



Transilvania  
University  
of Brasov

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# NEWSLETTER

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No. 147 July 2024

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## 2024 GALA OF VALEDICTORIANS AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

On Friday, 21 June 2024, the 2024 Gala of Valedictorians took place in Studio 181 Hall, Rectorate building, Transilvania University of Brașov, in a festive setting. This annual event is dedicated to the students – alumni of the bachelor's degree cycle who obtained the highest multiannual average grade within the faculties they graduated from.



The Rector of Transilvania University of Brașov, Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, and the Vice-Rector for Students and the Liaison with the Economic and Socio-cultural Environment, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniel Munteanu, as well as the deans of all faculties congratulated the 21 top-performing graduates, as well as their parents and professors, and showed much appreciation for their academic performance.



The graduates – valedictorians of the 2024 class were: Faculty of Mechanical Engineering - Maria Alexandra Dimache, Faculty of Technological Engineering and Industrial Management - Ioana Nistor, Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering - Cristian Mareș, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science - Teodor Ionuț Matei, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering - Maria Alexandra Moroianu, Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering - Georgiana Bianca Dascălu, Faculty of Civil Engineering - Dumitru George Munteanu, Faculty of Food and Tourism - Laura

Nicoleta Catană, Faculty of Product Design and Environment - Béla Bagoly and Diana Maria Hintea, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science - Mirela Magdalena Catrina and Sorana Aurelia Catrina, Faculty of Economic Sciences and Business Administration - Ana Maria Nicoară, Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences - Andreea Gabriela Dogaru, Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports - Elena Bianca Botezatu, Faculty of Music - Elisa Elena Gheorghe and Cristian Paul Ionescu, Faculty of Medicine - Alexandra Ioana Rucsanda, Faculty of Letters - Camelia Irodoi, Faculty of Law - Florin Alexandru Crap, and Faculty of Sociology and Communication - Vlad Gabriel Asaoanu.

The faculty deans briefly presented the top-performing student and their achievements. Each awarded graduate thanked his/her professors and loved ones, and expressed forward-looking thoughts. The valedictorians received from the University various prizes in objects and 1,500 RON each as the *Valedictorian Special Scholarship*. Moreover, the ones who choose to continue their studies with the master's degree programmes of Transilvania University will participate in the 2024-2025 academic year in an external mobility for exchange of experience and best practices at Washington University of Seattle.

During the same ceremony, *Transilvania Excellence Scholarship* (worth 2,500 RON) was also granted to the student Cosmin Bucataru, Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, for special extracurricular activities.



Congratulations to all valedictorians and the best of luck in their career and life!

Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniel MUNTEANU  
Vice-Rector for Students and the Liaison with the  
Economic and Socio-cultural Environment

## UNITA WEEK

Between 17 and 21 June 2024, Transilvania University of Braşov was the host of UNITA Week. During the five days of the event, over 150 representatives of the 12 UNITA member universities had the opportunity to meet in order to discuss the future of education and research within the Alliance.



Illustrating, through the way of work, the shared values and the ideal of European University, which underlies the UNITA project, the participants debated topics such as: development of the UNITA community, creation of personalised, multilingual and international learning paths for the students, strengthening of the digital campus, capitalization on the research infrastructure, promotion of international mobilities for the students and academic teaching personnel, boost of innovation and fostering of local and regional communities.



At the same time, the city of Braşov hosted the meeting of the UNITA Alliance's Strategic Council, consisting of the Rectors of the 12 partner universities, who participated in working sessions dedicated to the management of the consortium, as well as in visits to the academic campus of Braşov.

The UNITA Alliance includes 12 comprehensive higher-education institutions located in mountainous or

border regions, where Romance languages (Romanian, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese) are spoken, joining together 250,000 students and 21,000 employees. UNITA is one of the 50 alliances selected by the European Commission to develop innovative models of governance and cooperation, and contributes to defining the concept of European University and to increasing the competitiveness of higher education. The consortium includes: Universidade da Beira Interior and Instituto Politécnico da Guarda (Portugal), Universidad de Zaragoza and Universidad Pública de Navarra (Spain), Università di Torino and Università Brescia (Italy), Université de Pau et des Pays de L'Adour and Université Savoie Mont Blanc (France), West University of Timișoara and Transilvania University of Braşov (Romania).



Two associated partners also participate in all activities aimed at implementing UNITA's vision: Haute Ecole Spécialisée de Suisse Occidentale (Switzerland) and Yuriy Fedkovich Chernivtsi National University (Ukraine).

The UNITA Alliance's activities are financed through UNITA Universitas Montium Erasmus+ project, in progress between 2023 and 2027, with a total budget of 14.4 million euros, out of which the budget allocated to Transilvania University is 1.2 million euros.

We invite you to read more about the UNITA Alliance by accessing our [website](#) or by following our activities on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

Camelia UNGUREANU and Maria GHIURȚU  
UNITA Office  
Transilvania University of Braşov

## ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF UNITBV IN THE TRAINING SESSION ON STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE UNIVERSITIES IN ARMENIA AND MOLDOVA FOR THE TRANSITION TO ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Between 2 and 5 July 2024, the training session on strengthening the institutional capacity of the universities in Armenia and Moldova for the transition to ecological education, within the Erasmus+ KA2 project "Reforming Undergraduate Education for Green and Sustainable Development in Armenia and Moldova" (RE-GRAD) took place at the University of Strasbourg.

During the four days, presentations and discussions were held with specialists in the transition from the traditional education to an inclusive, digital and ecological education in the field of sustainable development, on topics such as:

- *Green Deal* and sustainable development objectives in higher education;
- From sustainable development to sustainable ecological transitions;
- Sustainable development and responsibility at the University of Strasbourg;
- Two decades of interdisciplinary group projects within the master's degree programme in Environmental Science;
- *Punchy*, an e-learning project for the development of sustainability-related transdisciplinary resources;
- *Continental Water Sustainability*, a new cross-border master's and doctoral programme within EUCOR - European Campus;
- Climate action in the European Union: issues and challenges;
- Climate, energy, resources: sustainable development in the engineering education;
- CIRCULR workshop: from an entrepreneurial project to a pedagogical case study;
- *Green Deal* and sustainable development objectives in Italy and internal policies of the University of Sannio.

