

The Role of the Bulgarian Sunday Schools Abroad Aiming to Keep the Bulgarian Culture and Traditions

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ABSTRACT

The current article summarizes and discusses 243 Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad, situated at 6 continents, financially supported by the Ministry of Education and Science in the Republic of Bulgaria and 130 schools of 19 countries, participating in the National program Native language and culture abroad. The legislation and the normative actions of the Council of Ministers of Republic of Bulgaria for the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad is pointed out. The activity of the Association of the Bulgarian schools abroad is considered. Special attention is paid to the joint initiatives of the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad with Bulgarian culture institutions and their partnership with lecturers teaching Bulgarian language, literature and culture in foreign universities. The importance of celebrating Bulgarian holidays and remarkable historical dates has been made clear as it helps preserve the national spirit and culture abroad. This is a presentation of the author's idea for a lesson. The conclusions reached in this research can be beneficial to future projects concerning Bulgarian culture in foreign countries.

Keywords: *Bulgarian Sunday school, Schools abroad, Bulgarian culture, Association of the Bulgarian Sunday schools.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad create suitable conditions for teaching of children and students, who live outside the borders of Republic of Bulgaria, in Bulgarian language and Literature, History and Civilization, and Geography and Economics, in the part related to the History and Geography of Bulgaria. At these schools there are schoolbooks and school textbooks (for these subjects) assured, also books of Bulgarian authors, supporting the teaching, incl. for children in preschool age, didactic materials, including audio - visual products and fiction (according to the student programs in Bulgarian language and literature). This way, the quality of teaching is increased, according to the student programs for education, organized abroad.

Students of preschool age (at the age of 4 - 7) are taught in educational range "Bulgarian Language and Literature", students from grade 1 to 12, and candidate students for continuing the

education in universities. The Bulgarian Sunday schools execute and additional school activities which support the teaching and are connected to the preservation of the national self - consciousness, culture and tradition.

2. INTRODUCING THE BULGARIAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS ABROAD, FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE IN REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

The Ministry of Education and Culture in the Republic of Bulgaria has confirmed the list of the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad for the school year of 2021/2022 at the number of 243.

The Bulgarian Sunday schools are located in the continents as it follows: Europe, Asia, South America, the USA, Australia and Oceania, Africa.

2.1 Europe

The Bulgarian Sunday schools in **Europe** are located in the countries as it follows:

