



ISACCL

newsletter
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The Institute For Advanced Studies In Levant Culture and Civilization

Centre of Excellence of the World Academy of Art & Science

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Dobrogea – Witness of the millennial civilizations of the Levant



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Programs and Projects

The main goal of this project is to generate a coordinated approach to the region of Dobrogea that brings together scientific research, public awareness, educational endeavours, and the implementation of environmental legislation on the protection and conservation in situ of natural and cultural sites of particular scientific, educational and cultural significance, in accordance with European legislation and directives.

The project is organized into 3 annual stages, corresponding to the 3 geological and geographical divisions of Dobrogea – South, Central and North.

It is scheduled to begin on the 1st of December 2018, with the preparatory stage of May 1st – November 30th having been used to enter partnership agreements with interested parties, to organize the logistics of the multi-annual endeavour, and to assess the condition of the sites of particular interest across the region.

The historical region of Dobrogea, part of modern-day Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine, is emblematic for the Levantine region. Inhabited since the Neolithic by the Gumelnița and Hamangia cultures, it was home to the Greek settlers of Histria, Tomis and Callatis that arrived between the 6th and 4th centuries B.C.E., and was the locus

of the first state formations of the native Getae. The territory of Dobrogea was claimed successively by the Persian Empire under Darius, the Macedonian Empire of Alexander, the Roman Empire (as Moesia and Scythia Minor), the Geto-Dacian tribes, the Byzantine Empire, the Wlacho-Bulgarian Empire of Peter and Assan and the Ottoman Empire.

The preparatory stages of the multi-annual project will be undertaken in collaboration with the 'Ovidius' University of Constanta (Romania), as well as other universities and research institutes from Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, the Balkans and the Caucasus, as well as with local administrations (Constanta, Tulcea, Varna, the Danube Delta), the Biosphere Administration and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The Great Books of Levant



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Programs and Projects

The Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization has aims to create a library to house the most representative literary and scientific works of the various cultures of the Levant.

To achieve this, the Institute will approach the major libraries, cultural institutions and diplomatic partners in the countries of the Levant, in order to gather their support and partnership in the great undertaking of the creation of a

central repository for the masterpieces of Levantine culture. The collections will be housed at the Institute's headquarters in Bucharest, and will be made available for perusal to both Romanian and foreign academics on the one hand, and interested members of the public on the other.



CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

OLYMPIC STADIUM, SEOUL
16-19 September, 2014

The “Levant” Initiative for Global Peace, promoted in Asia by the “Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light” (HWPL) non-governmental organization

The non-governmental organization “Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light” has organized a summit titled “World Alliance of Religions for Peace” in Seoul, South Korea, for September of each year since its founding in 2013. This is one of the most important global manifestations dedicated to peace, in a time marked by bloody conflicts in various regions of the world. The Seoul summit proposes the creation of a new culture of peace, arrived at through the restoration of harmony between people themselves on the one hand and between mankind and nature on the other, just as it has been bequeathed to us from a higher power irrespective of the particular creeds that pay it homage. Such a meeting being held in South Korea, whose citizens bear the suffering of a people divided into two states due to an aggressive atheist ideology, has a special significance in the world today, torn as it is across so many ideological, ecumenical, social and not least religious divides.

In September of 2014, Emil Constantinescu, promoting the “Levant Initiative for Global Peace” that had been launched three years prior at the Academy of Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin, spoke from a podium raised above the grounds of the Olympic Stadium to some of the most convincing emissaries of peace in existence: youths, no longer content to be obligated to fight each other at the behest of the leaders of their countries, and women, usually innocent victims, simply wanting to protect their husbands, children and brothers from the inevitable horrors brought on by the ravages of war.



The President of the Scientific Council of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization is firmly convinced that “the avoidance of wars and the construction of peace require a laborious construction of a culture of solidarity and the outlining of a pragmatic style in which empty statements are outweighed by effective action.”





CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

PALACE OF PARLIAMENT,
Bucharest, 19-20th of May 2018**Solidarity of Empathy for Peace****A high-level meeting of former European political leaders designed to spread the culture of peace and to argue for the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula**

The non-governmental organization "Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light", together with the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization, have invited leaders from Central and Eastern Europe to Bucharest. All of those invited have had first-hand experience of the Cold War, of civil strife and ethnic conflicts in their countries' arduous and painful transition to democracy. Their experiences, and the turbulent histories of their respective countries, annexed to the USSR's sphere of influence after the war, are extremely valuable in the lengthy process of supporting the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.

