



## **The 7 Most Endangered 2014**

Programme run by **Europa Nostra**,  
the Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe,  
in partnership with the **European Investment Bank Institute**

### **Wooden churches in southern Transylvania and northern Oltenia, Romania**

## **Report**

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## 1. Summary

The objective is to save, preserve and restore to use and relevance a number of small wooden village churches in the rural regions of southern Transylvania and northern Oltenia.

These churches mostly built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century are representative of the local culture, being crafted in local timber and often having polychrome decorations both inside and outside. In time they tended to be replaced by larger stone built churches and especially under the communist regime were neglected and fell into disrepair. The harsh climate and rural de-population has added to these woes.

Recently there has been a renewed interest in these unique churches from a heritage viewpoint promoted by NGOs, principally Pro Patrimonio Foundation, with some support from the Romanian Orthodox Church, the owners of the buildings. The churches are architecturally interesting, could attract tourists, and could contribute to stabilising the rural population, providing traditional employment as well as enhancing the pride in the local culture. Thus there is a clear need and justification for action.

The stock of churches identified for attention (74 in number) is large. Constraints on capacity to implement and funding mean that phasing is essential. A framework for action has been proposed to encourage a rational selection process based on justification in terms of urgency, potential use, heritage value and tourism interest. This process will need refining as more information becomes available and is proposed as a tool to guide priorities.

A programme in three phases is proposed, with emphasis on Phase 1, others being more conjectural.

- Phase 1, termed “action phase” as it could proceed soon, comprises a balanced mixture of activities to complete “priority” churches and to prepare subsequent phases. Estimated cost is 683 000 €.
- Phase 2, the completion of the “medium” priority schemes. Estimated cost 920 000 €
- Phase 3, the completion of other potentially viable schemes. Cost about 1 000 000 €.

Several issues need to be addressed to assist a successful outcome.

- The proposals of selected churches in phases as in the report are based on the best information obtained after a short mission and will need to be confirmed before proceeding.
- There is a need to review and strengthen the manner in which projects are implemented.

At present much relies on Pro Patrimonio’s very laudable good services, on an *ad hoc* and part voluntary basis, and this is not sustainable for a programme of the scale envisaged. It seems desirable that the churches’ owner (Romanian Orthodox Church) should take a more active role. Also that the various Government Ministries with potential interest (e.g. Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development) should be more involved. The optimum manner in which this is done and who takes responsibility for what needs to be discussed and agreed between the parties. Representatives from each stakeholder should be identified to coordinate efforts and it is recommended that a steering committee be set up to guide progress.

- Financing with grants is essential for this kind of project.

Several possibilities need to be explored, the main one being from the EU Structural & Investment Funds such as ERDF and EAFRD. Special conditions and regulations have to be complied with for a successful



application; for example an emphasis on the project being integrated into the regional context and also being justified in terms of enhanced employment and other economic benefits. Support from the appropriate Government authorities is essential to prepare and advance any application.

The programme is relatively modest (approximate total cost for the three phases 2.5 M €, with the first priority phase about 680 000 €) and could give a considerable impact in terms of preserving a unique cultural and religious heritage in these rural areas. It would also provide jobs in traditional skills and enhance the tourism interest. Thus it is worthy of support and action on many fronts is required soon, as delay will only aggravate the situation.

## 2. Purpose, location

The objective is to save from decay and possible destruction and then to preserve numerous ancient wooden churches with the longer term goal of restoring them to relevance and use.

The churches are located in small villages in southern Transylvania and northern Oltenia, mainly in the counties of Hunedoara, Sibiu, Vâlcea and Gorj.

## 3. Context

The area is rural with gentle hills and woodlands against a backdrop of more significant mountains. The principal activities have been based on small scale agriculture with a need for self-sufficiency. The area is relatively remote and small villages and hamlets have developed with their own social and cultural character.

In the past the Eastern Orthodox form of Christianity was the predominant religion and had a profound impact on the cultural and social life of the country. In Oltenia and Transylvania every village had a church and many small churches were built from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards reflecting this local culture. The churches were often associated with the village cemetery. The buildings were constructed of wood similar in form to the houses and several were painted both inside and outside. The decorations were in polychrome and depicted religious scenes and events and were either painted with pigment on the wood or on lime plaster *al fresco*. These sites are the southernmost area in Europe with wooden churches.

In time in some villages, where demand was stronger, new more substantial stone churches were built and these partially eclipsed the wooden cemetery churches which were seen to be inadequate in capacity and facilities. From the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century under the communist regime, the churches were neglected and fell into serious disrepair although religious activity did continue in a subdued form.

The harsh weather with heavy rainfall and cold winters has contributed to the decay of the buildings and their decorations. Over time the rural villages have become de-populated with the young seeking opportunities elsewhere, which is a general tendency in the modern world. The interest in working with timber buildings and the associated expertise required has virtually disappeared with the main emphasis now on more permanent stone, brick and concrete buildings.



In more recent times, a renewed interest in these unique churches has developed from social and cultural activists with a notable input from the NGO, Pro Patrimonio Foundation. Its actions have been to monitor and record the state of the churches, to carry out emergency measures such as roof protection and then to develop awareness to encourage more substantial repairs to bring the churches into use. This growing awareness of the value and significance of the churches was recently confirmed as the site was selected for the World Monument Watch 2014, a major accolade.

This unusual heritage which is a key part of the fabric of rural society in the region will disappear unless something is done urgently to preserve and restore these buildings and this is the objective of the project.

## 4. Description

65 churches were initially identified for attention and later, following the appraisal mission and discussions, more were added by the church authorities making a total list of 74 churches.

Many churches are in very poor condition with the main problems being associated with the roofs, the structure and/or foundations and the fragile decorations. Water and dampness are a constant source of problems. Some churches have totally collapsed. Several churches, particularly those recently added to the list, have little reliable data.

