



## *Part I - History & concept*

The village of Periprava is located in one of the remotest areas of Romania. Situated in the northern part of the Danube Delta, on the Romanian border to Ukraine, it is yet difficult to access via public transportation. Factoring in the severity of the environmental conditions and the poor condition of the area's infrastructure, it is not hard to understand how the location could function so effectively as one of the harshest forced labour camps of the Romanian communist regime. The recent development

of the Danube Delta as an eco-touristic destination, in particular the launch of the new hotel "Ultima Frontiera" on the site of the aforementioned labour camp, creates a problematic dichotomy in the place's identity. Similarly problematic is the question of remembrance culture and therefore of finding a way to respectfully memorialise the sufferings of the many political prisoners held captive here, as well as of the Romanian people during the communist dictatorship.

The project “Reflections on a dark past” strives to offer a strategy for dealing with the troubled past of Romania, by delving into historical facts that are still partly unknown to the masses, and consequently including these into public space interventions meant to offer room for reflection. Our method consisted of three steps towards the final proposal: First, there was an extensive research phase, that revealed not only facts about the forced labour camp “Formation 0830 Periprava” but also about other related labour camps in the Danube delta. In this step it was decided to tackle not one but three labour camp conglomerates of the delta: Periprava, the Great Island of Brăila, and the Danube - Black Sea Channel.

This phase also included a field trip to Periprava. The second step was a conceptual approach to what such a reflection space should be and how it should work. Thus three memorial walks were proposed. The third phase consists of a more detailed planning of the memorial walk at Periprava, down to the architectural language.

### 1 Short Historical Overview

Shortly after the end of World War II, and the forced abdication of King Michael in 1947<sup>1</sup>, a new communist regime was proclaimed. This brought about an era of terror, especially for the Romanian

bourgeoisie, intellectuals and clergy. Many of their members were incarcerated for “expressing anti-communist opinions”, among other reasons. These political prisoners were imprisoned and subjected to torture and extreme work regimes, resulting in a horrifying (still incomplete) number of deaths. In order to sustain this system, there were prisons and labour camps all throughout the country, as seen in Fig 1. What is also apparent from this map, is that these labour camps were mostly situated in the Danube delta, with the exception of a few that were instituted for mining activities. There are three conglomerates that stand out: The region near Periprava, the Great Island of Brăila and around the Danube - Black Sea Channel. These

1 <https://www.iiccr.ro/en/brief-history-of-communism/>

## Le système répressif en Roumanie et Moldavie

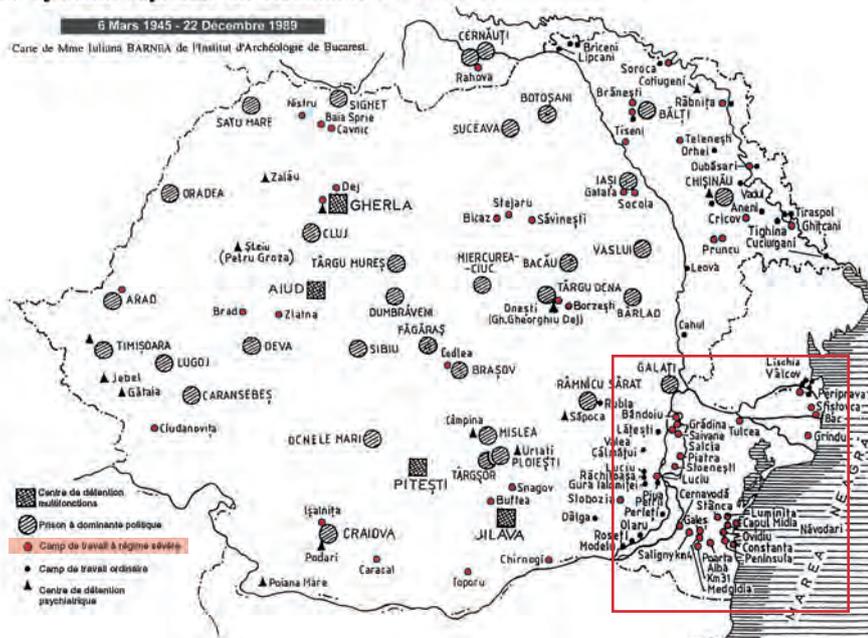


Fig. 1  
Map of the Prisons and labour camps in Romania and Moldavia

were mostly active during the 50s and 60s. A more in-depth research shows the reasons behind this situation: first of all, there was the intention to transform a good part of the delta into fertile land for agriculture, and the secondly the construction plans for a channel connecting the Danube to the Black Sea, across Dobrogea, according to a suggestion made by Stalin. According to testimonies, the number of incarcerations rose as a direct consequence of calculations about the workforce necessary to the timely completion of these projects. It is hard to say how many people have passed through as well as in these labour camps, due to a lack of documentation as well as frequent prisoner transfers between these camps.

The practice of undignified secret burials of the dead further impedes a more traditional memorial approach, where the names of the deceased would be listed on the memorial.

## 2 A tailored memorial concept for the labour camps of the Danube delta

The research phase revealed some important aspects that shaped the memorial concept; On the one hand, the scarcity of accurate, reliable information about the individual labour camps, like floor plans, photographic material, records of the imprisoned and burial sites. What is known about these places mostly stems from accounts of the former prisoners and

constitutes a more emotional type of information about the horrors they have been through. The other aspect is that it became clear through various conversations with people of different ages that there is seldom a conversation about the communist era, apart from the occasional nostalgia expressed by the elderly (in this case, from the fortunate few that had no clashes with the surveillance organ “Securitate”, who recollect that they had “fewer needs” at the time, especially in the context of today’s plummeting approval of the Romanian government<sup>2</sup> and ongoing economic struggles). One genera-

tion below this (around the age of 50, born after the climax Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej’s labour camps) there is seldom talk of the communist period and childhood memories of the surveillance and scarcity of goods lead to a general capitalistic mindset and a hatred of the idea of communism. Consequently, the younger generations don’t grow up with much information about the time; there is no remembrance culture as seen in countries like Austria<sup>3</sup>. In addition to this, the curriculum for history does not address this problem in depth. Therefore, it seems imperative to work with facts rather than emotions.

