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KurucFest

1. Best practice selection criteria

KurucFest is one of the biggest programme series in Subcarpathia in the field of culture – within that in popularizing and demonstrating folk traditions – with a role in cultural identity preservation and community formation- and preservation. It provides excellent opportunity for the transmission of cultural heritage and values.

The programme has been organized as a tradition every year since 2011. Visitor attendance is easy to measure; the widening offer can be supported by data and the benefits are obvious. The idea of the festival is easy to adapt to other regions, countries or settlements.

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

The programme can be related to the non-governmental organization Pro Cultura Subcarpathica, the Hungarian Entrepreneurs' Association of Subcarpathia, the Hungarian Cultural Association of Subcarpathia and the local tradition preservation groups.

3. Beneficiaries of the best practice

Beneficiaries of the best practice are the local tradition preservation communities, ensembles, dance groups, tradition preserving craftsmen, horse riding schools, fans of tradition preservation, families, enterprises, civil initiatives.

4. Objectives and activities of the best practice

KurucFest aims to commemorate the Freedom Fight of Rákóczi II by demonstrations and performances delivered by tradition preservation groups and by the popularization of these groups. Further objectives are to reinforce the identity of local communities, lay a basis for economy-based cultural development in Subcarpathia, facilitate the popularization of horse sports and enhance the dissemination of handicraft products.

The most important project activities are:

- performance opportunities for Subcarpathian folk dance groups
- display opportunity for folk handicraft
- establishing and enhancing market for handicraft products
- enhancing the competitiveness of handicraft products and craftsmanship
- organization of tradition preserving horse shows
- providing presentation opportunity for horse schools
- opportunity to present gastronomic specialities

5. Area(s) affected by the best practice

The best practice has become outstanding in the field of culture and within that it focuses on tradition- and identity preservation specifically. Its major tasks are to present and transmit cultural values and provide opportunity for demonstrating them. The project operates as an outstanding informal knowledge transfer.

6. Territorial scope of the best practice

The territorial focus is mostly the former Ugocsa county but its visitors and service providers are from all over Subcarpathia. In recent years it has attracted the population of other Ukrainian counties as well. In view of its special services it is considered a tourist attraction both domestically and abroad.

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

The organization of KurucFest primarily requires financial and human resources, good social capital.

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

The short-term objective of KurucFest was to reinforce local tradition preservation communities; organizers wished to provide opportunity for tradition preservation. The mid-term objective was to popularize on a wide scale tradition preservation activities as well as disseminate them on a wide scale. The long-term objective was to set up a festival and tourist attraction in Subcarpathia based on popular tradition preservation.

9. Sustainability of the best practice

At the moment the best practice is implemented from grants but in the long run its sustainability is ensured as a tourist attraction.

10. Adaptability of the best practice

KurucFest can be adapted anywhere where the focus is on the demonstration of the values of local tradition preservation groups and communities. The festival can also be implemented as a smaller-scale event.