



BROCHURE

“The Most Popular National Mythological Elements”



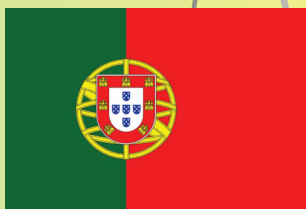
Švietimo mainų paramos fondas



Produced by COMENIUS team at Anykščiai Antanas Baranauskas
General School, Lithuania 2014

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INTRODUCTION

This brochure was produced within the “Through Universal Myths, Towards Eternal Truths” (4 Myths 4 Truth) project, a multilateral partnership financed by the European Commission through Lifelong Learning Programme, COMENIUS action. It evolved from the results of the initial questionnaire “Discovering My Own Mythology”, which, by common agreement, was applied to approximately 80 students in each partner school. Dealing with the first part of the questionnaire, the brochure intends to familiarize its readers with the most popular national mythological elements of the seven partner countries, namely – Finland, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania and Turkey, – including their top 3 fabulous beings found in national literature, top 3 heroes encountered in folk mythology and top 3 rituals being the best representatives of national myths. All of the nine items presented by each country in a separate section are accompanied by visual representations, whether paintings or photos, all borrowed from public sources for the educational purposes. As well as that, the brochure introduces a short description of each partner school and the location it is situated on.





FINLAND

Description of the school and its location



School Building



Pietarsaari



Etelänummi is a lower secondary school with 276 pupils and 37 teachers that represents Finland in this multilateral partnership. The pupils speak Finnish, apart from immigrants who speak their own mother tongues, but study Finnish as their second language. At school, the pupils get free food, books and education. They study 19 compulsory subjects and 3 optional ones during three years. The school building has 5 floors. It was built on 1st September, 1957 in Pietarsaari, a small bilingual town, where both Swedish and Finnish are spoken, located in western Finland on the Gulf of Bothnia. It has a population of 19,667 residents. More than half the inhabitants speak Swedish as their mother tongue. Founded in 1652 by Ebba Brahe, Pietarsaari has many interesting sights such as parks, gardens, churches and the old Town Hall.

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TOP 3 FABULOUS BEINGS

GNOME (TONTTU)



Gnomes are small, mysterious creatures who might cause harm to people. The Finnish gnome protects forests and animals. It also has chores in buildings, drying barns and saunas.

GOBLIN (HIISI)



Hiisi is a noisy fabulous being with a small body and a face of a man. It lives in forests. People are scared of it, but they can seek shelter in cultivated areas.

VÄINÄMÖINEN



Old steady Väinämöinen is a shamanistic hero who is the greatest of wizards in Kalevala. He builds himself a ship using spells. He visits Tuonela, - the valley of death, - but returns home safe and sound.



TOP 3 HEROES

VÄINÄMÖINEN



Väinämöinen is the protagonist in the Finnish Kalevala epic. He is an old shaman with long hair and a beard. He is respected in Kalevala, but he also has enemies.

ILMARINEN



Ilmarinen was a god until he was born as a mortal being on earth with a hammer in his hand. He is a skillful and hardworking blacksmith who forges the dome of the heavens.

JOUKAHAINEN



Joukahainen was envious of Väinämöinen, the greatest of wizards in Kalevala, and challenged him to a duel. Väinämöinen enchanted Joukahainen and sank him deep into a marsh. He got out by offering his sister to Väinämöinen.

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TOP 3 RITUALS

SAUNA



Sauna is a small room or house for experiencing dry or wet heat sessions. It relaxes, heals and cleans body and mind. The temperature usually ranges between 70° C and 100° C.

BONFIRE (JUHANNUSKOKKO)



A bonfire is a Finnish tradition at Midsummer. One reason for bonfires was to keep away evil spirits. People meet and have fun around the bonfires which are burnt by lakes and seas.

VIRPOMINEN



Virpominen is an Easter tradition. Children dressed up as witches go from door to door in the neighborhood giving people decorated willow twigs. They get candies or money in return.



GREECE

Description of the school and its location



School Yard



Inside the School



Lamia



6th High School of Lamia represents Greece in this multilateral partnership. Built 2 years ago, the school accommodates about 250 students and 27 teachers. The building is huge and consists of numerous bright and warm classrooms, laboratories, a basketball court, a library and an assembly hall, meant for special events. Being active participants in cultural programmes and seeking ways for communication with people from other countries, students attend classes seven hours a day and take exams in many subjects at the end of each year. The school is located in the western part of Lamia, a small town in Central Greece. Today, it is the capital of the regional unit of Phthiotis with a population of 80,000 people. Situated near the sea and mountains, the city has got two hills on one of which the Castle of Lamia, the most famous landmark, is located. On the other hill, the 18th century church of Agios Loukas stands. There is also a small river called Sperchios that runs nearby. Lamia is a beautiful town worth visiting and meeting friendly people there.

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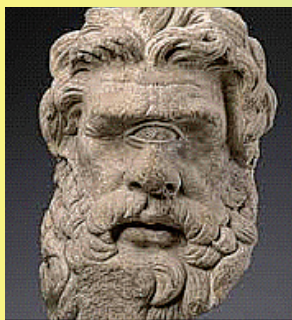
TOP 3 FABULOUS BEINGS

CENTAUR



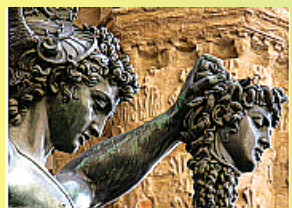
A centaur is a Greek mythological creature. In history and art, centaurs are depicted having the head, arms, and torso of a human and the body and legs of a horse. This half-human and half-horse composition has led many writers to treat them as liminal beings, caught between the two natures, embodied in contrasted myths, both as the embodiment of untamed nature, as in their battle with the Lapiths (their kin), or conversely as teachers, like Chiron. Centaurs were said to have inhabited the region of Magnesia and Mount Pelion in Thessaly, the Foloi oak forest in Elis, and the Malean peninsula in southern Laconia.

