

EUROPEAN YOUTH MEET CULTURAL HERITAGE  
I GIOVANI EUROPEI INCONTRANO IL PATRIMONIO CULTURALE  
TOWN TWINNING CONFERENCE 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011

# EUROPEAN YOUTH MEET THE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Romania.wma

ATHENS, MAY 2012



# NATIONAL ECONOMIC HIGH SCHOOL “ANDREI BÂRSEANU” BRASOV



**1598 STUDENTS , 61 CLASSES, 100 TEACHERS**

**EDUCATIONAL OFFER :**

**High school day classes (IXth – XIIth grade)**

- Technician in acquisitions and contracts
- Technician in economic activities
- Technician in administration
- Technician in tourism
- Technician in gastronomy

**Banqueting organizer**



# BRASOV

## Brasov - General Information

Location: Central Romania

Size: 28.5 sq. miles (74 sq. km)

Elevation: 2,133 ft. (650 meters)

Population: 320,000

Inhabited since: 100 BC

First documented: 1234 AD



Fringed by the peaks of the Southern Carpathian Mountains and resplendent with Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance architecture, as well as a wealth of historical attractions, Brasov is one of the most visited places in Romania.



# BRASOV - ROMANIA





# The Council Square

Located at the heart of old medieval Brasov and lined with beautiful red-roofed merchant houses, the Council Square, known to the Saxon population as the Marktplatz, is a nice place to rest and soak in the beautiful scenery. The most important building in the square is the Council House, which was built in 1420 and is located in the middle of the square. Today it houses the History Museum.





# The Black Church

Brasov's famous landmark and Romania's leading Gothic church is the Black Church, built between 1385 and 1477 on the site of an earlier church. The proportions of the Gothic Church laid out on the construction plan were huge: 89m long, 38m wide and 42m high. From the two towers planned, only one was built, a 65m high one. Due to the walls blackened by the 1689 fire the church became to be known as the Black Church. Many concerts are held on the 3993 pipes and 76 registers Buchholz mechanical organ, the greatest in south-eastern Europe and the only one so well preserved. The Black Church exhibits the richest collection of Anatolian carpets in all Europe, from the 16th and 18th centuries.





# Brasov's Defensive Fortifications

Of the original seven bastions, only a few have survived, including the newly renovated **Graft Bastion**, located in the middle of the citadel's northwest wing.



The **White Tower** was built in 1494 on top of a rock. Its straight side closing a semicircle faces the city.



The **Black Tower** is an 11-meter-high massive tower with a glass roof constructed in 1995. It was built in the XIVth century and survived two fires caused by lightning.



The **Weavers' Bastion** was built in two phases between 1421-1436 and 1570-1573 and restored in 1910. A permanent exhibition displays medieval weapons products made by the guilds, the scale model of the city in the Middle Ages.



## Catherine's Gate

**Catherine's Gate** is the only original gate to have survived from medieval times. The fairy-tale tower we see today was part of a bigger structure, which unfortunately, was demolished in 1827.



## Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church

First built in wood in 1392, replaced with a stone structure in 1495 and considerably expanded in the 18th century, the church is a true architectural masterpiece. With a mix of Byzantine, Baroque and Gothic styles, it features a slender tower and four corner towers.





# The Citadel

In 1524 a semi-circle tower was built on top of a hill and then the place was surrounded by a wall. The square fortress, with Italian bastions on its corners and watchtowers, has got one entrance. There used to be a drawbridge leading to it.



# **Main objectives of our common project**

**To promote cultural and linguistic diversity**

**To develop a sense of European identity, based on common values, history and culture**

**To have an intercultural dialogue**



# AIMS

LEARNING ABOUT ROMANIAN CIVILISATION  
DURING ANTIQUITY AND THE MIDDLE AGES IN  
BRASOV AREA THROUGH DRAMA AND  
FIELD RESEARCH

TALKING TO LOCAL PEOPLE AND HISTORIANS





# Themes

## Rasnov fortress

- overall presentation
- location on maps/in situ
- analysis from a historical and architectural perspective
- daily life in the fortress

## Roman castrum Cumidava

- analysis from a historical and archeological perspective



# METHODOLOGY

DISTRIBUTION IN TWO GROUPS OF 6 STUDENTS EACH, AGED 16-18, TWO TUTORS, SAME THEME : RESEARCH ON RASNOV CITADEL (FORTRESS)

1. TEACHER'S PRESENTATION OF THE THEME
2. GIVING TASKS: STUDENTS' RESEARCH IN THE HISTORY MUSEUM AND THE CITY LIBRARY
3. VISIT 'IN SITU' ACCOMPANIED BY ARCHEOLOGIST NICOLAE PEPENE (DETAILED PRESENTATION)
4. ENACTING MEDIEVAL TIMES SCENES (USING COSTUMES , BOWS, WOODEN SWORDS AND SHIELDS)
5. FEEDBACK-TALKS, CONCLUSIONS, POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS
6. FOLLOW-UP: RESEARCH ON ANCIENT CUMIDAVA

# Group one

- Tasks
- Overall presentation of Rasnov fortress
- Daily life in the fortress( clothing, food, tools, activities)-roleplay
- A research on Cumidava from a historical point of view
- Visit of both sites





# Group two

- Tasks:
- Analysis of Rasnov fortress from a historical and architectural point of view
- Weapons and means of defense
- Cumidava - research from an archeological perspective
- Visit of both sites



# RASNOV FORTRESS





The place called Rasnov is mentioned for the first time in documents that date from the year 1331. During the Middle Ages Rasnov was one of the 12 villages that formed the district of Brasov, district that was mentioned in documents for the first time in 1377.



