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## **Symposium Dedicated to the 150th Anniversary of the Romanian Academy**

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the **International Annual Symposium of the “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology, the 15-th Edition**, entitled *European Values of Contemporary Romanian Studies*, Iași, Romania, 21st–23rd September 2016 organized by the “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology – the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy – and the “A. Philippide” Cultural Association.

As a preamble to the symposium we refer to some of the principles of the European Commission on language policies within the EU:

“The harmonious co-existence of many languages in Europe is a powerful symbol of the EU's aspiration to be united in diversity, one of the cornerstones of the European project.

Languages define personal identities, but are also part of a shared inheritance. They can serve as a bridge to other people and open access to other countries and cultures, promoting mutual understanding. A successful multilingualism policy can strengthen the life chances of citizens: it may increase their employability, facilitate access to services and rights, and contribute to solidarity through enhanced intercultural dialogue and social cohesion.

The EU now has 500 million citizens, 28 Member States, 3 alphabets and 24 official languages, some of them with a worldwide coverage. Some 60 other languages are also part of the EU's heritage and are spoken in specific regions or by specific groups. In addition, immigrants have brought a wide range of languages with them; it is estimated that at least 175 nationalities are now present within the EU's borders.

Linguistic diversity is enshrined in Article 22 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights ("The Union respects cultural, religious and linguistic diversity"), and in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union ("It shall respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and shall ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced").

Foreign languages are essential to ensuring that European citizens can move, work, and learn freely throughout Europe. This will help boost jobs and growth, reducing unemployment and increasing living standards.

The European Union's aspiration to be **united in diversity** underpins the whole European project. The harmonious co-existence of many languages in Europe embodies this. Languages can build bridges between people, giving us access to other countries and cultures, and enabling us to understand each other better.

Foreign language skills play an increasingly important role in making young people more employable and equipping them for working abroad. They are also a factor in competitiveness; poor language skills cause many companies to lose contracts and hamper workers who might want to seek employment in countries other than their own.

Yet, too many Europeans still leave school without a working knowledge of a second language – reason enough to make language teaching and learning more efficient.

Among other priorities we mention:

- Improving the relevance and comparability of testing and assessment;
- Making schools socially more inclusive by acknowledging migrant languages;
- Supporting and developing the skills of language teachers and language skills of other teachers.

In the current "Erasmus +" Programme (2014–2020) promoting language learning and linguistic diversity is one of the overarching priorities.

The EU culture programme "Creative Europe" supports literary translation with the aim to give more people access to literary works and to maintain the cultural linguistic diversity in the EU".

(the source: [http://ec.europa.eu/languages/policy/linguistic-diversity/index\\_ro.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/languages/policy/linguistic-diversity/index_ro.htm))

**Starting from these principles of the European Commission, the organizers of the symposium welcome balanced theoretical and applied research papers on the role of giving lectures in Romanian language and culture as one of the 24 official languages in EU at university level (as well as at elementary and high school level) both by Romanian specialists and by foreign specialists who work in various European university cities (and not only). At the same time other values implied by a better knowledge of the Romanian language, literature, culture and civilization in the European context should be taken into account (as well as difficulties, suggestions for improvement and for better promoting Romanian spiritual values).**

The symposium will be organized at the Iași Branch of the Romanian Academy and it will include several tracks: the Romanian language, literary history and criticism, ethnology, Romanian culture and identity.

**A special panel will be dedicated to academician Constantin Ciopraga (1916, Pașcani, Iași county– 2009, Iași), honorary member of the Romanian Academy.**

As in the previous editions, a special welcome is given to those participants who present the results of various ongoing grants and projects (partial results) or recently completed.

All the participants are warmly invited to send or bring along **books** they have authored or edited and **journals** containing their articles, to be on display at the symposium exhibition.

**The program** of the symposium will be posted on the site of the “A. Philippide” Institute of Romanian Philology in due time ([www.philippide.ro](http://www.philippide.ro)).

**The participation fee** is 35 Euros (or 150 RON); attendance without papers presentation is free of charge. The participation fee includes the publication of the symposium proceedings, the postage for the book to the participants, as well as other expenses (certificates of attendance, refreshments during breaks, the cocktail reception etc.). All the contributions will be evaluated in the peer-review system. Texts by the participants who will not attend will not be published in the symposium proceedings. Only articles not published before in any form or, version or papers that have not been translated into foreign languages before, are accepted.

The fee will be paid in the “A. Philippide” Cultural Association account (to be announced).

Travel and accommodation expenses will **NOT** be covered by the organizers.

You are warmly invited to send the title and abstract (at least 20 lines or more with a (basic) reference list) to the Organizing Committee to the address [valenteeuropene@gmail.com](mailto:valenteeuropene@gmail.com) **by 20 June 2016**. Presentations should not exceed 30 minutes (including questions and debates). You will receive the decision of the Scientific Committee by **1st July 2016**.

Additional details will be provided once you have completed the registration process.

### ***SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE***

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