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NEWSLETTER

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THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS – FROM DESIGN AND TESTING TO THE AUDIENCE", FIRST EDITION

Between 18 and 20 July 2024, Transilvania University of Braşov hosted the first edition of the international conference "Interdisciplinary Approach to Musical Instruments – from Design and Testing to the Audience", organised within the research project Qualitative, dynamic and acoustic analysis of the anisotropic systems with modified interfaces - ACADIA, contract no. PCE61/2022 (acadia.unitbv.ro), project manager Prof. Dr. Eng. Mariana Domnica Stanciu.



On the first day, the event brought together specialists in the field of resonance wood processing for violins, as well as luthiers, researchers in the fields of forestry, engineering, chemistry, physics, but also violinists and musicians, as it is the only event of this type in the country.

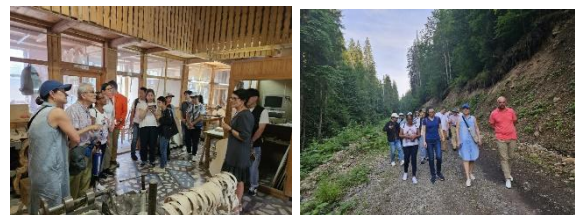
The programme of the first conference day was structured in such a way as to reveal, through lectures and musical demonstrations, the many approaches to the musical instrument – the violin, from tree and wood as raw material to artistic impressions, from the science of wood to the mastery of its processing, from the acoustics of the violin to its resonance on stage. The fascination of the musical instruments from an interdisciplinary perspective brought together participants from Germany, USA, Australia, Taiwan, China and Romania, more specifically from research institutes and universities of Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara, Constanța, Galați, Iași, Craiova, Târgu-Mureș, Braşov.

In the foyer of the conference, an exhibition stand of stringed musical instruments (violins and cellos) from "Gliga Musical Instruments" collection and from the collections of the luthier artists in the Association of Romanian Luthier Artists (Alin Stoica, Claudiu Mare, Virgil Bândilă, Paul Bândilă, Aurelian

Mare, Călin Vultur) was set up. At the end of the programme, the extraordinary concert "Romania Universalis" given by violinist Diana Jipa and pianist Ștefan Doniga, was held under the aegis of the Music Centre within Transilvania University of Braşov, coordinated by Prof. Dr. Stela Drăgulin.



On the other two conference days, the participants had the opportunity to explore the path of the violin from the exploitation of resonance wood in the Italian Valley to its processing in S.C. Gliga Musical Instruments S.A. Factory of Reghin. On the way back to Braşov, the programme of the technical visit included cultural and geographical explorations at Sighișoara, Rupea fortress and Racoș nature reserve. Thus, the interdisciplinarity of the conference touched not only on the topic of stringed musical instruments, but also on our connections with history, environment and spiritual space.



Our university offered the ideal interdisciplinary setting for such an event, organised with the support of the faculties of Music, Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Furniture Design and Wood Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, but also with the support of Braşov County Council and the Agency for Sustainable Development of Braşov county.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Mariana DOMNICA STANCIU
Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

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JUNIOR RESEARCHER PROGRAMME – THE 2024 CONFERENCE

Junior Researcher Programme is a project dedicated to psychology students, interested in and passionate about research. My path within this programme began last year, in the beautiful gardens and rooms of Certosa di Pontignano, in Italy, when, together with an international team, we laid the bases for our research topic: "*The role of confirmation and narrative biases in the effects of narrative and factual frames on vaccination intentions*". The study aimed at exploring the effects of the attitudes and cognitive biases on behaviours and information perception. Later, for 13 months, I worked alongside special people and we conducted research in different countries, such as Romania, Germany, Slovenia, Hungary and the United Kingdom.