UNITBV, through the project team, participated in all activities and contributed with the presentation of the Romanian experience on the implementation of *Green Deal* and sustainable development objectives, respectively of our University's achievements in this regard. The examples of good practices in implementing the circular economy and sustainable development courses in various study programmes at the University of Strasbourg, Transilvania University of Braşov and the University of Sannio, but also the case study-based discussions were of high relevance within Louis Pasteur and Porte de Strasbourg University Institutes of Technology.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona LACHE

Prof. Dr. Eng. Codruța JALIU

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela CIOBANU

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## MACOS 2024, THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE IN ITS FIFTH EDITION



The Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science within Transilvania University of Braşov organised the fifth edition of the event entitled *International Conference on Mathematics and Computer Science* between 13 and 15 June 2024. The papers presented during the conference were grouped into seven sections, as follows: *Mathematical Analysis (Convexity)*, *Mathematical Analysis (Approximation)*, *Mathematical Analysis*, *Algebra*, *Number Theory and Discrete Mathematics*, *Dynamical Systems*, *Applied Mathematics and Computer Science*.

This event was attended by 55 professors of the following foreign universities: Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen – Germany, University of Vienna – Austria, Politecnico di Torino – Italy, CY Cergy Paris University – France, University of Western Ontario – Canada, Sultan Qaboos University – Oman, Ankara University – Türkiye, Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz – Austria, The Ohio State University at Marion – USA, University of Minnesota – USA, University of Thessaly – Greece, Recep Tayyip Erdogan University – Türkiye, Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt – Germany, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University – Türkiye, De La Salle University (DLSU) – Philippines, Nihon University – Japan; and Romanian universities: “Simion Stoilov” Institute of Mathematics within the Romanian Academy (IMAR) – Bucharest, Institute of Computer Science within the Romanian Academy – Iaşi, Babeş-

Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, University of Bucharest, Polytechnic University of Bucharest, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iaşi, Transilvania University of Braşov, “Politehnica” University of Timişoara, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, University of Oradea, University of Craiova, “Valahia” University of Târgovişte, “Ovidius” University of Constanţa, etc.

The fifth edition of the MACOS conference included 5 plenary lectures given by the following professors:

- Prof. Dr. Ulrich Abel, Technische Hochschule Mittelhessen, Germany;
- Prof. Dr. Radu Ioan Boţ, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics, University of Vienna, Austria;
- Prof. Dr. Federico Della Croce, Politecnico di Torino, Italy;
- Prof. Dr. Nistor Grozavu, CY Cergy Paris University, France;
- Prof. Dr. Lucian Ilie, University of Western Ontario, Canada.

We firmly believe that the event was impactful, and its success was appreciated by the participants. We thank the management of Transilvania University of Braşov for the moral, material and logistical support provided. We thank our colleagues within the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science involved in this event. We would also like to thank the sponsors: Eviden Technologies SRL, Vass Eastern Europe SRL, Elektrobit and Dobrinioiu Orchards.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diana SAVIN  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nicuşor MINCULETE  
Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science

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## DOCO 2024 - DOCTORAL CONFERENCE

Between 26 and 27 June 2024, the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School within Transilvania University of Braşov hosted the first edition of the doctoral conference (DoCo 2024) intended for the doctoral students willing to disseminate their research activities, to discuss the objectives, methods and results of the research conducted under the doctoral programme, and to interact with their colleagues within the academic community.

DoCo 2024, designed in a format accessible to all doctoral students, regardless of their research stage, brought together more than 90 participants who had the opportunity to improve their research and to socialise with their colleagues, fostering thus a closer community of UNITBV doctoral students.

In addition to their own presentations before the colleagues and the professors who coordinate them in the scientific activity, the doctoral students had the opportunity to attend three plenary lectures given by renowned researchers, meant to open new perspectives in their scientific approach. Dr. George Tsatsaronis gave the lecture bearing the title *Research in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Risks or/and Benefits?*, which offered a complex view of the role that artificial intelligence plays in research, while Dr. Henrik Rudolph, through his lecture entitled *How to Successfully Contribute to the World of Scientific Publishing*, spoke to the doctoral students about the ways to increase their chances of publishing scientific articles in internationally visible journals.

Dr. Sorin Coţofană's lecture, *Spin Wave Based Computing: The Road from Gates to Circuits*, mainly



addressed the doctoral students in the fields of informatics and computers, who enjoyed the presentation of state-of-the-art computing mechanisms.

Furthermore, the workshops of statistics and academic writing – in both Romanian and English – organised during the conference, offered the participants the opportunity to acquire new skills which they will certainly capitalise on in their research activities.

DoCo 2024 ended with an information session for the graduate students, on their opportunities for continuation of studies by acceding to the doctoral programmes within the UNITBV academic community.

The event enjoyed real success among the members of the UNITBV academic community and we hope that the future editions will involve participants at the both national and international level.

Mădălina IRIMIA  
Interdisciplinary Doctoral School

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## THE UNITBV CONFERENCES. SCIENCES IN CONVERSATION AT THEIR FIRST EDITION

On 8 July 2024, the series *UNITBV Conferences: Science in Conversation* was launched as an event offered through the project "Development of UNITBV academic research: fostering performance, partnerships and community involvement", CNFIS-FDI-2024-F-0400. This event aims at bringing the world of scientific research closer to the community. The scientists present their latest research and findings, answer questions, show how science can help improve the quality of life, and illustrate ways in which our community members can contribute and thus enhance the scientific efforts.



The guest of the first edition was Mihai Daniel Niță, professor at the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, who debated on the topic *Forests in the Digital Age: Technology, Satellites and Humankind*. The moderator of this edition was Ana-Maria Cazan, professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences.



