



Radu Balan

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WORK EXPERIENCE

WORKSHOP FACILITATOR – WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA – 07/2025 – Current – TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

As part of the UVT project "*Teaching & Learning Brand: initial development programme for reflective-collaborative instruction*", I teach the seminars for the course D6. Introduction to the Use of Artificial Intelligence in University Education.

Within these seminars, I have undertaken the following activities:

- Design and implementation of the course's applied seminar component, aimed at PhD students and university teaching staff.
- Development and facilitation of practical activities on the pedagogical and critical use of generative artificial intelligence: prompt literacy and prompt engineering, use and comparison of GenAI tools, AI-assisted documentation and research, critical source verification, and creation of multimodal teaching materials.
- Design and delivery of an integrated seminar pathway dedicated to instructional organisation and management with GenAI, documentation and research, the production of learning materials and activities, as well as assessment and applied ethics in AI use.
- Integration of principles for responsible and transparent AI use - critical verification, human-in-the-loop, the SIFT method, the 4D framework and transparency statements - through live demonstrations, individual and collaborative activities, and the creation of portfolio products adapted to participants' disciplines.

ASSISTANT LECTURER IN EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES - DEPARTMENT OF TEACHER TRAINING – WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA – 02/2025 – Current – TIMIȘOARA

Teaching activity: Planning, organising and delivering courses, seminars and practical activities for students, in accordance with study programmes in Educational Sciences.

Student assessment: Developing and applying methods for assessing students' knowledge and competences through examinations, tests, projects and portfolios.

Research activity: Conducting studies and research projects in education, publishing scientific articles in specialised journals, and participating in national and international conferences.

Guidance and mentoring: Supervising master's dissertations and guiding students in their academic and professional development.

Curriculum development: Developing and updating teaching materials and course syllabi in line with academic standards and current educational requirements.

Collaboration and partnerships: Involvement in educational and research projects at national and international level, establishing partnerships with academic and educational institutions.

Administrative activity: Participation in academic committees and university management activities, and preparation of reports and administrative documents required for teaching and research.

Continuous professional development: Participation in professional development programmes, specialised courses and academic mobility activities to develop teaching and research competences.

REFLECTIVE-COLLABORATIVE PROFESSIONALS: AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF WORKPLACE AND COMPLEMENTARY LEARNING ACTIVITIES, GROUNDED IN THE PRINCIPLES OF THEORY-PRACTICE INTEGRATION AND THE USE OF EVIDENCE IN DECISION-MAKING – WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA – 23/04/2025 – Current – TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

Research instruments analysis expert, responsible for the design, adaptation, validation and application of research instruments used to assess the quality and impact of educational programmes through mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative), in accordance with OECD criteria (relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability), with direct involvement in the analysis of practicum placements, internships and socio-emotional skills training activities, data interpretation, preparation of interim and final reports, and formulation of recommendations for curriculum innovation and evidence-informed educational decision-making.

EDUCATION SPECIALIST – WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA (UVT) – 10/01/2023 – 02/2025 – TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

Address: West University of Timișoara, 4 Vasile Pârvan Blvd., 300223, Timișoara, Romania

Development of a search algorithm and systematic searching of international specialist literature; Development of a list of scientific references appropriate to a research idea; Development of a research design based on a predefined set of requirements; Participation in collaborative working sessions via Google Meet; Analysis of specialist literature in the field of university teacher training; Extraction of relevant elements from the studies analysed and data entry in Excel 2016 (organisation and management of large databases using the Microsoft Office package); Participation in sessions for analysing specialist articles and interpreting empirical data; Analysis of databases using IBM SPSS AMOS 23 (Arbuckle, 2014), JASP 0.11 or JAMOVI Statistical Software and review of descriptive statistics knowledge (central tendency of a dataset, measures of dispersion, etc.).

RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN SOCIOLOGY – WITHIN PROJECT 101132893-TEACHERS 4.0 DIGITAL – 09/04/2024 – 31/05/2026 – TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

Address: West University of Timișoara, 4 Vasile Pârvan Blvd., 300223, Timișoara, Romania

- Delivering training to the project's target group;
- Participating in training sessions organised within the project by the project coordinator;
- Participating in project activities, research, working meetings and report writing;
- Participating in the organisation of national seminars/workshops;
- Carrying out project dissemination activities at national level;
- Contributing to the preparation of the project manual and adapting materials to the national context;

WORKSHOP FACILITATOR – WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA – 2022 – Current – TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

Address: West University of Timișoara, 4 Vasile Pârvan Blvd., 300223, Timișoara, Romania

I am involved in the development and implementation of workshops for university teaching staff (CDU), from the workshop portfolio developed by the Center for Academic Development (CDA), on the topic "Collaborative Learning Experiences". Within this workshop, university teaching staff receive information resources and teaching materials, as well as the training required to use them, in order to effectively implement activities in which students work collaboratively. In this context, as part of a group of education experts, I have contributed through activities such as: reviewing specialist literature, reading and extracting information from scientific articles, developing theoretical workshop content, developing practical activities, and providing technological and logistical support, etc.

TRAINING AND RESEARCH SPECIALIST WITHIN PROJECT CNFIS-FDI2022-0489 – 16/05/2022 – 16/12/2022 – TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

Address: West University of Timișoara, 4 Vasile Pârvan Blvd., 300223, Timișoara, Romania

Collaboration within a multidisciplinary team in the development and delivery of a workshop for university teaching staff on Collaborative Learning Experiences. Analysis of relevant specialist literature, extraction and synthesis of information from scientific articles, identification and development of teaching materials, presentation of information to workshop participants, and management of workshop-related collaborative activities in both face-to-face and online formats.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (VOLUNTEER) WITHIN THE CENTER FOR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT (CDA) OF WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA (UVT) – WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA – 12/2020 – 06/2021 – TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

Address: West University of Timișoara, 4 Vasile Pârvan Blvd., 300223, Timișoara, Romania

Development of a search algorithm and systematic searching of international specialist literature; Development of a list of scientific references appropriate to a research idea; Development of a research design based on a predefined set of requirements; Participation in collaborative working sessions via Google Meet; Analysis of specialist literature in the field of university teacher training; Extraction of relevant elements from the studies analysed and data entry in Excel 2016 (organisation and management of large databases using the Microsoft Office package); Participation in sessions for analysing specialist articles and interpreting empirical data; Analysis of databases using IBM SPSS AMOS 23 (Arbuckle, 2014), JASP 0.11 or JAMOVI Statistical Software and review of descriptive statistics knowledge (central tendency of a dataset, measures of dispersion, etc.).

RESEARCH SPECIALIST WITHIN THE UVT TEACHING & LEARNING BRAND PROJECT - REFLECTIVE & COLLABORATIVE LEARNING INTO ACTION – WEST UNIVERSITY OF TIMIȘOARA – 01/07/2021 – 17/12/2021 – TIMIȘOARA, ROMANIA

Address: West University of Timișoara, 4 Vasile Pârvan Blvd., 300223, Timișoara, Romania

Collaboration within a multidisciplinary team in the development and delivery of a workshop for university teaching staff on Collaborative Learning Experiences. Analysis of relevant specialist literature, extraction and synthesis of information from scientific articles, identification and development of teaching materials, presentation of information to workshop participants, and management of workshop-related collaborative activities.

● EDUCATION AND TRAINING

19/09/2024 – CURRENT Timișoara, Romania

PHD CANDIDATE IN EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES West University of Timișoara, Faculty of Sociology and Psychology, Educational Sciences

Website <https://www.uvt.ro/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/03/Psihologie.pdf> | **Level in EQF** EQF level 8

10/2022 – 09/2026 Timișoara, Romania

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES - PEDAGOGY West University of Timișoara

Address West University of Timișoara, 4 Vasile Pârvan Blvd., 300223, Timișoara, Romania | **Website** <https://fsp.uvt.ro/pedagogie/> |