The division of the Korean peninsula is yet another consequence of World War II. Having been previously under Imperial Japanese occupation, upon their defeat the Korean territory entered the spheres of influence of the two remaining great powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. The outbreak of the Cold War and the Korean war of 1950-1953 have prolonged this division over the decades, and directly led to the rise of two separate states with antagonistic ideologies and divergent evolutions: North and

South Korea.

In the wondrous year of 1989, the fall of the Berlin wall – the symbolic demarcation zone between the West and the East, between democracy and dictatorship, led to the domino collapse of the communist regimes of Eastern Europe. What happened to these countries in the aftermath was the topic of the discussions carried out by the leaders of these countries themselves in Bucharest.

The reunification of the two states of the Korean peninsula, tentatively begun in the year 2000, has known at times encouraging progress, at others concerning stagnation and involution. Regardless of how long such a peaceful unification will take however, a positive result is beyond question. Yet what happens afterwards?



**THE PRESIDENT OF
ROMANIA 1996-2000**

THE CULTURE OF PEACE

Emil Constantinescu:

“One of mankind's great conversations must now be encouraged so that as many groups of regular people as possible develop a free flow of ideas and shared knowledge”

“The culture of peace is based on a new kind of relationship between states, and especially on the relationships between people who share common values, arrived at long before the creation of the actual nation-state. This is a good moment for cultural diplomacy, and one to remember the legacy left to us by the old Levant.

I believe that one of mankind's great conversations must now be encouraged so that as many groups of regular people as possible develop a free flow of ideas and shared knowledge across the entire world. The prevention of conflicts and the management of post-conflictual situations demand a comprehensive and balanced vision that also takes into account the interests of the various ethnic and religious communities, the obligations of the state, the inalienable rights of its citizens and both the long and short-term goals of interested regional actors. Such an approach cannot be arrived at without the inclusion of representatives from each of these parties, individuals that must be capable of expressing the plurality of voices, of questions and of the aspirations of billions of people.

The misunderstanding of the Other's motivations has historically led to many mistaken foreign policy decisions that sparked conflicts, many of which still lie dormant to this day. This is why the objective of a system of common values seems to me to be so critical today for the new structure of international relations. Only the policy of enshrining our communal values as the departure point for all dialogue and negotiations can bring stability. And only a functional market economy and the rule of law can oppose an oligarchic state that is generating widespread corruption. Broadening the scope of real democracy, rather than a democracy in name only, directly correlates to a widening of the space for peace.



**HUMAN RIGHTS****PRESIDENT OF ALBANIA
1997-2002****Rexhep Meidani:**

“Let us rebuild the concepts of democratic governance, considering that free and fair elections are a necessary condition, whilst the sufficient conditions have to do with cultural, social and economic emancipation”



“Today's meeting represents an excellent occasion to express our ideas and reaffirm our efforts, aspirations and responsibilities for a world without dictatorship and war. Unfortunately, today we are living out another Cold War. Something is not right in our world. We must understand this step backwards in order to find an appropriate answer to the different questions, including the high hierarchy principle of self-determination compared to the principle of territorial integrity and, above all, to put on a pedestal the protection of human rights.

Using this precise occasion, I would like to briefly mention a few other ideas. There is a need, on an international level, to combine soft and hard power into a concept of smart power. For that, considering the critical situation today, new amendments are necessary to the UN Charter, and in particular a reform of the Security Council has become a necessity. New regulations are also needed for the different structures or mechanisms of hard power – such as NATO – or soft power – such as the OSCE and the other collective bodies that function by consensus.

In order to reaffirm trust among peoples, it is time to rebuild the concepts of democratic governance, considering free and fair elections as a necessary condition, while the sufficient conditions are linked to cultural, social and economic emancipation. A new political balance and evaluation is needed for the binomials: stability and democracy, democracy and effectiveness. On an international level, this effectiveness must be measured by the resolution of different conflicts, frozen or otherwise.”



