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A ROMANIA – CHINA BILATERAL PROJECT ON FURNITURE DESIGN AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION



A bilateral project, in partnership with the College of Furnishing and Industrial Design within Nanjing Forestry University of China, was conducted at the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering (FDMIL), in the field of Furniture Design and Cultural Heritage Conservation, between 27 October and 8 November 2025. Within the project, a 10-day workshop on furniture design was organised, bringing together mixed teams of Romanian and Chinese students.



They developed furniture concepts on the trends of “public spaces” and “smart home”, which bring tradition, innovation and sustainability into dialogue. The event provided the participants with a meeting framework where they practiced their skills of creation, communication, time coordination and mutual support. Five student teams were set up under the symbolic names: *Basy*, *Flora*, *E³ Design*, *Fusion Flow*, *Homii*. Each team designed a piece of furniture which they then integrated into residential spaces, offices or public spaces.



Apart from the engaging workshop experiences, the Chinese guests explored the richness of Romania’s heritage at Peleş Castle, an architectural jewel and a source of inspiration for furniture design.

Creativity and digital skills perfectly intertwined in the students’ papers presented as posters. They were the subject of the exhibition “First Sino-

Romanian Joint Furniture Design Workshop – TUBAO Cup”, which was opened on 5 November 2025, at the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering.

After the opening of the exhibition, the workshop closing ceremony took place at Confucius Institute within Transilvania University of Braşov, where the work teams presented their papers, and the organizers congratulated them and gave them the certificates of participation.



In the guests’ presence, during the opening, the floor was taken by Mrs. Wang Bing, Director of Confucius Institute, and Mr. Zhou Guoning, as a guest of honour from China’s Embassy in Romania. Furthermore, the professors of FDMIL, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Alin Olărescu - Dean and workshop coordinator, along with Lect. Dr. Eng Emanuela Beldean - project manager, as well as professors Chen Yushu and Liu Xinyou of Nanjing Forestry University appreciated the students’ involvement and their original projects, and reiterated their desire to continue the collaboration in the future.

We dare say such initiatives of bilateral projects are intended to develop cultural and professional exchange, performance, innovation, and to provide opportunities for the participants to test their skills and showcase their creative talent.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Emanuela BELDEAN
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Alin OLĂRESCU, Dean
Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering

TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY OF BRAȘOV, REPRESENTED IN RIO DE JANEIRO ON THE OCCASION OF ROMANIA'S NATIONAL DAY

Between 2 and 6 December 2025, Transilvania University of Brașov was represented at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by a delegation from the Faculty of Music, consisting of Lect. Dr. Liviu-Valentin Iftene (tenor) and Lect. Dr. Botond Szócs (pianist), who performed artistic activities dedicated to Romania's National Day.



The programme included two recitals of classical music, organised by Romania's Embassy in Brazil and Romania's Consulate General in Rio de Janeiro, which took place at Cervantes Institute (3 December) and at the monumental Teatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro – Salão Assyrio (4 December). The second recital particularly impressed us through the grandeur and beauty of one of the most important cultural buildings in South America. The two events were attended by approximately 300 persons, including diplomats, representatives of the cultural environment, Romanian and Brazilian citizens, and members of the international community. The repertoire, compiled under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Mădălina Rucsanda, Dean of the Faculty of Music, was varied and representative, including Romanian

lieds, opera arias of the universal repertoire, canzonettas, as well as Romanian and international carols.

The two recitals enjoyed great success, being appreciated by the audience for their high artistic level and cohesiveness of the programme.

Our hosts, Her Excellency Monica Mihaela Știrbu, Romania's Ambassador in Brazil, and Florin Marian Palade, Consul General of Romania in Rio de Janeiro, close personalities to the academic institution of Brașov, welcomed us with great openness and hospitality.



Beyond the artistic dimension, the direct contact with South American life and culture was a memorable experience. This experience was not only an artistic success, but also a genuine encounter between cultures, fostering the international relations and affirming Transilvania University of Brașov in the global cultural space.

Prof. Dr. Mădălina RUCSANDA, Dean
Faculty of Music

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BLUESTREAMLINE, UNITBV'S CAR-RACING TEAM, 1ST PLACE ON EUROPE IN THE OVERALL ANNUAL RANKING



BlueStreamline, the Formula Student car-racing team of Transilvania University of Braşov is for the first time Europe's leader in the top of the best Formula Student teams for both combustion and hybrid cars. The top was made by Vincenzo Bevilacqua, Senior Expert Engine Analysis at Porsche Engineering, based on the results of the 2025 competitions.

The team of Transilvania University of Braşov has spectacularly climbed in the European top, after ranking 6th last year. After a year of BlueStreamline taking the podium in all international competitions, the end of 2025 established them as Europe's leaders. Moreover, they surpassed teams who had traditionally occupied the first places, such as MoRe Modena Racing Team (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia) or FSUPV Team (Polytechnic University of Valencia).

In 2025, at Formula Student Spain, BlueStreamline ranked first (for the third consecutive year) under the "combustion-engine vehicles" category, where they became absolute champions of the competition. In Italy, on the circuit Autodromo Varano de Melegari, the team of Transilvania University of Braşov climbed to the second position; and at the competition in Croatia they took the third place under the "combustion-engine vehicle" category. In the national championship, BlueStreamline is the absolute champion.



The year 2025 was an exceptional one for BlueStreamline, not only in the light of these results, but also through the achievement of building an electric racing car. It was a first for the team of Transilvania University of Braşov to participate in international competitions with an electric single-seater designed and built entirely by students.

BlueStreamline team are already training for the 2026 competitions; therefore, they have launched the combustion-engine car that will compete on the international circuits. In February, they will launch their new electric vehicle, too.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Mihai COMŞIŢ
Faculty of Product Design and Environment

FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR, THE IESC STUDENTS WIN THE AMD/XILINX OPEN HARDWARE COMPETITION

The team of Transilvania University of Braşov, specifically the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Department of Electronics and Computers, won the 2025 edition of the prestigious AMD/Xilinx Open Hardware international competition with the project *Accelerating Medical Diagnostics Algorithms on AMD GPUs*, under the Accelerated Computing category. It is the third consecutive year for the UNITBV / IESC teams to win this competition.



The competition targets Europe's technical universities and is divided into two categories: *Accelerated Computing* and *Adaptive Computing*, each consisting of two levels of complexity, the former for undergraduate and graduate students, and the latter for PhD candidates.

For the first time, the competition was open to participants from all over the world, not just to those from the EMEA area, as in previous editions. Therefore, for this edition, 328 projects from 190 universities were entered into the competition. This year's winning universities include: Shanghai Tech University, University of California Los Angeles, Northeastern University, Technical University of Munich and University of Essex.

UNITBV's 5-member team consisted of: Bogdan-Valentin Floricescu (2nd-year graduate student, SECI), Cătălina Bandas (4th-year undergraduate student, EA), Vlăduţ-Gabriel Anghel (4th-year undergraduate student, Computers), Cristian-Nicolae Carcaleţeanu (2nd-year undergraduate student, Computers) and George-Ştefan

Ionescu (1st-year undergraduate student, IETTI). The team was coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Cătălin Bogdan Ciobanu. Our university's team won the AMD/Xilinx Open Hardware 2025 competition under the *Accelerated Computing* section, at undergraduate and graduate student level.

