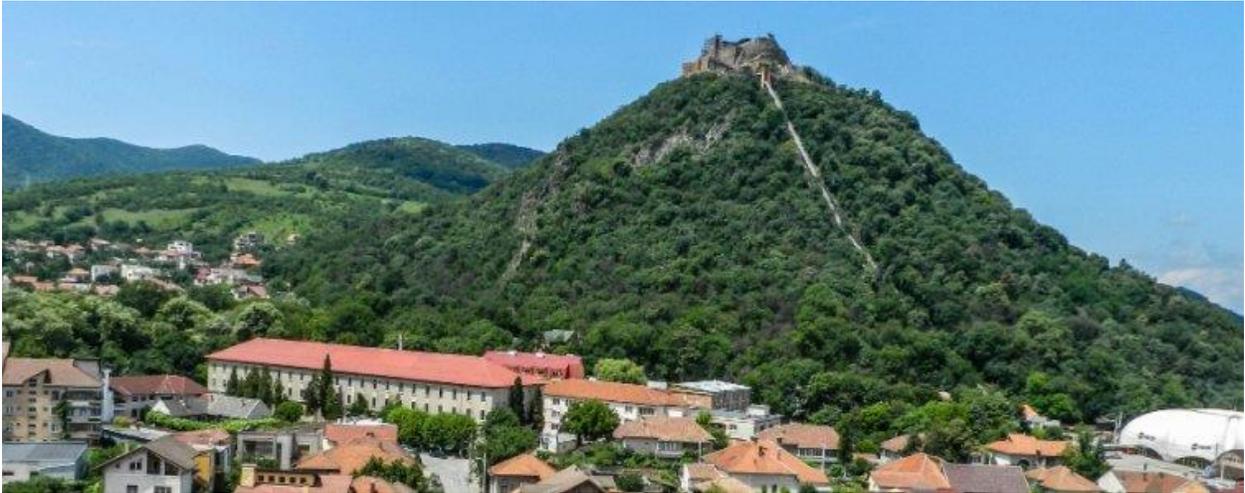


## Effata Newsletter

### The summer camp: Deva – Hunedoara



After eight weeks since the summer holiday started for the children from Effata, the day of leaving in the summer trip finally came. The children hardly could wait for this day, being eager to have a new trip together. The destination was the city of Deva, located in the historical region of Transylvania, nowadays being the capital of Hunedoara County. The landmark of the city is the medieval fortress which dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Deva becoming an important military and administrative centre in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

So, the history and the modern life are blending together here, making this city and the surroundings a perfect place for the children to learn more things about the history of the region and our country, but also to have fun. From the total group of 21 children we had in the Effata program during the summer holyday, 18 children participated at the summer camp.

**Hiking to the Fortress of Deva** – The first thing the children noticed even before entering the city was the fortress from the top of hill, and from that moment they expressed their wish to make a hiking trip up to it. Therefore, in the second day of our camp we started our journey to visit the fortress: most of the group members by feet, hiking through the woods and climbing the 113 stairs before reaching the gate and the others by the funicular, the transportation used by tourists to reach the fortress (because it was hot weather and some children are more sensible to it). Besides the contentment of the hiking experience, walking by the fortress walls offered us great views of the beautiful landscapes around the city, including of the surrounding mountains. During the visit, the children participated at a celebrating event within the walls of the fortress (160 years from the burning of the fortress) with a historical presentation and a musical representation.



**Visiting the city: history blending with modern attractions** – Every evening we find it a proper time to walk along the streets of the city. The statues, museums and beautiful old buildings reminded us at each step about the long history of the place, but also that this city is the main centre of Romanian feminine gymnastics. Discovering the contemporary life of the city, we were delighted by the musical fountain from the modern part of the city centre, we appreciated the nice pedestrian relaxing area with terraces where we enjoyed ice crème and refreshments, we admired the local initiative to have a public free library in the most busy public square of the city, we profited of a short outdoors astronomy lesson sustained ad-hoc by a team of youngsters and have seen Mars and Saturn by telescope.



**Recreation and fun** – Laying from the foot of the fortress hill, the public park with beautiful green areas and a generous playing ground offered us all the opportunity to spend a nice and relaxing time each day, both smaller children at the playing ground but also the bigger ones spending time together in nature. These recreational moments were completed with a whole afternoon spent at the swimming pools from the Aqualand, an indoor entertainment resort suitable for children of all ages. As it was expected, all the children had a lot of fun and this was the most appreciated entertainment from the holyday.



**Visiting the Corvin Castle** - Also known as Hunyadi Castle or Hunedoara Castle, this medieval construction is a one of a kind monument in Romania due to his attractive look. Although our camp accommodation was in Deva, we made a one-day trip to Hunedoara, a town not very far from it, especially to visit the famous castle, which served more as a residence than as in defense purpose. During the visit, the children received a lot of information regarding this construction, both historical data but also legends around it. Of course, they were more interested about the stories and the legends, but also they were impressed by the rooms displaying torture instruments and methods used in medieval times.

