



Co-funded by
the European Union



Project code: 2021-1-IT02-KA220-SCH-000027707

TCE SKILLS

THE FIRST DOSSIER ON THE SITUATION OF “CULTURE” IN ITALY,
POLAND AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Culture and cultural heritage in the European community - on the example of Poland, Italy, the Czech Republic

Introduction

The Transversal Cultural Experience project is the result of cooperation between three countries - Poland, the Czech Republic and Italy. The aim of the project is to describe the culture and cultural heritage of the above-mentioned countries. Each partner had the task of describing the culture of its country and its tangible and intangible heritage. Below is an overview of the similarities and differences resulting from the individual reports.

1. The concept of culture in various aspects.

According to Poland, culture is one of the most common and also most polysemous concepts in the humanities and social sciences. Etymologically, it derives from the Latin 'cultura', which meant tilling the soil. Culture is thus understood in this original sense as the result of activities related to natural phenomena, but in some way opposed to nature; as an order imposed by man, subordinated to patterns and designs established by him, and - at the same time - as a tool for satisfying human needs and a means of realising human aims in the field of material existence. Culture can thus be defined by a set of values worthy of particular respect as products of the improvement of the mind and taste, as well as the achievement of a certain degree of mental value. Therefore, referring to Poland, the culture of its citizens is their material and spiritual heritage, accumulated, preserved and enriched in the course of the history of our country, passed on from generation to generation. It is also the rules of social coexistence, manners of conduct and role models worth following. All this determines the norms and behaviours in force, as well as aesthetic and moral criteria.

Culture, for the Italian Republic, is so central that it is one of the twelve fundamental principles of the 1948 Constitution. Article 9 states that "The Republic promotes the development of culture and scientific and technical research. It protects the landscape and the historical and artistic heritage of the Nation". The concept of culture is also closely connected to that of "cultural goods", that is, of material and intangible goods considered particularly significant for the culture of a population or of humanity as a whole. Explaining "what culture is" is a mission that neither legislation, nor information, nor reflections on the subject will be

able to exhaust, and the reason is due to its elusive nature. Precisely because culture is the intertwining that characterizes a society, it is dynamic and changes together with its community in a mutually changing relationship of influence both in terms of production and use.

Culture of the Czech Republic as a general concept is understood as the cultural expressions of the Czech people (both at home and abroad), in the Czech language or on the territory of the present Czech Republic. In a narrower sense, it refers to artistic expressions in traditional artistic fields such as literature, theatre, film, sculpture, painting, artistic photography, music, architecture, etc. In a broader sense, the term can also include more general collective expressions such as language, science, law, folklore, customs, traditions, holidays, rituals, local gastronomy, popular culture, fashion, entertainment, communication norms, etc. When the country is economically stable, culture is perceived as an important part of people's lives, however, it is still viewed as a leisure activity. Therefore, when there is a case of economic instability, culture is the first thing that people give up (theatres, cinemas, museums, etc.) In the capital or in the larger cities, people perceive culture as something beneficial and it is sought after. People visit cinemas, theatres and historical monuments on a weekly basis as part of their social life.

Italy has been for centuries, but still is today, the meeting point of many Mediterranean civilizations and the cradle of numerous artistic movements that have earned it the role of a thriving European cultural center. That is why Italian artistic-cultural tradition inspired and enchanted the whole world with their architecture, art, literature, music, theatre and fashion. Both Poland and the Czech Republic, however, are famous for their folklore culture. In a broader sense, folklore is made up of all folk culture, including: traditions, customs, rituals, myths and legends. On the other hand - in a narrower sense it is folklore creation, related to music and dance. Traditionally, folklore includes folk creativity, but noble and urban folklore are also distinguished. Elements of folklore have permeated the culture of the educated social classes. Nowadays, certain characteristics can be found, for example, in youth music.

It is worth mentioning that folklore is also formed by regional costumes and dishes. It accompanied family and religious celebrations. Folk songs tell of everyday activities and customs.



