



**MONITORING REPORT
WHL/UNESCO SITE "VILLAGES WITH FORTIFIED CHURCHES IN TRANSYLVANIA",
POZITION 596 bis
2011**

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Monitoring responsible

Within the ranges of November 28 to 30, 2011 and of January 11 to 13, I made two visits to the villages Câlnic (Alba county), Valea Viilor and Biertan (Sibiu county), Saschiz (Mureș county), Dârjiu (Harghita county) and, respectively Viscri and Prejmer (Brașov county), in order to prepare the annual monitoring report for the position 596 bis on the World Heritage List / UNESCO – *Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania*, according to the responsibilities of the National Institute of Heritage and to the duties incumbent to me by the address no. 1321/ 20.07.2011 of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

The fieldwork consisted in the inspection of the sites and their buffer zones in order to asset the results of the activities undertaken on their protection in 2011.

The findings in the field were conducted together with representatives of the WHL sites' holders, of the authorities – County Council, Heritage Police, Inspectorate for Emergency Situations – and of the Departments of Culture and National Heritage of Alba, Brașov, Harghita, Mureș and Sibiu counties.

These institutions are invested by the *Government Decision* no. 1102 November 2, 2011 *for modifying the Programme of protection and management of the monuments listed in UNESCO World Heritage List*, approved by *Government Decision* no. 1.268/2010, to delegate representatives to the **Organizing Committees UNESCO (COU)**. The visit „in situ” was the first meeting of these representatives and occasioned discussions on the state of conservation and on the stage of implementation of the Management Plan for each of the 7 site included at the position no. 596 bis in World Heritage List.

1. JUSTIFICATION OF ENTRY

The Site "Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania" was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1999 as an extension of the site „Biertan”, inscribed on the WHL in 1993, according to

the criteria (IV), as they were *an exceptional example of a type of building, of an architectural or technological ensemble or of a natural one, which illustrates a significant stage in human history.* Values and significance of the sites, as they were defined at the time of the inscription and of the extension remained unchanged.



Viscri. East perspective to the village from the bell tower

2. LOCATION DATA

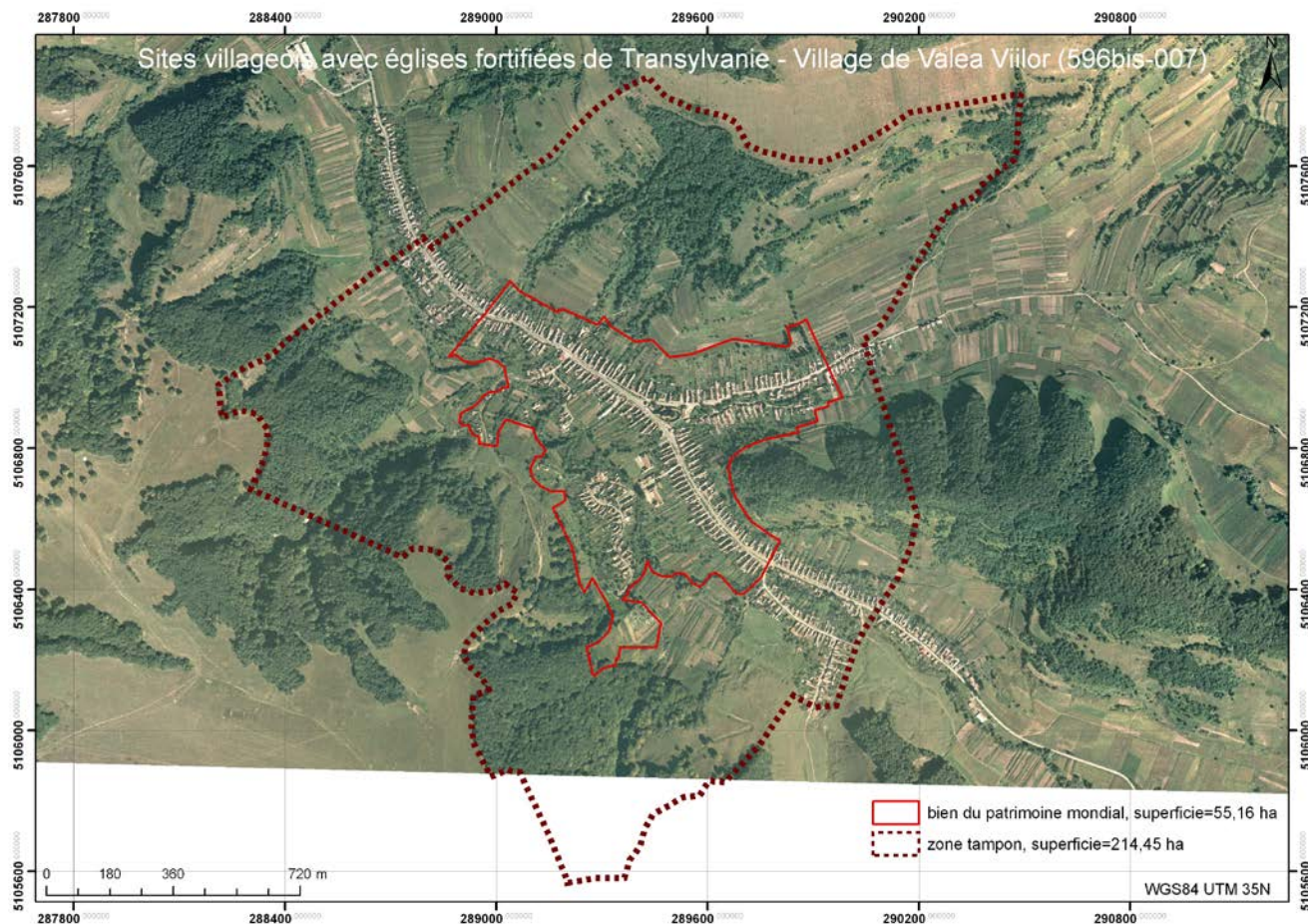
2.1. Under the frame of the *National eGISpat Programme for achieve a geographical information system (GIS) for the protection of the national built heritage*, which is based on a partnership between the Ministry of Culture and of National Heritage, the National Institute of Historical Monuments – currently, National Institute of Heritage - and ESRI Romania, which is running since 2006, the core and the buffer zones of the sites "Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania", were referenced. These boundaries were validated and included in the *Retrospective Inventory 2009*¹.

