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| **1st Open Call for HARD projects** |
| **Project code & acronym** | ROHU00528 – Swabian Heritage |
| **Project title** | Creation of a ‘Swabian Cultural-Touristic Route’ and a historical memorial site through the research and showcasing of the rich Swabian culture and fostering community engagement across borders |
| **Priority** | P2 - Cooperation for a more social and cohesive PA between Romania and Hungary |
| **Specific Objective** | RS04.6 - Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation |
| **Implementation period** | 30 months (June 2nd 2025 – December 1st 2027) |
| **Objective** | The Swabian Heritage project’s overall objective is to research and present the cultural and historical heritage of the Swabians by establishing a sustainable cultural and touristic route linking Nyíregyháza (HU) and Palota (RO). |
| **Partnership** | **Lead Partner:** Jósa András Múzeum (Hungary) |
| **Project Partner:** **PP2 RO**:Fundatia de Protejare a Monumentelor Istorice din Județul Bihor (Romania) |
| **Total budget** | EUR 1,663,530.01, out of which ERDF EUR 1,330,824.00 |
| **Summary** | The project’s objective will be reached through the development of the following main outputs and the implementation of the following activities:1. **Research** **of the Swabian heritage** in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Bihar, Bihor and Satu Mare counties.
2. Organisation of **4 joint expert workshops** serving the dual purpose of disseminating fundamental knowledge to members of the target groups, in addition to expanding professional knowledge on the topic.
3. Creation of an **expert publication** to synthesise the gathered knowledge from the research and present it in 3 languages (HU, RO and EN).
4. **Construction of the Swabian porta** (along with a pigsty and barn) in the Sóstó Skanzen, to create a historical memorial and exhibition space within the largest regional open-air ethnographic museum in Hungary.
5. **Exhibitions supporting community engagement** in the new Swabian Porta in Nyíregyháza and a smaller exhibition will also be hosted at Oradea Heritage.
6. Creation of a **joint website featuring an interactive map** of the Swabian Route, enriched with the findings derived from the research conducted.
7. Organisation of **4 thematic caravans and travelling festivals** to foster community engagement, providing participants with immersive experiences of Swabian culture.
8. Development of a **joint strategy for the tourist-oriented use of the Swabian Route**, its expansion, and the exploration of best practices to ensure its long-term sustainability.
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| **Main results** | Swabian Heritage strives to establish a distinctive, long-term, sustainable development. Throughout the project implementation, the outputs and deliverables will assist partners and target groups in gaining a deeper understanding of Swabian heritage, acquainting themselves with Swabian culture, and firsthand experiencing elements that define the everyday life of this ethnic group.The project aims to achieve several key results:1. **Expanded Swabian Route**, incorporating new locations, along with updates to information about the discovered locations in the project, alongside the update and maintenance of the website and its interactive map.
2. **Exhibitions** on the topic of Swabian heritage arranged by both partners.
3. **Sharing the knowledge gathered during the research** of the Swabian heritage with experts, the general public and educational institutions.
4. A **recurring Swabian festival** established along the Swabian Route.
5. Enhancing the cultural diversity of the European Union by **the tourist route established** along the Romanian-Hungarian border area. This route will showcase the values, daily practices, objects, gastronomy, and other aspects of a specific cultural group – the Swabians.
6. Enhanced tourist and cultural experiences for interested travellers and an **increased number of visitors** to cultural and tourism sites along the Swabian Route.
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