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NEWSLETTER

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VALEDICTORIANS OF 2019 AWARDED AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

This year, as in every year, Transilvania University of Brasov awarded the top student in each of its eighteen faculties.



On 25 June, in a ceremony held at the Multicultural Center, Dr Ioan Vasile Abrudan, the Rector of the University, Dr Daniel Munteanu, Vice-rector, and all the deans of the faculties congratulated the awardees, wishing them good luck in their future academic or professional endeavors and pledging the permanent support of the university.



The valedictorians of 2019 were Ioana Diana Buzdugan - Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Mădălina Georgiana Huțanu - Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management, George-Alexandru Drăghici and Kekesi - Keresztes Balazs - Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering, Andrei Lăpușteanu - Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Elena Adina Coandreș - Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Ana Maria Angelescu - Faculty of Wood Engineering, Imre Lajos - Faculty of Civil Engineering, Mihaela Mădălina Toma - Faculty of Food and Tourism, Georgiana Laura Bratu - Faculty of Product Design and Environment, Vlad Vrabie -

Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Andreea Patricia Pătrunjel - Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration, Andreea Elena Iordache and Răzvan Paraschiv Seceleanu - Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, Daniel Marian Răcășanu - Faculty Physical Education and Mountain Sports, Bianca Timaru - Faculty of Music, Bianca Andreea Stoia - Faculty of Medicine, Rareș Nicolae Călugăr - Faculty of Letters, Mălina Alexandra Șerban - Faculty of Law, Maria Gherghinoiu and Ana Maria Tomozeiu - Faculty of Sociology and Communication.



During the same festivity, student Vasile Voiniciu from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science was granted the Transilvania Excellence Scholarship for his significant contributions to research during the 2018-2019 academic year. Similarly, the best papers presented at the 2019 Students' Conference earned their respective authors well deserved awards.



Prof. Dr Eng. Daniel MUNTEANU – Vice-rector

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ROMANIAN-CUBAN ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP IN MEDICAL SCIENCES

Between 18-27 June, Dr Magdemily Fallat Ramos, Vice-rector of Universidad de Ciencias Medicas de la Habana – UCMH (University of Medical Sciences of Havana) visited our University.



Dr Fallat Ramos met with Dr Ioan Vasile Abrudan – Rector of Transilvania University of Braşov, Dr Marius Moga, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, other faculty staff—vice-deans, heads of department—as well as with undergraduate or resident students.

During several formal and informal meetings held at the Faculty of Medicine and in clinical hospitals or medical practices in Braşov, Vice-rector Fallat Ramos presented the health system in Cuba and talked about the development of a medical education system providing training to an impressive number of students.

This year, UCMH is celebrating its 300th birthday. Its portfolio is fascinating, and the numbers speak for themselves: the academic institution has twelve Faculties of Medicine which employ 8,000 teachers and researchers; 25,000+ students and circa 6,000 resident and doctoral students. The student population includes, besides Cuban nationals, young people origination from all Latin America.

Dr Fallat Ramos emphasized the fact that the practical aspect of the future doctors' vocational training is quite important, which is why a large percent of the training activities are done in the clinical medical structures of the university: 85 clinical hospitals in Havana alone (for 2.13 million inhabitants) distributed and coordinated by the University of Medical Sciences.



An interesting fact is the number of medical graduates each year which significantly exceeds the number of doctors needed; the “surplus” of young doctors are either sent abroad to support the health systems of the Latin countries in the area (e.g. Venezuela) or to rural areas which are not easily accessible, where they will be of service to the Cubans with social issues (inadequate, insufficient, and insanitary dwellings, low monthly incomes, difficult access to schooling and healthcare, etc.). The provision of affordable or free medical services for every citizen has resulted in a ratio of 1 MD per 170 people.

The visit concluded with a partnership between the University of Havana and Transilvania University, creating the framework for student and teacher exchanges between the two HEIs, and providing new opportunities for knowledge and research to the doctors in training from both countries.

