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## PRESERVING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF ETHNIC MINORITIES IN TRANS-CARPATHTIA

### ЗБЕРЕЖЕННЯ МОВИ І КУЛЬТУРИ ЕТНІЧНИХ МЕНШИН В ЗАКАРПАТТІ

*Світовий цивілізаційний розвиток несе із собою необхідність вирішення проблем, пов'язаних із збереженням багатоманітності та культурної самобутності в умовах експансії масової глобалізації. Світовий розвиток є тим зовнішнім чинником, який має значний вплив на характер та напрям історично-культурних процесів у середині суспільного устрою, що криє в собі значні деструктивні тенденції уніфікації культурного простору, ставлячи перед національною державою проблему збереження культурної самобутності на міжнародній арені та підтримки культурної багатоманітності у середині суспільства. До культурних надбань залічуємо не тільки пам'ятки історії, а й мову, про що йдеться у статті.*

*Ключові слова: глобалізація, культурна самобутність.*

The development of our civilization brings up the need to address issues related to the preservation of cultural diversity and cultural identity in conditions where the consumer culture and the processes of globalization continue to expand. World development is the external factor that has a significant impact on the nature and direction of historical and cultural processes in social order.

This particular factor contains substantial destructive trends of unification of the cultural space, facing a nation-state with the problem of preserving their own cultural identity in the international arena as well as supporting the cultural diversity in society. Historical sights also assign to cultural heritage – castles that have historical and social impact.

Historical and cultural monuments such as museums and expositions are important for tourist routes in Transcarpathia. They are considered to be valuable sources for developing tourism, as well as the cultural and economical development of the region.

The role of Transcarpathian castles is characterized in the presentation as an important way of preserving the culture of the rural population in the mountain area. Twelve ancient castles and one castle-palace (built during the sixteenth century) are described in this presentation, and all of them are archaeological sights of medieval architecture. The number of these castles and their location is also addressed in this presentation. More focus is homed in on castles that continue to require archaeological research and restoration. There are 12 medieval castles in Transcarpathia. Such quantity of the castles on moderate territory is explained by important strategic location of the area [2].

Transcarpathia is a small region, cut off from main body of the country with the Carpathian mountain range. Transcarpathia is rightly considered to be one of the centers of the west and east European cultures crossing. They have been preserved here since 1839, well-known memorials of archaeology, history and art in Ukraine. It is really fairy and beautiful region of green forests, gardens, vineyards, amazingly picturesque mountains and valleys, which are rich on mineral springs and waterfalls. Thanks to favorable climatic and nature's conditions Transcarpathia always considered as a big reserve, created by nature for the rest and treatment. There is no place for industrial factories here, and thanks to it Transcarpathia is one of the cleanest regions of nature [1].

Despite the fact that many of them turned, unfortunately, on the ruins, a few architectural buildings are still remained in satisfactory condition. We have tourists from a lot of regions. History of locks was well saved enough in orally-folk tradition of Zakarpattia. Transcarpathia is the only region in Ukraine that is acknowledged to be the best according to the international rating scale of opportunities for tourism and recreation.

If you visit this picturesque place at least once, you will discover one of treasures among the world landscapes. It has preserved numerous imprints of events of the European history.

Transcarpathia is a tourist gem of Ukraine. Its guests won't be bored, be-cause there are a lot of tourist attractions!

One of the best ways to preserve folk customs and traditions of the region is the organization of festivals in the territory of rich historical past, enabling tourists to feel the atmosphere of the past and immediately become a



member of the life of multinational region (Transcarpathia is the only region in Ukraine that has a land border with just 4 European countries – Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Poland). This led to the fact that the ethnic composition of the population are of different nationalities in this region, namely (12.1%), Romanians (2.6%), Russians (2.5%), Gypsies (1.1%), Slovaks (0.5%), Germans (0.3%), just over 30 nationalities. A wide popularity acquired holidays and festivals of Hungarian, Romanian, Slovak, Jewish, and German cultures; Neighbourhood days in Slovak, Romanian, Hungarian borders, folklore and ethnographic festival «The Synevyr-trembity call», «Hutsul cheese», «Hutsul turnip» ethnic theater festival «Ethno – Dia – Sphere», Ukrainian artistic expression to them.

I. Irlyavskoho «My Spring» International Festival of Theatre for Children «Interlialka», International festival of sacred music, A. Zatin competitions for young pianists and «Silver Bell».

