



MIHAI
EMINESCU
TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

MIHAI EMINESCU TRUST



Website

www.mihaieminescutrust.ro

Special thanks

- The Horizon Foundation in the Netherlands
- The Mihai Eminescu Trust in London
- Andreea and Florin Miron
- Afi Park Offices 4&5 S.R.L.
- The German Association Wir in Europa
- Markus Schmitz
- Ion Tudor



Thank you

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continued endorsement and generosity in supporting the organization's activities. Your contributions are essential to fulfilling our mission and creating a real impact in the communities we serve.



Trust and dedication

Every project we undertake is enabled by the trust and resources you bestow on us. We assure you that every step forward is possible thanks to your dedication and commitment to our causes.



Partnership

Thank you for your extraordinary partnership and collaboration. We are honoured to have you by our side in this endeavour and hope that we will continue building a better future for Romania's cultural and natural heritage together.

We thank you for the initiative and involvement you have shown.

We hope you are proud of the work we are doing together and will continue to be by our side in 2025!



MET Friends Our trusted partners, who annually support the work of the MET

Our thanks also go to the countless MET friends, from all corners of the country and beyond, who choose to support our projects by transferring 3.5% of their income tax and to the companies that allocate part of their profit tax to us.

We thank you all and want you to know that you form part of our team, those who motivate and support us to continue what we do. Without your goodwill, the work of the MET team could not be sustained.



A few words

from the MET board



In these last days of 2024, each of us is probably making a sort of retrospective of this year. We at the Mihai Eminescu Trust also do this. And this year, we can once again be pleased with our achievements and very proud of our recognitions.

The three awards we received during the ceremony organised at the Romanian Athenaeum, on 7 October, 2024, for the restoration and revitalisation of the Fortified Saxon Church in Alma Vii, both from the prestigious Europa Nostra organisation and from the European Commission, represent a great appreciation for each member of the MET team and for all our craftsmen and collaborators, who contributed to the project.

During the gala, we literally felt how each member of the audience celebrated with us. Unique, uplifting moments, full of joy, gratitude and pride. I hope that many Romanian citizens are proud that a project from our country was so appreciated by the Europa Nostra jury, even though all 206 projects submitted by organisations from all over Europe were very good.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you! For your contribution to the over 10,000 votes obtained for our project, which also brought us the Public Choice Award. These awards represent the highest European recognition in the field of cultural heritage. This makes us even more responsible for our future actions and projects within our communities.

Thank you for the excellent collaboration with each of you! For the partnerships of trust, support and friendship, which mean so much to us.

I really hope to see you all again in 2025, for another festive moment, when we will celebrate together 25 years of activity and achievements of the Mihai Eminescu Trust team.

Until then, I wish you a happy, healthy and European New Year!

Caroline Fernolend,
President of the
Mihai Eminescu Trust



Our mission and vision

We at MET apply an integrated approach to sustainable development that involves and empowers citizens, contributing to preserving the authenticity of heritage and harmonising it with the community's needs.

◆ MET Vision

MET's vision is to generate pride and well-being among community members by building a sustainable future together with them by highlighting cultural and natural heritage.

◆ MET Mission

Our mission is to revitalise and empower local communities in Romania by underpinning cultural and natural heritage, multicultural integration and encouraging the local economy.



Europa Nostra Awards



For the remarkable restoration and revitalisation of the Fortified Church Ensemble in Alma Vii, our project was among the winners of the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2024, and the grand winner of the year at the [2024 European Heritage Summit](#), having been awarded both the Grand Prix in the Conservation and Adaptive Reuse category and the 2024 Public Choice Award.



This project, which began almost 14 years ago, could not have been realised without the contribution of an extraordinary community, united and committed to the desire to bring their village back to life, as well as the Higher Consistory of the Lutheran Church of Sibiu and the District Consistory of Mediaş, who trusted us to restore this historical monument. With the support of MET London, the Horizon Foundation, Colin Richards, EEA Grants, and

The Ambassadorial Fund for Cultural Preservation of the American Embassy (AFCP), Alongside with MET, managed to bring together architects, restoration specialists, skilled builders, exceptional craftsmen, and other heritage enthusiasts and advocates, whose work and perseverance led to the nomination of the project and, ultimately, the winning of all three awards.

These high European recognitions belong to you as well – to those who made this project possible, to the supporters who voted for the project, and of course, to the Saxon ancestors who, with tremendous effort, built this magnificent place of worship.



"This project has restored a cultural landmark that represents centuries of history and craftsmanship in the picturesque village of Alma Vii in Transylvania. The comprehensive restoration not only preserved the architectural and historical integrity of the church but also strengthened the local community and promoted the development of sustainable tourism." was the conclusion of the independent Europa Nostra jury.



