

***Randopat-Heritrail - Mushrooms, Herbs and Raw Food;
Practices and Beliefs***



The West University of Timișoara, the Cultural Heritage Research Hub of UNITA Universitas Montium and the Research Center for Heritage and Anthropology at the West University of Timișoara organize the

THEMATIC SCHOOL IN INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

***Randopat-Heritrail - Mushrooms, herbs and raw food;
practices and beliefs***

on

7-11 NOVEMBER 2022



The event welcomes academics, research staff, PhD students, MA students and others from all partner university in the UNITA alliance.

Language of instruction

English and French

Description of the thematic school

The event is part of the activities involving exchanges of best practices between the partner universities of the UNITA alliance. Aimed at both students, at Master and doctoral level, as well as academics with an interest in intangible cultural heritage, this program strengthens the research network developed within the fourth work package of the UNITA project. It is concerned with sharing theoretical knowledge related to food practices in the local region of the Banat and with developing practical skills (doing fieldwork and guidance) in the target group.

The thematic school on intangible cultural heritage draws on local and regional practices and beliefs associated with food production and preparation in connection with the natural environment.

Food is an important component of cultural heritage, with all its derived forms of manifestation (knowledge about the environment and about nature, time management, being part of traditional activities and celebrations) and is more and more becoming a matter of personal choice. Local and regional communities have their own traditions, practices and techniques related to producing and preparing various dishes. Observing these activities can be an ideal training for students who want to learn about the valorization and capitalization of cultural heritage.

For most regions in Romania, food which is obtained directly from nature is essential, and so is the consumption of herbs and vegetables, whose cultivation is one of the most important activities in the farmers' families. In this way, traditional knowledge is shared between aspects that are accessible to everyone (such as the rhythms of planting, growing and picking various plants), and the information which is controlled only by small or isolated communities, respectively information which is accessible only to a few connoisseurs: picking mushrooms, mushroom varieties, their preparation; knowledge of herbs with therapeutic and/or culinary utility; knowledge of fruits, their cultivation, use and preparation etc.





Program and activities

The event (physical activity): 7-11 November 2022

Day 1 - Setting the theoretical framework: lectures and panels at UVT

Day 2 - Applying the framework: groupwork activities at UVT

Day 3 - Fieldwork: Local food production and sustainable tourism in a border region - The Danube Gorge

Day 4 - Fieldwork: On the trail of natural ingredients and traditional food preparation practices - Coronini, Caraș-Severin County

Day 5 - Discussions and conclusions at UVT.

Follow-up activities

The virtual component: 7 - 8 December 2022

Day 1 - Online session of feedback on the event organized at UVT

Day 2 - Online session of discussions about replicating the event at a partner university within UNITA

Invited speakers

Otilia Hedeșan and **Diana Mihuț** from RheA, the Research Center for Heritage and Anthropology, Timișoara

Alina Negru from TERRA pia, Timișoara

Patricia Heiniger-Casteret and **Amandine Leporc** from ITEM, Identités, Territoires, Expressions, Mobilités, Pau

Cosmin Ivașcu from ICAM, The Institute of Advanced Environmental Research, Timișoara

Requirements

For both students and staff, prior theoretical knowledge on food production and traditions is not required. The participants should rather have self-motivation, a curiosity and respect for natural landscapes and traditional local communities, team spirit, a love for exercise and the outdoors.





How to apply

Applicants will send a short motivation for participation in the thematic school, highlighting their areas of interest. The document will contain: full name of participant, academic degree/level of study, institutional affiliation, contact details, the motivation (max. 500 words).

Contact person

The motivation will be sent by email to **Prof. Dana Percec**, coordinator of the UNITA Cultural Heritage Hub from UVT:

dana.percec@e-uvt.ro

For more information, visit <https://www.rhea-uvt.org/>

Applications are already open, deadline:
4 October 2022





www.univ-unita.eu