



MY VILLAGE- CRADLE OF FAIRY-TALES

*Collection of texts and drawings of children from the localities
of cultural-natural reservation Orheiul Vechi*





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This brochure represents a collection of texts and drawings made by children from the localities Trebujeni, Furceni, Ivancea, Mașcăuți, Marcăuți, Susleni, Holercani și Piatra, winners of the 1st place in the art contest „Natural-cultural potential of the locality – a pride of the village”, age category 5-7th grades and 8-9th grades, organized by the Ecological Movement of Moldova within the „Local youth – the voice for a sustainable promotion of the Orheiul Vechi cultural-natural Reservation" project , implemented with the support of the US Forest Service.

More details about the project: <http://mem.md/tineri-din-orhei-vocea-pentru-promovarea-durabila-a-rezervatiei/>

The goal of the contest „Natural-cultural potential of the locality – a pride of the village” was to increase the affection and the youth’s level of knowledge about the value of their homeland locality. Texts included in this brochure are an invitation for the readers to visit and discover the most beautiful places that represent a pride for the kids from the Orheiul Vechi Reservation’s area localities.

Involvement of the youth in deep knowledge of the natural potential and of the cultural monuments through practical activities is a decisive factor in the educational process. The promotion of educational programmes for youth and adults is a priority for the Ecological Movement of Moldova but also of the US Forest Service – a multiple use agency that manages public lands in the US not only for sustainable forestry, but also for values such as clean water, cultural heritage, biodiversity conservation, recreation opportunities, and environmental education. More details about the US Forest Service activities: www.fs.fed.us. The „Local youth – the voice for a sustainable promotion of the Orheiul Vechi cultural-natural Reservation" project, implemented in the Republic of Moldova is one of the initiatives through which this sustainable approach of the US Forest Service is promoted in partnership with the Ecological Movement of Moldova at international level.

We express our gratitude to the US Forest Service for the support offered for the development of this brochure, as well as to all those involved in the running of the contest „Natural-cultural potential of the locality – a pride of the village”. Especially, we would like to thank the teachers that have guided the pupils in the development of artworks:

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Ludmila Buzila, Trebujeni
Irina Reaboi, Furceni
Viorica Sarbu, Piatra
Elena Cartan, Mascauti
Maria Bodean and Ana Popusoi, Holercani
Oleg Bejan, Marcăuti
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! This brochure has been developed with the support of the US Forest Service.
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Cultural-natural Reservation Orheiul Vechi

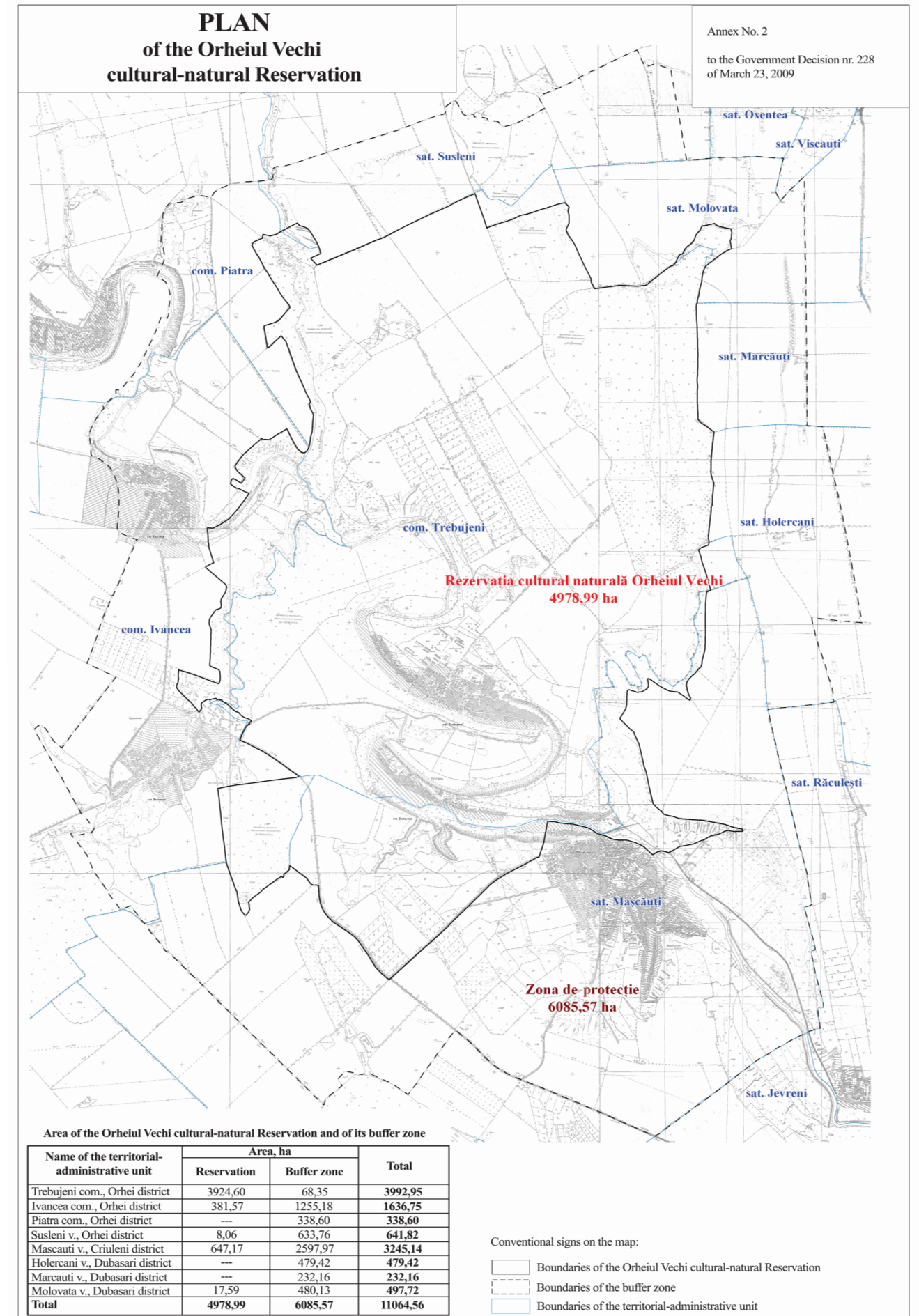
The Orheiul Vechi Reservation is a cultural-natural site of national importance, located in the central part of the Republic of Moldova in the Valley of Raut River. It has a total area of 11,064.56 ha of which the area of the Reservation is 4,978.99 ha and the Protected Area (buffer zone) of the Reservation is 6,085.57 ha. The territory of the Reservation includes almost the entire area of Trebujeni commune with villages Trebujeni, Butuceni, Morovaia, as well as the bordering territories of Ivancea commune in the West, Furceni and Branesi villages, in the North – Susleni village, in the South - Mascauti village and Molovata village in the North-East. The territory of the Buffer Zone of the Reservation includes also Piatra commune, Marcauti and Holercani villages.