Folk celebrations in Rožnov in the Czech Republic

Source: <https://www.kudyznudy.cz/aktuality/zvoneckovy-jarmark-v-roznove-pod-radhostem-nabidne>

1.2 Culture as a dynamic phenomenon (adaptation to changing conditions, hierarchy of values, continuity and changes in countries)

In recent years, culture in the Czech Republic has had to adjust to the new normal significantly. As in-person cultural events were prohibited for a time (due to pandemic), people figured out a new way for them to take place – online, via Zoom, Skype, etc. That is how they experienced online concerts, museum exhibitions, theatre plays and many more virtually (maybe for the first time ever). As for the events that were already planned and the spectators paid for the tickets, they mostly got vouchers with the amount they paid in order to be used to buy tickets in the future.

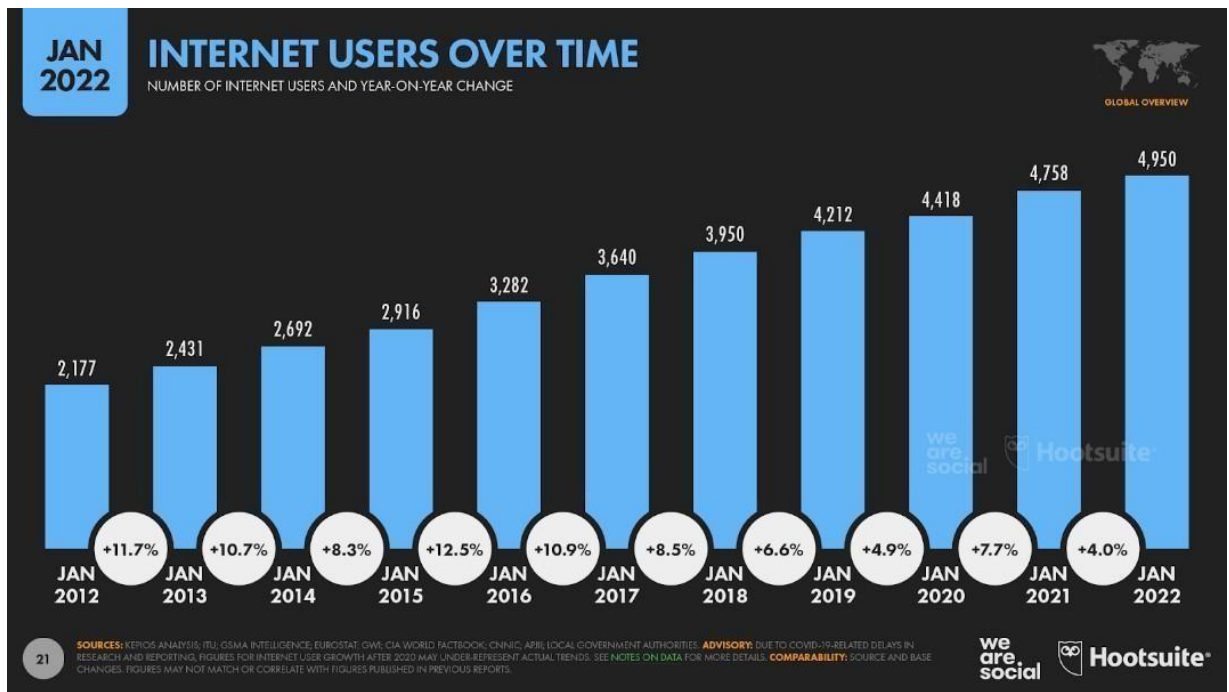
Over the past few years, it seems that culture moved a little lower in the hierarchy of values of the Czech people. When many people lost their jobs or their wages were lowered, they had to choose carefully what to spend their money on. Therefore, their visits to cultural events, theatres, cinemas, etc. were limited. Many people had gotten used to watching movies at home instead of cinemas and this stuck even after the pandemic measures had been loosened. It will probably take some time before the culture returns to its original state, however, it will probably never be exactly the same again.

What about Poland? The conditions of modern life, the development of science and technology, increasing specialisation, and the growing integration of societies and cultures lead to globalisation, and thus distance Poles from their cultural heritage. Young people, although increasingly well educated, are becoming less and less interested in the traditions handed down by their ancestors despite the fact that it is what determines a sense of belonging to a national culture and participation in the collective social consciousness. The 20th century brought the

development of mass culture, people gained new 'mentors', e.g. television, which caused significant changes in the style of acquiring information. With the development of technology, people started to learn more from what they hear from the screen, and the direct transmission of knowledge to each other receded into the background. Instead of learning from each other, they learn from what they hear on television, sometimes on the radio.

