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Municipality of Ruse

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COMMON PRESERVATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN EURO-REGION RUSE-GIURGIU

Interreg V-A Romania - Bulgaria 2014-2020 Programme



PANTHEON OF THE NATIONAL REVIVAL HEROES

GIURGIU FORTRESS



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Municipality of
Giurgiu

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Introduction

The need for the Management Plan has the purpose of reaching a balance between the economic development and interest of the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region.

This is not a legal document and it does not replace the legal frame. The Management Plan reunites information related to site characteristics, organizations identification and individuals whose interests are connected to it, identifying risks and opportunities to preserve and develop, as well as emphasizing a global strategy for reaching a joint purpose.

The need and purpose of the Management Plan

In Romania, the existence of the management plan for historical monuments is not decided by law, except only for historical monuments that are part of the World Patrimony List. For accomplishing the purpose of durable preservation and development, it is necessary that all parts involved in the site management to coordinate their actions depending on the directions envisioned for this document. The main purposes of the Management Plan for Ruse- Giurgiu Euro-region are:

- Drafting the objectives for the historical site management and for the environment, of which it is a part of, considering all its elements (landscape, natural elements, architectural- urbanistic assemblies, archeological and industrial patrimony, individual monuments etc.;

- Stimulating knowledge and increasing the public's interest for sites, promoting the educational and cultural value of the environment as a whole;

- Establishing a management strategy based on the principles of durable development, considering both the preservation of the cultural values and the natural ones, but also the touristic use and exploitation of natural resources;

- Identifying the site's economic and cultural potential, stimulating the local actor participation in increasing these benefits;

- Proposing a priority action program contributing to preserving the sites value.

1. Description of historical monuments

1.1. Localization

This study focuses on two elements of the national patrimony of Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region: The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes from Ruse and Giurgiu Fortress from the municipality with the same name. The Ruse - Giurgiu Euro-region, associative structure of the two municipalities created in 2001, is on the south-eastern side of Europe, at the border between Romania and Bulgaria, benefiting from a strategic geographic position. Practically, the region is at the intersection of two of the ten pan-European corridors - Pan-European Corridor VII (the Danube), connecting Western Europe with the Black Sea and Central Asia, respectively the Pan European Corridor IX, connecting Scandinavia and the Russian Federation from the South of Europe and Small Asia. The euro-region surface is 517.8 km² and consists in two urban poles - Ruse Municipality (Bulgaria) and Giurgiu Municipality (Ruse), plus, besides the Bulgarian part, a small dimensions town - Marten - and 12 rural localities.

On the other hand, the distance between the two capitals - Bucharest and Sofia - is only 65 km, respectively 310 km, the two agglomerations reuniting a market of approx. 5 million users.

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes is located in Ruse, in the north side of Bulgaria, with an exit to the Danube. Inside the city, the monument is located in the west side, at approximately 1 km away from the Danube, but also from the Romanian border.

The Giurgiu fortress is another archeological site on the territory of Giurgiu Municipality. Giurgiu Municipality is the residence of the county with the same name, on the south side of Romania, being an important big river port, but also a border point with Bulgaria. The Giurgiu fortress is on the south side of Giurgiu Municipality, at approx. 5 km from the Danube. These are situated on the cadaster plan no. 34384, at the intersection between Digului street and Portului road.



Fig.1 - The geographic position of the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region
Source: Google Maps

1.2. General presentation of the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region

The Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region is a two-municipality associative structure, being created in 2001, being located on the south-western side of Europe, at the border between Romania and Bulgaria (which became Member States of the European Union in 2007), benefiting from a strategic position.

The Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region has a surface of 517.8 km² and consists in two urban poles -Ruse Municipality (Bulgaria) and Giurgiu Municipality (Romania).

The region is at the intersection of two of the ten pan-European corridors - the Pan-European Corridor VII (the Danube), connecting Western Europe with the Black Sea and Central Asia, respectively the Pan-European Corridor IX, connecting Scandinavia and the Russian Federation from the South of Europe and Small Asia.

The distance between the two capitals is: 65 km - Bucharest, respectively 310 km - Sofia.

The "Friendship" Bridge was the only connection between Romania and Bulgaria, for 60 years. Due to the geographic position, the Euro-region is transited by 80% of the merchandise transit between Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey (approx. EUR 10 billion every year).

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The two municipalities allow a great interest both to the trans-border collaboration relationships, as well as to economy for a durable development, where tourism occupies a very important place. The Danube is the main actor of the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region, reaching on a surface of 2,860 km, of which 1,075 km are on the Romanian territory, between Buziaş and the Black Sea.

- Ruse Region - is one of the 28 regions in Bulgaria, consisting in eight municipalities: Ruse, Byala, Ivanovo, Borovo, Slivo Pole, Dve Mogili and Vetovo, where the administrative capital is the city Ruse.

Ruse Municipality is the 5th city in size from Bulgaria, being situated on the right side of river Danube, at an altitude of approx. 50 m above the sea level, at a distance of 496 m from the course of Danube. It is located 320 km north-west from the capital Sofia, 203 km north-west from Varna, 106 km north-west from Veliko Tarnovo.

Being an important river port of the country, here you can find the main transit area for the merchandise being exported and imported to Romania, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. The town Ruse is the biggest industrial center in Bulgaria, with an important role in the country's economy and international cooperation relations, here being located one of the biggest refineries.

This is the only city frontages to the Danube on the sector crossing Bulgaria (and Romania), that has an airport.

Besides those, Ruse is also an important administrative, educational, industrial, commercial, medical, cultural, touristic and service center in the north-eastern side of Bulgaria.

The climate is temperate continental and the main rivers are Yantra and Rusenski Lom. Related to natural resources, here are natural quart and limestone quarries.

Due to its location, the Ruse region has an important advantage, through the climate and soil favorable to developing the agricultural sector, here being located also one of the oldest agricultural research resort - Slivo Pole.



Fig.2 - Ruse Region

Source: Google Maps

- County of Giurgiu - is located in the southern side of Romania, in Câmpia Română, with a surface of 3,526 km².

From the infrastructure point of view, the county benefits from meeting point of three traffic systems in a multi-tie center: roads, railroads and naval.

The Giurgiu Port represents one of the main ports located on the Danube sector.

The only bridge over the Danube is the one between Romania and Bulgaria, the "Friendship Bridge", that connects Giurgiu and Ruse, has a length of 2.8 km, its structure being established on 2 levels (the upper side for road traffic, and the lower side for railroad traffic).

The hydrographic network is made out of rivers irrigating the county's territory (Argeş and its streams - Dâmboviţa, Sabar, Neajlov; Danube - the main collector).

The Giurgiu Municipality is the residence of Giurgiu county. The first testimonies are from the 14th century, being the first town in Romania benefiting from a railroad (Bucharest-Giurgiu), the first telegraph line.

It is an average sized town in Romania, being important transport and transit center for merchandise and persons to the Balkans area and Small Asia.

Giurgiu Port is the closest to the Romania's capital city (65 km), that has no access directly to the river or sea transportation. It serves administrative, educational, medical, commercial, industrial services etc



Fig.3 - County of Giurgiu
Source: Google Maps

Localization and delimitation of historical monuments

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes

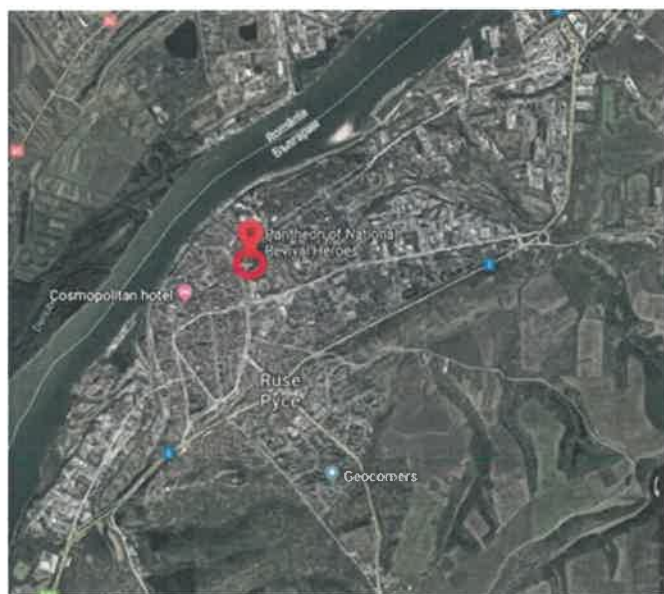


Fig.4 Location of the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes in Ruse, Bulgaria
Source: Google Maps

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes - is located in the center of the town Ruse, in "Vazrozhdenski" Market, being identified with the cadaster number 634427.2.5778.

This is delimited as follows:

- North side - Vazrozhdenski Park;
- East side - Saedinenie Blvd.;
- South side - Municipal Stadium;
- West side - General Consulate of the Russian federation;

Giurgiu Fortress

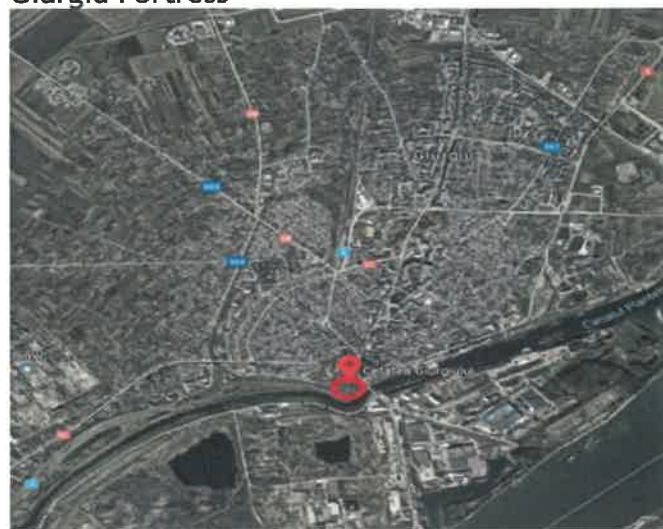


Fig.5 - Location of the Giurgiu Fortress in Giurgiu Municipality, Romania

Source: Google Maps

Giurgiu Fortress - is located on the south side of Giurgiu Municipality (Digului street), geographically registered at 43°54'3"N 25°58'26"E, in the southern side of Romania, on the banks of the river Danube.

This is delimited as follows:

- North side - the north front of 1907 Blvd.;
- North-East side - the north-eastern front of the street Constantin Dobrogeanu Ghinea, the northern front of the street Parcului and Episcopiei;
- South side - southern front of the street Voestalpine;
- West side - Digului street.

It has no marked access for pedestrian traffic, the only access being a public local road on the eastern side (Portului Road). The lot is fenced with a degrading metallic fence.

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1.3. Tourism

The tourism is a complex social-economic phenomena, with a great influence on the national economy. From the international point of view, it represents one of the important activities of the modern civilization and social

life, evolving with the political, economical, scientific and cultural development.

Tourism combines the economic factors with the social ones, revealing the standard of living and changes in the population behavior. Internationally, the sector registers two main directions, respectively cultural tourism and patrimony tourism - this being the type of tourism with the most important and quick development rate globally.¹

The tourism industry is very hard to control and plan, both due to the tourists - who have unrealistic expectations on the event of discovering the cultural patrimony, as well as due to the tourism agencies, that focus usually on increasing the tourists flow. Currently, it is practiced the "hit-and-run" tourism at cultural sites, being negative due to the side effects they have on the monuments - waste, water consumption, traffic etc.

An issue related to the tourism field is represented by the tourists that transit both countries and do not want to visit the touristic objectives available.

To support economy, the Euro-regions needs important investments regarding the touristic activity, therefore creating an attractive environment for the tourists.

The tourism represents the activity that values most visibly and importantly the "cultural and natural heritage" of a country/ region/ locality.

The Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region also has numerous unique natural resources, besides the cultural ones, that may attract an important number of tourists.

The area has natural reservations and parks (community sites, specially protected areas with birds and fauna - included in nature 2000) - forests, canyons and spread humid areas, where rare species can be found, some on the verge of extinction. Among them we can mention:

¹ From cultural tourism to creative tourism - Part 1: The changing context of cultural tourism, Greg Richards si Julie Wilson, Arnhem: ATLAS, January 2008, ISBN 978-90-75775-30-3

The Natural Park Ruseski Lom - created in 1970, with a surface of 3,408 ha being one of the ten natural parks in Bulgaria. It has a canyon-type part, with caves and rocky formations, along the river with the same name, with a number of 60 species of trees and shrubbery, 22 species of fish, 10 species of amphibians, 19 species of reptiles and 193 species of rare birds;

Lipnik Park - with a surface of approx. 2,000 ha and different species of trees (lime);

Orlova Chuka Cave - this is the second cave in size from Bulgaria, with a length of approx. 15 km;

Comana Natural Park - with a surface exceeding 25,000 ha, with a unique reservation of Romanian peony;

Cama Dinu-Păsărica Natural Reservation - it is an area with oasis, situated along the river Danube, reaching on a surface of 2,400 ha; this represents a floodable meadow with rare species of aquatic plants, mushrooms and moss;

Also, in the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-species there is also a large series of objectives built by the patrimony, with a high touristic importance.

Ruse

The town has the opportunities necessary to develop the touristic sector. The types of tourism from the area are cultural (exploitation/ knowledge), rural and ecological, being determined by the right geographical location, by the local transportation, by the rich cultural and historical inheritance, but also by the beautiful natural resources focused on a relatively small area. Regarding the diversity, on the territory of the district Ruse you can find numerous protected areas, as well as a natural park called Ruseski Lom, 4 touristic attractions and 8 sites that are part of the Ecologic European Network Natura 2000. The natural park Ruseski Lom is known for the canyons on the river valley, covered by varied species of trees and bushes, picturesque rocky formations, but also by a great diversity of bird species.

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Nearby this natural park you can find the Orlova Chuka cave, an archeological reservation of national importance, where were discovered the remains of prehistorical human beings, cavern bears but also other artefacts.

Other natural touristic resources are:

- The Kalimok-Brashlen humid area - preserves the characteristics of flora and fauna of the ecosystems from the swamp area of the Danube;

- The ecosystem from the valley of the river Yantraunde, made of special natural formations;

- The banks of river Danube - when one can practice different types of tourism;

- Places near Mechka villages - nesting places for water birds and other species;

Considered important in the development of European culture, rupestral monasteries from Ruse were included on the list of the world UNESCO patrimony.

Among them, one can list the Archeological Reservation the Rocky Churches (from Ivanovo) comprising the monasteries Ivanovo, situated 38 m above the road.

The medieval town of Cerven, from the 14th century represents another important objective. Here were discovered numerous fortresses, rooms, churches, ironworks, ceramic fragments and golden objects, carst underground stream. Also here you can find the Rock Monastery "Saints Dimitrie Basarabov" declared a very important cultural Monument.

A special touristic resource is the architecture of the old town of Ruse from the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. Ruse Municipality is one of the few cities in the Balkans that has a neo-baroque and neo-rococo architecture, and that is why it is called the "small Vienna".

The total number of historical monuments in town is around 60, and among the most famous we can list:

- The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes;
- The Liberty Monument;
- Dohodno Zdanie - "Sava Ognianov" Theatre;
- The town historical center (the square around the History Museum);
- The Old Music School;
- Alexandrovska street - an assembly of buildings in the baroque and rococo style;
- The Ruins of the Roman Sexaginta Prista Fortress;
- The Fortress from Cherven;
- Television Tower - one of the tallest buildings in the Balkans;
- Basarbovo Monastery;
- Catholic Cathedral "St. Paul";

Related to the cultural infrastructure:

- The State Philharmonic Orchestra from Ruse;
- State Opera from Ruse;
- "Sava Ognianov" Theatre from Ruse;
- History museum from Ruse;
- National Museum of Transports from Ruse;
- Urban style museum from Ruse;
- "Zahari Stoyanov" Museum from Ruse;

Contrary to Giurgiu Municipality, where only business and transit tourisms are being developed, in Ruse you can see several more categories, among which urban and cultural tourism, religious cultural tourism, ecotourism and cycling, the latter being practiced on the banks of the river Danube.

Due to the closeness to the Romanian capital, Ruse municipality becomes a transit destination, by short stays.

The area has also a special potential for rural and ecotourism development, preserving hand-made traditions from the piscatorial villages nearby (the Dogarie district). Besides those, nautical sports can be practiced, congress tourism as well as cultural and know-how tourism.

Giurgiu

Even though Giurgiu county has no spectacular landscapes, being located on a plane, natural resources are well represented through a natural park, five natural protected areas and eight sites that are part of the Ecological Network Natura 2000.

These have a special and diverse touristic potential especially for ecotourism, adventure tourism, agro-tourism, cycling, recreation, fishing and hunting.

The most important attraction is Comana Natural Park, that includes three natural reservations: -Padina Tătarului - scientific peonies reservation; -Oloaga Grădinari - scientific prickly pear reservation; -Balta Comana - natural reservation and birds and fauna protected area; this is the third humid area in Romania, but also the second as biodiversity, after the Danube Delta.

Within the park there are also seven protected areas with a special landscape, flora and fauna value.

The touristic potential of the park would develop considerably if other natural reservations would also be preserved, like the loranth, secular trees (oak), Fântâna cu Nuc cabin, lacustrine establishments from Balta Comana, but also touristic paths and boat rides.

In the Comana Natural Park, the practiced tourisms are recreational, weekend tourism, scientific, fishing, hunting, adventure, cycling and ecotourism.

The island area on the Danube lead to the occurrence of the natural reservation Cama-Dinu-Păsărică, being a flood plain type, where vulnerable fish species can be found, on the verge of extinction.

In this county forests are numerous, occupying a percentage of 11% - in the valleys of the rivers Argeş and the Danube, on the banks of the river Danube or in the rest of the territory (Manafu, Oloaga-Grădinari, Padina Tătarului, Teşila forests); these are suitable for recreation, fishing and hunting. Also, the variety of landscapes but also areas for nautical recreation and fishing are on the Argeş valley and its streams - Neajlov, Sabar, Ilfovăţ, therefore creating important touristic areas in these locations.

At the level of Giurgiu municipality, tourism is not so well developed. From the touristic sector, the most significant economic

growth was the cultural tourism and the one generated by the architectural patrimony.

Giurgiu Fortress is in this category, due to important historical events that took place here approximately 700 years before.

The medieval fortress of Giurgiu (code LMI GR-II-s-A-14756) - represents the most valuable building from the historical, architectural and memorial point of view, being a reminder of the history of Wallachia but also its personalities (Mircea cel Bătrân, Vlad Dracul, Michael the Brave, Radu Mihnea), but also the Turkish administration that held the town and its backcountry for more than four centuries.

The walls of the old fortress are still visible, initiated in the 14th century, with those of the fortification developed in the second half of the 18th century.

At national level, the studied elements from the list of historical monuments are the following:

Code LMI	Name
GR-I-s-A-14756 (RAN 100530.01.01)	Giurgiu Fortress
GR-II-m-B-14876	County Museum "Teohari Antonescu"
GR-II-m-B-1487	Urban assembly "Alei Park and nearby real estates"
GR-II-m-B-14890	Skete "Saint Nicholas"
GR-II-m-B-14894	Bizetz bridge
GR-III-m-B-15103	The bust of Mihai Eminescu
GR-III-a-B-15104	Aleea Eroilor street (1877-1878) + 23 busts + memorial plate

1.4. Boundaries

The boundaries are defined for ensuring integrity, preservation, for enhancing and valorizing the qualities of the historical monument, but also its naturally built frame. These can be reached by performing special regulations, defined by the urbanism plans and regulations approved and certified by the local and central public authorities. That is why, we must stop the destruction of the built assets, with historical, urbanistic, memorial significance but also the landscape degradation, as well as alteration of the perception of their quality.

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes is located on the south-west side of the Heroes of the National Renaissance Park, on the site of the demolished church "Vsi Svetii" ("All Saints"). On the south is delimited by the "Nish" street.

The cadaster boundaries of the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes are: 63427.2.4763, 63427.2.4764, 63427.2.1647, 63427.2.4762, 63427.2.4768, 63427.1.268, 63427.2.5627, 63427.2.4813, 63427.2.

Giurgiu Fortress

The boundary of the historical monument is developed on a surface of 37,560 m².

The area defining the archeological potential found is delimited by the streets Ion Luca Caragiale, Bd. 1907, Dobrogeanu Gherea, G-ral Berthelot, Parcul Aleii, Canalului, the railroad area, the thalweg of the Sf. Gheorghe channel, ending in front of the street Ion Luca Caragiale, crossing the street Canalului.

To the respective surface is added also a part of the real estates oriented towards traffic and described earlier, where, in the past were located defenses of the Russian/Turkish fortifications, but also an area oriented towards the south-east, where archeological proof lie that are connected with the bridge connecting the Ramadan island and the island fortress.

Its boundary starts at the lots of the St. Hierarch Nicolae Church and the Romanian Intelligence Service, following the direction of the "circular tower", changing directions towards south-west, crossing the channel Cama and Voestalpine.

The monument's protection area is limited by the axis of the railroad until the Digului street, following its axis, up to the intersection with the limit of the archeological area. Beyond this limit, follows its contour up to Alea Plantelor. To the protection limit are also added the real estates oriented towards Alea Plantelor, up to Portului street, where it crosses the railroad

and continues up to the new bridge over the Sf. Gheorghe channel/Cama/ Plantelor.

The limit continues on Portului road, up to the Voestalpine street, approx. 200 m, following this benchmark until the road intersection that limits the dog shelter on the west side, ending on the axis of the railroad.¹



Fig.6. - Border of the Giurgiu Fortress

Source: The delimitation study of the monument and protection area - CPECB-UAUIM (The engineering center of "Ion Mincu" Architecture and Urbanism University, Bucharest), 2015

1.5.Site description

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes - Ruse



Fig.7.- The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes - Ruse

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Pantheon_

1Giurgiu Fortress - Delimitation of the Monument and Protection area, Research Center, Design, Performance and Consulting Bucharest S.R.L.

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The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes is a national monument and an ossuary. It was built to commemorate the Bulgarians that bled for the freedom of the country. Here you can find the bones of 39 known Bulgaria personalities, who fought for their freedom.

With them, there are also 453 persons that were part of the Botev squad, Chervena Voda squad, but also other revolutionaries, whose names are listed inside.

An eternal flame burns in the middle of the golden-plated dome. The pantheon is located where the old cemetery of the town used to be, in the National Renaissance Heroes Park.

The new building was opened for visitation in 1978. In 2011, the Pantheon was christened, a cross being placed on the dome's tower.

Besides the ossuary, the Pantheon is also a kind of symbol of national reconciliation - there are also the remains of the leaders executed of the Russian rebellion officers from Rousse in 1887 - Major Atanas Uzunov, Major Olympi Panov, Toma Kurdzhiev and others.

During the period 1996-2018, the Pantheon was the most visited museum in Ruse, with a number of visitors in between 7,000 and 10, 000 persons.

On February 20th, 2004, a ceremony took place for the first time in the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes commemorating the freedom of the town of Ruse. From that date on, the event became part of the town events and is celebrated at the time. The ceremony includes themed songs from the period of the National Renaissance, speeches held by the Mayor of Ruse Municipality and by the Manager of the National Regional History Museum, a prayer, the water ceremony and the crown ceremony placed in front of the eternal flame.

