



Pro Patrimonio Foundation

Europa Nostra's Voice in Romania

ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

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FOREWORD

Looking back with lucidity. Pro Patrimonio at the age of 25

The rationale behind the creation of Pro Patrimonio Rin 2000, the balanced adaptation to the local context, the strategic flexibility and the long-lasting and impactful projects show that the organization has proven its usefulness.

The essential idea the founding architect Șerban Cantacuzino had should be restated: the foundation was created using the Anglo-Saxon National Trust model, which has adapted over time due to the completely different situation between British and Romanian society.

Pro Patrimonio has developed a progressive strategy, starting from seemingly minor issues of information and debate, and succeeding in creating a rather important circle of interest – Bucharest, Brasov, Câmpulung. Then came the second stage: the decisive step of saving the buildings, backed up by the principle asserted by Șerban Cantacuzino – the protection of monuments of particular importance through donations. The access to donors generated a certain kind of knowledge linked to social relations, created a group of supportive members outside Romania and influenced other organizations to do similar things. I am referring to a networking cooperation process, like the ever-present Pro Patrimonio branches in England and France.

Pro Patrimonio has not stopped, the strategy has naturally evolved towards issues raised at territorial level. The first project was 60 Wooden Churches, which started in 2009 from a simple observation: in rural areas there are values that pointwise may seem small, but which become a very precious heritage, when seen as a whole. They could be saved only taken as a whole and the case of the Bears' little church – which was awarded multiple prizes in 2021 – is a perfect example, based on a slow process in which collaborators

and volunteers worked side by side with passion.

Pro Patrimonio applies its strategy in a flexible and exploration-based manner. How do we start a project without knowing how it ends? is, in fact, the first question about how we manage and what we do after a project is completed. The idea is not to leave the place, but to pass on values and knowledge to local communities; this is how the heritage education project came about. Good heritage administration starts with education as the spearhead and the tool that can pass on a one-off effort in the long term.

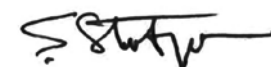
Another principle of action is reciprocity in behaviour towards heritage that you cannot maintain but you know you have to pass on, sometimes in borderline situations. Internally, we look for solutions based on common sense and normal gestures in relation to values, transmissibility, maintenance and correct use of heritage, nothing excessive (projects such as the study of historic plasterwork, maintenance of a church, etc.).

We did not segregate (by profession, age, function) in Pro Patrimonio projects. We worked with whom we could and adapted to each case. Romania is stratified, there are segregations and differences of perception in terms of history, tradition, patriotism, responsibilities, which makes a whole series of losses unexpected and unnecessary. It is a different understanding of values.

We cannot be indifferent to the destruction of national heritage and that of neighbouring countries. Heritage has no borders; it is a normal concern.

In the long term, we want to pass on the Pro Patrimonio system that will be metabolized as a model at a general level, where the concern for heritage becomes a normality.

Șerban Sturdza
January 2025



Vision

Architecture serves society. Saving heritage buildings and naturally integrating them in the economy of contemporary life, education for young people, recovered crafts and strengthened communities are the fundamental areas where Pro Patrimonio Foundation is extremely active.

The foundation searches, designs models, finds and offers solutions for heritage as an economic, cultural and environmental resource. Pro Patrimonio is a private non-profit organization founded in 2000, which offered through its projects expertise or direct assistance, upon request, where state institutions showed neglect or were not interested in intervening.

In the vision of the Pro Patrimonio Foundation, tradition is not a set of rigid values, it teaches us to learn about our own identity and culture that has shaped us, continues shaping us now and invites us to a balanced and practical way of critical thinking adapted to contemporary life. Thus, it encourages us to innovate, which applies to the cultural landscape to which we belong.

One of the fundamental objectives for which the Pro Patrimonio Foundation carries out a sustained activity involves the education and information of owners, communities and the general public in a spirit of respect for heritage buildings and historic sites.

What We Do

The foundation carries out a series of complex projects that span several years and whose main objective is the conservation, saving and reactivation of cultural heritage, especially architectural. The actions focus on practical projects for heritage protection and rehabilitation, as well as on the involvement and raising awareness in communities regarding their own identity, memory and the value of their cultural heritage.

An important part of the activities initiated by Pro Patrimonio is addressed especially to children and young people in sometimes poor and off-balance areas where we carry out projects to save, conserve and rehabilitate the architectural heritage.

The workshops aim at direct education and learning through experiment and creativity, regarding the heritage of architecture, memory, local identity, relationships between people, nature, buildings and cultural values.

The foundation is currently running several programs of national and international importance, along with a permanent advocacy activity with the authorities and consulting and information for the general public on Baukultur (built environment culture).

What We Need

The foundation's activity needs financial support and human resources. The period we all live in is extremely difficult for society. Culture, education and heritage values are part of the environment we live in and are essential for wellbeing – which includes a quality life –, for healthy and sustainable cities, for a mature and responsible society.

Our entire approach – all civic and administrative activity, program development, as well as the development of projects we undertake – is the result of a joint effort, supported financially and in nature by private entities or by winning project competitions.

We want to increase the community around our business and disseminate Pro Patrimonio examples, ideas and values.

In order for this to happen, we need support: you can become a member, you can donate, you can voluntarily support projects, and you can further promote our ideas and activities!

Team

Permanent team in Bucharest



RALUCA MUNTEANU

Project coordinator for the foundation since 2011, architect with 20 years of experience in the field of architecture. Graduate of the Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, Master's course from the Fachhochschule in Cologne through a DAAD scholarship, Conservation and wood restoration techniques course organized by Riksantikvaren Norway and ICCROM, from June 2020 expert member of ICOMOS.



MIRELA DUCULESCU

Volunteer since 2011 / Pro Patrimonio program coordinator since 2016, art historian, PhD lecturer at the National University of Arts in Bucharest. Research activity in the history of architecture and design, author and publisher of books and specialized articles, curator of national and international exhibitions of architecture and design, jury in design competitions, interested in the revitalization of architectural heritage, crafts, urban regeneration and public space.



RALUCA MARTIŞ

Communication and PR manager for the foundation since 2017, engineer and economist, 20 years of MARCOM experience. Her responsibilities include the integrated communication of Pro Patrimonio and the distinct communication for projects; creating editorial content for the foundation's newsletters and constant communication. Passionate about heritage, architecture and society, she has been immersed for over 18 years in supporting and creating bridges between these fields and the business environment.