- In **Austria**, the schools are 4, and 2 of them have affiliates in more than one city: Vienna, Graz, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg, Zell am See, Wels; Linz and Krems.
- There is one school in **Belgium** - in Brussels.
- In **Great Britain**, there are 34 schools, 7 of them have affiliates in more than one city, and in London there are 10 schools: Arma; Basingstoke; Birmingham; Coventry; Bournemouth; Portsmouth; Shaftesbury; Brighton; Bristol; Godalming; Edinburgh; Ayelsbury; Cambridge and Peterborough; Coventry; Crew; Leeds and Kingston upon Hill; London; Luton; Manchester; Liverpool and London; Romford; Milton Keans; Nottingham; Newcastle; Oxford and High Wycombe; Rochester; Southampton; Swindon, Weston - super - Mare and Newport; Watford; Hemel Hempstead; Cheltenham.
- In **Germany**, there are 22 schools, 6 of them have affiliates in more than one city, In Munich there are 2 schools; Augsburg; Bad Lippspringe; Berlin; Bremen; Erfurt; Herbst; Koblenz; Konstanz und Ludwigsburg; Köln; Mannheim und Ludwigshafen; Münster; München; Nürnberg; Saarbrücken und Kauzerslautern; Frankfurt am Main und Darmstadt; Hamburg; Bremen, Bremerhaven, Wildrshausen und Delmenhorst; Dortmund; Mainz; Regensburg und Straubing.
- In **Greece**, there are 15 schools, 4 of them have affiliates in more than one city, in Greece they are 4: Alexandropolis; Athens and Napflio; Athens; Xanthi; Patra; Platania; Thessaloniki; Kavala; Drama; Komotini; Chania; Heraklion; Mires; Ierapetra; Retimno; Dikea and Orestiada.
- In **Ireland**, there are 3 schools, and in Dublin there are 2: Dublin, Shanon.
- In **Spain**, there are 50 schools, 19 of them have affiliates in several cities, in Valencia there are 2; in Victoria - 2; in Madrid - 2; in Palma - 2; Alzira; Collado Villalba; Segovia; Alicante y Elche; Alicante, Torrevieja, Elche; Guardamar del Sigura, Benidorm and Benehuzar; Alkala de Hanares and Guadalajara; Alkorkon; Barcelona and Moyet del Vayes; Benidorm and Albir; Burgos; Valencia; Valladolid and Valencia de don Juan; Vitoria; Gandia; Denia; El Raal; Engera; Castellon; Collado Villalba; Leganes; Logronio; Madrid; Malaga; Marbella and Granada; Mostoles; Murcia and Archena; Palencia; Palma; Palma and Santa Ponca; Pamplona; Parla and Rivas Vasiamadrid; Lloret de Mar and Girona; San Agustin del Guadalix and El Molar; Saragosa; Segovia, Karbonero and Riasa; Soria, Aranda de Duero, Caleruega and San Leonardo; Taragona; Tafaia; Torrevieja Orihuela; Torrente; Torrejon de Ardoz; Madrid and Quejar; Tudela y Ehea de los Caballeros; Umanes de Guadajajara and Madrid; Fuenlabrada; Hativa; Getafe.
- In **Italy**, there are 9 schools, 5 of them have affiliates, in Naples there are 2, in Rome also 2; Milano, Naples, Muniano and Skafati; Netuno and Ladispoli; Perugia and Montepulchano; Pescara; Rome and Colefero; Rome; Turi and Salerno; Richone.
- In **Cyprus**, there are 10 schools In **Cyprus** there are 10 schools, 1 of them have affiliates, in Limassol there are 2, in Nicosia also 2: Larnaka; Limassol; Nicosia; Paralimni; Paphos; Polis Hrisohus; Dali village; Athienu, Aradipu and Xylofagou.
- In **Malta**, there is 1 school in the city of Malta.
- In **Moldova**, there is 1 school in the city of Kishinev.
- In **the Netherlands**, there are 3 schools: Aindhoven; Amsterdam; Haga.
- In **Norway**, there is 1 school in Oslo with an affiliate in Sandnes.
- In **Poland**, there is 1 school in Warsaw with an affiliate in Krakow.
- In **Portugal**, there is 1 school in Lisbon.
- In **the Republic of Northern Macedonia**, there us 1 school in Skopie with affiliates in Strumitsa, Ohrid, Shtip.
- In **Romania**, there is one school in Bucharest.
- In **Russia**, there are 2 schools in Moscow and 1 in Saint Petersburg.
- In **Turkey**, there is 1 school at a time in Istanbul and Edirne.
- In **Ukraine**, there are 9 schools, 7 of them have affiliates in more than one location:

Berdiansk, Zelenovka village, Zaporozhka district; Bolgrad; Nikolaev; Odessa, Kiev, Lvov; Vaisal village, Vladichen village, Krinicnoe village, Karakurt village, Kalchevo village, Bolgradski district, Odeska district; Bazarianka village, Delgiler village, Belgorod Dnestrovski (Tatarbunarski) district, Odeska district; Gunevka village, Kolarovka village; Radolovka village, Viacheslavka village, Marinovska village, Banovka village, Primorski region, Zaporozhka district; Kubei village (Chervenoarmeiskoe), Bolgradski region, Bolgrad; Preslav village; Manuilovka village, Inzovka village, Primorski region; Zaporozhka district; Tatarbunari; Kilia, Novosiolovka; Arzis, Nadezhdovka village, Arzis district, Odeska district.