Every year, on March 27th, the Mathematic High School from Ruse celebrates the legendary revolutionary Baba Tonka at the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes.



Fig.8.- The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes - Ruse
Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Pantheon>

Giurgiu Fortress - Giurgiu



Fig.9 - Giurgiu Fortress - Giurgiu Municipality

Source: Google
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Giurgiu Fortress has a surface of 37,550 m², being located in Giurgiu municipality. The location is on the southern side of the town, at the Cama-Plantelor channel.

On the north is limited by the C.F.R. S.A. Public railroad infrastructure, on the east side by Portului Road, on the south side by Cama-Plantelor Channel and on the west side by the public field of Giurgiu Municipality.

The fortress center is represented by the observation tower, on many levels.

The fortress is made of a quasi-triangular formation, with rectangular corner towers and a tower located on the half way of one side.

The land where the fortress is located has no special use, being considered a barren land, not established.

Currently, the fortress vestiges are covered by spontaneous vegetation, but also by the waste that grew throughout the years.

This degradation decreases the existence and importance of vestiges, that are not that known by the town's inhabitants.

According to the list attached to the Order of the Ministry of Culture no.2.828/2015, for the amendment of annex no. 1 to the Order of the Ministry of Culture and Cults no. 2.314/2004, regarding the approval of the updated List of Historical Monuments and the List of the perished Historical Monuments, with subsequent amendments from 24.12.2015:

Giurgiu fortress is an archeological site, registered in group A (national and universal historical monument), on position no. 1, code LMI GR-I-s-A-14756, located in Giurgiu municipality, on the left bank of Sf. Gheorghe branch, on the west side of Portului Road, dated until the 14th - 18th century, Medieval era.

The location is near historical monuments, according to LMI 2015:

229	G R - I I - m-B-14846	Stone pier	On Sf. Gheorghe channel
263	G R - I I - m-A-14880	Fragment from the Tabia Turkish fortress wall	Str. Dunării, behind the lots
276	G R - I I - m-B-14890	"St. Nucholas" Church	Str. Mircea cel Bătrân
279	G R - I I - m-B-14894	Bizetz bridge	Portului Road, over the Sf. Gheorghe Channel



Fig.10.1. - Giurgiu Fortress - Giurgiu Municipality
Source: Google



Fig.10.2. - Giurgiu Fortress - Giurgiu Municipality
Source: Google

1.6. Site history

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes is a relatively new historical monument, being built in 1977, where the old town cemetery used to be.

This has built in the memory of the revolutionaries who fought for the freedom of Bulgarians here also being the bones of some of the known veterans: Lyuben Karavelov, Zahari Stoyanov, Stefan Karadzha, Panayot Hitov, Tonka Obretenova, Nikola Obretenov, Panayot Volov, Angel Kanchev and so on.

Bulgarian revolutionaries fought for the country's freedom, during the Russian-Turkish (1877-1878) - that lead to rebuilding the Bulgarian state, based on the Treaty from San Stefano from 1878.

The treaty, supported and written by the honorable Peter, forced the Ottoman Empire to return to Bulgaria a big part of the territory they conquered in the 14th century. At the Congress from Berlin from the same year, the Treaty from Berlin was adopted, according to which the territories of the Bulgarian state, established by the treaty from San Stefano, were divided into three parts:

- The Bulgarian Principality and areas adjacent to the capital Sofia;
- East Rumelia - Ottoman Province of the Ottoman Empire;
- Macedonia and Lozengrad (the biggest part), being rebuild by the Ottoman empire.

On September 6th, 1885, East Rumelia becomes part of the Bulgarian Principality, after an amicable unification, even if the principality was in fact and rightfully an independent nation of the Ottoman Empire, until 1908, when Bulgaria declared its Independence.

The Declaration from 1908, which meant the liberation from the ottoman domination was in fact the second liberation of Bulgaria.

After conquering the first Bulgarian Empire (1018), the first liberation of Bulgaria lead to establishing the second Bulgarian Empire,

(1018), the first liberation of Bulgaria lead to establishing the second Bulgarian Empire, following the Asen and Peter rebellion against the Byzantine Empire from 1185.

Giurgiu Fortress - Giurgiu Municipality

Giurgiu Fortress, together with the town of Giurgiu come together when we are talking about historical events that focus mainly on the island fortification, but also the one from the second half of the 18th century. Special attention was given to the period from the first half of the 19th century when drastic transformations took place in the city and also for the fortress, that ended the medieval period and initiated the modern one. According to the information had, it is presumed that the Giurgiu Fortress was raised in the 14th century by the Genova people. In the historians' vision, the first mention of the fortress was in the document Codex Latinus Parisinus (the beginning of the 15th century), with the name of Zorio, meaning "barren place". There are different opinions about the period of certification for this fortress, some historians suggesting that existed even before the year of 1396, but the land became barren due to military campaigns of ottomans against Christians.¹

There are many hypothesis referring to the fortress age determination. One of those would be that the fortress was raised by restructuring an old fortified center, being attributed to the old byzantine emperors or first Basarab kings.² Another hypothesis would be that the fortress dates from Mircea cel Bătrân era, due to the archeological diggings made 70 years ago.³ In 1420, Mehmet the 1st defeats Michael, the son of Mircea cel Bătrân and so he conquers the Giurgiu Fortress, a time when the Giurgiu Fortress and a nearby territory of

1 Dan Căpățână, Cercetări arheologice..., p. 142.

2 Nicolae Bălcescu, Istoria românilor sub Michaiu Voda Vitézul, București, 1878, p. 163; Gheorghe Sion, op. cit., p. 1; Teodor Octavian Gheorgiu, Smaranda Bica, Restituții: Orașe la începuturile Evului Mediu românesc, Bucharest, Arhitekt Foundation Publishing House, 2015

3 Gheorghe I. Cantacuzino, Cetăți medievale din Țara Românească în secolele XIII-XVI, Enciclopedia Publishing House, Bucharest, 2001, p. 199, 2015 - the author also mentions the hypothesis regarding the Byzantine era dating of the first Basarabs, without confronting them; Ion Barnea, Paul Cernovodeanu, Constantin Preda, op. cit., p. 219-237.

The relations with the urban context and with the natural one are defining for the type of the built assembly, with the possibility to be potentiated through remodeling interventions for the vicinities.¹

Even though the fortress ruins are affected by the recent interventions for consolidations and completion but also by the works for establishing the protection dam, the elements that were part of the defensive system among centuries, the enclosure walls, towers, constructive details, the process of the natural topography are continuously maintained consistent for a monument from the category of archeological ruins, being capable to transcend these values.

1.7.2. Landscape units

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes Almost all activists of the National Renaissance, who are honored at the Pantheon, died in Ruse. From the year 1860 until the end of the century, Ruse was the most important center from the north side of Bulgaria, therefore the presence of the national elite is justified. The former cemetery from Ruse is currently transformed in the National Renaissance Heroes Park, which is classified as an element of the real estate patrimony of national importance.

In the 19th century were established parcels with different names in the cemetery for: Orthodox Christians, Jews, Catholics, Protestants. The Austrian, French and English soldiers were buried here only after the First World War. During the Second World War, it was established also a section of the soldiers that were part of the Red Army.

Each cemetery has a fence and a separate entry. The only part of the cemetery kept until today is the one for the soldiers of the former Soviet Union.

In 1998, the Municipal Board of Ruse decided to rebuild the "Vsi Svetii" ("All Saints") Church with the donations of the Ruse inhabitants.

Giurgiu Fortress

The medieval monument is framed by a historical landscape in a continuous metamorphosis of the Danube islands.

Being located on one of these islands, the fortress had a strategic advantage and namely the defensive one, due to the river and its branches, surrounding the fortress. Due to deposits and marsh and erosion, as well as overflows and draught, the fortress changes its topography in time.

Along the way, a few changes occurred also because of the fact that the Giurgiu Fortress became a small peninsula, being united with the town. This "unity" occurred through the port establishments from the second part of the 19th century, the stone pier from 1876, the extension of the railroad system, but also the construction of the Bizetz bridge. Currently, the island the Giurgiu Fortress was built on became a low, floodable meadow, being connected to the bank. On this island that became land, lies today the unfinished archeological site of the medieval vestiges.

The geomorphologic stability of the site is ensured by the establishment that have the role of protecting the monument and the bank behind it from the Danube waters.

With the dam built in 1970, the historical landscape is changed a lot, covering approximately one third of the medieval fortress surface. ¹

The topography is singular due to the low land rate, through its shape surrounded by a winding of the dead branch (Cama Channel) separating the old island from the large ones situated between it and the major stream of the Danube (Sfântul Gheorghe and Ramadan). The geographic specificity and climatic caused the extension of a spontaneous vegetation (trees and shrubbery), being present only on the embankment that fences the site towards the land, and the trees grow only on the higher bank, at some distance from the ruins. The archeological site has a good visibility, through its low rate compared to the

¹ Giurgiu Fortress - The delimitation of the monument and the protection area - Research, Design and Protection Center and Consulting Bucharest S.R.L.

living area or the traffic roads, but also by eliminating the invasive vegetation perimeter.

On the south-eastern part of the fortress, on the Cama Channel bank was established an area for nautical sports and shows; on the channel embankment will be created rows of seats and in the semi-buried pavilions, boat sheds, lockers, as well as other auxiliary functions. Being on a very low range, it bothers the fortress ruins ambience only as a whole, that becomes visible only from the height of the cornice, not from the island also.

Altogether, there are no serious discrepancies between the components that make the landscape, the current aspect of the site being satisfying.

The only major problem related to landscape is the protection dam, which, being located on one side of the archeological site, closes the southern perspective of the fortress, it being essential in the context of historic landscape. As an exception from this issue, the other elements of the landscape (cultural-natural, architectural, technical) are benefic for the development of a pleasant environment, one more reason to exploit the landscape potential. The Danube presence also represents a plus for the site, but not important enough to support such a big project. Therefore, Giurgiu Fortress has a landscape potential, but its establishment has to be rearranged and the vicinities of the site and bank, as well as the islands on the south of the archeological site.



Fig.11. - Giurgiu Fortress

Source: <https://audiotravelguide.ro/cetatea-giurgiu/>

The uniqueness of the Giurgiu Fortress is due to its location and defensive advantages of the land, represented by a group of islands near the Danube, in front of a ditch, along an important commercial road.

The fortress was located on a small island, subsequently being extended by a larger fortification, on the bank. The defensive and constructive principles of the respective eras caused transformations to the historical assemblies.

Both the overlapping and the interconnection of numerous edifications, destruction, re-edification, transformation steps, pose a very high interest due to the affiliation to the very restricted series of medieval fortifications from the Wallachia territory.

2. Evaluation and objectives

2.1. Preservation status of the historical monuments and protected area

The territory vitality is given by the culture and this depends on the quality of the inhabitants' lives. To provide the best type of living it is necessary to manage natural and human resources in the most responsible way possible, but also corresponding services and social-cultural facilities. Therefore, it is established the consolidation process for the existent infrastructure, but also the improvement and extension of it, supporting the human development for communities, by increasing life quality and promoting cultural values. To provide access and participation of all to culture, this infrastructure should be distributed on the entire territory.

Culture represents an important instrument for social and economic revitalization, making it indispensable within the local/regional development plans. The purpose of preserving historical monuments is to save their historical evidence.

The preservation of historical monuments implies a permanent maintenance, and also a corresponding environment. If it exists, any new building must be preserved, and any destruction and establishment that might alter the volume and color proportions must be forbidden.¹

e-MS code ROBG-424
INTERREG V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme
FLC No.....
Expenditure requested..... RON

¹ The State Committee for Constructions, Architecture and Systematization, the Historical Monuments Department - Historical Monuments - Restauration studies and works

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes
The Pantheon is not a cultural asset, a valuable real estate based on the Cultural Patrimony Law, but is part of the old Ruse cemetery (today the National Renaissance Heroes Park), situated and classified as a national importance real estate cultural value.

