





## Once upon a time...



This catalogue is an invitation to discover, through stories, the cultural heritage safeguarded within the PA16/RO12 Programme *Conservation and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage*. As with any story, there are forces of Good and forces of Evil, facing a final battle, after many adventures and obstacles.

The Multicultural Museum Pavilion, hosting over 32,000 cultural objects belonging to all minorities in Romania, was inaugurated in 2016. The Pavilion dazzles with its balance between modern and traditional and provides a model for rethinking museum space functionality. 18 monuments and 2,000 cultural objects belonging to minorities were restored within the project.

Some anonymous heroes remind us that cultural heritage defines our identity. Through their work, historical monuments were restored and opened to the public and intangible heritage was digitized.

Cultural heritage was thus given back to the communities, researchers and general public. As with any story, there is a Fairy which intervenes unexpectedly to help the heroes and the forces of Good to succeed. The PA16/RO12 Programme *Conservation and revitalisation of cultural and natural heritage*, with a total value of 18.5 million euro, financed 28 projects aiming at restoring historical monuments and making them accessible to the public.

The EEA Grants, a financial mechanism through which Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein contribute to reducing economic and social disparities, promote respect for cultural identity.

The grants made possible for heritage buildings on the verge of destruction to be restored.

Let's hear their story!



## RESTORING HERITAGE

ASTRA National Museum Complex, Sibiu

### Open Heritage: Increased public accessibility to multi-ethnic heritage values in the Astra Museum

Sibiu is a city of interethnic tolerance and multicultural traditions. Astra Museum, with 300 buildings scattered on 92ha, has thousands of visitors annually due to the impressive collection of monuments and popular techniques from all over the country. The Multicultural Museum Pavilion, hosting over 32,000 cultural objects belonging to all minorities in Romania, was inaugurated in 2016. The Pavilion dazzles with its balance between modern and traditional and provides a model for rethinking museum space functionality. 18 monuments and 2,000 cultural objects belonging to minorities were restored within the project.

If you take the wide area of the museum by foot you will discover the Path of ethnic minorities with 18 monuments specific to the traditional occupations of their owners – rudars, fishermen, millers, potters and miners.

The partnership with South Trøndelag Museum has made possible for the Multicultural Pavilion to present in parallel the illustrated history of two small communities, one from Romania and the other from Norway, to rediscover the art of living together.



[www.patrimoniudeschis.ro](http://www.patrimoniudeschis.ro)



Valentin Baci, participant at making peasant sandals workshops, Brădeanu village, Buzău County:

"We arrived in a famous museum where we could exhibit our works and our flying peasant sandals. This handicraft has made me realize that traditions must be conserved out of respect for our ancestors."

Slatina Municipality

“Victoria” Intercultural Atelier

[www.atelierul-victoria.ro](http://www.atelierul-victoria.ro)

The former cinema located on Lipscani Street in Slatina was restored and given back to the local community under the name “Victoria” Intercultural Atelier. The historical monument was in an advanced decaying state. The former vivid building, part of the local community’s memory and identity, was on the verge of destruction.



“Victoria” Intercultural Atelier includes a multifunctional auditorium for theatre performances, movie projections, concerts, exhibitions, conferences. In the basement, an exhibition hall that preserves the specificity of the building was developed. The patio has trellises, green areas, ideal for cultural cafes. The new functionalities and good practice models in managing multi-ethnic heritage were designed in partnership with EVRIS ses Foundation from Iceland.



During Roma Intercultural Week, projections of documentary and artistic movies and a photo exhibition related to Roma community were organized. Also, the participants discussed over the intercultural history in Oltenia.

**Delia Grigore, anthropologist:** “On Saint Mary’s we commemorated the Roma victims of slavery and Holocaust and celebrated 160 years since the liberation of Roma. Victoria Atelier is a model for capitalizing on intercultural traditions.”

Kálnoky Foundation

## Heritage initiative – the Museum of Transylvanian Life

A castle built in the sixteenth century on three levels, preserved in the Renaissance style, but also with baroque and English influences, spent 10 years in ruin. After decades of negligence, the building became an open wound, whose suffering was known only by locals.

[www.muzeulvietiitransilvanene.ro](http://www.muzeulvietiitransilvanene.ro)



In the plans to restore the castle, there was a wonderful Renaissance stove of green terracotta tiles with ornaments. The fillings from the large hall and the Renaissance loggia were reconditioned; the stone frames of the western bastion were assembled, and ceramic tile flooring finishing works were carried out in the basement. The Renaissance stove in the large hall on the ground floor of the castle, the forged iron staircase, the handrail, a Renaissance clavicle and various Turkish furnishings were carefully restored. Visitors can find out here the story of a rare oriental piece – a *mashrabiya* panel from Cairo dating from 1850s – 1860s and used as a decorative element in an aristocratic space.



The castle has become today the museum of Transylvanian life, presenting the lives of people from this part of Romania. Here, entrepreneurship courses to showcase local products and services and cultural guide courses were organized.

