

V. Events

International Summer School. Ethnic and Religious Minorities and Majorities - for a Democratic Intercultural Dialogue at the European Union Eastern Border

The University of Oradea, in partnership with the Institute for Euroregional Studies Oradea-Debrecen, organized the international summer school “Ethnic and Religious Minorities and Majorities-for a Democratic Intercultural Dialogue at the European Union Eastern Border” in July 2012. Organized within the Jean Monnet Programme *Ethnicity, Confession and Intercultural Dialogue at the European Union Eastern Border*, the summer school was focused on highlighting the relations between different minorities, ethnical or religious, and the majority in the historical region of Transylvania.



Diversity was the key-theme of the summer school, a fact which is also proven by the participants, who originated from different parts of Europe and even Latin America. Along with participants from Oradea, Cluj-Napoca, Bucharest or the Republic of Moldova, the attendants originated from Greece, Germany, Austria, Scotland, Poland and even Brazil. They were offered the chance to learn about minorities in Romania and see with their own eyes the cooperation and intercultural dialogue in places like Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu or Târgu-Mureş.

In order to capture perfectly these relations and interactions, the summer school was organized in order to showcase and present each minority in its own setting. Thus, the summer school was an itinerant onewith stops in major cities of Transylvania where minorities play an important role in society.

The summer school started on the 2nd of July in Oradea with the registration of the participants and the first courses held at the University of Oradea on *Memory and*

European Identity by prof. Ioan Horga, the Dean of the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Sciences and Communication Sciences, *Ethno/religious realities in post-communist Romania* by Mircea Brie, the organizer of the summer school and the presentation of Oradea, a truly multicultural city. After these general presentations regarding minorities in Romania, the case study regarding the role of education in the Roma communities, courtesy of the Ruhama Foundation, captivated the participants.

The next important stop was in Cluj-Napoca, at Babeş-Bolyai University, on the 3rd of July, where prof. Ioan Bolovan and Dr. Ioan Cârja held courses on the ethno-confessional structure of Transylvania and the specificity of the Romanian population in the Apuseni Mountains. The courses section ended with a lecture on the history and confessions of the Roma population in Romania. Târgu-Mureş marked the final stop of the first day, where the attendants learned important details about the Hungarian minority in Romania by auditing courses on the relations between it and the Romanian majority, as well as some details regarding Szeklerland.

The third day of the summer school was dedicated to visiting important historical landmarks of Transylvania, such as Sighişoara and its fortress, Braşov and the Bran Castle or the Peleş Castle.

Sibiu was another key stop for the summer school, where, besides having the opportunity of visiting the impressive city, the participants audited a lecture by Hans Klein, one of the leaders of the German community in Sibiu. The participants were interested in finding out the way in which the German minority worked together with the Romanian majority to develop the city. Moreover, in Sibiu the participants were given the opportunity to witness first-hand the life of one of the leaders of the Roma community, at King Cioabă's residence. The leaders of the community explained the way in which they were emancipated, they joined a neo-Protestant church and how they value education for their children.

The last two days of the summer school were spent at Stâna de Vale mountain resort, where the participants attended workshops that would help them apply the knowledge they had acquired over the past days at the different courses on minorities. The thematic activities were divided into three activities: *Politics – promoting interculturality or interfering in peaceful majority-minority relations?*, *Between inclusion and exclusion: the Roma issue not only a Romanian problem but also a preoccupation for Europe?!* and *Citizens and Cultural Diversity: Learning to communicate*.

The lively debates concluded with the presentation of the conclusions of the summer school, several recommendations for future editions of the summer school and the handing out of the certificates of attendance.

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European Union in crisis?!

Scientific Session of the Students from International Relations and European Studies

The 16 and 17 March 2012 ARISE (Association of the Students in International Relations and European Studies) and the Institute for Euroregional Studies of the Department for European Studies and International Relations organised the **Scientific Session of the Students from International Relations and European Studies**. This was the first students' national conference organised by the above-mentioned department, although at the local level ARISE already had held, in May 2010, another one, and had already issued the conference proceedings.



The conference of 16-17 March 2012 was attended by not only students in International Relations and European Studies, but also by students in Political Science and in Economy, from different Romanian universities, i.e. Babeş-Bolyai University, from Cluj-Napoca and University of Bucharest. The main mission of this conference was to bring together, in Oradea, the young students interested in the evolution of the European Union in times of crisis, whatever the perspective of approach.

The conference had three panels, two dedicated to the different aspects of the crisis, i.e. political and social perspectives and the economic perspective, and one panel concerning the connections between the European Union and the world in the framework of the current economic crisis. The conference opened with the speeches given by the Vice-Rector with International Issues of the University of Oradea, Mr. Barbu Ştefănescu; by the Dean of the Faculty of History, International Relations, Political Science and

Communication Sciences, Mr. Ioan Horga; by the Director of Department for European Studies and International Relations, Mr. Mircea Brie, and by representatives of PhD students and of ARISE.

The topics discussed by participants concerned very important aspects of the crisis in the European Union, as for example the democratic and leadership crisis in the European Union; the social troubles having as basis the economic crisis; the issue of recruitment, employment and of unemployment in EU during times of crisis and the problem of the Schengen Space in the same context of the economic crisis. The second panel of the conference, focused on the economic aspects of the crisis, had brought together presentations concerning, among others, the EU's influence on the Romanian economy in the context of the economic crisis; the economic crisis reflected in Romanian mass-media; some considerations concerning causes and possible solution of the debt crisis; the Spanish crisis view before and after the Euro; the possible consequences of UK withdrawal from the EU; the situation of the small and medium enterprises in EU; the necessity to turn to a green infrastructure in the context of the economic crisis; and an analysis of the risk of bankruptcy of the EU member countries.

The third panel, entitled "Speaking the European Union and the World" was more general and gathered presentations on enough different topics: history of the crisis in the international economy; crisis and interdependencies in EU; the Eurosceptic opinion on the economic crisis in EU; the cultural perspective of the crisis; EU and the challenges of the crisis.

It is very important that ARISE and ISER intend to organise the second edition of the national conference in the spring of 2013, focused on an actual problem in the European Union.

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