CYCLOPS



Cyclopes were mythical, monster-like creatures which are presented as beings with one eye in the centre of their face. There are three most prevailing versions about their creation. According to that found in Homer's *Odyssey*, they lived in Sicily and were the sons of Poseidon, the god of the sea, possessing a special position in the Greek Pantheon. Following the second version, Cyclopes were the children of Uranus (Heaven) and Gea (Earth) and formed a trinity of monster-like gods Vrontis, Argis and Asteropis. The third version is about a nation of giants, to whom the Greeks of the classical period attributed the building of the gigantic walls, remnants of which still exist in many regions of Greece.

MEDUSA



Medusa was a monster, a Gorgon, generally described as having the face of a hideous human female with living venomous snakes in place of hair. Gazing directly upon her would turn onlookers to stone. In most versions of the story, she was beheaded by the hero Perseus, who was sent to fetch her head by King Polydeuces of Seriphus. For the battle, he received a mirrored shield from Athena, gold, winged sandals from Hermes, a sword from Hephaestus and a helm of invisibility from Hades. Medusa was the only mortal Gorgon of the three, so Perseus was able to slay her while looking at her reflection from the mirrored shield. At that time, Medusa was pregnant by Poseidon. Upon her death, Pegasus, a winged horse, and Chrysaor, a golden sword-wielding giant, sprang from her body. Athena received her head that she placed on her shield.



TOP 3 HEROES

ACHILLES



Achilles was a Greek hero of the Trojan war and the central character and greatest warrior in Homer's Iliad. Born in Fthia to the nymph Thetis and Peleus, the king of Myrmidones, Achilles was said to be a demigod. Achilles' most notable feat during the Trojan war was the slaying of the Trojan hero Hector outside the gates of Troy. Achilles was killed near the end of the Trojan war by Paris, who shot him in the heel with an arrow. Legends state that Achilles was invulnerable in all of his body except for his heel. Because of his death from a small wound in the heel, the term Achilles' heel has come to mean a person's point of weakness.

HERCULES



Hercules (Heracles) is the most illustrious hero of Greek mythology, famous for his extraordinary strength, courage and masculinity. He is characteristically portrayed carrying an olive club as a weapon and wearing a lion's skin. His mother was Alcmene, and being an illegitimate son of Zeus, Hercules was the subject of great hatred from Hera, Zeus' wife, as Hercules' existence was proof of her husband's infidelity. Hera sent two snakes to kill Hercules in his cot, but he strangled the snakes with his each hand and played with the dead bodies as though they were toys. When Hercules was an adult, he had to serve King Eurystheus for 12 years. During these years, Hercules completed his famous "Twelve Labours".

ODYSSEUS



Odysseus was a legendary Greek king of Ithaca and a hero of Homer's epic poem the Odyssey. He also plays a key role in Homer's Iliad and other works belonging to the same Epic Cycle. Husband of Penelope, father of Telemachus, and son of Laertes and Anticlea, Odysseus is renowned for his brilliance and versatility (polytropos), and is hence known by the epithet Odysseus the Cunning. He is most famous for the ten eventful years he took to return home after the decade-long Trojan War (in which he played a key role) and his famous Trojan Horse, the ploy to capture the city of Troy.

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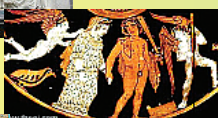
TOP 3 RITUALS

DIONYSIAN MYSTERIES



Carnival season

BIRTH- WEDDING- DEATH



Hermes, the soul-carrier guiding souls to Hades

ANTHESTERIA



The Dionysian Mysteries are believed to have consisted of two sets of rites: the secret rites of initiation and the public rites, or Dionysia. The public rites are believed to be older of the two. In classical Attica, the main festivities were held in the month of Elaphebolion (around the time of spring). For the Athenians, Dionysus was the god of acting, music and poetry and the Greater Dionysia evolved into a dramatic festival that became an urban carnival (or Komos). Its older precursor was the Lesser (or rural) Dionysia, which preserved ancient customs of celebrating the first wine. The Dionysian ceremonies have survived in the form of Carnival, when people disguise themselves as maskarades and take part in pranks and general revelry.

Birth, marriage and death are the three most important components of the cycle of life that have been reflected in Greek customs and traditions since ancient times. Birth-related practices mention putting the baby in a trough with warm water and throwing silver coins inside. Then the baby is dressed with new clothes and the event is concluded by dinner of a multi-layered meaning. As for wedding, the bride's father is the one to decide his daughter's marriage and care for her dowry to be given to the groom. Finally, death is seen as a journey to Hades, the guide of which is Hermes, the soul-carrier god. The dead are known to be buried accompanied by bone tools, jewelry, animal bones or flowers and their favourite objects called "kterismata".

Anthesteria, one of the four Athenian festivals in honour of Dionysus, was held annually for three days, 11th to 13th of the month of Anthesterion (the January/February full moon). At the centre of this wine-drinking festival was the celebration of the maturing of the wine stored at the previous vintage, whose pithoi (large storage containers) were now ceremoniously opened to mark the beginning of spring. During the feast, social order was interrupted and the slaves were allowed to participate in celebrations. The Anthesteria also had aspects of a festival of the dead who freely roamed the city. The Keres, female death spirits, or the Carians, ancient inhabitants of Caria, were entertained, and expelled from the city after the festival, symbolizing the souls of the dead.

