



*"Piatra si Foc"*  
*Revitalization Dealu*  
*Frumos*

Bringing an old, forgotten tradition back to life which can activate the city and strengthen the community by including the Roma minority in the process.

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Kleines Entwerfen Schönberg 2018SS



## *"Piatra si Foc"*

### *Revitalization Dealu Frumos*

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**Keywords:** tradition, connection to a bigger city, Roma minority, restauration of old buildings, festival, fortified church

### **1. Preamble**

The main goal of this project is helping Dealu Frumos gain a constant activity that will take place every year. This will increase the flow of tourists and will stabilize the issue of minorities living in the area, focusing on the Roma minority.

All of this will happen by bringing a multimilenary craft back to life.

As with many traditional trades, as the general economy changes its structure and the social context that recognizes its usefulness changes, crafts disappear as a result of the modernization of society. However, there are areas of activity where these traditional crafts are still necessary, such as the restoration of buildings older than 100 years. (Preserving conservation status or restoring old buildings is dependent on the use of materials and technologies identical or compatible with those used initially)

"Piatra si Foc" is a revitalization project for craft craftsmanship that took place in other romanian areas, which consists of the method of producing lime by burning limestone. This project will implement this method in Dealu Frumos in order to solve some of the issues there, such as :

-restoration of buildings - example: fortified church

-inclusion of the Roma minority - they will work in producing the lime

-helping people hear about Dealu Frumos - organising festival

## 2. PIATRA SI FOC - DEALU FRUMOS SHORT HISTORY

Do you know which locality is right in the center of the Romanian country? Most people do not know until they see this indicator. When you come from Agnita, passing from the Land of Hârtibacci to the Fagaras Country, over the wooded hills, you have Dealu Frumos, the village in the heart of the country.

Schönberg - Leses - Dealu Frumos is located 41 km southeast of Mediaş. In German called Schönberg (Deal Frumos), in Latin Pulcromonte, Leses in Hungarian, Leses, in Saxon dialect Schinebärch, Šinebarh, and in Romanian was Şulumberg, Şulemberg, and today Dealu Frumos.<sup>1</sup> The first mention of this place is made in a sale-purchase act from 1280, the buyer being Gerlachus de Pulcromonte. The great Mongol invasion (Tatars) of 1285 led to the destruction of the locality, but it was later rebuilt. In 1321 the locality appears under the name "de Pulcro monte". In the first half of the 13th century there was built a Romanesque basilica with stone arches but no bell tower. In the 15th century the bell-tower was built, almost 23 meters high, with walls up to 2 meters thick, defensive; also has drawstrings. In the bell tower, the highest is the clock, and the bells are one floor below; one of the bells is from 1538.<sup>2</sup>

In 1334 there existed a functional school ("domus scholaris), which educated students that further moved to study in Viena (Petrus de Schoenberg – 1393, August Andreas Huetter / Andreas Henter – 1517), Krakow (Michael – 1487, Georg – 1518) or Leipzig (Wolfgang Duhenius – 1507). This shows a functional European connections many centuries ago.

The unfortunate history of this place tells the story of many Saxons having to leave Dealu Frumos, leaving behind a wonderful fortified church left to fall apart and a number of Gypsies that have no occupation or connection to the community.



LOCATION Dealu Frumos  
FOTO <https://zigzagprinromania.com/blog/dealu-frumos-locul-din-centrul-tarii/>

### **3. PIATRA SI FOC - LIME PRODUCTION**

A multimilenary craft is looking for its way back into the 21st century. This method consists of burning limestone in order to produce lime and it was known and used more than 2000 years ago.

By using this method people could obtain two types of limestone:

- the usual limestone used for mortars and painting
- the hydraulic limestone, which is known to have been used by the Romanian builders to lift the bridge at Drobeta Turnu Severin.

As with other traditional trades, as a result of the globalization of other construction technologies, lime burning is a craft that slowly disappears. But it doesn't have to, as there are still areas of activity which need this method in order to survive, such as the restoration of buildings older than 100 years, as it is dependent on the use of materials and technologies identical or compatible with those used initially. This project aims at recovering this knowledge, transferring it to young people and preserving it through museology.

