

NEWSLETTER

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- MIHAI IGNAT AWARDED FOR THE BEST ROMANIAN PLAY OF 2020
- MIRCEA MARTIN DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAŞOV
- UNITBV HOLDS HIGH IN THE PRESTIGIOUS WEBOMETRICS AND TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION RANKINGS
- AFECT FESTIVAL IN ITS FIRST EDITION
- A NEW EDITION OF MEISEI SUMMER SCHOOL PROJECT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF UNITBV STUDENTS
- INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL MOBILITIES AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING
- BRAȘOV ON THE RISE. ATMOSPHERE, ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN SPACE
- ABOUT THE STUDENT WHO GIVES OF HIS TIME TO OTHERS ...
- THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTHY LIVING 2021
- InnEO SUMMER SCHOOL 2021
- SEMINAR AND SUMMER SCHOOL ON PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS
- BITTER THINGS EXHIBITION
- CONCERT CHAMBER JAZZ

MIHAI IGNAT - AWARDED FOR THE BEST ROMANIAN PLAY OF 2020



On 19 July 2021, the 29th UNITER Awards Gala took place in the Great Hall of "I.L. Caragiale" National Theatre of Bucharest. Mihai Ignat, playwright and Professor at the Faculty of Letters within Transilvania University of Braşov, won *Best Romanian Play of 2020* award (programme conducted under the auspices of the Romanian Royal Family) for "The Snoring Princess". Other nominations in this category were: "Stockholm" by Ana Sorina Corneanu, "Silence" by Mihai Ignat, "Game over" by Cristina Cozma and "Operation Vampire" by Radu Popescu. Mihai Ignat is a second-time winner, since he won the *Best Romanian Play of 2007* award for the play "Trades and Dead Ends".

In his acceptance speech, Mihai Ignat described the play "The Snoring Princess" as an exercise of logic in

which he tried to imagine what would happen if a princess, a perfect being, started snoring at some point.



In his double position, as a winner and a nominee, Mihai Ignat also talked about his second play, "Silence", an original text, made up only of stage directions.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University
Photo source: Florin Biolan
https://www.uniter.ro/galerie/gala-premiilor-uniter

MIRCEA MARTIN - DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA OF TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAŞOV

On 16 July 2021, Transilvania University of Braşov awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa to Professor Mircea Martin, a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, "for the altitude, the academic and cultural relevance of his complete work; for the intellectual and moral authenticity, and the dignity of his exemplary career; and for his role of mentor and model of our philological school".



The ceremony was also honoured by the presence of Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, the Rector of Transilvania University of Brașov, Prof. Dr. Eng. Mircea Țierean, President of the Senate of Transilvania University of Brașov, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adrian Lăcătuș, Dean of the Faculty of Letters, Prof. Dr. Rodica Ilie, Director of the Department of Literature and Cultural Studies, Prof. Dr. Virgil Podoabă, Prof. Dr. Caius Dobrescu.

In *Laudatio*, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adrian Lăcătuș spoke about Professor Mircea Martin's academic activity, about his essential contribution to the development of literary theory and comparative literature in Romanian culture, an activity rewarded over time with numerous prizes, among which we mention the National Order "Faithful Service" in the rank of Officer (2000) and in the rank of Commander (2017), The Excellence Award given by G. Călinescu National Foundation, Onești

(2010), "George Coșbuc" Award, Bistrița-Năsăud (2013), Writers' Union Award (1969, 1977, 1981).



His volumes of studies (*Generation and Creation - 1969*, *Critique and Depth —* 1974, *Identifications -* 1977, *G. Călinescu and the "Complexes" of Romanian Literature -* 1981, *Diction of Ideas -* 1981, *Introduction to Fundoianu's Work —* 1984, *The Only Criticism -* 1986, *Radicality and Nuance -* 2015) are "bridges linking the local academic and cultural world to the great circuits of ideas across Europe and all over the world."

"A model of dignity and intellectual authenticity", Professor Mircea Martin essentially contributed to the edification of the Letters in Brașov: "Many of those who have taught and still teach at the Faculty of Letters have been students, doctoral students, or have had Professor Martin as a member of their doctoral committees or the committees for awarding didactic degrees", the Dean of the Faculty of Letters emphasized.

