



Rector's foreword

Rector
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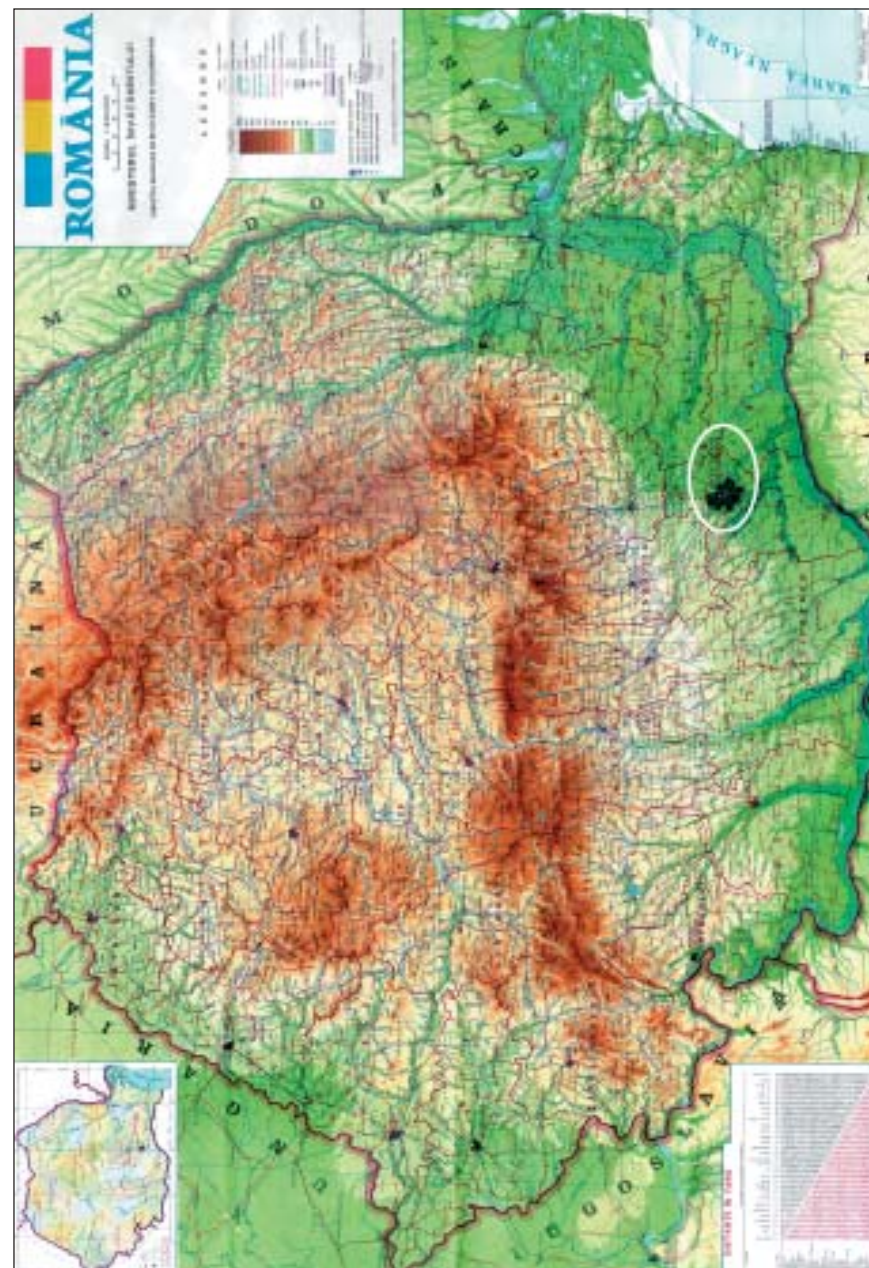
Traditional but elevated education is still available in the University of Bucharest. A solid scientific training, a large theoretical horizons are the characteristic features of many of our faculties. Our profile comprises hard sciences, social sciences and humanities. Our program is focused on helping our students find success after schooling by preparing them for their future careers. We teach more than 25 languages and some of our study programs are in English and in French.

Student initiative and innovation are honored here. The Team-Work project builds on the students' management skills and contributes to organising internships and work placements. The university employs students in part-time jobs. An ombudsman counsels teachers and students alike when they have complaints. Computer facilities are available in all our faculties and the student dormitories have Internet access, as well.

With a turnover of 500 contracts and grants per year, our staff devotes much time to research. Nationally and internationally recognized excellence centers take part in European research programs and schemes such as the 6th Framework Plan, COST, ESF, Marie Curie or Natura 2000. Doctoral students participate in these projects and publish their work in international periodicals.

Our departments have taken part in the ERASMUS mobility program since 1998. More than 2000 of our students have passed a semester or two in a European university. Thanks to these study trips, graduates acquire new experiences and different perspectives on their fields of expertise.

The University of Bucharest is proud of its quality standards, raised through comparison with international institutions, and with the benefit of having many young staff trained in Europe and North America. Caring for its national tradition and cherishing it, UB looks confidently towards internationalization.



about ROMANIA



The official name of Romania was adopted in 1862 as a result of the union between the two Romanian principalities, Moldavia and Walachia (Tara Romaneasca) and the creation of the national state.

The form of government is a constitutional republic.

National flag. In 1848, a three color flag was created, with influence from the period up the Revolution in Walachia. The flag has three equal vertical stripes (red, yellow and blue) and a coat of arms on the yellow stripe. In 1989, after the revolution, the coat of arms was removed and in this form is how the present day flag of Romania is now presented.

The state anthem was adopted in 1990. It is called "Arise Romanians!". The lyrics were created by Andrei Muresanu and the music by Anton Pann.

The national day is December the 1st. It signifies and celebrates the great assembly in Alba Iulia where Transylvania was united to Romania. It symbolizes the union of all Romanians in one national state.

The official language is Romanian, the Eastern representative of the Romance Languages, which comes directly from Latin. The ethnic minorities are free to use their own languages in school, administration, justice, media and culture.

Currency.

1 LEU (Plural LEI) = 100 bani (singular – ban).
You can check the exchange rate on the official website of the National Bank of Romania:
www.bnr.ro

The main banks in Romania:

- Romanian Commercial Bank:

5 Elisabeta Av., Bucharest

Phone: +40 21 312 16 78; +40 21 312 61 85

<http://www.bcr.ro>

- BRD – Groupe Société Générale:

1-3 Magheru Av., Bucharest

Phone: +40 21 317 36 17 / 317 36 18;

Fax. 3173619

<http://www.brd.ro>





- BancPost Bank:
18 Libertatii Av., bl. 104., Bucharest
Phone: +40 21 336 11 24; Fax: + 40 21 336 07 72
<http://www.bancpost.ro>
- Raiffeisen Bank:
44 Mircea Voda Av., bl. M17, Bucharest
Phone: +40 21 323 00 31; Fax: +40 21 323 60 27
<http://www.raiffeisen.ro>

Legal holidays

January 1st and 2nd (New Year), 2nd day of Easter, May 1st, December 1st and December 25, 26 (Christmas)

Standard hour

Eastern Europe (GMT+2 hours). Romania has the same hour as the Republic of Moldova, Finland, Greece, Israel, Egypt and South African Republic. When it is 9 AM in Romania, then:

Paris, Rome	8:00 a.m.	Moscow	10:00 a.m.
London	7:00 a.m.	New Delhi	1:00 p.m.
Buenos Aires	4:00 a.m.	Bangkok	2:00 p.m.
Washington	2:00 a.m.	Beijing	3:00 p.m.
Mexico City	1:00 a.m.	Tokyo	4:00 p.m.
Caracas	1:00 a.m.	Canberra	6:00 p.m.

Measurement units

Ever since 1866, Romania has been using the metric system.

Electricity

Romania uses 220 V and 50 Hz.

Mail system

The Romanian Post is the national operator in mailing services that also deals with issuing, editing and trading stamps and mailing effects and is a provider of VAT services, as for instance: development of IT programs, currency exchange, consultancy services, and transportation services.

The Romanian Post also provides the distribution of messages and goods; it ensures payments at national and international level. There is a network of post offices and mailmen available to the whole country. For further information you can access the website: www.posta-romana.ro Besides the national mail service there are private companies that ensure courier services both nationally and internationally.

Internet access

Nowadays, the Internet has become one of the main communication and information facility of the modern world. The number of Internet users grows constantly. In Romania there are several companies that provide services of this kind. The easiest way to rapidly access the web is used in the Internet-cafes in every town of the country.

Public transportation

According to its surface and population, Romania is the most important state in the Balkan area. Its geographic position facilitates access to all the countries in Europe. The Romanians' hospitality and friendship will make your contacts easier and more productive. One of the most rapid and comfortable ways of traveling in Romania is by air. The national company TAROM (equipped with Airbus A-310, Boeing 737, BAC 1-11, etc) and foreign air travel companies offer transportation to Bucharest, where one can find regular flights to the most important cities in Romania. The railways, administered by SNCFR (National Society of Romanian Railways) provide links to a great number of European cities as Paris, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Kiev, Moscow, Istanbul, Athens, etc. and practically with every town in Romania. The road traffic on European roads E 60, E 70, E 79, E 85, E87, E 576, E 671, E 771 ensure the access to Romania. The necessary documents when you travel by car are: valid passport, driving license, matriculation certificate, the car "green card" (international insurance).

Distances between Bucharest and other European cities

Amsterdam	2,292 km	Lisbon	4,246 km
Athens	1,224 km	London	2,560 km
Berlin	1,786 km	Luxemburg	2,138 km
Berne	1,966 km	Madrid	3,489 km
Bonn	1,751 km	Moscow	1,899 km
Brussels	2,242 km	Paris	2,379 km
Budapest	824 km	Prague	1,406 km
Copenhagen	2,710 km	Rome	2,039 km
Helsinki	2,681 km	Sofia	389 km
Istanbul	733 km	Stockholm	3,278 km
Kiev	1,291 km	Vienna	1,079 km
Chisinau	650 km	Warsaw	1,210 km



Distances between Bucharest and cities in Romania

Arad	599 km	Oradea	656 km
Bacau	302 km	Pitesti	108 km
Baia Mare	625 km	Ploiesti	59 km
Brasov	166 km	Resita	478 km
Braila	199 km	Satu Mare	684 km
Cluj-Napoca	497 km	Sibiu	315 km
Constanta	226 km	Suceava	447 km
Craiova	209 km	Targoviste	80 km
Deva	450 km	Targu Jiu	316 km
Galati	230 km	Tg. Mures	448 km
Hunedoara	456 km	Timisoara	533 km
Iasi	401 km	Tulcea	334 km

Maxi-taxi, bus, tram, trolleybus, underground

Romania has a well developed public transportation system both locally and nationally with services such as: maxi-taxi, bus, and trolleybus. These services are available in almost all of Romania's cities. The only city with underground transportation is Bucharest. The maxi-taxi has local and national routes.

Taxi

All big cities have authorized taxi companies. The name of the company should be printed on the car's doors, along with the authorization number and the required tariffs. We recommend the use of fully identified taxis, with valid authorization and tariffs. You can find organized taxi stations in the cities' main locations, especially those close to the biggest crossways. Also you can call different taxi companies to send a taxi to your location. You can find some phone numbers for these companies on this website: <http://taxi.itbox.ro>

Phone system

In order to call Bucharest from another country you must dial first the country code "0040" followed by 21 for Bucharest or the prefix specific for each county and then the subscriber's number. In order to call from Bucharest to other locations in Romania, or from one county to another, you shall have to dial 0 then the prefix of the county, followed by the



subscriber's number. In order to call from another place in the country to Bucharest you shall dial 021 and then the subscriber's number.

Religion

The most common religious beliefs in the country are held by the Orthodox, followed by the Catholic and the Protestant. The Catholics and the Protestants can be found mostly in the Western part (Banat-Crisana-Maramures) and the central part of Romania (Transylvania) where 1 out of 6 Romanians have declared to belong to one of these Christian religions.

International relations

In 1972, Romania became an IMF and World Bank member as well as of WTO, and in 2004 it became a NATO member.

Romania has diplomatic and consular relations with 164 states and is a member of UNO, IAEA, IBRD, FAO, IFAD, GATT, ICAO, ILO, IMO, WMO, WIPO, WHO, UNIDO, ITU, UNESCO, UPU. In 1993 it became an associated member of EEC and EFTA and the 32nd member of The Council of Europe.

