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PRESS RELEASE

EU-FUNDED HORIZON EUROPE PROJECT ELABCHROM CONCLUDES AFTER THREE YEARS, DELIVERING IMPACTFUL RESULTS

After three years of collaborative research and innovation, the Twinning Horizon Europe project **Establishing a Laboratory of Cultural Heritage in Central Romania (ELABCHROM)** has successfully concluded, delivering concrete results that contribute to greater visibility for research in the social sciences and humanities by promoting interdisciplinary approaches to cultural heritage and developing a Cultural Heritage Laboratory in Central Romania.

Launched in January 2023, ELABCHROM was coordinated by **Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (ULBS)** in partnership with the **University of Jyväskylä (Finland)** and **Université Bourgogne Europe, Dijon (France)**. The project aimed to reduce disparities in research performance and research management capacity between institutions from Widening countries and leading European universities, while enhancing international collaboration in the field of cultural heritage studies.

Key results

Over its three-year duration, the project achieved several key outcomes, including:

- the establishment of the **Cultural Heritage Laboratory**, coordinated by ULBS and recognised as one of the nine laboratories within the **FORTHM European Alliance**; **The Cultural Heritage Lab** (<https://www.forthem-alliance.eu/objectives/labs/cultural-heritage>);
- the publication or submission of **eight joint articles** in international peer-reviewed academic journals such as *International Journal of Heritage Studies* or *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*;
- the publication of **one collective open access volume**, *Engaging Communities in Cultural Heritage* (Routledge, London, 2025), edited by Tuuli Lähdesmäki, Johanna Turunen, Andrei Terian, Renaud Garcia-Bardidia, available at <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/oa-edit/10.4324/9781003569695/engaging-communities-cultural-heritage-tuuli-lahdesmaki-johanna-turunen-andrei-terian-renaud-garcia-bardidia>;
- the organisation of **three international conferences in Sibiu**:
Revisiting Cultural Heritage: Novel Approaches, Innovative Methods, And Transnational Connections (26-27 October 2023);
Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Dichotomy under Debate (24-25 October 2024);
Inter- and Transcultural Heritage: Conflicts, Overlaps, Coexistence (6-7 November 2025);



- the development of a **Guide of Best Practices in Research Management**;
- the development of a **Guide of Best Practices in Research**;
- the training of **45 academic staff members** from ULBS in research skills and international collaboration.

European impact

The project has contributed to a deeper understanding of how Central Romania has evolved into an attractive cultural tourism destination, shaped by its rich cultural heritage and complex historical transformations. By examining opportunities and challenges relevant to small urban areas, ELABCHROM has generated valuable insights for sustainable regional development and place branding, while also offering practical knowledge for national and international stakeholders interested in investing in culturally rich regions. Importantly, the project's results and resources will remain publicly accessible beyond its lifetime, supporting long-term impact and continued uptake.

About the project

ELABCHROM is funded by the European Union's **Horizon Europe research and innovation programme** under **Grant Agreement No. 101079282**. The project ran from **1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025** and involved partners from **Romania, France, and Finland**.

More information about the project and access to its results are available at: <https://grants.ulbsibiu.ro/elabchrom/>