Between 15 and 18 August, the conference that marked the end of the JRP 2024 project took place in Cambridge, where I had the opportunity to present the study results and to discuss its implications with my other colleagues, as well as with the guests and former participants in the programme – JRP alumni. Moreover, I could find out the conclusions of the studies made by the other teams, which focused on the factors involved in disinformation, radicalization, as well as involvement in collective actions, with an emphasis on the information about the impact of digitalization on the democratic discourse. At the same time, I had the opportunity to present my bachelor's thesis in a poster session where I could talk and receive feedback from people studying the same topic. Apart from the official presentations, we participated in alumni meetings and social events;

and the programme ended with a special gala evening, which was a memorable experience due to its complexity and elegance.



Although the JRP experience came to an end, the relationships built last year have led to our consolidation as an independent team, tightly knit by our shared passion and desire for knowledge. Thus, at present, while working on the publication of the study, we are also preparing to start a new research endeavour, through which we pursue together our enthusiasm for science and knowledge.



Alexandra CONSTANTINESCU,
1st-year graduate student, Clinical Psychology,
Psychological Counselling and Psychotherapy
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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ANNUAL FORUM OF THE *IDEEA* INTERNATIONAL PROJECT



The proceedings of the [Annual Forum of IDEEA International Programme](#) (*International Design and Engineering Education Association*), in its sixth edition, dedicated to the students in engineering and design, took place from 22 to 25 July 2024. This project was initiated by automotive industry companies of North America, and then continued by the ones of Europe, being dedicated to the students' international collaboration. The IDEEA initiative aims to train young engineers and designers in the field of technologies relevant to mobility, product development and Industry 4.0.

This year's topic, proposed by the Volkswagen group, in the field of green mobility, consisted in developing solutions for the electric vehicle-based mobility, mainly the electric charging systems that can be seamlessly integrated into everyday life.

At this edition, the activities proposed by the organizers were attended, starting January 2024, by students from 22 universities of America (Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada, Colombia), Europe (Germany, Italy, Romania) and Asia (India, China, South Korea), out of a total of about 180 students, forming 15 teams with members located on three different continents, at distances of at least five hours on the time zone. Each team was supervised by two professors - mentors from the participating universities, and all activities took place online. The activities organised in Braşov were attended by 89 students and 31 professors, as well as jury members from eight countries.

The jury of the final gala, hosted in "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov, made up of Volkswagen and Audi company staff, present physically or online,

pursued several directions of development of the projects and in the end awarded prizes under the sections: *Best Product Innovation, Best Design, Best Engineering, Best Team Collaboration, Best Presentation, Best Overall Award*, amounting to a total of 18 awarded prizes.



Particular emphasis should be put on the sustained and consistent activity of two students at Transilvania University of Braşov, namely Teotim Barbu, member in #12 team, ranked 1st under the *Best Presentation* section, respectively David Fulgeanu, member in #11 team. Next year, the final phase will take place at Hongik University, Seoul, South Korea, in July.

Prof. Dr. Eng. Silviu BUTNARIU
Department of Automotive and Transport
Engineering

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THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE *ECO2ADAPT* HORIZON EUROPE PROJECT

The project *Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Changemaking to Shape, Protect, and Maintain the Resilience of Tomorrow's Forests (eco2adapt)*, funded under the Horizon Europe programme, aims at strengthening cooperation between research institutions in the European Union and China, with a view to adapting forests to climate change. The second annual meeting of the *eco2adapt* project (2022-2027) was organised by Transilvania University in Braşov, between 2 and 4 July 2024.



The proceedings took place in a hybrid format (on-site and online). They were attended by over 60 professors, researchers and doctoral students from 31 universities, research institutes, companies and NGOs all over Europe and China. Transilvania University of Braşov is a partner within the project and participates with a team of five professors and a doctoral student. The project aims at identifying solutions for the sustainable management of the forests across Europe and China, with a view to increasing their resilience in the context of the climate change. Models of forest adaptation at regional level were developed, and the way in which forest managers take into account disruptive factors (storms, droughts), vulnerabilities and socio-economic aspects in the decision-making process was analysed.

On the first day, the guests were welcomed in the conference room (Studio 181) on the ground floor of the Rectorate building of Transilvania University of

Braşov. The Rector of our University, Prof. Dr. Eng. Ioan Vasile Abrudan, opened the proceedings of the meeting. Next, the provisional results and directions to be followed for each work package were presented. On the following day, a visit was paid to the *Living Lab* in the commune of Iedera, county Dâmboviţa, where the forest owners and managers presented aspects of forest management and how technology is used in forestry practice.



