



The Republic of Serbia

Ministry of Culture and Information

Project title: FROM ARCHAIC RITUAL PROCESSIONS TO MODERN CARNIVALS (IN THE BANAT REGION)

The project focuses on ritual processions of masked participants in traditional practices and annual tourist events, and consists of an empirical research of customs involving masked participants, observing modern carnivals, and organizing lectures and workshops in local communities in the Serbian part of Banat (villages and towns) as well as in settlements in the Romanian part of Banat.

Starting from the paradigm of Serbian geographical space and the region's cross-borderness, as well as the application of the concept of intercultural, transcultural and multicultural studies, the research centers on the cultural-anthropological problems of customary practices, ritual processions, relevant dances, spectacles with masked participants of all ages, clothing and the linguistic-terminological characteristics of verbal contents, both in modern and traditional contexts. Interdisciplinarity and research of this segment of ethnical communities' culture is reflected in the mobility of project researchers – ethnomusicologists, ethno choreologists, pedagogues, and trained students - Preschool teachers of traditional dance.

The project aims to raise the awareness in the local communities on the importance of their own heritage, and to promote it across the Banat region and beyond. The students participating in the project shall be enabled to use the knowledge acquired in the field and apply it in their cultural-artistic societies and preschool institutions. Furthermore, the project shall be an important means of identifying processions of masked participants as a potential item on the national (regional) list of intangible cultural heritage.