- In **Hungary**, there is 1 school in Budapeshta and affiliates in Halastelek and Sigetsentmiklosh.
- In **Finland**, there is a Sunday school in Helsinki.
- In **France**, there are 11 schools, 1 has an affiliate, in Paris there are 5 schools: Ex en Provance; Lion; Nice; Paris; Paris; Lille; Strassburg; Toulouse.
- In **Croatia**, there is a school in Zagreb.
- In **Switzerland**, there is a school in Geneve.

2.2 Asia

In **Asia**, the schools are located in the countries:

- In **Israel**, there is a school in Tel Aviv – Yaffo.
- In **Jordan**, there is a school in Aman.
- In **China**, there is a school in *Beijing*.
- In **Kuwait**, the school is located in the city of Kuwait.
- In **the United Arab Emirates**, there is one school at a time in Abu Dabi and Dubai.

2.3 South America

In **South America**, the Sunday school is located in Brasil, the city of Sao Paolo.

2.4 The USA

- In **Canada** - 6 schools with affiliates: Brampton, Misisaga, Niagara Falls, New Westminster, British Columbia, Montreal, Brosar, Laval, Cote Saint Luc, Montreal, II

Pero; Vancouver; British Columbia; Toronto; Vaughan; Kitchener; Newmarket.

- In **the USA** - 39 schools, 2 of them have affiliates, in Des Planes - Illinois there are 3 schools, and in New York - 2: Altire di Arlington, Illinois; villaggio di Elk Grove, Illinois; villaggio di Elk Grove, Ogunquit, Illinois; Austin, Texas; Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimora, Maryland; Boston, Massachusetts; Washington; Glen Elin, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; des Plaines, Illinois; Detroit - Troia, Plymouth; Ad esempio, Harbour Township, New Jersey; Stroudsburg orientale, Pennsylvania; Indianapolis, Indiana; Cranford, New Jersey; Las Vegas, Nevada; Los Angeles, California; Midlothian, Virginia; Myrtle Beach, Carolina del Sud; Napierville, Illinois; Nantucket, Massachusetts; New York, New York; Orlando, Florida; Ridge Park, Illinois - 2; Roselle, Illinois; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; River Grove, Illinois; Richmond, Virginia; Sarasota, Florida; St. Petersburg, Florida; Seattle, Washington; Sunnyvale, California; Concordia, Massachusetts; Parco di Tacoma, Maryland; Houston, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; Charlotte, North Carolina.

2.5 Australia and Oceania

In **Australia and Oceania** the Bulgarian Sunday schools are located in the countries of:

- In **Australia**, there are 2 schools: in Adelaida and in Sidney.
- In **New Zealand**, there is one school in Oakland.

2.6 Africa

In **Africa**, there are Bulgarian Sunday schools in:

- In **Morocco** - one school in Rabat, Casablanca.
- In **the Republic of South Africa** - there is one school in Yohanesburg, Capetown.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE BULGARIAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME "NATIVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE ABROAD" 2021

The aim of the national programme "Native language and Culture Abroad" 2021 is to support the teaching in Bulgarian Language and Literature, History and Civilization and Geography in Bulgaria, organized abroad for the children from preschool age and the students from I to XII grade.

130 schools, kindergartens, academies and community centers of 19 countries:

