

# S.P.A.C.E

Sustainable Partnerships for Arts  
and Culture in Europe

## STUDY TRIP #01

# The Fagaras Journey

May 2022 - Fagaras, Tirana and Weimar

---

S.P.A.C.E is short-term action by partners of the MOCI network to connect cultural initiatives in rural contexts with support by the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) and the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) in Germany. [www.mocispace](http://www.mocispace)



## SHORT DOCUMENTATION

Building on the learnings from a first research phase and initial mapping process about cultural spaces in the regions of the partnership, we explore strategies among peers and communities to test various types of exchange and solidarity-mechanisms. This process is guided by short study trips to Romania and Albania to provide comprehensive insights into each country's local realities.

This short report gives some insights from the study trip to Romania in May 2022.

We want to thank our partners and hosts in the region of Făgăras for the warm welcome and hospitality.

## CONTENT

Summary	p. 02
The enabler - Făgăras Community Foundation	p. 03
The former synagogue - Făgăras	p. 04
Feeling good @Home in Făgăras	p. 05
A kind of a school for the future - Village of Calbor	p. 06
The Citadel and Women in Resistance - Făgăras	p. 07
Multiple choice - Casa Municipala de Cultura Făgăras	p. 08
The different sides of Cincu Village	p. 09
Guesthouses and a church for culture - Cincșor Village	p. 10
Mândra Chic and a private museum - Mândra Village	p. 11
Blue Houses and Our Village - Șona Noastra	p. 12



## SUMMARY

The programme for the study visits in the period of **04-08 May 2022** was developed in close collaboration with the peers in Romania and structured into different formats of getting to know each other, identifying a common interest and understanding for the process and to get significant information and impressions about the realities of our colleagues and partners.

During the study trip we had the opportunity to meet, interview or **talk to 17 practitioners of the 10 visited spaces** and initiatives in the city of Făgăraş and four villages in the area. An important role for civil society development in the region plays the **Făgăraş Community Foundation**, which became an enabler and connecting node for diverse local actions and measures. Public institutions like the **Făgăraş Municipal House of Culture or the Făgăraş Citadel** are to preserve and capitalize on the cultural and artistic tradition and creation, the heritage of culture and traditional art on the territory of Făgăraş region, but also shall become a community center for diverse cultural activities and groups. The Citadel already gives space for co-operations and educational measures like the exhibition „**The Women of the Anti-Communist Resistance in Țara Făgăraşului**“. Some other private initiatives like **@Home in Făgăraş** or the project to revitalize the **former Synagogue** contribute to the development of a local landscape of spaces for co-living or co-creation in the city.

The study trips to four villages around Făgăraş completed the programme by showing diverse initiatives and environments for cultural and social activities in rural contexts. Just to highlight some of the findings and impressions. The building of the **old school in Calbor** will be developed as a space for education and research by The Fagaras Research Institute (FRI). In **Cincu** we could explore the complexity of a small village by local politics, public projects and private initiatives. A private initiative in **Cincşor Village** preserves the fortified church in the community and the concept of a „cultural church“ shall secure the use and maintenance of this historic space in the future. The **Şona Noastra Village Association** aims to rebuild the local community by capitalizing on the cultural, economic, social, ecological and natural potential.

In both areas - in Northern Albania and Central Romania we have visited - the situation of actors outside the urban centers continues to be mainly precarious. The peers of our partners face similar common challenges. In particular, young and female adults from rural areas have limited access to (non-formal and creative) educational opportunities, and young people's participation in local and community development is still weak. Nevertheless the level of networking between local initiatives in the Făgăraş area and the power of single community members are exceptional, inspiring and very productive to shape a promising base for future developments and long-term impact.





## The former synagogue - Făgăraș Study trip Romania - 05 May 2022

The Jewish community in Făgăraș was established in 1820, the synagogue was built in 1829. After 1945, the community was reorganized and experienced a temporary increase in number; there were 360 members in 1947. As a result of emigration, only 20 Jews still lived in Făgăraș in 1970; by 2003, just 3 Jews remained. They are counted in the community of Brașov. (<https://jbat.lbi.org/locality/fagaras>). Nowadays citizens trying to reclaim the empty building have started to plan and develop a public and cultural location with a sensitive awareness of the building and its history in close collaboration with MKBT: Make Better.

