



Participatory Action Research and **Soundscape Collection** **Methods for Cultural** **Preservation**

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5/14/2021




Contents of this Presentation

- 01 Background
- 02 Mission/Objectives
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The slide features a central green rounded rectangle containing the text '01 Background'. This central element is surrounded by a decorative arrangement of squares: a light green square at the top left, a yellow square at the top right, a light green square at the middle right, a yellow square at the bottom right, and a light green square at the bottom left. A thin yellow horizontal line is positioned at the top left, and a thin green horizontal line is at the bottom.

01 Background

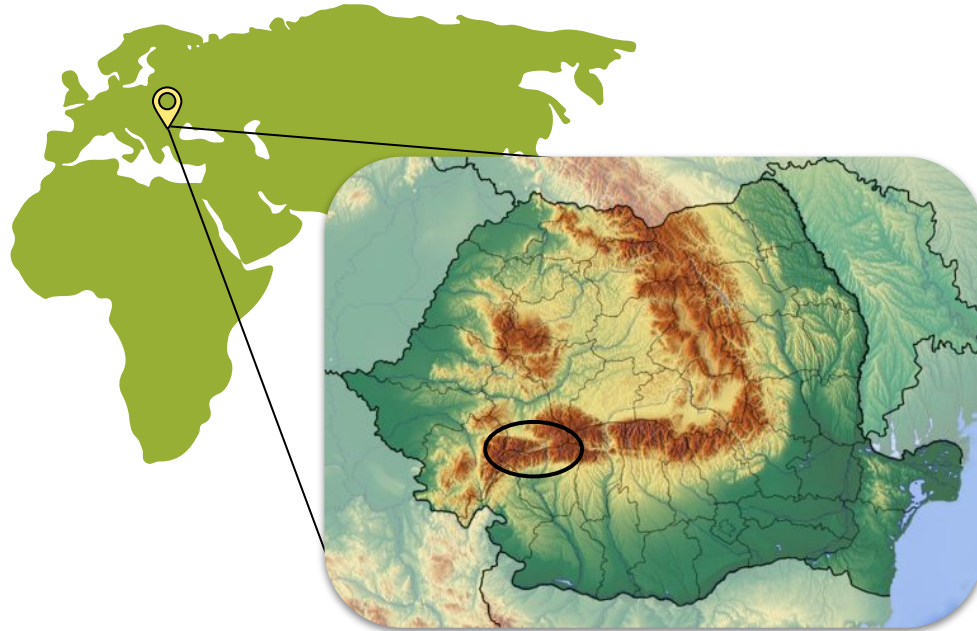
A woman with blonde hair, wearing a white jacket, a red and black patterned scarf, and green rubber boots, is sitting on the grassy bank of a rocky stream. She is focused on a piece of equipment, possibly a microphone or sensor, near the water's edge. The background shows a lush green field with some white flowers and a piece of driftwood. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The overall composition is a mix of natural elements and human activity, emphasizing environmental research.

Collecting Environmental Soundscapes is an Effective Way to Preserve Changing Landscapes and Cultures

**To Preserve Sound
and Culture, Kat
Austen has Created
and Employed
Many Sound
Collection Methods
Throughout Various
Projects**