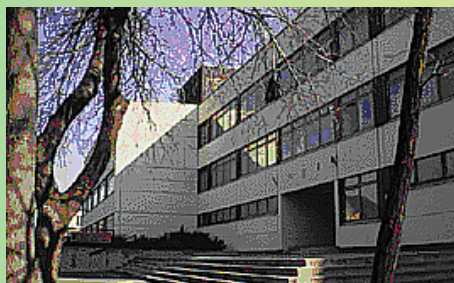


HUNGARY

Description of the school and its location



School Building



School Workshop



Budapest



Kálmán Szily Technical and Vocational School, representing Hungary in this project, is located in Budapest, the capital city of Hungary, in the heart of Europe. It is a secondary school in the Central Hungarian Region as well as being a Regional Vocational Centre. It consists of two school sections and covers a wide range of fields both from theoretical to vocational classes, focusing on the area of building engineering and printing. The number of students, aged between 14 and 21, are over 800. The institution provides different kinds of vocational education ranging from vocational school for skilled workers to technical high school. The main goal of the school is to create a child-centered, family atmosphere which can contribute to the successful training.



TOP 3 FABULOUS BEINGS

TÁLTOSPARIPA (THE TÁLTOS HORSE)



The táltos is a figure in Hungarian mythology similar to a shaman. According to Roman Catholic priest Arnold Ipolyi, in his book “Magyar mitológia” (Hungarian Mythology), a táltos was in direct contact with God during the prenatal period. Once born, the táltos had a special mission in life to cure both body and soul of other members of society. The táltos also had a mission to communicate with the entire Hungarian nation in a time of danger, to warn against invading armies or an impending cultural collapse.

SÁRKÁNY (THE DRAGON)



European dragons exist in folklore and mythology among the overlapping cultures of Europe. Dragons are generally depicted as living in rivers or having an underground lair or cave. They are commonly described as having hard or armoured hide, and are rarely described as flying, despite often being depicted with wings. In the Hungarian folklore dragons are usually depicted with three, seven or twelve heads.

VASORRÚ BÁBA (BABA-YAGA, THE IRON-NOSED WITCH)



In Hungarian folklore the Iron-nosed witch is a supernatural being (one of the three sisters) who appears as a deformed and/or ferocious looking old, elderly woman. She flies around in a mortar, wields a pestle, and dwells deep in the forest in a hut usually described as standing on chicken legs. Her fence is usually decorated with human skulls. She may help or hinder those that encounter or seek her out and may play a maternal role, and has associations with forest wildlife. Sometimes she frightens a hero, but helps him if he is courageous. In many fairy tales she kidnaps and eats children usually by roasting them in an oven.



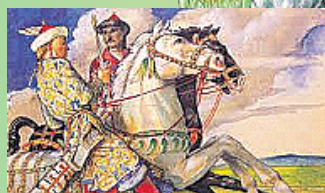
TOP 3 HEROES

HUNOR



Hunor and Magor were, according to a famous Hungarian legend, the ancestors of the Huns and the Magyars. The myth was promoted by the medieval historian Simon Kézai in his “Gesta Ungarorum” (1282 - 1285). Kézai’s aim in providing a common ancestry for the Huns and the Magyars was to suggest historical continuum of the Kingdom of Hungary with the Hun Empire. Magyars led by prince Árpád had conquered the area in the 890s. The territory had previously been held by Attila the Hun in the 5th century. Kézai thus tried to prove that the Magyars were simply reclaiming their ancient homeland as descendants of Attila.

MAGOR



In Kézai’s version, the twin princes Hunor and Magor were the sons of Nimrod son of Tana and were born in Scythia. However, the Chronicon Pictum makes them sons of Iaphet, rather than of Nimrod son of Tana. Hunters like their father, they were on a hunting trip when they saw an ethereal white stag before them (the Csodaszarvas) and chased it across the Sea of Azov. Finding the newly discovered region to their liking, they decided to stay and married the two daughters of Dula, King of the Alans. From them descended Attila the Hun and High Prince Álmos, the father of Árpád.

ATTILA



Attila (?–453), frequently referred to as Attila the Hun, was the ruler of the Huns from 434 until his death in 453. He was leader of the Hunnic Empire, which stretched from the Ural River to the Rhine River and from the Danube River to the Baltic Sea. During his reign he was one of the most feared enemies of the Western and Eastern Roman Empires. He crossed the Danube twice and plundered the Balkans, but was unable to take Constantinople. His unsuccessful campaign in Persia was followed in 441 by an invasion of the Eastern Roman Empire, the success of which emboldened Attila to invade the West. He planned for further campaigns against the Romans but died in 453.



TOP 3 RITUALS

REGÖLÉS



Regölés is one of the most famous Hungarian customs. It is basically about men going from house to house and greeting the people. This is one of the most archaic customs surviving in Hungary today. Sometimes men use bagpipes or sticks with chains or bells to make their performances more interesting – and loud! Regölés is celebrated on 26th December.