The presented project consisted of an artificial intelligence-aided solution to detect diseased coronary arteries based on images obtained from coronary angiographies. Coronary angiography is a minimally invasive diagnostic procedure that uses X-rays to see coronary arteries, namely the blood vessels supplying the heart. These images can be processed with artificial intelligence algorithms to automatically extract relevant information about the patients' condition.

Since running artificial intelligence applications requires a lot of computing power, the students were given access to AMD RX 7900XTX and NVIDIA RTX 4080 Super graphics cards. The demonstration made within the competition involved taking an image from a coronary angiograph, which was then processed by the AI model, all of this resulting in a prediction of the coronary artery areas affected by stenoses and occlusions. By migrating and porting critical components of the algorithms, the team succeeded in significantly reducing the troubleshooting time.

The presentation and demonstration can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDg0VmjlC3c>. More information about the competition, results and previous editions are available at <https://openhwh.eu/>.

Congratulations to the team and their coordinator!

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Cătălin Bogdan CIOBANU

Prof. Dr. Eng. Titus BĂLAN, Dean

Lect. Dr. Eng. Cristian Nicolae BOLDIŞOR

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Dominic Mircea KRISTALY

Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

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THE GONCOURT PRIZE – CHOICE FOR ROMANIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, 2025 EDITION

The students majoring in French at the Faculty of Letters within Transilvania University of Braşov participated, this year as well, in *Prix Goncourt – Choix de la Roumanie et de la Moldavie*.



This year, the participating students were: Andreea Luana Petre (chairperson), Daniela Andreea Manea, Camelia Dobrea, Anamaria Păduraru, Vlada Corj, Diana Georgescu, Adrian Petrişor (in a first phase), who were joined by Romane Hochet (an Erasmus student from the University of Nantes), but also, as an observer, by the PhD candidate Alexandra Ilie-Arsene. Their coordinators were Prof. Dr. Alexandru Matei and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Virgil Borcan.

On 4 December, for the second time in a row, I had the honour of attending, as chairperson of the local jury, the final meeting in Bucharest. Representatives of the universities in Sibiu, Craiova, Timișoara, Bucharest and Cluj participated in this debate.

The event took place in Villa Noël/CEREFREA, and

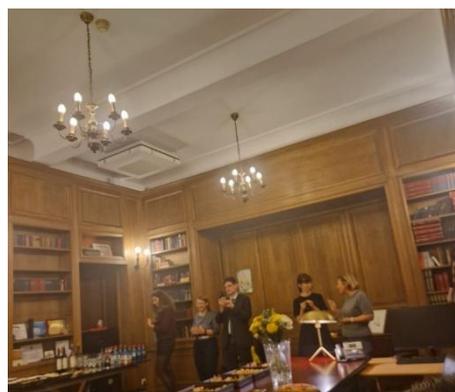
was coordinated by Ioana Stăncescu, writer and journalist at Radio Romania International, and by Roxanne Véron, librarian at Kyralina bookstore.

Before the start of the debate, choosing the winning book announced itself simple:



La maison vide by Laurent Mauvignier had already obtained four votes, including the one of Braşov, whereas *La nuit au cœur* by Natacha Appanah and *Le crépuscule des hommes* by Albert de Montesquiou only had one. However, during the discussions, Ioana Stăncescu showed us that a seemingly certain result might be called into question at a closer analysis of the criteria.

Each representative unveiled the arguments of his/her university's jury, after which we evaluated the three books by means of six mutually agreed criteria: impact on the readership, emotional impact, style, narrative construction, characters and complexity. We awarded scores from 0 to 5 for each criterion, and the total decided the final ranking.



Contrary to the initial expectations, after counting the points, the top was as follows:

- 3rd place: *Le crépuscule des hommes* – Albert de Montesquiou;
- 2nd place: *La maison vide* – Laurent Mauvignier;
- 1st place: *La nuit au cœur* – Natacha Appanah.

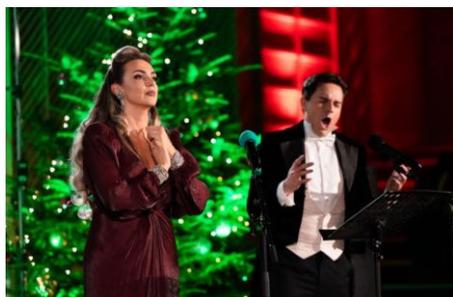
This event aims not only at promoting contemporary French literature among young Romanians, but also at keeping alive the practice of a language that, once, was equivalent to literature.

Andreea-Luana PETRE, student
Faculty of Letters

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THE EVENING OF SAINT NICHOLAS

The concert "Evening of Saint Nicholas", performed on the stage of "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre, Transilvania University of Braşov, on 7 December 2025, once again confirmed the status of this event as a symbolic milestone for the music life in the city of Braşov. Organised by the Music Centre of Transilvania University, the event continues a tradition consistently built over the Centre's 11 years of activity and it has turned, year by year, into a moment of encounter between interpretative excellence and the festive spirit of the beginning of winter.



The evening's programme proposed a generous stylistic arch, reuniting acclaimed pages of the opera and operetta repertoire, as well as instrumental moments and endings of a pronounced celebratory nature. Pieces by Donizetti, Lehár, Gounod, Puccini or Verdi were integrated into a cohesive musical dramaturgy, which alternated lyricism with stage vivacity, and culminated in the well-known Romanian carols that concluded the evening's musical journey in an atmosphere of communion.

The vocal soloists – Renata Vari (soprano), Liviu Iftene (tenor) and Róbert Erdős (baritone) – evinced stylistic homogeneity and expressive confidence, in both solo interventions and ensemble moments. The duets of *L'elisir d'amore*, *Pagliacci*, *Silvia* or *The Merry Widow* were enthusiastically received by the audience, highlighting the performers' both

individual qualities and capability of musical dialogue. Their performances were masterfully accompanied by Adrian Pipaş (violin), Ana-Maria Pipaş (violin), Magdalena Suci (viola), Florin Craiu (violoncello) and Botond Szócs (piano). The ensemble fulfilled with a unique cohesiveness the orchestral role in the structure of the vocal areas, while offering a valuable expressive counterpoint in the pages signed by Puccini and Piazzolla.



Beyond the artistic dimension, the concert reaffirmed the mission of the Music Centre within Transilvania University of Braşov to create continuity, form a loyal audience and provide free access to high-class cultural events. Moreover, the concert was broadcast with the support of AP Studio, which took the impact of the event far beyond the concert hall.

The audience's enthusiastic presence filled the concert hall to the full, creating an ambience of warm communion and receptiveness, in which the artistic act was experienced as a moment of gathering and collective celebration.

"The Evening of Saint Nicholas" thus remains not only a concert, but an act of cultural identity, a living tradition that marks, year after year, the beginning of the winter holidays through music, elegance, and community.

