

## NETWORKING IN PRESERVING THE FIRST WORLD WAR MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE DANUBE COUNTRIES

### World War I heritage in Vrancea and Bacău Counties

ROMANIA joined the World War I on the side of the Allied powers from 1916, after two years of neutrality. The highest priority was the union of Romania with Transylvania which had 3 mil Romanian people. The Allies wanted Romania to join its side in order to cut the rail communications between Germany and Ottoman Empire, and to cut off Germany's oil supplies. Britain made loans, France sent a military training mission, and Russia promised modern munitions. The Romanian campaign was an extension of the Eastern Front, with Romania and Russia allied with Britain and France against the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Empire.

The area presented in Vrancea's Land and Bacău County, was a part of the Romanian line of the front during July - August 1917, where three important battles took place: Marășești, Mărăști, Oituz.

#### Mărășești

During the First World War, the town was the Battle of Mărășești, one of the few strategic victories of the Entente in 1917 on the Eastern Front.

#### Soldiers Mausoleum, Mărășești town, Vrancea

The mausoleum, built in 1924, is among the most important memorial monuments in Europe. The mausoleum is a massive pyramid-stepped construction. The upper part is like a round tower, 30 m high. Near the mausoleum is a museum dedicated to that period.



Soldiers Mausoleum Mărășești

In the city there are other heritage sites included in the list of historical monuments in Vrancea County, such as: the archaeological site of Pădureni - comprising a settlement and a necropolis from the Bronze Age, a Halstatt settlement and another from the Latène period. Marășești Train Station (1872) is classified as an architectural monument.

#### Soveja

Soveja is located in Vrancea County in Soveja Depression of the Vrancea Mountains, is known to have the most ozone air in Romania. Soveja spa resort has a beneficial, toning climate and springs of mineral water.

**Soldiers Mausoleum, Soveja, Vrancea** - The mausoleum built between 1922-1927 is a sober and imposing construction, in the shape of a cross with rounded apses; the access to the main entrance is made on stone steps with a wide opening that optically magnifies the monumental and massive impression. The Mausoleum shelters the remains of 528 Romanian, Russian, German and Hungarian soldiers.

In Soveja there is a former monastery, a historical monument of architecture of national interest, built in 1654 by Matei Basarab, which preserves the "Nativity of the Lord" church, the bell tower and fragments of the wall. There are also two objectives included in the list of local historical monuments: the German soldiers cemetery and an archaeological site located south-east of the village of Dragosloveni, which includes the traces of some settlements from the Eneolithic Age of the Bronze Age and the Latène period.



Soldiers Mausoleum Soveja



#### Mărăști

Mărăști is linked to one of the most important battles on the Romanian territory in the First World War. It was between July and August 1917 and it was an offensive operation of the Romanian and the Russian Armies with the aim of encircle and destroy the 9th German Army. The Battle of Mărăști was very important for the military operations on the Romanian front and contributed to raising the morale of the soldiers. Reorganized and trained but also with the experience of the 1916 campaign, the Romanian troops proved to be able to challenge and defeat the renowned German and Austro-Hungarian armed armies.

Mărăști village, was destroyed completely in 1917, in the First World War but in four years, with the involvement of King Ferdinand, the village was reconstructed and became the most modern in Romania of that times.

**Soldiers Mausoleum, Mărăști village, Vrancea** - The monument shelters the remains of the Romanian soldiers fallen in the First World War in the battle of Mărăști. The basement houses the sarcophagi with the remains of the three great generals of Romanian army. In the basement, there is a small museum where objects and weapons from the First World War were exposed.

On the way to Mărăști you can also turn to Vizantea Monastery (Vizantea Mănăstirească village), which is considered the oldest monastic settlement in Vrancea.

According to the documents, Vizantea Monastery was founded by Prince Petru Schiopul (1547-1591).



Soldiers Mausoleum Mărăști

#### Focșani

Located on the shores of Milcov river, in Vrancea's Land, **Focșani**, easily accessible from Bucharest and Bacău, is one of the most famous viticultural areas in the country. **Focșani** is a small chic town, a starting point for many tourist routes.



Soldiers Mausoleum Focșani

Crâng Petrești is a recreation area in the north of **Focșani** town. It is the main leisure area serving the city. Part of it is a protected protected area, being a reserve of architecture and folk technique. **Odobesti** (11 km from Focșani), **Panciu** (30 km from Focșani) - vineyards - **Odobesti** vineyard is the largest and one of the most famous vineyards in the country.

**Soldiers Mausoleum, Focșani, Vrancea** - The construction of the soldiers mausoleum started in 1926 with public contribution, with the support of the Society of Tombs of War Heroes. The architecture of the Mausoleum is of Byzantine inspiration with curved lines, highlighted arcade, arched side cups and three turrets. The mausoleum was built of brick, stone and concrete on a cross-shaped plane.