The slurry produced by traditional means was used both in construction and in the household. Thus the peasants used the lime to produce mortar, for painting, for the preservation of vegetable and fruits (lime water), for the pigment of textiles (as a cleaning and fixing agent), and even in traditional medicine.

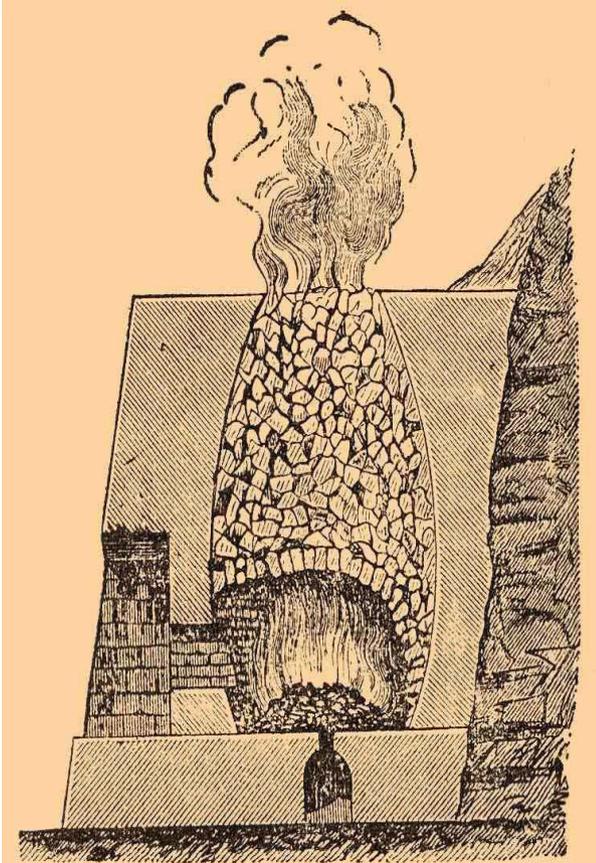


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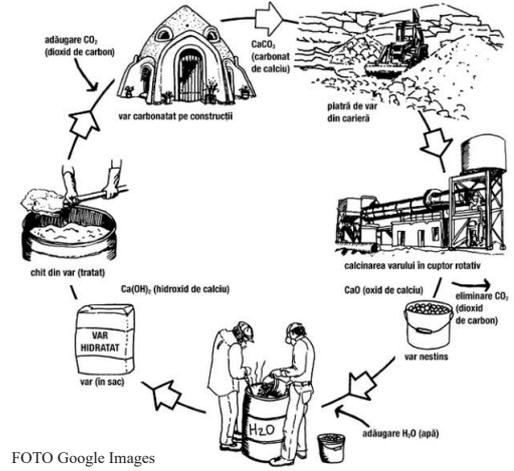


FOTO Google Images



FOTO Ciuruleasca, Jud. Alba, Romania - from person who sells limestone  
[https://varnestins.sunphoto.ro/Vand\\_Var\\_Nestins\\_bulgare](https://varnestins.sunphoto.ro/Vand_Var_Nestins_bulgare)