The communication during most of the meetings held during this visit was facilitated with the kind assistance of our own Spanish language speakers, to whom we extend our thanks: resident doctor Evelyn Cirstea, fourth year MD student Anastasia Abaitancei, and first year MD student Ioana Rucsanda.

Prof. Dr Marius Alexandru MOGA
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

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VISITS, PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES, AND NEW INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



On 11 June, Dr Manuel Palomar, Rector of the University of Alicante, and his managerial team visited Transilvania University of Braşov. The delegation was welcomed by Dr Ioan Vasile Abrudan, Rector of our University, and by Dr Adrian Lăcătuş, Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Director of the Multicultural Center. The meeting was aimed at expanding the cooperation through Erasmus+ mobilities and identifying common fields of research.



Between 17-18 June, a delegation from the Finnish university DIAK (Diaconia University of Applied Sciences), led by Rector Tapio Kujala, visited our university. The two HEIs together with four universities from Norway, Germany, Portugal, and Spain established the *3IV European University Alliance* within the framework of the EU initiative regarding the creation of university networks. The visit aimed to strengthen the cooperation between the two universities, with meetings taking place between vice-rectors of our university, the members of the Office for International Relations, and representatives of the Faculties of Sociology and Communication, Letters, and Medicine.

Between 19-21 June, a delegation from Minho University of Braga, Portugal, led by Dr Rui Manuel Costa Vieira Castro, Rector of the university, visited Transilvania University of Braşov. The aim of the visit was to intensify the collaboration initiated in 2002 between our two universities.



Besides the discussions with the Rector and Vice-rectors of Transilvania University, the Portuguese guests also talked with representatives from different faculties within the university. The management teams of the two universities aim to connect the staff of all similar faculties in order to strengthen the teaching and research collaborations.



Between 15-18 June, within the framework of the Erasmus+ agreement, delegates from Transilvania University—the Rector, the Vice-rector for Education, the Deans of the Faculties of Wood Engineering, Silviculture and Forest Engineering, and Letters, and the Director of the Research and Development Institute—visited the University of Tehran. Participants in the formal meetings were Dr Mahmoud Nili Ahmadabadi, President of the University of Tehran, and other representatives of management. The discussion centered on prospects of future collaborations and renewed the partnership agreement. Meetings also took place between representatives of the Faculties of New Sciences and Technologies, Literature and Humanities, and Economics respectively, to establish scientific and didactic partnerships, as well as the criteria for student mobilities.

Summary by Victor BRICIU,
www.unitbv.ro/stiri-si-evenimente

ETHICAL VALUES IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY - VESA 2019

On 27 and 28 June, our university hosted the first international conference dedicated to university ethics in contemporary society. The turnout included delegates from the Romanian Ministry of Education, sitting members on the National Board for Ethics and Academic Management (CEMU) and on the National Board for Ethics in Research, Technological Development and Innovation (CNECSTDI), as well as presidents and members of the ethics committees from various universities.



VESA was the first event of this kind in Romania to take an interdisciplinary approach to ethical issues and values, especially to those associated with the academia. This approach was aimed at facilitating the exchange of expertise and good practices among different HEIs across Romania.

Some of the topics tackled in this context related to the auditing of ethics committees within the Romanian HEIs (Gheorghe Iancu, President of CEMU); the international practices in ethics and integrity in higher education (Ciprian Preda, Vice-president of CEMU), the operational framework of the National Board for Ethics in Research, Technological Development and Innovation (Laura Bouriaud, Vice-president of CNECSTDI), the involvement of students in decision-making on ethics and integrity matters (Ștefan Deaconu, representative of the by a representative of the National Alliance of Romanian Student Organizations, member and spokesperson for CEMU).



Other contributors were Ramona Grațîela Milu, President of the fiscal and administrative department within the Brașov Appellate Court; Frederico de Carvalho Figueiredo, professor and researcher at Centro Universitário Una; on behalf of Transilvania University of Brașov, Cristina Mihaela Rotaru Salcã, president of the university's ethics committee, Elena Cocoradã, president of the committee for research ethics in social studies and humanities, Marcela Rodica Luca, member of the ethics committee, Oana Șaramet, member of the legal committee, Laura Manea, legal advisor.

