











"Traditions without frontiers - Journey around regional cultures"

2017-1-SK01-KA219-035314\_(1-5)

## Presentation of family traditions

Output Nr. 7



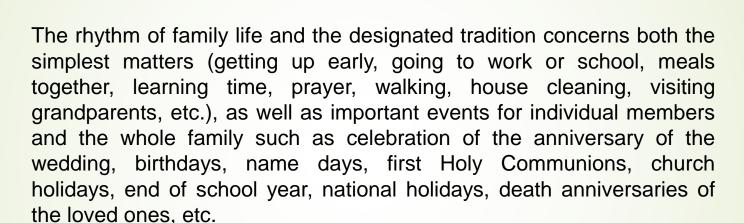














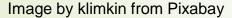




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#### **Shared meals**

Common meals are usually a very special and important family tradition in Poland. It is the activity that we repeat from an early age, invariably, in the same group and usually at the same time. Daily routines sometimes make us pass each other without exchanging a word. At the table it is different. Just a shared meal, but it allows for a short exchange of views and looks. Common meals also show a strong family relationship.



Image by Regionalne Centrum Edukacji Zawodowej







#### Christmas / Easter celebrations



Image by Regionalne Centrum Edukacji Zawodowej

Christmas and Easter are among the most beautiful holidays. It's not only the bunny who gives the youngest sweets and Santa Claus who, with the help of the reindeer, brings gifts on Christmas Eve. These are also very important family traditions. Preparations usually involve all the family members who are busy decorating the Christmas tree, painting Easter eggs or cooking the traditional dishes. On these occasions we often recall those of the family members who have already passed away. Family traditions allow to record their memory in our hearts. On Christmas Eve, there is an extra plate for the stray soul. And looking at photos - to refresh memories.





## Passing on of special skills in families

Exceptional family traditions involve passing on to the next generations the secrets related to certain skills. Not everyone can prepare good tincture, for example. But grandmother, or great grandmother, discovered a golden formula that would help. And grandfather could make beautiful wooden sculptures, or produce the most comfortable furniture. Or maybe he knows the recipe for an extremely delicate yeast dough? It is worth paying homage to family traditions that are passed down from generation to generation and give us a sense of identity and origin.

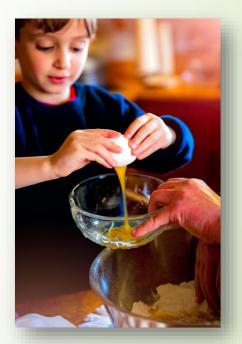


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## Home is where the heart is



Image by Alicja from Pixabay

The family traditions connected with the house have a special power. In some Polish homes, you can see the worn-out frame of kitchen or living room door, which shows very distinct lines made with a knife. What do they represent? The height and age of the children as they grow up.

Another common custom related to the house is hanging a horseshoe at the doorstep. The horseshoe is considered an amulet that brings homes happiness and prosperity. Such an interpretation stems from the times when possession of a riding horse was a privilege of magnates and knights, and shoeing a horse itself was quite a luxury.









## Remembering the ancestors

In Polish families, great importance is attached to cultivating memory about the ancestors who gave us the most precious things: the treasure of faith and the love of what is noble and imperishable. We express this memory by respecting the tombs of our ancestors and by praying for them.



Image by Regionalne Centrum Edukacji Zawodowej

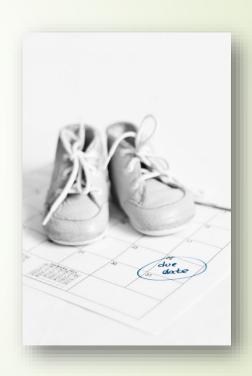








There are important events in every home and - in order not to miss them and give them an appropriate family character – some Polish families run a family calendar. It includes the day the spouses first met, their wedding day, children's births, baptisms, the first Holy Communion, confirmation, the patron saints of the children, the closest family, friends of the house, the date of death of our relatives. On the eve of a given anniversary or celebration, or perhaps earlier, you need to remind your family members of it. It is then possible to organize the day properly, prepare a surprise to the solenizer, think of a more thoughtful gift.