Visit of Her Excellency Ms. Kathleen Kavalec, United States Ambassador to Romania

We were delighted to welcome Her Excellency Ms. Kathleen Kavalec and to present to her the results of the restoration and functional conversion project of the Fortified Church in Alma Vii, funded by the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP).

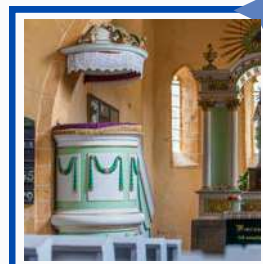


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Another “award” for the Fortified Church in Alma Vii

We could say that the year 2024 also brought us a fourth award: we managed to access funds through the so-called Historical Monuments Stamp, Subprogramme IV Religious Buildings, awarded by the Romanian National Heritage Institute, for the restoration of the altarpiece and wooden pulpit, the sacristy, the clock mechanism in the Bell Tower, the organ, as well as the arrangement and accessibility of the attic.

With this intervention, we can consider the restoration project to be completed, however our work will not stop here. Together with the members of the community association from Alma Vii, with special contribution of Cosmin Florea, we have organised exhibitions in the last two years featuring artists Ștefan Câlția and the Ilfoveanu family, and in August, we held the Alma Vii Fortress Days, an event we hope will grow in significance year after year.





Horizon Projects

Horizon Foundation is an organization based in the Netherlands and one of our close partners. Since 2000, at the very beginning of our activities, we have successfully engaged the members of the Horizon Foundation's Board of Directors to support our work. Since then, their continuous support has demonstrated their trust in our actions and mission to revitalize local communities in Romania by highlighting cultural and natural heritage.

Archita no. 284

This year, we continued the restoration process of the household at **Archita no. 284**, carrying out extensive work on the house and its adjacent buildings, where we are in the process of completing rooms for the MET's volunteers who assist us in supporting activities with the community members of Archita.

This year, we also began the restoration of the main house, where we will set up guest rooms for the tourists we expect to welcome in Archita.

Parish house in Bunești

The design team, led by architect Cosmin Pavel, is working intensively on the technical project for the **Parish house in Bunești**. We are trying to find the best restoration options and sustainable uses for this building complex.

We have submitted the application for listing it as a historical monument to ensure a higher level of protection for the area in the immediate vicinity of the fortified church. We hope this will help us find more appropriate funding solutions, both for the restoration of the entire house and for highlighting the entire property, which includes several outbuildings and a large, charming garden.



Horizon Visit

In November, the members of HORIZON visited and monitored the progress of these works, encouraging these initiatives and contributing with very valuable ideas and advice.



MET London

Is supporting us for the restoration project of the barn at Viscri no. 63, turning it into a community space.

In fact, this barn is the largest barn of a household in Viscri, and we are pleased to be working together with the craftsmen led by Peter Gyula, who are highly skilled.

The project was supported by 58 volunteers from Verein zur Kunst- und Kulturförderung in den Neuen Ländern E.V. from Germany, who organise volunteering activities every year during the Ascension weekend in May in various countries across Europe. This year, they chose Romania/Viscri/barn no. 63.

It was a unique experience for both the MET team and the team of craftsmen, as we managed to find tasks for so many volunteers working simultaneously.

We were all surprised and very pleased with the exceptional results achieved in this joint effort.

A big thank you to the volunteers, and we hope to repeat such activities in the future.



MET London

We are grateful that MET London supports this project with €50,000 annually until we complete the restoration and arrangement of the house.

This year, we finalised the technical-economic documentation and the associated studies (technical expertise, geo study, topographical study, support wall expertise towards the stream) and obtained the building permit.

Rares Dudaş, together with his team from ş, managed to clear all the vegetation and collect all the waste from the house, yard, and cellar. The next step was to demolish all the walls that could no longer be saved and to completely rebuild the roof of the main house using traditional materials.



Did you know that throughout Europe, the Buxus plant has been attacked by a disease and destroyed? Unfortunately, it has also reached our garden at the manor in Mălâncrav.

This spring, the members of the MET foundation team, together with a group of scouts from Mediaş, planted Prunus Lauro Cerasus in the place where the Buxus plants once stood.



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Faro Network - annual meeting in Romania 7th to 11th October

Between 7th and 11th October 2024 the Council of Europe organised the annual meeting of the European network "FARO NETWORK", together with the two members from Romania/Viscri (Cristian Radu and Caroline Fernolend).

