

# **Red de Hispanistas de Europa Central and the Development of Hispanic Studies in Central Europe**

ILINCA ILIAN

West University of Timisoara

International Conference of CEEPUS Partners:  
Strengthening Networks, Expanding Horizons  
Budapest, 25 of September 2024

# Red de Hispanistas de Europa Central

- The Network of Hispanists of Central Europe has been instrumental in advancing Hispanic Studies through teaching, research, and networking.

- <https://redhispanistaseuropacentral.wordpress.com/quienes-somos/>



# Origin and Expansion

- Founded in 2010 as a CEEPUS network, initially called the “Regional Network of Hispanists of Hungary, Romania, and Serbia”.
- It began with 6 departments, and today has grown to 22 departments across 11 countries, with further expansion expected.
- Mission: Enhance the academic and cultural impact of Hispanic Studies in Central Europe.

# Teaching Initiatives and Innovations

- The design of the teaching mobilities is based on multimedia teaching / learning methods and the interactive approach is encouraged. Each series of modular lectures is always preceded by sending a package of electronic resources to the hosting department that can address students' needs in the future. Our aim is to share this material in order to bring benefits to the greatest number of our students.
- An example is the Course *Hispanic Studies in Central and Eastern Europe*, created at Masaryk University in 2020. Its goals are:
  - ✓ Strengthening collaboration among universities;
  - ✓ Updating students on developments in Hispanic Studies;
  - ✓ Testing teaching strategies for diverse student groups, aimed at future joint degrees.
- Since 2020, 16 professors have participated, with positive student feedback and dissertation topics influenced by this course.

# Las Jornadas Iberoamericanas de Pécs

- **Key Event:** Jornadas Iberoamericanas de Pécs, established in 1998.
- Merged with the Spring School in 2014, fostering collaboration between students and scholars from undergraduate to PhD levels.
- Provides 3 ECTS credits, evaluated through presentations and papers.



# Research Publication and Achievements

**Key Journal:** *Colindancias* – Journal of the Network of Hispanists of Central Europe.

- 14 issues published to date.
- Focus: Hispanic and Ibero-American cultural and literary studies.
- Access the journal:  
<https://colindancias.uvt.ro/index.php/dj/index>

## Selected Dossiers:

- *El Boom latinoamericano detrás de la Cortina de Hierro* – Cuadernos del CILHA, Argentina, 1/2018.
- *La recepción de la novela corta latinoamericana en Europa Central* – *Colindancias*, 9/2018.
- *Problemáticas de la otredad en la literatura hispánica* – Verbum - Analecta Neolatina, 22/2021.
- *F(r)icciones culturales entre América Latina y el Bloque del Este* – *Hispanic Research Journal*, 22/2021.
- *Contacts between Central European and Latin American literatures during the Cold War* – *Ars & Humanitas*, 16/2021.
- *Significados de la ma/paternidad en la literatura hispanoamericana* – Cuadernos de CILHA, 37/2022.

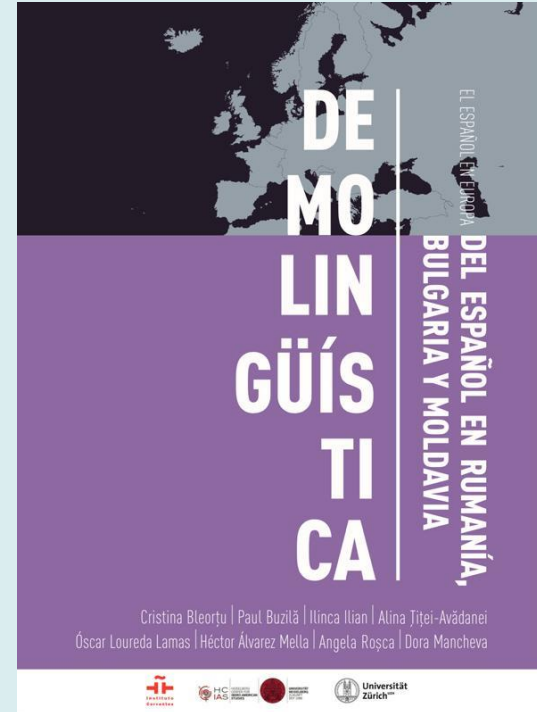
**Books:** *Las relaciones culturales entre América Latina y los países socialistas europeos durante la Guerra Fría* – CLACSO, 2023.



