



**Annex no.4**

The Ministry of Culture of Romania, through its specialized directorates and subordinate institutions, ensures the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and of the Law no. 282/ 2007 on the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and also ensures the support of cultural actions and projects, taking into account the free expression of the ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity of national minorities in Romania.

In accordance with the specific objectives arising from the Organization and Functioning Regulation of the Ministry of Culture and in fulfilling its attributions in the field of the culture of national minorities, taking into account the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, but also taking into the provisions of art. 12 regarding cultural activities and facilities regulated by Law no. 282/2007, on the ratification of the European Charter of Regional or Minority languages, the National Minorities Office ensured the procedures regarding the support and financing of priority programs, in accordance with the provisions of art. 12 paragraph (3) of Government Emergency Ordinance (GEO) no. 51/1998 regarding the improvement of the financing system of programs, projects and cultural actions, approved by Law no. 245/2001, with subsequent amendments and additions.

The financial component for the implementation of these projects within the Priority Projects Program and/or the Emergency Cultural Needs Program was 535,000 lei in **2019**, 139,000 lei in **2020**, 140,000 lei in **2021**, 429,000 lei in **2022**, and 628,000lei in **2023** representing up to 80- 90 percent of the total expenses for each project. The financing is done as a result of a request for non-refundable financing submitted by the beneficiary non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Government Ordinance no. 51 of 11 August 1998 regarding the improvement of the financing system of programs, projects and cultural actions. Due to the restrictive measures imposed by the pandemic, in 2020 and 2021, the number of cultural activities taking place in theaters or with times for the public were canceled or carried out online.

The Funding Programme for Cultural Magazines and Publications also funds cultural magazines/publications submitted by associations of national minorities in Romania. The total funding amounted to **295,000 lei in 2019-2022, respectively 95,000 lei in 2022, 105,000 lei in 2020, 95,000 lei in 2019.**

**Support for the preservation and development of the cultural, linguistic and religious identities of the national minorities**

Annually, the Ministry of Culture promoted intercultural dialogue and the cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities, as well as the fight against intolerance by working with public institutions, NGOs and other entities in promoting these values.

Mother tongues/minorities involved: Hungarian, Yiddish, Romani, German, Slovak, Bulgarian, Italian, Czech, Serbian, Greek, Ukrainian, Albanian, Turkish, Tatar, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Armenian, etc.

For example:

**The projects funded by the program for the support and promotion of the culture of national minorities – 2019**

<b>Art.</b>	<b>Name of the cultural action</b>	<b>Date and place of action</b>	<b>Applicant</b>
1	2	3	4
1.	<b>German Literature Days in Resita</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>Democratic Forum of Germans in Caras-Severin County</b>
2	<b>Confluences Inter-ethnic Festival</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>Association of Italians in Romania</b>
3.	<b>International Slovak Youth Folklore Festival - Valley of Heavens 2020</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania</b>
4.	<b>National Minorities Competition Festival "Delta Celebrations"</b>	<b>June-July</b>	<b>Sulina House of Culture</b>
5.	<b>Intercultural Festival – Proetnica</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>Inter-Ethnic Educational Centre for Youth</b>
6.	<b>Un Bel di bei</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Association Italians in Romania</b>
7.	<b>International Book Fair in Tg. Mures</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>Associoation Hungarian Book Guild</b>
8.	<b>Haferland Week</b>	<b>July-August</b>	<b>Michael Schmidt Foundation</b>
9.	<b>St. Stefan International Folk Festival, 19th edition</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>The Heltai Gaspar Library Fund</b>
10.	<b>Contemporary Drama Theatre Festival, 9<sup>th</sup> edition</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Tomcsa Sandor Theatre</b>

11.	<b>Mihail Sebastian International Festival</b>	<b>October-November</b>	<b>Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania</b>
12.	<b>Days of Serbian Culture in Timisoara</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>Union of Serbs in Romania</b>
13.	<b>The Cez Nadlak je Slovak Folk Music Soloists Competition Festival je...2019</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania</b>
14.	<b>Decade of German Culture in the Banatul Montan</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>The Democratic Forum of Germans in the county of Caras-Severin</b>
15.	<b>Romania's Hellenism Festival</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>Hellenic Union of Romania</b>
16.	<b>National Minority Theatres Colloquium</b>		<b>Figura Association</b>
17.	<b>Czech Folklore Festival in Romania</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania</b>
18.	<b>International Olympiad of the Greek language</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Hellenic Union of Romania</b>
19.	<b>International Multiethnic Shepherd Festival</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Cultural Association Dor</b>
20.	<b>Dialogue with the World and Time</b>	<b>May - June</b>	<b>Hellenic Union of Romania</b>
21.	<b>Great Jewish Composers</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania</b>
22.	<b>Romai Poesia International Festival</b>	<b>July - August</b>	
23.	<b>Serbian folk song and dance marathon</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Union of Serbs in Romania</b>

**The Bureau of National Minorities** also worked with the relevant directorates to support the legislative proposal to establish **12 October** as the **National Day of the Armenian language, alphabet and culture.**

**Projects funded by the program for the support and promotion of the cultures of national minorities – 2020**

Art.	Name of the cultural action	Date and place of the action	Applicant
1.	Un Bel di bei	November	Association of Italians in Romania
2.	Haferland Week	July-August	Michael Schmidt Foundation
3.	Days of Serbian Culture in Timisoara	November	Union of Serbs in Romania
4.	200 years since the 1821 Revolution	November	Hellenic Union of Romania
5.	International Festival of Ukrainian Religious Music	August	Religious Choir Association <i>Praise the Lord</i>
6.	Mihail Sebastian International Festival	November	Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania
7.	Decade of German Culture in Banatul Montan, 27 <sup>th</sup> edition	October	The Democratic Forum of Germans in the county of Caras-Severin
8.	<i>Confluences</i> Interethnic Festival	October	Association of Italians in Romania

The Ministry of Culture received applications and approved funding for other projects in the field of culture of national minorities, but the applicants have decided not to organize the events due to the medical situation caused by the pandemic.

**Projects funded by the program for the support and promotion of the culture of national minorities – 2021**

Art.	Name of the cultural action	Date and place of action	Applicant
1.	Festival of Yiddish Language and Theatre in Romania	30-31 May	Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania
2.	Haferland Week	30 July - 1 August	<i>Michael Schmidt</i> Foundation
3.	Days of Serbian Culture in Timisoara	November	Union of Serbs in Romania
4.	Romanian Hellenism Festival	1 August - 15 September	Hellenic Union of Romania

5.	<b>German Literature Days in Resita</b>	<b>26-29 August</b>	<b>The Democratic Forum of Germans in the county of Caras-Severin.</b>
6.	<b>Decade of German Culture in the Banatul Montan, 27th edition</b>	<b>8 - 30 October</b>	<b>The Democratic Forum of Germans in the county of. Caras-Severin</b>
7	<b>Czech Folklore Festival</b>	<b>27 - 30 August</b>	<b>Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania</b>
8	<b>International Book Fair in Targu-Mures</b>	<b>11 - 14 November</b>	<b>Hungarian Guild Association of Romania</b>

The Ministry of Culture received applications and approved funding for other projects in the field of culture of national minorities, but the applicants no longer organized the events because of the medical situation caused by the pandemic, but also because of insufficient funds. Thus, we can mention the "Festival of Contemporary Theatre - draMA", the 12<sup>th</sup> edition, organized by the *Tomcsa Sándor* Theatre in Odorheiu Secuiesc, "Festival of National Minorities Competition "Serbările Deltei", the 20<sup>th</sup> edition, organized by the House of Culture Sulina, Tulcea county, the St. Stephen International Folklore Festival, the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition, organized by the SziNT Kulturális Egyesület Cultural Association in Cluj, the project "Open Air Theatre, the 7<sup>th</sup> edition" of the Tarisznyás Association in Timișoara.

