



Transilvania
University
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NEWSLETTER

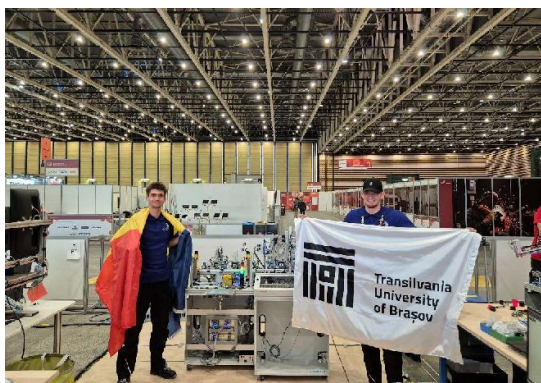
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- MEDALS OF EXCELLENCE FOR ROMANIA AT THE MECHATRONICS SECTION OF *WORLD SKILLS* INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD
- RESEARCHERS' NIGHT 2024
- BLUESTREAMLINE – CONSOLIDATING ITS TITLE OF CHAMPION IN FORMULA STUDENT
- THE STUDENTS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, AWARDED AGAIN AT THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM "BRAINSTORMING IN THE AGORA OF THE STUDENT CIRCLES", AT ITS 10TH EDITION
- THE FIRST-RANKED FINAL UNDERGRADUATE PAPER AT *BEST ROMANIAN AI THESIS AWARDS, AI DAYS 2024*
- CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DIALOGUE ANALYSIS (IADA)
- THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THEORETICAL AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS. *STRUCTURE, USE, AND MEANING (SUM). LANGUAGE STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES*
- SUMMER SCHOOL ON THE *TRADITION OF GERMANITY IN DOBRUDGEA*
- *GREEN BUSINESS IN EUROPE* – BIP UNITA AT THE FOOT OF MONT BLANC MASSIF
- MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES AT COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS AND LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
- SECOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF *INTHRACE* INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT

- PROMOTION OF THE *EDU4PLASTIC* PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL OPTICS AND OPTOMETRY SALON
- SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION
- A CUBAN CHESS PLAYER AT UNITBV
- LET'S BUILD IN HARMONY WITH NATURE
- STUDENTS WE TAKE PRIDE IN: BEYOND HIS OWN RECORD FOR MIHAI IORDACHE AT THE NATIONAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP
- HISTORICAL MYOPIA – EXHIBITION OF PHOTOSCULPTURE
- CLASSICS WITH XYZ GENERATION

MEDALS OF EXCELLENCE FOR ROMANIA AT THE MECHATRONICS SECTION OF *WORLD SKILLS* INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD

Between 10 and 15 September 2024, the 47th edition of *WorldSkills* took place in Lyon, France, as the world's greatest event dedicated to education, vocational training and excellence in trades. Organised every two years, *WorldSkills* offers the best-prepared young people worldwide a once-in-a-lifetime chance to compete in order to become the best in the world in their field of activity. This year's edition was attended by 1,500 young people from 65 countries. The Romanian delegation competed in 9 of the 57 sections: 02 *Information Network Cabling*, 04 *Mechatronics*, 05 *Mechanical Engineering CAD*, 17 *Web Technologies*, 32 *Patisserie and Confectionery*, 34 *Cooking*, 47 *Bakery*, 56 *Hotel Reception*, 63 *Robot Systems Integration*.



To simply understand the term "skill" as "trade" is incorrect. "Skill" is deftness, ability, talent, expertise, experience, dexterity, art, ingenuity and excellence alike. Mechatronics was, as always, one of the most interesting, challenging and complex sections. Young people from 36 countries signed up for it.

Romania's Mechatronics Team was represented, this year as well, by the students of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment within Transilvania University of Braşov. Mihai Cristian Cosma, a 2nd-year graduate student in Mechatronic Systems for Industry and Medicine, and Sebastian Ovidiu Ştefan, a 4th-year undergraduate student in Mechatronics are the two students who, during the four competition days, capitalised on their skills in mechanical, electrical, pneumatic assembly, programming and commissioning, troubleshooting and optimization of complex mechatronic systems.



After Romania's having obtained, last year, through students of the same university, Medals of Excellence at European level in this section of *EuroSkills Gdansk 2023*, this year, upon completion of the four days of competition worldwide, the students in mechatronics succeeded in accumulating 711 points on the *WorldSkills* scale, which allowed them to rank 11th out of 36 countries and to obtain the Medals of Excellence, outranking teams from countries with tradition in this prestigious competition. The Romanian team's training activities took place in the Centre for Excellence Training in Mechatronics, under the Faculty of Product Design and Environment, within Transilvania University of Braşov, under the coordination of Prof. Dr. Eng. Luciana Cristea, Prof. Dr. Eng. Marius Cristian Luculescu and Senior Lect. Dr. Eng. Leonard Gabriel Mitu.

