

Danube Crafts

Traditional Crafts Route for Sustainable Cultural Tourism Development

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Welcome to the second DanubeCrafts Newsletter!

*Following the launch of our first newsletter, we are happy to continue sharing updates and insights from the DanubeCrafts project, **led by the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest.***

***DanubeCrafts Project**, running from 1st April 2025 to 30th September 2027, aims to preserve and promote traditional crafts, using sustainable cultural tourism as a key instrument for their valorization in the **Danube Region**. By supporting craftsmen, local communities, organizations, and tourism actors, the project contributes to socio-economic development through heritage, culture, and tourism.*

*Over the next 24 months, our consortium will continue to develop innovative tools, training programs, and pilot itineraries to create **the Traditional Crafts Route – a slow, authentic, and sustainable tourism experience.***

Stay tuned to discover stories, events, and opportunities to get involved in shaping the cultural and touristic identity of the Danube Region through crafts.

Enjoy this journey with us!

Past, Present, and Upcoming Events

Traditional Crafts

Past Events

1. Hederlez Festival Celebration in Gagauzia – May 5th – 6th , 2025

The [Hederlez Festival](#), celebrated annually, marks St. George's Day, a major holiday for the Gagauz people. The term "Hederlez" most likely derives from the Turkic word "Kedwrlez," ge is the patron saint of Gagauzia, agriculture, and cattle breeding, which explains the strong connection of the festival to rural traditions.



2. National Day of the Traditional Costume, June 29th, 2025

The 10th edition of the [National Day of the Traditional Costume](#) took place at the National Museum of Ethnography and Natural History. Celebrated annually on the



last Sunday of June, the event promotes the preservation and appreciation of traditional Romanian costumes and authentic crafts.



The Folk Craftsmen Fair brought together dozens of artisans showcasing folk costumes, traditional textiles, decorative objects, ornaments, and handmade wooden and clay creations.

3. Stakeholder Meeting on the Cross-Border Cooperation Project–August 25th, 2025

On 25.08.2025, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Vratsa, Bulgaria held the First Stakeholder Meeting, under the project "The Way of Crafts: Creating and

Promoting Sustainable Forms of Cultural Tourism (DanubeCrafts)", under the Interreg Danube Region Program (DRP).

4. Participation in the “National Treasure” Cultural and Tourism Festival and the “Gagauz Korafлари” Carpet Festival – August 23rd – 24th, 2025

On August 23rd–24th, 2025, DanubeCrafts partners took part in two major cultural events held simultaneously in the Republic of Moldova, promoting traditional crafts, local heritage, and authentic cultural expressions while fostering cooperation among artisans and cultural stakeholders.



5. Danube Crafts at Bistriška market September – 26th to 29th 2025



The DanubeCrafts team from SASS was invited to [Bistriška tržnica](#) in Ilirska Bistrica, a traditional event that celebrates local creativity, culinary heritage, and community spirit.



This project enriched the programme of Bistriška tržnica, a well known local market that traditionally brings together local creativity, culinary heritage, and a welcoming community atmosphere.

For SASS and the DanubeCrafts project, the event offered a valuable opportunity to experience firsthand how such initiatives connect local craftspeople with the wider community. Direct conversations with artisans and craftspeople provided important insights into their challenges and opportunities, which will help shape future project activities and strengthen support for traditional crafts across the Danube region.

6. Maker Faire České Budějovice – September 30th, 2025

JAIP and KABINET CB jointly presented the DanubeCrafts project at Maker Faire České Budějovice, a festival of creativity and innovation. They showcased how traditional crafts can be combined with modern approaches to sustainability and circular economy. Visitors had the opportunity to see upcycled products, learn about the concept of the Circular House, and discuss how crafts can be part of an innovative future for the region.



7. DanubeCrafts project promotion and workshop with within Development of the macro-regional strategy for the protection and b(l)ooming of traditional crafts and thematic tourism - October 9th, 2025

The RDA Banat project team organised a workshop titled “Traditional Crafts and Funding Opportunities Through Funds” on October 9th.

The workshop brought together 13 representatives of craftspeople, business associations, and the City of Zrenjanin. Participants were introduced to the DanubeCrafts project and its objectives, followed by a presentation of available funding opportunities for traditional crafts.



The workshop generated strong interest among craftspeople, many of whom expressed their willingness to apply for the call and actively participate in project activities.