The Polish have similar dating customs to other Western European countries, but tend to remain conservative regarding relationships. Poles usually marry at a younger age than any other country in the European Union, and couples are generally discouraged from living together before marriage. Instead, parents of the couple often give financial assistance and allow a newlywed couple to live in their family home for the first few years.

Polish weddings are traditionally massive affairs with a lot of cheeky games (eg. catching the bride's bouquet) occurring between speeches and dining. Weddings often reveal the Poles' love for parties. For example, the custom of 'poprawiny' means having a second wedding party after the first.











Image by foto\_mama from Pixabay

## Name days

Traditionally, name day celebrations (in Polish: imieniny) have often enjoyed a celebratory emphasis greater than that of birthday celebrations in Poland. However, birthday celebrations are increasingly popular and important, particularly among the young generation. A name day celebration in Poland is similar to a birthday, in that family and friends gather to eat, drink, and give gifts and flowers. Name days differ from birthdays in that they do not celebrate a person's actual birth date, but mark the feast day for the saint whose name the celebrant bears.





## **Typical family Sunday**

A typical Sunday in a Polish family involves spending time together. Families have the Sunday dinner, where the starter is usually the traditional Polish chicken soup (rosół). In many families, an important element of the day is attending a church service together. Popular free time activities on that day include going for walks, to the cinema, or just sitting down in front of a tv, watching programmes and chatting.



Image by Mabel Amber from Pixabay





#### Free time activities and summer holidays



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Many Polish families spend their free time doing various activities together. Unfortunately, according to what the statistics indicate, we rarely spend this time in an active way. Most Poles still tend to prefer passive leisure activities. However, it can be observed that active ways are gaining more and more popularity. Summer holiday especially is the time when we take up some sporting activities.







Image by Free-Photos from Pixabay

In Poland, the family is fundamental to people's lives and society. As a result, a lot of celebrations and rituals involve family members. Family relationships constitute an important element of our culture and tradition. Religion has always played a significant role in Polish tradition so many of the family customs have a spiritual or religious dimension. It is hard to imagine Christmas or Easter celebrated away from the family. Many foreigners staying in Poland in the autumn are amazed at the spiritual experience of All Saints' Day. Family celebrations, such as baptisms, communions, birthday parties or weddings are also part of Polish culture.





## Pottery

Horezu, the Romanian ceramics capital, is the most important center in the country with permanent exhibitions in pottery workshops in the area. It hosts famous families of craftsmen with exhibitions not only in the town and county, but also in the country and abroad. Among them, the Mischiu family has many prominent representatives. Dumitru (78 years old) and loana (72 years old) Mischiu are among those who carry the reputation of the Horezu pottery through their children and grandchildren.

Since 2005 Horezu pottery is on UNESCO list. https://summitadventure.ro/2018/09/27/satul-olati-ceramica-horezu/









In Oboga there is both gilt and unblemished ceramics. Cutters (bowls), bowls, water jugs, wine jars, small bowls, jars for food preservation,tea and coffee services, toys, figurines, wedding jugs. The Oboga pottery is hardly surviving, many of the apprentices having fled abroad in the seek of a better life. Still, there are three families who preserve and continue the art of their predecesors.













# Sewing on traditional blouses (*le*)

In the entire country, but especially in the South of the country, sewing traditional costumes is a habit passed from one generation of women to the following. Mothers to daughters, daughters to their daughters. Each young woman had her own handmade dowry and at her wedding it was taken to her house to help the young cuple have a rich start in their marriage.











