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PRESS RELEASE

From Historical Heritage to Intercultural Dialogue: Ivano-Frankivsk Hosts the Closing Event of the International InterCities Project

On October 13, 2026, the final conference of the international project "Intercultural consciousness of multinational cities: tolerance of new generations" (InterCities) took place in Ivano-Frankivsk. Over the course of 20 months, the project brought together educational, cultural, artistic, and research initiatives aimed at preserving multicultural heritage, promoting the city's history, and fostering intercultural dialogue.

The project was implemented starting March 1, 2025, as part of the Interreg VI-A NEXT Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine 2021–2027 program with the support of the European Union. The partners were the Executive Committee of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council and the Museum of Maramures in the Romanian city of Sighetu Marmației.

The main goal of the InterCities project was to promote the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, foster tolerance among young people, and strengthen mutual understanding among representatives of different cultures. As part of the project, cultural heritage served as the foundation for educational activities, professional discussions, international exchanges of experience, and joint cultural events.

For Ivano-Frankivsk, this was an opportunity to comprehensively present the city's multinational history, engage residents in reflecting on it, and combine research into the past with contemporary approaches to culture, education, and tourism.

Ivano-Frankivsk – a city of many cultures

The history of Ivano-Frankivsk has been shaped by different cultures, traditions, and communities. Its architecture, historical monuments, literary heritage, and urban traditions preserve evidence of this diversity, which remains an important component of the community's identity to this day.

One of the goals of the InterCities project was to reinterpret the city's history and promote it among various audiences, particularly young people. As part of the project, a series of public lectures was held on the history of Ivano-Frankivsk, its architectural heritage, cultural transformations of the urban space, and the relationship between young people and cultural memory.





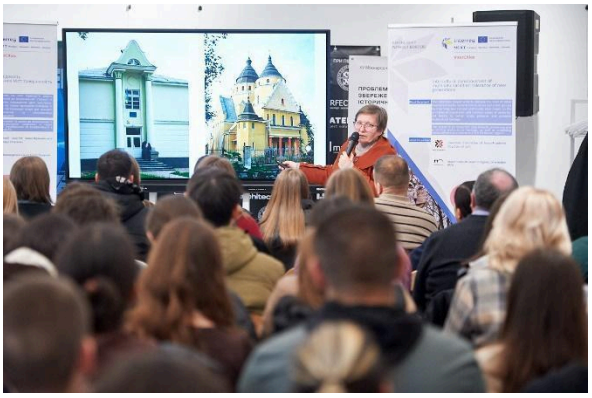
During the meetings, participants had the opportunity to look at familiar urban spaces in a new light, learn more about historical events and figures, and discuss how the past influences the modern perception of the city.





Special attention was given to the topics of youth, heritage, and intercultural dialogue, as well as to examining Ivano-Frankivsk through the lens of contemporary artistic and cultural approaches. The educational program helped promote knowledge of the city's multicultural history and created opportunities for the exchange of ideas among students, experts, and representatives of the cultural community.

An important outcome of this work was drawing attention to cultural heritage as a living resource that helps people understand the community's history, foster a sense of belonging to the city, and cultivate respect for diversity.





International forum "Dialogue of Cultures": a joint search for approaches to heritage preservation

An important event was the international forum "Dialogue of Cultures," which took place on November 20-21, 2025, at the Potocki Palace complex in Ivano-Frankivsk.

The forum brought together historians, architects, museum professionals, art historians, scholars, government officials, educators, and activists to discuss the role of cultural heritage in community development.



Participants discussed modern approaches to preserving tangible and intangible heritage, the role of local communities in these processes, and opportunities for using historic sites for education, cultural diplomacy, tourism, and the development of creative industries.

The practical component of the forum included a tour of the Potocki Palace grounds and archaeological research sites. The following day, participants visited the Museum of Karaite History and Culture in Halych and the archaeological excavations at the Halych Castle tower, where they discussed experiences in researching and preserving historical sites.

The forum served as a platform for professional exchange and confirmed the importance of cooperation between cultural institutions, scholars, government agencies, and the public.





“Star City”: a culture that brings generations together

An important component of the project was the cultural program of the “City-Star” festival, which brought together citizens and visitors to Ivano-Frankivsk around art, history, and cultural traditions.

The program covered various aspects of the city’s cultural life: literary gatherings, theater performances, musical events, gastronomic initiatives, sports activities, and events for children. Each of these areas offered its own opportunities for communication, creativity, and exploring cultural diversity.

The festival’s literary program served as a space to explore the stories, ideas, and cultural meanings that bring people together. The theatrical events held for City Day allowed for the combination of artistic performance with a sense of local identity, while the musical performances created an atmosphere of shared cultural experience for different generations.





Events for children formed a separate part of the festival. The children’s program offered opportunities for creative interaction, active recreation, and cultural exploration through participation in group activities. Sports activities and a competition complemented the program, encouraging participants to work together as a team and spend time together.

Gastronomic events celebrating flavors that unite cultures highlighted the importance of everyday traditions as part of intangible heritage.

The music program – particularly events dedicated to music as a means of bringing generations together – served as yet another example of how art helps create a shared space for people of all ages and backgrounds.





The “Star City” Festival became not only a series of cultural events, but also an opportunity to engage the community in a shared experience of cultural heritage, to support local identity, and to demonstrate that dialogue between cultures begins with openness, curiosity, and mutual respect.





The Potocki Palace: exploring heritage and new opportunities for a cultural space

A separate focus of InterCities’ work has been the preservation of the historical heritage of the Potocki Palace – one of Ivano-Frankivsk’s most significant historical complexes.

