



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# **"DON'T JUDGE ME UNLESS YOU KNOW ME"**

## **Brochure No. 3**

***stationary LTTA – Środa Wielkopolska (Poland)***

***29th May – 2nd June 2023***

This brochure is the product of the stationary learning, teaching and training activity held in May/June 2023 in Poland in Erasmus+ project entitled: "Don't judge me unless you know me". There are three schools involved in the project:



The aim of the project is to learn more about history and legends of the three countries in order to understand each other better.



# **A FEW WORDS ABOUT HISTORY OF PARTNER COUNTRIES**

## **SLOVAKIA**

The territory of Slovakia has been settled from the oldest times. In time of Migration Domain existing in the mid-7th century with the territory of Slovakia as its central part was followed by establishment of the Nitra Principality at the beginning of the 9th century and finally the Great Moravian Empire was established in 833 AD – the first common state of the Slovak and Czechs ancestors.

After the fall of Great Moravia the Old Hungarian tribes invaded the territory of Slovakia, and the territory of Slovakia with its inhabitants became part of the Kingdom of Hungary for the long thousand years.

The crucial period in history of Slovakia was the 19th century when the Slovaks formulated their own political programme for the first time. The promising development of the national movement though, was mutilated by the Austrian-Hungarian Compromise signed in 1867 and the following period of Magyarisation which lasted full 50 years. Only the First World War activated the anti-Austrian-Hungarian resistance, which culminated in 1918 by the declaration on the joining of the Slovak nation with the Czech nation into a whole – the Czecho-Slovak Republic.

The independent Slovak State was established in Slovakia in 1939 as an outcome of international events, however, the end of the Second World War brought about restoration of Czecho-Slovakia. The communist party gradually seized power in the country and the communist dictatorship was overthrown only through the Velvet Revolution in 1989. The democratic process exposed several problems, which resulted in the break-up of the common state of the Czechs and Slovaks and the establishment of the independent Slovak Republic (1 January 1993).

Slovakia is a member of the European Union from May 2004. In December 2007, it became part of the Schengen Area and from 1/1/2009, upon the adoption of the single European currency Euro, Slovakia also became one of the countries of the European Monetary Union.

# TURKEY

Turkey is located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia. This has made it an important land throughout world history. The city of Troy, made famous in Greek literature, was located on the Turkish coastline thousands of years ago. The first major empire to form in the land was the Hittite empire. The Hittites were followed by the Assyrians and then the Greeks, who began to settle in the area around 1100 BC. The Greeks founded many cities in the area including Byzantium, which would later be Constantinople and today is Istanbul. More empires came including the Persian Empire, Alexander the Great, and the Roman Empire.

In 330, Byzantium became the new capital of the Roman Empire under Roman Emperor Constantine I. The city was renamed Constantinople. It became the capital of Byzantium for hundreds of years.

In the 11th century, the Turks began to migrate into the land. The Arabs and the Seljuk Sultanate conquered much of the land. In the 13th century the Ottoman Empire emerged. It would become the most powerful empire in the area and rule for 700 years.

After World War I, the Ottoman Empire collapsed. However, Turkish war hero Mustafa Kemal founded the Republic of Turkey in 1923. He became known as Ataturk, which means father of the Turks.

After World War II, when the Soviet Union began to demand military bases in Turkey, the United States declared the Truman Doctrine. This was primarily meant to guarantee the security and independence of Turkey and Greece.

In 1952, Turkey joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Now Turkey is on track to joining the European Union and is growing as a powerful country.

# POLAND

In 601 the first Pole crossed the Vistula river. In 965 Poles leader Mieszko met Dobrawa, a Czech princess. They got married and in 966 Mieszko was baptized and converted to Christianity. This event is considered to be the beginning of Polish nationality.

The royal line of Mieszko ruled Poland until the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when they died out. This forced Poland to look for their new king elsewhere and, after a brief political romance with Hungary, the Polish queen Jadwiga married the Grand Duke of Lithuania, thereby giving rise to long-lasting union between the two nations. The alliance eventually evolved into creation of one country: the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The 150 years or so between the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and the first decades of the 17<sup>th</sup> century went down in history as the Polish Golden Age.