¹ *Retrospective Inventory* is a project launched by the World Heritage Committee in 2004, to clarify the boundaries and the buffer zones of the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List during 1978-1998.

2.2. In Transylvania, the *Land Register* (CF) and the *Cadastral number* are working since the 19 century. All buildings are tabulated but CF is not specifying the legal status of historical monument.

3. PROTECTION AREAS

The boundaries and the buffer zones for the WHL sites „Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania” are defined, validated and included in the urban planning documentations (see *section 4* of the current *Report*).



Valea Viilor. The core and the buffer zone, as validated in the *Retrospective Inventory 2009*

4. TECHNICAL DATA UPDATE

Details of the **General Urban Plans (PUG)** are currently updated for all the administrative territorial units in which are located the monuments inscribed in WHL /UNESCO item 596 bis.

In the framework of the *Programme of preparation and updating the urban planning documentations for the areas containing WHL/ UNESCO monuments*, held by the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism (MDRT), according the *Government Decision no. 738 of 9 July 2008 laying down the necessary measures to fund, develop and update the urban planning documentations for the historical areas which are part of the World Heritage List*, during 2011, have been finalized and are pending approval the **Zone Urban Plans (PUZ)**.

4.1. STAGE OF UPDATE DOCUMENTATIONS

Câlnic: 1. Updating PUG. Project no. 4709, SC Proiect Alba S.A. In the PUG drawings PUG - there is a difference of the contour of the buffer zone. 2. The mayorality intends to order a PUZ for the central market, following the recent demolition of a parasiting building.



Saschiz. *The fortified church restored 2000-2011 and the bell tower put on the National Restoration Plan (PNR)*

Prejmer: PUZ - Protected Area, Phase I, "Urban Proiect"- București, with a historical study prepared by the National Institute of Heritage (INP), under approval

Viscri: PUG – „ASICICOL” Ltd – Mediaș (Sibiu county), contract no. 31/2010; PUZ - Protected Area, Phase I, contract no. 34/2010, architect Ștefan Bâlici, under approval.

Dârjiu: PUZ - Protected Area, Phase I, SC „Proiect Alba” SA, contract no. 304/2011, Project no. 5/2001, architect Cristina Neagu, under approval.