The Reservation includes an important segment of the Moldovan Plateau, which being crossed by Raut River, has deepened in the Sarmatian limestone formation at its basis, forming a succession of lines and meanders, with steep cliffs, grotts and caves. The cultural-natural Reservation Orheiul Vechi is one of those unbelievable places with tens and hundreds of creatures that assist discretely in maintaining the ecological balance and evolution of the environment. The natural potential of the cultural-natural Reservation Orheiul Vechi, represented by the landscape

reservation Trebujeni (500 ha) and wide woods from the national forest fund, is unexpectedly complex. Rock, aquatic, forest, valley and agricultural landscapes specific for the region hide a green oasis and a wonderful world of the silent creatures.

The cultural-natural Reservation Orheiul Vechi, as an autonomous unit, is a component part of the National Park Orhei with a total area of 33,792.09 ha, established by Parliamentary Decision No. 201 of 12 July 2013 on Creating the National Park 'Orhei' and Government Decision No. 923 of 12.11.2014 on the Approval of the Rules of Procedure of the National Park Orhei.

The cultural potential of this area is extremely important. The Reservation Orheiul Vechi covers an exceptional archaeological site (settlements, fortresses, cave formation from different historical eras, etc.), a historical and architectural variety, traditional rural habitat and ethnographic origin. The Archaeological Landscape Orheiul Vechi is placed in the central part of the Reservation on an area of over 500 ha. Because of its uniqueness, the Archaeological Landscape 'Orheiul Vechi' was included in the UNESCO Tentative List in 2014, and was nominated to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in September 2015.



FURCENI-STEPPING FROM A LEGEND



Furceni in Orhei region is a picturesque settlement surrounded by forests of oak, hornbeam, ash trees, Turkish cherry trees, wild pear trees, dogwood, elm trees, etc. Special impressions are spurred when visiting these places. The nature's beauty, Geto-Dacian settlements, traditional cuisine are just some things making traveling to Furceni worth it.

A legend that is being told today says that in the ancient times, when the Tatar herds constantly invaded Moldovan villages, a local farmer had a very beautiful daughter. The Khan who heard about her beauty, sent riders to bring her to him. When the Tatars invaded the farmer's house, the beautiful girl was busy weaving and when she saw them, she ran. The Tatars gave chase to catch her! When the girl reached the River Raut, she threw the weaving fork into the river and it turned into a bridge. She crossed the river and disappeared together with the bridge. A Tatar rider threw a pitchfork into her way in order to delay her... When touching the ground, it turned into four roads. The legend says that the girl picked one and ran into the forest to hide. Tatars looked for her but could not find her. The Tatar Khan could not get her and did not even see her beauty described in the legend. If you go to Furceni today, you can see the four roads and the bridge over the River Raut...

These are legendary places, places worth visiting... For instance, 'Furceni - Selitra', which is called 'Holm' in the village captivates you with its caves. Over time, the locals extracted limestone and left the mines for the future generations to see the depth of the earth. Most walls are painted with different inscriptions and drawings of anonymous authors. It is said that Furceni - Selitra was a Geto-Dacians shelter...

The point where Draghinci and Ivancea Rivers blend with Raut is very beautiful, because it twists through cliffs. It looks as if the left bank of the river is not related to the right bank of the river, which is protected by a big dark forest ...

But what really impresses me are the people and their hospitality. Once you are there you can sense it! Ms. Elizaveta Gasper is well known for her cooking. Stuffed cabbage rolls, pies, bean soup, stew and 'mama-liga' with pork meat and cow's milk cheese - delicious! And no words to describe the wine!!!

Those who decide to spend the night in these magic places can get accommodation at the Gasper family's guesthouse. I bet you, if you come once to Furceni, you will come again to fill up your soul with magic.

Eliza GASPER, grade IX, Furceni village

MY VILLAGE-

FULL OF MAGIC AND MYSTERY



A tiny village located at the corner of the world, with magnificent landscapes, 45 km distance from Chisinau is called Furceni. It is an ancient settlement built on the bottom of Sarmatic Sea, which millions of years ago left behind a number of hills and limestone caves so specific to Orhei region. Secular Codri that covered the entire Moldova in the old times secludes the geographic landscape. The thick forests where the sunrays cannot get through accommodate many creatures. As a mysterious snake, the old Raut twists among hills and cliffs, chasing its waters downhill.

