

Slovakia - workshop 1

European cultural heritage preserved through modern up to date technologies is the topic of the project "Let`s teach each other". Project participants come from Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Turkey. While working on the goals of the project, all participants from different cultures get opportunity learn and respect each other and look for common solutions. To reach this goal we use new innovative, informal and non-traditional ways of learning. We apply unconventional teaching and learning methods like learning through experience and playing, excursions and workshops about traditional folk crafts. Students and teachers from Slovakia in the frame of national activities went to the folk festival to the village Raztočno. The festival called **Ráztočianske folklórne hody - Raztocno feast** was held on September 14, 2019 and there were presented Slovak and mainly local traditions, customs, national folk dances and songs.

Teachers and students who took part in this activity were allowed to experience various technics of folk art. The folk artists present at the workshop ensured us that the existing traditional artistic production and craft techniques of Slovakia do not become extinct. Wireworkers, weavers, carvers, potters, basket makers and other masters of folk craft demonstrated their art. They presented their work, which is in some way unique and original. Students and teachers found a lot of admirable items. The majority of them were craft products of daily lives, such as beautiful jars, pots, plates and vases, painted ceramics, creel baskets, dolls made from husk or brass bells – all symbols of Slovak tradition. They could even practise the traditional artisan skills in crafts such as pottery, wood carving, basketry, tinkering. Inseparable part of all folk trades and fairs is the scent of traditional Slovak food and it was not different this time. The cuisine of Slovakia comes from local areas with harsh climatic conditions, where it is usually intensely cold for at least three months. This is one of the reasons, why there is a predominance of smoked meat, potatoes, sauerkraut, dairy products, products of flour and pulses.

The most typical Slovak national food, sheep cheese gnocchi with bacon, cabbage soup, roasted pork knee, potato pancakes locally called *praženiny* were cooked and all visitors had opportunity to taste and obtain a recipe. They are from potato dough mixed with a special kind of sheep cheese – "bryndza" that tastes best in the so called cottages of the shepherds or mountain chalets.

Slovakia is characteristic by number of folk songs that are part of Slovakia folklore. These folk songs were sang in the past, while working in fields, for entertainment or while raising children. Similar to the smell of delicious food, the Slovak folk songs are deeply rooted in the traditions and culture of Slovak nation and they bring about the joyful atmosphere at the folk festivals. Traditional Slovak lullabies, furman songs, *trávnice* (meadow songs), military or bandit songs preserved until today were performed by Bazilička band, Hájiček, Košovan, Vtáčnik chorus and Terchova group Jariabkovci, while little singers from Ráztočno nursery school and kindergarten Perinkovo took their part very

seriously. Through singing and dancing, young generation created a connection between national history, Slovak nature, life in the past and national heroes.

Visiting Raztočianskehody - Raztocno Feast students will be prepared for further project activities. They acquired knowledge by experiences. Except for the informal chatting with folk masters, experiencing handcraft with artists and gaining invaluable knowledge, students documented all activities, made pictures and videos. After the event, they processed the information and the pictures, which will be available in the digital form for further project activities.