## **Wool spinning**

For some people, passing the tradition on is a way of life. Families in the north-west have even started businesses in the field. It is practically a grandparents habit, inherited from father to son from the XIXth century and improved from one generation to the next. All households in Băicoi, for example, and the nearby areas are looking for the little workshops when they want the finest wool for hoodies or carpets.

https://youtu.be/599ZtNFsrew

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80skylZyiaY&t=261s









In Romania, hand loom weavers were and are mainly women ,even though they need a lot of strength to batten. They worked from home sometimes in a well lit room mainly in winter time. The women of the house would spin the thread they needed so the final product was an entirely home made and unique piece of wok.. Over time, competition from the power looms drove down the piece rate and hand looms are nowadays used only to reserve the tradition of weaving.









## **Wood carving**

Wood carving is one of Romanian traditions, no doubt. Although it seems to have disappeared almost completely from some parts of the country, in the center and north, many families still hold to traditions and preserve the custom. Downy chairs , spoons, bowls, wardrobes, gates , hoods are objects of charm and mystery, made by gifted skilled peasant craftsmen over the years.











## Easter



The Feast of Easter is the most enlarged and solemn of the holidays. It is the most important time of the year for the Romanians, a moment of reunion, joy and forgiveness. Families gather from all the corners of the country clean the parents' house, go to church, decorate eggs and cook. The following days after Easter, Romanians visit their relatives bringing sweets and wine in sign of prosperity and joy.

The art of decorating eggs is passed from generation to generation as well as all the traditions that come along. The entire family paints eggs in red on Friday before the Resurrection.









# The Resurrection Night

The Resurrection Night is also very important for all Romanians. That night, parents, children and grandparents go to church and wait for the midnight moment when the priest announces the Lord's Resurrection and shares the light of Resurrection. People light a candle, take it home and let it burn for as long as possible. According to popular beliefs, it is important that on the way back to home, the candle remains lit because this will bring health and wealth to the people living in the house.









# Christmas for Romanians

The bigger the family, the merrier. Mothers, uncles, cousins and grandparents, we all get round the Christmas table and recall the events over the past year, with pleasant memories and fun stories. The women start to prepare the Christmas dishes two or three days before Christmas even more. The entire family takes part to the preparation of pork specialities which are a must in a Romanian house.







## Religious wedding

Before entering the church, the bride is led by her godfather while the groom is led by his godmother. They are followed by their parents and than all the other relatives. Inside the church the young couple join their hands, form a pair and their godparents stand to their left and right holding lit candles. Godparents are considered in the Romanian tradition more important than parents, they are the couple's spiritual guides in life and usually these are close relatives or friends, most of the times older than the newlyweds.











## The bride's cake

The bride's cake, a tradition related to the wedding, takes place at the bride's home, before going to church when the bridegroom comes along with his family and guests to take the bride from her parents' house. What does this habit mean? The godmother prepares a large sweet cake and brings it to the bride's home. She passes the cake over the bride's head three times than tears it in four pieces. give s the bride to eat and shares the rest to young guests . It is a way of blessing the bride with prosperity and a large family.









# Choosing baptize godfathers

Choosing baptize godfathers is very important for the family of the child to be baptized because they will play a very important role in the life of the baby. Traditionally, baptismal godfathers were chosen from the family and usually married. They may choose the name of the child, usually one of the names should be the godmother's or the godfather's or a different one but still their choice.

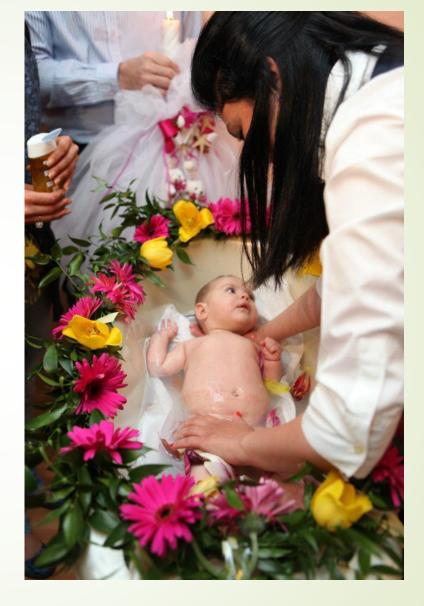






## The day after the baptize

The day after the baptize the godmother and other women fulfill the ritual of "scalda" meaning the first bathing of the child as a Christian. The godmother and all the women present put flowers, honey, a few grains of wheat, coins, holy water in the baby's water and than the godmother baths the child making wishes of health, luck and health for the baby's life.







