



Preserving tradition

**The inheritance and
continuation
of Traditional
Hungarian and
Turkish handicraft
professions**



MEGTARTÓ HAGYOMÁNY

Magyar és török hagyományos kézműves mesterségek
átörökítése és továbbélése napjainkban



Preserving tradition – The inheritance and continuation of Traditional Hungarian and Turkish handicraft professions

The students, taking part in the programme,
were helped by the masters of the Folk Carft School of Nádudvar:

Árvai, Anikó: Young Master of Folk Art, felt maker
Benő, Tamás: Young Master of Folk Art, leather maker
Benő-Nagy, Réka: felt maker
Fazekas, Ferenc: folk artist, potter
Mrs. Galánfi Schmidt, Teréz: folk artist, weaver
Győri, Balázs: Young Master of Folk Art, wood carver
Kiss, Tamás: wood carver
Molnár, Erzsébet: leather maker
Vetró, Mihály: Young Master of Folk Art, felt maker
Zombori, Judit: weaver, folk dance teacher



Translated by: Sándor Lövei

THE INHERITANCE AND CONTINUATION OF TRADITIONAL HUNGARIAN AND TURKISH HANDICRAFT PROFESSIONS

Our school: The Folk Carft School of Nádudvar has successfully won, together with Zeytin-burnu IMKB Kiz Teknik Ve Meslek Lisesi of Istambul, the application of The European Committee's Lifelong Learning Programme COMENIUS, entitled: *The inheritance and continuation of Traditional Hungarian and Turkish handicraft professions.*

During the programme the students, learning in either a Hungarian or Turkish folk craft school, got to know each other's folk traditions and also the shapes, motifs and technical solutions of the local material folk art. Using this knowledge they created useful products which can be used by people living in the 21st century. The students of both institutions visited one another's workshops

where they learnt about the local traditions, and during the joined, common work they designed and created some products. Finishing one part of the programme an exhibition was organized from ready-made products for the local youngsters and the people interested.

The participants got to know the unit of shape, decoration and function in case of very old products, and then they let he acquiring people know it, too. They worked from natural basic materials found locally, that way they created special consumer goods, meanwhile their creativity developed and they became more responsible for environment and nature.

The students got to know the partner peoples' culture, their abilities to accept

and tolerate have been developed by learning and discussing the differences between the 2 nations' view of life. Their tolerance towards other cultures and religions has also been established, formed and got stronger.

The students of Nádudvar and their masters learned in the partnerschool of Istambul from 23th April 2014 and 8th May 2014, and the Turkish students arrived in Nádudvar in July 2014.

In this publication you will find some samples of the products made by the students, learning in The Folk Carft School of Nádudvar, who took part in the programme. All the introduced creations are influenced by the effects of Turkish experiences and inspirations. Some had exact antecedents and sources, in other cases the acquired and accumulated experiences helped the planning, designing and the implementation. The parallels which can be found in the 2 nations' folk art are often searched in the designing phase.

All participants also gave a written, summarized report on their experiences acquired during the programme. Besides the products some sentences are quoted from the reports.

IMOLA ANTAL

linen weaver



In the wool museum of Bursa we could see how the working of wool developed and how it works on a large scale. We saw Turkish national dresses and it is very useful for our further professional work. It is very important to mention the carpets seen at fairs and in museums because we can derive ideas from them during weaving. The time spent at school was interesting to us. It was good to meet another culture, learn the differences and similarities. I liked it very much that the Turkish people are hospitable, free and easy.

I think this meeting will remain a good memory for everybody. We could learn meanwhile and it also brought our team together





KLÁRA BOZZAY

leather maker

In the programme, organized and done together with the students learning at the handicraft school of Istanbul, besides the plenty of wonderful common experiences it meant the most how we could 'speak the same language' with the youth with seemingly very divergent culture. It was interesting to experience how similarly we can think regarding essential things despite the divergent cultural backgrounds.

The acquired experiences motivated me to use them during my creative work and I also had motivation to take part in the voluntary, communal work.



