

The World Heritage Tentative List. A Case of Romania: Problems and Perspectives

Sergiu MUSTEAȚĂ

Valahia University of Targoviste, 13 Alee Sinaia St, 130004 Târgoviște, Romania; ;
sergiu.musteata@valahia.ro

Abstract: The Tentative List is essential for the nomination process of the properties in the World Heritage List. Considering this point of view, this paper analyzes the situation of the Tentative List of Romania, the latest developments and decisions to update the list, and the perspective of preparing future nominations and sustainable heritage preservation strategies. At the same time, some issues regarding the state of the Tentative List and the revising process are reviewed, and at the end, some conclusions and suggestions for perspectives in this field are highlighted.

Keywords: Romania, World Heritage, Tentative List

Introduction

According to the *World Heritage Convention* (Articles 4, 6(2) and 11(1)) and *Operational Guidelines* (§15a and §15i), the State Parties of the Convention have the responsibility to ensure the identification of the monuments and submit them to the World Heritage Committee an inventory of properties suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List:

„A Tentative List is an inventory of those properties situated on its territory which each State Party considers suitable for nomination to the World Heritage List. States Parties should, therefore, include in their Tentative Lists details of those properties which they consider to be of potential Outstanding Universal Value and which they intend to nominate during the following years.” (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §62).

The Tentative Lists of all State Parties must comply with the *Operational Guidelines*, should be established selectively, and have the potential of Outstanding Universal Value (I.C Tentative Lists, §§ 62-76). The general rule is that State Parties shall submit Tentative Lists to the Secretariat at least one year before the submission of any nomination (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §65). Therefore, the Tentative List became a critical planning and evaluation tool in the process of implementing the World Heritage Convention because only nominations of properties included in the Tentative List will be examined by the World Heritage Committee (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §§63, 65, 70-73, and 128). The same procedure has to be done when state parties wish to modify the boundary, including extensions and reductions significantly, or to change criteria other than those used to inscribe a property already on the World Heritage List. The State Party shall submit this proposal as if it were a new nomination (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §§63, 65, 165, 166). Once the properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List, they are removed from the Tentative List.

Since 1994, the World Heritage Committee has encouraged State Parties to participate in the implementation of the „The Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List” (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/globalstrategy>) (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §54-58). One Global Strategy aims to identify and correct gaps in the World Heritage List by preparing and submitting a Tentative List and nominating properties for the WHL (Budapest Declaration, <http://unesco.org/archive/02budapest-decl.htm>). Since 1994, the number of state parties that submitted tentative lists

How to cite

Musteata, S. (2024). The World Heritage Tentative List. A Case of Romania: Problems and Perspectives. *Culture. Society. Economy. Politics*. 4(2), 60-74. <https://doi.org/10.2478/csep-2024-0011>

ISSN (online) 2810-2010

<https://website.sciendo.com/publication/culture-society-economy-politics/>

<http://www.facultateademangement.ro/culture-sep/>

according to the format established by the World Heritage Committee has increased from 33 to 189 (Tentative List, 2024). So, to implement the Global Strategy, state parties are encouraged to harmonize their Tentative Lists at regional and thematic levels. Harmonization can result in improved Tentative Lists, new nominations from States Parties, and cooperation amongst groups of States Parties in preparing nominations. Therefore, the World Heritage Committee encourages States to make cooperative efforts in capacity-building and training in acquiring and/or consolidating their expertise in preparing, updating, and harmonizing their Tentative List and preparing nominations (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §§71-74).

Tentative List of Romania

One hundred eighty-nine countries submitted a Tentative List out of 196 State Parties to the World Heritage Convention until 2024 (Tentative List, 2024). Romania signed the World Heritage Convention in 1990 and has been among the countries with a Tentative List since 1991 (Tentative List of Romania, 2024). Between 1991 and 2024, Romania inscribed 11 sites (Table 1), and 17 properties are included in the Tentative List (Table 2).

Table 1. World Heritage Properties of Romania

No.	Property	Submitted to the Tentative List	Inscribed/extended into World Heritage List	Criteria
CULTURAL				
1.	Churches of Moldavia	01/03/1991	1993, 2010	(i)(iv)
2.	Monastery of Hurezi	01/03/1991	1993	(ii)
3.	Villages with Fortified Churches in Transylvania	01/03/1991	1993, 1999	(iv)
4.	Dacian Fortresses of the Orastie Mountains	01/03/1991	1999	(ii)(iii)(iv)
5.	Historic Centre of Sighişoara	01/03/1991	1999	(iii)(v)
6.	Wooden Churches of Maramureş	01/03/1991	1999	(iv)
7.	Roşia Montană Mining Landscape	18/02/2016	2021	(ii)(iii)(iv)
8.	Brâncuşi Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu	01/03/1991	2024	(i)(ii)
9.	Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia	31/01/2020	2024	(ii)(iii)(iv)
NATURAL				
10.	Danube Delta		1991	(ix)
11.	Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe		2007, 2011, 2017	(vii)(x)

Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ro>

Although UNESCO recommends that state parties “**re-examine and re-submit their Tentative List at least every ten years**” (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §65), Romania updated its Tentative List occasionally: 2004 - The Historic Centre of Sibiu and its Ensemble of Squares; 2012 - The old villages of Hollókő and Rimetea and their surroundings as an extension of Hollókő property from Hungary; 2015 - Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe as an extension of the already inscribed transboundary property of 12 countries; 2016 - Roşia Montană Mining Cultural Landscape; 2020 – Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia and Frontiers of the Roman Empire - The Danube Limes; 2024 - Former Communist Prisons in Romania, Movile Cave, Princely religious foundations in Wallachia and Moldavia, and Royal Residences of Sinaia (Lista Indicativă, 2021; Tentative List of Romania, 2024).