On this occasion, *Forest Design* company of Braşov presented modern methods used for forest inventory and monitoring, including innovative laser scanning techniques.

On the third day, the progress of the activities within the project and the activities planned for the next period were discussed. At the same time, workshops were held to prepare the data collected from the *Living Labs* for the purpose of modelling. The next meeting of the project will be hosted by our colleagues of China in 2025.

More details about the *eco2adapt* project can be found on the [website of the project](#).

Drd. Eng. Darius HĂRDĂLĂU
Prof. Dr. Eng. Alexandru Lucian CURTU

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THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE *AFFECT* FESTIVAL

The fourth edition of the AFFECT Festival took place between 23 and 25 August 2024, and the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences was its partner this year as well. AFFECT is a cultural event organised by Hera Foundation, which aims at promoting the field of psychology and psychotherapy, through debates, films, shows and meetings with specialists in the field of mental health.

The partnership with AFFECT reflects the ongoing engagement of the PSE community to support initiatives that promote psychological well-being and emotional education.



The festival is a unique opportunity to enter into dialogue with the specialists, to ask questions and get pertinent answers about mental health, to understand that assuming imperfection is part of normality.

During the workshops and sessions with practitioners in psychology, the participants practiced stress management and self-acceptance strategies, understanding that the emotional difficulties are a natural part of life. The festival created a space for reflection on the complexity of interpersonal relationships; and, at each edition, it offers practical solutions for increasing psychological wellbeing, and it contributes to building a more empathetic community, ever more aware that emotional problems are not myths.



The approached topics were varied, presenting stories of joy, disappointment, triumph, loss, perseverance and development, while exploring the complexity of interpersonal relationships. At this edition, the topics were grouped into three categories: perfect, imperfect and free. They provided the audience with opportunities to reflect on the facets of mental life, to understand that there are always solutions to the emotional problems that we might face at certain times in life.



We are glad that the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences was, this year as well, by the side of Hera Foundation within this project, and we look forward to seeing you at the next edition with new debates, shows and topics of interest to the general public.

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

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A MEMORABLE PARTICIPATION IN THE IN4IT STUDENT INTERNATIONAL HACKATHON OF ALBA IULIA

From 20 to 23 June 2024, “1 December 1918” University of Alba Iulia organised a special event, dedicated to the students who are passionate about informatics: in4IT Hackaton.

This international competition was attended, along with teams from Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey and Romania, by students at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science within Transilvania University of Braşov, specifically 1st-year students in the Applied Computer Science study programme.



In front of the specialised jury, the team consisting of Andrei Priboi, Gabriel Slav, Ruxandra Urs, Laurențiu Porfireanu, Radu Vişoiu and George Stângă presented their own application, CulturaLink – a platform dedicated to centralising the information on the websites of the cultural institutions subordinated to the public institutions. The idea, the developed project, as well as the hard work of the team were rewarded with a Mention!



The team leader, Andrei Priboi, explains: “My participation in the competitions of Alba Iulia, first within IN-EXTENSO Student Conference, and then within in4IT Hackathon, are two memorable experiences from which I learned a lot of things and which opened up many opportunities for me. From the individual training for the participation in the student session, with a view to writing and presenting an academic paper, to the collaboration with my colleagues in a cohesive team, with a view to structuring and developing a large project which we are proud of, it took long and a lot of effort, but also unforgettable moments that I would like to relive in the years to come.

Junior Lect. drd. Liana Luminița BOCA
Senior Lect. Dr. Anca VASILESCU

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WITH SMALL STEPS, OUR STUDENTS BEGIN TO DISCOVER THE WORLD

The interest of the students at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science within Transilvania University of Braşov in discovering new things and participating in various conferences and events in the country is on the rise, reflecting their desire to develop professionally. These young people are increasingly motivated to step out of the comfort zone of the lecture halls and explore opportunities to access topical knowledge, networking and new perspectives. Whether it is about academic conferences, workshops, hackathon competitions, or about events dedicated to various fields of interest, the students actively seek to improve their skills and expand their horizons, recognising the value of these experiences in shaping their future career.