Romania was the first country in Central and Eastern Europe to have official relations with the European Community. Romania's diplomatic relations with the EU began in 1990, followed by an agreement of cooperation and trade signed in 1991. The European agreement came into force in February 1995. Romania became member of the European Union on January 1, 2007. After joining the EU, Romania was no longer an active observer but a full rights member. Romania became the 7th largest EU country in terms of the number of inhabitants. The Romanian language became one of the official languages of the Union (the 7th according to the number of speakers, in close competition with the Dutch language). Any EU citizen can address the institutions in this language.

Romania's Geography

Romania's geographic position in Europe

Romania is positioned in the South-East of the Central Europe, in the North of the Balkan Peninsula, on the inferior course of the Danube that leads towards the Black Sea. Romania is situated between 43° 37' 07" and 48° 15' 06" Northern Latitude and 20° 15' 44" and 29° 41' 24" Eastern Longitude. Parallel 45° (at half distance between the North Pole and the Equator) crosses Romania at 70 km north of the country's capital city and the 25° meridian of Eastern Longitude (half the distance between The Atlantic Ocean Coast and Ural Mountains) finds itself at 90 km West of Bucharest.

Romania's borders

Situated in SE Europe, North of the Balkan Peninsula, on the inferior course of the Danube, stretching out to the Black Sea, Romania has a North-Eastern border with Ukraine and Moldova Republic, a Western border with Hungary and Serbia, a Southern border with Bulgaria and South-Eastern vicinity with the Black Sea.

Relief

Romania's relief is varied and harmoniously distributed, arranged in gradual steps: the highest level is represented by the Carpathian Mountains, the mid-level by the sub-Carpathians, hills and plateaus and the lowest level by the plains, the river valleys and the Danube Delta, all in a circular distribution as to resemble an amphitheatre.

The mountains extend as an arch and cover 31% of the country's surface; the hills and plateaus represent 36% of the surface and the plains, situated in southern and western part of the country, around 33%. Transylvania's plateau (of 400-600 m altitude) is surrounded by the Carpathians (with heights over 2,500 m, the highest peak being Moldoveanu, 2544m). The hills look like a belt round the mountains and stretching out to the East and South and they have a similar beginning as the mountains but lower heights (1,000-500m). To the West we meet the Western Hills that do not go over 300-400 m in altitude. To the East and SE there are two plateaus – Moldavia's plateau and Dobrudja's plateau with heights between 400 and 600 m.

The plains cover the Southern and Western part of the country. Between the Carpathians and the Danube lies the Romanian plain, and in the Western part, the Western Plain, crossed by a great number of rivers.

The rivers network has a radial shape; 98% of them spring from the Carpathians and flow down to the Danube, either directly or through other rivers. The Danube, the second river in Europe, according to its length (2,860 km), out of which 1,075 km on Romania's territory, flows into the Black Sea by three channels (Chilia, Sulina, Sf. Gheorghe), that form up the Delta. The main rivers are: Mures (761 km on Romania's territory), Prut (742 km on Romania's territory), Olt (615 km), Siret (599 km on Romania's territory), Ialomita (417 km), Somes (376km on Romania's territory), Arges (350 km).

The lakes of Romania are around 3,500, but only 0,9% of them have a surface that goes over 1 sqkm. The most important lakes were created by the former lagoons on the Black Sea shore (Razelm 425 km², Sinoe 171 km²). Others spread along the Danube banks (Oltenia 22 km², Brates 21 km²). The glacial lakes are located in the Carpathians' area (Bucura, of 10.8 ha is the biggest of all). Besides the lakes already mentioned, the man-made lakes are also important for the energetic power they provide. The most important ones are on the Danube, The Iron Gates II (40,000 ha) and The Iron Gates I (which is only 10,000 ha, but has a volume of 2,400 million m³ – three times bigger than Iron Gates II) and also Stanca Costesti (5,900 ha) on the Prut river and Izvorul Muntelui on Bicz river (3,100 ha).

Climate

Romania has a transition temperate continental climate, specific for Central Europe, with four distinct seasons. The country's relief plays an essential role in the limits of climatic zones. The Carpathians form a barrier that separates the rough Eastern continental climates from the Western climate, which is milder, under the influence of the ocean and the Southern seas.

Vegetation

The forests that in Ancient times and in the Middle Ages used to cover almost the entire surface of the country (except for the SE part), gradually made room to agricultural land. Nowadays the forests cover 27% of the country's surface, consisting of beech, oak and coniferous forests. Other species can also be met: hornbeam, poplar, ash, lime. Alpine pastures cover extended areas at heights going over 1,800 m and are mainly used for sheep breeding.



Fauna

Romania's fauna was and still is one of the richest and most varied in Europe, consisting of rare or even unique species on the continent. The black goat, the brown bear, the Carpathian stag, the wolf, lynx, marten, the mountain rooster are species that populate the mountains; the hare, fox, wild boar, deer, partridge and quail live in the hills and plains. The Danube Delta remains the sanctuary of wild birds and fishes (carp, pike, zander, sheatfish, etc.) Sturgeons (producers of caviar) can be found on the inferior course of the Danube and dolphins, herrings, sea horse and grey mullet in the Black Sea.

Environment protection

The end of the 19th Century marked a turn in our attitude towards nature, from the passive admiration to active action. People started to be preoccupied with environment protection and the prevention of abusive exploitation of natural resources. The first law for environment protection (The Law for Protection of Nature Monuments) was adopted in 1930 and a year later the Commission for Nature Monuments Protection was established. Nature protection is achieved nowadays under the sponsorship of the Romanian Academy. The law was followed by many other regulations, but the Environment Protection Law was adopted in 1973. Today there are round 693 protected areas in Romania, which cover a total surface of 1,132,176 ha. Besides these we have three reservations of the biosphere, 14 national parks, and 362 natural reservations. Retezat National Park (that was founded in 1935), Rodna National Park (founded in 1990) and the Danube Delta (reservation founded in 1938) were included by UNESCO within the framework of biosphere reservations, on its own list of protected monuments of nature.

Population

Romania's population on January 1st, 2006 was of 21.6 million inhabitants, with a small advantage for women – 51.2% as to 48.8% men. More than half of the population lives in towns, the most urbanized region (92.5%), is Bucharest-



Ilfov, as shown in the figures produced by the National Statistic Institute.

Out of the 319 greater towns in Romania more than 86% have a population of 50 thousands inhabitants (32.5% of the urban population). Population of towns with 100 thousands inhabitants, though decreasing, represents 56.0% of the urban population.

The first six big cities (county capitals) according to the number of inhabitants are: Bucharest, Constanta, Iasi, Timisoara, Craiova and Cluj.

Territorial division

Romania is divided in counties, towns and villages. There are 41 counties, plus Bucharest, which is a municipal town. Each county is administered by a County Council and a prefect. The counties are:

- Alba • Arad • Arges • Calaras • Cluj • Constanta • Hunedoara • Ialomita • Iasi • Satu Mare • Salaj • Sibiu • Bacau • Bihor • Bistrita-Nasaud • Covasna • Dambovita • Dolj • Ilfov • Maramures • Mehedinti • Suceava • Teleorman • Timis • Botosani • Brasov • Braila • Galati • Giurgiu • Gorj • Mures • Neamt • Olt • Tulcea • Vaslui • Valcea • Buzau • Caras-Severin • Harghita • Prahova • Vrancea •

Traditional regions

Historically there are 3 traditional provinces:

Walachia, Moldavia and Transylvania.

Airports and ports

The most important international airport is Bucharest-Otopeni (opened in 1970), situated 18 km North of Bucharest (it took over the external flights from the old civil airport Baneasa). 15 towns have airports: Constanta- Mihail Kogalniceanu, Timisoara, Arad, Sibiu, Suceava (all opened to international traffic), Bacau, Baia Mare, Caransebes, Cluj-Napoca, Craiova, Iasi, Oradea, Satu Mare, Tg. Mures, Tulcea. Constanta is the largest port not only of Romania, but that of the whole Black Sea. Other ports at the Black Sea are Mangalia and Sulina. The main Danube ports (many founded in the Roman times) are: Orsova, Drobeta-Turnu Severin, Turnu Magurele, Giurgiu, Oltenita, Calarasi, Cernavoda. Three ports – Braila, Galati, Tulcea – are both river and sea ports.



Customs and Folkloric Beliefs

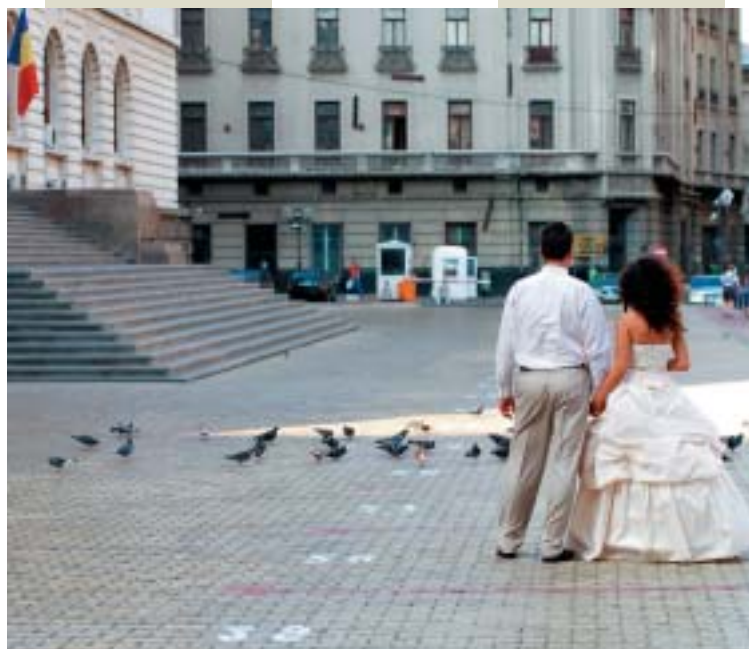
Romania has a rich Folklore as people would celebrate customs all around the year. At the end of the winter holidays, the mask carnivals for the New Year, marks the beginning of the purification and sanctification of the newly born year (Saint Basil, Epiphany, and Saint John). Until the 1st of March there are all kinds of customs, differing from one region to another, sometimes less festive, but not less in importance. They belong to the village world, and they follow human's relations to diseases, to vegetation and animals. This is why they are almost unknown in urban areas.

Welcoming God (February 2nd). Another custom at this time is celebrated because it is said to reveal the twists of weather along the whole year. If the bear destroys its den, it is a good sign of early spring. Women take care not to throw embers in the yard, as they are said to increase the fertility of wolf females. It is said that if a she-wolf eats embers it becomes pregnant. Around the same date the Bear's day is also celebrated, so that the beast will not attack cows over the year.

Dragobete (February 24th). It is a custom related to birds, but not only. This day seals the love relations between young people. They say that if birds nestle this very day, this is a sure sign of spring. The young men in villages meet their beloved and spend the day together, picking up the first snow drops. It is interesting that the traditional Romanian Dragobete is celebrated in the same period with Valentine's Day.

Wedding and Birth

For a human, the thresholds of life and death – birth, wedding, burial – are so important that these days must be spent with great respect. Customs related to the cycle of life are even nowadays best preserved, because they consist of gestures and behaviors that are sure to keep you in good health, wealth, and luck, either individually or family-wise.



Together with the rites, the objects necessary for their celebrations were preserved; their manufacturing is completed according to indications and interdictions inherited by tradition, in different periods of time, in different spaces and with different gestures.

The objects and the behaviors are not necessarily identical all over the country for the same ritual.

The Wedding is the moment of family creation, but this step is thoroughly prepared with respect for the traditional customs. In the house where a young girl was ready to get married it was customary to put ornamental pottery in the window facing the road. Only after the girl's engagement, the ceramic pots were facing the interior of the house.

Also before the engagement (marked by negotiations on the dowry and by the exchange of rings), the young man that wanted to marry the girl had to manufacture a spinning distaff adorned with suns, stars, and their initials carved on it. If the girl accepted the distaff, it meant that she agreed to the engagement. It seems that everything in the traditional village was transmitted in codes, objects, and gestures.

The wedding kerchief had to be folded in a cross shape, with embroidered ornaments in the four corners. On the wedding day, the young couple keeps the corners of the kerchief in their hands in front of the altar, and then the bridegroom attaches the kerchief to his belt, as a sign of future fertility. In the house of the newly-wed, the kerchief is put on the icon, where it stands as a proof of the union of the two for all those coming into their house. Upon the death of one of the married couple, the kerchief is torn into two parts by the one still alive and one of the halves is buried with the coffin of the dead, while the other half continues to hang on the icon to mark widowhood until it is buried upon the death of the widower. It is believed that the bride and the bridegroom will recognize each other in the after-life with the kerchief and reunite. The bridegroom's shirt must be embroidered by the future bride as well as the kerchief. It is used later as a material for their child's shirt and diapers.

