



Transilvania
University
of Brasov

NEWSLETTER

No. 141 January 2024

- UNITBV ON THE RISE IN THE 2023 UNIVERSITY METARANKING
- ROMANIA'S NATIONAL DAY, CELEBRATED BY UNITBV
- UNITBV – A COLLABORATION WITH *ORQUESTRA CRIANCA CIDADÃ* OF BRAZIL
- AWARD GRANTED BY THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY FOR INNOVATION IN THE FIELD OF SILVICULTURE
- AS-PRIM 2023, THE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS' CONFERENCE
- A LESSON OF INNOVATION IN THE DESIGN OF EXPERIENCES FROM A GLOBAL EXPERT
- THE EVENING OF SAINT NICHOLAS – LUIZA ZAN & JAZZPAR TRIO
- THE 18TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON *LANGUAGE RESOURCES AND TOOLS FOR NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING*
- THE *INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM* IN ITS FOURTH EDITION
- *OPEN MINDS* MEETING – "HOW DO COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS HELP US DEVELOP?"
- S.O.S. – BACHELOR'S DEGREE EXAM!
- PARTICIPATION OF THE MEDICAL STUDENTS IN A WORK PLACEMENT MOBILITY
- CHRISTMAS FAIR AT THE FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
- DOCUMENTARY MOVIES AT THE MULTICULTURAL CENTRE
- CHRISTMAS MAGIC. THE CONCERT OF CAROLS PERFORMED BY THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR WITHIN TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

UNITBV ON THE RISE IN THE 2023 UNIVERSITY METARANKING



In the latest [2023 University Metaranking](#), published in the month of December under the aegis of Qualitas Centre within "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, by a team of internal and external experts, Transilvania University of Braşov ranks 4th in the top of Romania's best universities, rising by one position, compared to last year.

"Babeş Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, the University of Bucharest, "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest (UMF), and *Politehnica* University of Bucharest (on a par with "Carol Davila" UMF) are in the top three positions. Transilvania University of Braşov shares the fourth position of the ranking with "Iuliu Haţieganu" UMF of Cluj Napoca.

The top 10 Romanian universities are:

Numele universităţii	Punctaj obţinut	Poziţie
Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai din Cluj-Napoca	22	1
Universitatea din Bucureşti	19	2
UMF „Carol Davila” Bucureşti	18	3
Universitatea Politehnica Bucureşti	18	3
UMF „Iuliu Haţieganu” Cluj-Napoca	15	4
Universitatea Transilvania din Braşov	15	4
Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iaşi	14	5
Universitatea de Vest din Timişoara	11	6
Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj-Napoca	10	7
Academia de Studii Economice din Bucureşti	9	8
Universitatea Tehnică „Gheorghe Asachi” din Iaşi	8	9
Universitatea Politehnica Timişoara	7	10

The 2023 University Metaranking was made by a team of authors consisting of professors from the following academic institutions: "Babeş-Bolyai" University of Cluj-Napoca, the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Transilvania University of Braşov,

the National School of Political Science and Public Administration, the West University of Timişoara and the University of Bucharest.

The 2023 University Metaranking was compiled on the basis of nine international rankings featuring Romanian universities:

- Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU);
- Center for World University Rankings (CWUR);
- Leiden Ranking (CWTS);
- Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers of World Universities (NTU);
- Top Universities Ranking (QS);
- Scimago Institutions Ranking;
- Times Higher Education – World University Rankings (THE – Times);
- University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP), and
- Best Global Universities Rankings (U.S. News).

