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**The University of Bucharest Summer Courses
in Romanian language, culture and civilization -
55 years of teaching tradition and intercultural
experience**



55 years of experience in 5 points

- An outline history of the Summer courses
- The event management
- The content of the courses – between tradition and innovation
- The 55th edition in progress. New proposals
- Q /A

55 years in 3 towns

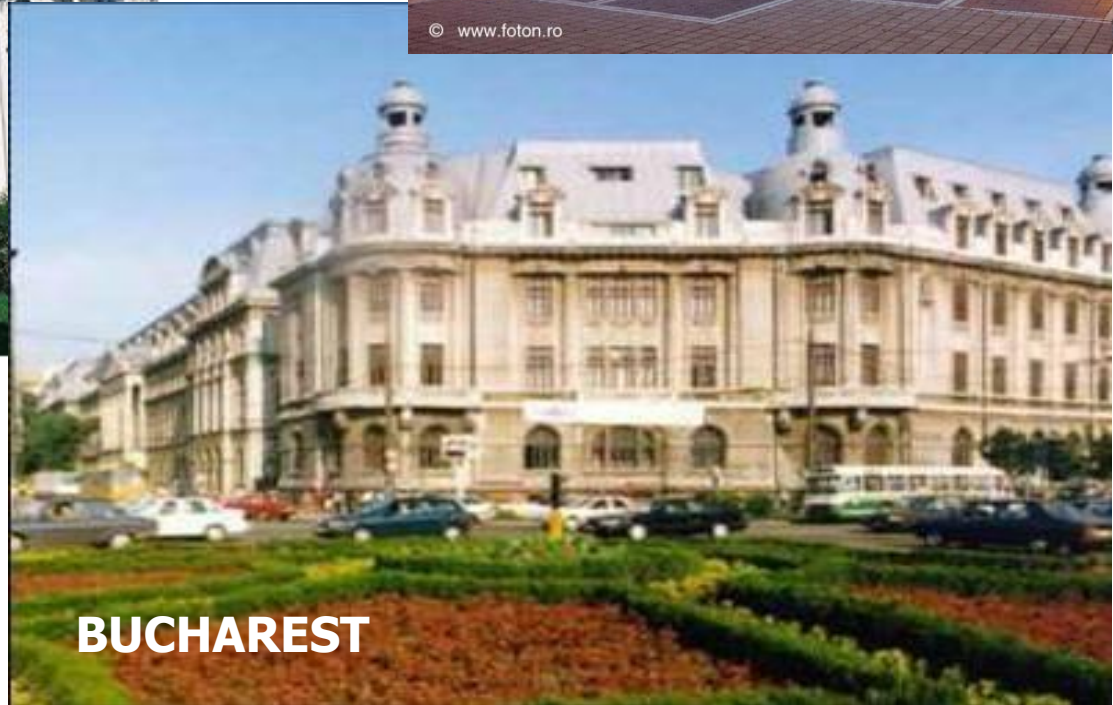
SINAIA



BRAȘOV

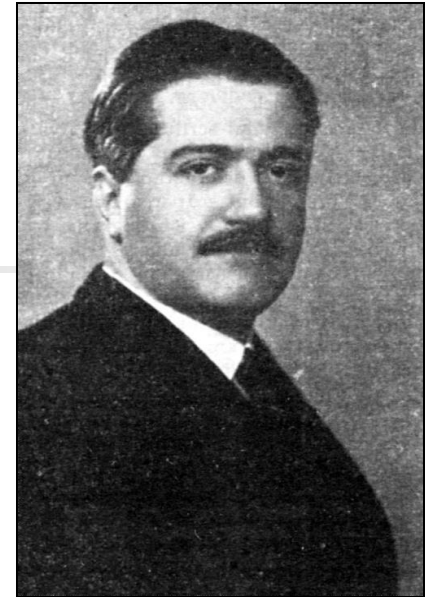


BUCHAREST



First steps

- **1960** – 1st edition in Sinaia:
***The Summer Courses
in Romanian language,
literature, civilization***
- Prof. **Alexandru Rosetti**,
member of the Romanian
Academy - the mentor of the
Summer Courses
- Prof. **Boris Cazacu** – the first
Director of the courses