The bride's veil is just an accessory of the wedding. In villages, young girls cover their hair after getting married. The moment of the wedding is the opportunity to cover the girl's hair, first with the wreath, then with the wife's veil. The godmother is unveiling the bride and covering the wife in a special ritual. The gifts for the parents-in-law and godparents, are generally clothes, towels, which represent a sort of small dowry. They are handed over with ritual gestures, good-bye kisses and good wishes. The bride's dowry, put in a cart and walked on the streets of the village in cortege, consists of a painted box full of fabrics: handmade rugs, counterpanes, pillows with embroidered head rests, table cloths, bed linen, towels, shirts, kerchiefs, rugs, runners, skirts, quilted bed-spread. The dowry is sung and danced at the wedding feast.

The birth was perceived in the traditional world as a frightful moment: fragile and mystic. They say that before birth, the baby is protected inside its mother's womb, which in its turn is covered with clothes embroidered with protective symbolic signs.

The pregnant woman's shirt or that of the mother of a new-born must never be inverted or with the neck opening at the back, as this may have a bad influence on the child. During pregnancy, the hem of the shirt must hide talismans such as garlic cloves or sweet basil and red crosses must be sown on the breasts as a symbol of richness for the milk. It is believed that if the midwife passes a knife through the shirt of the pregnant woman from the neck to the hem she can give birth easier. It was believed that the third night after the birth, three fairy-godmothers would come to foretell the child's fate. They were the ones who spur the thread of life. The first fairy was putting the thread on the distaff, the second was winding it on the spindle, and the third – the bad one – was cutting it. For the three fairy-godmothers, the midwife used to prepare three ring-shaped loaves and three glasses of wine.



The mother was not allowed to hear what they preordained and the predicted fate was considered implacable. The diapers and the swaddling were white and had to be cut out of the father's shirt, in order to give the fragile child the power of the man of the house. Placed over the thin diapers was a wool diaper, filled with sweet basil, garlic and a red thread to keep the baby away from the evil eye. The swaddling was a piece from a red belt, set in a cross shape on the child's chest, to protect it from Hobgoblins or aerial spirits. On baptism day, the cloth with no hem and the towel in which the priest wraps up the child after baptizing are the objects of the ritual exchange of gifts between the godmother and the grandparents of the child. The small shirts, cut out of the bridegroom shirt, was the only cloth worn by a child until he was 2 years old, in order to protect him from the evil spirits. This belief still exists, but it lives only through these symbolic objects.

The "Girls Market" on Gaina Mountain

It is a ritual related to weddings. It was a market on Gaina Mountain (in Apuseni Mountains) where parents would go and marry their daughters. Formerly the ritual started Saturday evening when the young men gathered to sing and drink plumb brandy. At dawn, young girls and wives were coming and the feast was moving onto the peak of the mountain. The folkloric dance was mandatory, so that boys could see the girls were healthy and not limping. Trade was important at that time as well, the traders in the market sold cherries and honey, or plumb brandy, or tubs and enamel pots. The most important moment was the girls' "bargaining". While the boy's father came to bargain, the parents of the girl were laying on the table their pies, grilled chicken and plumb brandy. If the parents were in agreement, the girl was invited to dance with the boy and then she was weighed on a swinging board against her own dowry.



March Trinket – symbol of spring

This old, spring custom is specific for the Romanian people as it originates from the agrarian beliefs and practices. The March trinket is given on the first of March, which is considered also the first day of spring. In Rome the beginning of the New Year was celebrated on March the 1st. The month was named after Mars, the protector of the fields and flocks, a god that personified the rebirth of nature. With the old Thracians the same attributes belonged to god Marsyas Silen, who was considered the inventor of the flute. His cult was related to the mother land and to the vegetation. Spring celebrations, flowers celebrations and nature fecundity were all devoted to Marsyas Silen. March Trinkets more than 8,000 years old were found in several archeological sites in Romania. In the old times the trinkets were small river stones painted in red and white were threaded and were worn around the neck. The red color was attributed to life and woman and represented fire, blood and the sun. The white color represented the waters clarity as well as the clouds white depicted the wisdom of men.

In Moldavia and Bucovina the March trinket consists of a golden or silver coin attached with a red and white thread which was placed around children's necks. Wearing a March trinket meant luck for the person wearing it. The girls used to wear them for 12 days, after which they put it on a pole until the coming of the storks or until the first tree was in blossom. After some time passed they would take the trinket down from the pole, tie the thread up on the tree's branches and use the coin to buy fresh cheese. It was believed that fresh cheese gave the girls beautiful and white faces the whole year.

Romanian History

Situated at the crossroads between civilizations, Romania has brought its specific contribution to the history of the continent and the universal culture, witnessing a troubled yet glorious history. Beyond

any doubt, Romania's history is part of the European history, and may be one of the most eventful. Romania preserved its place in the same geographic region from ancient times up to the present. Nowadays, the Romanians are the only successors of the Eastern Roman Empire, and their language, together with Spanish, French and Italian is one of the main languages of Latin origin. The name *Romania* comes from *Roman*, a word derived from the Latin *Romanus* (*Roman*). The fact that the Romanians used to call themselves *Romanus* (*român* – *rumân*), is mentioned for the first time in the 16th Century writings of many authors, among with the Italian humanists that were traveling to Transylvania, Moldavia and Walachia. The oldest document written in Romanian that still exists is a letter from 1521 (known under the name of "The letter of Neacsu from Campulung") which notified the Mayor of Brasov on an imminent attack of the Turks. This document also shows for the first time the official use the word "Romanian" and Walachia called Romanian Country (*Tara Romaneasca*), in a written Romanian text.

Romania's current territory was inhabited in 200 B.C. by the Dacians, a Thracian tribe. Under Burebista's leadership (82-44 B.C.) the first centralized state was founded. After the assassination of Burebista the state was divided, and it did not reunite until 87 A.D., under the leadership of Decebal. The Dacian state had several encounters with the Roman Empire, being conquered in the end in year 106 A.D. by the Roman emperor Traian. Because of the successive invasions of Germanic tribes, the Roman administration withdrew from the region 2 centuries later, in 271 A.D. The colonists and the Romanian population, who had already built towns and a social life, remained on this territory. By the end of 600 A.D., the Romanian ethnogeny had almost been finalized. Several waves of invasions followed: the Huns, Gepides, Avars, Slavs, Magyars, Pechenegs, Kumans, Alani and Tartars. A few Romanian pre-state structures



were created but it was only in the 14th Century that Moldavia and Walachia principalities were founded. They still had to fight against the Ottoman Empire. Until 1541, the entire Balkan Peninsula and a great part of Hungary became Turkish provinces. Moldavia, Walachia and Transylvania maintained their autonomy, but under Ottoman suzerainty. After Transylvania was conquered by Magyars, Transylvania was organized as a principality; in 1176, the first prince of Transylvania, Leustachius Voivode, was indicated in documents.

In 1600, the three Romanian principalities were successfully united by Michael the Brave, but this union was destroyed after Michael was slain, a year later.

At the end of the 17th Century, Hungary and Transylvania became part of the Habsburg Empire, after defeating the Turks. In 1718 an important part of Walachia, called Oltenia, was incorporated to the Austrian Empire, and was given back in 1739. In 1775, the Austrian Empire occupied the North-West of Moldavia, later to be named Bucovina, while the Eastern half of the principality (called Bessarabia) was occupied in 1812 by Russia.

As in the case of most European countries, the year 1848 brought the revolution in Moldavia, Walachia and Transylvania with the aim to achieve the independence and national emancipation. This aim remained unfulfilled, yet a basis for future evolutions. Also, the uprising helped the population of the three principalities to acknowledge the unity of their language and interests.

In 1859, the delegates to the ad-hoc assemblies elected Alexandru Ioan Cuza as prince of Moldavia and Walachia principalities. His double election in both principalities became the foundation for their unity and led to the settlement of the Romanian state.

At the end of the First World War the dream of unification of Romania to become national state finally became a reality; however, in the wake of the Second World War Romania lost one third of the country's surface and population. Under the



terms of the Treaty of Paris in 1947, the Northern part of Transylvania was again acknowledged as integral part of Romania, but USSR was allowed to annex Bessarabia and the Northern part of Bucovina. Bessarabia (which was bearing the name of "the Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova"), became independent in 1991, under the name of the Republic of Moldova.

After the Second World War, Romania became a communist country under the influence of the Soviet Union. From 1965 until the fall of the communist regime in this country, the leader of "The Socialist Republic of Romania" was Nicolae Ceausescu. The revolution in December 1989 put an end to this regime. The revolution created the necessary conditions for breaking off from the communist regime and beginning a new democratic society based on market economy and a multi-party system. On November 21st, 1991, the Constitution was adopted and free, presidential and legislative elections were organized.

Romania has been a NATO member ever since March 29th, 2004 and an EU member since January 1st, 2007.

Romanian Literature

From the late 18th century to the early 19th marks the beginning of present day Romanian literature. The earlier works, though having a certain esthetic value, could not be considered a genuine literature.

A radical change of the Romanian society (an accelerated process of westernization and liberalization, a change in the literary language brought by the European literature, as well as the institutional organization of culture) determined a separation from the previous cultural world.

The first half of the 19th century was the time of great efforts for creating a national literature, as well as for the diversity (after 1830 all possible genres were approached) and the perfecting of writing. Among the writers involved in the 1848 events, that brought a major change in the Romanian





literature, are: Vasile Alecsandri (1821-1890) – poetry, prose, drama, folklore collector and Costache Negruzzi the founder of the Romanian short stories. The second half of the 19th century was characterized by a remarkable contribution of the Cultural Society *Junimea* (founded in 1863) especially of its mentor, Titu Maiorescu (1840-1917). The magazine this society published, “*Literary Dialogue*” helped assert the great writers of the 19th century: Mihai Eminescu, Ion Luca Caragiale and Ion Creanga. Junimea Society discovered and introduced Ioan Slavici to the public. *The Litterateur* was shown the first signs of symbolism that can be found in the poems of Alexandru Macedonski.



The period between the two world wars was characterized by a great effervescence and the assertion of poets like Tudor Arghezi, Lucian Blaga, George Bacovia, Ion Barbu, who was also a brilliant mathematician and the creator of theories on space, Ion Pillat and Vasile Voiculescu. In the written prose the great names of the epoch were Liviu Rebreanu, Mihail Sadoveanu. In drama mention should be made of Camil Petrescu and his theatre of ideas, Lucian Blaga’s dramas, and the plays by Mihail Sebastian, remarkable for the sensitivity and purity of the characters. The literary criticism and essays kept pace with the written poetry and prose. During the period preceding the wars, the literary criticism was represented by great critics as Nicolae Iorga, Garabet Ibraileanu, Eugen Lovinescu. Criticism and literary history got a professional status by “The History of the Romanian Literature from origins up to now” by George Calinescu. Journalistic criticism, represented by Vladimir Streinu, Pompiliu Constantinescu and the academic criticism, represented by Tudor Vianu, developed at the same time. The relation between the Romanian literature and the European trends was interrupted during the communist period. An important name in literature, philosophy, and history was Mircea Eliade (1907-1986). He was a professor at Chicago University since 1957.



Writers like Marin Preda and Augustin Buzura, poets like St. Augustin Doinas, Nichita Stanescu, Marin Sorescu and Ana Blandiana were appreciated both by prestigious critics (Nicolae Manolescu, Eugen Simion) and by the readers.

Romanian Plastic Arts

Until the end of the 18th century, plastic arts in Walachia followed two distinct traditions: the Byzantine tradition (the two Romanian states and the Orthodox area represented by the Romanians in Transylvania) and the Western tradition (the areas in Transylvania inhabited by Magyars, Transylvania Saxons, Szeklers, and the Banat area inhabited by Swabians).

This division, even more strict in art than in architecture, with frequent stylistic interferences, was caused by the rigorous iconographic programs imposed by religion, however, in some of the orthodox churches in Transylvania, one can notice works influenced by western trends (paintings in gothic style in the church from Strei village, currently in Hunedoara County, dating from the 14th century). Prove of old Byzantine tradition was the existence of blossom of the mural painting in Walachia in the 14th century. The paintings on the royal church’s walls in Curtea de Arges, executed during 1362-1366, represent a composition of Byzantine mural type of the 14th century and a model for the mural painters in the Romanian countries and Transylvania. The fresco in the 16th Century Walachia, which were the exterior paintings that decorate the walls of the monasteries in Bucovina, North Moldavia (Voronet – 1547; Moldovita – 1532-1537; Sucevita – 1582-1598), had harmonious compositions, the well-balanced relation between the whole and the details, and brightness of colors, which represents the last flourishing epoch in Byzantine painting history after the fall of Byzantium.

