



ERASMUS +

"United through cultural and natural diversity – learning through research"
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LOCAL TRADITIONS IN EUROPE



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LOCAL TRADITIONS IN SINCEL, ROMANIA

I. SPRING TRADITION - BURDUHOASA

A typical tradition of Sincel is the so called “Burduhoasa”; this event takes place on the 23rd of April, when people celebrate the religious holiday of St. George, the protector of nature and animals. It is said that during the night and day of St. George the house, the animals and the land are threatened by evil spirits. Therefore, the tradition of “Burduhoasa” is meant to send them away and to protect the inhabitants, their animals and their land but to invoke rain, as well, in order to make the plants grow.

On this day, several lads accompany “Burduhoasa”- the embodiment of nature coming back to life again; in fact it is a lad dressed from head to toe in green branches, his face covered in soot and carrying a long whip with him. These lads go from house to house, asking for food, especially eggs but nowadays they also receive money. The inhabitants of the village throw water on “Burduhoasa” and he tries to defend himself with the whip in his hand. Water is seen as the symbol of purification, of sending away the evil spirits and of having a rich crop, whereas the egg is the symbol of germination and fertility of the land.

The custom of “Burduhoasa” dates from ancient times but, unfortunately, it is preserved only in a few villages around Romania, Sincel being one of them.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnZ31c0_JCE&t=14s

“Burduhoasa” (embodiment of nature – lad dressed up in branches, face covered in soot, carrying a long whip)



Red wines



“Feciori” - lads



II. SUMMER TRADITION - “MIDSUMMER’S DAY”

Midsummer’s Day, known as “Sânziene” in Romanian culture, is celebrated on the 24th June, the day when Christians commemorate the birth of St. John, the Baptist. The name relates to the good fairies, on one hand and to the yellow flowers which bloom around the date of 24th June- ladies’ bedstraw – on the other hand.

It is said that on Midsummer’s Eve the skies open and the living can communicate with the dead. There are bad spirits but also good spirits – the fairies. Thus, the fairies walk on Earth, singing and dancing, blessing the fields, the women to bear children, they cure the sick ones and protect the crops from bad weather.

On Midsummer’s Eve, young girls and boys pick ladies’ bedstraw in the fields; the girls make wreaths whereas the boys make cross-shaped braids. They throw the wreaths over their houses – if the wreath stays on the roof then a wedding is near. The old people throw the wreaths in order to find out the time of their passing away; it is believed that if the wreath falls down from the roof, death is near. In the same night, girls put these yellow flowers under their pillow to dream of their husband-to-be.

In order to chase away the evil spirits, people hung cross-shaped braids onto their gates, decorating them with roses.

The 24th June is a day when people have to stop working in order not to upset the good fairies as they can do harm if they are not properly celebrated, bringing bad weather and leaving the fields empty and infertile.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XWg67LMBKI&t=6s>

Ladies’ bedstraws



Cross-shaped wreaths





LOCAL TRADITIONS IN HUMENNÉ, SLOVAKIA

I. THE LONG WINTER EVENINGS IN THE VILLAGE JASENOV NEAR HUMENNÉ

In the past, people shorten their time by meetings in the evenings in the houses. They were sitting, talking the magic stories about ghosts, witches and during these, they were weaving, combing the feathers, flailing nuts, making tassels from their goose bumps, twisting baskets or embroidering. They used to sing a lot of folk songs, dance, drank homemade schnapps and eat homemade cookies. In our video you can see the women of our region, using our slang who were talking to their grandchildren. They explain what they used to eat, how they made bread and how hard work was it. They had to work on the field, grow grain, harvest the crop and then mowed it. Mill it and bake bread. It wasn't boring time because they had a big sense of humor, they loved to wisecrack about the burning slivovitz and slaughtering of domestic animals.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=35&v=9O60soZhcIg

PECOK – fireplace
(the place where the bread was baked)



CHLIB - the bread



II. THE COURTSHIP IN VILLAGES NEAR HUMENNÉ

In the past, the courtship had an important role. Without it, no wedding could take place. It meant parental consent for the wedding of the daughter.

They were in the house of the future bride's parents, usually after sessions that took place without the presence of the young man. The young man went with his Godfather. The consent was expressed by hand, the family of bride offered food, schnapps, donation of scarf, feathers, or ribbons to the groom. Nowadays, the courtship is only a formal matter.

The video contains a snapshot of the courtship, when the future groom comes with the eldest to ask the chosen girl from her parents. When the parents accept, the wedding demonstration is performed by folk dancing on a famous song from our region „Vyl'ecela prepelička“.

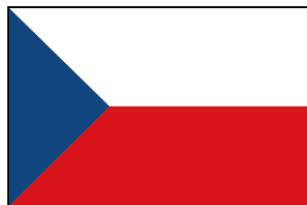


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hgxp3Ye6AIw>

VEŠELE - Wedding

REDOVY – the special wedding dance at midnight





LOCAL TRADITIONS IN NAVSÍ, THE CZECH REPUBLIC

I. GOROLSKI ŚWIĘTO

As most regions around the world, even ours has its own specific customs and traditions. Our culture has its own folk festivals in which we embrace our roots and who we are as an ethnic group. Local people in the area of the Beskydy mountains are called Gorols, and from this word comes the name of one of our biggest folk festivals called Gorolski Swieto. Let's now have a closer look on what the Gorolski Swieto actually is.