Ambrus Zsofia, restorer: "This castle and its reconstruction are very important to Szecklers, for our history; the objects of cultural value were restored after old, original plans".

Bistrița-Năsăud County Council

## Planning, operation and revitalization concept of indoor and courtyard of Bistrița-Năsăud County Museum

[www.reabilitaremuzeubn.ro](http://www.reabilitaremuzeubn.ro)

The Museum Complex was established in 1950 in a former Habsburg barracks building dating back to 1898. Historical monument, the building hosts important collections of ethnography, art, history, archaeology and natural science. The project aimed at bringing the museum back to the community's attention, by rearranging the exhibition spaces and creating new multimedia facilities.

The restoration of the museum included renovation works, redevelopment of the courtyard, with an urban garden, in the middle of which there is a Transylvanian wooden church. In the basement of the building a multifunctional hall was set up, an interactive creative space and the natural science section was regenerated. The four museum sections were integrated into a modern concept in which the visitor can see, for example, pieces from the Wietenberg Bronze Age, the Șieu-Odorhei Monetary Treasury (dating from 2<sup>nd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> century BC), Romanian, Hungarian and Saxon folk costumes and many other treasures awaiting discovery.



The first to enjoy the results of the revitalisation project were the children in Bistrița, who attended drawing workshops, making dolls workshops and folk art performances. The conference rooms became friendlier with their guests and the events hosted by the museum finally enjoy a modern concept of presentation.



Alexandru Gavrilaș, Museum Complex Director: "The museum is an institution of knowledge, of finding yourself, but these things must be cultivated."

## Conserving – restoring and showcasing the wood churches Petrindu and Cizer

Blackened wooden churches with small glass mesh stand majestic in silence hills. They are typical churches for Northern Transylvania, built in the eighteenth century - blue paintings and carved beams concluded in smooth loops. These monuments combine priceless elements of architectural uniqueness.

Somewhere on a beam of Cizer church, the signature of Horea, an important national historical figure, is sculpted in wood. The church of Horea is the place where villagers gathered for the Uprising in 1784. Here is where the bells for Avram Iancu's Revolution in 1848 rang; here is where the villagers prayed for the Great Union of 1918.

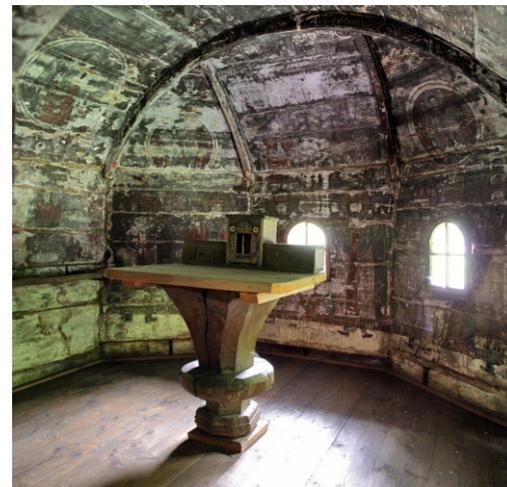
[www.woodenchurchesofcluj.com](http://www.woodenchurchesofcluj.com)



PETRINDU church



CIZER church



The paintings from Petrindu date back to 1835 and bear the signature of Dimitrie Ispas from Gilău, one of the most famous Transylvanian painters of the time. Religious paintings of angels, saints, stars, the symbol of the cross and the ornaments insert the visitor in a sacred place.



**Dana Postolache, restorer:** "At Petrindu I had the revelation of the sight of those painted by Dimitrie Ispas from Gilău, the artist who signed his name on the aisle. The restoration of mural paintings has been a continuous gesture of communication in a circular sense, with generations with a strong religious connection."

Alba County Council

## MUSEIKON. New Icon Museum revitalizes a restored heritage building in Alba Iulia

[www.museikon.ro](http://www.museikon.ro)

Traces of the Apulum Roman castrum can be seen on the baroque wall of Museikon building, dated somewhere in 1731. Part of the historical monument belonged to Roman structures. The restoration works revealed elements characteristic to the medieval period, dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century. Walls full of history.



The museum hosts a vast icon collection, the oldest dating from 1539, documents, bibliophile rarities, engravings. Volumes that belonged to St. Antim Ivirean or St. Martyr Constantin Brâncoveanu, volumes that once were perused page by page under their eyes. Among them is the first Romanian alphabet, *Bucovna* printed in Alba Iulia in 1699, the catechism entitled "Bread of the Infants", printed in 1702, an engraving published in 1705 showing the Mother of God. Over 5.000 objects of cultural value were digitized.

Museikon brings together an impressive collection of ancient Romanian icons, some painted in 1539 in a workshop in Moldova under the command of nobleman Luca Urisiu. These priceless icons, reunited under the Museikon collection, will complete the historical richness of Alba, the city of the Great Union.



Dragoș Ursu, theology student: "The Museum aims at bringing life to heritage around us, the old books, but especially the icon, which we encounter daily. I had the opportunity to work in the painting atelier and with the project's piece of resistance, the replica of an 18<sup>th</sup> century press, which can be used to print icons and Slavic letter words. I couldn't be more impressed!"