**PRESIDENT OF BELARUS
1991-1994**

BUILDING A NATION

Stanislav Shushkevich:

“It is very difficult to build a worthy state under wartime conditions”

“I feel comfortable at this podium because, 57 years since my college graduation and 48 years since my doctorate in physics, I remain a university professor rather than a

politician.

I am proud of the fact that we had a connection with the events at Belovezhskaya Pushcha, with the signing of the Convention establishing the Commonwealth of Independent States on December 8th, 1991. On the same day, I did a second thing that I am proud of: I said that I will convince Parliament to remove nuclear weapons from Belarus. There were enough nuclear weapons in my country to destroy all of Europe, 81 ballistic nuclear warheads. Parliament endorsed my request and, by 1996, we were able to finish this process.

In our post-Soviet republics, those who have the ability to work have built quite prosperous and sufficiently civilized states. I am primarily thinking about the Baltic states. Further afield, success differs on a case to case basis. We can see the horrors that are happening today in Ukraine, against which another strong state is waging a war, hiding its actions under all sorts of tricks. It is very difficult to build a worthy state under wartime conditions as there will be corruption and betrayal, for it is difficult for it to be otherwise. But in other countries, including in Belarus, it just so happens that people like to hold on to power, as these have not grown to the level at which power relies on the people and, in fact, they create cores for the continuation of the Cold War. It is also necessary for Belarus to be reunified internally, because in my home country there are diametrically opposed approaches to life.”





THE UNIFICATION OF EUROPE

PRESIDENT OF CROATIA
2000-2010**Stjepan Mesić:**

“Because it cannot stop the war, the United Nations must reform itself, but also reaffirm itself so that it returns to the role it had been given upon its establishment.”



“Today, Russia is becoming a great power again. China is the world's largest producer, but also a nuclear power. Is there a way out? I believe so. The United Nations must reaffirm itself.

I was the last president of Yugoslavia. I knew that war was in the works and I tried to alert world leaders to stop that war. I visited the metropolises of the world, and also went to the United Nations. However, the United Nations cannot act preventively. It can only act when war has already broken out or when it is already over, when the United Nations can practically resolve the situation in the post-conflictual society. Because they cannot stop the war, it is necessary that the United Nations reforms, but also reaffirms itself, so that it returns to the role it had been given upon its establishment.

A general avoidance of the United Nations has led to the complete degradation of the world order as established after World War II. Only a united Europe can be a major factor in world peace. That is why, at all forums I attend, I always plead for the acceleration of European unification, for the acceleration of South-Eastern Europe's accession to the European Union, because once all countries have joined in, they will open their borders and war as a political means will be excluded from consideration. This is due to the fact that in a united Europe the peoples would remain where they are, states would remain what they are, every nation will live entirely in its corpus, regardless of frontiers. This will also be useful to the rest of the world, which will view peace with fresh eyes and will understand that peace is indeed possible.”

**PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE
2005-2010****OVERCOMING GEOPOLITICAL
CONFLICTS****Viktor Yushchenko:**

“Every conflict has characteristics that can be a model for the resolution of any other conflict”

“In 2004, after the authorities forged the elections, 10 million out of 47 million Ukrainians came out in protest in Maidan Square. We were one step away from civil war. The first lesson I learned from that very difficult period for my nation is that democracy can do everything, provided that we correctly put it on the agenda.

I also have a foreign policy lesson. In 1992, when Belarus and Ukraine signed the Lisbon Protocol regarding the reduction of nuclear weapons, ratified in Budapest in 1994, Ukraine had 1300 nuclear missiles, an arsenal greater than those of France, Great Britain and China put together. We believed at the time that it was a unique step we were taking towards the end of the Cold War. 26 years later, Ukraine has lost 7% of its territory. 12000 people have been killed, the wounded number over 40000 and we still have not reached a full consultation with all five of our nuclear safeguards, as stipulated in the memorandum. European diplomacy has not found the necessary mechanism for the resolution of this type of conflict. Ours is neither an internal nor a national conflict, but a geopolitical one. And geopolitical conflicts can only be overcome with the help of geopolitical instruments.