Anca PAPANA

Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

UNITBV HOLDS HIGH IN THE PRESTIGIOUS WEBOMETRICS AND TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION RANKINGS

Entered for the first time in *Times Higher Education* ranking in 2020, Transilvania University of Brașov maintains its presence in this prestigious international top this year, too. Thus, the University of Brașov ranks 1201+, along with 12 other Romanian universities, as reported on 2 September 2021.

| RANKING | SCORES | |
|---------|--|----|
| Rank \$ | Name Country/Region | \$ |
| 1201+ | Transilvania University of Brașov Romania ♀ | |

The top "Times Higher Education – World University Rankings 2022" includes over 1,600 universities worldwide and analyses performance based on several indicators, such as: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. A total of 13 indicators were considered for analysing the performance of each university.

Moreover, according to the report released by *Web of Universities (Webometrics)* which includes the top universities worldwide, in the summer edition 2021, Transilvania University of Braşov ranks 6th among the Romanian universities. In this ranking, over 24,000 universities worldwide are analysed, including 99 Romanian institutions. Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca ranks first for Romania, followed by "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iaşi, Polytechnic University of Bucharest occupies the third place.

| Romania | | |
|---------|---------------|---|
| ranking | World Rank | <u>University</u> |
| 1 | 848 | University Babes Bolyai |
| 2 | 920 | Alexandru Ioan Cuza University |
| 3 | 1037 | <u>University Politehnica of Bucharest / Universitatea</u> Politehnica din Bucuresti |
| 4 | 1322 | West University of Timisoara |
| 5 | 1376 | Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies |
| 6 | 1387 | Transilvania University of Brasov |
| 7 | 1434 | Gheorghe Asachi Technical University |
| 8 | 1476 | <u>Universitatea Tehnica din Cluj-Napoca (North University of Baia Mare)</u> |
| 9 | 1619 | Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy |
| 10 | 1628 | University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iuliu Hatieganu Cluj Napoca |

The indicators considered in the ranking *Web of Universities (Webometrics)* are: visibility (web contents impact) – number of external networks (subnets) linking to the institution's webpage (50%); transparency (top cited researchers) – total number of citations (10%); excellence (scholar) – quality scientific articles published in high-impact international journals, amongst the top 10% most cited under a particular field (40%).

Webometrics is a ranking made by Cybermetrics Lab, a research group within the Spanish National Research Council since 2004. The ranking thereof is based on publicly available web data, and the results are made public in January and July each year.

Synthesis made by Victor BRICIU,
Office of Marketing and Image
Sources:
www.unitbv.ro/stiri-si-evenimente
www.timeshighereducation.com
https://www.webometrics.info/en

AFECT FESTIVAL IN ITS FIRST EDITION

Between 26 and 29 August, Hera Foundation organized the first edition of AFECT Festival, an event in which the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences was a partner.



The festival was dedicated to emotional education.

During the four days, films, shows, conferences and debates were presented, with a view to bringing forward current topics in the field of mental health: https://afect.ro.



On a variety of topics, the film screenings presented stories of joy, disappointment, triumph, loss, perseverance, hardship and growth, while exploring the complexity of human relationships; the guests spoke openly about their own moments of sadness or joy, about their career path and about how they found the balance between personal and professional life, about how they learned to manage their emotions on the road to success or in situations where things did not work out as planned. The speakers of the event were warmly welcomed by the audience who enjoyed both their expertise and openness to dialogue: the actors Marcel lures and Ada Gales, the psychotherapists Coralina Chiriac, Yolanda Crețescu, Andreea Neagu, Adrian Beu, the doctor Costin Vlad Anastasiu, but also members of famous bands such as Byron, The Mono

Jacks and *Omul cu șobolani* turned the event into a success.

We enjoyed the presence of a large audience of specialists, students in psychology and educational sciences, but also of people eager to learn more about mental health, especially in the context of the pandemic, which has strengthened the need for emotional education. COVID 19 has brought new stressors, weakened social connections and broken the routines ensuring people's mental comfort, raised health and safety concerns, social isolation and difficulties with work or distance learning—these being, at the same time, topics of discussion during the festival.