Archaeological research has provided new insights into the palace’s architectural development. These findings served as the basis for further scholarly analysis and were included in a collaborative monograph that brought together materials from both new and previous studies of the site.

As explained by Larysa Polishchuk, head of the Potocki Palace’s research department, the particular value of this work lies in the opportunity to trace the history of the complex’s formation and evolution.

“For us, as architects, the most important thing was to find underground traces of the palace’s architectural history – that is, how it was built, how it evolved, and how it changed both architecturally and functionally,” said Larysa Polishchuk.

As part of the project, project and cost estimate documentation was also prepared for two buildings in the complex. These efforts lay the groundwork for further work on preserving the historical heritage and developing the Potocki Palace complex, particularly the future establishment of a center for intercultural dialogue.

An important complement to the research work were events dedicated to the architecture of Ivano-Frankivsk and landmarks associated with various ethnic communities. An exhibition featuring more than 20 architectural objects helped draw attention to the city’s multifaceted history – from buildings that have preserved to this day to lost structures that once shaped its image.

These initiatives demonstrated that heritage preservation involves not only the physical protection of monuments but also research, documentation, the sharing of knowledge, and engaging the public in recognizing their value.





Sighet-Marmației: preserving cultural diversity through tradition and innovation

The Romanian partner in the InterCities project – the Maramureș Museum in Sighetu Marmației – has focused on preserving the architectural heritage of various ethnic communities and finding modern ways to showcase it.

As part of the project, three ethnic houses in the open-air museum – Ukrainian, Hungarian, and German – were restored. These structures reflect the cultural traditions of the region's communities and help preserve tangible evidence of their historical way of life.

Another area of focus was the digitization of museum collections. Approximately 200 items from the interior exhibits were digitized in 3D, and aspects of augmented reality were incorporated into the presentation of the traditional activities of the region's residents. Such solutions expand opportunities to explore cultural heritage and create new formats for engaging with visitors.





The partner's cultural program also included a short film festival, a summer camp for architecture students from Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania, and a professional forum dedicated to the preservation of traditional architecture.

Participants in the educational events learned about folk architecture and traditional crafts, while experts discussed approaches to preserving historic sites and opportunities for developing cultural tourism. The partners also worked on two cultural routes linked to the Carpathian Cultural Route and an informational brochure.

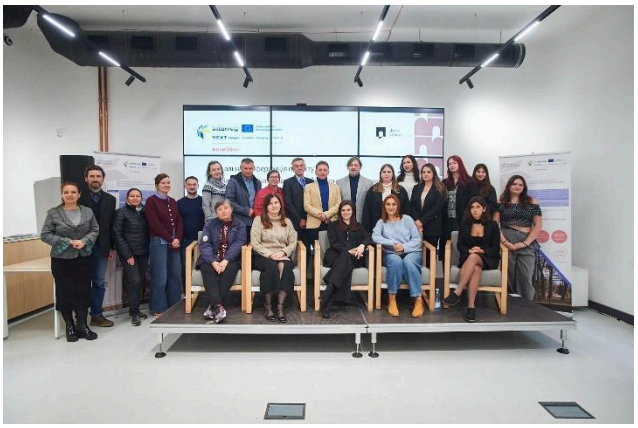
The experience of the Maramureș Museum demonstrated how a combination of restoration, digital technologies, education, and cultural events helps preserve traditions and make them accessible to new generations.





Final Conference: results of our collaboration and opportunities for future work

On October 13, 2026, the final conference of the InterCities project was held in Ivano-Frankivsk to review the initiatives that had been implemented and present the results of international cooperation.





The final event brought together the main areas of the project's work: research on historical heritage, educational activities, cultural initiatives, and practical approaches for the ongoing preservation of historical sites.

The project demonstrated that work with cultural heritage can combine scientific research, restoration planning, art, education, and community engagement. This approach not only preserves historical sites but also reveals their significance for the modern city.

At the same time, an important outcome was the collaboration between Ivano-Frankivsk and Sighet-Marmației. The exchange of experiences between the partners demonstrated that cities with different histories and cultural contexts can work together to find solutions for preserving heritage, promoting traditions, and fostering intercultural dialogue.



Results that remain after project completion

The total budget for InterCities was EUR 457,738.46, of which EUR 411,960.07 was European Union funding under the Interreg VI-A NEXT Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine 2021–2027 program. A total of EUR 222,568.92 was allocated for the implementation of activities in Ivano-Frankivsk.

- Among the project's main outcomes are:
- the organization of educational events and public lectures on the city's history, architecture, and cultural heritage;
- the organization of the international forum "Dialogue of Cultures" and the final conference;
- the implementation of the cultural program for the "Star City" festival;
- conducting archaeological research on the grounds of the Potocki Palace and preparing a collective monograph;
- developing project and cost estimate documentation for buildings "V" and "Zh" of the historic complex;
- preparing an exhibition on architectural monuments associated with various ethnic communities;
- restoring three ethnic houses and digitizing museum artifacts in Sighet-Marmației;
- promoting international exchange of expertise on cultural heritage preservation and intercultural dialogue.

The completion of the project does not mean the end of work on cultural heritage. The documentation prepared lays the groundwork for the next phases of work at the Potocki Palace; the scholarly materials remain a resource for researchers; and the experience gained from organizing educational and cultural events can be applied to future community initiatives.

The project also highlighted the importance of engaging young people in the study of history and culture, as tolerance is formed through knowledge, communication, and the opportunity to better understand the experiences of others.

The InterCities project combined research into the past with modern cultural practices, demonstrating that multicultural heritage is not only a part of history but also an important resource for urban development, strengthening local identity, and building an open society.

For more information about the project and for media requests, please contact:

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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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