

Cultural Heritage of the Bulgarians in Migration

The “Cultural Heritage of the Bulgarians in Migration” exhibition represents in posters the activity of the formal and informal organisations which focus on the safeguarding, transmission, and popularisation of cultural heritage in general, founded and maintained by the Bulgarian migrants in Europe and the USA last almost three decades from the end of 20th and the 21st century.

The materials were collected during the period 2014-2017 by a team of scholars based at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, who visited 80 cities in 16 countries in Europe, as well as several states in the USA. They met representatives of over 300 Bulgarian Sunday schools, dance formations, embassies and consulates, cultural institutes and centres, associations and societies, choirs, food stores and restaurants, media, as well as individual artists. This is the largest study of Bulgarian communities living abroad that has ever been done.

The pictures on the posters have been taken by the scholars and represent documents witnessing the participation of the Bulgarians living abroad in various cultural activities and events such as national holidays, educational feasts and religious observances, school celebrations and forums, church services, sessions at the Bulgarian Sunday schools, rehearsals of dance groups and choirs, as well as their attendance of folklore gatherings and festivals, concerts, books presentations, exhibitions, spectacles, monument opening ceremonies, etc.

The exhibited posters illustrate the models of transfer, safeguarding, transmission to the next generations, enriching, transformation, promotion, and popularisation of various key cultural heritage elements such as the Bulgarian language and literature, the Cyrillic alphabet, Orthodoxy, official and traditional calendars, rites, folk music and dances, cuisine, and monuments of great Bulgarians. The cultural heritage is the core that underpins the Bulgarian communities abroad, as well as the basis of the institutions and consolidation forms that they organise.

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