

 **EDITORIAL**

This issue is dedicated to the CIAV Conference in Romania and the post conference tour. All of us who participated in this incredible trip enjoyed all the new experiences very much, the rural vernacular architecture, the remarkable churches and monasteries, the different landscapes, the way of life, but above all: the people. We have been received with warm welcomes everywhere; we have tasted the local and traditional food, accompanied with wine produced in their own vineyards and homes, which was sometimes really strong, but so nice. It is also necessary, especially for me and other colleagues who don't live in Europe, to mention the bread. We were pleasantly surprised with the traditional local bread baked in firewood ovens. It was so delicious.



The bread in Transylvania

Each one of us has so many souvenirs that most of our colleagues have been sending their pictures to share with the whole group of CIAV and friends; many of these pictures are included in this issue.

It is necessary to say once more how very grateful we are to Christoph Machat, who coordinated so many aspects of the Conference and the whole post tour visits and travel.

The CIAV Annual Report was presented by our indefatigable President Marc de Caraffe, which you may read in these pages together with the Rimetea Document on the protection of the built vernacular heritage in multicultural environments. The annual report is very important in recognizing the work of our committee during a whole year, and especially the work of Marc de Caraffe. The Rimetea Document which was signed by the CIAV President and by three ICOMOS Presidents in Romania, Hungary and Germany, is also of great importance, because, among other things, it establishes the preservation on site of vernacular heritage in multicultural areas which are threatened by economic globalization. The document also mentioned that it is "desirable that communities establish comprehensive inventories of their vernacular assets and heritage".

During the Conference we heard and witnessed many good lectures, but we would especially like to congratulate Marc de Caraffe, Christoph Machat, Hossam Mahdy and Gerardo Torres Zárate for their interesting and perfect presentations.

Our prolific writer and colleague Augusto Villalon has written a wonderful article entitled: "Gentle, surprising Transylvania", which I am sure you are going to enjoy as much as I did.

And last but not least, it is with great joy and pride that I want to share with you that the meritorious award **The Georg Dehio Prize (Georg Dehio-Kulturpreis)** is going to be given to Christoph Machat in October 2009. The prize is awarded by the German Cultural Forum for Eastern Europe.

Best regards to all friends,

Valeria Prieto

June 2009



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1. CIAV 2009, Annual Reporte

*By Marc de Caraffe
Presidente*

Welcome

Welcome to our annual meeting. First, I would like to extend the thanks of the committee to the organizers of this conference for their excellent work for organizing this venue. A special thank you should go to our esteemed colleague, Christoph Machat, for his efforts, and I am certainly look forward to the post conference tour that he has organized for us.

Recently, I had the pleasure of reading a M.A. Thesis on vernacular architecture and modern architecture by a student from Montréal. The starting point for this thesis was the annual conference that we organized in 2001. Intrigued by notion of vernacular architecture as it could be applied to modern architecture, the student reviewed the literature on the concept of vernacular architecture and concluded that the approach that was taken for the charter was valid for modern architecture. So, this indicates that the annual conferences that we organized are important and can lead to the furthering of research by academics.

Membership

Membership has continued to increase since our last meeting, particularly with members from ICOMOS Greece. This is a clear sign that the committee is in good health and is perceived as a thriving international scientific committee. According to the secretary general, CIAV has currently 100 members from 48 countries.

Advocacy

CIAV's support for the victims of natural catastrophes was expressed in a resolution that was adopted at the last General Assembly. Our support for the preservation of the historic port of Tomo, in Japan, was similarly carried. I am pleased to report that these two resolutions were, thanks to the effort of the new secretary general of ICOMOS, Bénédicte Selfslagh, forwarded to the prescribed authorities by letters that were signed by our President, Gustavo Araoz. I wish to take this occasion to thank both Bénédicte and Gustavo for their efficient work.