The participation in the *WorldSkills Lyon 2024* Olympiad was also a good opportunity to exchange experience and to promote UNITBV and Romania, as well as an important stage in preparing for the next year's participation in the *EuroSkills Herring 2025* European Olympiad. The support for Romania's Mechatronics team is provided by UNITBV and Festo Romania company, together with important partners in the economic environment: Siemens Industry Software, Miele, Rapronic, Auconsys, Assembla Engineering, IFM Electronic, ASTI Automation, Normandia, Multitech, Logic Computer, Insulheat, and more.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Luciana CRISTEA
Senior Lect. Dr. Eng. Leonard Gabriel MITU
Prof. Dr. Eng. Marius Cristian LUCULESCU

■ CONTENTS

RESEARCHERS' NIGHT 2024

Having reached its 12th edition this year, the [Researchers' Night 2024](#) was hosted by the Institute of Research and Development within Transilvania University of Braşov, on the last Friday of September.



As in previous years, this time as well, Transilvania University of Braşov participated with many stands and workshops where the public of all ages could interact with the students, researchers and teaching personnel. The event was organised on the basis of a diverse and well-structured programme, designed to attract visitors of all ages and to provide a deeper glimpse behind the scenes of scientific research. The programme featured interactive activities, demos and presentations by experts in various fields of activity.

The proposed activities included many experiments and practical demos in various applied sciences, where the visitors could watch the physical, mechanical and chemical characteristics of several materials and learn how they are applied in the industry of construction, energy and advanced materials. A major highlight was the robotics and artificial intelligence area, where the researchers showed applications of the advanced technologies in engineering, medicine and security. The participants had the opportunity to interact with autonomous robots, to see how the machine learning algorithms work and to understand the implications of these technologies in everyday life. For the youngest visitors, the organizers prepared special workshops, including simplified programming sessions, small prototype construction, and virtual reality (VR) experiences. These activities aimed at stimulating creativity and interest in science and technology.

Another important section of the event was the presentation of the ongoing research projects,

supported through European and national grants. The visitors learned about the importance of this funding for the development of the local research and about the concrete benefits brought to the community by the projects of our university. As every year, "Ţara Bârsei" Inspectorate for Emergency Situations, Braşov County Police Inspectorate and "Nicolae Titulescu" Gendarmerie Inspectorate of Braşov County displayed part of their intervention technique and equipment. Moreover, the visitors could test and revel in the flight simulator of "Henri Coandă" Air Force Academy.



Overall, approximately 50 stands were set up, most of them by the centres of the Research and Development Institute, complete with the stands of the economic partners and associations, as well as of the NGOs and colleges in the city of Braşov. All of them proved, through original applications, that science and research are basic pillars in the development of society.

"The Researchers' Night 2024" brought together over 2,000 participants and created a friendly setting for the dialogue between the public and the world of science, inspiring young people and increasing the general appreciation for the work of research and discovery.

Prof. Dr. Monica RĂILEANU SZELES – Director
Research & Development Institute,
Transilvania University of Braşov
Prof. Dr. Radu MUNTEAN
Faculty of Civil Engineering
Camelia UNGUREANU
Compartment of Communications

■ CONTENTS

BLUESTREAMLINE – CONSOLIDATING ITS TITLE OF CHAMPION IN FORMULA STUDENT

Sixteen years have passed since a Romanian racing team stepped for the first time with an autochthonous single-seater on Silverstone, one of the most prestigious circuits in the world. That car was BS09, built in Braşov, and that team was BlueStreamline, a group of students passionate about motorsport, who have made an enviable history in the years of competition on the most beloved and significant circuits around the world.

Today, after more than a decade and a half, the team returns to the top step of the podium with BS24, the most advanced single-seat race car it has ever created.

The last two seasons have meant both the consolidation of the team's status of champion at Formula Student, and the fulfilment of a dream that has not stopped burning for 16 years.

Thus, if in 2023 the team won the Triple Crown at Formula Student, the following year was proof that BlueStreamline fully deserves its title, as the team excelled with an all-new single-seater in 2024, too.

It is worth reminding that under the idea of a racing team, BlueStreamline is, at its core, a personal and professional development project. With the mission of combining academic theory with practice in a highly competitive field, the team has stood out over time as a true talent incubator and a launching pad for the careers of the students passionate about motorsport, which was made possible with the support of its national and international economic partners.



Formula Student Spain, Champions 2024

The story of the 2024 season begins with fresh forces, after the previous year's successes. Thus, in

the midst of this year's hot summer, BlueStreamline was getting ready to hit the road with a huge ambition in the "The Rock 'n' Roll Tour", ready to fight for four of Formula Student's most coveted trophies: FSSpain, FSAlpeAdria, FSPoland and FSBalkans.



BS09 - Formula Student Spain, Most Spectacular Car

Formula Student Spain was the first competition stage of the season, the team impressing from the start with a historic performance. Besides remaining the only team in Europe to have participated in all editions of FSSpain, BlueStreamline is the first team to have ever competed with three cars in the same competition – BS24, BS16 and BS09. On the legendary Circuit de Catalunya, the team dominated the overall standings and succeeded in achieving the big win with BS24.

Three cars, three medals - the silver went to the BS16 car, and the bronze medal was awarded to the first single-seater designed by the team, BS09, which impressed so much as to win the award "Most Spectacular Car", too. This performance was not only a demonstration of technical strength and team cohesion, but also a proof of the resistance and quality specific to every single-seat race car created by BlueStreamline over the years.

The team exceeded their previous years' performances in the season's next challenge, at Formula Student Alpe Adria, where it succeeded in ranking sixth, three places higher than its 2023 ranking.