ANDREEA MACHIDON

Coordinator of educational programs since 2015, event organizer and coordinator of the Honest Goods project in 2016, interior designer, graduate of UAUIM Bucharest and Master student of the Adrianea Academy of Architecture and Archeology in Rome. Specialized in cultural management, trainer of educational programs for children ("De-a arhitectura", EEMATICO & Himalaya Travel), tourist-mountain guide, project coordinator in the Historical Garden project.



ADRIAN HARIGA

Program coordinator since 2017, sociologist, with over 150 projects, conferences, exhibitions and cultural events implemented in the last 18 years, interested in the use and capitalization of heritage objectives, local community development, education and digitalization.



SORINA DUMITRU

After a 24-year career in the movie industry, she is returning to an older passion - heritage buildings. By coordinating the fundraising department, Sorina hopes to be able to help save dilapidated monuments and preserve them for future generations.

FLORENTINA TRANDAFIR

Director economic al Pro Patrimonio din anul 2004, economist licențiat în finanțe, bănci, contabilitate; a lucrat ca economist la postul de radio Guerrilla, a fost director economic la Ziarul Cotidianul și contabil-șef la Realitatea Media Together, în prezent este director economic la Rezolvator Team.

Permanent remote team

Neamțu Manor in Olari, OT:
Mariana Stancu, administrator
Nicolae Vărzaru & Dan Olaru, carekeepers
Laura-Cristina Barbu, local coordinator
„Future Acceleration Program”

Golescu Villa in Câmpulung, AG:
Lucica Muraru, administrator

Enescu House in Mihăileni, BT:
Paula Gavriluță, music teacher
Adelina Achiței-Ifrim/ Iustina Dănilă, local coordinators, „Future Acceleration Program”
Ruben Mardaru, administrator

Other close collaborators

Mona Petre, graphic design & digitalization
Mihai Puică-Petrescu, ducation program collaborator
Cristian Popescu, lawyer, juridic consultant
Ruxandra Sacaliș, architect, documentation collaborator
Ana Chiricuță, restaurator
Marius Moldovan, art historian
Smaranda Ilie, Andreea Tincea, Luiza Simion, Anamaria Apostoiu și Irina Novac, trainers for the education workshops in Enescu House,
Alin Iacob, video editing and production
Izabel Prundaru și Sorin Prundaru, caretakers of the Golescu park
Florin Ganea, wood carpenter
Zenovia Popa, Nona Henți, translations
Cristian Dorobățescu, IT & programming aid

Board



ȘERBAN STURDZA (b. 1947)

vice-president of PP Romania since 2010, well-known architect and restoration specialist, President of the Order of Romanian Architects (2002-2008), correspondent member of the Romanian Academy / Department for Art, Architecture & the Audiovisual (2010), promoter of learning through experimental workshops, interested in crafts, cultural routes, urban regeneration & public-space rehabilitation. Over time, he has gathered around him interdisciplinary communities in the spirit of cultural landscape.



NICOLAE RAȚIU (b. 1948)

Founder of Pro Patrimonio and Chairman of the directive board of Pro Patrimonio Romania, university degree in Naval Transport and Economy, businessman, philanthropist and lover of Romania, son of former Peasant's Party leader Ion Rațiu. President of the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation, of the Ratiu Center for Democracy in Turda, of the Romanian Cultural Center in London, Member of the Order of the British Empire (2015).



CAROLINE D'ASSAY (b. 1951)

President of Pro Patrimonio France, member of Pro Patrimonio Romania directive board, painting restoration specialist, tireless ambassador of Romanian built heritage and craftwork.



COSTIN BORC (b. 1965)

Member of Pro Patrimonio's directive board, graduate of the Polytechnic University of Bucharest with a diploma in Energy Engineering (1989), MA and PhD at the University of Wisconsin Madison (1997 and 2001). Since 2000, he has been working in the private business environment.



ANDREI POPOVICI (b. 1973)

Member of Pro Patrimonio's directive board; diploma in Computer Science from Darmstadt Technical University, Germany, PhD at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, specialist in extensive transformation programs in the telecom and financial sectors.



In memoriam

ȘERBAN CANTACUZINO (1928-2018†)

Founder of Pro Patrimonio, architect, historian and critic of architecture, son of George Matei Cantacuzino (1899-1960, a great personality who left a strong mark on Romanian architectural modernism), member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE, UK) (1988), executive editor of the reputed magazine Architectural Review specialist in heritage conservation, editor and author of valuable specialized books, awarded for his dedicated services at the European Prize for Cultural Heritage (2008).



In memoriam

MARINA STURDZA (1944-2017†)

Member of the Pro Patrimonio Board of Directors, awarded for her work in the field of child protection with Save The Children Prize (România, 2010), winner of the EU European Women of Achievement Humanitarian Award (2005).

Advisory Board



ALEXANDRU TOMESCU (b. 1976)

Ex-member of Pro Patrimonio's directive board, outstanding Romanian violinist, winner of several national and international awards in classical music festivals; involved in saving architectural heritage through concerts and music workshops.



NICOLAS TRIBOI (b. 1979)

Ex-member of the Pro Patrimonio directive board, urban landscape planner, was formed at the French School of Blois. Since 2001, he has been working in Romania in the field of landscaping on various projects, being well-acquainted with the Romanian issues related to landscape.

Projects



* Pro Patrimonio property.

60 Wooden Churches



The program began in 2009 and consists of emergency interventions and technical advice for wooden churches in 4 counties (Vâlcea, Gorj, Sibiu, Hunedoara), most of them cemetery chapels, often abandoned, all classified as historical monuments and in a serious state of structural and artistic degradation.

The program is carried out in partnership with the Order of Architects of Romania, the National University of Arts in Bucharest, World Monuments Funds and is included on the list 7 most endangered al Europa Nostra.