The 21st century can definitely be called the era of the Internet, which has dynamically changed the quality of life, but also the way we obtain information or communicate with one another. Its most important influence, however, has been cultural globalisation, resulting, on the one hand, in the amalgamation and assimilation of different cultures, facilitating cultural exchange or the development of the individual in the international arena, but, on the other hand, in the blurring of indigenous cultures. Thus, there is a phenomenon of a certain splitting into two elements that once constituted a unity: culture and localness. For this reason, older people with stronger cultural roots find it difficult to keep up with the changes of the 21st century. There has been a loss of old authorities and civilisational competences no longer correlate positively with age. However, it cannot be said that today's young people do not cherish Polish or local culture in any way. The number of patriotic and cultural events and their popularisation shows a great desire to maintain old traditions. Student and youth folklore ensembles, patriotic youth organisations, cultural associations or historical reconstruction groups are active both at home and abroad, spreading and nurturing culture. Events such as "Museum Nights" are also very popular. In this case, the Internet is proving to be a favourable medium for such activities by facilitating their promotion and popularisation among millions of recipients.

The digital revolution, with the spread of social media and apps, has produced enormous changes not only in Italian habits and behaviors, but also in culture, thanks to the new technologies used in the production and transmission of knowledge. If the school is a traditionally place recognized as a "cathedral" of knowledge, the digital revolution has contributed to determining a reshuffling of values and symbols, so that some paradigmatic figures of the past have lost their ability to penetrate the collective imagination and the individual path to follow for their cultural growth has become less certain. Today there are new cultural references and tools for transmitting codes of interpretation of reality, generated by the spread of the Internet and digital devices. The new digital journalists are the blogger or the instagramer, or the youtuber, who exploits the potential of the network and makes opinion and communicates ideas and trends.



Compared to the ways of enjoying culture, the digital revolution in Italy has certainly brought enormous changes especially in bringing knowledge closer to potential recipients. The Internet and social networks have made certain experiences suitable and "digestible" even to the less cultured public, They also have made the visitor more active and protagonist in the cultural experience through the possible personalization of consumption. In the light of these constantly evolving processes, the internet provides an opportunity for their country to communicate and make its multi-millennial culture known to the rest of the world.

It goes without saying, that globalization and internet have had an enormous influence on culture. Culture as a dynamic phenomenon needs to adapt to changing conditions and changes in these three countries. It may also be notices that culture moved a little lower in the hierarchy of values in Poland and the Czech Republic.

1.3 The impact of culture on social life in the country

It is safe to say that Czech people like to socialize with their peers, especially at a younger age. Culture has a huge impact on that. This is not only culture in the narrower sense (theatres, cinemas, concerts, etc.) but also gastronomy (especially drinks). The most outstanding part of Czech gastronomy is the production and consumption of beer. The Czech Republic is the country with the highest consumption of beer per capita in the world and it is

famous for its quality beers. This is reflected in the social life of its citizens – the thing that usually brings friends together is a pint of beer in a pub. However, the Czechs' social life does not consist only of that. A recent survey shows that the majority of people prefer going to social and cultural events over leisure time in the privacy of their own homes. What's more, such events are mostly attended by young people. However, cultural events base on age so different age groups attend different festivals. When comparing the social lives of people living in bigger cities and people living in small towns or villages, it is safe to say that people in large cities have incomparably more opportunities concerning culture and social events. For example in the city of Brno, there is an ongoing theatre-going tradition. On the other hand, the social life in smaller towns or villages is based more on human contact, folk celebrations and town/village festivals with neighbors, etc. which makes the community very tight-knit.

Nevertheless, culture and cultural events in the Czech Republic go hand in hand with people's social lives. It is safe to say that without cultural activities, people's social lives suffered immensely during the pandemic restrictions. Fortunately, now (post-pandemic), they can thrive again.