We, the pupils together with the teachers, lived precious moments when visiting the place. We went to the Holm and the Five Grots... Inside the Holm, the unearthly silence hugged us and the darkness was so deep that I thought we would disappear in it, because no beam of light could come in... Where else can you live such sensations?

I enjoyed very much the excursion to Stanca Corbului [Raven's Rock]. Although it was a difficult climb, we forgot about everything when we saw the wonderful landscape. And I told myself: this is truly fascinating! How can one compare the pictures posted on the Internet, as amazing as they are, with what you

see with own eyes? Nothing can awake the taste for life as the divine nature around us, the clean spring, the grass full of dew, the breeze of the wind around us...

The magic sense was fuelled by the stop we made at the divine sanctuary dedicated to St. Mihail, situated in the middle of the village and by the monuments that give us ancient stories. In Furceni, the trace of eternity is everywhere; the fascination is at home here. The locals are also committed to keeping the nature safe and unchanged. The traveller, who reaches our places, remains speechless, as we say, when seeing the beautiful nature. Once the 'wow' subsides, the traveller tells about the divine Furceni to others. I saw it. I live with it.

Felicia MUNTEAN, grade VII, Furceni village

CRADLE OF FAIRY-TALES

IVANCEA



This piece of Heaven, Ivancea, is surrounded by Codri and is always full of fresh and clean air of the forest, which is very healing. The locality is visited by many tourists. The villagers are extremely generous and kind. It has an Orthodox Church, two schools and of course, the Manor House built by the Boyar, Carabet Balioz, which is one of the most valuable architectural monuments in Orhei. The Boyar, Carabet Balioz built this Mansion

many years ago, but it was well preserved. The park around the Balioz Manor has an area of 7 ha. The park has many fruit and decorative trees, and rare species.

I am very happy I was born in this locality and I am able to see all these wonderful places in life and in my dreams.

Daniela SPATARI, grade IX, Ivancea village

LONGING FOR THIS PLACE



Although I wasn't born in Ivancea, this locality will always be my place of Heaven full of happy memories. My parents were born and raised here, as well as my grandparents. Ivancea village is my beautiful home where I always feel happy and good. There is nothing in this world that can compare with the time spent here with my family. I am sure I will remember warmly Ivancea many years from now – the forest, the birds' tweet every spring morning, the Easter holiday with smell of frankincense, myrrh and cake.

Ivancea village is located in the beautiful Codri of Moldova, delicately placed in an area with many clean lakes and springs, green and nutritious fields. The villagers are simple, modest, hardworking people and willing to help, always happy to host guests. Since it is a Moldovan and Ukrainian village, many cultural activities take place here: Festival of ethnic groups with the topic *Under the Same Sky*, Festival of hot air balloons, Festival of Cucuteni – old culture of ceramics. The dance groups and the choir gather the young and elders to play concerts during holidays. The village has a beautiful history, described by an ancient Mansion called Balioz. It has a park with many and different trees from all over the world. We have a kindergarten and a school with good and

honest teachers. I love living here because I can enjoy the rain, the snow, the sun and the wind.

I love winter in Ivancea with its holidays – you can hear the carols – songs and bells. I also enjoy the burning fire in the fireplace and the sound of burning wood.

Here the farmers travel by carriage with horses. I like when the farmers eat in the field: grapes, an apple, walnut found, having fallen in autumn, a slice of cheese and greens, potatoes or baked corn. People enjoy everything the nature gives them.

I also love the spring mornings with cold air that heals. Then you look proudly at your geraniums on your veranda. I love when the tractors till the land in spring in Ivancea. The time passes differently here... slowly. The life goes by, nobody is in a hurry, people are laidback, not stressed, work hard, and are healthier. All of these is Ivancea village. So, who is happier – the farmer or the modern person from the city?

I am proud I live in a village and I would like to contribute to its development. To me, Ivancea village is the most beautiful place I have ever seen. Come and live the joy next to us!

Evelina RUSU, grade VII, Ivancea village

A VILLAGE FULL OF GEMS



The valuable gems of Holercani village are the church, woods, hills, Nistru and of course, the people of the place. Its heritage was discovered long time ago by some tourists, who left these places with nostalgia, seeking the warmth and hospitality provided by the villagers. The ancient traditions, which are invaluable treasures, are kept. The church has had a primary role. In Holercani the House of God celebrated as Saint Nicolae (22 May) is located on the River Nistru bank surrounded by a beautiful forest. Even the air has a divine feeling, filled up with mystery of faith, which became purifying and healing. On the path that leads to the church there is a manmade cave that pro-

tected people during war times. The village borders a beautiful forest with rare species of plants. It is quiet and marvellous in spring. One of the rare species we can find here is the Spotted Tulip, called Bibilica by the locals. Those who come to Holercani can discover more than... a Spotted Tulip.

Nicoleta PORUBIN, grade VII, Holercani village

BORN IN HEAVEN ...



As far as you can see – beautiful, mesmerizing landscapes, hills with soft slopes, with wide plateaus and peaks, with valleys and ravines slowly descending towards the Nistru meadow. Sometimes, when I look around, I have the impression that I am in a fairy-tale, and I admire the beauty and harmony of marvellous views of my country. The old locality, Holercani, is located in the central part of the Republic of Moldova; besides unique landscapes, it has good people, who are descendants of yeomen. A legend says that the name of the village comes from the drink that is called Holerca by natives and Ukrainians, who were crossing Nistru and were making stops in this region, brought that.