Saschiz: PUZ. *Situation analysis, development proposals and local regulations for PUZ*, project S.C. „arhiGRAF” Ltd, Sibiu, arch. Vladimir Grigorov, contract nr. 2328 A/ 25.11.2009, under approval.

Biertan: PUZ *Protected Area and associated protection area*, Phase III, SC „Proiect Alba” SA, Contract no.318/2007, Project no. 4822, December 2008, with advice of opportunity. Historical study

was contracted with the National Museum of History Bucharest. PUZ Biertan had not public debate neither the advice of DCPN.

Valea Viilor: PUZ *Protected Area and associated protection area*, Phase III, SC „Proiect Alba” SA, Contract nr. 319/2007, Project no. 4823, December 2008. Buffer zone is proposed to be extended.



Prejmer. South - East perspective to the fortified church

5. SITES MANAGEMENT

The *Program of protection and management for historical monuments inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List* is ruled by the Governmental Decisions no. 493 of April 1, 2004 and no. 1268 of December 8, 2010, amended by Government Decision no. 1102 of November 2, 2011. This program is being implemented for the site nr. 596 bis of the WHL/ UNESCO „Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania” by setting the Organising Committees UNESCO (COU) by each Council of Alba, Braşov, Mureş, Harghita and Sibiu counties.

6. TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATIONS AND CONSERVATION / RESTORATION WORKS

Biertan: 1. Feasibility Study *Konzept zum Erhalt, zur Sicherung und zur behutsamen Entwicklung des Bestandes der Kirchenburg und der Nebenanlagen*, Jan Hülsemann, Henriette Lemnitz, Joachim

Faitsch, Januar 2011. 2. Buildings permit nr. 194/30.09.2011, *Care and support centre for aged people*, Cloșca Street no. 72 – at the edge of the protected area.

Valea Viilor: 1. Documentation for the restoration works at the sloping of the fortified church is under approval to MCPN. 2. Excavations for a drain were made without archaeological supervision. 3. Urban certificates issued by the County Council / Urban Planning and Environment Service: for dwellings' building (4), GSM base station (1), farm road modernization (1), changing functionality at House no. 318 (CU no. 213/25.05.2011)

Dârjiu: 1. Parament research at the Unitarian Church, architect Zsolt Tövissi. 2. Study - *List of houses owners and old photographs*, Cristina Herția – MDRT

Saschiz: 1. Completion of the restoration works at the evangelical fortified church. 2. Façades rehabilitation to the houses no. 305, 422, 434, 453, by „Mihai Eminescu Trust” association (MET). 3. Project "Restoration of the refuge citadel, 14th century. Upgrading the access road ", Urbanism Certificate (CU) no. 14.07.2011. 4. „Remodelling, attic and changing destination of house no. 569". 5. „Project of restoration of the bell tower of the evangelical fortified church and electrical installations”, under the National Plan of Restoration (PNR). 6. CU no. 1/14.02.2011 for house no. 29.

Viscri: 1. Maintenance works at the fortified church – completions of the bell tower masonry and of pavement using stone brought from an old exploitation in Mesendorf, roof repair, attic cleaning. 2. House no. 27 was bought by „Mihai Eminescu Trust” (MET) and reinforced with iron ties as well as house no. 149 (ownerless). 3. During 2007-2010 the sheds on the Southern edge of the Main Street were repaired. 4. House no. 198 was restored. 5. Project Grant EA for the rehabilitation of the communal barn (nr. 67) and its reconversion as a communitarian kitchen.

7. STATE OF CONSERVATION

In the recent PUZ documentations, the chapter *Analysis of the existent situation, proposals of local development regulations for PUZ* includes data on the state of conservation of the built heritage. During the visit for monitoring, the following problems were found:

Câlnic: Evangelical Church has major cracks caused by the compaction of earth by changing groundwater level because of one inadequate drainage during 1980.

Prejmer: 1. Evangelical Church has infiltration into the south wall of the choir because of the poor of the rain water drainage system. The same deficiency causes serious damage to wooden structure of the supplies rooms' galleries. 2. House nr. 13, historical monument, was modified inadequately.

Viscri: 1. House no. 10, change of the window gaps size and inadequate. 2. Houses built without authorization: no. 111, near the Orthodox Church, being the end of perspective of the Main Street and a house outside the village, near the treatment plant. The mayoralty reported these cases, in 2010 to the State Construction Inspectorate and to the County Council. 3. Houses in ruins: no. 76, no. 82, no. 84 (MET purchased for rehabilitation), and no. 128 (belonging to a real estate agency).



