



STUDY EXCHANGES - INTRODUCTION

Study exchanges became one of the first joint activities of the partner organizations. Each of the partners organized one joint meeting in his own country, where he showed to the others several skills typical for his country, that they considered beneficial and suitable for expansion to the partner countries.

The goal of the activity was the sharing of good practice and inspiration between partner countries to create interesting programs by transferring them to "home" conditions.

The following events were organized:

1. CZECH REPUBLIC

On 8.-10. April members of the SPLAV Association welcomed 11 representatives of partner organizations in Nebeská Rybná and Záměl. They were introduced to the following skills:

- Making an insect shelter
- Preparation of herbal smoothie
- Preparation of stuffed potato dumplings

2. SLOVAKIA

On 28.-29. May the members of Legend Foto welcomed 5 representatives of partner organizations in Košice. They were introduced to the following skills:

- Production of Native American bead embroidery
- Preparation of tramp pow-wow event
- Archery
- Folk music songbook

3. HUNGARY

On 6.-9. May members of Jövő-Kép Egyesület welcomed 8 representatives of partner organizations in Nyíregyháza. They were introduced to the following skills:

- Production of birdhouses
- Art technique wood carving
- Cooking lessons

4. ROMANIA

On 20.-21. April members of CSA SATU MARE welcomed 9 representatives of partner organizations in Satu Mare. They were introduced to the following skills:

- Samples of interest Ecological education
- An example of a gardening game

- Production of small ceramics

- Felting technique

Program

Friday

19:00 dinner together and after just getting to know each other

Saturday

9:30-12:00 linocut printing workshop

13:00-18:00 visiting local museums

Sunday

9:45-11:15 workshop about collecting herbs

11:45-13:00 workshop about building houses for insect

13:00-15:00 cooking traditional Czech dumplings

+ volunteer program - walk around the river to another town, visit of local craft brewery



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Program testing 8.4.-10.4.

During the second weekend of April, the first meeting of the participants of a new project focused on the exchange of skills connected with local traditions and the environment took place. Partners from three foreign countries - Slovakia, Hungary and Romania - participated in this project. The aim of this first meeting was to demonstrate to these partners the three selected by us and to teach them to pass them on. On Friday 8.4. in the evening we met at the boarding house on Nebeská Rybná, where we started the program by getting to know each other and sitting in the evening and playing card games. The next morning we got up early and after breakfast moved to Deštná in Orlické hory, where the participants learned linocut techniques. Everyone could engrave 1 or more dies and then print their own motif on paper or a canvas bag. In addition, the entire program took place in the local museum of traditions and winter sports, so the participants could also learn something about the history of the area in their free time. After lunch in the form of traditional Ukrainian borscht, we moved to the Museum of the Eagle Mountains "Sýpka" in Rokytnice in the Eagle Mountains. Here we were awaited by a presentation of a rare local animal and a meeting with local patriots. After returning from the museum, the more active members of the group went for a walk to the Weeping Rock, while the others discussed their newly acquired knowledge. The next morning, in the Garden of Dobromysl Sdružení SPLAV in Záměš, under the guidance of the garden manager, we made insect hotels from excess wood and collected herbs for a smoothie, which served as an appetizer before home-made potato-filled dumplings. They were prepared for us by a participant of the Masterchef Czech cooking competition in two forms – meat and vegetarian fruit. We all actively helped with the preparation of the dumplings, from peeling the potatoes to making the dough and filling and serving. Everyone had the opportunity to taste as much of each species as they were able to eat. After filling our bellies, we all slowly began to say goodbye to the participants, who had to slowly make their way home. So the whole weekend was fully charged. We can safely say that the participants took away a lot of new skills, knowledge and, last but not least, capable friends and acquaintances from the weekend spent in the Czech Republic.