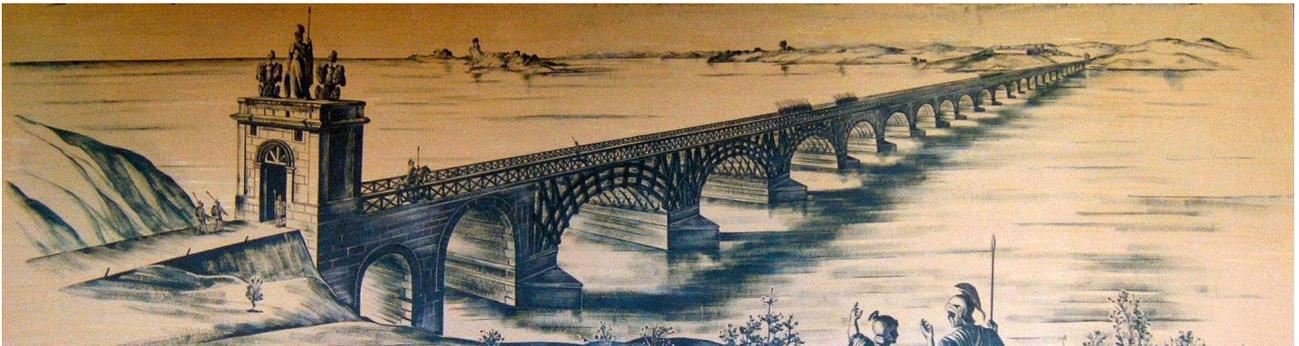


FOTO [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan%27s\\_Bridge#/media/File:Trajan%27s\\_Bridge\\_Across\\_the\\_Danube,\\_Modern\\_Reconstruction.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trajan%27s_Bridge#/media/File:Trajan%27s_Bridge_Across_the_Danube,_Modern_Reconstruction.jpg)  
 Bridge at Drobeta Turnu-Severin made out of limestone/reconstruction

#### 4. PIATRA SI FOC - OVEN

The arhaic method is still used in some mountain areas in Romania:

Varghis Village, Jud. Covasna / Bunoaica Village, Comuna Ciresu, Jud. Mehedinti / Balta Village, Jud. Mehedinti / Şiroca Village, Jud. Mehedinti / Bâlvăneşti Village, Jud. Mehedinti / Podeni Village, Comuna Moldoveneşti, Jud. Cluj.

Most of them are situated in Mehedinti area, because of the existence of the massive limestone giant in this area, which provided raw material to craftsmen.

Not only Romania used this tradition in the past. There is evidence of other countries having the same tradition as us. Ovens have been discovered in many places, such as Rusia. The picture below shows abandoned ovens in Satka.

Also, the history of the Baumit company shows how everything started from a limestone oven.

1810-The first mention of a lime kiln on the main road to Gutenstein, Austria

1911-Registration of Wopfinger Stein und Kalkwerke in the Trade Register. At that time there were already two lime kilns and an administrative building.

1920-Acquisition of the first limestone grinding machine. Until then it was done manually.

1988-Dieter Kern (wup) and Friedrich Schmid (Wopfung) set up the Baumit brand, a force in the field of building materials.<sup>3</sup>

An interview with a romanian master informs us that business was good back when the ovens were being used. The man, Ionica Branzan, says how everyone was buying limestone from him and how it was worth it because he made good money. But sadly, as with Baumit company, technology no longer needs the ovens.<sup>4</sup>

In the present, some men still sell this product, and the prices are between 3,5 and 4.5 RON/KG and are only sold at a minimum order of 10KG ([https://varnestins.sunphoto.ro/Vand\\_Var\\_Nestins\\_bulgare](https://varnestins.sunphoto.ro/Vand_Var_Nestins_bulgare)). Apparently there is a high demand for it for treatment of the pond or dezinfecting the well.



Master Ionica Branzan  
LOCATION Sat Bunoaica, Comuna Ciresu, Jud. Mehedinti  
FOTO Alexandra Georgescu



LOCATION Gutenstein, Austria  
FOTO <https://www.baumit.ro/companie/index.html>



LOCATION Satka, Russia  
FOTO <http://fototerra.ru/photo-page/Russia/Satka/105975>

#### 4.1. PIATRA SI FOC - OVEN - HOW IT WORKS

The furnaces are cylindrical in shape. It has the height of a five-storey building and is mounted on a cast iron ring fixed on a concrete foundation. The walls are made of double layers with an insulating part, covered with steel sheets or steel rings on the outside. The inside is made of refractory brick, resistant to temperatures above 1300 ° C. The diameter of the furnaces can be from 4.5 to 6.5 meters.

At the bottom of the oven there is a mouth for continuous discharge of lime and another for the penetration of air. In the upper part of the furnace are special installations with dispersion cones for the introduction into the furnace of calibrated limestone or limestone mixture with coal.