VÉRSZERZŐDÉS



The blood oath or vérszerződés, literally meaning “blood contract” in Hungarian, by tradition, was a pact among the leaders of the seven Hungarian tribes, traditionally held to be the first, unwritten constitution of the Hungarian nation. Its story, along with the terms agreed upon in it, is mostly known from the somewhat unreliable “Gesta Hungarorum”, a chronicle written between 1196 – 1203 and is thus possibly influenced by 12th c. laws and customs. The oath was sealed by the seven leaders – Álmos, Előd, Ond, Kond, Tas, Huba and Töhötöm – by cutting their arms and letting their blood into a chalice. This practice is likely to have been used traditionally to seal exceptionally strong oaths. Although there must have been several similar oaths, the term “blood oath” primarily refers to the one by the seven leaders.

TÉLTEMETÉS, BUSÓJÁRÁS



The Busójárás, meaning “Busó-walking” in Hungarian, is an annual celebration of the Šokci (Croats) living in the town of Mohács, Hungary, held at the end of the Carnival season “Farsang”. The celebration features Busós (people wearing traditional masks) and includes folk music, masquerading, parades and dancing. It lasts six days, usually in February. It starts on a Thursday, followed by the Kisfarsang (Little Farsang) carnival on Friday, with the biggest celebration, Farsang vasárnap (Farsang Sunday) on the 7th Sunday before Easter; the celebration then ends with Farsangtemetés (Burial of Farsang) on the following Tuesday, known as Shrove Tuesday. These traditional festivities have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the UNESCO since 2009.

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LITHUANIA

Description of the school and its location



School Building



School Emblem



Anykščiai

In this project, Lithuania is represented by Anykščiai Antanas Baranauskas General School. Located in the small spa resort of Anykščiai, over 100 kilometres east of the capital Vilnius, the school has 599 students and 61 teachers. It offers lower secondary education to students aged from 7 to 17 that cover four years at primary and six years at general school. The curriculum is aimed at providing a certain level of knowledge, practical skills and culture. The level is defined by educational standards so as to enable learners to cope in various spheres of life in the ever changing world and to continue studies at an upper secondary or vocational school. Although upper secondary education is not compulsory, yet wishing to enroll at a university or college later, the majority of students move to the gymnasium, located in a different part of the town, to complete the secondary education and be issued Certificate of Maturity, which is necessary for further admission to higher education institutions.

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TOP 3 FABULOUS BEINGS

EGLÈ, THE QUEEN OF SERPENTS



Eglė – the main character of one of the most archaic and best-known Lithuanian folk tales and the richest in references of Baltic mythology. Over a hundred slightly diverging versions of the plot are known. Its multi-layered mythological background has been an interest of Lithuanian and foreign researchers of Indo-European mythology. Interestingly, the tale features not only human–reptile shape-shifting, but an irreversible human–tree shape-shifting as well. Eglė is both a popular female name in Lithuania and also a noun meaning spruce (*Picea*). The serpents (*žaltys*) of the tale are grass snakes in Lithuanian, but because they inhabit the sea, the word may mean a mythical water snake, too.

JONAS, THE SILLY BROTHER



Jonas, the silly brother is another popular character that is often encountered in Lithuanian folk tales. He is the youngest and therefore the silliest of the three brothers. His elder brothers are featured intelligent and possessing many different skills that should help them in their lives. Jonas, however, is not only devoid of such gifts, but he is not regarded as their brother at all. His brothers are left horses by their parents, but Jonas only inherits a goat. There are a lot more examples to indicate Jonas is despised by his family. However, Jonas is the one who eventually wins in all situations as if to prove that what is seen stupid by the whole world might actually be the real wisdom.

SIGUTĖ



Sigutė is yet another best known character appearing in Lithuanian folk tales. She is featured as an orphan girl who suffers from her witch-like stepmother. Tortured by unimaginable chores that her evil stepmother forces her to do, Sigutė finds comfort and support with her beloved cow. The popularity of this character in Lithuanian folk tales can be explained by the parallel that can be drawn between Sigutė's fate and the hardships the country had to go through over its history. Having suffered numerous tragic moments in the course of their history, the Lithuanians show a lot of compassion for Sigutė, who then can be taken as the symbolic image of their country and anyone's suffering in the way, so familiar to the Lithuanian nation.



TOP 3 HEROES

PERKŪNAS



Perkūnas - the common Baltic god of thunder, one of the most important deities in the Baltic pantheon. In both Lithuanian and Latvian mythology, he is documented as the god of thunder, rain, mountains, oak trees and the sky. In a triad of gods Perkūnas symbolizes the creative forces (including vegetative), courage, success, the top of the world, the sky, rain, thunder, heavenly fire (lightning) and celestial elements, while Patrimpas, is involved with the ground, crops, and cereals and Velnias or Patulas, with hell, and death. As a heavenly (atmospheric) deity Perkūnas, apparently, is the assistant and executor of the Creator God's will. Perkūnas is pictured as middle-aged, armed with an axe and arrows, riding a two-wheeled chariot, harnessed with goats.

LAUMĖ



Laumė is a woodland fairy and guardian spirit of orphans in Eastern Baltic mythology. Originally being a sky spirit, she was brought by her compassion for human suffering to earth to share our fate. Laumės are the very oldest goddesses of Lithuanian mythology. They could appear in form of animals – as she-goats, bears, brown bitches or mares. Later on, they had an anthropomorphic appearance: like women with a head or lower body of a she-goat with large breasts and birds' claws for feet. Even later, Laumės were depicted as very beautiful women, either naked or wearing a very fine clothing. The Rainbow was often called a ribbon lost by Laumės. That's how they were associated with weaving and spinning. They love children, respect industriousness and help those in need.