Lect. Dr. Magdalena SUCIU
Faculty of Music

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THE FOURTEENTH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “WOOD SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM”

The conference “Wood Science and Engineering in the Third Millennium” took place between 6 and 8 November 2025, and was organised by Transilvania University of Braşov, Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering, at “Europe” Conference Centre, “Aro Palace” hotel, Braşov. The event brought together over 100 participants from the academic and industrial environments alike, with a view to presenting and discussing the latest research in the field of wood science and engineering.



The main conference topics were: Wood structure and properties, Mechanical wood processing and surface quality, Chemical modification, protection, gluing and finishing of wood, Wood-based composite materials, Wood conservation and restoration, Furniture design, Wooden constructions and Circular economy in the wood industry.

The plenary sessions were led by internationally acknowledged specialists in the field of wood science and engineering: Dr. Franka Bruchert – Coordinator of Division 5.00.00 *Forest Products* within the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO); Dr. Holger Militz – Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany; Dr. Peter Niemz – ETH Zürich, Switzerland; Dr. Csilla Csiha – University of Sopron, Hungary, and Dr. Marius Cătălin Barbu – Transilvania University of Braşov, Romania



The participants had the opportunity to publish their papers in three scientific journals *Applied Sciences*, *Bulletin of the Transilvania University of Braşov* and *Pro Ligno*.



The conference ended with the opening of “Furniture Design and Restoration”, the exhibition prepared especially for this event in collaboration with students and professors of Nanjing Forestry University (China) and Technical University of Moldova, followed by the visit to the laboratories of the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering, and to Bran Castle.

The conference was organised together with academic and industrial partners, as well as with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), International Academy of Wood Science (IAWS), Forest Products Society (FPS), Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST), Egger Romania (Rădăuţi), HS Baco Panels (Comăneşti), Craiul Munţilor (Rm. Vâlcea) and Kronospan (Braşov).



We thank all participants for their contributions and look forward to seeing them at the next edition.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Bogdan BEDELEAN
Prof. Dr. Eng. Mihaela CÂMPEAN
Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering

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UNITBV CONFERENCES, SEVENTH EDITION: ADVANCEMENTS IN DATA STORAGE TECHNOLOGY

The seventh edition of “UNITBV Conferences: Science in Conversation” event series, held on 4 December 2025, in Studio 181 room, Rectorate building, Transilvania University of Braşov, had as its guest Ioana



Firăstrău, associate professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Department of Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics.

Ioana Firăstrău is a graduate of Transilvania University of Braşov, obtained her doctoral degree in physics at *Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble*, France, and conducts research in the field of modelling and simulation of phenomena and processes specific to nanostructured magnetic materials.

The conference topic, “Magnetic Recording Technology. How to Save Data with Magnets”, is of the highest interest for our information age, when the volume of digital data produced globally is growing at an unprecedented pace.

Mobile phones, computers, medical devices, satellites, the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence daily generate huge amounts of information that need to be stored securely and accessed efficiently. According to the statistics, in 2010 mankind produced approximately 2 zettabytes (1 zettabytes = 10^{15} gigabytes) of data; and in 2024 this volume reached about 147 zettabytes – an exponential growth, with an average annual rate of 30%. Fortunately, most data produced are analysed and then deleted; nevertheless, the remaining amount is immense.

Today, data storage relies on four main technologies: hard drives and magnetic tapes, flash memories and optical media. Each of them has strengths and weaknesses; however, in terms of balance between storage density, capacity and cost, magnetic recording is still the main solution for archiving large volumes of information. Magnetic tapes offer the cheapest terabytes, and hard drives combine large capacities with reasonable access times. Magnetic technology is based on the properties of the ferromagnetic materials, in which the

magnetic moments of the atoms can spontaneously align, forming the so-called magnetic domains. By applying an external magnetic field, the magnetization of these domains can be aligned with the applied field, and the material “remembers” its state even after the disappearance of the field. This “magnetic memory” is the key to storing information. Thus, a sequence of bits – 0 and 1 – is recorded quasi-permanently as magnetic domains with magnetizations oriented in opposite directions.



In order to meet the ever-increasing demand for digital storage capacity, the magnetic recording industry has gone through decades of innovation and development. The major contributions to a higher information density include the introduction of giant magneto-resistance styluses (2004), the transition from longitudinal to perpendicular recording (2005), the introduction of thermally assisted recording (2021). Today, the most efficient hard drives reach capacities of up to 36 terabytes, with densities of over 3 terabytes/in². The record head “flies” just a few nanometres above the surface of the disc – an impressive engineering feat, comparable to a large aircraft flying a few millimetres above the ground.

In a data-dominated world, magnetic materials remain the discreet but essential allies of the digital memory. Magnetic recording technology, ever-improving, keeps supporting modern society’s invisible infrastructure, and will most likely do so for decades to come.

In an elegant way, the presentation approached this niche field in a way for everyone to understand, capturing the guests’ attention, who could thus acquaint themselves with the challenges, but also with the exceptional results obtained in magnetic data storage. The conference ended with a question and answer session that highlighted the interest in this field where fundamental and applied research intertwine in such a harmonious way.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Marius VOLMER
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

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THE FOURTH TRANSNATIONAL MEETING WITHIN INTHRACE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROJECT



The fourth transnational meeting for the partners of the project InThrace - *Civil engagement, integration and better management of the national intangible heritage to raise awareness of European common values – EU context, perspectives and active citizenship* (KA220-HED-000156121), an international cooperation project financed through the Erasmus+ programme and coordinated by UNITBV, took place between 19 and 21 December 2025. The event was hosted by West Attica University, in Athens, Greece.

The meeting brought together representatives of all partner institutions from Romania, Portugal, Greece, Poland, Croatia and Bulgaria, and aimed at completing the project results, as well as at preparing the final stages of implementation, dissemination and reporting.



The programme of the meeting began with a series of institutional visits, intended to provide a contextual framework for discussing the relation between intangible cultural heritage, public institutions and common European values. These activities led to a better understanding of how intangible heritage could be integrated into the cultural and educational policies.

The actual proceedings were mainly dedicated to completing the results developed within WP2, respectively manuals and working models on the integration, interpretation and management of the intangible cultural heritage. The discussions aimed at harmonising content, validating methodological approaches, and preparing materials for use in academic and community contexts.

A special focus was placed on the development of the InThrace digital tools, namely the online platform and electronic library of the project. The partners analysed the already existing functionalities, proposed improvements, and discussed the prospects of their use in training, research and dissemination activities.

The digital training platform of InThrace project includes courses, methodological resources and educational materials for the intangible cultural heritage.



All project results, including the training platform and associated electronic library, are available in *open access* regime, and can be freely accessed by professors, researchers, students and the general public, at www.inthrace.unitbv.ro. The meeting included sessions dedicated to piloting and dissemination strategies, to organising the final conference, to the digital campaign, and to preparing the final report, with a focus on quality assurance and fulfilment of the project indicators.

The cultural component of the meeting included the participation in events and activities relevant to the intangible cultural heritage, as well as thematic visits to representative places of Athens, offering concrete examples for the integration of the intangible heritage into contemporary urban life and for its connection with the shared European values.

The meeting in Athens was an essential step towards the successful completion of the project and long-term valorization of its results.