Hosts: Manuela Negrilă, Ana Elian <http://mkbt.ro/en>



## Feeling good @Home in Făgăras Study trip Romania - 05 May 2022

@Home in Făgăras is an initiative of the Mihai and Maria Fratila Foundation (FMMF), Țara Făgărașului Community Foundation, and Make Better: MKB. Together they develop a local co-working and co-living space that aims to enhance social and cultural innovation through exposure to knowledge exchanges and international partnerships. It provides access to local communities and cultural centers in Transylvania.

Host: Ana Marica <https://fundatiafratila.ro/> / <http://incredereinfagaras.ro/home-in-fagaras/>



## A kind of a school for the future - Village of Calbor

Study trip Romania - 05 May 2022

Calbor is a village near of Făgăras A little museum in the former school is made and facilitated by volunteers of the local community. The building of the school will be developed as a space for education and research by The Fagaras Research Institute (FRI). The institute develops a research and knowledge infrastructure in the Făgăras region by relying on interdisciplinary research, policy and outreach work and educational programs. The Institute envisages communities that are well informed and that understand both the challenges they confront and ways to fulfill their own potential..

Guest / Hosts: Ms. Viorica from the village / Stefan Cibian <https://icf-fri.org>



## The Citadel and Women in Resistance - Făgăraș

### Study trip Romania - 06 May 2022

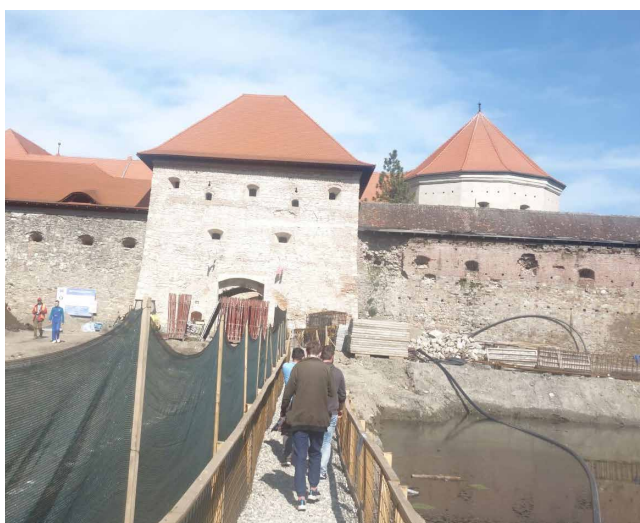
Făgăraș Citadel is a historic monument in the center of the city. The construction of the fortress started in 1310, was modernized for fortification continuously and was transformed into a princely residence in the 17th century. From 1948 to 1960, the fortress was used as a prison for those opposed to the communist regime. Currently, the citadel functions as a museum, housing various artifacts. It also shall become a community center for diverse cultural activities and groups after the recent constructions and it already gives space for co-operations and educational measures like the exhibition „The Women of the Anti-Communist Resistance in Țara Făgărașului“.

Hosts:

Dr. Elena Băjenaru, Director, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Făgăraș\\_Citadel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Făgăraș_Citadel)

Ioana Hașu-Georgiev, Director of Center for the Study of Anti-Communist Resistance and History at the FRI

<https://icf-fri.org/structure/center-for-anti-communist-resistance-and-history-crai/>



Lupta femeilor care au sprijinit rezistența nu s-a încheiat odată cu mișcarea din munte. Nici măcar odată comunizmului. În cele mai multe cazuri, sprijinitorii Grupului Făgăraș au avut de purtat o luptă înegală între vechii cu Securitatea și autoritățile comuniste, cu autoritățile de după '89, care nu le-au recunoscut mișcarea, cu societatea care le-a forțat la o viață marginală, cu amnezia colectivă care s-a produs în evenimentele anilor '90.

Ajunse la vârstă a treia, după o jumătate de veac de rezistență pe diferite planuri, femeile au de legătură între generații, păstrând memoria celor care au dispărut în lupta cu regimul și povestea care alfel ar fi rămas pentru totdeauna îngropate. Miza luptei lor: recăpătarea memoriei și identității în familiile și comunitățile traumatizate. Moștenirea rezistenței rămâne via pentru sute de familii din Țara Făgărașului care au transmis generațiilor următoare evenimente neîntregite și neînțelese.