Level in EQF EQF level 6

10/2022 – 07/2024 Timișoara, Romania

MASTER'S DEGREE - EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (MEDC) West University of Timișoara

Address West University of Timișoara, 4 Vasile Pârvan Blvd., 300223, Timișoara, Romania |

Website <https://fsp.uvt.ro/educatie/programe-de-master/management-educational-si-dezvoltare-curriculara-medc/> |

Level in EQF EQF level 7

11/02/2024 – 17/02/2024 Sinaia, Romania

WINTER SCHOOL - WORKSHOPS ON STATISTICAL ANALYSES AND METHODS FOR ANALYSING SPECIALIST LITERATURE USED IN RESEARCH Association of Industrial and Organizational Psychology (APIO)

Website <https://apio.ro/Scoala-de-iarna>

02/2023 – 02/2023 Sinaia, Romania

WINTER SCHOOL - WORKSHOPS ON STATISTICAL ANALYSES AND METHODS FOR ANALYSING SPECIALIST LITERATURE USED IN RESEARCH Association of Industrial and Organizational Psychology (APIO)

Website <https://apio.ro/>

09/2019 – 07/2022 Timișoara, Romania

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY West University of Timișoara

Address West University of Timișoara, 4 Vasile Pârvan Blvd., 300223, Timișoara, Romania |

Website <https://fsp.uvt.ro/psihologie-zi/> | **Level in EQF** EQF level 6

09/2015 – 06/2019 Petrila, Romania

BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA Constantin Brâncuși Technical College

Address 196 Republicii Street, Petrila, Hunedoara, 335800, Petrila, Romania | **Website** <https://liceupetrila.ro/> |

Level in EQF EQF level 4

● CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

12/08/2024 – 14/08/2024 Oxford

Diversity within classrooms and societies: Perspectives on Teacher, Moral and Democracy Education

Organised by the University of Oxford, this international conference brought together experts in education with the aim of disseminating relevant information and practices to support the development of the education system. The reasons for participating in this conference were:

1. Presentation of the paper: **Evaluating motivations for a career in teaching after the first year of a teacher training program**
2. Acquisition of advanced theoretical knowledge in educational research, with a focus on pre-university teacher training; fostering student learning; conceptions of teaching and learning, teaching approaches, and teachers' well-being.

10/2023 Cluj-Napoca

National Conference on Educational Research (CERED) - "Diversity as a Resource in Education and Educational Research"

Organised by the Romanian Association for Educational Research (ARCE), this national conference brought together experts in Educational Sciences in a setting that promotes discussion of educational research projects. Its aim is to encourage activities focused on identifying new opportunities to diversify educational resources and educational research.

At this conference, I pursued two objectives:

1. Presentation of the paper: **"Pedagogical training of university teachers for the use of the Reflective-Collaborative Instruction Model of West University of Timișoara - impact evaluation"**
2. Deepening my knowledge of the research field and current trends, as well as establishing connections with other researchers in the field.

22/08/2023 – 26/08/2023 Thessaloniki (Greece)

EDUCATION AS A HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Organised by the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI), this international conference highlighted the importance of evidence-based research in shaping educational policies and promoting the development of essential skills such as critical thinking, creativity and students' socio-emotional competences. It also addressed the role of education as a transformative force in society and the need to create adaptive, future-oriented learning environments that respond to current global challenges.

At this conference, I aimed to:

1. Present the paper: **"Evaluating the impact of a pedagogical training program offered to awarded university teachers"**
2. Deepen my knowledge of the research field and establish connections with experts in the field.

11/2023 Timișoara

Culture and Education Today

National conference organised by the Teacher Training Department (DPPD) of West University of Timișoara. The conference brings together experts in education from Romania to disseminate current findings through the presentation of research results. At this conference, I provided technological and logistical support to facilitate its delivery.

04/2023 Timișoara

Smart Diaspora

This conference, organised by West University of Timișoara, invited Romanian researchers as well as researchers of other nationalities from across Europe to present the results of their research in education. At this conference, I provided technological and logistical support.