The most tragic event in Polish history were partitions of Poland - series of three territorial seizures of Polish-Lithuanian land between 1772 and 1795 by neighbouring powers - The Kingdom of Austria, The Kingdom of Prussia and The Russian Empire.

In November 1918, after 123 years of absence on European political maps, Poland regained its independence.

The history of Poland from 1945 to 1989 spans the period of Soviet Communist dominance over the People's Republic of Poland following World War II. These years, while featuring many improvements in the standards of living in Poland, were marred by social unrest and economic depression.

In 1989 Communism was abolished and the Third Polish Republic had been established.

In 1999 Poland joined NATO and European Union in 2004.



## Polish legends: Lech, Czech and Rus



It is one of the oldest (if not THE oldest) of all Polish legends. Begins blurred in the mists of the past, when 'all Slavs were inhabiting one land' and were 'speaking one language'.

That story is put roughly around the year 550 AD by some historians who point at the era of the migration period, but its real origins are still a mystery.

The three brothers from this legend are symbolic founders of three Slavic states – the brother Lech (founder of the early Poland), Czech (founder of the Czech Republic), and Rus (associated with Russia in many popular versions of the legend, but more probably telling about the Ruthenian people).



In Rogalin and the surrounding area tourists magnificent specimens of pedunculate oaks (*Quercus robur*) can be found.

The most famous, named **LECH** (6.33 m in circumference), **CZECH** (7.35 m in circumference, unfortunately dead since 1992) and **RUS** (9.15 m in circumference, currently the thickest oak grove in Rogalin).



The project group in Rogalin.

## Gniezno: Poland's First Capital

Gniezno is a town in central-western Poland. It was one of the primary residence of Poland's first historical ruler, Mieszko I, who lived in the 10th century and his son, Bolesław I the Brave – the first king of Poland.

According to the legend Lech, one of symbolic founders of three Slavic states, travelled north where he eventually was confronted by a large white eagle defending its nest. Taking this as an omen, he chose to stop and settle in the area, which he named 'Gniezno', meaning 'nest' (*Gniazdo* in Modern Polish) and the image of white eagle became his coat-of-arms.