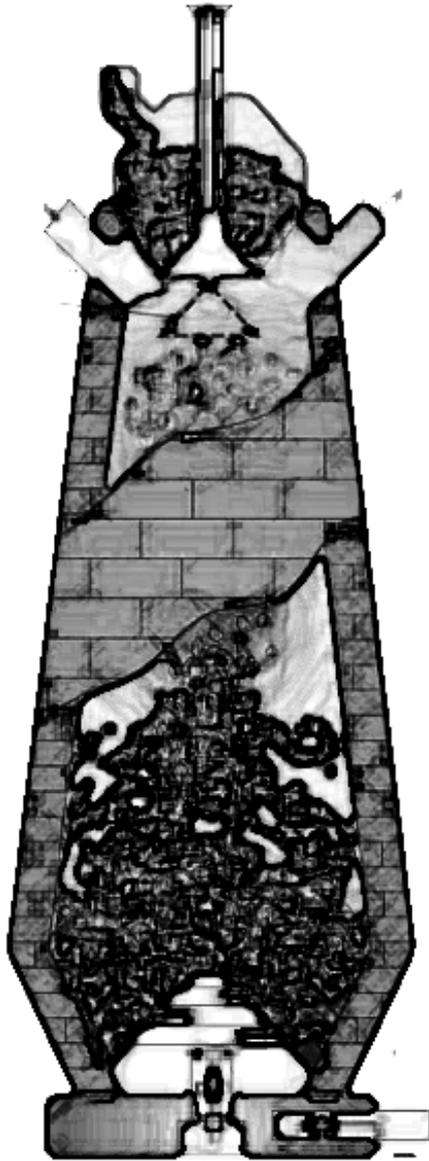
The process of production is continuous: from the top the cold limestone moves, and in counter-current - the hot gas. There is heat exchange, where the raw material is triggered, and the gas is breeding.

When it comes to the roasting area, the limestone decomposes. The solid, hot-melted limestone moves downwards, passing through the cold air flow that rises upwards. There is a heat exchange here: the uncooked lime cools and the air heats up. Thus, the limestone and the air manage to melt until it reaches the roasting area (middle area). Uncrushed limestone is discharged through the bottom directly onto the conveyor and taken to the deposit, and the carbon dioxide is purified and loaded into pressure bottles.<sup>5</sup>

For a ton of lime you burn about three meters of wood (about two cubic meters)

The capacity of an oven is 5-6 tones/hour of lime. (<https://www.scribd.com/document/230311957/Proiectarea-Procesului-Industrial-de-Productie-a-Varului>)

Of course, there are other types of ovens around Romania, like for example the oven made out of clay. The difference between the two is of course the limitation of height in building them, as the clay oven can only be 6m high.<sup>6</sup>



Sketch Limestone Oven  
hight - 5 story building



FOTO Clay Oven  
hight - 6 m  
<http://lutars.piscu.ro/Lutars2007/Caie/5-Cuptorul.pdf>

## 5. PIATRA SI FOC - ROMA MINORITY

Looking at the history of Dealu Frumos, we can see what inhabitants the area had.

The year 1752 mentions here 8 Romanian serfs and 9 Gypsies.

In 1850, of the 1229 inhabitants, the Saxons were 626, the Romanians 412, and the Gypsies 180.

As we can see, the number of Gypsies had increased, and after the Saxons left the country, only the Romanians and the Gypsies remained.

The situation in Romania shows that even though there have been made efforts, the inclusion of the Roma minority still presents an issue.

The Gypsies have been known as being very good with manual labour and traditional crafts.

This program suggests involving the Gypsies in the activity by allowing them to keep themselves busy with the production of lime, and thus keeping the tradition alive by practicing the method and teaching it to their children.

## 6. PIATRA SI FOC - FORTIFIED CHURCH

The fortified churches of the Transylvanian Saxons are amazing, very special architectural appearances that were left behind when the Saxons left Romania.

Not only do they have valuable art objects inside but also ritual objects, such as a masterpiece of painting or wood carving. They still shelter altars, pipe organs, pulpits and other important and valuable objects. All of these are very important for the development of arts. Another very relevant element not to be overlooked is the appearance of the written words that remind not only of significant building stages, including renovations and enrichments, but that may recount historical happenings that, later, have often turned out to be genuine historic events.

One of these amazing churches is the one in Dealu Frumos, that has been left behind to fall apart.

By implementing this program where the Roma minority would bring the method of limestone burning back, the church (and also other houses) could be restored and reused.