8. Presentation of DanubeCrafts at the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe - October 13th, 2025

BOKU presented the DanubeCrafts project at the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) in Vienna, bringing together representatives of the Institute and former project partners interested in cultural heritage, traditional crafts, and tourism in the Danube region.

The presentation took place in the context of the “Culture trANsforming communiTies and economies (CAST)” project, which focuses on stakeholder engagement and the communication of results.



Austria’s project partners, BOKU and Economica, interviewed stakeholders in North-Eastern Austria, mainly Lower Austria and the Danube Region. BOKU spoke with experts and craft representatives on education, business skills, technology, and



tourism integration, while Economica engaged local governments and employers' associations on networks, initiatives, and challenges in craftsmanship and tourism.

9. DanubeCrafts First and Second Stakeholder Workshop in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina - October 23th & November 12th 2025



The Department for Development and International Projects of Zenica Dobož Canton held the first stakeholder workshop within the DanubeCrafts project.

The workshop confirmed the strong potential of traditional crafts in Zenica Dobož Canton and the willingness of local actors to cooperate on sustainable tourism development, while also identifying challenges such as limited visibility, digital capacity, and coordination to be addressed in future project phases.

On November 12, 2025, the Department organized the second regional stakeholder workshop for the DanubeCrafts project.

Participants exchanged ideas on stakeholders, crafts, and activities, and explored next steps, including the development of a macro-regional strategy to support traditional crafts and thematic tourism.



10.6th Baranya Delicacies Producers and Artisans Fair - November 11th 2025

The 6th [Baranya Delicacies Producers' and Artisans' Fair](#) opened at the Árkád shopping center in Pécs, welcoming visitors over four days.

Exhibitors offered a wide selection of handmade, chemical free food products, including sourdough baked goods, smoked and cooked meats, jams, syrups, cheeses, honeys, oils, dried fruits, sauces, pasta, and fresh vegetables and fruits. Alongside local food specialties, the fair also placed strong emphasis on handmade

crafts, showcasing ceramics, jewelry, textiles, home décor items, floral arrangements, felt works, and finely embroidered pieces.

The fair served not only as a marketplace but also as a vibrant community space, giving producers and artisans the opportunity to exchange experiences, share knowledge, and build professional connections.



11.1st Fair of Traditional Crafts of Vukovar-Srijem County "Heritage for Tomorrow" – November 12th 2025

The 1st [Fair of Traditional Crafts](#) "Heritage for Tomorrow" took place on November 12, 2025, in the pedestrian zone of Vinkovci, organized by Vukovar Srijem County. The fair aimed to support the sustainability of traditional crafts as an important part of cultural identity and to strengthen their role within the local tourism offer.



By promoting authentic handmade products, the fair sought to create a healthy market for craftspeople and meaningful connections between buyers and producers.

Many craftspeople reported growing interest in their work, including international demand. Mandica Subotić noted that promotion through the County's social media channels led to a large number of inquiries and orders, even from abroad. Nikolina from the traditional craft "Ivanković" shared her family's multi generational story of craftsmanship and welcomed the increasing interest of younger generations in learning and preserving these skills.



12. RDA BKP organised a stakeholder workshop - November 27th 2025

As part of the implementation of the DanubeCrafts project, RDA BKP organized a stakeholder workshop focused on the role of traditional crafts in developing creative and sustainable tourism offers in northern Montenegro.

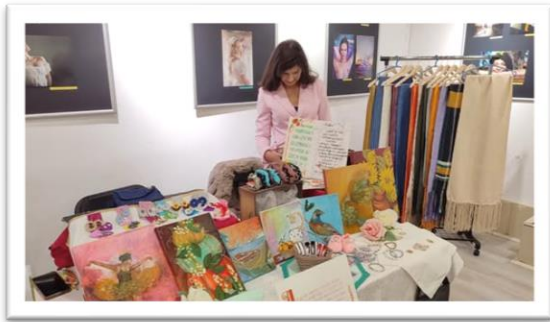
The event brought together rural women artisans, handicraft producers, representatives of the Kala organization, the Berane Tourist Organization souvenir shop, and international experts from Sibiu, partners in the Commheritor project.



13. Crafts Fair at the Zrenjanin Cultural Centre - December 2025

In December 2025, the lobby of the Zrenjanin Cultural Centre hosted the second edition of the [Crafts Fair](#), organized by the Association of Traditional Artistic Crafts and Home-Based Handicrafts "Niti vremena" from Lukićevo.