**Projects funded by the program for the support and promotion of the culture of national minorities – year 2022**

<b>Art.</b>	<b>Name of the cultural action</b>	<b>Date and place of action</b>	<b>Applicant</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Hidirlez Festival, 7<sup>th</sup> edition</b>	<b>Constanta County, 7-8 May</b>	<b>The Tatar Democratic Union Association</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Haferland Week</b>	<b>29-31 July</b>	<b>Michael Schmidt Foundation</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>National Minorities Competition Delta Festivals</b>	<b>8- 12 June Tulcea, Sulina</b>	<b>Sulina House of Culture</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Ukrainian Folklore Festival</b>	<b>Bucharest 3-5 June</b>	<b>Union of Ukrainians in Romania</b>

5.	<b>Festival of Yiddish Language and Theatre in Romania</b>	<b>30-31 May, Bucharest</b>	<b>Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania</b>
6.	<b>Proetnica Festival 2022</b>	<b>Sighisoara</b>	<b>Inter-Ethnic Educational Centre for Youth;</b>
7.	<b>Decade of German Culture in the Banatul Montan, 32<sup>nd</sup> edition</b>	<b>1-31 October</b>	<b>The Democratic Forum of Germans in the county of Caras-Severin</b>
8.	<b>International Book Fair Targu Mures, 28<sup>th</sup> edition</b>	<b>10-13 November, Târgu Mureş</b>	<b>Hungarian Book Guild Association of Romania</b>
9	<b>Days of Serbian Culture in Timisoara, ed. XVII</b>	<b>2-26 November, Timisoara</b>	<b>Union of Serbs in Romania</b>
10	<b>Saint Stefan Folklore Festival, 24<sup>th</sup> edition</b>	<b>12-21 August Cluj, Cluj county</b>	<b>Szint Cultural Association</b>
11	<b>DraMA Contemporary Theatre Festival, 13<sup>th</sup> edition</b>	<b>19-25 September, Odorheiu Secuiesc</b>	<b>Tomcsa Sándor Theatre, Odorheiu Secuiesc</b>
12	<b>IFESZT Inter-Ethnic Theatre Festival, 2022 edition</b>	<b>4-13 November, Satu Mare</b>	<b>Proscenium Foundation Satu Mare</b>
13	<b>German Literature Days in Resita</b>	<b>18 - 21 August, Resita</b>	<b>The Democratic Forum of Germans in the county of Caras-Severin</b>
14	<b>International Slovak Youth Folklore Festival - Valley of Heavens</b>	<b>13 - 17 July</b>	<b>Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs</b>
15	<b>Czech Folklore Festival in Romania, 18<sup>th</sup> edition</b>	<b>26-28 August</b>	<b>Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs</b>

16	Cez Nadlac Je Slovak Folk Music Soloists Competition Festival	21-26 September	Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania
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**Projects funded by the program for the support and promotion of the culture of national minorities – year 2023**

Art.	Name of the cultural action	Date and place of action	Applicant
1	2	3	4
1.	German Literature Days in Resita, ed XXXIII	4-8 May, Reșița	The Democratic Forum of Germans in the county of Caras-Severin
2.	Haferland Week	3-6 August	Michael Schmidt Foundation
3.	National Minorities Competition Delta Festivals	11-15 June, Sulina Tulcea County	Sulina House of Culture
4.	Romania's Hellenism Festival	16 -23 October, Evia island, Greece	Hellenic Union of Romania
5.	Festival of Yiddish Language and Theatre in Romania	30-31 May, Bucharest	Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania
6.	Proetnica Festival - 2023	Sighisoara	Inter-Ethnic Educational Centre for Youth;
7.	Decade of German Culture in the Banatul Montan, 32 <sup>nd</sup> edition	1-17 October	The Democratic Forum of Germans in the county of Caras-Severin
8.	International Book Fair Targu Mures, 29 <sup>th</sup> edition	16-19 November, Târgu Mureș	Hungarian Book Guild Association of Romania

9.	Recourse to culture, from local values perspective. Inclusion of Roma children in society through cultural and educational activities	5-10 November, Aninoasa	Junior Net 2006 Association
10	Days of Serbian Culture in Timisoara, ed. XVII	2-28 November, Timisoara	Union of Serbs in Romania
11	Saint Stefan Folklore Festival, 24th edition	12-21 August Cluj, Cluj county	Szint Cultural Association
12	DraMA Contemporary Theatre Festival, 14th edition	18-23 September, Odorheiu Secuiesc	Tomcsa Sándor Theatre, Odorheiu Secuiesc
13	Colloquium of Theaters of National Minorities, 14th edition	10-31 October, Gheorghieni, Harghita County	Figura Association
14	German Literature Days in Resita	18 - 21 August, Resita	The Democratic Forum of Germans in the county of Caras-Severin
15	International Slovak Youth Folklore Festival - Valley of Heaven	13 - 17 July	Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs
16	Czech Folklore Festival in Romania, 18 <sup>th</sup> edition	5-7 August	Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs
17	Cez Nadlac Je Slovak Folk Music Soloists Competition Festival	20-25 September	Democratic Union of Slovaks and Czechs in Romania



## **Promoting intercultural dialogue through theatre**

Mother tongues/minorities involved: Hungarians, Jews, Roma, Germans, etc.

The Ministry of Culture annually subsidizes cultural institutions of national minorities, such as the Hungarian State Theatre of Cluj, the Hungarian Opera of Cluj and the National Theatre of Targu-Mures – subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, which, by definition, serves Romanian-Hungarian interculturality through the two constituent companies, namely the "Liviu Rebreanu" Company, which operates in Romanian, and the "Tompa Miklós" Company, which operates in Hungarian. All the performances are subtitled, giving the two ethnic groups the opportunity to better understand each other and to strengthen the socio-cultural links already existing due to living together in the same geographical space. At the same time, both companies have in their repertoire pieces belonging to the other culture. Translations are financed from the production of the performances.

There are also theatres in national minority languages funded by local authorities: the German State Theatre in Timișoara, the Radu Stanca Theatre in Sibiu, the German Section, the Csiki Gergely Hungarian State Theatre (Timișoara), the Tamási Áron Theatre (Sfântu Gheorghe), or the Tomcsa Sándor Theatre, the Jewish Theatre of Romania, Giuvlipen, the first independent Roma feminist theatre company in Romania, the Harag György Theatre Company is a Hungarian section of the Northern Theatre of Satu Mare, the "Szigligeti" Theatre of Oradea and the "Csíki Játékszín" Theatre of Miercurea Ciuc.

There is collaboration between national minority theatre institutions under the Ministry of Culture and theatre institutions funded by local authorities. For example: **The Inter-Ethnic Theatre Festival-IFESZT** is a theatre project organized every two years in different localities, of great importance in the cultural space of national minorities in Romania, the only theatre festival in which all minority theatres in the country participate, thus providing an appropriate framework for analyzing the situation of these institutions, discussing problems and presenting the artistic life of national minorities. This festival took place in Satu Mare and will feature 14 theatres and theatre workshops of the national minorities in Romania, with performances in Hungarian, German, Yiddish and Roma: Hungarian State Theatre Cluj Napoca, Theatre National Targu Mures - Tompa Miklós troupe, Szigligeti Theatre Oradea, Csiky Gergely Hungarian State Theatre Timișoara, Tamási Áron Theatre Sfântu Gheorghe, Figura Theatre Gheorgheni, Tomcsa Sándor Theatre Odorheiu Secuiesc, Csiki Játékszín Theatre in Miercurea Ciuc, Târgu Secuiesc City Theatre, Jewish State Theatre of Bucharest, Northern Theatre Satu Mare - Harag György Theatre Company and Roma independent theatre company – Giuvlipen Theatre Company of Bucharest. In addition to theatrical performances, the festival included exhibitions, workshops, reading performances and book launches.

The presence of Romanian-speaking specialized press and critics, as well as the subtitling of the performances in Romanian, encourages communication between Romanian and non-Romanian professionals, thus being an example of intercultural dialogue.

**Tomcsa Sandor Theatre** has received a grant for the organization of the drama Contemporary Theatre Festival in Odorheiu Secuiesc in 2019-2023, which offers a special framework for mutual understanding and knowledge through culture, by means of Romanian and Hungarian contemporary drama. The cultural event also opens possibilities for translations from and into Romanian and Hungarian.