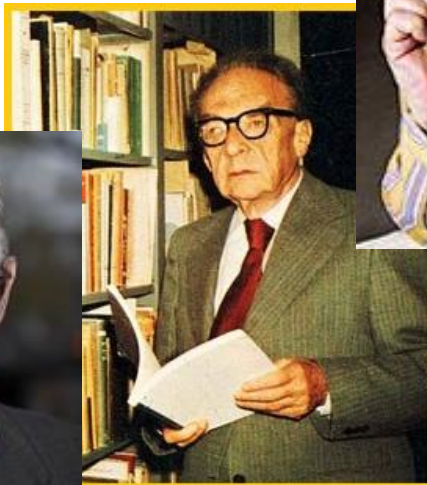
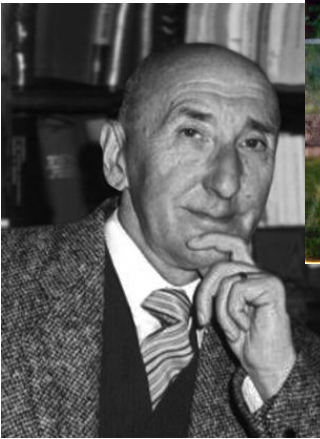




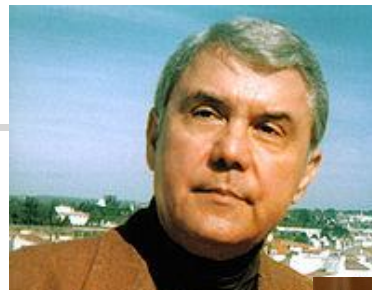
1960-1989: the event's design

- The Summer Courses included both **intensive Romanian language courses** and **Scientific colloquia** in which participated hundreds of reputed members of the international academic community (linguists, literary critics, historians, ethnologists, translators etc.), such as: *Roman Jakobson, Eugen Coseriu, Einar Haugen, Alf Lombard, Carlo Tagliavini, Réne Gsell, C.Th. Gossen, Rosa del Conte, Pierre Guiraud, Robert Anderson Hall Jr., Wolfgang U. Dressler, Thomas Sebeok, Andreas Blinkenberg, Ladislau Gáldi, Alain Rey, Eddy Roulet, Dieter Messner, Michael Metzeltin, Klaus Heitmann, Klaus Bochmann, Michèle Mattusch, Horst G. Klein, Lauri Lindgren, Petar Atanasov, Lorenzo Renzi, Marco Cugno, Luisa Valmarin, Bruno Mazzoni, Teresa Ferro, Gisèle Vanhese, Roberto Scagno, Alain Guillermou, Catherine Durandin, Jiří Felix, Dennis Deletant, Norman Davis etc.*

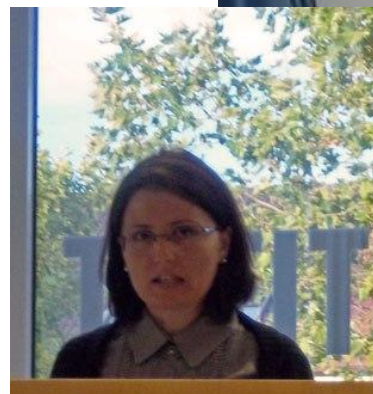
Personalities



The Directors of the Summer Courses



- **Alexandru Piru** (literary critic and historian)
- **Ion Coteanu** (linguist)
- **Dan Horia Mazilu** (literary critic and historian)
- **Silviu Angelescu** (ethnologist)
- **Mihai Zamfir** (literary critic and historian)
- **Romanița Constantinescu** (theorist of literature)
- **Oana Chelaru-Murăruș** (linguist)
- **Ana Maria Teodorescu** (media studies specialist)





Participants

- BA and MA students of Romanian / Romance languages
- BA and MA students of History, Political sciences, Area studies, Folklore, Ethnology, Anthropology etc.
- Ph.D. students
- Teenagers of Romanian origin from Diaspora
- Academics interested in Romanian studies
- Persons fond of the Romanian culture and civilization
- Translators and interpreters
- Journalists
- Bussinessmen, foreign persons having institutional positions in Romania