- **Austria:** Vienna, Fridrishof.
- **Albania:** Elbasan, Duras; Tirana.
- **Great Britain:** Wisbich, Osuestry; Shrewsbury; Chelmsford; Reding.
- **Germany:** Frankfurt am Main; Herzogenrate; Mönchengladbach; Gutersloh.
- **Spain:** Lerida, Tenerife.
- **Italy:** Eboli.
- **Canada:** Ottawa, Calgary.
- **Lebanon:** Beirut.
- **Moldova:** Taraklia; Tvarditsa; Albota de Sus; Valia Perzhei village; Kayraklia village; Korten village; Novosiolovka village, Kishinev; Albota de sus village; Valia Perzhei village; Stoyanovka village, Kantemirski district; Tvarditsa; Konstantinovka village; Kaushanski district; Moskovoi village; Kaguski district; Komrat; Kirsovo village; Chok Maydan village; Korten; Chadyr Lunga; Chobolakchia; Parkani.
- **The Netherlands:** Rotterdam.
- **The Republic of Northern Macedonia:** Bitolia.
- **Romania:** Vinga, Old Beshenov; Breshtia,
- **The USA:** Sinsinati; Ohaio state; West Hartford, Connecticut state; Straford; Philadelphia; Pensilvania state.
- **Slovakia:** Bratislava.
- **Serbia:** Omolitsa village, Vojvodina JSC; Panchevo, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (2 schools); Ivanovo village, Vojvodina Autonomous Region (2 schools); Novi Sad, Belo Blato; Belgrade (The school is attached to the Bulgarian Embassy in Belgrade); Tsaribrod (2 schools); Bosilegrad; Bells.
- **Ukraine:** Vinogradovka village, Artsiz municipality, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Evgenovka village, Tarutina municipality, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Kulevcha village, Belgorod Dniester region, Odessa region; Petrovsk village, Tarutina municipality, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Rovno village, Tarutina municipality, Bolgrad region; Odessa region; Tarutino, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Bolgrad; Ishmael; Odessa; Bogatoo village, Izmail district, Odessa region; Orehovka village, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Chernomorsk, Odessa region, Odessa region; Glavani village, Artsiz municipality, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Delen village, Artsiz municipality; Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Holmskoe village, Artsiz municipality, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Zadunaevka village, Artsiz municipality, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Nova Ivanovka village, Artsiz municipality, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Vinogradnoe village, Bolgrad district, Odessa region; Golitsa village, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Zaliznichnoe village, Bolgrad district, Odessa region; the village of Novi Troyani, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; the village of Suvorovo, Izmail region, Odessa region; Kremidovka village, Odessa region, Odessa region; the village of Veliki Buyalak, Berezovsky district, Odessa region; Kurisovo village, Berezovsky district, Odessa region; Krasnoselka village, Odessa region, Odessa region; Izmail, Odessa region; Kamenka village, Izmail region, Odessa region; Krinichki village, Izmail region, Odessa region; Gorodne village, Bolgrad region, Odessa region; Zarya village, Saratsk municipality, Belgorod - Dniester region, Odessa region; Nova Dolina village, Ovideopol municipality, Odessa region, Odessa region; Kiev; Kropyvnytskyi (Kirovohrad); Zaporozhye; Androvka village, Berdyansk region, Zaporozhye region; Izmail, Odessa region; Novotrotskye village, Berdyansk district, Zaporozhye region; Troyani village, Berdyansk region, Zaporozhye region; Orlovka village, Primorskiy district, Zaporozhye region; the village of Petrovka, Primorskiy district, Zaporozhye region; Bogdanovka village, Priazovsky district, Zaporozhye region; Annovka

village, Priazovsky district, Zaporozhye region; Akimovka village, Akimov district, Zaporozhye region; Shelyugi village (Malaya Ternovka), Akimovsky district, Zaporozhye region; Primorsk, Zaporozhye region; Melitopol, Zaporozhye region; Botievo village, Priazovsky district, Zaporozhye region.

- **France:** Sen Nazer.
- **Czech Republic:** Praga, Brno.
- **Switzerland:** Bern.
- **Sweden:** Stockholm.

4. LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR THE BULGARIAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS ABROAD

- Resolution № 90 of the Council of Ministers dated May, the 29th. 2018 for the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad [1]:

Republic of Bulgaria assures means of the state budget of the country, through the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad. These are means which support the education of our compatriots. The teaching is in subjects: Bulgarian language and Literature, History and Civilization; Geography and Economics. Only the part related to the History and Geography of Bulgaria is taught. This financial ability can be profited by: organizations of Bulgarians, living outside the borders of Bulgaria, registered according to the legislation of the country accordingly for executing of educational - cultural activity, abroad representatives of Republic of Bulgaria abroad; Bulgarian orthodox municipalities; Slovenian - Bulgarian monastery "St. Great Martyr Georgi Zograv" - Aton, Greece. Children of pre - school age and students of I up to XII grades are taught.