This year, on 17 May, two 1st-year students in the Applied Computer Science study programme participated in the 23rd IN-EXTENSO student session organised by the Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering within “1 December 1918” University of Alba Iulia, with the papers “Tomorrow’s, Not So Virtual Assistant” (Rareş Şoltuz), respectively “Terrain Exploration: Procedural Generation Algorithms in 3D Simulation and Real-World Applications” (Andrei Priboi). Andrei Priboi’s paper captured the attention of the jury and everyone present, therefore our student returned home with the First Prize under the Informatics section.



A week later, between 23 and 25 May 2024, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu hosted the eighth edition of the International Conference on Applied Informatics “Imagination, Creativity, Design, Development” (ICDD). Our students in the Computer Science programme participated in this conference with two outstanding papers. Radu Andrei Căpăţână (1st year) presented the paper “Digital Logic, from Relays to Embedded” and a demo on the prototype of a life-size elevator made by himself. Darius Codruţ Pavel (3rd year) presented the paper “Development Challenges of a Verification IP for I²C Communication”, winner of the only special award for design.



“Presenting a specialized paper in an academic setting was a unique experience that will certainly help me along my professional career”, mentioned Darius Codruţ Pavel.

We are happy to promote the results of our collaborations with the students and we are confident that, once disseminated and promoted, they can be a source of inspiration for other students as well. Congratulations!

Senior Lect. Dr. Anca VASILESCU
Junior Lect. drd. Liana Luminiţa BOCA

CRINA-GEORGIANA LEURZEANU - A STORY OF SUCCESS IN EDUCATION AND PERFORMANCE SPORTS

Transilvania University of Braşov takes pride in outstanding students who excel in both the academic and sporting spheres. Crina-Georgiana Leurzeanu, a student at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, remarkably demonstrates how academic and sporting performances can intertwine.



Crina has been practicing martial arts since the age of five, and her passion for this sport has grown steadily, leading her to special results. Activating under Kidava Pucioasa Sports Club and member of the WUKF national karate team, Crina

has won many titles at large-scale competitions.

Her most notable achievements include the participation in WUKF World Karate Championship of Monterrey, Mexico, in 2024, where she was a double gold medallist: 1st place in kata other styles and 1st place in kumite shobu sanbon - teams, both of them in the 18-20 age category.

Moreover, also in 2024, at the National Championship of Braşov, she ranked third in kumite individual shobu sanbon. In the previous year, Crina participated in the WUKF Karate European Championship of Antibes, France, where she came in on top in kata other styles, second in kumite shobu sanbon - team rotation, and third in kumite shobu sanbon - team, all of them in the 18-20 age category. Her performance continued thus the same way as in 2023 when, at WUKF Karate World Championships of Dundee, Scotland, she came in third in kata other styles, first in kumite shobu ippon - team rotation and first in kumite shobu ippon - teams.

Disciplined and persevering, Crina is not only a top athlete, but also a model student. Despite her training schedule and competitions, she succeeds in managing

her time so as to excel academically, too.



She acknowledges that her success is based on ambition, modesty and a strict discipline, traits she considers vital for anyone practicing martial arts. Crina devotes most of her time to intense training and competitions, but never neglects academic obligations. "I am a student who dedicates her leisure time to training in the dojo, instead of spending her time like the other colleagues. Despite the fact that most of my time is dedicated to the sports career, I manage to complete my projects on time and achieve excellent results in exams", she confesses.

This combination of academic and athletic dedication deserves acknowledgement from our community. Crina's results cannot go unnoticed, they are an example for her colleagues to follow and a source of inspiration for the young people who want to fulfil their dreams without compromising their education.

We wish her much success in future competitions and look forward to seeing her proudly represent us both nationally and internationally!