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2 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-romania-protests/thousands-rally-in-romania-on-anniversary-of-violent-protest-idUSKCN1V00RV>

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3 Author’s note: Obviously these are two different situations, since the wrongdoings of the communist regime were mostly directed at the Romanian people itself.

Amidst all the political scandals, it seems that the nation is divided, as seen in many other countries around the world. Likewise, one can not overlook the current role of social media as instigator of this divide, a phenomenon that stems from the propagation of subjective, omissive or downright misleading information. Taking all these aspects into account, our project strives to offer a quiet space for information, reflection, hopefully spurring on the desire for further research into the nation's more recent past. This is a task that cannot be fulfilled by architecture alone.

The concept of memorial walk was brought about by researching what kind of labour the prisoners were subjected

to, as well as the geographical situation of the labour camps and their satellites. As Fig 1 shows, it is evident that there was a strategy behind these locations. Since the camps are mostly placed in a linear shape, it was decided that the concept of a “walk” would be the most fitting. Similar to a pilgrimage route, the visitor should take the time to reflect on and discover the surroundings. Along these walks, there should be contextualised information about the corresponding camps. The reason why we chose to deal with all three sections of the Danube delta labour camps is that we believe that creating a common strategy and identity for the whole area would be beneficial for raising awareness about the scope of the forced

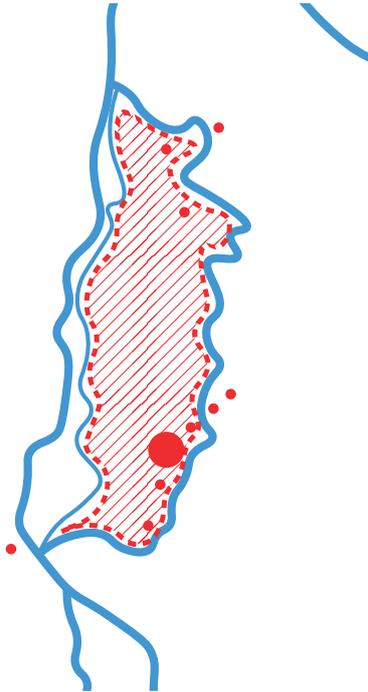
labour operations, rather than pinpointing a few infamous camps. Lastly, the project would complement the ongoing digging campaigns by IICMER, in which they also target all three sections and strive to find and identify the bodies of the many undignified dead buried in the soil of the Romanian delta<sup>4</sup>.

### 3 The Great Island of Braila

The Great Island of Braila is an island on the Danube River, located between Dobrogea and the rest of the country. The 710 km<sup>2</sup> island was originally a swampy

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4 [https://adevarul.ro/locale/constantia/sapaturi-premiera-canalul-dunare-marea-neagra-gasirea-osemintevictimelor-comunismului-1\\_5de68a4c5163ec4271a96c61/index.html](https://adevarul.ro/locale/constantia/sapaturi-premiera-canalul-dunare-marea-neagra-gasirea-osemintevictimelor-comunismului-1_5de68a4c5163ec4271a96c61/index.html)



area, “The Braila Pond”. During the Regime of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, the area was transformed into agricultural soil, through forced labour by many of the political prisoners at the time. There were several labour camps lined up along the eastern edge of the island: Bandoiu, Gradina, Salcia, Piatra, Stoienesti, Luciu. The scope of the work here was to drain the swamps and protect the island from further flooding by building a dam (23.5 km), as well as to clean up the soil in preparation for subsequent agricultural use. The result: this is now one of the most fertile territories in Romania, and was deemed as one of the big successes of communism in Romania. The operating farm on the island was recently acquired by

Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, an investor from the emirates, who plans on further improving the fertility and output of the land.

The labour camp at Salcia is considered one of the harshest. Here there are also remaining ruins of the camp’s buildings, which the local government is striving to use as a museum and to integrate in a larger touristic network<sup>5</sup>. Nearby one can additionally find a mass grave site used for the secret burial of deceased prisoners.

The chosen route for the memorial walk

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.economica.net/o-fosta-inchisoare-comunita-va-fi-transformata-in-muzeu\\_156702.html](https://www.economica.net/o-fosta-inchisoare-comunita-va-fi-transformata-in-muzeu_156702.html)

“Great Island of Braila” is as following: Ostrov - Piatra - Frecatei - Salcia - Agaua - Stoienesti (Fig. 3). It is a walk of approximately four hours, which is accessible from the town Ostrov, crossing the water with the ferry between Piatra and Frecatei. Aside from the existing ruins, memorial and grave site, this should be a place to display information not only about the labour camps of Braila, but also to contextualise the communist approach to agriculture and export - which was favoured, leaving the Romanian people with limited food rations. A further reflection point could be the contextualisation of the acquisition of the farm by foreign investors and its impact on the current day economy. As a further step, one could consider

the construction of a bridge as part of the route.

#### 4 The Danube - Black Sea Channel

One of the biggest construction projects of the Romanian communism era is the channel connecting the Danube to the Black Sea. Initially a suggestion made by Stalin, the project was quickly ordered by Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej. This was supposed to be constructed as timely as possible, so (according to testimonials) the number of prisoners held in these camps was directly influenced by the project’s deadlines; it was a question of gathering a sufficient work force rather than of imprisoning dissidents. Many labour camps were set up