Natural Park Putna

**Natural Park Putna, Vrancea** - 64 km from Focșani - The landscapes of the protected area are specific to the mountain relief, including steep slopes with stunning walls and cliffs, alpine and subalpine meadows, mountain hills with special flora, compact forests, mountain villages with architecture, customs and specific traditions. The Putna Waterfall and the **Țișta Gorge** are the most spectacular attractions of the park.

#### Târgu Ocna

The town of **Târgu Ocna** (55 km from Bacău) is surrounded on three sides by mountains and hills: the Nemira, Berzunți Mountains and the Subcarpathian Hills. The area with a complex geological diversity has numerous mineral resources and waters that underpin the development of the spa tourism which is also favored by the existence of the natural cure factors, the Magura Park Spa Center, the treatment base of the Magura Spa Complex. **Târgu Ocna salt mine** - The new and modern recreational area, placed in the Trotus mine, 240 m deep, offers optimal conditions for relaxation, sports and treatment of respiratory problems.

**Soldiers Mausoleum, Târgu Ocna, Bacău** - The monument was built between 1925-1938 with the support of the "Heroes' Cult". The works were executed by the military. In the mausoleum the bones of some thousands of unknown Romanian soldiers are deposited. In its rooms are exhibited documents and various objects, which evoke the struggles of the Romanians and Germans in the summer of 1917.



Târgu Ocna salt mine

Magura Monastery is near the Soldiers' Mausoleum in the middle of the forest, in a magnificent scenery on Mount Magura, at an altitude of 505m. The monastery also offers accommodation for tourists.

Near **Târgu Ocna** town there is **Slănic Moldova** spa resort, close to the Nemira Mountains, in a valley surrounded by beech forests and fir trees. Here there are two protected areas: the limestone with **Lithothamnium** in the locality of **Cireșoia**, and the **Falcău tuff**.

## NETWORLD - NETWORKING IN PRESERVING THE FIRST WORLD WAR MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE IN THE DANUBE COUNTRIES

The **NETWORLD** project contributes to the Danube Transnational Programme objectives and priority area 2 (Environment and culture responsible Danube region) by strengthening the joint and integrated approaches in documenting, preserving, managing and promoting the cultural heritage in the Danube region.

The main objectives of the **NETWORLD** project are to increase the awareness of the First World War (WWI) heritage and its sustainable use for the development of quality cultural tourism.

The **NETWORLD** specific project objectives refer to:

- ☞ preparing a database, a strategy and a management plan for architectural WWI heritage;
- ☞ improving the cooperation between countries of the Danube region;
- ☞ increasing awareness and visitor numbers of WWI heritage;
- ☞ promoting the value of peace, based on a common commemoration of WWI.

Fourteen project partners from nine countries of the Danube region and eleven associated partners joint their efforts to implement project activities and tasks, grouped in six main work packages.

**ERDF PARTNERS:** LP - Soca Valley Development Centre, The Walk of Peace in the Soča Region Foundation, Slovenia; Rozmberk Society, Czech Republic; Varna Economic Development Agency, Bulgaria; Regional Museum of History - Dobrich, Bulgaria; Cultural LAB Social Cooperative, Hungary; Municipality of Town Veszprém, Hungary; Danube University Krems/Department for Building and Environment, Austria; Die Berater, Austria; National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism, Romania; Institution for development of competence, innovation and specialization of Zadar County, Croatia; University of Presov, Slovakia.

**IPA PARTNERS:** School of Economics and Business in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Department for Development and International Projects of Government of Zenica-Doboj, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Project co-financed by European Union Funds (ERDF and IPA).

#### Oituz

At **Oituz** was a complex military confrontation between the Romanian army supported by the Russian Army against the German and Austro-Hungarian troops in 1917 during the First World War. The Battle - 26 July / 8 August - 9/22 August 1917 took place in the Slănic, Oituz and Cașin valleys in Bacău County and had as strategic goal the penetration into the Trotuș valley in order to junction with the allied armies in offensive at Mărășești, defending and maintaining the front line. The strategic success was on the side of the Romanian Army.

#### The monument of the cavalry soldiers, Oituz, Bacău

The Monument of the World War I is located on the Coșna Hill in **Oituz** and was built in 1924 by the "Cult of Heroes" Society with public support. The monument is a 5m high obelisk made of stone, placed on a foundation. At the base of the obelisk there is an attacking cavalier, a horse and a heraldic shield with Romania's bronze coat of arms.



