

## Community-led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns (COMUS)



AT(2017)056

# COMUS Regional Workshop n. 6

## Scenarios on Housing Rehabilitation and Funding Possibilities in Community-Led Urban Strategies

Sibiu, Romania

26 – 27 April 2017

# Program

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> of April

Arrival of participants

Accommodation at Hotel Continental Forum, Piața Unirii 10, Sibiu 550173

19.00 – 21.00 Welcome dinner at Hotel Restaurant (New York Salon, located at the Mezzanine).

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> of April - Workshop Day 1

9.00 – 10.00 Opening remarks Hakan Demir, Division of Culture and Cultural Heritage, Council of Europe Philip Stein, Lead Expert, COMUS Project
10.00 – 13.00 Session 1: City centre regeneration: affordable interventions on historical housing Discussion on affordable interventions on historical housing; Presentation on the process and challenges of Sibiu City Center rehabilitation works, followed by site visit of Sibiu City Centre. Liliana Cazacu, Arhitect - LOEB FELLOW 2016 / Harvard Graduate School of Design Colaborator al Fundației Heritas Sibiu, Heritas Foundation
13.00 – 14.30 Lunch break
14.30 – 16.00 Session 2: Activating community resources Activating community resources through philanthropy, youth engagement and working with the private sector. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Alina Porumb, Senior Consultant for Strategic Philanthropy programs with ARC – Romanian Association for Community Relations</li></ul> The role of community foundations in mobilizing resources in small urban and rural communities. The case of Țara Făgărașului County Community Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Oana Mitea, Director of Țara Făgărașului County Community Foundation</li></ul>
16.00 – 16.15 Coffee break
16.15 – 18.00 Session 3: Approaching international donors and funding bodies Discussion on major donor bodies present in Eastern Europe and /or Eastern Partnership Program, ENPI and other instruments of EC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ms. Vica Rosario Bogaerts, World Bank</li></ul> Discussion on emerging donors in Eastern Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Teodora Zafiu, UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and CIS</li></ul>
20.00 Dinner in local restaurant

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> of April - Workshop Day 2

09.00 – 10.00 Transfer to Alma Vii village
10.00 – 12.30 Session 4: Village tour by Mihai Eminescu Trust Site visit and discussion on rehabilitation works of fortified church and historical housing; Discussion on engaging the local community in revitalization of heritage sites; <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Caroline Feronlend, Director of Mihai Eminescu Trust; representatives of the local community association.</li></ul> Demonstration of baking pies in the communal stove;

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch break – hosted by the local community in Alma Vii
13.30 – 14.30 Transfer back to Sibiu
15.30 – 17.00 Session 5: Self-evaluation and reflection exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderator: Mathias Ripp, OWHC</li></ul>
17.00 – 17.15 Coffee break
17.15 – 18.30 Session 6: Beyond COMUS – Faro Convention. Workshop closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mathias Ripp, OWHC</li><li>• Hakan Demir, Division of Culture and Cultural Heritage, Council of Europe</li><li>• Philip Stein, Lead Expert COMUS</li></ul>
20.00 Dinner in local restaurant

## Background information on organizations introduced in the workshop and sites to be visited

### A. Visited sites and host organizations:

- Sibiu (Hermannstadt) is a city located in Transylvania, in the middle of Romania, and the capital of Sibiu County. Since the rehabilitation of its historical center, conducted in 2000 – 2007, the city has known a significant economic and cultural revival. In 2007, Sibiu was designated the European Capital of Culture, along with the city of Luxembourg and it is now one of the most important cultural centers of Romania.

More info: <http://www.turism.sibiu.ro/index.php/en>

Host organization for site visit and discussion on the experience of Sibiu: Heritas Foundation

HERITAS Foundation was founded in May 2007, as a successor of the Romanian-German cooperation project "Rehabilitation of the historical center of Sibiu / Hermannstadt", conducted in 2000 – 2007 by the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Sibiu City Hall. First under the name of „Urban Rehabilitation Foundation“, Heritas Foundation later adopted its current name in order to include more fields of activity. With over 10 years of experience in the rehabilitation of historical monument buildings in central and historical neighborhoods and areas, its know-how focuses especially on rehabilitation / restoration, urban and rural development and tourism. Website: <http://www.heritas.ro/>

- Alma Vii village has been documented since 1298, situated in Sibiu County, one of the Saxon villages of South Transylvania.