Rasnov Fortress (*Rosenau* in German), is located on a rocky hilltop in the Carpathian Mountains, 650 ft. above the town of Rasnov. The fortress was built by Teutonic Knights as protection against invading Tartars and was later enlarged by the local Saxon population.



Strategically located on the commercial route linking the provinces of Transylvania and Walachia, Rasnov differs from other Saxon fortresses in that it was designed as a place of refuge over extended periods of time. As such, it had at least 30 houses, a school, a chapel and other buildings more commonly associated with a village.

The defensive system included nine towers, two bastions and a drawbridge. Surrounded by steep slopes on the north, south and west sides, the fortress was obliged to surrender only once, in the year 1612 when invaders managed to find the secret route that supplied the people inside the fortress with water. With the location of their water supply no longer a secret, the need for a well inside the fortress became a must.





Work on the 470-foot-deep well began in 1623 and took 17 years to complete. The well provided extra security as it meant the people didn't have to go outside the gates at all during a siege. It was in use until 1850 when the wheel broke.





The last siege of Rasnov Fortress took place in 1690 during the final Ottoman invasion of Transylvania. Damaged by fire in 1718, it was rebuilt the following year. The next major damage occurred as the result of an earthquake in 1802. The fortress was last used as a place of refuge during the revolution of 1848 and was abandoned after that.



# ENTRANCE TO THE CITADEL



# THE INNER YARD - LOTS OF TOOLS AND MEDIEVAL OBJECTS CAN BE SEEN



Recently, the old fortress has been restored to its former glory and today, you can visit the impressive remains. There is also a museum here, hidden behind the ancient walls, where you can find a skeleton buried beneath a glass floor, as well as some other interesting artifacts.





# Weapons used by the dwellers





# CUMIDAVA

THE RUINS OF A FORTIFIED  
ROMAN CAMP WERE FOUND  
NEAR RASNOV, THEIR  
RESEARCH BEING OUR  
FOLLOWING TASK



After Dacia was turned into a Roman province, when the Roman Empire was at its height in military power and territorial expansion, the troops brought to protect the road that crossed the mountains through the Bran Gorge built a fortified camp near river Barsa. It was probably built during the reign of Emperor Traianus (98-117 A.D.) and it existed till the withdrawal of the administration and army during the Emperor Aurelius (270-275 A.D.)





In 1939 archeologist Mihail Macrea found a votive stone plaque dating from the time of Emperor Alexander Severus (222-235 A.D.) He identifies the military unit that was located there in those times and names the fortified camp according to it : Cumidava.



The inscription said *“Iuliae Mameae augustae matri Domini nostri sanctissimi Imperatoris Caesaris Severi Alexandri augusti et castrorum senatusque cohors Vindelicorum Piae fidelis Cumidavensis Alexandrianae ex quaestura sua dedicante la sdio Dominatio legato augusti III Daciarum “*

The almost 2000 year-old inscription is fragmented, two fragments can still be seen in the History Museum.of Brasov.The monument was built to honor Iulia Mamea,mother of Emperor Alexander Severus, the one who led the destiny of the Roman Empire together with her son till 235 A.D. The builders of the edifice were soldiers of Dacian origin who were living there.The text written on the monument was first read and interpreted by professor Macrea, attesting the existence of the former Dacian settlement called Cumidava during the Roman rule of the province.



During the archeological research from 1969 to 1974 parts of the fortified camp walls were uncovered, the four gates and four towers in the corners of the camp. In front of the walls there is a moat .The camp surface is of about 2.10 hectares, a rectangle of 114X110 square meters.

The excavations unearthed not only a wide range of Roman materials but also pottery belonging to Dacians. The presence of items of Dacian origin proves that Dacians used to live in the camp or very close to it . Apart from pottery , a lot of stone tools were found, too -sandstone for sharpening metal objects, a grinding machine for cereals, objects made of iron - nails, hinges, knife blades, weapons made of iron, bronze or lead, ornaments bronze fibulas, glass beads, needles and combs made of bone, coins (silver coins with the images of Roman Emperors Galiba and Alexander Severus).



# **WE WELCOME YOU TO BRASOV, ROMANIA OCTOBER 2012**

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!  
EFHARISTO POLI!**