**The Figura Theatre in Gheorgheni** in partnership with the Figura Association, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, organized the theatre festival Colocviul Teatrelor Minorităților Naționale, on 11-20 October 2019, in Gheorghieni, Harghita County. This cultural project reached its 13<sup>th</sup> edition. The festival presented the most valuable performances of the last two seasons of theatre institutions that perform in the languages of national minorities in

Romania (Hungarian, German and Yiddish), productions of experimental theatre groups and universities, performances of Hungarian language theatres from Serbia, Hungary and Romania. There were debates, conferences and workshops for students on topical issues in the field of theatre arts and cultural management, exhibitions, book launches etc.

## **Promoting literature in national minority languages and access for all to minority culture**

### a. Promotion of minority literature

#### **Book fairs:**

##### **International Book Fair in Târgu Mureş, editions XXV-XXVIII (2019-2022)**

The Association of the Hungarian Book Guild of Romania received non-reimbursable support in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 for the organization of the International Book Fair in Targu-Mures, with the participation of publishers from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Serbia.

#### **PARTICIPATING PUBLISHERS**

2019

- 41 publishers participated with their own stand, including 12 publishers on the stand of the Hungarian Publishers and Book Publishers Union.

2020

- The fair itself did not take place because of the pandemic, the 24 programs of the fair were held without an audience and were broadcast online on the fair's Facebook page, and the recordings are accessible on the YouTube channel.

2021

- A smaller fair was organized in the glass dome of the Medieval Fortress in Tg. Mures (because of the pandemic, the National Theatre of the city did not approve the organization in the foyer)  
- the 13 publishing houses, members of the Hungarian Book Guild Association of Romania participated, but the 27 programs of the fair were made without public, being broadcast online on the Facebook page of the fair, and the recordings are accessible on the YouTube channel.

2022

- 27 publishers participated with their own stand, 26 publishers were represented by Romanian book dealers.

#### **Book fairs**

Mother tongues/minorities involved: German, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Czech, Italian, Serbian, Turkish

Romania, through the Ministry of Culture, participates annually in a number of international book fairs, such as the ones in Leipzig, Bologna, Prague, Budapest, Frankfurt, Belgrade, Istanbul, Sofia.

At the Romanian stand of the above-mentioned book fairs and especially at those organized in neighboring countries (Sofia, Belgrade, Budapest), translations from Romanian into the language of host countries are presented, and vice versa. In the same space, events are held where Romanian authors or cultural actors from the host country are invited: book launches (translations), literary discussions, debates, literary previews, etc.

There is also financial support for translations of literary works of neighboring countries. Institutions or organizations offering such support are the Romanian Cultural

Institute, Traduki, the Creative Europe Community program, etc. Examples of good practice can be found in a number of publishing houses in Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia or Hungary, which consistently apply for such support programs.

The Ministry of Culture financially support each edition of the Gaudeamus International Fair, in which national minority publishers participated.

### **Promoting intercultural dialog, multilingualism with minority languages**

**Mother tongues/minorities involved: Hungarian, Jewish, Romani, German, Slovak, Bulgarian, Italian, Czech, Serbian, Greek, Macedonian, Ukrainian, Albanian, Turkish, Tatar, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Armenian, Rhaeto-Romanic etc.**

The Ministry of Culture financially supports every edition of the "**ProEtnica – Intercultural Festival Sighisoara**", organized by the Association of the Inter-ethnic Educational Centre for Youth Sighisoara **in Sighisoara, Mures County**, an event with a unique cultural offer for the maintenance and assertion of the linguistic and cultural identity of national minorities, of intercultural dialogue. The 20 national minorities of Romania were represented in the festival, which featured artistic events, interactive performances, presentation stands, a joint exhibition of fine arts by contemporary artists of national minorities, ethno-cultural concerts, a film and workshop section provided by national minority organizations on different topics (dance, culture, traditions, contemporary arts), as well as a scientific section. ProEtnica is promoted through its own website and social media, as well as through its many international, national, regional and local media partners. The program of the project is presented in an online catalogue translated into three languages. This project was attended by all the representatives of the national minorities with books and bilingual reviews or newspapers in their mother tongues and the Romanian language.

**Delta Festivals: The Sulina House of Culture organized the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Minorities Competition Festival "Serbările Deltei" in Sulina, Tulcea, Tulcea County, from 2019-2022.**

**Mother tongues/minorities involved: Hungarian, Jewish, Romani, German, Slovak, Bulgarian, Italian, Czech, Serbian, Greek, Macedonian, Ukrainian, Albanian, Turkish, Tatar, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Armenian, Rhaeto-Romanic**

The project aims to keep, preserve and enhance the intangible heritage of national minorities by facilitating access to the diversity of its component elements. Having as one of its objectives the promotion of intercultural dialogue, the model of the good coexistence of several ethnic groups over the centuries in the Dobrogea region, it can serve as an example for the participants in this project, providing a suitable framework for the transmission of cultural heritage, as well as for the discovery and promotion of young talents among national minorities, also contributing to the development of cultural tourism in the Danube Delta region.

The edition from 2022, postponed for 2 years due to pandemic restrictions, brought together on stage some of the winners of previous editions, confirming the values promoted over time. The project also included meetings with specialists from cultural institutions, with representatives of the national minorities communities, and with the tradition keepers of these communities in the Danube Delta area.

### **BRUKENTHAL – AN EARLY EUROPEAN**

The exhibition proposed a vivid presentation of the work and activity of Samuel von Brukenthal, on ten panels. The trilingual brochure, which accompanied the exhibition, reproduces the content of the panels without changes, and it thus aims to increase the interest of the general public for a thorough knowledge of this illustrious personality, who still inspires us today through his example. The organizers and partners of the event in Bucharest were: the Democratic Forum of Germans in Romania – the Extra-Carpathian Region, the Department for Inter-ethnic Relations, the Association *Cu timp pentru cultură*, the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant, the Democratic Forum of Germans in Cluj - Napoca, the Brukenthal National Museum.

### **Mother tongues/minorities involved: Hungarian, Serbian**

The cultural project **Voices of the City - Banat in Europe**, implemented in 2022 by the National Theatre "Mihai Eminescu" in Timișoara. The project is built on three levels:

- a) Trilingual drama workshop in Serbian, Hungarian and Romanian
- b) Writing a play in three acts, each act in one of the three languages – Serbian, Hungarian and Romanian
- c) Production of a trilingual performance in Serbian, Hungarian and Romanian

The project **Voices of the City - BANAT IN EUROPE** is realized by the National Theatre "Mihai Eminescu" in Timișoara within the "Identity Workshop" component, part of the project VOICES OF THE CITY, with which the National Theatre participates in the Cultural Program "Timișoara 2023 – European Capital of Culture".

The project started in 2022 with the playwriting workshop **Banat in Europe**.

The dramaturgy workshop was at the basis of the creation of an original text, a six-handed theatrical score that was transformed into a trilingual performance, with a cast made of actors from the three partner theatres: the "Mihai Eminescu" National Theatre in Timișoara, the "Sterija" National Theatre in Vârșeț and the Szeged National Theatre.

***The show is performed in three languages: Romanian, Serbian and Hungarian, with surtitles in Romanian and English.***

In the context of the designation of Timișoara and Novi-Sad as European Capitals of Culture in 2021, the National Art Museum of Timișoara concluded partnership agreements in 2019 with the **Museum of Vojvodina and the Academy Art Museum (Matica Srpska) in Novi Sad**. Following the signing of the partnership with the Museum of Vojvodina, in May 2019, the Timișoara Art Museum organized the transfer to Novi Sad of the exhibition of the painter Dorin Coltofeanu. This exhibition had opened in April-May in Timisoara, then extended until August to become part of the collaboration with Matica Srpska Gallery, arriving at the exhibition hall in Novi Sad in September. There, the opening was conducted by Mrs. Dragana Milosevic, Provincial Secretary for Culture, Information and Relations with Denominational Communities. At the same time, in Timisoara, on 6 December 2019, the official signing ceremony of the protocol of cooperation between the Timisoara Art Museum and the Academy Art Museum (Matica Srpska) took place in Novi Sad.

***European Phenomena in the Collection of the Gallery of Matica Srpska*** was a first action in the framework of the **Cooperation Protocol signed in December 2019**, in the context of the selection of **Novi Sad and Timișoara as European Capitals of Culture in 2022 and 2023**

respectively.

