

Study and analysis of the potential application of “Art & Culture” tourist product and related services in the cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria including consultations with the key stakeholders

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I. Background information

1. INTERREG V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme

INTERREG V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme is aimed at the development of the border region between the two countries through the funding of joint projects.

The core element of the Programme strategy is to bring together the cross-border communities as the first step towards sustainable cooperation and to promote their common actions to overcome the physical and socio-cultural barriers, and to better exploit the opportunities offered by the development of the cross-border area for a mid-long-term sustainable growth. The strategy, therefore, sets out to address the specific needs of the Bulgaria-Romania border area both in the short and longer term and supports the overall strategic goal:

To bring together the people, communities and economies of the Romania-Bulgaria border region to participate in the joint development of a cooperative area, using its human, natural and environmental resources and advantages in a sustainable way.

The Programme is implemented through 6 Priority Axes (PA), as follows:

- PA1: A well connected region - aimed at improving transport systems for better interconnection and safety
- PA2: A green region - aimed at improving the sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage
- PA3: A safe region - aimed at improving joint risk management in the cross-border area
- PA 4: A skilled and inclusive region - aimed at encouraging employment and labour mobility
- PA5: An efficient region - aimed at increasing cooperation capacity and efficiency of public institutions
- PA6: Technical Assistance - dedicated to Programme management, communication and visibility

The eligible Programme territory includes 7 Romanian counties (Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarasi and Constanta) and 8 administrative Bulgarian districts (Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Rousse, Silistra and Dobrich), as follows:





Source: <http://www.interregrobg.eu/bg/programme/programme-general-data.html>

2. Project “Active Art for Attractive Tourism - ARTOUR”

The project “Active Art for Attractive Tourism - ARTOUR” has the following objectives:

“Create a thematic art & culture events tourist product based on the natural and cultural heritage in order to promote the CBC region as more attractive tourist destination and better use the potential of the tourism on the lower Danube”

It is intended the tourist product “Art & Culture” to be realized through 3-day plein-air events to be organized at appropriate locations at the Romanian and the Bulgarian territory of the cross-border region with the participation of local artists, painters, writers, musicians, actors, etc. and exhibiting local products, cuisine, drinks, crafts, souvenirs, etc.

The project includes the realization of the following main activities and respective results:



3. Objectives of the study

The objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To collect and analyse the input information for the development of the tourist product “Art&Culture” for the territory of the whole cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria;
- To facilitate the identification of artists, characteristic traditions and tourist facilities on the territory of the whole cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria, which could be included in the tourist product by organizing plein-air events;
- To analyse the potential application of the tourist product “Art&Culture” and the related supplementary services on the territory of the whole cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria.

In the process of performing the study and analysis, the following results are expected to be achieved:



Collected and analysed data related to the development of the tourist product “Art&Culture” for the territory of the whole cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria

Identified artists, characteristic traditions and tourist facilities on the territory of the whole cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria, which could be included in the tourist product by organizing plein-air events

Analysed potential for application of the tourist product “Art&Culture” and the related additional services for the territory of the whole cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria

Carried out consultations with the key stakeholders from the Romanian and Bulgarian territory of the cross-border region

The achieved results will be used in another activity from the project, namely - the development of the tourist product “Art & Culture” and the 5-year programme for its implementation on the territory of the whole cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria.

II. Current status of the local resources in the cross-border region

The present chapter describes the current state of the local resources, which are suitable for use / inclusion in the tourist product "Art & Culture", including tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the cross-border area.

1. Tangible and intangible cultural heritage

Below are described the tangible and intangible cultural heritage resources in the CBC region per country, as follows:

1.1. Romania

The Romanian part of the CBC region consists in the following 7 counties: Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarasi, Constanta.



The national cultural heritage is made up of all the assets that are a testimony and an expression of national values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions, regardless of their property regime.

The main categories of goods constituting the national cultural heritage are:

- the built heritage;
- archaeological heritage;
- mobile cultural heritage;
- the intangible cultural heritage.

The National Heritage Institute (INP) is a governmental institution in Romania established in 2009 by merging the National Office of Historical Monuments with the National Institute of Historical Monuments. In 2011, the Institute for Cultural Memory - CIMEC was merged through absorption with INP.

The official website, www.patrimoniu.ro, is the official source of information on all the recognized cultural goods, in the four abovementioned categories.

a) Intangible heritage

The complete Inventory of living elements of intangible cultural heritage can be found at the following link (in Romanian and French):

<https://patrimoniu.ro/images/imaterial/Repertoriu-national-de-patrimoniu-cultural-imaterial1.pdf>

An excerpt of that inventory, focused on traditional dances in the CBC area, would include:

- Traditional dances in South Oltenia (Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt): *Hora dreaptă; Trandafirul - Hora în două părți; Hora pe trei; Hora iute; Sârba bătrânească - Sârba la comandă; Sârbă - Sârba comună; Sârba la bătaie - Sârba pe bătaie; Ungurica - Sârba în cuplu; Galaonul - Brâu; Alunelul - Brâu; Geamparaua; Rustemul; Țăpușul - Șchiopa; Călușul - Căluș;*
- Traditional dances in South Muntenia (Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarasi): *Hora mare - Hora mare dreaptă; Hora în două părți; Hora pe trei; Hora bătută - Hora pe bătaie; Crăitele - Hora iute; Lăzeasca - Sârba la comandă; Ciuleandra - Sârba comună; Brâul bătrân - Brâul muntenesc; Alunelul - Brâu; Rustemul; Geamparaua; Leasa - Șchiopa; Ca la Breaza - Breaza; Ciobănașul - Polca roată; Drăgaica; Călușul;*
- Traditional dances in Dobrogea (Constanta): *Hora mare - Hora mare dreaptă; Hora în două părți; Hora pe trei; Hora la bătaie; Cârligul - Hora iute; Corlu - Hora macedo-română; RaTa - Sârba la comandă; Ciuleandra - Sârba comună; Brâul șchiop - Brâul muntenesc; Alunelul înfundat - Alunelul; Slănicul - Brâul transilvănean; Rustemul sucit - Rustem; Pătlăgica - Geamapara; Cadâneasca - Șchioapă; Ungureasca - Brează; Ciobănașul - Polca roată; Călușul - Căluș. Hora din Casă, Nuneasca, Hora târgului ; Păpușelele ; Ariciul, Căteaua, Piperul (amuzament); Ursul, dans cu măști ; Drăgaica, păpușelele.*

Such intangible cultural elements could be carried in mind by the organizers of the ARTOUR festivals and, if possible, to organize their performance within the events.

b) Mobile cultural heritage

The mobile national cultural heritage consists of goods of historical, archaeological, documentary, ethnographic, artistic, scientific and technical, literal, cinematographic, numismatic, philatelic, heraldic, bibliophile, cartographic and epigraphic value, representing material testimonies of evolution of natural environment and relations the man with it, the human creative potential and the Romanian contribution, as well as the national minorities in the universal civilization. For the CBC area, we have selected as representative the following museums that host the mobile cultural heritage.

The entire list of museums in Romania can be accessed at:
<http://ghidulmuzeelor.cimec.ro/>

The importance of these museums for the ARTOUR project is that the festivals organized in various locations in the CBC area could also benefit from the cultural heritage hosted within these institutions and provide the participants at the festivals a broader cultural alternative, in addition to the main activities provided by the organizers of the events.

MEHEDINTI COUNTY

Name	Art Museum (Drobeta-Turnu Severin)
Description	The building that houses the Museum of Art is a true architectural monument (Baroque stucco and 1900 Art decors, wall paintings, mirror mosaics and stained glass windows). The museum's simpis represent numerous works, some masterpieces, signed by great names like Luchian, Petrascu, Pallady, Tonitza, Dimitrescu, Șirato, Stoenescu, Iser, Ressu. Almost one hundred works signed by the painter Mehedinti Ghiaca increase the valences of the artistic heritage of the museum. You can add the female segment of art through Rodica Maniu, Micaela Eleutheriade, Lucia Dem. Bălăcescu, Magdalena Radulescu, Margareta Sterian. Through the volumetric presence of sculptures in marble, stone, wood, bronze, signed Medrea, Baraschi, Irimescu, Jalea, Borgo Prund, Dorio Lazar, Lucaci, the collections of the Severin Museum are completed.



Name

Description

The Topolnita Cave (Balta)

It is a natural cave, partially inhabited by humans, with an absolute altitude of 434 m; Relative to 84 m. It has five openings and has a total length of 20,500 m. The cave is gigantic, with a network of galleries disposed on four levels: both fossil subfossil one active and the other as a result of the action of the three streams of water. The cave was signaled in 1880 by V. Dumitrescu; in 1898 Gheorghe Murgoci deals with her; N. Densussanu in 1913 and I. Vintilescu in 1941, in 1961, V. Decu; and join Marcian Bleahu, I. Burden and G. Diaconu in 1974. It was divided cavers in several sectors (exploration is unfinished). More importantly, from archaeological point of view, it is the Women's Cave, which is reached Bats and then corridor precincts where they were identified fireplaces dating from the Neolithic, from the Dacian and Medieval times. Together with these were ceramic materials or metal parts. Archaeological researches were done outside, uncovering the ovens to reduce the Dacian iron ore. The research was also attended by E. Bujor, Vasile Boroneanț and others. In several places in the cave, fossil fauna (*Ursus spaeleus*) was also identified. It is one of the most beautiful and important caves in the world. The cave is protected and closed to the tourist circuit. The visit is controlled. The archaeological traces discovered date back to the epochs: Neolithic, Hallstatt, Dacian, Middle Ages. The research was also attended by E. Bujor, Vasile Boroneanț and others. In several places in the cave, fossil fauna (*Ursus spaeleus*) was also identified. It is one of the most beautiful and important caves in the world. The cave is protected and closed to the tourist circuit. The visit is controlled. The archaeological traces discovered date back to the epochs: Neolithic, Hallstatt, Dacian, Middle Ages. The research was also attended by E. Bujor, Vasile Boroneanț and others. In several places in the cave, fossil fauna (*Ursus spaeleus*) was also identified. It is one of the most beautiful and important caves in the world. The cave is protected and closed to the tourist circuit. The visit is controlled. The archaeological traces discovered date back to the epochs: Neolithic, Hallstatt, Dacian, Middle Ages.

Name

Description

The "Iron Gates Hydropower" Exhibition (Drobeta-Turnu Severin)

It features pieces of history and ethnography from the Iron Gates area, exhibits related to the construction of the Danube hydroelectric power plant.

Name

Description

Museum of the Iron Gates Region (Drobeta-Turnu Severin)

It exhibits pieces from the fields: natural sciences (fauna and flora, aquarium for Danube fauna and exotic fish), history - documents, archeology (including a lapidarium from the Roman age), numismatics, ethnography (port, ceramics, (works by Luchian, Petrascu, Pallady, Tonitza, Dimitrescu, Șirato, Stoenescu, Iser, Ressu). The History and Archeology section is composed of nine halls:



Prehistory - the remains of the material and spiritual life of the Schela Cladovei culture, the Geto-Dacian civilization, the Dacian-Roman Wars, the Roman antique monuments (the Drobeta bridge from 103-105), the Spiritual Life at Drobeta, Medieval History, Modern Age, Romanian Feudal Art and Contemporary Age. The Natural Science Exhibition, inaugurated on May 15, 1972, presents the physical and geographical conditions of the Iron Gates Deflection (Hall I), the flora and fauna of the Iron Gates Deflection (Hall II), the Danubian ichthyofauna of the reservoir of Iron Gates (Aquarium), flora and fauna specific to the aquatic environment in the area Iron Gates (Hall III). The exhibition ends with aspects related to cosmogony, the emergence of life on Earth, paleontological evidence, the origin and evolution of man (Sala IV). The ethnography and folk art department has a valuable and rich heritage, documentary value. The basic exhibition presents primarily aspects of rural civilization in Mehedinți and Iron Gate. Next to it is Roman Drobeta Castle and foot of Trajan's bridge. the Danubian ichthyofauna of the Iron Gates (aquarium) reservoir, flora and fauna specific to the aquatic environment in the Portile de Fier (Hall III). The exhibition ends with aspects related to cosmogony, the emergence of life on Earth, paleontological evidence, the origin and evolution of man (Sala IV). The ethnography and folk art department has a valuable and rich heritage, documentary value. The basic exhibition presents primarily aspects of rural civilization in Mehedinți and Iron Gate. Next to it is Roman Drobeta Castle and foot of Trajan's bridge. The Danubian ichthyofauna of the Iron Gates (aquarium) reservoir, flora and fauna specific to the aquatic environment in the Portile de Fier (Hall III). The exhibition ends with aspects related to cosmogony, the emergence of life on Earth, paleontological evidence, the origin and evolution of man (Sala IV). The ethnography and folk art department has a valuable and rich heritage, documentary value. The basic exhibition presents primarily aspects of rural civilization in Mehedinți and Iron Gate. Next to it is Roman Drobeta Castle and foot of Trajan's bridge. The ethnography and folk art department has a valuable and rich heritage, documentary value. The basic exhibition presents primarily aspects of rural civilization in Mehedinți and Iron Gate. Next to it is Roman Drobeta Castle and foot of Trajan's bridge. The ethnography and folk art department has a valuable and rich heritage, documentary value. The basic exhibition presents primarily aspects of rural civilization in Mehedinți and Iron Gate. Next to it is Roman Drobeta Castle and foot of Trajan's bridge.



DOLJ COUNTY

Name

Art Museum of Craiova

Description

Established in 1908 under the names of Pinacoteca Alexandru and Aristia Aman, the Craiova Art Museum will become in 1954. The museum is housed in a late Baroque palace, the Jean Mihail Palace, an architectural monument built between 1900 and 1907, inaugurated in 1909, according to the plans of French architect Paul Gottereau. The palace was donated to the state in 1936. The building also has a memorial value: in 1913, King Carol I and his family were housed in this building from September 19 to October 9, 1939, housed the sheltered Polish government, headed by Eduard Smigli-Ritz and from November 5 to December 25, 1939, was host of Polish President Ignacy Moscicki. Also here were the negotiations of the summer of 1940, after which Romania gave to Bulgaria Cadrilaterul. In September 1943, here was the 53rd Army Command, led by General Manakarov. In the autumn of 1944 Josip Broz Tito lived in the building for five weeks, and on September 5, 1944, the agreement between the National Committee for the Liberation of Yugoslavia and the Homeland of Bulgaria was signed here. The museum presents the collections of universal paintings (Dutch, Flemish, French, Italian) and Romanian (16th-20th centuries, works by Constantin Lecca, Theodor Aman, Stefan Luchian, Nicolae Tonitza), seven sculptures by Constantin Brâncuși, Romanian graphics. The objects are exhibited in the Universal Art Gallery, the Romanian Art Gallery and the Constantin Brâncuși Cabinet. and on September 5, 1944, the agreement between the National Committee for the Liberation of Yugoslavia and the Homeland of Bulgaria was signed here. The museum presents the collections of universal paintings (Dutch, Flemish, French, Italian) and Romanian (16th-20th centuries, works by Constantin Lecca, Theodor Aman, Stefan Luchian, Nicolae Tonitza), seven sculptures by Constantin Brâncuși, Romanian graphics. The objects are exhibited in the Universal Art Gallery, the Romanian Art Gallery and the Constantin Brâncuși Cabinet. and on September 5, 1944, the agreement between the National Committee for the Liberation of Yugoslavia and the Homeland of Bulgaria was signed here. The museum presents the collections of universal paintings (Dutch, Flemish, French, Italian) and Romanian (16th-20th centuries, works by Constantin Lecca, Theodor Aman, Stefan Luchian, Nicolae Tonitza), seven sculptures by Constantin Brâncuși, Romanian graphics. The objects are exhibited in the Universal Art Gallery, the Romanian Art Gallery and the Constantin Brâncuși Cabinet. Nicolae Tonitza), seven sculptures by Constantin Brâncuși, the Romanian icons and graphics collections. The objects are exhibited in the Universal Art Gallery, the Romanian Art Gallery and the Constantin Brâncuși Cabinet. Nicolae Tonitza), seven sculptures by Constantin Brâncuși, the Romanian icons and graphics collections. The objects are





exhibited in the Universal Art Gallery, the Romanian Art Gallery and the Constantin Brâncuși Cabinet.

Name	Museum of Oltenia (Craiova)
Description	The museum was established in 1915 as a museum of ethnography and antiquities. In 1928 it became the Regional Museum of Oltenia. The headquarters of the museum are in the building that houses the Department of History - Archeology, Historical and Architectural Monument (1906). At present the museum has collections of history (medieval weapons, flags, period costumes, medieval art), archeology (pottery, weapons, tools, a warehouse from the Bronze Age discovered at Ghidici, Roman and Medieval lapidarium etc.), numismatics, ethnography, natural sciences, old books, facsimiles. The museum's library has over 12,000 volumes. Partially closed for renovation.

OLT COUNTY

Name	Museum of the Brâncoveni Monastery (Brancoveanu)
Description	Ample monastic fortified ensemble under Matei Basarab (1634 - 1640), restored by Constantin Brancoveanu in the years 1699 - 1702. In the cellars of the Egumen house and the rooms of this edifice there are exposed lithic pieces of special value coming from the architecture and the decoration of famous monuments medieval buildings in Bucharest, demolished before 1990 (Văcărești Monastery, Sfântu Spiridon-Vechi and Saint Vineri churches etc.) and recovered under the guidance of PS Calinic. In the museum there are exhibited valuable pieces belonging to the Brâncoveni Monastery and some parishes in the area. The basic exhibition of the museum, organized in 10 rooms of the specially designed egumen house, consists of precious metal liturgical pieces, icons and old books.

Name	Muzeul Romanatiului (Caracal)
Description	The museum functioned on 27 September 1949 in a building on Negru Voda Street no. 1, until December 1, 1992. Initially it had three collections, which later became enriched with valuable objects from the archaeological researches in Slăveni, Romula, Fărcășele or from donations and acquisitions. It took the name of a district museum, then a town museum, until April 30, 1990, when it returned to its original title. Architectural monument from the second half of the 19th century, the building belonged to Iancu N. Dobruneanu (nephew of the outlaw Iancu Jianu). The building is guarded by columns with composite capitals and richly decorated neoclassic fronts. The permanent exhibition is organized in eight halls with an exposure area of 400 sqm. The archaeological



collections include hand axes belonging to plum culture, anthropomorphic figurines and neolithic vessels (Vadastra culture), silex tools, early Neolithic cult chambers (cultural group Cârcea-Gradinile), hallstatt and La Tene vessels and objects, ceramics, opaques, gems, fibula, inscriptions, statuettes, coins from the Roman era, indicating an ancient habitation of the area, especially in the settlements of Dobrosloveni (Romula) and Hotarani. Documents and old books, proofs of occupations related to agriculture, crafts and trade, evoke the history of the settlement, mentioned as early as 1538. Ceramic pottery, earrings, bracelets, pallets, medieval coin treasure discovered in Vlădila illustrate the medieval period in the area. Iancu Jianu's figure and the 19th century social troubles are captured by an exhibition devoted to modern history: documents relating to the revolution of 1848, weapons, medals and uniforms, photos. The library comprises 2,140 specialized volumes.

Name

Olt County Museum (Slatina)

Description

After the First World War some Slavic collectors initiated private collections, especially archeology, numismatics and folk art. On 1 May 1952 the Slatina Rayon Museum was inaugurated. The collector Jack Florescu arranges in his own house two showrooms for the collection. The archaeological excavations from Slatina

(Strehareț), Brebeni and Draganesti-Olt, in the Verbicioara settlement from Donești (Vulturești), from Sprâncenata, from Acidava (Enoșești - Piatra Olt)), from Chilia (free Dacians), or from Ipotești settlement (Ipotești-Cândești-Ciurelu culture) substantially enrich the original collections. The collections of archeology attest to a continuum of inhabitation and uninterrupted civilization on the Lower Olt Valley through parts that support the prehistoric or ancient material and spiritual culture: ceramics, tools, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic statuettes; others testify to the Geto-Roman civilization, the Roman civilization in the Alutan and the Transaltuan Limes, the continuity of habitation in the migration era (two cultures of this period are discovered in Olt: Chilia Culture and Ipotești Culture near Slatina - Cândești - Ciurelu) maintaining connections with the Byzantine Empire (7th-century Byzantine coin treasure, digital fibula and Byzantine tradition). The Middle Ages are reflected by a series of testimonies illustrating the connections of some voivodes with Olt County: Vlad Vintila, Mihai Viteazul, Matei Basarab and Constantin Brancoveanu; documents about large families such as: Buzești, Brâncoveanu, Deleanu etc .; weapons; old book; ornaments; numismatics - coins or treasures confirming sustained commercial activity in an important customs place like Slatina (documentary attestation on January 20, 1368). The modern age includes collections of documents, weapons, press, vintage photographs, decorative art and highlights the role of urban settlement in processes of national renewal and affirmation. The art section includes works of painting

and contemporary sculpture and is focused, to give it personality, to the creations of the original artists from Olt County. At present, the Olt County Museum has two sections open to the public: the Department of History and Culture of Slatina (permanent exhibition inaugurated on April 20, 2000)

TELEORMAN COUNTY

Name	Teleorman County Museum (Alexandria)
Description	It was established as a town museum in 1952. In 1981, it turned into a County Museum Complex. In 1997, it moved into a new building. It holds archaeological collections, especially from the Neolithic and the Geto-Dacian period, originating in the sites of Ciolănești Deal, Siliștea, Vitănești, Zimnicea, Orbeasca de Sus, Albești etc., coin hoards uncovered at Poiana, Sfințești, Schitu, Poroschia, Alexandria, Ulmeni, Balta Sărată etc. The visitors can also see, a rich regional ethnographic collection, presented in a permanent exhibition, and the art collection. It has a conservation laboratory and pottery, metal and paper restoration workshops. Currently it participates in an international (RomanianEnglish) project regarding the research into the prehistorical dwelling on the Teleorman Valley, together with the National History Museum of Romania and the University of Cardiff. The museum is involved in several research and social projects. The museum owns goods listed in the National Cultural Heritage Treasure.

GIURGIU COUNTY

Name	"Teohari Antonescu" County Museum (Giurgiu)
Description	Collection(s) Legally it was established in 1934, but it lacked a place of its own. The materials gathered were sheltered in a room of the "Ion Măiorescu" High School, due to the goodwill of its director, Savin Popescu. In the '50's a group of enthusiasts, including Rădulescu and Mihai Ionescu, founded the County Museum of Giurgiu, starting from the excavations of Professor Dumitru Berciu. The museum first had a natural sciences collection, and later archaeology and art ones. After 1968, following the administrative reorganization, it turned into a county museum for the county of Ilfov. After 1990, it resumed the old name, as an independent county museum. The building is a historic monument, the former premises of the Vlașca Prefecture. The first body dates from the 19th century (1777 - 1778); in 1903 it was enlarged and modernized. It conserves and exhibits pieces of history; archaeology: lithic pieces from the Palaeolithic,



pottery and idols from the Neolithic, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, tools, pottery, ornaments, coins, weapons, documents from the Middle Ages and the Modern Age; ethnography items. There are eight ground floor halls. Three of them are dedicated to prehistory and ancient history: Neolithic idols, anthropomorphic and zoomorphic pottery of Sultana (Gumelnița), items belonging to the Tei culture. Other three halls illustrate mediaeval history: the artillery missiles collection of Giurgiu fortress, sgraffito pottery. The modern history halls present the period from 1821 to Alexandru Ioan Cuza: marble coats of arms on the frontispiece of certain buildings, map collection, including the design of the Giurgiu Fortress of 1790, worked out by the Austrians, a recent acquisition; the one hundred year history of the Giurgiu shipyard; collection of over 19,000 periodicals: the complete collections of "Resboiul", "Fundațiile Regale", "Viața Românească", "Flacăra", "Furnica" etc., paintings (Sava Henția, Vermont, Corneliu Baba, Basarab, Theo Sion, Știubei, etc.), sculptures (Romanelli), graphics (Bulgăraș) collection of ancient, mediaeval and modern coins; library, rare books. The museum owns goods listed in the National Cultural Heritage Treasure.

Name "Teohari Antonescu" County Museum. Ethnography and Folk Art Departament

Description It holds valuable collections relating to the life, culture and folk art on the territory of Vlăsia and Burnas, the Danube River Meadow, Mostiștea Valley and Bărăgan Plain. The exhibits include local ethnography items: costumes, interior textiles, rugs, artefacts and tools for agriculture, fishing, bee-keeping, smith's work, furrier's work etc. The museum was opened in 1971 as an ethnographic museum of the Danube Plain. The museum presents textiles and folk costumes, pottery, objects related to traditional crafts, wood and metal works. In the main hall there are beautiful woolen rugs and carpets with geometric and floral motifs, handmade textiles of linen, hemp, cotton or silk.

Name "Teohari Antonescu" County Museum. Memorial History Department

Description The department has its own location in Giurgiu (14, George Coșbuc str.), in a monument building, recently restored. Here are housed rare and bibliophile book deposits, memorial documentary funds, paper restoration workshop and book binding lab, as well as a computer office. It also adminstrates the Memorial House of the writer Petre Ghelmez from Gogosari, inaugurated in 2004. The most important memorial fund comes from the literary scholar Nicolae Cartojan. Numerous writers, historians, scientists born in the localities of the county, who have activated part of their careers in Wallachian lands or whose passages through Giurgiu have left significant traces in their life and work, are the object of accumulation of patrimony and information (Ion Barbu, Teohari Antonescu, Nichifor Crainic, Nicolae Dărăscu, Petre Ghelmez, Emil



Culian, Dumitru Karnabatt, Victor Karpis, Ion Vinea, Tudor Vianu, Dimitrie Bolintineanu, IA Bassarabescu, Emanoil Bucuța). Another important memorial fund comes from the archaeologist Dumitru Berciu, the founder of the institution, a memorial hall being dedicated to him. The museum capitalizes on the researches in this section within the "Restitutions" series, performs exhibitions and manifestations in partnerships with other cultural institutions. (source: <http://www.muzeulgiurgiu.ro/index.php/2014/12/12/istorie-memoriala/#more-918>)

CALARASI COUNTY

Name Lower Danube Museum (Călărași)

Description The Călărași museum was founded in 1950. Between 1968 and 1987, it was a department of history and archaeology of the Ialomița County Museum. Since 1987, it has been a county museum of its own. The building is a monument of architecture from the end of the 19th century, housing a rich collection of archaeology: Neo-Eneolithic items (pottery, figurines), anthropomorphic figurines from the Roman period, and the collection of Roman lamps, Byzantine ornaments from Păcuiu lui Soare, ancient and mediaeval coins, as well as collections of ethnography, modern Romanian art and exhibits illustrating local history.

Name Lower Danube Museum. Archaeology and Treasure Department (Călărași)

Description Collection(s) The section was inaugurated in June 9, 2012. The section area was designed and fitted with the latest modern equipment, ensuring enhanced security, in accordance with the legislation in force. This fact has made possible, for the first time, the exhibition of exceptional items which are part of the museum thesaurus; these items are illustrating the Danubian communities' evolution from prehistory to the end of antiquity. There are exhibited: archaeological artefacts from Neolithic (pots and cups from Boian culture, statuettes from Gumelnița and Hamangia cultures) and, also, numismatic items discovered on Călărași County's territory, such as: the thasian tetradrachmas thesaurus from Boșneagu, the Roman republican denarii thesaurus from Jegălia and Bora thesaurus, consisting of gold and silver coins dating from the XVI century.