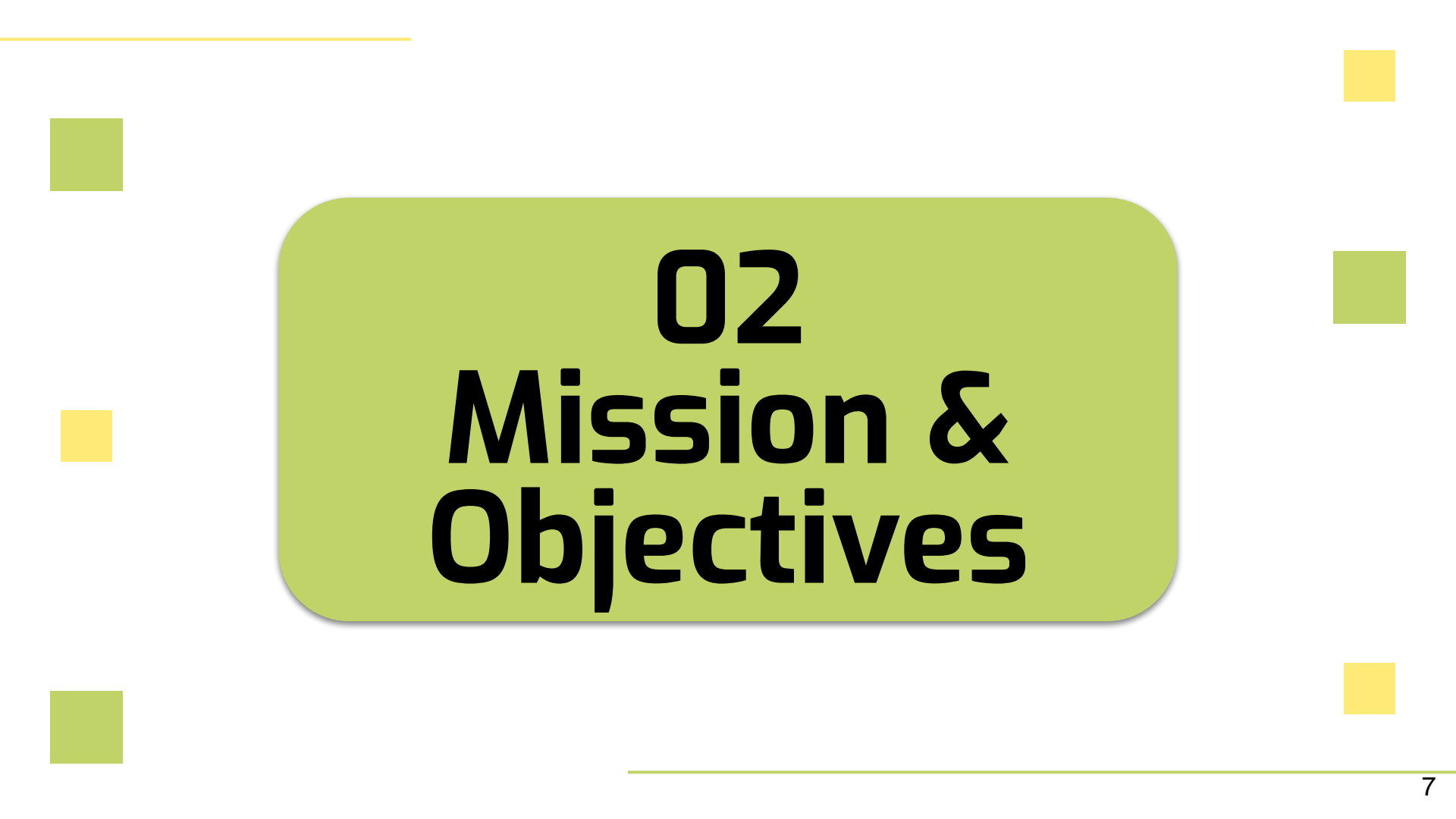
Energy Transition Policies have had **Negative Effects on Communities in Mining Regions**



Loss of jobs in fossil fuel-dependent industries

Economic decline of regions

Loss of culture and identity

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02 Mission & Objectives

Our Mission


The goal of this project is to assist the Studio Austen team with refining remote **Participatory Action Research (PAR)** methods for **sound collection** and to explore the application of these methods for **cultural preservation** in the Jiu Valley, Romania.

Our Objectives

To determine the most effective and applicable **technical methods** for **remote implementation** of PAR.

To **develop a prototype** of a **smartphone application** to assist in **remote sound collection** for PAR soundscape projects.

To **create and manage a network** for rural communities to **promote engagement** through **outreach and workshops**.

The slide features a central green rounded rectangle containing the text '03 Results'. This rectangle is surrounded by a decorative arrangement of six squares: two green squares on the left, two yellow squares on the right, and one green square at the bottom left. A thin yellow horizontal line is positioned at the top left, and a thin green horizontal line is at the bottom right.