BOGLÁRKA BŐCZY

felt maker



Had it happened a couple of weeks ago, the busy and interesting days have been passing so quickly since we arrived home from Turkey; the country where our Turkish „háttárs” partners (arkadaş) welcomed us with great hospitality beginning from the first sight. For me the frank enthusiasm and adoration towards us from them was really amazing. Before the departure I was thinking a lot how we would get used to the school, teachers, students there though our hosts’ kindness and attention surpassed the expected.

For me it was a great experience to observe how we could creatively overcome the language bounds during the

personal meetings and while making friends. It’s a pity there were few persons among us who could speak English or Turkish but it didn’t prevent us to spend good atmosphered pastime among the 2 schools’ students and teachers.

Besides getting to know the city, walking on the beach, nice bazaars, several interesting programs, exhibitions and museums, we also had time to visit a few schools educating handicrafts. Although their handicrafts significantly differ from ours, I still believe that our students from each profession could find and will remember something interesting from the collections, motifs and patterns seen there.

I have always been interested in other nations’ cultural, religious and ordinary traditions and it was a miracle for me to observe them from a short distance. The Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia are both real wonders yet we found ‘the main point’ interestingly in a small mosque.

After this study trip a made a woman bag using a tulip which is the agreeing motif of Hungarian-Turkish folk art.

The altogether 4 weeks spent with our Turkish friends have been a miracle. I am very happy that this international student exchange programme could come true and I was part of it, that's why I become more open-minded towards the eastern countries. Before this visit we only learnt about the Turkish traditions and handcraft techniques from books and now we had the chance to experience them a bit differently than we learnt, yet it was a very good experience to observe what handcraft means to them and what to us.

Because of the programme I have fallen in love with Turkey and since then I have taken part in a voluntary programme in the country for some months where we got acquainted with another kind of Turkish handcraft. I started learning Turkish and my English knowledge has also developed a lot, since I had the fortune to translate from English to Hungarian and from Hungarian to English when I interpreted the pieces of information between the Hungarian group and the Turkish group's teacher of English.

Since then I have been longing for going back to Turkey, what's more

VIRÁG CSÍKI

felt maker

from this autumn I would like to learn at one of the language courses of *Yunus Emre Enstitüsü* institution in Budapest. I hope that in the future I will have many possibilities to visit Turkey again and again.

Let me thank for this opportunity once more!

In the Turkish folk art I was charmed by the flower patterns, mainly the tulip motif which is shaped by the felt string – similarly in the Hungarian folk art. For this reason I made a felt vest with felt strings and a tulip motif.



FANNI FEJES

potter

We spent 2 meaningful weeks in Istanbul together with the students of a school there who did not only take us to some beautiful places but they also showed us their everyday life at school and most of their culture. We spent a lot of time with them during that 2 weeks, learnt different handcraft techniques, for example macrame or embroidery. We saw leather goods made by the students and very nice drawings. We could also observe their cuisine, since there's a cook faculty in this school where students also make typical Turkish meals. During the time spent together we managed to know each other better and we also got to know how these people think and behave.

Before this study trip to Turkey we took part in a language course where we learnt basic words and expressions in Turkish. Our work was also helped by a Turkish woman who lives in Hungary. We visited an archeological museum where everybody could find archeological materials related to each profession, so we could do some useful research here.

A couple of months later some Turkish students visited us. The programme finished successfully in more points of view. One of the most important issues was to accept each other's culture and religion. I am very happy that I could take part in this programme which is proved to be very interesting and useful for all of us.



I received a special opportunity to get to know a foreign country, a foreign culture and new people. For me this period of 16 days in Istanbul has been an unforgettable experience. Turkish people are nice and kind, they were waiting for our visit enthusiastically as we were also waiting for their visit to Hungary excitedly. The school was very cosy, had nice atmosphere and we made plenty of wonderful things together.

Our Turkish friends could try out different professions (wood carving, leather making, pottery, felt making, weaving) in the Folk Craft School of Nádudvar. In the different workshops the Turkish students enthusiastically made their products. Everybody was happy because of this common creation, and we also made great friends.

Thanks to the language course - even with making mistakes - we could understand each other more or less, and we also had to use body language.

During their product creation their shapes and motifs are similar to the Hungarian motifs. This recognition also helped me to plan and make my leather bag.

