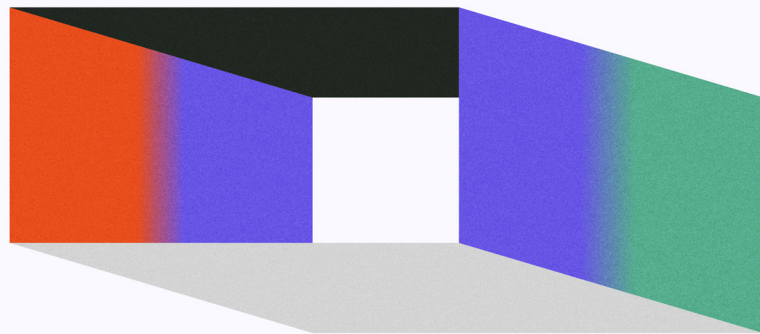
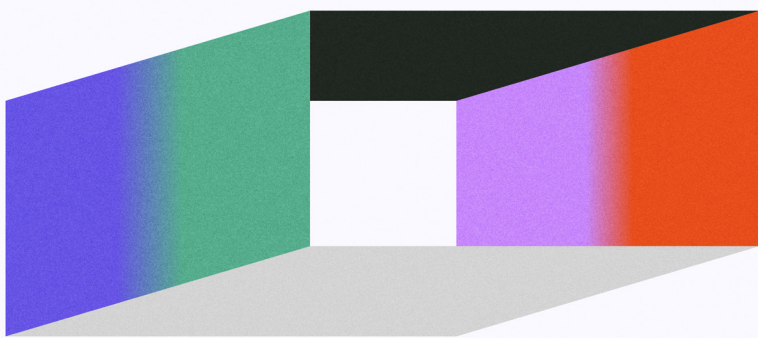


**OPEN CALL
FOR INTER-
DISCIPLINARY**



**ARTISTS
AND PRACTITIONERS**



**Reclaiming
Post-Industrial
Futures**

RECLAIMING POST-INDUSTRIAL FUTURES
a multi-residency programme exploring forgotten industrial heritage sites in Romania as places for collaboration and community building.

Who can apply:

interdisciplinary artists, architecture historians, architects/landscape architects, anthropologists, community organisers

Eligibility:

citizens or permanent residents from: Czech Republic, Italy, UK, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Romania

Period of residencies:

two (2) weeks at various dates between July to September 2025

Place of residencies:

post-industrial cities across Romania

Follow-up meeting:

September 20-21.2025, Bucharest

Submission deadline:

27 April 2025

About the Project

RECLAIMING POST-INDUSTRIAL FUTURES is a multi-residency project designed and developed by EUNIC Romania.

It involves eight cultural institutions operating in Romania - each engaged in supporting one residency.

British Council
Czech Centre
Embassy of the Netherlands
French Institute
Italian Institute for Culture
Cervantes Institute
Polish Institute
Fundația9

EUNIC – European Union National Institutes for Culture – is Europe’s network of national cultural institutes and organisations, with 39 members from all EU Member States and associate countries.

The project was framed by this consortium of European partners, in collaboration with curator Ilinca Păun Constantinescu - PhD, President & Founder of Ideilagram Association, Co-Founder of Planeta Petrița Association, Co-founder of the Architecture Office Ideogram Studio, Lecturer at Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urban Planning Bucharest, Department of Theory and History of Architecture.

Situating industrial heritage

Industrialisation has profoundly shaped most Romanian towns and cities and has been present in all aspects of urbanity. After 1989, the majority of the industrial complexes were shut down and were brutally cut off from the cities. Former workers were left behind and the towns’ morphologies were left with voids, affecting social and urban life, since then.

The former industrial facilities form a new type of cultural landscape - made of buildings, people and their stories - which is more and more silenced and hidden in an invisible layer, soon to be replaced. Smaller towns face even more so an existential crisis, as magnetism exercised by the big and prosperous cities makes us forget or disregard their sometimes extraordinary heritage and livability.