03 Results

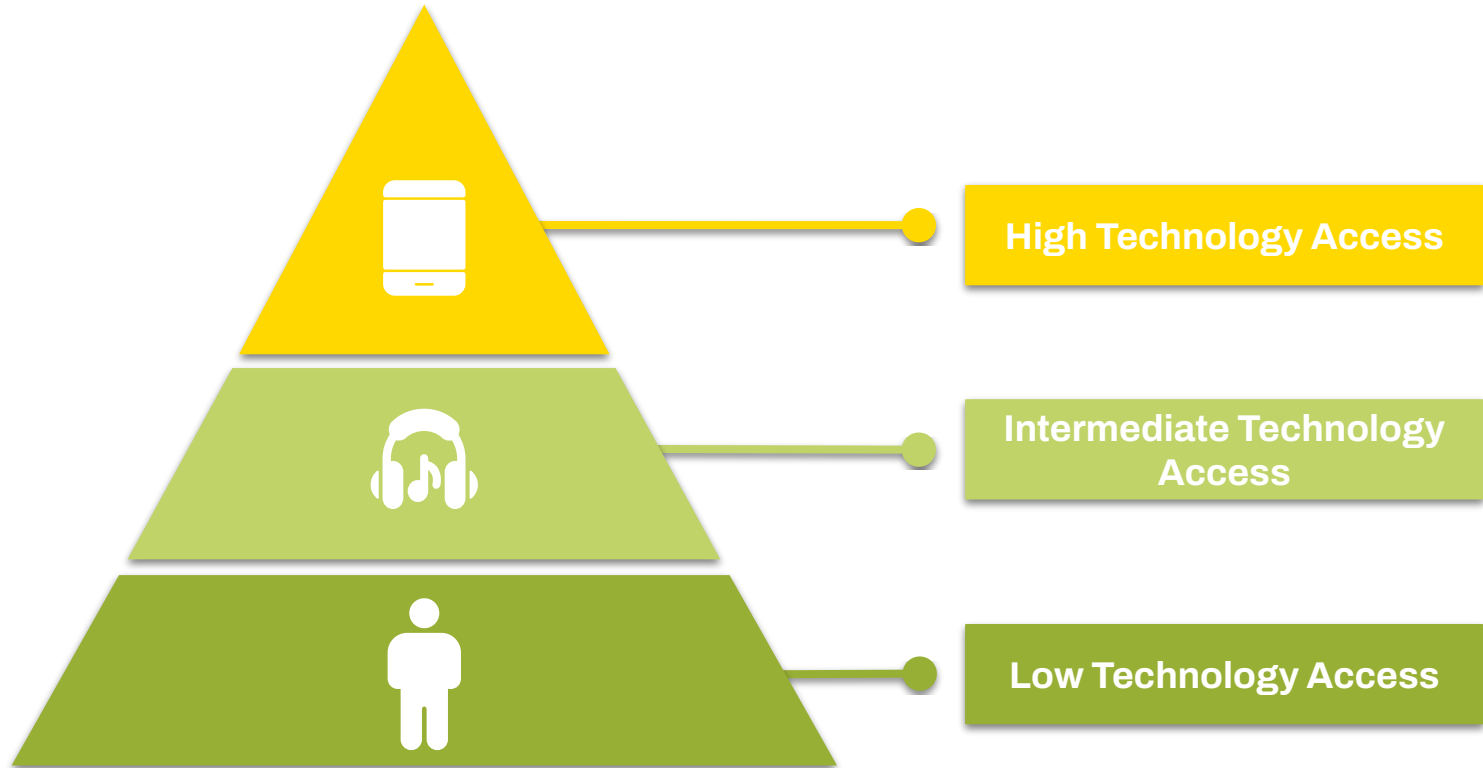
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Tier Creation





Recommendations for Participants with **Intermediate Access**



Participant Profile:

- ✘ smartphone access
- ✔ ability to upload recorded sounds

Equipment Lending System

Allows participants to borrow recording devices



Recommendations for Participants with Low Access

Participant Profile:

- ✘ smartphone access
- ✘ personal technology access/ability to upload sounds

Guided Soundwalks

Involve participants to increase citizen engagement





Mobile Application

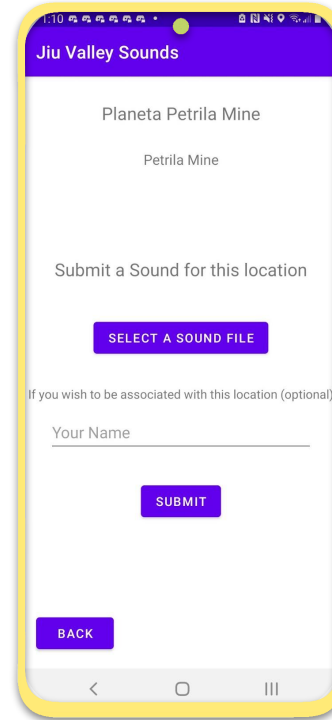
Map View

- Interactive virtual markers



Location-Specific Submission

- Submit sounds at markers

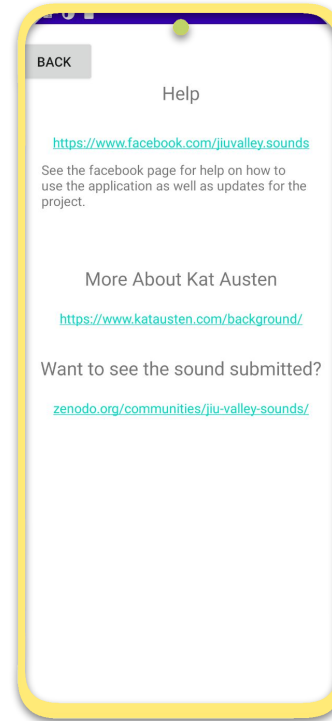
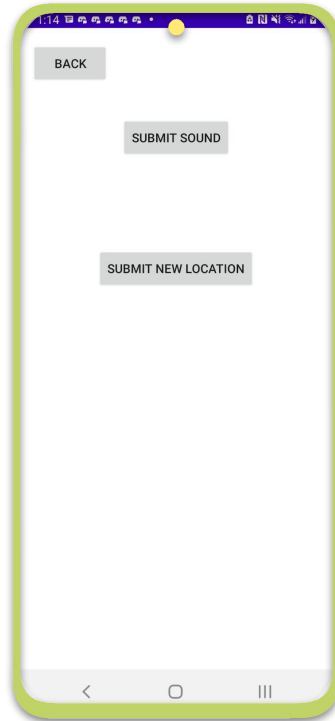




Menu & Help

Menu

- Includes sound and location submission



Help Page

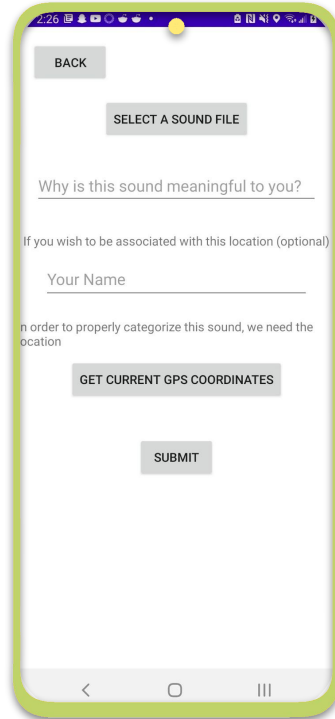
- Links to:
 - Facebook
 - Kat's website
 - Zenodo



