

Proposal for cooperation

LAG name	LAG Troyan and Apriltsi
Project name/ theme	School of traditional folklore, ethnography and gastronomy - a bridge between legend and reality
Description of the situation on place	<p>In modern society, how many of us observe Bulgarian customs and traditions? What is actually their importance for our nationality? Do we know what makes us unique in the world? What gives us strength and keeps us together, so always to survive and to move forward? Sense of belonging to the nation is created care of keeping spiritual values through knowledge of Bulgarian traditions, rituals and customs. Bulgarian traditions and customs are the living water of the Bulgarian spirit!</p> <p>Obtaining knowledge of other countries, experiences and best practices in folklore, ethnography and gastronomy will motivate local people to apply the proposed activities within the LAG Troyan and Apriltsi.</p>
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restoration and preservation of the territorial identity through the use of tradition and heritage. 2. Improving the employment opportunities and the living conditions of the LAG territory.
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information and publicity of the project, introducing the participants; 2. Conduct special studies to document the living cultural heritage of the region, conducting scientific expeditions, development of manuals and documents on local culture, development of specialized training programs; 3. Encouragement of intercultural dialog trough examination of what is the common and different in the traditions and culture-historical heritage of European Union countries - exchange of specialists in different spheres for learning of music, dances, culinary, and other traditions between the participant countries; 4. Support existing and / or construction of new schools for folklore, ethnography and cuisine; 5. Trainings, developing a strategy and program for future activities of established organizations; 6. Promotion of the territory trough conducting operations on an exchange basis - exhibitions, demonstrations, performances, and development of scripts and making of films and advertisement clips.
Expected results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquisition of knowledge and skills in traditional folklore, ethnography and cookery for project participants 2. Developed manuals and documents for heritage in the region, specialized training programs; 3. Introduction to the customs and traditions of the regions - partners; 4. Create and / or enhance the capacity of local communities to develop skills in the field of folklore, ethnography and cuisine; 5. Creation of new jobs for local people 6. Increasing the attractiveness of the region through the development of new tourism services folklore, ethnography and cooking.

	<p>7. Promotion of the territory trough development of scripts and making of films and advertisement clips</p> <p>Restoration and preservation of the folklore and immaterial cultural heritage is crucial for preserving the national identity of the region.</p>
Target groups	The population of LAG Troyan and Apriltsi area – children, youth, adult, cultural and educational institutions
Partners who look for	Local Action Group from European Union
Language	English, Bulgarian, Russian
About us	<p>LAG Troyan and Aprilci includes the territory of both municipalities Troyan and Aprilci. The total area is 1 127 km² and include 26 settlements (2 towns and 24villages).The population of theterritory is35,737 inhabitants. The territory is situated at the central part of the Balkan Mountain and its relief is combination of hollows, river-valleys, hilly and mountainous. It is located in about 155 km from the Bulgarian capital Sofia by “Hemus” highway.</p> <p>In the region of Troyan operate many small and medium businesses and enterprises. Also is flourishing crafts - pottery and furniture and door productionarray. There are several dairy farms, which produce different types of dairy products. The main economic sectors, defining livelihoods in Apriltsi Municipality are tourism, farming and logging.</p> <p>In the region of Troyan there are several nature wildlife sanctuary. The municipalities Troyan and Apriltsi has a well developed mountain and rural tourism. Near Troyan is locality Beklemeto situated at 1320 meters altitude with beautiful meadows and deciduous forests.</p> <p>Beklemeto offers conditions for winter tourism, very close is track for cross-country skiing and biathlon.</p> <p>Nearby there are several cabins that are attractive target for lovers of mountain trekking.</p> <p>The resorts Shipkovo and Chiflik offer thermal pools. There are several modern amenities.</p> <p>The territory has several museums: Museum of Folk Crafts and Applied Arts at Troyan, Natural History Museum in Cherni Osam, National Exhibition of Folk and crafts in Oreshak.</p> <p>Near Oreshak located Troyan Monastery "The Assumption" - the third-largest in Bulgaria.</p> <p>Cultural activities in LAG’s territory are performed mainly by community centers,where work a variety of artistic groups in different ages and genders -brass bands, theater, children and female dance groups, Ensemble for traditional folk songs and dances and etc. The Community centers in the villages are primarily focused on the implementation of authentic folklore - songs, music and tdances, as their goal is to preserve the traditions of the region for future generations.</p> <p>LAG Troyan and Apriltsi 3 G.S. Rakovski str. 5600 TROYAN Bulgaria www.migta.org E-mail - migta@abv.bg Mobile: +395 878 279 641 – Veselin Stoikov</p>