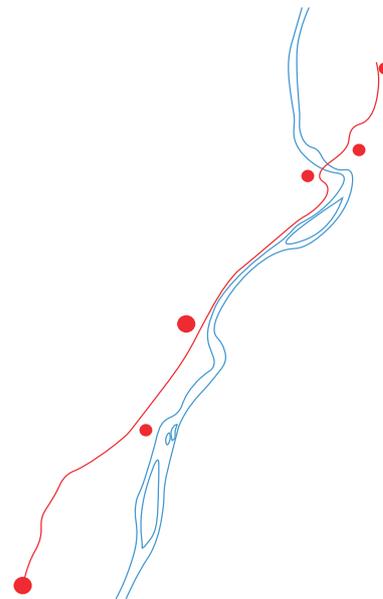


Fig. 3  
Proposed Route Island of Braila

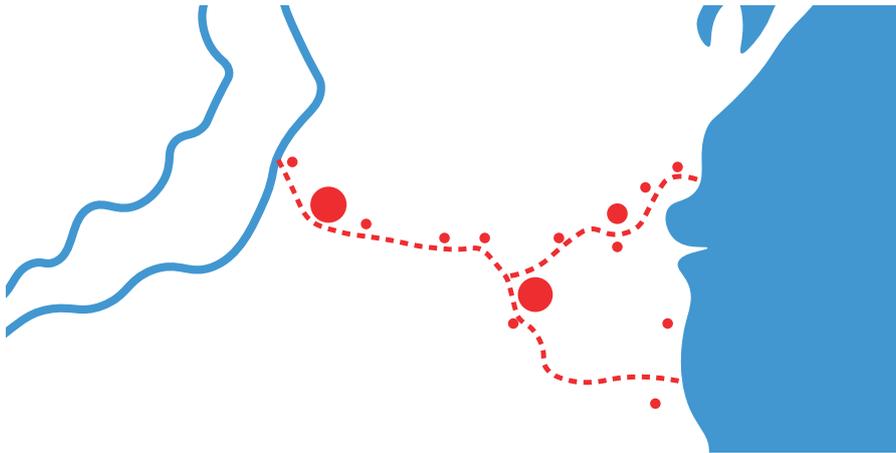


Fig. 4  
The Danube - Black Sea Channel and camps

along the route of the channel, such as: Cernavoda, Saligny, Poarta Alba, Noua Culme, Peninsula, Capul Midia, Eforie, Constanta, Seimeni, Medgidia, Basarabi, Navodari, Castelu. Many of these camps are well known, since they were larger compared to the other areas and

the conditions were particularly harsh. The channel construction was stopped after a few years due to its dismissal as unnecessary by the Soviet Union. Years later, the construction was finished under the rule of Nicolae Ceausescu, who was particularly taken with the idea of

large projects and ruling over the most advanced nation. Until today it is a very important piece of infrastructure and is, according to a Bloomberg<sup>6</sup> article “an

6 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2019-10-27/the-canal-of-death-is-now-an-economic-gateway-for-eastern-europe>

economic gateway for Eastern Europe”, in particular for Romania and Bulgaria.

Because of the proximity of many of these former labour camps to the Black Sea coast, which is a popular touristic destination, especially for Romanians<sup>7</sup>. This offers an opportunity to reach a wider scope of visitors, especially Romanian, by connecting the memorial walk to the sea shore. The proposed route starts in the popular touristic village Mamaia and ends in the city of Constanta, which is a major touristic hub and also host to a museum of national history, with a special exhibition

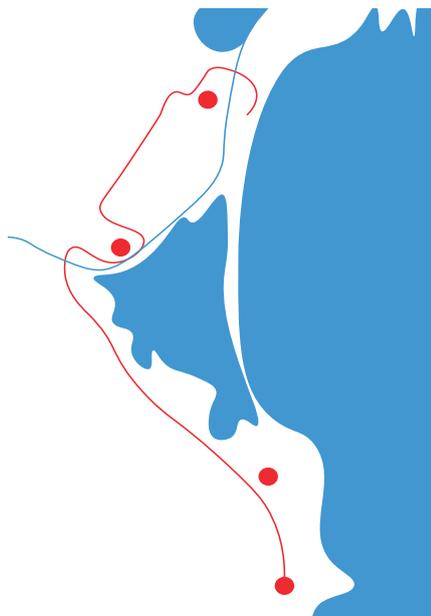


Fig 5  
Proposed Route for The Danube - Black Sea Channel

wing on Romanian communism in Dobrogea. The route passes the camps Navodari, Lumina / Peninsula and Ovidiu. The estimated duration of the walk is five hours. Aside from information on the construction of the Danube - Black Sea Channel, it is possible to include information on a second topic: women during the communist regime. As Saligny was mostly a women’s camp, one can dig deeper into how women were seen and treated during the communist regime.

### 5 Periprava

The topic of our initial research, the former labour camp “Formation 0830 Periprava”, is a short walk away from the

7 <https://jurnalul.antena3.ro/stire-economic/criza-ne-stri-ca-vacanta-548967.html>



actual village. At first a satellite of the penitentiary Chilia, it was established as an independent unit in the year 1971. The environmental factors provided a particularly harsh life for the prisoners, since the summers were unbearably hot and full of insects, while the winters were extremely cold with icy winds. The daily labour of the prisoners here were: initially, building the brick housing units for the guards and prison employees, eventually forming what came to be known as the “city at Periprava”; field work included: building a dam along the Chilia arm, to protect the ground from floods, harvesting reed, cleaning the soil of roots in order to make it useful for agriculture, planting and harvesting said fields and working in the enclosed

animal farm.

Today, as is the case with several other labour camps, the only visible traces of the “Formation 0830” are some ruins of the brick constructions (guards’ housing and administrative buildings) and the dam along the Danube. The prisoners’ housing unit have however disappeared, due to the environmental conditions, as well as the rudimentary building techniques they were built with.

These remains are largely part of the private property belonging to the four star eco-hotel “Ultima Frontiera”. The question of building a memorial on these grounds is therefore problematic.

