

**ASTRA Museum Cultural Project: „Istroromanians – consolidation and perpetuation of values and traditions”**

ASTRA National Museum Complex from Sibiu, Romania, implemented in 2008 the project having for purpose the consolidation and enhancement of durability of Istroromanian values and traditions.

The project was financed by the Administration of Romanian National Cultural Fund (AFCN) and consisted of two main stages:

- 10 days field research in Zejane and Suşnieviţa villages in Croatia.
- Organizing several related cultural manifestations in Sibiu on September 5th and 6th 2008: the opening of the exhibition „Istroromanians: yesterday and today” curated by Ervino Curtis, President of the Cultural Italo – Romanian Association „Decebal” from Trieste – Italy; an international symposium with 40 participants, a concert and dance show performed by the group „Zvoncearii” from Zejane village, as well as publishing and launching a volume containing the results of the research for further dissemination purposes.

The project, focusing of the valorization of the Croatian Istroromanians` traditions, arose high interest from specialists both from Romania and from abroad (Italy, Croatia), given the similarities of language and customs. Having crossed less favorable historical evolution stages and being rather isolated from the geographical point of view, the Istroromanians have lost contact with Romanian language and traditions. Thus, their material and spiritual culture are also relatively poorly known in nowadays Romania. The project succeeded to bring back to public attention the values of Istroromanians culture and to enhance the idea of common heritage in this part of Europe.

Project Coordinator:

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