I have summarized one fifth of our European and national history with one purpose, to point out that every conflict has characteristics that can be a model for the resolution of any other conflict. Over a quarter-century later, we have enough lessons left to learn to know what must be done in the future, including with regard to the Korean issue.”





THE GENERATION OF PEACE

CHAIRMAN OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION
OF BOSNIA – HERZEGOVINA, 2010**Haris Silajdžić:*****“What happened in Bosnia-Herzegovina was a prolonged genocide”***

“The term 'tragic events' is used by the international community to describe the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The rules were written by the United States, who stated that it was an international conflict, not a civil

war. What is a tragic event?

Earthquakes, floods, epidemics are tragic events, yet what happened in Bosnia-Herzegovina was not: it was a prolonged genocide, now recognized as such by the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Those who took part in this genocide are in prison for many years, with some of them serving life sentences. Those who facilitated the genocide, the members of the United Nations Security Council, did not lift the embargo after the massacres, not even after the genocide abated. They all said that they were very sorry, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations even stated that “Well, as you know, mistakes can happen”.

I do not believe that genocide, concentration camps or forced deportations are values of the European Union. However, because the European project for Bosnia-Herzegovina is kept intact, even though those guilty are in prison, we can say that all these horrors are somehow encrypted in the codex of European value systems. As such, what has already happened in Bosnia, Transnistria, Crimea or Donbas could very well happen again in Europe.

What can we do so that peace becomes the norm? In my opinion, we must start with educating our children from a formative age, so that we can grow a generation educated in the spirit of the culture of peace. We cannot succeed without this new generation, and I hope to be able to call it the generation of peace.”





THE PRESIDENT OF "HEAVENLY
CULTURE, WORLD PEACE,
RESTORATION OF LIGHT" (HWPL)

DECLARATION FOR PEACE

Man Hee Lee:

"Unification could begin this year, if people were allowed to travel freely between North and South Korea"

"During the tragic Korean War, I was a combatant fighting on the front lines. You can imagine what atrocities I bore witness to. The first annual commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace was held at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan.

The young buried there are my comrades that fought alongside me on the front lines. I asked those present: "Can politics or current laws pay for the lives that were sacrificed, lives that were born in the same world as us, but which never got to blossom?" If the 10 Articles and 38 Clauses of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War would be applied in international law, peace would follow. In order to ensure that the people of Korea will not have to experience such sorrow and suffering again, we need to achieve world peace. We need a world of peace, as this is not the duty of a single person but our communal duty as a whole, and it is our collective responsibility.

The unification of the two states on the Korean Peninsula could begin this year, if people were allowed to travel freely between North and South Korea. North Korea is not yet a fully recognized state internationally, and doesn't have much in the way of financial assets. It can indeed build nuclear arsenals that neither China nor Russia would look upon favourably, but is there someone out there that would financially back the North Korean people to live? On the other hand, South Korea is hiring people of many different nations and giving them jobs, so why couldn't they do that for the North Koreans as well?

I speak with full confidence when I say that achieving peaceful unification on the Korean Peninsula will lead to the establishment of peace across the

globe. I am certain of this. How long it will take will depend on how hard we work towards this. With your support, this process will be expedited."