The event began in Bucharest and continued in Viscri, Sighișoara, and Alma Vii. Since 2014, the revitalisation efforts of the MET Foundation in Viscri have been recognised and promoted by the Council of Europe as an example of good practice in implementing the principles of the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (the Faro Convention).

In line with the convention, Viscri stands out especially for its approach to enhancing existing heritage, in collaboration with and for the benefit of every community member who actively participates.

We are proud that our approach, which involves and empowers the local community in preserving and valuing the existing heritage to improve quality of life, is recognised at a European level.

We hope that, soon, the Government of Romania and the responsible institutions in our country will complete the necessary steps for the ratification and signing of the Faro Convention.

This act will illustrate the potential added value for civil society heritage initiatives.

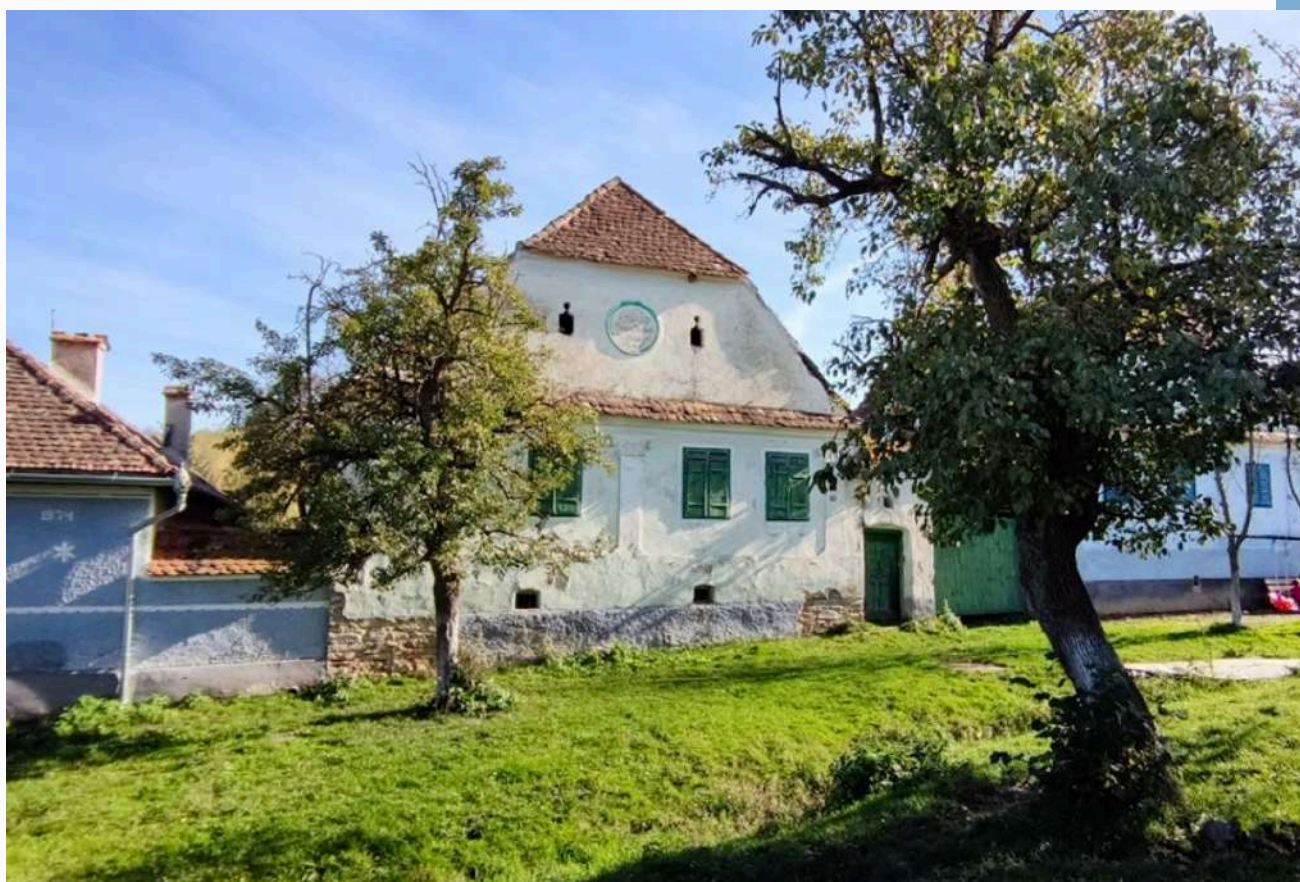


Our Viscri Project - Casa noastra Viscri



We have launched a new restoration project for a traditional household in Viscri, with the aim of transforming it into a multifunctional community center.

