

# UNESCO Romania

## 1956 - 2021

# 65



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Romanian  
National Commission  
for UNESCO





Organizația Națiunilor  
Unite pentru Educație,  
Știință și Cultură



Comisia Națională  
a României  
pentru UNESCO

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# UNESCO Romania

## 1956 – 2021



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**Daniela Zaharia**

**Secretary - General  
of the National Commission  
of Romania for UNESCO**

*“2020 marks 75 years of UNESCO's existence, the main structure in the United Nations system dedicated to peace, international cooperation and development through education, culture and sciences. In 1956, Romania became part of this Organization, so in 2021 we celebrate 65 years of activity in its framework. In the more than seven decades of its existence, the UNESCO mission has become increasingly complex, evolving with changes in society and the frontiers of knowledge, receiving new missions from the international community, connected with its vocation as protector of fundamental human values. Recognition and defense of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, ensuring the universal right to education, and especially education for sustainable development, conservation of the planet's natural heritage, opening access to scientific information, formulating the ethical principles of scientific and technological development, defending the principles of sportsmanship and honest competition by respecting the anti-doping Convention, the involvement of civil society and the socio-human sciences in debates on the future of humanity are just some of the best-known areas and programs that UNESCO considers a priority today. Romania's National Commission for UNESCO, faithful to the mission defined by the Charter of the Organization, is involved in all this wide range of activities, as an interface between various governmental and non-governmental actors, as a consultative and analytical forum, as a structure designed to monitor and strengthen the respect for the values of the Organization in our country. In the last 30 years, UNESCO has penetrated the lives of hundreds of communities in Romania. We are honored to illustrate here the presence of UNESCO in our country, from the recognition of the universal importance of the value of our cultural heritage, Romanian traditions and natural sites to the exceptional activity of the network of ASPnet schools and the network of UNITWIN university chairs.”*



UNESCO headquarters, Paris, France ©UNESCO



*“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.”*

**The Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO**

**The United Nations system includes the United Nations itself, as well as affiliated programs, funds and specialized agencies. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - UNESCO is one of the specialized agencies.**

**UNESCO's history begins in 1945, at a time when the nations of the world, torn apart by two world wars in less than a generation, have realized that political and economic agreements are not enough**

**to establish lasting peace. Peace must also be established on the basis of the moral and intellectual solidarity of humanity.**

**UNESCO's mission is to contribute to peace-building, poverty eradication, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through 5 areas of expertise: education, culture, natural sciences, socio-human sciences, communication and information.**





©UNESCO

Education, one of the foundations of UNESCO

## Expertise, major initiatives and specialized areas

- UNESCO is the only UN agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education. It has been entrusted with leading the 2030 Global Education Agenda through Sustainable Development Goal 4.
- Topics in the field of Education include: global citizenship, health and well-being, emergency education, information and communication technology, inclusion, literacy, violence and school aggression, the development of technical

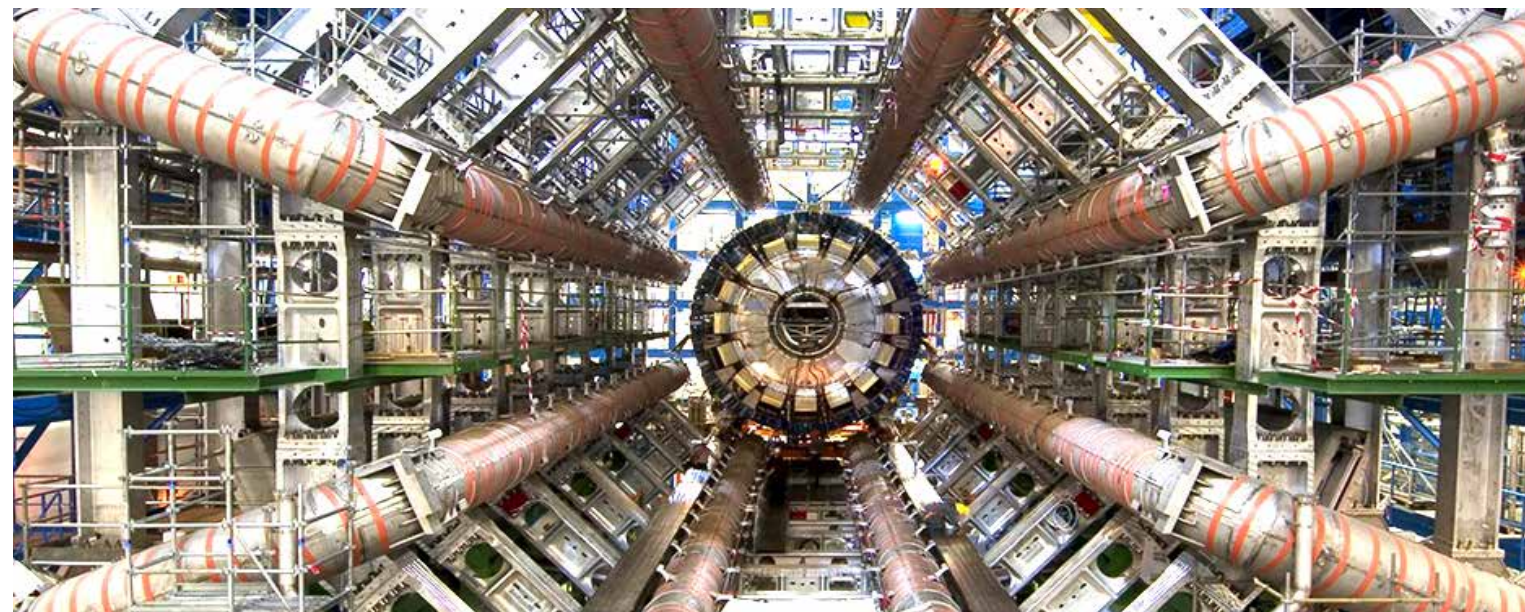
- and professional skills of teachers, textbooks.
- The UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs program promotes international cooperation and inter-university networking in key areas related to UNESCO's areas of competence. Today, the network includes over 830 programs in 110 states.
- The UNESCO Network of Associated Schools (ASPnet) connects 11,500 pre-university institutions from 182 states with the aim of instilling UNESCO ideals in children.
- UNESCO Cultural Conventions provide a unique global platform for international cooperation in the fields of protection of world's cultural and natural heritage, protection of cultural property in case of armed conflict, underwater cultural heritage, intangible cultural heritage, copyright and related rights, cultural expressions, cultural