As one of the results of our meeting in Ifugao, in May the world heritage sites of Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras and the Cinqueterre (represented by Mariolina Besio at our meeting) will sign a twin sites agreement and will cooperate with exchange of information and expertise.

Working plan

Let me begin this section by calling your attention to the wonderful work that our secretary general, Valeria Prieto, has done with the publication of the last electronic newsletter. Thanks to her valiant efforts, it has become an important document comparable to newsletters published by major organizations. So please continue to contribute articles that may be of interest to our colleagues, as this newsletter is the most useful means for maintaining contact with all our members.

We have received in March 2009 an invitation from Gustavo Araoz to nominate a vernacular site in danger for the World Monuments Fund (WMF). I do not believe that we were able to participate in this exercise. Most vernacular sites that I know are always in danger. Is there a way for us to work on this file more efficiently in the future? I know that there is a global economic crisis, and that generally brings a stop to destruction for reconstruction purposes. It was agree during the meeting that we would be in a better position to name experts for judging applications.

Although we were most interested in participating in the International Symposium entitled Preservation in Peril, which took place in New Orleans, I do not believe that we were able to make it. I have asked to be kept informed of the proceedings of the conference, but I have not received anything yet.

The advisory committee meeting, which will take place in Malta next October, will have for theme Technological Change as it relates to Global Climate Changes. Is there something that we want to present or discuss under this heading? As for 2010, the theme will be Social Change, something that directly impacts on vernacular heritage. We need to be active on this file.

Finally, during our annual meeting in Rimetea, Romania, members of CIAV, in conjunction with ICOMOS Romania, ICOMOS Hungary and ICOMOS Germany have adopted a declaration on the protection of the built vernacular heritage in multicultural environments. This declaration, based on the CIAV Charter, will serve to protect better the architectural heritage of minorities. The text of this declaration is appended to this report.

Next Meeting

Our next annual meeting will take place in Scandinavia and will have for theme "Vernacular Crossing Borders". It will be held in the Finnskogen area of both Norway and Sweden, and it will be hosted by ICOMOS Norway, ICOMOS Sweden and ICOMOS Finland. To quote from the preliminary program: this region has been the object of many studies for more than a hundred years because of its exceptional history, vernacular heritage and traditions that can be traced back to the origins of the settlers from Finland.

The conference will explore the following questions:

- Vernacular building is a way of expression that carries messages from one generation to another and a message of belonging to a culture. When people are moving to other places how does the vernacular expression answer to the new circumstances?
- Built vernacular heritage is normally based on long traditions of the use of local materials and of their gradual refining processes. Are global markets a threat to vernacular expression?
- While saving some parts of the old and adopting some parts of the new the vernacular expression can become more dynamic and at the same time more conserved in the new circumstances. Is it true that cultures moving to new geographical areas are more conservative? How do we conserve in different countries the vernacular buildings that carry the same tradition&

Preliminary program

Monday May 31

Arrival at Elverum, Norway by train from Oslo

Introductory lecture 1 on the Finnskogen area and its historic background.

Welcome dinner

Studies and presentations of the exhibition VERNADOC by Markku Mattila and the lecturers of Vernadoc.

Tuesday June

Introductory lecture 2 on the Vernacular crossing borders

Visit to the Glomdalsmuseet in Elverum

Wednesday June 2

Lectures of the sub-theme 1: The heritage of newcomers – the Finns, and selected presentations of the sub-theme

Thursday June 3

Excursion – visiting the following farms (by bus and by foot):

Tvengsberg, Purala, Juhola, Ritamaki, Kvarntorp, Nedre Oyern, Svullrya, Norsk Skofginsk Museum

Late return to Elverum by bus

Lectures of the sub-theme 2: *The heritage of the settler generations and selected presentations of the sub-theme.*

Lectures of the sub-theme 3: *The challenge for the conservation of the multi-cultural traditions and selected presentations of the sub-theme.*

