

## Sibiu - European Capital of Culture

In 2007, Sibiu will be an excellent ambassador of the Romanian culture, in charge of promoting the values of the cultural heritage and the national identity, Prime Minister Calin Popescu-Tariceanu has stated at the inauguration of the "Sibiu - European Capital of Culture" Program.

"I am convinced that Sibiu will remain a benchmark on the European map of values after this program comes to end, too!" Prime Minister has added.

He has emphasized that through the launch of the "Sibiu - European Capital of Culture 2007" Program, Romania rightfully steps in the European Union because this Program is an eloquent answer to the question: "What contribution does Romania make to EU?"

"This year, Sibiu clearly shows a consistent share of Romania's contribution to EU, namely the cultural contribution! The Program "Sibiu - European Capital of Culture 2007" is perhaps the most important cultural project organized and carried out in Romania over the last 16 years. We have the opportunity to show to Europe the genuine values of Romania", Prime Minister has stated, adding that ever since the beginning of this program, the Government supported the local authorities to manage it. The Executive allocated consistent funds to achieve the program - 30 millions EUR were destined for the rehabilitation works of historical buildings and infrastructure and 13 millions EUR were allocated for the construction and rehabilitation of the airport, the Head of the Executive has stated.



Prime Minister Calin Popescu-Tariceanu and President Traian Basescu at the official launch of the Program "Sibiu - European Capital of Culture 2007"

"I know that there are very many people who keep their word in Ardeal. But there are in Bucharest too. We kept our word and we allocated the financial funds necessary for the project to develop", Prime Minister has stated, emphasizing the fact that Sibiu stands now beside other prestigious European cultural capitals such as: Paris, Berlin, Athens, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Thessaloniki.

Before the official launch of the Program "Sibiu - European Capital of Culture 2007", Prime Minister attended the inauguration of the Astra Library headquarters and visited Bruckental Museum. On his way to Thalia Hall, where the Program "Sibiu - European Capital of Culture 2007" was officially launched, Prime Minister talked with the citizens of Sibiu, who were present in the Large Square and whom he told that he was impressed by the way the historical center of the city was renovated. Prime Minister passed and received best wishes for the New Year from the citizens he talked with.

A four-year child wished a Happy New Year to Prime Minister and his wife, singing a carol for them.

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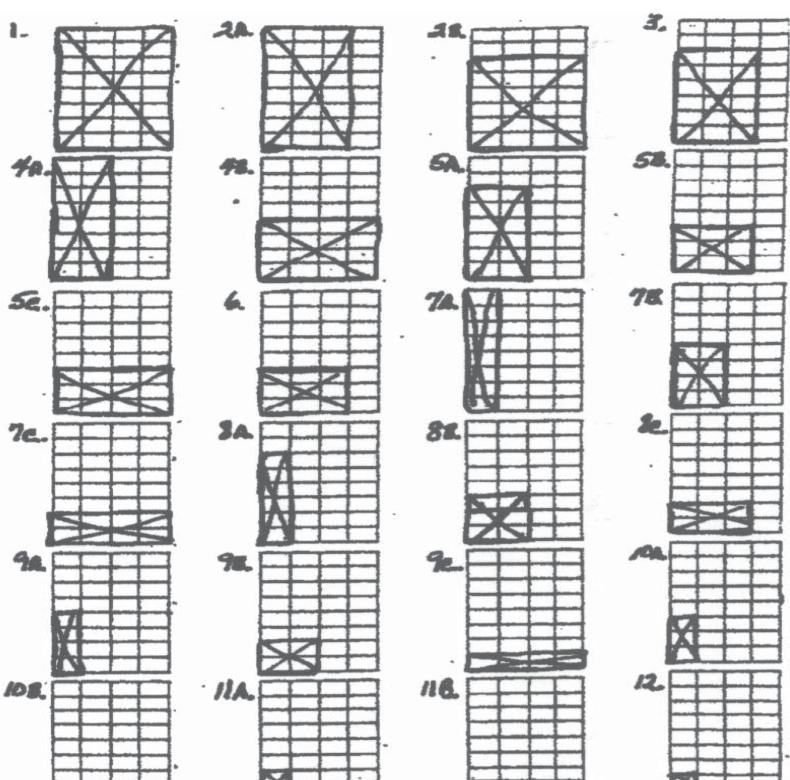


Traian Basescu, President of Romania

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