



Participant: **Ineta Kristovska**

Sending Institution: Luther Academy

Host Country: Romania

Host Institution: Faculty of Reformed Theology and Music

Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca, Romania

Mobility Duration: 13/04/2026-17/04/2026.

## **1. Motivation to Participate in Erasmus+ Study Mobility**

The main motivation for participating in the Erasmus+ mobility was to strengthen institutional cooperation between Luther Academy and the Faculty of Reformed Theology and Music at Babeş-Bolyai University. The mobility aimed to develop collaboration in theology, church leadership, and church music, as well as to expand international research networks.

A particular focus was placed on exploring opportunities for scientific cooperation, including the publication of research articles by Luther Academy academic staff in Romanian peer-reviewed collections indexed in the Scopus database. Additionally, the mobility sought to promote staff exchange and innovative student mobility formats such as Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP) and Short-term Intensive Programmes (SIP).

## **2. Cooperation with the Sending and Receiving Institutions**

The sending institution, Luther Academy, provided strong institutional and administrative support throughout all phases of the mobility. The objectives of the visit were clearly aligned with the Academy's strategic goals in research development and internationalization.

The receiving institution demonstrated a high level of academic professionalism and openness. Meetings with faculty members and administrative representatives focused on:

- development of joint research initiatives,
- opportunities for publishing in Scopus-indexed academic collections,
- strengthening Erasmus+ mobility cooperation,
- collaboration in church music education and practice.

The cooperation was constructive and resulted in a shared understanding of future priorities, establishing a solid basis for long-term partnership.

### **3. Academic and Personal Achievements**

The mobility led to several important academic outcomes. Notably, opportunities were identified for publishing Luther Academy researchers' articles in Romanian scientific publications indexed in Scopus, thereby enhancing international research visibility.

Further achievements include the development of cooperation in church music, particularly in the areas of liturgical music, choir traditions, and pedagogical exchange. Agreements in principle were reached regarding mutual staff exchange and joint academic activities.

In addition, new possibilities were explored for organizing Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP) and Short-term Intensive Programmes (SIP), contributing to modern and flexible student mobility formats.

On a personal level, the mobility enhanced competencies in international academic cooperation, strategic planning, and intercultural communication.

### **4. Most Memorable Impressions**

One of the most striking impressions was that Cluj-Napoca is a vibrant and dynamic student city. With a total population of approximately 300,000 inhabitants, it hosts a very large student community—around 100,000 students studying across seven higher education institutions. Babeş-Bolyai University is the largest university in the city and plays a central role in shaping its academic and cultural life.

The city is also notable for its rich religious landscape. In 2025, there are 56 active churches representing various Christian denominations, reflecting a strong tradition of religious diversity and dialogue. This context provides a particularly meaningful environment for theological studies and cooperation.

The openness, collegiality, and professionalism of the host institution significantly contributed to a productive and inspiring exchange.

### **5. Practical Advice for Future Erasmus+ Participants**

Future participants are advised to prepare thoroughly by defining clear academic and institutional objectives, particularly in relation to research cooperation and publication outcomes.

Active participation in meetings, openness to interdisciplinary collaboration, and engagement in both formal and informal discussions are essential for achieving meaningful results.

Participants are also encouraged to explore the cultural environment of the host country. In Romania, it is highly recommended to experience local traditions, including tasting national cuisine, which contributes to a deeper understanding of the cultural context.

## 6. Additional Reflections

The Erasmus+ mobility confirmed the importance of international cooperation in strengthening research capacity and academic quality. Collaboration with Babeş-Bolyai University offers valuable opportunities for integrating Luther Academy into wider European research and academic networks.

The identified prospects—particularly publishing in Scopus-indexed collections, cooperation in church music, staff exchange, and joint student programmes—represent significant potential for long-term institutional development.

At the same time, the experience in Cluj-Napoca highlighted the importance of an active academic environment, strong student presence, and a rich ecclesiastical tradition as key factors supporting high-quality theological education. Continued follow-up will be essential to transform these opportunities into concrete and sustainable outcomes.