Since our research revealed many other nearby satellite camps, this poses a further question as to whether one single building can serve as a representation of the unspeakable events that transpired here. Our project clearly positions itself outside of these private grounds, on the principle of decoupling history from potential private gains that could be achieved by the hotel owners. A decision process that would involve financial considerations by a private investor is sure to be biased and will therefore be avoided. The proposed route for the area “Periprava” is therefore along the remaining dam, which also serves as a protected road in face of the varying soil dryness throughout the year. Another consideration is a potential eco-

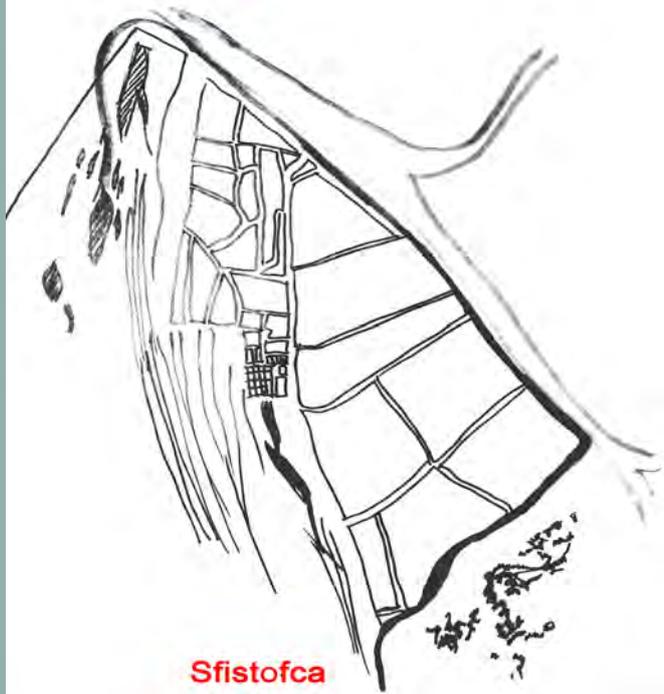
nomie gain for the village, that currently hosts three additional hotels, which potential visitors can make use of, if they are not forced to spend their nights at Ultima Frontiera (which is furthermore fully booked around the year by nature explorers and animal photographers). Along the walk, which starts at Periprava and ends near the villages C. A. Rosetti, Letea and Sfistofca, one can inform themselves about the history of the place, in context of the communist regime and the other labour camps in the delta. The walk, along with its sections are detailed in part two.

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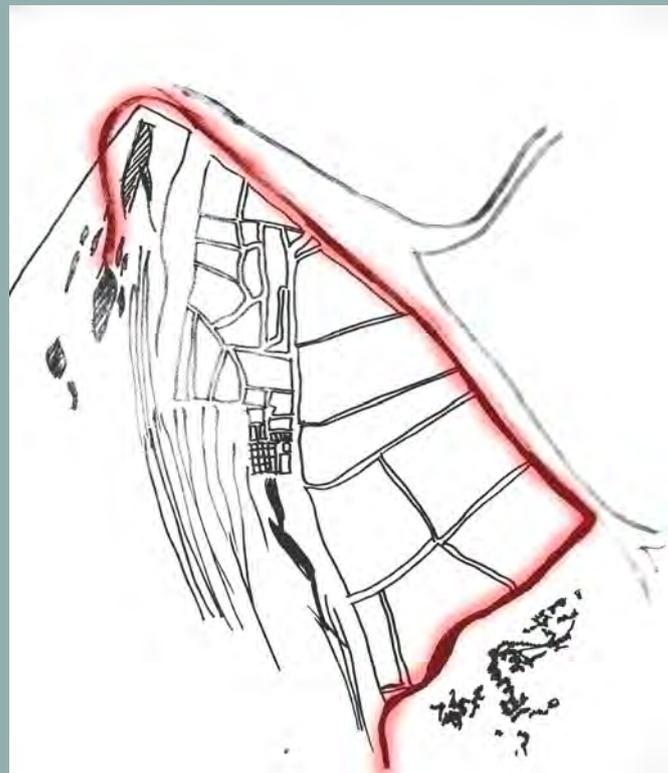
Fig 7  
Aerial view of the Ruins at Periprava



Periprava



Sfistofca



# Part II - Design Method

## 1 Landscape concept

The Project Reflections on a Dark Past concentrates on sharing and receiving information about the place. It tries to make the effort visible, to respect the effort of the prisoners, to make a point on how it helped the next generations and to keep the horrible history behind this effort visible.

How do we plan to make their effort visible?: by marking the dam they built which is nowadays keeping the village and the field from flooding and it's also the way between Periprava and Sfistof-

ca and by building a platform for information sharing. The dam lies between the two villages and goes by Ultima Frontiera area which is the former labour camp of Periprava. The idea is the way to be used as a hiking path and also as a memorial art structure which informs and keeps the memory alive.

The hiking path includes 9 stops. Every one of them is a place to enjoy the view over the Danube river or the landscape of Periprava and also has interesting facts to share. They are all connected to different historical events or places in the area.

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Fig 8 Map of the area between Periprava and Sfistofca

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Fig 9 Plan of the 16.5 km damm from Periprava to Sfistofca the labour camp prisoners worked on