Concluding discussion

Friday June 4

CIAV annual meeting – Glomdalsmuseet

Farewell lunch

Saturday June 5

Post Conference Tours

Tour A – Norway

Roros – Trondheim – Oslo

Tour B – Sweden

Halsinge farms – Stockholm

Tour C – Finland

Wooden churches of the layman builders, Finland

Sunday June 6

Departure day

Organizers:

ICOMOS Comité international d'architecture vernaculaire CIAV

ICOMOS Norway

ICOMOS Sweden

ICOMOS Finland

Organizing committee:

Chair: Gisle Jakhelln, Norway

Members: Lena Palmqvist, Sweden, David Brand, Norway, Markku Mattila, Finland, Kirsti Kovanen,

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Closing

In closing, do not forget that we will need to renew the presidency over the next two years, as I do not intend to solicit a third mandate. Anyone interested please let me know as soon as possible.





2. Rimetea Document

By Marc de Caraffe

Presidente

Preamble

The ICOMOS CIAV together with the Romanian, Hungarian and German national ICOMOS Committees representatives gathered within the framework of the XIVth Tusnad Conference on the preservation of the built heritage, "The Vernacular and the Multi Cultural Dialogue".

Acknowledging directly on site the values of the Transylvanian built cultural heritage, as a precious contribution to the Romanian, Hungarian and German communities to the richness of the heritage of mankind,

Exploring the historic process of the cultural dialogue which lead to the development of an outstanding vernacular architecture, and learning about the present day threats, preservation challenges and vulnerabilities of vernacular heritage in Transylvania, Romania, and

Acknowledging thru the contributions of the members of the CIAV that in different ways the vernacular heritage all around the world faces challenges, threats or risks produced by the present day social economic or political environment, leading the conservation "in the full respect of its authenticity"¹ more and more difficult,

With respect to the provisions of the Charter on the built vernacular heritage where the role of that special heritage "as fundamental expression of the culture of the community, of its relationship with its territory and, in the same time, the expression of the world's cultural diversity" is clearly explained and followed by relevant principles of conservation,

Considering that from 1999 when the above mentioned charter was ratified at the 12th General assembly of ICOMOS the situation of the vernacular built heritage has been significantly influenced by powerful and sometimes dramatic phenomena of globalization, migrations and/or inter-cultural dialogue and conflicts,

Agrees about the following:

"RIMETEA DOCUMENT"

on the protection of the built vernacular heritage in multicultural environment

The threats emerging from "global socio-economic transformations" as mentioned in 1999 in the Charter of Built Vernacular Heritage appear to be more and more violent and widespread. There are no signs that "the forces of economic, cultural and architectural homogenization" will spare the vernacular structures in the near future, as they have not done until now. Our built vernacular heritage is at risk more than ever not because of its own weaknesses, but due to processes out of its possibility to manage and resist. It is then reasonable to address this threats in a coherent and strategic way, by bridging communities, planners, decision makers with the expertise of the multi-disciplinarian platform ICOMOS provides, on the bases of a comprehensive activity of assessment and evaluation programs.

¹ The Charter of Venice, Preamble

The built cultural heritage highlights today more than ever that “The diversity of cultures and heritage in our world is an irreplaceable source of spiritual and intellectual richness for all humankind. The protection and enhancement of cultural and heritage diversity in our world should be actively promoted as an essential aspect of human development”.² There is no heritage other than the vernacular architecture displaying better the cause-effect link between local community and regional policies in human and socio-economic development and effective protection. It is then reasonable to consider that solutions to the issues of the vernacular heritage preservation are to be found only in a balanced, sustainable development of communities, where tradition should be assumed, thru planning and programming mechanisms considering culture as one of the local resources for a ever increasing quality of life.