**Mother tongues/minorities involved: Albanian, Hungarians, Jewish, Romani, Germans, Slovak, Bulgarian, Italian, Czech, Serbian, Greek, Macedonian, Ukrainian, Turkish, Tatar, Polish, Russian, Croatian, Armenian**

**The National Library of Romania** currently has an *international exchange policy*, based on an *exchange program* with 118 foreign partners from 36 countries, with whom it exchanges books, periodicals (printed and online), CDs, DVDs and other categories of documents every year. Most of the documents exchanged are in English, French, **German**, Spanish, **Italian**, **Russian** and **a significant percentage of titles in the languages of national minorities in Romania**, which confirms the importance of exchanges in enriching collections with documents in languages for which traditional acquisition channels are not always suitable. *The exchange partners* are mostly national libraries, academic libraries, university libraries, public libraries, specialized libraries, museums, other cultural institutions with formal or informal cooperation agreements.

The documentary typology subject to international exchange of publications includes:

- books, periodicals, audio-visual material in all fields of knowledge, in all languages of international circulation;
- academic publications issued at a given time or under the auspices of academies, research institutes, study academies and universities: treatises, conference proceedings, yearbooks, annual reports, communications, statutes, reviews, memorial volumes, internal publications, general series or miscellaneous works;
- university publications: theses, dissertations, lectures given by professors, programs, calendars, study guides, yearbooks, communications, memorial volumes;
- publications of international organizations are aimed at cooperation, collaboration and may be associated with international governmental or non-governmental organizations: United Nations, UNESCO - official records, treaties and serial publications, bibliographies, catalogues and lists of publications, general and special indexes, reports, research programs, official bulletins, rules and regulations, official records (minutes, resolutions, proceedings), bulletins, transactions, manuals, statistics, monographs.

**The National Library of Romania** organizes **the Legal Deposit**, which is the **main documentary source for the knowledge of national culture, but also of national minorities**, because the Legal Deposit receives all titles published in Romania, regardless of language and content.

#### **Funding of Cultural Magazines and Publications – The Ministry of Culture**

The cultural magazines/publications submitted by associations of national minorities in Romania within the funding session for the Funding of Cultural Magazines and Publications program amounted to **95.000 lei in 2022, 105.000 lei in 2020, 95.000 lei in 2019**. Total amount of funding for magazines on minorities in Romania = 295.000 lei.

**Cultural magazines/publications submitted by associations of national minorities in Romania for the August 2022 funding session**

<http://www.cultura.ro/finantarea-revistelor-si-publicatiilor-culturale>

- Korunk Friendship Association, Korunk Magazine, 40.000 lei
- Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, Romanian Jewish History Magazine, 25.000 lei
- Medea Association, ME.dok magazine, 15.000 lei
- Jatekter Association, Jatekter magazine, 15.000 lei

**Total = 95.000 lei**

**Cultural magazines/publications submitted by associations of national minorities in Romania in the 2020 funding session**

<http://www.cultura.ro/finantarea-revistelor-si-publicatiilor-culturale>

- Korunk Friendship Association, Korunk magazine, 40.000 lei
- Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, Romanian Jewish History Magazine, 25.000 lei
- Jatekter Association, Jatekter magazine (Hungarian), 20.000 lei
- Medea Association, ME.dok magazine, (Hungarian), 20.000 lei

**Total = 105.000 lei**

**Cultural magazines/publications submitted by associations of national minorities in Romania in the 2019 funding session**

<http://www.cultura.ro/finantarea-revistelor-si-publicatiilor-culturale>

- Jatekter Association, Jatekter magazine (Hungarian), 20.000 lei
- Medea Association, ME.dok magazine, (Hungarian), 20.000 lei
- Korunk Friendship Association, Korunk magazine (Hungarian), 55.000 lei

**Total = 95.000 lei**

The **National Program for the purchase of books and magazine subscriptions** in the written culture category also provides funding for titles in national minority languages in Romania or for translations. (<http://www.cultura.ro/rezultate-partiale-programul-national-pentru-achizitia-de-carti-si-abonamente-la-reviste-din>)

**The ACCES** program is another funding instrument through which projects of minority organizations or with a focus on minority culture can be supported. The program is designed to support cultural actions and projects in the following fields: visual arts/architecture, written culture, film/audiovisual, performing arts, intercultural dialogue, intangible heritage/mobile cultural heritage.

Initiated in 2016 by the Ministry of Culture, the ACCES Program aims to harness the cultural and creative potential existing at national level and to integrate it into the sphere of circulation of universal cultural values.

**Art against social hatred, discrimination, anti-Semitism and xenophobia**

The Ministry of Culture finances projects related to the implementation of the National Strategy for preventing and combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech for the period 2021-2023 and also projects concerning the implementation of the Romanian Government Strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority for the period 2022-2027, approved by H.G. no. 560/2022.

**Mother tongues/minorities involved: Yiddish language**

**The Yiddish Language and Theatre Day Festival**, organized by the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, includes cultural, educational, artistic and scientific activities dedicated to the promotion of the Yiddish language and theatre. The Yiddish Language and Theatre Day, established by Law no. 253/2017, is celebrated on 30 May, thus recalling the date of birth, in 1901, of the poet and prose writer Ițic Manger, "one of the masters of Yiddish literature in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century worldwide, considered the most important and

representative Yiddish language author in Romania", according to the presentation made by FEDROM President Silviu Vexler, member of Parliament from the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania and initiator of the law. The Festival dedicated to the Yiddish language and theatre in Romania is an annual event organized to preserve the unique specificity of Yiddish culture and is part of the programs designed to support the achievement of the general and specific objectives of the National Strategy for preventing and combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia and the radicalization of hate speech for the period 2021-2023, namely the program "Art against social hatred, discrimination, anti-Semitism and xenophobia", which provides for the extension of the programs run by FEDROM to the fields of music and theatre. In the context that **in 2020**, because of the pandemic, the performances could not take place in the halls, this year's edition took place only online, being broadcast on the official Facebook page of the FEDROM's Ides Festival ([facebook.com/FederatiaEvreilor](https://facebook.com/FederatiaEvreilor)) and of the Jewish Community of Oradea ([facebook.com/ComunitateaEvreilorOradea](https://facebook.com/ComunitateaEvreilorOradea)). The broadcasts could be watched on 25 May from 9am to 11pm and on 26 May from 11am to 8pm. The program of the event included: exhibitions, conferences, theatre performances by Romanian and Israeli troupes, concerts and recitals, dances and discussions on gastronomy, interviews with personalities.

Among the events of the first day we mention, after the official opening and the awarding of the "Avram Goldfaden" medals, the conference "Yiddish actors and theatre groups in Romania during the interwar period" (Prof. Felicia Waldman), the launch of the volume "Selected works" by I. L. Peretz (Dr. Claudia Bosoi, director of TES Maia Morgenstern), a recital by actress Maia Morgenstern, moments from the works of Shalom Alehem - with actors Cristina Deleanu and Eugen Cristea, a commemorative moment in memory of Israeli actor Nico Nitai, an interview with director Alexander Hausvater and the director of Yiddishpiel Tel Aviv, Zelig Rabinovitz. On the same evening there was a theatre performance (in Yiddish) of "2 Kuni Leml" by Avram Goldfaden, directed by Alexander Hausvater, with Yaacov Bodo and the Yiddishpiel Tel Aviv, a screening of the films "Rumenye, Rumenye" and "Searching for Schwartz" by the late Radu Gabrea, and concerts by the Bucharest Klezmer Band and Niggun. The day of 26 May started with a gastronomic presentation, followed by dances with the band "Hora". It was possible to see the exhibition "The image of Ițic Manger in Adam magazine" (Dr. Anca Tudorancea C.S.I.E.R.) and the artistic moment with the Israeli actor Eugen Nacht Stroe, son of the beloved comedian N. Stroe, the lecture (audio) "Joseph Schmidt - the tragedy of a voice that surrounded the world" by Berti Barbera, in the author's reading. Concerts by the Hazamir and Macabi choirs, B'nei Milu and artists Alexandrina Chelu and Florian Chelu were presented. The evening ended with a commemorative moment in memory of the Yiddish actor, writer and playwright Carol Feldman and the Yiddish theatre performance "The Efros Dynasty" by Jacob Gordin, directed by Kincses Elemér.