diversity, and for cooperation on the means of prohibiting and preventing illicit trafficking of cultural property.

- UNESCO supports the conservation of 1121 World Heritage sites in 167 states.
- UNESCO provides guidance to countries in the development or revision of national science, technology and innovation policies, as well as in the development of innovation centers in the form of science and technology parks.
- UNESCO has launched the SESAME (Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East) research laboratory in the Middle East (Jordan).
- Every 2 years, UNESCO and its partners organize the World Science Forum.
- UNESCO is working to build the scientific knowledge base to help countries manage their

water resources in a sustainable way, through the Intergovernmental Hydrological Program (IHP), by coordinating the UN World Water Development Report and by numerous centers and chairs worldwide.

- Since the establishment of the International Geological Sciences Program in 1972, more than 340 international cooperation projects on Earth geology in approximately 150 countries have contributed to the development of knowledge on geological resources and processes and the creation of geologists networks.
- UNESCO Global Geoparks promote sites of international geological value and underpin local sustainable development. There are currently 161 Global UNESCO Geoparks in 44 countries.
- UNESCO coordinates the global tsunami warning systems.



Investing in science, technology and innovation ©UNESCO





**Kalabsha Temple, Nubian monuments from Abu Simbel to Philae** ©UNESCO – Author Christian Manhart

- The UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) promotes intergovernmental cooperation to generate knowledge about nature, ocean resources and coastal areas.
- For more than 40 years, the Man and Biosphere (MAB) program has been concerned with the interference of human activity within the biospheres, and with the relationship between humans and nature. 701 UNESCO biosphere reserves in 124 countries are examples of how people live with nature in a sustainable way.
- The UNESCO LINKS program promotes local and indigenous knowledge and its inclusion in global climate sciences and political processes.
- UNESCO has started a 2-year process to develop the first global tool for setting standards on the ethics of artificial intelligence, covering all areas that guide the development and application of AI in a human-centered manner, respecting human rights and ethical principles.

- UNESCO supports Member States to better understand and address the challenges of our increasingly diverse societies, in particular through the Intergovernmental Program for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST), the Youth Program and the Program for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, which include, among others, initiatives for democracy and global citizenship, intercultural dialogue, peacebuilding.
- UNESCO assists states in developing strategies to prevent violent extremism.
- UNESCO seeks to promote the development and practice of sports activities, as well as the fight against doping, in order to encourage social integration in different cultural and political contexts.
- UNESCO promotes freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, combats hate speech, and deliberate or accidental misinformation.
- UNESCO supports universal access to information and knowledge by promoting open solutions, including open educational resources, by promoting access for marginalized people, multilingualism in cyberspace, by developing curricula for media and information skills (Media and Information Literacy).
- Through the Memory of the World program, UNESCO works closely with Member States to identify, preserve and promote access to the world's documentary heritage, to make it available to all, including future generations.
- UNESCO has become one of the main agencies that effectively implements the New Urban Agenda, and the UNESCO Cities Platform brings together 8 networks and programs, reflecting the cross-cutting approach of the Organization's work to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at the local level.



**UNESCO: democracy, global citizenship, culture of peace**



**Climate change observers**



**Center of excellence in journalistic education, Haiti**



# National Commissions for UNESCO

The global constitutional architecture of UNESCO brings together 193 members, 11 associate members, 1 headquarters in Paris, 53 territorial offices, 9 specialized institutes, 199 National Commissions for UNESCO.

