

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași

Name of the organisation :	“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” din Iași	 ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA UNIVERSITY of IAȘI
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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action:

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi (UAIC), the first modern university founded in Romania (in 1860), is constantly ranked 1 – 3 among Romanian universities in terms of research, education and institutional transparency. It is a classical-comprehensive university which successfully intertwines the Humboldtian tradition with state-of-the-art entrepreneurial methods.

With about 24000 students (17.500 BA, 5.600 MA and 900 PhD students) and 2000 full-time staff in its 15 faculties (*Biology, Chemistry, Law, Economics and Business Administration, Sports, Philosophy and Social-Political Sciences, Physics, Geography and Geology, Computer Science, History, Letters, Mathematics, Psychology and Education Sciences, Orthodox Theology, Roman-Catholic Theology*) our university's academic offer includes 75 degrees at bachelor level, 109 master level programmes and 27 PhD programs in Hard Sciences, Social Sciences, the Humanities and Engineering fields of study at the doctoral level. Research at "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi is top level, with a large participation in national and international research projects FP7, Horizon2020, COST, bi- and multi-lateral joint research projects, etc.).

UAIC started its participation in the Erasmus exchange programme in 1998, being the leader at national level ever since, in terms of Erasmus students and also overall Erasmus beneficiaries. Since 2011 UAIC has coordinated 4 Erasmus Mundus Action2 projects and was a partner in 3 others. The current international cooperation of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi includes over 400 partnerships with universities in 28 EU and 27 non-EU countries, affiliations to some of the most important university networks and associations (the Coimbra Group, the Utrecht Network, EUA and AUF) and cooperation within more than 100 inter-institutional agreements on all continents.

According to the 2019 QS World University Rankings, UAIC is ranked 68 in the QS World University Ranking in QS EECA 2019. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject ranks UAIC among the first 401+ universities in the world on Art and Humanities.

The primary research fields of the university are in accordance with both the National Strategy for Research and the European Union priorities. Some examples are: computer science including computational linguistics, micro- and nano-structured natural and artificial systems, materials science, natural environment and biodiversity, fundamental structures in mathematics, advanced free-market fundamentals; research in the humanities includes, among others, research involving the latest directions in translation studies, cultural studies, linguistics, American studies and foreign language teaching.

More at <https://www.uaic.ro/en/about-uaic/university/>

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

Some of the European projects the University has been a partner in:

Erasmus+ KA103, 2019, 2019-1-RO01-KA103-061892

Erasmus+ KA107, 2019, 2019-1-RO01-KA107-062642

Evaluation of agro-ecological development potential through transnational cooperation and entrepreneurial innovation, 2019, 2019-1-RO01-KA203-063939

Erasmus+ KA103, 2018, 2018-1-RO01-KA103-047906

Erasmus+ KA107, 2018, 2018-1-RO01-KA107-048310

TELESPA Teaching Learning Spaces Competence in Early Childhood Education, 2018, 2018-1-RO01-KA201-049545

Erasmus+ KA103, 2017, 2017-1-RO01-KA103-035675,

Erasmus+ KA107, 2017, 2017-1-RO01-KA107-035830

JMO-NETWORK European Union and its Neighbourhood. Network for Enhancing EU's Actorness in the Eastern Borderlands, 2017, 587848-EPP-1-2017-1-RO-EPPJMO

JMO-MODULE Culture, creativity and human capital: pillars for European Union's prosperity, 2017, 587908-EPP-1-2017-1-RO-EPPJMO

JMO-MODULE SESYR: Sustainable education through European Studies for Young Researchers, 2017, 587359-EPP-1-2017-1-RO-EPPJMO

Some of the European projects the Faculty of Letters has been a partner in:

Programme Erasmus+ action clé 2 "Partenariat stratégique de l'enseignement supérieur", 2016-1-FR01-KA203-024155, EVAL-IC

East-North Travel and Intercultural Communication in Europe (ENTICE) (2015-2016), EEA Grants & Norway Grants in partnership Ostfold University College, Norway

Apprentice Preparation Training - New Approaches in Managing the Transition from Education to Employment, (2016-1-UK01-KA202-024558)

