

PROCEEDINGS OF THE STUDY VISIT 2

BUCOVINA - THE MOUNTAIN AREA

During this study visit the participants had the opportunity to explore part of the natural and cultural heritage in one of the most famous and beautiful regions from Romania, with magnificent landscapes, monasteries and churches included by UNESCO in the patrimony of the monuments of universal art, with traditions and customs that have resisted the times and are still alive today.

The first visited objective was **Ciocanesti** - this village is so attractively preserved that is considered a museum of Eastern European Village life. Ciocanesti is best known for these colorful wooden houses, covered with shingle that have facades decorated with stylized geometric and floral symbols, the same ones found on local costumes, but also for the painted eggs and wood rafting on Golden Bistrita river.



From Ciocanesti the visit continued with the **Wood Art Museum in Campulung Moldovenesc**. The richness and variety of the exhibits of eighteenth-twentieth centuries accompanied by maps, photographs and drawings, present the craftsmen's tradition in wood processing. It reveals a real cult of wood processing, highlighting the variety of locals' occupations on the lands of Rarau and Giumalau mountains.



The next stop was at the **International Museum of Painted Eggs "Lucia Condrea"**. Of all the Romanian customs the one of painting eggs for Easter is by far the smoothest. The oldest and most suggestive painted eggs, carrying old symbols – pre-Christian ones - are taken from the areas inhabited by those people called "hutuli". This tradition is at home here in Moldovita.



"Mocanita Hutulca" is an example of how a narrow-gauge railroad used in forestry during the past, can foster tourism development providing an authentic experience. Mocanita trains have become more and more popular in recent years in both foreign and Romanian tourists' eyes. This does not surprise us since the trains are guiding tourists along dreamy landscapes. Tourism trends turned these forest trains with practical purpose into real tourist attractions.



Mocanita Hutulca

The last objective of the study visit was **Moldovita Monastery**. If the villages of Bucovina express the secular sovereignty of the civilization of these lands, the paintings on the Bucovina monasteries tell the Bible in pictures and colors, also offering an ecclesiastical perspective on the history of the region. All in one shows the authentic identity of Bucovina with favorable natural environment for a beautiful living and highly valued resources for the development of tourism. Such a resource is the Moldovita Monastery, founded in 1532 is one of the best-preserved monasteries included on UNESCO World Heritage list in 1993, being one of the five monasteries in Northern Moldavia with frescoes painted on the exterior walls. These paintings show a great artistic expressivity, being a masterpiece of the late middle ages.



Moldovita Monastery



Group picture at the International Museum of Painted Eggs "Lucia Condrea"