To encourage talented intellectual edge, promoting the cultural field state administration and regional council established annual regional awards: in literature – Theodore Potushnyaka Prize; in the field of music and performing arts – Desiderius Zadora Prize; in the field of Performing Arts – Eugene and George Au-gustine Sherehiyiv brothers Prize; in the field of fine and decorative art – Prize Joseph Bokshay and Adalbert Erdelyi.

The features of their lifestyle are reflected in the celebration of national, religious and cultural events. All the variety of this kind of events led to a large number of specialized festivals that attract tourists and they are conducted by maintaining embassies of neighboring countries. The most popular festivals in Transcarpathia, which have a century, are:

- national festivals and holidays;
- Festival of music and musical competitions;
- festivals and exhibitions of flowers;
- gastronomic festivals;
- theatrical shows;
- Film and Theatre Festival;
- sporting events.

The territory, expressing the atmosphere of the past, is usually chosen as the venue of the festival. That is why the most popular places are historic buildings such as castles, forts, palaces, and parks.

Let us meet with some of them.

**Mukachevo Castle.** It is one of the most beautiful and oldest castles on the territory of the town of **Mukachevo**, which local people name «**palanok**» (Palanka – translated from the Turkish language means a small fortress). In general this castle is built in baroque style.

The first information about this stone castle belongs to the XI-th century, when country was ruled by the King of Hungary Laslo.

The castle is situated on the hill of volcanic origin. In 1633 Transylvanian Prince Gyorgy I Rakoczy was the owner of Mukachevo Castle. Rakoczy dynasty turned castle into a capital of their principality and owned it until 1711. During the Czechoslovak Republic military base was in the castle. Today there is a historical museum with an area of expositions about 2500 sq.m.in Mukachevo Castle. Nowadays this place is popular with unforgettable concerts of symphonic music, because acoustics is really excellent.

Annual national festival of children and youth pop song «Christmas asterisk» (Rizdvianazirochka) is traditionally held in Mukachevo, where young talents compete with each other in various age categories (junior A, B, average, older, duets and ensembles).

This annual regional festival was founded in 1997 by the House of Mukachevo students with the assistance of the Education Department and Family and Youth Department of Mukachevo City Council on the implementation of the National Programme «Children of Ukraine» and the program «Working with gifted youth». During this time, the festival has become known far beyond the borders of Transcarpathia.

Participants in the festival are children from many regions of Ukraine. Traditionally, all festival participants are awarded with diplomas and gifts. Every year, the city kids come from different parts of the region, and Ukraine as a whole.

**Uzhgorod Castle** is the oldest structure of the modern Town, pride and beauty not only of the city, but in Transcarpathia too. The fortress is located in the eastern part of the city on a hill of volcanic origin at the junction of mountains and lowlands.

The first written mention of the castle was in 903. Later in 1254, the Hungarian King Bale IV had invited foreign colonists on a devastated land. At the beginning of the SECOND century the Castle was fundamentally restructured and became the administrative center and important strategic defensive construction. At that time Uzhgorod Castle was a possession of the Hungarian King.

After the collapse of Hungary in 1526, Uzhgorod Castle, like other castles, got in the zone of the political interests of the Hapsburg dynasty. At the end of the 16th century it was complete reconstructed; as a consequence, the Castle acquired a modern type, designed by Italian engineers.

The annual winter festival of cultures «Global Village 2015», organized by the regional office of the international organization «AIESEC» is held in Uzhgorod.

Global Village – a unique cultural festival that creates an opportunity for Ukrainian youth to meet, talk and share experiences with people from around the world.

The festival provides a platform for cultural exchange and development of tolerance, teaches to think globally utterly destroy all the stereotypes and expand worldview.

Chamber Choir «Cantus» is known not only in Transcarpathia and abroad as laureate of international competitions and festivals choral chamber music. It was founded in 1986, had gained professional status in 1992. In order to



promote national music based on collective Classes on Ukrainian choral music singers and conductors from Switzerland. The International Festival «Contemporary Sacred Music» is being held since 2001. The team works closely with contemporary composers Stankovych, Nikodemovich A., A. Shchetynsky, B. Frolyak.

**Chynadiievo castle** was built in the XV century. In a strategic sense, the castle was well fortified, around it there were earthen ramparts and ditches, and on the south side it was protected by the Latorica River. In 1657 the castle was significantly damaged by Polish troops of Prince Lyubomirsk. Over time, the castle lost its strategic importance and later the castle was used as a prison. Nowadays young couples use this castle to organise their wedding parties.

