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**War Propaganda and the Romanian
Churches in Transylvania (1914-1918)**

Project Director

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Scientific Report

on the implementation of the project in the period January – September 2017

The research activities carried out under the grant **War Propaganda and the Romanian Churches in Transylvania (1914-1918)**, during the nine months of funding corresponding to the year 2017, targeted the achievement of the project objectives, according to the plan that was laid down in the application. This report will chart the project team's activities of management, research/ documentation, and dissemination.

1. The management activities of the project included three meetings in 2017: one in January 17, 2017, which addressed issues such as the completion of the film of the project, the project team's participation in the conference "War Hecatomb", organized in Lisbon, the publication of the volume of studies resulting from the National Congress of Romanian Historians by the end of the project, and the postponement of the financial opening of the project. In the meetings of 14 March and 22 May 2017, discussions focused on the volume of studies resulting from CNIR 2016, the participation in the conference "War Hecatomb", in Lisbon, the making of the film, the financing the project, as well as research internships in Rome.

2. In what follows, we will address the **activities of research and documentation** conducted during the last months of the project, as set out in objectives I-III. In 2017, the bibliographic documentation work was completed, as was the activity of identification and investigation of the sources - in the country and abroad - relating to World War I and the official state propaganda deployed in Transylvania via the two Romanian Churches and clergy. Thus, in order to correlate the data provided by the archival sources in the country with the information held by various archives abroad, in the period 7-14 May 2017, Mirela Popa-Andrei, together with the Project Director, Assoc. Prof. Ana Sima, undertook a research and documentation visit at the Pontifical Archives in Rome and the Vatican, with particular focus on the Archive of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches (ACCO) and the Vatican Secret Archives (PTT). On this occasion, there were identified important documents that contribute to outlining a complex image of the situation of the Greek-Catholic ecclesiastical province in Transylvania during the years of the Great War, but also the relations of the Romanian Greek-Catholic hierarchy with

Budapest and the Vatican. Thus, in ACCO, the fund *Sacra congregazione per le Chiese Orientali, Scritture Riferite nei Congressi, Serie Romeni*, there have been identified and photocopied several documents, of which we should mention: Box 116, Rumeni, fasc. I-III Făgăraș - Alba Iulia, 1894-1919: the letter sent by Vasile Suciu, the vicar of the metropolitan chapter, to the nuncio about the state of mind in the archdiocese 1917-early 1918; about the situation of the Orphanage in Blaj between 1918 and 1921; there have been identified several files pertaining to prominent members of the Romanian ecclesiastical elite in Transylvania and their relations with the superior hierarchy of the periods that preceded and succeeded the conflict, but also from the time of the war. In the Vatican Secret Archives (Archivio Segreto Vaticano), the fund Archivio della Nunziatura Apostolica di Vienna, we identified documents that reveal the official correspondence of the Holy See, the Nunciature in Vienna and the suffragan bishops on the territory of Hungary, including the bishops of the Romanian Greek-Catholic dioceses. These were circulars that regulated aspects of a pastoral nature, specific to a period of crisis, requiring the priests to adjust and adapt their pastorate to the times they were going through, the state's right to expropriate certain private land estates, including assets belonging to the Catholic Church, etc.

3. All data accumulated during the research and documentation stages were used in order to **disseminate the information pertaining to this project**. Thus, all the team members participated in conferences organized in the country and abroad. The film of the project holds a special place as regards the dissemination of the research results. Equally important is the volume that brings together papers presented at a section organized by the Project Director at the National Congress of Romanian Historians from 2016, to which we will return later in the report.

Also, during the year 2017, several studies have been submitted for publication and have been published, 2 of these in international databases. There are also other articles published in the proceedings of conferences or in journals indexed CNCSIS B+, in collective volumes or in journals that are not indexed, but are representative for the flux of historical research on this topic, as follows:

Articles in international databases:

1. Ionela Zaharia, "For God and/or emperor: Habsburg Romanian military chaplains and wartime propaganda in camps for returning POWs", *European Review of History: Revue*

européenne d'histoire, Volume 24, 2017 - Issue 2: Habsburg Home Fronts during the Great War, Taylor and Francis, pp. 288-304.

2. Mirela Popa-Andrei, “Ipostaze ale preotului în comunitățile românești din Transilvania în timpul Marelui Război,” in *Anuarul Institutului de Istorie “George Barițiu” din Cluj-Napoca Series Historica*, vol. LVI, București, 2017, **in press**.

