

Building Inclusion and Solidarity through Culture and Heritage – *BisCult*

REF. NO. 2024-1-RO01-ESC51-VTJ-000214404

- 4-week volunteering
team activity
- 20 volunteers
(10 EU citizens/residents
+ 10 Romanian citizens/residents)
- @ Archaeological Site of Micia,
Vețel commune, Hunedoara
county, Romania

A project funded by the European Union through
the European Solidarity Corps program with the sum
of 51,614.86 euro.



About Your Host and place of activities:

The National History Museum of Romania / Muzeul Național de Istorie a României (MNIR) opened its doors to the public in 1972, as one of the most prominent institutions of its kind in South-Eastern and Central Europe, the museum is a national cultural public institution and research organization. The museum has its headquarters in a monumental building located on Calea Victoriei, no. 12, in the heart of Bucharest.

In recent years, MNIR has partnered with various key Romanian and international institutions, such as ministries, cultural institutions, research centres, and embassies. As a research institution, the museum oversees several archaeological sites, including Micia (Hunedoara County), Tărtăria (Alba County), Ostrov (Constanța County), and many others. Its specialists also work on major archaeological projects across Romania, such as those at Histria, Capidava, and Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa.



The Roman settlement of Micia (today Vețel, Hunedoara county, Romania) used to be at the beginning of the first millennium CE a great mark of communication towards the centre of Transylvania and an important defensive point of Dacia. With an area of 7 ha, Micia is a wellspring of Roman reminiscences. Today we can only imagine the splendour the Roman fort used to have with its temples, military amphitheatre, roads, thermes and necropolis complementing it. Inscriptions found at the site show that Micia used to be home for numerous Roman military troops including Legio XIII Gemina, Cohors II Flavia Commagenorum, Ala I Hispanorum Campagonum and Numerus Maurorum Miciensium. Today, the locals are only enriching the historical beauty of the place with their traditions and hospitality, waiting to offer a piece of Transylvania to every visitor that passes their way.



As a public institution, MNIR is dedicated to engaging in unconventional activities that add value to the surrounding communities. In addition to the museum's participation in the ESC program, it has its own volunteers, driven by a shared passion for culture and history, with the number of volunteers steadily growing to 40-45 annually.

Project target:

The BISCULT project aims to create a "safe haven" where participants explore European and Romanian cultures by learning about their teammates' backgrounds while sharing their own. This immersive experience fosters cultural exchange, helping volunteers observe differences, engage in meaningful discussions, and share their knowledge with both their team and home communities. By bringing together volunteers from Romania and across the EU, the project also broadens MNIR's audience and strengthens community involvement in cultural development and learning.

A key focus of BISCULT team volunteering activity is archaeology. Through excavation and preservation activities, volunteers uncover insights into Roman military presence, daily life, and interactions with local Dacian communities. These efforts not only contribute to ongoing research but also deepen participants' appreciation for archaeology's role in understanding and preserving cultural heritage. By actively engaging in historical research and conservation, volunteers become part of the process that keeps history alive, reinforcing the importance of archaeology in shaping European identity and ensuring that places like Micia continue to inspire future generations.



Three main objectives of **BISCULT**:

01

Fostering cultural diversity awareness and strengthening European identity through shared heritage experiences.

02

Enhancing participants competencies in cultural management, non-formal education, and museum engagement.

03

Expanding community outreach to promote cultural heritage preservation.



Project Information:

Name: Cultures Building Inclusion and Solidarity through Culture and Heritage
Acronym: BISCULT

Ref. No.: 2024-1-RO01-ESC51-VTJ-000214404

Project Start Date: 1.10.2024

Total Duration of the Project: 14 months

Place of activities: Micia Archaeological Site, Hunedoara county, Romania

Duration of Activity: 4 weeks

Period of Activity: 2nd – 31st of August 2025

Format: 10 foreign volunteers (EU citizens/residents) + 10 Romanian volunteers

About the activities:

The project unfolds over four weeks, each dedicated to specific activities:



Team-building exercises, introduction to NHMR, cultural marketing, and educational methodologies.



Selection of historical topics and planning of public engagement events.







Execution and monitoring of the planned activities.



Dissemination, evaluation, and intercultural discussions.

While at Micia, volunteers will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in hands-on archaeological work and cultural heritage activities, such as:

-  Assisting archaeologists in site documentation and artifact analysis.
-  Participating in workshops related to ancient Roman history and daily life.
-  Engaging with the local community to promote historical awareness.
-  Organizing public exhibitions and events highlighting Micia's significance.

The activities we offer are designed to foster the comprehensive development of our volunteers' skills and learning abilities in areas such as virtual components and digital transformation, sustainable development and climate action through green practices, and civic engagement from a democratic perspective. Additionally, the project will focus on enhancing social and cultural understanding of inclusion and diversity.

At the start of the stage, each participant will receive training on workplace safety procedures, GDPR protocols, and available legal and financial support, should they need it.

Throughout the weekly activities and the entire duration of the project, volunteers will receive additional hours dedicated to cultural mentoring, psychological support, as well as evaluation and reflection to aid their learning process.



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