In Poland the impact of culture on social life is enormous. What has most united people and led to the existence of a viable social life are social norms and rules, which are also products of culture and contribute to its maintenance. The members of the groups adhered to the same rules by either committing to them or by habit, but the effect was obvious - they had a similar world view. Patterns, models and rules of value are regarded as the structural elements of culture, and adherence to them is treated in terms of cultural behaviour, which directly leads to closer relations between people belonging to the same culture. In this way, real social groups are formed. It is also worth pointing out that cultural behaviour is created from an early age, when children, through the principle of imitation, learn behavioural norms in order to internalise them over time. Social life could only develop thanks to the existence of culture - and vice versa. Man's achievements guaranteed his development and the learning of new things. In turn, through experience and their own discoveries, people came together in groups and formed real bonds.

Another phenomenon that significantly influences the creation and cherishing of culture is celebration. Celebrating requires the presence of others, common participation and interest. This is accompanied by shared values, a common language or shared rituals, activities and objects that make it possible. Celebrations, as well as the act of celebrating itself, are a

fundamental aspect that differentiates nations and cultures, but also regions, local communities or even families.

In Italy culture is the image of the deepest identity of a territory and one of the most relevant data of the era in which we live is the transformation of the way of considering and living the territory. The contemporary mentality considers important not only the preservation of the past and of what is already present in a place, such as works of art and monuments, but also the creation of communities of interests, values and practices that testify to the daily life of productive life, cultural and civil of a people at a certain time and in a certain area. It is for the indispensable need to read and interpret the evolution of civilization in its concrete manifestations, that today it seems necessary to focus on forms of development of the territory that are based on the preservation and enhancement of the signs of human experience that, integrating with nature, are part of the landscape.

Culture certainly has an impact on the economy, but this comes first from the cognitive, value-based and behavioral sphere of people. In a knowledge-based and capital-intensive economy, development is not only the result of economic policies, in the sense of measures and incentives for business and production. "Culture and beauty in Italy are foundational traits of society" (translated from the report *Io Sono Cultura, 2020*). Culture is a distinctive feature and a fundamental resource of a nation to determine its identity value, regardless of the impact it may have on the economy and employment. Culture must be defended in order to create and develop a necessary and common good whose users are the individuals themselves.

Even returning from a long period of isolation due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Italians highlighted the ability to socialize: that is, that push to get out of one's shell to share ideas, moods, artifacts with others. Knowing how to make the members of one's own community part of something that is personal. Getting out of individuality and opening up to sociality, giving life. They find all this from the Roman forums to the peasant communities, from popular festivals, to musical concerts, from theaters, to social media

2. Cultural heritage - selected examples

Cultural heritage is the collection of physical elements and intangible attributes representing people or society that have been acquired through social inheritance from ancestors. This heritage includes tangible cultural elements represented in buildings and monuments, objects

and works of art. In addition, cultural heritage is a way of transmitting knowledge, thoughts and worldviews to future generations. Cultural heritage can be divided into tangible and intangible

2.1 Tangible cultural heritage

Tangible cultural heritage refers to physical artefacts handed down from generation to generation by members of different communities. This group includes artistic works, buildings, monuments, and other physical or tangible products of human creativity that have cultural significance.

The approach to cultural heritage has changed in Poland in recent years. It has become a determinant of the tourist, recreational or investment attractiveness of a given place. It should be noted that in addition to the economic benefits of cultural heritage, it has an impact on preserving identity, influencing social cohesion and preventing social exclusion, as well as stimulating creativity. Places recognised as cultural heritage are included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. At the moment there are 17 sites located in Poland. These include: The Old Town in Kraków, The Wieliczka Salt Mine, The German Nazi camp, the Renaissance city of Zamość and the city of Toruń.