The events were grouped into four themes – Emotion, Depression as an opportunity, Trauma and Mother's womb, the zero point of mental health – which gave each participant the opportunity to understand that his/her assuming imperfection is part of normalcy, to enter into dialogue with specialists and volunteer psychologists from the Braşov Branch of the College of Psychologists, or simply to find out that other people are facing emotional problems for which there are solutions.



We are glad that the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences stood by Hera Foundation, within this unique project. If "Learn to be Central" is the slogan of UNITBV, what better opportunity than the first edition of the AFECT festival could we find to put mental health and emotion management in the spotlight as a core concern?

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ana-Maria CAZAN, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

A NEW EDITION OF MEISEI SUMMER SCHOOL PROJECT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF UNITBV STUDENTS

Meisei Summer School Project (MSSP) is a project of *Meisei University Tokyo* that started in 2002, is aimed at teaching Japanese children English, and has acquired an international dimension since 2005.



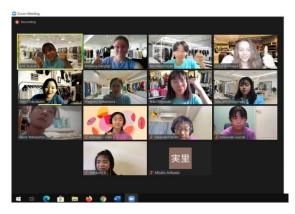
By participating in the annual editions of MSSP, the international volunteers and Japanese students have acquired skills of leadership, teamwork, intercultural communication, and risk management.



From the summer of 2013 until 2019, a student of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication participated in each edition of MSSP, the transportation, accommodation and meal expenses for the three weeks of summer school being provided by the partner university in Tokyo



The last two editions took place online, and the lack of physical contact with the Japanese culture was partially compensated by the fact that in 2020 four UNITBV students, and in 2021 other three were able to participate.



About MSSP 2021, Mihaela Parghel, a first-year student in the study programme Communication and Public Relations, said "it was an experience that once more trained my adaptability and relationship skills, in a team of students from several parts of the world. A challenge definitely was to step out of our comfort zone and harmonize the different styles of education into one that can ultimately be successfully implemented in 11-12-year-old Japanese pupils".

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

INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL MOBILITIES AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

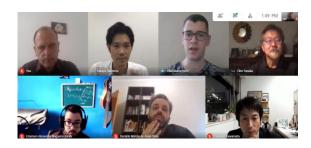
The concept of *collaborative online international learning* (COIL) was developed by State University of New York and is currently used all over the world (www.coil.suny.edu).



Basically, COIL is an interactive model of teaching and learning in which courses are taught online by professors from partner institutions, and students are actively involved in a form of project-based learning.



COIL projects have the advantage of producing concrete results, especially from the perspective of learning in an intercultural context that combines low costs and the lack of the constraints which physical mobilities usually entail.



The project *COIL – Destination Marketing* had been drafted together with the partners from *Grupo Educacional UNIS* (Brazilia), *Meisei University Tokyo* and *Belarusian State University* since March and took place online from 6 to 22 July. Six professors and 15 students, three of whom at the Faculty of Sociology and Communication, were involved in the project.



Claudia Pintilie, a first-year student in the study programme Communication and Public Relations, described "COIL experience to be of help for the future. I met new people from all over the world (Brazil, Belarus, Japan), I learned about destination marketing. I practically learned how to apply different marketing techniques to attract tourists".

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

BRAȘOV ON THE RISE ATMOSPHERE, ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN SPACE

Braşov has, starting with September 2021, a new cultural interface: HUB 2068. Making the pedestrian connection between the lower end of După Ziduri street (towards "George Barițiu" County Library) and Mureşenilor street (near the Rectorate building), this revitalized place, under restoration, is one full of charm and intimacy, which enhances the cultural atmosphere of Braşov.



Symbolically, the new multicultural public space was inaugurated with the third edition of the outdoor architectural photography exhibition signed by Prof. Dr. Arch. Teofil Mihăilescu, entitled *Brașov on the Rise. Atmosphere, Architecture and Urban Space* and supported by Transilvania University of Brașov.

The exhibition bears the name of the monograph in images about Braşov, authored by Teofil Mihăilescu (published by the Publishing House of Transilvania University of Braşov in 2015, and launched at the book fairs in Braşov, Bucureşti, Paris, Turin and Beijing) and it is one of the visual expressions of the author's urban anthropology projects.