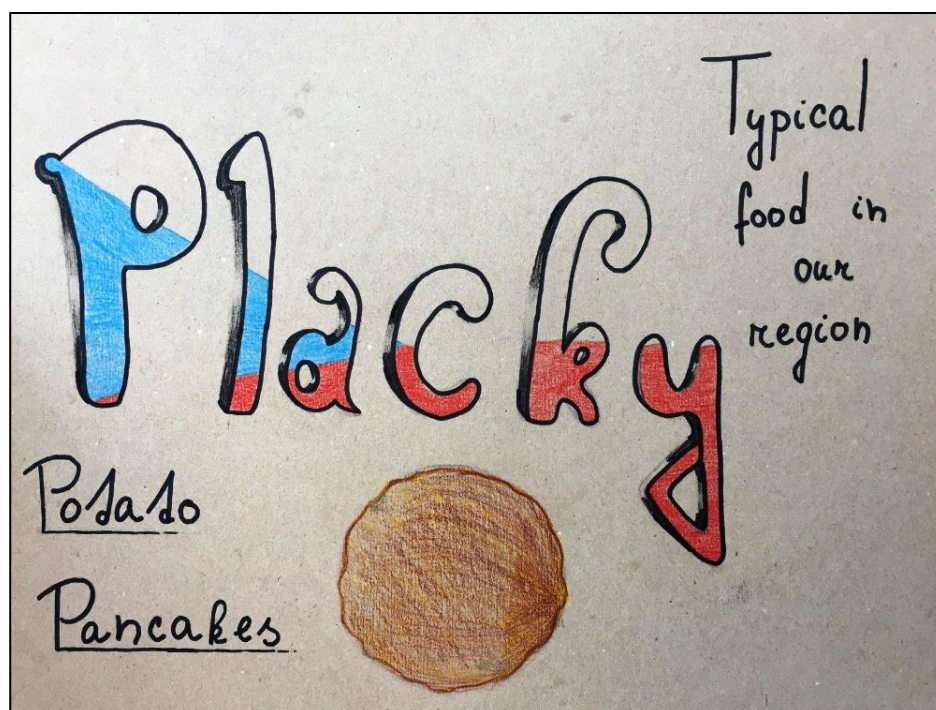
Gorolski Święto is one of the most famous folk festivals which is held in the nearby town Jablunkov, which takes place every year at the beginning of August. Gorolski Święto developed from the local festival in 1947 and is organized by a local group of Polish cultural and Educational Union together with a folk group called Gorol. Since 1961 it has been held only in the Town Forest. The main goal of GŚ is the presentation of folk groups from the surroundings of Jablunkov and also from other countries.

Gorolski Święto gathers thousands of spectators and preservers tradition of Polish nationality group in Zaolzie and so contributes to better relations between nations. During this festival you can buy some traditional wooden objects, taste different types of local cuisine (placky,...) and so on.

If you are interested in what being a Gorol means, and try to understand and experience the local culture, you can participate in celebrating this festival this year, which is being held from the 4th to 6th August, 2017. You are very welcome...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EiBQXjVuCA>



II. THE FESTIVAL - SILESIAN DAYS

This important folkloric event attracts visitors from wide area. For more than 45 years, the first or the second weekend in September belongs to the festival Silesian Days. Every year, 23 foreign and domestic folklore groups perform on the stages of the Ethnographic Complex. Groups from Slovakia, Poland and other countries are regularly invited.

This great feast of folklore is among the most popular of its kind in the Czech Republic. Every year, the festival has a rich accompanying program. The place where it takes place is Dolní Lomná and it starts at the beginning of September.



<https://www.scribd.com/presentation/364716907/the-festival-silesian-days>

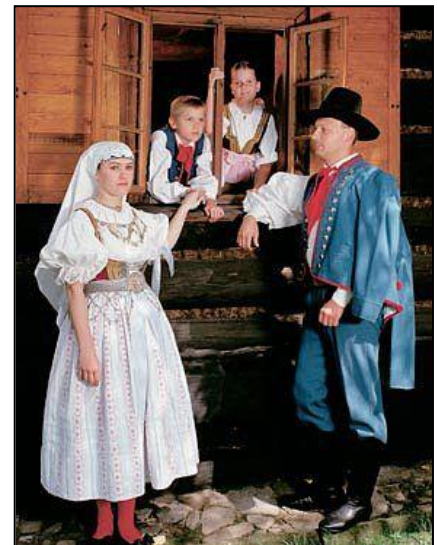
Jablunkov folk costume



Goral folk costume



Tesin folk costume



Potato pancakes

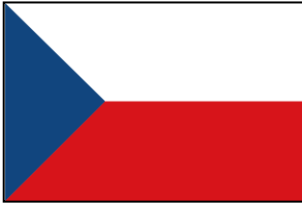


“Bachor”