Table 2. Tentative List of Romania, according to the last updates on 15.04.2024

No.	Property	Submitted	Criteria
CULTURAL			
1.	Neamt Monastery	01/03/1991	(i)(ii)(iv)
2.	Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Churches of Curtea de Arges	01/03/1991	(i)(ii)(iv)
3.	Basarabi rock complex	01/03/1991	No information
4.	The “coules” of Oltenia	01/03/1991	(iv)(v)
5.	Densus Church	01/03/1991	(i)(iv)
6.	The historic core of the city of Alba Julia	01/03/1991	(iv)(v)(vi)
7.	The Historic Centre of Sibiu and its Ensemble of Squares	29/06/2004	(ii)(iii)(iv)(v)
8.	The old villages of Hollókő and Rimetea and their surroundings	14/02/2012	(v)
9.	Frontiers of the Roman Empire - The Danube Limes	31/01/2020	(ii)(iii)(iv)
10.	Former Communist Prisons of Romania	15/04/2024	(vi)
11.	Princely religious foundations in Wallachia and Moldavia	15/04/2024	(i)(ii)
12.	Royal Residences of Sinaia	15/04/2024	(ii)(iv)(vi)
NATURAL			
13.	Retezat massif	01/03/1991	No information
14.	Pietrosul Rodnei (mountain top)	01/03/1991	No information
15.	Sinpetru (paleontological site)	01/03/1991	No information
16.	Codrul secular Slatiora (secular forest)	01/03/1991	No information
17.	Movele Cave	15.04.2024	(viii)(ix)(x)

Source: Tentative List of Romania, 2024

Even if the Tentative List is an essential topic in implementing the World Heritage Convention, this issue rarely appears in public spaces in Romania. The mass media practically only pays attention to conflict situations involving these sites, such as the cases of Roşia Montană Mining Cultural Landscape, Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu, Basarabi Rock Complex, and Greceanu cult. The other sites in the Tentative List appear in the media only sporadically, focusing on aspects regarding their cultural value or in the context of their potential for inscription in the World Heritage List (Cozma, 2020).

The National Institute of Heritage, following consultation with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, initiated in September 2016 the revision of the Tentative List of Romania. In this context, the Procedure, the revision calendar, and the Form regarding the proposal of new sites for the Tentative List of Romania were launched based on the following considerations:

- the elaboration of the revision procedure, public consultation on the procedure (amendment and endorsement), launching of a public call for proposals, and providing assistance in the elaboration of the proposals for the Tentative List;
- reviewing sites that are already included in the World Heritage List and overall analysis of them at the regional level and in comparison with other countries, which will allow the identification of gaps as well as themes or areas over or under-represented in the World Heritage List;
- identifying the themes and then the sites in Romania that could contribute to the World Heritage List, according to the criteria for inscription in the World Heritage List and of thematic or regional studies;
- consulting the National Commission of Historical Monuments, that it is the scientific body with legal attributions in the nomination of cultural sites for the World Heritage List and implicitly in the revision of the National Tentative List;
- interdisciplinary consultations with the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests (MMAF) regarding the nominations of natural sites and mixed sites (cultural and natural);
- international cross-border consultation (if it is the case);
- consultation with site administrators or owners as well as with the local

- communities from the targeted area;
- consultation with the consultative institutions of UNESCO (ICOMOS, IUCN);
- the analysis of the received proposals, the endorsement of the conclusions of the commission of experts by CNMI, and the communication to the communities of the respective decisions (owners, authorities, NGOs) to ensure the conditions of correct management of the sites;
- perform professional documentation of the sites, finalize the official formats in English, and submit the Revised Tentative List to UNESCO (Lista Indicativă, 2021).

To implement this plan, under the auspices of the National Heritage Institute, an international evaluation and selection commission was created that analyzed both the existing Tentative List and the new proposals (Dr. Barry Gamble, Dr. Christoph Machat, Dr. Corina Popa, Dr. Kázmér Kovács, Dr. Alexandru Andrașanu, Dr. Valentin Bottez, and Dr. Irina Iamandescu - UNESCO focal point and secretary). The evaluation was made based on the criteria and principles contained in the World Heritage Convention, the Operational Guide for its application, and the Global Strategy, and it was based on the competence and experience of the experts involved in the field.

From the Tentative List existing at that time, only seven of the eleven cultural sites (Neamt Monastery, Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Churches of Curtea de Arges, Basarabi rock complex, The Church of the Three Hierarchs of Iași, the "coules" of Oltenia and the historic center of the city of Alba Julia), and regarding the four natural sites, the representativeness, the universal value, the degree of conservation, the favoring of the series sites and those that can be inscribed in international themes were discussed (Iamandescu, 2018). Regarding the paleontological site in Sanpetru, Alexandru Andrașanu, a member of the commission, mentioned that although it has a great scientific value related to the first discoveries and study of dwarf dinosaurs in Hateg, it does not have a representation to justify inclusion in the World Heritage List. All the more so, the site is part of the UNESCO International Geopark Țara Hategului and already has the recognition of a UNESCO designation within the Geoparks Program. For Retezat massif and Pietrosul Rodnei (mountain tops), A. Andrașanu mentioned that these sites also have a UNESCO designation - MAB sites, through the "Man and Biosphere" Program and the Ministry of Environment, which administers this program in Romania. They should decide whether keeping them on the Tentative List is necessary. As Prof. A. Andrașanu says, only a single natural site remained in the revised Tentative List due to these situations. However, these details do not appear on the National Heritage Institute or UNESCO web pages.

The other four cultural sites in the Tentative List of Romania were not subject to revision because they were at that time at various stages of elaboration/evaluation of nomination files (Lista Indicativă, 2021):

1. **Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu** - the monumental ensemble of sculptor Constantin Brâncuși, "The Way of the Heroes" created in 1937, was submitted in 1991 under criteria (i) and (ii);
2. **The Historic Center of Sibiu and its Ensemble of Squares** was included on the Tentative List in 2004, based on criteria (ii),(iii),(iv),(v), in the context of selecting this city as the European Capital for 2007;
3. **Old Villages of Hollókő and Rimetea and their Surroundings**, criterion (v) involves the extension of the property of Hollókő, Hungary (inscribed in 1987 in WHL) by including the locality of Rimetea in Romania, in the serial transboundary nomination category;
4. **Roșia Montană Mining Landscape** was submitted in 2016 based on four of the six cultural criteria (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi).

Meanwhile, two of these four cultural properties have already been inscribed on the World Heritage List: Roșia Montană Mining Landscape in 2021 and Brâncuși Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu in 2024 (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ro>).