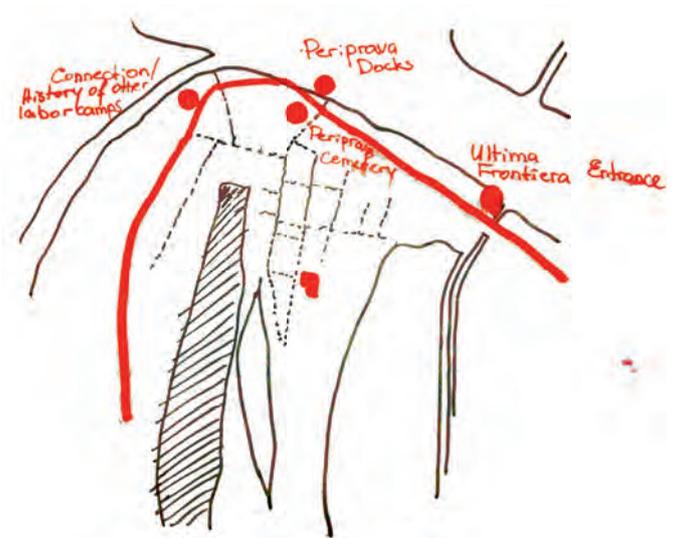
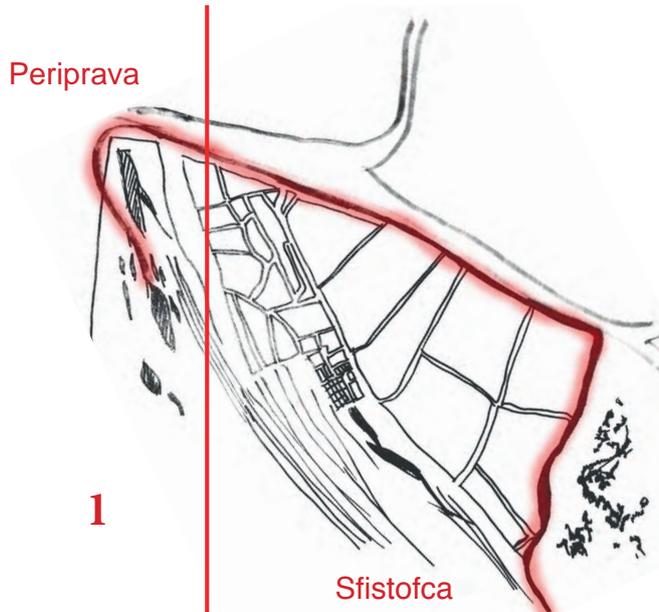


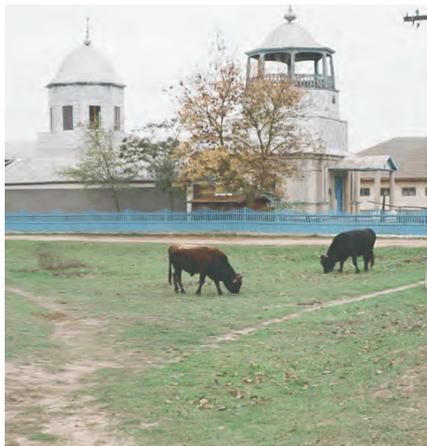
Fig. 10  
Map of the damm between Periprava and Sfistofca and also the hiking path  
Section 1 marked on the west side of the path

Fig. 11  
Map of the west side of the damm between Periprava and Sfistofca and also the hiking path  
Closer look on the stops included in Section 1

The path is separated in 3 sections. Section one includes the docks of Periprava and some general facts about the village, the history of the cemetery where some prisoners were assumed to have been buried in, the first entrance to the private property Ultima

Frontiera and the ruins of the former labour camp and on the west side of the damm information about some other labour camps in the area like those on the Braila island. The camps in the area were connected to each other and prisoners were often transported from one

place to another. It also includes one of the so called “start points”. It’s an actual structure that displays some facts about Periprava and the former labour camp and invites visitors to be a part of the project.



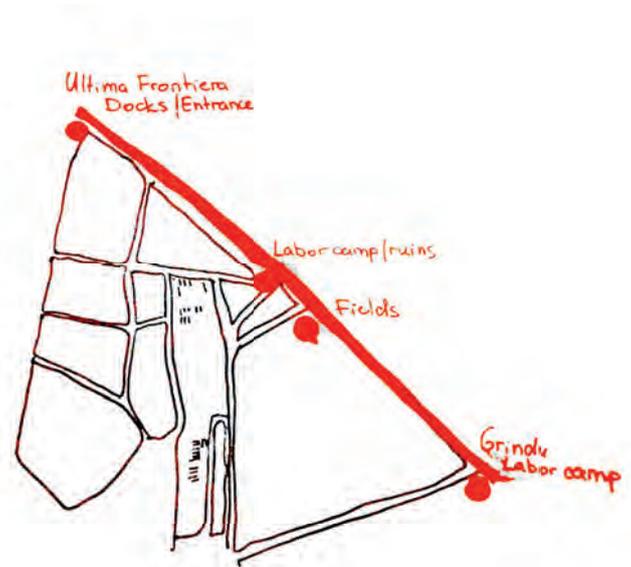
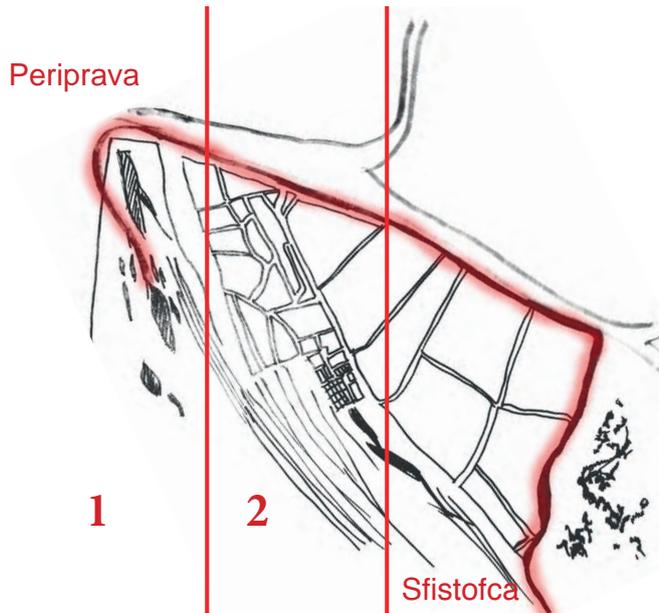


Fig. 12  
Map of the dam between Periprava and Sfistofca and also the hiking path  
Section 2 marked on the path

Fig. 13  
Map of the west side of the dam between Periprava and Sfistofca and also the hiking path  
Closer look on the stops included in Section 2

Section 2 includes the turn to the former labour camp and the longer way to the private property of Ultima Frontiera and entrance to the remains of the camp. More important it is also the place where the former floating prison used to be and also the docks where



the prisoners arrived. Nowadays there are some remains of the constructions there which could have been anything but there is no trace of the floating prison cells to remind of what the purpose of the constructions was.

