

Title of BIP: International Summer School in Social Anthropology, 12th Edition: *Urban Sociology and Social Anthropology on the Spot - Timișoara*

General information

Objectives and Description:

Objectives:

OB1. Knowledge, understanding and description of abstract concepts, theories and social research methodologies based on empirical research results. [To select suitable methods, techniques and procedures for context-sensitive social research based on the need assessment analysis. To design sociological research inquiries (collecting data, social data analysis) in communities]

OB2. Operationalising key concepts for the explanatory and interpretative analysis of social phenomena in a real-life situation. [To elaborate on social diagnosis and understand public urban policies, considering the real-life social and cultural context]

OB3. Develop the following transversal competencies / transferable skills:

- Collaboration in international teams [To learn from the diversity of cultural and educational backgrounds in the team of students, to use the team members' experience, skills, and knowledge to accomplish the learning goals. To communicate and collaborate with international students, bridging cultural distances. To use information and data in an immersive team-based international context]
- Communication and language skills [To be actively involved in communication, to encourage communication, to be comfortable in communication, to receive and give feedback to peers. To practice the English language outside of the English class, in a real-life international learning context]
- Reflective learning [To reflect on what and how the student is learning. To learn how to become a better learner and become aware of one's own strengths and weaknesses in the collaborative international learning setting.]

Description:

The *International Summer School in Social Anthropology* is held at the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, West University of Timișoara, Romania. It brings together international students of social sciences from at least five European universities. The participant students attend theoretical and preparatory online synchronous sessions. They are guided through one week of anthropological fieldwork in various living areas of the city and metropolitan area of Timișoara by teachers from the West University of Timișoara (Romania), the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway), the University of Messina (Italy), the University of Beira Interior (Portugal), and the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). Through the daily onsite visits, the international teams of students have the opportunity to learn about social and cultural life in Timișoara, express and share their knowledge and ideas, make comparisons with the European cities they come from and value the cultural exchange the BIP provides, while applying the anthropological method through participatory observation, transect walks, individual and group reflective activities.

Methods and outcomes:

Teaching and learning **methods**: Team-based international learning, Explanatory and interpretative discussions on global social problems by using real-life cases, and Group reflective learning

Assignment and **outcomes**: Students will receive a certificate and 3 ECTS credits for participating in the entire programme, completing an individual activity report and presenting their team-based assignment by the end of the BIP.

Field of Education:

Domain: Social Sciences

Fields of study: Sociology, Social Anthropology, Human Resources, Social Work, Cultural Studies

Target audience / Participants profile:

Bachelor, Master, and PhD **social science students** affiliated to the BIP consortium or to other European higher education institutions having an Erasmus+ Partnership Agreement with UVT

Number of ECTS issued:

3 ECTS

Language of instruction and requirements:

English

Dates for physical activity:

(arrival on the 4th of July) 6 – 10 July 2026 (departure on 11th of July 2026)

Location of physical activity:

Timișoara, Romania

Dates for virtual component:

22–27 June 2026 (one to two weeks before the physical activity)

Virtual Component Description:

Participant students will attend joint lectures and preparatory activities, held synchronously by sociology and social anthropology teachers, before the physical component of the BIP. These preparatory sessions aim to establish a common understanding of the key concepts and empirical research methods that students will apply in the fieldwork of the BIP's physical component.

Organizing Board

Receiving/Host university:

Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara (UVT), Romania (Melinda Dinca, melinda.dinca@e-uvt.ro)

Sending/Partner universities:

P1. Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway (Hans Martin Thomassen, martin.thomassen@ntnu.no)

P2. Università degli Studi di Messina (UniME), Italy (Marcello Mollica, marcello.mollica@unime.it)

P3. Universidade da Beira Interior (UBI), Portugal - **UNITA Partner** (Catarina Sales Oliveira, catarina.sales.oliveira@ubi.pt, catarinasalesoliveira@gmail.com)

P4. Université de Fribourg (UniFR), Switzerland (Andrea Boscoboinik andrea.boscoboinik@unifr.ch)

Detailed programme

1. Planned activities during virtual component:

1st online synchronic session – 3 hours - Lectures of 30 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A each:

- Cultural heritage, Hans Martin Thomassen, Department of Social Anthropology, NTNU, Norway
- Ethnographic moments. Revealing ethnography, Trond Berge, Department of Social Anthropology, NTNU, Norway
- Conducting multisensory ethnography, Andrea Boscoboinik, Department of Social Anthropology, UniFR, Switzerland
- ISSSA 2026: Urban Sociology on the Spot. Timisoara - Introductory session, Melinda Dinca, UVT, Romania

2nd online synchronic session – 3 hours - Lectures of 30 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A each:

- Sociologists using the ethnographic method, Catarina Sales Oliveira, Department of Sociology, UBI, Portugal

- Investigating cultural heritage, Marcello Mollica, Department of Social Anthropology, UniME, Italy
- Social anthropology and fieldwork: questions and practices, Jens Rørvik, NTNU, Norway
- **First assignment:** Student groups from each partner country elaborate a presentation of their university of origin and students' everyday life in connection with the social and cultural dimensions of city life, Melinda Dinca, UVT, Romania

2. Planned activities during the physical component:

Students will be distributed into international small teams, and each team will study a different topic related to an urban social dimension (multi- and interculturality of Timisoara; art and cultural heritage; living conditions; students' lifestyle in Timisoara; migration, etc.)

