

Title: „Having done something for Polishness- Polish language and Polish culture workshops”

Summary:

The project aims to promote the Polish language and Polish culture among students of Polish Studies at Vilnius University. The choice to target students from this environment stems from a desire to revitalize the Polish Studies program in Vilnius, which is gradually declining. The project is intended to serve as a form of support from the Polish side and to help sustain the Polish Studies department at Vilnius University. It is a response to an appeal by the academic community at Vilnius University to save Polish Studies at the institution.

As part of the project, a lecture series titled "Dialogue with the Polish Language and Culture" has been planned. The proposed set of lectures and workshops forms a coherent, interdisciplinary whole that responds to the needs of Polish Studies students at Vilnius University, who are interested in both the Polish language and the broadly understood borderland culture. The sessions will be led by distinguished scholars representing a variety of disciplines - from linguistics and folklore studies, through oral history and onomastics, to ethnolinguistics and literary studies. Their experience in both academic research and popularization ensures high substantive quality and an engaging form of delivery. The most active participation is expected from students in Vilnius, who will take part in all planned sessions. Polish students will act as generational liaisons for students from Slovakia and Lithuania, and will only participate in activities held in Poland (due to budget constraints). Slovak students will conduct sessions on the presence of Polish Studies elements in the curriculum of the Institute of Central and Eastern Europe, organize a tour of Prešov for Lithuanian students, and take part in events held as part of the Polish Days in Prešov.

There is also a series entitled "Tell Me, Grandma, Tell Me, Grandpa" planned- oral history workshops involving students from Vilnius University, the result of which will be the creation of a kind of memory book of the residents of Vilnius and the surrounding areas. This collection will include, among other things, stories about everyday life and compilations of local vocabulary. The authors of the eight best projects will be awarded with a trip to Krosno and Prešov, enabling them to actively integrate and exchange experiences with their peers from Poland and Slovakia. The choice of Krosno and Prešov was motivated by their proximity to each other and, at the same time, their significant distance from Lithuania. The Polish-Slovak borderland is meant to serve as an interesting example of a borderland region with a Polish component, yet culturally and linguistically quite different from the Polish-Lithuanian borderland.

The performance reading of Aleksander Fredro's "Revenge" at the authentic historical ruins of Kamieniec Castle in Odrzykoń near Krosno will allow participants to deepen their understanding of Polish literature and culture while simultaneously strengthening their linguistic and intercultural competence.

Herbalism workshops and other activities conducted in the local community will facilitate a multidimensional understanding of language, traditions, and culture, enhancing both the attractiveness and effectiveness of the project's educational efforts. Events held as part of the Polish Days, organized by the University of Prešov and the Polish Consulate in Prešov, along with joint workshops and cultural activities, will contribute to the preservation and promotion of Polish linguistic and cultural heritage in the Central European region.

The trip will also support the development of the students' interpersonal and research competencies through teamwork and direct contact with diverse academic environments, which is essential for the comprehensive promotion of the Polish language in the Vilnius region.

A major asset of this project is the use of various formats (lectures, workshops, field activities, trips), which allow for engagement with a wide range of participant interests, increasing the effectiveness of the project's educational initiatives. These diverse formats (workshops on oral history, literature, Polish history, herbalism; the lecture series) will have a significant impact on participants - stimulating curiosity among students, who will be able to develop various interests in Polish Studies within their continued academic work or research. The workshop activities will also enhance participants' language competencies, thereby achieving the primary goal of the project: popularizing the Polish language among students in Vilnius.

The project will be implemented by academic staff from the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Vilnius University, the University of Prešov, the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the University of Rzeszów, and the State Academy of Applied Sciences in Krosno.