Mihai Eminescu Trust Foundation

## Centre for interpretation of traditional culture Alma Vii - Restoration and functional conversion of the fortification

[www.almavii.ro](http://www.almavii.ro)

The Alma Vii Saxon church has watched over the destinies of generations who lived here. It is ingrained with history, with music and with priests' voices, the stories of people and their prayers. It rises today on the hillside village of Alma Vii, that was certified for the first time in 1298, "Herritus de Alma sacerdotes".



The restoration project saved the fortification and its four towers from destruction. The last conservation measures were taken in 1966 and, since then, its baroque pipe organ seldom vibrated in the church that watched over the village. The conservation and restoration works were carried out with the help of local craftsmen, using traditional materials and techniques. The project has benefited from the expertise of the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research, especially with regard to capitalizing on archaeological discoveries.

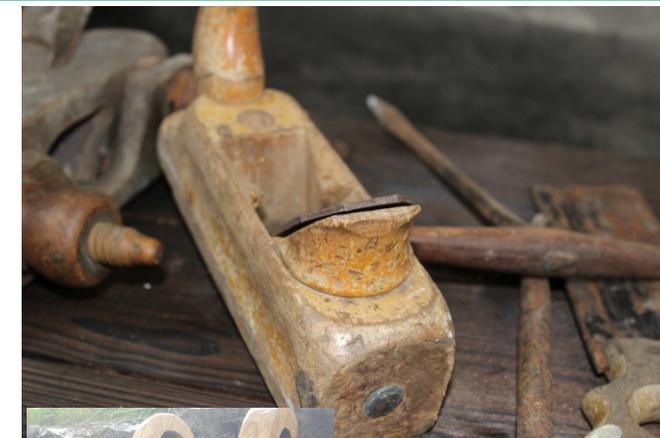
The particularity of Alma Vii fortified church restoration project lies in its participatory dimension. Before the restoration process began, the local community was consulted and their opinions were included in the restoration plans. Small museum spaces were set up in the towers, where you encounter Saxons, Romanians, Roma and Hungarians using traditional tools. A space dedicated to children workshops will be used by the local community to further perpetuate the preserved crafts.



## The cultural legacy of Corvin Castle - "Guilds House" Museum

[www.casabreslelor.ro](http://www.casabreslelor.ro)

The Administrator's House, a historical monument within the Corvin Castle ensemble, was restored through EEA Grants and has become the "Guilds House" Museum. The new cultural facility hosts thematic workshops related to four guilds (shoemakers, tanners, weavers and furriers), a numismatic collection and a coinage workshop.



During the preventive archaeological research campaign, part of the restoration works, the skeleton of a woman was discovered. She was found lying on her back, in the corner formed by the intersection of the wall of the Hussars' Courtyard with that of the Guilds House. Those who knew the legends of the place first believed it was the grave of a lady, overtaken by her husband's anger after death. This legend from Corvin Castle's history refers to the nobleman Ioan Török. It is said that during a war campaign, he found out that his wife Ana had a love affair with the castle's barracks captain. As a result, the angry husband returned to Hunedoara, where he ordered the beheading of the two in the castle courtyard. According to the custom of the time, the husband or someone in the woman's family had to execute the sentence. Her last wish, to be beheaded by her husband, was not respected, and this task was met by a Turkish prisoner.

This is how lady Ana tragically died... However, her memory and love story survived the ages and became one of the Corvin Castle's most famous legends.



### Restoration and consolidation of the Gabriel Popescu Atelier House, Vulcana-Pandele Commune, Dambovita County, Romania

[www.casaateliergabrielpopescu.ro](http://www.casaateliergabrielpopescu.ro)

In the early 1900s, Gabriel Popescu, a famous engraver and professor at Bucharest Belle Arte School, built a house following the plans of a friend. He invited his students here and kept interesting lessons about the passion of engraving and drawing.



Forgotten and abandoned in the transition period, the atelier house was restored and re-placed on the map of visual art lovers.

The atelier house hosts a unique press with two cylinders operated by a handle, a press which could not be found at the Belle Arte School. The artist's tools are still in the workshop, prepared for the laborious process of engraving.



**Elena Diaconu, restorer:** "I have been working here for 14 years; I am a restorer and a daughter of the village. Every year I have heard that the atelier house will be restored, but the restoration works were finalized when we celebrated 150 years since the birth of the artist. In this workshop, Gabriel Popescu created his engravings, either original works or interpretation engravings of paintings and sculptures belonging to famous artists."