AITVARAS



Aitvaras is a household spirit in Lithuanian mythology. An Aitvaras looks like a white or black rooster with a fiery tail. An Aitvaras may hatch from an egg of a 9–15 year old rooster. If the Aitvaras dies, he becomes a spark. In many cases, this Lithuanian creature is described as having the appearance of a rooster while indoors and that of a dragon outdoors. An Aitvaras will lodge itself in a house and will most often refuse to leave. It brings both good and bad luck to the inhabitants of the house. An Aitvaras provides his adopted home with stolen gold and grain, often getting the household into trouble. An Aitvaras can also be purchased from the devil - the price being that person's soul.

TOP 3 RITUALS

OFFERING SACRIFICES TO GODS



In its broad sense, offering sacrifices to gods was a ritual meant for the offering of food, objects and the lives of animals to a higher purpose, divine beings, as an act of propitiation or worship. While sacrifice often implied ritual killing, the ritual of offering, as it was known in Lithuanian mythology, meant bloodless sacrifices of food, drink, grasses or flowers. These offerings were made by burning them on a stone altar found in a sanctuary that had a name Romuva, a word of an old Baltic origin meaning an “abode of inner peace”. Every such temple had a high priest who took care of the place and the on-going worship of deities.

BURNING FIRE ON AN ALTAR



The Baltic aukuras or “fire altar” is a stone altar in which a fire was ritually lit. Participants washed their hands and face before approaching the aukuras, and then they sang dainas or ritual hymns as the fire was lit. Food, drink, grasses and flowers were offered to the flame as the group of worshipers sang the dainas. After the primary offering, participants offered their own verbal or silent contributions which were carried to the gods and ancestors with the smoke and sparks of the flame. Burning fire altars by a high priest was a well-known ritual practised in specially selected, remote places called Romuvos across the country in pagan times.

CREMATION OF THE DEAD



Burning dead bodies was a common religious practice in pagan Lithuania. Bearing in mind that in Baltic mythology the Divine was represented by fire, which was as such used ritually to worship the divine and itself held sacred, it was only natural to see cremation of dead bodies as helping transition of the souls the bodies once belonged to from this world to that of the dead. The myth of Sovijus, dating from the 13th c., mentions three forms of burial: burial in the ground, placing a body in a tree and burning it on a huge fire. Yet only the third is approved as the most appropriate in helping a soul reach the underworld.



PORTUGAL

Description of the school and its location



City Emblem



School Building



Barcelos



EB 2,3 Abel Varzim represents Portugal in this project. The school offers Basic Education (2nd and 3rd cycles). Seeking ways to enhance the training scheme provided at school, it explores the mechanisms for measuring the training needs of local businesses. The school has qualified human resources and the excellent educational infrastructure including ICT rooms, library and all that is necessary for achieving the goals. The school is located in Barcelos, a city consisting of 89 parishes and having a population of 123,831. Situated in the north of Portugal, Barcelos is known for its hand-made ceramics, especially the Galo de Barcelos, a colourful cockerel which is acknowledged as an unofficial national icon and often used as a symbol of Portugal. The medieval walled town is situated on a hill above the Cavado river; its charming streets are lined with baroque houses. Among other local attractions, tourists visit the local market in Campo da República, Feira de Barcelos, a rural area with stalls, the Nossa Senhora do Terço church, the Handicrafts Centre and the ruins of the 15th century Palace of the Dukes of Bragança, which have been transformed into an open-air archaeological museum.



TOP 3 FABULOUS BEINGS

MITO DO SEBASTIANISMO



The Sebastianism was a mystic-secular movement that occurred in Portugal in the 2nd half of the 16th century as a result of the death of King Sebastian at the battle of Alcazarquivir in 1578. For lack of heirs, the Portuguese throne ended in the hands of King Philip II of Spain, branch of the House of Habsburg. Sebastianism is a messianism lusas adapted to the conditions and culture of north-eastern Brazil that stands for an unconformity with the current political situation and expectation of salvation that would come miraculously through the resurrection of the illustrious dead king. The people never accepted the king's death, spreading the legend that he was still alive, just waiting for the right moment to return to the throne and ward off foreign domination.

LENDA A PADEIRA ALJUBARROTA



Brites de Almeida, the Padeira Aljubarrota is a legendary figure and Portuguese heroine, whose name is associated with the Portuguese victory against Castilian forces at the battle of Aljubarrota in 1385. Born to a poor family of tavern owners, Brites was a stout, bony girl with a hooked nose, a wide-torn mouth and very curly hair, none of which suggested she was a girl of good looks. But it is her poor looks that helped her become brave and fearless. With her peel (shovel-like tool used by bakers), she killed seven Spaniards that had been hiding in the oven of her family house. It is also said that after the event, Brites gathered a group of women and formed local militia that persecuted the enemies, killing them mercilessly.

VIRIATO



Viriato, described as a shepherd and hunter of Lusitania, was chief of the Lusitanian people. After the successful defence of the mountains, led by him, Viriato engaged himself in an offensive war against the Roman army that had plans to conquer the Iberian Peninsula and which they had divided into two provinces, Citerior and Ulterior, separated by a line perpendicular to the Ebro river. Two types of war are attributed to Viriato. In the first he took military action by use of a regular army, whereas in the second, fighting involved small groups of warriors and the use of guerrilha tactics. For many, Viriato is the model of a guerrilla warrior.