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

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UNITA DAYS

On 5 November 2025, Transilvania University of Braşov organised "UNITA Days" in "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre. This event was dedicated to students, with a view to promoting UNITA Alliance's international mobilities and programmes.

UNITA Alliance reunites universities located in Romance-speaking mountain regions, thus providing the students with the opportunity to follow international, multilingual and personalised study paths, oriented towards educational, scientific and cultural progress.



The activity began with the official opening, during which the participants learned what UNITA is, and what benefits the mobilities of this university consortium offer.

Subsequently, during the "UNITA Stories" session, the students discovered the experiences of their colleagues involved in UNITA, but also the career opportunities in the European Union, as presented by *UNITA Student Assembly* and *Green Team*, followed by a question and answer session.

An important moment of the event was the workshop on how to write a Europass CV and a cover letter, held by the team of the Career Counselling and Guidance Centre (CCOC) within Transilvania University of Braşov. The participants received practical information about the correct structure of a CV, as well as about how to adapt it to European requirements and to highlight the relevant skills. Moreover, useful tips were offered

for writing a clear and convincing cover letter, meant to raise the chances of success in the process of selection for mobilities and academic or professional opportunities.

A central element of the event was the workshop on the process of application for the UNITA mobilities, which provided the participants with essential information and practical guidance on the required steps for registration and documents.

The programme continued with a *quiz* dedicated to UNITA, a *treasure hunt* and an interactive contest, which boosted team spirit and creativity. The day ended with the awarding of the winners and a raffle, in a dynamic and motivating atmosphere.



In the future, we hope to keep organising this type of events, in order to provide the students with relevant information and opportunities for academic and professional development.

Andreea BECZE
Greta MARTON
International Cooperation Office

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ALUMNI DAYS 2025 - FACULTY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Alumni Days, a UNITBV event, took place on 4 December 2025, within the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering.

On this occasion, the faculty had the honor of having eng. Alexandru Cherdivar, a graduate of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, as its guest.



Alumnus of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, class of 2023, major of Mechanical Engineering, eng. Alexandru Cherdivar continued his academic journey by registering in the master's study programme Simulation and Testing in Mechanical Engineering.

He currently combines professional and academic activity, as he is a PhD candidate in Mechanical Engineering at our university, with pursuits in the field of finite element modelling and optimization.

It is since his student years that Eng. Alexandru Cherdivar has started his professional activity, working within several companies in different fields, on the position of design engineer. This early experience highlights the applicative and multidisciplinary nature of the Mechanical Engineering major which, through the varied structure of the study programmes, opens many perspectives to different industries and roles.

At the same time, he conducted, for a span of 15 months, research activities as a junior researcher, within the Research and Development Centre under Transilvania University of Braşov.

Engineer Alexandru Cherdivar's professional path reflects a solid and varied expertise, acquired within companies such as Technyx Euro Services, Tata Technologies and XWARE (Belgium), in fields that include design of metallic structures, advanced structural analysis and algorithm development for engineering applications, with an emphasis on green energy technologies.

At present, he conducts his professional activity within XWARE company (Brussels, Belgium), where he is involved in the development and optimization of algorithms that underlie a software dedicated to the design of composite hydrogen tanks.

Within the Alumni Days event, Alexandru Cherdivar shared his expertise with the undergraduate and graduate students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, emphasising the importance of education as the foundation of a future career, the challenges and opportunities offered by the activity in a multinational company, as well as the current industry requirements for young graduates. At the same time, he presented aspects of his practical experience and detailed his professional path.

The presentation was complemented by an interactive discussion about mechanical engineering, technological advancements, internship and employment opportunities, with the students benefiting from authentic answers based on the guest's expertise.



Moreover, the professors attending the event highlighted the advantages for the students to continue their studies with the master's educational cycle, as an opportunity to delve into the knowledge acquired during the undergraduate cycle, and to streamline communication with the economic environment, through the already existing collaborations within the master's programmes.

Following the meeting, the students appreciated the discussions and new information, expressing their gratitude to the guest, as we do in our turn, for his openness, commitment and acceptance of the invitation.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Andrei BENCZE
Alumni Officer

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FSC: MEETINGS WITH THE ALUMNI

The Faculty of Sociology and Communication continues, through the series of events on the Alumni Days, the efforts to strengthen the relationship between academic community and graduates, offering its students contexts for direct dialogue with professionals trained within the faculty.

An important moment of this series took place on December 4th, during the eighth Alumni Days edition, when the FSC students had Adelina Pavelescu, cofounder of Joyful Management and graduate of the Communication and Public Relations study programme (class of 2015) as their guest. The event took place in room WI6 and was open to all students interested in building a professional path aligned with their own values and motivations.



The meeting provided an open framework for dialogue, in which Adelina Pavelescu shared relevant experiences from her educational and professional journey, offering an authentic perspective on the transition from the academic environment to various professional contexts. The discussion approached both the challenges encountered over time and the opportunities that can arise when professional development is supported by involvement, consistency and the desire to generate social impact.

At present, Adelina Pavelescu works as People Experience Designer and is the co-founder of Joyful Management. For over 15 years, she has been creating contexts and experiences that support the development of people and communities. Her professional activity has included work with teams and organizations in various fields, from the hospitality industry (HoReCa) and NGO environment, to education, within *Teach for Romania* programme as well. Her professional path is defined by constant involvement in initiatives with a social impact, a dimension that has shaped her professional identity

and was highlighted in the dialogue with FSC students.

The events within Alumni Days come under a broader approach to valorising the FSC graduates, which was also emphasised on the faculty's 15th anniversary, celebrated in November 2025.

At the time, a special place was occupied by the graduates, whose presence illustrated the diversity of the professional paths opened by the training in the field of social sciences and communication. Alumni such as Anca Alexandra Moldoveanu (Vice-President and Global Head of Culture and Engagement, Schaeffler), Mariana Busuioc (Chief Executive Office, SCUT Association) and Andrei Vişan (Global Knowledge Centre Specialist, Publicis Groupe) shared relevant experiences from their careers, foregrounding the lasting connection between the faculty and its graduates, as well as the relevance of the academic training in varied professional contexts.

During the same anniversary event, several alumni participated in three meetings dedicated to the challenges of the labour market, together with experts and representatives of the economic environment, in the fields of Sociology and Human Resources, Social Work, respectively Communication and Public Relations and Digital Media. These meetings facilitated the dialogue between the academic and professional environments, providing the students with milestones as regards professional insertion and career development.

Through Alumni Days, the Faculty of Sociology and Communication foregrounds the graduates' importance for the community life of FSC. Alumni is an essential resource of experience, expertise and inspiration, contributing to the faculty's stronger identity, and maintaining an active link between education, professional practice and social responsibility.