On-site visits will take place daily from 10:00 to 14:00 with the entire group of students and teachers participating in the Summer School. From 14:00 to 16:00, we will have a lunch break and an informal discussion, debriefing, and feedback with the student teams. In the afternoons and evenings, students may organise their (re)visits and teamwork activities independently.

1st day (06/07/2026):

10:00-10:30 --- Welcome to the UVT!

10:30-12:00 --- Student groups present their university of origin and students' everyday life [**First assignment**]

12:00-13:00 --- Team-building activities [forming international teams of 4-5 students from different universities and countries of origin, getting to know each other, sharing educational background, skills, ideas and summer school expectations]

13:00-14:00 --- Preparing the fieldwork research-based activities [presenting research instruments and collecting data techniques (participatory observation grid, visual mapping guidelines), presenting the **Second assignment**: students' *Individual activity report*, students' *International Team-based activity report - Poster*

14:00 – 15:30 – Lunch break

15:30 – 18:00 - Socio-cultural identity places of Timisoara – *ONSITE VISIT TO THE CITY CENTER AREAS* starting from the UVT: Victory Plaza – Liberty Square – Union Square – Memorial of the Romanian Revolution in Timisoara.

2nd day (07/07/2026):

10:00 – 14:00 --- Socio-cultural identity places of Timisoara – *GUIDED FIELD VISIT: DISCOVER IOSEFIN BUILD CULTURAL HERITAGE* [Piața Sf. Maria: Palace of Waters – Istvan Nemes Building – Casino Palace; Guided field visit at the Intercultural Institute of Timișoara; The Reformed Church, where the spark of the Romanian Revolution ignited on December 15, 1989; Bv. Regele Carol I: Dr Janos Hochstrasser Building; Bv. Iuliu Maniu: Albert Schott Building – Miksa (Max) Bruck Building; Str. Johann Nepomuk Preyer: Two Storey House – Alexandru Piscică Building; Piața Iosefin – Iosefin open-air grocery market; return through the Roses Park, present the New Rich and their contemporary Palaces]

14:00 – 16:00 --- Lunch break & Group reflective activity: Discuss and review daily activities, provide peer and teacher feedback, and exchange ideas between teams. Students complete their fieldwork notes and write their individual activity reports.

16:00 – 18:00 --- Each team of students continues its empirical research and autonomously organises (re)visits, transect walks, and participative observation through visual and sensory experiences. Students collaborate to complete their teamwork report and poster presentation.

3rd day (08/07/2026):

10:00 – 14:00 --- Socio-cultural identity places of Timisoara – *GUIDED FIELD VISIT TO HEY MARKET and FABRIC HISTORICAL AREA*: [Hey open-air market with agricultural and food products and its surroundings; Faber – Oil Right social economy enterprise – Ambasada; Fabric historical area; Sculptor Attila Nagy workshop and Prin Banat NGO presenting examples of preserving the city's cultural heritage – return at UVT through the green, leisure and sports area along the Bega River]

14:00 – 16:00 --- Lunch break & Group reflective activity: Discuss and review daily activities, provide peer and teacher feedback, and exchange ideas between teams. Students complete their fieldwork notes and write their individual activity reports.

16:00 – 18:00 --- Each team of students continues its empirical research and autonomously organises (re)visits, transect walks, and participative observation through visual and sensory experiences. Students collaborate to complete their teamwork report and poster presentation.

4th day (09/07/2026):

10:00 – 14:00 Socio-cultural identity places of Timisoara --- *THE POLYCENTRIC CITY OF TIMISOARA [Guided field visit to Avram Iancu Square and Mehala pre-industrial typical town with its multiethnic and multi-confessional community composition; Dacia – a communist planned living area for industrial workers; Iulius Town – an example of urban regeneration; and retour through the Botanical Garden and by walking through the 1700 Market, Liberty Square and Victory Square]*

14:00 – 16:00 --- Lunch break & Group reflective activity: Discuss and review daily activities, provide peer and teacher feedback, and exchange ideas between teams. Students complete their fieldwork notes and write their individual activity reports.

16:00 – 18:00 --- Each team of students continues its empirical research and autonomously organises (re)visits, transect walks, and participative observation through visual and sensory experiences. Students collaborate to complete their teamwork report and poster presentation.

5th day (10/07/2026):

9:00 – 10:30 *INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY REPORT* - Each student completes their individual report and submits it to the BIP coordinator via email by 10:30 hours

10:30 – 12:00 – *INTERNATIONAL TEAM-BASED ACTIVITY REPORT – POSTER* – Each team of students elaborates and completes its *POSTER* and submits it to the BIP coordinator via email by 12:30 hours.

12:30 – 14:00 – *INTERNATIONAL TEAM-BASED POSTER PRESENTATIONS* – students will present the content of their team poster and conduct a Q&A session about the topic studied during the summer school.

14:00 – 16:00 --- Lunch break & Group reflective activity: Challenges and benefits of international collaborative learning activities during the BIP, including takeaways, expected impact on students' future educational paths, and personal development.

Application procedure

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