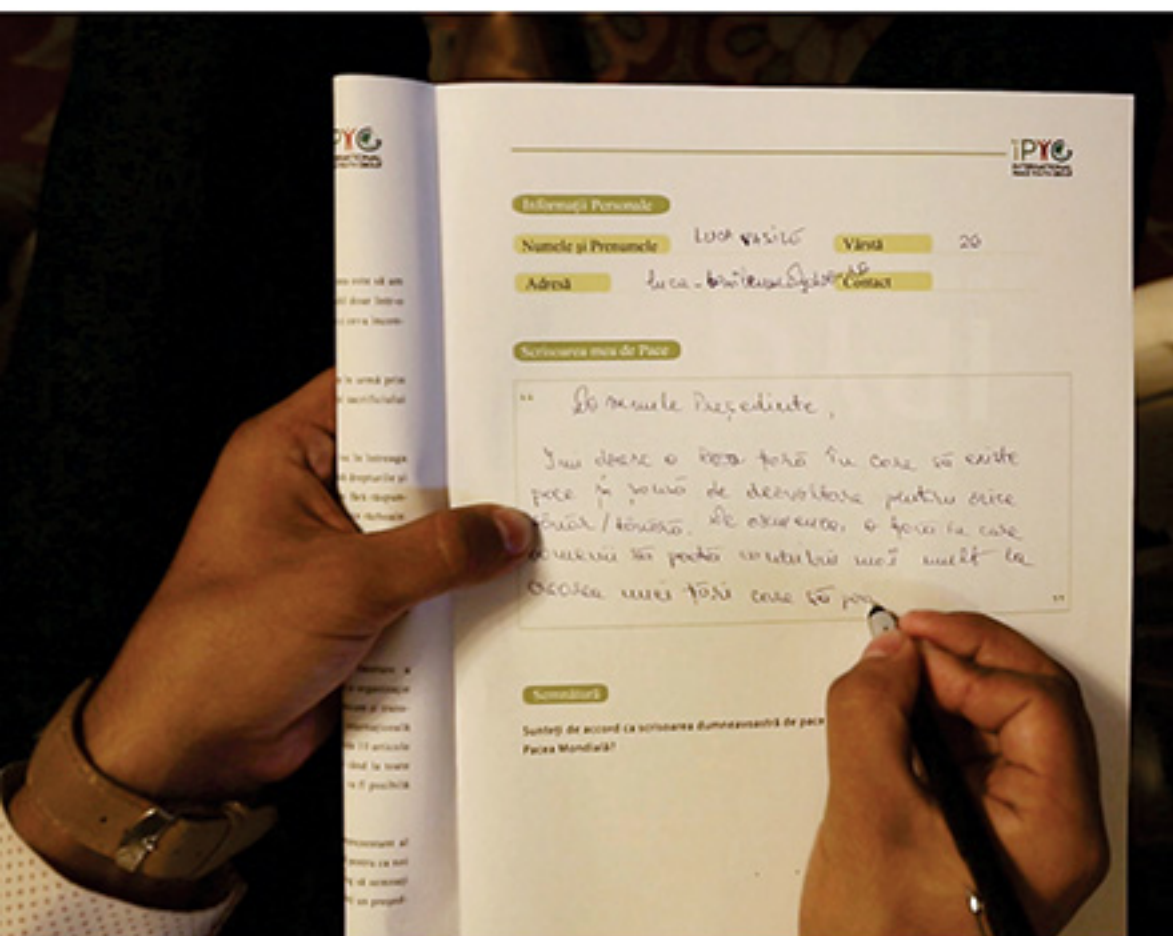




LETTERS FOR PEACE

“Youth, Let's Voice Out!”

This project, initiated by the HWPL at the beginning of May 2018, is designed to encourage youths across the world to make their voices heard, to express their opinions on internal and international issues, and to contribute to the creation of a culture of peace.



During the Bucharest meeting, the participants were introduced to the Declaration for Peace and the Cessation of War” (DPCW), launched and promoted by the HWPL, as well as to the “Letter Peace” project, an international



endeavour through which young people from different countries ask their heads of state to support the declaration, so that it has powerful echoes in international society. Each letter that each youth writes for the “Letter Peace” project becomes a precious dot in a global mosaic supporting a powerful and emotional message of peace.





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Dobrogea

*Witness of the Millennial Civilizations
of the Levant*

*A bridge between the Civilizations
of Western Europe and of the Far East*

Constanța, June 21st-23rd 2018



Partners:



"Ovidius"
University



"Mircea cel Bătrân"
Naval Academy



Geological Institute
of Romania



A REPRESENTATIVE MODEL

Dobrogea, witness to the millennial civilizations of the Levant

The Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization proposes that Dobrogea be taken as a potential model for the resolution of interethnic and interfaith conflicts in the Levantine space.

A historical region presently part of Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine, Dobrogea is representative for the Levant as a whole. It has been inhabited since the Neolithic period, and was the cradle of several Hellenic colonies established in the 6th-4th centuries B.C.E. (Histria, Callatis and Tomis), as well as the locus of the first Dacian states.