The hydroelectric power station built in Dubasari changed the fate of the village and chased it to the hill. The church stayed in the valley, becoming a bridge between the past and the present. The church is something that reminds people about the previous village in the mid-20th century... Today, perched on the hill, avoiding the waters, it has the same name but it is different from what it was.

River Nistru makes this place loved; it guards the peace and purifies this piece of land. The sun is mirrored

in its waters and blinks like gold. The grass is soft and thick, and the water is so clean that you can see the fish.

In the Nistru Valley, on a cliff, there is an artificial cave of several km long, which crosses the village from one end to another. It served as sentinel for the villagers during difficult times. The walls of this underground gallery bear the evidence of difficult times for Moldova, when Turks invaded it. The nearby forest beautifies our life, gives us joy, clean air and most of all – its beauty. The acacia, oak and pine tree forest is covered in flowers, where birds are always chirping. We enjoy some plant species that are included in the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova (Spotted Tulip, Snowdrop, Lilly of the Valley, etc.) and try to protect this beauty. The murmur of springs quenches the thirst of every traveller.

The soul of the village are the simple, kind, hard-working people always waiting for a miracle. The image of my village guards like a divine image over the generations over the time.

I see it... Look... the village is smiling... and somehow rejuvenates. I am convinced that it is eternal!

Vlada SANDU, grade IX, Holercani village

MY MARCAUTI



A small and nice village, located on the peak of a stone cliff, witnessing the calm old Nistru. The name of this locality comes from the name of a Boyar Marcu. This locality was given to the Boyar Marcu for his bravery, loyalty and fidelity to the Ruler of Moldova. In turn, he built a wooden church on this hill, which became the foundation of the village. After a while, in 1816, people built another church, this time from stone in the centre of the village. This House of God was active until 1957, when Soviet authorities banned God and closed down this Temple of Heavenly Father. The parish managed to hide the sacred treasures of the church for better times. Despite difficult times, the Temple of God is still there. Only the roof collapsed in places. In 1991 the good people of the village led

by Alexandru Bujor, a short man but with a big heart, started the renovation of the church. Slowly, step-by-step, the ruined church transformed into a piece of art where the villagers get married, baptize their children and honour the Christian holidays. What would our village be without the church? It would be like a day without light. You should see how open and beautiful the souls and faces of the villagers are after they step into the sanctuary 'Assumption of the Virgin Mary'. The church transforms in a miracle thanks to the efforts of the Priest Valeriu Savciuc. Come to Marcauti to see everything!

Sanda URSU, grade V, Marcauti village

CLOSER TO THE SKY AND... GOD



Very high, in a beautiful place, there is a small village called Marcauti from ancient times. It is located on a peak as a Moldovan soldier from the period of Stefan cel Mare. At the bottom of the cliff, the waters of old Nistru wash the stones that keep the tumultuous history of this region.

From above the cliff one can see the greatness of the Dubasari hydroelectric power station, and the most beautiful nature landscapes that leave you speechless; one can also see the two canyons that meet as twin sisters... looking at this cliff, one can see a waterfall dropping from the top into Nistru waters. It looks just like a pearl.

There is another admirable place we are so proud of, which is the territory on the bank of River Nistru named Marzanca. It is the scenery where the

movie 'We are looking for a guard' was shot. Do you remember? Ivan Turbinca throwing the Death in its coffin into the waters... Many tourists, who like paragliding, come here for heights and admire the charm of this region from above.

The tourists also seek the Golden Horseshoe that is located in Harbuz- a protected territory, with high and green hills. It used to be the favourite place of the motorcyclists. They would come here pushed by adventures to raise the adrenaline and get unbelievable satisfaction. Do you think only the motorcyclists can enjoy this region in Holercani?

Dorina CURCUBET, grade IX, Marcauti village

BLESSED...CORNER OF THE WORLD



The entrance in Mascauti is guarded by two hills: Roman and Chiclău. There is a good view of the village from the peak. Chiclău is higher and the locals installed a crucifix that blesses the entry into and exit from the village.

Locals care about traditions and habits. Once in two years, they organise the Festival 'On Chiclău Hill', where the villagers have the possibility to exhibit the most beautiful things: crocheted items, vintage things, painted icons, different food prepared with local recipes. The good spirit created by the folkloric band 'Razesii' accompanies all these.

The village is famous for its remarkable Mansion, where the writer Ioan Sarbu lived in his childhood. The willow planted by the fabulist is still there in the Mansion's yard. The Sarbu house keeps the history of a noble family and of the entire village. The memory of Sarbu family is alive because they are being honoured as noble Bessarabians. The Mascauti Gymnasium was named after Ioan Sarbu. Everyone knows that the parents of Ioan Sarbu built the church in the centre of the village....

The picturesque sceneries of this village draw many filmmakers. Hence, the *Casa Mare*, *Tunul de Lemn*, *Viforul Rosu*, etc. were filmed in Mascauti.

An attractive location is the touristic guest-house 'EcoVila' located in the so-called Chiraul Ravine. How could you know about all these if you never visit us? I am convinced that it is better to see it once, than hear about it hundred times.

Ludmila CARTAN, grade VI, Mascauti village

MY VILLAGE-MY PRIDE



Mascauti village is a superb, magnificent place. Wandering so many times around it, I have realised that I am rich... I am rich because I live in a peaceful, quiet and loving place. It motivates me to tell tourists and those interested in alpinism that by stopping in Mascauti, they will live special moments. When you reach Chiclău Hill (the highest place in the village), you can enjoy not only a magnificent view of the village, but also you can climb it as an alpinist.