Viscri. *The Romanian quarter and the Orthodox Church; new, unauthorised building (with red roof)*

Dârjiu: 1. Houses no. 181 and no. 182, located near the fortified church (NW) are ruins and the owner has requested authorization to demolish (DCPN rejected them). 2. A ditch for electric cables around the church was excavated, without archaeological supervision. 3. A toilette was installed in the place of a supplies barn on the inner wall of the fortified church, without authorization.

Saschiz: 1. House no. 318 is in serious condition, with the fallen roof. House no. 419's gable is out of vertical and the front side of the second house recently collapsed (in PUZ it was still there). 2. Inappropriate interventions at the houses no. 350, no. 417 and no. 449 (the legal advises were not respected). 3. Harmful intervention to the Festivities hall, part of the fortified church ensemble (stone cladding fixed socket with cement mortar, obstructing the ventilation howls of the cellar which is already in a very bad condition).

Biertan: 1. In the *Report of DCPN Sibiu 2011*, accompanied by photos - *Buildings of architectural and environmental value*, seven buildings require emergency interventions. 2. Paintings in bright synthetic colours: houses no. 15, no. 34 and no. 43 Avram Iancu Street; no. 58 Nicolae Balcescu street; no. 9, no. 22 and no. 36 Horea street; no. 2 Tudor Vladimirescu street. 3. At the fortified church, critical condition of the South and West portals - massive loss of lithic material; excess of humidity in the second enclosure wall; inactive cracks on the choir apse (witness fixed in 06/05/1999); high humidity



Biertan. West portal (about 1500) - massive loss of lithic material

caused by a defective drainage, made in 2010, provoked the compression and cracking of the earth at the East of the choir and pushing the first precinct's wall; ventilation of the Museum Tower and of the Catholics tower was improved by installing grilles instead of the doors. 4. House no. 3 Avram Iancu street, in the gable with the inscription „1786” is fixed a metal frame supporting power cables. 5. House no. 36 Crişan Street, which defined the character of Romanian quarter's centre, together with the orthodox parish school and house no. 35 was demolished in November 2011, without authorization.

Valea Viilor: 1. High humidity at the precinct's wall of the fortified church and at the majority of the buildings in the 3 main streets. 2. Harmful Interventions to the house no. 126 (in front of Mayoralty), to the house no. 438 and to the primary school (by the thermal rehabilitation).



Biertan. House no. 36, Crișan Street, demolished in November 2011, without authorization

8. INVESTMENTS, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Câlnic: paved roads and driveway slabs around the citadel - work completed in 2011.

Prejmer: 2 houses rehabilitated with an assistance of 25% of costs from the local council.

Viscri: *Multifunctional Bridge*, Project 2010: stops the sand to run with the river and to destabilize the historical drain clogs. Water and canalization.

Dârjiu: Project Asphalt PNDI (infrastructure development) by MDRT - communal road, county road, 25 km to Mureni.

Saschiz: a new Tourism Information Centre was opened by ADEPT Foundation in the former communal butchery, building that belongs to the fortified church ensemble.

9. FUNDING

Câlnic, Prejmer, Dâjiu, Saschiz, Biertan, Valea Viilor: PUG - Local Council funding; PUZ, protected areas - MDRT funding

Câlnic: 1. Restoration of the parish house - Minister of Culture and National Heritage (MCPN) funding, by National Plan of Restoration (PNR) managed by INP and "Ars Transsilvaniae" funding. 2. Signalisation monuments - MDRT funding

Viscri: 1. PUG - Local Council funding. 2. Water – government funding. 3. Mihai Eminescu Trust (MET) fundings: sewage, water treatment plant, 3200 m channel, connecting to the water; fire scenario; multifunctional bridge; maintenance of the fortified church (plus cash flow). 4. Signalisation monuments and sites - MDRT funding

Saschiz: Restoration of the fortified church – Minister of Culture and National Heritage (MCPN) funding, by National Plan of Restoration (PNR)

10. SIGNALISATION OF MONUMENTS

All of the "Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania" are signaled, but not in a unified manner.