But as it happens in history, a crisis can be a source of creation. Neglected buildings, people that lost their former role in the social hierarchy, abandoned urban spaces seem to all be negative aspects. This situation however calls for a shift in the narrative and the rediscovery of existing, often unused values that can add value to urban life. Although it may not be obvious, these towns are sometimes surprisingly rich, not only in terms of

built heritage and history, but also in terms of social networks. In the absence of top-down concerns (with few exceptions), bottom-up initiatives shed new light on the existing reality and work directly with the local communities that are trying to redefine their role. In recent years, a solid network of such initiatives has taken shape in Romania.

RECLAIMING POST-INDUSTRIAL FUTURES is a project that works with various representative former industrial sites and communities, giving a birds-eye view on the local diversity and astonishing nature:

ORAȘUL VICTORIA - a garden-city built from scratch in the 1950s

REȘIȚA - the oldest steel industry since the 18th century

DROBETA TURNU-SEVERIN - an unused 19th century Shipyard next to a Roman site

CÂMPINA - the world's most modern pre-WW1 refinery

TURNU MĂGURELE - a Danube port town laid out after a 1836 urban project

PETRILA - the oldest mining site in the Jiu Valley

And the hidden industrial layer of central **BUCHAREST**.

The project is an invitation to explore the vacant and impressive industrial built heritage and the potential of these monumental hollow shells. Their spectacular spaces and the collective stories of work and life are still strongly connected, so this is also an invitation to connect to local initiatives and communities and to contribute to their town's future.

It is an invitation to explore diverse histories and cultural landscapes, to meet local organisations active in the fields of architecture, urban strategy, history and art.

Conditions of the Residency:

The residency covers travel costs from the selected applicant's country of residence (up to 500 Euro), accommodation within the premises of the host organisation and some meals, a fee of 700 EUR and a 300 EUR production budget.

The programme encourages and assists the insertion of the artist into the everyday life of the town. The host organisation will provide mediation and knowledge of the local context, connect the resident with the local community, document the process of the residency and share available resources for research. Communal meals will be organised on occasion.

Only individual applicants can apply.*

*Duos may apply, but the amount allocated per residency will remain unchanged, as mentioned above.

In addition to the participation in the residency, the project also covers the costs of the selected applicants to attend the follow-up meeting, which will take place in Bucharest, Romania, on September 20-21, 2025.

Eligibility and Criteria:

The applicants must be citizens or permanent residents from the following countries: Czech Republic, Italy, UK, France, Poland, the Netherlands, Spain and Romania.

Each residency space is targeting applicants from one country and will select one participant. Bucharest is the only city that will host two residents from two different countries. Please check the list of host organisations and the country eligibility.

We encourage applications from practitioners with diverse disciplinary backgrounds and artistic approaches: interdisciplinary artists, architects/landscape architects, historians, anthropologists or community organisers with a minimum of 5 years of experience in their respective fields. Please check the eligibility of applicants for each host organisation.

We are particularly encouraging to apply the practitioners who showcase an ability to work collaboratively and flexibly across disciplinary boundaries; have practices aligned to ecological and sustainable principles of thinking and working; ground their work on decolonial and critical perspectives that acknowledge the interdependencies of different life forms; have experience or interest in working in post-industrial contexts.

We celebrate talent from all backgrounds and we welcome applicants of all ages, genders, and diverse linguistic, cultural, and minority backgrounds, including those from under-represented communities and people who identify as disabled, neurodivergent or have long-term health conditions.

The resident must stay for the entire residency period (between 10 to 14 days) within the time span proposed by each host organisation.

The resident must organise one public event during the residency (workshop, discussion, gathering, cooking session, or any other type of public format) that will take place in relation to the local community or the residency space. The costs of the event will be supported from the production budget. No other outcome is expected.

The resident will be expected to keep a journal in any type of format: texts, audio-visuals, objects, drawings, sketches, new works, or others. The documentation of the project will be made public.