Revised sites from the Tentative List

Regarding the situation of the other seven sites from the Tentative List, the commission members had various opinions, from the drafting of the name to their transformation into a series of sites. Thus, the Commission proposed to change the name of the site from Curtea de Argeş, criteria (i),(ii),(iv), and it was suggested to exclude the word Byzantine, respectively the name written being ***Post-Byzantine Churches of Curtea de Argeş***, which includes the ruins of the church "Sân Nicoară" and the Church "Sfântul Nicolae Domnesc." The Commission considered that the position was supported regarding the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, integrity, and met criterion (ii). However, in 1991, the site was proposed based on criteria (i),(ii), and (iv). The Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches in Curtea de Argeş (Sân Nicoară and the Church of St. Nicholas the Prince) are exceptional examples of Byzantine influences in architecture and mural painting in Wallachia, similar to those in Mesembria and Caliacra. The Church of Sfântul Nicolae Domnesc is well-preserved in architecture and medieval painting. Sân Nicoară Church has been partially preserved, and its current state leaves much to be expected. I consider those conservation interventions, ensuring access to the site and qualitative information on the history and value of this heritage, necessary.

The church from Densuş (1991, criteria (i) and (iv)) was proposed to be transformed into a series site based on criterion (iv), respectively changing the name. It was completed with five more churches from Hunedoara County. The Commission supported the proposal, considering that classifying a unitary typological group in a well-defined historical-geographical area is much more coherent and convincing regarding the UNESCO Convention on a representative, balanced, and credible World Heritage List. Thus, the following formula was proposed - ***Princely churches from Ţara Haţegului***, which would include six churches: "Sf. Nicolae" - Densuş, "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" - Strei, Church of the princes Cândeia (today the reformed church - Sânta Maria Orlea), "Sf. Gheorghe" - Strei Sângiorgiu, "The Descent of the Holy Spirit" - Ostrov, "Archangel Michael" - Gurasada (Postăvaru, 2018).

The Church of the Three Hierarchs of Iaşi (1991, criteria (i) and (iv)) was revised. A new approach was proposed - Restorations by the architect André Lecomte de Noüy (Church "Three Hierarchs" Iaşi and Episcopal Church "Adormirea Maicii Domnului of Argeş Monastery" from Curtea de Argeş) based on criterion (iii). The episcopal church "Assumption of the Mother of God" of the former Monastery of Argeş is also a masterpiece of Romanian architecture from the sixteenth century that combines the influences of Byzantine art with the characteristics of traditional art and architecture of Wallachia. The church of the Argeş monastery was restored in the second half of the 19th century under the leadership of the French architect Andre Lecomte de Nouy. However, the exceptional architecture and decoration of the church have been preserved both as a technique and building materials, as well as an image. The Three Hierarchs Church in Iaşi is a masterpiece of Romanian medieval art and architecture both in terms of planimetry and decoration. Thus, the decoration covers the entire surface of the four facades of the church, in a unique image for the European architecture of the seventeenth century (Ungureanu, 2020). The most important restoration works were made at the initiative of King Carol I between 1882 and 1890 under the leadership of the architect Lecomte de Nouy, who preserved the integrity and authenticity of the monument. Thus, due to the restoration methods and techniques the French architect André Lecomte de Nouy applied, the two churches' exceptional value and unique character remained unchanged. However, the evaluation committee members considered that the two monuments would not individually meet the criteria of the World Heritage Convention but could be proposed as a series site. Recognizing the value of the monuments themselves, but also the restoration of Lecomte du Noüy, is an interesting approach (an example may be the Carcassonne site inscribed in the World Heritage List, significantly based on the value of Viollet le Duc's interventions) (Iosipescu, 2018; Iamandescu, 2019). By submitting a new nomination to ***Princely***

Religious Foundations in Wallachia and Moldavia based on criteria (i) and (ii), the Church of the Three Hierarchs of Iași was excluded in April 2024 from the Tentative List (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6763/>).

In the case of the **Murfatlar/Basarabi Cave Ensemble** (1991, criteria (ii) and (iii)) were specified, which are missing from the current UNESCO Tentative List. Although the commission members acknowledge that the interventions in the 1970s were inadequate, they consider that the Outstanding Universal Value is in place and that the monument can remain on the Tentative List, provided that urgent work begins as soon as possible and the restoration project must be exemplary. Indeed, the cave ensemble from Basarabi (Murfatlar) is a unique monument in Romania due to the typology of the cave architecture from the 10th-12th century, of the churches, and the ways of expressing the religious beliefs and conceptions, mostly Christian. Of exceptional value are the inscriptions in different languages and the motifs on the walls, ceilings, and pillars of the cave churches and the quarry walls. I support the opinion of the evaluation commission on saving it because in its current state, not only can it not be inscribed in the World Heritage List, but the site is in danger of being seriously damaged. At the same time, discussions could be initiated with Bulgaria, where there are similar sites, to turn this proposal into a transboundary one, increasing the chances of enrolling in the World Heritage List.

"Coules" of Oltenia is a series of properties proposed in 1991 based on criteria (iv) and (v). The evaluation committee members considered that the position is supported by the Outstanding Universal Value and its authenticity, integrity, and criteria. At the same time, the Commission specified the list of monuments because, in the 1991 version, it is not clear which monuments are included; respectively, six monuments from Vâlcea, Gorj, and Dolj counties were mentioned (Cula Greceanu - Măldărești, VL; Cula Duca - Măldărești, VL; Cula Cornoiu - Bumbești-Jiu (Curtișoara neighborhood), GJ; Cula Crăsnaru - Groșerea, GJ; Cula Cioabă-Chintescu - Șiacu, GJ; Cula Izvoranu-Geblescu - Brabova, DJ) and drew attention to the urgency of conservation and restoration works for three of them that are in poor condition. Given the presence of such monuments in the Balkans, I believe this proposal can be turned into a transboundary series and a common nomination developed with other countries in South-Eastern Europe.

The members of the commission considered that **Neamț Monastery** (submitted in 1991 on criteria (i),(ii), and (iv)) cannot be supported in the old format because the nomination file of this site was rejected by CPM in 1999 and can no longer be approached as an individual monument. Therefore, it was proposed to include the Neamț Monastery, along with other monasteries - Văratec, Agapia, Secu Sihăstria, Vovidenia, etc., in a new series property - **Monastic Cultural Landscape Vânători - Neamț** based on criteria (iii),(vi), and (x). The boundaries of this proposal largely coincide with the Vânători Neamț Natural Park established in 1999, which represents a model of man's coexistence with nature, and his management has become an example at the European level in recent years (Cătănoiu, 2018, 2020).

