APPENDIX A. SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW GUIDE

Interview guide – Entrepreneurs

Opening questions

1. How many years have you been active in the extraction or processing of Vișlea stone, and how did your business come into being?
2. What is your personal connection to the community of Vișlea? (Are you a local, or did you settle here because of economic opportunities?)
3. How would you describe the relationship between your company and the people of Vișlea during the period when the quarry was active?

Core questions

4. How do you think the quarry's activity influenced the local economy and the standard of living of Vișlea's inhabitants during the active period?
5. What types of stone products were most in demand, and how did market demand change over time?
6. What were the main challenges in finding skilled labour in the area?
7. How has the situation of the quarries developed in recent years - is extraction continuing, and under what conditions?
8. Have there been tensions or conflicts with the local community?
9. How do you see the economic future of the community - are there alternatives or development plans?

In-depth questions

10. Did local people actually feel the economic benefits during the active period - wages, infrastructure, opportunities for young people - or are there also grievances?
11. Can you give a concrete example of a time when your company directly supported a need of the local community?
12. Can you describe how the distribution chain worked? How far did the extracted stone travel?

Closing question

13. Is there anything important about the impact of this industry on the Vișlea community that we have not asked and that you would like to add?

2. Interview guide - Local residents

Opening questions

1. How long have you lived in this community?
2. What does this locality mean to you?
3. Did any members of your family work at the quarry or in stone processing?

Core questions

4. What has changed in the life of the community in recent years - economically, socially, and in everyday life?
5. What do you consider valuable and important for the identity of the locality today?
6. What are the main problems or challenges the community faces now?
7. What were the concrete disadvantages or nuisances you experienced when the quarry was active - noise, dust, roads, the environment?
8. What role do young people play in the life of the community, and what employment opportunities still exist locally?
9. How do you see the future of this locality?

In-depth questions

10. Did your family benefit economically during the period when the quarry was active? How did you experience the changes?
11. Can you tell us about an experience that illustrates how life was before compared with now?
12. What concrete examples of change have you observed in the village in recent years?

Closing question

13. Is there anything important about this subject that we have not asked and that you think should be mentioned?

3. Interview guide - Priest

Opening questions

1. Are you a local, or did you come to Vișstea as a priest? And how long have you served in the church?
2. How would you describe the relationship between the church and the local community?
3. What role do you think the church plays in the lives of the people of this locality?

Core questions

4. Vișstea stone built Cluj. How has this influenced the identity of the inhabitants and of the village over time?
5. The Reformed Church of Vișstea is itself a monument. Are there decorative elements specific to the village's stonemasons?
6. How has the social structure of the village changed in relation to the stonemason's trade - historic families, the transmission of the craft from father to son?
7. How has the community experienced the changes affecting the quarry - are there tensions, economic losses, or, on the contrary, a sense of relief regarding the environmental impact?
8. How do younger generations relate to traditions and to community life?
9. Could the stone craft and local heritage help develop tourism in the area as an economic alternative?

In-depth questions

10. Does the cemetery have any connection to stone carving? Is there a tradition in this sense - the way funerary stones are made?
11. Were there guilds or forms of mutual aid organised around the church or the community in relation to the stonemason's trade?
12. How were relationships between people before, compared with the present period?

Closing question

13. Is there anything important about this subject that we have not asked and that you think should be mentioned?

4. Interview guide - Craftsman

Opening questions

1. How many years have you practised the craft of carving Vișțea stone, and from whom did you learn this trade?
2. What does it mean to you, personally and socially, to be recognised as a master stonemason in this community?
3. How would you describe the connection between your trade and the local community?

Core questions

4. How has the everyday life of the Vișțea community changed in recent years?
5. How have modern machines changed traditional chisel work, and what do you think has been lost or gained through this mechanisation?
6. What role does the traditional craft still play today in the cultural identity of the commune?
7. Who worked in this industry - predominantly men, or also women? What happened to these people?
8. How do you see young people's interest in learning this craft, and what chances does this tradition have of being carried forward?
9. To what extent do you consider that this natural resource brought the community prosperity or, on the contrary, disadvantages?

In-depth questions

10. Can you give a concrete example of a work or monument you are most proud of, and tell us how it was made?
11. What was the atmosphere like in Vișțea during the active period of the quarry, compared with the present?
12. Can you explain how a good piece of stone for carving is recognised - what makes it special compared with other types of stone?

Closing question

13. Is there anything important about the life of the masters or the future of Vișțea stone that we have not asked and that you think deserves to be mentioned?

5. Interview guide - Local councillor

Opening questions

1. In what capacity are you active within the Local Council, and how long have you held this position?
2. Did you grow up in Vișlea or come from another locality? What personal connection do you have to the stone craft?
3. How would you describe the community of Vișlea to an outsider - what best defines it today?

Core questions

4. What is the current position of the Local Council regarding the quarry's activity - is it seen as a development opportunity for the community, or are there reservations?
5. To what extent does the quarry's activity currently contribute to the local budget and to funding public services in the commune?
6. Are there tensions or grievances in the community related to the current activity of the quarry - noise, dust, traffic, road damage? How are these managed at the institutional level?
7. How does the local administration collaborate with the company that operates the quarry? Are there agreements, obligations, or commitments towards the community?
8. What impact does the quarry's activity have on local infrastructure - roads, utilities, public spaces - and who bears the maintenance costs?
9. Is there a long-term development plan or strategy that integrates the quarry's activity? Or, on the contrary, is economic diversification of the commune being considered?
10. Are there initiatives to valorise the heritage of Vișlea stone beyond extraction - tourism, traditional craft, local cultural identity?

In-depth questions

11. Have there ever been conflicts between the company's interests and the community's needs? How were they resolved?
12. Has the possibility of obtaining protected or heritage status for Vișlea stone, at regional or national level, ever been discussed?
13. What is happening to the young people of the commune - do they stay to work in the stone sector, or do they migrate? How does the administration view this trend?

Closing question

14. Is there anything important about the role of the local administration or the future of the Vișlea community that we have not asked and that you think deserves to be mentioned?