The resident must be available to join the follow-up meeting in Bucharest, on 20-21 September, and engage in the planned events by sharing the learnings and outcomes of the the residency.

How to Apply:

Please apply to the residency by filling out this application form* in English by the latest Sunday, April 27th, 2025, 23:59 CET.

After the representatives from the Reclaiming Post-Industrial Futures project and partnering institutions have evaluated the applications, there will be a round of interviews with shortlisted candidates taking place online between 12 and 15 May 2025.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by 16 May 2025. All applicants will receive an answer by email, but due to limited resources, we are unable to give individual feedback.

**Please be aware that you need a google account to fill out the google form in order to apply to the residency program.*

If you have any questions please contact us at tamina.bojoanca@britishcouncil.org

HOST ORGANISATIONS

1&2. LA FIRUL IERBII AND AMAIS / VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL SPACES IN CONVERSION

Supported by: the Czech Institute and the British Council

Open to applicants from: CZECH REPUBLIC & UK

Residency Period: two (2) weeks between July 1st and September 20, 2025

Who can apply: interdisciplinary artists, architecture historians, architects/landscape architects, anthropologists, community organisers from the Czech Republic and the UK

Location: Bucharest

Local context: The development of Bucharest is very much linked to its industrial history. However, the lack of systematic studies on the value of industrial buildings, the weak protection given by the monument status (only about 50 industrial buildings), combined with the speculative interest in the value of the land, turn industrial buildings into very vulnerable ones. That is why the initiatives that choose to reuse these abandoned, disregarded or endangered spaces for artistic or creative uses are examples to talk about during the residency: Nod Makerspace and La Firul Ierbii, located in an old cotton factory; WASP-Working Art Space and Production, opened in in a disused industrial hall from the Flaros shoe factory; Ateliers Malmaison, taking place in the former military barrack and prison; Atelierele Scînteia, in the symbolic soviet 1950s Bucharest typography.

About the hosts: La Firul Ierbii (LFI) opened its doors in the former cotton factory in Timpuri Noi in 2016 as an independent space intended to inform citizens about city issues. La Firul Ierbii is an important tool for community activation: a space for meetings, public debates and civic initiatives. Their goal is to offer the active urban community in Bucharest a public center with permanent access, designed and equipped, which allows interaction between all urban actors.

One of LFI's main partners is AMAIS, a non-profit organization founded in 2015, that supports people with disabilities and those around them to change perceptions of disability and make accessibility issues more visible. Thanks to the space provided by La Firul Ierbii, AMAIS has been able to grow and develop a diverse community, transforming this place into a landmark of inclusion, open to both people with disabilities and those without.

For UK applicants: accessibility for disabled artists

The British Council is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion, which is a core tenet of our strategy. We're partnering with AMAIS in order to accommodate disabled interdisciplinary artists, architecture historians, architects/landscape architects, anthropologists, community organisers. AMAIS will work closely with us to ensure the residency is fully accessible. The selected UK resident will receive comprehensive and tailored support to accommodate their specific needs throughout the residency.

If you have any questions or require support to make the application process more accessible, please contact us at tamina.bojoanca@britishcouncil.org

Website: <https://www.lafirulierbii.org/>

3. URBANIUM / DONAU CHEM FERTILIZER PLANT

Supported by Cervantes Institute

Open to applicants from: SPAIN

Residency Period: 01.07-14.07 2025

Who can apply: interdisciplinary artists, architects/landscape architects, anthropologists, community organisers from Spain

Location: Turnu Măgurele

Local context: Turnu Măgurele is nestled among the fields, between the Danube and the Olt River. A road leading to the ruins of the ancient fortress Turris marks the subtle border between urban and wildlife, passing by the industrial colossus DonauChem or walking through the floodplains.

The port city, a planned city. In 1836 German engineer Karl Zohl was delegated to plan the future town; However, the emblematic Central Park designed in 1877 was altered by a City Hall “redesign” five years ago, triggering the reaction of a significant number of citizens.