FERENC GORBAI

leather maker



CSILLA JELES

potter

Our vocational school's small and enthusiastic group spent more than half a month in Turkey and meanwhile we also paid visits to Asia several times.

We visited handcraft centres and workshops, e.g. lace-maker, patchwork, potter, dress designer, silversmith. In Bursa we paid a visit to a textile museum, a silk factory and an archeological museum. We had a chance to watch a dervish dance and we also visited a building called Seven Towers (Yedikule).

We could spend 2 meaningful and exciting weeks in Turkey, when we could get to know the other nation's culture, view of life, material folk art and motifs; and we saw new technical solutions for us.





ANDRÁS KISS

leather maker

I'm very happy that I could visit this country. Its folk art is similar to the Hungarian folk art. We have visited plenty of museums where a lot of interesting things were related to our professions. Practical lessons were also held where we could make a few simple products, that way we could observe our professions better.

After arriving home to Hungary, the Turkish students visited us, so we could show them the basics of our professions. It was good to see that they are

also as enthusiastic as we are. In my opinion this 2 year long programme means an unforgettable experience for us and for them. This way I would like to thank my teachers that they made it come true.

The abundant motifs had great influence on my: I am fascinated. Using the tulip motif, which is one of the widely spread flower patterns in the Turkish folk art, I designed and made a woman bag. On the created product I used their various colour usage a bit moderately.

MÁTÉ MAROSSY

leather maker



In Istanbul I felt a bit like Alice in Wonderland. I had this feeling during the time I spent there, nevertheless I have to mention that the 'unusual' surprised me positively all the time. The welcome was expressly friendly. We found common harmony with the different languages and techniques.

For me it is very significant that I could get insights into the habits, customs and religious standards of the Turkish culture which may be inexplicable for outside observers. I feel I became more tolerant, meanwhile I had the chance to get to know a basically different culture.

When we hosted the Turkish students, it was very surprising for them from a professional point of view. The reason of this is that we use significantly fewer machines than them, and our school is closer to nature.

The plenty of information observed and acquired in Istanbul, the hoard of patterns, stories and legends inspired this object – seen in this picture –: a passport holder.

The 16 days spent in Istanbul passed so quickly like how fast the plane flew to Turkey. I became very excited. This city gave me wonderful experiences, I was curious of everything: the ordinary life, the religion, the food, the museums...

It was very good to see the sea, we bathed in it on the very first day. The following day we introduced ourselves in the handcraft school of Zeytinburnu. It turned out quickly that we lack some foreign language knowledge, instead of some English words we didn't know, we used body language.

This world touched our hearts. It was good to visit some handcraft schools, although they use more machines than us. We found their motifs fantastic which we can also use in our works.

For me it was very special to listen to the prayers heard from the minarets 5 times a day, and I also rejoice at observing the process of prayers personally in a small mosque.

Visiting the sunk palace was a fantastic and awesome feeling, and likewise the always busy bazaar. In this city with its 13 million inhabitants the public

KÁROLY MARTON

felt maker

transport taught us that we have to pay attention and take care of each other. Our hosts were very attentive and caring which felt so good. From Istanbul we received a real wonder, unforgettable experiences and personal friendships.

In Istanbul we could watch the characteristic whirling dance of the Sufi monks with which the show how the planets, moons and the sun move. During the ceremony they get into trance which is helped by the music, besides they keep on turning around.

My work relating to the programme is a dervish hat which is one of the characteristic elements of the Sufi monks' traditional clothes.



NORBERT MEZEI

leather maker



I am honoured that I could get into the group of the Turkish-Hungarian hand-craft programme. In Istanbul I really liked the Turkish people's hospitality, frankness and friendship. I think this meeting will remain a good experience for everybody. We could learn a lot meanwhile.

During the research done in museums I observed the motifs which are similar in the 2 nations' folk art. Using such pieces of information and observation I made a drinking horn which is covered and decorated by copper.





IMRE MIKÓ

wood carver

During the time spent together we could get to know the Turkish youngsters' habits. I got to know a lot of traditional Turkish motifs which I can use in my own products. In my opinion there are a lot of things mechanized and motorized in the Turkish handcraft, in spite of that they create very nice products. In the bazaars we also watched plenty of nice things.