The exhibition comes under a series of annual cultural events of Prof. Dr Arch. Teofil Mihăilescu, the outcome of his research and photography work conducted since 2009, with a view to closing an arch over time from late 19th century Brașov to early 21st century Brașov, in a portfolio of pairs of photos taken today from the same places where the old photographers took their photos in the past.



An event organized at the invitation of TAMTAM Festival 2021 and in partnership with Transilvania University of Braşov, through location, display, presentation features (print on osb support, a premiere in Romania) and the significantly chosen twin photos (illustrating the urban development in emblematic places), the exhibition opened on Friday, 13 August 2021, invites us to (re)discover Braşov, its architecture and atmosphere in a space-time continuum, in order to keep it forever in our heart, like a loved one without whom we cannot live.

In this regard, the twin photographs personify Braşov under a concept portraying it like a being that exhibits an appearance only to immediate take another one, and yet, no matter how much it changes, it remains the same.

Outdoor exhibition by Prof. Dr. Arch. Teofil MIHĂILESCU

ABOUT THE STUDENT WHO GIVES OF HIS TIME TO OTHERS ...

"The Golden Fish was finicky. The other fish did not play with him. The octopus shows up. She tells him to be nicer. The two become friends." (2nd-grade pupil, Middle School of Teliu).





About friendship, I will write in the following lines. A friendship between elder children and younger children, if I may call them that. A beautiful, even needed, friendship eased by *Şcoala cu scLIPICI* of Teliu, Braşov.

What exactly is this ... "sparkluring" school? A 10-day series of summer learning activities involving primary school children who had not developed yet their literacy skills at the grade level. Such schools were organized throughout the country, in communes and villages where the need for literacy had been acutely felt. We are referring here to the counties of Galați, Cluj, Suceava, Neamţ, Mureş, laşi, Timiş, Călăraşi, Botoşani and Braşov. Proof that such problems are not only sparse but are becoming more widespread in our country.

The curriculum of *Şcoala cu scLIPICI* was ingenious and rich in terms of authentic learning experiences offered to little children – to the accomplishment of which the elder children, namely our students at the undergraduate programme Pedagogy of Primary and Pre-school Education, together with the professors involved, also brought their significant contribution.

Even though the holidays had just begun, at the request of the organizers of the Summer School, the students interested in this experience signed up to volunteer to help the teachers in the classroom in carrying out the recovery activities. The fields requiring boosted improvement ranged from the knowledge of alphabet, the notion of *word*, phonemic segmentation, fluency of reading, to the comprehension of texts read individually or listened to, and of the vocabulary.

Our 13 students' volunteer activity was very diverse and undoubtedly contributed to a better understanding

of the dynamics of the educational process, the dynamics of interpersonal relationships, of what the nature of the problems that children face in the process of assimilating the skills of reading and writing, to communicate and connect with others, to learn continuously in order to achieve their personal goals and to exceed their potential. And all these activities brought the student close to the teacher and put him in a position to assist him/her in class, to help children to read and write, to play with them during breaks, to prepare and make various teaching materials, to accompany them on the hike organized at the end of the summer school.



"How to explain to the child the differences between writing and speaking?" Well, here's a challenge from one of the student volunteers! I confess, I watched with high intent and delight all the effort that Gabriela made in trying to make the child understand this situation. Of course, this punctual effort was not enough, but it was extremely necessary; the work of clarification continued and it was natural to be so, given the problems of knowledge and understanding that the pupil faces.

Undoubtedly, this learning and ultimately life experience has significantly contributed to the student's preparation for what School means! A school where all children have a place and deserve another chance, even if for the umpteenth time ...

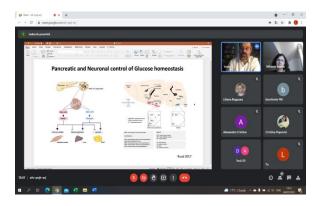
Congratulations to the organizers who got so much and visibly involved in this project! Congratulations to our students who gave up of their leisure time to share with those who needed and still need it so much!

> Lecturer Dr. Oana Alina BOTA Vice-Dean for Students FPSE

THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL FOOD SAFETY AND HEALTHY LIVING 2021

The fourth edition of the International Summer School *Food Safety and Healthy Living* (FSHL) 2021 brought together prestigious representatives from different countries (Romania, Italy, France, Slovenia, Portugal, Albania, Northern Macedonia, Moldova, USA). For further details, see the book of abstracts of the summer school:

https://www.fshl.ro/2021/FSHL-2021-book-of-abstracts.pdf.



