Historic building works give hands-on training

The Fortified Churches project has enabled German building trade apprentices to gain hands-on experience by renovating historic sites in the beautiful Romanian region of Transylvania.

Carpenters, bricklayers, roofers and plasterers are just some of the trainee craftspeople who helped to renovate old buildings and churches in the Romanian villages of Mardisch and Martinsdorf. They used old techniques and original materials wherever possible. Most of the work at the church in Mardisch was focused on the interior, while at the old rectory in Martinsdorf, more decorative work has been done.

Project coordinator Heike Ernst said:

“Our apprentices would not have had the opportunity to carry out such detailed renovation work on listed buildings in Germany, so for us this project is a great opportunity.”

The project ‘Fortified Churches’, which involved 120 participants over two years, brought craftspeople from different disciplines together, exposing apprentices to new experiences and skills.

The renovation of these buildings of important cultural heritage will permit them to be used once again. Ernst believes that the revival of built cultural heritage can encourage regional regeneration.

“We’ve seen the project having a positive impact on the village. As our work has progressed, many locals began to renovate their own houses. I think more and more projects like this are happening in the region, and that things are changing for the better,’ said Ernst.

The project will continue for at least another two years, giving more apprentices hands-on experience renovating cultural heritage sites. ‘It is so nice to see the progress made, and how these buildings are becoming beautiful once again,’ said Ernst, who concluded that they will always be in contact with the Transylvanian partners and friends, who helped them during the project.

Project title
Fortified churches-Renovierung der Kirchenburgen in Mardisch und Martinsdorf / Siebenbürger, Rumänien

Erasmus+
Field: Vocational Education and Training
Action: Learner and Staff Mobility

Key facts and figures

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<th>Participants</th>
<th>Countries</th>
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<td>121</td>
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<td>€139,920</td>
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Lead organisation
Name: BBZ der Maler und Lackierer Innung München
Location: Munich, Germany
Website: www.malerinnung-muenchen.de

Partner
Consistorial Districtual Evangelic CA Mediaș, Romania

More information
Project website: N/A
The Erasmus+ Project Results Platform: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplus-project-details/