Vernacular built heritage expresses clearly that “all cultures and societies are rooted in the particular forms and means of tangible and intangible expression which constitute their heritage, and these should be respected”.³ Therefore there are no effective means to preserve vernacular heritage if immaterial heritage issues are not addressed. This is of paramount importance in multi-cultural territories, where values are not only difficult to document but also impossible to replicate once they are lost. That is why value-based preservation on site should be the proper option for vernacular built heritage in multi-cultural areas, and transfer to local or regional open-air museum considered only if this is the only and last solution for saving the vernacular heritage from an imminent and direct destruction.

Economic globalization is a threat to the vernacular built heritage, but in the same time the technical means in the field of information and communication technology brought by the global economy allows specialists and layman to better document and become aware about the values of the vernacular built heritage. Education for local community, administration clerks, religious and political leaders should profit of the huge potential on the information and communication technology. Economic globalization was brought by political developments which in the same time allow communities to make use of democratic, participatory instruments for controlling the environment according to their needs and aspirations. In this respect, traditional values materialized in the vernacular built heritage shall be inspirational for local policies in the field of rural and urban social and economic development. To this end is desirable that communities establish comprehensive inventories of their vernacular assets and heritage and encourage the local capacity for maintaining local tradition in building, agriculture, eco-tourism and craftsmanship.

Marc de Caraffe
ICOMOS CIAV

Christoph Machat
ICOMOS Germany

Nagy Gergely
ICOMOS Hungary

Sergiu Nistor
ICOMOS Romania



² Nara Document, 1994, art. 5

³ Nara Document, 1994, art. 7



CIAV FORMER PRESIDENT CHRISTOPH MACHAT TO RECEIVE GEORG DEHIO PRIZE 2009

3. CIAV Former President Christoph Machat to Receive Georg Dehio Prize 2009

Christoph Machat, ICOMOS Executive Committee member and Vice-President of ICOMOS Germany, is to receive the Georg Dehio Prize (Georg Dehio-Kulturpreis) in October 2009. The prize is awarded by the German Cultural Forum for Eastern Europe (Deutsches Kulturforum östliches Europa).

The Jury recognized Christoph Machat's lifelong commitment to and achievements in researching, documenting and preserving the architectural heritage of Transylvania (Siebenbürgen). Under his leadership, the Cultural Council of Transylvania-Saxony documented the entirety of German-influenced Cultural Landscapes in Transylvania. The resulting bilingual (German/Romanian) series of publications "Topography of Monuments in Transylvania" ("Denkmaltopographie zu Siebenbürgen"), which was edited by Mr. Machat, played a decisive role in the preservation of the historic monuments of Saxony and Transylvania and can be considered exemplary for other regions in Middle- and Eastern Europe.





4. Gentle, Surprising Transylvania

By Augusto Villalon

Philippine Daily Inquirer

First Posted 23:48:00 06/07/2009

Filed Under: Tourism, Architecture

FEELING as if no other flight had come in that afternoon, passengers filed silently out of the aircraft into the shadowless light of a summer evening, walking slowly into the emptiness of Sibiu airport in southern Romania.

Having boarded on the final leg of a long flight from Manila in bustling Munich, I was taken aback by the unexpected stillness of the airport, without any inkling that this was a foretaste of the solitude I was to experience in Transylvania, a vast geographical region that, I discovered, extended from Romania into neighboring Hungary.

Only three taxis queued at the stand outside the arrival area. I thankfully slid into the last one, sitting back for the drive into the city that passed warehouse after warehouse before coming to ominous rows of impersonal, brutalist Russian-era concrete housing blocks. It was well past six in the evening. Hardly anyone was on the streets.

Suddenly, the massive medieval fortifications surrounding the historic center of Sibiu unexpectedly came into view.

Heritage city

Circumscribed by thick brick walls is a living heritage city of Gothic churches, Renaissance buildings, Baroque palaces, and a maze of tile-roofed traditional houses on both sides of ancient crooked streets, an architectural depiction of the city's eight centuries of urban history.