KARPATSKÉ CENTRUM WOODCRAFTU

Kamaráti, kamarátky, z príležitosti otvorenia nášho centra lesnej múdrosti vás srdečne pozývame na otvárací potlach, ktorý sa uskutoční v dňoch **28. - 29. Mája 2022** v priestoroch lesoparku mesta Košice, lokalita Košariská. (**48°49'07.2"S 21°09'15.6"V**). Centrum nájdete pri ceste na Nemcovu dolku (modrá značka po údolí od Alpinky), presne 7,5km od parkoviska Alpinka, za jedinou "S" zákrutou na asfaltovej ceste. Od chaty Diana je to presne 2,5km ďalej po asfaltovej ceste, popri toku potoka). Na akciu sú pozvaní stavitelia centra, vybraní hostia a zahraniční partneri zo 4 krajín.



Program potlachu :

Sobota 28. Mája od 9:00:

- Indiánske korálkovanie - výroba roziet podľa vzoru národa Choctaw - 4 hodiny - časť I.
- obed - guláš (aj vegetariánsky)
- 14:00 Zálesácky viacboj :
 - sekera, tomahawk
 - nože
 - lukostreľba
 - vzduchovka
 - Hod kládou
 - oštep
- 14 - 17:00 Súťaže nielen pre deti a ženy
 - origami
 - bubnovanie
 - Kimovka
 - dekomlat - slepí bojovníci
 - uzlovanie a lasovanie
 - rozpoznávanie prírodnín



Zapálenie slávnostného ohňa : 19:30



Večerný program :

- ❖ Sandokan
- ❖ Súťaž v speve
- ❖ Večerné správy
- ❖ Pílenie fľaše
- ❖ Vyhodnotenie súťaží
- ❖ Ceilí (keltské tance)
- ❖ Táborenie v lakotskom típi - príbeh
- ❖ Light-painting foto session s Pet'kou





Nedeľa 29.mája od 9:00

- **indiánske korálkovanie - výroba roziet podľa vzoru národa Choctaw - 4 hodiny - časť II.**
- **Obed - cestoviny so syrom a medvedím cesnakom**
- **Predstavenie projektu a programov Woodcraft Centra**
- **návšteva lesných škôl Diana, Hlinné, Poľana**
- **historické miesta a stromy v lesoparku**



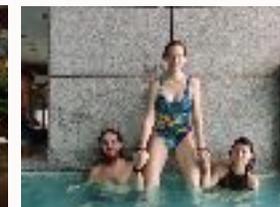
LEGEND FOTO

SLOVENSKO

Občianske združenie zastrešujúce fotografov, trampov, vodákov, aktivistov, ktoré organizuje medzinárodné tábory, výmeny, projekty a bude prevádzkovať Karpatské centrum Woodcraftu



Silvester v centre



u partnera počas pandémie :)

SPLAV :

ČESKO

Miestna akčná skupina programu Leader z Orlických hôr. Skúsená organizácia organizujúca rozvojové a vzdelávacie projekty. Programy pre svojich členov a partnerov



Sudety, múzeum parných strojov



Kohúti hrebeň, Maramureš, Rumunsko

JÖVŐKÉP EGYESÜLET

MAĎARSKO

Občianske združenie aktívne v miestnom rozvoji, organickom pestovaní, komunitných akciách, predaja organických produktov a organizovaní podujatí.

EKOLOGICKÉ CENTRUM SATU MARE.

RUMUNSKO

Občianske združenie zastupujúce trénerov, školiteľov a športovcov pracujúcich v oblasti environmentálnej výchovy.



Orlické hory, stretnutie partnerov



Sibírska ľalia Rumunsko na jar...



WORKSHOP C1 SLOVAKIA

Kedy : 27. – 30. 5. 2022 (Program : 28 -29. May)

Kde : Košice, lesopark Košice

Ubytovanie : Diana lesná škola, KCW centrum, Lakota Típi,

Predbežný program:

Deň	Program	Praktiky a úlohy :
Piatok 27. 5. 2022	Príchod účastníkov, ice-breaker večer <i>Barbecue na mieste</i>	Privítanie a orientácia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • príprava grilovania
Sobota 28. 5. 2022	<i>Raňajky, 8:00</i> - 9:00 Indiánske koráľkovanie Native American Beading (kmeň Čoktov) kurz 4 hodiny <i>Obed: 13:00 (dovoz alebo miestne varené na mieste)</i> <i>14:00 Woodcraft Potlach :</i> - zálesácky viacboj (sekerá, nôž, luk, vzduchovka, oštep a kláda) - lesné hry a kvízy nielen pre deti a ženy - zapálenie slávnostného ohňa podľa Woodcraft ceremoniálu (19:30) - Večerné súťaže a hry, - Medzinárodný spevník (hudba a spev) . Ceilí - keltské tance - Maľovanie svetlom- fotosession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stôl a lavice vonku • dovoz alebo varenie obeda • Viacboj - stanovištia 6 ľudí • lesné hry (2-3 ľudia) • príprava fakiel (vosk, živica, handry na lieske) • príprava 5 pagôd (4+1) • príprava kruhu čistoty • nachystanie "rekvizít" • Pekelník (?) kto bude ? • večerné hry (2-4 ľudia) • 2 klády na Sandokana • spevník pripravíť • foťák a statív + "handry" • (reklamy a humor ?) • Placky (účastenky 60) • Placky (ceny - 15 ?) • Prezenčka • Pomaľovať terče na nože a luk (čierny stred, červená, modrá) oddelené pásom - 5 bodov) • Pomaľovať bubon • Stojan na bubon • Grizly : vlajka ?





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drevo na prikladanie ohňa • drevo do típí • maľovanie típí
Nedeľa 29.5. 2022	<p><i>Raňajky,</i> 9:00 Indiánske koráľkovanie kurz 4 hodiny <i>Obed: 13:00 (dovoz alebo miestne varené na mieste 14:00</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Táboenie v típí (?) - Opáľové bane (?) - Lesné školy (Diana, Hlinné, Poľana) - Kreatívna a módna fotografia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pripraviť raňajky • kurz koráľkovania • výlet po lesných školách

Looking forward seeing you in Kosice region!

Contact: Gejza : +421 905 570 898 (Viber, WhatsApp, Messenger), gdlegen@gmail.co

Information and logictics :

- 1) Number of participants per partner : 2
- 2) Length of the study tour : 2 days minimum
- 3) Travel days : 2 days
- 4) Travel grant : 300 €/trip :
- 5) Subsistence (lodging +catering) : 560€/trip/partner (e.g 70€/per person/day
- 6) Lodging options: the host will book the lodging for you in Diana cottage 5€/day per person the participants pay cash, or through bank SEPA transfer
- 7) Catering options: we will share the meal costs for the program days, it may be ordered from city or cooked at the site, or ordered in nearby resturant (Alpinka).
- 8) Local transport options: based on own cars of participants (in case of public transport used provided by host)
- 9) Announce please in advance meal restrictions (vegeterian, gluten free, etc.)
- 10) In case of any assistance needed contact the host above ...





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WORKSHOP IN HUNGARY

Study tour -Exchange of Best practices – 6th -9th May, 2022; Nyíregyháza, Hungary

Dear Partners, Dear Friends,

let me kindly invite you to Nyíregyháza for the next KCW project event according to our activity plan. Our program focuses on traditional food recipes, introduction to wood carving, and building birdhouses.

The proposed program:

6th May, Friday: You can arrive any time of the day, have some sightseeing during your way here or here in the city of Nyíregyháza. In the afternoon we will have a cooking lesson in a nearby farm (Hunyor-Major tanya) We will eat what we cook for dinner :-)

7th May, Saturday: our wood carving session starts at 9.00, ends at appr. 16.00. Lunch will be provided by our host, Imre Magi, and his wife in Hajdúnánás. The venue place is cca 30 km from Nyíregyháza to the SW, so we will leave your accommodation at 8.15 in the morning together. In case of good weather we can visit Andrásy Castle in Tiszadob or Tiszalök Water Power Station as industrial heritage sites.

8th May, Sunday: This day is about building birdhouses from various materials, and we will learn to cook again and make our lunch/diner together on the farm of the leader of the local forest shepherds initiative of E-mission Environmental Association and with members of Green Action Group of Nyíregyháza.

