

Title of BIP: *Sprachliche und kulturelle Vielfalt im Banat: Geschichte und Gegenwart*

(Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in the Banat: Past and Present)

General information

Objectives and Description:

- Students will expand their knowledge of the linguistic and cultural diversity of the Banat region, while also gaining insights into the topic through the perspectives of the partner universities. In addition, they will deepen their understanding of language and dialects, German-language literature in Romania, and gain an introduction to the cultural history of the local German-speaking minority.

Methods and outcomes:

- interactive lectures and expert input
- interdisciplinary workshops (e.g. on language, literature, and memory culture)
- work with authentic materials: literary texts, dialect samples, historical documents
- group work in international teams & guided discussions and reflective sessions
- preparation of short presentations on selected thematic areas & reading of selected academic texts (preparatory and ongoing)
- deeper understanding of linguistic diversity and regional cultures in the Banat
- introduction to the cultural history of the German-speaking minority in Romania
- increased awareness of multilingualism, identity, and memory-related issues
- strengthening of intercultural competence and teamwork skills
- development of a short group output (e.g. presentation or written summary)

Field of Education:

- Language and Literature, Cultural studies, History

Target audience / Participants profile:

- Students of German Language and Literature (BA, MA), students specializing in Modern Languages and Literatures, Cultural Studies or Southeast European history but with German language skills

No of ECTS issued:

3

Language of instruction and requirements:

German language, B1

Dates for physical activity:

19. – 23. 10. 2026

Location of physical activity:

Timișoara

Dates for virtual component:

07.10., 14.10., 04.11. 2026

Virtual Component Description:

The virtual component of the BIP will consist of preparatory and follow-up sessions held online. Before the physical meeting, participants will take part in virtual introductory sessions and have the opportunity to get to know each other before the actual mobility phase. During this phase, students will receive an overview of the programme and work on initial group tasks. Furthermore, they will engage with selected reading materials to prepare for the meeting in Timișoara. These sessions will be led by lecturers from the participating institutions and will include short input presentations, breakout discussions, and collaborative activities. After the mobility phase in Timișoara, a final online meeting will be held, giving students the opportunity to present the results of their group work and to share their experiences.

Organizing Board

Receiving/Host university:

Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara, Romania (Christoph Flechl, crisroph.flechl@e-uvt.ro, Mihaela Sandor, mihaela.sandor@e-uvt.ro, Gabriela Sandor, gabriela.sandor@e-uvt.ro, Alvina Ivanescu, alvina.ivanescu@e-uvt.ro)

Sending/Partner universities:

P1. University of Novy Sad, Serbia (Ivana Pajic, ivana.pajic@ff.uns.ac.rs)

P2. Sveučilište Josipa Jurja Strossmayera u Osijeku, Croatia (Stephanie Jug, sjug@ffos.hr)

P3. University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic (Bettina Steinbauer, bstein@knj.zcu.cz)

P4. Universit t Graz, Austria (Georg Weidacher, georg.weidacher@uni-graz.at)

Detailed programme

- Planned activities during virtual component:

1st online meeting

- introductory meeting, program overview, first input to the Banat, getting-to-know activities, and group formation

2nd online meeting

- expert input and discussion of selected preparatory materials, coordination of group tasks for on-site work.

3rd online meeting (after physical mobility)

- final discussions and conclusions on the mobility phase, the activities and workshops from Timișoara
- group presentations, reflection, and discussion of further collaboration.

- Planned activities during physical component:

1st day:

- opening of the BIP and welcome activities
- introductory lecture: Ethnic and linguistic diversity in the Banat region
- thematic impulse from one partner university
- guided city tour: In Search of German/Austrian Traces in Timișoara

2nd day:

- lecture: German-language literature in Romania with a focus on the Banat
- workshop: Dialectal diversity and language contact phenomena in the region

- group work: Analysis of selected literary texts or oral testimonies

3rd day:

- excursion to Gărbăna and Reșița
- workshop: Traces of Language – German Place Names and Linguistic Mapping in Gărbăna and Reșița
- thematic impulse from one partner university

4th day:

- transfer to Reșița
- meeting with Erwin Țigla and visit to the Democratic Forum of the Banat Mountain Germans
- reading or literary discussion with local authors
- thematic impulse from one partner university
- return to Timișoara in the late afternoon

5th day:

- Group presentations: *Topics developed during the week*
- Final roundtable: *Multilingualism, regional heritage and future perspectives*
- Cultural program: Visit to the German State Theatre in Timișoara

Application procedure

fill in application form available here: *to be generated later*