**In 2021, on 30-31 May**, the Yiddish Language and Theatre Festival, organized by FEDROM and co-funded by the Ministry of Culture, through the National Minorities Office, took place. The project included cultural, educational, artistic and scientific actions dedicated to the promotion of the Yiddish language and theatre. In the context created by the pandemic, the performances could not take place in public halls, so this edition was also broadcast online on the official Facebook page of the FEDROM Yiddish Festival ([facebook.com/FederatiaEvreilor](https://facebook.com/FederatiaEvreilor)).

**In 2023**, the Festival dedicated to the Day of the Yiddish Language and Theatre in Romania took place on 30 May in Timișoara, city designated this year as European Capital of Culture. The objective of the project was to promote a good knowledge of Jewish traditions and to create a strong cultural interconnectivity between the Jewish minority and other ethnic groups in Romania through the Yiddish language. The project aimed at developing interethnic relations, cultural and intellectual training, a response to the need for social manifestation,

keeping Yiddish culture in the public eye in all its aspects. The main aim of the project is to preserve and promote Yiddish language theatre and culture, to cultivate and promote Jewish traditions, to propagate culture through knowledge of language, literature and traditions, supporting multiculturalism and multilingualism.

The project aims to strengthening and improving interethnic relations between the majority and minority through a correct understanding of the political, social and economic developments that have marked the lives of Jews in Romania. The cultural project is part of the programmes designed to support the achievement of the general and specific objectives of the National Strategy for preventing and combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia and radicalisation of hate speech.

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, with the support of the Office of National Minorities, organized in 2019 and 2020 **the "Mihail Sebastian" International Festival** - a cultural and multicultural, educational, academic and inter-ethnic networking event under the aegis of the Romanian writer Mihail Sebastian, born Iosef Hechter.

In 2019, the festival debuted in the Mihail Sebastian foyer of the Maria Filotti Theatre in Braila with dramatic fragments read by actors Cristina Deleanu and Elena Cristea. The series of cultural events continued with the Jewish dance performance FETELE LUI TEVIE, with the Haverim band of the Jewish Community of Bucharest and traditional Jewish music performed by the Bucharest Klezmer Band, with the exceptional participation of actress Maia Morgenstern. The Museum of Braila Carol I hosted a series of symposia dedicated to the playwright Mihail Sebastian, the launch of an edition of texts, edited by Petruș Costea and Geo Șerban, entitled *Scena și Ecranul*. Actors from the Karov Theatre in Tel Aviv, Israel, and from the Jewish State Theatre performed an adaptation of Mihail Sebastian's *Last Hour*. A performance of Jewish music, *Shalom*, with the participation of the choirs Hazamir of the Jewish Community of Bucharest and Macabi, of the Jewish Community of Braila, marked and rendered Jewish folklore and the specific rituals of Jewish customs performed at the Synagogue of Braila, thus contributing to understanding the community from which the prominent intellectual Mihail Sebastian, born Iosef Hechter among the Jews of Braila, was part of.

The 2020 edition took place largely online because of pandemic restrictions, but retained the defining elements of the festival, namely, Jewish cultural and religious activities - a religious and in memoriam ceremony at the grave of Mihail Sebastian at the Philanthropy Cemetery, musical recital by the Bucharest Choral Temple Choir, film offered by Bucharest Jewish Film, *In Memoriam Nico Nitai* from the Karov Theatre in Israel (former student of the playwright), participation of actress Maia Morgenstern, Israeli dances and moments dedicated to Jewish spiritual identity.

In 2021, the "Mihail Sebastian" International Festival was postponed because the Jewish communities in Romania were mourning the death of late Dr. Aurel Vainer, former president of FEDROM - the initiator of the festival - just during the period of this cultural event.

The Ministry of Culture financially supported in 2019 the project "Great Jewish composers" (with the amount of 15,000 lei), a cultural action on Jewish musical themes that proved to be of national scope. The main theme of the project was Jewish culture and music in the context of the crisis of Jewish identity against the background of the rise of anti-Semitism in 20th century Europe, as well as elements related to the interpretation and perception of its musical themes.

As far as Holocaust memorial culture in Romania is concerned, the Ministry of Culture and its subordinate institutions, through funding programmes, provide non-reimbursable support for cultural projects, editorials, cultural magazines and publications, museum projects dealing with topics related to the promotion of the history, values and traditions specific to the Jewish community, the promotion of Jewish cultural heritage, the contribution of Jews to the



development of Romanian society, the fight against anti-Semitism, etc. with the intention of recovering and transmitting the memory of the Jewish community in Romania.

The Ministry of Culture has financially supported the realisation of projects on Jewish history, culture and life and on the history of the Holocaust, which serve as educational resources for the new subject Jewish History. The Holocaust: e.g. **the Romanian Jewish History Review (RIER)** or **the Royal House and the problem of Jewish emancipation in Romania (1866-1923)** - projects carried out by the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania - Mosaic Culture / Centre for the Study of Jewish History in Romania "Wilhelm Filderman".

The Romanian Journal of Jewish History (RIER) deals with various topics related to Jewish history, aspects of the life of the Jewish community in Romania, the history of the Holocaust, the history of Jewish theatre, Jewish personalities, etc. The studies it contains are written in various languages (Romanian, English, French, German, Yiddish, etc.) and are authored by the Centre's researchers as well as external researchers.

The project **The Royal House and the problem of the emancipation of the Jews in Romania (1866-1923)** brought to the fore a lesser known aspect of national history, namely the relationship between the Royal House and the Jews in Romania in the second half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, through visual impact; and also the "question" of the Jews and the problem of anti-Semitism in Romania in the period mentioned, having a novel character for specialized historiography, since it deals with a little known subject, the subject not having been investigated by specialists until now. The lack of research in this field explains the need to produce scientific material that brings to the public's attention an important aspect of national history by exploiting relevant documents and photographs in the archives in a form that is accessible to as many target groups as possible, within the framework of a national event whose impact can then be maximized through various follow-up activities.

The Ministry of Culture funded and promoted the project **Bucharest Jewish Film Festival**, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> edition, which has become a brand for Romania. **Bucharest Jewish Film Festival** is a wide-open gateway to Jewish values, offering, through the films, debates and concerts presented, a comprehensive picture of the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of the Jewish people, of Jewish traditions and customs, but also of the problems faced by the Jewish people today, as well as its links with the Romanian world, for a better mutual understanding. The project strengthened and improved interethnic relations between the majority and the Jewish minority through a correct understanding of the political, social and economic developments that have marked the lives of Jews in Romania.

The Ministry of Culture finances cultural projects through its subordinate institutions, such as the Administration of the National Cultural Fund, National Cinematography Centre, the National Village Museum "Dimitrie Gusti", the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant, the "George Apostu" Culture Centre, etc., which deal with Jewish history, language, culture and life and which contribute to achieving the objectives contained in the National Strategy for preventing and combating anti-Semitism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech.

### **Preserving Romani history, customs and traditions**

#### **Mother tongues/minorities involved: Romani/Roma language**

In 2023, the Ministry of Culture financially supported with 50.000 lei the realization of the cultural project *Recourse to Culture, from local values perspective. Inclusion of Roma children in society through cultural and educational activities*, carried out between 10 October and 10 December, addressed to Roma and Romanian children in secondary school in Aninoasa commune, county of Argeş, in partnership with the Aninoasa monastery, with the aim of getting to know and deepen the history, language, culture and traditions of the Roma in the Argeş area,

through creative and reading workshops. The project aimed at developing interethnic relations, combating discrimination/negative attitudes towards Roma, cultural and intellectual training, a response to the need for social manifestation and integration of Roma children and youth from Aninoasa commune, county of Argeş, increasing the degree of culturalization and education of students in the area.

The cultural project is part of the programmes designed to support the achievement of the general and specific objectives of the Romanian Government's Strategy for the Inclusion of Romanian Citizens belonging to the Roma Minority for the period 2022-2027, related to Specific Objective 6 - Specific Measures: Combating discrimination, anti-Roma discourse and attitudes generating hate speech or hate crimes, as well as the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Anti-Semitism, Xenophobia and Radicalization of Hate Speech for the period 2021-2023.

