

S.P.A.C.E

Sustainable Partnerships for Arts
and Culture in Europe

MICRO FESTIVAL

11-17 July 2022

Haide să ne cunoaștem!

July 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.moci.space



SHORT DOCUMENTATION

S.P.A.C.E is a joint action of activists, artists, cultural managers and community workers from Romania, Albania and East-Germany. With the MICRO FESTIVAL in Romania we aimed to support the activation of local communities and inspire local actors to develop future-oriented cultural solutions to systemic challenges. We believe that cultural spaces in rural areas can re-emerge as spaces of freedom placed at the heart of local community development.

This short report gives some insides from the one week activity in Romania in July 2022. We want to thank our partners and hosts in the region of Făgăras for the warm welcome and hospitality.

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SUMMARY

By the co-creation of the **Micro Festival in Romania in July 2022** we have tested the practical exchange and different types of partnerships and collective impact through co-productions of this network gathering and several public actions. In the beginning we have planned to contribute to the transformation of one community space and activate it. We are happy to say that we could involve four spaces in Romania in the Micro Festival directly and could provide support for some micro-projects in Albania in direct relation to the idea of the festival.

With the MICRO FESTIVAL in the period **11 - 17 July 2022** in Romania we have aimed to inspire local actors to develop future-oriented cultural solutions to systemic challenges too. We are convinced that cultural spaces in rural areas can re-emerge as spaces of freedom placed at the heart of local community development. This conceptual thinking and our experiences and the findings from the study visits in May 2023 have influenced the creation of the programme for the Micro Festival.

The festival approach was highly collaborative and with the clear **focus on four different spaces** and its communities in the Fagaras region. We could involve **more than 500 people directly** in the preparations and realization of the planned activities of the festival in different locations. We can't measure the indirect target groups, but estimate the outreach in the city of Fagaras and the involved villages up to 1000. More than **20 different formats and activities** were realized.

The schedule of the Micro Festival were structured into **three main action days**, one day in each of the selected **villages of Mandra and Sona** and at the **river banks of the Olt in Fagaras**. In the beginning and the end of the festival week we were hosted by the **space @Home in Fagaras**, where we had our space for planning, reflections and also a collective intervention of space making and improvement of the facility.

Cultural spaces, esp.in the Balkans, belong to local communities, just as local communities belong to cultural spaces. Even though these cultural spaces receive relatively limited attention in everyday life, they are essential for how local communities work, the wellbeing of locals, and the education of future generations. **Appropriating cultural spaces through re-thinking their role and function** in local communities is essential for communities to own their future and well-being.

We would like to **foster the format of participatory prototyping workshops**, where peers and community members develop or modify local solutions on site. We want follow-up to promote common vocabulary and access to open knowledge in our partnership and its regions also to promote sustainable and hybrid forms of social innovation and support creative activism.



COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS - OVERVIEW

MICRO FESTIVAL Romania / 11-17 July 2022



13th July in Mândra

Mândra Peer Exchange:

- > Traditional Costume Photo Shooting
- > Community Builders Gathering
- > Joint Dating Dinner
- > Film Screening* and Discussion

*in German with English subtitles

14th July in Făgăraș

Olt River Bank Interventions:

- > Building Modurals and Objects
- > Sculpture Creatures of the River
- > Story Telling Workshop
- > Meet International Peers

* and many more in close collaboration with Fundația Comunitară Țara Făgărașului and MKBT: Make Better during the event Făgăraș Însuflețit. O zi pe malurile Oltului.

15th July in Șona

Our lovely Șona:

- > Theatre Workshop
- > Dance Workshop
- > Activation of the Cultural House
- > Joint Community Party

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS - Mândra

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13th July in Mândra

Mândra Peer Exchange Day

The Peer Exchange Day was hosted by the Stories and Canvas Museum which includes traditional workshop and cultural exhibition spaces for ethnographics, visual art and textile collections. Activists and community builders came together to exchange their knowledge and experiences from their different contexts and realities in their own countries.

SCHEDULE

15:00 - 18:00

Village Walk and Traditional Costume Photo Shooting

18:00 -19:00

Community Builders Gathering

19:00 - 20.30

Joint Dating Dinner

20:30 - 22:30

Film Screening* and Discussion

*in German with English subtitles



COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS - Mândra

Main host/ partner of day activities:

Canvas and Stories Museum - Muzeul de Pânze și Povești & Mândra Chic, Mândra, Țara Făgărașului, Romania

Both Mândra Chic and the Canvas and Stories Museum are developed by Alina and Ioana Zară. They are working tirelessly to empower the Mândra and Țara Făgărașului communities through an authentic connection with the impressive artistic and cultural artefacts of the past, generating both, local belonging and a global perspective.



Coming together: collaborative event in the village of Mandra with local cultural workers and community activists from the region.



Open doors: invitation to a private photo collection about the history of Mandra during the village walk.



Living heritage: Traditional costume photo shooting in the garden of Canvas and Stories Museum.



Screening and discussion: „I weld you a colour“ documents a project by OMA from Germany and gave an excellent base for our peer exchange.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS - Făgăraş

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14th July in Făgăraş

Olt River Bank Interventions

Give back the beauty of the river to the people of Făgăraş. We have collaborated with Fundația Comunitară Țara Făgărașului and MKBT: Make Better, to organise a series of cultural, educational, creative, recreational and sports activities on the banks of the Olt, in order to illustrate how the river could become more present in the life of the people and to transform it into a public space.