Synthesis made by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Victor BRICIU
Office of Marketing and Image

Source: www.unitbv.ro/stiri-si-evenimente



■ CONTENTS

ROMANIA'S NATIONAL DAY, CELEBRATED BY UNITBV

In response to the invitation of the Romanian Embassy in Prague, a group of students from Transilvania University of Braşov performed an exceptional musical programme on the occasion of 1 December. Thus, during the reception that took place at Kaunicky Palace of Prague on 29 November 2023, the over 250 guests could hear the anthems of Romania, the Czech Republic and the European Union, performed by *Intermezzo* Quartet of the Faculty of Music within Transilvania University of Braşov. Our local students Larisa Calinciuc (violin), Albert Dănăilă (violin), Carmen Porancea (viola) and Sabin Bănescu (piano) gave an acclaimed concert at the reception, performing pieces of Romanian and Czech classical music composed by Ciprian Porumbescu, Eugen Doga, Constantin Dimitrescu, George Enescu, Grigoraş Dinicu and Bedrich Smetana.



Furthermore, on 5 December 2023, in honour of the National Day, the Traditional Music Ensemble of the Faculty of Music within Transilvania University of Braşov offered the audience in the festivity hall of the Romanian Embassy in Spain an anniversary show. Thus, performed by the young students Carina Cătăramă (pipe), Roberto Gherman (violin), Ciprian Cucu (voice), Cătălina Neacşu (voice), Ştefan Milutinovici (wind instruments) and Andrei Drăguşan (accordion) under the coordination of Prof. Dr. Mădălina Rucsanda, the Dean of the Faculty, a *café concert* featuring musical pieces of both the international and the Romanian repertoire, interpreted in traditional style, took place in Madrid.



The Embassy of Romania in Havana marked the Romania's National Day with a special cultural event, brought to pass with the support of Transilvania University of Braşov.

The audience made up of diplomatic corps members, Cuban authorities, Romanians living in Cuba, business and culture people, media representatives, had discovered the beauty of the dance, of the folk costumes ever since the opening of the event, when the aforementioned music ensemble of Transilvania University of Braşov had been joined by the choir of the International School of Havana in order to convey a highly appreciated musical message of peace. The music and dance ensemble of Transilvania University of Braşov, with a rich national and international activity, delighted the guests with a unique performance of the Romanian composers' most representative creations, original arrangements of the Romanian folklore, arrangements of pop music, jazz and dances from all over the country.



Synthesis made by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Victor BRICIU
Office of Marketing and Image
Photo credit: Marek JANDA and Alexandru OIŢĂ
Embassy of Romania in Spain
Embassy of Romania in Havana

■ CONTENTS

UNITBV – A COLLABORATION WITH *ORQUESTRA CRIANCA CIDADÃ* OF BRAZIL

At the beginning of December 2023, a few representatives of Transilvania University of Braşov visited the region of Pernambuco, in Brazil, where *Orquestra Crianca Cidadã* of Recife has been performing for more than 17 years, a social and musical project brought to pass by talented young people, out of the desire to provide those interested with opportunities for personal development and integration through art.



Her Excellency the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania in the Federal Republic of Brazil, Monica Mihaela Ştirbu, together with Prof. Dr. Stela Drăgulin, Director of the Music Centre within Transilvania University of Braşov, and with the Consul General of Romania in Rio de Janeiro, Florin Palade, participated in the joint event. A special moment was created by Mihai Teacă, the pianist originating in Braşov, who shared with all the attendees, but especially with the young Brazilians, his musical experience, out of the desire to inspire them and give them a perspective on their professional opportunities.



At the closing of the event held in Pernambuco, a Letter of Intent was signed between Transilvania University of Braşov and Crianca Cidadã Orchestra. Its main goal is to encourage exchanges between the academic institution of education of Brasov and the

one of Brazil, facilitating cultural and educational exchanges for young people living in Pernambuco.



Her Excellency the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania in the Federal Republic of Brazil, Monica Mihaela Ştirbu, declared about the participation in this event: "*Cidadã* Orchestra of Recife is a brilliant example of how art can change lives and societies. Through its social inclusion project, the orchestra offers young people the opportunity to develop their talents and express their creativity, thus creating an environment where art and culture thrive in a profoundly human way, open to everyone. The highlight of my visit was, though, the contribution of the young Romanian pianist, Mihai Teacă. His performance was not only a display of virtuosity, but also a demonstration of the value and relevance of the Romanian school of music. In this context, it is really encouraging to see the concrete steps that are being taken towards collaboration and cultural exchange. The signing of the letter of intent between Prof. Dr. Stela Drăgulin, Director of the Music Centre within Transilvania University in Braşov and the President of *Cidadã* Orchestra paves the way to a harmonious and fruitful collaboration.