Archaeologically proven to exist since 1191, Sibiu's fortifications were built in the 15th century as protection from Turkish attacks. Centuries earlier, after withdrawal of the Roman Empire in 271 AD, waves of Slav, Petcheng, Cumainan and Tartar migrants passed through the area. In the ninth century, Hungary took control of what has become modern Transylvania.

Adding to the scant Romanian and Hungarian population, a succession of kings recruited Saxon colonists from Germany, lured them away from the feudal system, granted them freedom to farm the rich land and guard the vast Transylvanian territory.

At the end of the 16th century, Transylvania fell into Ottoman control for about 90 years, after which it was annexed to the Habsburg Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Although the two World Wars did not cause much destruction, Sibiu became part of Romania when the Austro-Hungarian Empire was dissolved after World War I. The recently ended Communist era brought an acute lack of investment from which the country is trying to recover.

Sibiu, a small city of roughly 150,000 inhabitants, has an admirably preserved historic urbanscape that radiates from three adjoining squares whose architecture reflects the city's multicultural origins. Once the center of Saxon Transylvania and a major transportation hub in central Romania, restored Sibiu was named European Cultural Capital for 2007.

Historic ensemble

From the narrow streets of the lower town lined with 19th-century houses, 16th-century passages wind between houses with steps rising from the lower to the upper town, Sibiu's historic center, where at the edge of a large, cobbled plaza stands the City Hall, a splendid 1906 Jugendstil building that dominates the expansive Piata Mare (Big Square).

Next to it stands the imposing Baroque Brukenthal Palace (1785) that is now the city's major museum. Completing the historic ensemble are the Roman Catholic church (1733) and former Jesuit college (1739), both elegantly built in a gentle, nonaggressive Baroque style.

Key words

"Gentle" and "nonaggressive," I was to learn later, were to be my key words for understanding Transylvania.

Gentle was my feeling when transitioning under a dark, arched arcade tunneling under a tower while walking from Sibiu's grand Piata Mare to the smaller, more intimate Piata Mica (Small Square), whose 19th-century houses are now refitted out as small museums, lovely bed-and-breakfasts, and open-air cafés that serve the greatest pizzas or solid Romanian food hearty with dollops of sour cream and crusty bread, just right for washing down with local beer.

Meals ended with our lingering as long as we could over dessert and little cups of potent espresso.

The plaza would have been a perfect place for people watching except that there weren't many tourists or locals to watch.

Nor were there many people on the side streets leading away from the main plazas into the residential sections, which connect by tunneled arcades through old buildings to the historic center. Covered by steep, tile roofs, simple houses that have survived intact from the 18th and 19th centuries line the streets, their large wooden gates opening into leafy interior courtyards.

Outstanding is the Romanian conservation effort put into the historic center. Its totally pedestrianized core, defined by the two plazas and the major adjoining streets, is newly landscaped, paved and recobbled, with its power lines completely buried underground.

Monumental lighting bathes the buildings every night. The faultlessly restored architecture around the plazas is impeccable, a sight to see.

Conservation activity

Equally impeccable is the constant conservation activity going on in the old city, where artisans work on heritage buildings and houses, employing craftsman construction techniques in the old tradition while using handmade construction materials which are practically impossible to find in more industrialized countries today.

The respect for the heritage of historic Sibiu is admirable. Not only are existing buildings and homes restored; all exterior elements like signage, street lighting and paving are standardized.

No new architectural intrusions are visible at all. Cafés, shops, and even supermarkets are skillfully and unobtrusively inserted into street-level spaces in heritage buildings.

Because of obvious control exercised by local heritage authorities, there is a strong sense of integrity in the historic ensemble of Sibiu. Everything matches up without any unwelcome elements to jar the heritage setting.

Architectural unity, so rare and difficult to achieve, exists in the old town of Sibiu.