GENERAL SCHEDULE

from **15:00**

Build Modulares + Objects
Sculpture Creatures of the River

from **17:30**

Paper Boat Rally and Sports
Story Telling + Cyano Type Workshops
Photo Exhibition and Local Wisdom River
Walks and Community Picnic



COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS - Făgăraș

Main host / partner of day activities:

Fundatia Comunitara Tara Fagarasului and MKBT:MakeBetter

Fundatia Comunitara Tara Fagarasului supports local NGOs, civic associations, civic initiatives, as well as individuals, youth, seniors and companies, in their desire to make the city and surrounding county a better place to live. MKBT: Make Better works as a local development advisor, assisting both public and private entities. That is to say that they are drafting, validating and coordinating processes for local development and urban regeneration.



Space making: here at the river Olt by a pop-up exhibition presenting photographers from Fagaras and historic views of the river.



Connect people: more then 300 people came to join the afternoon at the river. Making new friends or just say hello to the neighbors.



Creative practices: involving all generations by workshops and collective actions to support the idea of the commons.



Listen to the past: story telling about the river and a presentation of ancient wisdom around nature and local food in the region.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS - Şona

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15th July in Şona

Our lovely Şona

Our partner Şona Noastra" aims to rebuild the local community by capitalising on the cultural, economic, social, ecological and natural potential of the village. During our visit we invite inhabitants and our peers from other civic organisations to reclaim the cultural house and having a good time together.

SCHEDULE

15:00 - 19:00

Cultural House Yard Intervention

17:00 - 18:00

Theatre Workshop: Getting Together

18:00 - 19:00

Traditional Dance Workshop

20:00 - 00:00

Village Party

COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS - Şona

Main host/ partner of day activities:

Asociația Sătească Şona Noastră

The Şona Noastră" 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 cultural space and artists residence.



Colour you life: space intervention in the concrete yard of the local camine culturale in Sona.



Learning by doing: theatre and dance workshops in the afternoon with kids and adults from the village.



Reclaim public spaces: temporary actions with the youth of Sona in the more or less abandoned location of the cultural house.



Celebrate together: village party into the night with about 150 guests in the house and outside.

Follow-up interventions

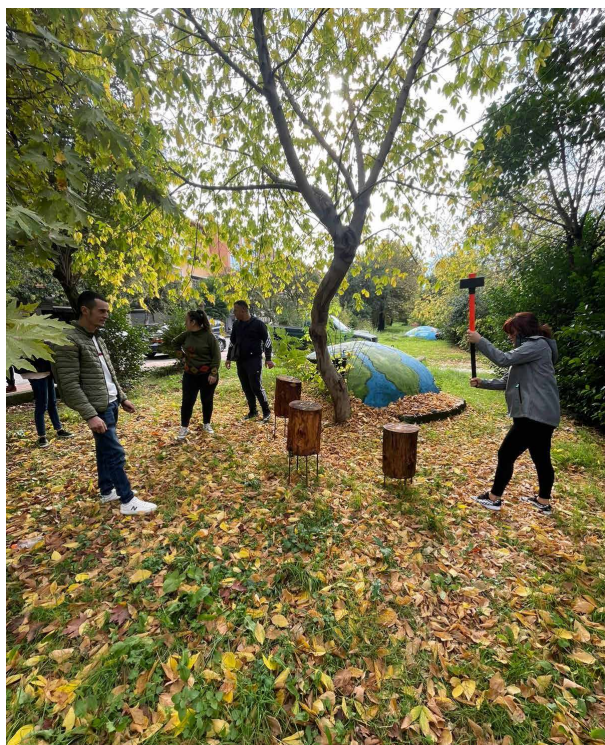
ALBANIA September 2022

The partnership has supported a few hands-on activities in the context of the peers from Albania, also to introduce experiences from the Micro Fest in their communities.

Reclaiming the park in the city of Laç: Activists of Sebastia were active for two years to reclaim the public park in Laç by cleaning actions or painting the bunkers located in the park, transforming them from a dark symbol into a colorful recreation option. In the context of the S.P.A.C.E project the improvement of the infrastructure in the park was supported by placement of 12 DIY- benches. The young people worked voluntarily to have a more enjoyable public space for citizens of all ages.

The mobile library in Kamza: In the space of the Ata Group, over 1000 titles are exchanged by young people and citizens of Kamza. But not everyone in the city comes to the library. So the group decided to go to them with books on a wheelbarrow. With about 80 titles, the group's mobile library prototype sent the works of Pessoa to a taxi driver in Bathore, the work of Simone de Beauvoir to a teenager and the lyric of Kardare met a young man in Kamza.

Revival of the Social Corner: The H.A.N.A community members planned to have an intervention by a mural painting in the city, but the authorities rejected the already approved agreement. So the joined forces transformed the so called social corner in the center. This corner is now dedicated to the future artists of Lezha who can use this small space as an opportunity to exhibit their talents in different artistic genres, in front of an audience of peers or adults.



Collaboration matters!

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TekBunker
icebauhaus

www.incredereinfagaras.ro
www.icf-fri.org
www.tekbunker.eu
www.icebauhaus.com

Associated partners:

H.A.N.A (ALB)
Sebastia NGO (ALB)
Grupi ATA

<https://www.hanacentre.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/sebastia.kurbin>
<https://grupiata.com>

MKBT - Make better (ROM)
Mandra Chic
Sona Noastra (ROM)

<http://mkbt.ro/en>
<http://muzeuldepanzesipovesti.blogspot.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064776996333>

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www.altenburgammeer.eu
www.coconat-space.com

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**European
Cultural
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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