TOP 3 HEROES

CHOCALHO DE BEMPOSTA



Chocalheiro Bemposta is a terrible and hideous mask that still makes many people shudder, but it can be seen as a friendly and meaningful figure, too. The legend has it that the devil tried Our Lady, St Virgin Mary. For punishment, he was made to beg Her and Her son, the boy Jesus, for their mercy. If appearing as a figure, it features a human wearing the costume that is made from coarse linen, dyed black. As for the mask, it has two horns, the attributes of a bovine image symbolizing the Great Mother of Fertility, a goatee beard, a pig's bladder filled with air and hanging from the neck and a small snake winding its way down the face. In other iconographic interpretations of the mask, a serpent is seen surrounding the waist. The serpent is another symbol of fertility as well as that of science and immortality. Apart from the numerous symbolic meanings the serpent conveys, it also represents a desire, a feeling of longing, and an aspiration to learn and have the power. Moreover, an image of a serpent refers to the story of Adam and Eve described in the Book of Genesis.

CARETO DE LAZARIM



Caretos are masked young men dressed in suits made of bright yellow, red, black, blue and green fringe wool quilts, wearing brass, leather or wooden masks and rattles in their belts. The Careto tradition is a pre-historical Celtic religious ritual, from north-eastern Portugal, namely the little village of Podence, 8 km from Macedo de Cavaleiros in Bragança District. It currently takes place during Carnival and is one of the oldest traditions being practiced in Portugal today. Shrove Tuesday and the prior Sunday are the days when the Caretos are most active. They appear in groups from every corner of the village running and shouting excitedly, frightening the people and “robbing” all the wineries. The main target of these masquerade groups, however, is single young girls who make them climb to the top of walls and verandas. Scholars associate the Careto tradition with memories of magical practices related to agrarian fertility cults.

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TOP 3 RITUALS

SÃO BARTOLOMEU (BANHO SANTO)



Banho Santo (the Holy bath) is a popular religious ritual which involves hundreds of children and helps them cure their fears such as “being alone in the dark at night “ or protects them from bad influences and diseases caused by evil spirits. The event takes place on August 24 during St Bartholomew’s Feast. In the ritual, a special costume wearing child is plunged in the sea to help him get rid of the ailments that are believed to be sent by the Devil. After the “bath” in the sea, the child is handed over to his parents or relatives standing on the sandy beach. On conclusion of the ritual, the invited guests wearing their Sunday clothes have a special meal.

LENDA DE S. MARTINHO



Known as the “summer of St Martin”, it is an annual warm spell occurring around the 11th of November. According to the legend, on a cold and stormy autumn day, a Roman soldier, named Martin, was travelling his way mounted on his horse, when he met a beggar starving and cold. The soldier, known for his generosity, took off his cape and cut it into two halves with his sword in order to give one piece to the beggar. Later, he found another poor man, stiff with cold, and offered him the other half. Having no covering left for himself, Martin continued his journey in the cold and wind, when suddenly the sky opened and pushed the storm away. The rays of the sun began to warm the earth and the good weather lasted for about three days.

SANTO ANTÓNIO



St Anthony was an Augustinian friar in the convent in Lisbon. Moving to the convent in Coimbra later to deepen his religious studies, he eventually became a Franciscan friar in 1220. In 1221 he was part of the General Chapter of the Order of Assisi, at the invitation of Francis himself, the founder of the Order. He was then transferred to Bologna and then to Padua, where he died at the age of 36 (or 40). His reputation for holiness led him to be canonized by the Catholic Church shortly after he died, distinguishing him as one of the foremost intellectuals of Portugal’s pre-university period and the first Franciscan doctor of the Church. However, his popularity among people today is primarily associated with his assistance in finding things or lost people.

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ROMANIA

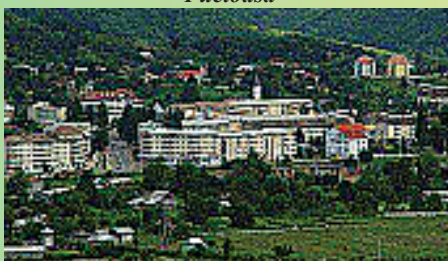
Description of the school and its location



Students by School Building



Pucioasa



Nicolae Titulescu National College is a school representing Romania in the project. It is the only general secondary school in the northern part of the county and it is well known for the quality of its educational standards, having an important impact upon the local communities to which the students belong. The school has received the “European School” Certificate several times, beginning with 2007, as recognition of its European dimension at the national level. The school’s mission is: “the development of a climate able to ensure physical security and learning experiences to allow students to become responsible young people informed and trained for a changing society, adaptable to new contexts, good Romanian and European citizens”. The school is located in Pucioasa, Dâmbovița, a county in the southern part of Romania. Pucioasa has been declared a tourist resort of national interest since 1998, but its tourist potential has not been valued enough, as the only tourists coming to Pucioasa are mainly old people, Romanian citizens.

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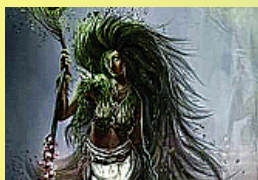
TOP 3 FABULOUS BEINGS

ZMEUL (THE OGRE)



Ogres are hellish beings, living in the other “realm”, yet mortal and, generally, fragile in spite of their frightening appearance. They have human face, but of bigger proportions, and talk like humans. Ogres live in castles with women and have kids. When they have reasons, they are extremely jealous. They have enormous strength, yet their intellectual abilities are not as grand. They steal everything: the emperor’s daughter, children, golden apples, the Sun, the Moon, the eyes of an emperor, etc. They say that they live at the “Ogres’ Stone”, in the mountains, in Pâtârlagele, Buzău county. They run at night with their light on and whoever goes after them is lost forever.