Understanding Justice (2014-2015), European Commission, Directorate-General Justice, JUST/2013/JCIV/AG/4000004684;
Building Mutual Trust (2009-2011), EA framework project for implementing EU common standards in legal interpreting and translating, European Commission, Directorate-general Justice, Freedom, Security, GB506006786
UEmploy, Consultancy for Employment Inclusion, 510784-LLP-1-2010-1-RO-LEONARDO-LMP (2011-14) Digital Timeline 2014-1-UK01-KA204-000071 (2014-2016)
ISPY - Online Networking Platform for Language learning 511558-LLP-1-2010-1-UK-KA2-KA2MP LEONARDO - ECOLOTRAIN (2005-2007), Developing Innovative eContent Localisation Training Opportunities for Trainers and Teachers in Professional Translation
LEONARDO - ECOLOMEDIA (2007-2009), Developing Sharable and Customisable Resources for Vocational Training in Multimedia eContent Localisation

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

The Faculty of Letters within UAIC is an active member in the European multilingual community, facilitating interlingual and intercultural exchanges for students, academic and non-academic staff. Moreover, members of the teaching staff have been beneficiaries of the various exchange programs (Erasmus and Erasmus +, CEEPUS). Besides the BA and MA programs in two different languages, Romanian included, also in Translation and Terminology, Romanian students can take (free) supplementary courses in other European (Polish, Norwegian, Greek, Portuguese) and non-European (Hebrew, Chinese, Georgian, Japanese, and more recently Korean) languages, their culture and history; most of these courses are given by Lecturers employed pursuant to a cultural exchange agreement with HE institutions from other Member States and non-EU states who teach within well established lectureships, most associated with the departments teaching languages of the respective language family (Slavic languages, as is the case of Polish, German, Italian, French) as well as independent (Greek, Chinese or Korean, in the recently established ROK Center for Korean Studies); various activities are organized by the lecturers in collaboration with the students and academic staff of the Faculty of Letters. Conversely, members of the UAIC teaching staff from the Faculty of Letters teach Romanian language, culture and civilization in partner HE institutions in and outside the EU and have thus acquired experience in teaching Romanian as a foreign language. Conversely, members of the UAIC teaching staff from the Faculty of Letters teach Romanian language, culture and civilization in partner HE institutions in and outside the EU and have thus acquired experience in teaching Romanian as a foreign language. This type of activity has also been ongoing within the framework of the Summer School "Romanian - Language and civilization", that will be on its 45th edition in 2020; the UAIC Summer School is highly appreciated and has counted important political and cultural personalities among its students; beside actual lectures and seminars, the Summer School offers a variety of social events: films, folk dance courses, contacts with Romanian students, trips in and around Iasi, as well as to sightseeing spots in Moldavia, for a total immersion in the linguistic and cultural landscape. The Department of Romanian language offers Intensive Romanian Language Course at various levels of proficiency to incoming Erasmus students registered at UAIC, to exchange students enrolled at one of partner universities from all over the world (students from member universities of the Coimbra Group and Utrecht Network included), to foreign lecturers and visiting professors affiliated with UAIC. One of the relevant departments within the Faculty of Letters is the Department for Foreign Students, that teaches Romanian especially to foreign students enrolled in other HE institutions of Iasi (especially the Gr T Popa Medical School, with more than 2,500 foreign students, and around 400 with the Gh Asachi Polytechnic University). Teaching Romanian as a foreign language during the one-year program aims at helping students acquire at least a B1 level – or higher – according to CEFR and making them able to adequately integrate linguistically, culturally and professionally at each of the three levels of the Bologna system in any of the HE institutions in Romania; this implies a focus on all four skills, as well as getting familiar with specialised languages and terminologies, depending on their respective specialization. Part of the academic staff's activity includes the production of specific teaching resources directed at the various levels and domains, along with academic research in the area in the form of publications in research journals, publishing houses and participations in international conferences, symposia, as well as international projects.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

The team of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi will be in charge with the project activities and deliverables for the languages Romanian, Bulgarian and Polish. These activities will be carried out on the basis of the project members' expertise in teaching and assessing the said languages and others, as well as their networks of counterparts and peers.