A statue of Lech pointing towards the white eagle's nest - Gniezno

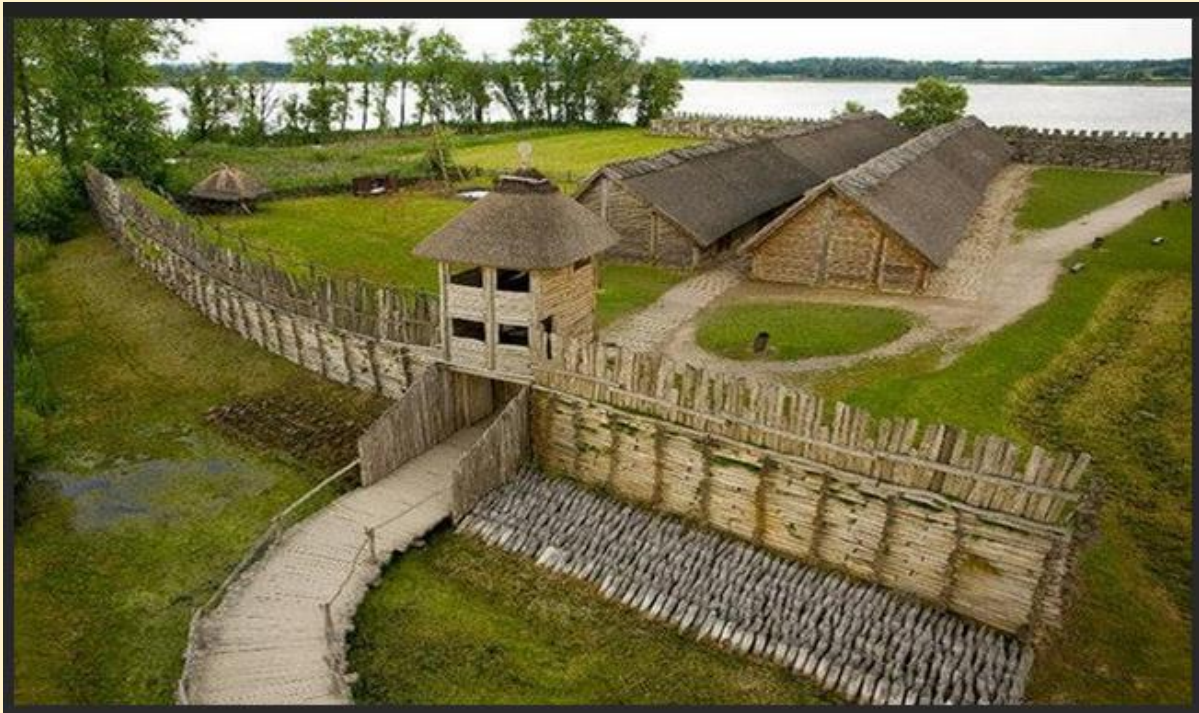


Statue of Bolesław I the Brave, the first King of Poland in front of The Royal Gniezno Cathedral.



## Biskupin: The Polish Pompeii

Biskupin is a living museum that takes you back to the late Bronze Age. Located in north-central Poland, this fortified settlement serves as a window into the past, offering a glimpse of the Lusatian culture from the 8th century BC.



The settlement comprised thirteen rows of wooden houses, each row covered by a common thatched roof of reeds. There were about 100 dwellings altogether - one for each family. The inhabitants of Biskupin were farmers, animal breeders and hunters. The Biskupin settlement was abandoned after about 150 years because a cooling in the climate and rising water.

Luckily for archaeologists the silt from the lake and a layer of peat covered and protected large fragments of the breakwater, rampart, streets and houses.



# TURKISH NATIONAL LEGENDS

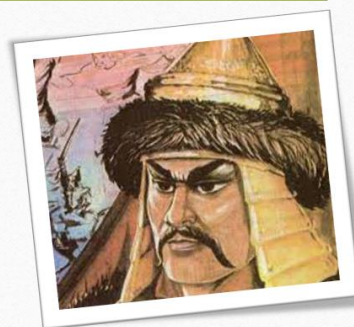
## The Legend Of Descent

In this Legend, in which the gray wolf motif is seen, it is told that the god, who married the two very beautiful daughters of the Hun ruler with a gray wolf, has children with the spirit of the gray wolf. This product has been identified from Chinese sources.



## THE LEGEND OF OGUZ KHAN

This Legend is about Oguz Khan (Mete Han) the Emperior Of Hun. It has written at 12th century A.D. The only original copy is in a library in France today. The struggles and heroism of Oguz Khan for his state are told.



## THE LEGEND OF MIGRATION

The Legend of Migration is a national legend of the Uyghurs that existed for about 1 century between the middle of the 8th and 9th centuries. It is the continuation of the Legend of Descent. When the Turks gave the sacred stone to the Chinese, they were punished by God. Hunger and drought begin in their country. Then, the Turks are forced to leave their homeland.





# THE LEGEND OF SHU

The Shu Legend is an ancient national legend associated with events from 330 BC to 327 BC. In this legend, the wars of Alexander of Macedon while he was walking towards Asia through Iran and the part of these wars about the Turks are told. Shu is an Khan of Turks. The most important feature of the legend, which is told about the formation of the Turkish tribes, the city life of the Turks, as well as the concerns of a Hakan who thinks to save his nation from a temporary occupation without loss of life and property as much as possible, is that it pre-processes the main physics and ornaments that will develop in later Turkish national legends.



## SLOVAK NATIONAL LEGEND

### Who is Juraj Jánošík?

Juraj Jánošík was a Slovak bandit. The romanticized version of his life has been preserved as a Slovak national legend through folk literature and romantic (Štúrov's) literary works.