9th May, Monday: Final meeting to sum up our experience and coming event in Slovakia; day of travel back home

Please prepare your team and travel accordingly. Your accommodation would be in Guesthouse 'Pazonyi Fogadó' in Nyírpazony. I would like to book your place to stay this week, so please let me know how many participants your team will have and how many nights you would like to spend here.

You can find info about our city and its touristic attractions on this webpage in case of free time: <https://nyiregyhaza.info.hu/en/latnivalok/#nezet=grid>

Do not hesitate to contact me any time from now with your possible questions.

Have a beautiful springtime until we meet! :-)

Kind regards,
Csaba
+36305956768



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Report about Study tour -Exchange of Best practices – 6th -9th May, 2022; Nyíregyháza, Hungary

The Slovakian and Czech team arrived to our place in Nyírpazony on Friday afternoon where they checked into the guesthouse, visited our small biogarden and its bird friendly facilities. Later that day we all went to Sóstó, the recreational and touristic area of Nyíregyháza. We had our dinner next to a fishing pond which is part of a sustainable farming initiative and went back to our place to Nyírpazony and discussed about the project in the evening.

The Romanian team joined us next morning in Hajdúnánás. As this city is part of the Hajdú region, our host, Imre Magi and his family gave us some historical introduction of the people living there. However, we visited them to learn wood carving technics, we could also participate in the making of some local shepherds' meal for our lunch. There was a short intro about safety rules and the tools what we used during the event.



We had plenty of wood carving knives and got our first task to make a ring from elderberry branches. It seems to be easier when we saw it but in practice it is quite hard, so we were slow while followed the instructions from our trainer. As we finished our rings, all of us had the same numbers of fingers as the beginning, so it was a successful try from this point of view as well and we deserved to step further for more exciting work.



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Soon we started a new technique, it was wedge carving. We learned useful basics about different wood types and saw a lot of smaller and bigger furniture decoration, household tools carved from wood. We started with simple lines and basic motives to practice this method. Later we also learned how to draw the sketch for our work with rulers and callipers. So we could draw popular motives on our wood and started to carve it. It was kind of interactive way of learning as we had our freedom in the planning and the carving as well, so Imre was busy to deal with all of us, to correct mistakes and show the right method and some tricks. Carving really takes time and makes you enthusiastic, so we postponed our lunchtime to finish our work first. Sooner or later all of us finalized their first wedge carving figure. Those who were faster helped with doing the table and with serving as thanks to the beautiful weather we could have our late lunch in their garden.



After saying thank you and goodbye to our dear hosts we drove to Tiszadob village to visit the freshly reconstructed Versailles-style Andrassy Castle and its beautiful garden for a photo session there but we could see it only from outside. The building is interesting: it has 4 entrances corresponding to the number of seasons, 12 towers corresponding to the number of



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months, 52 rooms corresponding to the number of weeks and 365 windows corresponding to the number of days in a year.

After it, we went to Tiszalök to see the local water power plant station there on the Tisza River and a large botanic garden next to it. The object is the second largest of its kind in Hungary, remained from the Communist Era, still operating and serves as an industrial museum as well, during summer they organize guided tours for visitors, and for school students. It was long day, so it was time to get back to our base where we discussed our experience during dinner.



On Sunday we all drove to Istvánbokor to the farm of our friend Csaba Szigetvári, president of the E-misszion Conservation Association and founder of forest shepherd activities in Sóstó forest. It is a nice natural environment far from the city, which was perfect for our activities. There were more members of this organization and activists from other NGOs as well. It was a double aimed programme, besides discussing forest shepherd activities, we learned how to make different artificial bird houses from various materials and we learned how to make goulash in cauldron.