UNESCO is the only UN agency with a global network of national cooperation bodies, known as the National Commissions for UNESCO. This network plays



Launch conference of the Naturweit program

©German Commission for UNESCO



Working session of the National Commissions

©CNR UNESCO

a significant role in connecting with partners, coordinating activities and promoting UNESCO's visibility at country level. Established by the Governments of the Member States in accordance with Article VII of the UNESCO Constitution, the National Commissions function on a permanent basis and associate the governmental and non-governmental bodies of the Member States with the work of the Organization.



Annual meeting of National Commissions

©CNR UNESCO



Workshop at the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Europe

©UNESCO

# National Commission of Romania for UNESCO



On July 27, 1956, Romania officially became a Member State, by ratifying the UNESCO Constitution. Romania's National Commission for UNESCO - CNR UNESCO - was established in the same year.

CNR UNESCO is a governmental institution of the Romanian state, one of the bodies that maintains Romania's relationship with UNESCO, which has 4 roles:

- *liaison role, internal and external: the Commission associates institutions from Romania and abroad with UNESCO activities;*
- *information role: the Commission informs UNESCO at international level, government structures and the general public at national level on UNESCO's objectives and activities;*
- *advisory role: the Commission provides specialized advice to the Government of Romania on matters concerning the activity of UNESCO.*
- *participatory role: the Commission is a multidisciplinary body for analysis, synthesis and coordination of programs, projects and activities in Romania arising from UNESCO's fields of interest and expertise;*



Gala of the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO, 2019

©CNR UNESCO

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Launch of "Open Doors at the National Commission of Romania for UNESCO" ©CNR UNESCO



Performance Marin Cazacu and the Violoncellissimo ensemble ©CNR UNESCO



# UNESCO designations in Romania

## UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST

UNESCO encourages the identification, protection and conservation of the world's cultural and natural heritage, which is considered to be of great value to humanity.

These desideratums are embodied in an international treaty called the Convention on the Pro-

tection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972. The World Heritage List is a list of properties that are part of the cultural heritage and natural heritage of UNESCO Member States, considered of outstanding universal value, based on pre-established criteria.

**Romania has inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List 8 sites, 6 cultural and 2 natural.**



The "Saint Nicholas" Church from Budești © ILIE TUDOREL



Beech forest in Poiana Botizei © ILIE TUDOREL



Exterior painting at the "Saint George" Church of the Voroneț Monastery © ILIE TUDOREL

■ **CHURCHES IN MOLDOVA:** "Beheading of St. John the Baptist" in the village of Arbore; "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint George" of Humor Monastery; "Annunciation" of the Moldovița Monastery; "The Exaltation of the Holy Cross" from Pătrăuți; "Saint George" of the "Saint John the New" Monastery in Suceava; „Saint George" of Voroneț Monastery; "The Resurrection of the Lord" of Sucevița Monastery; "Saint Nicholas" of Probota Monastery.

Built during the 15th - 16th centuries, these churches are authentic works descended from Byzantine art, unique in the world of Orthodoxy, being entirely made with exterior painting. The exceptional historical and iconographic value is given by the surface of the paintings, the perfect symbiosis between color and the built volumes, and the harmony between the polychromy of the facades and the landscape, an authentic illustration of the relationship between sacred and profane. From an iconographic point of view, themes such as the Heavenly Hierarchy, the Tree of Jesse, the Akathist Hymn, the Last Judgment, Genesis, the Ladder of John the Sinai are approached.



Church "Resurrection of the Lord" of Sucevița Monastery



Church "The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist" in the village of Arbore



## ■ ■ WOODEN CHURCHES FROM MARAMUREȘ:

“Entrance to the Church of the Mother of God” in Bârsana, “Saint Nicholas” in Budești, “Saint Paraschiva” in Desești, “Birth of the Mother of God” in Ieud-Deal, “Saint Archangel” in Plopiș, “Saint Paraschiva” in Poienile Izei, “Saint Archangel” in Rogoz, “Saint Archangel” in Șurdești.

The group of churches in Maramureș, dating from the 17th - 18th centuries, represent remarkable examples of a diverse range of architectural solutions from different periods and regions. They express a variety of patterns and crafts adopted in wooden constructions, with various suggestions from Gothic architecture of the Saxon settlements in Transylvania and sub-Carpathian Ukraine. The churches were built by anonymous Romanian craftsmen using the technique of horizontal beam crowns and stand as a testimony of Maramureș art, representing indigenous expressions of the cultural landscape in the mountainous area of northern Romania.



Church “The entrance to the Church of the Mother of God” from Bârsana

© ILIE TUDOREL



The “Holy Archangel” Church from Șurdești

© ILIE TUDOREL



© ILIE TUDOREL

■ ■ **HUREZI MONASTERY**, Romanii de Jos Village, belonging to Horezu Town, Vâlcea County.