The churches have been broadly classified by their physical condition as follows:

Roof condition:	In need of repair	37 (14 urgently)	50% (19%)
	No action required	35	46%
	Condition unknown	2	
Structure/foundations:	In need of repair	50 (17 urgently)	66% (23%)
	No action required	21	28%
	Condition unknown	3	
Roof & structure combined:	Urgent repairs required	8	
Decorations:	In need of repair	22	30%
Churches totally collapsed:		3	4%

From this broad classification it can be concluded that about 40% require action, often on the roof and the decorations, and some 50% need no urgent action or are already being taken care of. As the data is often unreliable, about 20% still need some independent evaluation. Some schemes on the list (10 in all) seem already to be in hand with funding so these have not been taken forward into the programme. This conclusion may need to be adjusted later as more details become available.



As the programme has been under way for a few years one can conclude that the most urgent and worthwhile schemes are in hand and that probably those not yet evaluated are of less interest. It is worth noting that the schemes in hand are mainly churches in use and by implication with strong local support, which is a key driver for action as much work is done by volunteers.

A programme of works of this scale needs to be phased for practical and financial reasons and a priority rating has been developed as a first screening process which will need refining.

The following criteria were considered in this rating process.

- The potential quality of the church in terms of architecture and decoration (heritage interest).
- The importance to the village community, particularly whether it is used (or would be used) as a church or as another community building (e.g. museum).
- The population of the village.
- The potential tourism interest and the possibility of being included in a circuit.
- The local support and enthusiasm to help reconstruct and maintain the church.
- The perceived urgency to act to avoid further damage or decay.
- Any serious obstacle to re-construction, be it technical or administrative.

Criteria which can be rated have been included in the overall analysis given in appendix 2.

On this analysis it is proposed to structure the programme as follows, with emphasis on Phase 1:

### **First “action” phase**

#### **First component:**

Complete eight “priority” schemes (Boz, Târnăvița, Vădari, Căzănești, Ursi, Sirineasa, Polovragi, Ponoarele). Some of these have already achieved approval status, and the others will need to proceed to the approval dossier stage before significant work starts.

#### **Second component:**

Advance some 16 selected schemes (termed “medium priority”) by stages to Approval dossier stage.

It is suggested that an interim feasibility stage may be appropriate in some cases prior to commitment to the approval dossier stage, thus phasing and refining the activity.

#### **Third component:**

Evaluate some 16 schemes which currently have sparse or unreliable data to assess their suitability to advance to the next stage thus preparing a pipeline of future projects.

#### **Support component:**

- Carry out some appropriate technical research, some skills training, group actions to learn from past experience and also for the promotion of tourist circuits. To be defined in more detail.
- Draw up maintenance guidelines for wooden churches to help the owners reduce the risk of deterioration by the early identification of potential problems.
- Provide some funds for emergency repairs to churches to avoid serious conditions developing.

**Second phase:**

Complete the works for the 16 “medium priority” schemes after review and refining of the list.

**Third phase:**

Complete those remaining schemes (say 20) which merit attention.

A detailed list of all the schemes considered and the associated data is given in Appendix 2, and the schemes currently selected for action are given in Appendix 3.

## **5. Technical aspects**

The churches are relatively small and simple structures made of timber and most date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, the earliest being from 1556. Sometimes the church has been rebuilt, maybe several times, but in the same form on the same site. The buildings are fairly robust usually with a major cross wall bracing the structure. The main problems are due to neglect over many years and the harsh climate. In some cases, inappropriate repairs have taken place, which have not properly considered the special requirements of timber construction (e.g. use of cement rather than lime for plaster).

In many cases the timber frame structure has deteriorated and sometimes even collapsed. This may be due to foundation problems but more often due to timber strength reduction following rotting, often linked to water ingress. The key protective element is the roof which comprises planks supported by beams and protected on the outside by wooden shingles. The wooden walls both inside and outside, the ceiling vault and the iconostasis are often painted.

The main thrust of this project is the preservation of the church assets and initially concentrates on the roof integrity and the state of the often fragile decorations. However any assessment to repair or reconstruct will need to evaluate the current condition of all the structural elements including foundations and whether these need to be replaced or reinforced.

The principal structural building material used was hard timber usually local oak. The availability of good quality oak is now a problem and is expensive. In the example of Ursi, the oak wood to the required dimensions had to be obtained from northern Romania by felling six mature trees. Other options might need to be explored in the future when more timber material will be required. The traditional way of working the logs into usable beams and planks to fit into the renovated structure is specialised work and becoming rare and difficult to procure. In the light of this, it may be advisable generally to consider adopting different and more modern methods of construction.

The wooden shingles require special skills, which are also becoming rare, both in cutting to shape and in erecting. It is desirable to aim at a long useful life of the roofs which can vary between about 30 to 60 years. For longevity it is preferable to use shingles cut by splitting along the grain by hand rather than the cheaper machine cut product. Copper or galvanised nails are preferable to steel nails despite being more expensive. More efforts are advisable to optimise the construction processes in order to balance quality and longevity against cost, taking into account the skills available.





The restoration of the buildings' decoration is delicate work which requires much skill and patience. The extent of restoration beyond purely preservation may be contentious. Most paintings depict religious scenes and in particular faces, and these may need to be embellished somewhat to provide greater meaning to the congregation. A case by case approach should be adopted so that the heritage is not destroyed but that the religious concerns are respected. Icons, often of high quality, provide a special example of this and decisions on where to display these should also be addressed on a case by case basis between the interested parties with a preference for the icons to remain *in loco*.

## 6. Implementation

The key parties in project implementation are the owner of the site/building, the promoter if different from the owner, the project manager, technical staff for design & supervision, contractors, the regulatory and authorising authorities and importantly those providing the funds.

The churches' ownership generally resides in the Romanian Orthodox Church, often at the local parish level, and with perhaps some land owned by the local commune. Legal problems have apparently arisen in some cases as little formal documentation exists to prove ownership and this may present an obstacle to progress. These legal doubts need to be identified and resolved. The Orthodox Church's main input has come at the local level from some enthusiastic village priests and stronger central support and interest from the church authorities would be beneficial.

The promoter of the current initiative is unusually not the owner but Pro Patrimonio Foundation, an established NGO interested in and closely involved with Romanian cultural heritage. It has worked together with other similar organisations and has created the current proposal through its enthusiasm and professionalism. It has succeeded in advancing restoration work on some churches by mobilising volunteers locally and from concerned professional organisations and has managed to obtain funds from different bodies. All this has been done on a case-by-case basis and in an *ad hoc* manner.

