



# University of Craiova

Department of Applied Foreign Languages

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Drobeta Turnu-Severin University Centre

invite you to participate in the International Colloquium

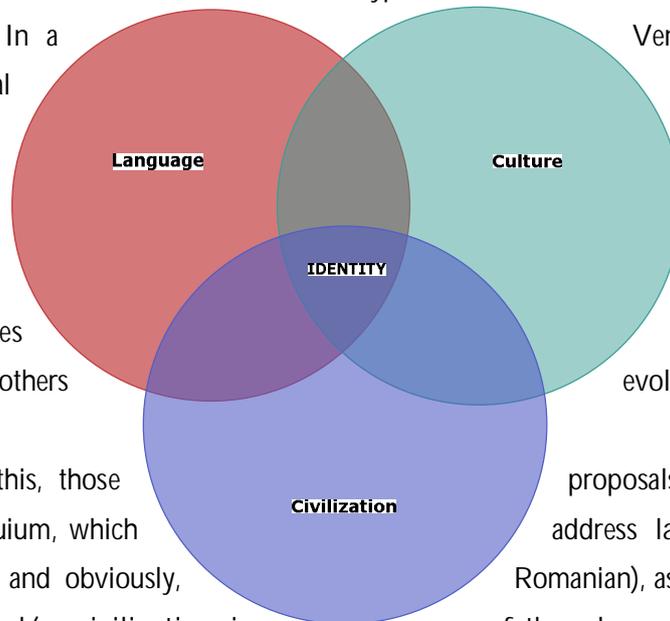
## LANGUAGE, CULTURE, CIVILIZATION

which will be held between the 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2011,

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of our colloquium (the 3<sup>rd</sup> international edition) will address, as usual, the three well-known topics: *Language, Culture, Civilization*.

Language is, perhaps, the most important instrument of cultural identity, as it 'represents the first great poem of a people' (Lucian Blaga). It means *culture* and the two grow inseparable, being the absolute expression of human diversity, because, as Montaigne stated it in 1580, diversity stands for 'e most universal quality of spirits' and the mankind unity relies on the diversity of the individuals who compose it.

In their turn, civilization – seen as an ensemble of features specific to any society –, and culture – made up of all attitudes, world views as well as characteristics typical to civilization – are the ones that enhance the uniqueness of a nation. In a Venn diagram, the intersection of these three essential components is represented by the authentic, unmistakable IDENTITY of any people. Thus, identity becomes increasingly distinctive when the nation communicates, because, as Thomas Sowell has noted, 'isolated cultures stagnate; cultures that communicate with others evolve'. (*Race and Culture: A World View*, 1994)



Premised on all this, those proposals, submitted to the scientific committee of our Colloquium, which address language (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and obviously, Romanian), as well as the ones concerned with aspects of culture and/or civilization, in any of these languages, are looked forward to being received, because the organizers have been and remain faithful to E.T. Hall's famous chiasm: 'culture means communication and communication means culture'. (*The Silent Language*, 1959).