The circuit in Croatia tested the team's skills and the reliability of the BS24 single-seater to the maximum, and the results showed the substantial progress that BlueStreamline made in adapting to the difficult requirements of the competition.



Formula Student Alpe Adria, 2024

BlueStreamline marked another success of this season at FSPoland, where BS24 ranked second overall, bringing the title of vice-champion to the team of Braşov. The new single-seater was then one step closer to standing out as the most advanced so far, achieving excellent results in most tests.



BS24 Vice-champion at FSPoland

The last stop was right at home, where the team had a symbolic task – to win the champion trophy on the T&T Karting circuit, within FSBalkans, too. Said and done, because it dominated in every test and came out victorious in this competition as well, achieving first place in the overall standings.



Formula Student Balkans, Champions 2024

At the end of a season with an immeasurable emotional charge and an indescribable journey, the student team returns victorious to Braşov for the second year in a row, having proudly carried the national flag and the University's emblem all over the continent.



BlueStreamline - double champion in 2024

We hope that the joy brought by these performances is experienced not only within the team, and we thank everyone involved, who made this dream possible. We can say with high confidence that these years' results were not random, but are the effect of the team's hard work with the support of the sponsors and of Transilvania University of Braşov.

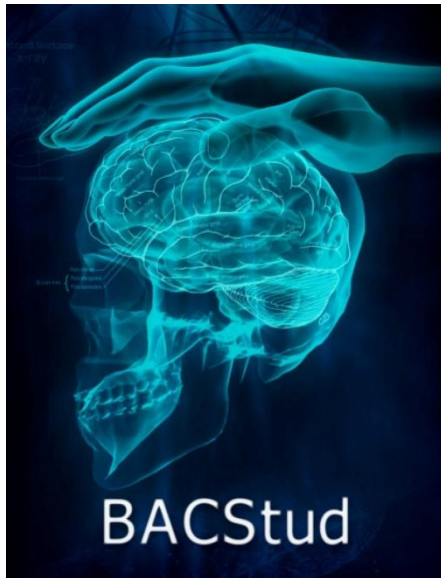
We are fans of challenges - this is how we raise the bar, through a brave approach to the 2025 season, setting ourselves the goal to continue the tradition of building a combustion-powered single-seater every year, as well as to open new perspectives by building the team's first electric single-seater.

Robert PINDIC
 Press Officer for BlueStreamline
 3rd-year student in Digital Media (English)

■ CONTENTS

THE STUDENTS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, AWARDED AGAIN AT THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM "BRAINSTORMING IN THE AGORA OF THE STUDENT CIRCLES", AT ITS 10TH EDITION

Between 10 and 12 October 2024, Agora University, Felix resort, Oradea, hosted the Brainstorming international symposium in the Agora of the Student Circles (BACSTUD) 2024.



The symposium came under the student-centred education events, as a continuation of the students' involvement in projects, mobilities and entrepreneurial activities, and aimed at creating a friendly meeting environment, a bridge between students and academic teaching personnel with similar pursuits not only all over our country, but also with international expansion. This proved to be an opportunity for the students from various academic centres to exchange views, opinions, knowledge, but also to establish future collaborations and friendships, as mentioned on the [website of the symposium](#).

During the symposium, papers were presented by students from Politehnica University of Timișoara, the University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology of Târgu Mureș, the University of Petroșani, "Babeș-Bolyai" University of Cluj Napoca, "Constantin Brâncuși" University of Târgu Jiu, "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad, "Gheorghe Asachi" University of Iași, the University of Oradea, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, Petroleum and Gas

University of Ploiești, Agora University of Oradea, "Nikola Tesla" University of Serbia, and Transilvania University of Brașov.



In the Engineering section, the Automation, Robotics and Applied Informatics subsection, Bogdan - Ioan Oprea, our university's 4th-year student in the Electrical Engineering and Computers study programme, won the 1st Prize, whereas in the Engineering section, the Electrical, Electronic and Energy Engineering subsection, Adrian Lixândroi, the 4th-year UNITBV student in the Electrical Engineering and Computers study programme, won as well the 1st Prize.

The students were accompanied to the symposium by Senior Lecturer Dr. Eng. Laura Mihaela Leluțiu, coordinator of the papers presented by our students.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Lia Elena ACIU
Director of Department
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer
Science

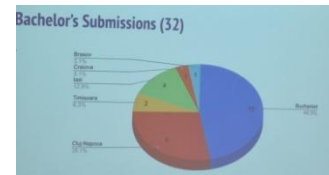
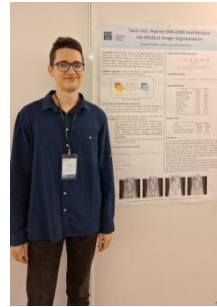
■ CONTENTS

THE FIRST-RANKED FINAL UNDERGRADUATE PAPER AT *BEST ROMANIAN AI THESIS AWARDS, AI DAYS 2024*

The event *Romanian AI Days*, dedicated to the Romanian artificial intelligence community, took place between 26 and 27 September 2024. Now in its fifth edition, the event was hosted this year by Politehnica University of Bucharest, with the support of organizers affiliated with Politehnica University of Bucharest, the Romanian Association for Artificial Intelligence, Bitdefender, RBL, Ageto Consulting, Eastern European Machine Learning, Google DeepMind, RovisLab, Transilvania University of Braşov and NVIDIA.