Scones





LOCAL TRADITIONS IN OSTRAVA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC

I. EASTER TRADITION

Whip (a wooden stick) is knitted by young boys from the willow wickers (twigs) during Easter. On Easter Monday they use the whip for lashing girls to take over the power and freshness of the whip. So the purpose of this activity is to make girls younger and more beautiful. As a reward for the boys, girls bind colourful bows on their whips.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r75RNT24IUc>





II. *CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITION*

Nut boats are put on a water surface (in a basin, bath...) in the evening. Each family member has his own boat. Nut boats are symbols of our destiny and their movement in the water symbolizes the life path of the family members in the future (if they will stay together or someone will move far away...).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNJSdPKEHWE>





LOCAL TRADITIONS IN ZAGREB, CROATIA

I. WEDDING TRADITION

Wedding is a familiar custom in our homeland, Turopolje. There are many customs associated with the wedding: a girl's appointment, a bridal gear, the arrival of a bride in a new home. Weddings were usually held in winter. They usually last for three days. Several couples are often married just one time.

1st grade pupils and teacher Jadranka Pavliša Zupanek from Elementary School Odra show the wedding custom.



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IXxSY1II0Ny_qbB-bqkCODqQsAmfH1NN/view?usp=sharing





II. CHRISTMAS TRADITION

A few days before Christmas women are preparing food. Men bring wood to heat the house. The day before Christmas the wine springs up. The decorations are made of glossy paper, walnut and red apples.

Then there is the tradition of "putting Christmas in the house." The older man of the house and the children go to the stall by slag. They bring the straw in the house and say good wishes for the New Year. Part of straw will be placed on the table and the other part under the table.

The family sings Christmas songs. In the evening they go to church.



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4V7dBzPITAwdlVpMWxjUzU5ZkE/view?usp=sharing>

Pupils from Elementary School Odra and folk ensemble Mladost show the Christmas custom in Zagreb.







LOCAL TRADITIONS IN BOLESŁAWIEC, POLAND

I. BLESSED MOTHER OF THE HERBS

On the 15th of August we celebrate Matki Boskiej Zielnej, Blessed Mother of the Herbs or Assumption of Mary.

In Poland the fest day of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven is also called Matki Boskiej Zielnej - Blessed Mother of the Herbs.

Mary, Mother of Jesus is seen as the keeper of the whole earth, the Queen of people, animals and plants. On this day people bring to church bouquets made from flowers, herbs, vegetables, and wheat, from the fields and gardens, which are blessed by the priest. After the blessing, these bouquets are carried home and kept until the following year. People tuck them behind holy pictures to protect their homes against fire and lightening. Some farmers put some of the blessed flowers into their seed bags in the belief that it would assure a good harvest. When there is sickness in the household, the herbs are brewed and used for medicinal purposes too.



https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=kTvt1RmWMvM

II. CERAMIC PARADE

August - Parada Ceramiczna / Ceramic Parade

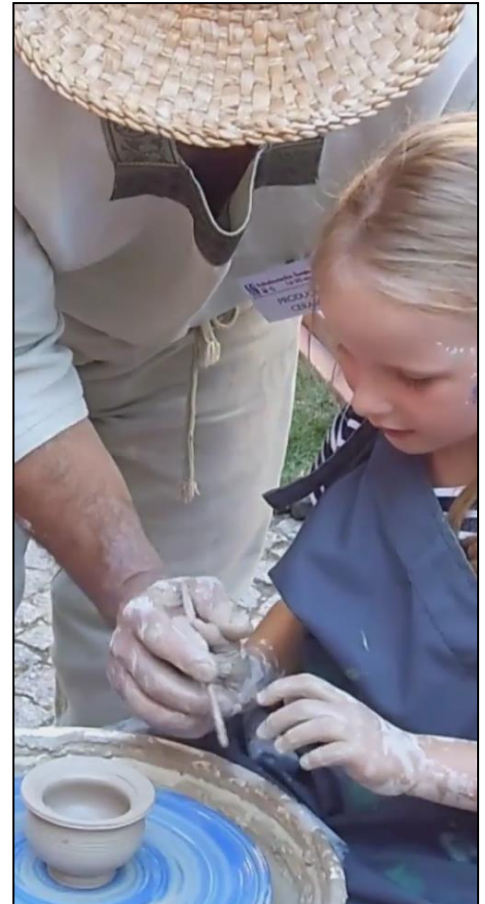
Every year in the second half of August, we celebrate a Pottery Festival. Thousands of people from all over the world come here to celebrate this event. This is the most colourful outdoor event in the region.

Each of the participants has a chance to try their strengths in hand making clay wares. Even small children learn how to work on the potter's wheel.

The official opening starts with a spectacular parade with ceramic leitmotiv.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2dNsjB8fRA>





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