**Revitalization and improving public access to the southern tower of the Medieval Roman Catholic Cathedral in Alba Iulia**



The bells of St. Michael's Cathedral in Alba Iulia, the gate, the arcades, the sober interior, but enriched with all the religious ornaments and symbols, vaults, arcs, organs, mural paintings – a monument of Romanic architecture, a priceless heritage. It is the oldest Romanian cathedral, but also the longest one, 93 meters in length. The cathedral in its present form was built at the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century in late Romanic and early Gothic style by craftsmen from Central Western Europe. A statue of Virgin Mary carved in wood, a copy of "Immaculata of Freising" is the central element of the restored and refurbished Southern Tower. Here, in the main baroque altar located in the sanctuary, visitors can admire sculptures representing the apostles Saint Peter and Paul, 18<sup>th</sup> century paintings. Copies of bas-reliefs are located above the counterfeits, along with sculptures on the eastern exterior façade of the transept.



A special elevator for people with disabilities was installed within the project. From a height of 28 meters, the tower offers an impressive panorama over Carolina Citadel. The opening of the cathedral's Southern Gate emphasizes the beauty of this monument with white walls and towers.

## Conservation and revitalization of Benedek Manor in Gheorgheni

Benedek Manor was declared a historical monument in 1955. Since then, only minor repairs were executed in the early 1990s. Given its age and wooden structure, the manor was on the verge of collapse. The restoration works aimed at conserving the original ornaments using traditional techniques. In this regard, the community volunteer work was significant.

The manor is full of life today thanks to the community, a small community with a strong sense of identity. The manor built in 1840 by Benedek Janos, as the tympanum indicates, has become the Popular Art Creation House. The baroque rural style, the curved roof, the attic through which light enters the roof, the original central façade invites you to imagine the community's history.

[www.conacbenedek.ro](http://www.conacbenedek.ro)



Benedek Manor hosts the "Fărşang Funeral" (Banishing winter), the Easter Eggs Painting Program, popular exhibitions and social soires where local women stitch. A collection consisting of 2,500 painted eggs from all around the country, traditional cloths and 350 popular costumes prove the worthiness of ancient crafts.



**Irina Kis Portik, director of Popular Art Creation House:** "Benedek Manor is a place for teaching and preserving heritage so that those started and continued for a quarter of a century can be enriched".

Unitarian Church of Dârjiu

UNESCO fortified churches in Transylvania - a network for "defending" cultural heritage with open "gates" in order to facilitate access to it

The fortified church of Dârjiu, with its tall, white walls and sober black roofs, keeps its doors open for anyone to visit. The high ceiling, metal chandeliers, the tranquillity and coolness invite visitors to admire a UNESCO World Heritage site.

www.1419.ro



The mural paintings' beauty catches your eye. Painted in 1419, they were restored with great meticulousness by restorers whose patience is the measure of their passion, love and respect for the past. The mural paintings open a window into the past and the ones from Dârjiu represent either historical or religious scenes, for example the conversion of Saint Paul and Archangel Michael. Biro Rozsa feels fortunate because she could bring to life the murals from Dârjiu. For her it was an unforgettable experience. Restoration means patience, dedication, stubbornness and tremendous respect for the original work.



Besides restoring the 600 year old mural paintings, an intercultural museum space was created in the church's courtyard presenting local storage customs and traditions. The famous nails which were used by locals to store their bacon, a custom preserved since 1720, are kept today. These nails are not sold or alienated, they are inherited from father to son, like many other objects displayed in the churchyard. The photo exhibition speaks silently about the lives of those who have lived here.



## DIGITIZING HERITAGE

Bucharest University

### Digitization of medieval documents from the Romanian National Archives

„I pak dau ştire domnie tale za lucrul turcilor” - so it begins the first letter written in Romanian, the famous *Letter of Neacşu from Câmpulung to Johannes Benkner*, the mayor of Braşov. Written in June 1521 and discovered in 1894, the letter represents a landmark in the national identity feeling, the official birth certificate of the Romanian language.

The most famous medieval documents, such as *The letter of Neacşu* or *Basarab' teachings* are now taught in schools and are part of the common knowledge. They constitute the first signs of the national identity.



Over 50,000 medieval documents from the National Archives of Romania were digitized and published online in order to facilitate research. The restoration of more than 1,000 documents from the twelfth to 16th century impeded the irreversible loss of an archive which is essential to the history of the Romanian Middle Ages.

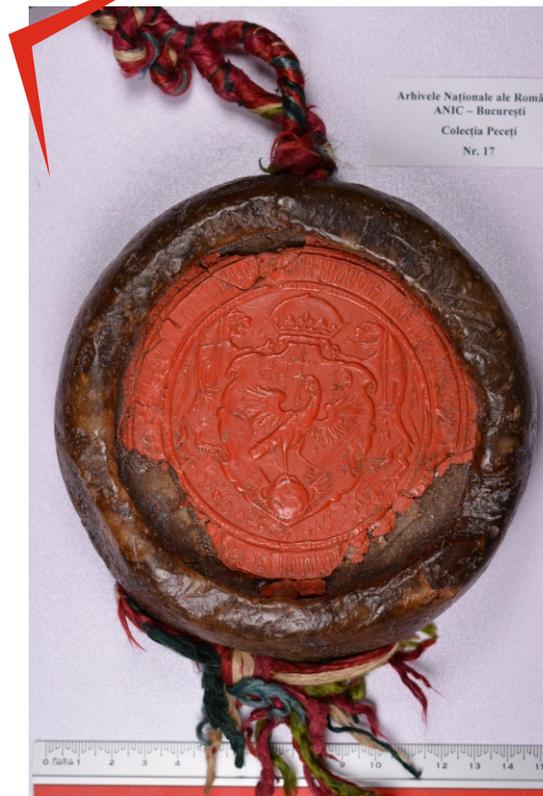
www.arhivamedievala.ro



Letters and donation documents issued by Romanian rulers, administrative and ecclesiastical documents, records of noble families are now accessible for online research. New studies and books on medieval history are being written as a consequence of this project.