FOTOS taken by my classmates in Dealu Frumos

## 7. PIATRA SI FOC - EXISTING PROJECT

The method of producing lime by burning limestone has already been implemented as projects in other areas of Romania and are having a great success.

One of the projects is run by the Sinaptica Association and is taking place in Mehedinti. They are working in partnership with the Podeni Mayorate of Mehedinti County, the Astra National Museum Complex in Sibiu and the National Heritage Institute. It is a cultural project co-funded by the National Cultural Fund Administration, part of the Sinaptica Association's "Good Hosts in Old Houses" Program.

Activities of the project:

Organizing two camps for burning lime

Two camps for lime burning were organized, with a duration of about 10 days each, one in Mehedinti County and one in Hunedoara County, so that the future professionals in the fields of architecture, engineering, restoration, ethnography and professionals in the field of museology and restoration could directly learn the technology of burning lime and its uses.

After the camps finish, based on their experience, the project team members who participated in the camps will coordinate or directly perform the necessary operations to create a limestone burning furnace inside the Museum of Traditional Folk Civilization Sibiu. The general public of the museum will have the opportunity to participate in these activities. This is still to come in the months of September-October 2018.



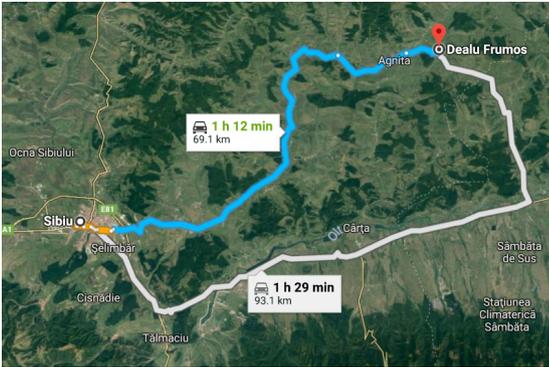
FOTO Google Images  
Astra Muzeum, Sibiu, Romania

## **8. PIATRA SI FOC - CONNECTION TO ANOTHER BIG CITY - FESTIVAL**

All of these actions -helping the Roma find a constructive occupation which would tie them to the community, making lime by burning limestone in order to restore the fortified church and other buildings - can be an important opportunity of bringing tourists back into town.

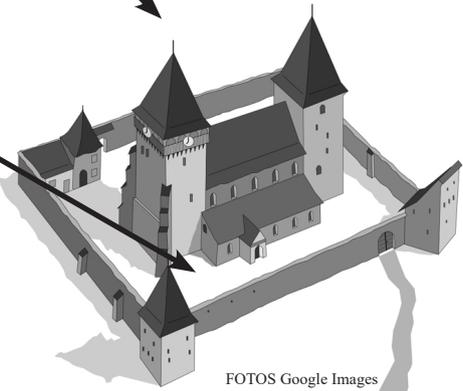
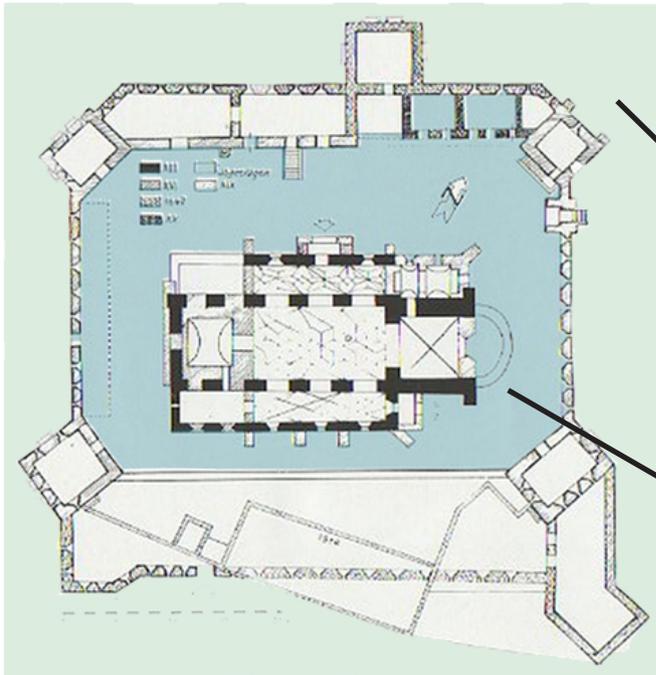
This can be done by getting people to hear about Dealu Frumos and by turning the limestone burning into an event - or better yet - into a festival that takes place every year. The festival will include several romanian traditions. One will be the limestoneburning event, where people will watch the process and get informed about the gains of this method, another will be "Masura Laptelui" which consists of people watching and learning how to milk a cow, then see how the locals (Roma minority can once again take part in the process) turn the milk into cheese. At the end of the day, everyone can taste the milk and cheese, dance by the fire (Romania has many traditional dances) and enjoy the fresh air and gorgeous views.