The name 60 Wooden Churches suggests the scale of the phenomenon; in reality, the reserve of wooden churches identified and taken into account is much larger. First aid-type actions take

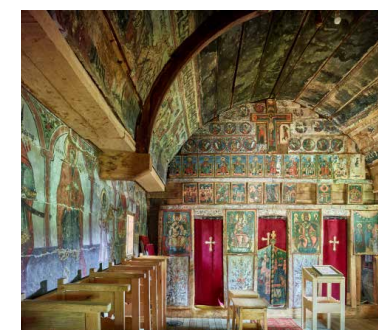
place with a lot of voluntary work on the part of priests and young people, with funds from private donations and with the involvement of the local community. All these rescue operations also have a social component, which aims to reintegrate the church as a valuable heritage object in the life of the parish, through the reopening, use and constant maintenance of the building.

1. Wooden Church in Urși, photo Camil Iamandescu;
2. Iconostasis' restoration for the Șirineasa Wooden Church, photo UNARTE

Wooden Church in Șirineasa, Vâlcea County

Included since 2014 in the project 60 Wooden Churches (next to the church in Urși, 10 km away) the wooden church in the cemetery of Șirineasa village, Vâlcea county (19th century), is a special case, which incorporates rare techniques in the construction system: a plastered and painted vault, made on wickerwork; the church plan imitates the three-lobed plan of wall churches (with three apses), a solution very rare in wooden churches; foundation and buttresses (on the west side) made of brick.

- **January:** The protective superstructure for the church in Șirineasa is completed. With its double role of protection and intervention, it will also be used as scaffolding for further documentation and conservation work.
- **June:** Monuments included in Pro Patrimonio projects are being documented by journalist Jeremy Musson of the British publication Country Life, along with John Goodall and Paul Highnam. He visited some of the houses and historic sites under Pro Patrimonio care (Villa Golescu, the Saxon house at 18 Viscri, the wooden churches of Șirineasa and Urși) to produce a photographic material. As a result, the best practice example of the Wooden Church of Urși is presented to the international public in the November issue of the British magazine.
- **October:** With the help of the Bucharest National University of Arts, the iconostasis of Șirineasa is dismantled and transported to Bucharest for restoration at the Department of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art. The filigree carved iconostasis, whose age is unclear, is probably the most valuable heritage asset. It most plausibly belongs to a period before the church was built (18th century?) and may have been altered to fit into the new construction.



Pag. 14. 1. Șirineasa Wooden Church protection structure, photo archive Pro Patrimonio ;
Pag. 15. 2., 3. Șirineasa Wooden Church: iconostasis' restoration, photo UNARTE;
4. Country Life article.

The interior with the painted barrel vault facing towards the iconostasis, which screens the altar from the nave. The nave is covered during the restoration work with a temporary structure.

Wooden walls restored

The painted church of the Annunciation and the Archangel Michael, Urși, Vâlcea County, Romania, has been the object of an heroic 10-year restoration programme, as John Goodall discovers

Photographs by Paul Highnam

UNARTE

Education for Heritage

One of the fundamental objectives for which the Pro Patrimonio Foundation carries out a sustained, constantly diversified activity is to educate and inform owners, communities and the general public in the spirit of respect for heritage buildings and historical sites.

Education is correlated with improving and expanding public access to historical monuments and the built fund.

Naturally, all our activities, put into practice through many workshops with

themes growing in terms of variation, aim at direct education and learning, through experiment and creativity, about the heritage of architecture, memory, local identity, relationships between people, buildings and cultural values.

A large part of the workshops initiated by Pro Patrimonio are addressed especially to children and young people in areas, sometimes poor and destructured, where we carry out projects to save, preserve and rehabilitate the architectural heritage (Golescu Villa in Câmpulung, Neamțu Manor in Olari, Enescu House in Mihăileni, etc.).



1, 2. Shots during heritage education workshops at Vila Golescu, photo archive of Pro Patrimonio

Heritage Caravan

- **March:** Start of the project „Heritage Kit and Caravan - Houses and Communities Working Together”, made by Pro Patrimonio Foundation, supported by the Romanian Order of Architects from the architectural stamp and co-financed by AFCN, with the support of UiPath Foundation, which will run from 2024 to June 2025. 125 children mainly from rural areas have the opportunity to learn directly through experimentation and creativity about architectural heritage, local memory and identity, nature, buildings, relationships between people and cultural values.
- **April - June:** Work is underway to produce materials with which trainers and children will explore the Enescu House in the village of Mihăileni, Botoșani county; the peasant house of 18 Viscri, Brașov county; Villa Golescu, Câmpulung Muscel, Argeș county; Neamțu Manor, Olari village, Olt county; the Urși church, Vâlcea county, and another surprise house.
- **June:** A new graphic identity is designed for the Heritage Education Program. A new resource is added for visitors to Câmpulung: „Exploration Map of Câmpulung Muscel town, Berechet Map”.
- **September - October:** Our team sets out on an educational caravan with five workstations over 20 days. Successive camps and community days are dedicated to the five Pro Patrimonio communities: Enescu House, Mihăileni, Botoșani county; 18 Viscri House, Viscri, Brașov county; Vila Golescu, Câmpulung Muscel, Argeș county; Wooden Church in Pojogi, Vâlcea county; and Neamțu Manor, Olari village, Olt county.
- **October - November:** The Foundation sent heritage kit parcels to the 125 children in the program. The „season of the kit-workshops opens at Vila Golescu with DIY and „bad weather” interior scenarios for the heritage buildings in the project. 33 children from Câmpulung and Lerești participate in the 2-day demonstration workshop at Golescu Villa. Videos are taken of the assembly process and details of kit assembly, and the videos are sent to children in the other communities so that they too can have guidance in making the materials received.
- **December:** Christmas Fairs are organized for the first time with the objects and decorations made by the children in the workshops. Each of the five communities organizes locally and some of them send the money raised to social causes. A video of the 2024 educational project is made.

1., 3., 4. Shots during heritage education workshops, photo archive of Pro Patrimonio; 2. Poster.



Enescu House



The rehabilitation project of George Enescu's House in Mihaileni, BT, started in 2013 from the initiative of pianist Raluca Știrbăț, president of the George Enescu International Society in Vienna. The adobe building has not only memorial value, it is also an expression of the vernacular architecture of the first half of the 19th century.

