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## **Heritage House Museum Programme in Beregi (Nagybereg)**

### **1. Best practice selection criteria**

The Heritage House Museum of Veliki Beregi (Nagybereg) has operated as a cultural, intellectual and tradition preservation unit since 2012. The museum is the only institution in Subcarpathia that offers workshops at the same time.

The most important objectives of the live cultural heritage house are to turn traditions into experience, reinforce young people's identity and transmit cultural values.

The heritage house attempts to realize all these by targeted workshops held regularly. The building and the yard around it are suitable, in addition to presenting the traditional peasant lifestyle, for conducting various tradition cultivation workshops. Visitors are presented the traditions of the peasantry's life, their work occasions, local traditions. The programmes related to the house serve saving and reinforcing the local identity.

### **2. Organization(s) / person(s) the best practice can be related to**

The owner of the cultural heritage house is Il. Rákóczi Ferenc Hungarian College of Subcarpathia and its operator is the non-governmental organization Pro Cultura Subcarpathica; with support from Fodor István Research Institute, a botanical and herbs garden has also been established at the house.

### **3. Beneficiaries of the best practice**

Programmes at the heritage house in Beregi (Nagybereg) attract young people from the settlement and its surroundings on a weekly basis. In addition to these, the museum is visited by children and youth groups from several schools in Subcarpathia for museum pedagogy, gastronomic and handicraft experience.

### **4. Objectives and activities of the best practice**

The primary objectives of the programmes at the cultural heritage house are to present, revive and disseminate intellectual and material heritage and make young people familiar with and develop a liking for traditional craftsmanship and handicrafts.

The activities implemented in the programme can also be related to holidays and festivities:

**Carnival mask making, baking carnival donut:** making carnival masks for chasing the winter away and familiarizing participants with the habit of the Busó march. At this time of the year, the dining table would be incomplete without carnival donuts, while participants also have the chance to hear its peculiar story.

**Weaving, plaiting, spool knitting:** the event intends to revive the atmosphere of the former weaving houses and demonstrate the use of spinning wheels and distaffs, as well as show and teach the techniques of yarning and weaving.

**Donut knot baking** is among the most popular programmes of the cultural heritage house. This event aims to familiarize participants with this pastry that was traditionally prepared for mothers with newborn babies in this region, and to teach them how to make it. In the cultural heritage house were revive the technique of dough making and make young people familiar with the technique. Participants knead, roll out and cut the dough, i.e. perform housework that young people hardly ever do at home these days. Apart from donuts, pancakes and blintz are also made.

**Bead stringing and weaving** is a useful pastime the goal of which is to draw attention to the value of handicraft products.

**Awaiting Easter:** within the framework of handicraft workshops egg painting masters make painted eggs and teach egg painting skills, in addition to which other Easter traditions – watering women and poem recital – are also revived.

**‘Langallo’ oven bread baking:** the demonstration and teaching of oven bread baking.

**May tree decorating:** reviving this folk tradition and decorating a May tree with the children; a handicraft workshop on the same occasion.

**Choosing the Pentecost King:** demonstrating former Pentecost traditions, reviving children’s games played on the occasion and making traditional dishes.

**Sour cherry jam-cooking:** making traditional sour cherry jam with young people involved. The event also has a community building purpose.

**Harvest dance house:** a traditional harvest ball. Schoolchildren from Beregi (Nagybereg) and Koson (Kaszony) visited the cultural heritage house in the morning, while students from Orosievo (Oroszi) and Vari (Vári) came in the afternoon to familiarize with harvest traditions and folk children's games with the help of Krisztina and Károly Kokas. The dance pair from the Kokas Band dressed up in folk costumes created magic atmosphere in the warmth of the oven. An instrumental show followed while participants had a rest. Young participants were allowed to hold the folk instruments in their hands and try them. Handicraft was also included in the programme: under the guidance of Irénke Derceni and Viktória Papp, those interested made dolls out of corn husk and wool. Guests were offered delicious tea and bread with jam in the meantime.

**St. Martin's day:** Since many of the young people are not familiar with the story of St. Martin's day, the programme started with reciting the legend of St. Martin. While children made St. Martin day's lampions, chestnuts, apples filled with cottage cheese and pumpkins were baked in the oven.

**Candle making:** we made participants familiar with the technique of making candles for home decoration purposes and raised awareness of the value of simple handicraft products. (Participants learned how to make candles of various shapes and colours, including decorative candles, by hand.)

**Felting:** processing felt is an ancient profession that today's young people are not familiar with at all. As wool can be shaped and treated, various decorative articles (key holders, earrings) can be made from it.

**Advent handicraft and gingerbread making:** So as to get into the Christmas mood, making Advent wreaths and decorations, baking and decorating gingerbread with several groups of children in the Advent period. Making young people familiar with Luca-Day folk traditions. Making Luca's wheat and Luca's calendar.

**Making and using folk toys.**

## **5. Area(s) affected by the best practice**

The operation of the cultural heritage house in Beregi (Nagybereg) is mostly related to the fields of culture, tradition preservation, pedagogy and identity preservation. In the past years it has been possible to interpret as a tourist attraction or site as well.

## **6. Territorial scope of the best practice**

When the project was launched, the initiators regarded Beregi (Nagybereg) and its environs to be the scope of the project. Today, participants come from the whole Subcarpathia.

## **7. The conditions (human, financial, technical) required for the best practice**

An essential condition for the best practice is a cultural heritage house-like building that reflects the habits of the peasantry, where a room can be arranged as a workshop and there is also considerable space or a garden outside the house.

Human resources required: an event organizer, craftsmen, dance groups, tradition preservation groups

## **8. Results and short-, mid- and long-term impact of the best practice**

As a result of the project young people familiarize with folk culture. Programmes of the cultural heritage house are attended by 1,000 young people a year. There are groups visiting from primary and nursery schools from various towns and parts of Subcarpathia.

## **9. Sustainability of the best practice**

At the moment, participation in the programme is free of charge for visitors. As the maintenance of the house is the most costly part of the project, it is good if the heritage house belongs to the community or an institution. The programme elements can be implemented through grants.

## **10. Adaptability of the best practice**

A great many settlements have cultural heritage houses and the idea to use these as real and living community spaces is easy to adapt anywhere. The cost efficiency of the programme makes the popularization of traditions among young people accessible.