- Order № 09 - 1454/ dated July, the 13th. 2021 for defining the size of the means for the schools, included in the List of Bulgarian Sunday Schools abroad for the school year (published July, the 15th. 2021) [2]:

Within this order, means are provided and defined as per standards, a supplement and additional means, for covering of expenses, related to the activity of the Bulgarian Sunday school abroad at the amount of 12 557 789, 00. The

expenses can be: for hired or used stores for handling the teaching; education in the affiliates of the schools; for children, students and candidate students in present and electronic type of education; for executing of an additional school activity for storing and keeping the National self awareness; culture and traditions; for having on hand organized and successfully finished tests, audited by the European Language Organization - a partner of the Council of Europe, and approved applications of the organizations for handling the online exams in Bulgarian language, organized by the Department of Language education of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The final amount of the financing according to the data declared of each of the schools is defined to October, the 15th. 2021.

- List of the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad for financial aid by the Ministry of Education and Science by Resolution № 90 dated May, the 29th. 2018 for the school year of 2021/2022 – First Tranche (published on July, the 15th. 2021) [3]:

In the first tranche of the financial aid, means are paid for 20 921 children and students at the amount of **4,439,596.13 leva**.

- List of the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad for the school year 2021/2022 for financial aid by the Ministry of Education and Science under Resolution No 90 dated May, the 29th. 2018 – Second Tranche (published on November the 16th. 2021) [4]:

In the second tranche, they are paid and the balance of the means after deductions deducted. The total paid amount for both tranches is at the amount of **8,004,146.76 leva**.

- Order No 09 - 4429/dated November the 15th. 2021 for validation of actualized List of the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad for the school year of 2021/2022. (published on November, the 16th. 2021) [5]:

Within this order, the list of the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad for the school year 2021/2022 is updated. This list includes 243 schools; in 6 continents: Europe, Asia, South America, the USA, Australia and Oceania, Africa, total 37 countries.

- Rules for reporting the means, provided to the organization, by art. 1, line1 of Regulation No 90, dated May, the 29th. 2018 for the Bulgarian Sunday schools abroad, for the school year 2021/2022

(published on September, the 17th. 2021)
[6]:

According to these rules, the representative of the organization, which functions the related Bulgarian Sunday school abroad to, must provide a final financial report for the executed expenses during the school year of 2021/2022 on account of the provided means by the Ministry of Education and Science, for the school year 2021/2022. The provided means are reported among the electronic system with a deadline by August, the 31st. 2022.

5. ASSOCIATION OF THE BULGARIAN SCHOOLS ABROAD (ABSA)

The Association of the Bulgarian Sunday schools (ABSA) [7] is a juridical person with non-economic aim, located in Sofia, established according the regulations of the Law for juridical persons with non-economic aim during 2007. This organization has its own statute and code of ethics.

Each organization outside Bulgarian borders can be a member of it, which executes an education in Bulgarian language, Literature, History and Geography of Bulgaria, and in other subjects as well, connected to the Bulgarian culture and traditions. At the moment, members in this organization are 121 schools abroad and 123 individuals.

The Association aims to support the activity of the Bulgarian schools and educational centers outside Bulgaria and to popularize the Bulgarian language and culture. It aims to be a unifier of the Bulgarian schools and to defend the rights of these schools in front of the Bulgarian state authorities. ABSA have the wish, and works for a change of the Bulgarian law for official recognition of the schools abroad. It is the connection for mutual aid among the schools and shares the experience exchange. It consults all its members for the ability of receipt of financial and material support from the side of the Bulgarian country.