The industrial town. After 1965, due to Synthetic Fertilizer Plant (Donau Chem), the town grew from 11,000 in 1945 to 30,000 residents in 1977. Recently, the colossus was bought by an entrepreneur reactivating an imaginary (though unplausible) reindustrialisation.

The shrinking city. Technology became obsolete, port activities declined sharply, disconnecting the port from the town, both physically and symbolically. With their past buried under blocks of flats and factories, or migrating to Spain or Italy for job opportunities, locals are apparently unaware that post-industrial assets could be reactivated.

About the hosts: Urbanium was created in 2013 by a group of young people from Turnu to attract activist and innovative art, social and economic movements to small towns. Urbanium are attached to “Buen Vivir”, placing at the core of a community wellbeing the relations between its members and all the other local non-human beings, vegetal or animal, a key concept for resilience and regeneration processes in the face of the current climate, biodiversity or political crisis. For many citizens, fascinated by neo-liberal and growth ideologies, community and nature relations do not hold a central place, even if recent reactions to the Central Park redesign process might indicate a sensibility towards such assets.

Urbanium's valorisation of underused natural assets, variety and depth of social relations in an alternative imaginary of development – one that no political actor has been able to offer yet, especially through artistic approaches that can create motivation, passion and action!

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Urbanium.Turnu>

4. RAFINĂRIA LA PREZENT (REFINERY NOW!) AND 1503 ASSOCIATION / STEAUA ROMÂNĂ REFINERY

Supported by the Italian Institute for Culture

Open to applicants from: ITALY

Residency Period: 13.07-26.07.2025

Who can apply: interdisciplinary artists, architects/landscape architects, community organisers from Italy

Location: Câmpina

Local context: Câmpina is most likely the only European city urbanized by a customs facility and modernized by oil. In these two combined legacies lies the specific identity of the town, through one of the most modern refineries in the world (also the largest in Europe for three decades). Mechanized exploitation of crude oil began in 1890 and the city became a cosmopolitan *El Dorado* of "black gold", tripling its population in the first decade of the 20th century and being the center of attention during the German occupation of Wallachia in 1916-1918. All this gave rise to a generalized well-being, a large middle class that developed a strong intellectual tradition in the interwar period. Much of the industrial character, a remarkable built heritage (including the oil-related cultural landscape) was kept, in spite of the country's communization. On the other hand, while today's civic spirit and press freedom are reduced, the city is aging and gradually depopulating. The valorization of its fabulous heritage is in great need of new energies, being an important resource for development in a world where local specific city brings added value to historical communities.

About the hosts: "Rafinăria la Prezent" (Refinery now!) is a civic initiative group from Câmpina (architects, urban planners, engineers, historians, geographers, photographers), with the purpose of supporting the conservation, adaptive reuse and urban development of the centrally located industrial site of the former "Steaua Română" refinery. Since 2021, it has initiated the dialogue between all the local stakeholders, researching and raising awareness about the historical, memorial and architectural importance of the refinery. Its partner, "1503" Association is founded by engineer Ionuț Oprea (b.1987) and advocates for a possible city museum. The two initiatives are supported, among others, by Mădălin-Cristian Foțșă (b.1980), geographer, tour guide and master in history, and architect Ștefana Pascu-Nica (b.1985), based in Câmpina, with relevant activity in the field of local built heritage.