Name	Lower Danube Museum. Ethnography and Folk Art Department (Călărași)
Description	Collection(s) The collection includes items of folk costumes, tools industries, the textiles (rugs, indoor textile, towels), household utensils, equipment for processing wool, icons, household objects used in the textile industry.

CONSTANTA COUNTY

Name	"King Ferdinand I" National Military Museum. Constanța Branch (Constanța)
Description	The exhibits include military history items: weapons, uniforms, medals, documents and

Name	Folk Art Museum (Constanța)
Description	In 1975, the folk art collection was established within the Art Museum of Constanța, and in 1980 it became a department of its own. Since 1985 the acquisitions have been oriented towards the other ethnographic areas. Since 1990 it has been a fully independent institution. The permanent exhibition includes all the folk art genres distributed on ethnographic areas, as the museum has a national status. The building museum dates from 1893 and is a monument of architecture. Originally it was a city hall, then post office. It was restored in 1973, 1978, and 1989. The museum comprises folk art collections: pottery, wood and glass icons, metalwork, folk costumes, rugs, fabrics, textiles, ornaments. The ceramic, wood and metal domestic items are of various patterns. The interior fabrics - towels, table cloths, sheets, rugs etc. - made of cotton, cocoon silk and wool are also of a high variety of patterns. The 4 m long towels belong to the old peasant interiors. The flower, plant, animal and human motifs, alternating with stripes of various widths create specific patterns. The wool fabrics for decor or domestic use have patterns alternating stripes, geometrical motifs, evenly and continuously distributed.

Name	Museum of the Romanian Navy (Constanța)
Description	On the 2nd of June 1969 the Museum of Romanian Navy was designated as a republican institution, a museum of the first category, unique in this country. Located in the building of the former Naval School, on the 3rd of August 1969 it opened at Constanța. Its focus lay on the navy, exhibition organized at Mangalia starting with 1965. The museum has four departments: the ancient, middle, modern and contemporary ages, presented in 30 halls spanning 10,775 sq.m. The ground floor is dedicated to the most important events in the history of the Navy during the antiquity and the Middle Ages. The original exhibits in



this hall include the amphora with sheep suet from the 3rd century AD, the monoxil from the 15th century, the box with sailing tools from the 16th - 17th centuries, side arms, coins, etc. On the upper floor, the exhibits evoke the evolution of navy organization, of the Romanian harbours and naval sites. One can admire navy uniforms from 1860 to the present, orders and medals awarded to the heroes of Romanian Navy, weapons, manuals and sailing courses, broadcasting - reception equipment. In the park of the museum there are on display battle ships, ship engines, anchors and helixes, as well as navy artillery pieces. The most valuable cultural property assets are included in the collections "Fire Arms", "Orders and Medals", "Plaques and Badges", "Uniforms and Uniform Accessories", "Navy Models", "Anchors", Picture Gallery, Photograph Gallery, "Coins", book collections. The museum heritage includes unique collections, such as: "Sailing Tools", "Archaeological Finds", "Lenses and Lighthouse Models", "Battle Standards, Pavilions, Navy Marks and Flags", "Ship Helixes", "Artillery and Artillery Pieces", "Weapons under Water", "Seals", "Sea Maps and Ship Plans", "Art Items", "Photograph Albums", "Graphics and Sculptures", "Ships and Ship Fragments", "Transmissions", "Ship Engines", "Military Licenses, Diplomas and Documents", the collections Miscellanea 1 - Books of Impressions, honour books, lectures of various personalities, Miscellanea 2 - sheets, posters, newspaper cuts, and Miscellanea 3 - personal archive (memoirs, certificates, tickets, property titles, diplomas, personal belongings, poems, books, etc.). The museum holds 33 collections (of which 22 museum collections, 8 documentary stock and 3 miscellanea) and over 37,500 cultural property assets.

Name	"Callatis" Archaeological Museum (Mangalia)
Description	It houses Prehistoric, Gaetic, Greek and Roman archaeology items found in Mangalia and its surroundings: vessels, amphorae, glass containers, pipes, the mosaic of a Hellenistic room, a hoard, the Papyrus Tomb inventory, statuettes of Tanagra, bas-reliefs. The museum owns goods listed in the National Cultural Heritage Treasure.
Name	"Esmahan Sultan" Mosque (Mangalia)
Description	It is the oldest mosque on today Romanian territory, a monument of Oriental architecture built in 1575 preserving tombstones 300 years old. It was restored.

Annex RO1 contains a complete list of museums that host mobile cultural heritage collections in the CBC area.



c) Historical monuments

The list of historical monuments in Romania includes all the historical monuments inscribed in the national cultural patrimony of Romania. The list is maintained and updated periodically by the Ministry of Culture, Religious Affairs and National Heritage in Romania, the last republication dating from 2015.

For the CBC area, the List includes a significant number of cultural elements. The complete list (in Romanian) can be accessed, by county, on the Internet website of the National Institute of Patrimony:

<https://patrimoni.ro/monumente-istorice/lista-monumentelor-istorice>

The most important monuments are described in the next chapter, for each location chosen.

d) Archaeological sites

The Romanian Archeological Repertory (RAN) of Romania was established by Government Ordinance no. 43/2000 on the protection of the archaeological heritage and the declaration of some archaeological sites as areas of national interest and by the OMC no. 2458 of 21.10.2004 on the Regulation of the National Archaeological Repertory.

The National Archaeological Repertory, administered by the Ministry of Culture through the National Heritage Institute, includes scientific, cartographic, topographic, imagery and plans, as well as any other information related to:

- a) areas with known and researched archaeological potential, areas with known and unchecked archaeological potential, as well as areas whose archaeological potential becomes known by chance or as a result of preventive or rescue archeological research;
- b) monuments, ensembles and historical sites where archeological research has been or are being carried out;
- c) scientific information on movable goods discovered in historical areas or monuments referred to in a) and b).
- d) destroyed or missing archaeological sites.

Due to the large number of sites, we have only selected the urban settings from the region.

The complete repertory (in Romanian) can be accessed online at:

<http://ran.cimec.ro/sel.asp?Lang=EN>



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Constanta County

Name	Archaeological site of Histria - Cetate (Istra)
Description	On the shore of Lake Sinoe, 5 km SE from Istria. Surface of the site - 70,000 sqm

Mehedinti County

Name	Roman town Dierna from Orșova
Description	Dierna developed as a civilian city without a military garrison. It did not exceed the rank of municipium. The late Roman fortification overlaps in part the ancient civilian settlement. According to the research, the Roman settlement was concentrated in two areas: the first stretches along the river, and the second lies between the two necropolises.

Name	Roman city of Drobeta
Description	Civil housing Urban settlement

Constanta County

Name	The ancient city of Tomis in Constanța
Description	The Cathedral Park, between Bd. Ferdinand, the East falaise of the city up to Modern beach, Casino, Poarta 1, commercial port, Marinariilor Boulevard, Traian street

Name	The Greek-Roman Town of Tomis (23 Archiepiscopiei Street)
Description	East Revolution Street, Archbishopric Street West, St. Peter's Cathedral and Paul's Cathedral, and Episcopal Palace at North

Name	Urban settlement of the Mangalia Greek era, Constanta avenue
Description	Urban settlement



www.interregrobg.eu

1.2. Bulgaria

The Bulgarian part of the eligible area under the Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme covers 8 districts from Bulgaria - Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Veliko Tarnovo, Ruse, Silistra and Dobrich.

The main categories of cultural heritage are:

- The tangible cultural-historic heritage including:
 - Immovable property
 - Movable property
- The intangible cultural-historic heritage

The sources of information about the tangible immovable cultural objects are:

- UNESCO list of cultural heritage for objects with international importance
- National Register of the Ministry of Culture for objects of national importance at: <http://mc.government.bg/page.php?p=58&s=429&sp=430&t=244&z=576>
- Register of objects with local importance available at the Websites of the districts and municipalities from the Bulgarian part of the CBC region

The sources of information about the intangible cultural-historic heritage are:

- Register of the intangible cultural heritage at: <http://bulgariaich.com/index.php>
- Cultural calendars from the Websites of the districts and municipalities in the CBC area

The collected data about the number of cultural-historic objects in the Bulgarian part of the CBC region shows the following:

Object	Number
Cultural objects of movable property	Over 100,000
Cultural objects of immovable property	312
Cultural monuments in category "Global significance" /incl. cultural and historical sites/	2
Cultural monuments in category "National significance" /incl. cultural and historical sites/	312
Cultural monuments in category "Local significance" /incl. cultural and historical sites/	537
Cultural monuments in category "Ensemble importance" /incl. cultural and historical sites/	54
Cultural monuments category "For information" /incl. cultural and historical sites/	68

The collected information about the most significant objects of the cultural-historic heritage in the Bulgarian part of Romania-Bulgaria CBC region is given in Annex BG1 - List of cultural heritage in the Bulgarian part of the CBC region.

2. Natural and cultural-historic locations

As the objective of the programme is to increase the number of overnight stays in the region, which means attracting tourists from other regions, that will use the accommodation facilities existing in the event location (or nearby), the focus in the present study was to identify possible locations that meet certain criteria:

- a) Large urban setting, or close by large urban settings (in the reach of common transportation means)
- b) Easy access to transportation infrastructure
- c) Rich cultural offer (as the participants in the event might also visit the local cultural attractions, in addition to participating to the events' activities)
- d) Potential to attract tourist from the region or other regions, which means accommodation capacity (hotels, pensions, villas) and food serving facilities (restaurants, pubs, bars, etc.).

As the cultural offer was detailed in the first chapter of the present study, the current chapter focuses on describing the other characteristics of the locations, plus a description of the most relevant monuments (not included in the previous chapter).

2.1. Romania

Since the accommodation and food serving capabilities are of critical importance, an overview of the facilities offered in the Romanian part of the CBC region is as follows:

No. of places for accommodation by county:

- Constanta - 121.916 places
- Dolj - 4.294 places
- Mehedinti - 2.928 places
- Olt - 1.452 places
- Giurgiu - 1.343 places
- Calarasi - 1.255 places



- Teleorman - 830 places

No. of places for food serving facilities by county:

- Constanta - 178.537 places
- Dolj - 12.524 places
- Mehedinti - 8.041 places
- Olt - 5.537 places
- Calarasi - 3.781 places
- Teleorman - 3.295 places
- Giurgiu - 2.342 places

The list of hotels and restaurants in the Romanian part of the CBC region is given in Annexes RO2 and RO3 respectively.

From this point of view, the following possible locations can be identified:

- Constanta county - Constanta city and Mangalia
- Dolj county - Craiova
- Mehedinti county - Drobeta Turnu Severin
- Giurgiu county - Giurgiu
- Olt county - Slatina
- Calarasi county - Calarasi
- Teleorman county - Alexandria

General information regarding Constanta County

Main City: Constanta

Other 11 towns of Constanta county: Medgidia, Mangalia, Navodari, Cernavoda, Ovidiu, Murfatlar, Harsova, Eforie, Techirghiol, Baneasa, Negru Voda

Area: 6,890 Sq km

Culture, art and history

- 1) Constanta Planetarium
- 2) The Astronomical Observatory and the Constanta Solar Station
- 3) Mini reservation of Exotic Animals and Birds Constanta
- 4) Museum of Natural Sciences Constanta - Delfinariu

Website: www.delfinariu.ro

5) The Constanta Aquarium is the first public aquarium in Romania and was inaugurated on May 1, 1958. The building that shelters it, built at the beginning of the 20th century, had to be completely rearranged, having until 1950 another destination. For this reason the construction does not meet the requirements of a modern aquarium. However, the Constanta aquarium remained the largest institution of its kind in the country, although other museums of nature sciences have also set up sections with the same profile.

Museums

Art Museum "Dinu and Sevasta Vintila" Topalu, Constanta County
Constanta Port Museum
Military History Museum Constanta
The sculpture museum "Ion Jalea" Constanta
Museum of the Romanian Navy
Website: www.fortele-navale.ro;

Monuments of History

The Roman wall of the Tomis Fortress

Address: Intersection of Mircea cel Batran str. With Dragoș-Vodă, intersection bd. Ferdinand with 1907 Riscal Street, along Bd. Ferdinand until the Fantasio Theater, with the extension to the intersection of Bd. Ferdinand with St. St. Mihăileanu and continuing to Gate 3 Port
sec. III - VI pp. Chr., Roman period

The Archeological Site of the Ancient Town of Tomis

It is located on the peninsula of Constanta.

The Victoria Monument of Constanta, the work of sculptor Boris Caragea, unveiled in 1968, features scenes from the anti-fascist struggle.

The Tropaeum Traiani Monument of Adamclisi

It is located near Adamclisi, 60 km from Constanta and was raised from the order of Emperor Trajan between the years 106 to 109 AD to commemorate a victory of the Romans in the first Daco-Roman war. It was reconstructed in 1977 according to a hypothetical model, it has a height of 40 m and around it is decorated with metope (rectangular slab) that depicts scenes from the battle; of the 54 initial metopes are still 48.

The statue of the Roman poet Ovidius

It is located in Ovidiu Square, in the old part of the city, in front of the National Museum of History and Archeology. It was created in 1887 and is the work of the Italian artist Ettore Ferrari. An identical reply can be seen from 1925 in Sulmona, Italy. The statue is made of bronze and is placed on a white marble base, on which is written a text from "Triste". The Roman poet Publius Ovidius Naso is portrayed with a meditative attitude. In the years 1916 - 1918 the statue was taken down by the Bulgarian army, to be taken as a war reward, but was saved by the German officers and sheltered in the basement of the City Hall. It was moved to its current location in 1921.

The House with Lions, Constanta

A special building, built in Genovese style between 1895 -1898, the name came from the four carved lions that guard the building's supporting columns.

The statue of the Romanian national poet Mihai Eminescu and Calliope

It is located on the Casino cliff and was made in 1930 by the sculptor Oscar Han. The official unveiling took place on August 15, 1934. The statue presents the poet Mihai Eminescu, under whose bust, a sculpture which was believed to represent Veronica Micle. The base on which it is located has a height of 3 m. The statue was created by the city officials who wanted to fulfill the wish of the poet, transmitted by the poem "I have one more longing".

The New Lighthouse Constanta

The construction has the appearance of a blue, pyramid dome with the top down. Its light ray is visible throughout the city of Constanta.

The Romanesque Edifice with Mosaic - The Old Roman Port

Constanța

(Romanian pronunciation: [kon'stant͡sa+; Greek: Κωνσταντζα or Κωνσταντία, Konstantia, Bulgarian: Кюстенджа or Констанца, Turkish: Köstence), historically known as Tomis (Ancient Greek: Τόμις) is the oldest continuously inhabited city in Romania. It was founded around 600 BC. The city is located in the Dobruja region of Romania, on the Black Sea coast. It is the capital of Constanța County and the largest city in the region.

As of the 2011 census, Constanța has a population of 283,872, making it the fifth most populous city in Romania. The Constanța metropolitan area includes 14 localities within 30 km of the city, and with a total population of 425,916 inhabitants, it is one of the largest metropolitan areas in

Romania. The Port of Constanța has an area of 39.26 km² and a length of about 30 km. It is the largest port on the Black Sea, and one of the largest ports in Europe.

The A2 motorway provides a rapid road link between Constanța and Bucharest, while the A4 motorway acts as the city's outer traffic ring, diverting heavy traffic to and from the Port of Constanța and to Mangalia.

The city is served by Mihail Kogălniceanu International Airport.

Constanța's public transport system is run by Regia Autonomă de Transport în Comun Constanța (RATC), and consists of 23 year-round bus lines, and one summer sightseeing double decker open top bus line to tourists.

There is also a fleet of double decker Volvo buses that run in the summer, providing access to and from the resort of Mamaia.

There are also plenty of private minibuses (similar to a share taxi) which run along longer and more intricate lines.

Constanța is now an important cultural and economic center, worth exploring for its archaeological treasures and the atmosphere of the old town center. Its historical monuments, ancient ruins, grand Casino, museums and shops, and proximity to beach resorts make it the focal point of Black Sea coast tourism. Open-air restaurants, nightclubs and cabarets offer a wide variety of entertainment. Regional attractions include traditional villages, vineyards, ancient monuments and the Danube Delta, the best preserved delta in Europe.

The National History and Archaeology Museum is located in the old City Hall and has a very large collection of ancient art.

Tourism has been an increasingly important economic activity in recent years. Although Constanța has been promoted as a seaside resort since the time of Carol I, the development of naval industry had a detrimental effect on the city's beaches. Nevertheless, due to its proximity to other major tourist destinations, Constanța receives a significant number of visitors every year, who discover and visit the city's monuments and attractions. Also, Constanța is a centre of commerce and education, both of which significantly contribute to the local economy.

Situated at the crossroads of several commercial routes, Constanța lies on the western coast of the Black Sea, 185 miles (298 km) from the Bosphorus Strait. An ancient metropolis and Romania's largest sea port, Constanța traces its history some 2,500 years. Originally called Tomis, legend has it that Jason landed here with the Argonauts after finding the Golden Fleece.

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Monuments and touristic attractions

Ovid's Square

Designed by the sculptor Ettore Ferrari in 1887, the statue dedicated to the Roman poet, Publius Ovidius Naso, gives name to this square. Emperor Augustus exiled Ovid to Tomis in 8 AD.

The Roman Mosaics (Edificiul Roman cu Mozaic)

A vast complex on three levels once linked the upper town to the harbor. Today, only about a third of the original edifice remains, including more than 9,150 sq ft (850 m²) of colorful mosaics. Built toward the end of the 4th century AD and developed over the centuries, it was the city's commercial center until the 7th century. Archaeological vestiges point to the existence of workshops, warehouses and shops in the area. Remains of the Roman public baths can still be seen nearby. Aqueducts brought water 6 miles (10 km) to the town.

The Genoese Lighthouse (Farul Genovez)

Soaring 7.9 m, the Genoese Lighthouse was built in 1860 by the Danubius and Black Sea Company to honor Genoese merchants who established a flourishing sea trade community here in the 13th century.

The Casino (Cazinoul)

Designed by architects Daniel Renard and Petre Antonescu and completed between the two World Wars, the art-nouveau style Constanța Casino features sumptuous architecture and a wonderful view of the sea. The pedestrian area around the Casino is a soughtafter destination for couples and families, especially at sunset.

The House with Lions (Casa cu Lei)

Blending pre-Romantic and Genovese architectural styles, this late 19th century building features four columns adorned with imposing sculptured lions. During the 1930s, its elegant salons hosted the Constanța Masonic Lodge.

The Archeology Park (Parcul Arheologic)

The park houses columns and fragments of 3rd and 4th-century buildings and a 6th-century tower.

St. Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral

Constructed in Greco-Roman style between 1883 and 1885, the church was severely damaged during World War II and was restored in 1951. The interior murals display a neo-Byzantine style combined with Romanian elements best observed in the iconostasis and pews, chandeliers and candlesticks (bronze and brass alloy), all designed by Ion Mincu and completed in Paris.

The Great Mahmudiye Mosque (Moscheea Mare Mahmoud II)

Built in 1910 by King Carol I, the mosque is the seat of the Mufti, the spiritual leader of the 55,000 Muslims (Turks and Tatars by origin) who live along the coast of the Dobrogea region. The building combines Byzantine and Romanian architectural elements, making it one of the most distinctive mosques in the area. The centerpiece of the interior is a large Turkish carpet, a gift from Sultan Abdul Hamid. Woven at the Hereke Handicraft Center in Turkey, it is one of the largest carpets in Europe, weighing 1,080 pounds. The main attraction of the mosque is the 164 ft (50 m) minaret (tower) which offers a stunning view of the old downtown and harbor. Five times a day, the muezzin climbs 140 steps to the top of the minaret to call the faithful to prayer.

Hünkâr Mosque (Geamia Hunchiar)

The mosque was built between 1867-1868 by Ottoman Sultan Abdülaziz for Turks who were forced to leave Crimea after the Crimean War (1853-56) and settled in Constanța. The mosque has a 24m high minaret and was subject to a restoration in 1945 and 1992.

The Fantasio Theatre (Teatrul Fantasio)

Built in 1927 by Demostene Tranulis, a local philanthropist of Greek origin, this theatre used to be called “Tranulis” before 1947, after the name of its benefactor. It's a fine building featuring elements of neoclassical architecture, located in the heart of the city, on Ferdinand Boulevard.

Romanian Navy Museum (Muzeul marinei române)

The museum is the largest institution of this kind in Romania and it hosts precious evidence concerning the development of the country's military and civil navy. The idea of founding the museum was outlined for the first time in 1919, but it was materialized only in the late 1960s at the initiative of Nicolae Ceaușescu, when the Romanian Navy Museum was officially opened on 3 August 1969. Museum collections capture models of ships, knots, anchors, navy uniforms. It has also a special collection dedicated to important figures who made history in the Romanian navy.

World number 1 in tennis Simona Halep is also a native of the city.

Mangalia

Turkish: Mankalya, ancient Callatis (Greek: Κάλλατις/Καλλατίς; other historical names: Pangalia, Panglicara, Tomisovara) is a city and a port on the coast of the Black Sea in the south-east of Constanța County, Romania. The municipality of Mangalia also administers several summer time seaside resorts: Cap Aurora, Jupiter, Neptun, Olimp, Saturn, Venus.

The Greek town Callatis existed until the mid 7th century under this name. Life in the town resumed from the 10th century. In the 13th century Callatis came to be known as Pangalia.[3] The Vlachs called it Tomisovara[4] and the Greeks called it Panglicara.[4] From the 16th century the town had acquired its present name, Mangalia.

A Greek colony named Callatis was founded in the 6th century BC by the city of Heraclea Pontica. Its first silver coinage was minted around 350 BC. In 72 BC, Callatis was conquered by the Roman general Lucullus and was assigned to the Roman province of Moesia Inferior. Throughout the 2nd century AD, the city built defensive fortifications and the minting of coinage under the Roman emperors Septimius Severus and Caracalla continued. Callatis suffered multiple invasions in the 3rd century AD but recovered in the 4th century AD to regain its status as an important trade hub and port city. From the 7th to the 11th century the city was under the rule of the First Bulgarian Empire.

Mangalia is positioned at 43° 49' latitude and 28° 35' longitude, with an approximate elevation of 10 meters, 44 kilometres (27 miles) south of the municipality of Constanța, on the same latitude as the French resort of Nice. Mangalia is one of the southernmost resorts on the Romanian coast of the Black Sea. Mangalia is characterized by a moderate maritime climate (annual average temperature 11 °C (52 °F) - one of the highest in Romania) with hot summers (July average over 21 °C (70 °F)) and mild winters (January average 1 °C (34 °F)), Mangalia being the country's second place, after Băile Herculane, with positive average temperatures in wintertime.

At the 2011 census, 90.6% of the city's residents were ethnic Romanians, 4.4% Turks, 3.6% Tatars, 0.5% Roma, 0.3% Lipovans, and 0.6% belonged to other ethnic groups. According to religion, for respondents for whom data is available, 89.5% were Romanian Orthodox, 8.3% Muslim, 0.9% Roman Catholic, 0.3% Pentecostal, and 1% other or none.

Tourist attractions

- The city has been well known in recent years as the place where one of the largest summer festivals in Romania takes place: Callatis Festival;
- The Scythian tomb discovered in 1959 where archaeologists unearthed fragments of a papyrus in Greek, the first document of this kind in Romania;
- The incineration tombs (the necropolis of the Callatis citadel, dating back to the 4th-2nd centuries BC);
- The ruins of the Callatis citadel (6th century BC);
- The Turkish Mangalia Mosque (Esmehan Sultan Mosque) (16th century);
- The Archaeology Museum which shelters a rich collection of amphorae and sculptures from the Hellenistic epoch, fragments of stone sarcophagi;
- Mangalia Marina

The international known singer Inna is a native of Mangalia.

General information regarding Dolj County

Main city : Craiova (resident metropolitan population 300,587 inhabitants)

Other towns: Bailesti, Calafat, Filiasi, Dabuleni, Segarcea, Bechet

Area: 7414 Sq km

Population: 715,989 inhabitants

Culture, art and history

Between the largest counties in Romania, Dolj - situated in the southwestern part of the country, is part of Oltenia Development Region, along with four other counties: Gorj, Valcea, Olt and Mehedinți. The county of Dolj is composed of three municipalities (Craiova, Bailești and Calafat), four towns (Segarcea, Bechet, Filiași and Dăbuleni) and 104 communes with almost 700,000 inhabitants.

Of particular beauty, Dolj County is bordered to the south by the Danube, the river waters forming the natural border of the county over a distance of 150 kilometers. From the infrastructure point of view, Dolj owns about 2,500 kilometers of European, national, county and communal roads, two Danube ports - Bechet and Calafat, a railway network measuring 225 kilometers and an airport built according to all European standards, the only one in southern Romania, which can serve a population of 2.5 million.

The Danube Bridge, which unites Romania to Bulgaria between the towns of Calafat and Vidin, is one of the strategic points of Dolj County, which offers a great potential for development in the entire southern area of Oltenia. At the same time, Calafat-Vidin Bridge is part of the Pan-European Corridor VII (Danube).

The city of Craiova, the capital of Dolj County and the old medieval capital prior the establishment of Wallachia (1300), has manifested itself in the national cultural space as a citadel concerned with the preservation and perpetuation of the Romanian moral and spiritual values, being today the residence of some of the most important cultural institutions in Romania.

Oltenia History Museum, "Marin Sorescu" National Theater - with famous performers on all the world's scenes, "Elena Teodorini" Lyrical Theater, the Oltenia Philharmonic Orchestra, the academic atmosphere and universities in Craiova, are just some of our cultural landmarks, an impressive visiting card that honors Dolj County and the entire Oltenia Region.

In a broad community with new horizons in which the European Union speaks more and more about multiculturalism, unity through cultural diversity and language, Dolj County Council continues its efforts to promote folk traditions and customs to help understanding and expressing our own identity.

It is very difficult to present in just a few words Dolj, a county of a special spiritual wealth, with diligent and hospitable people, a great community that is distinguished as one of the most important cultural, educational and economic centers of our country.

The Culture in Dolj County

In Dolj County there is an intense cultural activity, supported by various specialized institutions. There are currently 20 museums in the county, among which the Oltenia Museum of History, with three sections: history, ethnography and natural sciences, as well as the Art Museum of Craiova and Calafat. In Craiova, a county residence, there is one of the most prestigious national theaters in Romania, "Marin Sorescu" National Theater, whose actors played on the biggest scenes of the world. The library network is well organized, consisting of over 400 units, the most representative

of which is the County Library. Oltenia Philharmonic, The Liric Theater, Student Culture House, Cornesti School of Arts and Crafts, County Center for Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture Dolj, Cultural Centers in the towns and municipalities of the county, cultural homes in almost 104 communes, and other institutions of this type, completes the network of cultural and artistic units in Dolj County. Maria Tanase folkloric ensemble has a special role in the cultural landscape of the county, a representative institution for the culture of Dolj County and the country, which in its 11 years of activity has been remarkable in the national and international cultural landscape due to its participation in numerous international competitions and festivals.