It prepares specialized programs and methods of education in Bulgarian language abroad. Mrs. Zdravka Vladova - Momcheva, a poet and a writer, a teacher in Bulgarian language and Literature in the Bulgarian school to the Embassy of Bulgaria in London has written and prepared a handbook "Methodic developments in Old Bulgarian literature". She decided to share her long-term experience in the education in the system of the English education. By her opinion, this will

contribute to the equalization of the standards of the education, placed as requirements in the global conception of the education in the European Union. This, it is given an opportunity to the students to accept, think over, and estimate the high achievements of the medieval Bulgarian culture, which is a base for their native language and Literature. The foreign experience is used as to break the frame of the lessons and the interactive communication in the class, which leads to a greater self ability of the children during the classes. The handbook offers seventeen lesson developments, compliant to the adapted program of the Ministry of Education and Science for the High school classes of the Bulgarian schools abroad, developed in accessible and interesting way, which can be useful for the teachers and the students as well in Bulgaria and abroad. The edition is released supported by the program "Native language and culture abroad" and it has already very good reflection and application in the system of the Bulgarian University education.

The International Practical conference of ABSA named "The Bulgarian schools abroad - tradition, practice, innovations" was held during 2020 [8]. And during 2021, the reports provided during the conference - the themes are two "Bulgarian Language and Literature" and "History and Geography", are already noted in this collection, headlined "The Bulgarian schools abroad - tradition, practice, innovation".

According to Valentina Alexandrova - Kirova, a teacher at the Bulgarian school to the Embassy of London, there is a great need of "new, adapted programs for History in the Bulgarian schools abroad" [9]. She thinks that there is a row of "of the existing programs", that is why comparing them to the English ones, and the methods for teaching in History, she gives some major ideas for their change. Her book "A teacher's book in History and Civilizations for the education in 5th to 7th grade, organized abroad", published during 2019 is a practical guide for the teachers, teaching in the Bulgarian schools abroad. Despite this, she is a part of the author's team of: "History and Civilization for 5th to 7th grade. A book for supporting the teaching, organized abroad".

6. COMMON INITIATIVES OF THE BULGARIAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS ABROAD WITH THE BULGARIAN CULTURE INSTITUTIONS. CELEBRATION OF BULGARIAN HOLIDAYS AND SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL DATES

- Contest for students of the Bulgarian schools abroad:

The National Museum of Education - city of Gabrovo and the Regional Management of Education - city of Gabrovo, announce a contest for students of the Bulgarian schools abroad in subject: "*Inner most for Bulgaria*". The categories in the contest are a story and a poem. Criteria for the estimation are as follows: Thematic commitment with the topic set; Originality and Creative approach; Language and vocabulary wealth; Correct spelling. The jury defined the 1st., 2nd and 3rd. place for the works of each category. The winners will receive an award from the National Museum of Education.

- A Lesson in Art "The Bulgarian embroidery - tradition and modernity", taken place in the eve of the Day of the national awakens:

The artist Kina Bygovska united two Bulgarian schools of two American states – "John Atanasov" - Chicago, Illinois and "Elin Pelin", Houston, Texas, among the power of the Bulgarian embroidery. The lesson in Art "The Bulgarian embroidery - tradition and modernity", taken place in the eve of the Day of the National awakens, united all aged students located in two distant Bulgarian communities in the USA. At first, the idea came up by Valia Kamburova, a long - standing teacher at BS "John Atanasov" - Chicago and present one at "Elin Pelin" school - Houston. She learned for the art events, dedicated to the Bulgarian embroidery, in the Bulgarian Culture center "Magura", in Chicago, Valia suggested leading of the joint project with the students of both Bulgarian students.

After a short historical introduction for the Bulgarian embroidery, the artist accented on the symbols and the elements of the *embroidery* - *catanitsa, the tree of life; the cross; the wheats; the colors, elbetica*. In the end of the lesson the artist did a real challenge to the Bulgarians from both states of the USA - to find out from the dresser of their grandmothers and great - grand mothers aprons, tablecloths and costumes and to try to read out the history of their family, which is coded in the

embroideries and to write them down. This will be the history of a family, of a kind which is a part a powerful nationality.