This partnership promises to bring a new wave of inspiration and to strengthen cultural ties between Romania and Brazil, proving once again the unifying power of music."

Prof. Dr. Stela DRĂGULIN
Director of the Music Centre
Transilvania University of Braşov

■ CONTENTS

AWARD GRANTED BY THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY FOR INNOVATION IN THE FIELD OF SILVICULTURE

On 7 December 2023, the Romanian Academy honoured excellence in scientific research by granting the annual awards for the most outstanding works achieved in 2021. Significant contributions in several fields, covered by the 14 scientific sections of the Romanian Academy, were awarded.



A special moment was the acknowledgement of the achievements of our colleague, Prof. Dr. Eng. Mihai Daniel Niță, and of his collaborator, Dr. Cătălina Munteanu, of Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, who received the prestigious “Marin Drăcea” Award. This award was given to them for outstanding achievements in the fields of silviculture, ecology and forest research.



The article entitled “Using historical spy satellite photographs and recent remote sensing data to identify high-conservation-value forests” was awarded for its exceptional contribution to the identification and mapping of the high-conservation-value forests across Romania. These forests, essential for their biodiversity and for the provision of ecosystems services, face numerous threats, especially in regions that lack systematic inventories.

The research team developed a new and transferable methodology for detecting these forests, integrating historical spy satellite imagery (Corona) with contemporary remote sensing data (Landsat) and information on current anthropogenic pressures.

This innovative approach was applied in the Romanian Carpathians, highlighting the continuity of forests between 1955 and 2019, the structural complexity of the canopy and anthropogenic pressures. This methodology not only provides a framework for large-scale monitoring of these forests, but also facilitates their integration into sustainable forest conservation and management.

Congratulations to our colleagues for this outstanding achievement, a brilliant example of our commitment to excellence in research and innovation!

Prof. Dr. Lucian CURTU, Dean
Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering

■ CONTENTS

AS-PRIM 2023, THE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS' CONFERENCE

The end of the year put the second edition of AS-PRIM Conference on the agenda of the local medical events. Thus, the most awaited event dedicated to the professionals in the medical field (general physicians, resident doctors, medical specialists, pharmacists, nurses, psychologists, nutritionists) organized by the General Physicians' Association of Braşov, in partnership with Transilvania University of Braşov, through the Faculty of Medicine, was held in the city at the foot of Tâmpa Mountain, from 7 to 9 December 2023 at "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre.



This event was brought to pass by over 70 medical personalities of Braşov and from all over the country, in different fields of expertise, by means of exceptional panels, mini-symposiums, debates, a poster competition on topics of great interest.

If, at the first edition of the conference, various scientific papers in the preventive and curative field, dedicated to new-borns, children, adolescents, young adults, as well as in the complex issue of the elderly, were presented, the 2023 edition was focused on a topic of major interest for the population's health, namely oncological prevention. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), in 2020, cancer caused more than 10 million deaths, with an increase of up to 35 million expected by 2040.

2023 AS-PRIM Conference brought to the fore the importance of preventing oncological diseases, but also the latest therapeutic targets presented by numerous professionals, and it approached aspects related to the main risk factors in the occurrence of cancers, the method of early diagnosis, as well as the newly diagnosed patient's clinical paths in the health system.

During the three days, the conference brought together numerous participants from various medical specialties, medical assistants, psychologists, who actualized a valuable programme on highly current topics in several oncological fields. Through exceptional plenary lectures, with numerous and varied practical activities and workshops held by experienced

specialists, ready to share their knowledge and skills so that quality patient care could be provided, the AS-PRIM Conference set out to help improve the collaboration among all doctors, medical assistants and psychologists, for a better and more effective prevention, but also for real support offered to those fighting these aggressive diseases.