Art. 45 of the Cultural Patrimony Law, the classification of real estate cultural values is performed based on their affiliation with a certain historical period, scientific and cultural area they refer to, their number, space structure and territorial sphere, hazard level.

Art. 46 - according to its affiliation to a certain historical period, the National Renaissance Heroes Park is from the National Renaissance and modern period.

According to the scientific and cultural area the National Renaissance Heroes Park refers to, it is classified in the following categories:

1. Historically: buildings, equipment, other structures and memorable areas, connected by significant historical events and personalities; (according to art. 47, paragraph 2)

2. Architectural buildings: buildings, pieces of equipment, constructions, parts or combinations, with historical, esthetic, technical, cultural, spatial and functional value; (according to art. 47, paragraph 3)

3. Artistic: works of art, inseparable elements of the surrounding landscape, for which they were created; (according to art. 47, paragraph 4)

4. Urban: isolated parts of the territory and localities, which elements were connected spatially and that can be distinguished topographically; (according to art. 47, paragraph 5)

5. Cultural landscape: a combination of durable cultural levels spatially isolated, resulting the interaction between people and environment, characterizing the cultural identity of the territory; (according to art. 47, paragraph 6)

6. Park and garden: parks and gardens significant for the park development and and science; (according to art. 47, paragraph 7)

Depending on the number, spatial structure and territorial sphere, real estate cultural valuable objects are an assembly - isolated territorial structure of the sites from the cultural real estate patrimony, which elements are situated in logic, special and esthetic connections defined among them and affiliated to the environment. (according to art. 48, paragraph 2.a)

According to cultural and scientific values and social significance, the Park is classified in the valuable category of „national significance” - valuable objects with exclusive value for the country culture and history.

Giurgiu Fortress

According to national legislation, regarding Giurgiu Fortress, in the Romanian Territorial Development Strategy (SDTR), among the general objectives we can also find "protecting the natural and built patrimony and valorizing territorial identity elements" (OG. 4).

protecting the natural and built patrimony and valorizing unique and identity elements represent essential conditions for performing a durable development for the national territory.

By OS 4.2. The protection and rehabilitation of the built patrimony for the purpose of preserving the national identity and increasing attractiveness of the cultural areas with special touristic potential mentions the fact that Romania has a unique cultural patrimony, characterized by a diversity of forms and manifestation objectives, from fortresses to churches, from mansions to museums, outdoors, the distribution of monuments with architectural and historical value being relatively balanced at the level of the national territory.

In spite of this diversity of the cultural patrimony, a big part of it is in decline and in an advanced level of deterioration, with the need of strong projects for architectural restauration for value preservation and valorizing the patrimony's potential, as an attraction point and to revitalize the areas, but also to include them in touristic networks.

The current status of Giurgiu Fortress is continuous degradation, due to long time abandonment (since 1829 - until 1955



when it was decided for the first time to protect and preserve the site, through a short research episode).

In 1975 was initiated the long-term systematic research, and following archeological digging, more and more elements of the fortification came to light. Also, primary preservation works were initiated this year, consisting in covering the dug-up walls with a cement blanket - inadequate from the material point of view, it being dangerous for historical structures.

Other interventions that took place at the fortress were rising the wall fragments discovered in the digging¹ up to 3 m, but this time also, works have not been compliant, due to the fact that the binding was not appropriate (cement), which lead to results that cannot be positively appreciated and that currently lead to more degrading of the authentic matter of the monument, altering its understanding.

To all this is added the visible completion with prefabricated pieces of reinforced concrete (parts of the hedgerow pole for the vine, uncured borders or masonry and inadequate for such masonry), that point out the precarious solutions and rehabilitation performance of the fortress.

All works performed without a project consisting in research regarding materials and constructive components, their lack of preservation, incompatibility of the materials proposed but also not establishing a coherent attitude, lead to accentuating the degradation status of the site.

Currently, there are areas not visible above the ground, the only one visible being the masonry added during the period 1970-1990, blocking the monument interpretation.

After a long period of works abandonment, the fortress is in a very bad preservation stage. Deteriorations of materials and constructive establishments are present, so broad segments of the original masonry being in danger of being lost;

¹ 1 Dan Căpățână, Cercetări arheologice ..., p. 168. At the end of the 70s, the person responsible with the monument preservation seemed to be Virgil Vrabie, member of the research collective, manager of the Giurgiu Museum at that time. Dan Căpățână, Virgil Vrabie, Cristina Harhoiu, Preliminary archeological research report in Slobozia, for „Archeological materials and research. The 13th annual reporting session”, Oradea, Muzeul Țării Crișurilor, 1979, p. 373. Subsequently, no persons are mentioned for this activity, the responsibility being probably the leader's for the archeological site.

all of these are the base for the necessity to adopt emergency interventions appropriate for the historical monument.

The protection areas for historical monuments

According to art. 8 par. (1) of the Law no. 422/2001 regarding the protection of historical monuments, for each historical monument is created a protection area ensuring the full preservation of the historical monument and its built or natural environment.

By protection area, one can understand a land made of cadastral parcels, situated around the historical monument, with the purpose of helping not to alter it.

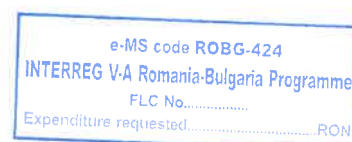
In this area are developed public utility services, but also building regulations both for maintaining the natural environment of the monument by removing or decreasing any polluting factors of any nature, and for keeping the architectural-urbanistic frame of the monument, by approving and supervising the building, but also for maintaining the archeological potential.

2.1.1. Indicating possible hazardous operations or threats for the historical monuments (risk factors that act independently or together)
2.1.1.1. Rehabilitation / inconpliant reconversion works performance

Given the bad preservation state of the patrimony elements, especially of the Giurgiu Fortress, plus the lack of a serious urbanism regulations meant to cover the protection of all valuable components of the historical layer, there is the hazard of performing interventions that may reduce or cancel their value.

2.2. Identification and confirmation important elements for the management of historical monuments and protected area

The Management plan establishes mechanisms for protecting, preserving and increasing the cultural value of two historical vestiges of national importance: The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes and Giurgiu Fortress, from the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region.



2.2.1. General objective

The general objective is represented by the valorization of two historical monuments, of national importance: the ruins of Giurgiu Fortress and the monument of the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes, by introducing them in a touristic circuit, meant to help the economic development.

According to the social-economic development strategy of the Giurgiu county for 2014-2020, drafted by S.C. Agora Est Consulting S.R.L., the general objective consists in (OG1) "encouraging the economic-touristic development at county level by protecting the patrimony and developing infrastructures that would facilitate the service development", and as specific objectives we have (OS1) "The upgrade of the cultural infrastructure and its use for raising the cultural level in urban and rural environments; promoting creative industries", (OS4) "Developing patrimonial objectives on touristic objectives, by creating partnerships, finding integrated solutions for the community and last but not least, for obtaining financing".

Among the indicative actions envisioned for performing the objectives, one can find the restoration actions, protection and valorization of sites, cultural monuments and assemblies, historical and arts, including access infrastructure to them.

2.2.2. Specific objectives

The Management Plan must ensure an organizational frame for preserving the cultural patrimony resources and for the historical monuments of the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes and Giurgiu Fortress.

I. Knowing and promoting movable and immovable assets, researching the value and importance of historical monuments, evaluating the preservation and their safety

Knowing the importance of historical monuments for the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region patrimony is vital for the preservation and promoting these elements. Therefore, the historical monuments are the cultural vestiges that have a great historical meaning, marking events occurred hundred/thousands of years

before, and the need for them to be preserved and protected is indispensable for keeping the cultural identity of the respective territory.

According to art. 537 of the Civil Code, the real estate assets by their nature are lands, streams, rivers, rooted plantations, buildings and any other works fitted in the soil permanently, platforms and other exploitation installations of submarine resources situated on the continental highland, as well as anything that is naturally or artificially incorporated in them permanently.

Recommendation for protecting the cultural movable patrimony (adopted on November 28th, 1978), defines the cultural movable patrimony, including historically, representing proof of the human, archeological, historical, artistic, scientific and technical activity.

These are represented by the results following archeological research (tools, ceramic, inscriptions, coins, jewelry, weapons or remains), parts resulting from disrupting historical monuments, anthropologic material, ethnologic, artistic objects, manuscripts, archive documents etc.¹

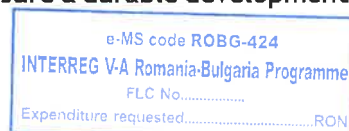
The evaluation of the historical monuments status is necessary for establishing priorities to initiate future works, with the purpose of rehabilitating the cultural vestiges, with the condition to keep its cultural identity.

Strategies:

- collecting information and data to understand and disseminate the universal value of the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes and Giurgiu Fortress in a direct relation with the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region;

II. Preservation of historical monuments and cultural real estate properties in danger or an advanced state of degradation, restauration and preservation of works, security and supervision

For protecting and preserving the patrimony, it is necessary to thoroughly know its universal value (through inventory) as well as its special potential, as an important factor to ensure a durable development in the region.



¹http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13137&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Strategies:

- preserving and protecting the cultural patrimony for present and future generations;
- integrated preservation targets first of all the prevention of irreversible effects caused by degrading factors identified previously and maintaining and keeping the monument's integrity and authenticity;
- preservation of the cultural and natural landscape, within the limits of maintaining its universal value;
- analysis of all risks connected to the urbanistic development, environmental influence, natural disasters, tourism pressure, etc., according to the county and regional development strategies;
- establishing a preservation plan, for protecting and enhancing the cultural vestiges;
- establishing priorities and defining the steps for protection and preservation, restauration;
- ensuring the financial resources for restauration out of national funds and by attracting private and European funds;
- rehabilitation and restauration of the architectural patrimony;
- reactive monitoring - causes that affect the preservation status of the historical monument.

III. Protection of the cultural patrimony according to the current law, benefiting from the support of the parties involved in this activity: public authorities, specialized institutions, civil companies, development of the cultural patrimony

Romanian law

The capitalization of the cultural and natural patrimony in the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region, in a local context is regulated by the following law:

- Law 422/2001 regarding the protection of historical monuments establishes the definition of historical monuments, pointing out their classification. The base of this law consists in interventions on monuments.
- Law no. 182/2000 regarding the protection of the movable cultural national patrimony

regulates the specific protection activities for historical monuments.

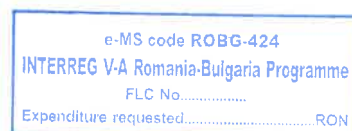
This law regulates the following subjects: research, inventory and classification of the movable cultural national patrimony; maintaining, storing and ensuring the security of the movable cultural assets; preservation and restauration of the movable cultural assets in file; the legal regime of discovered movable archeological assets; financing specific activities for protecting the movable cultural patrimony; specialized bodies and institutions; returning movable cultural assets that illegally left the territory of a EU member state; recovery of movable cultural assets that left the Romanian territory.

Bulgarian law

For Bulgaria, the protection and capitalization of historical monuments is represented by the Cultural Patrimony Act. Through it, it is regulated the preservation and protection of the cultural heritage of the Republic of Bulgaria, the state ensuring the protection of its cultural heritage, independent from the location.

The cultural heritage represents material and non-material assets, movable and immovable, with cultural and historical value, maintaining the national identity and with scientific importance.

