

International Summer School in Dealu Frumos: Student Projects give Hope in Depopulated Areas of the Danube Region

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26th Conference of the Working Community of the Danube
Region Countries, April 9th to 10th, 2019

Day 2: Soil Health Management in the Danube Region and
Beyond through Agro-Environmental Programmes

Student Projects on the Way



Global Soil Health Management

- SDG 2 calls for elimination of hunger
 - 10% of mankind food insecure
- SDG 15 calls for the protection, restoration and sustainable management of land-based ecosystems.
- Land management is responsible for 25% of greenhouse gases

https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-09/GLO_Full_Report_low_res.pdf

Source: UNCCD Global Land Outlook, 2017

Land under Pressure

- Current pressures on land are huge and continue growing
- During last two decades 20% of vegetated surface showed persistent decline
 - Productivity decrease
 - Water management practices
 - Soil management erosion
- Biodiversity loss and climate change
- Land degradation increases vulnerability of locals
 - 1.3 billion people are trapped on land with degrading soils
- Millions of people have abandoned their ancestral lands
 - -> more will follow

Dealu Frumos, Transylvania, Romania and the Danube Region

- Dealu Frumos and rural Transylvania
 - A widely abandoned region of Europe
 - Agriculture but too few other economic activities
- Within Danube Region
 - Austria is a pull country
 - Better income, in average 4 times higher than Romania
 - In context of the rural poor this ratio is much more dramatic, perhaps 10 times
 - Romania is a push country
 - Less possibilities for young people, in particular in rural areas
- Tourism
 - Austria has appr. 10 times the tourism intensity per person than Romania (Eurostat 2018)
 - Romania cannot capitalize its tourism potential accordingly
- Agriculture
 - Romania has appr. 20 times the number of farms than Austria
 - 2.8 million farms are family farms with less than 1ha

Between 25th and 26th Conference of the Working Community of Danube Region Countries

- From May 2018 to October 2018
 - Student project elaboration for Dealu Frumos/Schönberg in Transylvania/Siebenbürgen
 - Introductory phase: May to June
 - Local workshops: July
 - Project elaboration phase: August to September
 - Presentation at 7th EUSDR annual stakeholder forum Sofia



Start of Summer School at Stiftung Kirchenburgen

Sibiu/Hermannstadt





Museum Astra

Museum
Astra is
idealized,
animated
project of
rural past



- Thousands of objects from all over Romania were transported to here

Explaining the Concept: Colors of the Earth



Painting with Colors of the Earth from Lower Austria





The Rural Reality in Sibiu County

Hosman/Holzungen



Fortified Churches in Transylvania





Nocrich – Leschkirch Village



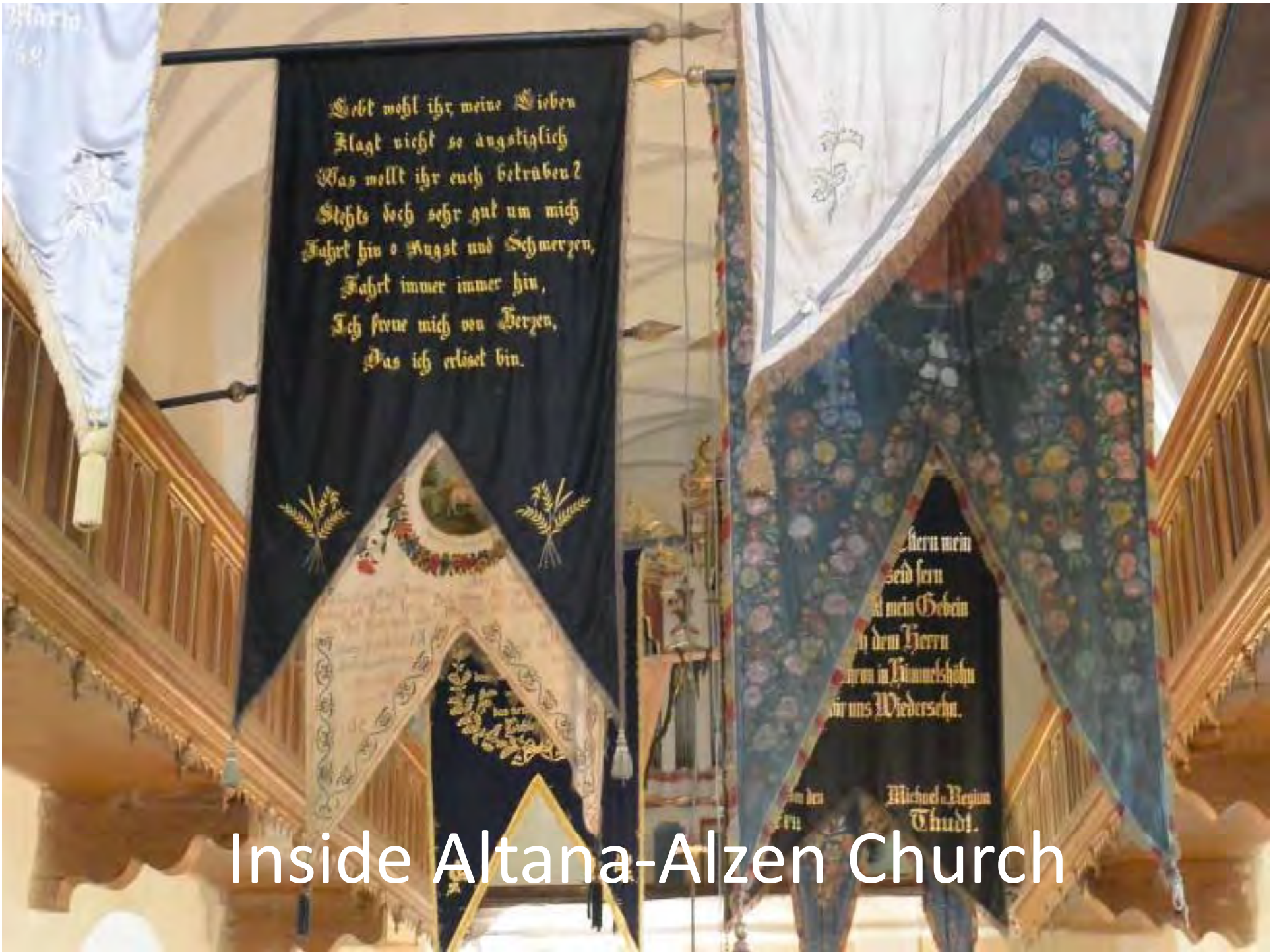
International scouts revitalize traditional Saxon handicraft

Foreign scouts as local guides to fortified church



Inside Nocrich-Leschkirch Church





Inside Altana-Alzen Church



Church Paintings in Altana-Alzen



Pelisor-Magerau

- Proposed as summer campus for TU Wien from one student



Cultural landscape in Vard-Zied village



- During 2002 and 2011, Sibiu district lost 6% of population
 - On the country side the loss is higher

Arriving at Summer School in Dealu Frumos

- Sleeping in the fortified church and in the former primary school



Lectures in Theatre



Additional dinner lectures



Dealu Frumos

- Finding projects to improve local life



Projects to improve agriculture and land use



Migrant Willy Schuster from Germany



Having Lunch at the Organic Peasant Farm



Students Projects are Online

- www.breiling.org/lect/df-web/
- Thank you for your attention!