

Guide of Best Practices

TEMPLATE

May services near roadside crossroads in Dagda county

Latvia

Action Personal Card

Name of the best practice:	Documentation of the May services at the roadside crossings in the county of Dagda.
Country, region, municipality:	Latvia, Dagda local municipality
Responsible organization (name and type, e.g. municipality, museum, NGO, etc.):	Dagda Municipality Folklore Centre.
Partner organizations (if applicable):	Dagda municipality Culture Centre, Dagda municipality.
Period of implementation (start year and end year or if it's ongoing):	May 2019.
Problems it wanted to solve	The services of May in the open nature at the roadside and village crossings are one of the most vivid manifestations of folk poetry in Latgale, while the revelation of singing pleasure, a component of Latgale's spring sound landscape, and one of the musical symbols of the latgalic affiliation. It is important to maintain this unique tradition of Latgale.
Goal:	Activities are aimed at a survey of roadside crossroads in Dagda in 2019 from 30.04- 31.05, documenting the tradition (putting the traditions of May services on the roadside on video records, photographs), processing of materials obtained from the survey, studying the historical aspect of the tradition of the Maya service at the roadside crossings in Dagda, the interviewer drawing up an APPLICATION project list, assembling the area around roadside crossings, inviting local authorities to workshops, exchanging experience, keeping up traditions and passing them
Description of the good practice (max 1000 words):	

<p>Impact (short term and long term if applicable):</p>	<p>Tasks: grooming traditional cultural values, increasing the prestige of the traditional tradition of services at roadside crossings, promoting tradition-related knowledge and skills, putting them into circulation.</p> <p>One of the tasks of the intangible cultural heritage is making list for the “May Services at the Road Crossroads in Dagda Province” is to provide a platform for developing local traditions and promoting them to a wider audience.</p> <p>In the long term, it is through the preparation of the “May Services at the Road Crossroads in Dagda Province” application to promote the MAINTENANCE of the tradition of the intangible cultural heritage element - May services on the roadside crossroads, its values and the promotion of awareness and the education of society.</p>
<p>How citizens participated in developing and implementing the action (please stress if the vulnerable groups where involved):</p>	<p>The elderly people, who are the potential actors of the May service at the roadside crossroads, are pleased that their life, ancient traditions, are not forgotten but maintained. It will encourage students to study and maintain this unique tradition with Latgale, and the tourism information center of Dagda municipality is expanding, inviting tourists to visit in the month of May in the municipality where the Maya tradition of services at the roadside crossroads is still alive.</p>
<p>For those who want to know more (insert link where more information on the action can be found):</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S35YlmSjInq https://www.letonika.lv/groups/default.aspx?title=LKK%20resurss/22</p>
<p>Please identify qualities that make this action a good practice and/or social innovation (max 300 words)?</p>	<p>The intangible cultural heritage is a source of cultural ownership, identity and self-awareness. This intangible cultural heritage, which is transferred from generation to generation, is constantly re-created by communities and groups, depending on the environment, connection with nature and history, and constitutes a sense of their identity and success, thereby promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. The Intangible Heritage Act entered into force on 1 December 2016.</p> <p>In Dagda's case, the crossroads shall be treated with special respect, as with every blessed place. It is noted that elderly people stop walking past a roadside cross, cross, pause a moment before going on. The area around the road crosses is always packed, but the crosses themselves, especially in the month of May, are beautifully decorated, regardless of whether there is a service at the cross or not. The cleaning of the crucifixions shall be carried out by the residents of the Slave or by the owner of the town who lives close to the cross. There are fresh flowers at the foot of the cross, but when cold weather comes, they are replaced with artificial ones. The element is particularly important in places far from the church.</p>

	<p>A roadside cross for residents of these sites is a kind of small church.</p> <p>During the Soviet regime, countless roadside crosses were destroyed and the May tradition of services was forgotten. It remained in only some few places. On the Soviet days, the tradition was a powerful rejuvenation, leaving tale of the torching of roadside crossings and the fate of the notorious tractor-drivers who had agreed to do so.</p>
<p>Please identify success factors in implementation of action (max 300 words)</p>	<p>In May, open-air services at the roadside or village crossings are a new tradition. Its exact age has not yet been determined due to insufficient research. It could be about the second half of the 19-th century. An indirect link between this tradition and the old international spring open-air singing practices has not been excluded.</p>
<p>Local development: How has the action contributed to local development? (max 300 words)</p>	<p>The tourism information center in Dagda municipality invites tourists to visit in the month of May in the municipality, when the May tradition of services at roadside crossroads is still alive.</p>
<p>Sharing is Caring: what would you advise to some other organization that would like to implement similar action in their local community?</p>	<p>Explore if this tradition exists in other countries.</p>
<p>Attach photos of the action (as a separate document).</p>	



Optional: other material relevant for good practice (links to publications or video material)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S35YImSjIng>
<https://www.letonika.lv/groups/default.aspx?title=LKK%20resurss/22>