The roundtable dedicated to the debate of institution-specific problems occurring in the operation of different ethics committees within the Romanian universities represented at VESA, all the contributors drew on their experience and expertise in their respective fields in order to identify the best solutions that would promote consistency in the existing legal framework.

The organizers of VESA gratefully acknowledge the support of Brașov County Council in setting up this event.

Lecturer Dr Mihaela ROTARU SALCĂ
President of the Ethics Committee

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PROMOTING OUR UNIVERSITY AT AFASES 2019

Between 31 May and 2 June, our university was represented at AFASES 2019—*Scientific Research and Education in the Air Force*. This international conference is by tradition organized by the *Henri Coandă* Air Force Academy at Braşov and, in the course of its 21 editions, our university has been a constant participant.



The 2019 edition was organized by the Air Force Academy in partnership with the Romanian Air Club and the Higher School of Aviation.



A particular highlight in the event was the aviation show on 1 June. This was also a good opportunity to celebrate Children's Day in a dedicated show followed by an *Iron Dragon* concert on the evening of the same day. Equally worth mentioning was the event scheduled for 2 June, *Braşov Air Show (BrAShow)*.



All the activities organized under the umbrella of the conference attracted large numbers of visitors from Braşov city and beyond, who shared a passion for aviation and wanted to take part in the fun at the aviation shows taking place at Ghimbav.



Participants in this event were military higher institutions, among which our university was a special guest. The delegates from our university introduced the educational offer of Transilvania University, as well as the results of our students' work in different activities and projects.



Among such achievements were those showcased by the members of the *Formula Student BlueStreamline* crew accompanied by Dr Mihai Comşiţ, their professor and mentor, as well as the electric car built by a student team from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering supervised by Dr Radu Ţărulescu.

Lecturer Dr Victor BRICIU,
Marketing and Image Department

Cristina ILISAN, student,
Communication and PR

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PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE *EXP@T'19* IN MADEIRA, PORTUGAL

Between 12 and 14 June, Funchal, Madeira (Portugal) played host to the 5th edition of EXP@19, an international conference co-organized by the universities of Porto and Coimbra, in partnership with the University of Madeira. The conference had the technical support of IEEE and of the Portuguese Association of Engineers.



The format of the conference allowed for a wide range of panel sections, with online experiments as their common thread. In this vein, the topics approached related to virtual labs and remote monitoring, telemedicine and teledetection, sensor networks, augmented reality and virtual reality, smart education, geoinformatics and hydroinformatics, smart cities and smart societies, the environment and urban monitoring, measurement systems, advanced technologies, online health training systems, online rehabilitation systems, the internet and health services, etc.



The high quality of the various contributions was also due to the efforts of the organizers—prof. Teresa Restivo and prof. Alberto Cardosa—who created a nurturing environment for discussions and collaborations between academics, researchers and practitioners in the field of industry and medicine, all animated by the desire to narrow the gap between the academic pursuits and the real-life needs of the people.

The participants had the opportunity to publicize their recent work in the conference panels, and to partake in technical sessions, workshops, exhibitions (Demos'19), roundtables and themed trips on the beautiful island of Madeira.



Representing our university in this event were prof. Doru Ursuțiu (also member on the organizing committee), prof. Stela Drăgulin, and Fulvia Anca Constantin. Relating to the field of Melotherapy, their papers were co-authored by prof. Cornel Samoilă and students Petrică Mihoc and Ioana Rucsanda. Their presentations were based on data yielded by research conducted at Transilvania University of Braşov and attracted a significant turnout who showed great interest in the subject.

Fulvia Anca CONSTANTIN, PhD Candidate
Musical Centre Expert

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"FROM SINAI TO JERUSALEM". SACRED ARCHITECTURE AND SPACE

Between the 3 and 30 June, the Museum of Urban Civilization played host to the solo exhibition of architecture photography - *From Sinai to Jerusalem* authored by Dr Teofil Mihăilescu from the Faculty of Civil Engineering within Transilvania University of Brasov.