10/2022 Bucharest

National Conference on Educational Research (CERED): "Education and Educational Research in Unstable Periods: Influences and Challenges"

Organised by the Romanian Association for Educational Research (ARCE), this national conference brought together experts in Educational Sciences in a setting that promotes discussion of educational research projects. Its aim is to encourage activities focused on identifying new opportunities to diversify educational resources and educational research.

At this conference, I pursued two objectives:

1. Presentation of the paper: **"Evaluating the Impact of the UVT Teaching Grants Competition"**
2. Deepening my knowledge of the research field and current trends, as well as establishing connections with other researchers in the field.

11/2021 Timișoara

Culture and Education Today

National conference organised by the Teacher Training Department (DPPD) of West University of Timișoara. The conference brings together experts in education from Romania to disseminate current findings through the presentation of research results. At this conference, I provided technological and logistical support to facilitate its delivery.

06/12/2024 – 07/12/2024 Timișoara
CAD Conference

Organised by the Center for Academic Development (CDA) of West University of Timișoara (UVT), the conference had the theme: "University Teacher Training in the 21st Century: Innovation, Collaboration and Technology".

The conference aimed to explore existing good practices in the pedagogical training of university teachers at national level and within the European consortia to which Romanian universities belong, as well as empirical evidence and successful international models. The event addressed key topics such as student-centred pedagogy, the integration of technology in education, and inter-university and international collaboration.

- At this conference, I contributed through:
- **logistical support** to ensure the smooth running of the events, including distributing materials, guiding participants and organising event rooms.
 - disseminating the results of a discussion session **in the role of rapporteur**.

Link <https://cda.uvt.ro/conferinta-cda-2024/>

23/08/2025 – 29/08/2025 Graz
The EARLI 2025 conference "Realising Potentials through Education: Shaping the Minds and Brains for the Future"

I participated in the international EARLI 2025 Conference - "Realising Potentials through Education: Shaping the Minds and Brains for the Future", where I presented the paper entitled "Digital objects in collaborative learning contexts: A review of current research". Participation aimed to disseminate research results, exchange good practices and establish professional connections with members of the international research community in education and digitally mediated collaborative learning.

17/09/2026 – 19/09/2026 Sibiu, Romania
National Conference on Educational Research (CERED 2026) - "Knowledge in Motion: Contexts and New Directions in Educational Research"

National conference dedicated to educational research, organised within the community of the Romanian Association for Educational Research (ARCE) and hosted by "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu. The 2026 edition focuses on exploring emerging contexts, perspectives and new research directions relevant to the field of education. At this conference, I pursued two objectives:

1. Presentation of the paper: "Digital knowledge objects in collaborative activities in higher education: a systematic review of controlled studies", co-authored with Professor Marian Ilie, PhD, Habil., within the section dedicated to digital technology and artificial intelligence in education.
2. Deepening my knowledge of current trends and new directions in educational research, as well as exchanging ideas and developing professional connections with researchers from the national Educational Sciences community.

Link <https://arced.ro/cered/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/FINAL-Program-general-CERED-2026-cu-sectiuni-15.09.pdf>

● **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s): **ROMANIAN**
Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

● SKILLS

IMB SPSS Statistics | Internet browsing. Use of social networks | Video conferencing (Zoom, Cisco Webex, Skype, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet) | Good command of communication software (mail, messenger, Skype) | Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) | Good command of Microsoft Office | R Statistical software | Good use of Artificial Intelligence models (ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Notebook)

● PUBLICATIONS

2023

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF A PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING PROGRAM OFFERED TO AWARDED UNIVERSITY TEACHERS.

Balan, R., Purtan, N., Mladenovici, V., & Ilie, M. D. (2023), Journal of Pedagogy, 2, 195-236.

Link [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377437754)

[377437754](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377437754) [Evaluating the impact of a pedagogical training program offered to awarded university teachers](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377437754)

2024

Promoting Student-Centered Teaching Through a Professional Development Program for Academics —A Mixed Study

Balan, R., Mladenovici, V., BunoIU, M. O., & Ilie, M. D. (2024). (pp. 713-731). Springer Nature Switzerland