

Regenerating Places, Reimagining Futures

International Conference on Investing in Heritage Revitalisation in the Danube Region

Participant registration form available here: <https://forms.gle/eRTfZhLNHdJAjShs9>

When: 23rd – 25th of April 2026

Where: [The Multifunctional Centre, Resița, Romania](#)

The event will be held in English. Simultaneous interpretation in Romanian will also be available.

Context

Small and medium-sized towns across the Danube Region are facing a complex set of structural challenges linked to industrial decline, accelerated demographic shifts, economic restructuring, and limited administrative and financial capacity. In many of these communities, former industrial sites – once the backbone of local prosperity – now stand as brownfields or underused assets, representing missed opportunities for economic diversification and the reactivation of local identity and community life. At the same time, dominant urban policies and governance models continue to reflect the logic of larger, fast-growing cities, often overlooking the specific realities of smaller and medium-sized communities. This misalignment is particularly visible in countries such as Romania, Bulgaria, and Serbia, where a significant share of the population lives outside major metropolitan areas.

Against this backdrop, several pressing challenges must be addressed: advancing sustainable land-use and innovative urban regeneration strategies that bring economic activities back to brownfield sites and enable the adaptive re-use of industrial heritage for entrepreneurial and civic vibrancy; responding to demographic change by leveraging cultural and industrial heritage to strengthen community resilience, develop stewardship models that consolidate social capital, and reinterpret heritage in the context of shifting populations; and consolidating cross-border networks of action and ecosystems of support capable of scaling up innovative practices and unlocking latent local resources, including disused industrial heritage assets.

This event opens the conversation and strengthens partnership across medium and small towns along the Danube Region for increasing resilience and fostering sustainable development models for the regeneration of industrial heritage. It builds on the premise that leadership experience and public service practices from smaller and medium towns across CEE countries are relevant for a large share of the population.

As Romania's oldest industrial steel-making centre in Romania, and one of the oldest in Central and Eastern Europe, **Reșița offers a uniquely relevant setting for this conference.** In recent years, its outstanding industrial heritage has become a driver of urban regeneration, proving that a mix of bold vision, professionalism, the use of EU funding instruments and multi-stakeholder efforts can help smaller towns perform as well. Additionally, 2026 marks 250 years since the factories in Reșița were granted the right to mark their products with their own branding and 100 years since Reșița was granted the status of town, offering a timely and symbolic framework for reflecting on industrial identity, continuity, and future-oriented transformation.

Conference Aims

- 1) Advance deep conversations and innovative policy exchange on the most pressing urban regeneration challenges of small and medium-sized municipalities in areas facing restructuring and demographic shifts. Special emphasis will be placed on strategies for revitalizing industrial heritage sites;
- 2) Facilitate exchange of experiences and dissemination of results of Interreg Danube projects that have been recently finalized or are about to finish and promote them;
- 3) Foster cross-border partnerships and networks of action among local authorities and other stakeholders in countries from the Danube Region;
- 4) Explore funding strategies for replicating and/or scaling-up pilot projects tested in Interreg Danube projects such as NEB framework funding, Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI), Mission 100, and the Just Transition Mechanism;
- 5) Present progress and outcomes of the Strategy for Revitalization through Culture that is currently being elaborated. In subsidiary, the event will serve as meeting point for the Steering Committee of EUSDR Axis 3 – Culture & Tourism

Target participants

- 1) Local municipalities, regional authorities, academic and non-profit entities in the Danube Region, in particular (but not exclusively) past and present partners in the Interreg Danube projects: [ReIND BBG](#), [NONA](#), [CultHerit](#), [SteelCityZen](#), [CAST](#), [IBC](#) and others;
- 2) Local municipalities and other stakeholders of Banat Mountains microregion and other areas within Romania, Serbia and Bulgaria situated in the driving buffer of 4-5 h. Special interest in areas undergoing deep restructuring and demographic shifts, targeted by funding instruments such as ITI and/or Just Transition Regions;
- 3) Central Government entities and specialized institutions with mandate and interest in urban regeneration, (industrial) heritage revitalization, local economic development etc.;
- 4) European bodies and specialized networks such as EUSDR management bodies, European Commission, European Route of Industrial Heritage and [Trans Europe Halles](#).