This year, the competition *Best Romanian AI Thesis Awards* was held for the first time in three directions: *Best Bachelor's Thesis*, *Best Master's Thesis* and *Best PhD Thesis*. The student Daniel Andrei Ioniță, graduate of the 2024 class, Applied Computer Science study programme, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, signed up as well with his final undergraduate paper. His thesis, entitled "Swin-ViG: Hybrid CNN-GNN Architecture for Medical Image Segmentation", coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lucian M. Sasu, of the same faculty, was implemented and run on a server within the data centre of ICDT, using a graphic accelerator offered through the *NVIDIA Academic Hardware Grant* programme. After an initial review, it was accepted for presentation as a poster at *AI Days*.



In the end, the thesis made by Daniel Andrei Ioniță, together with another thesis made by a student at the Technical University of Cluj were designated as the most valuable bachelor's theses among those exhibited. The first prize consists of 1,000 euros and of a scholarship at [Eastern European Machine Learning Summer School 2025](#). Moreover, the exceptional quality of the thesis was recognised by its being awarded the special prize at AFCCO 2024, as well as the second place at the Student Scientific Circle Session 2024, organised by the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science.

His thesis investigated the combination of graph-based neural networks and convolutional networks, in an attempt to overcome the limitations of the current approaches. The study was conducted on standard medical imaging datasets. His way of presenting the final undergraduate paper proved to both the public and the jury a deep understanding of the addressed concepts, while also highlighting its significant research potential.

We hope that this promising start will inspire other graduates who are passionate about AI.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alexandra BĂICOIANU
Vice-Dean for Student Activity, Quality Assurance
and Internationalization
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lucian-Mircea SASU
Coordinator of the thesis

■ CONTENTS

CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DIALOGUE ANALYSIS (IADA)

The Faculty of Letters hosted a significant international conference titled "The Dialogic Dimension of the Digital" from September 12-14, 2024. This three-day academic event was organized in partnership with the International Association for Dialogue Analysis (IADA). It brought together scholars from across the globe to examine the intricate relationships between digital communication, dialogue, and contemporary society.



The conference featured three distinguished keynote speakers who addressed various aspects of digital communication. Professor Villy Tsakona from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece) explored humour, criticism, and intertextuality in online discussions, focusing specifically on Greek public discourse. This opening presentation set the stage for examining how digital platforms facilitate complex forms of social interaction and meaning-making.

The second day of the conference featured Professor François Cooren from Université de Montréal (Canada), who presented a ventriloquial perspective on instant messaging services. This innovative approach shed new light on how digital messaging platforms mediate and shape our daily communications. The final keynote address was delivered by Professor Philip Seargeant from the Open University (UK), who discussed dialogue in the era of synthetic media, examining the intersection of voice and typewriter technologies in modern communication.

The conference reflected the diverse and interdisciplinary nature of digital dialogue studies, with presentations spanning multiple themes and methodological approaches. Particularly noteworthy is the strong focus on social media platforms, with several sessions dedicated to examining communication patterns on platforms such as TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram. Researchers from institutions across Europe, Asia, and North America presented their findings on topics ranging from digital humour and irony to educational applications of digital dialogue.

A significant portion of the conference addressed the educational implications of digital dialogue, with presentations on video feedback assessment, virtual exchange in language learning, and the integration of technology in preschool education. The program also included timely discussions on critical contemporary issues, such as the translation of war terminology by Artificial Intelligence and the analysis of peace journalism in online reporting of the Ukraine conflict.

The hybrid format of the conference is an example for the digital dimension of modern academic dialogue, with several presentations being delivered online via Zoom, allowing for broader international participation. This format particularly benefits presentations from scholars based in distant locations, demonstrating the practical application of digital dialogue in academic discourse.

This international academic event is a significant contribution to our understanding of how digital technologies are reshaping dialogue across various domains of human interaction. The diverse range of presentations and the international composition of participants generated valuable insights into the future of communication in an increasingly digital world.

Prof. Dr. Răzvan SĂFTOIU
Faculty of Letters

■ CONTENTS

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THEORETICAL AND APPLIED LINGUISTICS. *STRUCTURE, USE, AND MEANING (SUM). LANGUAGE STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES*

The eighth edition of the conference *Structure, Use, and Meaning* took place at Transilvania University of Braşov, being hosted by the Faculty of Letters between 19 and 21 September 2024. Held in a hybrid format that allowed for both physical and online participation, through the Big Blue Button platform, this academic event provided a new opportunity for international interaction and collaboration.



Under the main topic of *Linguistic Structures and Practices*, the conference highlighted the role of the linguistic structures in various real-life applications, focusing on fields such as health, multilingual education and digital communication. The first keynote speaker was Professor Marion Grein, from Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany, who gave the presentation "Linguistic Structures and Practices in the Medical Field", with an emphasis on the role of the structured language for facilitating effective communication in the medical environment. The second main guest, Professor Jo Angouri, from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom, approached the topic "Multilingualism and Higher Education", with an emphasis on the

importance of the multi-lingual skills in creating inclusive academic environments and preparing the students for a globalised world.