MUMA PĂDURII (MOTHER OF FOREST)



The Mother of the Forest is the ruler of evil spirits, described as a woman with a black face, very ugly, and as tall as a house, with the body covered in hair. Her hair gets to her heels and is unplaited like a haystack. Her mouth is as big as a barn, her teeth are like shovels and her nails resemble hayforks. With horse bucks as her feet, she walks around naked, singing or bemoaning in the forest. She takes care of all the trees and can turn into other animals or objects. She steals people’s dreams to give them to her children. To get rid of her curse incantations with appellatives like: ugly, ghost and witch are used.

SFÂNTA VINERI (SAINT FRIDAY)



Saint Friday is an old, kind and holy woman. Also known as Mother Friday, she is the empress of the sky and a goddess of the beauty. She is believed to live in a forest at the edge of the earth, in a wilderness or close to God’s chair. As to her qualities, she is believed to cure diseases, protect people and forgive their sins. She is the mistress of all the animals, too. People think that Saint Friday doesn’t allow work on Fridays. Once a year, there is Good Friday in the Great Week before Easter, when everybody takes a bath in a flowing water to get over the diseases.



TOP 3 HEROES

FĂȚ-FRUMOS (PRINCE CHARMING)



Prince Charming is the hero of folk tales, destroyer of monsters and the savior of emperor's daughters. Possessing essential qualities like bravery, purity, morality, sense of justice, physical strength and spiritual beauty, he is the main opponent to the evil forces over which he always prevails. Prince Charming proves generosity and kindness, wanting to do good to the whole community. He has courage and his strength is impressive. He is tough and relentless with enemies. He is also well prepared in military terms: he has a red cape, a horse and a sword inherited from his father. His mission is to bring the colours back to the dark, fighting for his love, his chosen one, Ileana Cosânzeana.

PRÂSLEA CEL VOINIC (PRÂSLEA THE BRAVE)



Prâslea is a fabulous figure with supernatural powers that is featured as the youngest child of an emperor in the fairy tale "Prâslea the Brave and the Golden Apples". He is handsome, strong, smart and wise, always succeeding in his mission. To stop himself from falling asleep, while watching over the golden apples, he thrusts two stakes into the ground and takes the precious apples to his father. He follows the ogres on the other realm, frees the emperor's daughters, kills the ogres and flees away from his brothers who try to kill him. In return for saving her children, the old hag takes him back to the human realm, where he marries the girl saved from the golden castle, where the last ogre (the thief of the golden apples) lived.

GREUCEANU



Greuceanu, the hero of the book of the same name, is a young boy with supernatural powers who always presents the Romanian people's features. Little is known about his family in the book, but the narrator mentions that he has a brother. Greuceanu is generous and compassionate who manages to save two people from death. He is brave, gifted, strong, wise, honest, fair and modest. Greuceanu proves these inborn qualities through his brave actions: leaving the kingdom to look for the sun and the moon, fighting with the dragons and their wives and finding the truth. As a reward, he eventually receives half of the emperor's kingdom and his daughter.



TOP 3 RITUALS

PAPARUDELE



Paparuda is a deity, specific to the Romanian mythology of agrarian cults, which is invoked by women during the drought to ask for the rain. The ritual is practised on the third Thursday, after Whit Sunday. The young girls perform the Paparuda ‘dance’ wearing symbolic skirts made of leaves. The women in the village splash them with buckets full of water. The rain is invoked in an onomatopoeic way, by hand clapping or finger slapping. Having wandered through the village, the Paparudas head for a flowing water, where they light straws on the water’s surface and throw their clothes made of leaves. It is said that pregnant women keep away from the Paparudas because they think that they could abort if they get wet by them.

CĂLUȘARII



Călușarii is a ritual dance performed through the village eight days after Whit Sunday by 12 brave young men (a flag bearer, a mute, a singer and dancers led by a bailiff), all dressed in national costumes. Raising the flag first, they dance in the householders’ yards. They perform dramatic sketches about death and Resurrection. The dance ends with the Romanian circle dance hora Călușului involving women and children. These dancers are given children to hold them in their arms or they are paid to jump over children. Then, in secret, they “bury the flag” to release themselves from the oath and restore balance through the group reintegration into the daily life. It is believed that the dancers have the power, through their dance, to cure people by uttering healing words.

SÂNZIENELE



Sânzienele are fabulous beings, beautiful virgins that live on the fields of flowers. They are associated with fairies who have the power to bring autumn. They are celebrated on June 24 (the summer solstice). This is the day when plants stop growing. On the night of Sânziene, women, children and old witches go to the fields and collect plants that can cure sick people throughout the year because only the herbs collected that night have the healing powers. Also, girls make wreaths from sânziene flowers which they put at the corner of their houses. Depending on how often the wreath falls, they know when they will get married or if someone will die in that house.



TURKEY

Description of the school and its location



School Building



İbrahim Atalı Ticaret Meslek Lisesi represents Turkey in this multilateral partnership. Meant for senior students, it is a high school housing a general high school and a vocational school. There are approximately 600 students and 45 teachers. Sport activities play an important role at school. Among the school subjects, the students study Geography, History, Art, English, Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Biology and other. The school is located in Adana, which is a major agricultural and commercial center situated in southern Turkey. It is the 5th most populous city in the country with a population of 1.6 million. The city is situated on the Seyhan River, 30 kilometres inland from the Mediterranean Sea, in south-central Anatolia. The earliest inhabitants of Adana were the Hittites, who lived here from 20th to 13th centuries BC. Adana gets its name from Adanus, one of the two sons of Uranus, god of skies. Adana has an airport named Şakirpaşa Airport. Also, it has a very big university consisting of its many departments.



