

Press Release | Brussels and Cluj-Napoca, April 22, 2020

## **Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca (UBB) joins The Guild as its new international ‘academic home’**

**Babeş-Bolyai University (Romania) has been admitted as the twentieth member of The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities, effective from 1 June 2020.**

UBB traces its origins to 1581 as Academia/Universitas Claudiopolitana (1581-1786, with teaching in Latin and German), followed by Cluj Hungarian University in the nineteenth century and then by Cluj Romanian University at the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1959, combining the existing Romanian and Hungarian universities in Cluj-Napoca, it emerged as Babeş-Bolyai University (UBB), named after Romanian biologist Victor Babeş and the Hungarian mathematician János Bolyai. The university continues to be multicultural and trilingual (Romanian, Hungarian and German) to this day. With around 45,000 students, it is the largest university in Romania.

Looking forward to UBB’s membership of The Guild, UBB’s Rector, Prof. Daniel David, said that: *“UBB, by its academic tradition, has always been anchored in the richness and the excellence of the academic European area. We are honoured by the invitation of The Guild, which will be our new international ‘academic home’”*.

The Guild’s General Assembly of University Presidents extended an invitation to UBB after rigorous assessment based on The Guild’s membership criteria. UBB has, consistently, ranked as Romania’s top university internationally across the major rankings (2016-19). It has been the strongest comprehensive university in Romania engaging with the seventh Framework Programme and Horizon 2020. And Guild Presidents were impressed by UBB’s potential and trajectory as detailed in the new strategic plan of the UBB as a world-class oriented university (2020-2024).

Vincent Blondel, Chair of The Guild, said: *“We are delighted that UBB has accepted our invitation for membership. As a truly multinational university from its foundation, it has a particularly valuable perspective to bring. In making the offer of membership, The Guild’s presidents also express their appreciation of the reform programme the University has embarked on to strengthen its international research excellence”*.

Following The Guild’s creation in 2016 with 18 members, it admitted the University of Bern in 2017. Since its creation, The Guild has been dedicated to bringing together research excellence from some of the best universities from across the European continent. As The Guild’s 20<sup>th</sup> member, Babeş-Bolyai University will bring an important perspective from South-Eastern Europe to The Guild’s internal discussions, its collaborations, and the positions it develops.

Jan Palmowski, Secretary-General of The Guild, commented: *“We look forward to welcoming colleagues from UBB to our working groups, and we are delighted that UBB has made a real commitment to contribute to our common work on developing policy and sharing best practice”*.

Daniel David, Rector of UBB, added: *“UBB’s membership of The Guild will bring our commitment to working in international consortia to a new level. We look forward to working with The Guild’s members on realising a common academic vision, in which members collaborate together in the pursuit of research, education, and societal engagement. Based on UBB’s academic motto,<sup>1</sup> our academic values - Traditio et Excellentia – must shine in Europe; by this membership we are there ready to shine!”*

### **Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca (UBB)**

With origins going back to 1581, UBB emerged in 1959 from a merger of the existing Romanian and Hungarian universities in Cluj-Napoca (Romania). Comprising of about 45,000 students in 21 Faculties, UBB is the most highly ranked university in South-Eastern Europe. Also, during its history, UBB has made an important contribution to the development of a range of academic fields. For example, Emil Racoviță, the founder of biospeleology, and Hugo Meltzl, one of the founders of comparative literature, were professors and rectors of the university, while Abraham Wald, one of the founders of statistical sequential analysis, was an alumnus.

Website: <https://www.ubbcluj.ro/en/>

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### **The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities**

Founded in 2016, the Guild currently comprises nineteen of Europe’s most distinguished research-intensive universities in fourteen countries, and is dedicated to enhancing the voice of academic institutions, their researchers and their students. The Guild is committed to the pursuit of excellence, the importance of truth-seeking and trust-building as the foundation of public life, and the creation of new knowledge for the benefit of society, culture, and economic growth.

Website: <http://www.the-guild.eu/>

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<sup>1</sup> Traditio Nostra Unacum Europae Virtutibus Splendet