

**Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South-East Europe
Local Development Pilot Projects**

Annual Report

***Romania, Rupea-Cohalm Pilot Project for Local Development
1 January - 31 December 2007***

Prepared by Cristina Cotenescu, LDPP Project Coordinator (MoCRA/ LA)

<i>State the activities planned for 2007:</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Selection of the LDPP territory;2. Signing of the Political Declaration;3. Designation of the LDPP Implementation Unit (PIU);4. Support and technical assistance: CoE expert missions;5. Elaboration of the Terms of Reference and of the Communication Strategy;6. Elaboration of 2008 Calendar of Activities and 2008 Budget;7. Elaboration and signing of the 2007 Administrative Arrangement;8. Reports and evaluation (monthly and weekly reports, annual report, monitoring and updating);9. Visual identity and promotional support (LDPP Brochure and logo).
<i>Describe the activities performed during 2007 and the concrete outputs(results):</i>
<p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Selection of the pilot project territory, as Rupea-Cohalm micro-region (starting point: the Ensemble of the Evangelic Fortified Church, Drăușeni, Cața Commune, Brașov County), in consultation with the members of the Interministerial Commission.2. Signing of the Political Declaration by all of the institutions from the central level, represented in the Interministerial Commission (started in April, finalised at the end of October)3. Designation of the Pilot Project Implementation Unit (Brașov Agency for Sustainable Development, BASD)4. 3 expert missions of the Council of Europe in Romania. Results:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A first draft of the LDPP action plan and budget for 2007 and assessment of the state of art of the project at the beginning of 20072. Report concerning the need for an urgent intervention at the Ensemble of the Evangelic Fortified Church in Drăușeni3. Elaboration of the Pre-Diagnosis of the LDPP territory (Rupea-Cohalm Region). Main identified issues to be addressed in the LDPP territory:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Working together;b) Which perspective for a development based on natural and cultural heritage and adapted to the potentiality of

the territory;

- c) Conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage;
- d) Revitalisation and improvement of quality of life (services, infrastructures etc);
- e) Qualification of population.

5. The Terms of reference have been finalised. Following a consultation process both at local and central level, the process of signing has been first started at the local level.
6. The 2008 Calendar of Activities and 2008 Budget has been drafted following a consultation in between UIP and LA. Proposals of the Interministerial Commission were also taken into account in its drafting (proposal for a mission in the territory and organisation of an event/conference).
7. The first Administrative Arrangement in between Council of Europe and the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs, for the year 2007 was signed following a negotiation and consultation process in between CoE and MoCRA, on one hand, as well as MoCRA and BASD, on the other hand. The need for a Partnership Agreement between MoCRA and BASD emerged. The Partnership has been signed by MoCRA in 2007 and it was sent for signing to the BASD.
8. The PIU elaborated monthly reports from August until October, and weekly reports starting with November; consolidated LDPP monthly reports were sent to the Council of Europe as early as June. Following the elaboration of the reports, the 2007 Calendar of Activities has been up-dated on regular bases.

Furthermore, one report of evaluation concerning the need of urgent intervention with respect to the Ensemble of the Evangelic Fortified Church in Drăușeni has been elaborated by local experts.

10. The elaboration of the LDPP Brochure was postponed for 2008 following a twofold motivation: first, the MoCRA surpassed its printing quota for 2007 leading to the impossibility of allocating necessary resources for the printing; second, the brochure needed to be connected with the Diagnosis process that was not started as proposed in 2007 due to the delay in the signing of the Terms of reference and the existence of a Methodology for the realisation of the Diagnosis.

The logo for LDPP was realised. It will become final once the various stakeholders suggestions will be assessed.

Outputs:

- 7 meetings of the Interministerial Commission
- 3 CoE experts missions in Romania
- 5 sets of LDPP documentation (Political declaration, Terms of reference, Pre-diagnosis, Strategy of Communication, Calendar of activities)
- 2 working sessions Project Coordinator - Project Manager
- 2 participations in the LDPP Project Co-ordinators meetings (Senje, Serbia and Chartreuse, France)
- 2 participations in LDPP-related events (RegioCult Forum, Jupiter, Romania and European Heritage Days, Belgrade, Serbia)
- 1 Administrative Arrangement signed
- 1 Partnership Agreement signed