**REZISTENȚA DE DUPĂ REZISTENȚĂ: PĂSTRAREA MEMORIEI**

**LUPTĂTOARELE INVIZIBILE**

**SPĂȚII ALE MEMORIEI ȘI REDOBÂNDIREA IDENTITĂȚII**

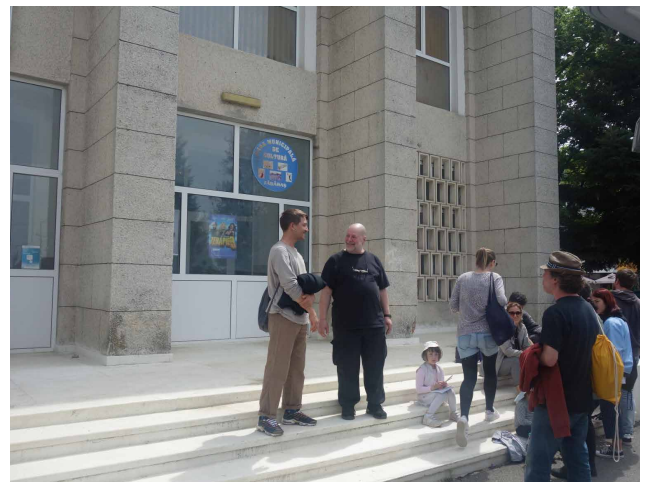
**VINDECAREA AMNEZIEI**



## Multiple choice - Casa Municipală de Cultură Făgăraș Study trip Romania - 06 May 2022

The main objective of the Făgăraș Municipal House of Culture is to preserve and capitalize on the cultural and artistic tradition and creation, the heritage of culture and traditional art on the territory of the Făgăraș region. The Municipal House of Culture is a center that lives in the present and, inspired by the past, builds the future.

Hosts: Diana Gribincea-Popa / Mr. Ionuț Sas <https://casadeculturafagaras.ro>



## The different sides of Cincu Village

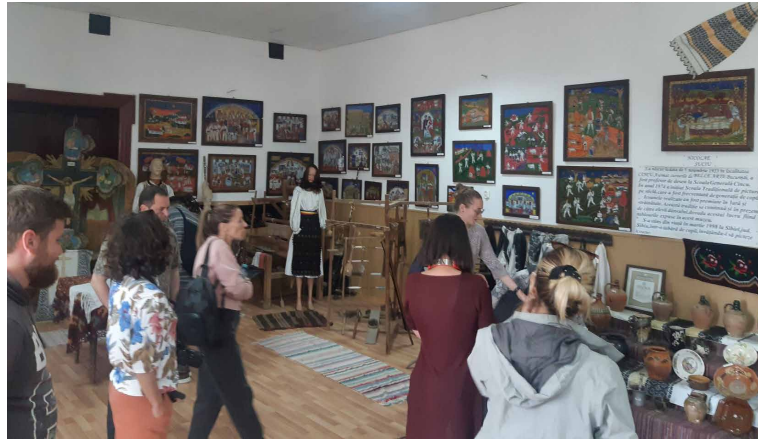
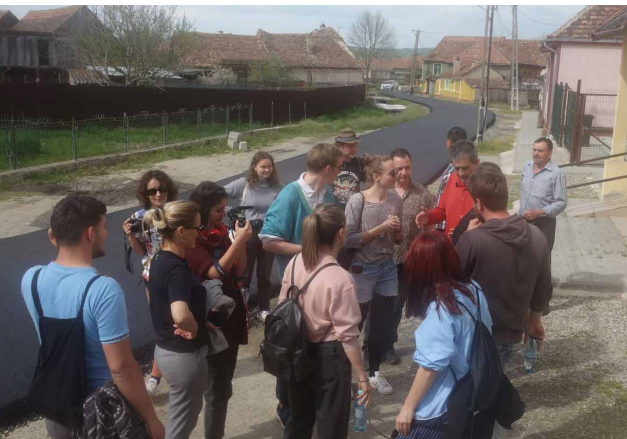
Study trip Romania - 06 May 2022

Cincu is first mentioned in a document of 1329 as Schenck, a word connected to Schenke, meaning „tavern“ in German. The village was founded in the mid-12th century by some 30 families of German settlers from the Rhineland. A significant number of inhabitants began to emigrate to the United States in the 1890s, and the Saxons started to leave en masse in the 1950s. In 1989, 386 Saxons were left, 70 in 2000. The communal „social canteen“ provides daily lunch for more than 130 people of the village. A little museum shows crafts and unique traditions like glass painting. Beside the communal activities some private initiatives try to enrich the cultural life in the community and want to make a difference by civil actions and self-organization.