Preliminary agenda

23rd April	<p>Tour around the Mociur-Triaj-Valea Țerovei urban regeneration pilot site</p> <p>Panel on Business & Policies regarding Post-industrial Sites</p> <p>Panel on Impact Finance</p> <p>Panel on Industrial Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour around the Funicular Bridge (Landmark NEB project)
24th April	<p>Panel on Civic Stewardship</p> <p>Working group sessions</p> <p><i>*Visit around the site of the Reșița Machine Building Factory / Blast Furnace Site</i></p>
25th April (Optional)	<p><i>*Participants will be invited to choose between 3 tours at industrial heritage sites in & around Reșița:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reșița Machine Building Factory, including the Factory Glasshouses</i> • <i>The Mining Museum in Anina - 1h from Reșița;</i> • <i>The Hydrotechnical System that surrounds the city.</i>

**All tours are in the process of being confirmed. More details regarding them will be announced closer to the conference to all of the participants that register on the form.*

Logistics

Transportation

Reșița is located within a short driving distance from the Serbian and Bulgarian borders.

For the participants who cannot travel by car to Reșița, we recommend flying to Timișoara Traian Vuia International Airport or Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport and then take a transfer from there to Reșița. Please fill in the details about your flight schedule in the participant registration form. Once you do that, the organizers can support you in organizing the transfer from either airport.

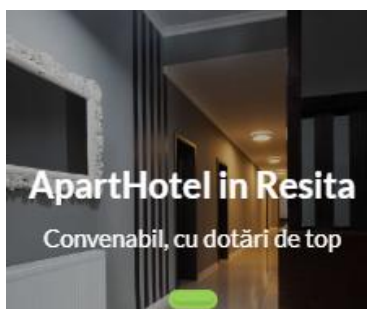
Costs

Participants are expected to cover their own transport and accommodation costs.

All other logistics, such as venue, interpretation, local visits, and guides, catering for lunch, dinner and coffee breaks are to be covered by the organizers.

Recommended Accommodation

All of the accommodations detailed in this section have been pre-booked by the organizers in order to ensure availability for the period during which the conference takes place. Upon your reservation, please make sure you mention that you are participating in the event organised by us and the owners of the accommodation will know to assign you one of the rooms booked in advance.



Reșița Residence

Strada Mihai Viteazu Nr.28 Reșița

For reservations: contact@resitaresidence.ro

Note: Located in the historical part of the city, walking distance from City Centre.



Hotel ROGGE

I.L. Caragiale nr 12, Resita, Romania,

For reservations: rezervari@hotelrogge.ro

Note: Located conveniently in the City Centre. Suitable for those arriving on the 23rd, as the hotel is fully booked until then.

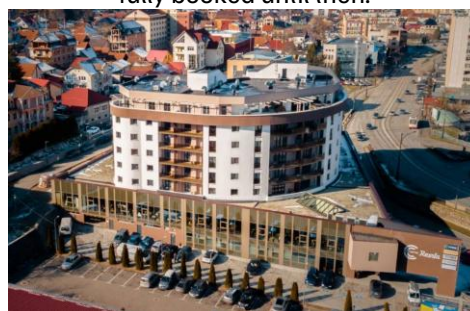


ORA Hotel

Calea Caransebesului nr. 33, Reșița, România

For reservations: rezervari@orahotel.info

Note: A bit further away from city centre, suitable for guests arriving by car.



City Center Reșița

Ion Luca Caragiale Str., Resita, Romania

For reservations: contact Eduard Moisac (number at the end of document) and he will mediate the conversation between you and this accommodation

Note: Located conveniently in the City Centre. Apartments with kitchenette and individual bathrooms. Suitable for families. AirBNB-like accommodation

Other Useful Information

Currency: **RON (Romanian leu) 1 EUR = 5.1 RON**

Payments can only be made in RON in most stores/restaurants.

Many exchange offices available throughout the city

Contact

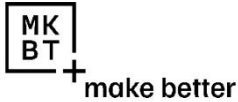
More updates will also be available soon on the website muzeulvirtualresita.ro, but for any urgent inquiries please contact us at:

Eduard Moisac: +40 771 286 454 / eduard.moisac@mkbtr.ro - for support in choosing accommodation, reaching Reșița, and agenda.



Petronela Comora: +40 765 770 347 / petronela.comora@primariaresita.ro - for venue, catering, and interpretation

Organizers:



ASOCIAȚIA PENTRU
DEZVOLTARE INTERCOMUNITARĂ
ITI BANATUL MONTAN



The event is organised in the framework of cooperation between Interreg Danube projects ReInd-BBG: Reindustrialisation following the Brownfield is better than Greenfield Principle and NONA - New Governance for New Spaces, supported by the Interreg Danube Region Programme co-funded by the European Union