Câlnic. West perspective to the Citadel with a signaling panel

11. VISITORS

Câlnic: 5000 visitors, of which 2000 free

Prejmer: 10 000 visitors

Viscri: 11000 visitors. Accommodation capacity – 90 places

Saschiz: 10 000 visitors according the counter at the Tourism information centre

Biertan: 10 000 visitors

Valea Viilor: 8000 visitors

12. PUBLICATIONS, SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

Patrimoine mondial World Heritage. Patrimoine saxone de Transylvanie. Saxon Heritage in Transylvania, INP, Bucharest 2010

2011 *România în Patrimoniul UNESCO*, Răzvan Theodorescu, Atena Groza, pictures George Dumitriu, Ed. Monitorul Oficial, Bucharest 2011

<http://www.descopera.ro/descopera-in-romania/2629839-bijuterii-ale-romaniei-in-patrimoniul-unesco-iii>

<http://www.viatransylvania.com/activities-view/id-6/activity-visit-the-fortified-churches/>

<http://www.patrimoniulnational.ro/new/index.php>

Dârjiu: 1. spherical panoramas www.virtualissekelyfold.ro *Treasures of Székely Land*. 2. Bereck Catalin - Post graduate work at "Babes Bolyai" University Cluj, inventory of the built heritage of the village.

Saschiz: 1. *Saschiz. Village monograph* Florentina Călugăru ed., Saschiz Mayoralty, Nicholas Teșculă, Liviu Cimpeanu, Alin Pora et al., Ed. Nico, Tg. Mures, 2011. 2. " Saschiz Stories" www.povestirisaschizene.ro. - project of the public library with funding from Global Libraries Romania. 3. Brochures issued by ONG – *Târnava Mare* association, *ADEPT* association, *Natura 2000* available at the Tourist Information Centre

Valea Viilor: *Heimatbuch einer siebenbürgisch-sächsischen Gemeinschaft Wurmloch im Weinland*, Herausgegeben von Roland Hönig im Auftrag der Heimatortsgemeinschaft Wurmloch. Sedna-Verlag, Deutschland im Jahre 2011

13. FESTIVALS, DEBATES, SYMPOSIA

Câlnic: 1. International Festival "Lucian Blaga"; 2. "City Friends" - spring and autumn environmental actions for children and youth. 3. „Fashions and dresses from the past” - medieval festival

Viscri: 1. MET Sighișoara organises once a year, in March, sessions addressed to all the local population informing about the monuments and authorisations. 2. DCPN Brașov – Statement to the National Union of Public Notaries to inform the owners on the historical monuments status. 3. Pentecost events - meeting with Saxons of Rupea zone / Repserland. 4. „The Saxon’s Day” - every two years, in the first Saturday in August, with County Council funding. 5. Partnerships with minorities in Cluj (courses on preservation heritage).

Prejmer: 1. DCPN Brașov – Statement to the National Union of Public Notaries to inform the owners on the historical monuments status. 2. Training session the officers responsible for protecting historical monuments, 2011. 3. *Prejmer Day*, setteld by HCL in 2004, on June 29 (St. Peter and Paul). 4. Pancakes Festival, setteld by HCL in 2007, in February. 5. *Saxons’ Day*, Brasov County Council

and the Land Baden Württemberg. 6. Diletto Musicale-organized by Stephen Schland, the 13th August. 7. Two other traditional events must be restored: Fire-fighters' Day (December 26 to 30) and *Maial* (May open air party).

Dârjiu: Protection program for the traditional image of the village *Faluhép védelemi program*; general memorandum

Biertan: series of events "Cultural cocktail" started in 2010 by the associations Mioritics and Hartibaciu Microregion, Celtic harp concert held by Roxana Moişanu, July 23, 2011.

14. TRADITIONAL CRAFTS DEVELOPMENT

Câlnic: partner in the project "On the wine road"

Viscri: 1. Reactivated workshops: blacksmith - Istvan Gabor, house no. 220, in Cliviz; brickyard on Dumbrăvii Hill; coal maker – on the road to Buneşti. 2. Felt overshoes, project "Viscri start". 3. Association of women – accommodation rooms with traditional furniture and traditional cuisine

Saschiz: ADEPT Foundation initiated the recovery of domestic production of fruit jams and syrups (27 varieties). In 2010, one jams and syrups factory opened (Transylvania Food Company). „The jam of Rhubarb” is a registered trademark.



Saschiz. The new opened Tourism Information Centre also offering local traditional products