Sculpture occupied a modest place in the Middle Ages, the Byzantine type monuments being



generally with no sculptured decorations. One of the few exceptions is the Episcopal Church in Curtea de Arges, with many Caucasian and Arab decorations. In the 19th century the laic character appeared in arts and later it was adapted to modern life both as subject (portraits, historical scenes) and as technique (painting on an easel) or as artistic trends (academism and romanticism) They were introduced by foreign artists coming from Austria, Germany, Poland, and Italy, upon request of the wealthy boyars that ordered family portraits.

In the beginning of the 1840s the first Romanian artists educated in Western countries, mainly in Germany, asserted themselves, and after 1850, the French trends made their way in the Romanian painting. Theodor Aman and Gheorghe Tattarascu academism representatives are the first beneficiaries of a French education. Nicolae Grigorescu (who introduced the painting in the open air) and Ioan Andreescu completed their education together with painters from Barbizon, while Stefan Luchian was learned in Paris and came into contact with the impressionist experience. Grigorescu's peasant girls' portraits full of young pride are remarkable; Andreescu's vocation for landscapes gives a tint of sobriety and meditation, while Luchian adds a tragic intensity to the fragility and grace of his flowers which is what made him famous. In the same time, a renewal of the sculptural idiom is noticed due to the immersion in folklore of Dimitrie Paciurea and Constantin Brancusi. Paciurea, the first Romanian sculptor endowed with a monumental vision, explored the mythological and fantastic inclinations of the old folkloric creations (chimeras and sphinxes). Settled in Paris in 1904, Brancusi, by geometrical simplifications, restructured the entire 20th century sculpture. Few of his works are in Romanian museums: *The Prayer, The Kiss, Miss Pogony, The Earth's wisdom etc.* We must not forget the monuments in Targu-Jiu, consisting of the *Endless Column, the Table of Silence and the Arch of Kiss* dedicated to soldiers that died in the First World War.



The period between the two World Wars diversifies and enriches the Romanian painting that absorbs the impressionist experience of others. Nicolae Tonitza, Francisc Sirato, Camil Ressu and Lucian Stefan, Nicolae Grigorescu, Gheorghe Petrascu, Theodor Pallady, are among the most known names. The communist period tried to limit art, as well as the other domains, to the ideological dogmatism, but as elsewhere, the undermining of ideological dogmas took different forms: cultivation of symbolism in the case of Ion Tuculescu, of the chromatic synthesis in the case of Alexandru Ciucurencu, of essential and dramatic realism in the case of Corneliu Baba etc. The art of sculpture had remarkable artists such as: Ion Jalea, Cornel Medrea and Vida Geza, Oscar Han and Gheorghe Anghel, whose statues representing famous Romanian personalities are remarkable for their profoundness of the spirit.

Romanian Music

A thorough look into the Romanian classic music leads one to the conclusion that it has drawn its inspiration from the old popular music, the Byzantine music and the music of the psalms. These inspiration sources stay at the basis of religious music.

The important schools of composition appeared in 19th century in Moldavia, where composers like Gavril Muzicescu, Ciprian Porumbescu, Eusebiu Mandicevschi carried on their activity and in the regions of Transylvania and Banat, where Gheorghe Dima, Iacob Muresianu and Ion Vidu became known for their musical work.

The genuine folklore-inspired music and the sublime tonalities of the Byzantine music, freed from the rhythmic and acoustic influences of the German and French Romantic schools, are embraced in Romania at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. This embracement began with the establishment of the "Carmen Chorus". It is under these favorable circumstances that D.G.Kiriac and George Cucu began their career.



It is in those days that the so-called “front generation”, the generation that had fought for the Great Romania during the Second World War, excelled in this domain. It was only natural because this generation brought along with it the genius of George Enescu and the exceptional composing talents of Mihail Jora, Mihail Andricu, Sabin V. Dragoi, Dimitrie Cuclin, Martian Negrea, Constantin Dimitrescu.

The descendents of the George Enescu generation of composers also contributed to the evolution of the Romanian music school. These are Paul Constantinescu, Sigismund Toduta, Zeno Vancea, Ion and Gheorghe Dumitrescu, Alfred Mendelsohn, Constantin Silvestri, Tudor Ciortea, Teodor Rogalski. A more recent generation, represented by the poet Nicolae Labis, also gave a lot of good composers like Tiberiu Olah, Stefan Niculescu, Aurel Stroe, Anatol Vieru, Dumitru Capoianu, Pascal Bentoiu, Theodor Grigoriu, Cornel Taranu and later, Nicolae Brandus, Liviu Glodeanu, Mihail Moldovan, Octavian Nemescu, Corneliu Cezar. They have different composition styles, but their work represents a genuine synthesis of expression means that are present in Western music combined with elements of folk music. The work of the Romanian composers was completed under the wonderful incentive given by Nicolae Iorga, the illustrious historian: “Life is a gift that has to be given back in full respect and thankfulness”.

Romanian Architecture

An important part of Romanian architecture consists of castles and cathedrals that belong to the typical, though simplified image of the Western Middle Ages.

Most of the edifices built in this period disappeared due to the passage of time, wars, earthquakes and fires. In Mediaeval architecture, the influence of Western culture can be found in larger or smaller proportions, in all countries inhabited by

Romanians. These influences are stronger in Transylvania, then in Moldavia and mostly absorbed in Walachia, where starting with the 14th Century, the architecture represented a local interpretation of the Byzantine pattern. Significant for the Gothic style in Transylvania and in spite of all deterioration, the Black Church in Brasov (14th and 15th Century), the Bran Castle in Brasov County (14th Century) and the Huniad Castle in Hunedoara County (15th Century) are among the most known religious and secular monuments preserved to our days. The extension and fortification of towns were typical for Transylvania during those centuries. The urban development in the towns of Sighisoara, Sibiu and Brasov was based on the functional needs of the community (they had a central market with a church, radiant narrow streets and united facades, sometimes with arcades).

Some of the most genuine and stylistically similar are the Moldavian churches built under the reign of Stephan the Great (1457-1504), among which the monumental church of Manastirea Neamt was for almost a century a model for all the Moldavian religious buildings, characterized by delicate shapes, harmonious facades, picturesque roofs of folkloric inspiration. The unity of style continued in the following century, adding a few innovations to the architecture of the gates and the exterior wall painting. (It is the case of the churches of the monasteries Voronet, Sucevita and Moldovita).

The 17th Century brought along the development of secular constructions (landlord mansions and sumptuous palaces in the Romanian regions outside the Carpathians arch and Renaissance style palaces in Transylvania) and the extension of the great monasteries, which became genuine cultural centers as they hosted schools, art workshops and printing houses. Trei Ierarhi Monastery in Iasi belongs to this period. It was built in 1635-1639 and it is a unique monument engraved with geometric patterns, colored with lapis lazuli and gold leaves on all facades. The architecture style in Walachia, especially under



the reign of Matei Basarab and Constantin Brancoveanu is remarkable for its unity in style. The Brancoveanu style is characterized by a combination of the Baroque or Oriental elements with the local tradition, and illustrated by Hurezi Monastery in Oltenia (Walachia) and the prince's palace in Mogosoaia, adorned with luxurious decoration (stone sculpture and paintings). The 18th Century (the Phanariote ruling period) brought elements of Oriental origin in the architecture of urban buildings in Walachia and Moldavia. In the same time, in Transylvania, the Baroque dominated both the religious architecture (Roman-Catholic Churches in Timisoara and Oradea) and secular architecture (Banffy Palace in Cluj and Bruckenthal Palace in Sibiu). The first half of the 19th Century brought into the Romanian architecture a combination of Romantic and Neo-classical elements. Its second half resurrects the elements and shapes of the old folkloric architecture. Ion Mincu was the promoter of this trend and the founder of the Romanian school of architecture. The Lahovary House and the Central School for girls, in Bucharest, can be enlisted among the achievements of this movement. As an opposition to this trend, many houses and administrative buildings were built in Bucharest in the eclectic French style (The Justice Palace, the Central Post Office) or Rococo style (the Scientists House and the Cantacuzino Palace) in Bucharest. Due to these famous buildings, Bucharest was nicknamed the Little Paris. Romanian architects as Peter Antonescu, Horia Creanga and Duiliu Marcu showed their option for simple and functional forms.

Romanian Theatre

Although the Romanian theatre appeared quite late (until the 19th Century theatre shows were held in the landlords' yards under the form of entertainment parties and folkloric plays) it developed rapidly and constantly.



The first plays were performed by amateurs in Iasi in 1814 and in Bucharest in 1818. Towards the middle of the century, the appetite for theatre of the Romanian society led to a constant demand for foreign theatre troupes, which performed in both capitals and to the first performances in Romanian. The theatre schools of the Philharmonic Society in Bucharest (1833) and of the Philharmonic and Dramatic Conservatory in Iasi (1936) and later on the more numerous state dramatic art schools (1864) laid the basis for a theatrical education and led to the opening in 1852 of the first independent actor troupes. Ion Luca Caragiale is considered to be the greatest Romanian playwright and one of the most important Romanian writers. During the communist years great theatre directors became well-known: Sica Alexandrescu, Liviu Ciulei, Lucian Giurchescu, Lucian Pintilie, Andrei Serban, David Esrig, Ion Cojar and many others. Many of them joined the Diaspora and became famous in the international theatre. Eugen Ionescu (1909-1994), known beyond the Romanian borders under the name of Eugene Ionesco was a French language writer, originating from Romania, promoter of the absurd theatre and member of the French Academy. After 1989, the Romanian theatre gained a good name by great performances on famous stages of the world, thanks to its exceptional actors and the original vision of great directors.

Romanian National Opera

The tradition of the Romanian Opera Theatre goes back more than two centuries. In Bucharest an opera troupe was mentioned in 1772. In 1836, the graduation concert given by the students of the Music and Theatre School drew the attention of the public on the beauty of the opera music and on young talents like Eufrosina Vlasto, who would later make an international singing career. In the second half of the 19th century a lot of Romanian singers gained their



celebrity on renowned stages of the world, like Elena Teodorini, Hariclea Darclee, Margareta Lamandi-Nuovina, Zina de Nori, Grigore Gabrielescu, D. Popovici Bayreuth, in a cultural space which included the Milan Scala, the Paris Opera, the Metropolitan or the Opera in Petersburg. The first Romanian opera company was created by George Stephanescu and it started as a section of the National Theatre.

The establishment of the "Lyric Society" in 1919, which two years later received the support of the state and became the Romanian Opera, was the beginning of a stable activity and performance. The opening show of the new company took place on the 20th of December 1921 with "Lohengrin" by Wagner, under the baton of the great conductor George Enescu.

Jean Anastasiu, George Folescu, G. Niculescu Basu, Emilia Gutzianu, Florica Cristoforeanu, Traian Grozavescu, Viorica Ursuleac, Margareta Mataxa, Marta Cebotari, Constantin Stroescu, Dimitrie Onofrei are just a few names of the singers that made the fame of the Romanian opera performance.

The efforts of the opera singers to give a grand status to the opera theatre were supported by important composers, the musical creators of famous shows, among which Eduard Caudella, Constantin Dimitrescu, Tiberiu Brediceanu, Mihail Jora, Paul Constantinescu. The success was also due to great conductors like George Georgescu, Ionel Perlea, Alfred Alessandrescu, Egizio Massini, Jean Bobescu and many others. The musical creation was also remarkable and composers like George Enescu, Gh. Dumitrescu, Alfred Mendelsohn, Zeno Vancea, Mircea Kiriac, Cornel Trailescu, Laurentiu Profeta laid many bricks to the same edifice.

The new Opera House, build in 1953, gave independence to this cultural institution, which had previously functioned within the theatre. The opera singers like Petre Stefanescu Goanga, Zenaida Pally, Nicolae Herlea, Arta Florescu, Elena Cernei, Octav Enigarescu, Magda Ianculescu,



Valentin Teodorian, Mihail Arnautu, David Ohanesian, Nicolae Florei, Garbis Zobian, Cornel Stavru, Dan Iordachescu, Teodora Lucaciu, Lella Cincu, Iulia Buciuceanu or ballet dancers like Irinel Liciu, Gabriel Popescu, Valentina Massini, Gh. Cotovelea, Alexa Mezincescu, Ileana Ilescu, Magdalena Popa, Gelu Barbu, Eugen Marcui, Ioan Tugearu and others took to the world the fame of the Romanian talents. Numerous international contests in Geneva, Toulouse, Vercelli, Verviers, Sofia, Moscow and Salzburg and many world tours confirmed the exceptional results of the Romanian Opera Theatre. It is impossible to name them all but their contribution to the brilliant performances of each evening proves to be consistent with this illustrious tradition.