# Large-Scale Research Projects

## Project: *El español en Europa*

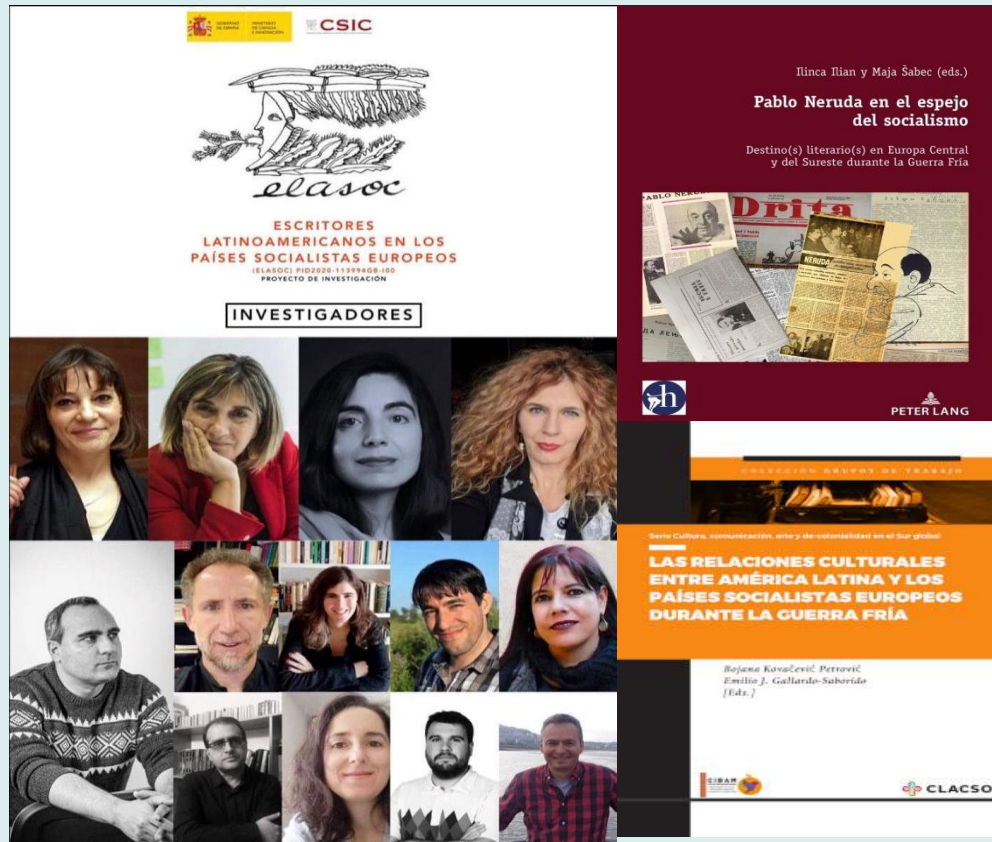
- Focus: Examining the role of the Spanish language in Europe.
- Coordinated by Heidelberg and Zurich Universities, in collaboration with Instituto Cervantes.
- Network members from Belgrade and Ljubljana participate.
- More info: <https://europa-hcias.de/>





# Large-Scale Research Project

- **ELASOC Project – Latin American Writers in the European Socialist Countries during the Cold War, which investigates Latin American writers in European socialist countries, involving participants from Timisoara, Szeged, and Novi Sad**
- Noteworthy publication: *Pablo Neruda en el espejo del socialismo* (2024, Peter Lang, Bruxelles), contributed by 8 scholars from the network.
- We also collaborate with CLACSO, a major international institution. Two of our network's centers are affiliated with CLACSO, focusing on Latin American cultural and social ties with the Balkans and Central Europe.





# Large-Scale Academic Project

- **FIEALC Congress (Szeged, 2019):**
  - ✓ Major academic gathering of scholars focusing on Latin American and Iberian studies.
  - ✓ The network played a key role in organizing this international congress.
- **International Congress of Americanists (Novi Sad, 2025):**
  - ✓ Celebrates 150 years since the creation of this major congress (1875). It will bring together more than 1000 researchers worldwide.
  - ✓ This event will feature prominent participation from network members in organizing and presenting.

# Erasmus+ LITPRAX Project

*Literature in praxis: Professional challenges of reading, translating and editing in digital age*

- **Project Period:** January 2022 – June 2024

## Results:

- **Transnational Course:** Focuses on 21st-century Spanish literature, offering 3 ECTS credits.
- **Handbook:** Practical guide covering topics such as literary translation, editing, and writing.
- **Online Database:** Collects information on the reception of Spanish and Latin American literature in Central Europe.
- Explore the project: <https://litprax.org/>



# Factors Defining Quality in Mobility Programmes

## 1. Preparation & Resources:

- Teachers share syllabus and key materials in advance.
- Interactive, multimedia-based teaching methods.
- The diversity of approaches and topics broadens students' horizons.

## 2. Academic and Social Integration

- Participation in international projects (e.g. Jornadas Iberoamericanas, PhD Students Conferences [e.g., Belgrade 2023]) fosters bonds and future collaborations between the students.

## 3. Active Involvement in Research:

- Students engage in concrete projects (e.g., LITPRAX database, translation projects).

## 4. Ongoing Monitoring:

- Continuous evaluation of teaching and learning.



# Making Mobility More Meaningful

## 1. Collaborative Networks:

- Regular academic events (e.g. Las Jornadas Iberoamericanas en Pécs) help monitor and reflect on future mobilities.
- Professors and students meet frequently at conferences to build lasting academic relationships (organization of about 4-5 academic events by year)

## 2. Enhanced Learning Experience

- Projects combining theory and practice give students a hands-on experience.
- Friendships and professional ties motivate students to apply for future mobility opportunities.





# Conclusion and Advice for Coordinators

## Key Achievements:

- Implementation of new teaching methodologies through courses and workshops.
- Increased academic mobility across Central Europe.
- Extensive collaborative research and publication projects, creating a rich academic community.

## Advice for Coordinators:

- Build strong and lasting relationships with partner institutions.
- Remain flexible and adapt teaching and research strategies as needed.
- Focus on practical, impactful outcomes for both students and researchers, ensuring long-term benefits for the academic community.

# ¡Gracias!