Taking into account recent interventions that have significantly altered the authenticity and integrity of the **Historic Centre of the City of Alba Iulia**, included in the Tentative List in 1991 based on criteria (iv), (v), and (vi), committee members proposed to retain positions by specifying the boundaries of the site in the perimeter of Alba Iulia Fortress. At the same time, the commission drew attention to the need to carefully re-evaluate the authenticity and integrity of the site to consider possible listing in the Tentative List as a serial site in association with other Vauban cities in Europe (including the city of Arad and possibly with that of Oradea).

However, the new proposals for Neamț Monastery and the Historic Centre of Alba Iulia did not reach the Heritage Center. The old names of these two cultural properties remain on the official UNESCO page (Tentative List of Romania, 2024).

Proposals for the Tentative List – a long way for submitting to UNESCO

Based on discussions and considering all arguments, the Commission decided in 2017 to update the Tentative List of Romania and initiate the procedures of submitting it to UNESCO:

1. **Frontiers of the Roman Empire - LIMES** was proposed in the context of the extension of the serial property “Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site” based on criteria (ii), (iii), and (iv), which is the single most significant cultural heritage monument in Europe approved as a multi-national by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2005 (Chiricescu, 2018; Popa, 2023). This proposal was due to the Limes National Program and the National Limes Commission of Romania, which have the mission “to research and capitalize on research results to achieve the necessary documentation for a classification as a historical monument and inscription on the World Heritage Tentative List-UNESCO cultural heritage objectives building that formed the border of the Roman Empire, on the Romanian territory, contributing to the *Frontier of the Roman Empire* with the longest segment of over 1000 km” (LIMES, 2021). The Evaluation Commission unreservedly supported this position, which aligns with the World Heritage Convention and the UNESCO World Heritage List strategy. At the same time, the commission members drew attention to the need for careful monitoring of interventions carried out in key sites (Porolissum, Potaissa, etc.) regarding the quality and scale of restoration interventions and reconstructions, which can significantly affect the authenticity and integrity. Although in 2017, it was decided to submit a single property in the series, it was later divided into two, which in 2020 were submitted to the Tentative List: *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia* and *Frontiers of the Roman Empire - The Danube Limes*. The listing of these properties and their separation into two different positions was probably due to the process of naming this serial property, one of which is national and the other transboundary, as well as the timetable agreed with external partners. At the same time, it is clear that these proposals are due to the “Limes” National Program (2015–2019) and the “Limes” National Commission, established by the Romanian Ministry of Culture, which have the goal to draw up the documentation regarding the monuments composing the Roman border from Romania, the largest unitary heritage monument in the country, contributing with the most extended sector, of over 1000 km, to the unique UNESCO monument *Frontiers of the Roman Empire* (FRE). Most of the archaeological sites are in rural areas. Hence, many are well-preserved (Ministerul Culture, 2016). The representatives of the National Commission “Limes” acknowledge that although Romania has the most extended Roman border sector in Europe and has a long tradition of researching these monuments, it is at an early stage in terms of documentation for the registration of the Roman border sector from Romania in the UNESCO World Heritage List within the *Frontiers of the Roman Empire*. Proof that this process is quite tricky is that the intention to include these segments of limes in the Tentative List of Romania proposed for the beginning of 2018 occurred only at the beginning of 2020 (LIMES, 2021). The work of the Limes National Commission is a relatively successful example of mobilizing the human and administrative resources needed to prepare for a World Heritage List nomination, which should also be applied in other cases. Thus, the National Commission “Limes,” in collaboration with various institutions in Romania, organized in recent years 12 editions of LIMES FORVM, published a series of studies and monographs, including the bulletins *Limes - Frontiers of the Roman Empire* in Romania that are highly diverse in content and useful for a better understanding of the value of these sites (LIMES, 2024). In 2024, the **Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia** serial site, which includes 277 points, was inscribed on the World Heritage List. **Frontiers of the Roman Empire - The Danube Limes** will be a transboundary nomination in which Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Serbia will participate. Romania alone proposed 49 sites, which include 57 components from 6 counties, of which four forts, 40 auxiliary forts, five

bridgeheads, and eight earthen ramparts. The Romanian authorities mention that “the selection has been considered concerning the level of protection and manageability, to guarantee the long-term protection. The selected sites represent the whole concept of the River Line frontier, adding much understanding to the concept of an organic frontier in the Lower Danube area and contributing, therefore, to the comprehension of the frontier in this area (Danube Limes, 2020). So, the nomination file for Frontiers of the Roman Empire - The Danube Limes is being worked on.