Another stop on the way to Sfistofca are the marked fields on the right side of the damm. The main reason for sending prisoners to the Danube delta was to build damms, clear the lands and make them fertile for farm work. After turning the Braila Island into an agricultural area also called “success of Communism in Romania” many prisoners were sent to Periprava and other smaller labour camps in the area to continue working on clearing the terrain.

There is a stop on the way informing visitors about Grindu and pointing at the area which was once a branch of the Periprava labour camp and where many prisoners spent their prison time harvesting reed mostly for export and mostly during winter.



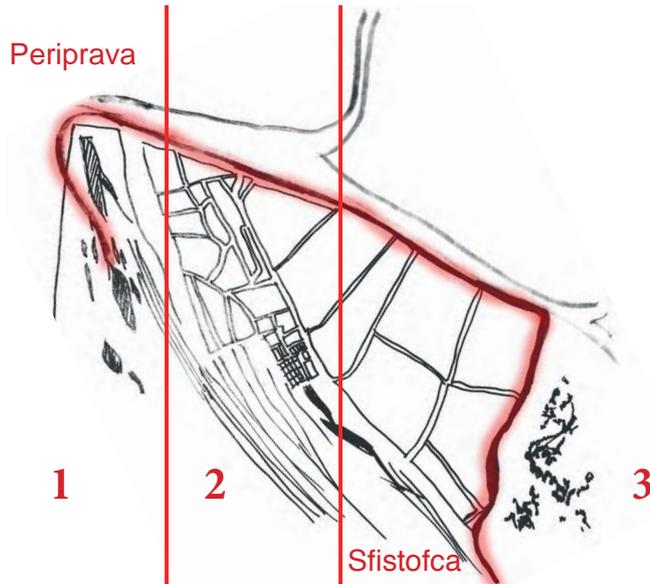


Fig. 14  
Map of the dam between Periprava and Sfistofca and also the hiking path  
Section 3 marked on the path

Fig. 15  
Map of the west side of the dam between Periprava and Sfistofca and also the hiking path  
Closer look on the stops included in Section 3

Section 3 is a connection to Sfistofca and Letea. There are only two points on the path - one of them tells us more about the area of Sfistofca, Letea and the commune of C.A.Rosetti, the residents, the agricultures, the landscape and the other informs about the former

Sfistofca labour camp, where was it, what did the prisoners work on and in general about the exchange of prisoners between the Danube delta labour camps.

The Danube delta is often visited by nature lovers and tourists from all over

the world. The idea of the project is to provide the much needed information from historians and annalists about the historical background of the village and to keep the memory alive, preventing the place from becoming a pure tourist attraction.



## 2 The Start points

Many people arrive in Periprava by boat. Students, tourists and locals often travel by the ferri to Tulcea and the docks of Periprava make a good place for introducing the history of Periprava and concept of the project. There are two points on the route that could be called start points since they are planned on both sides of the hiking path - one in Periprava and one in Sfistofca. At the start point is an informational board to be found and a wooden structure to shelter the boards and the visitors. If you wait for the boat or to get picked up by the hotel at the docks in Periprava there is nowhere to sit or simply be sheltered from bad weather conditions. So the docks would be a good

place for enter the route. They are at the entrance of the Periprava village, they are very near the 16,5 damm and they also lie on the way between the village and the arriving visitors so they would be seen by everyone and have a bigger chance at getting the attention of the people or just keep them busy while waiting. There are two planned - the first one is at the entrance to Periprava and the second one on the other end of the damm - Sfistofca, so there are two possibilities to start the route.

The Periprava Start point should be integrated in this so called "waiting room" where at least two boards could be integrated. This shelter would be made of mostly natural materials and materials that can be found in the area - wood

and reed. It is a simple construction also reminding of the already disappeared prisoners houses. The shelter is one of the two places on the route which introduce the idea of the project on a display wall. Three of four wall are completely closed so the inside of the construction is protected from wind and rain. The vertical area of two walls is used for introducing Periprava and the project and inviting people to be a part of it. The third wall is completely transparent and made of plexiglass - easy to find in big sizes and it could also easily be transported by the local public boat. The third wall is kept transparent because of the position of the construction. There is no fourth wall. The structure should be kept open and inviting. It

is located right between the damm and the docks . This way it is visible to everybody no matter from which direction they are coming and it is still a wind and rain protected place. The shelter is a construction simple enough to be build by architecture students themselves. It is marked by the colour of the project - red - which is also a colour for attention. On the inside of the two other walls are two panels where one can read few facts about Periprava.

The technik for protecting text from bad weather conditions is simple and often used for outdoor signs. The text is printed and placed between two plexiglass plates and then framed or simply melted on the edges so that nothing can get between the plates.

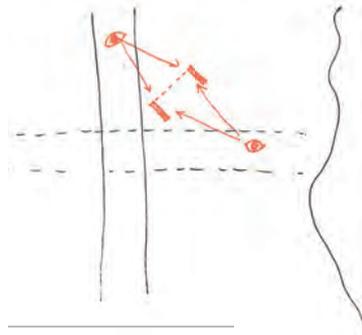


Fig. 16  
Location of the start point

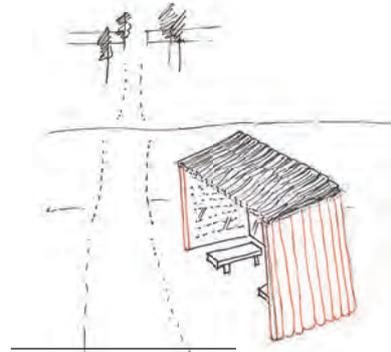


Fig. 17  
Sketch of the structure

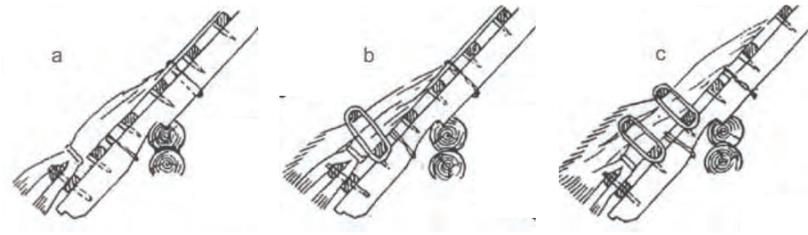


Fig. 18  
Reed roof construction - details

### 3 Info Board - Example

#### Welcome to Periprava



C.A. Rosetti is a commune in Tulcea County, Romania. The commune is named for writer Constantin Alexandru Rosetti. It is composed of five villages: C.A. Rosetti, Cardon, Letea, Periprava and Sfiștofca. At the 2011 census, 65.7% of the inhabitants were Romanians, 24.3% Russian Lipovans and 9.8% Ukrainians. At the beginning of the '50s, Periprava functioned as a section of the Chilia Formation, consequently turning into an independent prison unit on July 1, 1957 (Formation 0830).