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 LDPP/Lead Authority (LA) monthly reports (June-December) • 3 LDPP/PIU monthly reports (August-October) and 7 weekly reports (November-December) • 1 Logo of the Rupea-Cohalm LDPP
<p><i>Describe the problems encountered or unexpected outcomes during 2007 (lessons learned):</i></p>
<p>Following the problems and outcomes encountered during 2007, a few aspects should be mentioned (lessons learned):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the early stages of the project, in order to obtain a better impact of the process at the local level, it was assessed that a direct and personal contact with each local level stakeholder was preferred over the dissemination of the project via indirect means of communication or within a meeting with all local stakeholders. Thus, the caravanne organised by the BASD/UIP throughout the Rupea-Cohalm micro-region helped in a better dissemination of the project and a better understanding of its principles, setting up a solid base for the next steps envisaged at that time within the project. 2. Following the inclusion of Rupea-Cohalm micro-region in the LDPP, the central and local level stakeholders, with the impetus of the Council of Europe have determined the acceleration of the tender procedures for the Ensemble of the Evangelic Fortified Church in Drăușeni. Even if, due to technical reasons, the tender has been postponed for the beginning of 2008, LDPP has helped to the elevation of Draușeni Evangelic Church on the political agenda of the ministry. 3. The LDPP framework has produced the need for institutionalised forms of cooperation that have the potential to improve communication both among central level institutions, as well as between local and central level public administration. Thus, the Interministerial Commission is institutionalised at the beginning of 2008 and a Partnership Agreement between MoCRA and BASD is in the process of signing.
<p><i>Describe the activities envisaged for 2008:</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of the Terms of reference • Concluding a second Administrative Arrangement (AA 2008) • Setting up the Local Management Group • Organising a study tour of the IC members in the Rupea-Cohalm micro-region • Design and implementation of several Pilot Actions (local youth involvement, conference, cultural-artistic event, best practice in restoration) • Elaboration of Diagnosis of the territory, Strategy of Development and Operational Plan • Elaboration of promotional materials to accompany different stages of the LDPP (Pilot Actions, Diagnosis of the Territory, Participation in the Verona Funding Conference)
<p><i>Indicate recommendations and requests</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the negotiation process between the LDPP Romania team and the Council of Europe, Romania proposes the elaboration of a financing guide (a guide of the beneficiary) with eligible and non-eligible expenses to be put at the disposal of the beneficiary countries, prior to the signature of the Administrative Arrangements. • A unique template for the annual report should also be put at the disposal of the beneficiary countries. • A methodological guide for the realisation of the Diagnosis of the LDPP Territory should be

put at the disposal of the RPSEE beneficiary countries.

Proposed text for up dating the web site (“State of progress”)

- The Political Declaration has been signed by the ten representatives of the central level institutions, members in the Interministerial Commission. The Political Declaration represents a non-binding and non-regulatory tool, in which the signatories agreed upon the implementation of the Local Development Pilot Project in the Rupea-Cohalm micro-region while respecting the principles set out by the Council of Europe in the Principles and Operational Methods of Local Development Pilot Projects and in the General Reference Framework of the Regional Programme for Cultural and Natural Heritage in South East Europe, 2003 – 2008.
- The Council of Europe LDPP investigative mission for the Rupea-Cohalm Pilot Project in Romania (30 September – 4 October 2007) had as main scope the elaboration of the pre-diagnosis of the Rupea-Cohalm micro-region in Brasov County. In order to support this action, 23 interviews were held both at the local and central level. The pre-diagnosis identified five main areas of focus in the micro-region that will be later discussed and assessed during the thematic working groups at the local level. The pre-diagnosis represents the basis on which it will be elaborated the diagnosis of the territory.
- The Terms of Reference of the LDPP have been finalised. Following a process of consultation, both at local and central level, among partners and other potential partners, the Terms of reference are in the process of signing. Most of the identified partners at the local level have signed the Terms of reference by the end of 2007. Considering a bottom-up approach, after its approval at the local level, the document will be transmitted to the central level for adoption and signature.
- The first Administrative Arrangement for 2007 has been signed between the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs in order to meet the expenses incurred for the project’s implementation by Brasov Agency for Sustainable Development as Project Implementation Unit. The Administrative Arrangement secured the direct financing of the Council of Europe for some of the LDPP actions planned to be concluded in the last months of 2007. One of the outputs has been the project’s logo, which will contribute to the creation of a specific identity of the project, this being one of the objectives of the LDPP Rupea-Cohalm Communication Strategy.