- An International Youth Biennial "The Bulgarian traces around the world - with a pallet, camera and words":

The Biennial was conducted under the patronage of BAS, the Ministry of the Education and Science of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Embassy in Rome. Partners of the events are the Association of the Bulgarian schools abroad, the Bulgarian Culture Institute in Rome, The National Publishing house "Alphabets", Rotary Club - Dobrich, the Association of the Bulgarian guides, the National Archeological Institute with a museum at BSA. In the contest program around 100 children and students aged from 6 to 18 years old participated, it is divided into three age groups. Participants from Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy and the USA, were especially active who presented paintings, graphics and short documental movies. On the 6th. of November at the American University in Rome, an exhibition with the arts of the young artists will be opened, and during July, 2022, the same exhibition will be opened and guested at the BAS in Sofia. Until then, the catalogue with all published arts of the young artists will be ready. A media partner of the biennial "The Bulgarian traces around the world - with a palette, camera and words" is the National publishing house the "Alphabets", which will be a publisher of the thematic album.

- Contest "The Magic of the Bulgarian holiday":

The Bulgarian school "Dawn" - Basingstoke, Great Britain, announces a contest on a theme "The Magic of the Bulgarian holiday". The right for participants have students from I up to VII grade at the Bulgarian schools in Great Britain. The arts must be author's own and to contain a text with interesting info about the chosen by them religious holiday, accompanied by a drawing;

- An ABC book for students with different native language than the Bulgarian [10]:

A speech therapist and specialists on early bilingual development developed the first Bulgarian ABC book for students with different mother tongue than Bulgarian, who doesn't have enough language skills in Bulgarian language within starting the school. The ABC book "We Read with Asia and Yavor" is suitable for Bulgarian children abroad, who have a limited contact with the Bulgarian language, students in beginner's level,

who by several reasons, have difficulties with reading at the Primary school until 2nd and 3rd grade, and all children, who wants to learn reading. The ABC book "Read with Asia and Yavor" include three separate books: an "ABC book for children", an ABC book with guidelines for work for teachers. "and "My alphabets", an application for making of tactile words.

The ABC book with guidelines for work contains all the pages of the children's ABC book, history, as well, a frame and instructions for work to each letter. This allows the individual work with only one child and only with this book. The application "My alphabets" gives the children the opportunity to track their evolution by themselves, and to create their individual alphabet supported by different materials. The materials contain 40 themes totally. The letters are inserted in six groups. In the end of each group a summary theme for affirming the key moments in it is suggested. In the guidelines for work to the summary pages there is an info for the expected intermediate result and recommendations how the adult to keep working with the children, in case the wanted result is not achieved. The ABC book is broadcasted free and is accessible in online and print variant;

- An online walk in the house - museum, called "Geo Milev" in Stara Zagora:

BS "Alphabets " in Rome and Colefero, Italy organizes the online walk in house - museum "Geo Milev" in Stara Zagora on November, the 28th. 2021;

- A Virtual patriotism lesson:

The Bulgarian school "Alphabets" in Rome and Colefero, organizes mutually with the museum in the city of Slivnitsa a virtual lesson in patriotism on November, the 11th. 2021. The visit was on occasion of 136 years from the last battle at Slivnitsa on November the 7th. 1885 during the Serbian - Bulgarian war.

7. COOPERATION OF BULGARIAN SUNDAY SCHOOLS WITH LECTURES IN BULGARIAN LANGUAGE, LITERATURE CULTURE IN FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES

Lecturers in Bulgarian language, literature and culture, seconded from Bulgaria to foreign universities, most often teach in Bulgarian Sunday schools, and Bulgarian students have the

opportunity to carry out their pedagogical practice in these schools, as well as to work as teachers in them [11].