The territory of Dobrogea was successively claimed by the Persian Empire, the empire of Alexander the Great, the Geto-Dacian tribes, the Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire, the Wlacho-Bulgarian Tsardom led by Peter and Assan, the Ottoman Empire, Wallachia and, most recently, by Greater Romania. Situated at the crossroads of the Amber Road, which stretched from the North Sea to the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean, with the Silk Road, that linked China to Western Europe, it is the terminus of the Danubian limes, which links it to Southern Germany through Central Europe. It was traversed by the Great Migrations and frequented by Genoese merchants in the



Middle Ages, the battlefield between Russia and the Ottomans and the headquarters of the European Commission of the Danube (through the porto franco of Sulina). As can be seen, Dobrogea played host to many different cultures and civilizations, and represents a model of conviviality. Besides the majority Romanian population in the north and majority Bulgarian in the south, 16 distinct ethnic minorities currently live here in harmony, maintaining both their specificity and cultural and religious convictions: Turks, Tatars, Ukrainian Kohols, Germans, Macedo-Romanians (Wlachs), Greeks, Armenians, Gagauz, Serbians, Jews and Roma.





THE SILK ROAD

Dobrogea, a bridge between the civilizations of Western Europe and of the Far East

Situated at the intersection of the Amber Road, that stretched from the North Sea to the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean, with the Silk Road, linking China to Western Europe, Dobrogea represents the ideal space wherein to launch a multi-annual project that aims to contribute to the cultural rebirth of the "Silk Road". In the words of university professor Tasin Gemil, Director of the Turkology Institute at the Babeş-Bolyai University, first Ambassador of Romania to Azerbaijan (1998-2003) and Ambassador to Turkmenistan (2004-2008), words that can be considered emblematic for the project: "The political ties between states can be broken in a few hours, economic ties in a few months, but cultural ties cannot be broken even after centuries."

The project of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization underlines the imperious necessity that this network that was created in time immemorial and revitalized today through the expansion of rail and road networks and oil and gas pipelines also closely

monitors the development of cultural relations between China, the countries on the Old Silk Road and Western Europe, and oversees the discovery, preservation and promotion of the natural and cultural heritage of this vast region.

The "Rebirth of the Silk Road" is an international initiative that developed in the past decades and focuses on the economic, political and infrastructural aspects. Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania between 1996-2000 and current President of the Scientific Council of the ISACCL, has been promoting, for the past 20 years, both the economic importance and the priceless cultural value of this route.





A CHALLENGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

**PRESIDENT OF THE
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
OF ISACCL**

The Rebirth of the Silk Road

At the “Mircea cel Bătrân” Naval Academy in Constanța, Emil Constantinescu, President of the Scientific Council of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization, spoke about the first initial efforts undertaken for the “Rebirth of the Silk Road”:

“After I was elected as President of Romania, Eduard Shevardnadze (then President of Georgia) proposed that we work together on a project to bring about the rebirth of the “Silk Road”, the greatest challenge of the 21st century. We met and discussed this during a conference on Black Sea cooperation in Istanbul in April of 1997, together with Suleyman Demirel, President of Turkey and Heidar Alyev, President of Azerbaijan. Later, we were also joined by the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, the addition of whom firmly consolidated the project on our group agenda.

The other founders of this initiative assigned me the task of presenting the project of the rebirth of the “Silk Road” to China, Japan and the United States. During my state visit to the U.S., I held an address to Congress – an honour given, for the past two hundred years, to only three heads of state from Eastern Europe: Lech Walesa, Vaclav Havel, and I. In that speech, I argued for the involvement of the United States in the project to revitalize the Silk Road. One year later, at a conference held at the U.S. Senate, I and



some of my fellow Levantine heads of state underlined the vast cultural scope of the project.

The first steps taken on this path were primarily economic in nature, and were brought to fruition through the presidential project “Romania at the crossroads”, and through Romania's inclusion on the map of European transport corridors. September of this year marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the “Basic Multilateral Accord regarding International Transport for the Development of the Europe – Caucasus – Asia Corridor.”





20 YEARS LATER...

“Grand projects leave their mark on history because they create national, regional and international solidarity.”

On the 15th of July 1998, the President of Romania, Emil Constantinescu, during his address to the United States Congress, called for U.S. involvement in the rebirth of the “Silk Road”. On the 25th of April 1999, he argued in front the

U.S. Senate that the great cultures and civilizations that this legendary road passed through must be placed in a new framework, “under the aegis of the creation of democratic and open societies, custodians of their national and universal heritage.”