The conference drew linguists from internationally renowned institutions, including universities of Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Italy, Poland, and the Czech Republic. The Romanian universities were also well represented, with participants from the University of Bucharest, "1 December 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Ovidius University of Constanţa, and the host institution, Transilvania University of Braşov, linguists who actively contributed to the discussions.

The presentations addressed a wide range of linguistic topics, organised into thematic sections, such as Discourse and Conversation Analysis, Translation Studies, Morphosyntax, Lexicology, Language Teaching and Language Acquisition. These sections facilitated discussions on contemporary linguistic challenges, such as the impact of digitalization on human interaction, education, language acquisition, etc. One of the core topics was the transformative role of the digital tools in improving education, in shaping communication practices, and in facilitating language learning. By combining traditional and digital perspectives on language, the conference emphasised the importance of adaptability in an ever-changing linguistic context.

The conference *Structure, Use and Meaning* reaffirmed its importance as an academic event for advancing linguistic research and strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration. As the event continues, it remains committed to promoting the understanding of how linguistic structures and practices adapt to societal changes and technological advancement, anticipating an equally dynamic programme in future editions.

Lect. Dr. Violeta Ioana IRIMIE

Faculty of Letters

Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics

■ CONTENTS

SUMMER SCHOOL ON THE *TRADITION OF GERMANITY IN DOBRUDGEA*

Between 22 and 29 September 2024, Transilvania University of Braşov, Faculty of Letters, Department of Literature and Cultural Studies, along with Ovidius University of Constanţa, Faculty of Letters, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures and Communication Sciences, organised the Summer School themed on *Tradition of Germanity in Dobrudgea*, a project financed by the Government of Romania, Department for Interethnic Relations.



The programme, attended by students in German Language and Literature of Braşov and Constanţa, included workshops on contemporary German language, literature and culture. The participants had the opportunity to witness the multicultural influence in Constanţa, specifically looking for traces of the former German minority, who was present in Dobrudgea for a century.

In 25 September, the participants went to the village Mihail Kogălniceanu/Karamurat, where they

discovered on site the Germans' history in Dobrudgea, visiting the recently opened exhibition *The Germans' Life in Mihail Kogălniceanu (Karamurat) until 1940*, and the former German church.



The Summer School on the *Tradition of Germanity in Dobrudgea* was a valuable experience for all participants. In addition to delving into the German history, culture and language in Dobrogea, the event gave everyone the opportunity to make new friends, improve their German language skills and plan future collaborations.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Delia COTÂRLEA
Faculty of Letters

■ CONTENTS

GREEN BUSINESS IN EUROPE – BIP UNITA AT THE FOOT OF MONT BLANC MASSIF

The Summer School “Green Business in Europe: Managing Resilience and Sustainability”, organised in the picturesque Saint-Gervais-les-Bains, at the foot of Mont Blanc massif, France, took place between 26 and 30 August 2024.



This *Blended Intensive Programme*, coordinated by Université Savoie Mont Blanc, brought together students from the UNITA member universities of Romania, Spain, Italy and Portugal, along with graduate students in the EMBS programme – a two-year master’s study programme focused on international management and marketing, jointly organised by four European universities: Université Savoie Mont Blanc (France), Università di Trento

(Italy), Universität Kassel (Germany) and Universidad da León (Spain).



The participants had the opportunity to attend courses and workshops, and at the end, to present projects on sustainability topics in various fields, such as marketing, economics, and ecology.

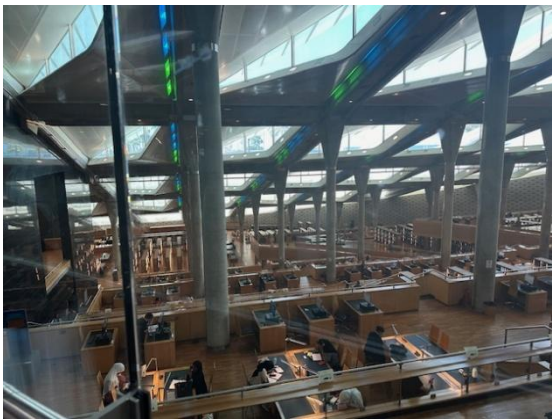
The Faculty of Sociology and Communication was represented by two students and one member of the academic teaching personnel. Victoria Negrea (a 1st-year student in Digital Media - taught in English) defended a project on the carbon dioxide capture technologies – DAC Technology, and Miriam Muñoz Soto (a 1st-year student in Digital Media) presented a project on the importance of sand dunes to Cuba’s coastal ecosystems. This experience provided the two students with a practical and innovative perspective on sustainability and inspired their desire to get involved in future intensive programs organised by the UNITA partner universities.

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

■ CONTENTS

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES AT COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS AND LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

Between 22 and 28 September, I had the privilege of participating in the dissemination of the project *INRS -Developing Information and Research Skills for Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, at the *College of International Transport and Logistics*, within the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport of Alexandria. Here I held scientific workshops dedicated to improving the impact and visibility of the research through scientometric methods, attended by teaching personnel and doctoral students of that university.



This experience was truly memorable, culminating in a visit to the Library of Alexandria, a symbol of knowledge and learning. This sacred place, which once was a beacon of the ancient world, was where thinkers and dreamers would gather to explore the mysteries of the universe. The modern library, inaugurated in 2011, impresses with state-of-the-art services and advanced technology.