2. The evaluation commission supported the proposal to include the **Histria Fortress** based on criteria (iii) and (iv), considering that it meets the conditions for inscribing in WHL, all the more so as there are still untouched/unexplored areas. The commission's members drew attention to the fact that they must collaborate between the government structures and the Constanța County Council to define a restoration theme, which will ensure the preservation of the authenticity and integrity of this site.
3. The Commission also supported the Institute for the Investigation of the Crimes of Communism and the Memory of Romanian Exile (IICCMER) proposal to include in the Tentative List the series sites of the **Former Communist Prisons in Romania**: Jilava - Fort 13 Penitentiary, Râmnicu Sărat Penitentiary, Pitești Penitentiary, Făgăraș Penitentiary, Sighetu Marmăției Penitentiary. The committee members considered that the position was supported regarding the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, integrity, and criteria (iv) and (v). The proposed theme is an interesting and courageous one, not represented in LPM, the notorious example being Auschwitz Birkenau, German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940-1945) from Poland, inscribed in WHL in 1979 on criterion (vi). At the same time, the commission suggested analyzing the possibility of supplementing in the future with the prisons in Gherla and Aiud (active at that time). It was only in April 2024 that the serial property **Former Communist Prisons of Romania** (Former Jilava Penitentiary, Former Râmnicu Sărat Penitentiary, Former Pitești Penitentiary, Former Făgăraș Penitentiary and Former Sighetu Marmăției Penitentiary) was submitted to the UNESCO Tentative List, only based on criterion (vi) and not criteria (iv) and (v) approved in 2017 (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6760/>).
4. The Commission supported the proposal to include the **Vaser/Novăț Forest Industrial-Cultural Landscape site** in the Tentative List as meeting the requirements of criteria (iv) and (vi). The unique character of the line is that it is the only forest railway line in the European area that, since its inauguration, has been used without interruption for the original purpose for which it was built. At the same time, the commission members drew attention to the fact that this field is underrepresented on the World Heritage List and deserves to be discussed in the context of thematic studies at the global level (Coulls, Dival, & Lee, 1999).
5. **World War I Memorial Sites** (Mausoleums of Mărășești, Mărăști, Soveja, and Focșani), based on criteria (ii) and (vi) were supported by committee members as a more extensive position at the national level, including other relevant sites of the memory of the First World War - mausoleums, cemeteries, battlefields (for example - Mateiaș, Crucea de pe Caraiman and others). In this regard, the commission suggested conducting a correlation national study, possibly with similar proposals from the Tentative Lists of other states - Belgium, France, Slovenia, Turkey, and Italy. Given the debates on the potential of these sites, the recent ICOMOS recommendations on Sites associated with memories of recent conflicts and the World Heritage Convention (ICOMOS, 2018b, 2020) should be considered.
6. The Commission also supported the proposal to include **Coliboaia Cave** (Rock art cave) in the category of cultural sites based on criteria (i), (ii), and (iii). Coliboaia Cave is the most significant cave in Central and Eastern Europe and has parietal rock art. According to their invoice, the prehistoric drawings fall in the Gravettian or Aurignacian period. Radiocarbon dating confirms the ancient age of the parietal

art of Coliboaia (approximately 36000 years), which corresponds to the data obtained in the Chauvet Cave (Ardèche, France).

7. **The Precucuteni-Ariușd-Cucuteni -Trypillia Cultural Complex** was considered as a possible transnational proposal, based on criteria (i) (ii) (iii) (v), together with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, after an in-depth joint study. The traces of the bearers of the Precucuteni-Ariușd-Cucuteni -Trypillia Culture are unique worldwide, with most of the pieces representing true masterpieces. The artistic value of ceramics and plastics, the systems of the internal organization of sites, construction systems, and high population density or mega sites make this civilization an exceptional landmark for the prehistory of Europe. This fascinating topic raises several questions about the prospects for justifying the Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity, integrity, and visibility over an area of over 350,000 km² on which this culture extends (Rassmann *et al.*, 2016).
8. The Commission has analyzed and proposed only one natural site - **Mobile Cave**, which meets elements of authenticity, integrity, and OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE based on criteria (vii) and (x). Mobile Cave is an extraordinary underground ecosystem, with an area of about 50 km², wholly isolated from the surface and which houses an extremely rich and diverse biocenosis, consisting of 47 species of invertebrates, of which 22 are endemic to this ecosystem, meaning that they are nowhere to be found in the world. Mobile Cave is an exceptional natural site that allows us to understand ecosystems in extreme conditions better. It was the first cave of this type discovered, later highlighting other caves with closed ecosystems and possible models for studying the evolution of life on Earth or the development of life on other planets. The peculiarity of this ecosystem consists of the fact that all the necessary organic matter and energy are synthesized in situ by chemosynthesis in the underground environment without any light source and exogenous matter (Iamandescu, 2019). Therefore, Mobile Cave would be the fifth natural site in the Tentative List of Romania, in addition to the sites included in 1991: Retezat massif, Pietrosul Rodnei (mountain top), Sinpetru (paleontological site) and Codrul secular Slatiora (Tentative List of Romania, 2024). Although, A. Andrașanu, a member of the commission of experts, tells us that only one natural site would have remained on the Tentative List - Mobile Cave. In April 2024, the Mobile Cave property, based on criteria (viii), (ix) and (x), was submitted to the UNESCO Tentative List (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6761/>).

Unfortunately, the commission's work was not publicized, and we do not know much about all the proposals and details of the discussions on each case. For example, there was a proposal for the **Corvin Castle from Hunedoara**. However, it was not taken into account because several interventions were made on the castle that influenced the authenticity and integrity of the site. The same thing happened for the **Alba Iulia fortress**, so it was proposed that borders be restricted. The **fortress of Arad** was proposed, the initial structure of which has been better preserved than in the case of Alba Iulia. However, it was not proposed on the Tentative List.

The conclusions of the Commission for evaluation and selection of proposals for the Tentative List of Romania were approved at the meeting of February 20-21, 2017. They were submitted to the Ministry of Culture (National Commission of Historical Monuments) and Environment, Waters and Forests. The updated Tentative List project included 18 cultural sites and one natural site (Lista Indicativă, 2021). As we can see from Tables 2 and 3, various changes were made in the case of the seven revised sites, from the name of an individually proposed property to its transformation into a series site, reducing or enlarging the proposed site area, etc. At the same time, eight new proposals were accepted, seven for cultural properties and one for natural sites (Table 3). The proposals were discussed by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests representatives and, based on the scientific opinion of the National Commission of Historical Monuments, approved the new Tentative List, which was to be transmitted to UNESCO.

The representatives of the National Heritage Institute have repeatedly stated that the updated Tentative List will be sent as soon as possible to the World Heritage Centre; at one point, they even set the deadline of April 15, 2019 (Iamandescu, 2018, 2019), but on The UNESCO Tentative List reached in January 2020 only two proposals: Frontiers of the Roman Empire - Dacia and Frontiers of the Roman Empire Frontiers - The Danube Limes, which in the list proposed by National Institute of Heritage in 2018 were below a single number – 12 (Dacia, 2020; Danube Limes, 2020). Other four properties (three cultural and one natural) were submitted to the UNESCO Tentative list in April 2024: Former Communist Prisons of Romania, Princely religious foundations in Wallachia and Moldavia, Royal Residences of Sinaia and Movile Cave (Tentative List of Romania, 2024). The Royal Residences of Sinaia was proposed in the Tentative List based on the joint initiative of the Ministry of Culture and the Royal House in February 2024 (Costea, 2024).