Emil Constantinescu's endeavours to see out the “Rebirth of the Silk Road”, as well as the inclusion of Romania in this project, continued even after his term in office, at the meetings of the East-West Institute, the Eurasia Summits in Istanbul, the International Forums in Baku, the conferences of the Madrid Club or those of the World Academy of Art and Science in Alma-Ata.

In June 2018, during a speech given in Constanța on the occasion of the “Port of Constanța on the Silk Road” conference, Emil Constantinescu, President of the Scientific Council of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization, noted: “Business people should add 'visionary thinking' to their offer. Their bottom lines do not necessarily have to conclude with a tally at year's end and short-term gains. Their efforts should include academic support, scientific research and involvement in the cultural field.”





REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR
OF ISACCL

Prof. univ. dr. Dan Grigorescu:

“The heritage value of nature and culture have generated legends and myths all across the world, and Dobrogea is a region where these abound.”

“The main objective of the project is the documentation of the natural and cultural heritage of Dobrogea, with a specific interest in the way in which natural and cultural patrimony can sustain the development of the region. Such an approach to places with a special scientific and educational significance has led to the creation of a new type of protected area in accordance to UNESCO guidelines, the geopark. There are over 150 geoparks already established across the globe.

This project will holistically approach the natural patrimony and its two intertwined and interdependent components: the abiotic component (geodiversity) and the biotic component (biodiversity). This is a way in which we can better understand nature and the threats it faces, and a way to more easily and readily provide protection to endangered areas.

Moreover, the project will approach the cultural heritage of the region both through the prism of historical, archaeological and architectural sites, and through the

documenting of the traditions and folklore of the region, these being the so-called (yet no less important) “intangible side” of the patrimony. The values of natural and cultural heritage have generated countless legends and myths worldwide, and Dobrogea is a region where these abound; the current project also aims to record this aspect of the heritage of the region.

Research into the various ethnicities present in Dobrogea and their various histories and cultures is yet another objective of the project. The tangible conclusion of this grand endeavour will be a three-tome monograph of natural and cultural Dobrogea, which will form the basis for a better scientific understanding of the region”.





NATURE AND CULTURE

The project of a UNESCO geopark in Dobrogea

Prof. univ. dr. Dan Grigorescu, Scientific Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization and chief coordinator of the “Dobrogea, witness to the millennial civilizations of the Levant” project, is the founder of the Dinosaur Geopark in Hațeg Land and is proposing the creation of another UNESCO geopark in Dobrogea.

“The geopark is an effective model through which the natural and cultural heritage was effectively used to sustainably develop a region. The concept was first put forward by UNESCO in 1997, as a consequence of a European movement for the protection and conservation of the inanimate side of nature, geodiversity, incomparably less taken into account than its animate side, biodiversity. In a geopark, the two components are treated as a contiguous whole, both with regard to the education of the population about nature, and to its conservation and inclusion in tourist trails, alongside sites of historical and cultural significance.

Given its exceptional scientific potential, particularly in the fields of palaeontology and geology, the “Hațeg Land” dinosaur geopark was created in 2004, and received

UNESCO recognition in 2005. It was, at the time, the first UNESCO geopark in the formerly communist space of Eastern Europe. Hațeg Land is world-renowned for its fossils of midget dinosaurs from the late Cretaceous, over 65 million years ago, as well as those of their contemporary, the giant pterosaur *Hatzegopteryx*, the largest flying animal on record. Among the sites of considerable historical and cultural importance in the Hațeg region can be noted the remnants of the Roman fort at Sarmizegetusa – Ulpia Traiana as well as the church in Densuș, a testament of medieval Transylvanian architecture. Following the precedent set by the Hațeg Land geopark, we intend to create another geopark in Dobrogea, in a project undertaken in partnership with the “Ovidius” University in Constanța.





PARTNERS FOR DOBROGEA

The solidarity of academia



PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN LEVANT CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION AND THE “MIRCEA CEL BĂTRÂN” NAVAL ACADEMY

Commander Octavian Tărăbuță:

“Sailors come into contact with a plethora of cultures and civilizations of the world, and borrow whatever is of value from them. However, we are not only the beneficiaries, but also providers of culture. We understand the objectives of your project and those of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization, as they are largely common with many of our own aims.”