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As we were quite a big group, we cooked in two cauldrons. We were first divided into two groups and one started to help the preparation for cooking to our master chef and the second group started to draw and saw the wood for birdhouses. We also had an expert with us from Budapest, who makes bird houses from “garbage”, as he collects for second usage any kind of material which can serve as shelter for birds and installed more hundreds near his living place. We took lots of equipment with us to work with wood, learn the practices and created various houses for different bird species from really small Blue Tits to large ones for Barn Owls. Everyone could use the tools with the supervision of more experienced participants and as it always happens new people bring new ideas and inputs so we all could learn a lot.



In the meantime the goulash was finished and we had our late lunch together. As we had some vegetarian in our group we also made grilled cheese based food with herbs from the host's garden. Later we shared recipes of the various versions of goulash (as it turned out there are too many different ways how people do it) and also the recipes of the brought home-made



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sweet and salty desserts as kind contribution of our friends. We do believe that the participants had a really good impression on Hungarian gastronomy and could use in their work what they learned and did with bird houses.





WORKSHOP C1 ROMANIA

When: 19.-22. 4. 2022 (Including travel days). **Program dates: 20 -21. April**

Where: Nord-Vest Romania, Satu Mare Region, Satu Mare city, (Kossuth garden, EKE office, Borókagyökér craft center) [Satu Mare](#)

Accommodation: Aqua Apartments - Strada Constantin Brâncoveanu Nr. 12, 440026 Satu Mare, Romania [Aqua Apartments](#)

Draft program:

Day	Program:	Free time activities:
Friday 19. 4. 2022	Arrival of participants, get to know each other (evening)	Welcome and escort by host staff
Saturday 20. 4. 2022	8:00 Breakfast at the accommodation 9:00 City break game. Interactive game to know better each other and the city. During the game the players will know better the main attractions, the history of the city 13:00 Lunch at a local restaurant 15:00 "Small gardener" game. Complex ecological gardening board game about the native plan spices, ecological gardening technics, main problems and solutions in a one-year gardening session, use of different plants and herbs 20:00 Dinner in the city	<u>Visit</u> - fire tower of the city center - philharmonic building of the city in secession style - The roman-catholic cathedral - old and new center of the city <u>Recreation</u> -visit the Aqua star, the aquapark of the city
Sunday 21.4. 2022	8:00 Breakfast at the accommodation 9:00 Ecological education in the Kossuth garden. We bring different activities, games, and methods to popularize the subject of the wild animals of cities, birds, baths, insects, the effect of pollution in the nature 13:00 Lunch at a local restaurant	<u>Culture:</u> Theatre performance in the Harag György Theatre group





	15:00 Crafting in the Borókagyökér cultural and craft center Clay modelling and felting traditional handcrafted object (plates, vase, jewelry). During the activities we will taste traditional snacks and drinks. 20:00 Dinner in the city	
Monday 22.4. 2022	Breakfast at 8:00 Departure at 9:00 from Satu Mare	Optional: Visit the main touristic attractions of the county: Cresta Cocoşului, Baia Mare city, Ignis peak, Pietroasa peak

Looking forward seeing you in Satu Mare region!

Contact: Lózer Magdolna-Beáta: +40751383556 (WhatsApp), bea.lozer@gmail.com

Information and logistics:

- 1) Number of participants per partner: 2
- 2) Length of the study tour: 2 days minimum
- 3) Travel days: 2 days
- 4) Travel grant: 300 €/trip:
- 5) Subsistence (lodging +catering): 560€/trip/partner (e.g 70€/per person/day
- 6) Lodging options:
- 7) Catering options
- 8) Local transport options:
- 9) Announce please in advance meal restrictions (vegetarian, gluten free, etc.)
- 10) In case of any assistance needed contact the host above...



I. Environment and climate change theme

Topic: Urban wildlife for man

Location: City park

Group: 7-12 years

Duration: 2 hours

Objective: Children will acquire environmental knowledge and develop and deploy tools in the city park which help the survival of other beings (such as songbirds, bats, insects, aquatic life).

Note: Each topic and its illustrative tools will be prepared at different booths, presented in small groups, organized by the tutor. The prepared tools will be placed in the park or the children will take them home.

1. Facilitate the feeding and nesting of **songbirds** in the garden, park, yard, window, terrace

An interactive conversation about the use of songbirds in our living environment: when and why do we feed them? What threatens them?