The main coordinators of the event were, this year as well, Transilvania University of Braşov (Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Food and Tourism), "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Bucharest (Romania), Università Degli Study di Milano (Italy) and University of Perpignan via Domitia (Franța). The Romanian Society of Ethnopharmacology was the first participant in this event. It is also worth mentioning the support of Synevo Romania and PalmSens BV company (Netherlands).



The topics of FSHL 2021 summer school were multidisciplinary: from the issue of water in the digital age, novel foods - features and applications, nutritional guidelines for different age groups and environmental

factors, laboratory techniques for food safety and food toxicology issues.

The main beneficiaries were the 71 enrolled students at various bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes, from different universities in Romania (Brașov, Bucharest, Galați, Târgu Mureș), Slovenia, Italy, Northern Macedonia, Moldova, Albania, Lithuania, Sudan. The didactic approaches to these topics have been successfully combined with elements of scientific novelty.

The UNITBV students attending MED-ACCES and VIZUAL-LIFE, financed by funds of "Be Central!" competition, presented their projects and part of the developed teaching materials, useful for students and professors, and were positively appreciated by the participants in the summer school.



In the light of all this, the international summer school *Food Safety and Healthy Living* 2021 can be considered a real success, as the students found interesting topics for their career, either academic or as future graduates, and the academic teaching staff identified related fields where to collaborate later through other educational or research projects.

We want this tradition to continue in the coming years, with direct exchange of ideas and maybe with practical activities associated with the courses.

Prof. Dr. Mihaela BADEA Faculty of Medicine

InnEO SUMMER SCHOOL 2021



The international summer school *InnEO Summer School* 2021, organized within the European project *InnEO'Space_PhD - Open Science Innovation in PhD programme through Earth Observation: towards new career skills development* (https://inneospace.eu/) took place from 19 to 24 July 2021. The project InnEO'Space_PhD is coordinated by the University Jean Jaures of Toulouse, France, and our university is one of the partners.



The summer school was hosted by the Research and Development Institute of Transilvania University of Braşov, more specifically within C13 research centre of Integrated electronic systems and advanced communications. The topics, of great relevance today, included Artificial Intelligence (*Machine Learning*, *Deep Learning*), Earth Observation, Satellite Image Analysis, Fractal Analysis, but also topics such as Open Data and Open Science, Intellectual Property, Research Project Management, Critical Thinking and Team Management.

This summer school was honoured by the Presence of: Prof. Josiane Mothe (project coordinator) from the University of Toulouse, France, Prof. Fabio Del Frate from Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy, Prof. Mihai Datcu from the Polytechnic University of Bucharest and the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), Germany, Prof. Louis Francois Pau from Copenhagen School of

Business, Denmark, Prof. Alan Smeaton from the University of Dublin, Ireland, Prof. Mihai Ivanovici, Assoc. Prof. Mihaela Voinea and Assoc. Prof. Daniela Necșoi from Transilvania University of Brașov.



It is worth noting the presence of doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers from partner universities who gave lectures at the summer school: Nathalie Neptune and Md Zia Ullah from the University of Toulouse, France, Leonardo de Laurentiis and Davide De Santis from Tor Vergata University of Rome, Italy, as well as Radu Coliban from Transilvania University of Brasov.





The summer school was physically attended by 33 doctoral students from Italy, Romania, France, Germany, Poland and Lithuania, as well as seven online students. Socializing activities included a guided tour of Brașov and a visit to Bran Castle on the last day of school.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Mihai IVANOVICI Organizer InnEO Summer School 2021 Vice-Dean for Scientific Research Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

SEMINAR AND SUMMER SCHOOL ON PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS

From 5 to 9 July 2021, two international scientific events on the performance of photovoltaic systems, organized within the COST CA16235 Pearl PV Action were hosted by the Research and Development Institute of Transilvania University of Braşov: Seminar "Designing with photovoltaics" and Training School "Simulation tools and models for the analysis of PV system performance".



The main topics addressed the integration of photovoltaic systems in buildings, motor vehicles or clothing, state-of-the-art of photovoltaic systems in Europe after a 40-year experience, modelling of the solar radiation of electricity produced by photovoltaic systems and their degradation over time.