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES IN LEVANT CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION AND THE “OVIDIUS” UNIVERSITY IN CONSTANȚA

Rector Sorin Rugină:

“Dobrogea is a never-ending source of culture and civilization, which we must first come to know, and then to preserve. I believe that this project can and will be emulated generally, especially so that we can sustainably and holistically develop our natural surroundings; economic development needs to be inextricably linked to the conservation of the natural environment and of the cultural and historical heritage.”





6000 YEARS OF HISTORY

A mix of aesthetics and science, a tandem between the experience of archaeologists and that of geologists

The National Museum of Geology is hosting an exposition titled "From craftsmanship to art. The working of stone", organized by the Romanian Institute of Geology in collaboration with the Museum of History and Archaeology in Constanța and the Institute for Advanced Studies in

Levant Culture and Civilization. During the opening ceremony Ștefan Marincea, director of the Romanian Institute of Geology, Sorin Colesniuc, director of the Museum of History and Archaeology in Constanța and prof. univ. dr. Dan Grigorescu, Scientific Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization, described the exposition as a happy mix of aesthetics and science, a tandem between the experience of archaeologists and that of geologists, highlighting all the instances in which stone was used, ranging from building material to works of art.

The 114 pieces on display – tools, arrow heads, catapult projectiles, decorative and cultic elements, statues – cover over six thousand years of history. The stories of the silent stones reveal a relatively simple existence, in which mankind lives in harmony with the rhythms of nature, eking out an existence marked by the uncertainty of war, of tentative agriculture, trade and craftsmanship; a world in which art, the cultic and religion play a pivotal role. The rarest and most precious element on display is a solar clock nestled between the horns of a stone bull's head uncovered at Cumpăna, which dates from the 2nd century.

All the pieces on display are borrowed from the Museum of National History and Archaeology in Constanța.

"From craftsmanship to art. The working of stone"



11 July – 22 September 2018
An exposition at the
National Museum of Geology



The Institute for
Advanced Studies in
Levant Culture
and Civilization



Geological Institute
of Romania



National History
and Archaeology
Museum of Constanța



**The Institute for Advanced Studies in
Levant Culture and Civilization**

Centre of Excellence of the World Academy of Art & Science



The Annual School of Byzantine Studies



Representations of Byzantium in History, Literature and Art

11-19 September 2018, Bucharest, Constanța

The Levant – a bridge between the civilizations of Western Europe and the Far East



ISACCL

Programs and Projects

The 'Rebirth of the Silk Road' is an initiative developed over the past decades focusing on infrastructure and economic issues. President Emil Constantinescu has highlighted the cultural significance and relevance of this itinerary, and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization can directly contribute to the development of projects dedicated to the cultural heritage of those countries traversed by the Road, especially in the Caucasus (Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan) but also in Romania

(at Constanta). As the historical network created by the trade routes need to be revived culturally, not only infrastructurally through the construction of rail networks or gas and petroleum pipelines, the project will underline the importance of regional heritage and the development of cultural relations between China and the countries on the Silk Road.

The prehistoric cultures of the Levant: The Cucuteni-Trypillian culture



ISACCL

Programs and Projects

The Cucuteni (or Cucuteni-Trypillian) culture is one of the most ancient civilizations of Europe, predating the human settlements in Sumer and Ancient Egypt. The archaeological discoveries related to the culture are displayed in museums across Romania, Ukraine, Moldova and Bulgaria, thus facilitating the implementation of a regional project aiming to highlight the contribution of the Cucuteni civilization to the prehistory of Europe and particularly to that of its Eastern regions (Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova). The Iași Museum Complex in Romania exhibits major collections of archaeological artefacts and is an important centre of research, alongside

the International research Centre for the Cucuteni Culture in Piatra Neamț, where the Cucuteni Museum of Eneolithic Art, the only museum dedicated exclusively to this civilization, is also located.

Potential partners: The Iași Museum Complex (Iași), the International Research Centre for the Cucuteni Culture (Piatra Neamț), researchers from the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Bulgaria.



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