## MORENA



One of the most ancient customs preserved until these days is **held late in the winter** and it expresses the peoples desire to do away with the cold weather and to call the warm rays of the sun.

This custom has its roots in the pre-Christian era when people believed that the nature is controlled by supernatural forces whose activities could be influenced. The changing of the seasons was also associated with these forces.

Morena symbolised the winter and so when people wanted the spring to come, they had to kill her, drown her in a stream or burn her. She was presented as an effigy made of straw clothed in womens dress. Young girls carried her singing towards a stream. When they arrived at the bank, Morena was undressed, set on fire and thrown into the waters of the defrosting stream.



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# VEĽKÁ NOC

Easter Monday is associated with the custom of bathing or sprinkling with water and whipping girls and women. The **traditional reward** for whipping or bathing is a decorated egg called **kraslica** - a symbol of new life.

The oldest way of decorating eggs was dyeing in various herbal dips, later various other techniques developed, like batik, which is putting wax on the egg with a needle and then dyeing it while the waxed places stay uncolored.

In some regions of Slovakia **the Tuesday** after Easter Monday was the day when girls and women could pay back the whipping and bathing, which appeared very amusing.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R41V1ZrhtnU











## MAYPOLES

May 1 is a national holiday in Slovakia.

In general, the month of May is considered to be the time of love and new life.

The men go out into the forests to find tall trees to use as Maypoles. Mostly tall straight trees served as maypoles, especially firs and pines with their bark peeled off.

The maypole was usually put up by a young man for the girl he loved. The custom is spread all over Slovakia.





## **MAYPOLES**



Their tops were decorated with **colorful ribbons**. Colorful ribbons which symbolize love, new life, and good growth. Maypoles were put up at night and on the next Sunday, the young men went round the houses with maypoles in front of them and they collected "fees" for the coming festivity - the may ball.

The custom has been preserved till nowadays, though it is modified a little.

Usually only one decorated tree is put up in the middle of the village or the main square.

Once installed, maypole usually remains on site the entire month.

Yet another reason to party, maypoles are pulled down at particular celebration.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx-dW8sVBCU



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# **MAYPOLES**







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# CHRISTMAS





In Slovakia, Christmas celebrations begin with Advent. Slovaks also celebrate St. Nicholas day on the 6th December. In our country he is known as Svätý Mikuláš. In 5th December children place their shoes near the door or window so Svätý Mikuláš can fill them with sweets and fruit.

Slovak Christmas Trees are decorated with coloured lights, fruits, hand-made decorations made of wood, baked goods made with honey in the form of Angels and other symbols and sweets.

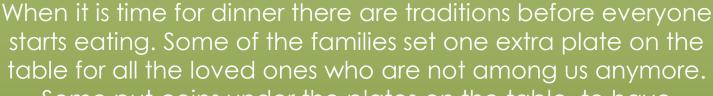
Christmas Eve is the most important day during Christmas for Slovaks. It is said that if you manage to get by without food for the whole day, you will see a little golden pig in the evening.





# CHRISTMAS





Some put coins under the plates on the table, to have prosperous next year. Other families cut and share an apple, so they can meet in like this again. Some families pray, some don't.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n31AUaPep3w





# 3 KINGS



The Slovakia festival, The Three kings is a holiday in Slovakia, celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, in honour of the Three wise men, who came to bow before the newly born, baby Jesus. In the past, this day was celebrated with people going round houses in the village, dressed up as three kings and singing Christmas carols. They would sing carols, make wishes and thank the people for any gifts they might receive. Some people in some regions still preserve this holiday.





https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3RkWR9Adi0





## WEDDING



Slovaks take pride in preserving many wedding rituals and traditions rooted deeply in their culture and history.