Other articles and studies:

- 1. Mirela Popa-Andrei, Diana Covaci**, “Ierarhi români în refugiu. Secvențe din viața Bisericii Greco-catolice române din Transilvania în vremea Primului război Mondial”, in *Cler, biserică și societate în Transilvania sec. XVII-XX*, eds. Cornel Sigmirean, Corina Teodor, Cluj-Napoca (România), Symphologic Publishing, Gatineau (Canada), Ed. Argonaut, 2016, pp. 323-339.
- 2. Mirela Popa-Andrei**, “Primul Război Mondial reflectat în jurnale de front românești (1914-1916)”, in *Din modernitate spre contemporaneitate. Studii istorice dedicate lui George Cipăianu la împlinirea vârstei de 75 de ani*, eds. Valentin Orga, Ottmar Trașcă, Liviu Țirău, Virgiliu Țirău, Cluj-Napoca, Editura Argonaut, 2017, pp. 241-253.
- 3. Mirela Popa-Andrei**, “La Prima Guerra Mondiale attraverso gli occhi dei partecipanti. Due diari di guerra romeni (1914-1916)”, in *Quaderni Quaderni della Casa Romana di Venezia*, XII, 2017 (in press), ISSN 1583 9397.
- 4. Ana Victoria Sima, Alexandra Teodora Mihalache**, “Liberatori o nemici? Percezioni e atteggiamenti dei Romeni e dei Sassoni transilvani nei confronti dell’esercito romeno durante la breve occupazione della Transilvania (1916)”, in *Quaderni Quaderni della Casa Romana di Venezia*, XII, 2017 (sub tipar), ISSN 1583 9397.
- 5. Mirela Popa-Andrei**, “Școli și învățători în vremea Marelui Război. Studiu de caz: învățământul confesional din dieceza Greco-catolică Gherla (1914-1916)”, in the Festschrift dedicated to Prof. Nicolae Bocșan, 2017, **in press**.
- 6. Mirela Popa-Andrei**, “Câteva considerații cu privire la clerul român din Transilvania și propaganda de război (1914-1917)”, in the Festschrift dedicated to Prof. Csucsuja Istvan, **in press**.

An important of the dissemination of the project results is the volume of the project: *Persuading Minds. Propaganda and Mobilisation in Transylvania during World War I*, Ana Victoria Sima & Teodora Alexandra Mihalache (eds.), Peter Lang, 2017 ISBN: 978-3-631-

73857-3. (in press). The volume includes many of the research results obtained by the members of this project's research team, which were first presented as papers at the National Congress of Romanian Historians, organized in Cluj-Napoca, on 25-28 August 2016,.

In this volume, the team members have published the following studies:

1. **Ana Victoria Sima**, "Writing and waiting for peace. Letters of Ordinary Romanian People from Transylvania at the Time of the Great War"
2. **Ionela Zaharia**, "War Propaganda: A Duty to the Nation and the Emperor. ASTRA and the Military Clergy during the Great War"
3. **Tiberiu Iordan**, "With the Camera in the Trenches"
4. **Mirela Popa-Andrei**, "The Priests' Manifold Roles in Transylvania's Romanian Communities during World War I"
5. **Teodora Mihalache**, "A "Mobilisation of Souls": Actions in Support of the War Effort in Braşov during 1914"
6. **Diana Covaci**, "The Church's Mobilization of the Population in Support of the War Effort: A Study of Communication"

In addition to the studies published by the project team members, the volume also includes seven contributions from various project collaborators, who participated in the section organized at the National Congress of Romanian Historians, in August 2016.

All members of the grant have participated in national and international conferences on subjects relevant for the research project, thus contributing to the dissemination of the research results and the confrontation of the preliminary results obtained from the activity of research-and documentation so far. As a result, during the 24 months of funding, the project team has a total of 15 participations in international conferences, as follows:

International conferences:

1. **Diana Covaci**, Lisbon-Portugal, 19-20 June 2017, International Conference "**War Hecatomb: Effects on health, demography and modern thought (19th-21st centuries)**"; organized by the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences - Universidade Nova de Lisboa; paper presented: *'Trustworthy counsellors of the people': The Romanian Clergy and the Mobilization of the Civil Population in Transylvania during the First World War.*