Stand 1: Making bird feeders from a tetra pak box, painting and decorating them.

Bird feeders:



Stand 2: Memory game with birds

https://gutenbergkonyvesbolt.ro/madaras-memoriakartya-teljes-ar-38-lej_288549

Bird memory:



2. Presence, use and assistance of **bats** in the park, garden, attics
 Interactive conversation about the benefits of bats, the factors that endanger them, and their protection.
Stand 3: Skill game with the Spallanzani box. To illustrate how bats navigate and measure their prey with their sensitive echolocation capability and how they fit in the small spaces.
 To illustrate the space perception of bats, children need to catch a medal from a box of twine, so that they don't touch the twine.
 (It is possible to play competitively: The children are organized into 2 teams. The team that completes the task faster wins, when each member of the team collects the coin without touching the ropes.)

Spallanzani box:



Stand 4: Step-by-step is a moving game. A ground jumping school with mosquito and flower illustrations in each cube. Only the mosquito should be touched with the bats caught in the hand, and only the flowers should be stepped on with the bee attached to the foot. The kids memorize what the bat eats and what the bee eats.

Step-by-step bat and bee feeding:



3. The role of **insects** in pollination

Conversation about the indispensable role and protection of insects, risk factors. What practices can we use to engage them in our environment? More about insect hotels.

Stand 5 Pollination: Use spring colorful flowers and insect mock-ups to explain how pollination works and its importance in nature.

Flower seed presentation. Introducing plant species that are not only beautiful elements of the flower garden, but are also welcomed by pollinating insects, we call them “insect-friendly”.

Stand 6: Memory game with insects:

https://gutenbergkonyvesbolt.ro/memoriakartya-bogarak-teljes-ar-40-lej_85566



Stand 7: making a butterfly watering place

With the help of sugar water, a cotton ball, thread and a bowl, we can make a butterfly watering places that attract butterflies.

Butterfly watering place:



[Butterflies Swarm a Home-Made Feeder](#)

4. **Inhabitants of waters**, threats, their protection

Stand 8: Experiments to illustrate that when we pour oil in the water, frogs get drowned because of their skin breathing. Detergent dissolves the fat from the waxy feathers of the birds.

Filter-oil experiment: Water is passed through a filter. We can observe that the water flows through it unhindered. Contaminate a filter with oil. Then compare, how the water flows true the clean filter and oil-contaminated filter at the same time. It can be observed that it is more difficult for water to pass through the dirty filter. Like the air on a frog's skin, it becomes oily.

Filter-oil experiment:



Bird feather-detergent experiment: Pour a bird feather with clean water. Observe how well the feather is repelled by water. If the fat layer is removed from the feather with a detergent, the feather loses its water-repellent effect and soaks.

Conclusion: selective collection and disposal of used oil, economical use of detergent, maintaining water purity.

Bird feather experiment:



5. **Walking in the park** and observing the studied phenomen, presented tools: artificial bird worm, bird feeder, bat wader, insect garage, life in the lake, pollination in flowering bushes.

Walk in the park:



II. Cultural heritage

Small gardener's workshop

Board game in the bio garden

Boér is Alice's board game, which will be tested on this occasion in an experimental phase.

Partner: Golden Gate Cultural Association

The aim of the game is to teach children about organic gardening in small gardens, the use of herbs, environmentally friendly and budget-friendly methods, how to make additive-free foods for healthy living, how to use plant protection and insecticides that are not harmful to health, or even for composting.

Age group: 6-12 years

Number of players: max 6 (ideal 4) people

Duration: 1-1.5 hours.