It is worth mentioning that there are more traditional cultural events that have a strong echo in the country and abroad. Maria Tanase Festival, contest for Romanian folk music contestants; Rapsozi Festival in Oltenia, continued by the Marin Chisar Festival - from rhapsodic to performer; Romance Festival Ioana Radu; Carols and Sacred Music Festival; Craiova Musical Festival. The public expresses a real interest in a series of traditional fixed-day events, which are given due attention by the county institutions, namely, the County Center for Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture Dolj, an institution that is, from the financial point of view, under the patronage of Dolj County Council. These events are: The Jordan, 6-7 January; Shouting over the village - before Easter; Prophet, April 23; Thursday flashes occurring on the last Thursday before Easter; Alaiul Calusului Oltenesc, during the celebration called Pentecost; The Wallachian Canyon of Desa - in March, April, September and October. Consistent with these traditional customs and festivals - initiated and developed in Dolj - it is worth mentioning the Popular Craftsmen Fair.

Cultural and artistic manifestations with national and even international participation

- The national-competition festival of the performers of the Romanian folk song "Maria Tanase";
- The Shakespeare Theater Festival;
- National Festival "Ioana Radu";
- Chorals and Sacred Music Festival;
- Days of Craiova;
- "Craiova Musical" Festival;
- "Elena Teodorini" Festival;
- The alley of the ancestral customs.

Traditional customs and holidays

- The ritual care of the fountains, 6-7 January;
- The Trifon Feast - the spiritual patron of the vineyards, February 1;
- Shouting over the village - at Easter fasting;
- Prophet - green branch, April 23;
- Joimari Fire, on the Holy Thursday of the Easter Week;
- Alesul Calusului Oltenesc, at Pentecost;
- The Common Barren, Ten, March, April, September, October;

- The Popular Craftsmen Fair in October;
- Celebration of Peony, the second decade of May;
- The girl's grooming
- The little nest, around the Easter;
- Ascension of the Lord, Filiași - Fratoștița, June 9;
- The Linden Feast, Carpen-Cleanov, June 26;
- Acacia flower, Celaru, the third Sunday in May.
- The Balkan Film Festival of Port Cetate

Craiova

Romania's 6th largest city and capital of Dolj County, is situated near the east bank of the river Jiu in central Oltenia. It is a longstanding political center, and is located at approximately equal distances from the Southern Carpathians (north) and the River Danube (south). Craiova is the chief commercial city west of Bucharest and the most important city of Oltenia. The city prospered as a regional trading centre despite an earthquake in 1790, a plague in 1795, and a Turkish assault in 1802 during which it was burned.

Eight villages are administered by the city: Făcăi *ro+, Mofleni, Popoveni, Șimnicu de Jos, Cernele, Cernelele de Sus, Izvoru Rece and Rovine. The last four were a separate commune called Cernele until 1996, when they were merged into the city.

There are two possible etymologies for Craiova: Old Slavonic kral ("king"), which has been borrowed in Romania as crai and Slavonic krajina ("border" or "edge"). Since no source prior to 1475 mentions the city, it is impossible to tell which of the two words is the real etymology. The name is probably of Bulgarian or Serbian origin, due to historical autochthonous minorities in the area.

Transportation

Craiova is a major railway centre and is connected to all other major Romanian cities, as well as local destinations, through the national Căile Ferate Române network.

There are daily trains with service from Craiova to: Bucharest (3 hours), Brașov (6 - 8 hours - via connecting service), Cluj-Napoca (8 - 10 hours - connecting service), Sibiu (4 - 7 hours), Sighișoara (8 - 11 hours - connecting service), Timișoara (5 hours)

The city is served by Craiova Airport, which has recently been modernised.

Public transportation in Craiova started in September 1948 with only 2 buses, received from Bucharest. The buses connected the Craiova railway station with the Nicolae Romanescu Park. The Tram was first introduced in 1987, on an 18,4 km double-track line, as a result of the state's

intention of keeping energy consumption low. The public transport in Craiova today consists of 3 trolley tram lines and 17 bus lines. It is operated by the Regia Autonomă de Transport Craiova (RAT Craiova), a corporation run by City Hall. There are 190 buses and 35 trams serving the city today.

Monuments and touristic attractions

- Madona Dudu Church - built between 1750 and 1756, renovated in 1844, after being destroyed by an 1831 earthquake. Murals were completed by Gheorghe Tattarescu.
- St. Demetrius Cathedral
- The Church of Coșuna Monastery - the oldest building preserved in Craiova, dating from 1483.
- Băniei House - the oldest non-religious building that exists in Craiova, dating from 1699. Today it hosts the Museum of Ethnography and Folk Art.
- Craiova Art Museum - the building that houses the museum was built in 1896, following the plans of the French architect Paul Gotereau. Its main attraction is the art gallery dedicated to Constantin Brâncuși, exhibiting six of his early sculptures (including variants of his best-known works)
- Museum of Oltenia - founded in 1915 and divided into three sections: ethnography, history and natural science. The collection is based on donations made in 1908.
- Nicolae Romanescu Park (formerly Bibescu Park) - the largest and most well-known park in Craiova. Through the initiative of Nicolae P. Romanescu, the mayor of Craiova at that time, the park was designed by French architect Émile Rendont. Plans for the park were awarded the gold medal at the 1900 World Fair; work began in 1901 and was completed in 1903.
- Botanical Garden - The garden was laid out by the botanist Alexandru Buia and was opened in 1952.

After 1800 attempts to systematize the city to pave the main roads with basalt artificial sandstone of Yvoir or porphyry brought from Switzerland , France and Belgium ; pavements are made, and trees are planted on their edges.

In 1854 the public lighting was introduced, through rape oil lamps, and since 1858 oil lamps are used , because in 1887 , at the "Elena Teodorini" Opera and Operetta Theater (now Craiova Opera House), it ignites the first electric bulbs , and from 1896 the city had its own power plant.

The new buildings are built in different styles: Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Neo-Classical, Romantic, Romanian, by French, Italian, German or Romanian architects. Architectural plastics dominate the shapes of European eclecticism, especially French academics.

An illustration of this style in Craiova is the Jean Mihail Palace, made between 1899 and 1907 by French architect Paul Gottereau at the request of Constantin Mihail - one of Romania's richest men of those times. The palace was designed to serve as private dwelling. Its construction were used the highest quality materials: precious stucco , partly gilded, skylights, mirrors Venetian painted ceilings, crystal chandeliers from Murano , columns, stairs of marble of Carrara , walls upholstered in silk of Lyon, paneling, stylish furniture, hardware , all rooms gave an air of elegance and taste. The palace was covered with slate and has been equipped with electric and central heating. Constantin Mihail dies in 1908, and the palace will return to his younger son, Jean Mihail. The palace was donated to the state in 1936. Today the building houses the Art Museum in Craiova.

Mitropolia Olteniei (Vorvoreanu Palace)

Vorvoreanu Palace - the current headquarters of the Oltenia Metropolitan Church - is an impressive palace, built according to the plans of the architect Dimitrie Maimarolu; he presents the later influence of the French Renaissance, characterized by mansarded roofs, a multitude of ornaments and stuccoes, respectively richly decorated interiors.

The construction of the former Palace of Justice (nowadays the headquarters of the University of Craiova) was designed in 1890 by the architect Ion Socolescu . The edifice is an illustration of neoclassicism in architecture.

Another special construction is the building of the former Trade Bank, now the headquarters of Craiova City Hall. Designed by architect Ion Mincu , it was finished in 1916 by his student Constantin Iotzu . The building has a rich interior decorated with stuccoes, villas, Venetian mosaics and wrought iron grilles.

An interesting, vigorous construction with popular architectural features is the former Administrative Palace, today the headquarters of the Prefecture and Dolj County Council. Opera of the architect Petre Antonescu , this building was built between 1912 - 1913 .

The first school in Craiova was founded in 1759 by Constantin Obedeau. In the spring of 1826 Obedeau's school took the name Școala Națională de Limba Română which means National School of Romanian Language. This was the second Romanian high school after Saint Sava high school in Bucharest (founded in 1818).

As of 2011, 269,506 inhabitants live within the city limits, a decrease from the figure recorded in 2002, making it the sixth most populated city in Romania.

An impressive list of personalities were born in Craiova, among which:

- Petrache Poenaru (1799-1875), the founder of the national colleges in Bucharest and Craiova, the organizer of the Romanian national education, inventor of the tank ,

patented by the French government in May 1827. In his youth he was a pandur in the army of Tudor Vladimirescu (head of the chancellery and condo) , The "propaganda sheet" of Tudor Vladimirescu 's army , which appeared at his initiative, also meant the first Romanian newspaper.

- Nicolae Titulescu , diplomat and politician.
- Gogu Constantinescu , engineer
- Ilie G. Murgulescu (1902-1991), scientist, chemist, Romanian academician.
- Eugeniu Carada (1836-1910) founder of the National Bank of Romania
- Horia Macellariu , the Romanian counter -amateur, who fought in the Second World War
- Gheorghe Țiteca, mathematician
- Traian Lalescu , mathematician
- Nicolae Coculescu , the founder of the Astronomical Observatory in Bucharest
- Dimitrie Gerota , physician
- Nicolae Vasilescu Karpen , scientist, engineer and inventor.
- Alexandru Macedonski , writer
- Ion Minulescu , writer
- Adrian Paunescu , writer
- Traian Demetrescu , writer
- Gib I. Mihăescu , writer
- Alexandru Mitru , writer
- Marin Sorescu , writer
- Constantin Rădulescu-Motru, philosopher
- Constantin Brancusi attended Craiova School of Arts and Crafts (between 1894 and 1898)
- Theodor Aman , painter
- Constantin Lecca , painter
- Eustatie Stoenescu , painter
- Ion Țuculescu , painter
- Corneliu Baba , painter
- Francis Shirato , painter
- North Burada , painter
- Ion Vasilescu , composer
- Virgil Popescu, composer
- Mia Braia , singer
- Gaby Michailescu , chronicler, theater and Romanian memorialist
- Tudor Gheorghe , singer, Romanian composer and actor,

- Jean Negulescu , director, screenwriter, actor, producer

General information regarding Mehedinti County

Main City: Turnu Severin (resident population 109,134 inhabitants)

Other towns: Strehaiia, Orsova, Baia de Arama, Vanju Mare

Area: 4933 Sq km

Population: 301,515 inhabitants

Culture, art and history

Mehedinti County, located in the southwestern part of the country, has beautiful reliefs and landscapes, forested hills, hills with high heights, fast rivers, large and deep caves, stunning open-air gorges, monastic settlements such as St. Ana, Tismana, Vodita and last but not least, many historical traces. The tourist potential of the area is reinforced by the fact that the rural tourism here offers, from the end of April, promotional prices for the entire season. You can make an active stay with hiking, fishing, boat trips or the pleasure boat on the Danube, and if you have the right equipment, expeditions in the caves that are a real treasure for speleologists.

The county seat is Drobeta Turnu Severin where most of the tourist routes start in the area. The present town was designed in 1831, but its existence lays in the first century BC The beautiful villas arranged for the parallel or adjacent to the Danube course, joined by the unparalleled block-match boxes.

But there are many attractions that give the city a special character: the boat port, barges, with seagulls and albatrosses, is only 1200 meters away from the Serbian bank and has the same port, poetry and charm - Roses Park near the train station, the park has in the middle the ruins of the Medieval Fortress of Severin. With a little imagination you can understand what it meant for four centuries (XIII-XVI), a medieval fortification on the Danube. - The water castle - was built in the 1930s in medieval style, thus embellishing the city center. - Museum - The museum building houses the archeology and ethnography sections and the front park is a real exhibition of ruins: the ruins of the Roman Times, the ruins of the Trajan's Bridge, built by the famous Apolodor of Damascus to facilitate the passage of Trajan's Romanian troops on the territory of Dacia, the ruins of the old Metropolitan of Severin.

If you catch a good shiny day's you have certainly good luck, so you can rest on the walls of the old Roman camp and admire the Danube as they did two millennia ago, conquerors from the Eternal City, Rome. On the superb road with a plethora of 25-km viaducts connecting Drobeta Turnu Severin to Orsova you can see the Vodita Monastery which is attested since 1371 and, last but not least, the Iron Gates - Portile de Fier I hydroelectric power station.

The town of Orsova is located, like an amphitheater, on the banks of the Cerna River. Here you can visit the Catholic Cathedral, whose unique architecture has made a sister twin in the Australian city of Sidney. Also, the Saint Ana Monastery, situated on one of the heights that guard the city, delights both because of the dream sight, and by the love it is caring for the nuns. After 25 km from Orsova, Dubova is located, where there are viaducts over the wild valley, rocky heights, unforgettable landscapes, the Big and Small Boilers, the places where the Danube Gorge narrows and the river gives the impression of boiling.

The karst formations of the Ciucasul Mare Massif and the Ponicoava Cave (the Bats), with 1,600 meters of the discovered galleries, also come to complete the general impression. The area includes 215 hectares of plant reserve such as rock crevices, oriental beech, Turkish hazel, fluffy oak and rare varieties in Romania such as hornbeam, eagle, turtle, scorpion, raccoon, Egyptian eagle, etc.

In the northern part of Mehedinți County is the commune Ponoarele, 37 km from Motru railway station, 65 km from Drobeta Turnu Severin, 65 km from Baile Herculane and 45 km from Targu Jiu. It is a jewelry box of nature, many of them are categorized as monuments of nature. Here is the largest lilac forest in the country (20 hectares), which attracts with its fragrance the lovers of nature and folklore at "Sarbatorea liliacului".

God's Bridge is a limestone archway with a length of 60 meters and a width of 9.7 meters, being the second most natural bridge in Europe as its size and the only functional one (above the road Drobeta Turnu Severin - Baia de Arama - Herculane baths). The bridge was formed by the collapse of a wall of Bulba Cave, which through its 5000 meters of galleries and its special interior architecture is a tourist attraction. Above the cave and the bridge there is a hill full of medicinal herbs and karst formations, between which the pebbles - limestone crests - which make up the Aphrodite Field and the unique Cleopatra Field in Europe at altitudes of up to 600 meters. At the other exit of the cave, we find Lake Zaton, a karst lake, which, when connected to the hydrographic system of the cave, either is full, or it is empty and cracked.

At 14 km from Severin, on the road connecting Drobeta de Calafat is Hinova, which offers the possibility of a boat ride on the Danube, a fishing party, or a miniature beach tanning session. The walls of Hinova Fortress can also be seen, and the acacia woods that fragrant the area are a meeting place for beekeepers across the country, due to the Mediterranean climate that makes the acacia flourish earlier than in the rest of the country.

Drobeta Turnu Severin

Drobeta-Turnu Severin; Latin: Drobeta; Hungarian: Szörényvár, Szörénytornya; Bulgarian: Турну Северин; Serbian: Дробета-Турн Северин/Drobeta-Turn Severin) is a city in Mehedinți County, Oltenia, Romania, on the left bank of the Danube, below the Iron Gates.

The city administers three villages: Dudașu Schelei, Gura Văii, and Schela Cladovei. The city's population is 92,617 (2011), up from 18,628 in 1900.

It is situated in western Oltenia, at the edge of the Topolnița depression, 220 km south-east of Timișoara, 113 km west of Craiova and 353 km west of Bucharest.

The region's climate gives Severin warm summers and mild winters, meaning the city is home to magnolia trees, Caucasian nut trees, and ginkgo biloba as well as the almond trees, figs, lilacs, lindens, and chestnut trees more common throughout Europe. The climate in the region can be classified as a "sub-Mediterranean climate".

The city was called Drobeta by the Romans. The tower which supplied the Turnu part of the city's name stood on a small hill surrounded by a deep moat. Near Turnu Severin are the remains of the celebrated Trajan's Bridge, the largest in the Empire. Here, the Danube is about 1,200 metres (4,000 feet) broad. Built in only three years (103-105 AD) by the famous architect Apollodorus of Damascus, the bridge was considered the most daring work in the Roman world. The bridge was built on 20 pillars of stone blocks, was 1135 m long, 14.55 m wide and 18.60 m high. Each bridge head had its own portal monument, whose remains can still be seen on both sides of the Danube. Oaks from 200 hectares of forest were used for the wooden parts of the construction. The bridge was composed of twenty arches supported by stone pillars. Only two of them are still visible at low water.

The ruins of the Severin Fortress are an ensemble of historical monuments located on the territory of Drobeta Turnu Severin. In the National Archaeological Repertory, the monument appears with the code 109782.07.01.

The fortress has a fairly regular rectangular plan that surrounds it and two enclosure walls. For the defending of the Iron Gates against the Bulgarians, the Hungarians organize in the 6th century. XIII feudal-military formation Banat de Severin (1230). This formation had its political and administrative and military center in the fortress of Severin, probably built by the loan knights between 1247-1250. In the 14th century the fortress is under the rulers of the Romanian voivodes. In 1419 the fortress rejoined Hungarian. More and more fighting is happening with the Turks in the area. These struggles led to her partial destruction. In August 1524 the fortress of Severin was conquered and destroyed by the Turks.

The therme: they are the most complicated thermal installations in Lower Dacia. Today, less than half of the ruins of terms are preserved. Apparently they were used both by the soldiers stationed in the Drobeta Castrum and by the civilian population.

General information regarding Giurgiu County

Main City: **Giurgiu** (resident population 69,003 inhabitants)

Other two towns: Giurgiu, Bolintin-Vale and Mihailesti

Total County Population 265,494 inhabitants

Area 3.526 Sq km

Culture, art and history

The county is rather small and its population is in declining. However, agriculture is the main occupation in the county. Both extensive agriculture, and small scale - for Bucharest markets, is practiced. 59% of the cultivated surface is irrigated. The proximity to Bucharest Metropolitan area is pushing the county for industry and it is the main Danube Harbor of the Romanian Capital.

The city of Giurgiu was probably established in the 14th century as a port on the Danube by the Genovese merchant adventurers, who established a bank and traded in silks and velvets.

One theory is that they called the city after the patron saint of Genoa, San Giorgio (St. George), It was first mentioned in Codex Latinus Parisinus in 1395, during the reign of Mircea I of Wallachia, and was conquered by the Ottomans in 1420 as a way to control the Danube traffic.

Here the tourists can visit:

- The Clock Tower, made by Turks when the Giurgiu was "raia"
- The Historical Museum
- The "Valah" Theatre
- The first bridge built in angel from Europe, over the Sf. Gheorghe Canal and Plantelor Canal, with a specific construction over 100 years old; near this bridge is a new one from 2007
- The Bridge of Friendship over the Danube between Giurgiu, Romania and Rousse, Bulgaria
- The churches painted by important painters like Nicolae Grigorescu
- The fluvial station on the Danube river "Port Giurgiu"
- The street "Garii" filled with markets
- The beautiful parks from town where many statues and fountains can be found
- Fishing along the Danube river
- The Călugăreni area
- Comana Monastery near Giurgiu

Giurgiu

Giurgiu is a city in southern Romania. The seat of Giurgiu County, it lies in the historical region of Muntenia. It is situated amid mud-flats and marshes on the left bank of the Danube facing the Bulgarian city of Ruse on the opposite bank. Three small islands face the city, and a larger one shelters its port, Smarda. The rich grain-growing land to the north is traversed by a railway to Bucharest, the first line opened in Romania, which was built in 1869 and afterwards extended to Smarda. Giurgiu exports timber, grain, salt and petroleum, and imports coal, iron, and textiles.

The Giurgiu-Ruse Friendship Bridge, in the shared Bulgarian-Romanian section of the Danube, crosses the river in the outskirts of the city.

The area around Giurgiu was densely populated at the time of the Dacians (1st century BC) as archeological evidence shows, and Burebista's capital was in this area (it is thought to be in Popești on the Argeș River). During Roman times this was the site of Theodorapolis, a city built by the Roman emperor Justinian (483-565).

The city of Giurgiu was probably established in the 14th century as a port on the Danube by the Genoese merchant adventurers, who established a bank and traded in silks and velvets.

According to the 2011 census, Giurgiu has a population of 54,655.

Transportation

The city is the end of the national road DN5 , which links it to Bucharest and ends at the border crossing point of the Danube bridge south of the city itself. The road is part of the European NorthSouth E85 reference route and continues in Bulgaria with the national road 2.

Giurgiu has two railway stations, Giurgiu-Nord (built for trains coming directly from Bucharest and traveling to Bulgaria) and Giurgiu. The Bucharest-Giurgiu Railway (1869, the first railway from the United Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia) is no longer used since the destruction in 2005 of the bridge over the river Argeș from Grădiște, which in 2018 was not yet restored. The connection to Bucharest is made by the Giurgiu-Videle railway.

Monuments

In Giurgiu there are 81 sites classified as historical monuments of different categories and at both national and local levels. Six of them are classified at national level, two of which are archaeological sites: the Giurgiu fortress (14th-18th centuries), west of the Port Road; and the site of "Malu Rosu", where two settlements from the Upper Palaeolithic and Lower Paleolithic were found . Two are classified as architectural monuments: fragments from the wall of the Turkish fortress (eighteenth century) lined up behind the streets on the Danube Street; and Clock Tower(1771) from Unirii Square, building based on a minaret of an ancient mosque. The other two

historical monuments of national interest are public monuments: 19th-century statues "Diana" (from Gara Square) and "Apollo Belvedere" from Parc Street, corner of Călugăreni Street.

General information regarding Calarasi County

Main city: **Calarasi** (73,900 inhabitants)

Other 2 towns: Titu and Oltenita

Total County Population: 316,294 inhabitants

Area: 5088 Sq km

Culture, art and history

The county has a remarkable and quite rich historical cultural heritage, represented by important archaeological remains, cultural-historical monuments and local museums.

The network of cultural institutions in the county is presented below.

- Lower Danube Museum Calarasi
- Museum of Archeology Oltenita
- Alexandru Odobescu Library
- Museum of Neolithic Gumelnita Civilization

The cultural life is completed by Calarasi County Cultural Center, which carries out numerous cultural activities, also organizing well-known festivals such as:

- National Theater Festival - Stefan Banica;
- National Music Festival - May Flowers;
- International Folklore Festival - Hora Mare;
- World Caricature Festival - Dictators of Laugh;
- National Prose Award - Stefan Banulescu;
- National Folk Music Festival "Danube Guitar"
- International Folklore Festival - Danube Traditions (Independenta Commune);
- Inter-Judean folklore festival - Acacia celebration (Stefan Voda Commune);
- National non-professional theater festival for adults and children - Thalia in 7 days

Calarasi, a coastal county on the Danube, creates a special tourist attraction but insufficiently exploited. The large number of islands with an unprecedented picturesque landscape, the branching of the main courses through unique branches, creates both a natural setting that predisposes to relaxation and favorable conditions for practicing hunting and fishing. In this respect, we mention the three natural reserves: Ciocanesti Island, Haralambia Island and Soimul Island.

In Sărulești there are organized annually national carp fishing championships and in 2000 the World Sporting World Championship was organized, establishing a hard-to-reach record - 40kg.

The Danube River borders the county into the south and southeast on a distance of 152 km and the landscapes are extremely rich and worth making use of. The canals with the area of forest vegetation, flora and fauna can be inserted into tourist circuits with relatively small facilities and expenses and can show the visitor a wonderful landscape similar to the one in the Danube Delta. This poorly exploited tourist potential is located less than 130 km from Bucharest and about 100 km from Constanta and the Black Sea coast, with DN 3B (Călărași - Fetești - Cernavoda - Basarabi - Constanța) and DN 3A (Ostrov Adamclisi, Constanta).

The material base of tourism consists of 8 accommodation units (3 hotels, 4 motels, 1 boarding house) with a capacity of 533 seats.

Calarasi County benefits from a tourism potential that allows the development of various forms of tourism: cultural, monastic, green tourism and agritourism.

In the area between the Danube and the Borcea arm of the Danube there is also the "Pacuiul lui Soare", the old Byzantine fortress.

It should not be forgotten the mini delta, included in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and administered by its Governor. Access to the area can only be done by boats, there is no land access.

A special attraction is represented by the historical and architectural cultural objectives, including:

- The church of the former Negoești Monastery is a historical monument and religious architecture. The church is founded in 1648-1649 by the ruler Matei Basarab and his wife Elina. It was restored in 1777.
- The church of the former Monastery of Plătărești is a historical monument and religious architecture. The monastery was founded in 1642 by Matei Basarab, his wife Elina and others.
- St. George's Monastery in Radu Negru is located 10 km east of Călărași, 123 km south-east from Bucharest.

Architectural monuments

1. St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral is a monument of religious architecture. The edifice was built in 1838.

2. The Palace of the Prefecture is a monument of secular architecture. The building was built in 1897 in neo-classical style.

Calarasi

The capital of Călărași County in the Muntenia region, is situated in south-east Romania, on the bank of Danube's Borcea branch, at about 12 kilometers from the Bulgarian border and 125 kilometers from Bucharest.

The site of a prehistoric village, called Lichiresti from the time of Michael the Brave. Călărași appeared for the first time in 1700 on a map drawn by Constantin Cantacuzino. It got its name after it was made by the Wallachian princes, in the 17th century, a station of "mounted couriers' service" on the route from Bucharest to Constantinople. The service was operated by horseback riders (the călărași). It expanded into a small town, and in 1834 became the surrounding county's capital. The city is located at the Bulgarian border and 125 kilometres (78 miles) from Bucharest.

The city is an industrial centre for lumber and paper, food processing, glass manufacturing, textiles, medical equipment production and heavy industry, the last represented by the Călărași steel works.

The city is known colloquially as "Capșa provinciei" (the Capșa from the provinces).

The site of a prehistoric village, called Lichiresti from the time of Michael the Brave. Călărași appeared for the first time in 1700 on a map drawn by Constantin Cantacuzino. It got its name after it was made by the Wallachian princes, in the 17th century, a station of "mounted couriers' service" on the route from Bucharest to Constantinople. The service was operated by horseback riders (the călărași). It expanded into a small town, and in 1834 became the surrounding county's capital.

Transportation

Călărași is connected by DN3, DN21, DN31 and DN3B. Also A2 ("The Sun's Motorway") has 3 exits for Călărași, at Lehliu Gară (about 50 kmNW), Dragalina (about 30 km N) and Fetești (about 40 km NE). The city lies on the seventh pan-European corridor of transport(the Danube river) and is next to the fourth pan-European transport corridor(Dresden-Constanța) at 26 km. The town is connected by rail (table 802 CFR). The nearest major cities are: Bucharest 120 km, Constanța 148 km and Varna 155 km.

Major Cultural Events

- World Caricature Festival "Dictators of Laughter"
- International Film Festival - 7 Arts
- National Folk Festival "Danube Guitar"
- International Folklore Festival "Hora Mare"
- National Literary Festival "Alexandru Odobescu"

- National Music Festival "May Flowers"
- National Festival of Poetry "Mihai Eminescu"
- The National Theater Festival "Ștefan Bănică"
- The national amateur theater festival "Ernest Maftei"
- National Non-Professional Theater Festival for Adults and Children - Thalia in 7 days
- The national prize "Ștefan Bănulescu"
- National Religious Symposium "We Are All Believers"
- City Days (end of September)
- Romanian Navy Day

General information regarding Olt County

Main city: **Slatina** (resident population 79,531 inhabitants)

Other towns: Caracal, Bals, Corabia, Scornicești, Drăganesti-Olt, Piatra Olt, Potcoava

Area: 5498 Sq km

Population: 415.530 inhabitants

Culture, art and history

Olt County belongs to the category of counties bordering the Danube River.