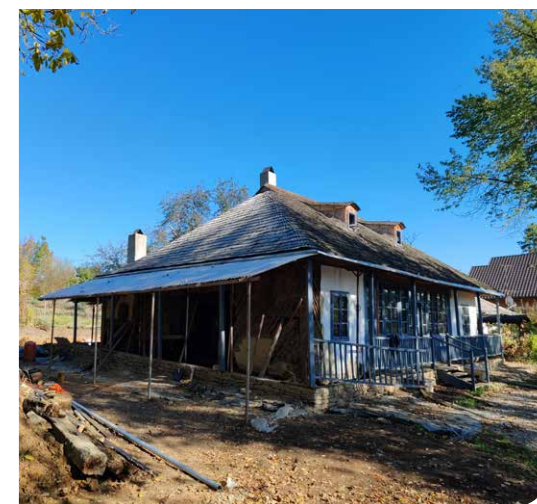
Since 2014, the Pro Patrimonio Foundation has coordinated the conservation process, involving volunteers from all over the country, the community and the central and local administration. By rehabilitating the Enescu House, the *George Enescu International Academy of Music and the Study in Mihaileni*.

The academy will involve musicians from all over the world, but also children from

the area, giving them a chance at quality education and a cultural environment close to their homes. The piano existing piano in the house, a Bösendorfer from 1928, is also a donation: it belonged to the philosopher Mircea Vulcănescu. His descendants, Sandra and Măriuca Vulcănescu, through Despina Slătineanu, donated it to Vanda Sturdza, which, in turn, donated it to the George Enescu House. At the beginning of 2020 together with UiPath Foundation we launched the partnering program The Children's Academy of Music and Education, held in the George Enescu House in Mihaileni. The aim of this project is to develop the potential of children from nearby rural communities and the use of the George Enescu house, a historical monument, for educational purposes.

Since it was introduced into the public circuit and educational projects gradually began to be carried out in or in connection with the George Enescu House in Mihaileni, it has proved to be a real catalyst. More than a heritage object, it is the house that generates strong links between the local communities on the left bank of the upper Siret, a revived local identity, a renewed interest in the stories of the place and the cultural landscape of the river, open access to culture and music education, sound study and traditional crafts.

Due to the xylophagous and biological attack on the wooden structure, the George Enescu House has been undergoing emergency interventions since mid-2023. The works were carried out quickly, with the approval of the Ministry of Culture, in order to limit the effects caused by the *Merulius lacrymans* fungus.



1. Casa George Enescu din Mihaileni, foto arhiva Pro Patrimonio;
2. George Enescu's House in Mihaileni, building site stage 2024, photo archive of Pro Patrimonio.

Urgent interventions and works at the George Enescu House in Mihăileni

- **April - May:** Constant work is being done on the site reopened last year. Underpinning work is being carried out on the exterior walls in the eastern part of the house, as well as exterior insulation work on the plinth. The east side, which was the worst affected by the biological attack, has severely weakened the structure. The damaged walls are being rebuilt using pressed-earth bricks.
- **July:** After a year of intense efforts, the Enescu House has overcome its most difficult phase. The report drawn up by biologist Ionela Melinte certifies that the work to eliminate the *Merulius lacrymans* fungus was correctly carried out and that the house is now biologically clean. The interventions have been done carefully and with small steps in order not to risk spreading the contamination, but also to prevent major damage to the structure.
- **July - September:** Works focus on refinishing to make the house welcoming and ready for activities. Interior and exterior plaster, stoves and floors are redone.
- **November:** The storm water drainage system under the porches on the west, east and south sides is completed. The perimeter footing and finishing of the courtyard is completed before fall and bad weather arrive.
- **December:** Wood is ordered for refinishing the interior and exterior floors; awaiting processing, drying and suitable weather early in the year for installation. The house is placed in conservation to prevent damage so that the final stage of refinishing can start again in 2025.

Pag. 23. 1., 2., 3. George Enescu's House in Mihăileni, building site stage, 2024:
Merulius lacrymans, photo archive of Pro Património.



Concerts on Siret

- **August:** For the fourth consecutive year, the Pro Patrimonio Foundation and the Maria Association are organizing the annual event Concerts on Siret (August 17th -25th 2024) at the George Enescu House (Mihăileni), Miclescu Manor (Călinești), Moruzi Manor (Vârful Câmpului). The pianist Raluca Știrbăț continues to hold a piano masterclass for young pianists, students of music colleges in Botoșani, Suceava, Iași, Bacău, Piatra-Neamț and București.
- **August 19th:** The folk dance ensemble „Zorile Havârna” and the vocal group „Armonia” are hosted in the courtyard of the Enescu House to honor George Enescu’s birthday.



1, 2, 3. Concerts on Siret river 2024, Mihăileni and Călinești, photo archive of Raluca Știrbăț.

Strategic partnership with UiPath Foundation

2024 was the fifth year of a strategic partnership between Pro Patrimonio Foundation and UiPath Foundation supporting local communities in the vicinity of Enescu House and Neamțu Manor. The programs implemented by the two organizations within the partnership aim to develop the potential of children and young people in these rural communities, as well as the use of heritage sites for cultural and educational purposes.

„Future Acceleration” is an educational program of UiPath Foundation, carried out in Botoșani and Ilt counties, with the help of Pro Patrimonio, supporting children from vulnerable backgrounds to reach their potential and develop with their communities. In this program, 70 children from five communities benefit from an integrated package of long-term assistance to ensure their access to quality education: monthly scholarships, courses of Romanian language and literature, mathematics and English language, tablets with internet access, school kits with school supplies, clothing, shoes, food and books, medical and psychological support, summer camps and various educational activities (“Inspirational Speakers”, “English Conversation Club”).

„Children’s Academy for Music” (2020) is a music education program run by Pro Patrimonio Foundation with the support of UiPath Foundation, which is part of the cultural activation of George Enescu’s House in Mihăileni. The program helps local children and young people to develop a musical culture, study an instrument, take part in competitions and meet established artists. Among the activities attended by the group of young people in 2024, there are: the concert „Classic is Fantastic”, held by Botoșani Philharmonic (May), “Concerts on Siret” (August), “Heritage Caravan” (September) and a regional competition of vocal and instrumental interpretation (October).



4. U&I Summer Camp 2024, photo Cătălin Georgescu.

Golescu Villa



Vhe Golescu Villa and dendrological park in Câmpulung Muscel, AG, owned by Pro Patrimonio, represent an exceptional architectural and landscape ensemble. It offers a living model of saving, knowing and maintaining the cultural heritage through different ways in which to use and inhabit it.

