



Songs in Europe

Stropkov, 7th – 12th May 2014

Slovakia



7th May 2014 – Wednesday. Arrivals.

We arrived to Kosice (Slovakia) from Budapest, we were met by Miro, our Slovak hostess and who took us to the Rubin hotel in Svidnik.

8th May 2014 – Thursday. Presentation.

The next morning, after breakfast, we met with the rest of participants (German, British, Slovaks and Turkish) and we were taken to the town of Stropkov. There, we meet other organizations that Krajina works with where the welcome and presentation of the different projects took place.

After lunch, dance and music folk performance started. We spent learning dances and a popular Slovak song “*Tancuj, tancuj*” (see links), that we would sing at the end of the week in a religious event.

- Slovak typical dance class. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pIFXrTDOz0>

- Slovak folk song. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZsMA5ouiHI>



9th May 2014 – Friday. The European Union Day.

On the second day, we visit the **Cultural Centre in Svidník**, where we met with her headmistress and Ivan who showed us a photograph exhibition and talked about different aspects of culture in Svidník.

Later on, we visited "**The Museum of Ukrainian Culture**", which was dedicated to different historical and cultural works in the area, especially those related to cultures and ethnic groups that historically have occupied the region.

At the end of the morning, we attended a music class at a **public school of Art in Svidník**. There, the headmistress showed us the different artistic studies classrooms and the different classrooms devoted to each art, mainly those related to music and dance, and painting and sculpture for younger students could perform. We were also

treated to many performances by some students who played different instruments like piano and violins, and then a show danced for us. This was undoubtedly one of the most interesting activities of our stay in Slovakia.

During the afternoon, we visited the center Stropkov and an exhibition of dolls in traditional costumes from different countries in the world.

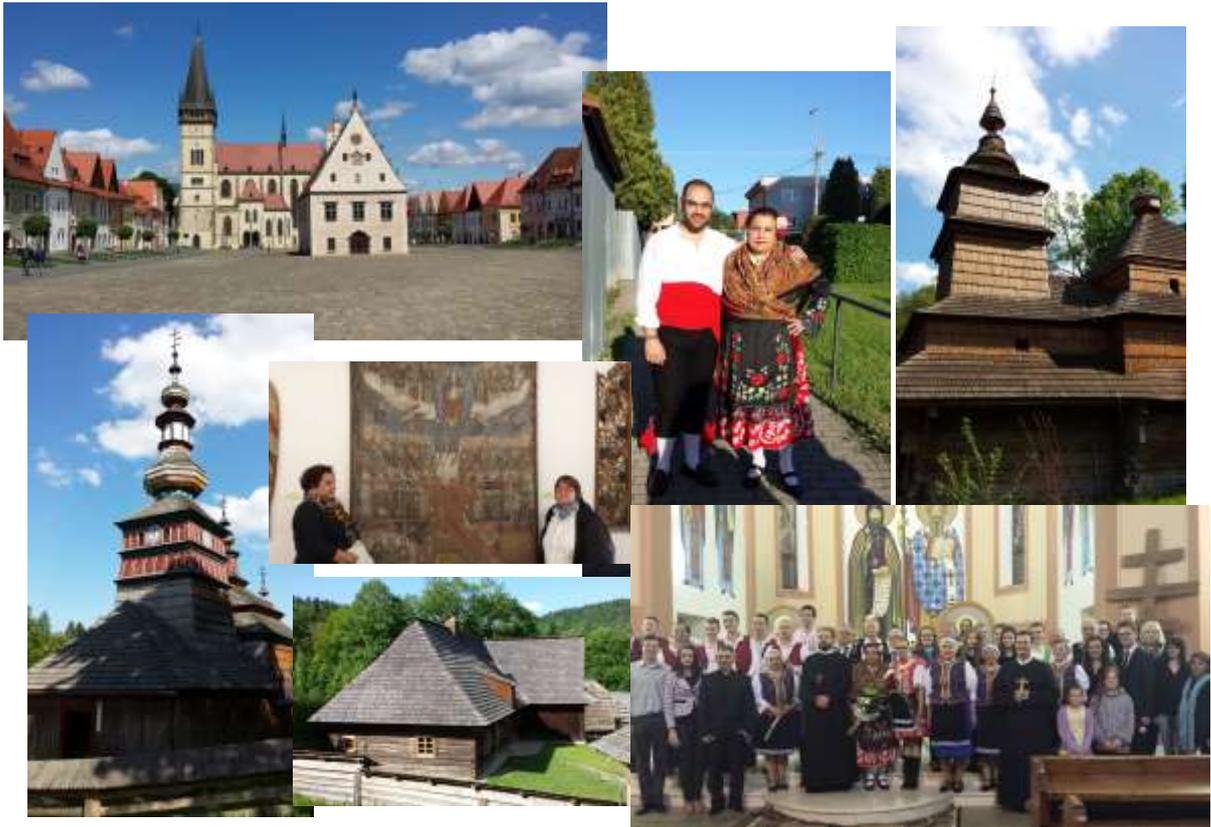


10th May 2014 – Saturday. Visit of Bardejov, a UNESCO heritage town.

On Saturday we had another cultural day. We visited Bardejov, city UNESCO World Heritage town (2000). Small but exceptionally complete and well preserved, Bardejov is an example of a fortified medieval city that illustrates the development of this region. It has a small Jewish neighborhood built around a superb eighteenth-century synagogue. After free time to explore the city center, we visit the **Icon Museum**.

After a short break for lunch, we visited the open air **Museum of Folk Architecture**. Where we could see different buildings made of local wood, like houses, barns and churches. In addition, the area is well-known for its spa Bardejovské Kúpele Spa Resort.

During the afternoon, back to Stropkov, we attended the **Sacred Concert** in St. Cyril Methodist church), with performances and songs to the Virgin Mary by some local groups as well as by the Spanish group, participating in the interpretation of the Ave Maria of the Madonna of Fátima with the traditional costume Serranía.



11th May 2014 – Sunday. The Mothers' Day.

Sunday was dedicated to celebrate Mother's Day, but first, in the morning we had free time to visit the **Air Military Museum** and the **Memorial of the Second World War** in Svidník.

Later, we were taken to the village of Nižná Olšava where we were greeted by the mayor of the town who had lunch with the participants. Then, **the Regional Festival of Folk Songs** took place, with performances by primary school children and various local folk groups in traditional costumes. The local folk group performed a typical Turkish dance, learned during their stay in this country in February 2014. For its part, the Spanish group danced two typical dances from their area in their costumes (Serranía) and the German group also showed their traditional costumes.

The Festival ended with the presentation of certificates and singing together the song "Tancuj, Tancuj" taught the first day by the Slovak group.

Finally, as a final event of coexistence, we went to a concert of the most popular Slovak folk group, The Kandráčs, in the village of Brusnica, which plays traditional folk songs with a modern twist. De vuelta a Svidník and after dinner, we made a summary of the action taken in Slovakia and the terms of the next action defined in the UK in July 2014.





12th May 2014 – Monday. Leaving day.

This day the different groups were leaving the hotel. For our part, we headed to the city of Košice where we took a train back to Budapest, and then a flight to Madrid. End of coexistence in Slovakia and moment of farewell with some emotion, but really looking forward to the next reunion in action in the UK.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

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