As a historical-geographic position, it is part of the old Oltenian historical provinces, having a permanent connection at the West, with the Banat on the Danube Valley, and Transylvania on the Olt Valley. Through the Danube port Corabia has an exit to the Black Sea.

To the north it borders Vâlcea County, in the east with Argeș and Teleorman County, to the west with Dolj County. In the south, on a length of 47 km, Danube makes the border with Bulgaria.

The Valley of the Danube, oriented east-west, dominates the Romanian bank and has large terraces. The Olt Valley represents a real axis of the territory of the county.

The Olt terraces are marked by larger stretches on the right side of the valley, starting from the north of the county to the Danube and up to Drăgănești on the left, where the high terraces are developed: Coteana 80-90 m and Slatina 50-60 m above the Black Sea level.

The climate of the Olt County is temperate-continental, wetter in the north and arid in the south.

The territory of the Olt County is crossed by two large water courses: the Danube River and the Olt River. The Danube River flows through the county on a length of 47 km. The Olt crossed the county to which it gave its name for a length of 100 km in the north-south direction.

Architecture and history

The old town of Slatina, Olt County residence, has a great architectural value, representing the historical heritage of the city. The opening of the first founders was accomplished by the Buzesti brothers (xv century). As the pencil says, a stone-made with beautifully executed capitals, placed above the door at the entrance to the Cathedral of the city. In the old center there are 81 buildings built between 1860 - 1938, in classic, romantic styles with neo-gothic echoes, neo-Romanian, modernist, art nouveau. Many buildings are made up of commercial spaces on the ground floor and upstairs, as a private property dominated. The careful and refined observer who was the Syrian traveler Paul de Aleppo was deeply impressed by the "wonderful" Calui Monastery that he wished to be worshiped by the Patriarchate of Antioch. One of the largest Roman-Byzantine settlements in the north of the Danube, Sucidava through the wealth of archaeological materials brings numerous proofs of the continuity and continuity of our people in these lands. Sucidava was an important economic and military center of the Geto-Dacian tribe, the sucks, hence the name of the Sucidava fortress.

A well-known craftsmanship in Olt County is the pottery that emerged from the Neolithic and which would have a flowering in the area. Today there are three pottery centers in Olt: Oboga, Romana, Corbeni, who are still working with ceramics, hammered and unmoved in various forms and decorations. Some of the pots have lost their usefulness and are used for decoration, such as wedding creations with bird, human and animal shapes, or large plates decorated with the tree of life, specific to the Oltet Valley centers.

Other well-preserved popular crafts in Olt County are: Vadastra, the twine, the Priseaca sewing, Curtisoara, Icoana, Cezieni, wood carving and the Boian Plain, folk painting on wood and glass, Corbu, Brîncoveni.

On the whole Olt area we will notice some features of the popular port: white cloth stitch with geometric motifs in arnica, filled with colored marble; navy-colored with metallic thread or bead. The marama of borangic completes the costume by giving it a stylish note and a youthful look.

The customs related to certain holidays in the annual work cycle or special events in human life are an important area of the Romanian folk culture.

The most spectacular and best-kept habits are the winter, the carol, the formation of the bands, the bears, etc. Spring habits marked different stages in the performance of agricultural work. In the year-round habits of Pentecost, in Olt County, the most important folklore manifestation, where dancing has a predominant role, is organized.

The culture

The cultural life of Olt County has developed over the last few years, drawing and capitalizing on local talents in many areas: plastic art, music, theater, painting, literature, poetry.

The Olt County Museum, founded in 1952, presents a heritage rich in collections, the more than 25,000 pieces being specific to the culture and civilization of Olt, many of them unique, belonging to the national cultural heritage.

The Olt County Museum functions in the building of the former Administration Palace (historical monument), built in 1887. The museum has collections of paintings, drawings and illustrations belonging to representative Romanian artists such as: Octav Băncilă, Alexandru Ciucurescu, Dumitru Ghiată, Henri Catargi, Ion Popescu-Negreni, Spiru Vergulescu, Nicolae Trută.

The ethnography section of the museum owns structured collections on the following fields: customs, ceramics, textiles, fabrics, metals, wood, folk costumes.

It is worth mentioning the Vadastra coat of arms, the ceramics collection (by Oboga, Corbeni and Româna) and the collection of embellished eggs in Oboga.

Ion Minulescu County Library has a library of over 22,000 libraries (books, daily newspapers, weekly, CD-ROMs, artistic and documentary films, textbooks for foreign language learning).

A book department in English, with a 20,000-volume fund, is working on it.

Oltul Cultural Center aims to preserve folk traditions and folk art in Olt County, holding the professional ensemble "Plaiurile Oltului", an ensemble recognized in the artistic environment, winner of numerous national awards and numerous participations in international folk festivals.

National festivals of customs, folk celebrations, and local events taking place in Olt County are: National Festival "Călusul Romănesc" - Slatina, Caracal, Vâlcele, Dobrun; "The Feast of the Bread" - Scornicești; "The Tree of Life", contest festival addressed to popular ceramists; Dance and Ballad Competition "De la Drăgănești la Vale"; Contest of Humor Competition «Oltenians and ... Rest of the World»; National Folk Music and Poetry Festival "Ion Minulescu"; Festival of the Young and People's Music Competition "The Golden Ship - Corabia de aur".

Slatina

Slatina is the capital city of Olt County, Romania, on the river Olt. It is located in the south of Romania, on the eastern side of the river Olt, in the historical region of Muntenia. The population was 70,293 in 2011, being an important industrial center. The city administers one village, Cireașov.

The town of Slatina was first mentioned on January 20, 1368 in an official document issued by Vladislav I Vlaicu, Prince of Wallachia. The document stated that merchants from the

Transylvanian city of Braşov would not pay customs when passing through Slatina. The word Slatina is of Slavic origin, and means "marsh, swamp, watery plain".

Cultural landmarks

The city gave important cultural people of the twentieth century : here was born Eugen Ionescu , a famous writer and avant-garde theater man , and Ion Minulescu spent his holidays here, at his grandparents. Confectionery store "Albanian athlete" is the oldest private company in Romania.

The Olt County Museum - with two sections: history and folk art - presents, among others, valuable pieces from the farthest paleolithic age discovered on the Dârjov Valley, interesting folk costumes, stitches and fabrics specific to the area.

Trinity Church - the oldest building in the city, built in 1645 and renovated in 1729. The Cathedral - built in 1782 by Ionut Cupet, a great merchant from the locality and later painted by Gheorghe Tattarescu.

Srehareţ Forest - beautiful natural park with a reservoir lake. In the forest there is:

The Strehareţ Hermitage - built between 1664-1668, repaired in 1844, whose church was founded by Metropolitan Varlaam in 1672.

Clocociov Monastery - founded by Michael the Brave 1594, rebuilt in 1645 by Diiku Buicescu, nephew of Matei Basarab.

General information regarding Teleorman County

Main city: Alexandria (resident population 50,496 inhabitants)

Other towns: Alexandria, Rosiorii de Vede, Turnu Magurele, Zimnicea, Videle

Area: 6099 Sq km

Total County Population: 423,338 inhabitants

Culture, art and history

The Center for the Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture of Teleorman County is a public institution promoting and coordinating:

- The ensemble of songs and dances "Burnasul"
- Research, Conservation and Promotion Department
- Folk School of Arts and Crafts

Among the emblematic activities of the Cultural Center of Teleorman we mention: The National Golden Musical Contest "Ghiocelul de Aur" (the 47th edition) that became in 2016 "Alexandria Pop

Fest”, among the laureates of this festival we mention: Mihai Traistariu, Silvia Stefanescu, Narcisa Suci, Bogdan Negroiu, Mihai Iordachioaia, Bogdan Ionita; The National Folk Music Festival "Pe deal la Teleorman" (47th edition) National Festival of Literature "Marin Preda" (1982-2016, 15 editions) aims to discover and promote talents who have made not yet their arrival.; National Festival of Literature "Zaharia Stancu" (1983-2004, 11 editions).

The Folk Arts School

It was founded in 1978 in Alexandria to support and train those interested in different genres of music, theater, painting. The Folk Arts School offers courses such as **piano, guitar, violin, percussion, nai, whistle, singing, creative workshops** (hand-made necklaces with fine paste, polymer clay ornaments, wall clocks in the napkin technique, etc.) The courses last between 2 and 5 years.

The Teleorman County Cultural Center together with The Arhaic Band made the project "Camerata cantoria". This project was a premiere, both for the culture-loving audience and for the organizers. The program includes poetry recitals from classical and contemporary authors, folk music and classical music in the performance of The Arhaic Band and the students of the Folk Arts School.

"Burnasul" Ensemble

"The Burnasul Professional Songs and Dance Ensemble" consists of: The Men's Vocal Group "Burnasul", The Orchestra of Popular Music and the Folk Dance Group.

It was established in 1990 and soon became an important mean of representation for the valorization of popular creation both in Teleorman and throughout the country. The value of this ensemble has been rewarded with high distinctions at numerous local and international festivals. Italy, Belgium, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Spain, Bulgaria are a few countries where the message of Romanian spirituality was transmitted through beautiful dances, songs and folk costumes.

Alexandria

Alexandria is the capital city of the Teleorman County, Romania. It is located south-west of Bucharest, towards the Bulgarian border. The city is situated on the Vedea River and has over 45,000 inhabitants. Alexandria was named after its founder, Alexandru D. Ghica, Prince of Wallachia from April 1834 to 7 October 1842. Its population in 1900 was 1,675. Its chief trade then, was in grain, dispatched by rail to the Danubian port of Zimnicea, or by river to Giurgiu.

The city is 88 km away from Bucharest.

Monuments and touristic landmarks

Orthodox Cathedral "Saint Alexander", built between 1869 and 1898, style Byzantine Romans with interior murals made in 1898 by Stefan Luchian and Constantin Artachino. Here are the bones of the ruler, in honor of which the name of the cathedral was given: Alexandru Dimitrie Ghica.

The Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (1842-1846, restored in 1902-1904)

The church dedicated to the "Holy Emperors Constantine and Helen" (1852)

The church dedicated to the "Assumption of the Virgin" (1858-1860)

The church dedicated to "The Spring of Healing" (1859-1861)

2.2. Bulgaria

Since the accommodation and food serving capabilities are of critical importance, an overview of the facilities offered in the Bulgarian part of the CBC region is as follows:

No. of places for accommodation by district (data from National Statistical Institute, 2015):

- Vidin - 32 with 889 beds
- Vratsa - 29 with 1009 beds
- Montana - 27 with 1218 beds
- Pleven - 29 with 1345 beds
- Rousse - 47 with 1862 beds
- Veliko Tarnovo - 116 with 5294 beds
- Silistra - 20 with 695 beds
- Dobrich - 149 with 27844 beds

The total number of the categorized food serving facilities for the Bulgarian part of the CBC region is 1707, including restaurants, diners, cafes and bars (NSI, 2014) of which over 80% are located in the district centres. The list of main accommodation and food establishments as well as transport facilities per district is given in Annex BG2 - List of basic tourist services.

With a view of the above, the following locations can be identified as appropriate for hosting art & culture events:

- Vidin district - Vidin, Belogradchik
- Vratsa district - Vratsa
- Montana district - Montana
- Pleven district - Pleven
- Rousse district - Rousse

- Veliko Tarnovo district - Veliko Tarnovo, Arbanassi
- Silistra district - Silistra
- Dobrich district - Dobrich, Balchik.

VIDIN DISTRICT

VIDIN

Vidin is one of the most interesting and ancient Bulgarian towns. A town that has preserved particles of Ancient Thrace, Ancient Rome, Medieval Bulgaria, Ottoman rule and the post-liberation period to get the look of today's modern and beautiful Vidin. According to historians, Vidin began its life over 2000 years ago. Attracted by the fertile land along the Danube, the Thracian tribes of Moesians and Tribali founded the first settlement on the territory of the town. It is no coincidence that it occupied the highest part of the city, which was not threatened by floods and was the easiest to organize defense for. This geographic and strategic advantage was appreciated by the subsequent settlers, too. That is why, the traces left by human civilizations since then have been continuous. At the beginning of the new era the lower reach of the Danube became the northern boundary of the Roman Empire. The Roman conquest of today's northwestern Bulgarian lands began in the third decade BC and continued until year 46. The City was included in the Roman provinces of Moesia, Upper Moesia and Coastal Dacia. In Roman times it was called Bononia. Ancient Bononia (I-VI C) was an integral part of the Danube limes (border), whose construction began in the middle of 1st C AD. During the Avar invasion in 586-587 many ancient cities were destroyed. Such was the fate of Ratsiaria - the capital of Coastal Dacia province. Bononia became the main city of today's northwestern Bulgarian lands. There isn't enough data on the economic development of the city in antiquity. Apart from the characteristic farming, stockbreeding and vine-growing, crafts and sculpture were obviously developed: fragments of rich architectural decoration, sculptures, products of bronze foundry and ceramics have been found. The conquest of the Balkan Peninsular by the Slavs began in the middle of 6th C AD. By the middle of 7th C today's northwestern Bulgarian lands were already in the hands of the Slavs of the so-called "Bulgarian" (or "Dacian") group. The convenient location of the city and its relatively well-preserved defenses lead to the emergence of a city named Budin (after 1002 - Bdin). It, along with the surrounding land, became part of the State of Khan Asparuh on its creation at the end of VII century. In the ninth century Budin was the center of one of the ten Bulgarian regions. Its manager in the second half of the tenth century was Samuel, who later became Bulgarian king (997-1014). At the end of the tenth century Bdin rulers began the construction of new fortifications. The construction of "Baba Vida" was also started. In 1002 the Byzantine emperor Vasilii II managed to capture the city after eight months of siege. Bdin was liberated from Byzantine rule at the outset of the uprising (1185-1187), led by Assen and Peter. It played an important role in the Bulgarian-

Magyar conflict (1257-1272) The Russian princes Rostislav Mikhailovich and Jacob Svetoslav ruled it as Hungarian vassals. In about 1280 the city became the center of Despot Shishman's dominion, whose descendants managed to come to the throne in Turnovo. In the second half of 14th C Bdin became the capital of Tzar Ivan Sratsimir's Kingdom. The ambition of the ruler was to give luster to his capital. Numerous churches and monasteries were built, where a rich literary activity was developed. Many documents from that time show Vidin as one of the busiest ports on the Danube. In 1397 Sultan Bayezid I conquered the city, but most likely the lands of the former Kingdom of Bdin were managed by Constantine (son of Tzar Ivan Sratsimir) as an Ottoman vassal until 1412, 1413, or even to 1421. The town retained its importance under the rule of Ottoman Turks. It was the largest city of the Ottoman Empire at the Lower Danube region in the XV-XVII century, as well as a lively shopping and business center. Changes occurred at the end of 17th , early 18th century when it became a border city of the Ottoman Empire. Its role as an important military center led to a reduction of its economic and trading importance. Vidin was managed by Osman Pazvantoglu (1793-1807), who detached its lands from the central government. During the second quarter of the nineteenth century the Bulgarian population of the region was almost continuously rebelling. The climax of their struggle was the Peasants' uprising from Northwestern Bulgaria in 1850. With the highest number of participants - 16,000 to 17000 people it is the biggest Bulgarian uprising. It is the people of Vidin and Vidin District who symbolize the national liberation struggles of this period. The efforts of the Bulgarians from Vidin to achieve independence of the church were successful in 1868. Vidin Metropolitan Antim was elected (1872) the first Bulgarian Exarch. In the second half of 19th century the city's population was between 25,000 and 30, 000 people. Vidin was finally freed from foreign rule on 25.III./6.IV. 1878. After the Liberation of Bulgaria Vidin developed comparatively slowly and did not become a major industrial center. The attempts to a somewhat forced industrialization gave good temporary results, but most companies failed to adapt to the conditions of the free-market economy. Vidin has given Bulgaria and the world a lot of worthy people as the world-famous artists Jules Paskin and Nikola Petrov, the linguist Academician Stefan Mladenov, the opera singer Stefan Elenkov, etc.

"Baba Vida" Medieval Castle

Built on the foundations of the ancient fortress of "Bononia". It is assumed that in the late 10th century the castle had already been built and stone blocks from the destroyed Roman fortresses of "Bononia" and "Ratsiaria" were used for its construction. Its main parts are: defense - consisting of fortified walls and towers surrounded by a moat, and housing-economic, which occupied mainly the interior spaces. Subsequently the castle was over and over again extended and reconstructed. In the period 18th - 19th century it was completed as a building facility designated for the district headquarters and residence of its ruler. In the Middle Ages it had 10 towers - 4 corner and 5 side ones, interconnected by an internal fence wall about 2.2 m wide. One entry tower was erected

on the outer wall that guarded the drawbridge. The height of the inner towers was 16 m. The moat around the castle is 4 m. deep and about 6 m. wide. The type of construction is characteristic of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom - stones and bricks welded together with mortar. No particular order was observed in their arrangement.

The "Baba Vida" castle was located in the medieval town of Bdin, which in the late 11th century was renamed Bdin. The city was the center of a separate administrative district, and after the adoption of Christianity it became the seat of the bishop. In 1003 the city was besieged by Vasilii Balgarofigon and after an eight-month siege was captured. It was liberated in 1195 and that marked the beginning of the so-called period of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom, during which time the city experienced its rapid development as a center of economic and political revival. Around 1280 it was ruled by Despot Shishman, whose descendants ascended the throne in the town of Turnovo and became kings of the Bulgarian state. After Despot Shishman's death the power passed into the hands of his son Michael Shishman. A Venetian document of 1313 mentions his official title of Despot of Bulgaria, master of Bdin. In 1323 the Board of Boyars elected Despot Michael Shishman Tzar of Bulgaria. Michael Shishman died on July 28th, 1330 in the Battle of Velbujd.

He was succeeded on the throne by his nephew, Ivan Alexander. At the beginning of his reign the Bdin county was joined to the Turnovo state. Ivan Alexander had two sons - Ivan Sratsimir from his first marriage to Theodora, daughter of Wallachian leader John Basarab and Shishman from his second marriage to a Jewess Sarah, who converted and took the name Theodora. His older son, Ivan Sratsimir, became co-ruler in northwestern Bulgaria with the town of Bdin as a center. In 1360 Ivan Alexander's younger son, Ivan Shishman, was proclaimed Bulgarian Tzar in Turnovo. After his father's death in 1371, Ivan Sratsimir broke off relations with the Turnovo Kingdom and declared himself an independent ruler until the fall of Bdin under Ottoman rule in 1396.

During the Ottoman period the "Baba Vida" castle was reconstructed and it was adapted for the use of firearms. This is evident from the loopholes built into the outer wall. Part of the towers were destroyed and turned into bastions and buttresses. The rooms in the courtyard were transformed into ammunition storehouses and barracks. As such, the castle has been preserved until today.

"Konaka" Historical Museum

The building was significantly modified in the process of historical development. Most likely, initially it was a one-storey building with passages in the two directions, intersecting at a right angle in the middle. There was a tower-like room in its central part, which was used as a watch out by the fire brigade. The Turks used the building as a police office and in the 70s of 19th century

it was committed to the Bulgarian church community. After the Liberation it was reconstructed and elements of Bulgarian Renaissance architecture were included.

In 1956 the building became a museum. Today there are expositions of the Regional Historical Museum - Vidin in archeology and history of Bulgaria from 15th - 19th centuries.

"Konak" is located in the centre of Vidin. There is a park rest area in front of it.

"St. Martyr Dimitar" Temple

After the construction of the "Kale" fortification system in Vidin, the Bulgarian population could not use the churches within the fortified city on the major Christian holidays Christmas and Easter. This necessitated the construction of a new church named after Martyr Demetrios of Thessaloniki, which soon became the center of cultural and spiritual life of the Bulgarians. There, on 6th December 1868, a solemn service in Bulgarian language was conducted for the first time by a Bulgarian metropolitan bishop. Since then this temple was the cathedral of the Vidin Metropolitan Antim I, who later on was elected the first Bulgarian Exarch.

The worning-out of the wooden structure called forth a decision for the construction of a new temple. The plan for it was drawn by Usta Gencho Kanev in 1885, and the cornerstone was also laid then. 2200 tombstones from the old cemeteries of Vidin were laid at its base. The outbreak of the Serbo-Bulgarian War suspended the construction until 1889.

There is an opinion that for the completion of the temple Italian architect Bahnani was invited. On 26th October 1900, the day of the patron saint's day, the first Mass was serviced in it. The church was fully completed and decorated in 1926 and it was solemnly consecrated. The frescoes were drawn by Mr. Zhelyazkov.

Particularly impressive is the scene "Tsar Peter sends gifts to Ivan Rilski", which includes the persons of Botev, Levski, Karavelov and Rakovski, as well as Todor Alexandrov. Cathedral "St. Martyr Dimitar" is the second largest after the Temple-monument "St. Alexander Nevski" in Sofia. It is of cruciform shape with three longitudinal and one transverse naves upon which a large-volume composition is built. The interior spaces are impressive. The height of the central dome is 33 meters. The temple is located in the centre of the town, surrounded by a small park area.

"Cross -shaped Barrack" Ethnographic Museum

The building was constructed in 1801 on the place where the Old Palace garden used to be /the Palace of the Turkish governor / and was used as the Janissaries Konak. Next to it there was an

arms workshop, and the two were connected by a covered wooden bridge. After the Liberation it was used as a Court building and barracks of the Bulgarian army.

“Cross-shaped Barracks” is a solid two-storey building in the shape of an equal-arms cross. Each wing has a corridor planning scheme with different location of the premises. The building interior was rebuilt and modified several times, depending on the requirements of the new services. The stairs connecting the two levels have also been reconstructed many times and their original location and type are unknown. The walls are built of stone and bricks in lime-sand solution. The space between the wings is of marked monumentality. The building has four entrances. Today it houses an ethnographic exhibition. The “Cross- shaped Barracks” is located in the oldest part of Vidin, near the Danube park and the “St. Petka ” church. Four separate internal courtyards have been shaped around it.

“St. Petka” Church

The church is single-nave, semi-dug in the ground, with a semi-cylindrical vault under a double-slope roof. There is a wide and slightly elongated apse and a small, dimly lit porch with an entrance from the south. The walls are of stone masonry. A toothed cornice of stone and four rows of bricks go under the roof. On the upper parts of the walls there are preserved belts and medallions with images of saints. The inscription over the inner side of the entrance to the nave, which was well preserved until the beginning of 20th century, dates its construction to 1636. The old iconostasis is not preserved. By virtue of the Ottoman border law of this time, the authorities could confiscate and adapt for defense purposes any of the buildings of the “infidels” within the “Kale” fortress. In view of its proximity to military sites, the church was converted to a coal warehouse of the military unit and remained as such for several years till the liberation of Bulgaria in 1878.

“St. Petka ” Church is located in the “Kale” quarter, opposite the “Cross-shape Barracks” and close to the riverside-park.

The Mosque and Library of Osman Pazvantoglu

Of Osman Pazvantoglu’s ensemble only the mosque and the library have remained. Most likely it also included a madrassa / school / or zavie / a small Muslim religious sanctuary /. The mosque is a massive stone structure of strictly oriental architecture, creating the impression of two storeys. It was completed between May 14th, 1801 and May 4th, 1802. The entrance hall is shaped like a loft, the prayer hall is large and decorated, with a ceiling of wooden planks, on which there is a carved rosette. There is a balcony designed for the women. The minaret is topped with a stylized

tip in the shape of a spade (probably the symbol of the military unit to which Osman Pazvantoglu belonged). He dedicated it to his father, who was beheaded on the order of the Sultan.

Close to the mosque is the library, built in the period May 4th, 1802 to April 22nd, 1803. It is in the shape of a square four-sided prism, covered with a dome and a small outdoor porch. It was dedicated to Osman Pazvantoglu's mother. The books in the library were placed in 24 wooden chests. 2014 volumes of them were committed to the Republic of Turkey and 650 volumes were committed to the Oriental Department of "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" National Library in Sofia.

The mosque and the library are situated in a separate plot, located by the Danube Park.

Mausoleum of Antim I

The mausoleum was designed by architect Iliya Popov and was built in 1934. The building is square, made of stone, resembling a church. It has a dome-shaped roof on which several windows are set up. The dome part is made of white stone from the region of Vratza. The inner part of the mausoleum is decorated with frescoes. There is a mosaic portrait of Antim I at the entrance. A sitting sculpture of the first Bulgarian Exarch is positioned inside, and beneath it, in the basement, is the sarcophagus of his mortal remains. In 1975 the mausoleum was declared a monument of culture.

Antim I was born in 1816 in the town of Lozengrad, Eastern Thrace. He studied in Tsarigrad (today's Istanbul), and he was ordained to the priesthood in Saint Forest in 1837. In 1856 he graduated from the Moscow Theological Academy, and in 1868 was appointed bishop of Vidin. Here he broke off relations with the Patriarchate in Tsari Grad (Constantinople) and started a struggle for Bulgarian church independence. After the foundation of the Bulgarian exarchate in 1872, he was elected the first Bulgarian Exarch. Exarch Antim I protested against the massacre in Batak of 1876 and addressed the Russian Tsar with a letter in which he described the hard situation of the Bulgarian people, asking the Tsar to intercede for Bulgaria. For that activity of his the Sublime Porte defrocked Antim I from the exarch's post and exiled him in Asia Minor. After the Liberation in 1878, in the process of a general amnesty, Antim I was restored as Exarch and participated in the establishment of the new Bulgarian state. In 1879 he chaired the First Great National Assembly in Veliko Turnovo, where Alexander Battenberg was elected the first Bulgarian Prince.

Later on Exarch Antim I returned to Vidin, taking over the leadership of Vidin Bishopric as a Bishop. He bequeathed all his wealth for the construction of "St. Dimitar" church, for the establishment of a community centre and the development of education by building up a big two-storey junior high school, which, even today, is named after him. He died on December 1st, 1888 in the town of Vidin.

The Turkish Post Office

The post office was built in Vidin in 1858. It is a massive two-storey stone building, located near to the Telegraph Gate on the Danube riverbank. It is built of lime-sand mortar and covered with Turkish tiles. There is an open entrance. A wooden staircase in the hall leads to the second floor. A treasury was built in on the ground floor of the post office building.

This is the only preserved post office in Bulgaria. The post office was construed by Bulgarian masters from Debar, Macedonia. After 1878 the building of the post office was used as a male high school, and later on it accommodated an archaeological collection.

Currently, the building houses the Municipal Tourist Office Center and the Danube Bureau.