Following the donation made by Irina Maria Golescu († 2002), the foundation received the mission to preserve, study and promote heritage values, taking over not only the architectural and landscape ensemble, but also all the original furniture, various objects for daily use, paintings, decorative art, carpets, lighting fixtures, library, letters and the family archive.

Pro Patrimonio tries to reuse a historical moment not by turning it into a museum, but by inhabiting and integrating it in everyday life.

This is one of the first practical examples, adapted over time to the local context that

the foundation faced in its attempt to implement its strategy of conservation and protection of heritage and landscape. In the vision of Pro Patrimonio, the Golescu ensemble works as a Cultural Landscape Observatory, with all its components (natural, anthropically modified - architecture, landscape, social values, community relations, housing practices, etc.), through projects and workshops carried out annually.

Vasile Golescu (1875-1920), the father of the Golescu twin sisters, built the villa with ground floor and first floor in 1909, as a holiday home on the western hill, overlooking the town of Câmpulung Muscel, and named it the Ștefan Villa, in memory of his son who died during the war of 1914. As a forest engineer who graduated in 1897 from the École des Eaux et Forêts de Nancy, Vasile Golescu designed the terraced park around the house (a garden park), adapting exotic and rare species, brought at the beginning of the last century from abroad, starting from the local natural forest.



1., 2. The Golescu Villa in Câmpulung Muscel, photo Cristian Radu.

- **March:** As an example of good practice in Romania and at European level, the exceptional architectural and landscape ensemble – the Golescu villa and dendrological park in Câmpulung Muscel participates in an online promotion campaign organized by European Heritage Houses.
- **March - April:** As a member of the European Historical Houses, Pro Patrimonio participates with Villa Golescu in the European platform MERITA in a large European project. The platform brings together musicians, mentors, historical houses and concert organizers, working both online and offline to revive the tradition of classical music performance in Europe.
- **April:** For one week, Villa Golescu hosts the residency of the Dutch string quartet Belinfante, consisting of Olivia Scheepers, violin, Fiona Robertson, violin, Henrietta Hill, viola and Pau Marquès Oleo, cello. In a musical performance, they presented their take on traditional Venetian music to the audience in Câmpulung. The musicians became storytellers and presented a story and a new experience for the audience.

Pag. 28. 1. Readings in residence at Villa Golescu, photo Ideal Picture Iași Cărturești;
Pag. 29. 2. Belinfante Dutch Quartet in concert at Golescu Villa, archive photo of Pro Patrimonio.



Creative Residency Accelerator Programme

Cărturești Foundation in partnership with Pro Patrimonio Foundation and Maria Association run the "Cărturești Fellowships and Residencies" programme which sprang from the desire to promote and encourage the development of contemporary Romanian literature, starting with support for its authors. Three years in a row, 5 writers and poets stay in residence at the Golescu Villa in Câmpulung Muscel and at the end each produces an event for the local community entitled "Readings in Residence".

- **April - May:** The Creative Residencies Accelerator program continues at Golescu complex – Cultural Landscape Observatory in Câmpulung Muscel by hosting three writers: Diana Rațiu, Cătălin Popa and Radu Aldulescu. For the fourth consecutive year, Villa Golescu becomes the venue for the Readings in Residence, an event dedicated to the local community. The three writers met with readers from the local community, discussing the writer-reader relationship, the book market and how literature changes lives.
- **November:** Following the recordings made at Villa Golescu during the residencies by Corina Giurgiu, new episodes of the #CarteșiMiere podcast are made where writers present their literary works and the historical place where they finalized them.



Neamtu Manor



A large part of the mansions in the southern part of Romania have disappeared in the past 30 years due to the faulty property restitution, disinterest and precarious education towards heritage, manifested both by the public authorities and the population.

The Neamtu Manor from Olari village, OT, (historical reference from 1841, probably before 1800), included in the List of Historical Monuments, is one of the few examples of civil architecture preserved in southern Romania. The mansion is part of the Neamtu Manor Ensemble, whose owner is now Pro Patrimonio, comprises a grain warehouse, a glacier, a communist canteen, partial traces of the former stables and annexes.

Donated to the Pro Patrimonio Foundation in 2016, the manor is in a state of degradation, having suffered from vandalism and neglected for a long time. As a result, it requires extensive and urgent conservation and consolidation works; it is a practical example of what Pro Patrimonio faces in implementing its strategy of saving cultural heritage and integration into the community.

In this case, the foundation adopted the following method of intervention: conservation and gradual rehabilitation, step by step; education workshops for children; adult education and awareness-raising workshops; community integration; creating over time a possible regional center for experimental studies and education.

Currently, Pro Patrimonio faces the following issue: a long process with many

unknown variables; insufficient funds; remoteness from Oltenia; complex search for a sustainable economic model for the manor and land; the village is located in a poor area, mainly agricultural (cereals, viticulture), with desertification tendencies due to climate change; in the locality there is a strong aging and depopulation wave.

The mansion is a landmark in the cultural landscape of the village and the area.



1. Neamtu Manor garden, photo Pro Patrimonio archive. 2. Neamtu manor loggia, photo Raluca Munteanu.

Works on the manor

- **February:** New work begins by consolidating and redoing the finishes and installations in the cellar.
- **March - April:** Work on the brick vaults is cleaned and repaired; light fixtures and outlets are installed. The vaults are part of the oldest structure of the Neamțu Manor dating back to the 17th century, most probably. The physical substance of the original construction has been largely preserved, even after the expansion and modernization of the mansion in the 1920-1930 by arh. Constantin Iotzu.
- **May:** Through the generosity of the Neamțu family, a massive wooden library, which once belonged to the family, has found its place in the mansion upstairs space.
- **June:** The restoration of the cellar is completed with the laying of a pressed brick floor.
- **October:** Cărturești bookstores complete the library with a donation of nearly 300 new children books. This is the first donation from the Cultural pocket project, an initiative through which Cărturești brings books closer to future readers in local communities. Together, Cărturești and Pro Patrimonio are opening a public library in the Neamțu Manor.
- **December:** The windbreak on the northern property line is filled in with saplings. Planting is done annually, but the survival rate is very low (about 20%) due to the extreme climate (drought, heat and strong winds).