Table 3. The Revised Tentative List of Romania (2017)

No.	Revised and new proposals	Date of submission	Criteria
CULTURAL			
1.	Roşia Montană Mining Cultural Landscape	18/02/2016	(ii)(iii)(iv) (v) (vi)
2.	Monumental Ensemble of Târgu Jiu	01/03/1991	(i)(ii)
3.	The old villages of Hollókő and Rimetea and their surroundings	14/02/2012	(v)
4.	The Historic Centre of Sibiu and its Ensemble of Squares	29/06/2004	(ii)(iii)(iv) (v)
5.	Post-Byzantine Churches of Curtea de Arges (The ruins of the church "Sân Nicoară" and Church "Sfântul Nicolae Domnesc")	Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Churches of Curtea de Arges 01/03/1991	(i)(ii)(iv)
6.	Princely churches from Țara Hațegului (Sf. Nicolae"- Densuș, "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" - Strei, Princes Church from Cândeia, today the reformed church - Sânta Maria Orlea, "Sf. Gheorghe" - Strei Sângiorgiu, "Pogorârea Sf. Duh" - Ostrov, "Arhanghelul Mihail"- Gurasada)	Densus Church - 01/03/1991	(iv)
7.	Restorations by the architect André Lecomte de Noüy (Church „Three Hierarchs” Iași and Episcopal Church „ Adormirea Maicii Domnului de Argeș Monastery” Curtea de Argeș)	The Church of the Three Hierarchs of Iassy - 01/03/1991 Princely religious foundations in Wallachia and Moldavia - 15/04/2024	(i)(iv)
8.	Murfatlar / Basarabi rock complex	Basarabi rock complex - 01/03/1991	
9.	The “coules” of Oltenia, serial property (Cula Greceanu – Măldărești, VL; Cula Duca – Măldărești, VL; Cula Cornoiu – Bumbești-Jiu (Cartier Curtișoara), GJ; Cula Crăsnaru – Groșerea, GJ; Cula Cioabă-Chintescu – Șiacu, GJ; Cula Izvoranu-Geblescu – Brabova, DJ)	The “coules” of Oltenia - 01/03/1991	(iv)(v)
10.	The monastic cultural landscape Vânători - Neamț	Neamt Monastery - 01/03/1991	(i)(ii)(iv)
11.	Alba Iulia Fortress	The historic core of the city of Alba Julia - 01/03/1991	(iv)(v)(vi)
12.	Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Limes	Dacia - 31/01/2020 The Danube Limes - 31/01/2020	(ii)(iii)(iv)
13.	Histria Fortress		(iii)(iv)
14.	Former communist prisons in Romania, serial site (Jilava - Fort 13, Râmnicu Sărat, Pitești, Făgăraș, Sighetu Marmatiei)	15/04/2024	(iv)(vi)

15.	Forest cultural, industrial landscape Vaser/Novăț		(iv)(vi)
16.	World War I memorial sites (Mausoleums of Marasesti, Marasesti, Soveja and Focsani)		(ii)(vi)
17.	Coliboaia Cave (rock art)		(i)(ii)(iii)
18.	Precucuteni-Ariușd-Cucuteni Cultural Complex - Trypillia		(i)(ii)(iii)(v)
NATURAL			
19.	Movile Cave	15.04.2024	(vii)(x)

The update of Romania's Tentative List carried out in 2016-2017 proved relatively slow. From the moment the new list was adopted until 2024, only six properties were submitted to UNESCO: two in 2020 and four in 2024. As far as we can see, five more cultural sites from the list approved in 2017 remain pending submission to the Tentative List: Histria Fortress, Forest Cultural, Industrial Landscape Vaser/Novăț, World War I memorial sites (Mausoleums of Marasesti, Marasesti, Soveja, and Focsani), Coliboaia Cave (rock art), and Precucuteni-Ariușd-Cucuteni Cultural Complex—Trypillia (Table 3). Thus, the Romanian authorities should demonstrate more significant responsibility in implementing the World Heritage Convention, the recommendations and terms provided for in the Operational Guidelines regarding reviewing and submitting the Tentative List at least once every ten years (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §65).

The above analysis shows that analyzing, selecting, and submitting to the Tentative List is long and challenging. At the same time, the Tentative List is an important and mandatory step in the nomination process for cultural and natural properties to the World Heritage List.

Conclusions and recommendations

At the end of this brief analysis, I would like to highlight some conclusions regarding the perspectives of the Tentative List of Romania:

- Ensuring a clearly defined and transparent process for preparing, proposing, assessing, harmonizing, approving, and submitting the Tentative List as recommended by UNESCO at least every ten years - "States Parties are encouraged to prepare their Tentative Lists with the full, effective and gender-balanced participation of a wide variety of stakeholders and rights-holders, including site managers, local and regional governments, local communities, Indigenous peoples, NGOs and other interested parties and partners" (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §64);
- A better approach is needed from the thematic and geographical representativeness perspective and the criteria for inclusion in the Tentative List. The current situation is far from representative of these perspectives regarding the ratio of cultural and natural sites and the criteria based on which the sites were proposed. Some regions, site types, and criteria are under-represented. Therefore, it is necessary to better analyze and capitalize on the National Inventory in revising the Tentative List and solving these problematic aspects. This approach would undoubtedly facilitate finding the spirit of the place of the world heritage potential.
- During the developing and revising Tentative List, the institutions and experts involved must take into account truly and not only declaratively the provisions of the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced, and credible World Heritage List and prepare nominations of properties from categories and regions currently not well -represented on the World Heritage List. (WHC, 1994) as well as the sustainability of the process, which is in line with the World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy (2015). The result of such approaches will lead to a balanced Tentative List appropriate to the purposes of the World Heritage Convention, including proposals with real potential for WHL inclusion.
- Consolidating cooperation between Romanian state bodies and UNESCO

Secretariat, World Heritage Committee, World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, and other partners in acquiring and/or consolidating expertise in the preparation, updating, and harmonization of their Tentative List and the preparation of nominations (ICOMOS, 2004, 2008; IUCN, 2006b, 2006a, 2008). In this context, it is recommended to use the UNESCO and Advisory Body guidelines, such as “Preparing World Heritage Nominations” (UNESCO, 2011) or, most recently published by ICOMOS experts, the Guidance on Developing and Revising World Heritage Tentative Lists (Fulton et al., 2020).

