

HISTORY OF MODERN LANGUAGES IN ASE BUCHAREST. A CENTENNIAL PERSPECTIVE

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The volume is a successful attempt to document and propose a monograph of the development of applied modern languages for economics and business in Romania, more specifically in the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. The volume is the result of a multidisciplinary effort over a time period of more than two years.

In the present form, the volume is structured as follows: Rationale from the Dean of the Faculty of International Business and Economics, anniversary greetings from partners from home and abroad, study on the role of foreign languages in shaping professional economists and business people. These sections are followed by a brief history of teaching applied modern languages in ASE Bucharest. Next, there is a special section “Profiles of Teachers” – dedicated to those people who substantially contributed to the history of the field of modern languages in this institution. The volume continues with a chapter which presents the English and German publications from the Department of Modern Languages and Business Communication and another chapter that details the French, Italian, Spanish and Russian Publications from the same Department. Another important section is dedicated to the National and International Conferences organized and held within the Department of Modern Languages and Business Communication over the years, completed with photos illustrating the rich activity of its scientific community in Chapter 10. The volume concludes with “A History in Pictures of Teaching Modern Languages” in the university, which stands proof for the vibrant community which supported the Department activity in time.

Throughout the entire volume, there is always present the thoughtful observation from the part of the Editors that the book is not complete as they are sure there is a lot more to be said, written about, remembered, accounted for, and many more people meaningful for the subject of the book that might have been left out due to human error or memory tricks. As it happens with every material of this kind, there is always room for future adding an amendment.

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As Professor Dumitru Miron, the Dean of The Faculty of International Business and Economics diligently observes, this book is one of the results of a three-year multidisciplinary research project that essentially answers the question: What are the ingredients of authentic and lasting success? Some possible answers to be drawn from the pages of the volume might be:

- a clear, sincere and assumed mission;
- myths, institutional folklore;
- continuity of ideas, concerns and strengths;
- exemplary personalities with well-defined potential to become models for young people and, at the same time, able to gather and re-direct positive energies;
- an inter and extra organizational climate conducive to discussion, collaboration, maintaining or perpetuating the idea of community.

Article 4 of the decree establishing the Academy of Economic Studies stipulates: "Some languages are compulsory such as correspondence and conversation in French, German and Italian, and – according to the student's choosing - one of the following languages: English, Russian, Modern Greek, Bulgarian, Serbian."

What about this book, then?

The present volume demonstrates with legal documentation (a book is a written document) that we still know how to read the founding words of the Romanian economic education. We still know to keep memory of and respect those who have cherished these words, and had the talent to promote them and, also, understood their depth and were committed to the Romanian higher education. Furthermore, "with this book, we are reminded to re-live a past that feeds the present and is transformed into the future", the Dean adds. But most of all, this volume has been put together to stand proof of referential curriculum that capitalizes on authentic profiles of gifted teachers and invites to rediscover talent and look confidently towards the future.

Therefore, this volume represents a convincing plea for networking with other graduate schools and lay down on paper referential and memorable thoughts among which we might mention the dedication to the profession of teaching, coagulation and safekeeping of the spirit of scientific community in order to mold an elite academic environment, offering language programs at university level that respond promptly to the needs of students and, not least, a cumulative experience of life in the service of education in Romania.