The conversations started a bit hard but we fortunately soon overcame the language difficulties. We visited many museums where I observed interesting things. I also experienced a lot.

Using the researched motifs I made a chair with a violin shaped back where I carved tulip- and tendril motifs.



ÉVA NAGY-VARGA

linen weaver

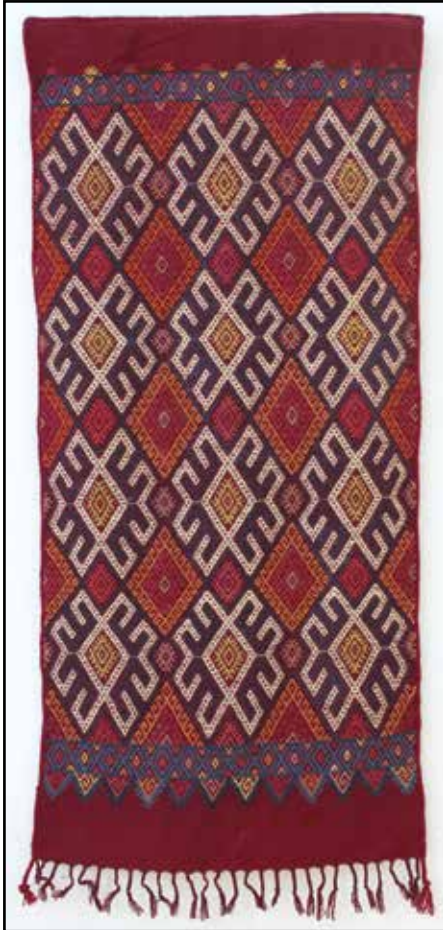


Our journey was preceded by an intensive preparation during which we could get acquainted with the Turkish language and culture.

In Turkey we got to know the works and techniques done at the school and we could also try them out. The Turkish teachers and students were kind and helpful. Besides the professional programmes we observed a lot of experiences. We were charmed by the many sights, albeit for me the greatest experience was the Seven Towers (Yedikule) on the coast of the Sea of Marmara because it has some Hungarian historical connections.

I took the experiences – acquired during the study trip – as well as the patterns into consideration and I made a little girl's dress with an apron and also my shawl.





SZILVIA PAP

wool weaver

As a would-be weaver I found this Turkish-Hungarian handcraft programme very exciting. In Istanbul we visited better and better museums and bazaars where we saw many kinds of wonderful traditional clothes, carpets and motifs.

It was unusual that in the Turkish handcraft school a lot of machines are used. It was a special experience to learn and create together with the Turkish students.

I was very happy that we could get to know their culture and nice country, and so did they with our culture and country. It was very difficult for me to choose something from the great amount of Turkish motifs, but in the end I made a carpet with a special (jim jim) technique.



YVETT SAJÓ

felt maker



When I was informed that I was chosen for this programme, I became very happy. Before the journey, the common language learning was very exciting. When we left for Turkey, I was extremely happy. I clearly remember the first day: we were given a warm welcome. In Turkey we saw and experienced a lot of nice things. I especially liked the homespun.

In my opinion we mainly learnt tolerance towards our school mates and another nation during the time spent there.

It was good to see how they work, which techniques they use, and I liked that they wanted to pass it on for us as much as they could.





KINCSŐ SZAKADY

felt maker



Thanks to the programme we couldn't only visit a handcraft school and its usual days, but we could also observe a foreign culture. Before the journey we had preparatory lessons once a week during which we learnt Turkish, talked about the country's culture, habits, customs and history. In the school of Zeytinburnu we could see what a Turkish handcraft school is like, and how the student spend their day there. It was interesting to see that they wear uniforms, there is no discrimination and rivalry inside the class or school. The students of Istanbul were very friendly, frank and interested.

During the programme the joint work in the workshops was very exciting, which was of course helped and led by teachers, but we: students also helped each other so we could make friends and personal connections easily.

Besides learning the handicraft professions we got to know the other nation's culture, music, dance, eating habits and table manners, decency habits, folk art, patterns and motifs.