Website: www.1503.ro, www.facebook.com/rafinarialaprezent

5. MKBT: MAKE BETTER / REȘIȚA BLAST FURNACE

Supported by the French Institute Bucharest

Open to applicants from: FRANCE

Residency Period: 22.07-04.08 2025

Who can apply: interdisciplinary artists from France

Location: Reșița

Local context: Reșița is a small town located in the country's oldest industrial areas. It developed as a steel production and processing industrial centre, exploiting the rich resources of its surroundings. Mineral resources were extracted from dozens of mines and pits throughout the area. In the town of Reșița itself, steel, rail tracks, engines, armaments, train engines, and hydroelectric turbines were manufactured. Submarine engines as tall as six meters manufactured here would later be mounted on underwater vehicles Reșița workers couldn't even imagine. Austrians, Hungarians, Germans, Czechs all settled here and helped develop the town. Reșița used to produce 20% of Romania's GDP, but after 1989, the town experienced a sharp economic restructuring, urban poverty and abandonment. Not only has the town lost 30 percent of its population but many of its current residents gave up hope that something could be done about it. Today, the local community seeks for new visions, as emerging civic movements and city leadership struggle to address the town's most pressing needs and build on its potential.

About the hosts: MKBT, short for Make Better, started in 2014 as the project of a handful of urban economists, urban planners, engineers, and geographers, brought together by their concern for urban regeneration and development. For Reșița, MKBT played the role of a curator of potential. They started working with the Municipality in autumn 2016, outlining urban regeneration strategies for the town. Their first task was to make a detailed evaluation of the town's derelict or underused land and buildings. MKBT use a long-term, interdisciplinary approach, working at the grassroots level, through participatory action, connected to local needs, aspirations, and opportunities. Their three key areas of action are (1) Access to safe and decent housing, (2) Sustainable (re)use of the built environment and (3) City & Nature: Bridging the divide.

In 2024 the city hosted for the first time a street event dedicated to industrial heritage, more precisely to the funicular, planned for adaptive re-use - see short video here. This year's edition, planned for 1-3 August, will be dedicated to Reșița's last blast furnace - aiming to bring the community together to imagine a new, public use to this mighty industrial symbol - see photos here.

Website: www.mkbt.ro

6. PLANETA PETRILA + VALEA JIULUI SOCIETY / PETRILA MINE

Supported by The Polish Institute

Open to applicants from: POLAND

Residency Period: 25.07-07.08.2025

Who can apply: interdisciplinary artists, landscape architects, community organisers from Poland

Location: Petrila

Local context: Petrila Mine, or Exploatarea Minieră Petrila, was a socially and economically valuable industrial complex for the whole country, active for 156 years (1859-2015). Learning, in 2011, of the national program of closure of the non-profitable mines, providing total demolitions for Petrila mine, the oldest one in Valea Jiului, local artist Ion Barbu forms a huge team with whom he starts a saving action. The mining ensemble becomes a monument of class "A" and is thus partially spared.

Through his art, Ion Barbu depicts Petrila as a satiric scene that reflects Romanian contemporary society and, at the same time, as a cultural universe. Ion Barbu's energies were also channeled into restoring the Ion D. Sîrbu Colony House, which became the Literary and Artistic Colony of Petrila. There he organized memorials, book launches, festivals, honorary citizenship rituals, publishing books and magazines—in an attempt to bring back together the people of Petrila around Ion D. Sîrbu's figure.

About the hosts: In order to manage the regeneration project, Planeta Petrila Association is established - an entity formed by the local administration, the civil society, former miners, architects and urban planners. On the larger scale of the Valley, Valea Jiului Society is Planeta Petrila's main collaborator: an NGO active in the field of local development that aims at the social, economic, and cultural development of the Jiu Valley to improve the quality of life of the local community. Under its wings, 28 active NGOs in the Jiu Valley collaborate for the just transition of the Jiu Valley from the polluting industry and the development of the region.

Together with artist Ion Barbu, the associations kept the interest in the mining complex alive and organized events such as "Open Mine Day" or "Miner's Day" yearly, which opened the mine to the public, in a creative and participatory way. The events tested different activities in the mine buildings, with the aim of raising the perceived value of industrial heritage and reconnecting the mine to locals.