Mihai Niță is a well-known name to the specialists in silviculture for his innovative results, such as the capitalization on the images from the CIA-managed Corona satellite programme for photographic surveillance during the Cold War, in order to analyse the dynamics of Romania's areas forested in the early 1960s. For these results he was mentioned in a 2021 scientific article of the renowned publication *The New York Times*. Professor Niță's research has been widely published in prestigious

scientific journals, and the projects coordinated by him have provided valuable insights into the long-term impact of environmental change and effectiveness of conservation efforts.



During the conference, the large audience participated in a captivating debate in which they could find out the connection between the forests of the Carpathians, the lakes of Tibet, the marmots of Kazakhstan, the penguins of Antarctica and the Vietnam War. The topics of discussion also featured the myth of deforestation, the human influence on nature, and the long-term implications of research on forest management and conservation; and the audience asked questions that highlighted the practical importance of his research and showed the community's interest in environmental protection issues.



The next edition was scheduled in the month of September. The event is addressed to all science enthusiasts, regardless of their age, to pupils, students and teaching personnel, to the professionals in various fields who are Brașov community members eager to find out information about the latest scientific breakthroughs.

Prof. Dr. Ana-Maria CAZAN  
Project Management Compartment



## THE FIRST TRANSNATIONAL MEETING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF *INTHRACE* INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT



On 13 and 14 May 2024, the first transnational meeting of InThrace, the Erasmus+ project entitled "Civic involvement, integration and better management of the national intangible heritage to raise awareness of common European values - EU context, perspectives and active citizenship" took place in Zagreb, Croatia. This project coordinated by our university aims at developing and improving the academic competences in the interpretation, conservation, integration and sustainable management of the national intangible heritage, in both urban and suburban environments.



InThrace builds its activities on stimulating civic involvement and promoting awareness of the national and European identity. The project aims at strengthening communities and cultivating a sense of belonging and pride in the collective European heritage, by capitalising on the rich intangible cultural heritage.

The project partners are West Attica University of Greece, the University of Warsaw, Poland, the

University of Zagreb, Croatia, the University of the Azores, Portugal, and Pax Rhodopica Foundation of Bulgaria. Together, these partners bring a varied expertise and a shared commitment to achieving the project objectives.



During this first meeting, the needs analysis, which was made by over 50 experts of the partner countries, the development and finalization of the project methodological framework, as well as the dissemination of the information and the evaluation of the qualitative and quantitative indicators were discussed. The meeting was fruitful and emphasised the shared commitment to promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and social cohesion.

For more information and updates, we invite you to visit the official website of the project: [www.inthrace.unitbv.ro](http://www.inthrace.unitbv.ro).

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

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## ON THE PODIUM AGAIN: THREE FIRST PRIZES OBTAINED BY THE STUDENTS IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE



Between 20 and 22 June 2024, the Energy-Resources-Environment Student Symposium of Oradea (SERM – STUDO), in its thirteenth edition, took place at “Gaudeamus” Didactic and Research Base, Stâna de Vale. It was organised by the University of Oradea, Faculty of Energy Engineering and Industrial Management, Department of Energy Engineering, with the support of the student members in the Centre for Scientific Creation and Innovation of the Students in Energy Engineering of Oradea, of the Engineering Student Association of Oradea and of the Students’ Union of Oradea.

The symposium brought together student papers grouped into four sections:

S1. Electric power transmission and distribution systems. High-performance energy systems. Reliability;

S2. Renewable energy sources. Sustainable energy technologies. Energy efficiency;

S3. Engineering and environmental protection. Ecology;

S4: Applied Informatics.

The symposium was attended by students and their coordinating professors from several academic centres of our country, including: “Politehnica” University of Timișoara, “Constantin Brâncuși” University of Târgu Jiu, University of Petroșani and University of Oradea. On behalf of Transilvania University of Brașov, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Department of

Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics, three papers were registered and presented in this symposium by Florian-Emanuel Alecu, Andrei Decuseară, Adrian Lixândroiu and Bogdan-Ioan Oprea, 3<sup>rd</sup>-year students in Electrical Engineering and Computers study programme (taught in English).

Once again, our students showed their good training and enthusiasm for research in the field of electrical engineering, being awarded the first prize for each presented paper.

The students were accompanied to the symposium by Lect. Dr. Eng. Laura Leluțiu, coordinator of papers, and by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Lia Elena Aciu, Director of Department and coordinator of papers.



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

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## RO-MICRO 2024 SYMPOSIUM AT THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE WITHIN TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV

The symposium entitled *Ro-Micro 2024* took place on 28 June 2024, as an event dedicated to the Romanian computing micro-systems to the development of which the city of Brașov, through the relevant subsidiary of the Institute of Computing Technology (ITC), had an essential contribution in the late '80s. Within ITC Brașov, a group of researchers, engineers and technicians, coordinated by Prof. Dr. Eng. Gheorghe Toacșe (professor at – back then – the University of Brașov) designed and implemented the CoBra (Computer Brașov) micro-computer based on the Z80 microprocessor, made by Microelectronica Bucharest company, the Romanian integrated circuit manufacturer, as well. The CoBra computer, mass-produced between 1986 and 1990, was a real success both for the industry of Brașov and for the Romanian research and emulation at that time, which contributed to the establishment of the Department of Electronics and Computers within our University in 1990.



During the event, the floor was taken by: Sorin Cismaș (former ITC Brașov member, symposium organiser), Prof. Dr. Eng. Gheorghe Toacșe (former ITC Brașov subsidiary coordinator), Prof. Dr. Eng. Mihai Ivanovici (coordinator of the team who made the ROC integrated circuit for CERN, symposium co-organiser), Vasile Prodan (former ITC Brașov member, with major contributions to the CoBra computer), Nicolae Muntean (CoBra-enthusiast, maker of the Turbo 2024 version), Alexandru Floca (collector of retro computers, organiser of the Romanian micro-computer system exhibition under the symposium), Prof. Dr. Eng. Gheorghe Ștefan, "Politehnica" University of București (a supporter of the electronics school within Transilvania University of Brașov), and more.