„Experimental Center for Studies and Education at the Neamțu Manor in Olari”

The partnership between Pro Patrimonio Foundation and UiPath Foundation continues in 2024 with the project „Experimental Center for Studies and Education at the Neamțu Manor in Olari”. The aim of this program is to develop a sustainable educational ecosystem in Olt County, in the communities in the vicinity of the Neamțu Manor, in parallel with the attempt to continue the restoration (and refunctionalization) works of the historical monument.

Strategic partnership with UiPath Foundation

The partnership initiated six years ago between Pro Patrimonio Foundation and UiPath Foundation continues throughout 2025 in the communities surrounding the George Enescu House in Mihăileni and the Neamțu Mansion in Olari – historical monuments in the counties of Botoșani and Olt. More than 120 children are involved in the educational and cultural activities run by the two organizations. In parallel, the restoration site of the Neamțu Manor continues.

Throughout the year, we provided assistance to the “Future Acceleration Program” run by UiPath Foundation, through which 30 children from two vulnerable communities – Bârza and Osica de Sus – near the Neamțu Manor benefit from monthly scholarships, weekly classes in Romanian language and literature, mathematics and English, material support consisting of school supplies, books, games, clothing and footwear, food packages and gifts for the holidays, tablets with dedicated programs and support to use them safely, summer camps and various activities to develop digital skills and non-formal education.



Pag. 32. 1. Basement and vaults after restoration at Neamțu manor, archive photo of Pro Patrimonio; Pag. 33. 2. Cultural pocket of Cărturești, rural library created in Neamțu manor, archive photo of Pro Patrimonio.

Historical plasterwork. Practical research



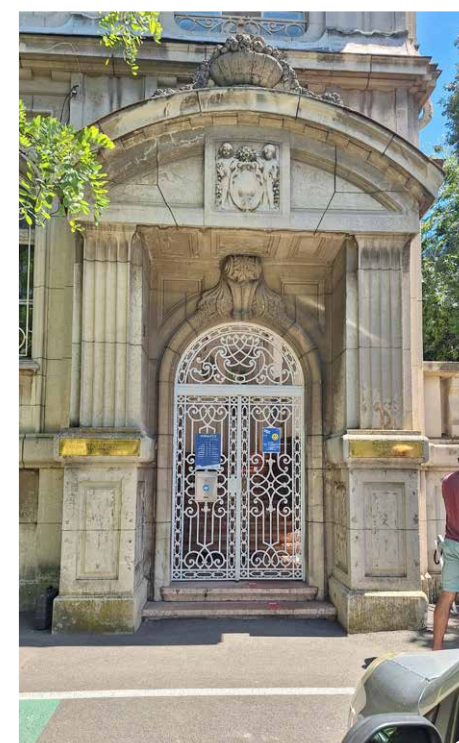
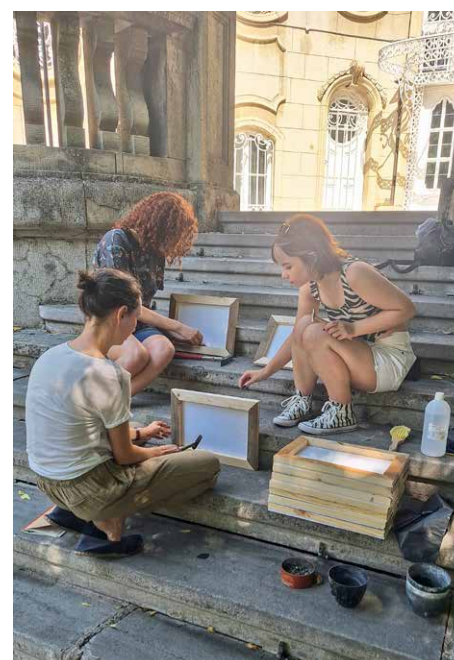
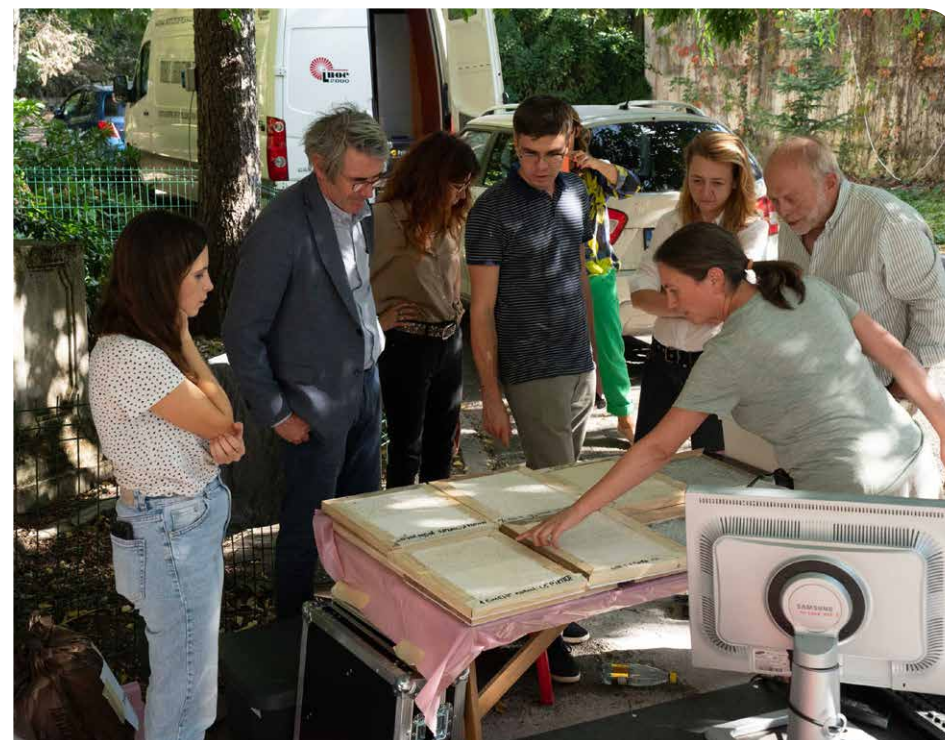
In 2023 we continue the Pro Patrimonio program initiated in 2019 and materialized with the publication *Forgotten Textures: Interwar Bucharest. Plasterwork Booklet with the project Forgotten Textures. Research and practical studies for repair and maintenance*, winner of a grant paid from the architecture stamp tax.