Submission Screens

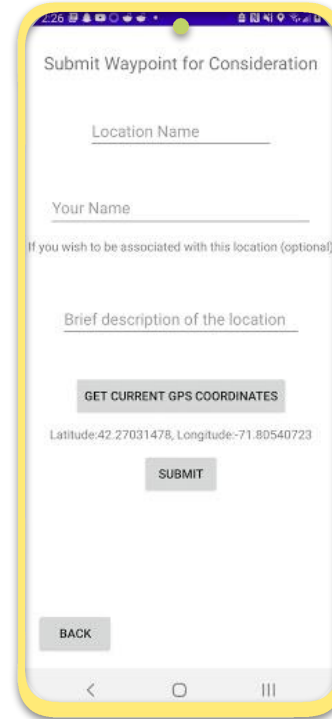
Sound Submission

- Submit sounds w/descriptions
- Gets GPS coordinates



Location Submission

- Submit locations w/descriptions
- Gets GPS coordinates



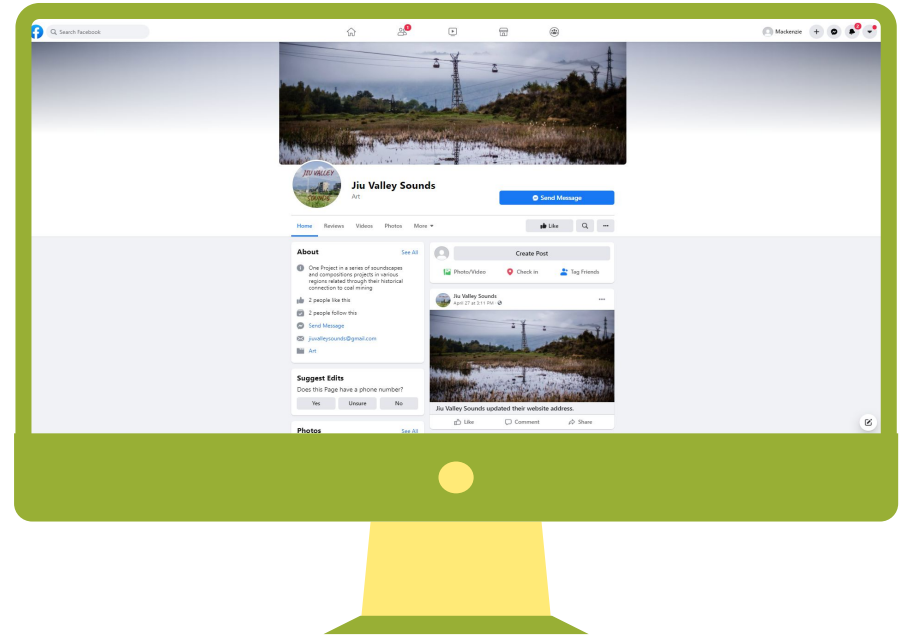
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Networking & Outreach



Organizing Outreach Results

| Key | |
|-------------|--|
| Active | Established contacts aiding in the <i>Jiu Valley Sounds</i> project |
| Inactive | Aided in the past but no longer actively assisting (can still be contacted unless otherwise specified) |
| Recommended | Generally recommend reaching out to aid the project in some way |

| Name | Description of Contact and their Contribution | Location | Primary Contact Method |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Andrei Dascalescu | Planeta Petrila film director, reached out over Facebook. Watched film and scheduled a meeting. Connected us with Mihai. | Romania (not the Jiu Valley) | Facebook Messenger |

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04

Recommendations

Recommendations for Future Soundscape Projects

Conduct Background
Research

01

03

Establish Methods of
Outreach

02

Identify Inclusive
Engagement Strategies

Conduct Background Research



General Research

Obtain **cultural**,
historical,
environmental,
and **technological**
research



Interviews

Fill gaps in
research with
interviews
w/relevant
individuals and
organizations



Tips

- Use general & interviewee research to inform **cultural sensitivity**
- Browse reports, statistics, projects

Conduct Background Research



General Research

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Conduct Background Research



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Tips

- Use general & interviewee research to inform **cultural sensitivity**
- Browse reports, statistics, projects

Identify Inclusive Engagement Strategies



Do **NOT** rely on
obvious and
familiar strategies
or platforms!

Do:

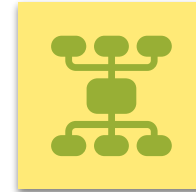
- **Understand methods** used within region of interest
 - Inform w/research and interviews
- Define at LEAST **3 technology access tiers**
 - Prepare methods suitable for participants and the region