Heritage in the balance in old Transylvania

By Augusto Villalon

Philippine Daily Inquirer

First Posted 18:34:00 06/14/2009

Filed Under: history, Arts and Culture and Entertainment

Conclusion

THE ARCHITECTURE of Transylvanian towns, tucked into the Carpathian foothills surrounding Sibiu, is rooted in the gently rolling landscape.

Low hills, verdant with farmland pastures and deep green patches of forests climbing up the slopes, backdrop agricultural villages of clustered tile-roofed houses and barns, and form a landscape so tranquil.

Perfectly framing the scene are the distant snow-capped Carpathian Alps.

If there are few people in Sibiu, there are even less here. The haunting Transylvanian countryside is a place for solitude.

After Romania opened its borders, a majority of residents abandoned their farms and villages and relocated to industrialized Europe for employment. Because of massive migration, most village houses are empty, adding poignancy to the sense of Transylvanian solitude.

So still is the isolated valley where the small agricultural hamlet of Occolis, which dates back to 1408, that it is located at the end of a narrow dirt road an hour's drive from the highway.

In the small, loosely defined village, along a narrow creek at the bottom of the mountain slope, are scattered weathered wooden houses and barns covered with either thick thatch or wooden shingles that have stood for generations, and are still in use by the aged farmers, woodcutters and iron workers who still populate the hamlet. No younger generation, especially children, are around.

While picturesque Occolis has tradition and beauty in abundance, does it have a future?

Quaint town

Roscia Montana is another town whose future hangs in a delicate balance. A gold-mining center with tunnels dating back to the Roman era, it is a quaint town with richly detailed 18th- and 19th-century homes and buildings of strong masonry, reflecting the wealth mining has brought to the town. But the closing of the private mining industry during the Communist regime plunged the local economy into decay.

Paradoxically, the town sits on gold, which is its ultimate undoing. To be able to mine the rich vein of gold beneath the town, a multinational company has been buying up all the houses and relocating local residents to resettlement areas, in preparation for demolishing the structures to allow the start of open mining operations.

Growing numbers of houses in this small community now have plaques attached to their façades declaring ownership by the mining company. The writing is clearly on the wall, despite some resistance by a few isolated residents.

Isolation is a recurring theme in the Transylvanian landscape, well illustrated by a series of fortified medieval fortresses that either stand in melancholic isolation on mountaintops, or have, over time, evolved into the nucleus of towns and villages which have grown around them.

Inscribed on the World Heritage List, the 13th-century fortress of Câlnic is one of a string of hauntingly beautiful medieval fortresses that once was Transylvania's main defense line.

Câlnic Fortress stands on a low hill at the center of the village with the same name. Once surrounded by a moat, it has massive wooden doors that protect the entrance into the small fort containing a keep (a residential tower) and a small chapel with some open space around them.

For added protection, wooden ramparts were constructed along the tops of the walls. Originally the heavy-walled brick-and-stone fort was built as a residence for a noble family, who sold it to the villagers in 1411 when Câlnic became a peasant fortress maintained by the local residents. It was where they took shelter during sieges.

Seat of power

The most extensive of all was the castle-fortress of Alba Iulia, seat of power and faith in 1009 when Saint King Stephen of Hungary founded the Bishopric of Alba Iulia, whose realm of influence included the entire southern Transylvania.

Alba Iulia later became the capital of the region when Transylvanian princes took up residence there and transformed it into the most important garrison in Transylvania. Today it is considered the most spectacular example of military architecture preserved up to this time.

The modern city of Alba Iulia has grown around the enormous fortress that contains a Roman Catholic cathedral built in stages from the 11th to the 18th century, administrative buildings and the 18th-century Batthyaneum Library, a Baroque-style building that holds an extensive collection of irreplaceable books among its 55,000 volumes.

The Apor Palace is the jewel of the fortress. The building's nucleus is a Gothic construction attached to the medieval walls, transformed and enlarged in the early 18th century in the Renaissance style. When it became the residency of the garrison's commanding general, the palace was remodeled once again, making it the first Baroque palace in Transylvania.

