

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

Monthly Report

***Romania, Rupea-Cohalm Pilot Project for Local Development
1 – 31 January 2008***

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<i>State the activities planned for this period:</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Signing of the Terms of reference2. Working methodology for the Diagnosis of the territory3. First meeting of the Local management Group4. Preparation of the 2008 Administrative Arrangement5. Internet information and promotion5. Realisation of a logo of the LDPP project
<i>Describe the activities performed during this period:</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The greater majority of the identified partners in the project have already signed the partnership declaration. The communes of Bunesti, Cata, Ticus and Ungra have yet to sign.2. The Methodology for elaborating the Diagnosis of Rupea-Cohalm territory is expected to be finalized by PIU and presented to partners in the first LMG reunion.3. The topics to be discussed during the first reunion of the Local Management Group are being prepared by the PIU. The meeting is programmed for the second part of the month of January.4. The draft budget with the estimated costs of LDPP for 2008, approved between BASD and MoCRA, has been sent to the Council of Europe for negotiation and approval.5. A proposed content of the LDPP web page created on the Council of Europe site has been annexed to the present report. BASD has created a dedicated web page for the LDPP on its own site.6. The logo of the project has been finalized following the consultation of the MoCRA and members of the Interministerial Commission. The final logo is in use now and shall be used on all the materials produced within the project. A template for the PPT using the logo shall also be finalised.
<i>Describe the problems encountered or unexpected outcomes during this period:</i>
<p><u>Problems</u> The Partnership Agreement between MoCRA and BASD has not been concluded. BASD has proposed to MoCRA further modifications of its content. The paper is currently in the process of being revised.</p>

<p>Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoCRA has decided to promote The Ensemble of the Evangelic Fortified Church of Drăușeni, as part of the LDPP and within this context, to the Verona Funding Conference (Italy) to be held in September 2008. Preparatory actions setting up of the management groups and Advisory Board have been undertaken in close cooperation with the Component B coordinator. <p>The Interministerial commission has been institutionalized.</p>
<p><i>Describe the suggested modifications in the planning (activities planned for the next month):</i></p>
<p><i>Indicate recommendations and requests</i></p>
<p>The methodology for the elaboration of the Diagnosis of the territory should be correlated with the decisions agreed upon during the experts meeting in Strasbourg, planned to take place at the end of January 2008. The team of the project is expecting further details and methodological support following this meeting.</p>
<p><i>Proposed text for up dating the web site ("State of progress")</i></p>
<p>The proposed text for updating the web site represents an annex to the present report.</p>

Annex

CoE web-site

Proposal for the improvement of the LDPP web page content

1. Actual content

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/regional/SEE/LDPP/LDPP_NationalPilotProjects_en.asp#TopOfPage

Local Development

National Pilot Projects

"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" is pursuing consultations with national and regional authorities on different possible pilot sites, which could be the Reka region as well as Albania which is considering the Shkodra Region.

Other countries have progressed in the setting-up of conditions for implementing the Local Development Pilots Project (LDPP) in 2007. Firm decisions have been taken or are in the process of being taken in the following countries:

Montenegro has signed Terms of Reference involving the three ministries and three municipalities in the [Skadar Lake Region](#).
Bosnia and Herzegovina has confirmed the Donja Dolina-Bardaca Region,
Bulgaria has confirmed the region of [Strandja](#) (Municipality of Tsarevo, Malko Tarnovo and Sredec South East Bulgaria),
Croatia has confirmed the [Cres Island](#)
Romania has confirmed [Drauseni](#) in Transylvania,
Serbia has identified [Senje](#) and surrounding area,
Kosovo/UNMIK has signed a "Political Statement" committing the five municipalities of the Pec/Pejë region

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/regional/SEE/LDPP/LDPP_Drauseni_en.asp

National Pilot Projects

Drăuşeni (Romania)

Background

In the famous Transilvanian mountains of central Romania, Drăuşeni is one of the several villages abandoned in recent decades when descendants of the Saxons emigrated after the Second World War.