Founded in 1690 by Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu in Wallachia, the Horezu Monastery is a work of art representative of the entire monastic area of South-Eastern Europe, a representative example of the Brâncoveanu style.

It is known for its purity, unique artistic manifesto, architectural balance, richness of sculptural details, the way in which the religious composition, the votive paintings and the painted decorative works were approached. Also, the school of murals and icons established at the monastery in the 18th century was famous throughout the Balkan region.



© ILIE TUDOREL





The Dacian fortress Sarmizegetusa Regia - Grădiștea de Munte

#### ■ ■ THE DACIAN FORTRESSES FROM THE ORĂȘTIEI

**MOUNTAINS:** Sarmizegetusa Regia - Grădiștea de Munte, Costești Cetățuia, Costești Blidaru, Luncani - Piatra Roșie, Bănița, Căpâlna.

Built in the 1st centuries BC and AD under the leadership of the Dacians, in the mountainous regions of southern-western Transylvania, the fortresses indicate an unusual fusion of military and religious architectural techniques, but also concepts from the classical world and the Iron Age. The six imposing sanctuaries represent the core of the Dacian civilization and express the power and severity of a young state, rich in resources, heir to protohistoric traditions and Hellenistic elements. The monolithic and sober



The Dacian fortress from Costești Blidaru

monumental conception is built by a special technique, called opus dacicum, with limestone blocks connected by wooden beams, monumental stone stairs, cisterns and towers, circular and rectangular sanctuaries, composed of rows of wooden pillars clad in terracotta tiles, arranged according to remarkable mathematical and astronomical calculations.



Fortified church from the rural site Călnic

#### ■ ■ VILLAGES WITH FORTIFIED CHURCHES IN TRANSYLVANIA:

Călnic, Prejmer, Viscri, Dârjiu, Saschiz, Biertan, Valea Viilor.

These Transylvanian villages, old Saxon localities dating back to the end of the 15th century, with their fortified churches, represent a vivid picture of the cultural landscape in southern Transylvania. The seven inscribed villages, founded by the Saxons colonized at

Fortified church in the rural site of Saschiz



Fortified church from the rural site Dârjiu

the foot of the Carpathians, are distinguished by defensive architecture, fortification of churches, a concern that appeared since the 13th century, as a result of the Mongol invasion (1241-1242), and later the Ottoman Empire invasion (1493). The villages with fortified churches are among the most impressive cultural attractions in Romania, both due to their medieval appearance and to the Saxon traditions preserved over time.

Polyptych altar at the fortified Evangelical Church in the rural site of Prejmer





## ■ ■ SIGHIȘOARA HISTORICAL CENTER

Seven centuries old, the urban site still offers a medieval burg atmosphere today, being one of the best preserved settlements in the European Middle Ages.

Founded by German craftsmen and merchants known as the Saxons in Transylvania, Sighișoara is an impressive example of a small fortified medieval town, which played an important role commercially on the edge of Central Europe for centuries, the guilds of those times even exceeding the number of those in prosperous German cities. Among the monuments that can be visited in the fortress are the Clock Tower, a symbol of the city built in the 16th century, the guild towers (tanners, barbers, tinsmiths, jewelers, rope makers, butchers, furriers, tailors, shoemakers, blacksmiths), the Church of the former Dominican Monastery dedicated to Saint Mary, the Church of Saint Nicholas, the German School Joseph Haltrich, the School Stairs, Vlad the Devil House.



Overview of Sighișoara Fortress



The Hill Church © IRINEL CÎRLĂNARU



Danube Delta, vegetation and canals ©Helmut Ignat



Wild horse ©Helmut Ignat

## ■ ■ DANUBE DELTA

Presented to the world by the great explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau in 1991, the Danube Delta officially took its place on the UNESCO List of World Heritage sites of universal value.

A labyrinth of water and land divided between Romania and Ukraine, the Danube Delta is made up of countless lakes, canals, islands and dunes at the end of a 2,860 km long river. Here we find the largest expanse of wetland and reed, also being the largest natural water purification system in Europe.



Pelicans ©Helmut Ignat

The area, an endless expanse of reeds and water, is also known in terms of the abundance of bird and plant species, over 5,500. In terms of biological diversity, the Danube Delta ranks third in the world, after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Galapagos Archipelago in Ecuador.

About 90 species of fish, including the sturgeon, are found in the Danube Delta. Also here, the European mink, the wild cat, the freshwater otter and the monk seal, all endangered species, have their last refuge.