The caves nested in this hill are like eyes that guard us day and night. Once the dusk falls, in the warm days of the year, the bats are flying out. In one of these caves, there is an icon carved in stone.

And Roman Hill is considered an attractive monument of nature. On the top of the Hill, on its Eastern side, one can view the splendid Raut River, which looks like a horseshoe. The colours and strong scent of plants enhance the beauty of this Hill...

Although the Raut River washes only the Mascauti borders, the frogs are heard in the entire village day and night. It is a fairy atmosphere, where the

creatures become real heroes of fairy tales written by Hans Christian Andersen.

I would be very happy if anyone could enjoy this beauty. It is proof that the nature created this region with love.

A famous person, who made known our village, is the great writer and fabulist, Ioan Sarbu. The gymnasium of Mascauti was named after him. A reminder of this pioneer, is the willow planted by him about 160 years ago.

Three years ago his grand-grandson, Gigi Caciuleanu – famous dancer and choreograph - visited our village. He was deeply touched by the kindness of the people and this place, where the great writer, Ioan Sarbu, lived. Certainly, the unbelievable emotions grow together with the village's admirers and the place where I was born.

Sanda PLAVAN, grade VIII, Mascauti village

CRADLE OF FAIRY-TALES



The nest where I spread my wings and I gradually learn to fly is my village Piatra. Its name comes, according to a legend, from a stone where all the ancestors would gather every evening to discuss. Believe it or not, but for me it is very important that I was born here, I spent my childhood here with my siblings in the centre of nature. I love very much my Piatra. Here, as nowhere else, in the valley of the village, the River Raut meets our Cliff that towers over the entire region. Bygone ages left us with precious rocks left as heritage, which dressed it as a queen.

In front of us, the Magla cliff rises from the heart of the earth showing us its inner beauty and reaching for the sunlight. It hides many secrets, including of families covered in its cave from the invaders.

The River Raut that runs slowly downhill and avoids our village looks like a huge snake that guards our border. It washes small souls in its waters, which appear here and there, sparkling like a gleam and disappear in its waves. Springs with crystal water help it to remain young and offer it water-lily crowns for its clean and carefree soul.

The Raut runs through different kinds of yards that show the past. One of these is the Lazo Mansion.

The building has a very beautiful, well preserved architecture. The last Boyars, Gheorghe and Elena Lazo, were the parents of Serghei Lazo.

Renovated, this national monument awaits to open its doors to all who want to learn history.

If we proceed to the centre of the village, we can stop by the Gymnasium Piatra, attended by beautiful, hardworking and smart children. The kindergarten 'Foisorul vesel' brings us back to childhood – best times...

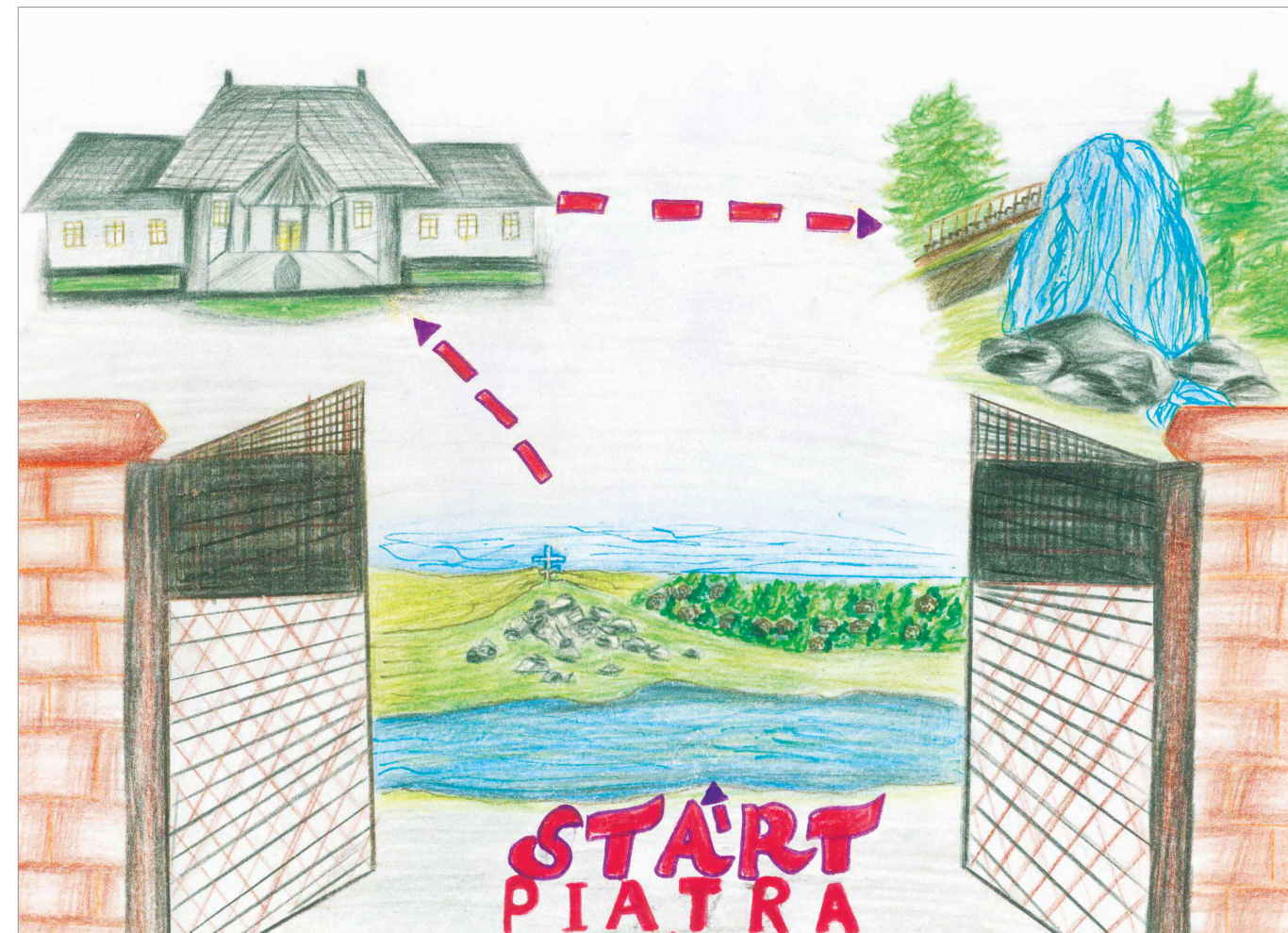
The sun sets to rise next day brighter and warmer. Only here, as nowhere else the stars delight people with beautiful lightshows every night. Only here on this piece of land the sweet wells will quench your thirst and only here the birds' tweets will be impressed on your mind forever.

