

WHV – Heritage education for the younger generation in Viscri

Villages with Fortified Churches in Transylvania, Romania

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1993)

PROJECT DATES

16 - 30 September 2024

THE SITE - These Transylvanian villages with their fortified churches provide a vivid picture of the cultural landscape of southern Transylvania. The seven villages inscribed, founded by the Transylvanian Saxons, are characterized by a specific land-use system, settlement pattern and organization of the family farmstead that have been preserved since the late Middle Ages. They are dominated by their fortified churches, which illustrate building styles from the 13th to the 16th century.

OBJECTIVES - The project is aiming at cultivating awareness and a forward-thinking approach to heritage education in Viscri and comparable rural communities with rich histories. The initiative emerged from a vital need to underscore the significance of Viscri's heritage and propel a contemporary approach to learning about heritage. The project encourages young volunteers to propose and develop educational activities blending traditional methods like local visits, crafts, and creative workshops with modern approaches utilizing technology, including Artificial Intelligence. This hands-on approach provides volunteers with a rich learning experience, enabling them to test ideas in real-life scenarios, utilize local resources, adapt to the community's context, and draw inspiration from the children, beneficiaries and future protector of the site.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers will acquire basic know-how about heritage education during the initial training workshop and get insights from the Foundation staff, partners, and collaborators; they will then follow a dedicated schedule for meetings with local people, visiting their houses, presenting their activity, seeking feedback and mapping existing resources for heritage education for the children and adults of the village. Based on the feedback received, volunteers will develop specific methods and contents and share them with the local children with the aim of collaboratively creating heritage education processes and materials tailored to the cultural and natural context of Viscri.

PARTNERS - Mihai Eminescu Trust România "Heritage for the Future" Cultural Association; National Commission of Romania for UNESCO; Viscri Village Council; Viscri Community Centre; Viscri 32, Viscri 125, Viscri 38, Experience Transylvania and other guesthouses and restaurants.

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