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## Press Release

# “Dialogue of Cultures” Forum

**Ivano-Frankivsk became a platform for international dialogue: the “Dialogue of Cultures” Forum was held as part of the InterCities project**

On November 20-21, 2025, “Dialogue of Cultures” Forum, an international event dedicated to the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, its impact on community development, and the role of intercultural dialogue in the modern world, was held at the Potocki Palace complex in Ivano-Frankivsk.

The forum was organized as part of the project "Intercultural Awareness of Multinational Cities: Tolerance of New Generations" (InterCities), implemented with the support of the European Union under the Interreg VI-A Next Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine Program. The event brought together experts from Ukraine, Romania, Poland, Germany, and Sweden - historians, architects, museum curators, art historians, scientists, government officials, educators, and activists.



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The forum was opened by Ihor Popadiuk, Director of the Department of Investment Policy, Projects, International Relations, Tourism, and City Promotion. The participants were also welcomed by Mayor Ruslan Martsinkiv, Oksana Shychuk, representative of the Interreg Next VI-X program branch office, and Dr. Mirela Barz, manager of the Maramures Museum (Romania), a partner organization of the project.



**The first day: from discussions to practice: how heritage shapes the future of cities.** Four thematic panels dedicated to the role of cultural heritage in the development of urban communities, tools for its preservation, and contemporary challenges.

1. Why is heritage undervalued and what is changing today? Experts discussed the historical, social, and political reasons that shaped attitudes toward cultural heritage and influenced its perception by society.

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2. Who determines the future of heritage? Institutional roles, legislative frameworks, the responsibilities of communities and specialists, and mechanisms for interaction were discussed.

3. Examples of cultural heritage preservation: from research to practical results. Cases of urban research, architectural interventions, museum practices, and renovations that are already working in Ukraine and abroad were presented.

4. Cultural heritage as a driving force for social development. Participants emphasized that heritage is not only monuments, but also a resource for education, cultural diplomacy, tourism, the development of creative industries, and the strengthening of social cohesion.

After the discussions, there was a scientific tour of the Potocki Palace territory, during which participants visited archaeological research places and learned about the actual processes of studying and preserving the historical complex.



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### The second day: the living heritage of Halych

The second day of the Forum was devoted to an expeditionary introduction to real practices of preserving historical heritage in the region.

Participants visited the Museum of Karaime History and Culture in Halych, discussed issues related to the preservation of the intangible heritage of small ethnic groups and the role of local museums in this work.

There was also a tour of the archaeological excavations in the entrance tower of the Halych Castle, where experts shared their approaches to researching, documenting, and conserving monuments.



The Dialogue of Cultures Forum became not only a professional event, but also a platform for co-creating the future, where participants could exchange visions, experiences, and models of working with heritage. The event once again confirmed the importance of cultural memory as the basis for forming tolerant, sustainable, and European-oriented communities.

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*To learn more about the Interreg VI-A Next Hungary–Slovakia–Romania–Ukraine Programme, visit: <https://next.huskroua-cbc.eu/>.*

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