



Babes-Bolyai University
Faculty of Letters
The Center for Imagination Studies

Invitation Letter

It is my privilege and pleasure to formally invite the committee and the members of the Utopian Studies Society Europe to hold the USSE 2023 annual conference in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, at Babeș-Bolyai University.

Babeș-Bolyai University is the oldest university in Romania (initially established in 1571 as a Jesuite college), the biggest in the country, the sole Romanian university internationally accredited as a 5-star worldclass university, and the best situated in international rankings.

Speaking about tradition, in 1929-1930, a journal named *Utopia* was published in Cluj. Several years later, the first Romanian doctoral dissertation on English Utopia was successfully defended and published in Cluj in 1936 by Emil I. Diaconu. Currently, a number of my teaching colleagues, researchers and graduate students focus on Utopian studies, many under the aegis of a Research Center I have established at the Faculty of Letters in 2001, *Phantasma*. In accordance with the scientific profile of the Center for Imagination Studies, I propose for the 2023 USSE conference the topic “Utopian imaginaries”.

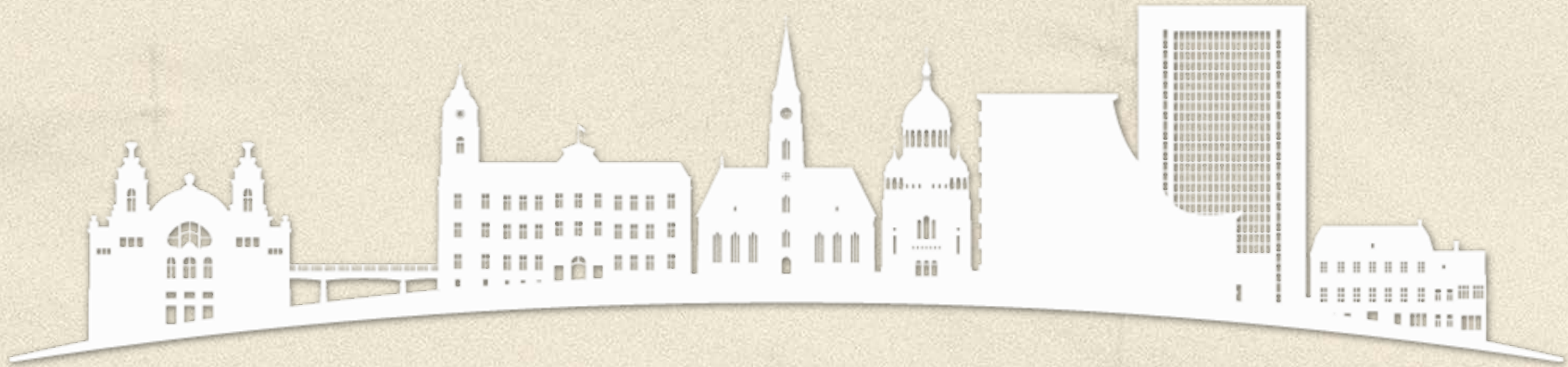
We look forward to welcoming you to Cluj, Transylvania (“Draculand”), and Romania.

Cordially,

Prof. Corin Braga

Vice-Rector of the Babeș-Bolyai University





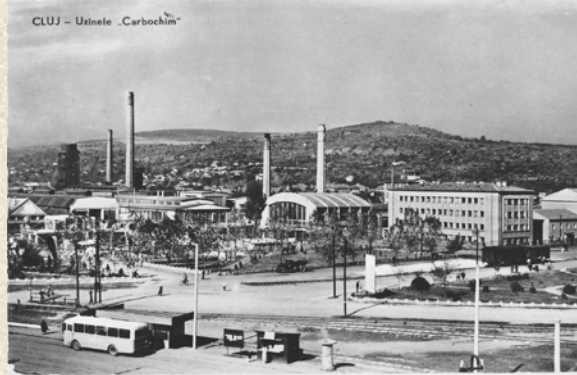
CLUJ-NAPOCA

Romania



AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

- The fair city
- Family business
- Sales
- Crafts



INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY

- Industrial city
- Production
- Workshops
- Workers



KNOWLEDGE BASED ECONOMY

- The city as Ecosystem
- Co-creation
- Participation
- Digitization

The economic profile of Cluj-Napoca – Evolution in time



Cluj-Napoca is a municipality since the Roman empire.