With a staff of 2,000 librarians, this public institution offers a carefully designed space for harmony, knowledge, preservation, and development. A remarkable aspect is that the Library of Alexandria houses the world's only supercomputer in a public institution, which is available for free to the Egyptian students, while other users can benefit from this service for a fee. This combination of education and technology makes the Library of Alexandria a special place, dedicated to promoting knowledge all over the world.

Prof. Dr. Eng., Dr. Marketing Angela REPANOVICI
Faculty of Product Design and Environment

■ CONTENTS

SECOND TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF *INTHRACE* INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT



From 3 to 4 September 2024, the University of Sofia hosted the second transnational meeting of the partners involved in the international cooperation project "InThrace - Civil engagement, integration and better management of the national intangible heritage to raise awareness of European common values - EU context, perspectives and active citizenship" (2023-1-RO01-KA220-HED-000156121), coordinated by UNITBV and funded by the European Union.

The InThrace project aims at developing and strengthening the academic skills necessary for the interpretation, conservation, integration and sustainable management of the national intangible heritage in urban and suburban spaces.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the partner institutions within the project – Transilvania University of Braşov, University of Warsaw, West Attica University, University of Zagreb, University of the Azores and Pax Rhodopica Foundation of Bulgaria – to assess progress and plan next steps.

The first day was dedicated to the project dissemination strategy and quality assurance.

The partners set clear objectives and performance indicators for promoting and monitoring the activities, thus ensuring a broad and effective impact of the

initiative. Starting from the methodological framework of the project, the specific contributions of each partner to the development of the training materials were discussed.

The second day of the meeting brought to the fore the creation of suitable digital tools, which would facilitate the general public's access to the training resources developed within InThrace. In addition, ways to promote the project through joint research and organization of international conferences and workshops were discussed, with a view to stimulating the exchange of knowledge and good practices between the partners and the external academic environment.

The meeting ended with a roundtable discussion, during which the challenges, achievements and next steps for strengthening the project objectives were analysed. This event reaffirmed the commitment of all partners to contributing in the education and civic involvement of the communities, by valorising the shared intangible cultural heritage of the European Union and promoting the fundamental European values.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arabela BRICIU
Project manager on behalf of UNITBV
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

■ CONTENTS



PROMOTION OF THE *EDU4PLASTIC* PROJECT AT THE NATIONAL OPTICS AND OPTOMETRY SALON



The National Optics and Optometry Salon, organised in Braşov between 13 and 15 September, and EDU4PLASTIC educational project have several essential aspects in common that emphasise their importance in improving the quality of life.

The commitment to improving people’s well-being underlies both initiatives. In the field of optics, advancement in vision correction and eye health services directly contribute to a better daily functioning and general life quality. Similarly, the EDU4PLASTIC project focuses on educating communities about the importance of sustainable practices and the responsible use of plastic, which ultimately leads to a healthier environment and improved community health.

Education is a fundamental pillar in both fields; it empowers individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed decisions. In optics, the education about eye care and the latest advancement in vision technology is essential for both practitioners and patients. In the context of EDU4PLASTIC, the educational programmes aim at raising awareness and inspiring action on plastic waste management.

Innovation and technology also play a crucial role in both of these fields. The optics salon uses state-of-

the-art equipment for precise vision assessments and lens production, while the EDU4PLASTIC project capitalises on the digital tools in order to disseminate information and engage a wider audience.



Ultimately, both initiatives foster community connections. The optics salon serves as a vital resource for eye health, and EDU4PLASTIC mobilises local communities to address environmental challenges. The recent presentation of the EDU4PLASTIC project by the academic personnel of Transilvania University of Braşov exemplifies the successful integration of these elements, highlighting the potential for positive impact on society.

Prof. Dr. Dana PERNIU
Prof. Dr. Eng., Dr. Marketing Angela REPANOVICI
Faculty of Product Design and Environment

■ CONTENTS

SEMINAR ORGANISED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION

The Migrant Integration Centre Braşov (ARPCPS) successfully implemented the project “Youth as Cultural Ambassadors”, financed through the Civic Effective programme, developed by the Foundation for the Development of Civil Society (FDSC) in partnership with the Romanian American Foundation (RAF).



The project involved facilitating the intercultural dialogue between the migrant children and youth, young refugees, and the Romanian youth, by offering an intercultural programme, as well as strengthening the NGO's capacities to develop intercultural programmes and become sustainable. The project included a series of activities aimed at facilitating the intercultural dialogue and interactions between the young people of various nationalities and the young Romanians of Braşov.

They include the activity organised within Transilvania University of Braşov on 20 September 2024.



Thus, in collaboration with the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, a seminar on personal branding was organised, which was held by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Horia Moaşa, Dean of this Faculty. The course brought together young people from Romania, Ukraine and other countries, willing to learn about the faculty, the branding theories and personal branding.



