

“LEAD the team!” project, funded by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) – Pillar VI: Policies for the new generation, Component C15: Education, Reform 7: Governance of the pre-university (K-12) education system and professionalization of management, Investment 18: Training and mentoring program for school managers and inspectors (ID_13).

The project is carried out by the ULBS based on the Financing Contract no. 9375/02.04.2025, with the objective of strengthening leadership and educational management skills among key actors in the pre-university education system.

Implementation period 03.04.2025 – 31.08.2026

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MANAGEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP FOR K-12 EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

(LEADK12 International Conference 2026)

April 23-25, 2026

**The “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu (ULBS)
Romania**



<https://grants.ulbsibiu.ro/leadtheteam/leadk12>

Introduction

International Conference on Management and Entrepreneurial Leadership for K-12 Education Excellence will be held April 23-25, 2026 at the “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, in Transylvania, nestled in the heart of Romania.

The LEADK12 International Conference 2026 is organized by the “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu (ULBS), within the “LEAD the team!” project, funded by the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) – Pillar VI: Policies for the new generation, Component C15: Education, Reform 7: Governance of the pre-university (K-12) education system and professionalization of management, Investment 18: Training and mentoring program for school managers and inspectors (ID_13). The project is carried out by the ULBS based on the Financing Contract no. 9375/02.04.2025, with the objective of strengthening leadership and educational management skills among key actors in the pre-university education system.

The goal of the conference is to provide an international framework for an integrated dialogue on improving educational leadership and management skills, on the exchange of good entrepreneurial leadership practices and strategies in different countries, on the challenges in different national contexts.

The main objectives of the LEADK12 International Conference 2026 are the following:

- to create a forum for the exchange of good practices on educational leadership and management;
- to provide an opportunity for the exchange of information and experiences between participants, encouraging the participation of young researchers and leaders;
- to define in more detail the role and responsibilities of leaders of educational institutions, their specific training or expertise, their training and assessment;
- to examine the possibilities of supporting the development of attractive and motivating careers for current and future leaders of educational institutions;
- to support and provide new research framework in entrepreneurial leadership, empowering an interdisciplinary partnership among business and K-12 education.

The conference is addressed to professionals involved in the training of leaders of educational institutions, educational researchers, teachers, school principals, entrepreneurs, key actors from business, representatives of NGOs active in education and training. We encourage young researchers (students and post-docs) to submit abstracts and deliver presentations.

International Conference on Management and Entrepreneurial Leadership for K-12 Education Excellence

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, April 23, 2026, Bucharest Time (GMT+2h)

19:00 – 21:00	WELCOME DINNER Restaurant Hotel Ramada, Emil Cioran Street, 2, Sibiu
----------------------	--

FRIDAY, April 24, 2026, Bucharest Time (GMT+2h)

09:30 – 10:00	Opening Ceremony Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Aula “Avram Iancu”, B-dul Victoriei, 5-7, Sibiu
Opening Remarks	Sorin RADU , PhD, Rector of the “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Romania Bogdan CRISTESCU , PhD, General Director, National Centre for Curriculum and Assessments, Bucharest, Romania
10:00 – 13:00	Plenary Session: Invited Keynote Speakers
10:00 – 10:20	<i>Promoting distributed educational leadership to foster organizational well-being</i> Arianna Lodovica MORINI , PhD, Roma Tre University, Italy <i>The school as a plural space: intercultural competences for transformative leadership</i> Veronica RICCARDI , PhD, Roma Tre University, Italy
10:20 – 10:40	<i>Leadership for a Digital Age: Whole-School Strategies to Enhance Media Literacy for All Students</i> Igor PESEK , PhD, University of Maribor, Slovenia Matej LOZAR , PhD, University of Maribor, Slovenia
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Conceptualizing entrepreneurial leadership in EU education: bridging theory and practice</i> Domagoj HRUŠKA , PhD, University of Zagreb, Croatia Delia Elena MATEIAȘ , PhD, The Research Institute of the University of Bucharest, ICUB, Romania, The Ionian University, Greece Oliver CHRIST , PhD, Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences (OST), Switzerland
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break