Should I ever leave Piatra, I would never forget the taste of water from our stone wells and the morning perfume in my natal village. There is only one measurement of love – that of loving without measure, and I love endlessly my home.

Xenia ROMANIUC, grade IX, Piatra village

MY VILLAGE-

MY CHILDHOOD PARADISE



This paradise is my home, is the village where I was born, it is Piatra from Orhei region.

It is located on the left bank of the River Raut and is very picturesque, with many magnificent places that seduce you with their beauty and charm.

Once you enter the village, the old Rock Magla stops you. For sure it keeps a lot of secrets... With its grandness, dignity and beauty, Magla has watched over our village for centuries.

Slowly advancing to the middle of the village, you can see a boyar house with a special architectural aspect, which was built in the 19th century and belonged to Matilda Lazo. This mansion-museum, after reconstruction and renovation, will open its doors to visitors who wish to travel back into the past and check out the living conditions of the boyars. Thanks to this family of boyars, our village has an old church that looks just like Noah's Arc.

Some of the houses with stone pillars and traditional ornaments are still here, and each resembles the person who built it: bright eyes, straight nose, wide and wise forehead and the hat worn with pride.

Walking from the museum to the East, one can find the Gymnasium Piatra, with the monument of a strong young man in military Soviet uniform, with a

CRADLE OF FAIRY-TALES

tag in Cyrillic alphabet: Serghei Gheorghevici Lazo.

An old walnut tree alley planted when the teachers were children protects the Eastern side of the village. They grew tall and salute with hospitality each visitor of our region becoming a bridge with the neighbouring village Jeloboc – a village characterised by diverse households, beautiful wells and house architecture.

A gift from God for the entire commune is Izvorul Morii. The nature wanted for this spring to come from a cliff, which had a windmill close by, and several villages and a great number of residents of Orhei town drink the crystal clear cool water.

This is the cradle where I live my childhood, which is surrounded by many gifts of nature and I would like to kindly invite everyone to explore the mystery and the beauty of this village.

Livia POJAR, grade VI, Piatra village

MY VILLAGE-PRECIOUS JEWEL



Charming is my village, Susleni! A special touristic and spiritual attraction are the two churches that inform every visitor that people with the faith in God live in this village. The two sanctuaries, built in 1898 are the Church 'Assumption of the Virgin Mary' at the bottom of the village and the church 'The Miracle of Archangel Mihail in Colossae', which is located at the top of Susleni. The village is proud of personalities who marked the life of Suslenenians and who bring us fame all over the world: Vasile Harea (1895-1987), Professor and Publicist, Member of Country's Council (Sfatul Tarii), Vladimir Stangaciu (1907-2002), Aviation General in Romanian Army, Gheorghe Cunescu (3 August 1914, in Susleni, Orhei county - 2000 - Bucharest), Mihai Garaz (1930-1990), priest, publicist, writer, Vladimir Curbet (1930-2017), Master of Ballet, founder of popular dance band 'Joc', Iurie Sadovnic-Orheianu (1951), composer, songwriter, honoured artist of the Republic of Moldova.

The food in Susleni is also delicious, especially that prepared for festivities, but not only. Our cabbage stuffed rolls are very small. You will not find 'borsch scazut' in other places! And the pies and wine? The wine is royal and is found in every cellar. Of course the vines are also a touristic attraction for tourists who visit our village.

Susleni village is surrounded by beautiful forests that purify the air. They are special in all seasons. Come in autumn when the copper leaves fall off the trees and weave a multicolour carpet at the bottom of the village... and spring, summer? Tall trees and birds tweets between branches lead us to heavenly songs, to surreal spells. The winter brings other type of brightness, especially when the valleys dressed in white snow echo with happy laughter of children sledging down the hills. Although the winters are different than those described by our grandparents: *long and deep snowdrifts...*, we enjoy them fully.