International festival of medieval culture «Silver Tatosh» is held in Chinadievo castle near Mukachevo. Silver Tatosh (Sribny Tatosh) – Transcarpathian Pegasus, is the symbol of purity and nobility, loyalty and honor, courage and kindness, calling him into the world medieval legends and heroes. «Fortress» St. Miklos» during six centuries stands proudly above the picturesque River Latoritsa against the backdrop of the Carpathian peaks. From time immemorial East and Westway convergethere, they were trading caravans and numerous troops. The knights from Ukraine, Slovakia and Hungary cross swords here every year to revive the glory of bygone eras. Authentic music and delicious meals prepared according to old recipes accompany the festival. Each participant of the festival is able to take part in the fun and medieval dances, archery and cross-bow, join master classes, buy original items at the fair. And in the evening sky is fulfilled from flash fire show at the end of the festival.

During the day, guests can visit the festival tour of the castle St. Miklos, and take part in the games of antiquity live music, listen to old music ensemble performance of «Destiny»

**Pereni palace**, one of the oldest architectural landmarks in Transcarpathia, is located on the road from the city Vynohradova to Black Mountain in a quiet park with exotic trees. The first building was built in the XIV century. It is a rectangular building with square towers at the corners. The massive walls are built of stone. Transcarpathian significant restructuring took place in the palace of the Baroque era. The facade was decorated with the arms of the family Pereni and central hall – a fresco depicting Ahasfena and Esther. Now the palace is used as district education department.

Under the patronage of Ukrainian President the festival «Transcarpathian Music constellation» is held every year. The outstanding musicians take part in it. Music expresses the native soul of our mountainous region. Among them there is one of the art event organizers, conductor of the National Academic Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine Viktor Ploskina, pianist Olga Chipak, singer Oksana Ilynska, soloist of the National Opera and Valery Murga and others.

**Shenborn king hunting castle**, situated on the southern slopes of forested mountains, was used as winter and summer residence.

Owners often came to Chynadiievo to hunt and to have time for relaxation. The interesting fact of its construction is that castle was built in neo-Renaissance style that embodies the calendar: the number of towers to the number of months of the year, the number of chimneys – number of weeks, the number of windows and doors – number of days.

Ethnic Festival «A Christmas Carol» begins by lighting a candle flame from Bethlehem. Festive event continues during the Christmas holidays.

According to the organizers, the aim of the event is to promote Ukrainian folk Christmas traditions, customs and rituals. Carols, traditional Ukrainian songs are heard in the castle those days. Also guest dishes festive table and other goodies are being treating. There is a Christmas market and everyone can get not only the traditional pottery ornaments, but embroidery and other souvenirs.

**Nevytskyi castle** of the XIII-th century is located in a narrow valley. There is certain historical information about its origin, that was mentioned first in documents from the XIV-th century.

In 1317 Nevytskyi castle turns into an aristocratic family ownership Drugets who had rebuilt it in stone. Nevytskyi castle always took a very important strategic position. On the walls local people could control the output of Uzhansky Valley, which held a trade route from Hungary.

The history of the castle is connected with a historical person who mentions in manuscripts as a witch. She was punished by Hungarian king Matthew, who cut off her head. But the logic of these legends and events suggests that some archaeological similar monuments were found in Slovakia too. Such legends are modern layering, but one can argue the story [3].

Thus, in the records of the expedition members in legends Nevytskyi castle include the following features:

- Historical elements (Matthew King, maintenance people during the construction of the castle);
- Fi (cradle of gold);
- Place names (Zahonsky forest under Chopom, the guy with Horihivtsi, coronation in Budapest).

There are characteristics of European legends of castles in general (tunnels, ghosts). As can be seen, collected during the expedition materials are continuation of the tradition of past generations. As a result of the study, it can be argued that the history of the castle Nevytskyi is not only well preserved in the memory of the older and younger generations but it reflects the development of oral folk traditions now. Each castle in Transcarpathian is considered to be a museum exhibition, unique and unrepeatable in its own way. These castles contain a lot of specific features and traits which hold scientific, historical, cultural and architectural value.

Unfortunately, some castles in Transcarpathian, are in ruins. Time did not save them. But we must not forget about their important and historical values.

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