Once again construction activity is happening at the palace, this time to reuse it and convert it into a luxury hotel.

The well-preserved heritage of Transylvania is at a crossroads. Faced with massive migration which has left villages practically deserted, it asks the question: Is conservation the best means to bring life and livelihood back to the villages?

Although tourism is on the rise, what price will its economic effects exact on the local lifestyle?

The real question seems to be how heritage can be made relevant to the 21st-century needs of Transylvania.

E-mail the author at pride.place@gmail.com.



5. Souvenirs from Transylvania

By Colleagues and participants



*Everybody happy at the Conference Hotel in Coltesti, close to Rimetea
Photo by Marc*





Coffee break at the conference hotel. Photo by Marc



Everybody enjoy sunshine at the Coltesti Hotel. Photo by Marc



Lunch Time. Photos by Marc

Dear Everyone,

Being together with you in Transylvania was a true pleasure. Thanks for your wonderful company that was truly enjoyable.

I have a favor to ask - if you happen to have a picture of the CIAV officers seated at the head table during our committee meeting, may I have a copy please? It is needed for the ICOMOS Philippines webpage. Thanks in advance for your help.

Best regards as always, and until we see each other again next year in Norway!!

Augusto

June 6 2009



*Valeria taking pictures
Photo by Augusto*



Working hard at the Conference. Photo by Gisle



Serving el Aqua de Vita by our Romanian friends. Photo by Gisle



Maria Ines, Gerardo and Valeria under the sun. Photo by Hossam

Hello all:

Here are some pics on our group touring Transylvania. If it can be a souvenirs, it is my pleasure. Nice meeting you there.

Kwangsik Kim



Visiting Rosia Montana



Entrance to the Gold Mine of Rosia Montana



At the Hotel Szekelly in Coltesti during the Conference



The group stop at the very much vernacular village of Ocolis Aklos



The house where Christoph was born in Sighisoara

Some of the people we meet, through whom we could better understand the roots of what we saw.

Arie & Sara

Pictures from Arie collection:



Key to our hearat -n



Maeno San and friend



Old lady



Old and happy



One more friend on the road

Pictures from Arie collection:



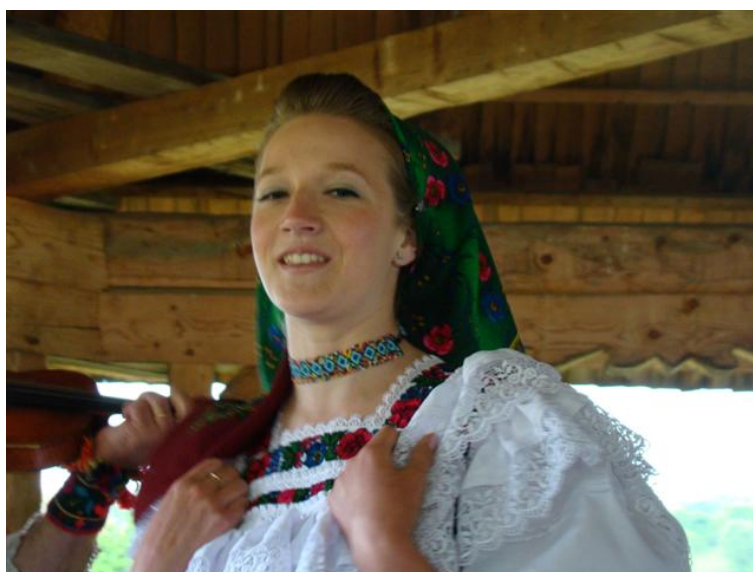
Dinner at the end of the conference



Traditional dance during reception dinner at Rimetea



Reception at the Open Air Museum of Sighetu Marmatiei



A beautiful girl