2. **Mirela Popa-Andrei**, Lisbon-Portugal, 19-20 June 2017, International Conference “**War Hecatomb: Effects on health, demography and modern thought (19th-21st centuries)**”; organized by the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences - Universidade Nova de Lisboa; paper presented: *The Other Faces of the Priest. The Overlapping Roles of the Clergy in the Romanian Communities from Transylvania during the Great War*
3. **Teodora Mihalache**, Lisbon-Portugal, 19-20 June 2017, International Conference “**War Hecatomb: Effects on health, demography and modern thought (19th-21st centuries)**”; organized by the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences - Universidade Nova de Lisboa; paper presented: *War Pedagogy in The Confessional Schools of The Transylvanian Saxons during the First World War*
4. **Ionela Zaharia**, Lisbon-Portugal, 19-20 June 2017, International Conference “**War Hecatomb: Effects on health, demography and modern thought (19th-21st centuries)**”; organized by the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences - Universidade Nova de Lisboa; paper presented: *Salvation through War: Church and War Propaganda at the Borders (1914-1918)*.
5. **Tiberiu Jordan**, Lisbon-Portugal, 19-20 June 2017, International Conference “**War Hecatomb: Effects on health, demography and modern thought (19th-21st centuries)**”; organized by the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences - Universidade Nova de Lisboa; paper presented: *No men's film in no men's land: Filming and propaganda in the trenches of World War I*.
6. **Ana Victoria Sima**, International conference **Formes, expressions et recompositions des solidarités dans l’Autriche-Hongrie en guerre**, organized by INALCO, Paris, on 1 June 2017, where, together with Emanuela Costantini (Universita Perugia, Italy), she delivered a paper entitled *Beyond the Fatherland, more than the Fatherland. Family as a psychological shelter and a transnational form of solidarity among Romanian and Italian soldiers of the Austro-Hungarian Army during the First World War* (http://www.inalco.fr/sites/default/files/asset/document/programme_solidarities_kuk_010_vf2.1.pdf).

An aspect that deserves mentioning is that the Project Director Ana Victoria Sima convened a panel entitled **The Church during the Great War** at the international conference “**War Hecatomb: Effects on health, demography and modern thought (19th-21st centuries)**”,

organized by the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences - Universidade Nova de Lisboa. In this project, the research team presented papers, and the Discussant was Diana Covaci. The program of the conference can be accessed here: <https://warandhealth.files.wordpress.com/2017/05/english-programme-16-06.pdf>.

National conferences:

1. Mirela Popa-Andrei, Braşov, 27-28 April 2017, National Symposium “Țara Bârsei”, the 16th edition, entitled “Istorie și memorialistică în secolele XVIII-XX”, organized by the Museum “Casa Mureşenilor” and the Braşov County Council; paper presented: *Literatura Marelui Război. Studiu de caz: două jurnale de front româneşti*

This project has proposed that a series of the results should address a less scientifically minded target group, which is nonetheless a consumer of national and local history. An important role in the process of the project’s dissemination to the general public belongs to the short documentary film, to which the project team members have contributed in various ways: the historians have conducted research in the archives and gathered information that led to the realization of the film script, and the film was made by PhD student **Tiberiu Iordan**. Tiberiu Iordan’s most important achievement this year, within the framework of the project, consists in the pre-production, production and post-production of the film. In the pre-production phase, he searched for and identified the filming locations, both outside and inside. The exterior locations are situated in the “Romulus Vuia” Ethnographic Museum of Transylvania, which contains both farms and old wooden churches, specific to the architecture of the communities and the period under investigation. He also identified the most suitable indoor settings and the camera angles necessary for filming the script. Tiberiu Iordan established a filming calendar, so that the final product may reflect the main information that are to be transmitted through this film.

Over the course of this year, Tiberiu Iordan has had meetings with the two actors who will appear in the film, to bring them up to speed with the details of the project and to establish the filming landmarks, as well as for rehearsals. Also, he settled the details of the filmed interviews that have been made for the film, together with the researchers involved in the project. The film project also entailed identifying and discussing the archive elements – documents, letters, photographs, journals – which are used for the illustrative, detailed footage required to support the visual concept of the film.

By the end of the project, the stage of film montage and the post-production stage will be completed. They consist in the video and audio editing of the footage, as well as the choice of music and the realization of the graphics elements that will be introduced in the film.

The activity of disseminating the results obtained within the framework of the project was also carried out through the Facebook page of the project, which can be accessed at

<https://www.facebook.com/Propaganda-de-r%C4%83zboi-%C8%99i-bisericile-rom%C3%A2ne%C8%99ti-din-Transilvania-1914-1918-1682543465314973>, this responsibility belonging to **Diana Covaci**.

The project team has contributed to the project's website, hosted on the page of the Faculty of History and Philosophy, Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. Its menu includes pages such as the *Project Description*, *Objectives and Activities*, *Team*, *Budget*, and *Results*, and can be accessed at http://hiphi.ubbcluj.ro/Propaganda_de_razboi/.

It can be seen that the **fourth objective of the project** can also be carried out, and it is also visible that for the current year there has been a good **dissemination of the results of the research** concerning the role of the two Romanian Churches in communicating to the faithful the official state propaganda.

Conf. dr. Ana Victoria Sima