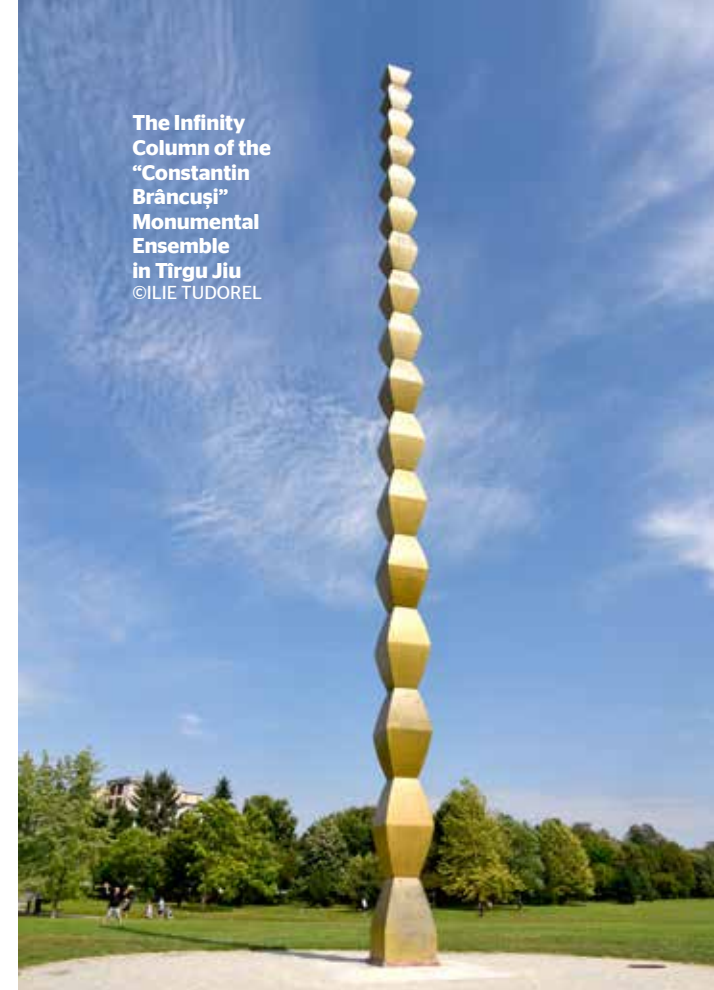




În Poiana Botizei ©ILIE TUDOREL

#### ■ ■ **ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS** of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe.

This World Heritage property consists of 78 components, with a total area of over 90,000 ha, located in 12 countries - Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine. Romania contributes with 12 components, covering a surface of over 23,000 ha, located in eight protected natural areas - Nerei Springs, Cheile Nerei-Beuşniţa, Domogled-Valea Cernei (Caraş Severin), Massif Cozia, Lotrişor (Vâlcea), Secular Forest Şinca (Braşov), Secular Forest Slătioara (Suceava), Groşii Țibleşului, Strâmbu Băiuţ (Maramureş). Romania has the largest area of beech forests, and the Carpathians host the best preserved beech forests in the entire area of the species. They are a real living treasure in terms of science, education, eco-protection and biodiversity.



The Infinity  
Column of the  
“Constantin  
Brâncuşi”  
Monumental  
Ensemble  
in Țirgu Jiu  
©ILIE TUDOREL

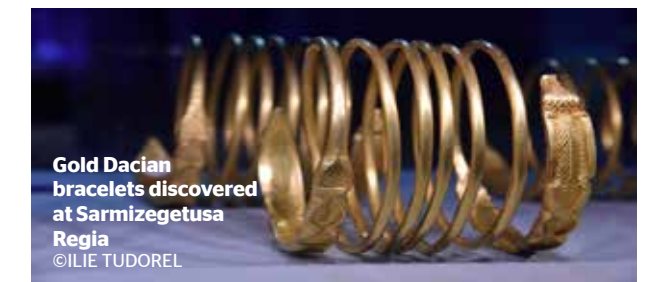


The Church at Curtea  
de Argeş Monastery  
©ILIE TUDOREL

#### INDICATIVE LIST OF ROMANIA

Member States are encouraged to prepare the Tentative (Indicative) List - an inventory of properties located on the territory of a state that it considers suitable for nomination to the UNESCO World Heritage List - with the active participation of all stakeholders, i.e. site administrators, governments local or regional, local communities, non-governmental organizations, etc. The following sites are currently included on the Tentative List of Romania:

- ■ Neamţ Monastery
- ■ Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches from Curtea de Argeş
- ■ The Monumental Ensemble from Țirgu Jiu
- ■ Basarabi cave ensemble
- ■ The “Three Hierarchs” Church from Iaşi
- ■ Cule in Little Wallachia
- ■ Densuş Church
- ■ The historical center of Alba Iulia
- ■ Retezat Massif
- ■ Pietrosul Rodnei (top of the mountain)
- ■ Sînpetru (paleontological site)
- ■ Secular forest Slătioara
- ■ Frontiers of the Roman Empire - Dacia
- ■ Frontiers of the Roman Empire - the Danube Limes
- ■ The Roşia Montană mining cultural landscape
- ■ The historical center of Sibiu and its ensemble of squares
- ■ The old villages of Hollókő and Rimetea and their surroundings