A special moment of the event was Federico Faggin's presentation. A physicist, engineer, inventor, founder and CEO of Zilog company, Federico Faggin is the designer of the world's first commercial microprocessor, Intel 4004, as well as of its subsequent models, Intel 8008 and 8080. He also designed and made the famous Z80 microprocessor, which underlay an impressive number of micro-computing systems (including personal micro-computers, game consoles, pocket scientific computers) worldwide. Federico Faggin gave autographs to the symposium participants, on his book entitled "Silicon: from the Invention of the Microprocessor to the New Science of Consciousness", which was offered to everyone present by Sorin Cismaș Foundation.

The event was organised at the Research and Development Institute within Transilvania University of Brașov. It was attended by over 100 participants of all ages, from former members of the ITC Brașov subsidiary, professors and researchers, to students and pupils – all passionate about the CoBra computer and the Romanian micro-computing systems.



Prof. Dr. Eng. Mihai IVANOVICI  
Co-organiser of Ro-Micro 2024

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## LANGUAGE BUDDY NATIONAL WORKSHOP

On 20 June 2024, the workshop "Best practices in supporting language learning for migrant children and young adults through Language Buddy" took place and thus marked an important moment in the promotion of intercultural education and linguistic integration.

This event is part of the AMIF project *Supporting language learning of migrant children and young adults through language buddies*.

The workshop aimed to present and analyse the criteria for choosing the best success examples and the strategies used in various educational contexts, as well as the selection of the best practices.



Srijinirea învățării limbilor străine de către copiii și tinerii migranți prin intermediul Language Buddy



The Language Buddy AMIF project aims to improve language learning by pupils (aged between 12 and 17 years) with a refugee/migrant background, through non-formal and informal learning, by expanding the mentorship practices and implementing a "buddy" system. Transilvania University of Brașov together with the School Inspectorate of Brașov County and the Integration Centre for Migrants of Brașov will implement the "buddy" system, which involves associating the project beneficiaries with students of the Teaching Personnel Training Department. Our students will be supported to act as language mentors for the programmes and/or voluntary placements during their studies.



The workshop was attended by the academic teaching personnel of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences and representatives of Brașov County School Inspectorate (School Inspector, teacher Dr. Diana Szasz), who brought up the challenges and possible solutions to the young migrants' linguistic integration. The participants discussed innovative strategies to facilitate the Romanian language acquisition and shared good practices and educational resources adapted to the needs of this diverse community.



The workshop ended with all participants' joint commitment to keep collaborating and implement the discussed practices, with a view to ensuring a more effective inclusion and educational success for the young migrants in the community of Brașov.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela POPA  
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

## TOWARDS INDUSTRY 4.0: EXPLORING INNOVATIONS IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV WITHIN THE NEEDEDU4.0 EUROPEAN PROJECT

Transilvania University of Brașov hosted, between 3 and 7 June 2024, the study visit of the delegation of representatives from the Technical University of Moldova, "Alec Russo" State University of Bălți, "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" State University of Cahul, University of Aachen, Germany, Fritz Dräxlmaier GmbH & Co. KG company of Germany and ICS DRA Dräxlmaier Automotive SRL in the Republic of Moldova, all of them members of the "Enhancing Mechanical Engineering Education in Moldova for Industry (NeedEDU4.0) project consortium, under the grant agreement 101128623, ERASMUS-EDU-2023-CBHE-STRAND-2, financed with the support of the European Commission.

The programme of the study visit was varied and rich; and the planned activities helped gain unique experiences, necessary for the proper implementation of the NeedEDU4.0 project. In addition to the overview of the offer of study programmes in the field of mechanical/ automotive/ industrial engineering within Transilvania University of Brașov, with a focus on five master's degree programmes relevant for the colleagues at the universities in the Republic of Moldova (Simulation and Testing in Mechanical Engineering, Integrated Practical Methods for the

Engineering of Propulsion Systems, Virtual Engineering in Automotive Design, Mechatronic Systems for Industry and Medicine, Engineering of Advanced Manufacturing Processes), the consortium members in the NeedEDU4.0 project got accustomed to elements of design, implementation and quality of the study programmes, as well as with aspects referring to the digitalization of the education process. The visit to the Research and Development Institute of UNITBV and to Dräxlmaier company in Codlea were other interesting experiences related to the various technologies adapted to the 4.0 industry, respectively to the existing research concerns in the specific fields of this industry.

All this facilitated interesting and useful discussions on the learning outcomes and the contents associated with the master's study programme to be jointly implemented by the Technical University of Moldova, "Alec Russo" State University of Bălți and "Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu" State University of Cahul in the framework of the NEEDEDU4.0 project.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona LACHE  
NEEDEDU4.0 institutional coordinator  
on behalf of UNITBV

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## THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL "HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES - TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY AND TOXICOLOGY"

Between 6 and 23 May 2024, a new edition of "Hazardous Substances" summer school took place and was attended by four 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>-year students in the Medicine study programme). The students' transport was covered from UNITBV funds.



This year's theme was set in line with the goal of CEEPUS project, which is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Polonca Trebse, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Health Sciences, respectively *Training and research in environmental chemistry and toxicology*. The involvement of Transilvania University of Braşov, as an active partner in the network, was appreciated this year as well through the dedication proven by the medical students of Braşov.

Over 30 students in various bachelor's degree programmes, but also master's and doctoral students at various universities of Romania (Braşov, Bucharest), Slovenia, Poland, Serbia, identified new approaches in the field of environmentally hazardous substances. Volunteer students from the Faculty of Healthy Sciences assisted, with great enthusiasm, in the organization of this summer school in Ljubljana.

The main goal of "Hazardous Substances" summer school was to provide multi/trans disciplinary knowledge about the quality of the environment and how to act in order to have a safe and healthy life. The topics included important approaches to how

people's daily activities (smoking, factory work, plantation care, etc.) directly or indirectly affect the quality of their health.