By the end of this study trip we took a liking to Turkey which became a small second home country.

ZSOLT SZÉLES

wood carver

During our visit to Turkey we observed a lot of experiences. We got an insight into a big city life which is eastern and western, old-fashioned and modern at the same time. From the first moment it was surprising for me that the people are open-minded. We had some language difficulties but it developed our associative skills. We felt cosy at the school, we were welcomed friendly. Although we interpret the notion of handicraft a bit differently, we could learn a lot from them.

I could learn some handcraft techniques and the Turkish music had great influence on me. I could get to know a lot of Turkish

folk musical instruments at the buskers (street musicians) in the neighbourhood of Galata tower. At the school we listened to the *bağlama* many times, which I could try out. Moreover, I was taught 2 simple tunes on it. That's why I chose to make a musical instrument. The *bağlama* is the predecessor of several plucked musical instruments. It had great influence on the emergence and development of tambura which arrived to Hungary by Turkish mediation, and it became one of our folk musical instruments. This way I made such a musical instrument which may belong to both nations.





BÁLINT SZILÁGYI

wood carver

During visiting Istanbul and during the time spent together with the Turkish students we experienced a lot and made new friends. During the study trip we got insights into the Turkish people's past and architectural style. We saw beautiful landscape, had a boat trip on the Bosphorus and in the Miniaturk we could watch the nicest buildings and places of Turkey in smaller size.

The time spent with the Turkish people was nice, it was interesting to observe the differences between the 2 nations' culture. They have different speech style, moves, food making habits and music, so we could learn a lot from each other. I believe this study trip was useful in the point of view of Team building, after the so much time spent together I think the

members of our group came closer to each other. One of the best events was when we did a common dance and music at the school spontaneously. One of my best experiences was when my new Turkish friends wished me Happy Birthday with a cake on my birthday.

This study trip also made us interested towards other cultures.

The water storing pots or jars made from marrow (with jar shape) play an important role in the Turkish and Hungarian folk art. You can hardly find this tradition in our country nowadays but it was used in the past few centuries. That's why I decided to make a water storing pot with curved patterns from a jar-shaped marrow on the basis of the patterns I got to know previously.

BOGLÁRKA VANCSA

linen weaver

In Istanbul I really like the old town, the buildings were beautiful, there were a lot of flowers and homespun everywhere. These 2 weeks were not enough for me to observe and study as much textile as I wanted, so I tried to schedule my time. At the first time speaking I realized that



I could improvise in a foreign language which made me become more self-conscious.

During our stay in Turkey I was just amazed by the wonderful carpets which are rich in motifs. In the great bazaar when we said we are weavers, we were told the meanings of the symbols, and nicer and nicer carpets were shown us to take photographs of them. Then it was also shown for us which colour can be dyed by which plants.

Since then I've been using the researched motifs which are so inspiring that I'm still enthusiastic. Using these things I wove a wool sack, a linen skirt with a blouse and an apron.





NÓRA VARGA

felt maker

For me it was a great gift to take part in this programme. I've always liked Turkey, the Turkish people and their culture but before this event I didn't have any opportunities to get detailed insights into this marvellous world. It was very good that we could live through the ordinary days of a Turkish handcraft school and experience the similarities and differences. I think all of us – who took part in this programme – will keep the Turkish students' and teachers' never-ending helpfulness, patience, openness and kindness as memories. One important moral I received on this trip is that I saw how all of the Turkish students and teachers are proud of their handcraft and art. It would

be good if we could bring something of it home to make our handcraft more acknowledged and prestigious. I hope the Turkish students and teachers also acquired a lot of experiences and had nice memories after visiting us, like we did.

It was interesting to see that the handcraft means a little bit different to them than to us; yet we could like and enjoy this difference and we were open-minded towards each other's works. The Turkish students also created products enthusiastically and using their hands, here in Nádudvar; and we were open for the mechanized embroidery and other modernized handcraft. If only the relationship between the 2 schools didn't break or end!

In the end we could understand one another in any topics, because we really wanted to share our experiences with the others, and I'm sure everybody has revalued the importance of language learning. I hope that our school's students will have many possibilities to gain experiences abroad because these are life-long memories.