The Synagogue

The building was constructed in 1894 as a prayer home, with funds from the Jewish people from all over the Principality of Bulgaria, after the design of a so-far unknown architect. It is the second biggest synagogue in the country, after the one in Sofia, but is considered more beautiful. The plan of the building is symmetric, of regular shape, of the three-nave single-apsis basilica type, with a narthex, galleries and four towers. Its interior is colorful, with elements of ancient Greek and classic architecture forms. The narthex is covered with crossed vaults. The three naves are separated by a harmonious arcade over cast iron bronzed columns. They are channeled and finished with capitals of an Asia-Minor type. The central nave of the prayer's hall was covered by a cylindrical vault with ribs and the lateral naves and galleries - with crossed arches. They are painted in blue with decorated bronze hexagonal stars. The main façade is imposing. The windows are of arch shape, coupled in twos, with color glasses and fine gratings.

The synagogue is located close to the "Baba Vida" Castle, in a triangle plot in the river-side park.

BELOGRADCHIK

THE BELOGRADCHIK FORTRESS

Cultural monument of national significance and one of the best preserved fortresses in the country, dating back to the I c. B.C. In the XIV century it served as a summer residence of the Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Sratsimir.

MAGURA CAVE

Monument and a site of national importance. Its total Length is 2.5 km. On the walls of one of the galleries you can see paintings from different periods - Epipaleolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, and a unique solar calendar of 366 days.

VRATSA DISTRICT

VRATSA

Vratsa is a district centre and it is the biggest settlement in the Northwestern Bulgaria. During the different historical periods it has been developing as an important social, trading and cultural centre. Traces from human activities in these lands date back from the New Stone Age. The first inhabitants - the Thracian tribe of the Tribals developed high level of material culture, traces of which are still available in the Region of Vratsa.

Vratsa is a center of active cultural and spiritual life. The Regional History Museum will reveal the local history from ancient times until present and will enchant you with the unique exhibits of the Thracian and Rogozen treasures from the times of the Thracians.

In the vicinity of the town you will find many attractions - Ledenika cave, Vratsata Pass, Botev Path Memorial Complex. Vratsa is a desirable destination for lovers of cultural, historical, religious and eco-tourism.

BOTEV MEMORIAL COMPLEX

The peak Okolchitsa, 1048 m, is located in the Vratsa Balkan, not far from the village of Chelopek, about 20 km from Vratsa. A monument was erected on top commemorating the feat of the revolutionary Hristo Botev and his detachment, who died in 1876 for the liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule.

Each year, on 2 June, at the foot of the monument, there is a nation-wide memory service attended by thousands of Botev followers. Here is also the finish of the national tourist march along the route of the Botev detachment "Kozloduy - Okolchitsa", which has been held since 1946 without interruption.

Okolchitsa peak is the favorite place for gliders from the country and abroad and a favorite holiday spot during the weekend.

LEDENIKA CAVE

Ledenika Cave is all year round one of the most visited caves in Bulgaria. There is an asphalt road to the cave passing through the Vratsata Pass, winding along the rocks and forest massifs of the Vratsa Balkan and reaching the very entrance of the cave.

The cave is 320 m long and has 10 halls. Ledenika has some of the most beautiful halls and formations - "The Lake of Desires", "Sinners Pass", etc.. Here is found the most attractive cave hall on the Balkans - "The Concert Hall", which has amazing acoustics. The Vratsa Philharmonic Orchestra performs symphonic concerts there. From here through iron bridges, the visitors pass through the Little and Big Abyss, through the Curtains Gorge and reach the "White Hall." The highest point in Ledenika is called "Seventh Heaven".

Regional Historical Museum - Vratsa

The museum activities in Vratsa originated in the beginning of the XXth century with the creation of the first museum collection in the "Tsar Boris III" secondary school in Vratsa. Gradually, over the years, new collections and exhibitions in the community centers, schools and homes of well-known public persons were united in the Regional Museum of History. Here you will find archaeological finds and historical facts from the prehistoric era, the Roman and early Byzantine times, the Middle Ages and the Bulgarian Renaissance. You will be captivated by the unique exhibits of Thracian and Rogozen treasures from the Thracian times. In the museum you will also find collections of precious and semi-precious stones, paintings and sculptures of famous Bulgarian artists, as well as monuments of culture, reconstructed in a unique way - as a synthesis of art, education and high technology.

MONTANA DISTRICT

MONTANA

Montana is a center of active cultural and spiritual life. The Regional Museum of History and the ancient fortress Castra Ad Montanesium will uncover the local history from ancient times to the present day and will enchant you with the unique exhibits of the Thracian and Roman times.

Close to the city you will find many attractions - churches and monasteries, as well as the spa center Varshets. Montana is a desirable destination for lovers of cultural, historical, religious and eco-tourism.

Regional Museum of History - Montana

The Regional Museum of History in Montana opened in 1953.

For more than six decades, the museum has organized not only systematic archaeological excavations, but also exploring the material and spiritual culture that give the region its unique appearance.

Here you can visit the Exposition Hall, the Mihailov House, the Lapidarium Archaeological Exhibition and the Ancient Fortress. In the museum you will find more than 50,000 movable cultural heritage - epigraphic monuments of the Roman age, a copy of the Yakimovo Treasure, medieval treasure from the XIVth century, gold jewelry from the Roman era, a collection of old icons, a collection of old Chiprovtsi carpets and a collection of weapons.

Ancient fortress "Castra ad Montanesium"

The fortress "Castra ad Montanesium" is located in the northwest corner of the present city of Montana, on the hill "Kaleto" (The Fortress).

The name comes from the ancient Romans, probably from the word Mons - mountain, but the settlement dates back to prehistoric times - from the Stone and Copper Age. Later the Thracians came to this place, and during the Roman Empire the city flourished.

Near the fortress there is an ancient stone sanctuary of the main deities Diana and Apollo. The Roman city together with the fortress, was destroyed at the end of VIth century in the invasion of the Avars and Slavs. Later, over the ruins, the Slavs built a settlement, which they called Kutlovitsa.

Today the fortress is partially restored. The present city of Montana is located in the valley, leaving the Kaleto hill preserved as a real monument of ancient history.

CHIPROVTSI

History Museum - Chiprovtsi

The Chiprovtsi History Museum was established in 1986 on the occasion of the forthcoming celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Chiprovtsi Uprising.

Today, you can see some thematic expositions - "Metal extraction in Chiprovtsi", "Chiprovtsi gold school", "Chiprovtsi in the XVIIth century", "The Carpet Hall" and "Renaissance Art". The

ethnographic exhibition of the museum is located in „Katerininata” House, where you will find the only collection in the country with living plants for dyeing of the wool for the carpets.

The Museum of History in Chiprovtsi is organizer of celebrations, visiting exhibitions from other museums and cultural programmes for the local population.

VARSHETS

History Museum - Varshets

Varshets is located at the foothills of the western Balkan mountains, at 90 km from Sofia and 35 km north of Montana. Varshets is the oldest balneological resort in Bulgaria.

Here you will find the History Museum, which is housed in a building with unique architecture. In the museum you will see four thematic expositions - "Antique", "Archaeological finds and coin collection", "Balneology" and "Ethnography".

The history of Varshets as a balneological resort is presented with a rich documentary collection and numerous archive pictures.

The most valuable exhibit in the museum is the unique bronze sculpture from the IInd century B. C. Of the Thracian boy-god Telesfor, which today is the symbol of the city.

PLEVEN DISTRICT

PLEVEN

The city of Plevna is located between the Balkan Mountains and the Danube, in the heart of the Danube plain. The city offers a lot and comfortable accommodation, delicious food and nice restaurants and the locals are especially hospitable.

The millennial history of Plevna is built by different tribes and peoples - Thracians, Slavs, Proto-Bulgarians. Here you will find the remains of Roman and early Byzantine era, the First and Second Bulgarian Kingdoms. The Panorama complex "Plevna Epopee", Skobelev Park and the house-museum "Tsar Liberator Alexander II" will present you with one of the most remarkable pages in the centuries-old history of Bulgaria - the Russian-Turkish Liberation War.

Panorama "Plevna Epopee"

In 1977, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the liberation of Plevna, at the actual battlefield in Skobelev park museum was built Panorama complex "Plevna Epopee 1877".

The Pleven Panorama consists of four halls. In the Opening hall you will see six paintings which reflect moments of the Bulgarian history and the Russian-Turkish War of 1877-78. In the Panorama hall, the panoramic canvas, woven from flax, takes you into the center of the battlefield of the largest and bloodiest battle for Pleven - the third storming on 11-12 September 1877. The Diorama hall will reveal the last battle for Pleven in Vit river valle on 10 December 1877. In the Final hall you will witness the capitulation of Osman Pasha and the winter crossing of the Balkan mountains by the Russian army.

The permanent exhibition in the Rotunda of the Panorama "Pleven Epopee" presents the highlights of the Liberation, the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878 and episodes from the national liberation struggles of the Bulgarian people during the Renaissance.

Skobelev Park Museum

To the south of Pleven, on the battlefield of the Russian-Turkish Liberation War of 1877-1878, was built the memorial park named to the General M. D. Skobelev. Here are a found also a few Russian monuments as a symbol of gratitude to fallen Russian soldiers.

The creation of the park began in 1905 when were built artillery batteries, a small pond, the fortification "Issa-Aga" was restored and and ossuary was built containing part of the bones of the defendants.

The Ministry of Defense of Bulgaria also built in the park a museum house dedicated to General Skobelev, where lived and worked Stoyan Zaimov who was the Chairman of the Committee "Tsar Liberator Alexander II", and a revolutionary, memoirist and public person, who has also been in exile.

Mausoleum and chapel "St. George the Victorious"

The mausoleum and chapel "St. George the Victorious" was built in the city of Pleven in memory of the fallen Russian and Romanian soldiers in the battles near Pleven during the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878.

On 24 April 1903, the official government representatives of Bulgaria, Romania and Russia ceremonially laid the foundation stone of the mausoleum and chapel. The collected funds from donations and government funds amounted to 350 000 gold Levs and they were used to start the construction of the monument at "Tsar Liberator" square. The monumental building, a symbol of gratitude, was built in traditional Bulgarian church style.

The mausoleum and chapel "St. George the Victorious" was opened officially and consecrated on 3 September 1907 in the presence of Prince Ferdinand I, Grand Prince Vladimir Alexandrovich - son of Emperor Alexander II, Princess Maria Pavlovna and the members of the Committee "Tsar Liberator Alexander II".

Regional Historical Museum - Pleven

The Regional Historical Museum in Pleven is one of the largest museums in Bulgaria with impressive fund of over 180 000 artefacts. In the museum you will find archaeological exhibits that will display the achievements of human societies which lived near Pleven in ancient times. The exhibition "History of Bulgaria XV - XIX century" presents the Bulgarian Renaissance. The ethnographic collection will show you the material and spiritual culture of Pleven and the settlements in Pleven district. In the department of "Nature" you will see the rich and varied geological history of the region, as well as interesting specimens of the flora and fauna. The exposition "Gena Dimitrova" with its strong influence will tell you about the remarkable career of the great Bulgarian opera singer.

The Regional Historical Museum with its high artistic, historical and natural science value exhibits the Bulgarian history, culture and natural heritage of the city of Pleven and the region. Here is presented the history of different cultures and people, which have left lasting traces in our lands and in the European cultural space.

Storgozia Fortress

The remains of the fortress "Storgozia" are located in the park „Kaylaka“ - 4 km to the south of the city of Pleven. It is built on a high flat plateau on the left bank of the river Tuchenitsa and naturally protected by steep banks of the river.

The archaeological excavations revealed two fortified gates, three reinforcing the defensive line towers, remnants of residential buildings and choreum, which is a public warehouse for cereals. In the eastern part of Storgozia were found remains of an early Christian basilica from the IVth century with impressive size and fragments of rich interior and exterior decorations.

The archaeological findings from Storgozia and its necropolis - ceramics, weapons, coins - are an evidence that this fortified settlement has existed until the end of the VIth century. In the Middle Ages, the village continued to exist as a strong fortress with well developed crafts, trade and exchange activities. The best seasons to visit are in spring and summer.

ROUSSE DISTRICT

ROUSSE

Rousse is the free spirit city. The largest Bulgarian city on the Danube river, the center of diverse cultures and communities. The city of European values and ideas.

With its 20 centuries history, Rousse will impress you with its unique architecture, numerous museums and a rich cultural calendar. In the heart of the city you will walk along nice two-storey buildings and a beautiful city garden where you can feel the local spirit and lifestyle.

Rousse is the city of entertainment and good mood. Here you will find comfortable accommodation, delicious food, cozy cafes and restaurants and unforgettable views of natural and cultural-historical landmarks.

Liberty Square, Monument of Freedom and “Dohodno” Building - Rousse

Rousse is a city at a crossroad - one of the most beautiful and visited destinations in the cross-border region Romania - Bulgaria. In its 20-century history, the different times have left their mark on the diversity of cultural strata.

In the heart of the city you will find the popular Liberation Square, built after the Liberation from Ottoman rule by the park builders Richard Neuwirth and Ferdinand Holober. They created an unseen until then urban garden with palm trees, cacti, banana shrubs, Japanese apples and other exotic plants.

The first buildings near the Liberty Square are the neat two-storey buildings, and the Corner Building with the Clock is the first in line. In the middle of the garden stands the Monument of Freedom, built in honour of those who died in the Russian-Turkish Liberation War. To the right of it is the “Dohodno” Building - the emblem of the city, impressive with its unique architecture. Today, the “Dohodno” building is a cultural center where you can enjoy theatre productions, concerts and exhibitions.

The museums of Rousse

With its 20-century history, Rousse is a well-known cultural and historical center in the lower stretch of the Danube river. Here you will find many museums, the most remarkable among which are the Regional Museum of History with one of its expositions - Ecomuseum with aquarium.

The Regional Museum of History - Rousse was opened on 1 January 1904 as a museum collection at "Knyaz Boris I" secondary school for boys. Over the years, the museum has been developing and at present there are more than 130,000 cultural exhibits exposed. The museum presents the tangible and intangible cultural heritage, history and nature of Northeastern Bulgaria.

The Ecomuseum with aquarium is of particular interest. The Ecomuseum presents the diversity of animal species and protected areas along the Danube river valley, as well as the coexistence of man and nature.

Three of the total of seven exhibitions of the Regional Museum of History are in the open - the Roman fortress "Sexaginta Prista", the Ivanovo Rock Churches and the Medieval town of Cherven.

If you want to learn how people traveled in the past, visit the Museum of Transport in Rousse. The museum is located below the "Youth Park" on the bank of the Danube river.

The magnificent train complex, designed and built from 1864 to 1866, offers 3 museum expositions. The first museum exhibition - "The Old Train Station" presents key moments of the development of the railway transport in Bulgaria and the connection of the railway with the passenger navigation on the Danube river. The second exhibition - "Park-Museum" - presents trains from mid-XIXth century and mid-XXth century, freight and specialized railcars. The third museum exposition - "Salon cars", displays unique items related to the travel of high-ranked officials from the 1st and 2nd government trains.

The museum also has outdoor expositions where several steam locomotives, various models of railcars (including Tsar Ferdinand I's private royal railcar) and other interesting exhibits are displayed.

The House and museum of Baba Tonka is a key exposition of the Bulgarian Renaissance and presents the contribution of the family of Obretenovi and Baba Tonka in the quest for an independent church, enlightenment and revolutionary struggle.

The House and museum of Zahari Stoyanov opened its doors for visitors in March 1978 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman rule. Its exposition is dedicated to "Family Obretenovi" - a famous Bulgarian Renaissance family.

In the House and museum of the urban way of life, you will find an exposition which emphasizes on the signs of Modernity in the everyday life and the festive spirit of the citizens of Rousse from the end of the XIXth and the beginning of the XXth century. It is the first ethnographic museum in Bulgaria that presents the urban (bourgeois) culture.

Roman fortress "Sexaginta Prista"

Sexaginta Prista is situated in the northwestern part of the city of Rousse, on the bank of the Danube river.

Recent studies show that the fortress existed in IIIrd century B. C., where the Thracians performed mysterious rituals and cult practices.

The name "Sexaginta Prista", translated as "The port of the 60 ships", the fortress received in connection with the events at the end of the 1st century A. D., when a Roman legion, consisting of 6000 people, loaded on exactly 60 ships, was transferred to the mouth of the Roussenski Lom river.

The remains found in this ancient and sacred place testify that the fortress was inhabited by different peoples and cultures - Thracians, Romans, Byzantines. Sexaginta Prista was also an important strategic fortification for the Bulgarian kings of the First and Second Bulgarian Kingdom.

Park and Pantheon of the Renaissance Leaders

The Pantheon of the Renaissance leaders is located in the old cemetery of the city of Rousse, in the Renaissance Park. The pantheon was erected in memory of the Bulgarians, who gave their lives for the freedom of Bulgaria. It is a monument-ossuary preserving the bones of 453 revolutionaries and volunteers who participated in the Russian-Turkish War in 1877-1878, soldiers and cultural-educational activists.

The monument was opened on 28 February 1978 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Bulgarian Liberation from Ottoman rule. Today you can visit a chapel and museum with documentary exposition, buy information materials and souvenirs.

IVANOVO

IVANOVO ROCK CHURCHES

The rock monastery "St. Archangel Michael" or also called Ivanovo Rock Churches is located 22 km from the city of Rousse, near the village of Ivanovo, within the boundaries of Rusenski Lom Nature Park.

The monastery was founded in the 20s of the XIIIth century by the monk Joakim, who later became a Bulgarian patriarch.

The holy abode combines several rocky complexes. In six of the temples are preserved frescoes, which reveal the specific features of the Bulgarian church art in the XIIIth-XIVth centuries. During the Second Bulgarian Kingdom (XII-XIVth century) the monastery became a great spiritual and literary center.

Ivanovo Rock Churches are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

VELIKO TARNOVO DISTRICT

VELIKO TARNOVO

Veliko Tarnovo is one of the most visited tourist destinations in the cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria. Here you will find comfortable accommodation, delicious food, cozy cafes, generous hospitality and unforgettable views.

Tsarevets and Trapezitsa are the sacred place of the Bulgarian kings. The ethnographic complex "Samovodska Charshia" will immerse you in the atmosphere of the Bulgarian Renaissance. You will get acquainted with the traditional Bulgarian crafts and get handmade souvenirs and artworks.

Here you can visit Orthodox churches - centers of the spiritual life of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. The local museums, libraries and architectural monuments will tell you the Bulgarian history from the Middle Ages until the present days.

Ethnographic complex "Samovodska charshiya" and Multimedia Visitor Center "Tsarevgrad Tarnov"

The Ethnographic Complex "Samovodska Charshia" in Veliko Tarnovo is one of the main attractions of the city. The complex consists of restored or built in Renaissance style buildings with high stone walls, houses with balconies overlooking the street, small shops and workshops. In the past this part of the city was a market where gathered the producers from the surrounding villages. Gradually around the market began to open shops, workshops and inns. Today the street of crafts is a significant museum site in Veliko Tarnovo and a pleasant place for walks and relaxation.

Another interesting site is the Multimedia Visitor Center "Tsarevgrad Turnov", which recreates important events of the life and culture of the royal city from the time of the Bulgarian Tsars. The museum has 29 sculptures of significant historical figures. The concept is developed in four directions - the presentation of the royal glory, the military glory, the spirituality - through the books and the development of art and crafts.

TSAREVETS AND TRAPEZITSA

For more than two centuries Tarnovgrad is the capital of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. The medieval town extends over the fortified walls of the hills of Tsarevets, Trapezitsa, Momina Fortress, the slopes to the natural water barrier - Yantra river and the picturesque relief created by nature.

The dominant position of the Tsarevets hill and its natural inaccessibility predetermined its choice as the center of the supreme rule of the Bulgarian state during the Middle Ages.

Trapezitsa is a fortified hill, part of the capital Tarnovgrad, situated to the northwest of Tsarevets. It is surrounded from three sides by the smooth meanders of the Yantra River.

In the newly established Cultural Heritage Center, a modern interactive exposition will show you the majesty of the capital of Tarnovgrad and the Second Bulgarian Kingdom.

The museums of Veliko Tarnovo

Veliko Tarnovo is a center of the spiritual and cultural life of the Second Bulgarian Kingdom. Today the city is full of numerous museums and architectural monuments. Among the most important museums of the city are the Archaeological Museum and the “Renaissance and Constituent Assembly” Museum.

At the Archaeological Museum you can see the exhibition "Turnovgrad - the capital of Bulgaria XII - XIV century". The archaeological monuments, depicted in it, illustrate the millennial history and culture of the Veliko Tarnovo region with special attention to the period when the city was the capital of the Bulgarian medieval state.

The “Renaissance and Constituent Assembly” Museum is located in the building of the old Turkish Konak (town hall). This architectural monument was built in 1872 by the great Renaissance master builder Kolyu Ficheto. The exposition is divided into three parts - the national liberation struggle of the Tarnovo region during the Ottoman rule; the economic development of Turnovo and the region during the Renaissance period; and the Constituent Assembly in Turnovo in 1879, which laid the foundations for the development of modern Bulgaria and the first democratic constitution.

The churches of Veliko Tarnovo

Veliko Tarnovo is the heir of the former capital of Turnovgrad. Many Orthodox temples have been built here, which today bear witness to the high morality and spirituality of the Bulgarian people over the centuries.

The church "St. 40 Martyrs" was built and painted according to the will of Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Assen II in honor of his great victory over the Epire despot Theodor Komnin in 1230. In the middle of the XIIIth century the royal monastery "Velika Lavra" was built around the temple. The famous Tarnovo church is the center of a number of important events. Here one can find some of the most emblematic monuments of Bulgarian historical memory - the columns of Tsar Ivan Assen II with the famous inscriptions on them.

The contemporary archaeological excavations reveal the graves of prominent people from the Middle Ages - Tsar Kaloyan, Tsar Ivan Asen II and Queen Ana-Maria. The relics of St. Ilarion Maglenski were preserved in the temple. Here is also the tomb of Sava the Serbian.

The church "St. 40 Martyrs" is connected also to an extremely important event from the recent history of Bulgaria - the proclamation of Independence on 22 September 1908.

The church "St. Dimitar" is located at the eastern foothill of the Trapezitsa fortress. The historical information links it to the proclamation of the uprising of the brothers Asen and Peter, which led to the restoration of the Bulgarian state in 1186 after almost two centuries under Byzantium rule.

The temple "St. Peter and Paul" is located at the northern foothill of the Tsarevets fortress. Its building is related to the transfer of the relics of St. Yoan Polivotski by Tsar Kaloyan to the city of Turnovgrad in 1204.

Another church, located at the eastern foothill of the Trapezitsa fortress, is the church „St. George". The temple as it stands today was built at the beginning of the XVIIth century and was erected over the foundations of a church from the the times of Turnovgrad capital city.

In the old center of Veliko Tarnovo you will find the Church "St. St. Konstantin and Elena", built in 1872 by the Master Kolyu Ficheto. In a unique and extremely beautiful way the Master managed to build and unite the church and the bell tower.

ARBANASSI

Arbanassi is an attractive tourist center because of the clean air, the unique view and the taverns with local wines. Here you can stay in guest houses decorated in a Renaissance architectural style and the restaurants and inns will offer typical Bulgarian cuisine with a variety of specialties from the region.

Arbanassi is an architectural and museum reserve, which will bring you back to the atmosphere of the Bulgarian Renaissance. You will get acquainted with the traditional Bulgarian crafts and get handmade souvenirs and artworks. Among the most interesting museums in Arbanassi are the

Konstantsaliev house, the Church of the Holy Birth of Christ and the church "St. Archangel Michael and Gabriel", which are open all year round to visit.

The stay in Arbanassi not only brings relaxation, but also inspires pride in the historical past of our people, in its skill to build beautiful houses and the mastership of architects and icon-painters.

SILISTRA DISTRICT

SILISTRA

Silistra is an attractive tourist destination in the cross-border region Romania - Bulgaria. Here you will find comfortable accommodation, the local pubs will offer you delicious food and drinks and the locals will welcome you with their great hospitality.

Silistra is the heir of the ancient Roman city of Durostorum. The archaeological artifacts will take you back to the Roman and Early Byzantine era, as well as to the time when Bulgaria was part of the Ottoman Empire.

At the Regional History Museum you will see the rich archeological and ethnographic exhibitions.

Regional Museum of History - Silistra

Silistra is one of the first towns in Bulgaria to have a museum. The Museum of History in the city opened in 1899.

The museum includes two expositions - archaeological and ethnographic.

The ethnographic exposition will present you exhibits of the lifestyle and culture of Dobrudzha population of Silistra region, original tools, local costumes, mummers and "Brezaya" masks used in the winter rituals for fertility and health.

In the archaeological exposition there are monuments from the prehistoric, antique and medieval age - Roman stone sundial, Roman sports helmet mask with depicted griffins, tombstone finds, the chariot of a famous Roman magistrate, the Column of Khan Omurtag.

Ancient settlement Durostorum-Drastar

The remains of Drastar - one of the great Bulgarian cities, are located in the modern city of Silistra.

Drastar is the heir to the ancient city of Durostorum, which was alive and populated at all times despite the ups and downs of history. The Bulgarians preserved, maintained and renovated the fortress, and from its port the navy connected the Bulgarian lands to all the Danube people during peacetime and during war.

Today in the ancient settlement you can see remnants of past epochs - fortress walls, ancient gate, inscriptions and impressive basilica, erected by Prince Boris I after the conversion of the Bulgarians to Christianity.

Turkish fortress "Medzhidi Tabia"

The Turkish fort "Abdul Medzhidi" or the so-called Medzhidi Tabia fortress is located south of Silistra and is the most preserved of the six points of the Turkish fortification system, which played an important role in the Crimean and Russian-Turkish wars. It was built because of the need to further strengthen the Danubian towns when the river became a natural border of the Ottoman Empire.

The fortress was built in the period 1841-1853 with the free labour of 300 forcefully engaged Bulgarians. The majority of the master builders were from Dryanovo, and the stone-cutters were from the region of Silistra.

Medzhidi Tabia is the only fully preserved fortress in its interior and exterior from the Ottoman era in Bulgaria.

SREBARNA

Biosphere Reserve "Srebarna" and Natural Science Museum - Srebarna village

The Biosphere Reserve near the village of Srebarna is situated 2 km to the south of the Danube River and 16 km to the west of Silistra on an area of 600 hectares. It covers Lake Srebarna and the lands around it. The reserve is located on the route of the migratory birds from Europe to Africa - Via Pontica, and here you will find unique and diverse species of waterfowl.

From May to September in the Natural History Museum in the village of Srebarna you will see stuffed specimens of the inhabitants of the reserve, many photos and information materials for the plant and animal species. The museum has an observation point from which you can watch the birds in the reserve through telescopes and binoculars. A camcorder is placed in the heart of the lake to watch the places where the pelicans breed.

DOBRICH DISTRICT

DOBRICH

Dobrich is an attractive tourist destination in the cross-border region Romania - Bulgaria. Here you will find comfortable accommodation, cozy restaurants with delicious food and drinks and the great hospitality of local people.

Dobrich is an established cultural center accommodating also rich spiritual life. The local museums and art gallery will get you acquainted with the works of famous Bulgarian and foreign artists. In the "Old Dobrich" part you will see traditional Bulgarian crafts and get handmade souvenirs.

House and Museum of Yordan Yovkov- Dobrich

The house and museum is located in the center of Dobrich. It has preserved the unique atmosphere of the time when the famous Bulgarian writer Yordan Yovkov lived here during the most romantic months of his life.