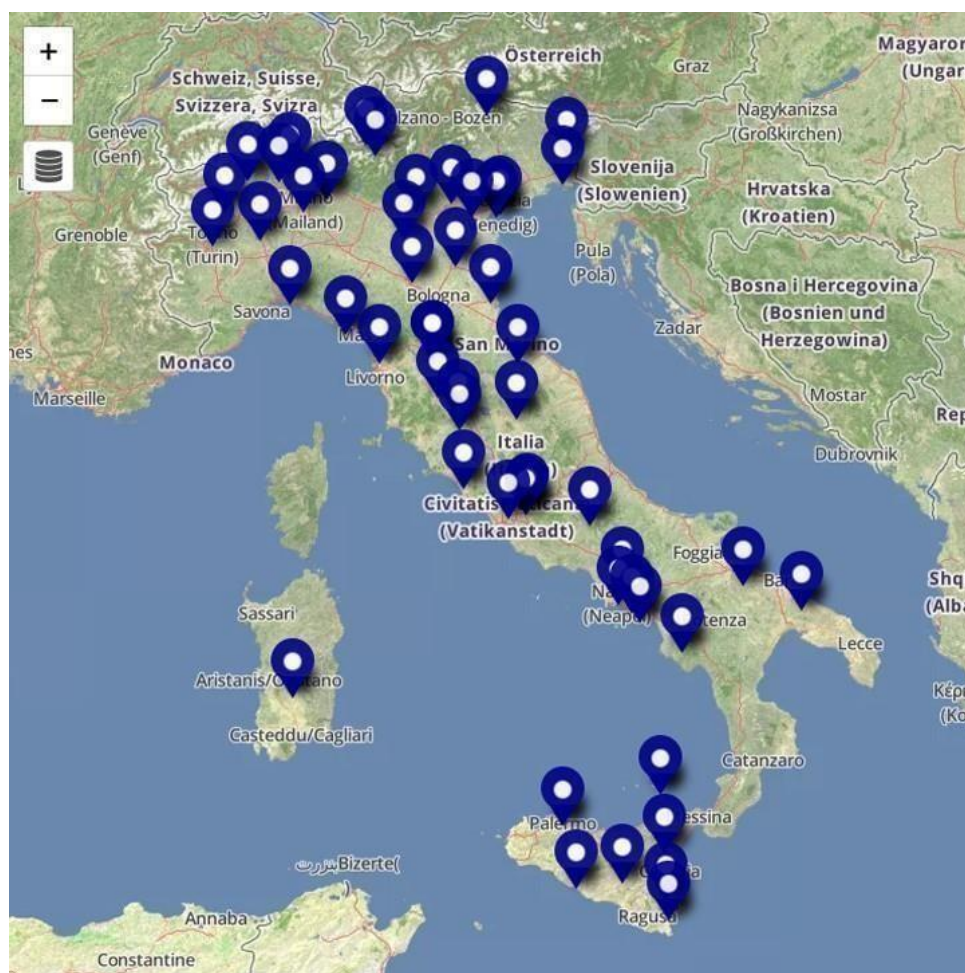
The Czechs have a strong tradition in the graphic arts. This includes many forms of caricature by Josef Čapek. Much of Czech graphic art derives its inspiration from popular, narrative art, such as the happy marriage between Jaroslav Hašek's texts and Josef Lada's illustrations. In the applied arts, the best-known objects are probably manufactured glass ornaments, traditional northern Bohemian costume jewelry, and toys. The Czech Republic is home to more than 2000 castles and châteaux, being one of the countries with the highest density of castles in the world. Most of these castles are not in Prague. Among the most beautiful and most visited ones are the Kost Castle, Orlik Castle, Hluboka Castle, Rabi Castle, Karlstejn Castle, and the Lednice Castle. Among this country's notable architectural features are also many majestic churches and cathedrals. Among the most famous and beautiful ones are St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague, St. Nicholas Cathedral in České Budějovice, Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul in Brno, and Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Hradec Králové.



Hluboká Castle in the Czech Republic

Source: <https://www.roadaffair.com/best-castles-in-the-czech-republic/>

From the point of view of the historical and artistic heritage, Italy is the country that holds the highest presence of awards included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage. With its 58 sites out of the 1154 total (data updated to December 2021) it surpasses even China, although its surface represents just a thirty-second of that of the Asian contender. According to the Court of Auditors, Italy has 4,908 museums, 479 archaeological sites, 5 000 cultural heritage, 12 609 libraries, 46 025 tied architectural heritage, 65 431 churches, 1 500 monasteries, 40 000 assorted castles, towers and fortresses, 30 000 historic houses, 4 000 gardens, 1 000 main historic centres.