The governmental and regulatory bodies associated with the project and who provide approvals and potential funding are the Ministry of Culture which is active in promoting heritage and religious projects, the Ministry of Tourism with a more advisory role, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development, and local authorities, for planning approvals. While showing some interest, the project's churches are not seen as a high priority by government.

While the project could continue on the current *ad hoc* basis, it would be laborious and inefficient and depend much on the goodwill of the Pro Patrimonio Foundation and the volunteers and others.

For the proposed actions and phases to succeed at the larger scale envisaged, changes are necessary in the manner that the project is managed both at the strategic and practical level.

- A more engaged commitment by the Orthodox Church with perhaps the creation of a special Project Implementation Unit across the four dioceses with the objective of coordination and managing the programme, mainly on a strategic level. If this is not feasible then designating a responsible coordinator in each diocese on a steering committee would be an essential start.



- The manner in which the actual schemes are project and contract managed needs to be addressed. This could continue as now under the Pro Patrimonio Foundation or by the Ministry of Culture or others (or a mixture) but effective arrangements need to be formalised.
- Working together between the various parties involved in the programme's success is essential; this relates not only to the physical problems of construction but also to integration into the wider context (rural development, tourism, social, cultural concerns).

Project managers, technical staff and contractors all need to be appointed and some thought should be given to ensuring their continuity of effort and expertise. The role of Pro Patrimonio needs to be clarified and put on a more regular basis to ensure its more reliable funding for example.

In the example of Ursi, one of the more successful schemes and still under way, the local priest and mayor were very supportive. Pro Patrimonio seems to have taken over the role of promoter and project manager, by arranging the feasibility and approval studies and later administering the contracts. These contracts have been small packages with a large contribution from volunteers.

Another earlier example is that of Tisa where a different approach was used. This church's renovation was brought into the IBRD project "Romanian cultural heritage" as an after-thought and the project was closed in 2005. The Ministry of Culture was responsible for the project with an internal Project Implementation Unit being specially created. In the IBRD's completion report it was stated that the "Tisa church... has been completed in exemplary fashion by Romanian specialists". More critical remarks were made in the IBRD report about the general project implementation processes and other weaknesses, which need to be rectified if these have not already been done.

As noted above (§ 5. Technical aspects) there is a shortage of skilled workmen able to work with timber. It is important as an adjunct to the project to develop these skills not only to allow the project to be undertaken in physical terms but also to encourage the traditional culture with all the positive benefits of employment and skills development this would have in this depressed rural area.

Taking an optimistic view the project, assuming available finance, could be undertaken as follows:

Phase 1:	Start of reviews to confirm the programme	January 2015.
Component 1	Start early - mid 2015	Completion end 2018.
Component 2	Start mid 2015	Completion end 2017.
Component 3	Start early 2015	Completion end 2015.
Phase 2	Possible start mid 2016	Completion end 2019.
Phase 3	Possible start mid 2017	Completion end 2020.

In summary:

Effective management of implementation is a key to success. It appears that the current arrangements are inappropriate for the scale of the programme now envisaged and need to be modified.





In the short term, Pro Patrimonio may be able to continue acting as the effective promoter, coordinator and project manager but a more structured integrated and comprehensive approach is required longer term. This requires a greater involvement and commitment from the owner, the Orthodox Church Authorities, and the Ministry of Culture and others. The exact *modus operandi* needs to be discussed and agreed between the parties and this needs to be put in place soon. A steering committee of representatives of the key parties is a recommended first step.

## 7. Procurement

These are small projects requiring specialised skills and depending much on voluntary labour and local contributions for success. Nevertheless some appropriate formalisation of the selection of advisors, suppliers and contractors will be needed to satisfy potential funding sources. When the programme proceeds and reaches a scale with activities in larger blocks of works, supplies and services, then consideration must be given to appropriate tendering to ensure and demonstrate correct procedures and the most economic result is obtained. Tendering should comply with legal requirements and the EU directives need to be respected.

## 8. Environment, sustainability, social

The project will restore existing buildings using traditional materials and so *a priori* will be environmentally positive. Care should be taken not to create any nuisances during construction. The wider impact of the works and concern with the immediate surroundings should all be considered. The current promoter Pro Patrimonio is well aware of and sensitive to the environmental impacts. An example is the Ursi church where it has undertaken to plant 20 additional oak trees to replace the six felled for the works. This will only have an effect long term but is the correct approach and a laudable initiative, provided it is carried out as envisaged.

To ensure sustainability the works must be soundly constructed and arrangements must be made to ensure adequate future maintenance. The owners need to address this maintenance problem and make suitable commitments.

The social benefits are an important justification for the programme. The clients are the local church congregation and the community in general and their ideas and enthusiasm need to be harnessed for the benefit of the project especially for extending the potential use of the buildings. The church could well serve also as a social and cultural focus for the village and allow the hosting of local events.

## 9. Use, demand

The churches are linked to cemeteries and of the 74 churches in the overall programme, surveys show that 16 (22%) are or will be used regularly, 31 (42%) are rarely used and 26 (35%) are not used, with no data for one scheme. The churches are small and so often cannot cope with the needs of regular worship. Where a more modern church has been built in the village the old wooden church will usually cater for special events such as weddings, baptisms and funerals. For the eight churches considered now as priority



in Phase 1, four will be used regularly and two are sometimes used (so 75% will have some use); the two exceptions are considered of high heritage value. An important support comes from having a local resident priest, particularly if he is active and enthusiastic.

While the main objective of the church is as a religious building, it could also serve as a social and cultural focus for these small villages and thus enhance its relevance in the community. This should be born in mind when defining the works to be done. An example could be to ensure that the surrounds of the church such as paved courtyards are also renovated to encourage and enhance use.

The other interest in restoring the churches is for heritage and tourism reasons. The heritage interest has been assessed for each scheme, inevitably subjectively, and gives strong heritage interest in 13 cases (18%), with some interest in 43 cases (58%), thus 76% overall with some heritage interest. The tourism interest has been assessed by each location in a recent Ministry of Tourism study and shows high interest for six cases (8%) and medium interest for 24 cases (32%), giving 40% overall with some tourism interest; this is surprising and disappointing but reflects the Government's current view.