In the "big room" of this little Dobrudzha home, he marries his wife Despina and begins to write his first work on a non-war theme - "The Reaper".

In the courtyard of the house to the world of the writer you will be welcomed the sculpturere of one of Yovkov's heroes - Lutsan, embodying the eternal human pursuit of beauty, love and faith in good.

Architecture and Ethnographic Museum "Old Dobrich"!

"Old Dobrich" is an open-air museum, situated in the center of the modern city of Dobrich, in place of the former Odun Charshia. In the restored old town crafts street, prolific masters continue the centuries-old tradition of their crafts. Using old handicrafts and original instruments in more than 30 workshops are performed traditional craftsmanship, blacksmithing, embroidery, weaving, cooperage, homespun tailoring, goldsmithing. In the center of the complex you will see the restored old clock tower, built in the XVIIIth century.

Here are organized folklore performances and demonstrations of old Bulgarian crafts, and in the exhibition hall of the complex you will find the permanent exhibition "Archeology of Dobrudzha".

Art Gallery - Dobrich

The Dobrich Art Gallery is a fine arts museum, which collects, researches and preserves artworks by different generations of artists as well as materials about the history of the gallery and the development of art in the city, region and country.

Throughout the year, you can see the permanent exhibition of the gallery, which includes various collections of paintings, graphics, Japanese graphics, papers and sculptures. The gallery hosts various exhibitions of Bulgarian and foreign artists.

In the building of the art gallery there is a hall for educational activities, creative work and experiments "Imagination Workshop". It uses interactive tools, meetings with artists, lectures, video projections and multimedia presentations.

BALCHIK

Architectural and Park Complex "Dvoretsa" ("The Palace")

"Dvoretsa" is the former summer residence of the Romanian Queen Maria Alexandrina Victoria de Edinburgh. It is situated 2 km to the southwest of Balchik, in a beautiful area between the Balchik rocks and the sea.

At the beginning of the XXth century, the Romanian Queen was brought up by her friends in Balchik and was fascinated by the nature and spirit of the city. She decided to build her summer residence here, having a strict requirement for the designers - the construction of the cottage not to violate nature but to add to its beauty.

One of the first buildings to be built is the Queen's Cottage "The Quiet Nest". Simultaneously with the construction of the villa were formed the gardens and alleys of the complex. "Dvoretsa" became an integral ensemble of buildings and a park.

The architectural and park complex is open all year round for visits, exhibitions, theater productions, concerts and other events.

Late Antiquity and Medieval Fortress in "Horizon" residential area - Balchik

On the plateau of the plain, northwest of the center of Balchik, on the territory of the present residential area of Horizon, 1 km from the seashore you will find a late antique and medieval fortress.

Here, in the middle of the VIIIth century, the medieval town of Karvuna was erected on the ruins of the ancient antique fortress of Dionysopolis. Over the centuries this place has been a strategic and commercial center for Byzantines and Bulgarians. Today, you will find archaeological finds from various periods of the fortress.

3. Target participants

Below are described the target groups as audience and participants who could participate in the cultural event per country as follows:

3.1. Romania

Beside the audience, the actors, artists, writers, musicians, etc. who can participate actively in the cultural events are as follows:

STREET THEATRE

One of the most successful open air representations that are presented in the Bucharest festivals in the last 4-5 years is the Living statues show, from the Masca Theatre.

Masca Theater was established by Government Decision on May 24, 1990, and describes itself as a theater of gesture, pantomime and bodily expression, being the only theater of this kind in Romania. A one-of-a-kind theatre in the capital of Romania, “Masca” was the first company to introduce street performances and alternative forms of theatre in Romania. „Masca” is constantly developing and offering its audience innovative performances rooted in Lecoque’s teachings and breakthroughs.

Since its foundation, Masca Theater evolved along two main paths:

- street theater (with performances centered around clowns, commedia dell’arte, medieval theater, large marionettes, living statues, etc.) involving performers with a vast array of means of expression: clownerie, juggling, various instruments, tap dance, pantomime, living statues, handling large marionettes (2 meter tall), dancing, singing, acrobatics, etc.
- indoor shows with an elaborate script, inspired by great authors of world literature (N. V. Gogol, G. G. Marquez, E. Briusov, J. L. Borjes, W. Shakespeare), which are closely related in style to dance theater, with very little or no dialogue, the actor being the focal point of the shows, the unique keeper of the mystery of theatre.

The following info was provided by the theatre:

LIVING STATUES FESTIVAL

Among those arts that can be performed out in the street, that of the living statue holds a special place. Mysterious, surprising, often funny, sometimes profound, one can not go by a living statue without noticing it. And that is because it's power to catch the eye like a magnet, to incite one to react and to meditate on the subject of human condition. One can not easily forget the image of a well composed living statue, that is for sure. Any tourist who was in Barcelona would have undoubtedly seen the human statues of La Rambla, for example. Strange is the power of the living statues if it can easily hold its place among against the works of Gaudi.

The living statue is an actor, wearing make-up and a costume as to imitate a statue, able to stand still for a long period of time, thus misleading the audience. But this would be an incomplete answer, as it disregards the art of the actor, his special training, his extraordinary ability to interact with the audience around and to improvise. And, maybe the most important element of all, one has to think about the joy of giving the audience a subject on which to meditate, a story to discover behind the costume and make-up, by meeting each and everyone's own playful self.

The living statue represents the most concentrated form of street theatre, a chance for every actor to become a master of its art. There are so many interesting steps that one has to overcome in becoming a good or great actor. The living statue is a kind of abridged edition of becoming one, the signature of a great master that has reached the top of his skills.

VISUAL ARTS (PAINTING)

One possibility to address the objective of inviting visual artists to the festival is to launch the invitation to mature artists, with reputation, portfolio and know how. They would display their works and sell them to the visitors.

A complete list of the plastic artists, members of the Plastic Artists Union of Romania (UAP), with contact details and CV in English language, could be accessed at:

<https://uap.ro/en/category/artisti/>

Another possibility, that gives more dynamic to the festival, is to invite young artists (teenagers), and give them the possibility to create works on the spot.

As such initiative would require adult consent and maybe supervision, this would be much better organized in partnership with several art schools from the region or from the rest of the country.

Here is a list of such schools with contact details.

Constanta

The National College of Arts, "Queen Mary", celebrates 62 years of existence and it has occupied, over the years, an important place in the Constanta cultural space, being a unique institution in Dobrogea. His graduates, after graduation, became specialists in cultural institutions, members of orchestras in the country or abroad, and teachers.

The College offers multidisciplinary learning: artistic practice and general culture. To initiate, develop or form future professionals is the primary quality of this type of education. The educational offer includes a wide range of areas: architecture, design, painting, graphics, choreography, music, etc.

Giurgiu

"Victor Karpis" Secondary School of Giurgiu is a prestigious institution of cultural life, which has continuously promoted the perennial values of music and the fine arts among the generations of juvenile generations for 55 years since its foundation in 1958 .

The school has catalysed the constant concerns of music lovers and teachers for shaping and discovering talents from the city's inexhaustible spring. The music and the plastic arts proved that they are the best ambassadors of the city's spirituality and culture, proving by the level of performance that Giurgiu can be on the same level with the centers of tradition of artistic life in the country and even in Europe.

Teleorman

The Teleorman Folk Arts and Traditional School has been working in Alexandria for more than 30 years, and up to now over 2000 students have graduated from it. The institution was the launching platform for more value-minded people in the Teleorman culture. The Teleorman Arts and Handicrafts School was founded in 1978 in Alexandria to support the training of artists interested in different genres of music or those interested in theater, painting and more.

At the end of 2002, through the reorganization, the Popular Arts School was included within the County Center for Conservation and Promotion of Traditional Culture Teleorman.

"Marin Sorescu" Art School

It is the institution where students develop their creative spirit, shape their talents and shape their personality, so that their names become emblems of art over the years. If ephemera defines human existence, art, whether it is painting, music or literary creation, eternalizes the human being and brings it closer to the gods. European School since 2005, "Marin Sorescu" Art High School opens its doors to the knowledge and beauty people with an outstanding teaching body and a rich pedagogical tradition accumulated in 50 years of existence. Partnerships with cultural institutions such as Oltenia Philharmonic, Elena Teodorini lyrical theater, "Marin Sorescu" National Theater, "Alexandru and Aristia Aman" County Library.

FOLKLORE (MUSIC)

Annex R04 presents a list of Folk Ensembles, the data being obtained from the National Institute of Patrimony.

3.2. Bulgaria

Below is a list of relevant cultural resources, organisations, groups and acts, which could participate, support, contribute or be relevant to art & culture events in Romania-Bulgaria CBC region, per districts:

VIDIN

"Vida" Drama Theater

The two-storey building was erected in 1891 and it is the first one in free Bulgaria specifically designed for a drama theatre. The central place in it is occupied by a huge hall with 480 seats. The designer of the theatre is unknown. In 1893 the city's chief engineer Karl Machas re-drew the project, but did not mention who the author was. The building is located at the entrance of the Danube Park.

"Nikola Petrov" Art Gallery

The building was constructed for a military club. After appropriate reconstructions in 1963 it housed the Art Gallery. The gallery was named after one of the great Bulgarian artists, who was born in Vidin. It keeps about 1,500 pictures from all over the world.

It is located at the beginning of the Danube Park, next to the Municipal Drama Theatre.

Other cultural resources:

- Regional library “Mihalaki Georgiev”
- Vidin Symphoniette
- Ensemble for traditional song and dance “Dunav”
- City brass orchestra
- Over 20 Community Centres in Vidin district

International festivals:

- International folklore festival “Gergyovden” held in May each year in the village of Antimovo, organized by the Community Center in the village of Antimovo
- Festival “Week of the Blue Danube”, held in June each year, organized by the Municipality of Vidin
- Youth Art Festival “The Bridge” held in July each year, organized by the Municipality of Vidin
- Art festival “Danube waves”, held in July each year, organized by the Municipality of Vidin
- Opera festival “Fortress of the centuries”, held at Baba Vida Fortress in August each year, organized by the Municipality of Vidin
- Traditional city fair of Vidin, organized in the end of August, beginning of September each year by the Municipality of Vidin
- International folklore festival of the Vlah songs and dance, held in September each year in the riverside park in Vidin, organized by the Association of Vlachs in Bulgaria and Municipality of Vidin

VRATSA

In the diatrict of Vratsa, there are municipal departmental and private cultural institutions. The puppet theatre, the Historical Museum, the Art gallery and the Philharmonic orchestra of Vratsa are located in the Palace of Culture. The Community Centre “Razvitie”, the Regional Library and the Ethnographic complex of the Bulgarian national revival “St. Sofroniy Vrachanski” have their own inventory bases. The Children Complex and the Municipal Home of Youth purpose work the children and youngsters.

There are three private galleries in Vratsa. The Historical Museum is the only place, where everyone can see the exhibition of the unique “Rogozensko Sakrovishte” (The treasure found in the village of Rogozen), which was returned to the museum several years ago, due to the investment of the municiplaty in purchasing of a proper security system. These tracian treasures from the Mogilan mound in Vratsa and the village of Rogozen have been exhibited in the biggest museums in Europe, America and Asia.

The following groups maintain broad international contacts and take part in international forums: The Puppet Theatre, The Philharmonic Orchestra of Vratsa, Theatre Group “Temp” at the Home of Youth, dancing ensembles at the Community Centre “Razvitie” and Social children services - Vratsa.

The cultural institutions in Vratsa are the State Philharmonic Orchestra, the Puppet Theatre, the Regional Historical Museum with Art Gallery, the Library “Hristo Botev”, as well as seventeen Community Centres on the territory of the Municipality.

The State Philharmonic Orchestra was established in 1909 as a Musical Society “Orpheus”, which gave many symphonic, operatic and musical-comedy concerts and performances. The orchestra consists of 52 professional musicians who produce about 70 concerts per season. Their repertoire includes works from all styles and genres. A great number of famous musicians from Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, Japan, Italy, Germany, Canada, France and the USA were guest-conductors of the Philharmonic orchestra. and has issued eight CDs. In October and November every year, the Orchestra organizes the International Youth Musical Forum, which 19th session was held in 2004.

Puppet Theatre in Vratsa was established in 1938. It has its own building with big hall gathers up an audience of 748 people, chamber hall with 120 seats, puppet hall with 80 and a ballet one with 80 as well. The Puppet Theatre is a host of the Annual Festival of Small Theatrical Forms, which is being held in May each year. The actors and the directors of the staging “The House of Ivan” and “Didro in Petersburg” received awards from the Festival in 2004. The actress Jordanka Stefanova was awarded as the 1st price of the Festival as well the Theatre Award “Asker” 2004 for main female performance.

Regional Historical Museum with Art Gallery (RHMA) - Vratsa is an inheritor of a tradition, the beginning of which had been set with the ordination of St. Sofroniy as “Episkop Vrachnaski” (the Bishop of Vratsa). It has existed as a professional institution since 1953. The main support fund of RHMA exceeds 100 000 items (2200 of which belong to the Art Gallery). In RHMA one can see one of the most beautiful and most ancient Thracian treasures - The Treasure of the Mogilanskata mound and the treasure found in the village of Rogozen - “Rogozenkoto Sakrovishte”, comprising 165 gilded silver vessels - jugs, phials, and vases. One can also see there the last exponent found by archaeologists from Vratsa - a 9000 years old skeleton of a woman. The museum has a Lapidary hall and a separate Ethnographic Complex of the Bulgarian National Revival.

“Hristo Botev” Library was established in 1954 and it keeps over 250 000 library documents. More than 100 are the periodic publications, which are available in the library. Director of the Library is Mr. Ivan Penev - a poet and a winner of the Award of Vratsa for 2003.

There are four churches in Vratsa and one of them - “Sveto Vaznesenie” is a Historical monument, which was built in 1848 in the days of Arch-bishop Agatiy among the houses of prominent families. Vasil Levski (the celibate priest Ignatiy), sang here in 1872 and it was the place, where the local Revolutionary Committee made the preparation of the attempt for upheaval (19.V.1876). In the female part of the temple three Russian soldiers were buried, killed in battle in this region, during the Liberation War between Russia and Turkey (1877). In the vicinity of Vratsa there are also the monasteries “Ivan Pusti”, “The Monastery of Cherepish” and “The Monastery of Strupets” which are very closely related to the Bulgarian History.

National and international festivals:

- International folklore festival “Vratsa spring”, held in the end of May, beginning of June each year.
- International youth theatre fest “Time”, organized by Youth band “Temp” and the Youth Centre - Vratsa
- Festival of the old city songs “Mara Vrachanka”
- National festival of the small art forms, held in May each year, organized by the Ministry of Culture, Municipality of Vratsa and the Drama and Puppet theatre - Vratsa
- Youth musical forum, held in October and November each year, organized by the Municipality of Vratsa and the the Philharmony of Vratsa
- National competition of young musicians “Diko Iliev”, held every second year
- Spring folklore festival for amateur groups, organized by the Community centres in the Municipality of Vratsa

MONTANA

The cultural resources in Montana include:

- Drama Theatre
- Pupper theatre “Patilan”
- Regional library “Geo Milev”
- Radiocentre “Channel M”
- Municipal Youth Centre
- Community Centres on the territory of the district

International and national festivals:

- International Folklore Festival - Montana, held on occasion of the patron of the town - the Holy Spirit, 51 days after Easter each year, organized by the Municipality of Montana
- National festival of the brass orchestra “Diko Iliev”
- Art biennale “Tenets”

PLEVEN

The cultural resources in Pleven district include:

- Drama and Puppet Theatre “Ivan Radoev”, <http://www.teatur-plevenbg.com>
- Regional library “Hristo Smirnenski”, <http://www.lib-pleven.com>
- Art Gallery “Ilia Beshkov”, <http://www.plevengallery.hit.bg>
- Art Gallery with collection donated by Svetlin Rusev, e-mail: hg_svetlinrusev@abv.bg
- Art Centre - Pleven, e-mail: artcenterpleven@abv.bg
- Ensemble for northern folklore “Ivan Valev”, <http://severniashki-ansambal.com>
- Municipal Brass Orchestra, e-mail: plamen_markov@yahoo.com
- Pleven Philharmony, e-mail: plevenphil@abv.bg
- Municipal Choir “Gena Dimitrova”, e-mail: anelia_de4eva@abv.bg
- National Art School “Panayot Pipkov”, <http://www.nui-pleven.com>
- Community centres on the territory of the district

International festivals:

- International music festival “Laureate Days - Katya Popova”, laureati.cm-design.eu
- International festival of drums, <http://www.marimbafestival-bulgaria.com>
- International guitar festival, www.plevenguitarfestival.com
- Biennale of small art forms, <http://www.plevengallery.com>

ROUSSE

The cultural resources in Rousse district include:

1. State cultural organisations
 - National Art School “Prof. Veselin Stoyanov”, www.artrousse.com
 - State Opera - Rousse, Email: naydentodorov@gmail.com
 - Drama Theatre “Sava Ognyanov”, www.theatre.ruse.bg
 - State Puppet Theatre - Rousse, www.puppetruse.com

2. Regional Cultural organisations

- Regional Library “Lyuben Karavelov”, www.librousse.bg
- Regional Museum of History - Rousse, www.museumruse.com

3. Municipal cultural organisations

- Art Gallery - Rousse, www.ruseartgallery.org
- Municipal enterprise “Rousse Art”
- Art experts club, e-mail: diana_kdk@abv.bg
- Municipal Brass Orchestra, dimcho.rubchev@gmail.com
- Municipal Youth Centre - Rousse, www.yc-ruse.org
- Municipal Children Centre for Art and Culture, obdcki@abv.bg
- Municipal Foundation “Rousse - Free Spirit City”, free-spirit-city.eu
- Community centres on the territory of the district

4. Other organisations and groups

- International association “Elias Canetti”, www.eliascanetti.org
- Association “European Spaces 21”, www.euspaces.blogspot.com
- Association of artists - Rousse, rosiza54@abv.bg
- Association of writers - Rousse, radiatoruse@abv.bg
- Association “ProArt”, proartruse@abv.bg
- Association BMST, bmst.carnavale@gmail.com
- Association “Federation of alternative cinema”, vladimiriliev@abv.bg
- Association “Artistissimo”, iglikapeeva@abv.bg
- Association “EuroPro” - European Pop-rock society, E-mail: president@evropro.org
- Sport Dance Club “Nastroenie”, despotov@abv.bg
- Dance School “New York”, anna.varbanova@gmail.com
- Modern Dance Studio “Freedom”, anita_freedom@yahoo.com
- Traditional and Art Craftsmen Society, amitrofanov@abv.bg

International festivals:

- International festival “March Musical Days”, www.marchmusicdays.eu
- International Folklore Festival “Sandrovo singing and dancing”, Sandrovo village
- International Dance Festival “Dancing River”
- Festival of sand sculptures “Rousse Sand Fest”
- Festival of ice sculptures “Rousse Ice Fest”
- Folklore Fest “Golden Fiddle”

VELIKO TARNOVO

The cultural resources include:

- Drama Theatre "Konstantin Kisimov"
- Regional Library "P.R. Slaveykov"
- Museum and Art Gallery "Hadzhi Nikoli Inn"
- Art Gallery "Rafael Mihaylov"
- Community Centres on the territory of the district

International and national festivals:

- International competition for young performers of popular songs "Silver Yantra", Veliko Tarnovo
- International Folklore Festival "Veliko Tarnovo"
- International festival of military orchestras, Veliko Tarnovo
- Folklore festival "Balkanfolk", Veliko Tarnovo
- International Tourism Fair "Cultural Tourism", Veliko Tarnovo
- International Dixie Jazz Fest, Veliko Tarnovo
- International Bluesfest, Svishtov
- International Folklore Festival "Rahovche", Gorna Oryahovitsa
- International competition for singers of popular song "New Music", Gorna Oryahovitsa
- National Folklore festival of folk choirs and groups folklore "Parvomaytsi", Parvomaytsi village
- National Folk Festival of Catholic communities in Bulgaria, Oresh village
- National Folklore Festival "Amid the square in Arbanassi", Arbanasi village
- National Folklore Festival "Folklore spring", Tsarevets village
- National Festival of Folk dance clubs and groups "Folklore rosary", city of Gorna Oryahovitsa

SILISTRA

The cultural resources include:

- Drama Theatre - Silistra
- 8 historical and ethnographical museums - Regional Museum of History - Silistra, Nature Museum - Srebarna, Museum of History - Tutrakan, Ethnographic Museum of Danube Fishing and Ship Building - Tutrakan, Ethnographic Exposition - Okorsh village, Ethnographic Museum "Dobrudzha House" - Alfatar, Dobrudzha House - Kalipetrovo village, E-mail: muzeumsilistra@abv.bg

- Art Gallery - Silistra, E-mail: artgallery_silistra@abv.bg
- Regional Library “Parteniy Pavlovich”, www.libsilistra.bg
- 105 Community Centres
- 58 libraries
- Municipal radio - Silistra, e-mail: radio_ss@abv.bg
- City Brass Orchestra - Silistra, E-mail: boev_15121@abv.bg
- Ensemble “Dobrudzha”, E-mail: dzhambazov_silistra@abv.bg
- Children dance group “Axel”
- Dance group “B2”
- Dance group “Lidens”
- Children musical studio “DoReMi”
- Young musical talents club “Amadeus”
- Sport dance club “Elegance”

International and national festivals:

- International theatre and puppet festival for children “Yan Bibiyan”
- International children dance festival “Tomorrow’s peace begins with today’s friendship”
- International competition for children popular songs “Stars over Danube”
- International art festival “River Notes”
- International festival of polenta, Nova Cherna village
- Festival “Fire River”, Tutrakan
- International Folklore Festival “Danube sings and dances”, Tutrakan
- National festival of the old city songs “Danube Memories”
- Festival of performers of Dobrudzha singers and musicians “Nightingales of Dobrudzha”
- National festival of mummers, Kalipetrovo village
- Apricot fest, Tutrakan

DOBRICH

The cultural resources include:

- Bulgarian Chamber Orchestra - Dobrich, ima_music@abv.bg
- Brass Orchestra - Dobrich
- Zahari Mednikarov Children's Choir - Dobrich
- Dobrudzhanski Zvutsi Choir (Sounds of Dobrudzha Choir)
- Female Teachers' Choir - Dobrich
- Dobrudzha Professional Folk Ensemble

- Yordan Yovkov Drama Theatre, <http://www.theatre-dobrich.com/>
- Dora Gabe State Puppet Theatre
- Dora Gabe Regional Library
- Youth Centre - Dobrich
- Art Gallery, <http://www.dobrichgallery.org/>
- Artists' Association - Dobrich
- "Studio 13 Artists' Association
- Writers' Association - Dobrich
- The House of Adriana Budevskia
- Ethnographic House
- The House of Yordan Yovkov and Yordan Yovkov Museum
- Old Dobrich Outdoor Museum of Architecture and Ethnography
- Community Centres on the territory of the district

International and national festivals:

- International youth music competition "Hopes, Talents, Masters", Dobrich/Albena
- European Pop-rock competition "Sarandev"
- International week of the chamber music
- International choir festival "Maestro Mednikarov"
- International music festival "Autumn Breeze"
- International paper plein-air
- International majorette festival "Golden Pompon"
- Drawing plein-air, Kavarna
- Amateur theatres festival, Kavarna
- International plein-air "Mermaid"
- International rock fest, Kavarna
- International short film festival "The Palace", Balchik
- International festival of youth art "Via Pontica", Balchik
- International cultural events in Balchik, Kamen Bryag village, etc.
- National culture holidays, Albena
- National Folklore Review "Sabrali se, naigrali se v Dobrudzha"
- National literary festival "Yordan Yovkov"
- National folklore gathering "With Bulgaria in the heart", Kavarna
- National Folklore festival "Sea of rhythms", Balchik

4. Available additional services

Below are described the providers of additional services, such as food and beverages, souvenirs, etc. per country as follows:

4.1. Romania

The approach we used for completing this section of the study was to identify participants at other large street festivals in the South part of Romania, for several reasons:

- a) Mobility: they have the ability and the willingness to relocate wherever the event takes place, irrespective of where they have their base office.
- b) Licence: as they participate in similar festivals, it is presumable that they possess all required trade licenses.
- c) Organization capacity: they have the means and know how to organize their trade at the place of the event.
- d) Reputation: some of them are already well known to the public participating in the festivals and this creates a familiar feeling to the participants for the entire event.

Annex RO5 shows a selection of food trucks that could be invited to participate to Artour events (we tried to identify providers of Balkan food, closer to the spirit of the festivals, but also familiar food for visitors; we eliminated exotic food like Chinese, Thai, Indian, Mexican, or American).

Contacts are present in the web links inserted for each entry.

4.2. Bulgaria

The list of additional services is given in Annex BG3 - List of additional services.

III. Combinations of local resources

The objectives of this Chapter are as follows:

- to analyse the proposed locations for the plein-art events in the previous Chapter and justify and select the most appropriate ones
- To identify all appropriate arts to be included in the plein-art events as well as propose such combinations as to maximize the practicality and attractiveness of the events
- Identify the additional services, which should be available for the duration of the events
- Identify other appropriate attractions, which can be provided in association with the events.

The result from this Chapter is the initial description of the Art & Culture tourist product with all its elements, such as locations, duration, combination of arts, additional services and attractions, etc., which will be available for consultations with the target groups from both sides of the border.

1. Ranking of appropriate locations for plein-air events

The selection and ranking of appropriate locations for the plein-art events in the Romanian and Bulgarian parts of the cross-border region is done through the use of common methodology. The proposed locations in the previous Chapter were pre-selected most significantly to fulfill the project objective - i. e. the locations, which can offer adequate conditions for accommodating larger audiences - such as basic and additional tourist services, other available cultural resources, tradition or experience of organizing cultural and art events, etc. as detailed below.

The methodology for ranking of the above locations includes the following key criteria in more detail and with the respective scores:

No.	Criterion	Score		
		1	2	3
1	Basic tourist services - Transport access	Transport access by road only	Transport access only by road and railway or road and river	Access through all modes, including river, railway, road, (and nearby airport)
2	Basic tourist services - Access to accommodation	Hotels, etc., total up to 100 beds	Hotels, etc., total from 100 to 300 beds	Hotels, etc., total over 300 beds

3	Basic tourist services - Access to food	Food establishments, up to 100 seats	Food establishments, total from 100 to 300 seats	Food establishments, total over 300 seats
4	Access to additional tourist services*	No additional tourist services available	Some additional tourist services available	All additional tourist services available
5	Tangible cultural (and natural) heritage (resources)	Tangible cultural resources or natural resources of regional/local significance	Tangible cultural and natural resources, including of national importance	Tangible cultural and natural resources, including of international significance
6	Intangible cultural heritage (resources)	Regional/local events	National events	International events
7	Availability of appropriate large spaces to host an outdoor event	Possibility for hosting an outdoor event - below 100 participants or visitors per day	Possibility for hosting an outdoor event - from 100 to 500 participants or visitors per day	Possibility for hosting and outdoor event - over 500 participants or visitors per day
8	Tradition and experience in organizing cultural or art events	Few and irregular events	Irregular or few events	Monthly regular events

* The additional tourist services are described in Para. IV.3 below.