Basics

Cața Comune, one of eight communes making up Braşov County in the Rupea-Cohalm Region of SE Transylvania
Territory: 1 010.59 km²
Population: 26 968 (density 26/km²)

Cultural and Natural Heritage

The Homoroadelor Hills, declared a Nature 2000 site, provide a habitat for 35 species of birds. The area is known for its berries and medicinal plants and has traditionally been used for fishing and hunting wild boar, bear and wildcat. Cața's surrounding villages have preserved a great deal of their historic vernacular architecture and have also important archaeological sites in the region, the most spectacular of which date back to the Iron Age. Drăușeni is distinguished by its mediaeval religious monuments, the most important of which is the village's 13th Century late Roman, early Gothic church, fortified in the 15th century when surrounding walls and towers were added. Other monuments in the area include other mediaeval fortified churches and a spectacular 14th-century Saxon fort.

Aims and Objectives

The overall aim of the project is to improve the quality of life of the area's inhabitants. Its specific aims are to:

- improve the area's image by preventing the future deterioration of the cultural and natural heritage and strengthening policies for its protection, preservation and administration, integrating local heritage management into regional plans;
- encourage an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to local development that makes full use of the existent resources of the territory, creating employment and encouraging investment in the area.

Progress

The Interministerial Commission held a Round Table Open Debate to complete the Council of Europe's questionnaire. Participants from 13 local and regional authorities, local agencies and NGOs attended and the Commission has defined the objectives of the project.

2. Proposed content

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Local Development

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Romania has confirmed Drauseni from **Rupea-Cohalm region in Transylvania**,
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National Pilot Projects

Rupea-Cohalm region (Romania)

Background

Situated in the northern part of Brasov County, Transylvania, Rupea-Cohalm region is one of the three historical areas of the county. Having specific characteristics, Rupea-Cohalm is a mainly rural territory. In spite of its potential for future development of the region, the cultural heritage is threatened with decay and the natural heritage is under-valorised. The underdeveloped tourism infrastructure and the poor accessibility of the area are stopping the region's development, these being some of the challenges for the LDPP Rupea-Cohalm objective to set a long term regional development and management plan.

Basics

9 municipalities: the eight communes of Bunesti, Cața, Hoghiz, Homorod, Jibert, Racos, Ticus, Ungra and the city of Rupea
Territory: 1.010,59 km²
Population: 26.968 (density 26 inhabitants/km²)

Cultural and Natural Heritage

From the top of Rupea citadel, one can admire a unique landscape of velvety hills and valleys where the towers of Evangelical and Orthodox churches dress in the middle of the local settlements, or better yet can follow with their look the meanders of Olt River. Rupea-Cohalm region is rich in fortified Evangelical churches, churches which are testifying for the religious diversity of the area, memorial houses, archaeological sites, parts of fortified walls and rural landscapes with typical rural housing. Drauseni village and its Ensemble of the Evangelic Fortified Church has been the Eastern border of the Saxon colonisation area in Transylvania. Alongside this cultural heritage, protected areas, „natural monuments” or areas certified Nature 2000 Sites form an important natural heritage and are a proof of the great diversity of wild life habitats that form the landscape. As an example, Homorodelor Hills, declared a Nature 2000 site, provide a habitat for 35 species of birds. The area is also known for its berries and medicinal plants and has traditionally been used for fishing and hunting wild boar, bear and wildcat.

Aims and Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to conceive a Local Development Plan for Rupea-Cohalm region which will trigger a social and economical development process based on the local heritage as the key element for cohesion and identity, a multisectorial and interdisciplinary approach, as well as on the way of participation and with every interested factor's implication in conceiving the Local Development Plan and in its further implementation. Its specific aims are:

- to improve the area's image by preventing the future deterioration of the cultural and natural heritage, strengthening policies for its protection, preservation and administration, integrating local heritage management into regional plans, as well as by creating a communication strategy;
- to realise, sustain and value a long term local partnership between the stakeholders of the area
- to contribute to the increase in local community's participation to the development process and to consolidate its role in the decision making process
- to encourage an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to local development that makes full use of the existent resources of the territory, creating employment and encouraging investment in the area.

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 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 Rupea-Cohalm Pilot Project in Romania (30 September – 4 October 2007) had as main scope the elaboration of a pre-diagnosis of 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 thematic working groups at the local level. The pre-diagnosis represents the basis upon which the diagnosis of the territory will be elaborated.
- The Terms of Reference for LDPP Rupea-Cohalm have been finalized. Following a consultation process, both at local and central level, among partners and other potential partners, the Partnership Statements within the document are in the process of signing. Most of the identified partners from local level have approved the Terms of Reference by the end of 2007. Considering a bottom-up approach, after its signing at 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.