The Cultural Patrimony Act regulates the following chapters: the national preservation system for the cultural heritage; the cultural non-material heritage; the cultural material heritage; the preservation of the immovable cultural heritage; enduring the status of the immovable cultural heritage; rights and obligations of the owners and users of the cultural immovable heritage; protection of the territorial development; leasing the cultural immovable assets; preserving the cultural movable heritage; identification and registration of the cultural heritage; rights and obligations of the owners and users of the movable cultural heritage; marketing of the cultural movable values; temporary export and import of movable cultural assets; returning the cultural assets taken illegally and are classified as national heritage; cultural archeological heritage; preservation and restauration of the cultural values; reproduction and dissemination



of cultural values; presentation and documentation of the cultural values; control of the cultural values; administrative measures.

IV. Focusing on the role of historical monuments as a factor of social cohesion for a sustainable, educational and touristic development, on a national and international level

The role of historical monuments represents one of the most alive proof of the historical past for a territory.

These historical proofs (ruins of historical fortresses) suffered along the years, because of the willing destruction, greed or ignorance of generations that crossed them along the centuries. Currently, it is desired to preserve the patrimony, by restoring historical monuments of national importance, a fact that will attract a lot of benefits.

Among them we have the economic ones, by introducing the historical monuments in a touristic circuit, which will attract a larger number of tourists, both at a national level and internationally, but also by educating the population about the importance of preserving such vestiges, that will attract only benefits on a long run.

Strategies:

- improving the large audience's perception and raising awareness on the important aspects of the historical monuments;
- encouraging the cultural tourism, by informing the population on the historical events that took place on these sites;
- social-economical capitalization - economic development on the region; identifying the promoting channels and capitalizing the cultural and natural patrimony;

2.2.3. Factors influencing management

2.2.3.1. Patrimony as regeneration engine

Not any regeneration option will be caused by the patrimony resource.

But there is a great potential for such operations, starting with the cultural patrimony. The reuse of historical buildings in regeneration operations, but after developing a wide restoration

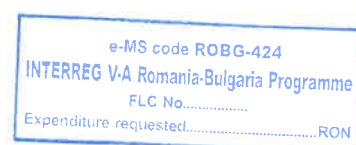
program, may lead to saving financial and material resources and to decreasing the impact of operations on the environment.

By reusing the existent built fund, one can cover a part of the functional needs of the location. In addition, cultural patrimony elements confer depth and historical meaning to the vicinities and identity to the entire area.

Ruse-Giurgiu region, where the two monuments are located, is a region with an important human and economic potential.

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes and the Giurgiu Fortress have a unique cultural-historical significance, and through this plan it is desired the revitalization by monuments' preservation and rehabilitation.

Therefore, it is necessary to perform such a correct analysis on the existent situations, based on the natural and cultural values of the sites, including their material and non-material aspects, as well as the region where they are located.



2.2.3.2. SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the geographic position of the Euro-region, in the Balkan area, at the intersection of two pan-European corridors (Pan-European VII corridor and Pan-European IX corridor); - the presence of the only road and railroad bridge over the Danube, connecting Romania to Bulgaria - the friendship Bridge; - numerous built patrimony objectives, but also numerous cultural institutions (museums, memorial houses, theatres, opera, philharmonic, public libraries); - numerous big cultural events are organized annually, that might attract a large number of tourists; - friendly local climate with numerous alternatives to spend free time, especially outdoors; - the existence of two large ports (16 port basins), with a complex and intermodal structure for handling any type of merchandise; - at Giurgiu operates one of the first Transborder Business Centers in Romania -Danubius Center; -Too which is added a Romanian-Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce; - the active involvement of the local authorities in attracting and maintaining investors, offering land licensing, developing business services, promoting the region etc.; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - old population, with a negative and migrating natural increment; - uneducated population in order to understand the importance and value of the historical monuments; - old labor force and high unemployment rate; - not using the agricultural potential the region has to offer to a maximum, with a low agricultural productivity, by practicing subsistence agriculture; - the reduced number of tourists, the majority only crossing the area; - the accommodation infrastructure if low from the quantity and quality point of view; - intense road traffic from the border crossing area is the main source of pollution; - the roads bad state, as well as the equipment's and road signs';
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European funds for major investment projects in different fields, among which also the protection of the cultural patrimony; - unique natural resources, that can attract a significant number of tourists - natural reservations and parks (community importance sites, special protection areas for birds and fauna; - included in the Natura 2000 network - consisting in forests, canyons, wide humid areas, where rare species are found and also on the verge of extinction); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the migration of the qualified labor force will lead to creating a labor force deficit in certain fields; - the Romania and Bulgarian economic and political instability may negatively affect the local business and investment environment;

2.2.3.3. Environmental management

Until 1989, the industrial activity (especially the chemical plant from Giurgiu), represented a major pollution source for the Euro-region.

Currently, the main pollution sources are the very intense auto traffic at the border crossing point, to which is added the incompliant waste management, activities of certain economic agents and greenhouse effect emissions of the thermo-electrical plants from the two cities, operating based on fossil fuels.

Air pollution is caused mainly by small dust particles, with a higher concentration than the normal limit (being caused by the household sector - heating, gas, industry etc.-, followed by the transport sector).

During the recent period substantial investments were performed for reducing the pollution level from the Euro-region and namely:

- Incorporating the distribution network for the natural gas in Giurgiu Municipality, reducing the consumption of fossil fuels for house heating;
- Filter installation on the three thermo-electrical plants;
- Investments of the private companies for adapting to the European Union standards;
- Closing the incompliant waste storages;
- Upgrading the vehicle park for public transportation;
- Renewing the personal vehicle park, through government subventions for the cassation of old and unused vehicles;
- Valorization of the thermal energy production installations from renewable resources;
- Declaring certain protected areas;

2.2.3.4. Lack of maintenance and degradation of patrimony elements

As a whole, the situation of the patrimony elements is on a crisis, especially in Romania. Their physical status worsens progressively, and the loss occurred following such disinterests are irrecoverable. All discordant aspects that occur should be determined and lead to obtaining a wide consensus in favor of preserving and protecting the patrimony.

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes

The monument has a lot of structural issues - Weak insulation and ventilation, causing the suspension of the „eternal flame” due to gases not evacuated.

Due to the short time for the construction works, short deadlines and bad weather conditions, the marble plating cracked in the spring of 1978. Along the years, the plates chipped, some of them being stolen. Gas installations, heating and sound were decommissioned step by step. In 1991, the Pantheon was closed for visitations, because the museum could not support it.

In 1996, the monument was reopened for visitors, by restoring the bronze letters, the electrical installation and the lighting.

In 2010, the building's entrance was rebuilt. A large part of the stylobate was removed, the partial waterproofing was performed and the land establishment.

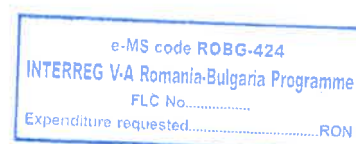
In the areas from the corridor was established the Pantheon Chapel - „Sf. Paisii Hilendarski”, and across was placed on its tower.

Other errors that were found: the entire white marble façade with a 2 cm thickness on the cement plaster is in an extreme state. Approximately 90% of the slabs are cracked or separated from the facade.

The same estimate is valid for the circular terrace around the Pantheon, the inclined sections having holes above the main area at the main level of the Pantheon.

The margin of the Pantheon's tower is practically compromised, and on large sections the copper plate is visible - golden base.

Related to night-time lighting, the building is not illuminated accordingly. Office areas inside the Pantheon need intervention- cleaning for the wall plates, inside improvements, replacing the lighting, replacing the sewage and water pipes etc.



Giurgiu Fortress

Abandoning constructions is already an old tendency, being manifested regardless of the ownership regime.

Therefore, at the moment, Giurgiu Fortress is in a continuous state of degradation, so strong, that during winter time, the fortress ruins are not even visible.

The strong degradation state is observed by the presence of material degradation and of the constructive parts, but also by wide segments of the original masonry, that can potentially be lost.

Among the causes that lead to the degradation of the Giurgiu Fortress are the following:

- The lack of a fence, limiting un authorized access;
- Illegal storage of waste in the area;
- Water infiltrating from the Plantelor channel; it "invades" the land every time there is a flood or the water level increases significantly, transforming the site in a lake, which favored the ruins to erode in time;
- The total lack of interest from the local public administration representatives in identifying the financial resources for restoring/preserving the fortress and establishing an area for touristic capitalization;

Other elements influencing negatively the image of the Giurgiu fortress are:

- Uncared for green areas and barren lands that are a source of discomfort and pollution due to their lack of maintenance;
- The lack of capitalization of the benchmark elements on the entire site level;
- The lack of alignment vegetation on the secondary streets (str. Parcului, alea Plantelor, str. George Coșbuc);
- The old aspect and debilitated of the vegetation;
- The lack of equipment for the public area that can capitalize the fortress (urban furniture, paving, public lighting).

Among the disfunctions of the area that directly influence the medieval Giurgiu Fortress one list also the ones related to the clearance of the channel bypassing the fortress on the north side, but also the protection dam from the south

side, that practically sectioned the fortification, including a great part of it.

The hydrotechnical fittings lead to altering the natural ensemble, that defined the fortress for centuries in a row, the Sfântul Gheorghe island becoming part of the urban territory.

Another disfunction was generated by the heating system mounted along the str. Digului and Alea Plantelor. The two parallel pipes mounted on the reinforced concrete poles, sections the traditional loisir, interrupting the continuity of the perspectives from the town towards the Cama/ Plantelor/ Sfântul Gheorghe Channel.

The main pipes define a strong visual barrier, therefore eliminating the possibility of an organic continuity established between the area of the Park and the meadow landscape developed towards the Plantelor Channel and the Danube. The rupture is accentuated by the presence of the concrete fence flanking the property of the old military unit.

The recent erection of industrial halls (Voestalpine) or silos (alea Plantelor, near the Fish market) are other notable disfunctions, by generating incompatible background perspectives with the historical ruin. The presence of images with the medieval fortress in the main frame projected on a background with industrial halls, heating or electrical networks is not an advantage for the historical monument, it being a presence imposed by reasons not based on the landscape quality or the presence of the archeological site.

Constructions and land abandonment (Bd. 1907, str. Mircea cel Bătrân and str. Digului, but also the eastern extremity of the studied perimeter) mark another disfunction. With these abandoned buildings, uncared for vegetation, barren land but also the buildings are perspectives that has no place to be in an area with a maximum development potential, especially regarding the extension of the loisir functions.

All these things and also the fire for waste burning from time to time are the main negative elements that lead to the patrimony's degradation, transforming the Giurgiu Fortress from the town's emblem into a ruin.

The fortress' status requires adopting

well prepared emergency interventions and then performing a detailed project for restoration and valorization.

3. The touristic promoting strategy from the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region

3.1. Vision

The Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region will become, until 2030, the most attractive touristic region from the Romanian-Bulgarian border, being a representative touristic pole, with qualitative public areas and capitalized cultural interest points, connected to the Danube metropolises network and from the south-eastern side of the Europe.

The Ruse-Giurgiu area will become the main vacation destination of the Bucharest tourists and from the north-eastern side of Bulgaria, where recreational and sports activities will take place in the nature (agro-tourism, fishing, ecologic tourism, water sports). The high number of tourists will make the Euro-region become a real competitor at the regional level.

The touristic sector will be developed also due to the nodal point of the European road, railroad and naval transportation network, at the intersection of the main flows of merchandise and persons between Small Asia, connecting the metropolises from the Balkan area, the central and north-eastern area of Europe, all being supported by the modern and accessible infrastructure.

In more details, in 2030 the main elements of the patrimony, and namely the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes from Ruse and the Giurgiu Fortress from Giurgiu Municipality will be rehabilitated and preserved, keeping their historical identity, which will be the main attraction for the persons wanting to practice a cultural tourism.

The Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes from Ruse and the Giurgiu Fortress from Giurgiu Municipality represent the cultural patrimony of the towns they are located in, very important for the history of the Romanian and Bulgarian people.