Websites: www.facebook.com/PlanetaPetrila, www.facebook.com/ValeaJiuluiSociety, www.valeajiuluiimplicata.org

7. FRONT LA DUNĂRE / SEVERNAV SHIPYARD AND ȘIMIAN ISLAND

Supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands

Open to applicants from: THE NETHERLANDS

Residency Period: 30.07-12.08.2025

Who can apply: interdisciplinary artists, architecture historians, architects/ landscape architects, anthropologists, community organisers from The Netherlands

Location: Drobeta-Turnu Severin

Host: Front la Dunăre Association

Local context: Drobeta-Turnu Severin has a rich history by the Danube. Since prehistory, the city's strategic position shaped most of today's waterfront, up until 1830's, when its final, modern plan was developed. The Naval Shipyard was built in 1856 and the area transformed into an industrial riverfront after the appearance of the railway. Today, although in an accelerated state of decay, the Shipyard can be a chance for the city to reclaim its historical relationship with the river.

In the vicinity, Șimian Island holds remains of a fortress that belonged to the submerged island of Ada-Kaleh. Today, the island is the result of a failed large-scale systematization plan that aimed to relocate the natural, architectural, and cultural heritage threatened in the 70s by the construction of the Iron Gate Power Station on the river.

About the hosts: Asociația Front la Dunăre came together in 2024, as a team of then-student architects. The NGO assumes the role of a cultural mediator in the dialogue between civil society, local administrations, and the often controversial history of Danube's heritage.

The main objectives along Drobeta's waterfront represent their current focus: the Port Fountain, restored by the same team between 2021 and 2024; the 1851 Shipyard and the UNESCO site of Trajan's Bridge as the extreme poles of the waterfront axis; and the island of Șimian as the final satellite of the city up to the border with Serbia. This way and in time, a strategic model of heritage interpretation will stimulate cultural activities for young professionals and the local community through non-intrusive methods of regional impact.

This year, both Drobeta and Șimian Island will be hosts of the team's first Open Waterways project which aims to permanently connect the island with the city's waterfront and organize an architecture contest for the island, guided tours, films and a series of activities to show the potential of a rather forgotten public space and open the very necessary discussion around it.

Website: www.facebook.com/frontladunare

8. FUNDAȚIA VERDE 2000 / VIROMET CHEMICAL PLANT

Supported by Fundația9

Open to applicants from: ROMANIA

Residency Period: 01.08-14.08 2025

Who can apply: interdisciplinary artists, architects/landscape architects from Romania

