

Erasmus+

European Project
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2014 – 2016

EUROPEAN PROJECT  Erasmus+

BUILDING A NEW EUROPE AGAINST STEREOTYPES

Project meeting

Arad – Romania

from 11 to 17 january 2015



ARAD

Arad is the capital city of Arad County, historically situated in the regions of Crişana, and having recently extended on the left bank of the Mureş river, in Banat region of western Romania.

An important industrial center and transportation hub on the Mureş River, Arad is also the seat of a Romanian Orthodox archbishop and features two universities, a Romanian Orthodox theological seminary and a training school for teachers. It had one of the first music conservatories in Europe.

The city has a population of 159,704, making it the 12th largest city in Romania. Arad is the third largest city in the western part of the country, behind Timișoara and Oradea.

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

Arad traces its history back to the 11th century. Arad developed as a major trading post during the Turkish occupation, between 1551 and 1699. After 1699, the city was ruled by the Habsburg Monarchy and in 1834 Arad was declared a 'free royal town' by Emperor Francis I of Austria.

On April 10, 1913 the first electrical railway in Eastern Europe was launched on the Arad – Podgoria route.

Churches and cathedrals in the city span four centuries, several denominations, and

architectural styles ranging from baroque to neoclassic.

Arad County is also home to some important Orthodox monasteries, such as the ones from Hodos-Bodrog (dating from 1177), Bezdin (dating from 1334), Gai (built in 1760-1762), the Sf. Maria – Radna Franciscan Monastery (built in 1727 – 1826), the Princely Orthodox Church from Halmagiu (dating back to the 14th century), the Roman-Catholic Church from Sânpetru German (built in 1774).

CITY LANDMARKS

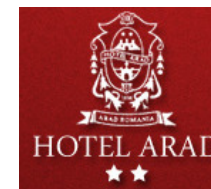
Arad is a city of impressive buildings and architecture, with many of the main sights located along the principal thoroughfare, the broad, tree-lined, **Bulevardul Revolutiei** with trams running along it. These include the impressive white **City Hall Palace** (1875), the **Palace of Culture** (1911-1916), the neo-gothic and secessionist-style **Red Church** (1906), the large, domed **Roman Catholic Church** (1902-1904) and the neo-classical **State Theatre** (1874).

There are also some delightful examples of art nouveau, in particular along Strada Closca and around **Piata Avram Iancu**, such as **Bohus Palace**. There is also an extensive open air market in the older part of the town, west of Piata Avram Iancu, overshadowed by the tall towers of the baroque **Orthodox Cathedral** (1865) and nearby the **old water tower** (1896) being restored as a museum. At the corner with Strada Mihai Eminescu you will find the Secessionist **Grozavescu Pharmacy (Farmacia Grozavescu)** which has preserved its original interior.

East of Piata Avram Iancu stands the **Old Theatre** (1817), where national poet Mihai Eminescu once worked. It became the Urania Cinema in 1903 but is now being restored as a theatre. Further south near Piatra Veche, lies the old **Jewish quarter** and a couple of synagogues. Beyond spans the Serbian quarter and the attractive **Serbian Orthodox Church St. Petru & Pavel** (1692-1702), which was rebuilt in a baroque style in 1790.

The **Arad Fortress (Cetatea Aradului)**, boasting a Vauban-style fortress with a six-pointed star shape, was built under the orders of Hapsburg empress Maria Theresa between 1763 and 1783.

HOTEL ARAD



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