2.2 Intangible cultural heritage

Intangible heritage is understood as custom, oral transmission, knowledge and skills and associated objects and cultural space that are not recognised as part of one's own heritage by a community, group, or individuals. Heritage is handed down from generation to generation and reproduced by communities and groups in relation to their environment and history. It can be called a source of a sense of identity and continuity. Intangible cultural heritage includes tradition and oral tradition, including language as a medium of communication, performances, customs, rituals and festivals, knowledge of the universe and nature and the practices associated with it, as well as craft skills. Cultural heritage accumulates and preserves multiple values: intellectual, moral, social, religious or aesthetic. The values of our own heritage are the closest and most valuable to us, shaping us and influencing our decisions.

By signing up to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO's General Conference in 2003, Poland committed itself to creating inventories of

intangible cultural heritage and to involving groups, communities and individuals associated with it in the process of identifying and protecting it.

Intangible heritage as defined by the UNESCO Convention includes:

1. Oral traditions, including language as a vehicle of intangible cultural heritage,
2. Performing arts,
3. Customs, rituals and festive rites,
4. Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe,
5. Skills related to traditional crafts.

In 2013, the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage was launched in Poland, maintained by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage in cooperation with the National Heritage Institute. The list is exclusively informative and includes a description of the phenomena included, their historical background, information on where they occur, their significance for the communities practising them, as well as photographic material. There are currently 49 items on the list. The most interesting of these include, among others, Artistic and historical cartoury - products according to the traditional Cieszyn school, Cracovian nativity scenes, Lajkonik's parade, Filsatian traditions in Ulanów, Corpus Christi procession in Łowicz.

Speaking of intangible cultural heritage in the Czech Republic, the theatre there has a rich tradition in all genres, including drama, opera, ballet and dance, puppet theatre, black light theatre, etc. – this is also evident from the quantitative data collected above – each region (especially Prague) is a home to a number of active theatres. Czech theatrical tradition played an essential part in the Czech National Revival – a cultural movement that took place during the 18th and 19th centuries and its aim was to revive the Czech language, culture and national identity. The establishment of the National Theatre in Prague (1881) was a great success for this movement. Music in this country has its roots in sacred music from more than a thousand years ago. The oldest recorded song is dated from the turn of the 11th century. Bohemian traditional music includes that of the Chodsko region (in western Bohemia), where bagpipers are common. The Bohemian polka is the traditional dance in this region. Bedřich Smetana is generally considered one of the most influential Czech composers of 19th-century classical music together with Antonín Dvořák and Leoš Janáček. The traditional music from both Moravia and Bohemia is being played and sung until the present by many folk ensembles. There are also traditional folk festivals being held each year, including the traditional folk costumes.

Traditional folk music is still very appealing to Czechs. What should be added in this section is the Romantic literary movement of western Europe that affected the emerging Czech literature.



Moravian folk ensemble

Source: <https://www.morberoun.cz/bierunsky-pevecky-sbor/g-7641>

Intangible cultural heritage in Italy includes art, music, theatre, crafts, fashion, cinema and design. Even the Italian lifestyle, Fellini's extraordinary *Dolce Vita*, has become an emblem of Italian culture admired and imitated all over the world. This is part of the cultural heritage, too, in its intangible dimension made up of practices, expressions and knowledge. On the theme "Italian cultural heritage" the testimonies date back to prehistoric times with its graffiti that remain today to document forms expressed and of a society in its infancy, the manifest need to communicate, realized through creativity and intuition.

The theater in Italy has a multi-millennial history and dates to the times of the colonies of Magna Graecia. The theaters of Syracuse, Segesta, that of Tindari, the Theater of Hippana, the Theater of Akrai, the Theater of Monte Jato, the Theater of Morgantina and the most famous Greek Theater of Taormina, amply demonstrate this.