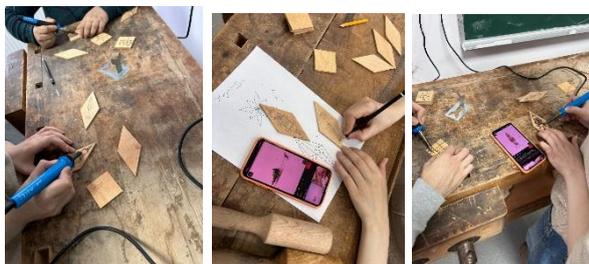
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arabela BRICIU
Vice-Dean for Internationalization and Public
Relations
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

WORKSHOP - PYROGRAVED ORNAMENTS

The pyrography workshop on 12 December was an interdisciplinary practical activity, aimed at getting the students acquainted with a traditional wood decoration technique, reinterpreted in a contemporary educational context. The activity combined technical knowledge in the field of woodworking with the artistic and expressive side of design, providing the participants with the opportunity to explore the relation between material, tool and creative intention.



Within the workshop, plywood was the chosen support, due both to its dimensional stability and to its behaviour conducive to combustion. The students worked on already cut plywood pieces, made in a rhombus shape, which allowed them to focus on the actual pyrography process, without additional cutting or mechanical processing interventions. The chosen geometric shape stimulated varied creative approaches, with the participants being encouraged to adapt their graphic compositions to the limits and directions imposed by the outline.



During the workshop, the participants were initiated into the basics of pyrography, through a presentation of the equipment, types of tips, temperature settings, as well as essential safety rules. Moreover, they were presented with the basic techniques of drawing lines, creating shadows and textures, with an emphasis on controlling the

burning intensity and on obtaining expressiveness from the variation of pressure and work speed.

The activity was attended by students of the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering, and other faculties within Transilvania University of Braşov. This diversity fostered an interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and perspectives; and the workshop became a space for dialogue across fields, united by the shared interest in material, creativity and experiment.



Each participant created a customised piece, expressing their own artistic vision through pyrography. The results highlighted a variety of graphic styles and approaches, from geometric and symbolic compositions to organic or abstract motifs, showing the expressive potential of this technique applied to laminated wood support.

The workshop was sponsored by "Wood Works" Association, which significantly supported the smooth conduct of the activity and offered an adequate educational framework for practical experimentation. Through this approach, the event successfully promoted contemporary crafts, applied education and the connection between the academic environment and the initiatives in the field of wood processing.

Overall, the pyrography workshop was a valuable educational experience, which encouraged creativity, deftness and the exploration of the artistic expression on wooden support, thus reinforcing the importance of the practical and interdisciplinary activities for the students' professional training.

Roxana BROSCOI and Sara HORNEȚ, students
Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering

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ARTIST IN RESIDENCE | JOHANNES HUGO STOLL

In December, the artist Johannes Hugo Stoll, conducting his activity in Braşov, through the programme Artist in Residence @ Transilvania University, held the workshop *The Talking Kitchen*, an event organised for the UNITBV students, at the Research and Development Institute within Transilvania University of Braşov (Art Lab).



Within *The Talking Kitchen*, Johannes Hugo Stoll, starting from the famous (and erroneous) map of language, which had been circulated in early 20th century, explored how our consumption habits have evolved, and thus he rethought taste not just as a simple biological fact, but as a practice in continuous transformation. After a brief presentation on the origin of taste, the participants were invited to create their own individual or collective "taste zones", through drawing, collage or recourse to any materials made available in the workshop.

In December as well, Johannes Hugo Stoll participated in the *artist talk* meeting, moderated by Adrian Lăcătuş, Director of the Multicultural Centre. The meeting, open this time to the general public, aimed at acquainting the participants with the artist's activity, but also with the project *The Talking Kitchen*, on which Johannes Hugo Stoll worked during his artistic residency.

Johannes Hugo Stoll (born in 1986, at Idar-Oberstein, Germany) studied art at the Fine Arts Universities of Mainz, Leipzig, Warsaw, Seoul and Stuttgart, where he graduated, in 2017, with an academic paper about the *takeaway* culture. Under the pseudonym *Future Grandpa's Secret Recipe*, his multidisciplinary projects explore the boundaries between the digestible and the indigestible, investigating how food practices shape memory, identity and social relations. Through installations, drawings, texts and collaborations, these projects turn daily scraps and kitchen materials into poetic reflections on care, ecology, and transformation.



His recent exhibitions and awards include: "Out Of The Blue", MMCA Residency Goyang, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art Seoul, South Korea; "Archaeopetiser", WUKA – Naturalia / Artificialia, Stuttgart, Germany (2022); "Positive Vibration", ElectroPutere Gallery, Romania (2021); "ㄟ(ㄣ)ㄟ (shrug)", Centre Culturel Franco-Allemand, Karlsruhe, Germany (2021); "Twittering Machine", Burg Galerie, Volkspark, Halle (Saale), Germany (2020); "Strike Gently Away", Salzburg, Austria (2019); "Where Plato Taught", Youth Art Biennale Franzensfeste Bozen, Italy (2018).

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre,
Transilvania University of Braşov

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WHEN THEORY MEETS REAL ENERGY: THE UNITBV STUDENTS ON A VISIT TO BEPCO

What does an energy system that heats a city actually look like? What does energy efficiency mean, beyond formulas, graphs and courses? And what role do technology, decisions and people play in such a mechanism?



It is these questions that the students at the Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering within Transilvania University of Braşov who participated, on 24 November 2025, in a study visit to BEPCO company, sought answers to.



The visit provided the students with the opportunity to watch high-efficiency cogeneration engines on site, and to understand how this technology simultaneously produces electrical and thermal energy, contributing to the heating of our local community. A highlight of the visit was the new heat accumulator developed by BEPCO, a solution which “keeps the system in balance”, storing the thermal energy when it is produced, and delivering it just when the city needs heat the most.

The BEPCO experts, together with the specialists of the Local Public Heating Service (SPLT Braşov) explained and showed the students how the system



that provides heating for the city of Braşov actually operates – from the production of thermal energy, to its transport through the grid into the dwellings. Apart from explanations and layout drawings, the visit was about seeing things on a real-life scale: installations, systems that must operate uninterruptedly, and technical decisions that have a direct effect on the city. For many students, this was the moment when theory was validated by practice, through an exercise of correlation between theoretical notions and concrete applications in the energy field.



Such experiences create real bridges between the academic environment and industry, and provide the students with context, inspiration and a better understanding of how the knowledge acquired in the university turns into actual solutions for the community.

Alexander TUDOSE

HR Officer for BEPCO

Lect. Dr. Eng. Iuliana GHEORGHÎĂ

Faculty of Materials Science and Engineering

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FSC CHRISTMAS FAIR – THE TENTH EDITION

On 15 December 2025, “Sergiu T. Chiriacescu” Conference Centre hosted the tenth edition of the Christmas Fair organised by the Faculty of



Sociology and Communication. The event, already a tradition in the academic community, brought together students, professors, graduates and local community members in a setting dedicated to generosity, commitment and spirit of the holidays.

The anniversary edition brought together exhibitors and volunteers who prepared stands with handmade products; and the participants had the opportunity to enjoy artistic moments, informal meetings, as well as the winter-holiday atmosphere.

