



## **EUROPEAN HERITAGE YOUTH RESIDENCY**

***Via Transilvanica, Romania, 27 June - 3 July 2024***

### **CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

**Application Deadline: 22 April 2024**

### **EUROPEAN HERITAGE YOUTH RESIDENCY**

[Europa Nostra](#), the largest European network of heritage organisations, [Tășuleasa Social](#) and [Asociația Monumentum](#), both winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards, will organise the **second edition of the European Heritage Youth Residencies** from **27 June until 3 July 2024** in **Romania**. Around **15 young heritage stakeholders** will be selected to come together to discuss **heritage and sustainable tourism**. Participants will partake in hiking and other hands-on heritage activities and will together produce a lasting resource for other heritage professionals and students.

This initiative takes place in the framework of Europa Nostra's Network Project [European Cultural Heritage Agora](#) "Empowering Europe's Civil Society Movement for Heritage", co-funded by the [Creative Europe](#) Programme of the European Union.

The European Heritage Youth Residency 2024 is an opportunity for students, professionals and heritage stakeholders to see first-hand how heritage policies and projects around sustainable tourism have been successfully implemented. This includes the [Via Transilvanica](#), a 1,400 km hiking trail that crosses Romania, and which has heritage at its core, and the [Ambulance for Monuments](#), an innovative programme to carry out emergency repairs on heritage buildings in Romania.

The programme also seeks new formats of **cross-sectoral cooperation**, to initiate projects of co-creation or collaborative plans, as well as to share knowledge and expertise across Europe about heritage and sustainable tourism. The **peer-learning methodology** of the programme is designed to stimulate **interaction, collaborative learning and solution-building** in a cooperative and friendly expert environment.

Participants will be expected to present their own experiences of working within sustainable tourism. This includes sharing successful local policies and projects, as well as their top tips, pitfalls and learnings. The selected participants will also therefore get useful information and ideas for improving or initiating their own local projects or ideas on how they might transfer some of the presented practices to their own localities.

**In terms of outputs**, the participants will have time at the beginning of the Residency to together formulate a plan to produce a tangible resource or resources by the end of the Residency, depending on their combined skills. This can be a statement, a series of photographs, a social media campaign, a how-to guide, a song, an article... it's up to you!

## WHEN

The programme will be held from **27 June to 3 July 2024** and will include meetings with local stakeholders, site visits, hikes, restoration and solution-building workshops (see draft programme below).

## WHO

The programme is designed for 18-35 year old students, professionals and stakeholders.

Applicants from all races, faiths, genders/gender identities, sexual orientations and with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

**Applicants should be aware that this residency will include some hikes of moderate difficulty, as well as volunteering activities that may be physically demanding. Please therefore make sure you are fully capable of taking part in these physical activities. For more information please read the [Via Transilvanica Guide](#).**

The working language will be **English** so participants should be able to communicate in the language.

## COSTS

The programme will cover the participants' accommodation for six nights. Participants will be hosted in group accommodations close to Roades (3 nights) and at Tasuleasa Social Headquarters (3 nights). Participants are kindly asked to arrange and pay for their own travel expenses, travel and medical insurance, and to ensure they have the required hiking equipment (hiking boots, etc.). All breakfasts, lunches, dinners and local travel by minibus are covered by the organisers.



# European Heritage Youth Residency

Via Transilvanica, Romania  
27 June - 3 July 2024



## DRAFT PROGRAMME

- Thursday 27 June** Arrival at Cluj Napoca International Airport - Departure for Roades by bus in the afternoon (3-hour drive)
- Friday 28 June** Volunteering with Ambulance for Monuments at the Roades Evangelical Fortified Church (activities in carpentry)
- Saturday, 29 June** Visit of the King Charles III house in Viscri and hiking on the Via Transilvanica
- Sunday, 30 June** Travel to Tășuleasa Social Headquarters (4h30 drive) and presentation of the association
- Monday, 1 July & Tuesday, 2 July** Hiking and meetings on the Via Transilvanica
- Wednesday 3 July** Morning departure by bus from Tășuleasa Social Headquarters for Cluj Napoca International Airport (3-hour drive)

## HOW TO APPLY

Submit your application via the [following link](#). Make sure to upload your CV (max one page) in the prompted link. In case you have difficulties, please send your CV to Carla Barna [awards-intern@europanostra.org](mailto:awards-intern@europanostra.org).

The deadline to submit applications is **22 April 2024**.

The following criteria will be considered in the selection:

- The overall quality of the application
- Professional or educational background linked to the topic
- Motivation to participate in a specific peer learning visit: to improve a specific practice or project; or, to implement a new practice or project
- Relevance of the theme of the residency to the needs of the applicants

The organisers will aim for an equal balance of gender, age and nationality, to ensure a good level of representation and diversity among the participants. Selected candidates will be informed by **20 May 2024**.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The organisers (Europa Nostra, Tășuleasa Social and Asociația Monumentum) will do their best to provide a safe environment and offer sufficient instructions to ensure the safety of participants during the Residency activities. The organisers will not accept liability for any loss or damage to property, nor injury by any cause. The organisers are not responsible for any loss associated with disruption to or cancellation of travel plans. The selected participants will be expected to have sufficient medical and travel insurance to take part in the Residency and the associated activities.

During the Residency, photos and videos will be taken. By applying for the Residency, the selected participants give the right to the organisers of the event to use any photograph/video taken without further permission of those depicted within the photograph/video. The organisers may use the photograph/video in publications or other media material produced, including but not limited to: social media, brochures, invitations, books, newspapers, magazines, television, websites, etc. Participants should contact staff to withdraw this permission.

## KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

- 22 April: Deadline for applications
- 15 May: Selection of participants
- 27 June - 3 July 2024: European Heritage Youth Residency (27 June: arrival; 3 July: departure)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### ORGANISERS

#### **Tășuleasa Social**

[Tășuleasa Social](#)'s mission revolves around maintaining, promoting and identifying opportunities for the Via Transilvanica trail. The NGO has created a robust common platform that unites all the stakeholders involved, including hikers, local communities and authorities. By emphasising the environmental, social, and heritage values of the trail, it contributes to sustainable local development, while preserving and nurturing heritage along its path, and creates a source of enduring local and international pride.

“Over time, we have built a campus on top of Mount Bârgău, in Tihuța Pass, and we have created a place where we could bring young people in order to mentor them, to teach them what it means to be a volunteer and why it is important to care about the world around them. We set out to change the mentality of those around us and to show that young people want to get involved in solving social problems just as much as adults do. We listened to our volunteers, let them express their own culture, values, and attitudes, taught them to become mentors for the next generation of volunteers.”

#### **Asociația Monumentum and the Ambulance for Monuments project**

The [Monuments' Ambulance](#) is a project initiated in 2016 by the [Monumentum Association](#) and developed by a series of existent or newly created organizations active in the field of heritage which operate independently in several regions of Romania.

The aim of the project is to act efficiently for the preservation of the immovable heritage by safeguarding certain important heritage items that are in an advanced state of decay or pre-collapse. Over 600 historical monuments from Romania that are either public or private property are waiting for an emergency rescue and their number is increasing worryingly. The Monuments' Ambulance project which ensures the safeguarding of the immovable cultural heritage with the help of volunteers, craftsmen and local communities under the strict supervision and guidance of conservation and historical monument restoration experts came as an answer to the lack of reaction from the communities, the related ministry and the authorities in front of the accelerated destruction threatening this heritage. Wherever the owner provides the necessary construction material, the Monuments' Ambulance whose main supporter is HM The King Charles III acts to safeguard the monument with the help of a van equipped with all the necessary tools.

The objectives of the Monuments' Ambulance are:

- To engage the local community in the sustainable preservation of their own cultural identity
- To safeguard build heritage and keep a record of such heritage
- To increase the level of professional training of the experts through non-formal and informal participatory education based on hands-on training
- To recover the traditional knowledge of craftsmanship
- To increase the philanthropy level and create new audiences for such heritage.

Its most important achievements are: the creation of a cooperation model and financing mechanism between beneficiary, public authorities, NGOs and communities through a functional public-private partnership and the inauguration of a national network of ambulances managed by various organizations.

The Ambulance for Monuments project is a [winner of the European Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards 2020](#) in category Education, Training and Awareness-Raising, and winner of the Public Choice Award 2020.



## Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](#) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering more than 40 countries. Founded in 1963, it is today recognised as the largest and the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [Z Most Endangered Programme](#). It celebrates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#). Europa Nostra actively contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the [European Heritage Alliance](#).

Europa Nostra has led the European consortium selected by the European Commission to run the [European Heritage Hub](#) pilot project (2023-2025). It is also an official partner of the [New European Bauhaus](#) initiative developed by the European Commission, and is a leading European member and supporter of the [Climate Heritage Network](#).

From 2022 to 2024, Europa Nostra implements the Network Project [European Cultural Heritage Agora](#) "Empowering Europe's Civil Society Movement for Heritage", co-funded by the [Creative Europe](#) Programme of the European Union. The European Heritage Youth Residency 2024 is part of this projects' activities promoting training and advice to heritage professionals.

## SUPPORT

### Creative Europe

[Creative Europe](#) is the EU programme that supports the cultural and creative sectors, enabling them to increase their contribution to Europe's society, economy and living environment. With a budget of €2.4 billion for 2021-2027, it supports organisations in the fields of heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music, and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, cultural and audiovisual professionals.

## LOCATION

[Via Transilvanica](#) is a long-distance trail, a concept known and encountered all over the world, whether it be pilgrimage routes such as the El Camino, the Way of St James or North American wilderness trails such as the Appalachian Trail.

Our vision is to have a world-class long-distance trail that connects diverse regions and communities, allowing us to discover Transylvania and Romania, while experiencing unique experiences in an authentic, varied natural and cultural setting that we can be proud of forever both locally and internationally.

The signage of the project is an integral part of the general concept, so we thought of a route on which no hiker is allowed to get lost. On the more than 1400 km hikers will find the symbol of the route in the form of natural stone (andesite) bollards installed from km to km, along with signposts at intersections and very frequent paint markings. These andesite bollards are works of art individually sculpted in the Tășuleasa Social campus sculpture camps by Romanian or foreign sculptors. The kilometer stones are the identity element that makes Via Transilvanica one of the largest outdoor sculpture exhibitions in the world that we invite you to discover on the move.

Via Transilvanica is about diversity, from the blade of grass on the banks of the Danube, to the mountain ridges, the landscapes that reveal themselves as you move from one stage of the road to the other are as different as the locals you meet along the way, or the people who travel the route. In this way, you can discover important landmarks of the identity of our country and its people.

As a Tășuleasa Social project, Via Transilvanica is first and foremost a social project, because it has the community at its heart. The people of the road are the people who built this route, who are and will be walking it, the people who offer hospitality along the route, and the people who take the news of this trail further into the country and beyond its borders. Perhaps the best illustration of the social nature of this project is the milestones, which teach us that art is not a luxury but a social circuit.

The aim of Via Transilvanica is to reinvent (especially rural) tourism in Romania, to make it easier for travelers to access the communities along the route and their stories, helping them to develop in a sustainable and responsible way.

Via Transilvanica is a [winner of the European Heritage Awards/Europa Nostra Awards 2023](#) in category Citizens Engagement and Awareness-raising, and the winner of the Public Choice Award 2023.