which in Braşov has been providing social support services in the transition of these youths to independent life for 15+ years. The foreign guests had the opportunity to meet two such youths and see things from their perspective.

Dr Gabriela DIMA  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## 26 FOR ASTRA.

### VOLUNTEERING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE CULTURAL PATRIMONY

Between 6 and 13 October, a volunteering action took place at the Astra Museum of the Traditional Folk Civilization in Sibiu which stores a large and valuable patrimony of wooden pieces. The action represented the 5th edition of the restoration camps organized in interinstitutional partnership by the Faculty of Wood Engineering of Transilvania University of Braşov and CNM Astra Sibiu.



Taking part in these camps means volunteering for the conservation of the cultural patrimony, as well as an opportunity for professional and personal development. The activity was coordinated by the ASTRA Centre for Patrimony, represented again this year by restoration expert, Dr Valeriu Olaru.



In this edition, generically named "26 for ASTRA", a group of 26 volunteers took on the challenge of conserving and restoring goods in the mobile patrimony which were precariously conserved, originating from two patrimony landmarks (monuments) which are also currently being restored. Thus, nineteen wooden pieces were collected belonging to households 87 and 90 within

the outdoor museum, namely Râşculiţa and Obârşa Dogari, both from Hunedoara county: carpenter boxes, benches with backs, wooden bed, carpenter chair, tables, sled, objects for domestic use.

The volunteers—graduate and undergraduate students—together with their supervisors formed a well-knit team. The cases approached, some of which had serious problems of biological degradation, were also an opportunity of practical implementation of some research through doctoral studies.



Through a remarkable effort, the group of volunteers accomplished their mission in record time. The end of the camp was celebrated with the exhibit of the restored objects, organized outdoors, right between the two households which were united not only by tradition, but by the volunteers as well, who formed a bridge between past, present, and future, between the life, craft, and heritage of the Romanian people. The volunteers, the visitors of the museum, and the hosts all enjoyed this event.

This action was promoted within the ETNOVEMBER 2019 festival with the exhibit *Restoration-steps to success*. Within this festive framework, the 26 volunteers were awarded diplomas from CNM ASTRA Sibiu, as a sign of acknowledgement and appreciation of their involvement in the event.

Dr Maria Cristina TIMAR,  
Dr Emanuela BELDEAN  
Faculty of Wood Engineering

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## VISUAL SOCIOLOGY EXHIBITION, 4TH EDITION

On 1 October, on the commencement of the new academic year, the 4th outdoor exhibition "Beyond the fence" took place under the aegis of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication within Transilvania University of Braşov and the Multicultural Centre of the university, in partnership with Braşov City Hall.



The exhibit – held between 1 and 15 October on the esplanade in "Titulescu" Park (across from T building) – is based on the visual sociology projects of the 1st year Bachelor students specializing in Social Work and Sociology at the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, under the guidance of Dr Ştefan Ungurean (the founder of this project) and Dr Cristian Bălăcescu.

The students in Sociology program who presented papers were Ioana-Maria Beleaua, Cornelia Drăgan, Florina-Mădălina Harabagiu, Radu-Petrică Ifrim, Andreea-Mirela Ifrim, Valentinu Iulia Ivu, Ştefan Alexandru Moga, Andreea Manuela Moise, Elena-Andreea Nica, and Ana-Maria Tîrlungeanu.

Participant students specializing in Social Work were Ionela-Elena Apostu, Andreea-Cătălina Bărbieru, Mihaela Bria, Cătălina Oana Cioară, Oana-Maria Codreanu, Ionuţ-Daniel Cojanu, Mădălina-Sânziana Costache, Ion Adrian Cristian, Diana-Gabriela Dadu, Carmina Ionaşcu, Luiza-Elena Lungu,

Cozmina Petrica Matfei, Claudia Elena Manta, Emilia-Florentina Matei, Georgeta Larisa Nichita, Gianina-Florina Pâsluţă, Marius Petrache, Denisa-Mihaela Pîrvan, Marian-Cătălin Popa, Adina-Ecaterina Spînu, Elena-Alina Tache, Renáta Tamási, Violeta-Cătălina Ţurloi, and Antonia Zăgan.



The action has clear phenomenological and etnomethodological premises. But what results is an exercise in meditation about the "the dawn of a world" and "the footprint" that life leaves in our soul, "the footprint" we leave in life, the suggested topic and the chosen title – "Beyond the fence" having at the same time the aim of integrating students in impressive life stories that will change the way they look at this immersion of the individual into daily life. "For most students, interacting with an old person who lives 'in the country' was a lesson in the sense Derrida mentioned: 'To live, by definition, is not something one learns. Not from oneself, it is not learned from life, taught by life... Only from the other and by death. In any case from the other at the edge of life'", stated Dr Ştefan Ungurean, coordinator of the "Anton Golopenția" Scientific Circle for the study of visual sociology and founder of the exhibition project "Beyond the fence".