The over 250 registered participants learned how to communicate better with a newly diagnosed patient but also with his/her family, discovered new therapeutic methods, talked with survivors of these diseases, and understood better the general physician's importance both for initiating patients into screening programmes and for their medical and psychological support during the fight against these pathologies.

A new element of 2023 AS-PRIM Conference was the poster competition dedicated to resident doctors, to graduate and doctoral students, for which many young doctors at the beginning of their journey and eager for studies and research, signed up.



The organizers would like to give thanks to all the guests, partners, sponsors, participants who stood by them and with whose help they were able to achieve, in 2023 as well, an exceptional event dedicated to all professionals in the medical field, aimed at contributing to a better interdisciplinary collaboration.

The thanks also go to Prof. Dr. MD Marius Moga, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine within Transilvania University in Braşov, whose help made it possible to organize a new successful edition dedicated to the prevention, screening and treatment of oncological disease.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. MD Andrea Elena NECULAU
AS-PRIM Conference Chairperson

■ CONTENTS

A LESSON OF INNOVATION IN THE DESIGN OF EXPERIENCES FROM A GLOBAL EXPERT



On 6 December, the W I 6 room hosted a special event for the students in *Digital Media*, as they had the opportunity to interact with a successful alumnus of our faculty, Paul Bulecea. Paul is an expert in experience design, an author, entrepreneur and speaker, and he was a part of the first class of Communication and Public Relations. Paul's open class was a fascinating foray into the world of experience design, while captivating the audience for two hours.



With an impressive CV that includes the book *Gamification in Tourism: How to Design Memorable Experiences* and a new editorial project underway, on transformative experiences, Paul Bulecea is globally

recognized. The *Forbes 30 under 30* award and his presentations at world conferences attest to his notable influence in this field.



As co-founder of *The College of Extraordinary Experiences* and *The Order of the Wild*, the global community of experience designers, Paul is considered an architect of the *Bauhaus* in the Age of Experiences. He helped create the vision for *Google's Experience Institute* and strategic change across several IKEA stores. In the latter project, Paul demonstrated how experience can go beyond mere purchase, bringing memorable moments to the fore.

Meeting Paul was not only a lesson in experience design, but also a source of motivation for the *Digital Media* students, as he encouraged them, by his own example, to follow their dreams in their future careers in the field of communication.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Florin NECHITA
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

■ CONTENTS

THE EVENING OF SAINT NICHOLAS – LUIZA ZAN & JAZZPAR TRIO

On the evening of 6 December 2023, lovers of the art of sound had the opportunity to take part in a meaningful experience within the festive context of the winter holidays, on the occasion of *The Evening of Saint Nicholas* concert, traditionally organized, year after year, under the aegis of the Music Centre within Transilvania University.



The event, itself a celebration among celebrations, was brought to fruition by a remarkable and ever-rising personality of Romanian jazz, drd. Luiza Zan (voice), currently a student in Prof. Dr. Stela Drăgulin's class. Luiza Zan was accompanied by the accomplished musicians of *Jazzpar Trio* band, who collaborated to shape a sound tapestry full of vigour and nostalgia alike.

The chosen repertoire, a skilful fusion of music pieces belonging to the venerable singer of Romanian folk, easy-listening and traditional fiddler music, Maria Tănase, and to the well-known great lady of modern chanson, Edith Piaf, has been remarkably modelled so as to fit the language full of life and dynamism of the swing. This fusion of genres gave a new aesthetic to familiar songs, imbuing them with an effervescent quality that resonated with the festive atmosphere of the winter holidays.

The virtuosity and versatility expressed by Luiza Zan's voice dominated the stage of "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Music Centre through a remarkable professionalism and a certain ethereal quality that captivated the audience in both Aula Magna and online environment. Luiza Zan's interpretative mastery and imaginative flair demonstrated an

innate ability to delicately traverse the emotional spectrum of the chosen repertoire.