This research project aims to study methods of repairing deterioration by collecting and carrying out more extensive samples, material analysis, access to restoration sites for study and testing, collaboration with public institutions, material suppliers and contractors.



1, 2. Shots from plaster testing workshops, photo archive of Pro Patrimonio.

- **January:** Following practical tests, laboratory analysis and literature research, the project team provides recommendations for interventions on historic facades with plasters that use cement in their composition. The study raised many issues and shows how difficult it is for owners to choose a solution other than total replacement that is affordable in price and for which they can also find skilled labor.
- **May:** The results of the first stage are published as eight factsheets with different themes: „Forgotten Textures – Historic Plastering. Principles and recommendations". The project team decided to restrict the scope of the study to imitation-stone/ mosaic plaster with emphasis on techniques for consolidation and prevention of detachment from the supporting layer, cleaning and consolidation of the finished surface. Practical tests were carried out on historical buildings in Bucharest and Timișoara.
- **July-August:** Phase II of the project continues with practical tests on the facade of the Kimmel Villa in Timișoara, headquarters of the French Institute. The building was never restored, only local, individual repairs were carried out.
- **September:** A workshop is held in Timișoara with guests from France, Austria, Serbia and national collaborators from the National Institute for Research and Development in Optoelectronics (INOE 2000). A series of tests are carried out to determine the characteristics and possible ways of intervention on the imitation stone with which the building facades are finished. Consolidation tests with different injection mortars, laser cleaning tests, water (and sand) under pressure, attempts to reconstitute the old materials using the original recipe identified by mineralogical analysis, and other similar recipes have been developed. Tests are also carried out to obtain textures as similar as possible to the original texture, such as tests to determine the salts in the masonry and the permeability of the simili stone to water, compared with the recreated materials.
- **November:** Tests are carried out to reproduce the faade plaster on the Malaxa building in Bucharest, arh. Horia Creangă. Following poorly carried out repairs, the original plaster was removed over a very large area with the intention of replacing it with a modern decorative plaster without checking compatibility and how it could reproduce the original texture. The project team is analyzing fragments of the old plaster at the laboratory of the Vienna University of Applied Sciences with the support of Professor Johannes Weber.
- **November - December:** Research findings are worked on and new fact sheets with recommendations for interventions on existing buildings are summarized. An important direction is to try to reproduce the plaster - composition and texture - with currently existing materials by in situ tests and determinations of the physical properties of the original plaster. The topics addressed are also motivated by requests and questions received in concrete cases where interventions focus on the preservation of the original plaster. The international collaboration at the September workshop shows that these themes are topical and important at European level.



1., 2., 3. Workshop Timișoara - September 2024, foto arhiva Pro Patrimonio.

- **February - November:** Pro Patrimonio provides expert advice at the request of the community of the village of Cârliști, Bacău county, to protect the Zarifopol Manor, which is in a state of neglect and vandalization due to a long process of retrocession. A local initiative group has decided to take the necessary steps to preserve the property until the disputes are settled. After several press reports and actions, the community unites in the form of the Save Zarifopol Manor Association, through which it wants to pressure and lobby locally to carry out emergency repairs to the mansion.
- **June:** In a letter sent to the National Agency for Mineral Resources, we request that the mining license at Rosia Montana not to be extended. ANRM decision is favorable.
- **July - September:** Together with professional partners, we take part in the campaign to save and classify the industrial complex of the former „Steaua Română” refinery in Câmpina, founded in 1897, now in danger of demolition. Pro Patrimonio participates in a professional round table with specialists on the local industrial heritage where a Memorandum is agreed to support the principles of action for the conservation and enhancement of the ensemble, recognizing the particular potential for urban reconfiguration and functional conversion, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. Together with the Romanian Order of Architects and leading specialists, we call for the urgent finalization of the classification of the industrial complex. We are launching an open letter to the Minister of Culture calling for the classification procedure to be finalized, in parallel with the opening of a public list of signatures to support the campaign. We nominate, unsuccessfully, the ensemble of the „Steaua Română” refinery in Câmpina to the 7 Most Endangered program run by Europa Nostra.



Pag. 38. 1. Tapia bridge in Lugoj county, photo Raluca Munteanu.
Pag. 39. 2. Zarifopol Manor - Bacău county, photo Raluca Munteanu; 3. Lugoj barracks, historical photo, „Lugoj identity” archive; 4. „Steaua Română” refinery in Câmpina, photo Raluca Martiș.



- **August:** At the request of the civil society of Lugoj, Pro Patrimonio asks Timiș County Directorate for Culture to initiate the procedure for the emergency classification in the List of Historic Monuments of the old firehouse/ old fire station in Lugoj municipality, Timiș county. The submitted request received a positive opinion in January 2025.
- **September:** At the request of Lugoj civil society, an application for emergency classification is submitted to Timiș County Directorate of Culture for the brick bridge of Tapia, built between 1881-1882, a rare example of early utilitarian construction in the Lugoj area, with a certain industrial heritage value. The submitted request received a positive opinion, and Timiș DJC initiated the classification procedure.
- **December:** We provide advice to a local initiative group on the procedure for the classification of the Old Market of Craiova, Dolj county, part of the historic core of the city; currently, the ensemble is in danger of being demolished by a project of the municipality.

European Cultural Heritage Summit

- **July - September:** Pro Patrimonio and the Romanian Order of Architects support the organization Europa Nostra in the process of organizing the forthcoming European Cultural Heritage Summit, to be held in Bucharest on 6-8 October 2024.
- **October:** On the occasion of the pre-summit event, Pro Patrimonio together with the Romanian Order of Architects invites civil society to discuss and adopt a joint manifesto for the future of heritage in Romania. The Manifesto for the heritage protection in Romania is signed by over 60 organizations active in the field.

The European Cultural Heritage Summit 2024, organized by Europa Nostra, is taking place in Bucharest; Pro Patrimonio Foundation is among the partner organizations. On this occasion, the foundation is invited to become the representative in Romania of the most important European cultural heritage federation, assuming the role of a platform through which Europa Nostra can lobby locally and regionally. This quality is a recognition of the dedication and diversity of the projects that the foundation has carried out during its 25 years of existence. The President of the Pro Patrimonio Foundation, Mr. Șerban Sturdza, and the Executive President of Europa Nostra, Mr. Hermann Parzinger, sign a memorandum of cooperation.