The monument of the cavalry Oituz

Project web site:  
[www.interreg-danube/network](http://www.interreg-danube/network)

World War One Sites - The **NETWORLD** Database:

<https://ww1sites.eu/>

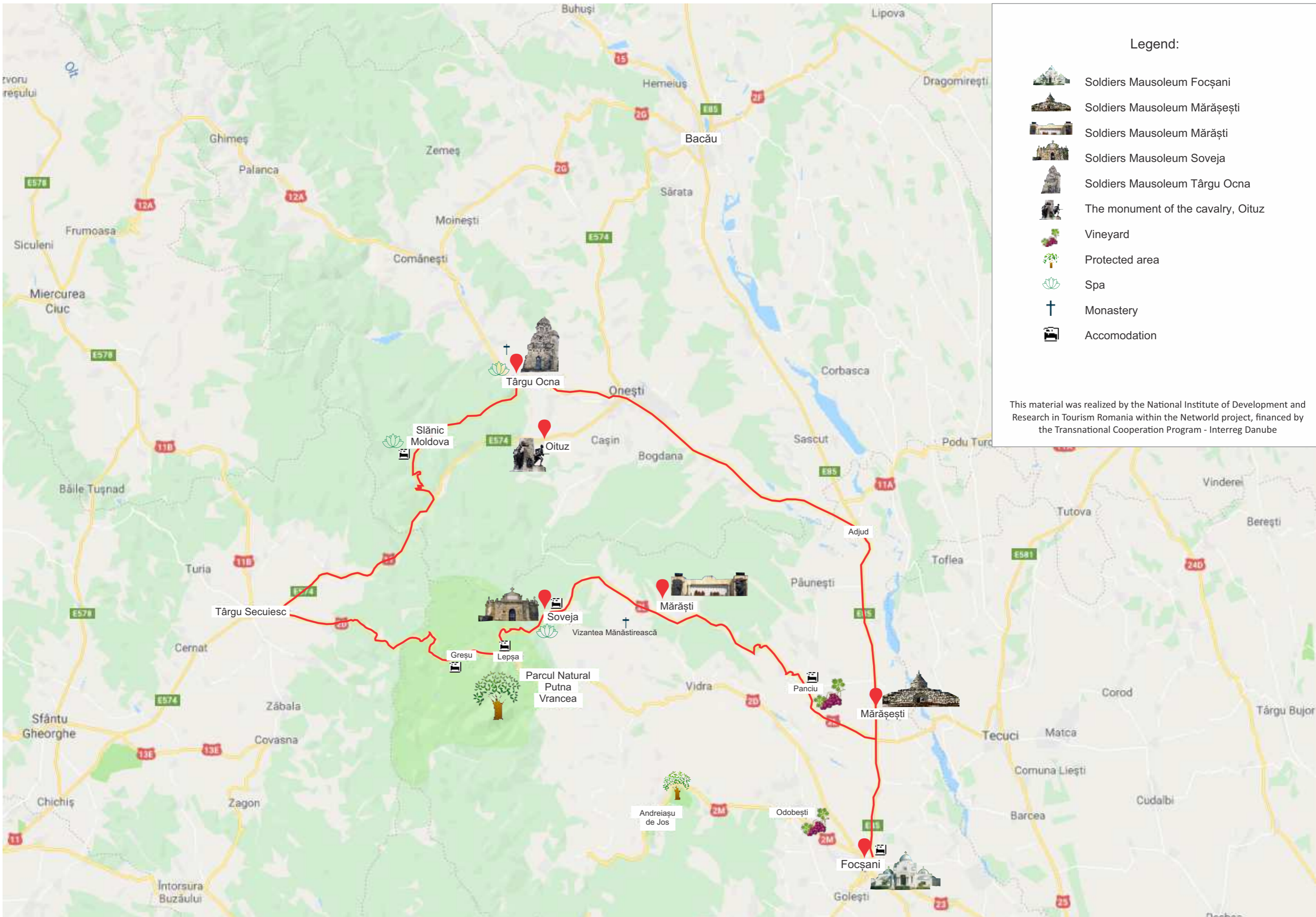
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WORLD WAR I HERITAGE IN ROMANIA  
WALK OF PEACE IN VRANCEA - BACAU





Legend:

-  Soldiers Mausoleum Focșani
-  Soldiers Mausoleum Mărășești
-  Soldiers Mausoleum Mărăști
-  Soldiers Mausoleum Soveja
-  Soldiers Mausoleum Târgu Ocna
-  The monument of the cavalry, Oituz
-  Vineyard
-  Protected area
-  Spa
-  Monastery
-  Accomodation

This material was realized by the National Institute of Development and Research in Tourism Romania within the Networld project, financed by the Transnational Cooperation Program - Interreg Danube