

Title of BIP: Translating Cultural Heritage in Multilingual Europe

General information

Objectives and Description:

The aim of this BIP is to provide students with theoretical and practical foundations, as well as specific strategies for the translation, revision, and post-editing of specialized texts in the field of cultural heritage, including the responsible use of digital tools and AI-assisted translation solutions. The program is addressed to Romanian students studying Italian and Serbian, Italian students studying Romanian, and Serbian students studying Romanian. In the context of ongoing digital transformation in Europe, the project also addresses the growing need for accessible multilingual communication of cultural heritage. By combining Romanian, Serbian, and Italian, the BIP promotes linguistic diversity, intercultural dialogue, and the visibility of less widely used languages in the dissemination of cultural content. The program encourages students to critically reflect on the role of translation and AI-assisted mediation in preserving cultural specificity while ensuring broader accessibility for international audiences. Activities will be carried out in mixed international groups (Romanian–Italian and Serbian) through guided workshops (under the supervision of the coordinators). The workshops will be structured around both shared moments of theory-to-practice reflection (features of cultural heritage translation, terminology research and management, responsible use of AI-based tools, revision, and post-editing) and parallel work sessions organized by language pairs (Romanian–Italian and Romanian–Serbian). Within these sessions, students will alternate collaborative and individual work and will follow the key stages of the process: terminology research, translation, revision, and post-editing of the target text.

An important component of the workshops will focus on developing teamwork skills and peer evaluation, as well as fostering an inclusive, diversity-sensitive approach to cultural transfer by critically assessing solutions (both human and AI-generated) in terms of accuracy, terminological consistency, and stylistic appropriateness. Through this approach, the program also supports broader access to cultural heritage content for multilingual audiences.

Particular attention will be paid to the ethical and responsible use of AI-assisted translation technologies, including awareness of potential bias, cultural simplification, and the need for human supervision in heritage-related communication. Students will develop critical AI literacy skills that are increasingly necessary in contemporary multilingual professional environments.

Methods and outcomes:

The BIP adopts a participatory and interdisciplinary approach based on authentic cultural-heritage materials. Learning is organized through Problem-Based Learning and Learning by Doing: students work on real translation tasks and solve concrete problems such as culture-specific references, “untranslatable” terms, and differences in the reception of “the other’s” culture. Activities take place in mixed international teams (RO–IT and RO–SR), using Cooperative Learning with rotating roles (translator, terminologist, reviser, post-editor, quality checker). A central component is collective critical reflection: students discuss options, limits, and alternatives through guided group discussions and structured debate, including the responsible use of AI-assisted translation tools and the critical evaluation of AI output. To accommodate different communication styles and to support accessibility, tasks also include multimodal formats (written text, audio, and visual storytelling). The program is enriched through study visits (e.g., museums/heritage sites/archives) and expert talks from professionals (cultural-heritage specialists, translators/editors, museum communication staff, and/or AI/MT practitioners), linking classroom work to professional contexts. The project also strengthens cooperation between universities and cultural institutions by integrating authentic materials provided by museums, archives,

tourism offices, and heritage communication professionals whenever possible. This applied dimension enables students to work with real-world multilingual heritage communication challenges and to better understand the social impact of translation practices.

Outcomes

By the end of the BIP, participants will produce a portfolio of translated, revised, and post-edited heritage texts (per language pair), supported by a shared glossary/termbase and brief translation commentaries documenting choices, terminology decisions, and AI-related evaluation criteria (accuracy, consistency, style, appropriateness). Students will also create at least one multimodal micro-output (e.g., short audio-guide script, captions, or a visual narrative). Additional outputs will include a shared multilingual glossary/termbase of cultural heritage terminology, a small digital repository of translated materials and student projects, and a set of practical guidelines for the critical evaluation of AI-assisted translation output in the heritage field. Selected materials and student outputs may be disseminated through partner university platforms and public-facing digital channels.