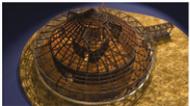


Dorel Ţuinea, researcher: "I can now say with certainty that for me this project was a real school: not only of palaeography, but also of historical research methodology in general and of medieval history in particular."



## When ancient daily life becomes UNESCO heritage. Scanning, digital restoration and contextualization of Dacian artefacts from Orăștie Mountains

The digitization project of Dacian artefacts and 3D reconstruction of the Dacian fortresses from Orăștie Mountains represents an unique interdisciplinary adventure in the Romanian museum sector. In the multimedia rooms hosted by the National Museum of Transylvanian History in Cluj-Napoca, the visitor interacts with objects of over 2.000 years of age, walks through the virtual alleys of the Dacian fortresses and can reconstruct, with the help of 3D glasses, the daily life in a Dacian fortress.

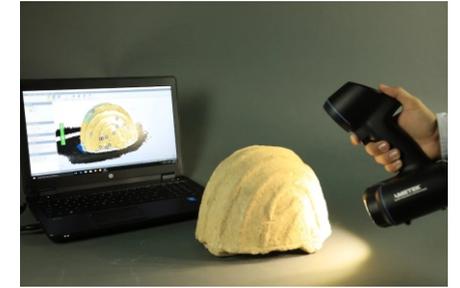


The Dacian fortresses from Orăștie Mountains were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999. The archaeological excavations brought to light a fascinating treasure of Dacian objects - ceramic vessels, silver jewellery, bronze tools and glassware.

Among the digitized objects we find the famous Jewellery Matrix of Sarmizegetusa, a bronze piece of 2.000 years old, recently discovered and exhibited at the Museum of Dacian and Roman Civilization in Deva.



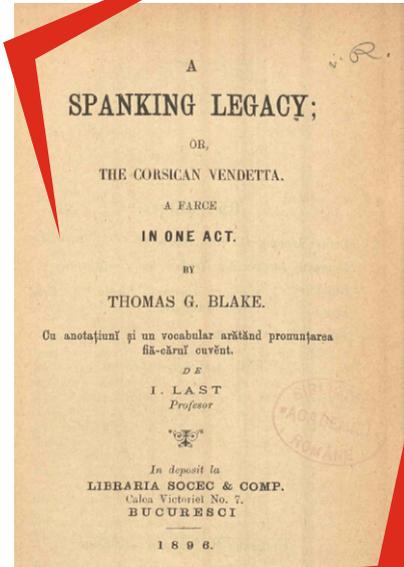
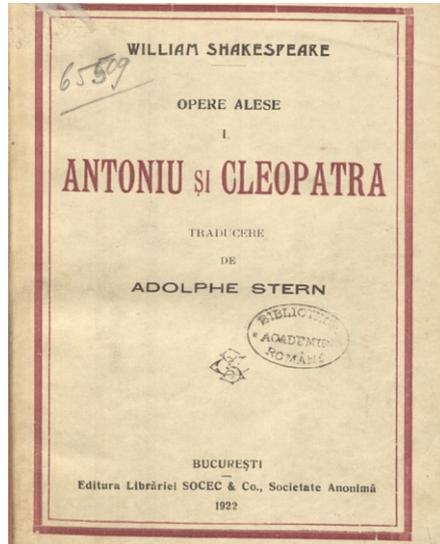
The museum space has been redefined by augmented reality technology. Thus, the pages of the past are translated into a new language, in which the educational value of the past combines with the natural disposition to play.



## RAR Reclaiming English Studies in Romania

The digitization project involving several important books in the history of English studies represents only a small piece of a little known puzzle. Traditionally, Romania has cultivated its intellectual elites in mainland Europe, has enriched its language through borrowing from the common root of Latin-derived languages, and was influenced by Anglo-Saxon civilization.

The intellectual trade with the island of Great Britain began early with Dimitrie Cantemir who is the first Romanian scholar translated into English. His book *The History of the expansion and decline of the Ottoman Empire* was printed in 1736 and influenced later generations of British historians. The first translations from English to Romanian were Byron's poem *Manfred*, published in 1843 by C.A. Rosetti, and *Robinson Crusoe* novel written by Daniel Defoe. The digital library of English studies makes accessible to the general public a gallery of extremely popular literary heroes. Professional readers and researchers have an online platform where they can download dictionaries and reference works of English literature and literary criticism.