After implementing the management plan, the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes from Ruse and the Giurgiu Fortress, their universal

values will be preserved and protected, therefore becoming known also for future generations.

The durable development of the sites will be done by maintaining a balance between keeping the identity and promoting the specific aspects, exploiting their historical, cultural and economic values.

In the future, the 2 historical monuments will be developed in a close connection with the towns they are in, but also with the other administrative-territorial units nearby, with the need of an integrated policy, inter-dependent from the area development, but that can keep and develop their initial destination and namely - historical monuments.

Besides those 2 elements of the cultural patrimony, the touristic sector is developed also due to other elements that have a touristic, natural and anthropic potential, by creating a touristic circuit.

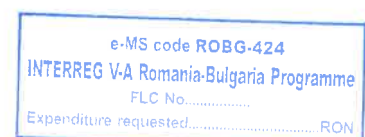
The Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region has a strategic geographic position, being at the intersection of two of the ten pan-European corridors (the pan-European VII corridor and the pan-European IX corridor), which is a real advantage for it.

If at the time, from the tourism point of view, the area is only passed by tourists, in the future, by developing and preserving the cultural patrimony, but also by knowing the historical importance of the two monuments, tourists will include the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region as a travel destination, not only a transit area to another destination.

3.2. Municipalities' development vision

3.2.1. Promoting monuments that are the subject of this management plan

During the Touristic Development Municipal Development Plan were developed eight routes, that include opportunities for the culture, religion, rural environment and eco-tourism, in Ruse municipality, as well as in Ruse region. Tourists have the possibility to request for a tour guide, but also for transportation to the places around Ruse municipality.



These services are provided by the Regional History Museum from Ruse. One of these routes is route number 5 - "Heroes Freedom", which includes the visits but also important information about the site, of national importance - the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes from Ruse and the Giurgiu Fortress, the tomb of Zahari Stoyanov, the monument of Ștefan Karadzha, the monument of Baba Tonka, the "Zahari Stoyanov" museum house but also the Liberty monument.

The two municipalities, Ruse and Giurgiu will search for opportunities to support the local and regional initiatives in the tourism field.

The upgraded and renovated sites, the Ruse Pantheon and Giurgiu Fortress will become local and national importance places, through different events and celebrations that will be organized here.

The project activities will contribute to bring together the communities and economies between Ruse-Giurgiu, therefore supporting the durable development of the Euro-region.

- Creating a touristic circuit by including several local and national importance elements

Creating a touristic integrated route and proposes to include the sites of the Bulgarian-Romanian joint historical patrimony in a system between the two partner municipalities - Ruse (Bulgaria) and Giurgiu (Romania), as a previous condition for a dynamic and competitive development of the cultural tourism.

The joint route is regarded as an instrument for showing the historical past of the communities living in the Ruse - Giurgiu Euro-region in a systematic, organized and attractive way for the tourists.

The two emblematic interest points that form the „spine” of the trans-border route are Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes from Ruse and the Giurgiu Fortress.

Both are highly important historical sites, that need rehabilitation and upgrade, so that the touristic interest grows, ensuring a durable capitalization of their cultural value.

The purpose of the project „Reconstruction and acknowledgement of the emblematic sites’ culture with a high potential for tourism in the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region” is to improve the touristic attractiveness of the Ruse-Giurgiu trans-border region, by providing premises for the durable use of the cultural and historical patrimony therefore contributing to the economic well-being of the communities, to increasing the local economy (especially for the small and medium enterprises) and at a higher level for labor force.

Situated on the two banks of the river Danube, towns Ruse and Giurgiu share a similar history, culture and tradition. The geographic closeness between the two towns involves a joint base on numerous issues related to the tangible and intangible heritage of Ruse and Giurgiu. In addition, there are historical proof that until the Middle Age, localities on both sides of the river Danube were forming one town.

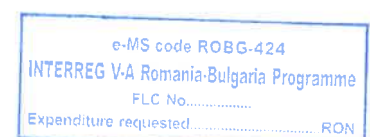
But subsequently, the water barrier becomes a border of the state sovereignty and also of cultural alienation. Today, after Bulgaria and Romania are part of the European Union, Ruse and Giurgiu are connected by their joint engagement to cooperate and establish the joint strategic objectives to overcome similar challenges and issues.

Currently, the region between the two municipalities is the largest urban agglomeration and an important transportation tie along the entire Bulgarian-Romanian border.

The region has a long-term development Master-Plan consisting in strategic projects on different fields, being a priority for the Ruse and Giurgiu municipalities.

Nevertheless, the historical ties and territorial cohesion are not yet effective on joint touristic products showing the joint land between the towns separated by a state border, but united in the same time by their affiliation in the Danube area.

In the same time, tourism is essential for the large portfolio of local policies planned and implemented by the authorities from Ruse and Giurgiu. This is reflected both in the strategic documents system, as well as into projects and initiatives implemented at a municipality level.



Considering all of the above, it is clear that the extension of the trans-border tourism potential and the creation of joint touristic products and services will consolidate a development in the touristic industry for both towns, improving the touristic profit and creating added value for the local tourist communities.

The route will consist in a network between several cultural-historical patrimony in the region, to establish a touristic integrated trans-border product, attractive and competitively positioned. Monuments that might be included in a touristic circuit with the monuments that are the object of the hereby management plan are:

Ruse Sites:

- Rupestral churches from Ivanovo;
- Cherven medieval town;
- The roman fortress "Sexaginta Prista";
- "Sveta Troitsa" Church;
- "Sfântul Dimităr Basarabovski" Monastery from Basarbovo;
- "Baba Tonka" Museum House;
- Urban life museum (Kaliopa House);
- Liberty Monument;
- Catholic Church "Sfântul Pavel al Crucii";
- Ecology Aquarium Museum;

1. Rupestral Churches from Ivanovo

The rock-cut churches from Ivanovo (Bulgarian: Ивановски скални църкви, Ivanovski skalni tsarkvi) are a group of monolithic churches, chapels and monasteries carved in a solid rock and completely different from other monastery complexes from Bulgaria, situated near the village Ivanovo, 20 km south from Ruse, on the high rocky banks of Rusenski Lom, 32 m above the river.

The complex is special for the beautiful medieval and very well-preserved wall paintings.

Churches are located in the Rusenski Lom natural park.



Fig.12. Rupestral church from Ivanovo

Source: https://lh4.googleusercontent.com/-k29qim3ZZ5c/TYr_dldt4ml/AAAAAAAAQT0/YXeqOpizczM/s1600/IMG_9120.JPG

2. Cherven medieval town

The Cherven fortified medieval town is situated at a distance of approx. 30 km south from Ruse, within the boundaries of the Rusenski Lom natural park. The town is the inheritor of a byzantine fortress from the 6th century and reached the highest progress in the 14th century.

The medieval locality consisted in an internal town - a fortress located on a platform of high rock and an external town situated on the foot.

Cherven was one of the largest military and administrative, economic and clerical centers, of the second Bulgarian Empire (centuries 1235 it became the residence of the Cherven episcopate).

A number of rock monasteries were incorporated in its localities. In 1388 was conquered and demolished by the ottoman Turks.

During the initial period of the Ottoman Rule it kept its administrative functions, but it slowly dropped. In the 17th century it had a new period of economic rebirth.

The castle, fortified walls, two underground passages for water supply, 13 churches, social and administrative buildings, many residences and other interesting and significant discoveries were made during the archeological searches in the region.

Among them is a serious of treasures of coins, jewels, monuments, ceramic, household articles, tools for workers, weapons etc. The site can be visited with a vehicle or by foot. Hikes around the medieval ruins may be combined with the examination of natural benchmarks from the natural park. Ecologic paths are made that lead to most of them. The beautiful cave Orlova Chuka is also situated nearby.

Other two interesting sites are also situated nearby - Rock churches from Ivanovo, included in the UNESCO list of cultural global heritage and the Basarbovski Monastery - the only active rocky monastery from Bulgaria. The Cherven medieval town was declared an archeologic reservation by the Resolution no. 953 of the Board of Ministries from 1997.



Fig. 13. Cherven Medieval Town

Source: https://bulgariatravel.org/en/object/124/Srednovekoven_grad_Cherven#map=6/42.750/25.380

3. Roman Fortress Sexaginta Prista

Prista Sexaginta is situated in Ruse, above the river Danube. The fortress was located at the end of the 19th century by Felix Cadiz, based on distances between the towns marked on maps with roman routes. In the construction and digging of the Military Club were the town's remains, and archeological diggings took place during the period 1976-1978 and 2005-2006.

Therefore, approx. 50% of the north-western wall of the town and the tower were discovered, six buildings, the Temple of Apollo and Principia - The military unit office from Sexaginta Prista.

The preservation of the structures discovered in 1976- 1978 was performed and in 2002 was opened the exhibition for the discovery of „Prista Sexaginta”. In the following years, the objective was socialized and now is among the visited museums.

The town's traditional name is translated as „the port of the 60 ships”. After the analysis of all available sources, it was established that the castle was named in connection with the events from the beginning of the century and namely by the Dacian wars of the Emperor Domitian (85- 89). Then, the Danube, at the entry of the river Rusenski Lom, a Roman legion was transferred with approx. 6,000 people.



Fig. 14. The Roman Fortress Sexaginta Prista

Source: <https://www.mirela.bg/en/estate-in-bulgaria/Roman-Fortress-Sexaginta-Prista-zxi26014.html>

4. The Church "Sveta Troitsa"

The Sveta Troitsa Cathedral is one of the most popular sites from Ruse due to the antique history and its unique architecture. The tower with 5 bells has a height of 19 m and was built in a hexagonal shape of rocks from the ruined wall of the Ruschushkata fortress. Today, the cathedral is showing off a museum exhibition consisting in a painting and wall painting collection, as well as a series of religious articles, including clothes and

an original Gospel from the 16th century, where is registered the church's construction date.



Fig.15. "Sveta Troitsa" Church

Source: https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction_Review-g608699-d8321620-Reviews-Sveta_Troitsa_Cathedral-Ruse_Ruse_Province.html

5. "Saint Dimităr Basarabovski" Monastery

"Saint Dimităr Basarabovski" Monastery is a Bulgarian-Orthodox cave monastery near the town Ruse in the north-eastern side of Bulgaria.

It has the same name as the village near Basarbovo and approx. 35 m above the river Rusenski Lom, on the south side of the Danube.

Even though was founded during the second Bulgarian Empire, the oldest written mention of the monastery is from the 15th century in an Ottoman tax registry.

The monastery became famous during the 17th century after the death of St. Dimitar Basarbovski, talked about by St. Païsiy Hilendârski in the book „Istoriya Slavyanobolgarskaya“. St. Dimitar Basarbovski was a pastor and lived as an ascetic in the monastery's rocks. He died in 1685.

He was buried in the village's church, but during the Russian-Turkish war from 1768-1774, General Pyotr Saltykov accepted to transfer the relics to Russian.

The transfer was through Romania. During that period, there was a plague epidemic in the country.

The legend says that, when the saint's relics entered Bucharest, people stopped dying from the plague.

The city inhabitants requested the general to leave the body there.

Today, his relics are in Bucharest, at St. Constantin și Elena Church. In 1937, the priest Hrisant moved to the Basarbovo Monastery and revived it. The Monastery celebrates the wake on October 26th - The day of St. Dimitar. It is the only active cave monastery from the modern history of Bulgaria.



Fig.16. "Saint Dimităr Basarabovski" Monastery Source: https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q1549352#/media/File:Iglesias_rupestres_de_Basarbovo,_Bulgaria,_2016-05-27,_DD_23.jpg

6. Baba Tonka" Museum House

"Baba Tonka" museum is the key to understanding the exhibition and presentation of the Bulgarian Renaissance.

Baba Tonka Obretenov and his family, being an independent church movement, in education and a revolutionary fight - related to the Renaissance.