The whole festival has the biggest chances of being heard of, if it is connected to the Winter Festival that takes place every year in Sibiu. (also food is being sold and a light mapping takes places on the buildings in the center of the city) There will be an arrangement of transportation between the two places, in order for people to be able to get there and back effortlessly.



placing the tables for selling the goods

area for the festival to take place



Having the event next to the church will make it seen, people will want to see it from inside and it will also make them aware of the situation.

FOTOS Google Images

## 9. PIATRA SI FOC - PUTTING DEALU FRUMOS ON THE MAP

One very interesting and practical way of helping people hear about this project and about the needs of Dealu Frumos would be the power of the internet.

There are a few projects that work with just that - helping people discover forgotten places around the world.

The projects have the goal of highlighting the archeological sites that are not very well known, and teaching people about different perspectives of the ones that are better known. The project helps the observers gain a bigger picture about the past, by sharing some technologies of the past. This helps revitalizing arts and crafts and growing the economy of the certain location.

An example for these projects is "The Time Maps". It was initiated for the community of Vadastra and was later transferred to other communities in Romania. The collaboration with two communities from Portugal extended the scope of the project, and thereafter other European communities were invited to present their scientific and educational strategies to create a European platform which will generate a new paradigm for approaching the Past through a synthesis of science, art/technê, and education.

With the help on Time Maps, people were able to start experiencing this limestone burning, as Romania is fighting to bring this tradition back. This means, that the people are willing to do so, if getting the proper help.

If Dealu Frumos would be one of the locations that pop up when you search for technologies of the past, it would help a great deal with the economy of the area.



FOTO <https://www.pinterest.at/pin/114630752992232681/?lp=true>



FOTO <https://kimballartcenter.org/class-type/ceramics/page/7/>

## 10. PIATRA SI FOC - HOW TO DO IT?

The best option of approaching the project is looking at the one that has already been done in Mehedinti and start from there. Start from organizing a workshop where people learn how to burn lime and what it brings, then organize another workshop where they built the oven needed for the operation. The word will spread and more people will sign up for the event. Slowly, it will grow and turn into the project visualized now.

The people living in Dealu Frumos are very welcoming and want the church to run again. By organizing events near the church, not only will people want to visit it, they will also see how badly it is in need of restoration. Of course, they don't want their town to become a mess, so everything will have to be done tidy. However, they need the help and the tourists, but do not have an attraction for them. If you try booking an accommodation, you will barely find one host, and that is an issue. By bringing the town back on the map, people will start working in the direction of welcoming more newcomers who are eager to see and help out. In time, the city will have a steady, healthy circuit of its own.

Museographer Florentina Pleniceanu, head of the Department of Ethnography and Folk Art of the Iron Gate Region Museum in Drobeta Turnu Severin, is optimistic and is convinced that these crafts will find their well-earned place: "I am convinced that we will return to the true values of identity and so it will happen with many crafts that we say are endangered. They are latent now, but people will not let these things go, they will appreciate them, they will treasure them," says the museographer.<sup>8</sup>

In the visual representation you can see how the ovens could be placed ( built maybe by architecture students in a summer workshop; interested people; etc ) near the entrance in Dealu Frumos. It is very clear that there is enough space for many ovens, as they only require approx. 6m in diameter. They would also be located close to the evangelic church. The building that can be observed on the left side is most likely abandoned ( no information online about it ) and could be eventually used as a deposit or for the processing of the lime.



FOTO Google Maps Dealu Frumos



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