Jazzpar Trio, an ensemble consisting of Gáspár Álmos (guitar), Gáspár Csaba (violin) and Vitályos Lehel (double bass), proved an unwavering commitment and synergy throughout the show. Each member contributed to creating the overall cohesiveness of the musical experience. The band members' palpable dedication resonated with the ethos of the whole event, fostering a deep appreciation for the collaborative artistry that defined the evening.



Thus, *The Evening of Saint Nicholas* went beyond the conventional limits of a music show, evolving into a celebration of artistic innovation and cultural vibrancy. The festive spirit and artistic mastery merged towards reconfirming the desideratum of the Music Centre to expand the local cultural horizons and, at the same time, succeeded in leaving a significant mark on the audience's affective memory.

Drd. Magdalena SUCIU

THE 18TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON *LANGUAGE RESOURCES AND TOOLS FOR NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING*



From 11 to 14 December 2023, UNITBV hosted the 18th edition of the *International Conference on Linguistic Resources and Tools for Natural Language Processing* (ConsILR-2023), and the meeting of the *Consortium for the Informatization of the Romanian Language*.

The organizers of this event were UNITBV, through the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, the Romanian Academy, through three institutes: the Institute of Computer Science and “Alexandru Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology within the Iași branch, and “Mihai Drăgănescu” Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Bucharest, as well as “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, through the Faculty of Computer Science, the Romanian Association of Computational Linguistics and the Technical Sciences Academy of Romania.

The beginnings of this series of events date back to 2001, when a group of computer scientists and linguists conducting their activity in computational linguistics, natural language processing, computer-aided lexicography or theoretical linguistics, and aiming to use digital methods for the study of language, set up within the Romanian Academy the *Informatization Committee for the Romanian Language*, with four sections: Theoretical Linguistics, Linguistic Resources, Language Processing Tools and Speech Processing. Later, the Committee attracted even more researchers from Romania, the Republic of Moldova and the diaspora, to form the *Consortium for the Informatization of the Romanian Language* (ConsILR).

With a frequency intended to be annual, the conference was organized in Iași, București, Miclăușeni, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Mălini, Chișinău or online, to be hosted this year in Brașov. To date, at least five ConsILR volumes of proceedings have been indexed by *Clarivate Analytics*. The current edition brought back into focus the importance of the Consortium, assigning the first day for these on-site or online interventions. Approximately 30 participants had the opportunity to

address the audience in 5- or 20-minute speeches, in two sessions. Among them, we all had the privilege of listening to the interventions of five members of the Romanian Academy or the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, including two vice-presidents of the Academy’s Institutes. At the same time, directors of the Academy’s Research Institutes or of some universities in Romania and Moldova, as well as researchers in linguistics and computer science from Brașov, Bucharest, Iași, Chișinău, Cluj-Napoca, Brussels, Timisoara, Bălți, but also Fairfax, highlighted the dynamics of recent research and the maturity of the modern linguistic resources involved in studying and computerizing the Romanian language treasury.

During the conference there were five plenary lectures, as follows: (1) Gabriela Haja, *Stages of Digitization in Romanian Academic Lexicography*; (2) Marius Popescu, *AD-NLP: A Benchmark for Anomaly Detection in Natural Language Processing*; (3) Radu Ion, *The Romanian Language in the Age of Standard and Large Language Models*; (4) Liviu Dinu, *Computational Approaches in Historical Linguistics*; (5) Radu Tudor Ionescu, *Recent Text and Audio Resources for the Romanian Language*.

Worth mentioning, the presented papers were grouped into five sections: (a) *Natural language processing for e-learning*, (b) *GDPR and summarisation*, (c) *Language models*, (d) *Discourse and humour*, and (e) *Romanian speech*. On the last day, two internal sessions were held, one of the *Informatization Committee for the Romanian Language* and the other of the *Romanian Association for Computational Linguistics*.