Dr Victor BRICIU  
Marketing and PR Office

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## SMART TECHNOLOGY + SMART CITIZENS = THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE

Between 17 and 19 October, Transilvania University of Braşov hosted the meeting within the international cooperation and scientific research project FuturICT2.0 which brought to Braşov seventeen participants from Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium, and Latvia. Planned over three years, the FuturICT 2.0 project ([www.futurICT.eu](http://www.futurICT.eu)) is firstly aimed at identifying the main research directions and the challenges the researchers in social sciences and ICT can solve together.



The project director on behalf of Transilvania University of Braşov is Dr Alina Iltu, from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.



FuturICT2.0 included research projects jointly supervised by researchers in various fields,

workshops and meetings on topics regarding the fields *Big Data*, artificial intelligence, *Internet of Things*, *block chain* technology. This interdisciplinary approach represents the theoretical and organizational foundation of the digital economy of the future and of the promotion of innovations that lead to a more resilient and adaptable society. By adopting collaborative and decentralized approaches, such as *crowdsourcing* and *citizen science*, the equation "smart technology + smart citizens = the economy of the future" makes sense.



This stage of the international project was integrated in the international conference organized by the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, ACUM 2019. In this context, Sylvie Huet, researcher at Institute de Recherche Scientifique et Technique sur l'Environnement et l'Agriculture was also one of the four keynote speakers of the conference.

Dr Florin NECHITA  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## SCHOOL, DIFFERENTLY – HIGH SCHOOLERS FROM “REGINA MARIA” PEDAGOGICAL COLLEGE AT PLOIEȘTI VISIT THE FACULTY OF LAW

On 28 October, law students from Transilvania University of Brașov, together with Dr Oana Șaramet and Gheorghe Cletea, lab technician, welcomed the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders and their teachers from “Regina Maria” Pedagogical College at Ploiești.



As members of ELSA Brașov, our students introduced the visitors to this student organization, briefing them on its various activities.



The students' presentation was complemented by Dr Oana Șaramet's input regarding the educational package of the Faculty of Law, the structure of the academic year, the minimal threshold conditions to enrol in the next academic year, the employment opportunities of the graduates, as well as the pros of attending a faculty from *Transilvania* University of Brașov.



Following this, Gheorghe Cletea gave a presentation of the faculty's Forensic Lab, its equipment and the ways to employ such professional tools.

Dr Oana ȘARAMET  
Faculty of Law

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## ENTREPRENEURIAL IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES WITH MARIUS GHENEA

On 23 October, Aula Magna played host to an event organized by the Students Entrepreneurial Society. The guest was Marius Ghenea, serial entrepreneur, investor, business angel, trainer in success programs, but also the first Romanian author of an entrepreneurial book.



The meeting was part of the event called "The entrepreneurial autumn of students from Unitbv", held between 23 and 26 October, which involved bringing together prominent guests and organizing workshops on various topics such as *From ideas to business models* or *Entrepreneurial strategies to business growth*.

Marius Ghenea spoke to his keen audience on "Entrepreneurial ideas and opportunities". He shared some of his personal experience but, most importantly, his impressive professional expertise.

"Many people wonder about the optimum percentage of creativity in achieving business success and developing feasible innovations", declared Marius Ghenea at the beginning of the discussions, outlining that there was no single answer to this question, and referring to the crucial difference between creativity and innovation and their priority during the inception and development of a business.



During the two-hour meeting, Marius Ghenea answered many questions from prospective and debutant entrepreneurs, providing a clear and comprehensive picture of the business environment.

Adina-Elena ISAIC, student  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## WHAT'S NEXT, AFTER *J*SCHOOL? CAMBRIDGE!

Last summer, I told you about my very first experience as junior researcher, within the framework of an international research program for students and doctoral students in psychology: *Junior Researcher Programme* (<https://jrp.psycholars.org/>).



The first week of the program, *jSchool*, held in Siena, a medieval city in Central Tuscany, gathered students from Europe and the US. I was the only Romanian student among dozens of foreign students, all eager to discover research opportunities over the subsequent thirteen months. So, we dived into the experience: establishing complex research patterns, productive, late-night Skype meetings, jMeetings requiring group gatherings in various European locations, and, furthermore, the opportunity of attending international conferences such as the *International Convention of Psychological Science* in Paris, in the month of March.

These outstanding experiences became part of the foundation of my professional and personal development. The chain of events led smoothly to the peak of the journey: Cambridge! In the summer of 2019, after completing the master degree, I had the chance to experience for a week the student life at Cambridge. The purpose was to present the research output of my group. The internal event *Junior Researcher Programme Conference* hosted by The University of Cambridge allowed us to showcase our group expertise. Moreover, it offered us the chance to study in various academic buildings having all the logistics

necessary to complete the final stages of our research presentation.