Within the related practical works, some toxic effects of the cigarette smoke, spray deodorants, but also dishwashing detergent were analysed and systematised; and this toxicity was proved through laboratory experiments which the students made under their coordinating professor's guidance. Discussions took place about specific educational methods to avoid the use of such toxic products and to identify new procedures that are less harmful to the body. Prevention-related aspects were also approached during the discussions between the participating lecturers and the trainees.

It was an interesting experience full of valuable information for the young student participants. The students enjoyed the scholars' knowledge; and some lecturers are already known for their good relations with our group within the Faculty of Medicine in the city of Braşov (constant collaborators ever since 2003 and 2005); moreover, they enjoyed the involvement of young lecturers eager to promote the scientific aspects which, based on the evidence obtained from experiments, can be more easily implemented at the socio-economic level, with a medium and long-term impact.

We look forward to meeting again at the next edition of "Hazardous substances" summer school, with other challenging topics that connect environmental aspects and public health issues.

Ioana STOICA, 5<sup>th</sup>-year student  
Medicine study programme  
Prof. Dr. Mihaela BADEA, Faculty of Medicine

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## A NEW PARTNER MEETING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF *EUROPIA* INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT



Between 28 and 29 June 2024, the third transnational meeting of the Erasmus+ international cooperation project "On-Wheels Summer School for the Socio-Cultural Evolution of the European Values, Principles, Identity and Awareness"- EUROPIA (2022-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000086334) took place in Zagreb, Croatia. The project, coordinated by the University of Warsaw, is implemented in partnership with Transilvania University of Braşov, the University of Zagreb, the University of Navarra, the University of Belgrade and PAX Rhodopica Foundation of Bulgaria.



This project emerged as a result of the members in this partnership jointly recognising the need to get more involved in the drafting and preparation of new and high-quality educational materials. The partners' main aim is to build bridges for a better understanding of the European heritage, cultures and national traditions that foster a European dimension. Although focused on the process of European integration, the project undertakes to create educational materials in an inclusive way, taking into account the perspective of the EU states, as well as of the future EU states, and aims for a

truly united Europe. In this context, the project seeks to create an innovative educational framework for travelling summer schools, addressing these topics from a holistic perspective, meant to overcome the stereotypes and prejudices of the students over Europe.



During the meeting in Zagreb, the project partners discussed the development progress of the training kit, of the platform and the digital library, as well as the organisation of the pilot summer school, which will take place from 27 to 31 August 2024, in Warsaw, Poland. This summer school will offer the opportunity to analyse the implementation of the educational materials and to receive feedback on their effectiveness and ability to achieve the objectives of the project.

For more information about the project, we invite you to visit the official website of Europa project: <http://europiaproject.eu>

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

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## INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS WITH PROFESSOR KAI SCHAFFT



On 18 June 2024, the Centre for Research, Communication and Social Innovation, in collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, field of Sociology, organised two workshops held by Professor Kai Schafft, a Fulbright scholar. The event provided a valuable opportunity for the participating professors and doctoral students to develop their academic skills.



Kai Schafft, Professor of Sociology at Penn State University, brought a valuable international perspective to the Faculty of Sociology and Communication.

With a career dedicated to researching social inequality and rural development, he has explored varied topics, ranging from rural poverty and childhood obesity to perspectives in youth development in post-socialist contexts. His expertise on Central and Eastern Europe is particularly relevant to the Romanian context, as he has thoroughly studied the Roma minority in both Hungary and Romania. Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, he conducted his second Fulbright programme at Transilvania University of Brașov, researching the young Roma's access to education. Both during the scholarship and after his return to the United States, Professor Kai Schafft continues to collaborate with the teaching personnel of the Faculty of Sociology

and Communication, thus maintaining the established professional relationship.

Professor Schafft, associate editor of an international journal and member in the editorial board of several publications, shared his extensive expertise during the two interactive sessions. The first session was dedicated to the publication of scientific articles, with him offering the participants practical advice and effective strategies to increase their chances of publication in academic circles. The second session explored mixed methods in social research, with him presenting an overview of this approach and highlighting the benefits of combining the quantitative and qualitative methods.



The venue of the event, namely the Research and Development Institute within Transilvania University of Brașov, provided a stimulating academic setting for the conduct of the workshops. The event comes under the series of initiatives of the Faculty of Sociology and Communication to support its members' professional development and to promote excellence in research.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arabela BRICIU  
Vice-Dean for Internationalization and Public  
Relations  
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

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## IESC STUDENTS - WINNERS AT AMD OPENHARDWARE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING

The tenth edition of AMD OpenHardware European competition took place between 31 March and 30 June 2024. It was a fully online competition, with the participants having to use the hardware developed by AMD/Xilinx to make their projects.

This year, Transilvania University of Braşov was represented by five students at the IESC Faculty: Ştefan-Cristian Jarcău (4<sup>th</sup>-year in Computers), Ionuţ-Alexandru Oprea (4<sup>th</sup>-year in Computers), Mihai-Alexandru Andrei (4<sup>th</sup>-year in Computers), Bogdan-Valentin Floricescu (1<sup>st</sup>-year in SECI) and Robert-Ionuţ Duca (1<sup>st</sup>-year in SECI).



1<sup>st</sup> place at SCSS 2024

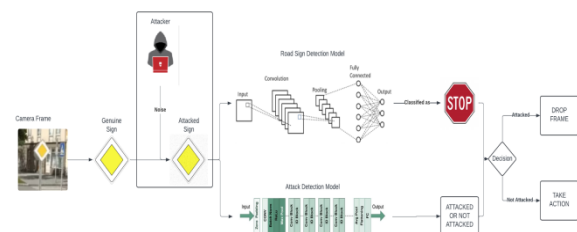


Project presentation at SCSS 2024

The team was coordinated by Lect. Dr. Eng. Cătălin Bogdan Ciobanu, with Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lucian-Mircea Sasu's support. This year's competition was organised in two categories: "Accelerated Computing" and "Adaptive Computing"; each category is separately intended for the students in the bachelor's/master's education cycle, respectively for the doctoral students.