11:30 – 11:50	<p><i>The PAEDU Protocol as a Foundation for Inclusive Leadership and Social Justice in Educational Contexts of Exclusion</i></p> <p>Francisca MORENO-TALLÓN, PhD, University of the Balearic Islands, Spain Nuria LÓPEZ-ROCA, PhD, University of the Balearic Islands, Spain Mercè MOREY-LÓPEZ, PhD, University of the Balearic Islands, Spain</p>
11:50 – 12:10	<p><i>Managerialism, skills, merit in education: a critical reading</i></p> <p>Paolo VITTORIA, PhD, Federico II University of Napoli – Italy</p>
12:10 – 12:30	<p><i>From strategy to motivation: The role of leadership in quality assurance of Moldovan Higher Education</i></p> <p>Lucia SAVA, PhD, “Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University of Chișinău, Republic of Moldova</p>
12:30 – 12:50	<p><i>Digital Transformation Leadership and Innovation in Teacher Professional Development</i></p> <p>Victoria BELOUS, PhD, “Ion Creangă” State Pedagogical University of Chișinău, Republic of Moldova</p>
13:00 – 13:30	Q & A session
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Lunch Break</p> <p>Restaurant Hotel Ramada, Emil Cioran Street, 2, Sibiu</p>
Workshops	Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, B-dul Victoriei, 5-7, Sibiu
15:00 – 16:30	<p>Workshop A: <i>Profesorul lider cum să inspire și să transformi sala de clasă într-un mediu incluziv/ The Leading Teacher: How to Inspire and Transform Your Classroom into an Inclusive Environment (Room-)</i></p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Carmen-Sonia DUȘE, PhD, Maria MARCU, PhD, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu</p> <p>Workshop B: <i>Leadershipul situațional în școala actuală între așteptări și provocări/ Situational leadership in today’s schools: between expectations and challenges (Room-)</i></p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Mihaela VOINEA, PhD, Carmina VAKULOVSKI, PhD, Transilvania University of Brașov</p> <p>Workshop C: <i>Gestionarea inteligenței artificiale în procesul de predare și învățare. Riscuri și beneficia/ Managing Artificial Intelligence in the Teaching and Learning Process: Risks and Benefits (Room-)</i></p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Felicia MORÂNDĂU, PhD, Dan DOBROTĂ, PhD, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu</p> <p>Workshop D: <i>Modele de comunicare eficientă în leadership/ Models of effective communication in leadership (Room-)</i></p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Liana Regina IUNESCH, PhD, Alina MOLDOVAN, PhD, Radu CREȚULESCU, PhD, “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu</p>

	<p>Workshop E: <i>Cum putem transforma o școală vulnerabilă într-un hub de învățare care dezvoltă întreaga comunitate?/ How can we transform a vulnerable school into a learning hub that develops the entire community? (Room-)</i></p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Iuliana PIELMUS, Director Executiv Teach for Romania, Daniela PITARIU, consultant educational Teach for Romania</p>
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 – 17:30	<p>Workshops conclusions</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Aula “Avram Iancu”, B-dul Victoriei, 5-7, Sibiu</p>
20:00 – 22:00	<p>DINNER</p> <p>Restaurant Hotel Ramada, Emil Cioran Street, 2, Sibiu</p>

SATURDAY, April 25, 2026, Bucharest Time (GMT+2h)

09:00 – 13:00	<p>Plenary Session: Invited Keynote Speakers</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Aula “Avram Iancu”, B-dul Victoriei, 5-7, Sibiu</p>
09:00 – 09:20	<p><i>Internationalization at home: public university strategies to overcome social class barriers to international students’ careers</i></p> <p>Anna Giulia INGELLIS, PhD, University of Valencia, Spain Andrea SIXTO COSTOYA, PhD, University of Valencia, Spain</p>
09:20 – 09:40	<p><i>Integrating Sustainable Development Thinking in School Systems at All Levels: Leadership, Whole-of-Society Engagement, Understanding Trade-Offs and Synergies, and Long-Term Orientation</i></p> <p>Aloysius MEULEMAN, PhD, The Politics & Public Governance Research Group and GOVTRUST Centre of Excellence, University of Antwerp, Belgium</p>
09:40 – 10:00	<p><i>Conflict management skills for leaders in schools and kindergartens</i></p> <p>Robert PFÜTZNER, PhD, University of Applied Sciences for Social Work and Pedagogy (HSAP), Germany</p>
10:00 – 10:20	<p><i>Developing School Leaders’ Competencies for Multilingual Excellence in Education</i></p> <p>Alexandra BARBANEAGRA, PhD, “Ion Creanga” State Pedagogical University of Chisinau, Republic of Moldova</p>
10:20 – 10:40	<p><i>Building Pathways to Primary Teachers Training: the Italian Model, the Florentine Experience, and the International Context</i></p> <p>Emiliano MACINAI, PhD, University of Florence, Italy Rossella CERTINI, PhD, University of Florence, Italy</p>