The main objectives of the project were: to affirm the ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity of Roma children in Aninoasa (a town with a population of less than 50. 000 inhabitants, of which 18.28% are officially declared Roma), preservation and promotion of the Roma language and culture; social inclusion of Roma children, within the collectives they belong to, through their participation in common activities, in team with Romanian schoolmates; stimulating the creative side of the children, by illustrating the books they read and stimulating their interest in reading individually and collectively during the school period; highlighting aspects of the culture and traditions of the Roma in the Arges area and educating these children, who come from families without material resources; development of special skills, training pupils in activities as varied and rich in content as possible, facilitating their integration into the school environment, providing support for school success as a whole, developing personal talents and linking skills with character attitudes; stimulating a taste for reading books specific to the Roma culture; bringing children closer to books and the written word in the Roma language, familiarising children with different types of writing, improving oral communication and stimulating interest in reading, writing, drawing, the mother tongue of Roma children, sharing personal experiences, which aims to reduce school drop-out and illiteracy rates.

### **Projects carried out by the subordinate institutions of the Ministry of Culture and/or in partnership with other entities that have had as their theme the promotion of mother tongues**

Cultural projects aiming at intercultural dialogue and the promotion of cultural values of national minorities in Romania are financed through the funding programs of the subordinate institutions: The National Institute for Cultural Research and Training, the Administration of the National Cultural Fund (AFCN), the National Cinematography Centre (CNC), the National Heritage Institute, the National Library of Romania.

**The National Institute for Cultural Research and Training (INCFC)**, a public cultural institution of national importance, subordinated to the Ministry of Culture, organizes and conducts the examination for the award of the certificate of translator into and from foreign languages, an examination organized in a uniform manner at national level ([https://www.culturadata.ro/examen-traducatori/inscriere-examen-traducatori/.](https://www.culturadata.ro/examen-traducatori/inscriere-examen-traducatori/))

Regarding the languages covered by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML), the **National Institute for Cultural Research and Training (INCFC)** organized an annual examination session for the translator's certificate for *Bulgarian, Czech, Hebrew, Hungarian, Polish, Romani, Serbian, Slovak, Turkish, Ukrainian* for the fields/terminologies

including economics, sociology-politics, technology, legal sciences. Through these exams organized by INCFC at a national level, Romanian citizens, regardless of ethnicity/nationality (but also foreign citizens), are offered the possibility to obtain a recognition – through the translator's certificate - of their level of knowledge of a foreign language and of a specific specialized language/terminology (at written level). After this recognition, holders of the Translator's Certificate can then carry out various translation activities (authorized or not) in different fields of work (collaboration with publishers, lucrative companies, foreign companies, the judiciary, etc.) and thus maintain the viability of that language in terms of terminology specific to socio-economic fields.

**A total of 8 ordinary sessions and one extraordinary session were held in 2019-2022, for which a total of 3.408 applications were submitted and a total of 4.998 examination papers were taken.**

In 2019-2022, the **National Cinematography Centre (CNC) in partnership with public institutions, NGOs and other entities** funded 9 projects that promote the cultural values of national minorities in Romania; for example: Bucharest Jewish Film Festival, Alter-Native International Short Film Festival, Hungarian Film Days Filmtettfeszt etc.

### **The National Cultural Fund Administration**

The National Cultural Fund Administration can also fund cultural and publishing projects on the culture of national minorities in Romania. For example, in the period 2018-2022, cultural and publishing projects concerning

the **Hungarian minority;**

the **Roma minority;**

the **Jewish minority** with the thematic area of Material Cultural Heritage.

### **2020**

#### **Preserving Romani history, customs and traditions**

Mother tongues/minorities involved: Romani/Roma language

Annually, the National Cultural Fund Administration financed projects on the preservation, development and promotion of the Roma cultural heritage, ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity of this minority.

During 2020, the National Cultural Fund Administration financed the E-Romnja Association for the project "**Community Theatre, Tell Your Story!**".

Regarding the development and publication of a series of volumes on Roma history and culture, including collections of folklore and literature in the Romani language, in the funding session for publishing projects 2020 - Book section, the Centre for Cultural and Social Research "Romane Rodimata" obtained funding for the project "Deportation of Roma soldiers' families to Transnistria. Between administrative "mistakes" and biopolitical imperatives. Case studies and archival documents".

In 2020, the National Cultural Fund Administration financed the project "**Roma Theatre is not nomadic! 2020**", organized by the Roma Actors' Association, promoting theatre performances by Roma artists.

The Roma Actors Association was set up in 2015 at the initiative of several Roma actors, artists and cultural experts in order to form a structure of reflection and action in the field of art as a form of combating exclusion. The objectives of the association are to integrate cultural, artistic and cultural innovations in the arts in general, and theater in particular. At

national level, the Association of Roma Actors pursues the creation of the first Roma Theater in Romania, which will also serve as a center of resources and expertise on Roma culture in Romania.

The National Cultural Fund Administration financed in 2020 the project *"I give you the daughter-in-law, I give you the fortune - Marriages arranged at the Roma"*, realized by the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant.

The National Cultural Fund Administration financed the program **"Urban Roma, stories to spread"**, realized by the Association for the Promotion of Contemporary Arts.

In 2020 the Administration of the National Cultural Fund financed the project **Roma Manus Festival**, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, realized by Larmafa Association.

In 2020 the National Cultural Fund Administration financed the 13<sup>th</sup> **International Documentary Film and Human Rights Festival**, the main section of the festival entitled *"Habar n-ai tu cât te iubesc"* being dedicated to the Roma minority. The festival was organized by One World Romania Association.

In 2021, the Administration of the National Cultural Fund financed:

- with **85.000 lei** for the project **"KATHE AKANA!"** International Roma Theatre Festival, Bucharest - 2021, realized by the Association for the Promotion of Contemporary Arts.

The project KATHE, AKANA! (HERE, NOW!) consisted in organizing the first International Roma Theatre Festival in Bucharest, Romania from 15-20 August to 5-10 September 2021.

-with **70.000 lei** the project **"Manual de lăutărie"**, realized by the Association ACCES Calarasi. **"Manual de lăutărie"** was an approach to make accessible and inform about elements and practices of intangible cultural heritage, focusing on the phenomenon of oral tradition music, told by teenagers from the families of the last traditional musicians.

-with **70.000 lei** the project **"Saving the culture of the other"**, realized by ASOCIATIA MONUMENTUM.

The project aims to research and present the socio-cultural context of the preservation of the material culture of the Romanians (in particular the "iei cu altiță") by the ethnic group of the Roma cortorari in whose possession it is located and for which it has been the festive costume for centuries. The project paid particular attention to the study and promotion of inter-ethnic Roma-Romanian relations in southern Transylvania, which have made an unexpected contribution to the preservation of a shared heritage, a phenomenon also highlighted by the project's title. The project also proposes an exhaustive and comparative research of the "ia cu altiță" from southern Transylvania (Hârtibaci Valley and Olt Country) in the collections of prestigious museums (National Museum of the Romanian Peasant in Bucharest, ASTRA Museum in Sibiu, Museum of Ethnography in Brasov and Museum of Ethnography of Transylvania in Cluj) and in the collection of ii of the collector Eugen Vaida, in the context of the submission in March of the dossier of the Romanian "ia cu altiță" for inscription in the UNESCO heritage.

In 2022, the Administration of the National Cultural Fund financed:

- with 68.305 lei the project **"Roma MUSEUMS"**, realized by the Museum of the Iron Gates Region. The main goal of the project is to create a multimedia exhibition nucleus of the Roma MUZEUMS in the premises of the Iron Gates Region Museum in order to integrate the cultural landmarks of the Roma minority in the European cultural tourism circuit.

- with **83.500 lei** the project "The story of the Telciu Gabors - Roma theatre caravan", realized by the Acting Works Association. The project stages in several Roma communities, rural and urban, the Story of the Telciu Gabors (title in work), directed by Mădălina Brândușe (actress) and Andrei Șerban (actor and director).