This year's team was designated as one of the winners under "Accelerated Computing" category,

which involved the use of AMD video cards to speed up the projects developed in the competition. The chosen project was targeted on the development of an artificial intelligence model, optimised to run in real time, so as to detect adversarial attacks in the images transmitted by the navigation cameras embedded in the autonomous vehicles, and thus increase confidence in terms of autonomous vehicle driving. The model was developed and optimised with the AMD cluster from ETH Zürich University.



Adversarial attacks consist in modifying the images so that the change cannot be clearly seen, while at the same time, for example, a traffic sign detection pattern generating an erroneous decision.

Moreover, the project was appreciated within two sessions organised by the IESC Faculty and received the first place at the Student Scientific Communications Session for the Computers specialization and the second mention at the master's degree session.

By winning the competition, the team has the opportunity to participate in the award ceremony, which will take place on the premises of AMD in Dublin, Ireland, from 27 to 28 August 2024.

The presentation and demonstration of the project can be accessed at the link: <https://youtu.be/MU8g0x7-VMI>, and this year's results are available at <https://www.openhw.eu/2024>.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Cătălin Bogdan CIOBANU  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lucian Mircea SASU  
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

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## SPECIALISED STUDY VISITS OF THE STUDENTS IN TERRESTRIAL MEASUREMENTS AND CADASTRE

On 4 June 2024, the 4<sup>th</sup>-year students in the Terrestrial Measurements and Cadastre study programme, accompanied by two academic teaching personnel members, Prof. Dr. Eng. Iosif Vorovencii and Lect. Dr. Eng. Mihnea Căţeanu, made a study visit to two specialised institutions in Bucharest.

The first visiting sight was the National Centre for Cartography (CNC), an important national institution in the field of land measurements and cadastre. At the beginning of the visit, the CNC staff accompanying us made a presentation of the institution, as well as of the projects in which CNC is involved, of their status and of the future projects. After this presentation, the students visited the departments of Photogrammetry, Geodesy and Cartography. Within the Photogrammetry department, the students had the opportunity to see how to work with the digital photogrammetry station, how to obtain the 3D model based on the digital stereograms, how to collect data from the model, and how to draw up orthophotoplans. At the Geodesy department, a presentation was made on the modern geodesic instruments (GNSS receivers, automated total stations, very high precision electronic levels) used by CNC for field data collection; at the Satellite Geodesy office, on the

infrastructure of the Romanian ROMPOS positioning system; whereas within the Cartography department, on the entire infrastructure for making maps and the way of making them.

The second visiting sight was SC Top Geocart SRL specialised company, which facilitated the students' knowledge of the way of working in the field of land measurements and cadastre, and of preparing technical and cadastral documentation. At the same time, a raffle for the student participants was held; and those who answered correctly to the specialised questions were awarded.

We seize the opportunity to thank once again the management of CNC, Director - Dr. Eng. Ileana Spiroiu, who facilitated our visit, as she did in the previous years, but also the staff of this institution who accompanied us during the visit. In the same vein, we would also like to thank Dr. Eng. George Damian, Director of SC Top Geocart SRL, for the kindness and welcome at the specialised company.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Iosif VOROVENCII

Lect. Dr. Eng. Mihnea CĂŢEANU

Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering

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## THE STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ON STUDY VISITS TO GET AN INSIGHT INTO THE INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENT OF BRAȘOV

The second-year students of the Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering (SIM) had the opportunity to visit several companies in the industrial environment of Brașov county. The purpose of the study visits made in the second semester of the 2023-2024 academic year was to watch and learn about the use of metal, ceramic, composite materials and polymers in industry, as well as the related processing technologies. In each company, the students enjoyed presentations of the organizational structure at local, national or global level, followed by workshops and observation of the technological flows with the description of the manufacturing stages, from raw material to finished product. Moreover, they were shown the types of activities performed by the production support departments (research and development, logistics, maintenance, quality, testing), and discovered employment opportunities for them as future graduates of the faculty.

We enjoyed the positive response of the companies and their support for us in offering practical learning experiences to the students in order for them to improve their representation and understanding of material processing through classical or unconventional techniques.

We take this opportunity to thank the companies that confidently received us: Autoliv WRO - steering wheel division, Bodycote, DTR Draexlmaier Technical Systems Romania, Miele Tehnica, RAP Group, Redplast, Schaeffler Romania, Stabilus, Varta, Chamber of Commerce and Industry Brașov, respectively 595°.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Iuliana GHEORGHÎȚĂ  
Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering

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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT THROUGH THE PROJECT "SMILES IN COLOURS: TOGETHER TOWARDS THE FUTURE"

On 18 June 2024, within the project "Smiles in colours: together towards the future", under the events marking 20 years of existence for the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, the students turned the plain fence of Kindergarten No. 1 of Hărman into a living story, full of colour and creativity, under the guidance of teacher Bianca-Alexandra Dudu and Lect. Dr. Alina Turculeț.

The project "Smiles in colours: together towards the future" was thoroughly and passionately thought to stimulate the collaboration between the students in the Special Psychopedagogy study programmer and Kindergarten No. 1 of Hărman. The main project goal was to turn the outdoor educational space of the kindergarten through a practical initiative of volunteering and community education, while providing the opportunity for the students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a real context and to develop pedagogical and social skills.



The activity began by enthusiastically forming a volunteering group made up of dedicated students at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, in the Special Psychopedagogy study programme, professionally coordinated by Lect. Dr. Alina Turculeț. These enthusiastic young people closely collaborated with the kindergarten teachers to meticulously design and make the fence painting project.