As every year, the fair was an opportunity to support socially impactful initiatives. Within this year’s edition, the local non-governmental organizations were invited to submit projects that support vulnerable groups, foster the educational environment, or address concrete social needs for the community of Braşov. Following this approach, seven projects were entered, three of which enjoyed the public vote and support through the funds collected during the event. The supported projects are:

- “Happy Box”, conducted by Kastel Association, meant to provide the children from vulnerable environments with support consisting of food, school supplies, toys and hygiene products;
- “A Better Life through Therapy” – by Rafael Foundation of Codlea, which offers occupational therapy, sensory stimulation, and music therapy to children and adults with disabilities;
- “Steps to Hope”, a project of EduActiv Association, which aims at supporting children from disadvantaged backgrounds through educational and recreational activities.

The artistic programme significantly contributed to the atmosphere of the event. For the first moment, the floor was taken by Albert Bodi, Lect. Dr. Diana Bodi’s son, in

her turn teaching within FSC, who offered the audience a sensitive and expressive musical moment.

Next came Evelyn Korah, a 2nd-year student in the Communication and Public Relations programme, who moved with her performance. The programme continued with student groups in Social Work, Sociology, Digital Media and Communication, and Public Relations, coordinated by Mihaela Tudoran, a graduate of our faculty.



For the ending, the floor was taken by Florin Filip, a FSC graduate and an accomplished soloist who foregrounded traditional carols of Braşov area, as well as a recently released carol, completing the festive atmosphere with his authentic and touching presence.

Beyond the artistic moments and the charitable component, the FSC Christmas Fair was also an opportunity to spend time together, in a relaxed setting, before entering the winter holidays.

To conclude, we would like to thank everyone who successfully contributed to this edition of the FSC Fair: exhibitors and participants, volunteers involved in the organization, Radio Campus Transilvania for the sound system, as well as photographers and carollers, who all brought energy, emotion and authenticity to the event.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arabela BRICIU, Vice-Dean
Faculty of Sociology and Communication

MIND UP – AN ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATIONAL ECOSYSTEM BUILT TOGETHER WITH THE COLLEGE- AND HIGH-SCHOOL-PUPILS OF BRAȘOV



On 15 December 2025, Transilvania University of Brașov hosted in its “Sergiu T. Chiriacescu” Conference Centre, the official opening of Mind UP project, an educational programme for the development of the college- and high-school pupils’ entrepreneurial skills. The project is initiated by “Nicolae Titulescu” National College of Brașov, and conducted in partnership with Transilvania University of Brașov, Brașov City Hall and Brașov County Inspectorate, benefiting from the support of the local public and private environment.



With over 300 beneficiary pupils, 55 volunteering pupils, 25 entrepreneurs, seven major events and an eight-month duration, Mind UP aims at creating an applied learning framework, for the pupils to work on real community problems, test their own business ideas, and interact directly with the academic and entrepreneurial environment.

In this project, the role of Transilvania University of Brașov goes beyond the dimension of event host. By involving the teaching personnel, the University facilitates the pupils’ transition to authentic learning experiences and, subsequently, to coherent academic and professional paths.

The project includes entrepreneurship, marketing and communication workshops, a hackathon of

ideas on community life, a business idea fair, a business plan competition judged by entrepreneurs, and an entrepreneurship-themed conference. A defining element of the initiative is the openness of the activities towards pupils of other local colleges and high schools, thus strengthening a collaborative educational ecosystem at the city level.



“Mind UP creates exactly that context in which young people are listened to, empowered and faced with real-life situations; it is the moment when they discover their resources and learn to trust their own ideas”, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dana Lupșa, project coordinator on behalf of Transilvania University of Brașov, emphasised during the official opening.

Mind UP proves that entrepreneurial education becomes relevant when school, university, family, public institutions and the economic environment cooperate, with common goals and clearly assumed responsibilities. Through this project, Transilvania University of Brașov reaffirms its role as a strategic partner of the local community, actively contributing to the formation of a generation of youth capable of turning ideas into initiative, and initiative into valuable projects for society.

Prof. Dr. Ioana CHIȚU
Coordinator of the Compartment for the Liaison
with the Pre-University Environment

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SWEET DECEMBER WITH HOLIDAY FLAVOUR AT THE FACULTY OF FOOD AND TOURISM

On 5 December, the Faculty of Food and Tourism (AT) hosted a suggestively entitled contest, namely "Sweet December with Holiday Flavour", an event in its third edition, aimed at creating bridges between the local high schools and colleges, and Transilvania University of Braşov.



High school and college pupil teams attended it and succeeded in turning the magic of Christmas into sweet art. The teams had suggestive, original names; and the story of the dishes was presented in moving and attractive footages and presentations.



The student-organised event brought together pupils from the following colleges and high schools: "George Moroianu" Theoretical High School of Săcele, "Transilvania" Technical College, "Ţara Bârsei" College for Agriculture and Food Industry of Prejmer, "Unirea" National College of Braşov, "Maria Baiulescu" Technical College, and "Andrei Bârseanu" National Economic College of Braşov.



The jury of this edition consisted of: chairman Georgian Tufă, *Pastry Chef*, Cornelia Ghişoi, *Lady Chef*, and Prof. Eng. Cristiana Tobias, an AT graduate.



The first prize was won by *Santa's Snow Maidens* team from "Andrei Bârseanu" National Economic College of Braşov, who won over the jury with an original dessert, a sweet and spectacular moment, an innovative combination of traditional ingredients.

The volunteering students of the Faculty of Food and Tourism also helped organise the event. A special contribution was brought by the students who prepared and packaged the gingerbread intended as a symbolic prize for all participants, as well as other gastronomic surprises made in the faculty's labs.

Apart from the generous contribution of the project CNFIS-FDI-2025-0517, the following sponsors provided special support for the event:

- Sweet Dessert (vouchers for the first three places);
- Intersnack company, represented by Mihaela Bendic, its manager, who also delivered a presentation on interesting aspects of innovation and tradition in the food industry;
- White Art journal of Braşov, through Gabriela Dan, on behalf of Novapan company.

The event was a culinary celebration in which the passion for gastronomy intertwined with the spirit of Christmas, and the participants fully felt the festive aromas of the original sweets.

Assist. Prof. Drd. Eng. Roxana-Andreea MUNTEANU-
ICHIM

Assist. Prof. Drd. Eng. Adelina-Ioana MOJA
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Carmen Liliana BĂDĂRĂU

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LAUNCH OF THE VOLUME “POWER OF MEASURE. SCIENTOMETRY, AS A BASIS OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION” – AN EVENT OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

On 11 December 2025, the Library of Transilvania University of Braşov hosted the launch of the volume “Power of Measure. Scientometrics, as a Basis of Research and Innovation”, signed by Prof. Dr. Angela Repanovici. The event took place in a warm atmosphere, open to dialogue and reflection on the role of scientometrics for the development of contemporary research.



The meeting was attended by doctoral students and academic teaching personnel of the Faculty of Product Design and Environment, along with representatives of the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Sociology and Communication and Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences.



Furthermore, librarians, directors of public and university libraries, as well as the author’s many friends and collaborators were present, out of desire to mark this important moment together.

The volume was appreciated for its integrative perspective on scientometrics, presented as a tool

for understanding and increasing visibility, as well as for democratising knowledge.



The discussions highlighted the importance of open access, international collaboration and information culture for the evolution of the academic environment.