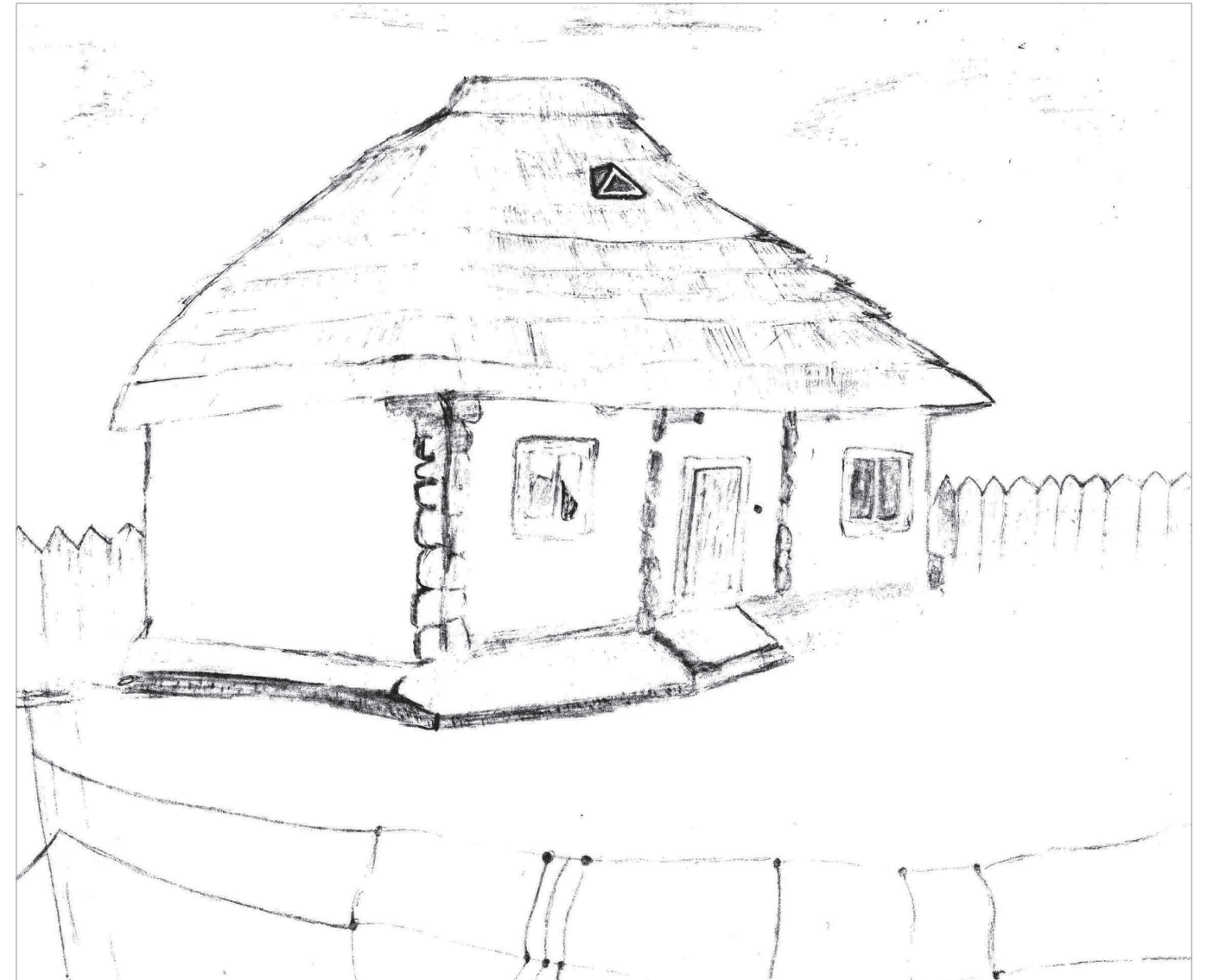
During summer holiday, children cycle, swim in the lake at the edge of the village and run and play different games they learnt or invented, so no season is boring.

The fields around the village are fertile and wealthy for those who work there during the year. The children are used to work in the field from early age, help their parents and learn how to become a farmer.

I believe our village is very attractive because it is very beautiful – both because of its residents and the nature around it. Of course you cannot visit everything in one day, as well as the description of this treasure cannot be described in words. You can enjoy the magnificent village, if you visit it.

Tatiana GUJA, grade VI, Susleni village

SUSLENI VILLAGE



Susleni village is like your first love that stays in your heart for the rest of your life. It is a beautiful place, which surely, is my favourite. It is the most beautiful diamond to me, which got cut perfectly during centuries, into the modesty of local people. Its sparkling can be seen in the relations between simple people. Without doubt, Susleni can surprise you. You cannot be indifferent to the 'Old People's House', which is the museum in the village. The 'Old People's House' ... somehow forgotten in the middle of the yard, small, freshly painted, can be hardly seen behind the rock that guards it.

With small wooden windows, white curtains, with a front porch, it shows us memories of past times. It is known that the house is not just a material space to rest for the farmer, but it is more: it is a refuge for the body and soul, and it remains an altar of love and protection of life forever. Each object in the farmer's

house has its own history, both in prose and poetry; the eternal life somehow is described by these.

The house and village are sacred places. Everything happens here: life, tradition, habits, customs, hope, and an eternal soul.

Susleni village will exist as long as it is in the soul of these people, as long as there is beauty around created by the Lord and born from the love of my villagers. We give a part of what we have, alongside with modesty and love, to those who step into our houses. Irrespective of what tomorrow brings, Susleni was, is and will be my home.

Alina CONDREA, grade VIII, Susleni village

HEAVEN OF MY SOUL



Compare Orheiul Vechi with the Eden created by God. I believe that the Lord drew with the brush this beautiful place, this fairy tale that speaks to your heart and is difficult to be described in words. Watching it, you fall under the spell of the Creator's fantasy.