At first, the emphasis was laid on organising the team of volunteers, setting clear goals and distributing tasks. The students, motivated by the desire to bring a touch of joy and colour to the children's learning environment, contributed with creative ideas and practical solutions for the achievement of the project. Using lively paints and appropriate brushes, the students created a

charming décor inspired by their childhood imagination and memories. Every detail was thought to bring joy and visual stimulation, significantly enhancing the aesthetics of the kindergarten's outdoor space.



The activity performed was an opportunity not only to turn a fence into a community artwork, but also to prove the commitment of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences to early childhood education and integral development of children. Through this initiative, the importance of non-formal education and active involvement in the community for the formation of future generations was emphasised.



The project "Smiles in colours: together towards the future" brought a significant contribution to the life of the local community, highlighting the educational and creative potential of the collaboration between the academic youth and the pre-school education sector. The successful completion of this project marks not only a visual transformation, but also a deep educational and emotional experience for everyone involved.

Kindergarten teacher Bianca-Alexandra DUDU  
Lect. Dr. Alina TURCULEȚ  
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

## ROMANIA UNIVERSALIS – CHAMBER RECITAL BY DIANA JIPA (VIOLIN) AND ȘTEFAN DONIGA (PIANO)

On 18 July, the Music Centre of Transilvania University of Brașov offered a genuine musical-artistic gift to the audiences of Brașov and everywhere, as well as to the distinguished guests, researchers and practitioners alike, within “Interdisciplinary Approach to Musical Instruments – from Design and Testing to the Audience” International Conference, held under the aegis of Transilvania University between 18 and 20 July 2024.



Two essential artists of the Romanian musical heritage, violinist Diana Jipa and pianist Ștefan Doniga, brought on the stage of “Sergiu T. Chiriacescu” Conference Centre the concept which imparted them a musical niche and within which they defined their artistic and cultural identity: *Romania Universalis*. It is an approach to place the most valuable Romanian musical creations into a universal repertoire, in order to prove their versatility and, at the same time, to emphasize their stylistic and aesthetic specificity.



The programme of the recital featured music pieces by George Enescu, Ciprian Porumbescu, Alfonso Castaldi, Bela Bartok, Remus Georgescu and Walter Klepper, which intertwined, in a spirit of equivalence, with internationally well-known and cherished

miniatures for violin and piano, excerpted from the creation of the composers Ludwig van Beethoven, Pablo de Sarasate, Jules Massenet and Eugene Ysaye. Overall, the recital proposed a succession of iconic sonorous canvasses, which elicited the two musicians’ wide palette of interpretative skills and affective resources. Diana Jipa, the violinist, impressed with her elegant manner of solving the most difficult technical passages of the chosen repertoire, showing a virtuosity marked by grace and naturalness. Moreover, her interpretative conception on the affective content of the musical arrangement succeeded on many occasions in capturing through the freshness and fantasy of the perspective. The pianist Ștefan Doniga accompanied the specific timbre of the violin from an equal, complementary partner’s hypostasis, masterfully intertwining the prevailing foreground moments of the music phrase outline with the ones of subtlety and harmonic discreetness.

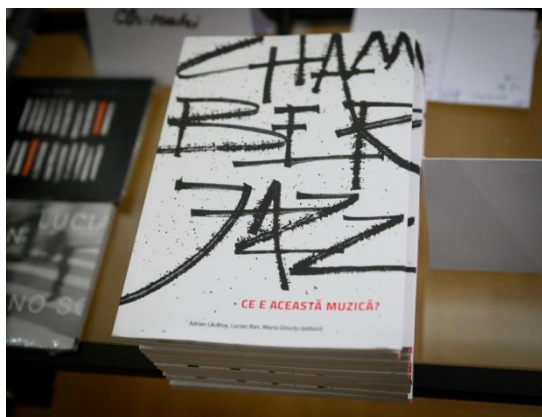


Thus, the evening of 18 July evinced a homogeneous profile and undoubtedly succeeded in remaining for the audience’s remembrance as a feast of interpretive art at the highest level of plurivalent materialization and, at the same time, of the Romanian cultural spirit anchored in a universal axiological paradigm.

Drd. Magdalena SUCIU  
Faculty of Music

## CHAMBER JAZZ – CONCERT AND EDITORIAL PREMIÈRE

Within the last event of this season, Chamber Jazz@Transilvania University featured ASH quartet and their album of the same title released on Sunnyside Records, last year, which is the second of a trilogy opened by DUST.



Mat Maneri (viola), Lucian Ban (piano), Randy Peterson (drums) and Brad Jones (double bass) explored how the most varied sources - a viola sonata by Brahms, a motif excerpted from an improvisation by Joe Maneri, or a Sicilian lullaby - can be passed through a microtonal approach.

The concert was followed by the launch of the book *Chamber Jazz: What Is This Music?*, the most recent editorial project of the Multicultural Centre. The book, edited by Adrian Lăcătuș, Lucian Ban and Maria Ghiurțu, is edited by the Publishing House of Transilvania University of Brașov in two editions – Romanian and English. *Chamber Jazz: What Is This Music?* contains 24 conversations with musicians such as Abraham Burton, Evan Parker, Mircea Tiberian, John Surman, Albrecht Maurer, Alex Harding, Mat Maneri, George Dumitriu, Amina Claudine Myers and more, complemented by four essays signed by the curator of the series, Lucian Ban, the American violist Mat Maneri and the writer Adrian Lăcătuș, Director of the Multicultural Centre.

The book is an extension of Chamber Jazz@Transilvania University concert series, a unique approach in our higher-education landscape. Since 2016, within a programme curated by the Romanian-American pianist Lucian Ban, more than a hundred renowned jazz musicians and improvisers

of Europe, the United States and Romania had held concerts at the University's Multicultural Centre in various chamber ensembles, followed by dialogues on the art and practice of contemporary jazz, moderated by the Director of the Centre and the Dean of the Faculty of Letters, the writer Adrian Lăcătuș. Come to light out of desire to open this experience of conversation with musicians towards the general public, the book also offers a comprehensive picture of the twenty-first century's practice of jazz and its sources of creativity, whether it is about social life, nature, other people's art or, above all, the free dialogue itself, which spontaneously takes place on stage.