## Culture and Nature in Transilvania: Past and Future

The multidisciplinary research of regional heritage represents the first stage in developing a coherent long-term strategy regarding the capitalization of the natural and cultural heritage. The Sălaj area, located in north-eastern Transylvania, has benefited from an ambitious research program that establishes a model of good practice. A team of ethnographers, sociologists, archaeologists and ecologists has completed a thorough fieldwork, investigating a multicultural area where Romanians, Hungarians, Slovaks and Roma live together.

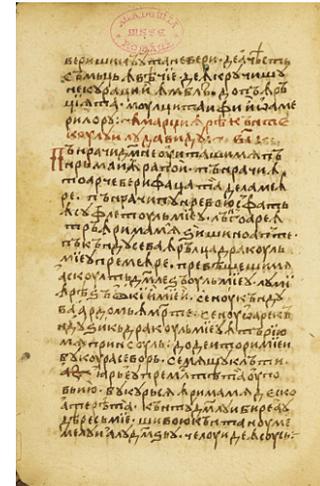


The most important document, the result of the joint reflection on the specificity of the area, is the integrated heritage management strategy. The expansion of the local museum network, the valorisation of the archaeological heritage (such as the Dacian fortress of Marca), the inclusion of architectural objectives in the List of Historical Monuments (such as the Roman Catholic Church in Crasna), the stimulation of cultural and heritage tourism are on the list of identified solutions. The research has benefited from the expertise of Norwegian colleagues at the University of Bergen Museum and the Nordic Anthropological Association, such as Professor Frode Storass and anthropologist Ralph Veraart.

**Frode Storass, Professor:** "Romanian students had the opportunity to shoot a major event - gathering grapes in a vineyard. They got acquainted with the technical details of the filming. We have had a fruitful cooperation with all our partners and our future projects have a solid foundation."

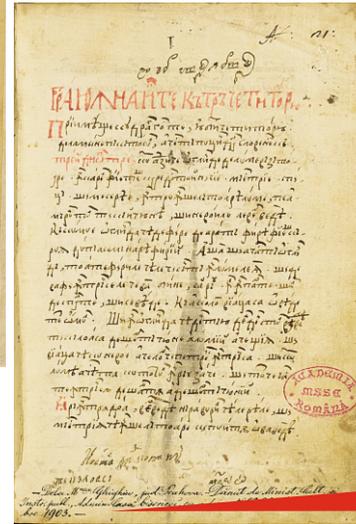
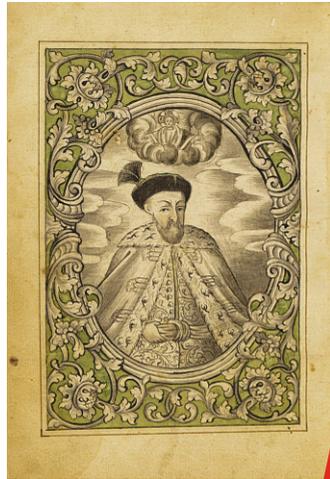
### Medievalia - Essential texts for the medieval Romanian culture

The Romanian Academy Library includes a collection of medieval books and manuscripts of overwhelming significance for the Romanian cultural heritage. Within the Medievalia project, 60 books from the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> centuries were digitized and made accessible for the specialized public in order to facilitate research. Written in Romanian, Greek and Slavonic, the digitized book collection consists of liturgical books of magical beauty, Slavonic manuscripts, testimonies of calligraphy craft and spiritual life from the royal courts, works of Christian ethics written by the wise men of the time, the chronicles of Moldavia and Wallachia and old Romanian literature.



[www.medievalia.com.ro](http://www.medievalia.com.ro)

Thanks to this digital archive, the general public can admire online the first versified paper of Romanian literature, the famous Psalter of Dosoftei, the manuscript on which the autograph of the Metropolitan of Moldova stands. The destiny of this writing doubles the tragedy of his personal destiny. The psalter was published abroad after Dosoftei's exile in Poland and circulated only in restricted environments.



Gheorghe Chivu, Academician: "The research of the old book collections kept in the major libraries in Romania is a scientific activity of strict specialty, which presumes well-assimilated philological knowledge, a good knowledge of the history of Romanian writing, literature, art, of our old culture in general. The *Medievalia* project, which digitized the most important and often the most representative Romanian ancient manuscripts kept in the Library of the Academy, will allow not only to stimulate the research of important Romanian manuscripts, but also to promote our cultural heritage."



Cultural Center of Covasna County

### Traditional handicrafts of Szeklers - revitalization through digitization and promotion

Traditional crafts are the most vulnerable part of the intangible heritage. The natural industrialization process has replaced much of the economic value of craftsmen's work. Rural migration has depopulated villages and old artisans live in isolation without teaching others their skills.

The Szekler craft revitalization project is among the few local initiatives to save the history of relict occupations, some of which have been definitively lost in Europe - bricklaying, tiling, burning of lime and wood charcoal. In the Three-seat micro-region of Covasna County, there are around 1,000 craftsmen who keep the living art of 43 crafts. Their skilfulness has been recorded in a series of video-documentaries, presented to young people in schools and distributed in the pre-university environment.