More details on these events can be found on the webpages of [ConsILR Conference](#), and later in the ConsILR-2023 volume of proceedings currently in press at the Publishing House of “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași.

Lect. Dr. Anca VASILESCU,
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science
Prof. Dr. Dan CRISTEA
corresponding member of the Romanian Academy

■ CONTENTS

THE *INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM* IN ITS FOURTH EDITION

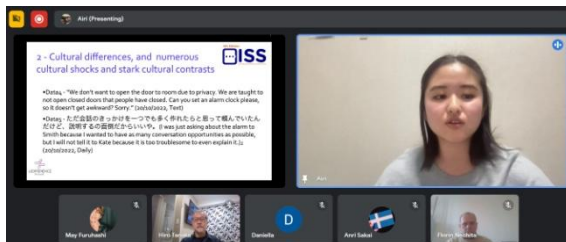


University of Finland and Transilvania University of Braşov).



As in previous years, this event provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the educational offerings of our university.

Organized by UExperience, the fourth edition of the *International Students Symposium* was an excellent new opportunity to strengthen academic connections, to learn from other cultures, to meet colleagues and partners, to share knowledge and to interact in a multicultural environment.



Under the slogan *Towards an Accountable Future*, this year's edition took place between 6 and 10 December, and the undergraduate and graduate students represented six universities of Brazil, two of Asia (City University of Macau and Meisei University Tokyo) and two from Europe (Laurea

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Florin NECHITA
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

■ CONTENTS

OPEN MINDS MEETING – “HOW DO COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS HELP US DEVELOP?”

Open Minds is the community of science, knowledge and personal development lovers within the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences. It is where enthusiastic students, eager for comprehension and discovery, meet to freely discuss and debate topics ranging from psychology-specific concepts such as the impostor syndrome, to complex philosophical ideas such as free will and how one's belief in it can influence behaviour.

If at the previous meeting, held by the *Open Minds* team and a few special guests, the most interesting myths in creativity were debated, with the aim of finding out where more creativity lies, in art or in science, this time, the topic proposed and moderated by Alexandru Căzănaru, a third-year student in Psychology, was: “How do couple relationships help us develop?”



The activity began by presenting some general information about emotional intimacy, imago therapy and the stages of a couple relationship from the perspective of this therapy. Following this information, the participants launched into debating issues related to the essential aspects of sustaining a long-term relationship, trust in one's partner, the idea of “soul mate”, the problem of infidelity, and the ways to cope with it.



As always, in addition to the topic of discussion proposed by the moderator, the participants asked questions, made contributions and shared personal stories, enjoying a safe and non-formal setting. Thus, during the debate, arguments both from each participant's own opinions and vision of the world, and from his/her accumulated knowledge of psychology, which combined theoretical aspects of genetics, social psychology, family psychology, and more, were employed.

The *Open Minds* team looks forward to seeing you in its future meetings in order to continue exploring together the challenging topics brought up by the students. They will be announced on the Instagram page ([@openmindspse](https://www.instagram.com/openmindspse)) and on the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/openmindspse>).

Luliana-Patricia DRAGOMIR
3rd-year student
Psychology
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

■ CONTENTS

S.O.S. – BACHELOR'S DEGREE EXAM!

The Psychology and Pedagogy Students' Guild organized the first activity dedicated to the third-year students at this faculty, with the aim of offering them support in the final year's challenge: to do the bachelor's degree project.

The activity conducted on 14 December 2023 was the context of establishing a support group, in which several graduates of the faculty shared their experience in preparing the bachelor's degree final project and exam. The meeting was moderated by Camelia Lucaci, a second-year student in the master's degree study programme of Clinical Psychology, Psychological Counselling and Psychotherapy, together with Alexander Tudose, a graduate of the same programme.