The city has gained the "City of Treasure" status during medieval times.

Nowadays, Cluj-Napoca is regarded as the cultural and economic capital of Transylvania, a city rich in history and culture.

UNESCO CITY OF FILM

since 2021





The city with the highest cultural vitality in Romania

Over 1500 cultural events yearly - highest culture vitality in Romania (besides the capital).

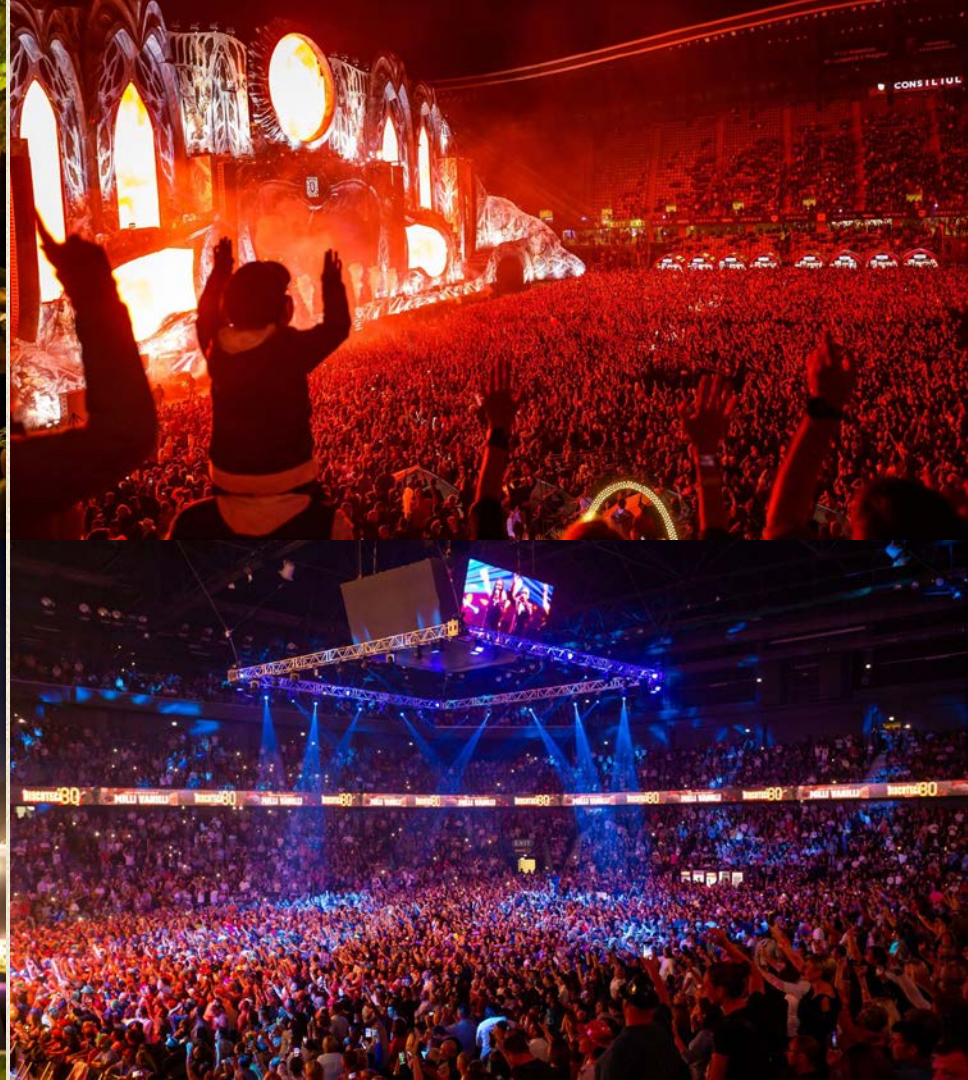
Several continental scale events: TIFF, UNTOLD, Electric Castle

The unofficial „Capital of Sports” in Romania with tens of events organized yearly: Sports Festival, Cluj International Marathon and international matches from various sports

Tens of museums and cultural heritage sites

Two operas and several theaters

The city is considered one of the friendliest in Europe towards foreigners (Eurostat)



CLUJ-NAPOCA

a city with more than infrastructure

Financial and systematic support for cultural, youth, social activities.

