

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SUSTAINABILITY

The cultural route of Saint Ladislaus

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The cultural tourist route is a network of cultural-tourist objectives that are of international interest. The objective is to ensure that the various cultural objectives are accessible and that the natural landscape is enhanced. Individual sights attract a large number of visitors only if they are of special value. In this sense, Romania has launched a project, with the potential to expand through collaboration with other Central European countries, namely the *Attractive Romania Project*. It aims to attract tourists, based on these routes, by increasing the accessibility of touristic areas and the quality of infrastructure, development of tourist destinations, increasing and diversifying the offer by capitalizing on the cultural and natural heritage, respectively increasing the quality of experiences and services at the level of tourist destinations.

The objective related to the Route of Saint Ladislaus on the territory of Romania includes the image painted in frescoes, present in churches and fortresses, of the legend of St. Ladislaus. Ladislaus I, the third sanctified member of the Arpadian dynasty, gained an important prestige after the canonization on the entire territory of the Kingdom of Hungary, in the 14th and 15th century. Medieval frescoes in the territories of today's Transylvania, Slovakia, Croatia and Hungary prove that Ladislaus had a good reputation, including in the rural communities in the border areas. Some authors mention 45 representations of Saint Ladislaus.



Fig.1 *Saint Ladislau*, detail of fresco located along the north wall of the Unitarian fortified church in Dârjiu



Fig. 2 The legend of *Saint Ladislau*, the entire fresco (and details) located on the north wall of the Unitarian fortified church in Dârjiu from 1419, Harghita County, Romania