Romanian Cinema

The first cinema projection in Romania took place on the 27th of May 1896, when the Lumiere films were presented in the editorial offices of the French language newspaper "L'Independence Roumaine" in Bucharest; in May 1897 the first newsreels were produced and in 1912 the first feature film – Romania's Independence - was released to the public. Film making in Romania began with a humble origins given by the work of some amateurs. In the 1930's the film industry was developed due the state incentives and after the Second World War it became a part of the national cultural policy. The state owned all the film production and distribution companies. It supported financially the film production which soared to 20-30 films per year in the 1970's. The first films in the Stalinist era were a proof of the weak tradition in film making and usually had an ideological message. In 1965, the film "Padurea spanzuratilor" (The Hanged Men Forest), the third film created by Liviu Ciulei (a director who later directed only theatre plays, beginning an international career) received the award for Best Director at the Cannes Film Festival.



Important success was also obtained in cartoon production, whose founder in Romania was Ion Popescu Gopo (who won the Great Award at the Cannes Festival in 1957 for the film “Scurta istorie” – Short story). The film director Sergiu Nicolaescu became internationally known for his numerous films, which used to attract a very large audience. After the fall of communism the freedom of creation was not entirely rewarding for the film producers because of the economic crisis and the cut in state incentives. An important role in the film creation of today is played by directors like Lucian Pintilie, Mircea Danieliuc, Dan Pita (who won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 1992), Nae Caranfil, Radu Gabrea a.s.o.

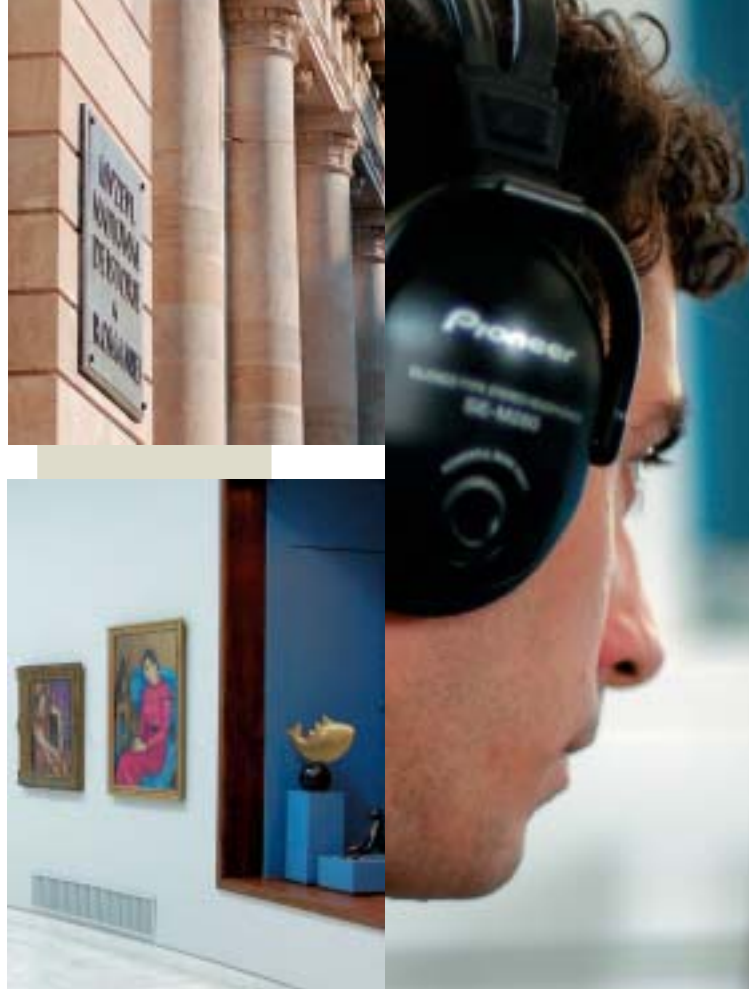
Romanian Museums

Romanian museums were first established at the beginning of the 19th Century and represented archives of facts, events and personalities. There are different kinds of museums starting with archeology and history museums, or town museums, art galleries and memorial houses. The museum exhibits bring to light the facts and events that took place in this country as well as their promoters.

“Muzeele din Romania” presents, in an interactive and multimedia format (text, image, oral explanations), all data exhibited in museums like: The History of Romania from Paleolithic to modern times, archeology, natural sciences, arts, urban and rural architecture, ethnography etc.

Romanian Media

After December 1989, Romania has witnessed a genuine information outburst, unparalleled by other sectors of society. The transition from being hyper-centralized and under absolute control of the Communist Party and strict censorship over the information was replaced by the full freedom of the press in a matter of



weeks. The few central dailies that used to be printed in the last decades of communism had between 4 and 6 pages (the local newspapers were nearly inexistent). During the communist era, the national television broadcast was only two hours (between 8 PM – 10 PM) and the written press was declining dramatically as well. In 1989 only 1900 titles were published, that is less than in the period 1950 – 1960.

The boom after 1990 resulted into an exponential increase of the number of publications, newspapers and periodicals, both in Bucharest and in other cities, as well as publishing houses, radio stations, TV stations, press agencies, all private. Only ROMPRES national press agency (founded in 1949), National Radio Broadcasting Society (founded in 1928) and the Romanian Television (founded in 1957) and a few other institutions have stayed public. In 1990 the main daily newspapers were published into over 1 million copies, while nowadays there are between 100,000 – 200,000 copies.

Over the last 2 years, the press grew in influence, as more of the public began to read the papers, in the main cities. The weekly and monthly illustrated magazines developed faster than the cultural and scientific ones. There are many newspapers in minority languages, especially Hungarian and German.

Romanian Science

In Ancient times and medieval times, a system of knowledge from various fields evolved, like mathematics, astronomy, mining technique, bakery technique, medicine. In Medieval times, in Transylvania, Humanism evolved and at the end of the medieval times in all the three Romanian countries.

In the 17th-18th centuries, philological and historical preoccupations evolved, regarding the formation of the Romanian nation; this epoch gave birth to encyclopedic minds like Nicolae Milescu, Constatin Cantacuzino, Dimitrie Cantemir.





Starting with them many other great minds of our country developed and evolved our science in different fields. Only a few important names and domains:

Medicine: I Piuariu Molnar, N. Kretzulescu, Carol David, Constantin I. Parhon, M Goldstein, Thoma Ionescu, Dr. C. Levatidi, I. Athanasiu, D. Danielopolu, N. GH. Lupu.

Engineering: Gheorghe Asachi, Gheorghe Lazar.

Social sciences: E Poteca, Ion Heliade Radulescu, C Moroiu, D Bojinca, A Donici, Chr Flechtenmacher, T Diamant, A T Laurian, Mihail Kogalniceanu, Simion Barnutiu, G Barutiu, St L Roth, Teodor Cipariu.

Natural sciences: P Vasici, I Ciha, M Zotta, Th Stamati, I Ionescu de la Brad, I Baras.

Mathematics: Janos Bolyai, Emanoil Bacaloglu, Spiru Haret, C. Gogu, N. Coculescu, A. Davidoglu, D. Emmanuel, Gheorghe Titeica, Dumitru Pompeiu, Traian Lalescu, Gh. Mihoc, Grigore Moisil.

Chemistry: Alexe Marin, Petru Poni, C. I. Istrati, G. G. Longinescu, Gh. Spacu, Petre Bogdan, N. Costachescu, C. N. Nenitescu.

Geology: Gr. Stefanescu, Gr. Cobalcescu, Sabba Stefanescu, Gh. Macovei, I. Athanasiu.

History: Bogdan Petriceicu Hasdeu, E Hurmuzaki, Al Papiu Ilarian, Alexandru Odobescu, A. Otetea, Constantin Daicoviciu, C. C. Giurescu.

Economy: Ion Ghica, D. Pop Martian, P. S. Aurelian.

Philosophy: Titu Maiorescu, Vasile Conta.

Law: C. Brailoiu, C. Bozianu, G. Costaforu and Boerescu.

Biology: Dimitrie Brindza, N. Leon, Grigore Antipa, St. C. Michailescu, P. Bujor, D. Voinov Em. Teodorescu, I. Borcea, Traian Savulescu, Gh. Ionescu Sisesti.

Physics: St. Procopiu, Horia Hulubei.

Technical sciences: N. Vasilescu Karpen, C. I. Budeanu, I. S. Gheorghiu, P. Andronescu, C. A. Parteni.

Romanian science men made their contribution to the universal scientific patrimony and some of the discoveries made by Romanians became worldwide known. Nicolae Teclu studied the burning process and he invented the bulb which has been called after



his name, as well as other inventions. C Miculescu made an accurate measurement of the mechanical equivalent of the calorie. D Hurmuzescu discovered the ionizing effect of radiation X. The engineer Anghel Saligny built the bridge in Cernavoda, the longest bridge at that time in Europe (3,850 m) and the first silos made of reinforced concrete. Traian Vuia, in 1906, first attempted to fly an aircraft which had its own on-board flying capability. Henri Coanda designed and flew, in 1910, the first jet-plane ever, and Aurel Vlaicu had important success with his aviation techniques. G Constantinescu achieved the first reinforced concrete constructions and starting with 1912, he created a new science, sonicity. In 1908, Lazar Edeleanu managed to achieve the process of oil refinement based on SO₂, later on taken over in the whole world. In 1907 Emil Racovita created biospeology.



Romanian Education

The first school in Romania formed in the 11th century was the school for clerics which was connected to the Catholic Bishopric in Cenad. Today, the school is still functioning. A Romanian school was already open since 1495 in Scheii Brasovului, in Brasov, and in 1544, the German Humanist scholar in Transylvania, J. Honterus, created a German school in his home town, Brasov. In the 19th century, there were primary schools in villages, usually by the churches, and theological seminaries by the monasteries. In rich, boyar families, education was made through private lessons, with Romanian and Greek teachers, and beginning with the 18th century, also French and German teachers. "Royal Academies" were created for Romanian princes, in the two Romanian countries outside of the Carpathians, starting with the 17th century. The teaching language in these schools was mainly Greek and this lasted until the end of the Phanariote ruling in Romanian countries. In the first quarter of the 19th century, higher education started using Romanian language: In Moldavia, in

Iasi, 1814, Gheorghe Asachi, in Tara Romaneasca, 1818, Gheorghe Lazar, a Romanian teacher born in Transylvania. According to the Public Instruction Law, adopted by the prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza in 1864, the primary education became compulsory and tax-free. During the ruling of Cuza, the first universities were founded in Iasi, 1860, and Bucharest, 1864, then in Cluj, 1872, and Cernauti, 1875. After the communist regime came to power, the educational institutions became the property of the state and the curricula were adapted to the ideological purposes. Illiteracy, which between the two World Wars had affected a quarter of the population, was eradicated through an intensive campaign, and 7-year, then 8-year and 10-year education became compulsory while the age to be admitted in primary school became 7, then 6 years of age. The system of national education consisted of pre-school education between 3 – 6 years old, primary education between 7 -10 years old, classes 1-4, secondary education between 11 – 14 years old, classes 5-8, and high-school between 15-18 years old, classes 9-12. The primary school and the secondary school were compulsory. There were vocational schools and apprentice schools for those who graduated the first 8 years of schooling, trade schools or post high school education for those who graduated the high-schools, all of them of 1 or 2 years. Higher education lasts between 3 -5 years. The main education cities are: Bucharest, Iasi, Cluj Napoca, Timisoara, Craiova, Brasov, Galati, university centers which existed before 1990. After 1990, higher education institutions were created in other 18 cities. The primary education and secondary education is also given in minority languages such as: Hungarian, German, Serbian, Ukrainian, Slovak, Czech and Croatian.

Romanian Tourism

Walachia, Moldavia and Transylvania, three traditional Romanian regions with ancient history, rich and diverse landscapes, diverse



architecture and old traditions which date since the times of Dacians and Romans, represent an attraction for tourists from all over the world.

Bucovina- the province North-East of Romania – is well-known for its mural paintings on the walls of the monasteries. Monasteries are the main attraction in Bucovina because of the mural paintings in vivid colors on the walls. They depict biblical scenes and religious scenes and are structured in segments.

They were meant to incite the imagination of the religious people and to educate them in an Orthodox influence. The churches are placed in the middle of the complexes and they all have high roofs pointed to the sky. The sun beams have difficulties to penetrate. Humor Monastery, built in 1530, is rather small. In its mural paintings, there is a scene depicting “the Fall of Constantinople” which proves the feeling of the Romans towards the Turks. Voronet, also called “The Sistine chapel of the Orient”, has mural paintings in vivid colors that were added later on and they prove the Byzantine classical art was adapted to the Moldavian realities – the trumpets of the archangels have the shape of the horns of the Moldavian peasants and the souls of those cursed to burn into the fire of Hell have turbans like the Turks.