The event management

Strategies for event promotion

- **Communicational channels to reach the targeted public:**
 - The world academic departments for Romanian studies (complex data base)
 - The lectureships network for Romanian studies (collaboration with the *Institute for Romanian language*)
 - The Romanian Cultural Institutes worldwide
 - The embassies and the foreign cultural institutes in Romania
 - Promotional messages posted on our institutional media (www.unibuc.ro)
 - Direct contact with the potential participants by e-mail
 - The support of the alumni community of the Summers courses for the publicity of the yearly event



The event management

Strategies for event preparation

- ❑ Online registration form for the participants (estimated language groups, options for workshops)
- ❑ Creating institutional partnerships and contracts for putting the programme into practice (i.e. *The National Art Museum of Romania, The Village Museum, The Mogosoiaia Mansion, The Peleş Castle, The Central University Library, the City Hall, the city Public Transportation Company, The Atheneum Concert Hall, a Tourist Agency* etc.)
- ❑ Elaboration of the programme (posted on the university website in advance)
- ❑ Teaching team building (selection of the staff, preparation of didactic strategy and auxiliaries)
- ❑ Useful information offered to participants for traveling to Romania

The event management

Strategies for event implementation and evaluation

- Registration of participants and welcoming ceremony
- Initial language test for establishing the groups of study
- Coordination of language classes, workshops, lectures etc.
- Organizing the participation in the (multi)cultural events and trips
- Permanent feed-back on the part of students during the Summer courses
- Organizing the final language assessment
- Final evaluation form of the courses (didactic activity, workshops, lectures, cultural programme, trips, infrastructure, human relations etc) and suggestions.

The alumni community

In recent years, we maintained an active contact with alumni via e-mail and Facebook





The content of the Summer Courses

– between tradition and innovation

- **Intensive Romanian Language Courses: the communicational approach**
- **1960-2000:** The Romanian language courses were given in accordance with a *traditional philological approach* (description of language compartments: grammatical system and rules, vocabulary + exercises, translation etc.)
- **After 2000** (especially 2005), the language courses approached a *communicational (functional) perspective*:
 - Less interest in extensive theoretical knowledge of grammar and “vocabulary lists”
 - Stress on language practice in order to develop the students’ ability to express themselves in various communicational settings.



The content of the Summer Courses – between tradition and innovation

- Functional vocabulary adapted to communicational needs
- Understanding and producing various types of messages
- Use of main speech acts (apologies, thanking, congratulating, complimenting, giving advice, expressing an emotion etc.)
- Understanding language as a cultural pattern
- In line with the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages*, our courses focus on the four language skills: *listening*, *speaking* (spoken interaction, spoken production), *reading* and *writing*.

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1_en.asp



The content of the Summer Courses

– between tradition and innovation

■ **Teaching**

- Our didactic offer: *20 class hours per week* (4 class hours a day). In Romania, a class hour lasts 50 minutes.
- Courses given by the University of Bucharest *academics, specialists in linguistics and communication*, with a wide national and international experience in teaching and testing Romanian as a foreign language.
- Students receive *a textbook and various handouts and copies* included in the general fee of the Summer courses.
- We use *audio and video support*, mainly for listening classes. Each classroom is equipped with computer, sound station, video projector and screen.



The content of the Summer Courses – between tradition and innovation

■ **Levels of tuition**

- Students are divided into *three or four groups*, according to their level, after taking an initial language test.

■ **Levels A1-A2 (basic)**

- Aim at the acquisition of basic phonetic, grammatical and lexical structures, integrated in everyday conversational topics (i.e. 'Pleased to Meet You', 'What time is it?', 'On the Street', 'At the Supermarket', 'At the Market', 'At a Restaurant', 'At the Bank/Exchange Office', 'Weather. Climate', 'At the Station', 'At a Hotel', 'On the Phone', 'Taxi!', 'My House', 'Family', 'Daily Schedule', 'At the Postal Office' etc.).
- By the end of the course, the student will be able to interact in everyday, specific situations.