At the 2024 European Heritage Awards ceremony held at the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest, the project for the rehabilitation of the Saxon Church in Alma Vii, Romania, wins the Grand Prix and the 2024 Public Award.



Pag. 401. & pag. 41. 2., 3.
Europa Nostra Award Ceremony,
Romanian Athenaeum,
photo Europa Nostra;
4. Signing of memorandum of
cooperation between Europa Nostra
and Pro Patrimonio,
photo Europa Nostra.

Other Projects

- **February:** We publish the Foundation 2023 Activity Report. We sustain our partnership with the Wooden Churches Association, which launches a wooden church inventory platform for the general public.
- **March - May:** We run the „Redirect 3,5 %” campaign.
- **April:** We launch the Mediateque online page on our website, where we archive videos made over time about our projects.
- **July - August:** On behalf of Pro Patrimonio Foundation, architect Raluca Munteanu participates in the International Heritage Summer School organized by two partners of the consortium - Ro3kvit: the Urban Coalition for Ukraine and the Romanian Order of Architects (OAR). 50 Ukrainian and Romanian volunteers, architecture and cultural studies students, members of NGOs specialized in heritage and experts from both countries were involved in conservation works at the Lanckoronski-Rzewuski Palace in Rozdil. A main objective is to develop tools for public participation and to promote good practice in saving historical monuments among members of the local community.
- **August:** The 16th edition of the Festival „Hit the iron at the mansion” takes place in Țibănești, Iași county. International workshops in blacksmithing, pottery, carpentry, photography, art therapy etc. are organized in the rural laboratory of architecture and crafts hosted by the Petre P. Carp mansion.
- **September - November:** ICR Paris and Pro Patrimonio France organize Cycle Patrimoine - 3rd edition, an exhibition and conference on Romania spa and thermal heritage in Paris. The exhibition provides an overview of the thermal and spa heritage of Băile Herculane, Băile Govora, Câmpulung and the Romanian Black Sea coast, situating it in the European landscape, while offering an insight into the processes involved in its conservation, preservation and valorization. The exhibition is curated by de Caroline d'Assay, President of Pro Patrimonio France, in collaboration with French heritage architects, Alina Jornea-Tătaru and Paul Stancioiu. On the occasion of the Heritage Days at Vicques Castle, Normandy, the exhibition „Romanian Manors”, an almost unknown heritage in France, is presented.



1, 2. International summer camp in Rozdil, Ukraine, photo Romanian Order of Architects;
3. Hit the iron at the mansion Workshops, P.P.Carp Manor in Țibănești, Iași county, photo - project team.

Projects expenses in 2024	Euro	Sponsors/ Funders	
Heritage Education	52,052		15.00%
Heritage Kit and Caravan	52,052	OAR's architectural stamp and co-financed by AFCN	15.00%
Practical Research	53,370		15.38%
Historic Plasterwork	37,070	Financing through the OAR's architectural stamp	10.69%
60 Wooden Churches. Wooden Church in Șirineasa	16,300	Fondation de France, Casa Storck Foundation, private donors, Eptisa România	4.70%
George Enescu House	96,460		27.81%
Future Acceleration Program	29,410	UiPath Foundation	8.48%
Academy of Music for Children and Heritage Education	8,650	Partners, donors and members	2.49%
Urgent interventions and works at the George Enescu House in Mihăileni after the biological attack	58,400	EGGER Group, Elsaco, Asociația Echiart, Garanti Bank, Linde Gaz, ,Donors and private sponsors/members	16.83%
Neamțu Manor in Olari	56,620		16.32%
Future Acceleration Program	27,405	UiPath Foundation	7.90%
Garden maintenance work + machinery	1,250	Partners, donors and private sponsors	8.06%
Experimental Center for Studies and Education	27,965	Donors and private sponsors/members	0.36%
Golescu Villa in Câmpulung Muscel	12,700		3.66%
Historic Housing	5,500	Private donors and sponsors	1.59%
Literary residency	1,400	Cărturești Foundation	0.40%
Musical residency	2,700	Merita Program	0.78%
Current maintenance and repair work	3,100	Private donors and sponsors	0.89%
SOS heritage	0		0%
Administration	75,700	Donors and private sponsors/members	21.82%
Total	346,902		

Partners, Sponsors and Funders 2024

- **UiPath Foundation**
- **Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation**
- **The Order of Romanian Architectes through the stamp tax**
- **Administration of the National Cultural Fund**
- **Fondation de France**
- **Storck House Foundation**
- **Maria Association**
- **Caroline D'Assay**
- **Costin Borc**
- **Prebet Aiud**
- **Foraj Sonde Videle**
- **EGGER Group**
- **Dedeman**
- **Echiart Association**
- **Garanti Bank**
- **Carl Von Linde Foundation**
- **UP Romania**
- **Barbarossa Retail**
- **Jetoil Downstream**
- **Cărturești Foundation**
- **French Institute in Romania**
- **Remmers**
- **Kerakol**
- **EPTISA Romania**
- **Private donors and sponsors**

Support

Thanks to the outstanding support of the Foundation's members, as well as sustained fundraising efforts, the projects carried out in 2024 by Pro Patrimonio were made possible.

Donations, however large or small, are vital to the continuation of the Foundation's work.

propatrimonio.org/donate/

Become a member of Pro Patrimonio Foundation, actively supporting actions for the rescue, conservation and rehabilitation of the built heritage in Romania!

Support the essential activities of the foundation by paying the annual minimum fee that will cover the period from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

- Individual member 300 lei / 60 EUR
- Family member 500 lei / 100 EUR (Family: two adults over 18 living at the same address and their children or grandchildren, 17 or under. Children under 5 are free of charge.)

By becoming a contributing member of the Pro Patrimonio Foundation, you can benefit, among other things, from free visits to historical monuments owned by the Foundation, 30% discount on accommodation and 50% discount on access to the Foundation's publications.

This also gives you the unique opportunity to enjoy free and equal rights throughout the International National Trusts Organisation Places network at our discounted Pro Patrimonio membership rate.

Please send an email to propatrimonio.romania@gmail.com with your name and contact email address so that we can thank you and keep you informed of our activities.

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