In conclusion, most of the churches selected as priority will be used by the community and there is generally some heritage interest and tourism value in the churches. To encourage tourist visitors, the churches should be linked into circuits with other heritage schemes of higher attraction such as the monastery at Horezu, the Cula museum and the Astra museum near Sibiu and more work is required to develop this aspect.

## 10. Investment cost

The programme has been split into phases by priority to facilitate action. The definition is rather flexible and could well change as matters progress. In order to fix ideas an estimate of investment costs is important and so a first approximate estimate of the various phases is presented.

This is based on generic estimates for the same type of work from recent experience with some best judgement added, particularly when only partial renovation is required.

Base costs adopted in this preliminary estimate are as follows:

Studies etc., :	Pre-feasibility	1 000	Euro
	Feasibility	4 000	
	Full technical study (for approval)	8 000	
	Project studies taken at 3% of base costs.		
	Supervision taken at 5% of base costs.		
Construction:	Roof, full replacement	20 000	
	Foundations, complete works	10 000	
	Structure, full replacement	20 000	
Decorations:	External, internal	25 000	
	Icons	10 000	



First “action” Phase, indicative estimates are as follows, with details given in Appendix 4/1:

Euro (2014)

Component No.	Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Support	Totals
Approval/preliminary studies	48000	128000	16000	20000	212000
Final design studies	10275				<b>10275</b>
Works: roofing	95000				<b>95000</b>
Works: structure/foundations.	85000				<b>85000</b>
Works: decorations	157500				<b>157500</b>
Subtotal works	377500			5000	<b>377500</b>
Supervision	18875	4500	480		<b>23855</b>
Contingency	37750	6400	800		<b>44950</b>
Totals	492400	138900	17280	25000	<b>674580</b>
<b>Totals rounded</b>	<b>500000</b>	<b>140000</b>	<b>18000</b>	<b>25000</b>	<b>683000</b>

Financial needs with time for Phase 1 are as below, assuming the optimistic schedule in this report.

Euro (2014)

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	Totals
Component 1	70000	120000	150000	160000	500000
Component 2	20000	50000	70000		140000
Component 3	18000				18000
Support	25000				25000
Totals	135000	170000	220000	160000	683000

Subsequent **Phases 2 and 3** have been very roughly estimated as follows, with details given in Appendix 4/2:

Euro (2014)

	Phase 2	Phase 3
Studies	25 000	)
Construction	775 000	)
Supervision/contingencies	120 000	)
<b>Total cost estimate</b>	<b>920 000</b>	<b>1 000 000</b>



## 11. Financing possibilities

Potential sources of funds from historical examples are the European Union (EU), international donors, bilateral grant funds, charity and specialist funds, private donations, Romanian national funds, municipal funds and Church donations. The nature of the project requires grant financing as a loan would not be suitable particularly in the current context.

The EU can provide grants to cultural projects such as historical buildings but there needs to be a clear link to a positive economic impact and preferably also employment. To quote an internal EC paper “renovation of historical buildings should only be a priority if they form part of an overall economic development strategy for a region and/or foster socio-economic integration of minorities through valorising their cultural background”. Links to tourism and employment are therefore important in the justification and the whole must fit into a coherent regional strategy.

The EU regional fund, the ERDF, encourages small scale initiatives related to tourism. It can also favour projects with positive environmental impacts through protecting, promoting and developing cultural and natural heritage. Other EU potential sources are the European Social Fund (culture & creative skills), and EAFRD, the Agricultural Fund for Regional Development (cultural heritage).

While the overall EU grant envelopes are approved by Brussels, they are based on proposals made by the national authorities; these national and regional authorities later decide on approving the (small) grant amounts within the agreed envelopes. Thus the Ministries of Culture, of Tourism, Regional Development and Agriculture need to be encouraged to consider including components of these schemes in their proposals to Brussels. Timing is important as submissions for the next period from 2016 are required soon. Some complementary funding is required from other sources. Most grant procedures tend to be bureaucratic and long drawn out and conditions may also be applied.

International donors such as the IBRD have in the past exceptionally included church renovation in their projects, but this is unlikely in the future as loans are not really appropriate for this kind of project. Nevertheless such projects could be incorporated in Operational Programmes supported by the ERDF or EAFRD grants which might be part financed by EIB structural programme loans; this approach has been used elsewhere in the past.

Bilateral funders have been and are active with grants in this sector in Romania, usually with relatively small and focussed amounts. An example is the Norwegian Fund through EFTA. The Boz scheme has in the past benefitted from such funding but in 2014 its application was unsuccessful. Hopefully in the future submissions may be more acceptable.

Private funds such as the UK Headley Trust or the George Enesco Foundation could be interested in donating and have already done so in the past. Local sponsors for individual schemes are also a possibility. Again small amounts only can be expected.



The World Monument Fund (WMF) is a potential funder and a successful application has been made in the recent past. This programme is on the WMF Watch list, a very positive step which could augur well for future prospects of further funding. U.S. Embassy grants are another possibility.

National and local funds are important as they have the flexibility to provide the seed money to start the project preparation phase essential to present a viable project to long term donors. They can also contribute to the project financing. It is understood that the Ministry of Culture has a National Restoration Programme for such projects but this seems already allocated for the next period, but could be a future possibility. The Ministry of Tourism seems only to have limited access to funding.

The possibility of the Romanian Orthodox Church providing funds also seems very limited. Their contribution could be more in providing and mobilising local assistance and support.

Much work needs to be done to coordinate the potential sources of funding and to link these to various components of the project. It is to be noted that the proposed “action” Phase 1 is relatively small in scale (under 700 k €) and is a balanced programme comprising advancing and completing worthwhile projects and preparing a pipeline of other schemes. It is essential to have a credible defined “project” proposal to present to potential funders and it is recommended that initially efforts should be concentrated on Phase 1.

## 12. Conclusion: Proposed Action Programme and Recommendations

The overall initiative to save and preserve these unique churches is worthy of support. This report has tried to establish a framework for action.