The event reconfirmed the role of the Library of Transilvania University of Braşov as a meeting space for ideas and community, a place where research becomes visible and acquires significance through dialogue.

Prof. Dr. Eng., Dr. Mrkt. Angela REPANOVICI
Faculty of Product Design and Environment
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela POPA
Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences

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FDMIL READING CLUB: KAFKA FOR ITS SEVENTH EDITION, AND A NEW LITERARY CHALLENGE IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

In 2025, the Book Club of the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering continued the series of literary meetings with the same energy and commitment. Building on the idea that reading opens our minds, refines our language, and helps us thoroughly understand the dynamics of society and human experience, we created a setting where the students can share impressions, debate ideas, and discover new perspectives through selected texts.

Recently, the club's 7th edition dwelled on the novel "The Trial" by Franz Kafka, an emblematic book of modern literature. The novel traces the story of Josef K., a clerk trapped in an absurd and merciless bureaucratic mechanism, back to his accusation of an unverified crime. Kafka creates a strange world, where logic and absurdity intertwine and bring about a constant state of unrest. "The Trial" makes the reader think about the human condition, guilt and power – ambiguous, but always current topics.

participants explored how the protagonist's anxiety and the social implications of unclear justice are narrated.



We continue the series of literary proposals with the 8th edition, scheduled for February 2026, in which we will approach "The Stranger" by Albert Camus. The story dwells on Meursault, a character far from social conventions, and raises questions about the meaning of life, the relationship with death, and the rules imposed by society – topics that lend themselves to discussion.

Each edition is promoted among the students through a poster created by the club members; and the future titles are chosen from a list proposed by the participants, giving the readership the opportunity to decide together on the genres addressed.

We would like to attract as many UNITBV students as possible, in order to facilitate social and intellectual connections. The meetings are organised monthly during the semesters and are an informal setting for the development of the argumentation and overall speaking skills.

We invite you to take part in the future editions of the reading club – the place where ideas take shape through dialogue, and the read pages become the beginnings of memorable conversations.

Lect. Dr. Eng. Antonela LUNGU
Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering



The meeting was once again an opportunity for lively discussions and exchanges of opinions; the

DREAMSCAPES | EXHIBITION OF PAINTING

In the month of December, the Multicultural Centre hosted the exhibition *Dreamscapes. Cicirean Collection*, curated by Roxana Tolici and Ștefania Dobrescu, and made in partnership with Mobius Gallery.



"Dreamscapes proposes a decoupage from the Cicirean collection, offering an outline of the last decades' visual practices, articulated through the personal act of collecting. Featuring artworks created by twelve artists between 1972 and 2024, the exhibition opens up a realm where reality subtly overlaps with the mythology of dreams. In-between individual memory and collective gaze, autobiographical milestone and recent art history, the Cicirean collection fulfills, as a whole, the functions of an ever-evolving and changing archive, with each work of art being both a subjective choice, arising from the private act of collecting, and an objective portrayal of the Romanian art scene's evolutions after the 2000s". (Ștefania Dobrescu)

The exhibition brings together creations signed by the artists Mircea Cantor (born in 1977), Cristina Chirilă (born in 1986), Horia Damian (1922-2012), Andrei Gamaț (born in 1980), Ion Grigorescu (born

in 1945), Gili Mocanu (born in 1971), Sultana Maitec (1928-2016), Laurian Popa (born in 1980), Radu Pandele (born in 1993), Lea Rasovszky (born in 1986), Roman Tolici (born in 1974) and Ecaterina Vrana (1969-2019). Among them, Roman Tolici and Andrei Gamaț were present at the Multicultural Centre with two personal exhibitions, *New Hope* (December 2024), respectively *Everything You Saw Will Come True* (November 2023).



Despite belonging to different creative generations, they are all accomplished artists, with their own vision of the world, with an original artistic expression. The title of the exhibition does not refer to a thematic selection of the exhibited artworks, because they are themselves forms of escape, of decoding the reality, and withal propose to the visitor new ways of understanding the world.

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre,
Transilvania University of Brașov

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PIANO RECITAL AT FOUR AND SIX HANDS



On 7 December, the Multicultural Centre hosted a piano recital offered by Codrin Cheptine, Bianca Georgescu and Victor Gozob. The repertoire included a varied selection of music pieces, adapted to four- and six-hand performances, belonging to the composers Franz Schubert, Antonin Dvorak, Scott Joplin, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Johannes Brahms, Gabriel Fauré and Edvard Grieg.

Born in 2005, at Iași, Codrin Cheptine is a graduate of "Octav Băncilă" National College of Arts, and currently studies at "Gheorghe Dima" National Academy of Music in Cluj-Napoca, under Prof. Daniel Goiți's guidance. He participated in many competitions and masterclasses, collaborating with prestigious pianists such as Florian Mitrea (United Kingdom), Reto Reichenbach (Switzerland), Pablo Galdo (Spain), Stephanos Thomopoulos (France) and Plamena Mangova (Bulgaria).

Bianca Georgescu is a first-year student at "Gheorghe Dima" National Academy of Music, where she studies with Lect. Dr. Mihai Diaconescu

(piano) and Prof. Dr. Vera Negreanu (chamber music). A laureate of many international competitions, Bianca had the opportunity to learn from prestigious pianists such as Viniciu Moroianu, Vlad Dimulescu, Horia Mihail and Giuseppe Devastato.



Victor-Pavel Gozob graduated from "Dr. Ioan Meșotă" National College of Brașov, and is a student at "Gheorghe Dima" National Academy of Music in Cluj-Napoca, where he studies the piano under Prof. Dr. Daniel Goiți's guidance. He attends, in parallel, the Faculty of Business in Cluj, thus combining musical expressiveness with entrepreneurial thinking. A prize-winner of many national and international competitions, he attended masterclasses held by renowned pianists, such as Cadmiel Boțac and Stefan Arnold (professor at MDW Wien).

Anca PAPANA
Multicultural Centre,
Transilvania University of Brașov

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CONCERT OF CAROLS PERFORMED BY TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

On 17 December 2025, starting at 17:30, "Sergiu T. Chiriacescu" Conference Centre of Transilvania University of Braşov hosted the traditional concert *Waiting for Santa Claus*, organised and held by *Merry Camerata*, our university's children choir, and their guests.



The artistic programme balanced the universal and Romanian repertoire, highlighting both the young artists' masterful performance and the stylistic diversity of the chosen music pieces. The repertoire featured sacred compositions, such as *Cantate Domino*, but also winter songs, either delicate, or full of colour and mirth – *Christians, Christmas has arrived, Hallelujah, Aujourd'hui le roi des cieux, Prince of Peace, Do they know it's Christmas time again?* or *White snow falls from heaven*.



The programme was completed by traditional Romanian carols, which highlighted the specificity

and depth of our music – *Awaken, great boyars, Up above, sky-high, My mother sent me herding goats*. In the end of the concert, the choir performed *Magic of Christmas*, a music piece composed especially for the choral ensemble by Vlad Isac.