Promoting sports: the best investment in health and wellbeing.

Open minded public administration, citizens-oriented: supports innovation and digitalization in public sector (smart city).

Everybody should feel like home.

- The friendliest city in Europe with foreigners. (Source: Eurostat 2015)



CLUJ-NAPOCA

european hub for digitalization & innovation

The capital of clusters in Romania (Education, IT, Creative industries, etc.)

Startup City - the number of startups has doubled in the last 10 years

International profile events organized in Cluj-Napoca in recent years: Innowave Summit, Startup Europe Summit, Innovation Camp, Startup City Cluj-Napoca

Runner-up City: European Capital of Innovation in 2020



Babes-Bolyai University

- Set up in 1581, at the dawn of the modern age, as the Major Jesuit College, Babeş-Bolyai University is the oldest Romanian university with a long tradition in education, and research, serving the local community.
- The first rector of the university was Professor Constantin Daicoviciu (archaeologist).



Branches of study

- Looking back at the history of this region, UBB has become a model for multiculturalism, having four lines of study - **Romanian, Hungarian, German and English** also offering complete programmes of study in five languages – Romanian, Hungarian, German, English, French.
- UBB is the promoter of the higher education system, setting national standards in the teaching and research process and in the involvement in the community's needs process.



Structure

- Within Babeș-Bolyai University there are 91 departments in the framework of the **22 faculties** belonging to the University. The largest fields of education are:

- Mathematics and Natural Sciences,
- Biology and Biomedical Sciences,
- Engineering sciences,
- Social Sciences,
- Humanities and Art.



Academic Programmes

Bachelor's degree programmes:

- **146** programmes in Romanian
- **68** programmes in Hungarian
- **9** programmes in German
- **15** programmes in English
- **1** programmes in French



Academic Programmes

Master's Degree Programmes:

- **147** programmes in Romanian
- **42** programmes in Hungarian
- **5** programmes in German
- **37** programmes in English
- **4** programmes in French



Academic Programmes

Ph.D. schools:

- The University offers the opportunity to those who want to continue their studies to apply to one of the **29 Ph.D. schools**, which cover **31 areas of research** .
- At present, there are 1.219 people registered out of which 110 students are from abroad.
- Within the Ph.D. schools there are over 250 scientific supervisors.



Facilities

- Within Babeș-Bolyai University there are **23 cultural centers** which promote cultures, languages and different life styles, **8 museums**, **2 publishing houses**, the Central Library of the University.
- The University now has three conference rooms and recreational facilities situated in beautiful areas outside Cluj.



Facilities

- The “Alexandru Borza” Botanical Garden



Research Centres

- The research activity at UBB is being carried out independently or in professional groups, taking advantage of the facilities offered through the available infrastructure.
- UBB encourages researchers to associate and work in collectives, centres and institutes, as a matter of interdisciplinary priority, in order to focus on guiding the resources toward projects and directions of research of great relevance and impact in the scientific community.





Phantasma

Faculty of Letters

The Center for Imagination Studies
(phantasma.lett.ubbcluj.ro)
Director: Prof. Corin Braga

- * Master degree: *History of Images – History of Ideas*
- * *Caietele Echinox* academic journal (caieteleechinox.lett.ubbcluj.ro)
- * Book series: *Mundus Imaginalis* (Dacia) and *Phantasma* (Tracus Arte)
- * The *Encyclopaedia of Romanian Imaginaries* (5 volumes)