1.1. Romania

The proposed locations in the previous Chapter were evaluated according to the above methodology, with the results being as follows:

No.	Criterion	Scores per location							
		Constanta	Mangalia	Craiova	Drobeta Turnu Severin	Giurgiu	Slatina	Calarasi	Alexandria
1	Basic tourist services - Transport access	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1
2	Basic tourist services - Access to accommodation	3	3	2	2	1	1	3	1
3	Basic tourist services - Access to food	3	2	3	2	1	1	3	1

4	Access to additional tourist services	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
5	Tangible cultural (and natural) heritage (resources)	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
6	Intangible cultural heritage (resources)	2	3	3	1	1	1	3	1
7	Availability of appropriate large spaces to host an outdoor event	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
8	Tradition and experience in organizing cultural or art events	3	2	3	2	1	1	3	1
TOTAL		21	19	21	15	12	12	21	12
Ranking		1	2	1	3	4	4	1	4

The final ranking of locations in the Romanian part of the cross-border region is as follows:

Rank	Location
1	Constanta, Calarasi, Craiova
2	Mangalia
3	Drobeta Turnu Severin
4	Giurgiu, Slatina, Alexandria

The particular locations for the planned events in the beginning should be chosen between the first ranked locations in order to achieve greater audience and promotion at the start. Where different locations are scored with the same score, the choice will depend on possibilities and coordination of the logistics with the respective municipality and the event programme and objective with the stakeholders. It could be planned in the strategy for implementation of the Art & Culture tourist product to cover all locations with a respective thematic event.

1.2. Bulgaria

The proposed locations in the previous Chapter were evaluated according to the above methodology, with the results being as follows:

No.	Criterion	Scores per location										
		Vidin	Belogradchik	Vratsa	Montana	Pleven	Rousse	V. Tarnovo	Arbanassi	Silistra	Dobrich	Balchik
1	Basic tourist services - Transport access	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
2	Basic tourist services - Access to accommodation	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
3	Basic tourist services - Access to food	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
4	Access to additional tourist services*	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2
5	Tangible cultural (and natural) heritage (resources)	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3
6	Intangible cultural heritage (resources)	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	2
7	Availability of appropriate large spaces to host an outdoor event	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
8	Tradition and experience in organizing cultural or art events	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2
TOTAL		21	15	18	18	18	21	21	15	14	19	17
Ranking		1	5	2	2	2	1	1	5	6	3	4

The final ranking of locations in the Romanian part of the cross-border region is as follows:

Rank	Location
1	Vidin, Veliko Tarnovo, Rousse
2	Dobrich
3	Vratsa, Montana, Pleven
4	Balchik
5	Belogradchik, Arbanassi
6	Silistra

The particular locations for the planned events in the beginning should be chosen between the first ranked locations in order to achieve greater audience and promotion at the start. Where different locations are scored with the same score, the choice will depend on possibilities and coordination of the logistics with the respective municipality and the event programme and objective with the stakeholders. It could be planned in the strategy for implementation of the Art & Culture tourist product to cover all locations with a respective thematic event.

2. Combinations of arts

The Art & Culture tourist product is centered around the planned thematic plein-airs. The most popular arts, which can be included in the mix are as follows:

- Drawing
- Sculpture
- Music
- Singing
- Dances
- Movies
- Photography
- Acting
- Performances
- Poetry
- Literature
- Crafts, applied arts

The universally accepted broad categories of art are 7 - Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, Literature, Music, Performing and Film. For the purposes of the Art & Culture tourist product it is proposed to differentiate arts in 2 major categories - visual arts and performing and literary arts.

The visual arts are art forms such as ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, video, filmmaking, and architecture. Most recently this category includes also computer art and applied arts as well, such as design, crafts, decoration, illustrations, etc.

Popular visual arts

Painting

The first paintings, found in Spain, have been dated at 65,000 years old, suggesting they were created by Neanderthals. This shows that painting is one of the oldest art forms that exists.

Technically, a painting is a two-dimensional art form which is made up of layers of pigments applied onto a surface. The surface on which the pigment is applied varies from stone (used in the Paleolithic Age) to paper, wood, cloth and canvas.

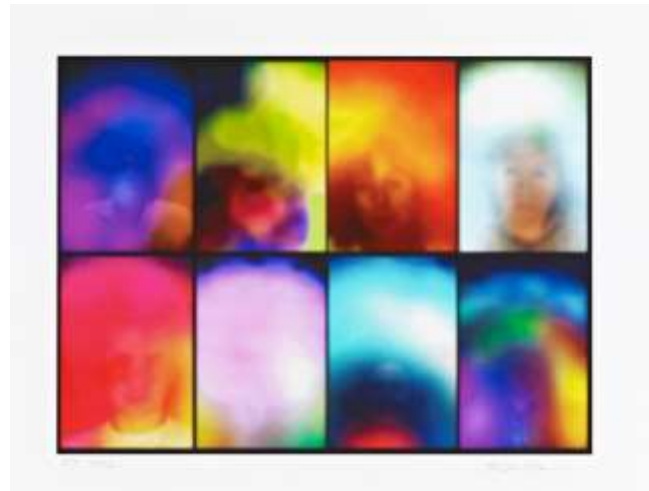
As the surface of paintings differ, so do the materials used to create the pigments. During the Paleolithic Age coloured earths were used, followed by plant extracts and more recently synthetic colours. There are many types of paintings, but amongst the well-known are oil, acrylic, pastel, spray paintings and watercolours.



Prints

A print is a two-dimensional art form created by an impression made by a method involving a transfer from one surface to another.

All type of prints come in multiples (except monotypes) to form an edition. Since the late 19th century, artists tend to identify each print with a number and signature. It is common practice for the maker to produce a limited edition of the image, which means there is a fixed quantity. The tools used to create the print are often destroyed once the edition has been completed.



The earliest example of a printmaking technique is 'Woodcut', which is a type of relief print developed in the Far East. Relief prints are made up of recessed areas, so that the raised parts remaining can be inked and used to create an impression. This type of print is created using wood, linocut and metalcut.

Nowadays, along with relief prints a range of techniques are used to create different type of prints.

The below techniques include the intaglio technique where areas in the plate are incised or chemically etched to hold the ink.

Engraving: A hardened steel tool called a burin is used to cut lines into the surface of a metal plate. The appearance of the incisions depends on the angle and pressure applied when using the burin. When the ink is applied over the metal plate it is retained in the incisions and the paper picks it up in the press to create the impression.

Etching: Like engraving, the indentations hold the ink, but these are created in a different manner. Lines are cut onto a waxy surface which covers the metal plate. The plate is placed in an acid bath, which 'bites' into the metal left exposed and thus traces are formed. The plate is then ready for ink to be applied and follows the subsequent steps in engraving.

Mezzotint: This type of print is a form of engraving where the whole plate of metal is roughened and then scraped and polished to different degrees, so that the ink also holds in varies quantities. With this type of print a good range of tone is achieved.

Aquatint: This intaglio method is similar to etching as acid is used to make marks in the plate. However, a powdered resin is applied in parts making them acid resistant. Removing a protective coat leaves textured areas and a number of acid baths are made until the darkest tones are reached.

Drypoint: This print-type is a variant of engraving which employs the intaglio method. However, with drypoint a sharp metal point is used which creates ridges (known as "burr") in the lines made. This technique allows for the ink to leave a soft, sometimes blurry line.

Drawings

As with paintings, drawings are one of the oldest art forms around and can be traced back to prehistoric times. Before the advent of paper in the 14th century, drawings were made on parchment and silver was also used to make under-drawings.

Drawing was and still is a popular method for artists to create preparatory studies. Examples of preparatory work are often a good way to see the artist's initial observations and ideas before they commit to the final markings in their work.

A drawing is defined as a two-dimensional medium where an image is depicted on a flat surface by making lines and areas of tone through shading. Artists generally use pencil, ink, pastels, crayon, chalk and charcoal to create line and shading. A more painterly effect can be created in a drawing by using watercolour pencils.



A rarer method is metal point drawing which involves using a stylus with a point made from gold, silver, copper or lead pressed on a paper/parchment surface, which has been coated with a paste of crushed eggshell or bone. When drawing across the surface with the stylus tiny particles are left and these naturally tarnish, turning the indentations in the paper into darker lines

Photography

A photograph is an image created by the exposure of light on a light-sensitive material at some stage during its making. It can be either a positive or negative image and made using one of many processes.

As with prints, photographic prints are often produced in a limited edition and each photographic print is signed and numbered.

Below is a list of the most common types of photographic prints.



C-type: Since the 1950s the C-type print has been a popular form of photography. A C-type is a chromogenic colour print which uses chromogenic materials and processes. The print can be produced from an original which is a colour negative, slide or digital image. The chromogenic film used contains many layers of silver emulsion which are sensitised to different coloured wavelengths of light. Typically red, green and blue are the colours used to build up the image.

Cibachrome: This type of print is a colour print made from a negative. Distinctively different from a C-type, this print is richer in colour and last longer as the dyes are incorporated into the emulsion rather than floating on top of the paper

Digital: This type of print is computer-generated using a photographic image which is converted into a digital file. The file is then manipulated in programmes such as desktop publishing and in its final stage printed using a laser inkjet printer. Giclee prints are generally produced using Inkjet printing. Other forms of digital prints include Lambda or Light Jet. Lasers are used to print the digital image onto silver photographic materials, producing a very high quality of photographic print. Lambda prints are known for their sharpness, continuous tone and high impact colours.

Estate: This is a posthumous print that is normally commissioned by the photographer's estate from the original negative. Prints of these kinds cannot hold the same value as prints created by an artist first-hand.

Photoetching (photogravure or heliogravure): The image is formed on an intaglio metal plate and coated with a light-sensitive, acid-resistant ground. The plate is then exposed to light to reproduce a photographic image.

Photogram: Here the image is created by placing an object onto photosensitive paper which is then briefly exposed to light, leaving the object's imprint on the paper.

Photolithograph: Potassium bichromate is used to sensitise a stone or metal plate. The plate is brought into contact with a negative and exposed to light, meaning that the gelatin becomes insoluble to water. The remaining soluble elements are then removed by repeatedly using water. The plate is then inked which adheres to the gelatin and a print is created using a press.

Silver gelatin print: Paper is coated in gelatin and silver salts. It is then exposed to light to create a black and white photograph.

Vintage print: This kind of print is created at the same time as the negative (within 5 years is an accepted timeframe). This type of print is defined by chronology rather than by the materials used.

Crafts

The art of craft-making can be defined as an occupation or trade which involves manual dexterity and skilled artistry. A significant advent for the crafts was the 'Arts and Crafts Movement' which flourished in the late 19th and early 20th century. The focus was on good design and craftsmanship at a time when there was increased mechanisation and mass production.

The terms 'applied arts' and 'decorative arts' are used when referring to craft. Applied arts is concerned with the application of design, aesthetics and objects of everyday use. Decorative arts have the same purpose as applied arts (but does not include design).



Design

Part of applied arts, design comes in many forms, from graphic, fashion, interior, functional to the industrial. Design, in the context of displays in galleries, can be found in objects such as furniture and lighting, but also in the photographic and limited edition prints where graphic design has been used.



Sculpture

As with painting, the earliest example of sculpture dates back to the Upper Paleolithic period (40,000 to 10,000 years ago). During this period stone and ivory were used to create small female figures. It wasn't until the Greeks used bronze casting that life size figures were represented in sculpture.

A sculpture, technically, is a three-dimensional work of art that is usually created by moulding or shaping materials - often metal, marble, wood, glass or bronze. A two-dimensional form of sculpture exists, where the



object is not fully detached from its background, which is typically described as relief carving. Common uses of relief carving are in depicting a scene in which many figures interact on a detailed landscape. Often sculptures are painted, but the paint tends to wear away over time.

The four well-known techniques to make sculpture are:

Carving using stone, wood, ivory or bone.

Modeling in clay or wax.

Casting is a very popular method, where liquid in the form of bronze is poured into a cast and hardened. The lost wax process is a technique used to produce casts where a clay and plaster mould take on wax which is melted through a vent and molten metal is poured in to replace it. Another simpler technique is sand casting which uses moulds made out of compacted fine sand.

Assemblage sculpture is when several different - often found -- materials or objects are used within one work.

Mixed media

Mixed-media tends to refer to artworks that use a combination of materials in their construction. For example, a work on canvas that combines paint and ink as well as collage.

The use of mixed media can be seen to be rooted in the Cubist Collages and constructions of Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque.

The choosing and application of various materials with mixed media works is essential in creating quality and integrity in the piece.



Artists working in mixed media are afforded a great deal of creative freedom. For example, found objects can be used in conjunction with more conventional media, such as paint and graphite, challenging our preconceptions about the materials which can be used in the making of works of art.

Installation

The term installation was coined in the 1970s to describe artwork that of any form or size that inhabits a space inside or outside a gallery, which is often site-specific.

Installations are typically three-dimensional and can be made up by a variety of material and medium. They can be indefinite or temporary and viewers can find themselves walking around a piece, contemplating it from a distance or immersing themselves in the space of the work itself.



It is common for installations to be specially commissioned for sites. If someone is interested in buying a site-specific installation an artist may be willing to adapt the original for a new setting or create a similar piece.

Performance visual art

Performance Art is where the artwork takes the form of actions performed by the artist/s or approved performers briefed by the artist. It may be related also to performing art from the other category, such as theatre.

In Europe, the German artist Joseph Beuys was a hugely influential pioneer of Performance art, making a wide impact with his 'actions' from 1963 onwards.

By its nature, Performance is an ephemeral medium. Some will say that Performance art only exists in the moment that it is performed. For some, collecting Performance is about retaining the memory of it in the mind and any documentation is not considered as 'the work'.



Others will collect Performance by obtaining a record of it, which may be editioned. This could be visual, such as a photograph or film; a graphic depiction like a drawing or as a text. These forms of documentation are often the primary means by which Performance reaches a wider public.

New Media

New Media is an art form which came about in the 1960s, as artists started to experiment with developing technology in their art-making. New Media work is often created by using digital and electronic technologies to make sound pieces, to capture moving images (e.g. animation/film) and to create interactive work and computer-based art. Traditional art practices such as print-making can also integrate digital technologies. For example, an image can be manipulated in Photoshop before going to print through a press.



Dating back to the early 1970s, Time-based Media is akin to New Media and refers to art works which are dependent on technology and have a time specific dimension. Often Time-based works used sound and image and the artist is very particular about the way their work is presented. Special display equipment can be used, because of a particular quality of sound or image it creates, or because it is integral to the meaning of the work.

As technology continues to rapidly develop, it has become necessary, in some instances, to upgrade the mode/format an artwork is created in. For example, an artwork recorded on a VHS may be reformatted to a DVD. This process is called 'Migration'. When a piece is migrated the artists has often decided that preserving the content or information of an artwork, is more important than the original look and feel of the artwork.

Performing and literary arts

The performing (not to be confused with performance visual art) and literary arts include literature, poetry, music, dance, and theatre, also multidisciplinary forms, such as opera, circus, etc.

Performing arts are a form of art in which artists use their voices, bodies or inanimate objects to convey artistic expression. It is different from visual arts, which is when artists use paint, canvas or various materials to create physical or static art objects. Performing arts include a range of disciplines which are performed in front of a live audience.

Theatre, music, dance and object manipulation, and other kinds of performances are present in all human cultures. The history of music and dance date to pre-historic times whereas circus skills date to at least Ancient Egypt. Many performing arts are performed professionally. Performance

can be in purpose built buildings, such as theatres and opera houses, on open air stages at festivals, on stages in tents such as circuses and on the street.

Live performances before an audience are a form of entertainment. The development of audio and video recording has allowed for private consumption of the performing arts.

Popular performing and literary arts

Theatre

Theatre is the branch of performing arts; concerned with acting out stories in front of an audience, using a combination of speech, gesture, music, dance, sound and spectacle. Any one or more of these elements is performing arts. In addition to the standard narrative dialogue style of plays. Theatre takes such forms as plays, musicals, opera, ballet, illusion, mime, classical Indian dance, kabuki, mummers' plays, improvisational theatre, stand-up comedy, pantomime, and non-conventional or contemporary forms like postmodern theatre, postdramatic theatre, or performance (visual) art.



Dance

In the context of performing arts, dance generally refers to human movement, typically rhythmic and to music, used as a form of audience entertainment in a performance setting. Definitions of what constitutes dance are dependent on social, cultural, aesthetic artistic and moral constraints and range from functional movement (such as folk dance) to codified, virtuoso techniques such as ballet.



Dance is a powerful impulse, but the art of dance is that impulse channeled by skillful performers into something that becomes intensely expressive and that may delight spectators who feel no wish to dance themselves. These two concepts of the art of dance—dance as a powerful impulse and dance as a skillfully choreographed art practiced largely by a professional few—are the two most important connecting ideas running through any consideration of the subject. In dance, the

connection between the two concepts is stronger than in some other arts, and neither can exist without the other.

Choreography is the art of making dances, and the person who practices this art is called a choreographer.

Music

Music is an art form which combines pitch, rhythm, and dynamic in order to create sound. It can be performed using a variety of instruments and styles and is divided into genres such as folk, jazz, hip hop, pop, and rock, etc. As an art form, music can occur in live or recorded formats, and can be planned or improvised.



As music is a protean art, it easily coordinates with words for songs as physical movements do in dance. Moreover, it has a capability of shaping human behaviors as it impacts our emotions.

Literary Arts

The literary arts are often described as creative writing. Creative writing is any writing that goes outside the bounds of normal professional, journalistic, academic, or technical forms of literature, typically identified by an emphasis on narrative craft, character development, and the use of literary tropes or with various traditions of poetry and poetics. Both fictional and non-fictional works fall into this category, including such forms as novels, biographies, short stories, and poems. In the academic setting, creative writing is



typically separated into fiction and poetry classes, with a focus on writing in an original style, as opposed to imitating pre-existing genres such as crime or horror. Writing for the screen and stage—screenwriting and playwriting—are often taught separately, but fit under the creative writing category as well.

For the purposes and objectives of the project and further development of the Art & Culture tourist product, it will be most optimal to focus the subject of the individual plein-air to either the visual art forms or the performing and literary ones. In this way certain groups of artists and audiences can be targeted, which creates an identity of the event. As the project plans holding 2 events per year, the categories of art can be alternated with each event - for example an event in the spring in the Bulgarian part of the cross-border region will be dedicated to visual arts, ensuring also attendance of Romanian participants. The spring event in the Romanian part will be dedicated to performing and literary arts, ensuring also attendance of Bulgarian participants. During autumn, the subjects of the events will be alternated.

There is sufficient experience, including in the cross-border region, with thematic events based on a single art, in order to conclude that more broadly themed events including related arts, will be much more attractive and generate larger audiences with more substantial effect on the cross-border relations, exchange and cooperation, and also for economic development - especially tourism.

It is also important to establish in advance the themes of the plein-airs, which should be clear and focused preferably on some tradition or characteristic feature of the respective location where they are organized, in order to draw the added value from the presence in that location. For example, a visual arts plein-air can be organized in Veliko Tarnovo, focused on the Orthodox icon styling.

Again, in order to increase the attractiveness of the events and gather greater number of participants and audience, it is proposed that the mix of activities within the individual plein-air event to include as many as possible of the following:

- Performances,
- Exhibitions,
- Contests,
- Conferences
- Training courses, workshops

Links and interface shall be provided with other art and cultural events at the same time at other nearby locations.

3. Additional services

As tourism is defined as travel for recreational, leisure, or business purposes to other locations, the basic tourist services include:



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- Transport
- Accommodation
- Food

There are also additional and auxiliary services, which need to be provided and available to tourist and visitors, which complement the tourist package, and these are:

Additional tourist services, such as:

- Tourist information centre, visitor centre
- Tour operator/agency
- Entertainment establishments - sports centres, dance bar, cinema, theatre, etc.
- Cultural and educational services - museum, library, etc.
- Therapeutical/rehabilitation/spa services
- Congress/conference or business services

Auxiliary services, such as:

- Banks
- Insurance companies
- Currency exchange
- Administrative services
- Postal services
- Police
- Hospitals, dentists, pharmacies
- Petrol stations
- Rent-a-car

The availability of the additional and auxiliary services is considered also of substantial importance for increasing the quality of the developed Art & Culture product, so the locations for the events shall be carefully evaluated also on this aspect.

4. Other attractions

In order to develop a complete Art & Culture tourist product, it is important to provide also additional related attractions to the participants and visitors of the planned thematic art events. Such appropriate attractions may be considered to include as many as possible of the following:

- Dedicated kids' corner for young artists, performers or talents



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- Providing opportunities to taste local traditional food and drinks, as gastronomy is most often also considered an art
- Providing possibilities for local producers - for example - local foods and drinks, traditional crafts, souvenirs, artworks, etc. to exhibit their products
- Providing possibilities for local or operating in the region tourist information centres, operators, agencies, etc. to promote other tourist products related to the region, or the arts and culture.



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IV. Similar tourist products at the upper and middle Danube

1. Summary of similar tourist products at the upper and middle Danube

The upper and middle Danube River covers the following EU countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia and Serbia.



Important tourist and natural spots along the upper and middle Danube include the Wachau Valley, the Nationalpark Donau-Auen in Austria, Gemenc in Hungary, the Naturpark Obere Donau in Germany, Kopački rit in Croatia, etc.

The Danube region is not only culturally and historically of importance, but also due to its fascinating landmarks and sights important for the regional tourism industry. Various tourist products are created to attract tourist along the Danube River and to valorize its natural and cultural heritage. Those that are somehow related to the “Art & Culture” tourist product as part of the ARTOUR project are summarized as follows:

International

- **Danube day**

On the 29th of June each year, the 14 countries of the Danube Basin jointly celebrate one of Europe's greatest river systems and the people and wildlife that rely on it. Danube Day has become the largest river festival in the world, with huge festivals on the riverbanks and public meetings as well as educational events. It is also a basin-wide celebration reflecting the diversity of the region.

Austria

- **Donauinselfest**

The Donauinselfest (German for Danube Island Festival) is a free open-air music festival taking place annually at Donauinsel in Vienna, Austria and it's hosted by SPÖ Wien. With over 3 million visitors in 3 days, it's the biggest open-air music festival in the world¹.

Like all the best festivals, Donauinselfest is an enticing melange of live music and dancing, varied food and drink outlets and totally off the wall entertainment². Many of the venues are open air, although there are numerous tented areas dotted around the island. And, at 20 kilometres in length and between 70 and 210 metres wide, the Danube Island can't be beaten as a festival site, attracting visitors from around the world and then providing them with both well-known artists as well as those looking to break through.

The music on offer ranges from pop to rock and jazz and hip hop and there are many local bands playing alongside world-famous international acts. Groups such as The Backstreet Boys and Simple Minds have been amongst past headline acts here. The food kiosks located all around the festival site include Austrian, Greek, Italian, Indian, Thai and Turkish foods - as well as the ubiquitous burger bars - but vegetarians are also always well catered for.

There are a number of useful Information Kiosks, in addition to stalls selling souvenirs and craft objects. The Donauinsel islands were actually man-made between 1972 and 1988 with the main purpose of improving Vienna's anti-flooding measures. The whole area, though, has evolved into a recreational paradise. Throughout the year, the Donauinsel is a green haven for the people of Vienna, with its bars, restaurants, skating tracks and there is even a water ski lift.

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donauinselfest>

² <https://www.eurofestivals.co.uk/festivals-in-austria/danube-river-festival/>

There is a fabulous beach that the locals regard so highly they know it as CopaKagrana - Kagrana being the district of Vienna in which it is to be found. And for lovers of naturism, there is a section where nude sunbathing is permissible. However, at the end of every third week in June, it is taken over by the festival, which becomes just one gigantic three day party.

Joint tourist products established as part of the Hungary - Slovakia CBC programmes

- **Value preserving granaries - Monuments for tourism**

The goal of the project was the protection of the cultural and natural heritage, including the reconstruction of protected granaries. The valuable buildings were opened to the public as part of the common heritage, as places for showing the natural and cultural values, the local traditions of nearby areas as well as preserving traditions and strengthening ecotourism in the region. The Granary of Arts is devoted to exhibitions and cultural events, while the Granary in Jablonov nad Turnou was appointed as a destination for wine tourism, local cuisine and ecotourism.

- **Complex, visitor-focused development of the joint thematic PALÓC ROUTE**

Palóc people's traditions, customs, handicrafts, as well as the architecture, gastronomy, songs and musical culture represent a complex set of values available but not used for tourism purposes. The first aim of the project was to form a cooperation that makes it possible to utilize these values in a more efficient way, through the development of complex tourism products. The main activities were uncovering, preserving and presenting Palóc folklore values, developing them into tourism products and carrying out community marketing activities. 8 exhibition centres have been created in 6 Hungarian and 2 Slovak municipalities and a joint (4 language) „Palóc Route” value map was published.

- **Stars, stars...Eco-touristic compass for the visitors and touristic service providers of the Karst**

The geologically, botanically and zoologically unified Slovak karst and Aggteleki National park are a unique storehouse of amazing natural and cultural values. Both locations are well known inside and beyond the border. The Aggteleki and Slovak karst, including the jewel of the Baradla-Domica cave system, is part of the UNESCO world heritage. These and the surrounding attractions are far less used than it would be possible. The aim of this project was to establish modern and multifunctional visitor centres in Szögliget and Jablonov nad Turnou by building marketplaces for local traditional goods, creating the local product quality certification system „Karsticum” and to help local providers and product manufacturers to present their goods and services.

- **Touristic development on both sides of the border using the traditional manufacture services**

In spite of the relative closeness of bigger cities of Banská Bystrica and Balassagyarmat, the border of Banská Bystrica and Nógrád counties is isolated and can be considered as a peripheral area. One of the opportunities is to develop the region on the basis of the rich touristic and cultural heritage of Nógrád-Novohrad. The main value of the villages is their unique cultural and historical image, the folk traditions and the richness of natural beauty. The aim of this project was to reduce the peripheral effects via creating common tourist attractions based on these existing values. In the frame of the project, the partners created multifunctional open spaces in the municipalities of Terény and Opatovská Nová Ves which are appropriate sites for organising traditional and modern cultural, art and social events. An interesting part of the project was the involvement of the Penitentiary Institute in Balassagyarmat with its manufacturing services. With the support of the project, the prisoners learnt traditional wood processing, helping disadvantaged people in their reintegration.

Joint tourist products established as part of the Hungary - Croatia CBC programmes

- **Tourist promotion of the Zrinski family thematic routes in the cross-border region**

The aim of the project is to seek out and assess the information and to build a database about people and communities possessing local values as well as to publish all the significant information on a new joint website. Based on the data gathered, a joint brand name (Four Towers) will be implemented advertising the representatives of local values via brochures, free info points, maps, mobile apps, road signs and information boards. The brand will be reinforced by its introduction during the eight events of the participating towns, in addition, a free information booth, five touch screen terminals will advertise the values and information of the entire thematic route.