A wedding in Slovakia officially starts with the groom receiving a blessing from his parents.. Slovakia has a tradition of wedding moderators who

act as the official programmers during the wedding, providing both instructions and entertainment to the guests. The moderators

are often dressed in traditional folk costume.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Zgofu60F7g









The wedding moderator then walks with the groom and his side of the family in a procession to the brides home. That is where the speaker on behalf of the groom officially asks the bride's parents for her hand and the engaged couple receives blessing from their parents.

After the parents blessings the wedding couple and the guests move to church.

After the wedding ceremony and becoming husband and wife officially, all the guests move the party venue to celebrate their marriage.

Here are some of the traditions kept at the wedding party:

<u>Salt, bread and water</u> Honey

**Vodka and Water** 

Common eating of the soup

Midnight ceremony- taking the veil off



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#### Palm Sunday

Lithuanian Easter is different from other countries. It is celebrated with the family and close people. Since the climate is too cold for palm trees, Lithuanians weave branches of local plants into decorative palms (verbos)for Palm Sunday. More like bouquets than common palm branches, typical verbos include sprigs from juniper, misteltoe.









#### Lithuanian Easter

Easter is also different in Lithuania because it is symbolized by the grandmother instead of the Easter bunnies.

The Easter Granny leaves Easter eggs and sweets to children when children leave a homemade nest outside their house. Prior to tucking into a delicious meal, one hard boiled Easter egg is cut into enough pieces for each of the family members present. Sharing one Easter egg among the whole family Easter Granny families indulge in a meat heavy meal. symbolizes a harmonious family. Additionally, to celebrate the end of Lent,





















# Joninės or Midsummer day

Name Jonas is known all over the world: England - John, Russia - Ivan, France - Jean, Spain - Juan, Latvia - Jan. The custom that has been preserved in Lithuania until now, in the north of Lithuania, is to weave the oak wreath and donate it to the well-known John and Janina. Occasionally, the crowns, which are filled with a variety of field flowers, are used to decorate the doors of the house.













## Mith of the shortest night

That night, the sun was worshiped. People were grateful for the warmth, the light, the sun is asked to light her warmth as much as possible. At night, a large bonfire was created on a high hill. It was believed that the longer the fields were illuminated, the higher the harvest in autumn.







#### **Christmas Eve Dinner 1**





The whole family gets together to eat at least 12 vegetarian dishes. The first dish must be wafers that are prepared using the same recipe as wafers received at Holy Communion in church. All other dishes must be meatless, although fish can be enjoyed.



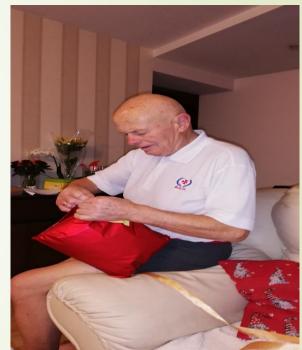


# Christmas tree and gifts

























#### Child's Christening

■ Two or more weeks after the birth, the family held the child's christening, in which a godmother and a godfather played an important role. The selection of a child's godparents was crucial as it was thought that the child would inherit their temperaments and habits.







## Užgavėnės or Shrove Tuesday



- http://www.vtpvm.lt/news/724/97/Uzgavenes/
- This day is traditionally one full of merriment and fun, pancakes, and handcarved wooden masks.









### the Feast of the Three Kings

- January 6 is the Feast of the Three Kings.
- In many Czech and Slovak villages, boys dress up as the three wise men "Kaspar, Balthazar and Melchior"
- In many Czech and Slovak villages, boys dress up as the three wise men "Kaspar, Balthazar and Melchior"
- This brings blessings on that home and its family for a year.









#### Mask parade

- Mask parade (Masopust) is a traditional carnival that takes place in many Slavic countries, including the Czech Republic.
- Festivals are organized in many villages and cities. The date is not fix. Typically it is between the Three Kings Day and Ash Wednesday, forty-six days before Easter Monday.