Hosts:

Mr. Siciu, Mayor <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cincu>

Marlene Stanciu and Alex Hebreth <https://www.facebook.com/soxen.ro/>

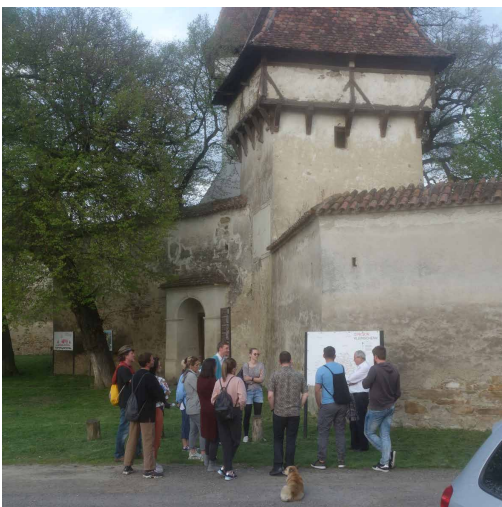


## Guesthouses and a church for culture - Cincșor Village Study trip Romania - 06 May 2022

To buy, restore and repurpose the former Protestant school, the local parish house and a smaller peasant house into guest houses was quite ambitious. A project which the initiators call 'private-public'. These key Cincșor buildings, now owned by the Schuster's, form a kind of central point to the village.

The non-profit association Contrafort Pro Kleinschenk is committed to preserving the fortified church in the community and realizing the professional restoration of the heavily damaged Saxon legacy. Since the completion of the repair work in 2014, the „Kleinschenker“ fortified church has been one of the showpieces of the EU fortified church project. The concept of a „cultural church“ shall secure the use and maintenance of this historic space in the future.

Hosts: Michael Lisske and Carmen Schuster <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7455XDGUJw>

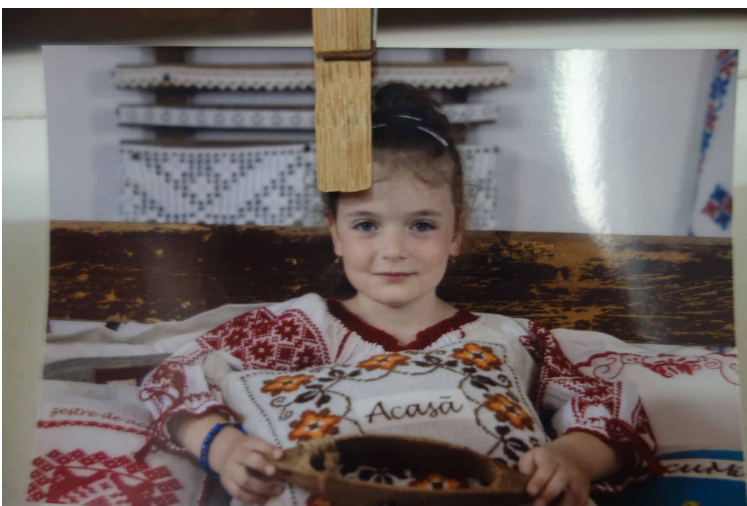


## Mândra Chic and a private museum - Mândra Village

Study trip Romania - 07 May 2022

Mândra Chic is a cultural project, which includes a traditional WORKSHOP space, MOTHER'S SWITCH ROUTE AROUND THE WORLD - an international travel project and the MUSEUM OF CLOTH AND STORIES (small cultural center and exhibition space for ethnographic, visual art or cultural fashion collections).