In her article "Bulgarian Studies at St. Petersburg State University: History and Present" [12] Radostina Stoyanova emphasizes that "The biggest initiative within the lecturer is the establishment of the Bulgarian Sunday School at the Consulate General of the Republic of Bulgaria in St. Petersburg, which is included in the List of Bulgarian Sunday Schools Abroad in the 2013/2014 school year" [12]⁷⁰⁷⁻⁷⁰⁸.

8. AN IDEA FOR A BULGARIAN CULTURE LESSON IN FOREIGN BULGARIAN SCHOOLS

I would like to present my idea for a lesson in Bulgarian culture, for example as an extracurricular activity: Making the students learn about the culinary recipes, written in the beginning of the 20th. century. The main goal is to make them familiar with the traditional Bulgarian culinary traditions, and additionally – to get them used with the way of writing down the words in the recipes until the spelling reform during 1945; use of archaisms or dialectic words; the way of composing a recipe, where there had been a lack of description of the products used, and the technology of preparing the dish was explained separately.

Here is a recipe, written during 1920.

Бадемова торга

Взема се една чаша на дребно счукани сладки бадеми, 6 жълтъка, една ракиена чашка розова вода, 200 гр. захаръ, половинъ чаша брашно, лимонена кора, разбива се добре и се прибавя 6 разбити на гъста пѣна бѣлтъци, туря се в намазана съ масло форма и се пече въ доста горѣща пещъ. Залива се съ срдѣнь сиропъ.

Almond cake

A whole cup of cut on pieces sweet almonds are taken, 6 yolks, one raky glass of rose water; 200 grams of sugar, half of cup flour; a peel of lemon; all broken down well with added 6 broken down on thick foam proteins; put in a spread with butter shape and baked in hot oven. Then, it is poured over with sugar syrup.

Here, how would *this recipe* look like if it was written today:

Almond cake

Products needed:

300 grams of unsalted almonds

6 eggs

50 grams of rose water

200 grams of sugar

150 grams of flour

The peel of a lemon

Butter

Products for the sugar syrup:

300 grams of sugar

400 grams of water

Technology of preparing: We shake the yolks with $\frac{1}{2}$ of the sugar. To this mix we add the choked in little pieces almonds in advance, the rose water, the flour, the lemon peel. All the mix must be shaken well with a mixer. We break down the proteins to snow with the rest of the sugar and we add to the mix with the yolks. We spread butter on the cake shape and we pour the broken mix. It is baked in a preheated in advance oven at 180 degrees C until it is ready. We cool down and we trade (put the syrup in) with the prepared in advance medium dense syrup.

As a challenge, I would suggest the development of home work at a theme "The favorite recipe of my grandmother". This will be a connection between the generations, a relation between the tastes and the preferences for food and dishes in the family - now and before!

The students can use an Interactive culinary map of the Bulgarian language territory, developed by linguists at the Institute for Bulgarian Language "Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin", Bulgarian Academy of Sciences [13]. The Institute for Bulgarian Language (IBL) is one of the oldest institutes of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

The knowledge students may gain by studying Bulgarian culinary traditions can be useful in establishing an interdisciplinary connection with the discipline "Bulgarian language". For example, studying traditional Bulgarian culinary naming will help with building a better understanding of Bulgarian phrases and sustainable comparisons [14].

9. CONCLUSION

In the beginning of XXI century, for first time in the History and the Geography of the Bulgarian country, around 10% of the schools where there is a teaching in Bulgarian language, History, Geography and Culture, are located outside its borders and are located on all continents with a permanent population [15].

The Bulgarian teachers abroad succeed to saw "the grain of the patriotism in the hearts of their students", to teach them to be "dignified Bulgarians, who are proud of their National affiliation" to heat up the fire of the patriotism, the love to the country, family, traditions [16].

The processes of teaching in the Bulgarian schools abroad are continuously related with the storage and support of the Bulgarian culture heritage in its "various proceedings: Bulgarian language and Literature, festive calendar, folk music and dances, traditions..." [17].

The conclusions reached in this research can be beneficial to future projects concerning Bulgarian culture in foreign countries.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

This paper is independently completed by Boryana Prashtilova.

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