Supported by our university, this exhibition is part of an original and unique trilogy dedicated to Christian architecture and space backgrounded by the three main initiatic routes of Christianity: "From Sinai to Jerusalem" (dedicated to the architectural context and universe specific to the Pre-Christian Biblical world), "From Constantinople to Athos" (focused on the architectural context and universe of the Orthodox world) and "From Rome to Santiago de Compostella" (dedicated to the architectural context and universe within the Catholic world)



The exhibition, the first in the trilogy, documents in 40 large size photos (70 x 100 cm) the journey

taken by Dr Teofil Mihăilescu from Mount Sinai (Egypt) to Jerusalem (Israel), with the stated purpose of exploring the sacred architecture and space in the holy locations, *topoi* that are reflected in the Biblical texts, both novo- and vetero-testamentary. The journey transcended its initial purpose and became a journey of initiation.

A night spent at the Holy Sepulchre, the solitary exploration of the Jericho archaeological site, a dip in the Dead Sea, touching the Wailing Wall, a night spent climbing Mount Sinai, days in a row spent in immediate contact with the three greatest religions of humanity – Judaism, Christianity, and Islamism, the thousands of miles, instances of soul searching, intricate monologues and dialogues, conflicting feelings, all turned into a portfolio of thousands of photos, some of which displayed within the exhibition, and inviting meditation and dialogue in the name of love, tolerance and truth.



The opening of the exhibition took place 3 June and was attended by a record number of visitors – 250 art buffs – along with Valer Rus, (historian and Director of the Museum of Urban Civilization), Dr Cristian Muntean (professor and priest), Horia Mihai, pianist, and the author, Dr Teofil Mihăilescu.

Prof. Dr Teofil MIHAILESCU
Faculty of Civil Engineering

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"TOURISM IN BRAȘOV – QUALITY AND SAFETY" SYMPOZIUM

The Prefecture of Brașov, D.S.V.S.A. Brașov, and the Faculty of Food and Tourism supported by S.C. ARO PALACE S.A. organized the symposium entitled *Tourism in Brașov – Quality and Safety*. The event took place on the 27 June, at ARO PALACE – Europe Hall.



The Brașov County is among the top favourite visitors' destinations in Romania; this places a huge responsibility with the local authorities, for the safety of its visitors.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring to the fore the requirements and needs of the public institutions with responsibilities in food safety, consumers' protection, fiscality and public order for the hospitality industry.

Marian Rasaliu, president of Brașov County Council and Adrian Gabor, Vice-President of the County Council of Brașov gave brief speeches.

The main topics of discussion were:

- *Observing and monitoring hygiene procedures as stipulated in Reg. 852/2004 CE*, Dr Lavinia Buvnariu, DSP Brașov, *Transilvania University of Brașov*, the Faculty of Medicine;

- *Service quality in the hospitality industry*, Dr Diana Foris, *Transilvania University of Brașov*, the Faculty of Food and Tourism;
- *Policies of consumer protection and safety*, Eng. Onica Csaba, CJPC Brașov;
- *Policies for complying with food safety norms, Managerial self-control, Monitoring guide for public food suppliers*, Dr Enache Dorin Valter, *Transilvania University of Brașov – Faculty of Food and Tourism*, D.S.V.S.A. Brașov;

The symposium was attended by representatives of tourism operators and of the food industry, as well as by local authorities from Brașov County.



The overall conclusion was that the local public institutions commit to offering safe and quality services to all tourists visiting Brașov.

Lecturer Dr Enache Dorin VALTER
Lecturer Dr Diana FORIȘ

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BOTOND SZÖCS' RECITALS AT *ANO POLI* MUSIC CONSERVATORY (SALONIC - GREECE) AND THE ARTS CONSERVATORY (MADEIRA-PORTUGAL)

Doing credit to his university, Botond Szöcs continued with the series of recitals: on 9 June, a recital performed at *Ano Poli* Music Conservatory in Salonic Greece, organized in collaboration with the Romanian-American Academy of Science and Art and the General Consulate of Romania in Salonic; on 13 June a recital at the Arts Conservatory in Funchal, Madeira.