This framework is based on a rational assessment on the merits of each church such as its use and role in the community, its heritage and tourism interest and the urgency and scale of the works. The ratings presented here will certainly need refining prior to being adopted as more data becomes available or better assessments are made by those with more knowledge of the details.

This assessment leads to a phased implementation to match potential funding and implementation and management capacity. Again the proposals presented may need refining.

In addition there are a number of concerns to be addressed for a successful programme.

Notably:

- Implementation.

Responsibilities for and the approach to adopt towards project implementation needs to be formalised and strengthened to be able to handle the larger programme envisaged. The way in which decisions are to be made at all levels of selection, design, contract award, construction and hand-over need to be coordinated better between the interested parties. In support of this it would seem useful that all the major stakeholders should appoint at least a responsible representative with a support team as



appropriate to work together on the programme, thus providing an integrated and broader based management. A steering committee of the key parties should be set up as a first step.

- Grant funds.

There is an urgent need to seek grant funds mainly from the EU and elsewhere, initially concentrating on Phase 1. The resources and possibilities provided by the interested parties, including the Ministries of Culture, Tourism and Rural Development should combine together to assist actively in seeking EU and other funds.

- Technical issues

A potential lack of the traditional skills and associated expertise for the timber construction and the decorations may present difficulties. Training, support and sharing experience need to be encouraged. Adapting of some traditional processes to modern technology merits review.

- Maintenance.

A need to ensure that proper maintenance is put in place with some regular funding, principally from the owner, to avoid a repetition of the neglect that has created the need for the project.

Guidelines on maintaining the churches to help identify and anticipate problems at the local level are important and are included in the Phase 1 support component.





## Appendix 1

### References, mission details.

#### References:

- Nomination form to Europa Nostra / EIB Institute. 30 October 2013.
- EIB Institute Questionnaire pre-mission. May 2014.
- Pro Patrimonio Foundation responses to pre-mission questionnaire. July 2014.
- Pro Patrimonio Foundation report on activities January – July 2014.
- Pro Patrimonio Foundation report on activities in Ursi. July 2014.
- EIB Institute. Post mission questions.
- Pro Patrimonio Foundation responses to EIB Institute questions.
- Romania Cultural Heritage project. Evaluation report. IBRD June 2005.

#### Mission details:

##### External participants:

Europa Nostra	Hermann Fabini	EN Scientific Council Member
	Jan Kurek	Professor Krakow University
EIB Institute	Peter Bond	Technical Consultant

##### Monday 6 October 2014.

Sibiu to Almasu Mic, Boz and Tarnavita for site visits.

Lunch meeting with Bishop of Hunedoara. Meetings with architects.

##### Tuesday 7 October 2014.

Sibiu to Ursi for site visit.

Visit Cula museum, Monastery of Horezu. Meeting with Archbishop of Valcea.

##### Wednesday 8 October 2014.

Horezu to Bucharest.

Meetings with Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism.

##### Thursday 9 October 2014.

Final meeting and press conference.

#### Main persons met:

Pro Patrimonio	Serban Sturdza	Vice President
	Raluca Munteanu	Project Coordinator
Orthodox church	Bishop Gurie of Deva & Hunedoara and his senior advisers	
	Archbishop Varsanufie of Valcea and his senior advisers	
Local administration	Prof. Florin Epure	Director, Ministry of Culture, Valcea
	Mayors of Almasu Mic, Boz, Ursi.	
Ministry of Culture	Radu Petre Nastase	General Director National Institute of Heritage
Ministry of Dev. & Tourism	Octavian Arsene	Representative of Department of Tourism