Gold Dacian  
bracelets discovered  
at Sarmizegetusa  
Regia  
©ILIE TUDOREL



**UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE LIST  
OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE  
OF HUMANITY**

The 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage protects and promotes oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, festive rituals and events, knowledge and practices related to nature and the universe, traditional crafts. In order to ensure a better visibility of the intangible cultural heritage, to raise awareness of its significance and to encourage dialogue that respects cultural diversity, the Convention has established a Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Romania is present with 7 elements:

- **THE CĂLUȘ RITUAL.** The Călușari group is a divine herd that fights against the onslaught of the Rusalii (Iele), feminine mythical creatures in Romanian mythology. The entourage of the god Căluș, with whom he delights in the week of the Rusalii, is called Călușari, Căluș, Crai



Călușari ©ILIE TUDOREL

(Flămânda, Mehedinți county), Crăițe (localities around Craiova, Mănăstireni, Salcia, Flămânda, Cojmănești, Căpreni), Buriceni (Turcoaia, Tulcea county).

The Călușari group, strictly hierarchical, is made up of vigorous men who, through the pieces worn, names, imitation of trotting and galloping during the ritual, gestures, etc., seek to resemble or to be confused with horses. At the oath of entry into the group, the Călușari promise that they would not leave it for a certain number of years (3, 7, 9 years).

According to the ritual, the Călușari go through the villages to heal the sick. It is said that through this dance people, animals and crops are protected from evil.



©ILIE TUDOREL



Traditional minstrels singing ©ILIE TUDOREL

- **DOINA.** Known under different names throughout Romania, doina is a lyrical song, solemn, improvised and spontaneous. As the essence of Romanian folklore, until 1900 it was the only musical genre in many regions of the country.

From a technical point of view, the doina can be sung in any context and is always performed solo, with or without instrumental accompaniment (which could traditionally include flute, bagpipes and even improvised instruments).

Doina has a wide range of expressive and the-



Potter working ©ILIE TUDOREL



matic topics that cover joy, sadness, love, loneliness, longing, alienation, regret, social conflicts, etc.

Expressing the personal qualities, emotions and virtuosity of the creator-performer, doina also plays an important social role, providing a cathartic way out that strengthens solidarity. It also gave birth to other artistic genres (dances).

- **CRAFTSMANSHIP OF HOREZU CERAMICS.**

This ceramics is unique, has specific features, which differentiate it from other pottery centers in Oltenia and throughout Romania.

Handmade, on the wheel, the ceramics from Horezu has a special working science, known only by the community of potters who produce it. Laborious steps prove this fact: choosing and extracting the soil from the place called Ulmetului Hill, leavening, kneading, cleaning, cutting, watering, kneading. All these processes make the soil a paste that the potters of Horezu know how to transform by oxidizing combustion into a red ceramic. Due to the special inherited techniques, passed down from father to son, potters feel the earth “in hand” and





Men's group caroling ©ILIE TUDOREL

appreciate with their eyes the dimensions of the “donut” - the lump of soil that is transformed into ceramic objects.

The wheel is the tool that allows to obtain the shape of the object, using a special technique, of fingering, a science of movements - a traditional code of gestures.

■ **MEN'S GROUP COLINDAT, CHRISTMAS-TIME RITUAL**, multinational inscription with the Republic of Moldova. Product of traditional oral culture, it is an ancient winter calendar ritual, documented starting with the 17th century, in the Memorial of Pastor Andreas Mathesius from Cergău Mic, Alba county, where it is condemned the practice of Romanian youth to walk in groups with the Christmas carols.

Initially, the carol marked the winter solstice, probably of Roman origin. The organization of the male group includes rites of election of the leader and his symbolic sacrifice, after fulfilling his mission, reminiscent of the Saturnalia.

Later, this ritual of the inherited oral culture assimilated a Christian message, so that today it cu-



Lad's dances ©ILIE TUDOREL

mulates pre-Christian and Christian characteristics. It is currently practiced in many localities in Romania, during Christmas.

■ **THE LAD'S DANCE** is a kind of men's folk dance practiced in the life of the community at festive events, and which takes place mainly in Transylvania, where we find it in all ethnofolkloric areas. Lad's dances are of great virtuosity, the graphic elements and the rhythm blend harmoniously. All of them include jumping, beating, kicking against time, beating in spurs, and one of the characteristics that clearly differentiates them from other men's dances in our country is the technique of hitting the segments of the legs with the palm.

These movements are generally called *ponturi*. A lad's *pont* comprises a series of well-defined movements, which end with a final movement - “conclusion” (key). When these *ponturi* are played in groups, they are alternated with the so-called “walks” - simpler movements (usually performed in lateral movements). The walks happen out of the need to rest after *ponturi*, which require high energy consumption.