Create and Organize a Network

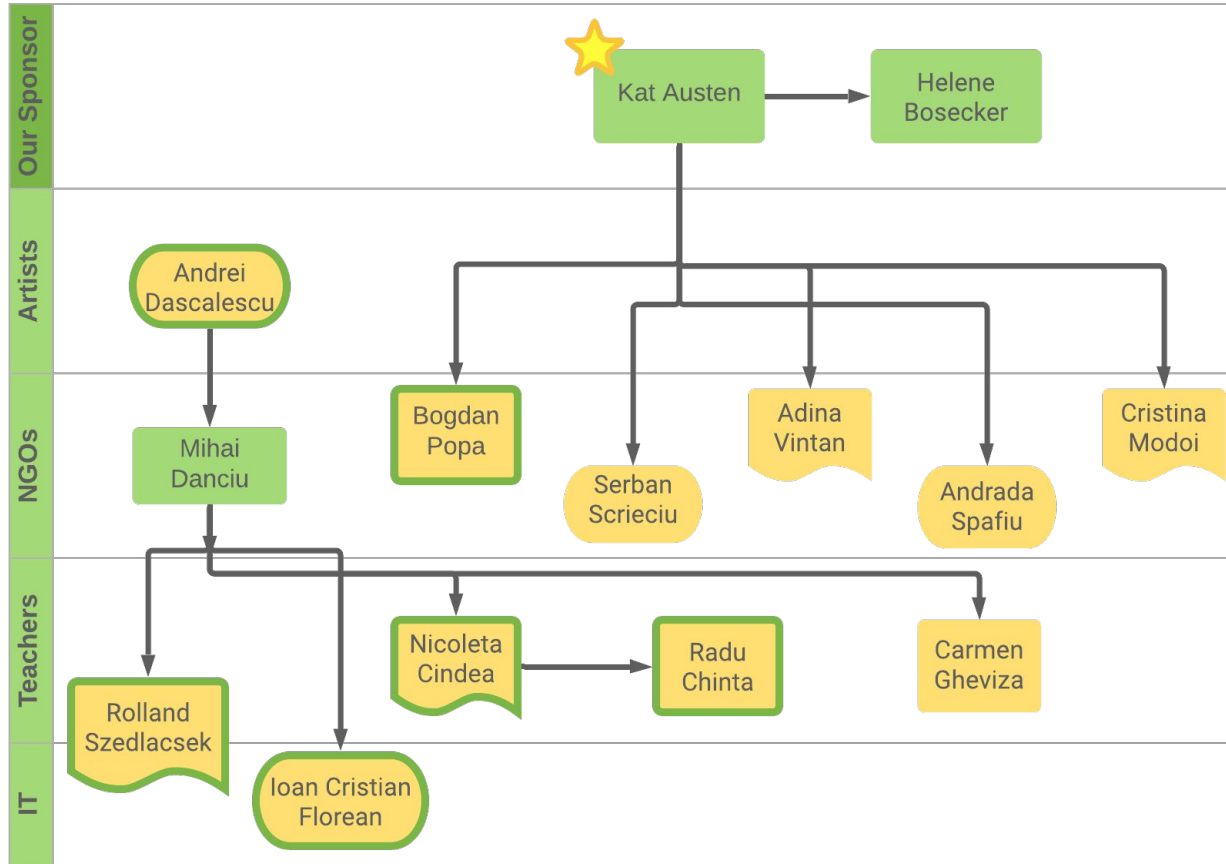


Browse media platforms, maintain **constant communication**

Organize contacts consistently, include pertinent information



Leverage the Snowball Effect



Looking Forward


App Booklet

- Design
- Features/Goals
- Maintenance
- Google Play Store Upload Instructions

App Maintenance

Update Language – Automatically Translate upon App Launch

- Follow File Path:




- Click on the 'values' folder which contains the text files for each desired language
- Find the country coded folder you would like (format is value-country code)
 - Ex: value-ro is the where the Romanian translation resides
- Click on the 'strings.xml' file
- Translate all English words within the string commands to the corresponding language
 - Ex: Converting "Hello" in English to Romanian
String = "Hello" → String = "Buna Ziua"

Update Access Token – If Changed

We created an Access Token to Zenodo, if it is ever changed, follow these steps:

- Open these four files:



- Find the 'access_token' field
- Replace old access token in each file
 - Ex: access_token = "old token" → access_token = "new-token"
- Line numbers for the access_token can be found above

Re-making the APK

After making the translation changes, the current Android Package Kit (APK) will no longer be valid. Therefore, you must re-make the APK. Because this is a very involved process, we have created a recorded video describing how to complete this process which can be found in our sponsor's personal google drive folder. To begin, you will need all the application files from GitHub. These materials can be accessed through the link below.

GitHub Access Link: <https://github.com/GideonJura101/iu-valley-sounds>

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Thank You

Questions or comments?

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<https://sites.google.com/view/be21-sound/home>

jiuvalleysounds@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/jiuvalley.sounds>