

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	1 - UNIVERSITATEA NATIONALA DE ARTA TEATRALA SI CINEMATOGRAFICA ION LUCA CARAGIALE DIN BUCURESTI (UNATC)
PIC number:	946787222
Project name and acronym:	TABOO HISTORY. FILL THE PAST TO SENSE THE PRESENT — TabThePAST

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	D4.1		
Event name:	EDS The narratives of censorship – educational workshop		
Type:	Educational workshops		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Romania, Bucharest		
Date(s):	01/11/2023 – 25/02/2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://tabthepast.ro/		
Participants			
Female:	15		
Male:	12		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Romania]:	27		
From country 2 [Germany]:			
Total number of participants:	27	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>The educational workshops part of the “Taboo History. Fill the Past to Sense the Present (TabThePAST)” project, were held at UNATC headquarters and were organized by the researchers involved in the project, for a total of 27 participants, between November 2023 and February 2024. The participants were selected following a call for each workshop.</p> <p>In total, there were three workshop groups led by three researchers (Răsvana Cernat, Vlad Galer, Radu Crăciun). The workshops combined two components – a theoretical and a practical component. The theoretical aspects touched upon included the study of performative events under totalitarian regimes, as well as ethical aspects and research objectivity entailed when analyzing archive documents.</p>			

Thus, the purpose of the workshop was to provide participants with a set of conceptual and methodological tools in working with archives, useful for recreating and reconstructing stage situations and actions, discovering documentary clues from the perspective of the present and substantiating the issue of research: creditable and non-creditable sources.

For the practical component, the participants, under the guidance of each researcher, were asked to pick one relevant moment (scene, song, etc.) from an event discussed during the theoretical meetings, and based on it, to (re)create a very short performative scene. This was meant to be a fully immersive hands-on exploration of how such historical and cultural contexts can be recuperated through performative arts.

Thus, each workshop started with a rundown of possible areas of interests for each group, centered around the research focus of each researcher. This was followed by the selection of an event/important moment/aspect from the research materials studied. Then, each group worked on dramatizing the texts/information they have chosen, which ultimately lead to the creation of scripts for the final performative event. The final performances were preceded by several rehearsals of the dramatized texts.

The group led by Răsvana Cernat, PhD, lecturer and researcher, focused on her previous research conducted in partnership with the Sighet Memorial on women political prisoners during the Romanian communist regime. The group selected fragments from the memoirs of a peasant woman from Bucovina, who was deported to Siberia in 1941, and of former political prisoners detained in the Romanian communist prisons of the 1950s and 1960s. The group chose four testimonies to adapt and dramatize as monologues, which were later recorded. The recordings were included into a performative installation, which consisted of four mime performances done by four of the workshop participants. The installation also included video projections and a specially designed soundscape. The installation was titled "**Dușmance ale poporului**" (Women Enemies of the People) and was presented to the public on 27 February 2024 at UNATC library.

The workshop group led by Vlad Galer, PhD candidate, actor and researcher, focused on a file, found in the UNATC's archive, of a former female student, who, in 1955 was part of a group of 17 students from the Institute of Theatrical and Cinematographic Art "I. L. Caragiale" (IATC) that were proposed for expulsion, because they had (direct or indirect) relationships with a representative of the French legation in Bucharest, Romania. The students had been investigated by the Propaganda and Unrest Unit, within the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party. They were accused of spreading the capitalist ideology to the detriment of the Communist Party. They were labeled as morally decayed as they were listening to decadent western music, as well as using and distributing foreign products (soap, deodorant, female stockings, bags etc.) to other people (mainly students) in exchange for money.

The group's task was to sift through and compile the relevant information in the file. They chose to adapt the investigation meeting of the former IATC female student. The group dramatized her testimony before the investigation committee. The final performance also included musical and dancing moments, and was presented to the public on 28 February 2024, under the title "**Un dosar x/1955**" (File X/1955).

The third workshop group focused on the research topic of Radu Crăciun, PhD, researcher, namely the life of political detainee, theater director, Crin Teodorescu. The group chose an event from his Securitate file to adapt and dramatize. Crin Teodorescu's file was studied and transcribed from the National Council for Studying the Securitate Archives (CNSAS) by researcher Radu Crăciun, PhD, in June 2023. The text selected focused on the period between March 1959 and July 1960, when, according to the file, Crin Teodorescu, following an investigation, was sentenced to 7 years in prison for violating art. 209 c.p. letter b, namely, conspiracy against the social order. The main accusation brought against him was that he "maliciously slandered the achievements of the Soviet cinema in relation to the Western cinema and advocated for plays that glorified the capitalist way of life." The dramatization of the selected excerpts of his investigation and time in prison, to which a few songs were added, resulted in the performance titled "**Învinsul învingător**" (The Victorious Loser), which was presented to the public on 28 February 2024 at the UNATC headquarters.

The challenges of the workshops, as described by both the researchers and the participants, concerned mainly the ethical aspects of dramatizing real-life moments without crossing the fine line between reality and fiction. Working with archive materials meant that the groups had to come up with an innovative presentation of the studied information, without fictionalizing it. At the same time, to maintain objectivity, their dramatization had to exclude all commentaries or interpretations. This also meant that they needed to reach a balanced blend of humor and facts.

Through these workshops, the participants had the opportunity to understand the social, political and cultural context of the 1950s and 1960s, while studying the mindset and propaganda mechanisms specific to a totalitarian regime. By coming into contact with archive materials, participants were also able to deepen their grasps on concepts such as the recuperative importance of the (cultural) past.

The workshops were documented both through a series of photographs and video recordings taken during the workshop sessions/rehearsals, which were included in the photo/video report (deliverable D4.2).

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.03.2024	Initial version (new MFF) written by Radu APOSTOL