#### Hard facts about the Periprava labour camp:

- The prisoners were sent to Periprava to harvest reed and build a dam to protect the lands and make them fertile for farm work.
- One of the prisoners of the Periprava labour camp was the Romanian writer Florin Pavlovici who also wrote two books about the time spent in detention: "Basics of Torture" and "Fear and Watch".
- The former director of the labour camp Ioan Ficior between 1958 and 1963 was indicted for crimes against humanity in 2013.
- There was a floating prison near the village.

- The area of the former labour camp was sold after the communist regime and is now a private property.

#### Want to know more?



Starting with 1959, thousands of political prisoners were brought to the colony until 1964 when the collective amnesties took place. The undeclared but implied purpose of the transfers was to brutally exploit their work and subject them to an extermination regime. Walk from Periprava to Sfiștofca and look for the signs. Use your phone to scan the QR Code to know where you are right now and let the landscape of the Danube Delta take you on journey through the history of the place.

Many tourists visit the place so it would be important to have a place where their attention is required and where they are offered information about the former events in the area. The start point is about sharing some interesting facts about the place and give everyone an opportunity to take a tour to a not that well known history.

To not intervent in the local life and affect the place with permanent tracks of building and memorials the project offers a virtual space to share and receive information. It is also intended to give the project a bigger audience by making it an online platform or a homepage called: Periprava - reflections on a dark past. On the way between Periprava and Sfistifca are smaller signs

with codes on them. People don't necessarily have to start at an endpoint of the route. The signs on the way are supposed to wake the interest of the visitor and since nowadays almost everyone has a smartphone it is the easiest way to receive information and it does not need much explanation what to do after once seen it. By pointing the camera at the code people are forwarded to a link with texts about the point where they are standing right now. At the bottom of the page they would also find different other links connected to other articles about the place. It would also be possible to save the information by marking it on the map of the hiking path with a yellow point. All informations would be checked by different organisations who

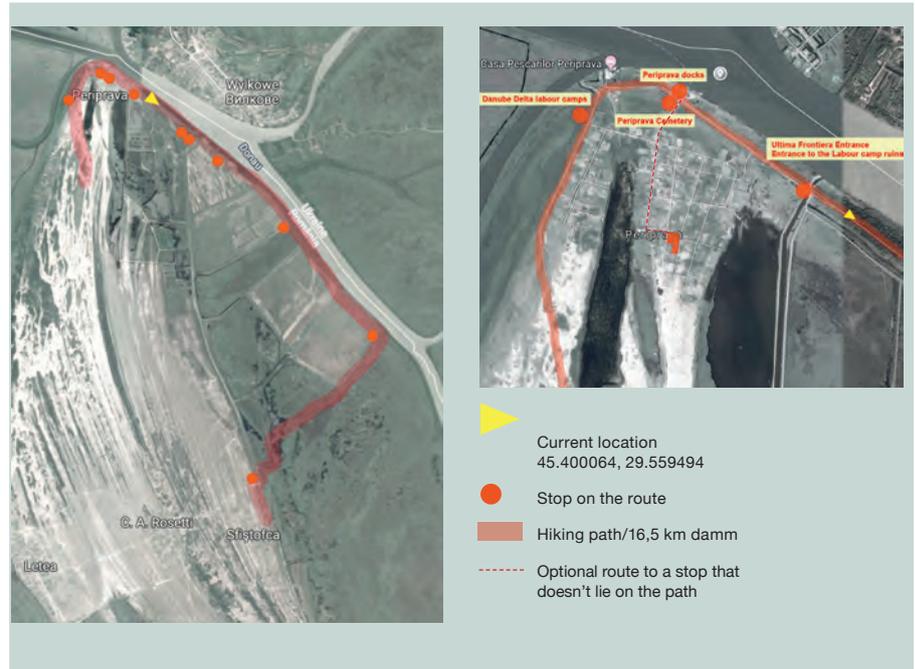
are involved with the investigating of the former labour camp. More important the site is not only a virtual space where you can read information. It is also a platform for those who have information to share. A lack of registers and unopened or lost files is the reason for not knowing much about the history of the Danube Delta. The platform would give people the opportunity to speak. There are 4 options planned:

- *Adding names of people who were assumed to be sent to the Danube Delta or went missing at the time*
- *Adding testimonials of former political prisoners*
- *Adding stories heard from relatives*
- *Adding proposals for other places where the project could also take place*

Since Periprava is on the borderline between the European union and Ukraine there is often a problem with connecting to the local network and not being extra charged. The platform should also offer an offline application which could be properly used on the ground of Periprava. People could download the application when connected to the internet and use it offline. It would work with the camera, scan the code and open a window in the application with the information. By scanning the code the visitors would receive the name of the point and could see on the integrated map where exactly they are standing at the moment. The map would be connected not to the internet but to GPS coordinates.

### 3 Functions of the map window

#### Example



## 5. The Periprava Cemetery Example

### Steps/Options in the Application

1.