The Cambridge week concluded with a typically-English festive dinner at Corpus Christi, followed by a party night in a fashionable club in Cambridge. The highest achievement of my group was in March 2019, when we were the only winners of the money prize granted by the *Association for Psychological Science* from America; this greatly increased our project credibility. Although we could only partially display our results, this achievement allows us to continue our Skype meetings over the next year and, hopefully, issue a noteworthy publication.



Indeed, any opportunity to meet and collaborate with people from various cultures widens one's perspective, increases one's confidence and, furthermore, allowing for the development of one's intercultural abilities, and preparing the student to negotiate many obstacles. It also gives the student a chance to experience academic life in different contexts.

Cătălina BUNGHEZ  
Transilvania University alumna  
Doctoral student at the University of the West,  
Timișoara

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## STUDENTS UNVEIL THE SECRETS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

On 25 October, our university hosted an event that is part of "The Entrepreneurial Autumn of Students from Unitbv", organized by The Entrepreneurial Association of Students. The event introduced a top representative of the real estate field in Braşov, Tatian Diaconu, General Manager for Eastern Europe at Ceetrus (Immochan). The invitee gave a talk on a novel approach to a continuously growing labour market, a topical issue in Romania.



The speaker let his young 70+ audience in on some of his business secrets; speaking about what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur, he mentioned initiative, vision, confidence and self-confidence, competence, drive, boldness, and last but not least, common sense as the staples of this line of work.

On a light note, Mr Diaconu gave an account of his life experiences and disclosed some of the strategies of an entrepreneur, among which market analysis and right timing are indispensable features to the success of an idea or a product. After the Q&A session, each member of the audience was offered a book authored by Hans Rosling, entitled "Factfulness. Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World - and Why Things Are Better than You Think".



Sebastian DUMITRAŞCU and Ionuţ-George CIUREZU,  
students  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## KOSMOPHILIA - THE EUROPEAN BIENNIAL OF POETRY

This latest edition of the Biennial of Poetry, a project originally launched by the late poet Andrei Bodiou, was centred this year on the theme of ecological poetry, bearing the name *Kosmophilia*.



The event took place on 25 and 26 October and the venues were the university's Aula Magna and the Multicultural Centre, respectively. Among the invitees, were Jen Hadfield, who also won the T.S. Eliot prize, Yekta, Mathura, V. Leac, Andrei Doboş, Gabi Eftimie and others.

Through their art, these poets intended to change the image of nature as depicted in poetry, portraying it as it really is: finite. The already known idea of nature as an indestructible element was overcome and the emphasis was on the continuous degradation of the environment.



The fauna and flora undergo catastrophic changes, many of the species coming on the brink of extinction. The fact that the event took place in October was a coincidence. The beauty of the autumn, especially in a city such as Braşov, is something that should be immortalized and capitalized upon. Every leaf fallen to the ground, tells a new story. Mathura was just one of the poets who were enchanted by the autumnal colours, conjuring them up with the help of a leaf collected during a hike. Yekta also chose leaves for his performance.

Kosmophilia exceeded our expectations. Although the destruction of the environment is often debated, it seems that its magnitude is not clearly understood. Nature does not wait around, but perishes every day. The purpose of this Biennial was to remind us that nothing around us is here forever.

Malvina-Elena BÎRSAN  
Faculty of Letters

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## THE OPENING OF THE 4TH CHAMBER JAZZ SEASON @TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV: DAN TEPFER AND LEON PARKER

On 31 October, the fourth season of Chamber Jazz @Transilvania University kicked off with a memorable concert by Duo Freedom, held at the university's Multicultural Centre.



Thanks to Dan Tepfer's piano and Leon Parker's percussion, the event exceeded the public's expectations. The free improvisation of the two exuded an almost intuitive communication, unity and cohesion that are founded on each artist's trust and courage to express them freely, to follow both their inner rhythm and the emotion of the moment.



Dan admits that he is in a perpetual search for the true meaning of music - to him, music means harmony, by contrast to the dissonance of the outside world. Despite his classical upbringing, Dan does not reject the idea of exploring a wider range of

styles, allowing himself to discover and create rhythmic harmonies. His harpsichord and melodic performances have been imbued with many playful elements, since the pleasure of music (and art in general) depends on its ability to convey a sense of fun even in the darkest of times.



Leon, on the other hand, argues that jazz was born as a genre to be felt and danced: when a jazz musician fully gives in to the music, the audience will also follow, and this exchange gives him a sense of great satisfaction. Certainly, Leon managed to delight the audience through his stage persona, but also through his vocal, instrumental and physical improvisations that were simply overflowing with creativity.