*Chamber Jazz: What Is This Music?* is the first Romanian editorial project emerged from a university's series of concerts, and is addressed to both the music-loving and the specialised readership, possibly turning into a research resource for jazz and improvised music.

The book was launched on the occasion of the concerts held by Mat Maneri ASH Quartet on 3 June in Brașov at the Multicultural Centre, and on 5 June in Cluj-Napoca at Insomnia cultural pub, with the participation of Adrian Lăcătuș, of the jazz critic Virgil Mihaiu and of the writer Horea Poenar.

Maria GHIURȚU  
Multicultural Centre,  
Transilvania University of Brașov

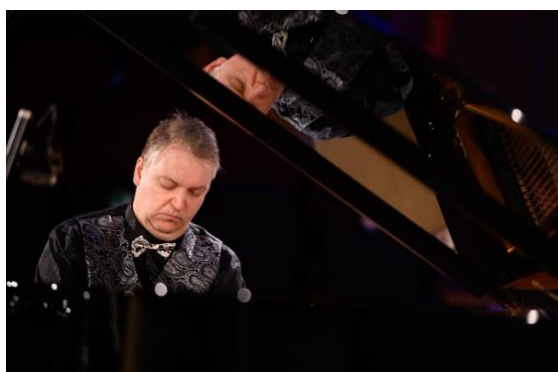
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## PIANO RECITAL BY VALENTIN M. BOGDAN AND JULIA MORTYAKOVA (USA)



The evening of 26 June 2024 transposed the stage of "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre of Transilvania University Braşov into the foreground of an epic display of exceptional interpretative qualities through which the two guests of the Music Centre, namely the pianists Valentin M. Bogdan and Julia Mortyakova (USA) stood out. The audience present in the hall and online alike took part in a memorable musical and affective experience, subtly guided by a varied repertoire, which included music pieces under a wide range of creative styles, of which a special mention is due to Valentin Bogdan's original compositions and arrangements.

The recital energetically began with "Ciacona in G major HWV 435" by Georg Friedrich Händel, a music piece overflowing with the playful fervour specific to the preclassical major, which highlighted the fanciful valences of the pianist Valentin Bogdan's technical virtuosity.



In a greatly appreciated contrasting manner, Julia Mortyakova proposed, in continuation of this moment, the delicate and graceful sonorities of the piece "Impromptu – Concert Study No. 5" by Cécile Chaminade.



The pianist evinced an impeccable technique, accompanied by a high degree of availability towards a complete chromatic diversity and a deep sensitivity, elegantly capturing the romantic stylistics of the music piece. "Plainte! – Elegy No. 1, Op. 61" by Teresa Carreño outlined the aesthetics of an image of affective vulnerability and timbral refinement. "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 9 in E-flat Major" by Franz Liszt was a virtuoso culmination of the evening, offered by Valentin Bogdan's dedicated performance. The energy and dynamism of this piece shone in the light of the interpretive energy, which captivated the audience and subsequently drew enthusiastic applause. Furthermore, the contemporary music pieces contributed to shaping the entire recital in a framework of perennality and, at the same time, topicality. Valentin M. Bogdan's compositions, such as "Piano Studies", and the arrangement of "Una Noche de Garufa" by Eduardo Arolas, confirmed the appropriateness of his talent and compositional science, being very favourably received by the audience.

Thus, the recital of the pianists Valentin M. Bogdan and Julia Mortyakova materialised in an event worthy of being kept as a memory full of candour and gratitude by the audience who, once again, through the Music Centre, was offered access to the art of valuable artists and, as a whole, to an experience resonant with revealing potential.

Drd. Magdalena SUCIU  
Faculty of Music

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## THE STUDENTS' RECITAL AT THE OPERA HOUSE OF BRAȘOV

The collaboration between the Opera House of Brașov and the Faculty of Music of Brașov always creates unique moments, which become unforgettable memories in the mind of both students and spectators. At the same time, it is a springboard for the young artists, and an opportunity for them to be known by the professionals of Brașov.



Thus, on 7 June 2024, at 6:30 p.m., the "Summer Sounds" event took place in the Opera House foyer. The cast of the recital included students in various study years, from first-year debutants to senior-year graduate students. These young people are part of the singing classes of Prof. Dr. Cristina Soreanu and Lect. Dr. Noemi Karacsony, and had adjunct professor Sena Ducariu and Lect. Dr. Cristina Buga backing them on the piano. The repertoire was as varied as possible: from Antique arias to the lieds of the last few decades.



The students felt emotion, delight and responsibility alike. Each appearance on stage is an important step in their career, thus strengthening their self-confidence and stage experience.

Furthermore, their performing inside the Opera of Brașov was a special honour and joy for them.

The young singers' emotion turned into brilliant harmonies, which took over the audience of parents, friends, professors and Brașov Opera House employees. The students tried to conceptually get as close as possible to the idea of a musical show, intertwining musical and vocal knowledge with stage performance, but also with the appropriate apparel. This way, they tried to convey a complex message to the audience. Although they are only at the beginning of their journey, it is important for them to take the first steps as if they were at the top of their career: with total involvement, focus on every detail and an ardent desire to glorify the art of music. The debutant students' dream of singing within a recital at the Opera House of Brașov came thus true. The ones who had already enjoyed such an opportunity experienced the same feeling of contentment and sense of fulfillment in the Brașov Opera House foyer.



On this occasion, both the students involved in this musical event and their professors are grateful to the Opera House of Brașov for offering them this opportunity. In the hope that this collaboration will continue just as fruitfully and create professional opportunities, aspirations for the future and intense moments of joy over time, the Faculty of Music and the Opera House of Brașov has drawn close to the end of this season. The two institutions will come back strong in early autumn, in order to offer the audience special musical events, which will enrich the cultural heritage of Brașov.

Bianca-Cris MAN

1<sup>st</sup>-year student in Vocal Music Performance

Faculty of Music

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