#### 2. The Periprava Cemetery

Between 2013 and 2018 five archaeological investigation campaigns took place in the area of Periprava trying to follow leads and uncover the graves of the dead former prisoners of the labour camp. During all five were found 11 sections with 44 graves, 41 of them considered former prisoners. 31 of the graves were discovered during the first 4 campaigns and the most recent one were organised between the 16. and 26. of July 2018. It was the first time the authorities tried digging at the local cemetery. The reason was that locals and former employees of the labour camp shared some stories leading

them to the cemetery. 11 graves were identified there on a ground of 113 m<sup>2</sup>. All the graves were unmarked. Nowadays there is a big cross where they were found with the Romanian flag hanging above the graves. The cemetery follows the form of an L and it is not hard to recognize the ground. All other graves are close to each other and there is only one almost empty space at the cemetery. Three of the graves belong to locals who committed suicide. They were also buried by the prisoners on that side of the cemetery. One of the graves were found empty and investigators assume that the family of the former prisoner already knew the exact location of the grave and managed to dig out and transport the remains of their relative.

124 deaths are registered at the labour camp between 1959 and 1963. Authorities are still trying to find leads to other unmarked graves. Many bodies are also assumed to have been thrown in the Danube river. Those who had the privilege to be buried were often buried naked in a wood coffin, sometimes wrapped in reed mats. In rare cases there were buttons and other signs of clothing found by the bones. The reasons for the deaths are different. The conditions at the labour camp were horrible so many of the prisoners were deceased or shot while trying to escape. The causes of the deaths were mostly lack of medications, drinking water, food or accidents due to the exhausting work at the camp. The remains of the bodies were

*all packed and transported to the Tulcea Institute of Legal Medicine and a criminal file was opened in 2015.*

*All archeological investigations were carried out by different archeologists and historians from the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile in the presence of other authorities as the Bucharest Military Prosecutor's Office and the Police Department.*

*2013 the former director of the camp Ion Ficior was charged with genocide for "introduced and co-ordinated a repressive detention regime, which was abusive, inhuman." He ran the camp between 1958 and 1963 and is found guilty for the deaths of over 100 prisoners. This was the second trial after*

*the case of Alexandru Visinescu for his leadership of the Ramnicu Sarat prison from 1956 to 1963. Testemonies of former prisoners and evidence found by the authorities led to serving 20 years prison time. The sentence was passed in March 2017. Ficior spent his last years in a prison and dies at the age of 90.*

*About 500,000 people were sent to prison in the years of communism in Romania - amongst them priests, teachers, doctors. About 40,000 walked free out of the prisons after the end of the communist era in 1989 and about 3,500 of them are still alive, many of them helping solve the mysteries around the hidden crimes of the communist regime.*

### 3. Map



*It would be possible to save the location on the map, add to the main route in yellow new points that might be interesting for explorers and take pictures and upload them to the exact coordinates if in online mode. That way visitors would be able to exchange information and maybe discover places they overlooked.*

The Periprava Cemetery is an example for one point on the route. The code is to be found right at the entrance to the village. Since the cemetery isn't on the route the map in the application/homepage would show an alternative way starting with where the visitor is standing right now. Other options would be to just sit and read other linked articles, download recommended literature, look through some older photos of the place or compare them to what is to be seen now, make some new photos and add them to the gallery, add a new point to the map and most important contact different institutions or leave anonymously a story or a comment to be proved by authorized people and added to the information.

#### 4. Sources and connected articles:

*The archeological investigations of the Periprava labour camp*

<https://www.iiccr.ro/en/...>

*The fifth archeological investigation of the Periprava labour camp*

<https://www.iiccr.ro/en/the-fifth-...>

*Ion Ficior, 90, Convicted in Romania Labor Camp Crimes*

<https://www.euronews.com/2013/10..>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-eu...>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/26...>

#### 5. Literature:

*Forensic Archaeology: A Global Perspective*

<https://books.google.at/books?id...>

#### 6. Gallery



#### 7. Contact

[Contact the IICCMER](#)

[Contact the Association of the Former Political Prisoners](#)

[Anonymous Online Form-Give information](#)

## 6. Conclusion and funding

The idea of the project is mostly to mark the effort of the people who spent time in the Periprava prison and to attract the attention of visitors and institutions, to inform and to keep the memory alive, but it is also meant to be a part of the investigation process by bringing the background of the Danube Delta outside the borders of the nearby settlements and already involved institutions. The 1:1 constructions proposed by the project are simple enough to be built by architecture students themselves, so the idea is to work with universities who would be interested in offering their students the possibility to be a part of a bigger project by traveling to the Dan-

ube Delta and help turning the idea into reality.

The project would rely on the support of different institutions:

For construction work: Vienna University of Technology and partners - **volunteer work**

For verifying information: the Association of Former Political Prisoners in Romania/ The Institute for Information on the Crimes of Communism/the C.A. Rosetti City Hall - **a part of the research**

For creating a virtual space for the information: Vienna University of technology and partners - **volunteer work**

For funding (transportation, materials, accomodation and food supplies): the Europe for Citizens Programme - **ca. 3000,00 Euro**

## 7. The Europe for Citizens Programme<sup>1</sup>:

“In this context, the Europe for Citizens Programme (hereinafter ‘Programme’) adopted for the period 2014-2020 is an important instrument aimed at getting the Union’s 500 million inhabitants to play a greater part in the development of the Union. By funding schemes and activities in which citizens can participate, the Programme is promoting Europe’s shared history and values, and fostering a sense of ownership for how the Union develops. A budget of EUR 187 718 000 for the period 2014-2020 was allocated for the Programme.”

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<sup>1</sup> [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/programme\\_guide\\_2020\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/programme_guide_2020_final_0.pdf)

# Europe for Citizens



## Council Regulation establishing the "Europe for Citizens Programme"

The aim of the Europe for Citizens Programme is to contribute to citizens' **understanding of the EU, its history and diversity** and to **encourage the democratic participation** of citizens at EU level.

Programme guide

Who can apply

Frequently asked questions

Public bodies or non-profit organisations with a legal personality can apply.

The programme is open to the EU Member States - and provided they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission - to:

- Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates\*
- EFTA countries party to the EEA agreement