

UNITA Rural Mobility 2025

Preservation and restoration of cultural heritage_Valeapai

Country	<i>Romania</i>
Title of the URM offer	<i>Preservation and restoration of cultural heritage_Valeapai</i>
Proposing University	<i>West University of Timișoara</i>
Name of local partner	<i>The Association „Acasă în Banat”</i>
Purpose of the internship and short description of activities	<i>Cultural heritage preservation You will take part in renovation and restoration activities in the village, at the watermill and you will also help with volunteering events organized by the association in other villages in our area. Together with the members of the association you will clear plastering, rebuild walls, fix roofs, paint, clear vegetation, clean up the river and socialize with the locals and get involved in the community life.</i>
Location	<i>The rural community of Valeapai, located about 60 km from Timișoara</i>
Location on Google maps	https://maps.app.goo.gl/Q61kXecwPmsHGwRr5
Duration of the internship (weeks)	<i>4 weeks</i>
Dates of the internship	<i>July 7th – 1st of August, 2025</i>
Number of positions offered to students	<i>10 places</i>
Desired profile of the student(s) (Detailing the field of studies and other requirements)	<p><i>The UNITA student applicants involved in the internship hosted by the Association „Acasă în Banat” should fit with the following profile:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Have practical skills. Previous construction experience is not mandatory but greatly appreciated.</i> <i>2. Have an interest in community organizing and networking.</i> <i>3. Be curious about other cultures and open-minded.</i> <i>4. Appreciate diversity and be ready to join efforts with people from other backgrounds.</i> <i>5. Be able to follow the instructions received, especially when it comes to prevention of various risks and hazards related to the activities.</i> <i>6. Like working in teams.</i> <p><i>An indicative list of specializations that are compatible with this profile includes but is not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Civil engineering, Architecture</i> <i>- Conservation, Restauration, Heritage studies</i> <i>- Arts and Design, Art history</i> <i>- History, Anthropology, Cultural studies</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geography, Biology - Sociology - Environment protection - Journalism, Digital media - Community development etc.
Language requirements	<p>For applications to be valid, candidates must prove their level with at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B1 level of English - required; ● A2 level of Romanian - recommended.
Logistics of the placement - accommodation	<i>The students will be housed in rural guest houses, for a fee*.</i>
Logistics of the placement - meals	<i>The students will be catered 3 meals / day, plus snacks, by the locals identified via the local partner. The meals will be cooked with organic produce from the area. The meals will be provided for a fee*.</i>
Logistics of the placement - transportation	<i>The local partner has one 8+1 transport vehicle and a cargo van that will be available for planned trips and activities related to the work needed. The costs for travel and fuel will be covered by the students*. There is no public transport to the village.</i>
Logistics of the placement - other details (if any)	<i>Other activities proposed by the local partner during your stay (in the weekends): trips around the area, tour of Timisoara etc.</i>
*Estimated associated costs in charge of students	<p>€40/day/person (includes accommodation, three meals a day, and transportation to various sites of operation)</p> <p>Other costs: Travel from home country to Timișoara and back</p>
Academic requirements (If any)	<p>Be enrolled in the academic year 2024-2025 in one of the universities of the UNITA Consortium in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an undergraduate degree programme (with at least 90 ECTS passed); - a postgraduate degree programme; - a PhD.
Documents that must be uploaded in the application (required for the selection process)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic transcript of records; - Enrolment certificate in the academic year 2024-2025; - Requested language certificate; - CV (Europass model recommended);

	- Letter of Motivation in English or Romanian (candidates have to explain the reason of their application, their motivation and their academic objectives)
Contact details for further inquiries about this offer	rural.unita@e-uvt.ro
Link to previous URM experiences in Romania:	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOpiHMPvf7U

Description of The Association „Acasă în Banat”

The **Association „Acasă în Banat”** (in English „At home in Banat”) is an organization involved in the development of rural communities, through restoration works aimed at reviving the architectural heritage of Banat region. In the past 4 years, „Acasă în Banat” has managed to do renovation and maintenance work for over 200 buildings, of which over 50 watermills. This year they are focusing on the village of Valeapai, where they are renovating over 30 houses and started a longtime project to restore an old watermill and turn it into a living museum.

We are an organization dedicated to good deeds. We help people, families, entire communities. We join forces to achieve, together, small "miracles" that make us proud and give us energy to continue. We believe in the power of example and feel responsible to act, now. Because we are "at home" in the communities where we live, in the region and the country where we live. We care about our fellow man and want to lend a shoulder to build. With our hands we build and repair houses, but with our hearts we inspire and bring hope to those around us.

Because we are #acasainbanat (#athomeinbanat)!

Indicative examples of activities implemented by the Association „Acasă în Banat”



Colour the Village, 2022 Edition

30 house facades restored in 3 days, with the help of approx. 400 volunteers

The Land of the Watermills



The volunteers of the Association have photographed and mapped 243 water mills in Caraş-Severin county (82 in operation, 47 functional but stopped, 114 non-functional). Currently, we are involved in restoring as much as possible from this spectacular heritage of the area.

The Watermills of Banat

A research project which identified and mapped 85 old watermills from Timiş county.