Since 2009 the Mihai Eminescu Trust (MET) has implemented several restoration and community development projects in Alma Vii, supporting the local people to renovate the facades of their houses, to become self-sustainable and to turn their cultural, natural and social heritage to better account. The village medical point and the village shop were also restored, as well as the wooden bridges in front of the houses, two village lanes were cobbled - all this was done by the local people using traditional materials and techniques. In the Centre for Training and Vocational Education set up in the former village school, more than 50 villagers have learned traditional crafts and have been trained in agro-tourism and English language, all at the request of the villagers themselves. Recently in partnership with the Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research, the MET has implemented the project "Centre for interpretation of traditional culture Alma Vii – Restoration and functional conversion of the fortification. Even though religious service is no longer held here, as the Saxon exodus to Germany after 1989 left the village with primarily orthodox worshipers, the fortified church of Alma Vii has remained the place that keeps the community together. Today, 390 inhabitants live in the 200 households of Alma Vii.

Mihai Eminescu Trust - Since its establishment, MET has been working to preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the villages in Transylvania. Working for more than 16 years for the revitalisation of heritage through community participation and trying to raise awareness about the importance of heritage in sustainable development of local communities. *Under the motto "Building on our Past for a Sustainable Future", MET pioneered the implementation of the Whole Village concept in several communities in Transylvania.* The Whole Village concept aim is revitalizing rural communities and improving local livelihoods through the sensitive use of their remarkable natural and multi-cultural heritage. This aim of the Whole Village concept is achieved through three key objectives:

- Restoration of the cultural heritage: buildings, landscape, crafts and traditional farming practices

- Development of local entrepreneurial capability, by supporting small rural businesses, providing training for villagers, creating jobs and career opportunities
- Development of cultural sustainable tourism, by promoting rural heritage, walking routes, traditional guesthouses, home-made products and the unique experience of traditional rural lifestyle

The innovative character of The Whole Village Project is given by the integrated and multidisciplinary approach of this concept. The projects implemented by MET integrate cultural heritage and landscape, entrepreneurship based on local crafts, traditional and organic agriculture, environmental protection, education of adults and children, local know-how and practices.

Website: [www.mihaieminescutrust.ro](http://www.mihaieminescutrust.ro)

#### B. Organizations introduced in discussion on mobilizing resources from the community:

- The Association for Community Relations (ARC) has built, during the past 15 years, the practice of mobilizing resources from the community, through promoting (and professionalizing) philanthropy, corporate social responsibility, innovative youth volunteering programs or fiscal incentives. ARC is the usual resource place to go to, for NGOs and civic initiatives in Romania, when it comes to training in fundraising and resource mobilizations. Amongst many flagship programs, ARC has supported the development in Romania of community foundations (currently 16 foundations covering 16 out of 41 counties) and YouthBank, a framework program that encourages youth to have civic initiatives and develop their philanthropic behavior. Website: [www.arcromania.ro](http://www.arcromania.ro)

- **Țara Făgărașului** Community Foundation (FCTF) is a community foundation initiated in 2013, that supports the community development in Făgăraș Area, covering both small towns (population 5 000 – 30 000) and rural villages. Their programs aim to inspire and support local initiatives, mobilize resources and bring together people and organizations that contribute to long-term community development. Their projects include a range fields of action, from assistance for community development, to heritage, local culture, education, tourism, economic development and others. Website: [www.fundatiactf.ro](http://www.fundatiactf.ro)

#### C. Workshop facilitator organization:

- MKBT: Make Better

MKBT: Make Better is an organization specialized in urban development and regeneration in Romania, combining know-how, dedicated passion and bold vision to tackle most stringent needs of Eastern European towns. MKBT is currently engaged in implementing long term sustainable development processes in the small historical town of Făgăraș as well as the shrinking industrial town of Reșița.

Website: [www.mkbt.ro](http://www.mkbt.ro)