## Appendix 2/1

number	Location			Overall data			Detailed data							Conclusions					priority
	county	commune	village	last intervention	status of data	scale works reqd.	use/potential use	population	roof intervent.	Struct./foundation	painting conservatn	heritage interest	tourism interest	aprox. Cost level	totals 1	totals 2	comments		
1	Hunedoara	Başa	Vălişoara	2010	4	3	0	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	7	10	Not used, low population, work required, some heritage interest. Low priority.	C	
2	Hunedoara	Băiţa	Hărtăgani	2013	4	2	2	3	0	2	2	2	2	2	13	15	Some use, mainly decorations to do, some heritage/tourism interest. Medium priority	B	
3	Hunedoara	Brănişca	Boz	2011	4	1	4	2	0	4	3	4	2	2	16	17	Used. Works started, need completing. Replaster, some timber decay. Heritage/tourism interest. Priority.	A	
4	Hunedoara	Brănişca	Tărnăviţa	2011	4	1	2	2	0	0	3	4	2	2	14	15	Proposed use, as museum. Works in hand need completing. Priority.	A	
5	Hunedoara	Bucureşci	Curechiu		4	1	4	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	12	13	Used. In reasonable condition, some heritage interest, not urgent	C	
6	Hunedoara	Bucureşci	Rovina		4	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	12	14	Used. In reasonable condition, some heritage interest, not urgent	C	
7	Hunedoara	Bulzeştii de Sus	Tomnatecu de Sus	2010	2	4	0	1	4	4	0	0	2	3	5	9	Not used, low population, building collapsed, high cost, difficult access on the village. Low priority.	C	
8	Hunedoara	Bunila	Alun		2	3	0	1	4	2	3	2	2	4	7	10	Not used. Low priority.	C	
9	Hunedoara	Burjuc	Tisa		2	0	4	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	10	10	Used. Some heritage interest. Mainly completed with World Bank finance 2000. Low priority.	na	
10	Hunedoara	Uobra	Abucea		4	3	0	1	4	4	3	2	2	2	9	12	Not used. Some heritage/tourism interest. Low priority.	C	
11	Hunedoara	Gurasada	Gothatea	2013	2	0	4	2	0	2	3	0	0	2	8	8	Used. Poor previous repairs (steel roof), decorations main need. Low priority.	C	
12	Hunedoara	Iliia	Dumbrăviţa		4	3	2	1	4	2	3	2	0	2	9	12	Potential use, low population & in decline, poor access, but only church in village. Low priority.	C	
13	Hunedoara	Lăpuşiu de Jos	Lăpuşiu de Jos		4	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	1	12	14	Potential use, some heritage/tourism interest. Medium priority	B	
14	Hunedoara	Peştişu Mic	Almaşu Mic	2010	2	4	2	1	4	4	0	0	2	2	7	11	Possible use but total collapse, much work required, little data, some tourism interest. Evaluation.	E	
15	Hunedoara	Ribiţa	Ribicioara		4	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	2	9	9	Some use, some tourism interest, reasonable state. Low priority.	C	
16	Hunedoara	Topliţa	Văliari	2010	4	3	0	1	4	2	3	4	2	3	11	14	Not used. Shingle roof poor, temporarily covered, high heritage value as unique structure. Priority.	A	
17	Hunedoara	Vaşa de Jos	Birtin		4	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	1	12	14	Some use, some heritage/tourism interest. Medium priority	B	
18	Hunedoara	Vaşa de Jos	Căzăneşti	2010	4	2	4	2	2	0	2	2	2	1	14	16	Used. Some heritage/tourism interest. Priority, but maybe not urgent.	A	
19	Sibiu	Apoldu de Jos	Apoldu de Jos		2	2	2	3	0	0	2	2	0	1	9	11	Some use. Decorations need assessing, otherwise good condition. Low priority.	C	
20	Sibiu	Apoldu de Jos	Sângătin		2	2	2	2	0	2	0	4	0	1	10	12	Some use. Heritage interest. Cement mortar on the walls. Medium priority.	B	
21	Sibiu	Bruiu	Gherdeal	2010	4	3	2	1	4	0	2	2	0	2	9	12	Some use, low population. Some heritage interest. Roof repaired with tiles. Decorations? Medium priority.	B	
22	Sibiu	Iacobeni	Netuş		2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	8	Some use. Seems little work required. Low priority	C	
23	Sibiu	Marpod	Ilimbav	2010	4	2	2	2	0	2	3	4	0	2	12	14	Some use. Heritage interest (paintings). Medium priority.	B	
24	Sibiu	Păuca	Broştina	2010	4	2	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	10	12	Some use. Some heritage interest. Not high priority	C	
25	Sibiu	Poiana Sibiului	Poiana Sibiului		2	1	0	3	0	0	1	2	2	1	9	10	Not used. Roof and decoration in hand, no need to act	na	
26	Sibiu	Sadu	Sadu		2	2	2	3	0	2	0	0	2	1	9	11	Some use. Poor restoration painting. Not high priority.	C	
27	Vâlcea	Alunu	Chicerea-Leurda		2	4	4	2	4	4	3	0	0	4	8	12	Would be used. Poor & collapsed state. Evaluation needed.	E	
28	Vâlcea	Alunu	Igoiu	2012	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	6	7	Not used. Apparently in hand with approved EU funds.	na	
29	Vâlcea	Brezoi	Calinesti		2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	10	13	Possibly used, some heritage/tourism interest. Medium priority.	B	
30	Vâlcea	Copăceni	Copăceni		2	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	6	Not used. Low priority.	C	
31	Vâlcea	Costeşti	Pietreni-Grămeşti		4	1	0	2	0	0	4	2	4	2	12	13	Not used. Some heritage & tourism interest. Medium priority.	B	
32	Vâlcea	Costeşti	Gruşetu		2	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	4	1	11	12	Some use. Little data on needs, evaluation requested	E	
33	Vâlcea	Frânceşti	Moştina-Mănăileşti		2	2	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	7	9	Some use. Little data on needs, evaluation requested	E	
34	Vâlcea	Mălaia	Ciungteu		2	2	2	2	0	0	2	4	2	2	12	14	Some use. Heritage/tourism interest. Little data on needs, evaluation requested. Medium priority.	B	
35	Vâlcea	Perişani	Măceşti		4	1	2	2	2	4	0	2	2	2	12	13	Some use. Apparently in hand with approved EU funds.	na	
36	Vâlcea	Popeşti	Urşii	2014	4	1	4	2	0	0	1	4	0	2	14	15	Used. Work in hand needs completing. Heritage interest, (query tourism interest?). Priority.	A	
37	Vâlcea	Racoviţa	Copăceni		4	1	2	2	4	2	1	4	2	3	14	15	Some use. Apparently in hand with approved EU funds.	na	
				year	0 none 1 sparse 2 medium 4 good	0 none 1 sparse 2 medium 3 large 4 total	0 none 1 sparse 2 some 3 regular 4 regular	1 small 2 medium 3 larger 11-100 2 100-1000	0 none 1 small 2 medium 3 large 4 urgent	0 none 1 small 2 medium 3 large 4 urgent	0 none 1 small 2 medium 3 larger 4 urgent	0 slight 1 in hand 2 good 3 medium 4 poor	0 slight 1 in hand 2 medium 3 high 4 high	0 high 1 medium 2 medium 3 low	sum of status data, use,000, N/T int.	as total 1 with scale 1	Phase 1 component 1 A high Phase 1 component 2 B med. Later phases C low Phase 1 component 3 E eval.		

Phase 1 component 1 A high  
Phase 1 component 2 B med.  
Later phases C low  
Phase 1 component 3 E eval.