- Requesting international assistance and using the opportunities of the “Upstream Process” as supplementary to national efforts for the conservation and management of World Heritage and Tentative List properties when adequate resources cannot be secured at the national level (World Heritage Convention, 1972, Articles 13 (1)(2) and Articles 19-26) and Operational Guidelines, 2023, §§74-76, 233).
- Initiate and strengthen partnerships at the regional level based on the exchange of technical expertise to prepare joint nominations, especially in the case of transnational and transboundary properties, which have been increasingly encouraged in recent years by UNESCO. Such initiatives will generate fruitful dialogue between State Parties and different cultural communities, promoting respect for common heritage and cultural diversity. They can result in improved Tentative Lists, new nominations from State Parties, and cooperation amongst groups of State Parties in preparing nominations (Operational Guidelines, 2023, §73).
- Update World Heritage Centre website information about sites already included in the Tentative List. In some cases, especially those proposed in 1991, the basic information about the site is missing: Description of the part(s), Justification of their Outstanding Universal Value, Criteria met, Statements of authenticity and/or integrity, Comparison with other similar properties. Therefore, it is required to update the information according to the forms in (Operational Guidelines, 2023, Annex 2A and Annex 2B).
- Validating, adopting, and submitting the Tentative List to the World Heritage Centre in reasonable terms, as the current situation is incomprehensible, and postponing the submission of some properties approved revised Tentative List from 2017 till today is unjustified.

Finally, updating the Tentative List has to be done regularly because it has to become an accurate planning and evaluation tool for properties with potential Outstanding Universal Value that could be nominated during the following years. The responsible state bodies have to support research in the heritage field and periodically organize meetings to debate the state of the Tentative List, thereby reducing the risk of spending resources on future nominations that may be unlikely to succeed.

References

- Cătănoiu, S. (2018). Peisajul cultural monahal Vânători-Neamț [The Monastic Cultural Landscape of Vânători-Neamț]. In *Simpozion național „Patrimoniul cultural al județului Iași: evidență, protejare și valorificare”, Iași, 30-31 octombrie 2018*. Iași.
- Cătănoiu, S. (2020). Parcul Natural Vânători Neamț - peisaj cultural monal [The Natural Park Vânători Neamț - Monastic Cultural Landscape]. In S. Musteață (Ed.), *Managementul patrimoniului mondial: de la situația din România la exemple de bune practici* (pp. 399–410). ARC / MEGA Publishing.
- Chiricescu, A. (2018). Frontiera Imperiului Roman și UNESCO. Observații pe marginea unui studiu recent [The Limes of the Roman Empire and UNESCO. Observations on a recent study]. *PLURAL. History, Culture, Society*, 6(2), 216–230.
https://doi.org/10.37710/plural.v6i2_13
- Costea, A. (2024, February 27). Ministerul Culturii pregătește includerea în Lista Patrimoniului Mondial UNESCO a castelelor Peleş și Pelișor, a anunțat ministrul

- Raluca Turcan pe Facebook [The Ministry of Culture is preparing to include Peleş and Pelisor Castles in the UNESCO World Heritage List, Minister Raluca Turcan announced on Facebook]. *Digi24*. <https://www.digi24.ro/magazin/timp-liber/cultura/castelele-peles-si-pelisor-ar-putea-fi-incluse-in-lista-patrimoniului-mondial-unesco-2702765>
- Coulls, A., Dival, C., & Lee, R. (1999). *Railways as World Heritage Sites*. ICOMOS Thematic Studies. ICOMOS International. <https://www.icomos.org/studies/railways.pdf>
- Cozma, E. (2020). Media Monitoring of the World Heritage Sites in Romania. *PLURAL. History, Culture, Society*, 8(2), 66–76. https://doi.org/10.37710/plural.v8i2_7
- Dacia. (2020). *Frontiers of the Roman Empire – Dacia*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6447/>
- Danube Limes, R. (2020). *Frontiers Roman Empire – The Danube Limes*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6446>
- Fulton, G. et al. (2020). *Guidance on Developing and Revising World Heritage Tentative Lists*. UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS, IUCN.
- Iamandescu, I. (2018). Presentation, Lista indicativa a României - rezultatele procesului de revizuire [Presentation, Indicative List of Romania - Results of the Review Process]. In *Simpozion național „Patrimoniul cultural al județului Iași: evidență, protejare și valorificare”, Iași, 30-31 octombrie 2018*. Iași.
- Iamandescu, I. (2019). Workshop „On strategy to update the Tentative List for World Heritage properties of the Republic of Moldova, Chișinău, 14 – 15 February 2019. Chișinău.
- ICOMOS. (2004). *ICOMOS Analysis of the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists and Follow-Up Action Plan*. Paris. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/5297>
- ICOMOS. (2008). *Outstanding Universal Value: Compendium on Standards for the Inscription of Cultural Properties to the World Heritage List*. Paris. <https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2008/whc08-32com-9e.pdf>
- ICOMOS. (2018a). *ICOMOS Evaluation Book, May 2018*. Paris.
- ICOMOS. (2018b). *Sites associated with memories of recent conflicts and the World Heritage Convention. Reflection on whether and how these might relate to the Purpose and Scope of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines*. ICOMOS Second Discussion Paper. Paris. <https://www.icomos.org/en/home-wh/75087-sites-associated-with-memories-of-recent-conflicts-andthe-%0Aworld-heritage-convention-icomos-second-discussion-paper>
- ICOMOS. (2020). *Sites associated with memories of recent conflicts and the World Heritage Convention. Reflection on whether and how these might relate to the Purpose and Scope of the World Heritage Convention and its Operational Guidelines*. ICOMOS Second Discussion Paper. Paris. <https://www.icomos.org/en/home-wh/75087-sites-associated-with-memories-of-recent-conflicts-andthe-%0Aworld-heritage-convention-icomos-second-discussion-paper>
- INP. (2017). *Roșia Montană în Patrimoniul Mondial UNESCO*. <https://rosiamontana.world/>
- INP. (2018). *Brâncuși în Patrimoniul Mondial*. <https://brancusi.world/>
- Iosipescu, R. (2018). Biserici postbizantine din Curtea de Argeș / Restauări ale arhitectului André Lecomte de Noüy [Post-Byzantine Churches in Curtea de Argeș / Restorations by Architect André Lecomte de Noüy]. In Musteață, S. (ed.) *Simpozion național „Patrimoniul cultural al județului Iași: evidență, protejare și valorificare”, Iași, 30-31 octombrie 2018*. Iași.
- IUCN. (2006a). *Enhancing the IUCN Evaluation Process of World Heritage Nominations: A Contribution to Achieving a Credible and Balanced World Heritage List*. Gland. <https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/vilm2005.pdf>
- IUCN. (2006b). *The World Heritage List: Guidance and Future Priorities for Identifying Natural Heritage of Potential Outstanding Universal Value*. Gland: IUCN. https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/ouv2006_english.pdf
- IUCN. (2008). *Outstanding Universal Value: Compendium on Standards for the Inscription of Natural Properties to the World Heritage List*. Paris. <https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2008/whc08-32com-9e.pdf>