- **JoinT ProMoTion oF CroSS-BorDER ArEA AS A DESirABLE ToUriST DESTinATion (Connect&Cooperate&Communicate&Cluster in Tourism)**

The overall objective of the project is to integrate and promote the touristic offer of the region across the border on the basis of the regional and natural features, cultural and historical values of the cross-border region, as well as to establish a stronger and better market position of tourism. The partners create cross-border touristic program packages by synchronizing the services of the related sub-regions and strengthening the network of co-operation among the providers. Beyond the touristic program packages film spots, a joint web-based database, maps and mobile application popularise the touristic offer of Virovitičko-podravska, Koprivničko-križevačka, and Somogy counties.

Joint tourist products established as part of the Hungary - Serbia CBC programmes

- **Egészségedre, Živeli**

The project partners created thematic routes focussing on three gastronomic themes - beer, kadarka (a kind of wine) and brandy with special emphasis on related local festivals and other events.

During the project implementation, the partners prepared a study to define the geographical destinations and characteristics of the three thematic routes (kadarka, brandy and beer) in the Bács-Kiskun and Csongrád counties and Vojvodina. The suggested destinations were approved during separate meetings and consultations. The partners created maps of the routes, a common brand, a route passport and stamps for destinations; they developed a very attractive and useful website. They also prepared a gastronomic guide with recipes linking traditional dishes with each type of promoted beverage and a brochure for the routes. All of the promotional is available in five languages: English, German, Romanian, Hungarian and Serbian.

The project has undeniable merits in promoting the region. Jointly, the two partner organisations identified the gastronomic highlights by promoting the culinary and traditions of kadarka, beer and brandy production. They worked together to make the entire region become a more attractive and popular tourist destination.

- **Tradition and innovation in the handicraft industry**

The gradual opening of the Hungarian-Serbian border offers the craftsmen in the border-region the opportunity to take advantage of the expanding market. The partners in this project hoped to ensure that these craftsmen are winners in this process, and wanted to develop a model which would be just as useful in other multicultural environments.

The project activities included the creation of a database of all the craftsmen in the border area, which was then uploaded to the partners' websites. Besides the contact information of the craftsmen, the database contains photos and descriptions of their products. Within the strategic planning part of the project, the studies, strategies, and guidelines were prepared, and their aim was to assist the craftsmen in developing their businesses: product development and marketing strategy, network building strategy, and publicity guidelines. This led to the establishment of a network of craftsmen, who have a shared brand of products and common market which consequently resulted in the creation of new jobs.

- **Újszentiván - Novi Kneževac People to Culture Cooperation**

The more equally joined two communities are, the stronger their relationship is. The project partnership representing this position organised a multifaceted series of programmes in both countries. The main theme, the connecting link between Újszentiván, in Hungary, and Novi Kneževac, in Serbia, was religious heritage, but they widened the scope of their activities, incorporating typical cuisine and other traditions into the project as well.

The partners started their common work from scratch: they published a trilingual publication about the project and placed 10 information signs, namely settlement maps, to inform local people and tourists. Two festivals were organised in Újszentiván: the Rétes Festival and the Serbian Patronal Festival. These events familiarised the general public with the customs and cultures of the project partners, strengthened the relationships between the people living on both sides of the border in other cultural areas, harmonized cultural differences, supporter multilingualism and advanced prosperous long-term cooperation between the two partners and other border settlements.

Joint tourist products established as part of the Croatia - Serbia CBC programmes

- **Crossovers**

Project was designed for young amateur filmmakers, citizens of Subotica and Vinkovci, students of art academies and local secondary schools, international audience at film festivals in Subotica and Vinkovci, cultural organisations, NGOs.

Project established cross border cooperation in the field of culture and filmmaking through various activities, such as organisation of regional competition for young film amateurs, education for young film amateurs about filmmaking, presentation of Croatian documentary films at European Film Festival Palić, presentation of Serbian films at DORF festival in Vinkovci, filming joint New rock documentaries by 10 young film makers and their presentation in the project catalogue, organization of Round tables in Subotica and Vinkovci with participation of international and domestic experienced film makers and film critics, distribution of promotional brochure about all film festivals in the cross border region.

- **Tradition for the future**

Project was designed for people living in the rural areas, tourist services providers, eco farmers, traditional craftsmen, municipal tourist associations, local organisations involved in rural tourism and micro businesses.

Project succeeded, through concept of traditional craft workshops, to create new employment opportunities through 11 new commercial registrations of various family businesses in the area covered by the project. Tourism potentials were identified and developed, a cross border network of people and organizations was created, contributing to sustainable interaction between local communities and natural environment. 'Tradition for the Future' fairs presented more than 80 exhibitors in Croatia and over 100 in Serbia, attracting an audience of more than 5000 visitors. Moreover, the project delivered two studies: 'Clustering as Development Tool for Rural Tourism' and 'Marketing of rural tourism in a cross border context'.

- **Forming of the centre for the advancement of knowledge in rural tourism**

Project was designed to help family households, crafts, small and medium-sized companies, unemployed, youth, students, women, domestic and foreign tourists, local population, NGOs, tourismrelated institutions, local authorities and everyone interested in rural tourism development.

Reference Centre for the improvement of knowledge in rural tourism was formed in Vukovar and in Bački Petrovac. Local population participating in educational workshops gained knowledge and skills required for the development of rural tourism envisaged to contribute to achieving reliability of quality of services and facilities in rural tourism, as well as increasing number of providers in rural tourism. 1120 participants in Vukovar and Bački Petrovac (800 in Vukovar and 320 in Bački Petrovac) were taken into the process of education and training in traditional crafts and educative modules. Action had positive results such as founding of Associations "Petrovillage" in Bački Petrovac, "Bač u srcu Bačke" in Bač and "Vukovarci dobre volje" in Vukovar, funded by the workshops and education participants.

- **Hands across the border- identity and cultural heritage of the Danube region**

Project was designed to educate a group of young people from Eastern Croatia (Municipality Tompojevci from Vukovar-Srijem County) and Western Vojvodina, Serbia (Municipality Bač from South Bačka District) on different nationalities, religions and genders on the issues of cultural heritage, identity and intercultural education.

Project target group were young people in the cross border area (members of youth clubs, their friends and classmates, etc.), family members and relatives of young people directly involved in the project, history teachers from the local primary and secondary schools, local municipalities and village committees representatives, wider local community of Municipality Tompojevci and Vukovar-Srijem County and Municipality Bač and South Bačka District.

Overall project objective was to empower interethnic dialogue and cross border cooperation between young people in post conflict and multi-ethnic communities of Eastern Croatia and Western Vojvodina as a basis for social revival of war damaged relations in the Danube region, as well as strengthen the ongoing democratisation processes on their common path to the EU.

Specific project objectives were to increase the level of intercultural competence and recognition of common values of young people from Croatia and Serbia about identity (personal, ethnical, religious, gender) in order to make partnership activities a priority for further integration towards the EU with the aim of regional development, as well as improve the level of cooperation between young people and their local communities across the Danube region by creating and implementing a variety of cultural events as a base for regional social revival. Specific project objective was also to create positive surrounding for promotion of cultural diversities and similarities of the two neighbouring communities as a mutual value and wealth of all people in the Danube region.

- **Film it LouD**

Overall project objective was intercultural exchange and understanding between people in border regions through film and new media.

The project strengthened professional networks in film and music industry in the cross border region, not only among already established artists who presented their films and music, but especially between young, talented professionals who attended the programmes and workshops. As the future cultural elite and artists who will one day present this region, it was very important to enable their creative encounters and networking that will, we are sure, continue in the future and result with new projects. Public (citizens) of the two cross border regions had the chance to watch and familiarize with the contemporary Croatian and Serbian films in a conceptualized framework.

Two educational programmes were organized: Film and New Media Academies (Novi Sad and Vinkovci) for young film talents from both countries. Students filmed 2 films that premiered on the DORF festival in Vinkovci as a practical result of their education. Students had 2 panel discussions, in Vinkovci and Novi Sad, where they exchanged their experiences and strengthened their relations. DORF and Cinema City organized screenings of total of 10 films from both countries in Novi Sad, Vinkovci, Osijek and Vukovar, as well as music concerts of 4 bands in Novi Sad and Vinkovci.

All activities were followed by an extensive marketing campaign and distribution of promotional materials on both sides of the border and 2 press conferences informing the wider public and citizens of the cross border region on the project.

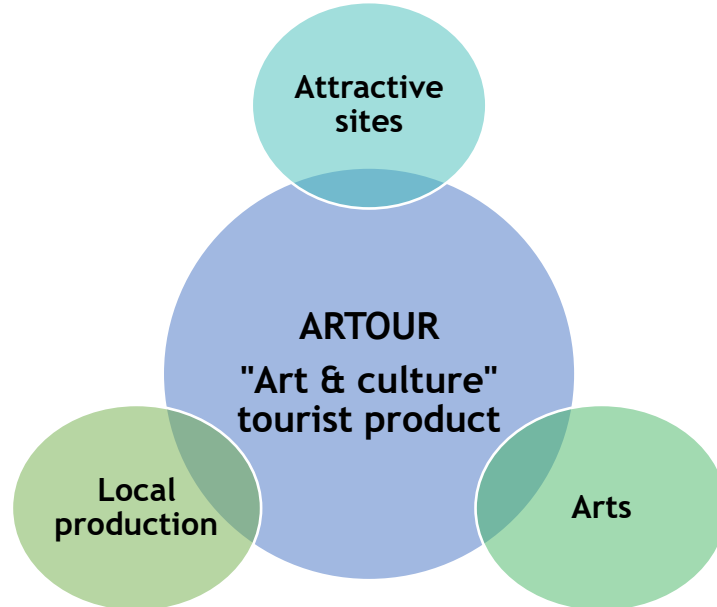
The above listed tourist products are not all that are created as part of the various CBC programmes along the Danube River, but a particular selection of good examples similar to the ARTOUR project events or activities that can be combined or used separately in the course of establishment, implementation and promotion of “Art & Culture” tourist product in the Romania - Bulgaria cross-border area.

2. Comparative analysis of the similar tourist products at the upper and middle Danube

The upper and middle Danube is certainly the more popular tourist destination than the lower part of the River. In the period 2007-2013 some new tourist products were created for the lower Danube as a result of the CBC Romania - Bulgaria programme as well as some other operational programmes. They are a good starting point for developing the Romania - Bulgaria crossborder region as an attractive tourist destination. Yet, the already established tourist products and services need to be additionally enriched and extended in order to increase the tourist flows in the lower Danube area and to become more popular and sustainable in the long run.

Most of the already created tourist products for the upper and middle Danube are based on the various resources of the respective area rather than focusing on a specific theme or segment, such as history, nature, culture, music, etc. It is also noted, that these tourist products include local traditions, production, crafts and other regional heritage which, in combination, create more complex and attractive services for the tourists and local population.

Similarly, the “Art & culture” tourist product of ARTOUR project foresees to use a combination of local resources - attractive natural or cultural sites as locations for organizing the plein-air events, various arts (painting, dance, music, photography, etc.) to be shown to the public and local production (food, beverages, souvenirs, crafts, etc.) to be provided as additional services to the audience of the events.



Thus, the “Art & culture” tourist product of ARTOUR project aims at becoming a complex and sustainable tourist product which is proven to be more efficient in increasing tourist flows in the area. Moreover, the already created tourist products in the upper and middle Danube show that tourists are interested and seek these combinations of a specific theme and local resources and heritage which are still missing or unpopular in the Romania - Bulgaria region or partly present.

In addition and similarly to the tourist products for upper and middle Danube, the ARTOUR project will use modern technologies for promoting the newly created “Art & culture” tourist product by video clips that will be widely disseminated in the Internet. At present, this is a weak point of the existing tourist services in the CBC Romania - Bulgaria region and probably one of the reasons the tourist still to prefer or to be attracted in the upper and middle part of the Danube River. Also, the videos must change the perspectives and expectations of people about the lower Danube area as a controversial point to the predominantly negative image of the region.

In sum, the “Art & culture” tourist product of ARTOUR project should use the best practices of already developed and successful complex tourist products, especially those in Austria, Hungary and Croatia. Since the concept of the ARTOUR project is based on variety not only in terms of locations for organizing the plein-air events each year but also, in terms of the thematics of the annual festival, it should become competitive and attractive like the tourist services and attractions provided in the upper and middle part of the River.

In the upper and middle part of the Danube River such kind of festivals and plein-air are mainly organized as regular annual events. These create very comfortable tradition which the ARTOUR project should follow and apply in the lower Danube and also should establish good relationships with other formats and events. This approach will enlarge significantly the scale of the project, its dissemination and the tourist offering in the lower Danube which will have an overall positive impact on the CBC Romania - Bulgaria region and it will become more recognisable as an attractive and popular tourist destination.

3. Added value of “Art & Culture” tourist product

The “Art & culture” tourist product of ARTOUR project will have the following value added components:

- Combination of art events and culture activities with local products and resources dedicated to tourist offering, experience, lifestyle for stimulating tourist travels, accommodations and increasing the tourist flows;
- Establishment of traditions for organizing plein-air events on an annual basis which will advertise and promote the local crafts, products and intangible cultural heritage of the CBC region;
- Establishment of relations with other festivals, fairs or cultural public events in order to increase the scale of activities and make non-coherent but mutually dependent economic actors, selling their products on the tourist market;
- Establishment of strong relationships with local authorities which also realize tourist projects and clearly understand the power of public activities carried out on their territory;
- Involvement of plein-air art and culture activities in the culture calendar of the municipalities in the CBC area and other culture institutions;
- Demonstration of good practices to students and entrepreneurs in the field of tourism, culture and art events as prospective and environmentally friendly business and opportunities for creation of new jobs;
- Valorising the local natural and intangible heritage by its sustainable use for the development of the CBC region and its promotion as an attractive tourist destination.

V. Consultations with the key stakeholders in the cross-border region Romania-Bulgaria

1. Key stakeholders to be consulted

The key stakeholders, who were consulted included representatives of:

- ✓ Regional public authorities - Romanian counties and Bulgarian districts
- ✓ Local public authorities - towns and municipalities in Romania and municipalities in Bulgaria
- ✓ Private entities in the tourist sector - tour operators, cruise companies, hotels, restaurants, etc.
- ✓ Private entities providing additional or related services to the tourist sector - guides, entertainment, information centres, etc.
- ✓ Non-governmental organisations in the tourist sector - tourist associations, business associations, chambers of commerce, etc.
- ✓ Private entities in the culture sector - galleries, museums, event organization companies, etc.
- ✓ Non-governmental organisations in the culture sector - associations, foundations, community centres, theatres, museums, galleries, art clubs, etc.
- ✓ Local population, tourists, visitors, individual or groups of artists, etc.

The methodology for carrying out the consultations included development of structured questionnaire on the main planned elements of the Art & Culture product and publishing it in Bulgarian and English to be filled in online at a survey website. The link to the questionnaire was promoted through the social networks and also by sending specific request to the identified stakeholders via E-mail or interviews. The requirement of the project was to consult at least 50 representatives of the stakeholders from each country.

The questionnaire included the following questions:

1. You are from (single answer only possible):

Romanian part of the cross-border region - counties of Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarași, Constanta	
Bulgarian part of the cross-border region - the districts of Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Rousse, Veliko Tarnovo, Silistra, Dobrich	
Outside the cross-border region	

2. You represent (single answer only possible):

Regional public authority	
Local public authority	



Private entity in the tourist sector	
Private entity related to the tourist sector	
Non-governmental organisation related to the tourist sector	
Private entity related to the culture sector	
Non-governmental organization related to the culture sector	
Tourist/visitor in the region	
Other, please specify	

**3. What is the most appropriate location for regular thematic art and culture events?
(single answer only possible)**

Centres of large cities	
Surroundings of large cities	
Small cities	
Villages	
Natural or cultural landmarks outside urban areas	
Other, please specify	

4. What is the optimal duration for regular thematic art and culture events? (single answer only possible)

1 day	
2 days	
3 days	
5 days	
More than 5 days	

**5. What is the optimal frequency of organising regular thematic art and culture events?
(single answer only possible)**

Once a year	
Twice a year	
Three times a year	
More than three times a year	

6. What is the most appropriate season for organizing regular thematic art and culture events? (multiple answers possible)

Spring	
Summer	
Autumn	
Winter	

7. What combination of arts would be most appropriate for a regular thematic art and culture event? (multiple answers possible)

Drawing	
Performing music	
Singing	
Dance	
Movies	
Photography	
Acting performances	
Literature and poetry	
Crafts	
Other, please specify	

8. What activities should be included in a regular thematic art and culture event? (multiple answers possible)

Performances	
Art exhibitions	
Contests/competitions	
Training courses	
Conferences	
Workshops	
Kids entertainment	
Catering/Culinary art	
Exhibition of local companies	
Other, please specify	

9. In your opinion, should local culture, traditions and customs be promoted by organizing regular thematic art and culture events? (one answer only possible)

Definitely	
To some extent	
No	
Negatively	
I can't assess	

10. In your opinion, would regular thematic art and culture events contribute to the development of the tourism and services in the cross-border area? (one answer only possible)

Substantial effect	
Some effect	
No effect	

Negative effect	
I can't assess	

11. Any comments, suggestions and recommendations, which you might have for the development of the “Art & Culture” tourist product

2. Results of the consultations

2.1. Romania

The consultations in Romania were carried out by separate contractor, employed by the Romanian project partner. The present scope of works included receiving the results from the carried out consultations, combining and summarizing results from both sides of the border.

In Romania 59 questionnaires were collected (of which 5 identical which were disregarded), resulting in a total of 54 representatives of the stakeholders filled in the questionnaire, of which 6 people were also interviewed directly to provide more detailed comments and recommendations on the development of the planned Art&Culture tourist product.

The results were as follows:

1. You are from (single answer only possible):

RO

Romanian part of the cross-border region - counties of Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarași, Constanta	54
Bulgarian part of the cross-border region - the districts of Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Rousse, Veliko Tarnovo, Silistra, Dobrich	
Outside the cross-border region	

2. You represent (single answer only possible):

Regional public authority	7
Local public authority	4
Private entity in the tourist sector	4
Private entity related to the tourist sector	7
Non-governmental organisation related to the tourist sector	8
Private entity related to the culture sector	1
Non-governmental organization related to the culture sector	1
Tourist/visitor in the region	8



Other, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institute of culture, Education unit, Related education institution, Other NGO 	10
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3. What is the most appropriate location for regular thematic art and culture events? (single answer only possible)

Centres of large cities	27
Surroundings of large cities	7
Small cities	6
Villages	4
Natural or cultural landmarks outside urban areas	10
Other, please specify	

4. What is the optimal duration for regular thematic art and culture events? (single answer only possible)

1 day	11
2 days	10
3 days	32
5 days	
More than 5 days	1

5. What is the optimal frequency of organising regular thematic art and culture events? (single answer only possible)

Once a year	17
Twice a year	33
Three times a year	3
More than three times a year	1

6. What is the most appropriate season for organizing regular thematic art and culture events? (multiple answers possible)

Spring	22
Summer	28
Autumn	11
Winter	



7. What combination of arts would be most appropriate for a regular thematic art and culture event? (multiple answers possible)

Drawing	15
Performing music	26
Singing	23
Dance	28
Movies	11
Photography	14
Acting performances	23
Literature and poetry	12
Crafts	21
Other, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fashion Design, • Modeling, • Ceramics, • Painting 	1

8. What activities should be included in a regular thematic art and culture event? (multiple answers possible)

Performances	24
Art exhibitions	27
Contests/competitions	14
Training courses	9
Conferences	17
Workshops	19
Kids entertainment	23
Catering	19
Exhibition of local companies	15
Other, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thematic excursions, • discussions / discussions with artists 	1



9. In your opinion, should local culture, traditions and customs be promoted by organizing regular thematic art and culture events? (one answer only possible)

Definitely	52
To some extent	2
No	
Negatively	
I can't assess	

10. In your opinion, would regular thematic art and culture events contribute to the development of the tourism and services in the cross-border area? (one answer only possible)

Substantial effect	48
Some effect	5
No effect	
Negative effect	
I can't assess	1

On question 11, the meaningful comments are summarized as follows:

- The events should be held either in large cities or cultural/natural/historical landmarks, or in small towns or villages to support their development.
- Attention to be paid to the promotion of traditional and folklore art and history.
- Regular newsletter and database to be created with information on upcoming events.
- Young children, pupils and students to be involved also as volunteers to cultivate and promote traditions.
- Other arts to be included - fashion design, culinary, circus art.
- Activities to include trips/excursions, medieval performances - fights, wrestling, etc.

The recommended locations for organising the planned events under the project from the interviewed stakeholders are:

- 1) Craiova - Port Cetate/Dolj County
- 2) Calarasi/Calarasi - Ostrov farms/Constanta County

2.2. Bulgaria

In Bulgaria 73 representatives of the stakeholders filled in the online questionnaire in Bulgarian and 3 - in English language.

The results were as follows:

1. You are from (single answer only possible):

BG

Romanian part of the cross-border region - counties of Mehedinti, Dolj, Olt, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Calarași, Constanta	0
Bulgarian part of the cross-border region - the districts of Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Pleven, Rousse, Veliko Tarnovo, Silistra, Dobrich	64
Outside the cross-border region	9

2. You represent (single answer only possible):

Regional public authority	9
Local public authority	18
Private entity in the tourist sector	1
Private entity related to the tourist sector	1
Non-governmental organisation related to the tourist sector	5
Private entity related to the culture sector	10
Non-governmental organization related to the culture sector	16
Tourist/visitor in the region	7
Other, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other NGO • Regional Administration • Consultancy • Architect 	6

3. What is the most appropriate location for regular thematic art and culture events? (single answer only possible)

Centres of large cities	37
Surroundings of large cities	1
Small cities	9
Villages	1
Natural or cultural landmarks outside urban areas	25
Other, please specify	0

4. What is the optimal duration for regular thematic art and culture events? (single answer only possible)

1 day	7
2 days	24



3 days	30
5 days	7
More than 5 days	5

5. What is the optimal frequency of organising regular thematic art and culture events? (single answer only possible)

Once a year	25
Twice a year	39
Three times a year	4
More than three times a year	5

6. What is the most appropriate season for organizing regular thematic art and culture events? (multiple answers possible)

Spring	56
Summer	32
Autumn	46
Winter	3

7. What combination of arts would be most appropriate for a regular thematic art and culture event? (multiple answers possible)

Drawing	43
Performing music	48
Singing	40
Dance	52
Movies	20
Photography	42
Acting performances	37
Literature and poetry	23
Crafts	38
Other, please specify: • Combination of the above • Traditional crafts	2

8. What activities should be included in a regular thematic art and culture event? (multiple answers possible)

Performances	45
Art exhibitions	55
Contests/competitions	45



Training courses	29
Conferences	32
Workshops	54
Kids entertainment	44
Catering	13
Exhibition of local companies	34
Other, please specify	0

9. In your opinion, should local culture, traditions and customs be promoted by organizing regular thematic art and culture events? (one answer only possible)

Definitely	60
To some extent	11
No	0
Negatively	0
I can't assess	2

10. In your opinion, would regular thematic art and culture events contribute to the development of the tourism and services in the cross-border area? (one answer only possible)

Substantial effect	50
Some effect	21
No effect	0
Negative effect	2
I can't assess	0

On question 11, the meaningful comments are summarized as follows:

- To organise such events and develop a product, a close and effective cooperation should be established. More intensive promotion is needed at regional and national level as well.
- The events could in the future be organised in small settlements to support their development.
- If more than one event is organised during the year, there should be different arts and activities, not one and the same.
- The Art&Culture product could be especially useful for the promotion of the local culture, traditions, customs.
- Attendance should be maximised as much as possible.

- The visitors to these events should be actively involved in the activities.
- The tourist product should take into consideration the local specific features of the location.

From the comments, Vidin is suggested as one of the locations, which will be most appropriate for organising the plein-air.

2.3. Summary of results

The respondents covered all categories of stakeholders from both countries. The summarized quantified results are as follows:

No.	Elements	Greatest %	Description	Comment
1	Location	50,39%	Centres of large cities	Single answer
2	Duration	48,03%	3 days	Single answer
3	Frequency	56,69%	Twice a year	Single answer
4	Seasons	61,42%	Summer	Multiple answers
		47,24%	Spring	
		44,88%	Autumn	
5	Arts	62,99%	Dance	Multiple answers
		58,27%	Music	
		49,61%	Singing	
		47,24%	Acting	
		46,46%	Crafts	
		45,67%	Drawing	
		44,09%	Photography	
		27,56%	Literature/poetry	
6	Activities	64,57%	Exhibitions	
		57,48%	Workshops	
		54,33%	Performances	
		52,76%	Kids entertainment	
		46,46%	Contests/competitions	
		38,58%	Exhibition of local companies	
		38,58%	Conferences	
		29,92%	Training courses	
		25,20%	Catering	
7	Promotion of local culture	88,19%	Definitely	Single answer
8	Contribution to tourism development	77,17%	Substantial	Single answer

3. Conclusions and recommendations

The “Art & Culture” tourist product is planned to include the following elements:

No.	Element	Detailed description
1	Locations	<p>The recommended locations are the centres of large cities. This would be favourable in terms of transport access, largest audiences available, as well as access to basic and additional tourist services and also having other art and cultural resources.</p> <p>The recommended locations for the planned events under the project are to be chosen among:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romania: Constanta, Craiova, Calarasi • Bulgaria: Vidin, Veliko Tarnovo, Rousse <p>When the Art & Culture tourist product becomes sufficiently recognised and popular, there might be explored other locations such as natural, cultural or historic landmarks outside the urban areas or smaller settlements to support their development.</p>
2	Frequency and seasons	<p>The recommended frequency is twice a year to be kept also after the project end. This is also supported by the planned division of themes of events according to the larger categories of art - visual arts and performing and literary arts as described below.</p> <p>The recommended seasons are spring and autumn. Despite the prevalence of summer in the responses from the stakeholders, the disadvantages of organising summer events might be the holiday season focused mainly on seaside tourism or the weather might be too hot for events organised in the open and attracting large crowds.</p>
3	Duration	<p>The recommended duration is 3 days, which is sufficient to ensure optimal inclusion of a large number of activities and attracting greater audience.</p>
4	Arts	<p>Each event will combine various arts that can be shown to the large public outdoor, but performances will be focused on the preliminary chosen and advertised theme of the events. The theme of the events will be related to some tradition or characteristic cultural feature of the location.</p> <p>The combinations of arts will include: drawing/sculpture, music, singing, dances, movies, photography, acting, performances, literature/poetry, crafts/applied arts, etc. It is recommended one</p>



		of the events during the year to be dedicated to the visual arts and the other one - to performing and literary arts, where in the other part of the cross-border region, the events happening at the same season will alternate.
5	Activities	<p>Activities will include performances, exhibitions, contests, workshops, training courses, conferences, including indoors at related and available locations or depending on the weather.</p> <p>Catering will be provided from local food companies and include only traditional food for the region. It is recommended where appropriate to include the local culinary art in the combinations of arts.</p> <p>All events should include dedicated kids' corner to provide for the participation or entertainment of young talents involving them in all activities of the event.</p>
6	Facilities provided	<p>Open air stage with lighting and audio equipment, tents for exhibition and workshops, chairs, tables, advertisement banners, control of access.</p> <p>Materials and consumables, e.g. for drawing, etc. in the kids' corner.</p> <p>Allocated space for local companies to exhibit and promote their products - e.g. local food, souvenirs, crafts, tourist and additional services, etc.</p>

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