



RESOURCE CENTRE – SIBIU, ROMANIA

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL ROUTES

WHY SIBIU?

Transylvania (especially Banat area and the city of Sibiu) was the cradle of the new culture, that of the colons who came from the regions of Flandre, Rhine, Moselle and Saxonia. A common heritage was set up here between the West and Central Europe furthered by the undeniable resemblance of the two languages (Saxon language and Luxemburger language).



It was not by chance that Sibiu was chosen as it has been for centuries the meeting point of European civilisations – Western and Central Europe found here the turning point towards Byzantium, the Balkans and the Central Asia. Belonging to different ethnic groups and lifestyles, the inhabitants of Sibiu developed an intercultural and a European citizenship conscience.

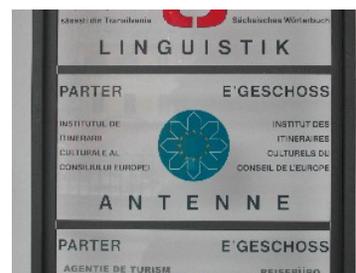


The IECR Resources Center of Sibiu is located in the *house of Luxembourg* (Piața Mica 16). This historical monument was inaugurated on the official visit to Romania of His Royal Highness Grand – Duke and Her Royal Highness Grande – Duchess de Luxembourg. The building also shelters a tourist office and a Linguistic Institute.



THE EICR BRANCH OF SIBIU INTENDS TO:

- Implement the Council of Europe Programme for Cultural Routes taking into account the Resolution (98)4 criteria for Council of Europe Cultural Routes.
- Actively give support for the heritage valorization and preservation actions being aware of its important social function, by:
 - initiating projects and meetings / conferences / discussions in order to facilitate the collaboration of all those who could bring their contribution - by their activity or by their interest, in protecting the European and Romanian heritage;



- promoting local, national and international cultural activities by IEIC website, by publishing materials, by media;
 - proposing new cultural routes and where possible adding new elements to the existing ones.
- Become a place where those who believe in the necessity of protecting cultural values and in their catalytic function would join each other.



HISTORIC SIBIU

I am delighted to see how it is more and more widely recognized and taken into account that there is a necessity to protect our diverse heritage whilst still maintaining it as a living and creative place.

Federico Mayor

THE TOWN OF SIBIU

One of the greatest Transylvanian cities, the city of Sibiu is situated almost in the middle of the country. The first documentary mention regarding the lands around Sibiu is dated in 1191. In this document Pope Celestin the III-rd names the city as Cibinium.



During the 12th century, there were certain parts of Romania colonized by a population which came from the region of Flandra, from the land surrounded by Moselle and Rhine and from Saxonia.

The mediaeval period is characterized in Sibiu by a continuous development, marked by the activity of the guilds, by sieges and Ottoman invasions but also by developing political, economical and cultural relations with Wallachia and Moldavia. The first monetary in Romania was founded in Sibiu in 1350.

During the reign of Josef the 2nd, the right of "conciuitatis" was offered to all citizens. Thus other ethnic groups had the possibility to live inside the town Sibiu. From now on the Romanian people would established in Sibiu which became around the middle of 19th century the spiritual center of fight for the emancipation of this nation.



In 1989 Sibiu was the second city in Rumania to rise against the communist system.

CULTURAL SIBIU

The history of Sibiu is also written in its architectural styles, museums and cultural life, Starting with the 19th century its cultural history is marked by multiculturalism and multiethnicity.

Sibiu represents the largest national reservation of medieval architecture (the historical center is about 80ha) and one of the most important in Central and Eastern Europe. The historical center is built around three squares (Great Square - Piața Mare, Small Square - Piața Mica and Huet Square - Piața Huet) and the remains of the third fortified ring (Sibiu fortress) border it.

The city is a reach and complex assembly, a harmonious synthesis of architectural styles (Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Classicism, Neo-Gothic, Neo-Brancovenesc, etc.). It gives the city a particular image whilst it makes difficult for a building to be assigned to a certain architectural style.

Many styles could be found on certain buildings even though a pure architectural style is rare. One could admire the sober baroque of Brukenthal Palace or that of the Blue House, the Neo-Romanian style of the Orthodox Theological institute and of the Transylvania's Metropolitan Residence or the guild brother's houses from Down Town.

There are fifteen churches in Sibiu and they shelter different denominations. (Orthodox - the majority, Catholic, Protestant, Neo-Protestant).



CONTACTS

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