

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

Meinhard Breiling, TU Wien, Landscape

---

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](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

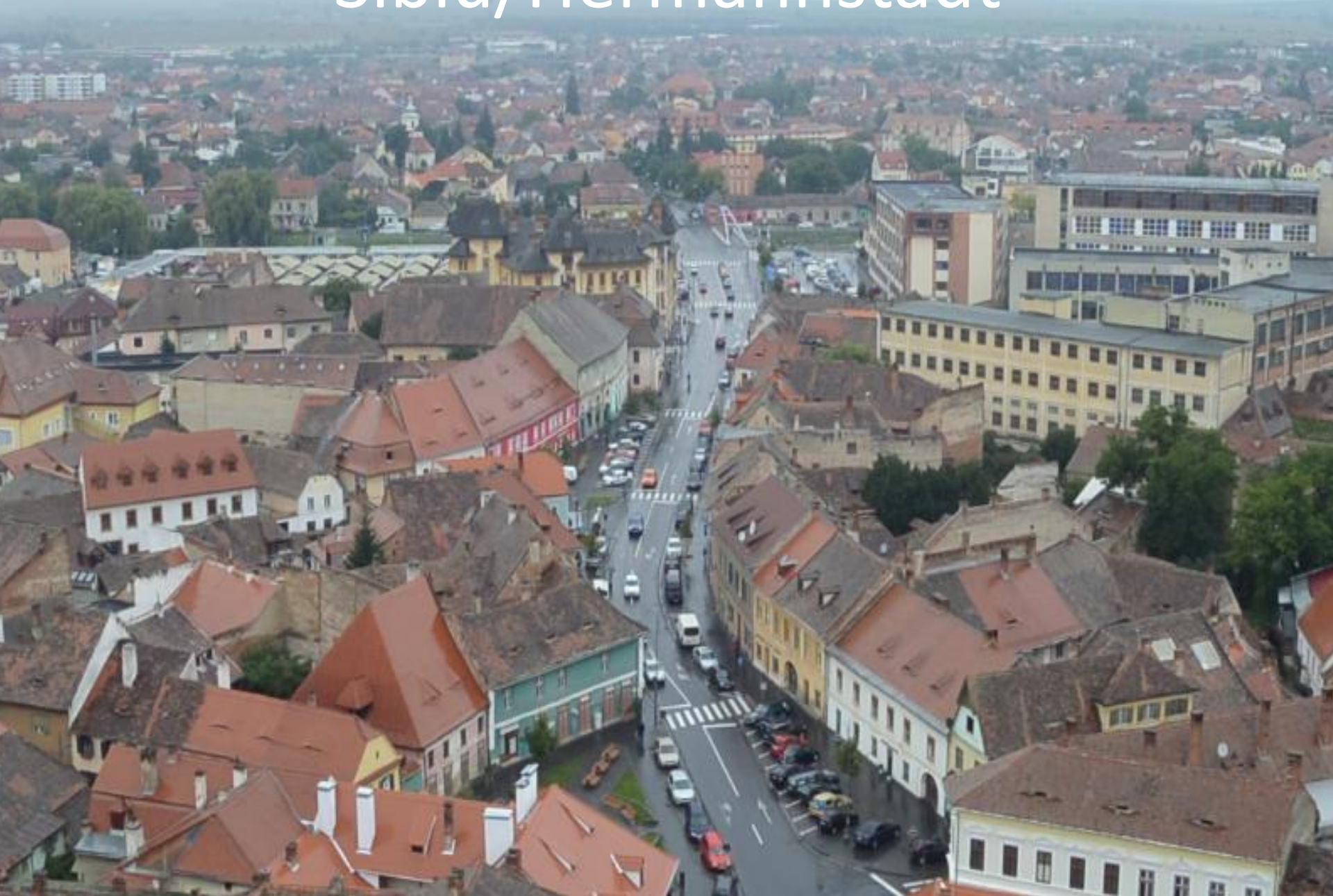




Start of Summer School at Stiftung Kirchenburgen



# 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

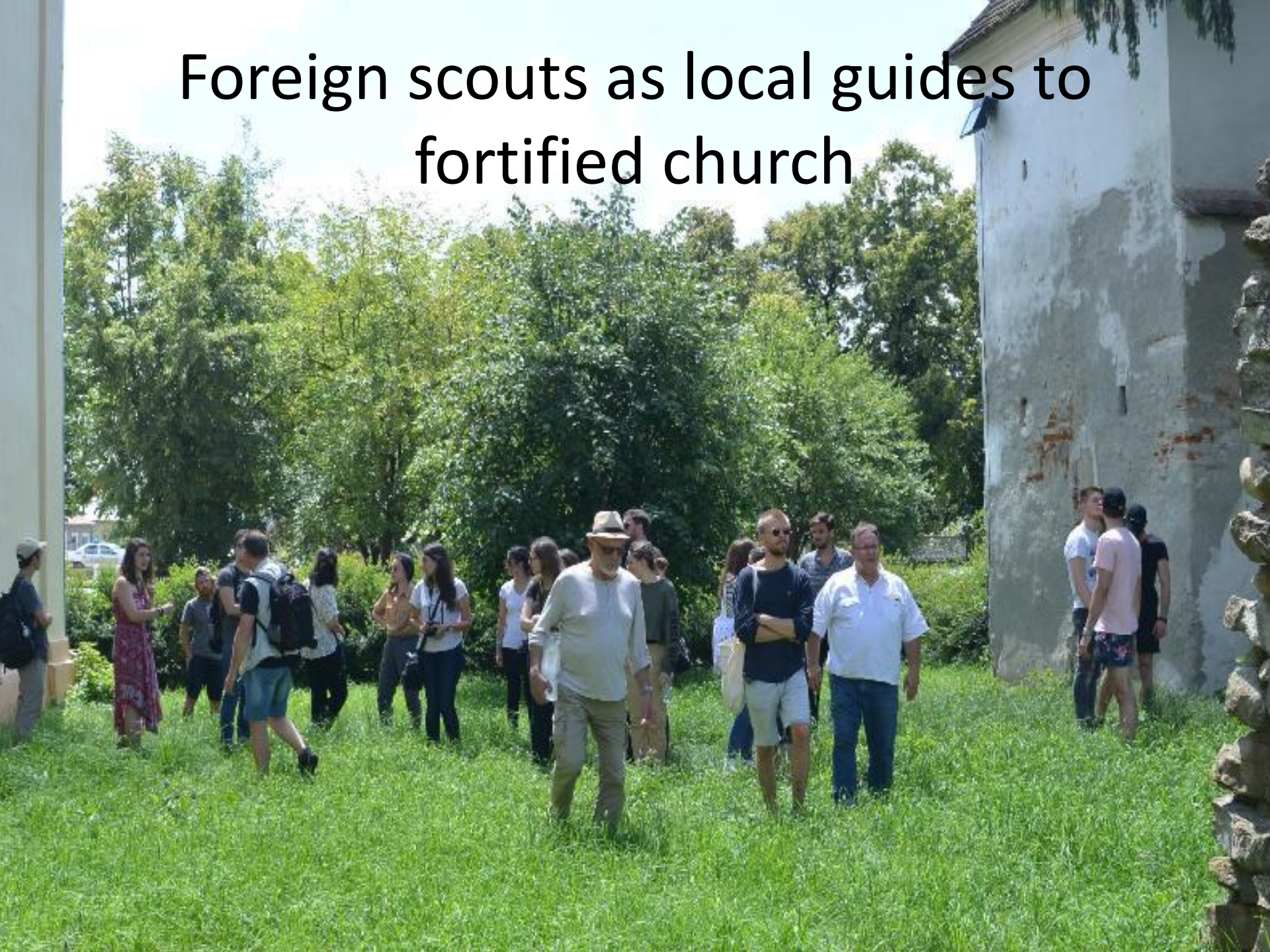




International scouts revitalize  
traditional Saxon handicraft



# Foreign scouts as local guides to fortified church





# Inside Nocrich-Leschkirch Church



Lebt wohl ihr meine Lieben  
Klagt nicht so ängstiglich  
Was wollt ihr euch betrüben?  
Stehls doch sehr gut um mich  
Fahrt hin o Angst und Schmerzen,  
Fahrt immer immer hin,  
Ich freue mich von Herzen,  
Das ich erlöst bin.

Herrn mein  
Seid fern  
Al mein Geben  
h dem Herrn  
in Himmels-höhen  
wir uns Wiedersehn.

Michael-Regen  
Thudt.

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/](http://www.breiling.org/lect/df-web/)
- Thank you for your attention!