■ **TRADITIONAL WALL-CARPET (SCOARȚE) CRAFTSMANSHIP**, multinational inscription with the Republic of Moldova. The element is spread throughout Romania, being practiced both in the peasant households and in specialized workshops in the Orthodox monasteries of nuns and in family associations. The craft of weaving traditional wall-carpet is very well represented in Maramureș county, northern and central historical province of Moldova (Botoșani, Neamț, Bacău counties), in Prahova and Buzău counties, as well as in Oltenia region (Ilt, Vâlcea, Dolj, Gorj counties).

A reference category of the Romanian folk creation, the wall-carpet is integrated in the great family of woolen fabrics, utilitarian-decorative, destined to protect and ennoble the living space. In Romania, wall-carpet weaving has an ancestral tradition. The name *scoarțe* is of Latin origin, reminiscent of their primary function, similar to the spruce bark used in the past to insulate houses with beamed walls.



The craft of Romanian wall-carpets ©ILIE TUDOREL

■ **CULTURAL PRACTICES ASSOCIATED TO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> OF MARCH**, multinational inscription with the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and North Macedonia.

The tradition of early spring, transmitted since antiquity, to make and wear a braided cord of two threads of wool, cotton or silk, one white and one red, is characteristic of the cultural practices associated with March 1<sup>st</sup>. This cord, called in Romania *mărțișor*, was made by women and given to community members, who wore it starting March 1<sup>st</sup> on the neck, wrist, ankle, around the waist, or, later, pinned with a needle to clothing in the chest area. The wearing period varied from 2-3 days to a few weeks, depending on the area. Then the *mărțișor* was placed on a flowering branch, under a stone, thrown into the well or on the green furrow. *Mărțișor* could also be tied to the horns of animals or at the entrances to the household, house or stable, believing that it has a function of protection and health assurance in the following vegetation and agricultural year.



Traditional customs of March 1<sup>st</sup> ©ILIE TUDOREL





### UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVES

**UNESCO Biosphere Reserves** are areas of terrestrial and coastal marine ecosystems, recognized by the UNESCO “Man and Biosphere” (MAB) program. Biosphere reserves promote solutions that reconcile biodiversity conservation with its sustainable use. They represent learning areas for sustainable development in diverse ecological, social and economic contexts.

In Romania we have 3 such UNESCO biosphere reserves: Danube Delta, mountain complex Pietrosul Mare and Retezat National Park.

Danube Delta ©HELMUT IGNAT

■ ■ **THE DANUBE DELTA**, a young relief formation in continuous consolidation, a cross-border reservation with Ukraine, represents one of the most important tourist regions of Romania, due to the originality of its landscape (relief, water, vegetation, fauna) and human settlements.

At the end of the 2,860 km traveled, from the springs (Donaueschingen - Black Forest in Germany) to the Black Sea (the old Pontus Euxinus), the Danube has been building one of the most beautiful deltas in Europe and in the world for over 12,000 years. Here exist 30 types of ecosystems (23 natural and 7 anthropogenic), in which there are 6,197 species of fauna (5,622 invertebrates, 575 vertebrates) and 2,391 species of flora (the largest compact area of reeds on the planet).



Danube Delta ©HELMUT IGNAT



In Pietrosul Rodnei ©ILIE TUDOREL

■ ■ **PIETROSUL MARE** is the largest mountain complex in the Rodna massif, located in the north of the Eastern Carpathians. Rodna Mountains National Park is the second national park in the country, with an area of 47,152 ha. The importance of this protected area is due both to the geology and geomorphology of the mountains, and to the presence of numerous species of fauna and flora, endemics and glacial relics.

■ ■ **RETEZAT NATIONAL PARK** shelters 1,190 species of plants - over a third of the plant species in Romania - 90 species of endemic plants, 185 species of birds, 80 lakes, the largest glacial lake in Romania - Lake Bucura, the deepest glacial lake in Romania - Zănoaga Lake. The typical glacial relief, with valleys, lakes and glacial basins, combines with the limestone one dotted with gorges, caves and pot-holes.

Mountains of the Retezat massif ©ILIE TUDOREL





**UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS**

UNESCO Global Geoparks are unified geographical areas, where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed through a holistic concept of protection, education, sustainable development and involvement of local communities.

**UNESCO Hațeg Country International Geopark** includes geological, natural and cultural values of international importance. It is a land that preserves over 500 million years of Earth's history, unique dinosaur fossils in the world and great biodiversity. Here we find the historical capitals of the Dacians and Romans, a multiethnic and multi-denominational cultural space.

The main objectives of the Geopark administration are the protection of the local heritage, the consolidation of the development potential of the region and the consolidation of the local identity. The Geopark provides a framework for a less conventional tourist destination, with an emphasis on promoting geodiversity, biodiversity, cultural heritage, geoeducation and geoproducts. The Geopark team uses an innovative approach to developing an infrastructure for geotourism and education.