The content of the Summer Courses – between tradition and innovation

- **Levels B1-B2 (intermediate)**

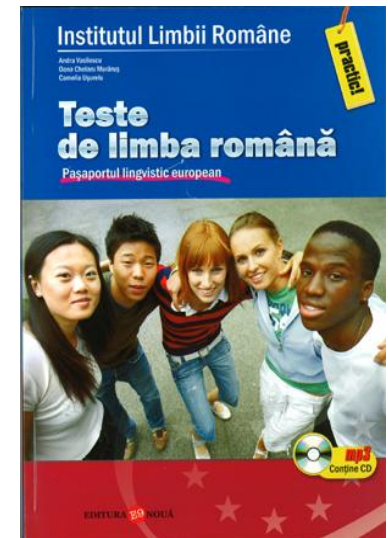
- Aim at improving the students' communicational skills (pragmatic competence).
- The topics are to be extended based on the study of literary texts of average difficulty, of nonliterary texts (mainly journalistic), and on listening classes (excerpts from radio and television broadcasts).
- The student is expected to become an independent speaker, improving his / her abilities of understanding and producing oral and written texts.

- **Level C1 (advanced)**

- Aims at developing the textual and stylistic competence of the students
- Awareness of linguistic specificity at grammatical, lexical (synonyms, antonyms, specialized terminology, characteristics of spoken Romanian, phraseology), and stylistic levels.

The content of the Summer Courses – between tradition and innovation

- The topics are to be widely extended based on the study of literary texts of increased difficulty, of nonliterary texts (according to the students' interests) and on listening classes (excerpts from radio and television broadcasts).
- The student is expected to become an experimented speaker, able to attain a high level of proficiency.





The content of the Summer Courses – between tradition and innovation

- **The assessment of the participants' language proficiency.**
- By the end of the program, all students receive an *attendance certificate*.
- On request, they can take a language proficiency test, based on the model of the *European Language Passport*.
[http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/img/dynamic/c1347/type.FileContent.file/ELPTemplate en GB.doc](http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/img/dynamic/c1347/type.FileContent.file/ELPTemplate_en_GB.doc))
- The certificate of language proficiency is issued by the University of Bucharest. The costs of the exam are included in the course participation fee.



Lectures on Romanian Culture and Civilization

- **The Sinaia period (1980-2008):**

- the lectures in Romanian (followed by a session of questions and answers) varied between 3-5 per week (in the afternoons) and addressed the middle-advanced and advanced students
- a wide range of topics dedicated to the Romanian culture and civilization (recent history, political sciences, minorities, media and communication, linguistics, literature, visual arts, theatre, film, music, folklore and ethnology etc)
- the lectures were given by distinguished academics, members of the Romanian Academy, men of culture, writers, artists etc.



Lectures on Romanian Culture and Civilization

- **The Bucharest period (2010-2015):**
 - Interactive 1 hour and a half lectures-courses in Romanian reduced to 2-3 per week (included in the morning schedule) and addressed only to advanced students
 - The same wide spectrum of topics dedicated to the Romanian culture
 - The lectures have been delivered by the academic staff of the University of Bucharest



Workshops

- Students can choose one of the following workshops, running *twice a week* (in the afternoons):
 1. *Intensive listening*: a very useful activity for advanced students and conference interpreters, which aims at improving the understanding of oral texts.
 2. *Romanian Customs and Traditions*: a workshop destined to those interested in traditional culture, in folklore, in ethnological and anthropological issues (delivered in English; Romanian on request).
 3. *Theatre*: a truly creative workshop which helps the beginners of Romanian express themselves through gesture and mimics and learn Romanian using games and improvisational exercises.



Cultural programme and trips

- **Immersion into Romanian culture and civilization:**
- welcoming Romanian evening
- museum visits
- performances, concerts
- Romanian movies projected 2-3 times a week (subtitles in English)
- cultural debates
- walking tours in the city
- Bucharest sightseeing and outskirts (Mogoşoaia Palace) by coach
- two one-day trips (lunch included) organized during the weekends etc.



The 55th edition in progress. New proposals.

- The 55th edition in 5 stories about Romania (on significant / symbolic issues)
- Letter writing contest about Romania
- Each participant will receive a symbolic Romanian Passport and the title of ambassador of Romanian culture
- Self-made film contest of the participants