10:40 – 11:00	<p><i>Intercultural Communication as a Leadership Skill for Head Teachers</i></p> <p>Ioannis D. KARRAS, PhD, Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting, Ionian University, Greece</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 11:50	<p><i>Human-Centered and Entrepreneurial Leadership for Educational Innovation: Learnability, Ethics, and Digital Intelligence in K-12 Transformation</i></p> <p>Manuel Avelino PESTANO PÉREZ, PhD, European University of the Canary Islands, Spain</p> <p>Elena María Pérez González, PhD, European University of the Canary Islands, Spain</p>
11:50 – 12:10	<p><i>Growth mindset – a new paradigm in educational management</i></p> <p>Mușata BOCOȘ, PhD, Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania</p> <p>Mihaela-Gabriela NEACȘU, PhD, The National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Romania</p>
12:10 – 12:30	<p><i>The influence of collegial leadership on teachers' well-being</i></p> <p>Ciprian CEOBANU, PhD, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania</p> <p>Alexandra GROSU, PhD, “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași, Romania</p>
12:30 – 12:50	<p><i>Patterns of Intercultural Leadership: Evidence-Based Policies grounded from “LeadtheTeam” project</i></p> <p>Delia Elena MATEIAS, PhD, The Research Institute of the University of Bucharest, ICUB, Romania, Ionian University, Greece</p> <p>Gary R. LOW, PhD, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, The EITRI Institute, USA</p> <p>Richard D. HAMMETT, PhD, Walden University, The EITRI Institute, USA</p>
12:50 – 13:10	<p><i>Contemporary Motivational Models: Applications to Learning and Instruction</i></p> <p>Margareta M. THOMSON, PhD, NC State University, Raleigh, USA</p>
13:10 – 13:30	Q & A session
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Lunch Break</p> <p>Restaurant Hotel Ramada, Emil Cioran Street, 2, Sibiu</p>
Workshops	Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, B-dul Victoriei, 5-7, Sibiu
15:00 – 16:30	<p><i>Workshop A: Leadership educational de la viziune la acțiune prin formare continuă – schimb de bune practici/ Educational leadership from vision to action through continuous training - exchange of best practices (Room-)</i></p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Dorin ROȘCAN - Ministry of National Education, Dan Mihai GHEORGHITĂ - County School Inspectorate Brăila, Cristina Elena ANTON - The Teaching Staff's House Brăila</p>

	<p>Workshop B: Leadership eficient din perspectiva managementului resurselor umane/ Effective leadership from the perspective of human resources management (Room-)</p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Ovidiu Florin TRIPȘA - County School Inspectorate Brașov, Ștefania MOLNAR - County School Inspectorate Brașov, Cici Mihaela BOLOVAN - High School "Sextil Pușcariu" Bran, Brașov</p> <p>Workshop C: Instrumente digitale pentru Leadership și management educațional/ Digital tools for Leadership and educational management (Room-)</p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Radu CREȚULESCU - "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu, Cristina Elena ANTON - The Teaching Staff's House Brăila, Paulina ROȘCAN - SIP-FEN Vrancea Union</p> <p>Workshop D: Management instituțional în implementarea de proiecte cu finanțare externă – schimb de bune practici / Institutional management in the implementation of projects with external financing - exchange of best practices (Room-)</p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Violeta GAGU - County School Inspectorate Brăila, Daniela PETRE - Secondary School "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" Brăila, Nicolae ANTON - County School Inspectorate Brăila</p> <p>Workshop E: Cum putem transforma o școală vulnerabilă într-un hub de învățare care dezvoltă întreaga comunitate?/ How can we transform a vulnerable school into a learning hub that develops the entire community? (Room-)</p> <p>Contributors/speakers: Iuliana PIELMUS, Director Executiv Teach for Romania, Daniela PITARIU, consultant educational Teach for Romania</p>
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 – 17:30	<p>Workshops conclusions</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Aula "Avram Iancu", B-dul Victoriei, 5-7, Sibiu</p>
17:30 – 18:00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <p>Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Aula "Avram Iancu", B-dul Victoriei, 5-7, Sibiu</p>
	<p>Daniel MARA, PhD, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu</p>
20:00 – 22:00	<p>DINNER</p> <p>Restaurant Hotel Ramada, Emil Cioran Street, 2, Sibiu</p>