This seminar showed young people not only how to cultivate their own narrative, but also how to build an authentic and strong personal identity, capable of representing them in any context. The youth learned that every personal story, whether professional or life, plays an essential role in the way they are perceived by the people around. Furthermore, they discovered techniques to highlight their unique traits and personal values, so that they could interact with confidence, be it about professional relationships, day-to-day social interactions or important moments in their lives.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Horia MOAŞA, Dean
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

■ CONTENTS

A CUBAN CHESS PLAYER AT UNITBV

Chess is closely related to Romania's history. The term *shatranj* is known, through linguistic and historiographical research, to have appeared in Romanian around 1700, as synonymous with the textile pattern of the chessboard squares (for example, a black and white chequered dress was said to be "in *shatranj*"). The Romanian Chess Federation was established in Bucharest in 1925, being affiliated with the International Chess Federation (FIDE due to its French acronym) since the previous year, and having as its first president the writer Mihail Sadoveanu. Today, with Vlad Ardeleanu as its current president, chess is more than a vibrant activity in Romania, represented by outstanding players such as Bogdan-Daniel Deac, Liviu-Dieter Nisipeanu and Constantin Lupulescu.

Among the good results obtained by the Romanian men's team at the 45th edition of the Chess Olympiad, which took place in Budapest from 10 to 23 September, we owe acknowledgement to a Cuban chess player's presence at Transilvania University of Braşov. His name is Reyder Cruz de la Osa and he is a Doctor in Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence.



Since his arrival in Romania, December 2022, he has participated in several chess competitions in our country, successfully representing our University at Romania's Grand Prix and winning awards and trophies all this time. A few instances of this statement are: 3rd prize at *Braşov Grand Prix Classic* in his category, 2201-2300 ELO (16-22 July 2023), 3rd prize in the same category at this tournament the following year (15-21 July 2023) and 2nd place won at *Cristina Gazebo in Memoriam*, also within the Grand Prix, celebrated at Timișoara in August 2024.

Reyder Cruz learned to play chess at the age of 11, due to his brother, and was later discovered by a coach in his

region. In 1996, Reyder won a gold medal at the National School Games, the 13-14 age group. His studies took him somewhat away from active chess, and in 2002 he registered for the computer science programme at the University of Havana. During his studies, he represented the University at "AJEDUNI" international tournament, leading the team to first place with his win over the international master Rolando Alarcón. While conducting his activity as a professor at the University of Computer Sciences, he attended Capablanca in Memoriam international tournament every year, obtaining the title of FIDE Master in the 2015 edition.

He is passionate about the close relationship between chess and artificial intelligence. Historically, chess has been considered the "drosophila of artificial intelligence", as some of the great achievements of artificial intelligence in the field of chess have been applied to other tasks. For example, the chess world was shocked in 2017, when the world's strongest chess engine, Stockfish, was defeated by AlphaZero, a computer software developed by DeepMind research company, acquired by Google. The potential of chess for the development of artificial intelligence is huge, as it offers a complex and well-defined problematic space that challenges the algorithms to think strategically, adapt dynamically, and learn from experience, which makes it an ideal platform for testing and advancing machine learning, decision-making, and pattern recognition.

Reyder also likes to teach, having trained a few chess players in Cuba, with very good results, and he would like to do the same here in Romania, maybe at the same University. At present, he will start teaching intermediate and advanced Spanish at "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre of our University, together with some of his Cuban colleagues, thus manifesting another one of his passions: reading.

UNITBV is very proud to have this FIDE Master among its doctoral students and encourages him to maintain this strong performance in future chess tournaments, wishing him success in his doctoral research as well.

Reyder CRUZ DE LA OSA
Doctoral student

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

■ CONTENTS

LET'S BUILD IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

The biennial *Arhitectura.6, Human Nature*, a cultural project encompassing several workshops (design thinking, nature spotting) and openings organised on Republicii pedestrian street, respectively in the Rectorate building of Transilvania University of Braşov (nature paths, nature spotting, nature break, the art of urban design), followed by documentary film screenings and debates (Vertical Portrait project), as well as the "Nature Talks" conference, held at Aro Palace, took place for the first time during the months of July-September this year.



On Sunday, 8 September, the students of the Faculty of Civil Engineering attended the "Workshop for making an ecological shelter in the forest", organised on the alley at the foot of Tâmpa Mountain, within the biennial *Arhitectura.6, Human Nature*, as a workshop minimal shelter, open to the general public, made of natural materials, next to the exhibition of *land art* made by Artterra, with materials recovered from nature.

The novelty and challenge of the action consisted in creating a shelter from ecological materials (sticks, leaves, string, natural cloth) for the temporary protection, in the forest, of two adults. The action took place in a fascinating landscape which developed a sense of pride for belonging to "the noble profession of civil engineer" in the students who achieved together the previously designed shelter, eventually proven to be the most beautiful.



By participating in the above-mentioned actions, our students had the opportunity to learn interesting things and discover answers to the pertinent and challenging questions of the Biennale, such as: What does the built environment we want to live in look like? How can we design and build it in harmony with nature? How can we express our creativity and work together to cope with climate change?

The challenge of building in harmony with nature, generated by the topic of the competition, was a pleasant experience, particularly appreciated by the students, and frames the organizers' initiative in the sense of the modern concept of "sustainable development within the built environment".

Faculty of Civil Engineering,
Senior Lect. Dr. Eng. Christiana CAZACU
Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan TUNS

■ CONTENTS

STUDENTS WE TAKE PRIDE IN: BEYOND HIS OWN RECORD FOR MIHAI IORDACHE AT THE NATIONAL SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP

Transilvania University of Braşov supports both academic performance and extracurricular sports performance. Mihai Iordache, a 2nd-year student at the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, “hits the target” of medals in shooting sports, in his capacity as a performance athlete.