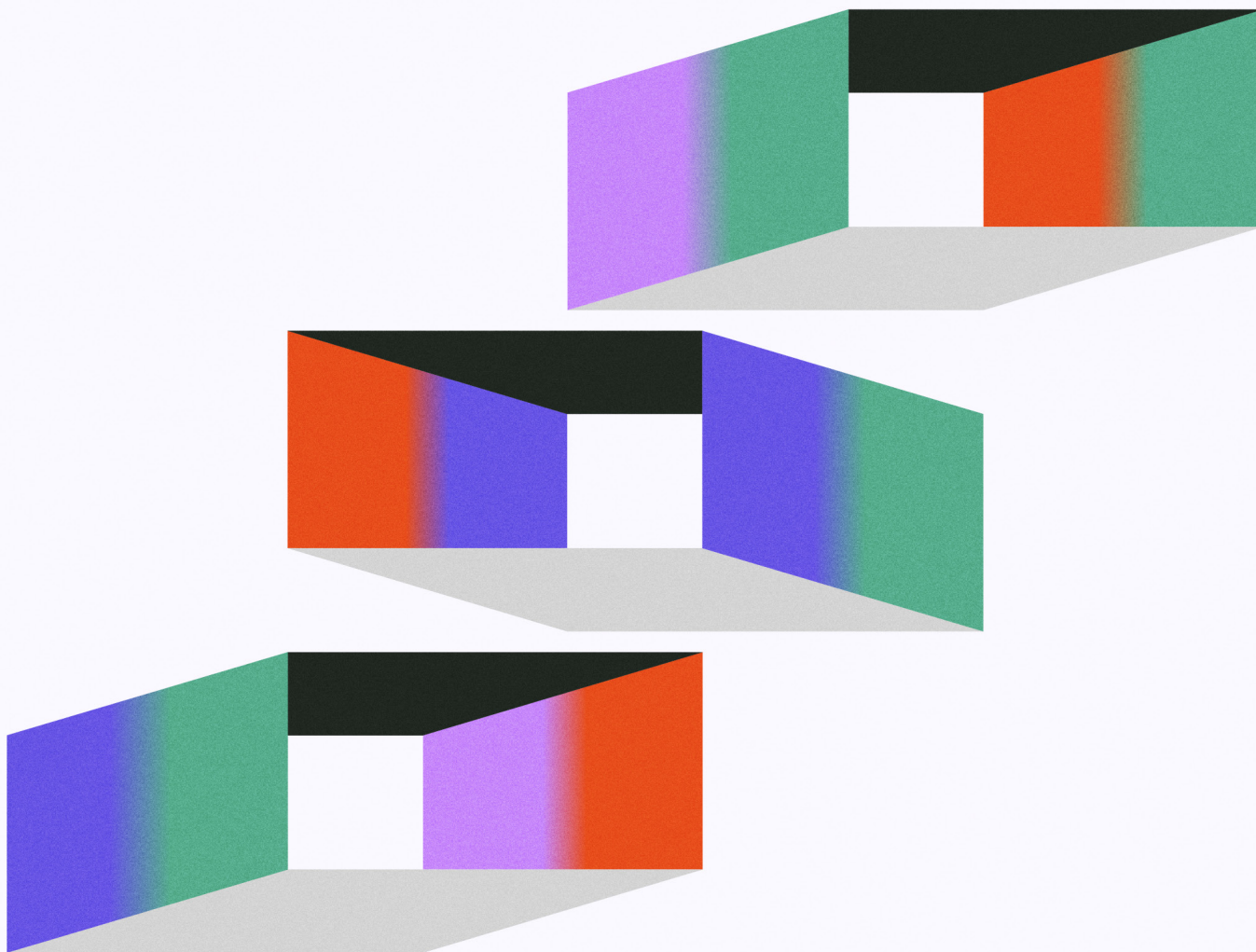
Location: Orașul Victoria

Local context: The founding act of Victoria was written in Russian and contained a functional description of the planning of the Ucea Colony. The subsequent official texts were different; they recounted and glorified the heroic youth of the proletarian city of Victoria, “the first scion of the people’s power”. The city where the New Man had been born. A model city of exemplary youthfulness. Etched into the national landscape as a unique place, where happiness was a given. The recipe for this happiness was presented as a steady and relentless collective mobilization on the building site (or in the factory), an appetite for sacrifice and self-obliteration. An enthusiastic adhesion and submission to the values of the dominant ideology. A fusion with and within a paradise-like landscape. Ultimately, eternal youth.

From their different social positions and roles, all of the inhabitants experienced the premises of a utopian city. They lived the history of a utopia and its decline. (*“Utopie c’est nul part”* - Dana Diminescu)

About the hosts: Dana Diminescu (raised in Victoria, sociologist and artist, associate professor at Institut Polytechnique de Paris, école de Télécom) came back to Victoria in 2015 in order to research at the National Council for the Study of “Securitate” Archives and make interviews with some relevant characters of the city. On this personal endeavour (reconstructing an image of the town that she wasn’t aware of as a child), ‘Utopian Cities, Programmed Societies’ took shape in 2019, together with Tincuta Heinzl and Ioana Macrea-Toma. Dana Diminescu continues working in the ideal city of Victoria, with the monographic method and the situationist drift at the center of her approach. Her work will focus on the utopias generated during its existence by the leaders and institutions of the communist regime, but also by the inhabitants themselves and on the possible ways of reinvesting this site via AI.

Website: <http://programmed-societies.info/about/>, <https://primariavictoria.ro/victoria/diverse/307>



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