

BEST PRACTICES IN CULTURAL LEARNING

KultúrÁsz Public Benefit Association has been implementing a two-year international cultural project titled *Universal Culture*. During the implementation phase of the project - between 1 March 2018 and 29 February 2020 - involving our project partners from over the border, we undertook to explore, analyse and systematize methods, procedures and best practices in the field of culture that can help preserve national identity, develop local identity, build communities, promote voluntary work, transmit national traditions and keep young generations in the mother land.

The primary target group of the project were the collaborating partner institutions, the cultural, youth and community building experts and volunteers working within the scope of the institutions as well as the young people joining the community building programmes. Hungarian, Romanian, Slovakian and Ukrainian partners were involved in the project, which, like KultúrÁsz Public Benefit Organisation, have had long term experience in the field of transmitting culture, running projects and adult education trainings, doing research, and building international networks. In the course of the cooperation, colleagues with outstanding knowledge have been involved in the professional implementation from the following organisations and institutions:

- Education of the Future (Uzhgorod / Ungvár, The Ukraine)
- Transylvanian Hungarian Community Cultural Association (Cluj-Napoca /Kolozsvár, Romania)
- Tradition Preservation Center of Hargitha (Odorheiu Secuiesc / Székelyudvarhely, Romania)
- The Association of Hungarian Adult Educators (Sárospatak, Hungary)
- Vel'ké Kapusany (Nagykapos) and Environs Association (Vel'ké Kapusany / Nagykapos, Slovakia)
- Pro Cultura Subcarpathia (Berehove / Beregszász, The Ukraine)
- Téka Foundation (Gherla /Szamosújvár, Romania)
- Sándor Teleki Hungarian House Company (Baia Mare / Nagybánya, Romania)

As a high-priority goal in the project we undertook to explore the voluntary based Hungarian tradition preservation cultural practices in the Carpathian Basin as well as to assist the adaptation of best practices with the idea in

mind that the collaborating partners could learn from each other and adapt those practices in their home countries.

The idea of best practices was primarily defined in industry and it began to spread in Hungary after the introduction of the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standard ratings. According to the definition, *a best practice is a combination of an innovative process, method, action or a device in use that can be found in the practice and operation of the institution, it has been successfully and effectively used and tested for several years, therefore it can be efficiently adapted, maintained, developed and documented. Further on the adapted innovation can operate as a services acknowledged by the users.* In the past decades all the professions were trying to collect and systematize their best practices and in a number of cases it resulted in forming standards and quality requirements. One key method of international cooperation is collecting best practices that partner institutions could consider adapting after getting acquainted with the partner organisations, their characteristics. In the project "Universal Culture" we aimed to collect these promptly adaptable best practices. This volume comprises 20 case descriptions of best practices from the area of Hungarian culture in Hungarian, the implementation of which is exemplary in all the cases. Each collected best practice enables the reader to get an insight into one interesting segment of the Hungarian cultural life in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and the Ukraine and to get a closer picture of the special cultural characteristics of the certain country. We publish the case descriptions so that the readers could find some experience that is adaptable in the four countries as well as in other countries. In many cases these practices could offer solutions to the social and cultural deficiencies in the reader's country or they could be used to expand adequately working practices. In each case the best practices can be adapted entirely or partly. The extent of adaptation always depends on the intentions and possibilities of the country, organisation or person wishing to adapt the practice, but it always adds something new to the operation and the persistence of the best practice.