Firstly, the importance of ethics and honesty was emphasized, explaining both what plagiarism means and the possibility of using the anti-plagiarism checking software available to students. Secondly, essential aspects related to the types of scientific research, the choice of tools appropriate to the concepts studied or the access to a sample in line with the research topic were shared, and useful information was presented to any student at the

beginning of the journey in terms of topic choice and possible resources.



As this activity focused only on the initial aspects of the bachelor's degree, on how to start it and on the first steps, two more such events are scheduled for early 2024.

Within them, topics related to methodology and statistical data processing will be approached and the students will be directed to the coordinating professor for questions that go beyond the scope of the graduates' knowledge.

The essence of these meetings is to use the informal relationship between students in order to openly and freely discuss the difficulties encountered, both theoretically and emotionally.

Alexandra Ioana CONSTANTINESCU

3rd-year student

Psychology

Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

■ CONTENTS

PARTICIPATION OF THE MEDICAL STUDENTS IN A WORK PLACEMENT MOBILITY

On 14 December 2023, a work placement mobility took place at *Synevo* Romania Central Laboratory (Chiajna, Ilfov county) and at "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Bucharest (UMF). It was attended by a group of 45 students from the Faculty of Medicine, specifically the study programmes Clinical Laboratory and Medicine. The trip was supported by UNITBV.



With a 28-year experience, *Synevo* offers more than 2,000 types of routine and advanced tests in all fields of clinical diagnosis. *Synevo* Romania is part of *Medicover* - one of the most important international providers of medical and diagnostic services, also facilitating access to digital platforms that allow interested people to benefit from personalized experiences and advice, with access to information of a high scientific and practical quality.

The *Synevo* specialists, Medical Director Lect. Dr. Antoanela Curici, and head of *Synevo* Bucharest laboratory, primary physician Mirela Popovici, provided practical information about the compounds dosed from different biological samples, about the complex methods used and about the cutting-edge equipment present in the labs of biochemistry, toxicology, immunology, microbiology, genetics, haematology within the central laboratory. The importance of working in inter/multidisciplinary teams for a correct and complete diagnosis was noted, by involving teams of doctors, clinical lab medical assistants (former students in the study programme of Clinical Laboratory are employed at the *Synevo* laboratories of Bucharest), biologists – biochemists – chemists.

During the visit to "Carol Davila" UMF, the students attended a mini-course on the importance of citrulline in cardiovascular health, visited the anatomy museum

of the Faculty of Medicine, as well as the biochemistry and anatomy laboratories of the Faculty of Medicine.



We thank Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laura Elena Gaman, Assist. Prof. drd. Elena Vasilica, Assist. Prof. Dr. Laura Stroica for the support and explanations provided.



During the visits, discussions were also held about the possibilities of expanding and continuing the collaboration with *Synevo* Romania and "Carol Davila" UMF through joint participation in CEEPUS projects, in summer schools (*Food Safety and Healthy Living – FSHL 2024*, *Bioanalytical (Tele)Monitoring for Life Sciences – Medicine, Food Control, Environmental Monitoring – September 2024*), in international conferences (*New Trends on Sensing-Monitoring-Telediagnosis for Life Sciences – NT SMT-LS – September 2024*).

These work placement visits complement the students' information about the laboratory techniques and equipment that the teaching personnel of the Faculty of Medicine provide during the classes and specialized practical works, being useful for guiding them in their subsequent medical career.

Prof. Dr. Mihaela BADEA
Assist. Prof. drd. Cristina GĂLBĂU
Faculty of Medicine

CHRISTMAS FAIR AT THE FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION



On 14 December 2023, the T building of Transilvania University of Braşov hosted the 8th edition of the Christmas Fair, an event that is always awaited with great joy by both the academic teaching personnel and the students of

the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, in collaboration with ESN (*European Student Network*).

At the end of the year, on the eve of the holiday season, it has already become a tradition to lovingly and skilfully handmade Christmas decorations, ecological Christmas trees, greeting cards, gingerbread and muffins. The atmosphere created on the corridors of the faculty during the Christmas Fair is a special one, with carols sung by a warm-hearted group of students, with smell of oranges and warm tea, which inspires kindness, tolerance and empathy.