- with **93.075 lei** for the project "I am the main actress - A show about art, culture and Roma identity", realized by the Roma Actors Association.

It is a cultural-educational program in digital media, in the form of a bi-monthly show about Roma history, art, identity and culture, produced exclusively by Roma people, under the name: "I am the leading actress". An original media programme promoted nationally and internationally, encouraging social inclusion, diversity and tolerance through an educational online cultural programme. In a national context where the Roma community constantly faces discrimination at all levels, discussing Roma culture from a different perspective than the usual one seems absolutely necessary.

-with **85.000 lei** for the project "Mental Health in Theatre: Healing and Consent", carried out by the Roma Actors Association. The performance with the provisional title "Healing and Consent" addresses the issue of trauma experienced in the pandemic and post-pandemic period by actors/cultural workers, those working in professions that depend on constant interaction with people. The project developed by the Roma Actors' Association / Giuvlipen is part of a broader approach to contribute to the establishment of a future State Roma Theatre in Romania by increasing the repertoire, the visibility of theatrical productions by Roma companies and actors and connecting Roma theatre to the general public by addressing issues relevant to Romanian society in general.

- with **62.271 lei** for the project "Roma S/heroes", realized by the Association "Cu alte Cuvinte". Through the project "Roma S/heroes" the organizer aimed to create a diversity education module to be implemented in kindergartens, which will include a set of 4 illustrated books, pedagogical activities based on the resulting books and a series of trainings for teachers.

- with **70.000 lei** the project "Interkulti. Intercultural camp of artistic creation and ecoart for children", realized by Tranzit Foundation.

**In 2023**, the Administration of the National Cultural Fund financed:

-with 86.071 lei the project "pRObleMĂ?", carried out by the Local Action Group Association Sepsi. The association proposes through the project "pRObleMA" a complex approach to raise awareness of the local society in Sfântu Gheorghe through education through culture, with the following components: a call for project ideas dedicated to artists at country level for the development of huge billboard posters with anti-discrimination message, the production and display of the winning projects on billboards in the city, a linocut workshop for children of Roma families relocated from the Orko area to different parts of the city (see chap. Justification), a storytelling workshop for Roma youth from the community and the making of a documentary film about the workshop, the exhibition of the results of the two workshops on June 1st, a film screening (Ghetto Balboa) directed by a Roma filmmaker from Hungary with Romanian subtitles, and a series of blog articles consisting of 5 materials about the 5 most "popular" prejudices against Roma.

-with **75.378,00 lei** the project "A culture with many colours", realized by the Brukenthal National Museum. "A culture with many colours" aims to reduce barriers to participation and exploitation of anti-discrimination activities through the interpretation of heritage in order to raise social awareness with cultural means specific to the museum institution starting from

modern variants of racism, based on the social perception of the biological difference between people.

-with **104.742,00 lei** the project "International Roma Theatre Festival KATHE AKANA! third edition", realized by the Association for the Promotion of Contemporary Arts. International Roma Theatre Festival in Bucharest KATHE, AKANA! presented a debate on European Roma theatre, theatre performances (recent creations and premieres) followed by discussions with the audience and concerts.

In 2021, the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant concluded a partnership agreement with the Roma Centre Association "Amare Rromenza", offering support in the creation of a virtual Roma museum.

In 2022, the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant (MNȚR) held 30 fairs with craftsmen organized and hosted by MNȚR in which Roma craftsmen participated with copper products, costumes, antiques.

At the Peasant Museum Cinema the animated film *Merge și-așa*, directed by Valentin Urziceanu, a Roma-themed film, has been systematically programmed since 1 June 2022.

The Romanian Peasant Museum Cinema hosted the event organized by Alina Șerban on 14 November - "**I Count**" Gala - a gala for institutionalized young people; it included a series of cultural activities, such as performance art moments, short film screenings, debates and discussions with the public, together with artists, journalists and Roma cultural people.

The National Museum of the Romanian Peasant participated in the ASTRA FILM FESTIVAL, 9-16 October 2022, Sibiu, with the film *O Tahtai. Savendar tai Seiandar* [The Shovel. About Sons and Daughters], directed by Dana Bunescu, Cătălina Tesăr, 2022, 85 min., producer: Cătălina Tesăr. The film exposes for the first time in cinema the fascinating world of the Roma (cortorari) who, like the European aristocracy, make and break marriage alliances according to their lineage and wealth.

Within the ROM(a)NOR Interferences" project implemented by the National Village Museum "Dimitrie Gusti", a bilingual project website and Facebook page dedicated to the promotion of Roma culture and 24 films/photographs were created, while traditional Roma craftsmen were promoted via social media through this project. Moreover, field research took place in 40 villages in 7 counties and 322 heritage pieces were acquired.

"ROM (a) NOR Interferences" is a cultural project implemented by the "Dimitrie Gusti" National Village Museum in collaboration with Anno Museum from Norway.

The project has a duration of 24 months and will run from January 1st, 2022 to December 31, 2023. It is a journey through time and space to promote, enhance and revitalize the Romani cultural heritage. The project is addressed to the Roma minority as a whole and to the visiting public in Romania and Norway, with the aim of improving the situation of the Roma population. Throughout the project, the Village Museum will benefit from the expertise of colleagues from Glomdal at the Anno Museum in Norway, who will actively participate in research campaigns and discussion sessions on the revitalization and promotion of traditional Roma crafts.

The mission of the "Dimitrie Gusti" National Village Museum is to research, collect, preserve and restore heritage goods belonging to Romanian culture and civilization and to use them as the main instrument of communication and education of the public, through the means characteristic of modern museology.

The Norwegian Anno Museum, through its Glomdal Department, has the mission to collect and preserve elements belonging to the old cultures and to provide knowledge about the lives and customs of the people of the past. The museum foundation aims to support the field of minority culture and multicultural society, and the museum has a special

responsibility for the culture and history of the Roma. Since 2000, the Glomdal Museum has taken national responsibility for documenting the culture and history of the Tater/Roma people, and has a major permanent exhibition dedicated to them.

Through its exhibition of architecture and folk technique, and implicitly, through the specific inventory of ethnographic objects, the museum succeeds in presenting to the public the image of a village - synthesis of Romania, in its originality, representativeness, unity and diversity. At the same time, the respect and application of the principle of unity in diversity have allowed to capture ethnic differences and interferences between Romanian folk culture and that of other nationalities and ethnic groups in Romania.

At the "I.L. Caragiale" National Theatre in Bucharest, Alina Șerban, a Roma actress who graduated from UNATC and a writer (author of two plays with resounding success in London) and a representative of the "Untold Stories" Association, organised a series of performances of the show "The Best Child in the World" for which tickets were offered free of charge, through local government funding, to Roma children in foster homes.

Concerning the establishment of the **National Museum of Roma History and Culture in Romania, Law no. 238 of 19 July 2023**, published in the Official Gazette no. 670 of 20 July 2023, clarified the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture for the identification and provision of the necessary real estate for the museum's headquarters as well as for the financing of the functioning and activity of the mentioned museum institution.

Article 1 of Law No. 238 of 19 July 2023 expressly provides: "1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Art. 16 (1), Art. (2) and Art. 18 of the Law on museums and public collections no. 311/2003, republished, with subsequent amendments and additions, the National Museum of the History and Culture of the Roma in Romania, hereinafter referred to as the Museum, is hereby established, a public institution of national importance, with legal personality, subordinate to the National Agency for Roma."

Thus, the obligation to obtain the prior approval of the National Commission of Museums and Collections, the advisory and approval body of the Ministry of Culture at the time of establishment, and the granting of the title of Museum of National Importance, was abolished. The law also clarifies the financing of the institution, the main authorizing officer of the Museum being other than the Ministry of Culture.

## **Support for the preservation of identities and cultural heritage through National Heritage Institute**

The National Institute of Heritage has financed through the National Program for the Restoration of Historical Monuments (PNR) works totaling 37,427.75 lei for the restoration of the Dârjiu Unitarian Church Ensemble, str. Aszeg, no. 164, Dârjiu commune, HR county, monument included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In 2019, the works were completed, and the reception was organized at the end of the works.