Mihai has been practicing pistol shooting since the age of 10, having chosen this sport out of his passion for firearms and willingness to practice a sport characterised by rigour and seriousness.

Active under Braşov University Sports Club, he has been trained from the very start by Cristina Bălan. Under her guidance, the student Mihai Iordache succeeded this year in exemplarily mobilising himself and obtaining the title of National Champion in the 25 m sport pistol event, with a remarkable personal record of 28 points.

He obtained this individual title at the 2024 National Youth Championship Finals, for the gun shooting events.



At the same competition, our student was also present in the team ranking, where together with his colleagues he obtained the gold medal in the 50 m freestyle pistol event, and bronze medals in the

25 m sport pistol, 25 m standard pistol and 25 m speed pistol (Olympic male event).



Mihai was also part of the mixed team that won the bronze medal in the 50 m freestyle pistol event. He believes that without his team he would not have been able to obtain so many medals: “Although sports shooting is an individual sport, together with my club mates we succeed in getting into the mental state necessary to win a sporting competition. Furthermore, without my teammates’ contribution, the team medals would have been just a dream”.

Despite not having a bullet shooting range to train in, the sports shooting section of CSU Braşov continues to achieve outstanding results, and the athletes do not stop evolving.

The aforementioned results show this student athlete’s remarkable qualities and his ability to successfully combine academic training with performance sports. It is definitely not easy, but he has proven that a high-performance athlete can also have very good academic results, based on a very good organization of the daily activities, and he is a role-model for the young students of Braşov, who can learn to combine business with pleasure, both during student years and in everyday life.

We wish our student success in the future competitions and hope that he will get medals at the international level as well.

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

HISTORICAL MYOPIA – EXHIBITION OF PHOTOSCULPTURE

In the month of September, the Multicultural Centre hosted the artist Sever Petrovici-Popescu's contemporary art exhibition *Historical Myopia*, a project curated by Ioana Marinescu and organised by the Museum of Communism Horrors in Romania – MOCR.



Through his photosculptures, Sever Petrovici-Popescu explores the concept of "archaeology of memory", thus substantiating a vanished world, the remaining testimonies of which are rare and often intangible. Following the displacement action on 18 June 1951, about 44,000 persons were forced to leave their homes at gunpoint and to settle in the Land of Bărăgan, forming new communities with very limited resources. Over time, the 18 thus-created villages were abandoned, with only a few houses remaining today in Dâlga Nouă, Rubla and Fundata. Thus, each of Sever Petrovici-Popescu's artworks evokes a story about the world of the deported.

The project had already been exhibited at the Memorial of the 1989 Revolution in Timișoara, the Municipal Museum of Călărași and the National Museum of Old Maps and Books in Bucharest, and was accompanied by a catalogue with critical texts and reproductions of the artworks.



Sever Petrovici-Popescu (born in 1986) lives and works in Bucharest. He graduated from the Bucharest National University of Arts, Photo-Video section. In 2021 he received the doctoral degree for his contributions to photosculpture, in which he analyses how a photograph can materially exist beyond the limitations of the traditional two-dimensional medium. He has a rich exhibiting activity in the country and abroad, with personal and group exhibitions, which include *Personal Monuments* at Mogoșoaia Palace, *The Moved Stone* at Instituto Politécnico di Tomar Gallery, Tomar, Portugal, 2018. In 2021 he participated in SNAC, and in 2022 - the exhibition CELĂLALT | L'ALTRO | THE OTHER ONE along with the group The Other One Is Not My Denial, IRCCU Venice, and the Days of Sculpture in 2023 and 2024.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

■ CONTENTS

CLASSICS WITH XYZ GENERATION

The violinists Wonji Kim-Ozim and Ziyu He, two artists of Mozarteum University Salzburg, gave a concert at the Multicultural Centre, on 26 September, together with the cellist Makcim Fernandez Samodaiev and the pianist Monica Florescu, initiators of the *Classics with XYZ Gen* project.



The programme featured music pieces by Ludwig van Beethoven, Fran Schubert and Gabriel Fauré.

The concert held at the Multicultural Centre ended the project *Classics with XYZ Gen.*, which included a series of four concerts and masterclasses for young musicians and instrumentalists under training, organised in the cities of Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu, Miercurea Ciuc and Braşov.

Ziyu He is only 25 years of age and is one of the youngest soloists to have ever performed with the Vienna Philharmonic. In 2016 the young violinist won Mozart International Competition of Salzburg and Yehudi Menuhin Competition of London.

Wonji Kim Ozim attended Bern Academy of the Arts, and she is currently a professor at Mozarteum University of Salzburg, where she teaches the violin. She has performed as a soloist with orchestras such

as Seoul Symphony Orchestra, Bern Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra, Zürich Chamber Orchestra or the Hungarian Chamber Orchestra.

Belgian cellist of Russian-Cuban origin, Makcim Fernandez Samodaiev is a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire Antwerp, Belgium. He has performed in countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Great Britain, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Romania, Cuba, Mexico, China.



Monica Florescu is a member of Sibiu State Philharmonic and a laureate of several international competitions, including Lorry Wallfish International Competition and George Enescu award for the best performance of a music piece by George Enescu, as well as Remember Enescu award within Mihail Jora Competition.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

■ CONTENTS