## Appendix 2/2

number	Location			Overall data			Detailed data										Conclusions			priority
	county	commune	village	last intervention	status of data	scale works reqd.	use/potential use	population	roof intervent.	Struct./foundation	painting conservatn	heritage interest	tourism interest	approx. costs level	totals 1	totals 2	conclusion			
38	Vâlcea	Tomșani	Băltăjeni	2000	4	3	0	2	4	2	0	2	0	2	8	11	Not used. Some heritage interest. Roof requires attention, not urgent			C
39	Vâlcea	Tomșani	Dumbrăvești	2000	4	3	2	1	2	2	0	2	0	2	9	12	Some use. Some heritage interest. Low priority			C
40	Vâlcea	Valdeeni	Marța	2009	2	3	2	2	2	0	3	2	2	2	10	13	Some use. Oldest church, new roof unsatisfactory and needs attention. Medium priority.			B
41	Vâlcea	Mădulari	Mădulari		2	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	8	10	Some use. More data required. Evaluation reqd.			E
42	Vâlcea	Mădulari	Obârșia		2	2	2	2	0	2	3	2	0	2	8	10	Some use. More data required. Evaluation reqd.			E
43	Vâlcea	Șirineasa	Șirineasa		4	3	0	3	3	4	3	4	2	4	13	16	Not used. Poor state. Strong local support. Heritage interest. Priority.			A
44	Vâlcea	Dăncei	Bădeni		2	3	0	2	2	2	1	2	0	2	6	9	Not used. Bad state. Archbishop interested to save. Evaluation required.			E
45	Vâlcea	Gusoeni	Măgureni		2	3	0	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	6	9	Not used. Bad state. Archbishop interested to save. Evaluation required.			E
46	Vâlcea	Stănești	Suești		2	3	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	3	6	Not used. Bad state. Archbishop interested to save. Evaluation required.			E
47	Vâlcea	Șinești	Dealul Bisericii		2	3	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	4	7	Not used. Bad state. Archbishop interested to save. Evaluation required.			E
48	Vâlcea	Budurăști	Budurăști		2	4	0	2	4	4	4	4	0	4	8	12	Not used. Bad state. Heritage interest. Archbishop interested. Work on frescos imminent. Evaluation.			E
49	Vâlcea	Amărăști	Amărăști		4	3	0	2	2	4	3	4	0	4	10	13	Not used. Bad state. Heritage interest. Archbishop interested. Paintings conservation started. Evaluation.			E
50	Gorj	Bălești	Stoloiani		2	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	8	Not used. Some heritage interest. Low priority			C
51	Gorj	Lelești	Frătești		1	1	0	2	2	2	3	4	0	2	7	8	Not used. Heritage interest. Included in restoration programme of the local (county) Orthodox Church.			na
52	Gorj	Lelești	Lelești		2	3	0	3	0	2	1	2	0	1	7	10	Not used. Some heritage interest. Mainly foundation problems. Low priority.			C
53	Gorj	Lelești	Ursaței	1994	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	Some use. Mainly foundation problems, little data. Evaluation.			E
54	Gorj	Mușetești	Mușetești	2004	4	3	0	2	2	4	0	2	2	2	10	13	Not used. Some H/T interest. Restored poorly, shingles deteriorated, concrete added, wood decay risk.			B
55	Gorj	Mușetești	Stăncești Larga	2004	2	2	4	2	0	0	2	2	2	1	12	14	Used. Some heritage/tourist interest. Medium priority.			B
56	Gorj	Peștișani	Hobița	2000	2	2	2	2	0	2	0	2	4	1	12	14	Some use. Some heritary and tourism interest. Medium priority			B
57	Gorj	Peștișani	Gureni	2006	2	3	0	2	0	2	0	2	4	1	10	13	Not used. Included on restoration programme of local (county) Orthodox Church			na
58	Gorj	Schela	Sâmbotin		2	3	0	2	4	4	3	2	2	3	8	11	Not used. Included on restoration programme of local (county) Orthodox Church			na
59	Gorj	Scoarța	Bobu- Bobaia		1	3	4	2	0	2	2	2	0	2	9	12	Used. Some heritage interest. Roof repaired locally, structure poor condition. Medium priority			B
60	Gorj	Scoarța	Colibași	2005	1	3	4	2	2	4	4	2	0	3	9	12	Used. Some heritage interest. Roof badly repaired, the structure in very bad shape. Medium priority.			B
61	Gorj	Scoarța	Piștești din Deal		1	3	4	3	2	2	3	2	0	3	10	13	Used. Some heritage interest. In need of repairs. Medium priority.			B
62	Gorj	Scoarța	Valea Adâncă		1	?	4	2	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	Used. Little data. Needs evaluation			E
63	Gorj	Stănești	Curpeni		2	2	4	1	0	?	2	?	0	1	?	?	Used. Icons only require attention but little data. Maybe lowish priority. Evaluation required.			E
64	Gorj	Ismăna	Pocruia		1	1	0	3	2	2	0	2	2	2	8	9	Not currently used. In process of being moved by the local (county) Orthodox Church			na
65	Gorj	Tismana	Vânăta		1	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	Little data. Needs evaluation			E
66	Gorj	Turcinești	Horezu		2	2	4	2	0	2	2	0	0	2	8	10	Used. Icons only require attention, steel on the roof, concrete an the walls. Low priority.			C
67	Gorj	Dănculești	Zăicoiu		2	3	2	2	4	4	0	2	0	4	8	11	Some use. Some heritage interest. Roof damaged, wood decay and foundation problems. Low priority.			C
68	Gorj	Junănești	Boia		2	3	2	1	2	4	0	2	0	3	7	10	Some use. Some heritage interest. Steel on the roof (damaged), general bad shape. Low priority.			C
69	Gorj	Rozia de Amaradia	Secururile		2	3	0	2	2	4	0	0	0	3	4	7	Not used. Major damage from earth slip. Recommended to be moved. Low priority.			C
70	Gorj	Slavuta	Cruset		2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	8	11	Some use. Steel on the roof (damaged), general bad shape. Low priority.			C
71	Gorj	Licurici	Licurici		2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	2	8	11	Some use. Roof damaged, wood decay and foundation problems. Low priority.			C
72	Gorj	Polovrași	Polovrași		2	3	2	3	4	4	3	2	4	4	13	16	Some use. Tourism. Poor condition (roof, wood decay, foundation problems). Priority.			A
73	Brasov	Jibert	Grănan	2013	4	1	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	3	8	9	Not used. In hand with students.			na
74	Mehedinti	Ponoarele	Ponoarele		2	3	4	2	2	2	3	4	2	3	14	17	Used. Heritage and some tourism interest. Foundations, roof (steel) needs replacing. Priority			A

Phase 1 component 1 A high  
Phase 1 component 2 B med.  
Later phases C low  
Phase 1 component 3 E eval.