Sucevita Monastery, placed in a beautiful green valley, is fortified like a citadel, and has watch towers on the 4 corners. Thousands of paintings embellish the walls of the monastery. Actually, among all the monasteries, Sucevita has the largest number of paintings although its West wall is white. The legend says the builder fell of the scaffolding and died and, thus, the wall remained unpainted. It has a monumental scene depicting the siege in Constantinople, in strong tinges of red, blue, yellow and brown. On the inside, the monastery has kept furniture pieces from the 16th century, including the throne of the prince Petru Rares who built the monastery. Moldavia has large areas of forests and hills where you can discover less known and extraordinary things. A good example is the region around Targu Neamt. If you are lucky, you



can see European buffalos, an extinction specie which is being reintroduced in natural reservations. There are marked routes for hitch-hiking, camping, and you can find comfortable hotels in the big cities. The Moldavian wines have been known for five centuries.

Iasi and Suceava will attract you with many well preserved memorial houses of Romanian writers. The most famous monument in Iasi is "Three Hierarchs" church, from 1639. In Suceava, which has direct air and rail connections with Bucharest, it is worth visiting the ruins of the voievodal fortress of Stephan the Great, not far from the city. Do not forget to taste the Moldavian dishes in the restaurants!

Transylvania is by far the most romantic among the Romanian provinces. Its name itself reminds of the peaks of the mountains pointing to the sky and of the green valleys, with forests and clear springs, of the small wooden churches with tall roofs, of the legendary castles and memories of a turbulent history.

But you can find here many interesting places: winter resorts and spas, paths to do trips in the mountains, Retezat National Park, fascinating medieval cities, art museums and high quality hotels.

Brasov, this fascinating medieval town, is placed near Postavaru Mountain, in the vicinity of the Transylvanian Mountains. Near the Black Church (which dates back from the 14th century) can be visited Architectural Saxon monuments and the ruins of the City Fortress and also the Old Townhall dating back from the 18th century. From Brasov, trips can be made to Bran, the alleged residence of the prince Vlad Tepes, who was the inspiration source for the legend of Dracula. A stay here is pleasant both in summertime and in wintertime, given the impressive mountain landscape.

There are many possibilities to spend leisure time: hitch-hiking, equitation, and ski in winter. Sibiu is also a beautiful town built by the Germans, with stone-paved streets and houses



Painted in vivid colors. In 2007, Sibiu was the European Capital of Culture.

Further on, near Deva, there is the Huniazi Castle, re-built in the 15th century, in a Gothic style, by the prince lancu of Hunedoara who adorned it with towers and buttresses reminding of castles on the Loire River.

The region in the South-West of Romania, has a drier climate, Mediterranean-like, different from what we find in the rest of Romania; also, there are some slight cultural differences.

The fact that, until 1918, this region was under Habsburg domination is reflected in the architecture, Art Nouveau-like. 1900 years before, the Romans built a spa in Baile Herculane, which is still in fashion.

Originally a Roman city, Sighisoara is one of the biggest medieval cities in the world nowadays. There is a fortified fortress here, placed on the top of a hill, there are secret entries and passages, a clock tower from the 14th century, and the house prince Vlad Tepes lived in.

Wherever you may go in Transylvania, you will discover rural traditions preserved in everyday life: the shepherds make saltless cheese which you can buy along the roads, the gates of the dwellings adorned with complex carved patterns, the traditional folk costumes, richly colorful, are worn on Sundays, at weddings and festivals as they bear significances.

The inhabitants in Transylvania have kept their traditions and folklore. You can visit this region and admire the unique life style of the people living here. There are few regions in Europe where such a strong culture has ever developed. Agriculture has always been the main element which ensured the existence of the highlanders. This is reflected in local traditions, for instance at the festivals taking place in April, May, August, December.

December festival takes place in Sighetu Marmatiei, and it includes folk parades. On this occasion, you can admire masks representing animals. Sighetu Marmatiei is typical for the



region of Maramures, because of its fairs, folk costumes, and the atmosphere full of life.

Among the exhibits in the Museum of Maramures, there are many carnival masks. From the Museum of Maramures, one can easily reach by car Borsa mountain resort and villages like Bogdan voda and Rozalvea, famous because of their wooden architecture.

The artistry of the carved wood is the most important feature in Maramures. The most representative for the villages in Maramures are the churches with tall steeples and shingle roofs, some of them from the 14th century.

The embroidery of folk costumes is also a highly developed trade. On Sunday afternoon, men and women put on their costumes and go dancing, as they have been doing for centuries.

Women wear colorful scarves, skirts with flower-like pattern and sheepskin black coats. Men wear black trousers and sheepskin white coats. There are differences in costumes from one village to another. Best occasions to admire them are the Easter festivals.

The Carpathian Mountains is a relaxing area where you can have an unforgettable experience. In winter-time, ski is the major attraction. Poiana Brasov is situated at 13 km (8 miles) from Brasov and it is the best known resort. The ski slopes are 4,500 meter long and they are the best here. Their difficulty ranges from difficult to easy. Most of the ski trainers speak English, German and French. Night life is vivid; there are many bars, discos, folk shows and cabarets.

In the Southern Carpathians there is another town, Sinaia, established in 1870, with ski and bobsleigh slopes, Predeal, with its 15 slopes, and Busteni, with its mountain-climbing activities in summer-time. There are many smaller mountain resorts: Paltinis, near Sibiu, Secu, Valiug, Trei Ape and Crivaia in Banat, in Semenic Mountains, Durau, near the legendary Ceahlau Mountain in the eastern Carpathians, and Borsa in Maramures. The normal duration of the ski-season is from December until March. In



summer time, one can ride horses, go fishing and go canoeing. There are many camping sites and the mountain routes are well marked.

The lower parts of the mountains are covered by extremely beautiful beech and oak trees. In the upper parts there are pastures and the alpine areas start at 1,700 meters (5576 feet). There are many natural reservations which cover over 75,000 hectares. Some of them, like the one in Retezat Mountains, were designed to be natural parks whose fauna include the bald-headed eagle, the black goat, the marmot, the porcupine, the lynx and the bear.

The Danube Delta, a natural paradise, stretches at the mouth of the Danube, where it flows into the Black Sea and it ends its long journey of 2,860 km (1,788 miles). Its spring lies in the Black Forest Mountains in Germany. For centuries, the Danube expanded its surface because of the mud brought in by the river, and a network of channels, lakes, reed-covered islets, tropical forests, pastures and sand dunes have emerged, covering at present almost 5,640 square km (2,200 square miles).

The Danube waters accommodates over 300 species of birds and many species of fish, from sturgeons to carps and perches, while the variety of 1,150 species of plants include from lianas, creeping along the trunks of the trees, to water lilies.

No wonder why UNESCO has designated the Danube Delta as a Reservation of the Biosphere. The villages, where the only access ways are the channels, seem unaffected by history. As a visitor, one can explore by boat this amazing natural heaven, with its profound silence and calmness.

The starting point for an adventure in the Danube Delta is usually Tulcea, a town almost as old as Rome, situated at the point where the Danube divides into its main three channels, so where the river delta begins.

In Tulcea you will find a Delta Natural Sciences Museum. The town is situated 71 km (45 miles)

away from Sulina, a very old town as well, at the other side of Sulina channel.

Between these two points, one can go on cruises and admire, from the comfortable decks of the boats, the flora, the fauna and the villages in the Danube Delta. There are 18 reservations, protected as “buffer” areas, all over the Danube Delta, which can be reached along the narrow channels, passing by the reed-covered floating islet, and woods, and places where the pelicans and cormorants gather to catch fish.

The Black Sea with its wonderful weather from spring till autumn and the huge sand beach makes its seaside resorts an ideal destination to spend your holidays. The Romanian coast on the Black Sea stretches from the fascinating natural virgin reservations of the Danube Delta to the modern holiday centers. While the Delta is protected, the Southern part, 72 km long (45 miles) has been turned into a chain of seaside resorts and spas which satisfy the most demanding tastes, from children to grandparents.

With an international airport, a very dynamic port, fast trains which connect Bucharest (in only 2 ½ hours) and a history of over 2,500 years, Constanta is the very cosmopolitan city on the coast. Hotels, shops, ancient monuments, a splendid casino on the shore and interesting museums, altogether are part of the attraction of the city. From here, you can easily reach, by train or by bus, any seaside resort on the Black Sea coast.

Mamaia, the main summer resort situated North of Constanta, is a town with beautiful fine sand beaches and a lake. From May to October, have fun in one of the numerous bars and restaurants and then continue the party in the night clubs. If you are based in Mamaia it will come handy to go sightseeing the remains of the antique Greek fortress of Histria or even go on a trip to the Danube Delta.

There is a 50 kilometers sand beach in the south of Constanta that stretches out to the Bulgarian border. Here you can find several resorts named after well-known ladies or mythological characters.

Neptun and Olimp are some of the most appreciated for the luxury condominiums and hotels, some placed right on the beach and some deep into the comforting woods of Comorova, between the seaside and the lake. Even the most demanding tourists will be happy with the outdoors tennis courts, restaurants, discos, nightclubs and cabarets.

Going south, one will find Jupiter, Cap Aurora, Venus and Saturn. Here and on the youth summer resorts called Costinesti and Vama Veche you can rent rooms for a low price or you can even opt for a place in a camping. The advantages of these resorts are obvious – cheap accommodation and lots of loud fun.

You may forget about sunbathing in exchange for a visit to the remains of the 7th century Greek fortress of Histria or to Adamclisi. The nearby villages still demonstrate ancient handcrafts such as wood sculpture and potter’s art. On the surrounding hills you will be able to see the vineyards where the well-known Romanian wines (including Murfatlar) are produced.





Welcome to the University of Bucharest!

You will be introduced to the world of academic excellence, where quality, tradition and value are the fundamental stones of university culture.

UB provides new perspectives on education development and it makes the connection with the European educational system, combining modern thinking and teaching with a traditional style. It updates the scientific activities to the social needs and educates the public on issues related to the life and to the world, creating new great minds every year. As recognition of its international appreciation, UB is visited every year by numerous important politicians, ecclesiastical figures, brilliant scholars, renowned artists. To some of them, the University of Bucharest has conferred the titles of Doctor Honoris Causa, Professor Honoris Causa and Honorary Fellow of the Senate.

Honour Tradition!

An 1864 decree of Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza converted the former St. Sabba Academy into the University of Bucharest, which presently comprises nineteen faculties. Ever since, the University of Bucharest has been considered within Romania and abroad the country's leading educational and research institution. Many personalities, worldwide recognized, have graduated from the University of Bucharest. Mircea Eliade, both student and professor of the university, is one of the most important historians of religious beliefs, who also used to teach in universities such as the Sorbonne and the Chicago University. Eugene Ionesco, bachelor of French at the University of Bucharest, is the creator of the absurd theatre, while Nicolae Titulescu was an internationally respected statesman. Our professors and graduates are experts in numerous fields of activity for national and international bodies, consultants for multinationals, high ranking officials and opinion leaders. According to Times Higher Education Supplement and Quacquarelli Symonds' classification, the University of Bucharest is situated in the top 500 universities of the world.

Recognize Value!

UB has taken a leader's position not only in the educational field, but also in society as a whole, since its programs and initiatives have a high social impact. Both at a national and regional level, our university plays an important role in raising the access of the population to the new technologies, in offering equal opportunities to every social group, in promoting social inclusion and multiculturalism.

Choose Wisely!

With its 140 years of prestigious tradition, UB is the perfect destination for everyone who wants to start or continue a prominent career. Its educational offer varies from undergraduate and graduate studies to doctoral and MBA programs, as well as distance and eLearning opportunities. A perpetual concern of the University of Bucharest consists of trying to meet the 21st century students' needs by offering high quality courses. New fields of interest have recently appeared. Discoveries in Chemistry and Biology, new theories in Mathematics and Physics, as well as new perspectives in Social Sciences, they have all been included in the current curricula of the University of Bucharest.

The Romanian higher education system

The Academic Calendar

The academic year starts in October 1st, running until June, and is divided into two semesters of approximately 14 weeks each. National standards set the total class time per week at 24 to 28 hours.

The Autumn Semester begins on the 1st of October and includes a Christmas holiday from December 20th till January 5th. It usually ends in February, after the winter exams session.

The Spring Semester starts at the beginning of March. It includes the Easter holiday and a four-week exams session in May-June. It ends in July, but the exact date varies from one faculty to another, depending on the duration of the practical activities in each of them.