Supervised by Prof. Stela Dragulin, Botond is already a world-famous pianist, *a second Richter*, as he is often called, a young and energetic pianist. At the tender age of 24, his impressive repertoire spans from concerts to chamber music, from Beethoven, Mozart and Rachmaninov, to Liszt, Enescu and Chopin. His music took him many times far abroad, to Europe and Asia, where he gave memorable performances both solo and with famous artists worldwide.



During the two recitals, Botond performed a technically intricate program entitled *Frédéric Chopin - the science of music and the music of science*. The program included *Ballade No 1 in G minor, Op. 23*, *Ballade No 2 in F major, Op. 38*, and *24 Preludes, Op. 28*.

Ballade No 1 was composed by Chopin during his stay in Vienna, and completed after his move to Paris, in 1835. In 1836, Robert Schumann confesses: "I have received a new ballade from Chopin, which seems to be little short of genius; I have told him that it is my favourite composition of his, so far". Ballade No 2 was dedicated to Schumann himself as a favour to having himself been dedicated Schumann's *Kreisleriana, Op. 16*. Chopin's piece was often criticized by famous pianists and musicians as being less ingenious than his former work.



Under Botond's magical fingers, the two ballades pulse with life; his performance testifies once again to his exceptional technique. Furthermore, Botond imprints the *24 Preludes, Op. 28* with a unique mark, rendering in musical notes the tumultuous life of Chopin.

Fulvia Anca CONSTANTIN, PhD Candidate
Musical Centre Expert

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TWO-PIANO RECITAL: VALENTIN BOGDAN AND JULIA MORTYAKOVA. THE CONCERT SEASON OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

On 21 June, a two-piano recital given by American musicians Valentin Bogdan and Julia Mortyakova was hosted by the Musical Centre of our university. On this occasion, local music buffs witnessed a true demonstration of virtuosity.



The diverse program included *Concert Piece op. 40* and *“Morning and evening” op. 79* by Cecile Chaminade, *Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin, *Concert for two pianos in D minor FP 61* by Francis Poulenc, *Metamorphosis IV* by Valentin M. Bogdan and *Nostalgia – Variations on the topic “Black Eyes”* by Olga Harris. The audience was drawn by the variety of rhythms and colours, by the music of French composer Cécile Chaminade, by the jazz sounds of Gershwin’s rhapsody, by the combination of musical styles present in Poulenc’s creation, by the originality of Bogdan’s music or by the Neo-Romanticism promoted by Olga Harris.

In a feat of versatility and mastery, the pianists gave an impeccable performance, complementing each other, in a passionate and emotional musical dialogue.



Combining concert features with chamber music elements, with numerous soloist performances in recitals and concerts, the two pianists displayed a flawless technique imbued with intense feeling. Their expressive and nuanced interpretation was the result of the experience they accumulated during the years of stage performance and in-depth study.



Fulvia Anca CONSTANTIN, PhD Candidate
Music Centre Expert

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THE MULTICULTURAL CENTRE OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV – PIANO RECITAL: SHWAN SEBASTIAN

On the 14 June, the Multicultural Centre of our university was the venue for a Johannes Brahms piano recital held by Shwan Sebastian. This exceptional musical event impressed the audience through the sensitivity and depth that the pianist exhibited in his interpretation of a repertoire at the same time complex and difficult, because of the depth of the chosen compositions.

Shwan Sebastian is currently a PhD student at Transilvania University of Brașov, under the supervision of Professor Stela Drăgulin. He has a rich artistic activity and an ample repertoire which includes works from the Baroque period up to contemporary music. However, the pianist's talent is mainly manifest in his performance of the Romantic repertoire, through works by composers such as Chopin, Liszt or Brahms.