In this initial version was opened at the initiative

of the County Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party from Ruse, on June 2nd, 1958, honoring the Seventh Bulgarian Communist Party in the house of Nikola Obretenov.

The building was built in between 1907-1908, and in the 30s of the 20th century, Obretenov received a lot of guests from town and the country, becoming the base for transforming his house in a museum.

"Baba Tonka" Museum is situated in a two-story building with a ground floor.

The exhibition starts at the second floor where the following subjects are approached: Baba Tonka and familia Obretenov; the "Zora" library ("Zorii"), divisions F. Totyu, P. Hitov, St. H. Dimităr și Karadzha; the rebellion from April 1876.



Fig.17. "Baba Tonka" Museum House
Source: <https://www.tripadvisor.com/>

7. The Urban Life Museum ("Kaliopa House")

Kaliopa House was built in the 60s of the 19th century. The museum's exhibition is from a late period compared to the house style.

The exhibition is based on the daily modernism and festivities of the Ruse inhabitants from the end of the 19th century, the beginning of the 20th century. The Urban Life Museum was opened in 1987, being the first ethnographic museum from Bulgaria presenting the urban culture (bourgeois)

On the first floor you can see temporary exhibitions with different collections from the museum's funds, illustrating the commercial and cultural connections with Europe that developed in town, but also the Ruse inhabitants' adapting to the new cultural and day-today models.

The second floor of the house is an example of the interior of the rich urban homes, with characteristic areas - guest saloon, music room and for concert held inside the house, servants room and bedroom.



Fig.18. The Urban Life Museum ("Kaliopa House")
Source: <https://www.mirela.bg/en/estate-in-bulgaria/House-museum-Urban-Life-of-Ruse-zxi25704.html>

8. The Liberty Monument

The Liberty Monument from Ruse was built right at the beginning of the 20th century by the Italian sculptor Arnaldo Zocchi.

With the time passing, the objective earned more and more importance, turning into the symbol of the town.

The monument's structure is a pyramidal one. The statue envisions a woman holding a sword in her left hand, and with the right hand showing the directions the liberators came from.

One of the two bronze lions holds iron chains in its mouth.

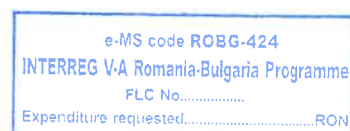




Fig.19. The Liberty Monument

Source: <http://tina-calatorieintimpspatiu.blogspot.com/2011/09/monumentul-libertatii.html>



Fig.20. The Catholic Church "Saint Pavel of the Cross"

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org>

9.The Catholic Church "Saint Pavel of the Cross"

The Cathedral "Saint Pavel of the Cross" is a Roman-Catholic cathedral from Ruse.

It is the cathedral church from the Nikopol Episcopacy and is dedicated to Saint Pavel of the Cross.

Built in 1890 by the design of the Italian architect Valentino, the cathedral is the perfect example for the gothic renaissance architecture.

The interior is decorated with sculptures and stained glass.

It was the cathedral of the Blissful Eugene Bossilkov, Nicopoli Episcopo, executed by the communists in 1952.

10. Aquarium Ecology Museum

The Museum was opened in 2014 and is located in the "Alexander Battenberg" Market, being the only one of its kind in the entire country.

The Museum has a diversity of species of inhabitants from the protected areas, along the river Danube, and the coexistence human-nature.

The museum is established on four floors, where you can see rich fossil collections, dioramas, representing different species of inhabitants in their real environment.

Also here you can find the largest freshwater aquarium from Bulgaria, with fish from the Danube and the rivers flowing into it.

Another special attention of this exhibition is dedicated to prehistoric animals, with a scale model of the woolly mammoth, at real dimensions. It is also exhibited the most preserved part, one of a kind in the world, from another type of mammoth - the lower maxillary of *Mammuthus rumanus*.



Fig.21. Aquarium Ecology Museum

Source: <https://www.museumruse.com/images/expositions/aquarium/EKOMUZEY.jpg>

Sites from Giurgiu:

- The clock tower;
- Bizetz Bridge;
- Giurgiu Port;
- Aleii Park;
- "Teohari Antonescu" County Museum;
- "Nicolae Bălănescu" Atheneum;
- "Sfântul Ierarh Nicolae" Skete;
- "Adomirea Maicii Domnului" Church;
- "Buna Vestire" Church (Greek- Orthodox);

For tourism development around Giurgiu Municipality, it is necessary to create a touristic route, that includes more elements of cultural-historical relevance in town. With the Giurgiu Fortress, for this touristic tour, the following elements also have to be included:

1. The Clock Tower - it is an attraction that captivates the sight of tourists who choose Giurgiu as a touristic destination or that are simply passing through; it is located in Piața Unirii from the center of the town.

The poet Cezar Bolliac was saying about the clock Tower that it is "a great and beautiful minaret"; another opinion is that of the historian Nicolae Iorga, mentioning: "in the middle, an observation tower, as a forgotten minaret, rises from a garden surrounded by the walls of the central market". The tower comes from an Ottoman barracks, by the drawings of an European engineer in the era's military style.

The often opinion is that the tower was built by the Genovese people, the presumed builders of the town is completely wrong, the museum curators say. The same as the impression that it was raised by the Turks as a minaret for a mosque.

This building used to serve, ever since the ottoman leadership, as observation tower and fire tower. The tower, easily inclined from the building, was raised by the Turks after 1700, when the town was under ottoman administration, controlling the Danube on both banks, with the purpose of supervising the surroundings. This was possible because the Tower measured 22 m in height, outflanking any other building around.

The oldest postcard from the Tower is from 1837, by the French artist Raffet. In 1839 the clock was fitted and small repairs were made in the upper side made of wood, while the upper side was rebuilt in 1883. The clock that cost 300 imperial golden coins was fitted by Manolache, a clockmaker from Bucharest.

Not long after, the clock's bell was replaced, because its sound wasn't heard by the entire town. The bell was melted and cast again in Bucharest, building a bigger one. The tower that is the heritage from the Turks, made of hexagonal stone, with a height of 22 m and a diameter of 5 m, was repaired by known architects from that time.

In 1883 the tip was lifted, which is kept until now. The rooms around the tower were built between 1835-1838; during the period 1839-1877 the magistrate and the town police had their offices there, and after the independence war, the area is used as coffee shop and cafeteria and garden during summer time.

In 1836 the hose, two water wagons necessary for the firefighter service and two horses were bought. The hose was kept at the Clock Tower. In 1840, three water bearers were employed, who were at the stall at all times, therefore incorporating the firefighter service from Giurgiu.

The tower represents a special monument for the inhabitants of Giurgiu, considering the fact that it is placed on the town's emblem.





Fig.22. The Clock Tower

Source: <https://www.romaniaturistica.ro/turnul-ceasornicului-giurgiu>

2. Bizetz Bridge (cod LMI GR-II-m-B-14894) is the first road and railroad bend bridge in Europe, built under the guidance of the engineers Anghel Saligny and Ion Ionescu-Bizetz, given for use in 1905. The uniqueness of this bridge is the bend shape view, the solution being a new technique in Europe at the time. In 2007, due to intense traffic and overstress of this bridge, another taller one was built, with 4 traffic lanes, the old bridge being decommissioned, today being available only for pedestrians and as a monument.



Fig.23. Bizetz Bridge

Source: http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_1JpSOk9w9sE/ScOghI58B0I/AAAAAAAAABqo/x_kO7Gh1SNU/s1600-h/16479774.jpg

www.interregrobg.eu

3. Giurgiu Port is one of the main Danube ports. It also has a container terminal.



Fig.22. The Clock Tower

Source: <https://www.romaniaturistica.ro/turnul-ceasornicului-giurgiu>

4. Alei Park (cod LMI GR-II-a-B-14878) is over 180 years old, the constructions being initiated at the initiative of General Kiseleff. The Alei Park was established during several years, since 1831, when the town systematization began.

In 1840, here were planted 200 lime trees and also was built a cafeteria and a music pavilion. The music tradition in the park is kept until today. It is one of the first romantic gardens in Romania. In time it was changed, being kept only part of the initial structure of the alleys and vegetation. The statues from Alei Park are also works of art and historical monuments. The most important one from the artistic point of view is the bust of Mihai Eminescu.

Another important monument is the one dedicated to the French army, as a tribute to the commander of the allied troops from the Balkan Peninsula from the First World War, Marshal Foch. The monument was installed in 1920, when the name of Marshal Foch was also given to the park.

An impressive statues assembly is formed by the 23 busts of heroes from

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the independence war from 1877 (Valter Măracineanu, Dimitrie Lemnea, Maier Șonțu, sg. Filip Iliescu etc.), installed in the Alei Park on the centenary anniversary of this historical event, in 1977. They are the work of important sculptors, among which Boris Caragea, Vasile Gorduz, Elena Avramescu, Jana Gertler, Horia Flămând and so on.

At the end of the 19th century, the park turned into a recreational walking area sought by the inhabitants of the town of Giurgiu, here being organized all important events. The illustrations from the end of the 19th century show a very cared for garden, with tall trees, with spring wells. In time, the park was extended towards the west side, by adding a surface that almost doubled the initial one and towards the east side, where the former City Hall used to be, was established a sports base, therefore extending the loisir function.



Fig.25. Alei Park

Source: <https://audiotravelguide.ro/parcul-alei-giurgiu/>

5. The County Museum "Teohari Antonescu" (cod LMI GR-II-m-B-14876) is situated on the str. C.D. Gherea, Giurgiu locality, county of Giurgiu.

Created in 1934, it is active since 1977 in the building of the former Vlașca Prefecture, also an historical monument. The entry is marked by a higher volume, pointed out by a framing with accentuated slides and many decorations.

The pictures made at the end of the 20th century show the existence of decorative elements that were lost following the rebuilding made in the last century (inter-war period).

Frontons and ornaments around the gaps have disappeared, also the column heads marking the corner pillars, the framing profiles and the cornice were simplified, the same options being also adopted for the balconies of the main façade.

The museum has 5 sections: memorial history, ethnography, history, archeology, restauration-preservation. The archeology section enhances almost every eras, since the Prehistorical one until the Middle Age. The patrimony of the ethnography section comes from ancient villages in the Vlașca area, overlapping the current county of Giurgiu and consists in 1,700 pieces.

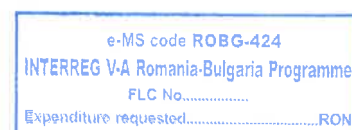
The memorial history section - here are the old books storage, memorial documentary funds, the paper restauration workshop and book bindings, as well as an informatic office. Plus an administration objective, the memorial home of Petre Ghelmez writer from the locality Gogoșari, launched in 2004.

The most important memorial fund comes from the literary historical scholar Nicolae Cartoian. Numerous writers, historians, science men born in localities from this county, who worked for part of their career in Vlasca area or which passing through Giurgiu left significant marks in their lives and work, are the object of patrimony and information (Ion Barbu, Teohari Antonescu, Nichifor Crainic, Nicolae Dărăscu, Petre Ghelmez, Emil Culian, Dumitru Karnabatt, Victor Karpis, Ion Vinea, Tudor Vianu, Dimitrie Bolintineanu, I.A. Bassarabescu, Emanoil Bucuța).

Another important memorial fund comes from Dumitru Berciu archeologist, the founder of the institution where a memorial room is dedicated to.

The Ethnography Section - has a patrimony that comes mostly from the ancient villages from Vlașca area, on which overlapped the current Giurgiu county. The approx. 1,700 pieces being established in 5 collections.

The history section has as theme the presentation of local history, revealing the main moments from the Giurgiu Fortress evolution and the surrounding area, since the Middle Age and until the Great Fusion from 1918.