Examinations

Student evaluation is undertaken throughout the semester and also in the final examination, at the conclusion of a study discipline. There are three evaluation periods each academic year: a three-week session in January-February, a four week session in May-June and a two-week session for re-examinations in September.

Student evaluation can be undertaken in various forms: written examinations (common subjects), oral examinations (individual subjects defended in front of a board consisting of at least three members), evaluation of the student's activity during the semester, mainly used in the case of practical disciplines, and evaluation of individual or collective essays and projects.

The same examination may be undertaken three times. If the examination is failed at the third attempt, the student must repeat the course for the discipline in question.

The Romanian Grading Scale vs. the ECTS Grading Scale

ECTS Grade	Romanian Grade	Definition of Scale Interval	Percentage of Students achieving the grade
A	10	EXCELLENT	10
B	9	VERY GOOD	25
C	7-8	GOOD	30
D	6	SATISFACTORY	25
E	5	SUFFICIENT	10
X	4	FAILED	-
F	1-3	FAILED	-

The standard unit of study is the semester. The normal load of a semester is conventionally 30 credits. The convention of 30 credits/semester was chosen to adjust to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). The credits assess the normal volume of a student's work.

The credit system makes it possible:

- to compare curricula and recognize the compact periods of study in other units;
- to build flexible programs in the curriculum;
- to include new subjects in the curriculum.

Study Programs

Study programs include **basic disciplines**, mandatory for all students within a major specialty, **optional disciplines**, which can be selected from a list of courses provided by the faculty or any other faculty with a similar profile, and **complementary disciplines**, which can be selected from among those offered in the specialty studied or from other study fields within the same university or other universities.

The contents of the study programs are established by each department on an independent basis, with the observance of national minimal standards. University training consists of attendance of lectures, seminars, laboratory and practical work, essays, individual study, research and final examination. The weight of these different kinds of activities depends on the study program and is determined by each department.

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Exchange students, independent students

International students are accepted to study at UB either as exchange or independent students:

An **exchange student** is nominated by his or her home university. This implies that your home university has an exchange agreement (ERASMUS or another bilateral protocol) at either a central or faculty level, with the University of Bucharest. The first step for any student interested in coming to UB from abroad is to contact the International Coordinators from both universities. The Romanian coordinators are indicated in the list above. The exchange agreement stipulates that the study period in the signatory institutions will be mutually recognized.

An **independent student** applies for courses or programs, for which he/she will have to pay a tuition fee. Proficiency in Romanian is in most cases a prerequisite. A preparatory year is provided to this effect. For more information on independent students, please see www.unibuc.ro/en/home

Information for exchange students

Required Documents

If you have decided to come to our University, send a letter or an e-mail to the EU Programmes Office / ERASMUS and motivate your choice (intcoop@unibuc.ro). If the reply is affirmative, you must:

- Get a University of Bucharest Student Application Form, fill it (http://www.unibuc.ro/uploads_en/29403/application_form.doc) and have it signed by your ERASMUS coordinator. Make sure it is sent before the deadlines (August 15th for the Autumn Semester and January 15th for the Spring Semester);
- Get a letter of recommendation from your home university;
- Get a health certificate.

When you arrive in Bucharest contact the EU Programmes Office / ERASMUS (see contacts on the cover), who will help you with your registration. You will have to get a registration form and fill it and you will receive a student ID of great help during your stay in Romania. You might need to contact the EU Programmes Office/ERASMUS at the University of Bucharest for further details.

Romanian Language Course

Provided that you are involved in a European Program, you can attend a short intensive course to learn Romanian. This could be of great use since few courses are delivered in foreign languages. The course lasts for either one month (from October 1st to November 1st), three months (from October 1st to January 1st) or even more, depending on how many students are willing to take part in the course. Further information is available on the Internet.

Study conditions for independent students

Documents You Need for Registration

As a rule, the request for admission to study at the University of Bucharest has to be sent to the Ministry of Education and Research (<http://www.edu.ro/>) in Bucharest so that you would receive the Acceptance Letter. The documents you need for this are as follows:

- the Application Form (http://www.unibuc.ro/en/main_intstudisr_en);
- one photocopy and one legally certified translation into Romanian, English or French of: the baccalaureate diploma for undergraduate studies;
- graduation certificate for postgraduate applicants; academic records.

The submitted documents should have the approval with the official stamp of the Romanian Embassy in the applicant's country of residence.

On arrival in our country, the candidate will present in person for registration, to the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, the following documents:

- letter of acceptance;
- school certificate, in original and its legally certified translation;
- a photo-copy of the birth certificate, translated and officially endorsed (or passport);
- health certificate (translated into Romanian, French or English);
- 2 photos 3X4 cm.

Further information is available at the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, the Department of European Integration and International Relations: 12 Spiru Haret Str., Bucharest 010176, Romania, Tel. +40-21-313 10 13/Fax +40-21-312 66 14.

The candidates are requested to register before October 1st, the official opening date of the academic year.

The above information also holds true for candidates who want to follow a Master's program or other studies.

Documents Needed for Registration within Doctoral Programs

Only university graduates with a Bachelor degree are entitled to enroll as doctoral students. The enrolment is based on the written agreement of the future scientific advisor, which is also available via e-mail.

The duration of doctoral studies is of 3 years.

Documents Needed for Enrolment to Doctoral Studies

- written approval of the scientific advisor;
- birth certificate, legally certified photocopy or translation into Romanian, English or French;
- school certificates, legally certified photo-copy or translation;
- postgraduate diploma (master degree), if available;
- Curriculum vitae;
- medical proof of fitness to study;
- marriage certificate (if case).

Steps to Be Taken for Registration

1. Send copies of the study documents and their translation to the Romanian Ministry of Education Research and Youth in order to receive the Acceptance Letter.
2. Contact the scientific advisor of the University of Bucharest (www.unibuc.ro/ro/stpostuniv_conducatori_ro)
3. Based on the Acceptance Letter (and payments where requested), applicants will receive the Entrance visa from the Romanian Embassy in their country.
4. Upon your arrival in Bucharest, submit the original study documents and their translated copies to the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth for diploma equivalences.
5. Contact the International Relations Office of the University of Bucharest. The estimated annual costs including tuition fees, subsistence, accommodation and visas mount to about 9000 USD/year.

Tuition Fees

Registration and the rights deriving from it, is conditioned by the payment of all tuition fees.

Courses with attendance:

- 320 USD per month for undergraduate studies;
- 340 USD per month for postgraduate studies.

Courses without attendance:

- the fee for one academic year is equivalent to the fee for three months of attendance to courses. The examinations are charged separately.

The language test (Romanian, English and French) is charged with 320 USD.

Should any student abandon his/her studies, the fee is not refunded. The same holds true if the documents submitted at registration prove not to be valid. Citizens from the EU member states, from the EEA (European Economic Area) and from Switzerland are charged like the Romanian students, that is about 550 Euros per year for undergraduate students and between 600-1000 Euros per year for postgraduate studies (depending on the study field). The taxes are payed in local currency (RON) and vary according to the Euro exchange rate.

Scholarships

The admission to studies is also granted on the basis of scholarships offered by the Romanian Government. Those interested are invited to contact the Romanian Embassy in their home country.

Language Options

Some of the faculties delivers courses in English or French (such as Faculty of Political Science). In this specific case, the candidates can be enrolled directly by the International Relations Office of the University of Bucharest, provided they have the prior acceptance of the dean of the chosen faculty and the language test.

Candidates who can prove that the official language of their country is also English or French and that they have studied in this language are exempted from the language test.

Candidates who already speak Romanian can skip the preparatory year, after having passed a test of Romanian language. The candidates, who can formally prove that they have done their studies in Romanian for at least four years in a row, do not need to pass the Romanian language test or to attend the courses of the preparatory year.

Considering that most of our faculties deliver the courses in Romanian, a preparatory year for the study of Romanian language is compulsory. The duration of the preparatory program takes one academic year for undergraduate students and six months for postgraduate students. At the end of this course the candidate will have to pass the language examinations.

Estimated Annual Costs for Studying in Romania

Tuition Fees

320 USD/month 2880 USD/9 months*

*The academic year takes 9 months. The full time courses last for 3 academic years (except for Law, Physics - engineering specializations, and Geology -engineering specializations, which last for 4 years).

These fees are available for **full time courses**. For **part time courses** the fees for one academic year are **960 USD**.

Subsistence

Meals:	150 EURO/month
Local transportation:	15 EURO/month
Pocket money:	80 EURO/month
TOTAL	245 EURO/month x 12 months = 2940 EURO

Accommodation (in University Campus)

Rent & Facilities	150 EURO/month
TOTAL	150 EURO/month x 12 months = 1800 EURO

Medical Insurance must be paid in each applicant's native country. Emergencies are free of charge.

Accommodation

Both ERASMUS students and independent students, have two housing possibilities.

You can ask for accommodation from the University. In this case you must announce the University of Bucharest that you require a room, but you have to know that the number of rooms is limited.

If you prefer, you can find your own room or flat on the Internet (<http://rent.a.home.ro>). You can also find many addresses in the newspapers. The prices vary depending on the season, the area (central or suburbs) and the conditions of accommodation.

If you need help in finding a room or an apartment you can require the services of our Students Services Department (Centre of Information, Vocational Guidance and Counselling for Students) through the „Alternative Accommodation” program.

Meal Service

Student restaurants are the most convenient places where you can have your meals. Most of the students go there. The main student's restaurant is located on 36-46 M. Kogalniceanu Bd., Sector 5, Bucharest 050107 (next to the Faculty of Law).

You can also go to a lot of small restaurants, cafeterias, fast foods that you can easily find everywhere in Bucharest.

Medical Assistance

You should have a health insurance the moment you enter Romania. Still, here you will benefit from free medical assistance on account of your student ID at the Students' Polyclinic of the University. The polyclinic has 8 wards: surgery, endocrinology, dentistry etc. Otherwise, free medical assistance is assured only in case of emergency. Students' polyclinic address: 36-46 M. Kogalniceanu Bd., Sector 5, Bucharest 050107.

University Libraries

The students of the University of Bucharest have access to a major library where they can find books from any domain they are interested in, the Central University Library, one of the most modern in Europe (www.bcub.ro). It has 12 specialized reading rooms, a reference section, a lending division and department for textbooks and other facilities fully computerized, with full permanent Internet access and access to Search - OCLC (Online Computer Library Centre). The Central University Library is located in Piata Revolutiei.

Each faculty of the University has its own library where you can find books in the domain studied there. It is a good idea for you to make yourself acquainted both with the central and the departmental libraries.

Student Life

A free weekly guide named *Sapte seri* (Seven Evenings) will tell you everything you want to know about cinemas, theatres, nightclubs, restaurants, pubs, sport rooms, art events, music, concerts, exhibitions and many other things. The guide is available in all public places, from the University buildings to cinemas and restaurants (www.sapteseri.ro). Also a good guide of all restaurants, pubs and clubs in Bucharest is www.afterhours.ro.

Besides that, all newspapers in Bucharest offer in their cultural pages information on Cinema and Theatre performances.

about BUCHAREST



Bucharest is the capital city of Romania, the largest city and the main political, administrative, economic, financial, banking, education and cultural center in Romania. Situated in the S-SE of the country, at 60-90 m above sea level, crossed by two rivers – Dambovită and Colentina, 44 degrees 25 minutes and 50 seconds Northern latitude (same as Belgrade, Geneva, Bordeaux and Minneapolis), 26 degrees 06 minutes and 50 seconds Eastern longitude (same as Helsinki and Johannesburg). The city measures 228 square kilometers and has a population of 1,924,959 (2005), which is about 9% of the Romania's population and 15% of the people living in urban areas. In terms of population, Bucharest is the third biggest city in the region, after Athens and Istanbul. The city has been steadily growing, becoming double its initial size after the Second World War. The place was set up on the right bank of river Dambovită and in 1860 it turned from a small village into an elegant capital city with an architecture inspired by the French models, widely known as the Paris of the Balkans. The communists were planning to extend the wide 19th century boulevards. They also designed parks and impressive buildings – influenced by the Soviet style architecture – such as the premises of the communist party and the gigantic buildings where the Government meetings would take place. After the Second World War, residential blocks of flats were built. The supreme ruler of Romanian, Nicolae Ceausescu, ordered the destruction of several historical churches and synagogues as part of his reconstruction master plan.