Host: Alina Zara <http://muzeuldepanzesipovesti.blogspot.com>



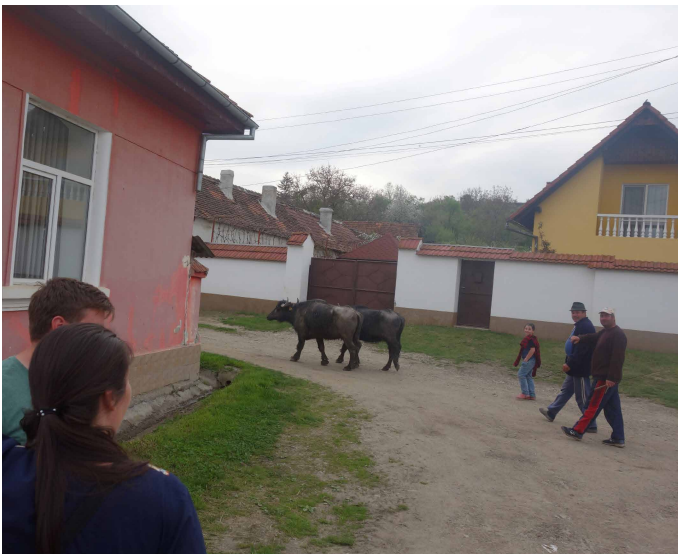
## Blue Houses and Our Village - Şona Noastra Study trip Romania - 07 May 2022

Asociația Sătească Şona Noastră ("Şona Noastra" Village Association) is a non-governmental and non-profit association and aims to rebuild the local community by capitalizing on the cultural, economic, social, ecological and natural potential. The association is located in the village of Şona and it is based in a traditional household transformed into a cultural space and artists residence.

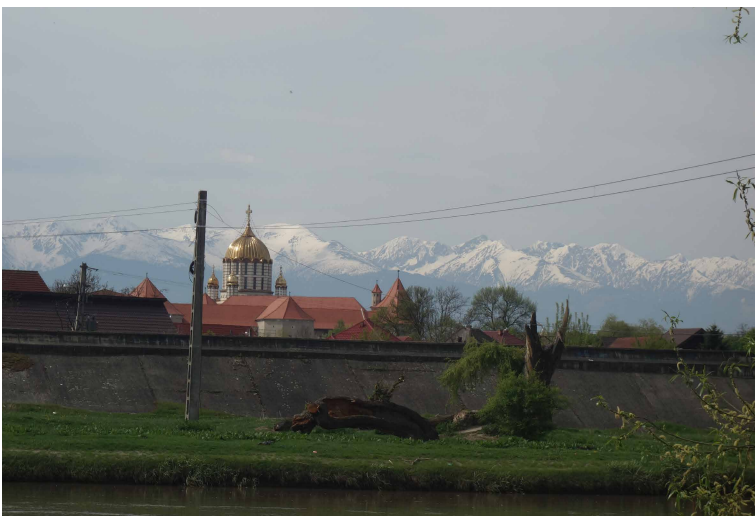
Hosts:

Viorel Giurgiu - reconstructs Blue Houses with passion / Mariana and Cornel Stoia - invited us in their garden

Mihaela Fratila - Association Sona Noastra <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064776996333>



## Collaboration matters! Study trip Romania - 04-08 May 2022



# IMPRINT

**icebauhaus** for editorial coordination

Belvederer Allee 1  
99421 Weimar  
Germany

**SPACE - Sustainable Partnerships for Arts and Culture in Europe 2022** is a short-term action to connect cultural initiatives in rural contexts in North-Albania, Central-Romania and East-Germany initiated and implemented within the MOCI network by:

The Mihai and Maria Fratila Foundation  
The Fagaras Research Institute  
TekBunker  
icebauhaus

[www.incredereinfagaras.ro](http://www.incredereinfagaras.ro)  
[www.icf-fri.org](http://www.icf-fri.org)  
[www.tekbunker.eu](http://www.tekbunker.eu)  
[www.icebauhaus.com](http://www.icebauhaus.com)

Associated partners:

H.A.N.A (ALB)

<https://www.hanacentre.org>

Sebastia NGO (ALB)

<https://www.facebook.com/sebastia.kurbin>

Grupi ATA

<https://grupiata.com>

MKBT - Make better (ROM)

<http://mkbt.ro/en>

Mandra Chic

<http://muzeuldepanzesipovesti.blogspot.com>

Sona Noastra (ROM)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064776996333>

OMA (DEU)

[www.altenburgammeer.eu](http://www.altenburgammeer.eu)

COCONAT (DEU)

[www.coconat-space.com](http://www.coconat-space.com)

The project is funded by the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) and the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) in Germany.

**European  
Cultural  
Foundation**



Under the label of MOCI (Mobile Open Knowledge and Innovation) we seek to connect and transcend cultural constraints, eliminating digital divides, creating common vocabularies and access to open knowledge. We introduce and co-create tools esp. for empowering young citizens in rural areas or vulnerable contexts, where exchange and co-operation are of fundamental importance in creating free and open societies.

[www.moci.space](http://www.moci.space)