We know that our small gestures can mean a lot to the less fortunate and bring smiles and joy to their faces.

That is precisely why, this year, the funds collected during the event organized by the Faculty of Sociology and Communication were offered to the ADDIP organization (Association for Sustainable Development and Professional Integration).



This is an association that started its activity in 2007 and works with children and young people from foster care centres and family-type care homes in Braşov county.

Lect. Dr. Marinela ŞIMON
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

■ CONTENTS

DOCUMENTARY MOVIES AT THE MULTICULTURAL CENTRE

Between 21 November – 12 December 2023, the Multicultural Centre hosted the ninth edition of the documentary film festival *KineDok powered by One World Romania*.



For four weeks, every Tuesday, the audience had the opportunity to watch a selection of films not available in cinemas and to participate with our guests in the debates that took place after each screening.

The festival opened with *Atonal Glow* (Alexander Koridze, Georgia, 2021), a movie that explores how precocious talent shapes Tsothe's existence, caught between childhood games and the expectations of those around him. *Bigger than Trauma* (Vedrana Pribačić, Croatia, 2022) and *Pongo Calling* (Tomáš Kratochvíl, Czech Republic, 2022) deal with themes such as the abuses and traumas caused by war, xenophobia and racism respectively. Two powerful movies about which the audience had the opportunity to discuss with the guests Camelia Clem and Florența Simion from Hera Foundation, as well

as with Florentina Tituleac, schoolmistress at the Secondary School no. 5 of Săcele - MERITO 2021 teacher. A story full of humour about the manager of a football club in a village of Transylvania, *The Eagles from Țaga* - Adina Popescu, Iulian Ghervas, Romania, 2022) closed this year's edition.



As every year, the Kinedok documentaries not only brought a diverse audience to the show room, but also occasioned a series of very interesting discussions with the guests, filmmakers or local specialists in a variety of fields relevant to the set of themes of the screened movies.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre
Transilvania University of Braşov

■ CONTENTS

CHRISTMAS MAGIC. THE CONCERT OF CAROLS PERFORMED BY THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR WITHIN TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

With certainty, for the Children's Choir of Transilvania University of Brașov – *Merry Chamber Music Ensemble*, the winter holidays are the favourite time of the year. It is the moment for which they have been enthusiastically preparing themselves since October. It is their magical way of giving joy to family, friends, the University's team, the community of Brașov.



The concert took place on 18 December 2023, at 5:30 p.m., in "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre within Transilvania University of Brașov.

In the first part of the concert, the choristers captured the beauty, richness and uniqueness of the Romanian customs and traditions. The programme featured traditional carols such as *White Flowers*, *Three Kings from Sunrise*, *At the Wedding in Cana Galilei*, *Since the Lord Was Born*, *Whose Courts Are These*, *Up High in the Sky*, *Rise Up, Rise Up, Great Nobles*.



In the second part, our hosts wanted to create that special Christmas atmosphere - because it is, after all, a celebration of the blessing, an occasion to gather all your loved ones in one place to celebrate the holy birth as it should be, in the family. In this

regard, the Children's Choir and the students have prepared some winter songs – *Another Christmas Carol*, *It's Snowing Quietly Outside*, *Santa Claus*, and finally *Holy Christmas Carol*.



The Children's Choir was joined by a few 3rd-year students at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, in the study programme Pedagogy of Primary and Preschool Education. Moreover, we had the joy of welcoming to our team a few Erasmus students who were thrilled about the activity we are doing here and wanted to join us.

The host of the event was, this year as well, Marius Stroe. This time, however, he was not alone – Tudor Boțescu-Sirețeanu, a member of the Children's Choir, joined him onstage.



The concert was coordinated by Iuliana Isac, and the musical arrangements were made by drd. Vlad Isac.

Adjunct Prof. Iuliana ISAC
Faculty of Music

■ CONTENTS