- LIMES. (2021). *LIMESC - Frontierele Imperiului Roman pe teritoriul României, Programul Național Limes*. <http://limesromania.ro/ro/articole/despre-proiect/misiunea-noastra/>
- Lista Indicativă, R. (2021). *Lista Indicativă UNESCO [Indicative UNESCO List]*. <https://patrimoniul.ro/monumente-istorice/lista-indicativa-unesco>
- Ministerul Culturii. (2016). *Programul Național "Limes" (2015-2019)* [National Program "Limes" (2015-2019)].
- Musteață, S. (2002). Starea patrimoniului mondial din România. Introducere [The State of the World Heritage in Romania. Introduction]. In S. Musteață (Ed.), *Managementul patrimoniului mondial: de la situația din România la exemple de bune practici* (pp. 7–36). ARC / MEGA Publishing.
- Musteață, S., & Cozma, E. (2020). Community Heritage: Case of the Roșia Montană Mining Landscape in Romania. In D. Trškan and Š. Bezjak (Eds.), *Archaeological Heritage and Education: An International Perspective on History Education* (pp. 379–401). Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO.
- Musteață, S., & Cozma, E. (2020). Lupta pentru Roșia Montană: peisajul cultural vs. industria minieră [The Fight for Roșia Montană: Cultural Landscape vs. Mining Industry]. In S. Musteață (Ed.), *Managementul patrimoniului mondial: de la situația din România la exemple de bune practici* (pp. 311–356). ARC / MEGA Publishing.
- Operational Guidelines. (2023). *The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*. UNESCO. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>
- Popa, A. (2023). *Managementul integrat al patrimoniului cultural mondial din România. Studiu de caz: Frontiera romană din Dacia. Siturile de epocă romană de la Brețcu, Comolău și Boroșneu Mare [The Integrated Management of the World Cultural Heritage in Romania. Case Study: The Roman Frontier in Dacia. The Roman Era Sites of Brețcu, Comolău, and Boroșneu Mare]*, ASTRA Museum Publishing.
- Popa, A., & Popa, A. (2020). Castrul roman de la Brețcu. Încercare de evaluare a principalelor particularități ale sitului în contextul înscrierii în Lista patrimoniului mondial [The Roman Fort at Brețcu. An attempt to evaluate the main features of the site in the context of its inscription on the World Heritage List]. In S. Musteață (Ed.), *Managementul patrimoniului mondial: de la situația din România la exemple de bune practici* (pp. 357–386). ARC / MEGA Publishing.
- Postăvaru, I. (2018). Biserici cneziale din Țara Hațegului [Princedom churches from the Hațeg Country]. In *Simpozion național „Patrimoniul cultural al județului Iași: evidență, protejare și valorificare”, Iași, 30-31 octombrie 2018*. Iași.
- Rassmann, K. et al. (2016). Copper age settlements in Moldova: Insights into a complex phenomenon from recent geomagnetic surveys. In Müller, J., Rassmann, K., and Videiko, M. (Eds.), *Trypillia Mega-Sites and European Prehistory: 4100-3400 BCE* (pp. 55–70). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315630731>
- Tentative List. (2024). *Tentative List, World Heritage*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/>
- Tentative List of Romania. (2024). *Tentative List of Romania, World Heritage*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/?action=listtentative&state=ro&order=states>
- UNESCO. (2011). *Preparing World Heritage Nominations. World Heritage Resource Manual. Second edition*. 2nd ed. Edited by WHC. UNESCO World Heritage Centre. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/preparing-world-heritage-nominations>
- Ungureanu, C. (2020). Muzica geometrică a pietrei de la Trei Ierarhi. Noi aspecte investigative [The Geometric Music of the Stone from Trei Ierarhi. New Investigative Aspects]. In S. Musteață (Ed.), *Managementul patrimoniului mondial: de la situația din România la exemple de bune practici* (pp. 387–397). ARC / MEGA Publishing.
- WHC. (1994). *Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List*. <http://whc.unesco.org/en/globalstrategy/>
- WHC. (2016). *Roșia Montană Mining Cultural Landscape*. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/6082/>
- World Heritage Convention. (1972). *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World*

Cultural and Natural Heritage. UNESCO.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

Received: October 21, 2024

Accepted: November 25, 2024

Author biography

Sergiu MUSTEATĂ, PhD, is a historian and a professor at Valahia University of Târgoviște, Romania. He holds his PhD at the History Faculty of „Al. I. Cuza” University, Iași, Romania, in 1999, habilitation at the „Ovidius” University of Constanța, Romania, in 2017, and another habilitation at the „Ion Creanga” Pedagogical State University of Chisinau, Moldova, in 2021. He is a former research fellow of various scholarships in the USA (Fulbright scholar at the University of Maryland, University of California Berkeley and Stanford University), Germany (DAAD and Humboldt scholar at Bonn, Freiburg, and Braunschweig universities), Hungary (OSI scholar at the Central European University), Sweden (scholar of the Swedish Institute at the Campus Gotland, Uppsala University), Poland (Thesaurus Poloniae Fellowship at International Cultural Centre, Krakow), etc. He is the author of 10 monographs, more than 300 scientific publications, and editor of over 30 books and two scientific journals. His primary academic interests are History of Eastern Europe, Cultural Heritage Preservation, and History textbook analysis.

© 2024 Faculty of Management (SNSPA), Author(s). This open-access article is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).