Reasons of involvement in the project

“Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi is interested in contributing to the identification and creation of specific instruments for the promotion of Romanian as a foreign language at all levels, along with other languages of the member states, especially in the digital form, which is more relevant and necessary than ever, given the pandemic and post pandemic context. Such instruments, along with the pedagogies and know-how associated with it, can offer the institution a more prominent profile against the European background. It can offer speakers of Romanian as a minority language support in the preservation of linguistic identity. Romanian language professionals in our institution, in the country and abroad, who are involved in both teaching and testing, can be provided with adequate materials and methodologies for all modes of teaching.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

Associate Professor Ludmila Braniste, PhD, teaches Romanian as a foreign language with the Department of Teaching Romanian as a Foreign Language to Foreign Students in the form of both general courses (Morpho-syntactic structures) as well as courses in Romanian Cultural Identity, and Erasmus Intensive Language Courses for foreign students on various types of grants (Erasmus+ și Erasmus Mundus – proiectele EMERGE, EDEN, IANUS, AL IDRISI, SILKROUTE) in Romanian at all levels. She has also taken part in the various editions of the Summer School „Romania – Language and Civilisation. Summer Courses”. She is also a member of the Assessment Committee for the Linguistic Competence Certificate in Romanian and the language certificate foreign students need to enroll in Romanian universities. She is part of a large national network of academics who teach Romanian as a foreign language to foreign students. She has contributed a large number of articles, studies, chapters and volumes related to teaching Romanian as a foreign language. She is a member of the boards of various academic publications in Romania and abroad (the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Serbia) and has been a member of a number of national and international projects (Cercetarea terminologiilor ramurale și crearea Bazei de Date Terminologice [Research of sector terminologies and the creation of a database]. Managed by the Academy of Philology of Moldova; the researcher mobility project PN II – Human Resources: Comunicarea. Repere didactice [Communication. Didactic landmarks]. She can bring her experience in teaching Romanian as a foreign language at various levels into the project.

Associate Professor Marina Vraciu, PhD, is a specialist in Slavic Languages, specializing in Russian language, literature and history, and a long experience in teaching Russian and other Slavic languages at various levels. She has published a number of articles, studies, chapters and volumes on Russian, Bulgarian and Ukrainian culture, civilization and history both in Romania and abroad. She has a special interest in the Bulgarian language and culture and is part of the network of Romanian academics who teach Bulgarian or have an academic interest in it. She has taken part in various scientific events in the Slavic speaking countries (Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria). She is also active as a translator (chartered translator and interpreter) from Russian, but is also active for the Church Slavonic/Old Bulgarian, Old Russian languages, with several volumes translated or co-translated at various publishing houses in Romania, The Russian Republic, Ukraine. She has authored articles on translation, Russian for special purposes, on Russian poetry. She is also the author or co-author of a number of textbooks for the teaching of various specialised languages in Russian (Philology and Pedagogics, Economics, Law), an experience which can be transferred into the similar practice of other languages (Bulgarian). She has been a member in several projects on translation and is also highly interested in the didactics of teaching and evaluation.

Associate Professor Gabriela Gavril-Antonesei, PhD, is a specialist in the field of Romanian cultural history and literature, and also of teaching Romanian language as a foreign language, Romanian Culture and civilization. She published a significant number of articles in academic journals in Romania and abroad – some of which are related to issues in teaching Romanian literature and language, and took part in international conferences, congresses, public readings and workshops in Arizona, Prague, Vienna, Warsaw, Auckland, Tel Aviv, Berlin, Leipzig, etc. She has also produced translations from French, English and Polish. She has been teaching Romanian to Polish and international students for several years at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, at the Department of Romance Languages. She also has a degree in Polish which she acquired during her years as a Romanian lecturer in Poland and she acts as a certified translator and interpreter in the pair Romanian Polish.

Associate Professor Teodora Ghivirigă, PhD, teaches terminology, linguistics and translation in the English Romanian pair. She has published articles on terminology, translation (literary and specialised) and academic language in both English and Romanian, some of which are approached from a comparative angle. She has experience in teaching English for Special purposes and TEFL at various levels, mainly advanced. She has been a member of several EU projects on computerized translation and on the creation of an (online) repository of resources, a benchmark and a guide for good practice for community translators and interpreters training, in translation of specialised texts (legal) and is also highly interested in translation, translation didactics and evaluation, teaching and assessing language.