#### Easter

- Easter, or "Velikonoce" (meaning "great nights"), is a very cheerful holiday in the Czech Republic.
- Easter tradition is the whipping of other's legs with the pomlázka, which is a willow switch. Willow twigs are braided together and then are used by young boys to whip the girls' bottom usually 4x. This long-standing tradition is thought to bring health and youth to girls and women.







### Burning of Witches

- Burning of Witches is the last night of April in the Czech Republic.
- The tradition of burning witches is a reminder of the pagan ritual. It is the time of transition from the cold to the warm period of the year.
- Nowadays, the burning of witches is fun. Throughout the country, thousands of fires are set on the last April evening in order to burn a witch an effigy of a witch made of straw and old clothes. When the fire is roaring people roast sausages on sticks, dance, play music and sing.
- Hardly anybody would now connect the celebration with magic rituals









#### May 1, the Time of Love

- On May 1st, couples gather at the statue of Karel Hynek Mácha, the Czech Romantic "poet of love", in Prague's Petřín Park where they lay flowers and spend a few moments.
- The park is a particularly romantic place in May when its cherry trees are in bloom.











- At 11 AM sharp on November 11th, almost every winery and restaurant in the Czech Republic opens the first wines that are produced that year.
- This celebration is very similar to the one in France, however, the Czech ritual has been in existence much longer.
- This celebration symbolizes the end of the harvest, or the beginning of winter.











- All Souls' Day falls on November 2nd. The official Czech name is Památka zesnulých ("a remembrance of those who have passed"), but everyone calls the day dušičky ("little souls"). People sometimes compare this old tradition to Halloween, but the two don't have much in common.
- People visit the graves of family members and relatives to light candles, lay flowers and wreaths and spend a few moments.









### Saint Nicholas Day (Mikuláš)

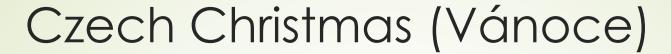
- The charming tradition of St. Nicholas falls on the eve of St. Nicholas Day, December 5th.
- If you find yourself walking the streets on that evening, you may run into a group of strange characters: St. Nicholas (Mikuláš), the Angel (anděl) who represents the Good, and the Devil (čert) representing the Evil. All wear costumes.
- All three characters walk the streets, stopping children and asking them if they were good in the past year. Most kids say yes and sing a song or recite a short poem. They are then rewarded with sweets, candy or other treats, which are handed out by the Angel. Bad kids would be put in the Devil's sack and taken to hell, or would only get a sack of potatoes or coal instead of candy













#### December 24 (Christmas Eve)

- For many, December 24 (Štědrý den) is the most enjoyable day of Christmas holidays.
- The table is set for exactly how many people are going to dine, but there is also a tradition, that you should set one more place, in case a stranger arrives. this is why everyone must stand up at the same time. The traditional dinner usually includes a potato salad and a carp (fish), but many people replace it with a chicken or pork snitzel.
- Christmas carp is specially raised in manmade ponds and then sold from large tubs placed on the streets and town squares a few days before Christmas. Some families keep their carp in the bathtub for several days as a temporary pet for their children.
- Czech children believe that Christmas gifts are brought by Baby Jesus (Ježíšek) who comes into the room through the window to leave the presents. Unlike Santa Claus, Baby Jesus is a rather abstract figure with no particular physical image attached to him, and no one knows where he lives.





#### **December 25 - 26**

- Czech Republic Christmas stretches over December 25 and 26, which are also referred to as the First and Second Christmas Holidays, or the Christmas Feast and St. Stephen's Day.
- On St. Stephen's Day, children, students, teachers, and the poor used to go around people's homes singing Christmas carols. Nowadays, families stay at home and relax or visit relatives and friends to share the special time.









# Erasmus + Traditions without frontiers-Journey around regional cultures 2017-1-SK01-KA219-035314\_(1-5)

- Spojená Škola Detva-Slovakia
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BALŞ, ROMANIA

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