The Freedom Duo concert brought all of us a little closer to music, to others, and also to ourselves, through emotion and an unmistakable New Orleans vibe.

Gabriela ONCIOIU, student  
Faculty of Letters

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## CAIONI 390' – OLD TRANSYLVANIAN MUSIC

On 28 October, CODEX Old Music Ensemble gave a unique performance at Aula Magna. The concert, organized by the Musical Centre of Transylvania University celebrates the 390<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Franciscan monk Joannes Caioni, whose manuscript collection *Codex Caioni* is an important resource for the music in Central and Eastern Europe, and particularly for Transylvanian music.



Led by Artistic Director Dr Ignác Csaba Filip from the Faculty of Music, CODEX has the aim of recreating a faithful sound image of European music from the XV<sup>th</sup> to the XIX<sup>th</sup> centuries, with the help of vintage instruments. The performances of the ensemble rely on theoretical resources of the epoch.



Apart from the members of the ensemble—László Kovács (fiddle, violin), Éva Kovács (rebec, violin), István Csata (violone, viol), Zsombor Lázár (fiddle, cello), Árpád Szógyör (double bass, gardon, viol) and Éva Szabó (Baroques flute, straight flute, percussion)—the *Caioni 390'* concert also invited famous voices such as Szilvia Bognár, an icon of Hungarian traditional music, Jean-Christophe Frisch,

founder of Ensemble XVIII-21 Le Baroque Nomade (Baroque flute), Bruno Bonhoure (tenor), artistic director and vocal soloist of the well-known ancient music band La Camera delle Lacrime, and István Kónya, famous lute player. Supervised by Dr Corneliu Voicescu, a young artist, Zsombor Filip, 3<sup>rd</sup> year student at the Faculty of Music, played the lute, the Baroque guitar and the kobsa.

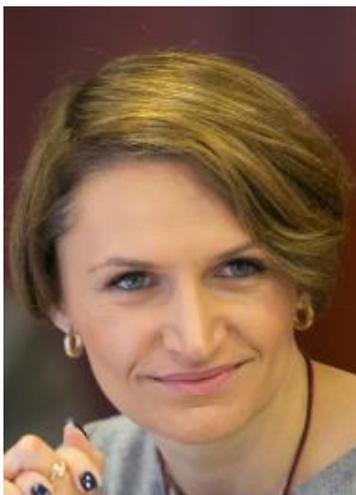


The concert program included *Codex Caioni* pieces, dances and instrumental songs, traditional Hungarian music from the regions of Cluj and Ciuc, as well as Occitan Christmas songs. The audience appreciated and applauded the exquisite performance.

Noémi KARÁCSONY, doctoral student  
Faculty of Music  
Photo credit: AP Studio

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## SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI – MONICA JIMAN



After graduating from Transilvania University of Braşov, Monica Jiman began her career with an entrepreneurial experience, while also acting as junior teaching staff at our Faculty of Economic Sciences.

In 2003, she became an intern for Pentalog, as part of the Marketing and production (DESS) master's program. Upon completing the internship, Ms Jiman decided to permanently joined forces with the company and the ambitious team she was already part of. In 2004, she became leader of the production agency that Pentalog opened in Bucharest, and in 2005 she was already one of Pentalog's shareholders.

In 2009 she set out for Hanoi to supervise the foundation and launch of the first Pentalog production structure in Asia, which represented an asset in her managerial experience. In 2011, she became Deputy CEO for Pentalog, in charge of managing the production, development and coordination of strategic partnerships.

Monica Jiman is a member of the Management Board of Pentalog and Pentalog Romania administrator.

Between August 2015 and October 2018, Ms Jiman was CEO of *Pentalog Software Factory*, a company that brings under the Pentalog framework everything that pertains to IT solutions, consultancy and *cloud* solutions in Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Vietnam. Since October 2018, she has been *Chief Customer Success Officer Pentalog* for Europe and Asia.

In August 2014 she became foreign trade counsellor for France (the Romanian unit). In 2016, she was elected member of the Management Board of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Romania (CCIFER); she is also member of the Board of Directors and coordinator of the NTIC workgroup. Since December 2016, she has been member of the Strategic Orientation Committee of the AUF and President of CROS AUF for Central and Eastern Europe.

In 2017, during the second edition of the Conference of Francophone Women - „Création, innovation, entrepreneuriat, croissance et développement: les femmes s'imposent”, Monica Jiman was elected President of the Francophone Women Entrepreneurs Network. Since 2018, she has been *Strategic Advisor* within the *Advisory Board* at *Global Women in Tech*.

Mrs Jiman is also coach for the Academy of Leadership – the AVE program. While being actively involved in business enterprises, she has invested in several start-ups and investment funds: Skill Value, The Family, 88Jobs, Sharalike, Redinet, A3BC.

Dr Bianca TESCAŞIU  
ALUMNI Office Coordinator

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