Also, during the period 2020-2022, the following historical monuments with particular relevance for the Hungarian ethnic group received non-refundable funding in the amount of 507,266.00 lei from the Stamp of Historical Monuments fund:

In 2020, the Unitarian Parish of Suatu, Cluj county, benefited from non-refundable funding in the amount of 200,000,000 lei for emergency interventions - foundation consolidations at the Unitarian Church of Suatu.

Also in 2020, Szabo Coloman-Emeric, benefited from non-refundable funding in the amount of 124,897.00 lei for the preparation of technical-economic documentation for the restoration and enhancement of the Urmanczy Castle in Toplița, Harghita county.

In 2022, the Roșia Montană Unitarian Parish, Alba county, benefited from non-refundable funding in the amount of 100,000.00 lei for interior and exterior finishing repair works, flooring, carpentry, fixed furniture, collection and routing system rainwater, gutter pavement for the Unitarian Church in the village/community of Roșia Montană, no. 350, Alba county.

Also in 2022, the Roșia Montană Unitarian Parish, Alba county, benefited from non-refundable funding in the amount of 82,369.00 lei for the preparation of technical-economic documentation for the conservation-restoration of the Cantor's House in the village/community of Roșia Montană.

During the mentioned period, the National Heritage Institute carried out a series of cultural projects, financed by European and national funds, which included research and promotion actions regarding heritage, including the cultural heritage of interest for the Hungarian communities in Romania and/or had cultural partners from Hungary:

**INNOCastle** - Innovation of public policies for the preservation, transformation and exploitation of castles, mansions and their gardens

Implementation period: June 2018 - November 2022; Total budget: 1,107,435.00 Eur. Total INP budget 327956 Euro; 2021: 88734.42 Euro

The project, coordinated by the National Institute of Heritage, is financed through Interreg Europe from ERDF funds and is carried out in the period 2018-2022, having as partners the University of Ghent (Belgium), the Province of Badajoz (Spain), the National Trust (Great Britain) and the Province of Gelderland (Netherlands).

The objective of the project is to ensure the sustainable preservation of the residences of the historical elites (castles, mansions and related domains) by remodeling the current public policies, so that they better reflect current trends and future needs, to ensure the involvement of different interested groups (actors), as well as the economic and environmental flexibility of these assemblies.

In Romania, INNOCastle initially aimed specifically at the Regional Operational Program 2014-2020, Investment Priority 5.1 - Conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage, later the focus was transferred to the Regional Operational Program 2021-2027 related to the development region Center and the National Program for the Restoration of Historical Monuments. Following an integrated study of castles, mansions and historical domains, carried out in Mureș county - an area with a concentration of heritage belonging to Hungarian communities - in close contact with interested groups from local, national and regional levels, new ways of approach were proposed of the restoration and enhancement of this patrimonial segment.

**ART NOUVEAU** - Sustainable Protection and Promotion of ART NOUVEAU Heritage in the Danube Region

Implementation period: 2017-2019

Total project budget: 1,649,559 euros, total INP budget: 115,115 euros;

The National Heritage Institute was a partner in the ART NOUVEAU - Sustainable Protection and Promotion of ART NOUVEAU Heritage in the Danube Region project, carried out in the period 2017-2019 with financing through Interreg Danube from ERDF, IPA funds.



The project was carried out by the Oradea City Hall (project leader), together with the Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Arts MAK Vienna, the Library and Information System Foundation of the National Academy of Bulgaria, the Museum of Arts and Crafts Zagreb, the Museum of Applied Arts Budapest, the Company Nonprofit tourism Szeged and surroundings, Subotica City Hall, Republican Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments Serbia, Institute of Urban Planning of the Republic of Serbia, Institute of Urban Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, National Institute of Heritage Romania, together with the following strategic partners: The European Network of Art Nouveau cities (Belgium), Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration from Romania, ICOMOS Romania.

The aim of the project was to strengthen and expand the cooperation between different actors in the cities of the Danube region that share the Art Nouveau heritage. Thus, efforts to preserve this cultural heritage become coordinated, use complementarities, common knowledge and experiences.

In Romania, through the involvement of the National Heritage Institute in the activity of inventorying Art Nouveau historical monuments, a series of representative buildings for the manifestation of this style that were designed by well-known architects or that reveal valuable artistic works of some Hungarian artists were documented and charted. In order to promote this heritage, events and guided tours were organized on the occasion of World Art Nouveau Day.

**ART NOUVEAU 2 - Strengthening the cultural identity of the Danube region by building on common heritage of ART NOUVEAU**

Implementation period: 2020-2022. Total project budget: 1,827,119 euros, total INP budget: 135,440 euros;

The ART NOUVEAU 2 project will develop in the sense of expanding the network and database, implementing the previously developed strategy and exchanging know-how. The consortium is made up of nine partner institutions, coordinated by the Municipality of Oradea (project leader), namely: the National Heritage Institute (Romania), the Foundation for the Protection of Historical Monuments from Bihor County (Romania), the Museum of Applied Arts, Budapest (Hungary), MAK - Austrian Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna (Austria), MUO - Museum of Arts and Crafts, Zagreb (Croatia), Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (Slovakia), Republican Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Belgrade (Serbia) and Kodolányi János University, Budapest (Hungary).

The purpose of this project is to strengthen the cultural identity and the Art Nouveau heritage of the Danube region through a set of work packages regarding public education for the purpose of knowledge and protection of this heritage, research and promotion.

A series of activities bring the Hungarian Art Nouveau heritage to the attention of the general public, such as: the traveling exhibition "Manifestations of total art. Art Nouveau, Szecesszió, Sezession, Jugendstil" which is to be varnished at the Palace of Culture in Târgu Mureș", the realization of a treasure hunting-type application in Târgu Mureș, training seminars for tourist guides focusing on representative buildings in Arad and Timișoara, all including representative heritage and for the Hungarian communities in the respective areas.

### **The spa and leisure heritage of Banat. Needs and solutions**

Implementation period: May-November 2020 financed by the Administration of the National Cultural Fund (AFCN)

The project was carried out by the National Institute of Heritage, the main partners being the representatives of the local administration, the Town Halls of the towns of Buziaș and Băile Herculane, the heirs of the oldest and most valuable balneoclimate heritage in Banat,

together with the Romanian Cultural Institute in Budapest. ICR Budapest facilitated the collaboration with institutions, researchers and experts from Hungary in the area of development, valorization and promotion of balneo-climatic heritage, an important aspect given the existence of successful experience and initiatives in this regard in Hungary.

The project brought into discussion the contemporary issues specific to the type of heritage existing in the areas intended for balneo-climatic tourism in Banat and also, through a socio-economic component, models of sustainable development of local communities, by introducing this heritage within a tourism infrastructure extended to European level.

The results of the project were realized through an online varnished exhibition during the conference that marked its end, together with partners: ICR Budapest, Băile Herculane City Hall, Buziaș City Hall, Hungarian Trade and Tourism Museum.

The guide of good practices in the field, in digital format, also includes examples of success from Hungary, in the process of functionalizing the spa heritage through the "spa" concept (Balne and leisure heritage of Banat. Needs and solutions).

Also in the category of support given to the Hungarian community in the field of cultural heritage, we can also mention the fact that the Bacău County Directorate issued notice no. 55/M/05.11.2021, at the D.T.A.C. phase for the reconstruction of the historical monument *The former customs point "Rákóczi Citadel"*, LMI code: BC-II-m-B-00830. Ghimeș village, Ghimeș-Făget commune requested a financing for the realization of the project from the National Investment Company, at the moment it is at the stage of financial evaluation in order to start the works.

Funding provided towards organizations of national minorities in Romania and their projects meant are annually, not ad-hoc and seldom, and with the aim of preserving and developing their identity and culture. Also, we support national minorities in their efforts to collect and preserve their history, stories, songs and language.

All of this are in the framework of the general strategy of the Ministry of Culture in the field of interculturality, by providing logistical and specialized support, directly or in collaboration with other departments in the ministry, with public cultural institutions subordinate to the ministry, with other specialized institutions, with non-governmental organizations or external collaborators, for the elaboration of studies, researches and syntheses regarding the culture of ethnic minorities and the cultural interferences between their culture and the Romanian one, as well as for the enhancement, development and free expression of the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the national minorities in Romania.