Competence gains include: advanced translation/revision/post-editing skills in the heritage domain, stronger digital and AI literacy, inclusive and diversity-sensitive intercultural mediation, teamwork and peer evaluation, and an indirect contribution to broader access to heritage content for multilingual audiences. The project also contributes to the development of transversal competences such as intercultural teamwork, collaborative problem-solving, digital communication, and reflective learning practices within an international academic environment.

The BIP is intended as a starting point for longer-term academic cooperation between the partner institutions in the areas of translation studies, intercultural communication, digital humanities, and heritage mediation. The multilingual materials, glossaries, and teaching resources developed during the project may later be integrated into regular teaching activities and future collaborative initiatives (COIL activities, Erasmus cooperation, joint workshops, and future BIPs). The project also aims to strengthen institutional networks between EU and non-EU partners and to encourage future student mobility and collaborative research activities. The participation of partners from Romania, Italy, and Serbia also highlights the multicultural and multilingual dimension of the Danube and Southeast European area as a space of cultural exchange and heritage circulation.

Field of Education: Translation and Linguistics; Intercultural Communication and Cultural Heritage Communication.

Target audience / Participants profile: Bachelor's and Master's students in Italian, Romanian and Serbian language.

No of ECTS issued: 3 CTS

Language of instruction and requirements: Romanian (B1–C2) and Italian or Serbian (B1–C2)

Dates for physical activity: 12. 04. 2027 – 16. 04. 2027

Location of physical activity: West University of Timisoara, Bd. Vasile Pârvan nr. 4.

Dates for virtual component: March – April 2027

Virtual Component Description:

The virtual component combines common sessions (4 hours in Romanian) for all participants with parallel language-track sessions (2 hours in Italian and 2 hours in Serbian). The common Romanian sessions introduce cultural heritage as a domain of specialized communication (institutions, audiences, text genres) with particular attention to multilingual accessibility and intercultural mediation in the European context and provide a shared framework for translation decision-making, terminology research, and the responsible use of AI-assisted translation tools. The parallel Italian and Serbian sessions focus on language-pair specific issues (RO–IT / RO–SR), applying the shared framework through guided micro-tasks (translation, revision, post-editing) tailored to the linguistic and cultural constraints of each pair.

Methods and outcomes:

Methods include short interactive inputs, guided discussion, problem-based micro-cases, and hands-on exercises (learning by doing) in mixed teams and track-based groups. Students practice terminology extraction, audience adaptation, AI-output evaluation, and post-editing with clear quality criteria. They are also introduced to basic principles of ethical AI use, source verification, and critical assessment of machine-generated translation proposals.

Outcomes include: shared evaluation criteria for heritage translation and AI output (accuracy, terminological consistency, register, cultural adequacy), a starter multilingual glossary/termbase, and a short pre-task portfolio (one annotated translated/post-edited excerpt per track) to be used as a baseline for the on-site workshops.

Organizing Board

Receiving/Host university:

Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara, Romania (lect.dr. Mirela Boncea, mirela.boncea@e-uvt.ro)

Sending/Partner universities:

P1. University of Turin, (prof. univ.dr. Roberto Merlo, roberto.merlo@unito.it);

P2 University of Novi Sad (prof. univ. dr. Aleksandra Blatesic, aleksandra.blatesic@ff.uns.ac.rs);

Detailed programme

1. Planned activities during virtual component:

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2. Planned activities during physical component:

1st day: Morning: welcome and Opening Session. Afternoon: module 1 tutorial + module 1 workshop.

2nd day: Morning: module 2 tutorial + module 2 workshop

3rd day: Morning: Visit to Museum and module workshop. Afternoon: module 3 workshop.

4th day: Morning: module 5 workshop. Afternoon: module 6 workshop

5th day: Feedback from the activities presented in the schools and final assessment. Final considerations on the BIP and Closing Session

The programme features guided tours of Timișoara's museums and other cultural heritage sites across the city. Final presentation of student projects and multilingual heritage outputs; dissemination session with invited guests from cultural institutions and partner universities; final assessment and Closing Session.

Application procedure

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