[www.mestersegek.ro](http://www.mestersegek.ro)



The craft revitalization project from the Three-seat micro-region exploits the latest technology, being the first to provide visitors with a virtual museum of tools from three unused workshops and a digital map to locate these veterans of forgotten traditions. The revitalization strategy of crafts proposes concrete solutions for capitalizing their art, mainly through thematic workshops and traditional product and souvenir fairs.

Association for folk dance of the Hungarians from Romania

## Roots in Our Moves - Digitized intangible cultural heritage of the Hungarian minorities in Romania

Romania is represented in UNESCO intangible heritage list by five traditions and rituals: Călușul, Doina, Craftsmanship of Horezu ceramics, Men's group carolling (Christmas-time ritual) and Lad's dance.



The Lad's dance, also known as Ticuș, is practiced as a fully multicultural traditional dance. Romanians, Hungarians and Roma from Transylvania have been playing it for centuries, and its inclusion in the UNESCO list of intangible heritage reconfirms its value. The dance was first certified in 1543, after its description of a German traveller in Transylvania. The Lad's dance is a dance that calls for great virtuosity, with beatings in the end and spurs, with the particularity of a palm-jerking technique. Spread in Transylvania, the Lad's dances are learned and transmitted in "big dancing families" having the guidance of an experienced co-ordinator.



Through the project of the Association for folk dance of the Hungarians from Romania, an impressive series of specific folkloric traditions in Transylvania was digitized. Over 200 hours of recordings with folk songs and dances (Fecioreasca, Ceardașul, the Spin) were recovered as intangible heritage. A virtual multimedia collection is available to those interested in the folk art of the Hungarian minority, materials recorded with community virtuosos. *Roots in our Moves* is a revival of folklore at local level.



[www.folkmedia.ro](http://www.folkmedia.ro)



## PROMOTING HERITAGE

Association for the Protection and Promotion of the Corvin Castle in Hunedoara

### PROMOTING HERITAGE ROMANE PARAMIÇA (ROMA STORIES) – inventory and conservation measures of the intangible heritage of Roma in Hunedoara region

The intangible heritage of Roma hides stories and traditions little known to the general public and often overlooked by ethnographic research.

The Association for the Protection and Promotion of the Corvin Castle drew up a comprehensive inventory of Roma intangible heritage from Hunedoara region and concluded an ethno-folkloric analysis of the Roma community.



[www.povestirome.ro](http://www.povestirome.ro)



Thematic workshops dedicated to traditional Roma handicrafts were organized within the project. Activities dedicated to Roma intangible heritage have been promoted through itinerant exhibitions of photography, fairs and workshops, as well as Roma dance and music performances.

## Walking around the globe. The story of 497 pairs of peasant sandals

An exotic character, but forgotten, Dumitru Dan was the first Romanian globetrotter to walk around the world. His journey began in Paris and was organized by Touring Club de France. Dumitru Dan was the only one to finish the 100,000 km adventure of walking around the globe. He remained in history as an example of courage and determination, strength of character and will. He has crossed 74 countries from 5 continents and has gone through 74 cities around the world.

[www.dumitrudan.muzeubuzau.ro](http://www.dumitrudan.muzeubuzau.ro)



The fascinating detail of this adventure is that the around the globe trip was made in traditional Romanian costume and in peasant sandals. 437 pairs of peasant sandals carried Dumitru Dan's steps around the world, from Alaska to Argentina and America.

To celebrate his spirit of adventure, Buzău County Museum created a permanent exhibition dedicated to Dumitru Dan. Within the project, workshops on the craft of making sandals were organized, objects of cultural value from the Dumitru Dan collection were digitized and dances included in the UNESCO intangible heritage list, such as Doina and Călușul, were restored.



Silviu Neagu, professor: "I had the great opportunity and honour to meet this adventurous and wonderful man, an excellent entertainer and storyteller. Dumitru Dan was, in my opinion, the greatest Romanian «ambassador», who travelled the world in traditional costume and sandals. All my gratitude for those who initiated and completed the project."

### Roma Culture: Preserving and revitalizing crafts, part of the intangible heritage

[www.romaculture.ro](http://www.romaculture.ro)

The Youth for Sustainable Development in Europe Association created an online platform dedicated to handicrafts of the Roma community.



An event promoting Roma traditions and handicrafts, Shukar Fest, is already known to the public, reaching its fourth edition. In Bucharest and the historical centre of Sibiu, the Shukar Fest exhibition gathered blacksmiths, silversmiths, rudars and other craftsmen who presented their traditional products. The integration of Roma starts with the expression of their sense of belonging and cultural identity.



**Icuș Florea, craftsman:** "My grandfather and father were silversmiths, but I learned this craft by myself. When I put earrings on a beautiful woman, I think about the shape of the jewellery. The earrings emphasize a woman's beauty. I am proud of what I do and I hope someday to teach others what I know."