Presents the incorporation of Giurgiu, the period of fights lead by Michael the Brave with the Ottoman Empire, historical moments (monasteries, churches, secular places) but also some proof of modernism (17th century - 18th century) created until Giurgiu was freed, following the peace from Adrianopol (1829).

Significant moments from the Romanian modern history are showed by presenting the locals contribution to the events of 1848, the independence war from 1877-1878, as well as the First World War (1916-1918).

Also are presented the accomplishments that individualize Giurgiu at national level: the first ship built in the Romanian principality (Marița, 1834), the first telegraph line (1853), the first railroad (1869), the first bend bridge from Europe (Bizetz, 1906). The beginning of the 20th century is illustrated in the exhibition by showing technical and furniture pieces and representative artistic pieces (decorative art, paintings).

The input brought by Giurgiu to the heroic poetry of the First World War is certified by the martyr city decorated with the „French War Cross”, due to destructions suffered during the occupation of the Central Powers (November 1916 - November 1918), decoration present at the exhibition.

This section valorizes and communicates the patrimony by exhibitions (temporary and itinerary) also within scientific manifestations. The important collections are those for old books (unique pieces), coins (treasury), pictures, weapons, plastic and decorative art (Romanian paintings), ceramics (European and extremely oriental tiles from the 19th century).

The archeology section - the beginning of the archeology in Giurgiu are connected to the name of Prof. Ion Andrieșescu, the one that, between 1929-1930, began the first systematic diggings in Romania, at Oinacu, county of Vlașca.

The patrimony discovered during this campaign, with pieces from subsequent diggings made by Dumitru Berciu at Tangâru, Pietrele and Petru Rareș, represent the initial museum patrimony



Fig.26. "Teohari Antonescu" County Museum
Source: <https://giurgiu-net.ro/>

6. "Nicoale Bălănescu" Athenaeum - by the shape of a Greek temple and the Romanian golden eagle on the facade, the "Nicolae Bălănescu" Athenaeum was built in just a few months in 1940, following the philanthropic gesture of the lawyer Nicolae Bălănescu, who decided to demolish his home and with the resulting materials to erect a real temple of the Giurgiu culture.

So, it began the story of the Giurgiu Athenaeum, a branch of the Romanian Athenaeum, that, until that time, started its existence from 1876 in the building of the middle school, known as Zalomit.

After several cultural destinations and nationalized by the communists, the athenaeum was abandoned at the beginning of 1990 and left in ruins.

Upgraded and commissioned in 2009, on April 23rd, the Giurgiu anniversary, the Athenaeum hosted literary nights, scientific symposiums, theatre nights, exhibitions, shows, symphonic concerts, conferences - satisfying the most varied tastes and cultural partialities

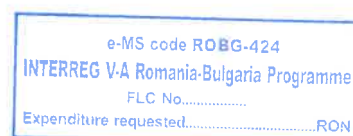




Fig.27. a. "Nicolae Bălănescu" Athenaeum

Source: <https://zigzagprinromania.com/blog/ateneul-nicolae-balanescu/>



Fig.27. b. "Nicolae Bălănescu" Athenaeum

Source: <https://api.showpass.ro/media/locatii/sany03281>.

7. "Sfântul Ierarh Nicolae" Skete (cod LMI GR-II-m-A-14890)

Was built not long ago after Giurgiu was given to Wallachia, following the provisions of the Adrianopole Treaty.

This was a Mahomed mosque until 1830 (according to the documents held by the National Committee of Historical Monuments), without knowing its construction date or the name of the authors.

In 1830, the mosque was transformed into a modern Orthodox church, with the wake of "Saint Nicholas", by the name of Tsar Nicholas 1st of Russia, this decision being taken during the period 1828-1829, following the freeing of Giurgiu Fortress from the Ottoman occupation and returning Giurgiu to the Wallachia Principality.

"Saint Hierarch Nicholas" Skete reminds of the moment the town and the territory around it passed in the administration of Wallachia, but also of the deep reconfiguration of the urban structure of the locality, decided by the Moldavia and Wallachia Governor, the Russian general Pavel Dimitrievici Kiseleff.



Fig.28. "Saint Hierarch Nicholas" Skete

Source: <https://www.crestinortodox.ro/biserici-manastiri/schitul-sfantul-nicolae-giurgiu-143830.html>

8. "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" Church

The history shows that until 1829, the year when the vilayets Turnu, Giurgiu and Braila go under Romanian administration through the Treaty from Adrianopole, the Christians from these territories are not allowed to build worship places above the ground nor have bells.

Because of this, Christians have to build churches underground.





Fig.29. "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" Church
Source: <http://wikimapia.org/68322/ro>

Such worship places also existed in Giurgiu, because in the Mapping of the Bucharest Churches from 1810, published in the magazine „Biserica Ortodoxa Româna”, it is mentioned „priest Radu sin popa Ivan, ordained by Vladica Cervenoi Chiril, at the church from Giurgiu on august 25th, 1802.”

Also, taking care of the inhabitants of this fortress, the Turkish Court from Giurgiu reminds in a decision from 1806 about the repairs made to the „Adormirea Maicii Domnului” Church.

This was erected between 1840-1852, exactly where the former cottage-church used to be, the only Christian-Orthodox church accepted by the Ottoman power.

Until 1829 it was the "New Church", being considerably built by Ciulei, following the projects of the architect Penescu and is initially considered the Giurgiu Cathedral, but unofficially at first and then it becomes official.

Special works attest that the church with the wake „Adormirea Maicii Domnului” was built as it is today, between 1840-1852. In time it suffered a few major alterations. The church's drawing is basilical type, with towers on the nave and porch, made from burnt bricks with limescale plaster, on a stone foundation.

9. "Buna Vestire" Church (Greek)

Being a very known Danube port, a commercial center and multi-ethnic town, Giurgiu has until today the proof about old times. Among the God worshipping places, we find on Mircea cel Bătrân street, in the old town, near the Clock Tower, the Greek's Church - As it is with the Buna Vestire wake.

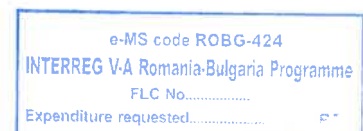
"Buna Vestire" Church was erected in 1863 by the Greek community in town, with the approval of the ruler Alexandru Ioan Cuza where the services were in Greek, with little interruption.

For 15 years, the services for important holidays were officiated also by Romanian priests, in time, the church being visited by a lot of Romanian Orthodox. The church was finished in 1865, being consecrated on December 12th, on St. Hierarch Spirion Day.

Between 1866 and 1867, the church was painted by Gheorghe Tătărescu, in oil, a revolutionary proceeding at that time, and among the important founders were Alexandru Ipsilante and Negroponte. The church shelters now relics of the Saint Mucenița Ecaterina and the Cloak of the All pious Paraschiva.



Fig.30. "Buna Vestire" Church
Source: <http://biserica-buna-vestire-giurgiu.crestinortodox.ro/istoric/biserica-tinerilor-din-giurgiu-374>



3.3. The action plan

Specific objectives	Activity	Priority (A,B,C)	Performance time	Monitoring indicators
1. Knowing and promoting the movable and immovable properties, value and important research of the historical monuments, evaluating their preservation and safety	1.a. Creating and advertising a WEBSITE in three languages (in English, Bulgaria and Romanian), dedicated to historical monuments from the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region, by acquiring the domain and outsourcing the web services	B	2020-2021	Visitors number traffic, forum etc.
	1.b. Creating cultural research centers specific to historical monuments that happened on these sites (the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes - Ruse and Giurgiu Fortress - Giurgiu) - The investment in such centers consisting in developing the human resource specialized in this regard, but also creating areas compliant for developing certain activities (laboratories, study halls)	B	2020-2023	Specialized personnel number; study halls number/ laboratories; number of participants
2.Preservation of historical monuments and cultural real estates in danger or an advanced degradation state, restoring and preserving the works, security and supervision	2.a. Performing rehabilitation/ restoration works for historical monuments	A	2020-2025	-
	2.b. Fitting the monuments in the built patrimony with security, supervision and lighting systems	A	2020-2025	-
3. Protecting the cultural patrimony according to the current law, benefiting from the support of the parties involved in such activity: public authorities, specialized institutions, Civil societies, cultural patrimony development	3. Courses for raising the awareness for the need to protect the cultural and natural patrimony for the public authorities personnel, specialized institutions	B	2020-2030	Number of participants
4.Focusing on the role of historical monuments as a social cohesion for a sustainable, educational and touristic development, at national and international level	4.a. Revitalizing and enhancing the Historical Center of the two municipalities (Ruse, Giurgiu)	C	2020-2030	Number of tourists, publications, number of participants
	4.b. Organizing school contests for the acknowledgement of historical events and personalities specific to the local history	C	2020-2030	Number of participants
	4.c. Organizing cultural events for marking certain important moments in the local history, traditions and customs (Ruse Carnival, Music Days, Autumn Days for Arts and Sciences, Giurgiu Days etc.)	C	2020-2030	Number of participants

4. Conclusions

The location of the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region in the south-eastern side of Europe, at the border between Romania and Bulgaria, is a strategic one.

It is on the intersection of two of the ten pan-European corridors: Pan-European VII Corridor (the Danube) - it connects the western Europe and the Black Sea and Central Asia and the Pan-European IX Corridor - connecting Scandinavia and the Russian Federation from the South of Europe and Small Asia.

The Euro-region is located at a large distance from the 2 capitals (65 km from Bucharest and 310 km from Sofia).

Currently, following its geographic position, the Euro-region is passed by over 80% of the merchandise between Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. Here are also added the merchandise passing the Euro-region on the river Danube, the Black Sea being 250 km away (Constanța Port).

Currently, the Euro-region is passed only by those who go to Greece/Turkey, to spend their vacations there. Due to its touristic potential, the Euro-region might even become a vacation destination for tourists.

From the cultural point of view, the area has a high potential in this category, due to the historical events occurred hundreds of years before, following which true vestiges remained as confirmation.

The current Management Plan is focused on two of the main historical monuments in the Ruse-Giurgiu Euro-region: the Pantheon of the National Renaissance Heroes and the Giurgiu Fortress.

The two monuments are true cultural vestiges, loaded with history, that deserve special attention, to be preserved, protected and transferred to future generations.

Unfortunately, currently their preservation state is not that good to attract tourists, at least in case of Giurgiu Fortress, it being a ruin, that becomes invisible during winter time due to the snow covering it.

These historical elements need a quick intervention to keep their cultural identity, the sites transforming into attractive vestiges for tourists willing to discover their true history.

The preservation and protection of these elements is necessary and this will be possible by raising the awareness on the local and regional tourism by the administrations that manages them.

Also, for increasing the tourism level, there is also the need to promote the Euro-region, that can increase its high potential.

As a conclusion, the Euro-region has a high potential regarding the cultural and natural patrimony, but with the need for quick interventions on the vestiges with such historical meaning.

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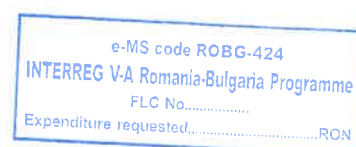
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CONTACT:

Beneficiary - Leader:



Municipality of Ruse

Institution Municipality of Ruse
Address Svoboda Plaza, no. 6, Ruse, Bulgaria
Telephone +359/82 826 100
 +359/82 881 745
Fax: +359/82 834 413
Web site: www.ruse-bg.eu
Email: mayor@ruse-bg.eu
 pr@mayor-bg.eu

Beneficiary:



Municipality of Giurgiu

Institution Municipality of Giurgiu
Address Bucharest Boulevard, no. 49-51,
 Giurgiu, Romania
Telephone +40/246 213 588
 +40/246 216 174
Fax +40/246 215 405
Web site www.primariagiurgiu.ro
Email primarie@primariagiurgiu.ro

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