## Appendix 3

### Details of churches selected for Phase1, 2 & 3

#### Phase 1

##### Phase 1 component 1 (8 priority schemes)

Hunedoara: Boz, Tărnăvița, Vădari, Căzănești

Vâlcea: Ursi, Sirineasa

Gorj: Poloragi

Mehedinți: Ponoarele

##### Phase 1 component 2 (16 schemes to approval dossier stage)

Hunedoara: Hărtăgani, Lăpușiu de Jos, Birtin,

Sibiu: Sângătin, Gherdeal, Ilimbav,

Vâlcea: Brezoi, Pietreni-Grămești, Ciungetu, Marita,

Gorj: Mușetesti, Stănceni Larga, Hobita, Bobu-Bobaia, Colibasi, Pistestii din Deal

##### Phase 1 component 3 (16 schemes for preliminary evaluation)

Hunedoara: Almasu Mic

Vâlcea: Chicerea-Leurda, Grusetu, Mosteni-Mănăilești, Mădulari, Obârsia, Bădeni, Măgureni, Suiesti, Dealul Bisericii, Budrăști, Amărăști

Gorj: Ursatei, Valea Adâncă, Curpeni, Vânăta

#### Phase 2

16 schemes rated as medium priority (“B”) in appendix 2.

#### Phase 3

About 20 of the schemes rated low priority (“C”) in appendix 2 or as deemed appropriate.



## Cost estimates for Phase1

## Appendix 4/1

Component 1	Euro (2014)									
Scheme no.	3 Boz	4 Tarnavita	16 Valari	18 Cazanesti	36 Ursi	43 Sirineasa	72 Polovragi	74 Ponorele	Totals	Notes
Approval studies	8000	0	8000	8000	0	8000	8000	8000	48000	Boz done, not paid
Final design studies	1350	900	1800	825	0	1950	1950	1500	10275	sub total x 3%
Roof	0	0	20000	10000	15000	20000	20000	10000	95000	
Structure/foundations	15000	0	15000	0	0	20000	20000	15000	85000	
Decorations	25000	25000	20000	12500	15000	20000	20000	20000	157500	
Electricity	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	40000	
<b>sub total</b>	<b>45000</b>	<b>30000</b>	<b>60000</b>	<b>27500</b>	<b>35000</b>	<b>65000</b>	<b>65000</b>	<b>50000</b>	<b>377500</b>	Boz done, not paid
supervision	2250	1500	3000	1375	1750	3250	3250	2500	18875	
contingencies	4500	3000	6000	2750	3500	6500	6500	5000	37750	
<b>Total</b>	<b>61100</b>	<b>35400</b>	<b>78800</b>	<b>40450</b>	<b>40250</b>	<b>84700</b>	<b>84700</b>	<b>67000</b>	<b>492400</b>	
<b>Rounded</b>									<b>500000</b>	

Component 2	Euro (2014)	
Schemes	16 no.	
Approval studies	128000	8000€ each
Management	4454	3% of base
Contingencies	6400	5% of base
<b>Total</b>	<b>138854</b>	
<b>rounded</b>	<b>140000</b>	<b>Euro (2014)</b>

Component 3	Euro (2014)	
Schemes	16 no.	
Evaluation	16000	1000€ each
Management	480	3% of base
Contingencies	800	5% of base
<b>Total</b>	<b>17280</b>	
<b>rounded</b>	<b>18000</b>	<b>Euro (2014)</b>

Support component	Euro (2014)	
Studies	10000	Lump sums
Training	10000	
Emergency works	5000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>25000</b>	





## Cost estimates for Phase1

## Appendix 4/2

Phase 2																all in	k €	
Scheme no.	2	13	17	20	21	23	29	31	34	40	54	55	56	59	60	61	totals	Notes
Approval studies																		In Phase 1/2
Detailed studies	1.5	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.95	2.25	1.65	0.9	1.95	1.65	0.9	0.75	1.5	2.1	1.95	23.25	sub total x 3%
Roof	0	0	0	0	20	0	10	0	0	20	20	0	0	0	10	10	90	
Structure/foundations	20	0	0	25	0	20	20	0	0	0	30	0	20	20	30	20	205	
Decorations	25	25	25	0	25	40	40	50	25	40	0	25	0	25	25	30	400	
Electricity	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	80	
sub total	50	30	30	30	50	65	75	55	30	65	55	30	25	50	70	65	775	
supervision	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	3.25	3.75	2.75	1.5	3.25	2.75	1.5	1.25	2.5	3.5	3.25	39	subtotal x 5%
contingencies	5	3	3	3	5	6.5	7.5	5.5	3	6.5	5.5	3	2.5	5	7	6.5	78	subtotal x 10%
Total (rounded)	59	35	35	35	59	77	89	65	35	77	65	35	30	59	83	77	915	

say 920000 €

Approx. cost for Phase 2 is 920000 €

Phase 3 (sample of 8)										all in	k €
Scheme no.	1	5	19	22	30	38	52	66	Totals		
Approval studies	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	64		
Studies	4.8	2	2	3.6	1.6	3.2	2.8	3.6	23.6		
Roof	10	0	0	20	0	20	0	0	50		
Structure/foundations	20	0	0	0	20	20	20	20	100		
Decorations	25	25	25	25	0	0	15	25	140		
Electricity	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	40		
<b>sub total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>295</b>		
supervision	3	1.25	1.25	2.25	1	2	1.75	2.25	14.75		
contingencies	6	2.5	2.5	4.5	2	4	3.5	4.5	29.5		
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>427</b>		

Extrapolate from 8 schemes to 20

(427 \* 20)/8 is 1 068 000 €

Approx. cost for Phase 3 is 1 000 000 €





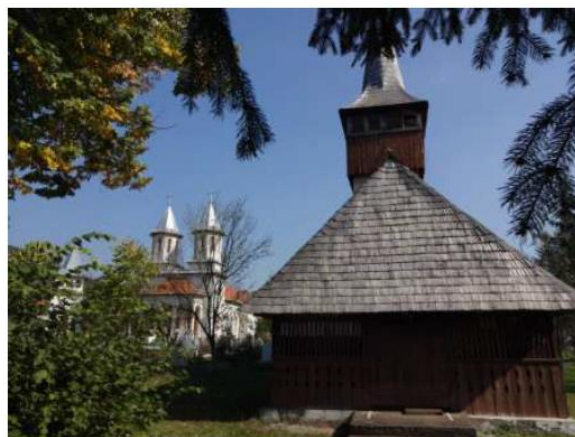
## Appendix 5



Tarnavita



Boz



Boz new and old churches



Example of a restored icon. Boz church.



Paintings being restored at Ursi church