Thanks to the Historical Monuments Stamp programme, alongside our partner, Braşov County Council, we have completed the technical restoration project and successfully secured additional funding from the European Union through the Central Region Programme, Measure 7: A Region with Sustainable Tourism, to fully restore and reopen the gates of our house in Viscri No. 140 to both the local community and visitors.



The project, which we named **"Our Viscri Home – Restoration and Functional Conversion of a Saxon Household into a Multifunctional Public Community Space"** will span over three years and will include construction work, facility outfitting, and numerous activities to be held after its completion.

This year, we successfully completed the 3D reconstruction of the house prior to the interventions ([view here](#)).

After the restoration is complete, we will conduct a new 3D scan to provide a clear and, detailed image of the entire restoration process.

Additionally, we have begun the procurement process for the execution of the works, with construction expected to commence no later than April 2025.

The house will function as a **museum**, a space for **workshops**, and a **venue** for any community activities, with only our imagination being the limit.

Moreover, this space will be open to all initiatives, accommodating both national and international activities.

The Urban Health Oasis

With the help of a grant from the Green Spaces Programme, Urban Permaculture Component, financed by MOL and the The Foundation for Partnership, we organised gardening and nutrition courses and established an urban garden at the Zaharia Boiu Secondary School in Sighişoara.

The young participants learned how to design, maintain, and enjoy their own garden, a skill we consider to be of exceptional importance.



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MeET Heritage Summer School 02



The **MeET Heritage** Summer School is now in its second edition. This year, students from architecture universities had the opportunity to work hands-on with traditional tools and materials, actively participating in the restoration of a building listed as a historical monument, namely the **Șerbu House** in the Sighișoara Citadel.

As MET was successful in being awarded financing for the restoration of this house in the Sighișoara Citadel through the Historical Monuments Stamp, Restoration Subprogram, next year we will select a new property to be included in the rehabilitation activities for **MeET Heritage 03**.



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Activities in the Butchers' Tower and Bastion



This year, the MET team successfully organized events and workshops for children in the Butchers' Bastion, funded from our own resources.

The team led workshops in decoupage (napkin technique), collaborative painting, and textile painting.

With the invaluable help of our volunteers, we conducted photography art courses with Alexandru Hossu, a furniture restoration workshop, thanks to Monica Manu, as well as a pottery workshop organised in collaboration with the Hopa Association, as part of the "Villages, Arts & Plants" project.

Additionally, reading and creative drawing workshops were held in partnership with the NABU organization.

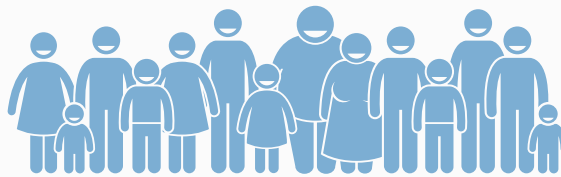


And numerous other activities

- Emergency interventions at house nr.36 in Viscri
- Facade and wooden gate restoration of the guesthouse in Crit nr.217
- Ridendo Street Theater Festival – 1st Edition.
- Museum Night in the Villages, featuring the Fortified Saxon Church in Alma Vii.
- Cartoon screenings for children in Archita.
- Acquisition and commencement of the technical rehabilitation project for the property located at No. 13 Cojocarilor Street, near the Butchers' Tower.
- Workshop for the evaluation of the INTERCORUM project, aimed at identifying funding opportunities to implement the measures proposed by IfaS in collaboration with MET. The goal is to secure funding to develop an 'energy-resilient village' as part of the project.

And in the Butchers' Bastion in Sighișoara:

- Concert performed by the choir of the non-profit charity association InterCoral Jena e.V. from Germany.
- Mini Week of Medieval Music, an event during which the bands Truverii, Trei Parale, Peregrinii, and Nicolae Szekely delighted the audience with medieval and reinterpreted music, alongside a museum of medieval instruments organized in the Butchers' Tower.



What 2025 will bring

25 years of activity of MET Romania

In addition to our ongoing projects, we aim to do the following:

- Complete the process of securing historical monument status for the Parish House in Bunești and the Parish House in Alma Vii, for which we have secured funding to develop the technical rehabilitation projects.
- Commence construction work for the Heritage HUB project – "Restoration, Conservation, Enhancement, and Re-Functionalisation of the Șerbu House," a project for which we have signed a funding agreement through the Historical Monuments Stamp, Restoration Subprogramme.
- Continue the workshops at the Butchers' Bastion.
- Organise the Alma Vii Fortress Days and the Harvest Day in Archita.
- Pursue various other initiatives for which we are in the process of securing funding."