Adana by Night



TOP 3 FABULOUS BEINGS

KELOGLAN



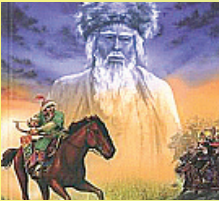
Keloglan, a “bald boy” in English, is a well known Turkish folk tale character. He is a fatherless Anatolian boy who lives with his old mother. They are so poor that Keloglan is desperate to be rich and noble one day. His mother doesn’t approve of his aspirations and tells him to work instead of dreaming. In one of his stories, his mother sends him to buy salt but he runs away to find the sultan and marries his daughter. Lots of funny things happen to him. He is a sympathetic, stupid, naive peasant boy who always wins by ruse or cunning. He is also known for his standing against cruel and unfair people. Keloglan makes intelligent jokes and makes children laugh.

TEPEGÖZ



Tepegöz is a cyclopes that lives in Mount Kaf. He is a child born to a shepherd and a fairy. His mother is a female fallow deer. Tepegöz is associated with a creature which swims in water and has an unclear mouth and face. Tepegöz is sometimes featured as a male and sometimes as a female. It has only one eye. He is wearing a ring which his mother gave him. The giants like a cyclopes are called “yelbegen” in Altay-Turkish epics. Tepegöz, known by this name, is mainly found as a character in Turkish tales.

DELI DUMRUL



Deli Dumrul or crazy Dumrul is the hero of Dede Korkut Tales. He has built a bridge on a river which hasn’t got any water. He takes one coin from those who cross the bridge and charges 5 coins those who don’t and then punishes both the ones using his bridge and those refusing to do so. One day Azrael comes to take his life. However, Deli Dumrul doesn’t want to give his life. So they have a bargain. Azrael tells him he can be forgiven if he finds a life to give him instead of his own. Deli Dumrul goes to his parents. Neither of his parents agrees to give their lives. So Deli Dumrul goes to his wife, who doesn’t hesitate to give her life for him. When God sees this, he forgives both of them and they live happily ever after.



TOP 3 HEROES

ŞAHMARAN



Şahmaran is a character in Anatolian mythology representing the goddess of wisdom, the guardian of the secrets and is featured as an anthropomorphic figure with a female head on a snake body with six legs and a tail. The legend has it that she fell in love with a man named Tasmasp, who loved her, too, but having listened to all of her stories went back to his country. On his return, the king became very ill and it was announced that the only way to cure him was to eat Şahmaran. So they took people to a hammam to see if the snake scales would come up. Thus Tasmasp had to reveal where she was hiding. When they found her, she said that whoever ate her scales would learn the secrets of the world, but whoever ate her head would die. Tasmasp ate her head, but the evil king's advisor wolfed down the scales. However, the advisor died, but Tasmasp was not affected at all.

KÖROĞLU



Köroğlu is the chieftain of Bolu orders. He depends on Yusuf, a stableman, to find a highly valuable horse. After a long time Yusuf eventually finds two colts that, he believes, will have the necessary qualities with age and purchases them. On seeing the colts, the chieftain gets mad and orders to prick Yusuf's eyes. The blinded Yusuf returns home with the colts. He looks after them by giving orders to his son, Rushen Ali, known as Köroğlu (son of the blind), who trains them. One of the colts, named Kırat (White Horse), becomes an extraordinary hero, as famous as Köroğlu himself. Yusuf has his son to go to the spring and bring the secret foam that will open his eyes so that he can take his revenge. However, Köroğlu drinks the secret foam himself. Eventually his father shows consent to his fate and Köroğlu avenges on his father's wrongdoers. He spends the rest of his life helping the poor and miserable.

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TOP 3 RITUALS

NOWRUZ



Nowruz is the Iranian New year celebrated by hundreds of thousands in Turkey. Nowruz celebrations last around 15 days and begin on the 21st of March, which has been officially declared an International holiday by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Observed for more than 3,000 years, this ancestral festival is primarily celebrated by Iranic people in Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Iraqi Kurdistan and Turkey. According to the UN website, Nowruz is a holiday which promotes the values of peace and solidarity between generations and within families. It also encourages reconciliation and neighbourliness, thus contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among different peoples and communities.

HİDRELLEZ



Hidrellez, is celebrated on May 6 to mark the day on which prophets Hızır and İlyas met. The names of the prophets have fused together and are pronounced as Hidrellez. This holiday is actively celebrated in the countryside. In preparation, people thoroughly clean their houses, wash clothes, prepare food and drinks. Hidrellez celebrations are always performed in green, wooded places, near sources of water or a shrine. Eating fresh spring plants, lamb meat or liver is another custom at Hidrellez. It is believed that eating the first lamb of spring will bring health and cure from illnesses. Various practices are performed on Hidrellez night, too, in the belief that Hızır will bring blessing and abundance to the places he visits and the things he touches.

DEMİR DÖVMEK



Demir Dövmek is celebrated on the 21st of March every year, coinciding with the start of another popular Turkish seasonal holiday Nowruz. According to Ergenekon epic, the Turks were trying to find a way how to escape from Ergenekon. A blacksmith advised the Turks to melt the iron in the mountain and thus to open a way. The Turks filled every part of the iron mountain with wood and coal. They lit a fire and the iron mountain melted opening a free way to the Turks. To commemorate the event, today a piece of iron is lit on fire and is then forged by a blacksmith with a hammer during the celebrations.

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