The events were organized by the UNITBV academic teaching staff members within the Faculty

of Product Design and Environment and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, with notable scientific results in the field of photovoltaic systems, and the following coordinators of COST Pearl PV CA16235 Action: Prof. Dr. Angèle Reinders (University of Twente, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands, Action Chair), Prof. Dr. Nicola Pearsall (Northumbria University, UK, WG3 Chair), Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Krstic-Furundzic (University of Belgrade, Serbia).



The events took place in a hybrid system, with approximately 100 international participants. Among them, 21 were physically present, and the others participated online vis *Big Blue Button* application on the e-learning platform of Transilvania University of Brașov.

The organizers would like to thank Transilvania University of Braşov for the logistical support provided during the events, as well as the members of AP-Studio for their professional audio-video support needed for these hybrid events.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Bogdan-Gabriel BURDUHOS
Prof. Dr. Eng. Mircea NEAGOE
Faculty of Product Design and Environment
Prof. Dr. Eng. Petru-Adrian COTFAS
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

BITTER THINGS EXHIBITON

Between 7 July and 20 August, the Multicultural Centre hosted the exhibition Bitter Things. Narratives and Memories of Transnational families, a project carried out by bi'bak Berlin creative platform. Based on documentaries conceived and made by the artists Malve Lippmann and Can Sungu, the exhibition facilities aimed to present the impact of labour migration on motherhood and the family, from the perspective of the migrant workers and children left behind.



The interviews, which could be listened to in telephone booths, brought to the fore specific issues: How is the relationship between parents and children redefined now, when gifts or financial support take the place of non-mediated interaction, when physical proximity is replaced by applications such as Skype or WhatsApp?; What impact does all this have on children and parents? "Bitter Things" captures illustrative experiences for these themes, from the 60's to date.



All over the world, labour migration creates new models of transnational family in which members try to maintain contact despite geographical distances. During the employment agreements of the 1960s, many parents were forced to leave their children behind, because working hours made it impossible to take care of them. Nowadays, the migrant workers from Eastern Europe are the ones who, for the most part, have been in a position to leave their families for the chance to earn a living in more developed countries.

At the opening, which took place on 7 July, Anna Krauss, representative of bi'bak Berlin and project coordinator, Adrian Lăcătuș, director of the Multicultural Center, and Andreea Ghețe, cultural manager of the German Cultural Center Brașov, our partner in this project, spoke about the exhibition.

Anca PAPANA

Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

CONCERT CHAMBER JAZZ

On 5 July 2021, after a year and a half of restrictions, the Multicultural Centre hosted the first live concert of Chamber Jazz series, given by the pianist Mircea Tiberian, with the double bassist Chris Dahlgren and the drummer Tilo Weber.



Mircea Tiberian is one of the best-known Romanian jazz musicians. His career, spanning four decades, has materialized in thousands of concerts, radio and TV shows, conferences, colloquia and over twenty albums made under his name. Mircea Tiberian also has an essential role in the pedagogy of jazz and improvised music in Romania, being the initiator and director of the first and most important jazz department in our country.

The American double bassist Chris Dahlgren teaches composition and ensemble at Hoch Schulle fur Music "Hans Eisler" of Berlin. The musician is known to the Romanian public from his stage appearances with the singer Maria Răducanu.



Tilo Weber teaches at Hochschule für Musik und Theater University of Hamburg (HfMT), composes music for the groups *Animate Repose* and *Four Fauns* and plays with bands such as *The David Friedman Generations Trio and Generations Quartet, The Clara Haberkamp Trio* (Jazzbaltica Award 2011), *The Golden Choir* and *Y-Otis*.

The concert was followed by a discussion moderated by Adrian Lăcătuş, Director of the Multicultural Centre, the first topic addressed being the difference between soloing or accompaniment (for three performers), the importance of self-confidence, atmosphere, spontaneity in making these musical creations. Moreover, the question of the differences between classical improvisation and the modern experiment was raised: how great the freedom to improvise is, what the lack of restrictions means and what the role of the musical tradition is. Not least, other topics brought up were the pleasure of singing with always new people, about improvisation as a lived experience that does not need video or audio immortalization.

Anca PAPANA

Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University