Digging for fossil remains ©University of Bucharest



Dinosaur ©University of Bucharest



Dinosaur egg nest ©University of Bucharest, Author D. Dinu



House of Volcanoes ©University of Bucharest, Author V. Dumitrescu

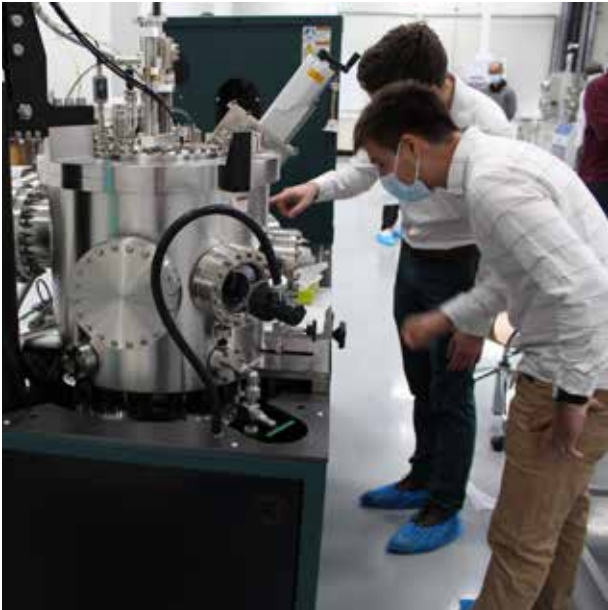


# UNESCO associated structures

*The National Commission of Romania for UNESCO supports the establishment and operation of UNESCO associated structures in Romania.*

## CATEGORY 2 INSTITUTES AND CENTRES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

The Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO are a global network of institutions of excellence in the fields of competence of the Organization: education, culture, natural sciences, socio-human sciences, communication and information. Given their expertise, these institutes and centers contribute to the implementation of UNES-



Laboratory of sedimentation installations  
through evaporation ©CIFRA

CO's strategic priorities, programs and global development agenda, through international and regional cooperation, research, knowledge production, policy advice and capacity building.

Romania has such an entity in the field of Natural Sciences, namely the International Center for Advanced Training and Research in Physics - CIFRA, located in the city of Măgurele, Ilfov county. Its research areas include nanophysics, renewable energy, optics and nanophotonics, astroparticle physics, cosmology, nuclear physics, elementary particle physics, computational physics and materials physics.

### CIFRA objectives include:

- Providing advanced training and research opportunities for scientists from Central and Eastern European countries and developing countries, especially Africa;



Laboratory of spray sedimentation installations  
in magnetron, DC, RF, or pulsed mode ©CIFRA

- Carrying out and coordinating advanced research studies in the field of physics and in related interdisciplinary fields;

- Carrying out promotional activities that provide an international forum for discussion and encourage the formation of regional collaboration networks between scientists.

## UNESCO CHAIRS

UNESCO Chairs are projects set up in higher education or research institutions that enter into a partnership with UNESCO to advance knowledge and practice in areas that are a priority for both those institutions and UNESCO.

There are currently 8 UNESCO Chairs in Romania:

- Business Administration, Bucharest University of Economic Studies

- Interculturality, Good Governance and Sustainable Development, University of Bucharest

- Information Technology, University of Oradea

- Sustainable Development through Research and Education in Modern Physics, "Horia Hulubei" Foundation, Măgurele, Ilfov county

- Quality Management in University Education and Lifelong Learning, "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu

- Policies in Science and Innovation, National School of Political and Administrative Studies, Bucharest

- Culture of Human Rights and Education for Sustainable Development in Preschool and Primary Education, "Dimitrie Cantemir" Christian University of Bucharest

- Engineering for Society, Polytechnic University of Bucharest



Meeting of UNESCO Chairs in Europe  
©Bucharest University of Economic Studies



**UNESCO ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS**

The UNESCO Network of Associated Schools (ASPnet) connects pre-university educational institutions and teacher training centres around the world, placing UNESCO's values and objectives within the participating institutions. The network emphasizes the four pillars of education: learning to know, learning to do, learning to be and, above all, learning to live together. In Romania, the national coordinator, responsible for overseeing the functioning and management of ASPnet at the country level, is one of the experts of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO.



Activity at the headquarters of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO © CNR UNESCO

**CLUBS, CENTERS AND ASSOCIATIONS FOR UNESCO**

Clubs, centers and associations for UNESCO are groups of volunteers of different ages and socio-professional status who work in the service of UNESCO's ideals. Established under the auspices of the National Commissions for UNESCO, these non-governmental organizations are grouped into national, regional and international networks in order to act in UNESCO's areas of competence at local level. In Romania functions the Romanian Federation of Associations, Centers and Clubs for UNESCO.



Activity at the headquarters of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO © CNR UNESCO



**Lake Bucura, Retezat National Park**  
©Administration of the Retezat National Park, Author Claudia D.

