

## Press release

### **Visegrad Folk Dance Gala in Kapuvár**

Visegrad Folk Dance Gala will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> July in Kapuvár, where the ensembles of the Polish, Czech and Slovakian partner towns of the Rábaköz town will present themselves. Kapuvár has organized the colourful traditional bustle with the financial assistance of the International Visegrad Fund.

Beside the Kapuvár Folk Dance Group there will be performances of the dance groups from Jeseník, Czech Republic, from Debica, Poland and Nagymegyér, Slovakia at four o'clock in the MEDOSZ Sports Ground. After the presentations dance house will be held.

The Markovice Group from Czech Republic presents the Moravian traditions, the „Igloopolanie” Folk Dance Group from Debica, Poland presents polkas, mazurs and polonaises, Megyer Dance Group from Nagymegyér, Slovakia presents the Slovakian Hungarian traditional dance in the implementing program with the financial assistance of the International Visegrad Fund.

A few words of the performing groups:

#### **Poland, Debica, Igloopolanie**

The „Igloopolanie” Folk Group was established in Debica in 1978. The Group nourishes the native folklore and national traditions. Whirling obereks, lively polkas, sparkling mazurs or dignified polonaises are the trademark of the „Igloopolanie”. In the group around 80 children, teenagers and adults dance, sing and play, who practise every day.

The Group has beautiful folk costumes with authentic patterns. Their colours, richness and variety always impress the audience. The „Igloopolanie” presents a very high artistic level, which they owe to excellent choreographers and musicians. Their colourful dancing, singing and costumes always receive the acclaim of the audience.

Numerous diplomas, cups, awards and distinctions are the proof of that. The group has had many radio and TV recordings, hundreds of concerts during various festivals, contests and ceremonies. It has given concerts in France, Belgium, Turkey, Slovakia and Holland. It has also performed in Corsica, Sardinia, Ukraine, Hungary, Italy, Russia, Germany, Austria, Estonia and Sweden. One can state without hesitation that the „Igloopolanie” Folk Group has been an excellent ambassador of the Polish national culture.

## **Jesenik, Markovice, Czech Republic**

MARKOVICE folk dance group was founded in 1953 and they preserve the Moravian folk traditions with their costumes and dances. Their folk music is melodious and their costume is colourful. The folk dance group MARKOVICE organizes the International Folklore Festival of Šumperk.

## **Nagymegyer, Megyer Dance Group, Slovakia**

The Nagymegyer Megyer Dance Group was founded by the students of the Nagymegyer Commercial Academy and Secondary School in February 1997, then Csemadok took it over and later it became the Group of the town. It was formed to seek, promote and to stage the still live traditions. It lays emphasis on staging the Carpathian Basin mainly the Slovakian Hungarian traditional dancing and musical culture. In addition to the dance and music they strive for showing the traditions and the old traditional costumes. The popularity of the amateur dancers has gradually increased and the number of the dancers has grown. Its members are mostly young people from Nagymegyer and its environs. Little Megyer and Csilizke Children Folk Dance Groups were established in 2007 as the junior groups of Megyer Dance Group. The Group has been led by Magdolna Mészáros since 2005.

## **Kapuvár, Folk Dance Group of Kapuvár Hungary**

The Folk Dance Group of Kapuvár is one of the most determining amateur art groups of the western Hungarian region. The group was founded in 1989 to preserve and hand the traditions of the Carpathian Basin's Hungarians down to the younger generation. The folk dance, the folk music and the traditions of Kapuvár and Rábaköz are considered the most important for them. The group has been qualified excellently in traditional categories.

The Folk Dance Group of Kapuvár regularly organizes cultural programmes and dance houses. Their performances have a constant live folk band with the leadership of Tamás Cseh. Every year they take part in international festivals, the group has performed in several European countries. They perform a wide range of Hungarian folk dances such as the czardas, the dances with tools and the famous Hungarian male dances: the recruiting dance called "verbunk" and the men's solo dance called "legényes" in their show.

Dr. Barsi Ernő Elementary Art School provides the new members of the group, where nearly 370 children learn to dance. Every week professional dance teachers teach the children.

**We thank the International Visegrad Fund for contributing their support to the implementation of the programme.**

**The events are free.**