### Anveatsã Armãneashti

The project "Learn Aromanian!" is a premiere for the small community from Romania and won the Civil Society Award in 2015. For the first time, the community of almost 200,000 Aromanian has gained access to an e-learning platform, the remote learning methods facilitating access to a modern learning tool. Aromanian as part of the intangible heritage is in a real danger of extinction because of the historical context of the Balkans and the dispersal of the population.

The first handbooks for learning Aromanian and 10 audio-books to support the teaching process were developed within the project. The joy of language sharing was completed by the rediscovery of folk traditions. Twelve traditional costumes, worn at significant events of the community, including the Celebration of Saint Dumitru, were manufactured.



[www.anveatsaarmaneashti.com](http://www.anveatsaarmaneashti.com)



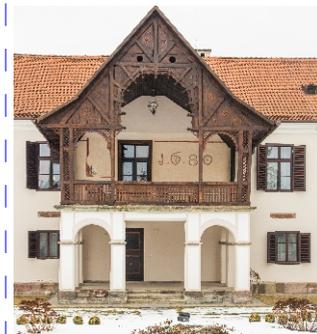
**Dimitris Alexandru Farini, young participant at Aromanian classes:** "I learned my first words in Aromanian from my mother – *Aesta iasti haraua mea!* («This is my joy!»). I speak Aromanian with my grandparents and parents. Why is this important? Because *I am Aromanian!*"

“Daniel Kastély Egyesület” Association

## Living Castle – cultural, scientific and creative events for valorification of Daniel Castle in Tălișoara

Once the ballroom was lit by candles, the music fascinated the guests of the castle, the air entered through the high windows, bringing the scent of the surrounding forests. In fact, locals call the area *Land of Forests*.

www.1680.ro



Today you can walk through each room and reconstruct the history of this unique castle brought to life by Lilla Racz. Daniel Castle, a 400 years old historical monument, preserves the Renaissance mural paintings with religious themes.

The Living Castle project celebrates culture, the authentic and original creation. Artistic and creative camps were organized on the premises of Daniel Castle. Photographers, plastic artists and art historians discovered this place's history and have contributed, through their creations, to the permanent exhibitions organized here. Some of their paintings, artwork and photographs have found their place in the guest rooms or in the castle's garden.

The Living Castle project illustrates the concept of international artistic residence, the valorization of a historical monument adjusted to the mobility of artists from various corners of the world. An old noble family is the silent witness of artistic creation. The castle was reborn, the impression of its old walls welcoming the guests coming from afar.



### Cultural road “Mălâncrav – living multi-ethnic heritage”

Mălâncrav is a multi-ethnic community of 1,100 Romanians, Hungarians, Saxons and Roma and a touristic destination in south-east Transylvania, near Sibiu. It is a village that visitors enjoy because of its landscape and multi-religious heritage. There are here a 14<sup>th</sup> century fortified Evangelical Church, an orthodox church built in the early 1700s and a roman-catholic church built for the Hungarian community by countess Haller Susanna. Ancient crafts and traditional techniques were preserved in this small village. The locals are appreciated for their craftsmanship in carpentry, brick manufacturing, sewing, embroidering and weaving.

Mihai Eminescu Trust Foundation documented within the project the local multi-ethnic heritage and organized workshops with local craftsmen, thus reflecting an organic cohabitation model. A virtual tour of Mălâncrav cultural road, available online, was created to convince tourists from Sibiu region to spend a couple of hours in traditional houses and crafts workshops.

[www.malancrav.ro](http://www.malancrav.ro)



# DOCUMENTING HERITAGE

Pont Group

## Castles in Transylvania – strategy and development models

Castle in Transylvania, the strategy developed by Pont Group, is one of the most complete strategic documents dedicated to the valorization and preservation of castles and manors in Transylvania, where about 600 such monuments are found. The strategy *Castle in Transylvania* is a document necessary for owners of castles and manors in Romania. Within the project, documentation for 300 castles was developed, later included in a mobile phone application, which offers tourists an interactive map of Transylvanian castles. At the same time, the authors of the strategic document propose concrete solutions to the central and local authorities responsible for modern heritage policies.

[www.castelintransilvania.ro](http://www.castelintransilvania.ro)



## Integrated measures for cautious protection and economic revitalization of the historical center of Turda

The current stage of Romanian cultural heritage research does not present the architectural richness of historical heritage. The plans for the restoration and revitalisation of cultural heritage are sometimes delayed in the absence of updated information regarding the buildings in a precarious conservation condition.

[www.centrulistoricturda.ro](http://www.centrulistoricturda.ro)



The research undertaken by the local authorities in Turda addressed two urgent challenges regarding the local cultural heritage – the development of the city's historical centre and the interventions on historical monuments. The area has often gone through aggressive interventions during the transition period, thus the urban landscape often suffered because of both the lack of legislation and the lack of regulation. An integrated concept of prudent measures for the rehabilitation and economic revitalization of the historical area of Turda and a practical guide for the restoration, conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of historical monuments were developed within the project.



# Their story continues!