Climbing up to the top of the hill, you are stunned by the view of the River valley. A settlement located on an island surrounded by high cliffs that guard for centuries the village and are immovable to all barbaric invasions. At the bottom of the cliff, there is the old Raut that circles beautifully this piece of heaven. On the peak of the hill raises the Church 'Assumption of the Virgin Mary' which is a cradle between the earth and sky. A bit down, there is a monastery carved in stone. It is a piece of art that amazes everyone who comes here. I do not believe there is another sacred place on earth for praying and soul salvation.

The neighbouring villages that are part of Trebujeni commune – Butuceni and Morovaia – are crossed by one road. On both sides of the road, one can see old houses covered with shingle, with porches and pillars carved in stone, and wooden, beautifully carved gates. Kind and hardworking people live here. As it looks, our ancestors built each house with love. They are not here anymore, but their heritage will remain forever. The hospitality of our people is shown in the big number of guesthouses opened for travellers.

Those who have not visited these places yet – hurry up! I assure you, you will fall in love forever with it and you will come back every time you miss seeing a beautiful place or simply walk barefoot in Paradise.

Liviu JOMIRU, grade VIII, Trebujeni village

MY VILLAGE-

MY HOMETLAND-HOLY TREASURE...



historical whisper printed into all and everything in Trebujeni, the nature's beauty creates an atmosphere of serene silence and confidence in own forces. Archaeological sites, cave formations – all talk about a true and visible history.

At the entrance to the village, on the left, on the bank of River Raut that runs through the locality, the Oriental baths built in the 14th century are still there after hundreds of years; these are evidence of Golden Horde... The open-sky museum 'Orheiul Vechi' is located between Trebujeni and Butuceni villages. You can still see the remains of old Fortress Orheiul Vechi.

In Trebujeni you can feel your second birth. The forest in front of the village gives clear and healthy air. And how valuable is the old spring? It is said that its water has miraculous powers in treating different diseases. This is why, if you drink once the water from this spring, you come again to Trebujeni.

Or maybe because of the stone cliffs, that hide a saint who lures you to return to these places every time you want to relive the history and see places full of spells. What is indeed true is that the beauty of my locality fascinates any eyes.

Madina ERHAN, grade VII, Trebujeni village

CRADLE OF FAIRY-TALES

Activities to discover the cultural and natural potential of the native village, within the „Local youth – the voice for a sustainable promotion of the Orheiul Vechi cultural-natural Reservation ”



Photography course in the Orheiul Vechi Reservation, photo with the winners of the „Natural-cultural potential of the locality – a pride of the village” contest



Students from the Vasile Lupu school in Susleni village, excursion to the Hartop



Students from Furceni village, excursion to the Selitra Gorge and Stanca Corbului (Raven's Rock)



Students from Ivancea village, excursion to the Balioz Mansion



Students from Marcauti village, excursion to the Nistru river bank



Excursion to the Orheiul Vechi cultural-natural Reservation



Students from Pietra village, excursion to the Magla Cliff



Students from Holercani village, excursion to the caves



Students from the Ioan Sârbu school in Mascauti village, excursion to the Chiclaui Hill



Students from Trebujeni school, excursion to the Shepherd's Ravine and to the Trebujeni-Scoc archaeological site



Hiking activity in the Orheiul Vechi Reservation, photo with the winners of the „Natural-cultural potential of the locality – a pride of the village” contest

About Ecological Movement of Moldova



The Ecological Movement of Moldova (EMM) is a non-governmental organisation, non-profit, apolitical, established based on the principle of free association of citizens of the Republic of Moldova and a public organisation with the overall objective to restore the harmony between NATURE-HUMAN-SOCIETY.

Vision: environment protection is a key issue of the world we live in, restore the natural balance, preserving and caring for our natural and cultural heritage and built a pro-ecology spirit in Moldovan society is the main objective of the Ecological Movement of Moldova.

Mission: EMM has the mission to contribute to the vision and ecological conscience of citizens, to make the society more ecological and change for better the collective mentality regarding environment through training and ecological education.

Values:

- Professionalism and responsibility in approaching the issue – EMM is a real source of information about environment and culture;
- Responsibility for the environment by assuming commitments to direct policies and practices of the organisation and to put pressure at the level of state institution for sustainable development;
- Consistency in undertaken actions, maintaining the actions according to declarations and respectively, translate the values of sustainable development into the activity of the organisation.

To achieve its mission, EMM channels its energy to develop and implement projects in the following directions and areas:

- Ecological education, information and training
- Sustainable development of natural and cultural heritage, ecological and sustainable tourism, green agriculture
- Attitudes and media campaign
- Access to information and public's participation in decision making
- Contribution to the editing of 'Natura' Magazine

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NATURA

Revista întregii familii

NATURA MAGAZINE, A LOYAL FRIEND

Independent periodical publication NATURA started in 1990, being published without any interruption since. It is a magazine dedicated to ecology, tourism and culture; it is apolitical and printed monthly in Chisinau; it has 16-24 colour pages. In almost 30 years of existence, the NATURA magazine ranked one of the most read publications in the Republic of Moldova and has succeeded to become a name of reference in the national and regional ecology and mass media.

NATURA magazine has the goal to provide correct and objective information, to raise the awareness of the public and make public the environmental, social, sustainable development, youth, education, civil society, community development, tourism, culture, etc. problems.

Being a publication drafted by professional journalists, the NATURA magazine enjoys credibility of the public in the country and abroad. NATURA is expected in thousands of houses and institutions in the Republic of Moldova.

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