Digitization of intangible heritage in Harghita County

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Intangible heritage according to Unesco’s definition includes:

• Oral traditions

• Performing arts (music and dance)

• Social practices, rituals, festive events

• Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe

• Traditional crafts

https://ich.unesco.org
• Hungarian ethnography identifies immaterial culture as folklore

• The Hungarian folklore genres are: tales, legends, anecdotes, dictums, proverbs, ballads, folk songs, true stories, life stories, autobiographies, wailing songs, folk prayers and runes

• There are other genres like folk music, folk dance and folk games

• Social practices, beliefs, traditional healing

• Traditional crafts
• A lot of studies and scientific articles have been published on the topic of intangible values – these works are digitally available just partly

• In Romania, there is a national commission for the mapping of intangible cultural heritage, but it doesn’t exist a central database for safe-keeping and recording the intangible heritage

• On Unesco’s site, the intangible cultural list contains 429 elements out of which 6 results belong to Romania: the folk songs named *Doina*, pottery from the village of Horezu, lad’s dances, the traditional wall-carpet craftsmanship, the musical tradition of Colindat practised by men during Christmas and the Căluş ritual

• Since Hungarian tangible and intangible heritage from Transylvania is not represented in the databases presented previously, but nongovermental initiatives were taken to bridge this gap

• The Kriza János Ethnographic Society founded a database which focuses mainly on Hungarian ethnographical data

• It also makes possible the search of ethnographic bibliographies http://www.kjnt.ro/neprajzibibliografia

• Several keywords: beliefs, social practices, folklore, folk dance, folk music

• There are less online thematic databases

• But at the same time there are good examples like: collection of ballads, folk songs, folk music and traditional crafts databases

• There is a lack of databases regarding popular customs and beliefs
Digital database of ballads
Source: www.kjnt.ro/balladatar

• The founder of the ballad database is the Kriza János Ethnographic Association
• This database was edited between 2014-2015
• The sponsors of the project were the Hungarian Scientific Academy and the National Cultural Fund

In the database we find:
1) old ballads
2) historical songs
3) new ballads
4) local ballads
5) other genres

• The ballads were collected between 1837 and 2014
• Searching modalities: ballad title, the location, the date of collection and the collector’s name
The collection of ballads contains 1617 ballads and their variations.

There are 373 ballads from Harghita County:

- Ghimeş Valley (Gyimesek): 57 ballads from 15 settlements
- Ciuc (Csík): 115 ballads from 16 settlements
- Casin (Kászon): 8 ballads from 5 settlements
- Odorhei and Cristur region (Udvarhely and Keresztűr): 134 ballads from 13 settlements
- Gheorgheni region (Gyergyó): 59 ballads from 6 settlements
An other folklore database contains Kallós Zoltán's ethnographical collection

He is a Hungarian ethnographer from Transylvania

The founder of this database is the Hungarian Music Institution

There are 683 records from Harghita County (genres: ballads, folk music, folk song, nuptials etc.)

Source: www.db.zti.hu
Folk dances database
Source: http://db.zti.hu/neptanc_tudastar/filmek.asp

- **Founder:** the Music Institution of the Hungarian Scientific Academy

- **255 records:** folk dances from Ghimeş (Gyimes) and Ciuc (Csík) - 18 uploaded videos
Digital folk music database
Source: http://db.zti.hu/24ora/dalok.asp

- 517 recordings from Hargita County
- Genres: ballads, nuptials, folk songs, folk games, czardas etc.
- 93 pieces from Ciuc (Csík), 213 from Ghimes (Gyimes), 154 from Odorhei (Udvarhely), 16 from Gheorgheni (Gyergyó) and 41 from Casin (Kászon)
- Hungarian collectors: Kodály Zoltán, Domokos Pál Péter, Sárosi Bálint, Juhász Zoltán, Kallós Zoltán, Andrásfalvi Bertalan, Lajtha László, Vikár László, Sára Ferenc, Szendrei Janka
- Period of collection: 1910-1980
Belief researches

• The large researches concerned with folk beliefs were carried out by the Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj Napoca (Kolozsvár), Romania and the University of Pécs, Hungary

• Many studies were published, but no database making possible the online research of these beliefs has been made

• A good offline, printed example is the book Hexes, healers, victims. Stories and life stories, published by the Transylvanian Museum Association, in 2012, at Cluj Napoca

• The book includes 3 revised thesis on the subject of folk beliefs
• A chapter from the book presents the hex superstitions from Ghimeș

• The speciality of the volume is that beside the studies, it publishes the interviews recorded in the Ghimeș Valley

• The book has a CD supplement that contains 6 hour recordings and digital photos
### Traditional crafts database

- The Kriza János photo database has 1650 archive photos from Harghita County.

http://www.kjnt.ro/fotoarchivum
Subjects: pottery and spinning from Mădăraș and Dănești (Csíkmadaras, Csíkdánfalva), weaving from Lupeni (Farkaslaka), and wood carving from Cozmeni (Csíkkozmás).