This year as well, the audience revelled in the 3rd-year students of the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, specifically Pedagogy of Primary and Preschool Education study programme. They took the stage alongside the young performers' choir, harmoniously supporting the moments of the vocal soloists, namely Filip Alexandru Dobrin, Emilia Gabriela Sămean, Ema Şerbu, Sofia Şerbu, Daria Bezergheanu, Maria Maican, Daria Tătaru, Ştefania Ciobanu, Sofia-Maria Vlădescu.



The event was presented by Iulia Bota, Alessia Briciu and Iris-Maria Niculae; and the concert offered the audience of Braşov an evening full of emotion, warmth and winter holiday joy, confirming once again the artistic and educational value of this choral project.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Iuliana ISAC
Faculty of Music

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ON THE CHRISTMAS FREQUENCY: CAROLS, GIFTS AND A LOT OF GINGERBREAD



The month of December was full of events and traditions that enveloped Radio Campus Transilvania in the magic of the winter holidays.

One of the first activities conducted within RCT was *Christmas Party Colina Club*, which officially got us into the Christmas spirit. With Mihai and Rareș at the DJ desk, the evening was animated by our favourite music, light shows and fun, and the festive atmosphere was complete with Santa Claus' appearance.



During this period, the student radio station was also present in the academic and cultural environment, for instance by broadcasting live the Christmas Concert of the Faculty of Music. The event was a challenge for the team, but the results were more than gratifying.



The activity of the radio station's departments has significantly increased in quality, and its team members declared themselves proud of the performance proven through their commitment and professionalism.

Christmas would not have been complete without the traditional carols; therefore, the Rectorate building of Transilvania University of Brașov overflowed with the radio team members' voices, as if brought to life. The emotions were strong, despite the intense rehearsals, and the experience brought back fond memories for many of the participants.



Bianca confesses: "The carols made me feel like a child again. I relived memories from the 5th and 6th grade, the emotions before going on stage, and the joy of creating something beautiful together." Diana adds: "I was amazed at the warmth and joy with which we were greeted, and pleasantly surprised by the little box of sweets we each received."

The end of the festive period was marked by the most anticipated Christmas tradition: *Secret Santa*. In the evening, when the lights coloured the darkness, we all gathered around the tree, where everyone unwrapped his/her gift with great enthusiasm.

Bianca describes her experience as follows: "I had childlike fun on Christmas Day, while opening the presents. Seeing the others' reactions, their surprise and joy, was even jollier. Ever since my arrival here, I've felt part of a small student family and I am very grateful." In her turn, Diana states, "It was my first *Secret Santa* in the radio station; therefore, I had looked forward to that evening, out of desire to see my colleagues' reactions to the received gifts."

Through all these activities, Radio Campus Transilvania proved to be not only a radio station, but a true community, where Christmas means friendship, passion, smiles and sweet moments shared with everyone around.

Daria RUȚĂ

Redactor at Radio Campus Transilvania

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CHRISTMAS CONCERT – CAROLS, DANCE, TRADITION



On 17 December 2025, the Auditorium hall of the Faculty of Music turned into a space of encounter between tradition, artistic expression and academic spirit. The event, planned as a concert-exam, brought together students, professors and a large audience, bringing to light the artistic beauty of the traditional carols and Christmas songs, of the dance and traditions specific to the winter holidays. The artistic programme was structured in three distinct moments, each highlighting a different dimension of the musical artistic act.



The first moment belonged to the orchestra who, under adj. prof. drd. Amalia Nicolau's coordination, performed a folklore suite, a sequence of folk songs, varied in nature and originating in different ethnographic areas of our country, thus confirming, once again, the diversity and beauty of the Romanian folklore. The suite began with "Sârba" a folk dance of Lesser Wallachia, with an introductory role, followed by "Purtata", a traditional Transylvanian dance, which paved the way for a series of four other dances, such as "Rustem" and "Geamparaua", specific to the region of Dobruđa, and two Moldavian "Bătuta" dances.

The second moment brought to the fore the vocal band of traditional music, coordinated by adj. prof. George Muraru, who performed Christmas carols and

songs, in which the spiritual dimension of the holidays was conveyed with sensitivity and stylistic balance. Their repertoire included traditional carols from different ethnographic areas of our country, and Christmas songs.



The last part of the concert was dedicated to tradition and dance, completing the musical experience through movement, rhythm and bodily expressiveness. The whole moment came to pass due to "Lads of Braşov" Student Folklore Ensemble, with Mădălina and Bogdan Cherciu as choreographers, who staged a traditional custom, namely the specifically Moldavian "Dance with the Goat", practiced as a New Year's ritual, followed by a suite of dances from the same ethnographic region.

The stage elements such as the main character (the goat), the rhythmic dialogues, the music-accompanied hollering, and the interaction with the audience, brought a significant contribution to the entire event, through colour and artistic diversity.

Through its cohesive structure and varied means of artistic expression, the holiday-concert winter went far beyond the framework of mere academic evaluation, turning into a genuine cultural event. The audience's enthusiastic reception confirmed the importance of such events that strengthen the connection between the academic environment and the traditional values, reaffirming the role of art, in all its forms, for the young musicians' training and the academic community's life.

Drd. Amalia NICOLAU
Faculty of Music

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SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI – ANDREI DINU



Andrei Dinu graduated, in 1995, the five-year courses of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, major of Electrotechnics; then, in 1996, the master's study programme of Electric Drives.

The six years of study at Transilvania University of Braşov laid the bases of Andrei's entire professional career, through the opportunity for him to start interdisciplinary research, by combining disciplines such as: electric motors, electrical converters, development of software for industrial applications, as well as application of the first artificial-intelligence elements - an emerging field at that time.

In 1997, Andrei began his doctoral studies at De Montfort University of Leicester, United Kingdom, with research in the field of neural networks applied to the control of asynchronous motors, complete in 2000 with the successful defence of his doctoral thesis, and award of the doctor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

After obtaining the doctoral degree, Andrei filled a teaching position at De Montfort University, with research opportunities in the field of digital electronics and power electronics. The research conducted between 2000 and 2004 were a natural continuation of the studies begun at Transilvania University of Braşov, mainly focusing on the industrial applications of the electric drive systems and on their digital implementation in hardware,

with recourse to the ASIC and FPGA technology, as well as to advanced control algorithms including artificial-intelligence elements. His most important results co-obtained with other colleagues were published in various IEEE journals, but also in a specialised monograph edited by Elsevier.

In 2004, Andrei refocused his attention on industry, and started a career spanning over 20 years in the UK research and design department of Collins Aerospace, a large American company of components and subassemblies for the international aeronautical industry.

In his professional activity, Andrei took on various roles over the years, being involved in the general process of electrification of the aeronautical technology, along the transition from hydraulic to electric drive systems. In this capacity, he participated in the design, testing and certification of many types of electrical converters and drive systems that play an important role in the operation of commercial and military aircraft such as Airbus A350, Boeing 787-Dreamliner, Embraer KC390-Millennium.

In his current capacity as Senior Technical Fellow, Andrei keeps solving the practical aspects in the design of electric and hybrid propulsion systems for the future generations of commercial aircraft. He is also involved in other activities, such as development of research projects in cooperation with universities of UK and, above all, professional training of the young engineers who join the company's global team of over 16,000 engineers every year.

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