Tourist guide

Bucharest is a political, administrative, cultural and economic center, first mentioned in documents dating from September 20, 1459. Bucharest is the most important city of Romania. The capital is an attraction to a lot of tourists, representing also the starting point for trips to all the tourist areas in Romania. In Bucharest you will find impressive parks and lakes that will make you understand why it is called "the



garden city". Besides, not far from Bucharest there are interesting natural attractions – the woods and lake of Snagov (there is also a monastery on an island in the middle of the lake), Mogosoaia (where you can visit Constantin Brancoveanu's palace), Pustnicu Forest, the monasteries Cernica and Pasarea, Baneasa woods, Caldarusani lake and monastery. In Bucharest there are the Village Museum (second in Europe after the outdoors similar museum in Stockholm), the Romanian Peasant Museum, the National History Museum and many 16th – 17th century churches. Art lovers will be happy to find out that they can visit numerous art galleries where they can also buy the works of contemporary artists.

Some main attractions:

The Arch of Triumph

The first Arch of triumph was built in haste in 1878 to welcome the soldiers returning from the fight for national independence. The monument was made up of light materials and it soon became a ruin. There was a new temporary Arch built up for the 1922 parade of the Romanian soldiers who had fought in the First World War. Between 1935 and 1936 the Arch was re-built, this time stone was used according to the plans made by the architect Petre Antonescu. The monument has a classical structure, being adorned with stone sculptures and carvings made by Ion Jalea, Cornel Medrea and Constantin Baraschi.

The Romanian Athenaeum

This is one of the most prominent buildings of the capital, a real symbol of Bucharest. It was built in 1886 – 1888 based on the plans of the architect Albert Galleron, supported by the Romanian architect Constantin Baicoianu. The initiative belonged to a group of Romanian intellectuals who believed that Bucharest needed a large concert hall to host important artistic events. There was a public fund-raising and the logo of the campaign was "One leu (the Romanian currency) for the Athenaeum". The building is an architectural combination. Its walls are covered by



a fresco painted by Costin Petrescu and present the main events in the Romanian history.

Sfintii Apostoli Church

This church was built by Matei Basarab and later on restored several times. It has a large porch supported by stone pillars with heavily adorned caps. Inside this church you will find a beautiful 17th Century iconostasis (1715).

Casa Capsa

Where Calea Victoriei meets Edgar Quinet Street, you will run into an old one-storey building (1852), quite modest looking. It used to belong to a high official of the time – Slatineanu, and in 1874 it was bought by the well-known confectioner Grigore Capsa. He turned the place into a confectionery, coffee house, restaurant and hotel. Casa Capsa was for a long time the meeting place for important people in Bucharest (politicians, writers, journalists).

Casa Poporului

It is a huge building, the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon. It was built between 1984 and 1989 on the Uranus Hill by a group of Romanian architects coordinated by Anca Petrescu. The building is rectangular. In terms of volume, Casa Poporului is the 3rd greatest in the world (2.55 million cubic meters) after the building in Cape Canaveral (USA) where cosmic rockets are assembled (3.67 million cubic meters) and Quetzalcoatl Pyramid in Mexico (3.3 million cubic meters).

St. Josef Catholic Cathedral

The red brick building has an austere style but on the inside it is heavily adorned and has impressive stained-glass. It is placed in the center of Bucharest, increasing the charm of this eclectic city.

Patriarchal Cathedral

The Patriarchal Cathedral, center of the Romanian orthodoxy, is situated on the higher elevation of Bucharest, the Metropolitan Hill, close to Unirii Square. The prince Serban Basarab founded the Cathedral in 1655 and another prince, Constantin Brancoveanu, finalized the building in 1698. All the religious official services



take place inside this impressive building. The first complete translation into Romanian of the Bible (the Bucharest Bible, 1688) was made also in the area of the Patriarchal Cathedral.

Botanical Garden

It was set up in 1855 by the physician Carol Davila. Between 1884 and 1885, the Botanical Garden was moved to where you can find it nowadays by a team coordinated by the scholar Dimitrie Brandza, the founder of the Botanical Institute. In 1954, the Botanical Garden is subordinated to the Ministry of Education, more specifically, to the University of Bucharest. Inside the Garden you can see different species of plants from all the continents. It contains a museum, an exhibition of decorative plants, the area of dendrology, Mediterranean flora, technical and medical herbs, mountain flora and tropical plants.

Manuc's Inn

It was built between 1804 and 1808 by a rich Armenian and it is one of the few inns that survived for such a long time. The inn was at the very heart of the commercial center of the old town – Lipscani Street, a loud, busy and colorful place. It is a living proof of the beautiful old urban architecture of Walachia. Manuc's Inn reminds us of the old inns where you could find a hotel, a restaurant and a wine cellar in the same building.

The Romanian Opera

The Romanian Opera has a tradition of over 200 years. As soon as 1772, there was an opera company in Bucharest, but the Romanian Opera was only set up in 1919. Since then the stage of the Romanian Opera has been showing a wide variety of opera and ballet shows, based on the great works of world composers. The new Romanian Opera Hall, built in 1953, is a sumptuous place where the tradition of the national opera will be continued.

Baneasa Woods

This is one of the most beautiful places outside Bucharest where you can enjoy yourself. Only 10 Km away from the city, it is the place where you can find a lot of restaurants and outdoor bars, not to mention the fact that you can take your time



to visit the Zoo Park and get to know a wide range of animal and bird species.

The Zoo Park

In 1955 the Zoo Park was functioning in the form of "zoo corners" situated in the main parks of Bucharest and in Baneasa forest. Between 1955 and 1959 the animals were moved to the zoo corner in Baneasa, which opened to the visitors on May 1st, 1959 and later became the Zoo Park of Bucharest (1962).

Mogosoia Palace

It was first mentioned in a document in April 24th, 1598. In 1702, Constantin Brancoveanu had his subjects build a bigger and more beautiful palace for his son Stefan. This palace is a monument combining the characteristics of the Walachian and Byzantine style and those of the Italian Renaissance. In the basement there is a cellar with 4 semi-spherical vaults situated around a central pillar. Both the balcony and the first floor rooms were initially adorned in an Oriental manner and there were also wall paintings representing the family of the prince and historical scenes.

Cotroceni Palace

It was designed as the main residence of the heirs to the Romanian throne, Ferdinand and Maria. The palace was built between 1893 and 1895 by a French architect and it was extended in the 20th Century. The monumental staircase is surrounded by large galleries built in a French neo-baroque style and it will remind you of the Great Opera in Paris, which was the model for this palace. The museum hosts works of Brancoveanu and post-Brancoveanu decorative art. You will have the chance to see the funeral stones belonging to the Cantacuzino family, jewelry and funeral objects, coins, the costume of Smaranda Cantacuzino and also an impressive library. In 1991 the palace became the residence of the President of Romania and the National Museum Cotroceni was opened to the public.

The Royal Palace – National Museum of Art

Is situated in the center of the city and it was designed by the Romanian architect D. Niculescu.



In 1948 the Royal Palace became the National Art Museum. The National Gallery was opened in 1950 and there you can see paintings by famous Romanian artists such as Theodor Aman, Nicolae Grigorescu, Stefan Luchian, Nicolae Tonitza, Theodor Pallady, and the works of well-known sculpture artists Dimitrie Paciurea, Constantin Medrea, Ion Jalea and Constantin Brancusi. You should not miss the European Gallery opened in 1951, made up of 15 rooms. Here you can admire paintings and sculptures created by Rembrandt, Tizian, Tintoretto, Zurbaran, El Greco, Renoir, Monet, Pissaro, Breughel, Delacroix, Sisley and Rubens.

Cismigiu Park

Situated right in the heart of Bucharest, Cismigiu is the oldest park of the city. At the beginning of the 19th Century here was a grove and a lake. On October 10th, 1779, Alexandru Ipsilanti, the Prince of Tara Romaneasca, ordered that two drinking fountains be built and one of them was placed where Cismigiu stretches today. Close to this fountain there was the house of an important man at the time, Dumitru cismigiu, "the great master of the fountains". The park was later named after this man, but the name became official at the opening of the garden in 1854.

Herastrau Park

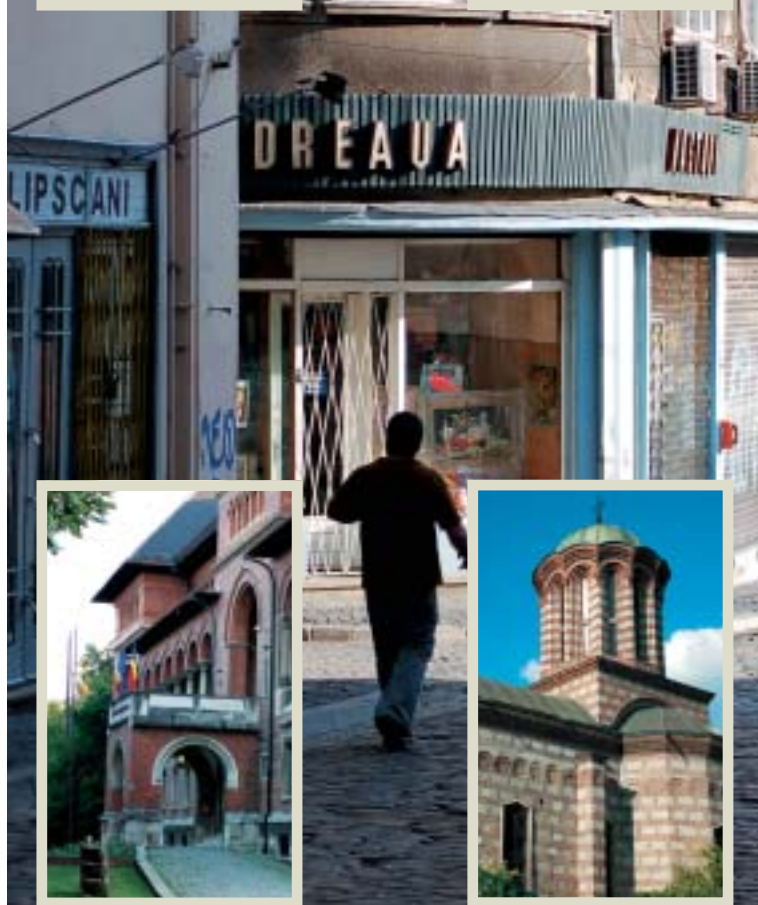
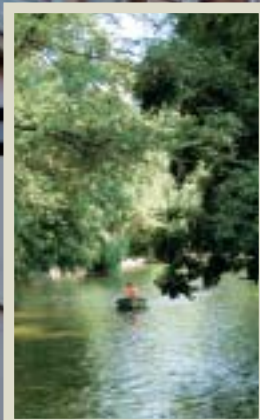
Surrounding Herastrau Lake, this park is one of the largest in Bucharest. It was created between 1936 and 1939 to be opened on the occasion of an important exhibition. Inside this park you will find the Village Museum, a recreation park for children, Elisabeta Palace, a promontory for boats and small vessels, sporting courts, restaurants and lots of statues.

Tineretului Park

Very large and extremely popular, it is situated at the South of the city. The park has developed around a lake and there are a lot of reasons to make you spend your leisure time there, such as the carting track and the steaming train. You can enter the park from Calea Serban Voda and the park is easily reachable by metro.

Lipscani Street

The name comes from Lipsca (Leipzig), and this part of the city used to be a witness of the very



dynamic commercial life of Walachia. It was the scene for a lot of guilds – the furriers, the shoemakers, the coppersmiths, the saddle makers, the grocers. Besides Romanians there were several communities of merchants well represented in the area – Greeks, Bulgarians, Serbians, Armenians, Albanians and Austrians. The architecture of the place speaks about this mixture of ethnical representatives. You have Baroque, Renaissance, Neo-Classicism and more than this, you sometimes have everything in one at the same building. Lipscani Street is a mixture of luxury and poorness, of old and new and it is like a window through which you can look to see the fabulous meeting between the West and the East.

The National Theatre

The National Theatre was opened in 1852. The theatre hall was later enlarged to allow more spectators to enjoy the shows. The old building of the National Theatre was strafed during the Second World War. Since 1973 the National Theatre has been functioning in a new modern building, with 3 halls and with state of the art technical devices.

Mihai Voda Church

The church is more than 200 years old and it is said to have been built by Mihai Viteazul on Spirii Hill to thank God for defeating the Turks. You will not find it easily because, by Ceausescu's order, it was moved on train tracks from its initial place somewhere between the blocks of flats. Surrounding the church, there used to be a monastery where the National Archives was placed. The entire structure was demolished and only the belfry survived and later moved close to the church.

Radu Voda Church

Not far from Unirii Square, you will be delighted to find jewelry of the medieval art – the monastery Radu Voda. There functions the Theological School. Inside the church there are the graves of important rulers and patriarchs of Romania, as well as the relics of St. Nectarie who is said to be capable to heal any disease.