- The pictures date back to the years 1930, 60’ and 70’s.
Databases of artisans from Harghita County

- This website presents 22 crafts and 40 artisans who are members of the Szekler Artisans Association

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www.szekely-kezmuvesek.ro/
The database contains the artisan’s name, her/his profession, a short description and contact data.

Bartos Tünde

Kategória: Bútorfestő

a székely kézművesség művelője, bútorfestő népművész Székelyudvarhelyről

"Festett bútoraim, berendezési tárgyaim, tervezett enteriorjaim, a hagyományos népi stílusjegyek felhasználásával készülnek. Munkám során célok olyan példaértékei, minőségi, esztétikus tárgyak létrehozása, amely mai használatra hivatott, a mai kor igényeit elégteti. Továbbá népi motívumokcscünk népszerűsítését, a figyelemfelkeltést szolgálja."

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Another similar database can be accessed on the website of the Artera Foundation

- The webpage is available in 4 languages: Hungarian, Romanian, English and German

- Here we find 18 types of crafts
Database of traditional Szekler crafts and craftsmen

- The database isn’t from Harghita County, but is a good example.
- Currently on the site there are 43 crafts and 250 craftsmen registered from Covasna County.
- The webpage is supported by Norway grants, it is available in 3 languages.
• The database contains the craftmen’s name, her/his profession, her/his birth date and location, product’s name and contact data
Photo documentary about traditional crafts, popular customs

• The Subordinated Cultural Institutions of Harghita County Council has been organizing photo camps since 2002

• These camps take place every year once or two times

• During the event the participants visit a community and document the life of the inhabitants

• The photographers’ interests bring into focus the documentation of traditional crafts and popular customs
• Between 2002-2017, the photographers made 50,000 digital photos

• The owner of these records are the Cultural Institutions of Harghita County Council

• The institutions annually organize a few exhibitions from the material of the photographic database
Between 2002 and 2016, the photographs taken during the camp were published in 3 photo albums.

The covers of these albums.


Orbán Balázs was a szekler writer, ethnographer in the 19th century and he was also fascinated by photography.

He toured the whole Szeklerland and wrote his most famous book, the *Description of Szeklerland* (A Székelyföld leírása).
Photos capturing traditional crafts

Saddler (Lueta-Lövéte) – Photographer: Czire Alpár
Brick maker (Atid-Etéd) – Photographer: Czire Alpár
Beekeeper (Corund-Korond) – Photographer: Tiszavölgyi Zsolt
Shepherding (Fântána Brazilor-Fenyőkút) – Photographer: Balázs Ödön
Shepherding (Mătișeni-Mátisfalva) – Photographer: Antal Levente
Cooper (Păuleni-Székelypálfalva) – Photographer: Tóth Zsuzsanna
• Since 2015, the Center of Traditional Culture along with Harghita County Council organize traditional craft presentations

• From 2015 to 2017, the institution organized 12 presentations in museums, local folk museums

• The participants of these events were from 10 until 14 years old students from Harghita County
• Students tried various traditional crafts like basket weaving, furniture painting, pottery, embroidery, vegetal dyeing, felting, making easter eggs, spinning, weaving, wood carving, shingle making, smithery, whip making

• The colleagues of the cultural institution documented the process of knowledge transmission through photos

• These photos are available on the private database of the institution
Traditional crafts in documentary films

• In 2015-2016, four documentary films were made, supported by Harghita County Council

• In these documentary films the craftmen present their trades

• Film subjects: basket weaving, tinder making, pottery and charcoal making

• They were presented on a few locations in Harghita County
Traditional trades in printed magazine
www.oroksegunk.ro

• The Center of Traditional Culture published a Hungarian review called *Our Inheritance*, between 2007 and 2013

• Every year appeared articles about traditional trades: lime burning, shepherding, smithery etc.

• Each issue of the publication is available on the internet
Photos about popular customs and traditional festivals from the photo database of the Center of Traditional Culture

Traditional wedding (Lueta-Lövéte) – Photographer: Czire Alpár
Carnival (Plăieșii de Jos-Kászonaltíz) – Photographer: Balázs Ödön
Pentecost queens (Şiclod-Siklód) – Photographer: Balázs Ödön
Popular customs and folklore genres in the periodical *Our inheritance*
www.oroksegunk.ro

• Finally, between 2007 and 2013, the periodical of the cultural center published 11 articles about popular customs (wedding and religious customs, carnivals etc.) and 21 articles about different folklore genres (beliefs, ballads, proverbs etc.)
Thank you for your attention!

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