The event combined a humanitarian sales exhibition, raising funds to support the medical treatment of Nataša Narandžić, with hands-on workshops in pyrography, weaving, and calligraphy, open to all generations and led by certified practitioners.



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Join us to Upcoming Events!!!

1. **"TÂRGUL MĂRȚIȘORULUI", Bucharest, Romania - february 25th to march 1st 2025** - Event [link](#)

Târgul Mărțișorului at the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant is a beloved spring fair celebrating Romania's traditional mărțișor custom. From 25 February to 1 March 2026, artisans, designers, and students will showcase handmade and modern mărțișoare alongside regional foods and crafts.

2. **March Fair at the Village Museum! Between February 26th and March 3rd** - Event [link](#)

At the National Museum of the "Dimitrie Gusti" Village, the mărțișor continues to fascinate generation after generation. From the simple red and white string, sometimes accompanied by a small amulet, to elaborate forms worn on the chest or wrist, the mărțișor is one of the most beloved Romanian traditions, offered to girls and boys alike.



Learn its secrets and celebrate spring at the “Târgul cu tâlc”.

3. Internationale Handwerksmesse, Munich, Germany, March 4th to 8th, 2026 – Event [link](#)

The Internationale Handwerksmesse is one of Europe’s leading trade fairs for craftsmanship, design, and innovation. The event provides a dynamic platform for artisans, designers, manufacturers, and industry professionals to showcase high-quality products, exchange expertise, and establish international partnerships.

4. “KAZIUKO MUGĖ”, Vilnius, Lithuania, March 6th to 8th, 2026 – Event [link](#)

Kaziuko mugė is one of Lithuania’s oldest and most beloved cultural festivals, celebrating craftsmanship, folk traditions, and the arrival of spring. Held annually in the historic streets of Vilnius Old Town, the fair brings together artisans, local producers, and cultural performers from across the country.

From March 6 to 8, 2026, visitors can explore a wide variety of handmade crafts, traditional foods, regional products, and live folk performances, while experiencing the vibrant atmosphere and authentic spirit of Lithuanian heritage.

5. Textile Festival, Kaunas, Lithuania, March 20th to 22nd, 2026 – Event [link](#)

The Textile Festival in Kaunas is an international event dedicated to contemporary textile art, craftsmanship, and creative exchange. The festival brings together artists, designers, and cultural professionals for exhibitions, workshops, and artistic collaborations, promoting innovation, sustainability, and cultural dialogue.

6. European Craft Days 2026, Belgium is the Country of Honour | Across Europe, April 7th to 12th, 2026 – Event [link](#)

The European Craft Days 2026 celebrate craftsmanship and the cultural heritage of craft traditions across Europe from April 7th to 12th, 2026, under the theme *With Heart and Soul*. In this edition, Belgium is the Country of Honour, highlighting its historic and contemporary craft landscape — from linen and lace to glassmaking and design. Throughout the week, workshops, exhibitions, special rendez-vous, and craft events will open their doors to the public in cities and regions across the continent, inviting visitors to discover, experience, and engage with craft as it is practiced today.

7. European Cultural Heritage Festival, Peterborough, United Kingdom, June 7th, 2026 – Event [link](#)


The European Cultural Heritage Festival celebrates the diversity of European traditions through folk music, dance, traditional costumes, crafts, and regional cuisine. The event brings together communities from across Europe, offering visitors an authentic cultural experience and promoting intercultural dialogue, creativity, and heritage preservation.

8. Idrija Lace Festival, Idrija, Slovenia, June 19th to 21st, 2026 – Event [link](#)

The Idrija Lace Festival celebrates the centuries-old tradition of lace-making, an important element of Slovenia's cultural heritage. The event features exhibitions, workshops, live demonstrations, cultural performances, and international artistic collaborations, transforming the town of Idrija into a vibrant cultural destination.

9. Festival d'Avignon, Avignon, France, July 4th to 25th, 2026 – Event [link](#)

The Festival d'Avignon is one of Europe's most prestigious performing arts festivals, presenting a rich program of theatre, dance, music, and interdisciplinary performances across historic venues including the Palais des Papes. From July 4th to 25th, 2026, the city transforms into a vibrant cultural stage, hosting contemporary and classical works that draw artists and audiences from around the world.



Thank you for being part of our community of craft enthusiasts! Stay inspired, discover unique creations, and join us in celebrating the rich traditions of artisans from near and far. Don't miss out on our upcoming events – your next favorite handmade treasure awaits!



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