Lect. Dr. Marius BAZGAN
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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LORENZO AND ANNA SOFIA: A MONTH OF RURAL EXPLORATION IN THE LAND OF LĂPUȘ THROUGH UNITA RURAL MOBILITY

Lorenzo Bottino, a graduate student in Sociology, and Anna Sofia Monticelli, a student in Intercultural Communication, from Università degli Studi di Torino, lived an unforgettable experience at Groșii Țibleșului, in the county of Maramureș, in this summer. The two, who are passionate about local culture and traditions, chose to participate in the *Rural Mobility* programme within UNITA University Alliance, in order to explore rural life for a month.

Rural Mobility programme provides the students of all partner universities with the opportunity to experience everyday life and practices of rural communities through internship programmes. The purpose of this programme is to discover how the locals live, to understand the dynamics of social interactions and to contribute to the capitalization on the cultural heritage of the region.

“We were warmly welcomed by the community of Groșii Țibleșului, a small place, but full of heart and traditions. A walk here is a journey through time and cultures, revealing the wisdom and beauty of simple village life. Past and present harmoniously intertwine, keeping traditions alive and treating visitors like family members. The people we met made us feel at home and live another reality, changing our perspective” said the two students.

The Village Hall of Groșii Țibleșului supported this initiative which contributed to the promotion of the commune and its traditions. Part of the Italian students’ adventure in the Land of Lăpuș is documented on the Facebook and Instagram pages [LapusXplorers](#).

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

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AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG KENYAN FOOTBALLERS IN THE CITY OF BRAȘOV

At the end of August, Transilvania University of Brașov had the joy of receiving 40 students from *Nairobi Highway School* and *Kabala Girls School*. These young enthusiasts had won a football tournament organised by the Romanian Embassy in Kenya on the occasion of Europe's Day, awarded with a memorable trip to our city.

The visit started with a walk on University Colina Campus, where this imposing establishment of our university and the four modern gyms on the campus impressed our guests. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bogdan Oancea – Director of Department and Ioan Turcu – Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports, were their guides on a tour of the city of Brașov on board the double-decker bus provided free of charge by Brașov Metropolitan Agency.

In addition to the state-of-the-art sports facilities, the Kenyan students were also fascinated by the historical buildings that house the university: S Building, T Building, K Building. These buildings, steeped in history, bear witness to the academic tradition of Brașov, perfectly completing the picture of an institution that harmoniously combines the past with the present.

The Black Church, with its atmosphere reflected in the captivating stories, was another destination that won over the young visitors.

The University's dormitories, where our guests were accommodated, gave them a comfortable and pleasant experience. We are glad to find that the young Kenyans appreciated the excellent accommodation conditions, just like many other international students who chose to study at Transilvania University of Brașov.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ioan TURCU, Dean
Faculty of Physical Education and Mountain Sports

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RECYCLE YOUR TECHNOLOGY

Between 30 August and 10 September, the Multicultural Centre hosted the exhibition *Recycle Your Technology*, a project that brought together four artistic installations created by Gheorghe Iosif and Dorian Bolca, recognised for their sound and image experiments, respectively Denis Flueraru and Sergiu Doroftei, artists selected through an open call.



Curated by Suzana Dan (Foundation 9), the exhibition promoted the practice of recycling, and was at the same time a catalyst for the educational programme "What's up with contemporary art?", through which the public was invited to participate in an exercise that involved recontextualising the components of various electrical appliances and turning them into a novel type of kinetic installations.



Thus, during the exhibition, several special workshops were held for the young people interested in discovering how interactive multimedia and digital objects can be made from electronic waste: Denis Flueraru – "Sonic Explorations", Sergiu Doroftei – "Creating a Theremin", gH. [d s l x] – "Artefact Sonic: Sonic Spaces", and Dorian Bolca – "Dimmable Lamps".



Under the guest artists' guidance, the participants made lamps with adjustable intensity, a sound installation and a contact microphone, namely a theremin – a sound installation made by decomposing several radios and cassette players, combined with an audio cassette tape, in order to record a sound piece in a loop.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre of Transilvania University

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