Game description:

Each player gets 6 bucks to get started. Players have to buy a small garden and plant it with vegetables and herbs by buying seeds from a specialty store for 6 bucks. The organic garden should be planted based on the principle of helping garden plants (“good neighbors-bad neighbors”). Herbs and spices surround the small garden, taking care of its “residents”. Next to the garden there is a shed where the tools needed to take care of the garden: a spade, a rake, a sprinkler, a sprayer, but plant manure collected from backyard use or made by hand, eggshell debris, ash, etc. is. Plant protection products (neem oil, polyversum) required for chemical-free production purchased from the specialist store are also collected in the shed. During the game, we encounter events that occur in the everyday life of a small gardener: invasion of a Spanish

snail, bugs, tomato loss, no development of plants, hail, birds eating seedlings, and so on. Participants try to repair these damages while learning how. In one corner of the game, players cook from what they produce, in the other corner of the market, where they can sell the excess garden crops they produce. In the third corner is a hospital where if one of the players gets sick, he can make herbal tea and not be left out of the circle. The game starts as time goes on, everyone has their own garden. Whom it produces, cooks or sells on the market. The winner, who has his garden planted, is full of sheds and has all the vegetables he has produced, and has 6 gold coins to keep that up. Adding to the excitement is the fact that there is also a wheel of fortune where you can win a lot.

III. Creativity, art, culture

Craft workshop in the Sályi Ceramics workroom

Sályi Kerámia is a well-known pottery company in Satu Mare, the main profile is to make clay pots and paints mixed with natural minerals made with a potter's wheel. Their dishes are burned in ovens.

Within the framework of the craft workshop, the participants try to make and decorate clay pots made with a potter's wheel.



Clay at home step by step

One of the most popular hobbies is clay, even at home, without a disc and oven, with a successful, spectacular end result. Of course, we can't trust ourselves right away, because while

the steps may seem simple, there are a few rules we need to follow and practice to make the end result really nice.

Clay is almost as old as humanity itself. There is no doubt that clay, as the raw material for everyday objects or decorative elements, is still surrounded by a kind of elusive, ancient magic. Fortunately, claying at home enriches the group of leisure activities that do not require a greater financial investment, the presence of special tools on our part. The basics of pottery are easy to master, but, as the saying goes, “practice makes perfect”.

The tools and raw materials of pottery can be obtained from our own household on the one hand, and from the nearest hobby shop on the other hand, relatively cheaply. The main raw material for leisure activities is, of course, clay. Clay can be purchased in good quality from a hobby shop, where it is available in purified form. Softening can be done easily with lukewarm water at home.

In addition to quality clay, we will also need a larger tray where we can work, sandpaper to sand out the already dried work, and a wet sponge and metal pen.

As a complete beginner, it's worth starting our clayey “career” with an easy-to-create project. Even those who are completely inexperienced in the subject can try to make a vase, a jug or a salt shaker. The braver (or more experienced) can try to make a clay piggy-bank.

The process of claying, at least the initial steps and the necessary supplies are the same for each of the above ideas. The location can be a secluded place in our apartment, also the kitchen.

If the goal is to make the marinade mentioned above, start the work by preparing the clay. Mix a little clay with lukewarm water and work until it becomes a smooth, easy to knead, prepare a homogeneous mixture. If we have mixed too much water with it and it seems we can't work well with it (we can't easily knead balls out of it, for example), let it dry for a couple of hours or a day, then knead it again.

Take a handful of clay in your hand, knead it into a dumpling shape, then drill a hole in the middle with your finger. The hole should be deep, reaching almost to the bottom of the dumpling. When you are done with this, thin the wall of the marinade with gentle, circular motions until it reaches 6-7 mm. Once the clay has taken on the shape of the pot, align the edges with a damp sponge.

If you feel like it, knead smaller dumplings to serve as the legs of the marinade. We can further decorate the side of the pot if we want. The already pre-installed metal pen does a good job in this. The operation is simple: scratch the desired pattern into the wall of the pan.

Not everyone has a large oven built back home, in fact. Gladly, the finished work dries out (about 4 days), it must be burned out at a high temperature. We can “interrogate” this even the nearest potter, but we shouldn't be disappointed even if we can't. In the home oven, even at the highest temperature, you can burn your own hand-made pan (the operation takes 6-7 hours). If you do not want to deal with the incineration, it will still be usable after the pan has dried completely, provided it is not exposed to water.

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