

**Gherheș, Vasile. 2018. *Absolvenți, profesioniști, specialiști. Slalom printre experiențe*. Timișoara: Editura Politehnica. ISBN 978-606-35-0242-2, pp. 203**

**Gherheș, Vasile. 2018. *Graduates, Professionals, Specialists. Slalom among Experiences*, translation and footnotes by Șimon Simona. București: Eikon. ISBN 978-606-711-964-0, pp. 213**

### Book review

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The book *Absolvenți, profesioniști, specialiști. Slalom printre experiențe / Graduates, Professionals, Specialists. Slalom among Experiences* by Vasile Gherheș, translated into English by Simona Șimon, is a source of inspiration for many prospective students, students and graduates of the study programmes in Communication and Public Relations as well as in Translation and Interpreting. After finishing secondary education, many of us face a puzzling question: What career path should we take? The present book deals with some of the questions one raises when choosing a particular field of study and afterwards a career.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the first socio-humanistic specialisation, *Professional Communication*, at Politehnica University of Timișoara, was marked by the publishing of the monograph entitled *25 de ani de comunicare și traductologie în Universitatea Politehnica Timișoara: 1993-2018* [25 years of Communication and Translation Studies at the Politehnica University of Timișoara: 1993-2018] (Dejica-Cartiș et al., 2018), which focuses on the most important events that have shaped its present-day identity. The celebration was also a good opportunity to highlight some of the experiences of the almost 1,700 graduates of the university's

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socio-humanistic study programmes. So, the concept of the present book has come up as a result of the long discussions the author had with the management team of the Faculty of Communication Sciences.

The graduates' motivation to pursue a particular degree, their most relevant university memories and the landmarks in their career development are presented in a collection of 37 interviews. Some professional changes that have occurred over time and the development opportunities under the existing labour market conditions are also described in the book.

Being one of the most commonly used qualitative research methods in socio-humanistic sciences and in various professional activities, the interview reveals some of the interviewees' in-depth experiences (Chelcea 2007, Iluț 1997, Mărginean 2000, Miftode 1995, 2003). The present book resorts to the self-administered interview in order to collect data. The selection of the respondents was done in several stages:

1. creating a database containing the contact information of about 200 graduates;
2. contacting the identified graduates, and asking them to answer the interview questions;
3. receiving a positive response from 39 graduates;
4. selecting only 37 respondents, namely the economically active ones.

The two parts of the interview guide tackle aspects of students' lives (8 questions) and of their career development (15 questions). The interview's objectives were:

- to determine the reasons for which the graduates have chosen a socio-humanistic degree at Politehnica University of Timișoara
- to determine the distinctive features of the chosen degree;
- to identify the graduates' personal achievements and challenges both in their student and in their professional lives;
- to identify the persons who decisively influenced their personal and professional development;
- to highlight the best advice received during their careers;
- to describe each profession, stressing the personal qualities and professional skills one needs in order to build a successful career in a particular field of activity;
- to outline both the changes occurred in their profession over time and the trends they expect to shape it in the future.

The book *Absolvenți, profesioniști, specialiști. Slalom printre experiențe / Graduates, Professionals, Specialists. Slalom among Experiences* by Vasile Gherheș, translated into English by Simona Șimon, is a good resource for all those interested in finding answers to some of the dilemmas one has before choosing a degree, and later on a career. It also presents the student life, one of the most beautiful periods in life,

and offers solutions to some of the professional challenges faced by some of the graduates of the socio-humanistic study programmes at Politehnica University of Timișoara, depicting their perspective on the future development of their chosen profession.

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