Perfected over years of study, Shwan Sebastian's technical skills allowed him to overcome the difficulties in rendering the two Rhapsodies by Johannes Brahms, *op. 79, no. 1 in B minor* and *no. 2 in G minor*, performed during this recital. Composed by Brahms in 1879, the two works were dedicated to the pianist and composer Elisabeth von Herzogenberg. In No. 2, the musical suspense achieved by the composer was well rendered in the pianist's performance.

The naturalness of the artist's performance was impressive. It was also remarkable the way in which he rendered the inner tension of the Rhapsody.

The miniatures in op. 117 and 118 suggest an array of emotions, from serenity and peace to the unrest caused by the inevitability of death. His works display more than technical virtuosity or sonorous exuberance; they are characterized by musicality and sensitivity as part of their introspection. The beauty of the compositions was highlighted by the pianist's touching interpretation and his emotional involvement.

In addition to the inherent beauty of Brahms's music, the program proposed by Shwan Sebastian stands out also because of the contrast between the two musical moments, on the one hand, the rhapsodies, on the other, the miniatures. The exuberance, the energy, the impetuous nature of the rhapsodies, so well rendered in the pianist's play, was replaced by the subtlety of the miniatures, which focus on the expressiveness of the piano. This complex musical program could only be performed by a pianist with a special musical intelligence and depth, able to understand and interpret this brilliant music.

Noémi KARÁCSONY, PhD Candidate
Faculty of Music

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SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI –ELIZA NICHIFOR



Eliza Nichifor was born on 24 December 1995 in Zărnești, Brașov County. From the seventh grade she started to be interested in volunteering, and became involved in the activity of prominent NGOs such as ROREC - The Romanian Recycling Association, whose member she remained for the following years.

She continued to volunteer as a student of *Mitr. I. Mețianu* High School in Zărnești, where she studied Humanities – Social Sciences. During this period she was actively involved in the events organized by the high school as president of the Local Student Council (2012-2014).

In 2014, she became a student of the Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration, majoring in International Business. She undertook two internships with Schaeffler Romania in two different departments: the Centre for Vocational Training (July 2016) and the Human Resources Department (August 2016).

As an undergraduate student, Eliza became involved in the activity of two international non-profit organizations: Transilvania Toastmasters International (2015) and Board of European Students of Technology (2015 - 2018).

Her NGO membership afforded her the opportunity to organize a *corporate*-type gala dedicated to rewarding over 30 private companies in Brașov for their successful collaboration over the years.

As a master's student, she was a two time participant in AFCCO – Graduates Meet Companies, where she presented the papers "The Hologram in Marketing. Involvement in the futuristic approach by using advanced technology" and "The digitization of

small and medium-sized enterprises", showing her preoccupation with research and innovation, proposing real solutions to the existing challenges on the market.

In November of 2017, she graduated the Digital Workshop Academy organized by Google and the Leaders Foundation, after which she was selected to become Google Digital Ambassador for Zitec, a partner company. Ever since, she has been offering local entrepreneurs consultancy in digital marketing, contributing to the digitization of small and medium-sized enterprises in Romania. After graduating the second module in teacher training and as a trainer certified by the National Authority for Qualifications (NAQ, 2018), she has been working as a trainer within the programme offering specialized courses in the field of digital marketing to legal entities, while the certification she obtained as business consultant (2018, NAQ) allows her to propose business and management solutions to the representatives of companies. In her capacity of certified project manager in accessing European funds she had the opportunity to take part in the Project Management competition organized by Business Leaders, Bucharest, in 2018, where she won the first prize.

Also, Eliza implemented her projects in the Startup Weekend competition (2019) organized by Transilvania University of Brașov, managing to lead her team to the final stage of Future Makers, supported by the Coca-Cola Foundation. At present, she is a consultant for the promotion of the fifth edition of TEDx Brașov Conference, under the heading *Mind Flow*, and is involved as PR specialists in the project which intends to promote the country brand *Magical Romania*.

As for her future plans, Eliza intends to study for a PhD in Marketing at our university and to develop the brand of her own marketing agency, capitalizing on her substantial experience.

Assist. Prof. Dr Bianca TESCAȘIU

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