Italian fashion is linked to the more generalized concept of "Made in Italy", a merchandise brand, coined in the 80s, that expresses excellence in creativity and craftsmanship. Italian luxury goods are renowned for the quality of the fabrics and the elegance and refinement of their construction. Italy is home to famous designers who today dictate fashion trends throughout the planet, but not everyone knows that the history of Italian fashion actually took off in America, with Salvatore Ferragamo's Hollywood success. Over time, food has gained the status of a social phenomenon; the act of eating is characterized by symbolic elements, as a sign of social belonging and representation of a community or a specific territory. Food is understood as a culinary heritage in which individuals are able to recognize themselves.

Italy, today, is known all over the world because it is the repository of history, culture and the art of cooking. The Italian culinary culture derives from a plurality of products, flavors, traditions and recipes that change according to the territory and are intertwined with its history. It is above all traditional Mediterranean cuisine that is considered typically Italian and appreciated globally, so much so as to convince UNESCO to include it in the intangible heritage of humanity. Neapolitan pizza is considered the seventh Italian "treasure" on the Unesco intangible heritage list: it reflects the uniqueness of the Neapolitan community, endowed with great gastronomic creativity. Pasta is also one of the most important Italian specialties. About 3.3 million tons of pasta are produced every year in Italy.



Elements of cultural heritage differ depending on the country. Poland pays attention to places and festive rites, while the Czech Republic to castles, art, museums as well as folk music. Italy as a source of culture for other countries focuses on fashion, theatre and cuisine.

3. Cultural landscape

According to Poland, a cultural landscape is an evolutionary succession of primary (natural) landscapes that existed on Earth until the Neolithic period. Cultural landscape is sometimes understood as a landscape transformed by humans as a result of civilisation development following the expansion of the ecumene. Its concept includes the space, historically shaped as a result of human activity, containing the products of civilisation and natural elements. The cultural landscape reflects the coexistence of people with nature and its quality largely depends on the state of preservation of unprotected natural elements created as a result of human activity, such as: domestic greenery, roadside greenery, orchards, mid-field greenery, baulks, greenery at churches and cemeteries. Moreover, landscape is among the elements that affect the quality of human life, and responsibility for cultural landscape is one of the conditions for successful sustainable development. The concept of culture should also be associated with the cultural landscape. This is a type of landscape that has been transformed by man and has lost its ability to regulate itself. A particular example of this is the natural-cultural landscape (e.g. man-planted pine forests).

Alois Hynek from Masaryk University in Brno in the Czech Republic defines cultural landscape as intersections of physical landscapes and human regions. He adds that by this logic, cultural landscapes are as much rural as they are urban. This term is generally used to describe a symbiosis of human activity and the environment. The cultural landscape is currently also perceived as an object of protection of the environment and cultural heritage. The historical cultural landscape, reflecting traces of historical development to varying degrees, is in a broad sense the majority of the territory of the Czech Republic. Carriers of significant cultural values are features of the historical cultural landscape that document the activities and creative abilities of people in various fields or relate to historical events, important personalities, mythology, religion or tradition. As a specific form of cultural heritage, it is the subject of specialist heritage interest. The aim of researching, protecting and interpreting historic cultural landscapes is, as with other monuments, not only to learn about their roots but also to ensure their preservation.

There are as many as eight types of cultural landscapes in Poland: rural landscapes (Stawy Milickie), suburban and residential landscapes (the Royal Baths in Warsaw), small-town landscapes (the city of Zamość), large-town landscapes (Warsaw), water-economic landscapes (ports and shipyards in Gdynia), industrial landscapes (the wind farm in Margonin), mining landscapes (Bełchatów Lignite Mine), transport landscapes (Chopin Airport).



Stawy Milickie (Poland)

Source: <https://dolnyslask.travel/stawy-milickie-2/>



Zamość (Poland)

Source: <https://zyciezamoscia.pl/informacje/miasto-zamosc-rozpoczyna-realizacje-projektu-pn-rewitalizacja-starego-miasta-w-zamosciu/>

The Czech Republic is a country of inestimable cultural and natural wealth. They can divide four types: forestry, agricultural, mining and settlement landscapes. We can meet there: Lednice-Valtice cultural landscape, Landscape in Kladruby on the Elbe and the Old Kladruby stud farm, Mining region in the Krušné Mountains.

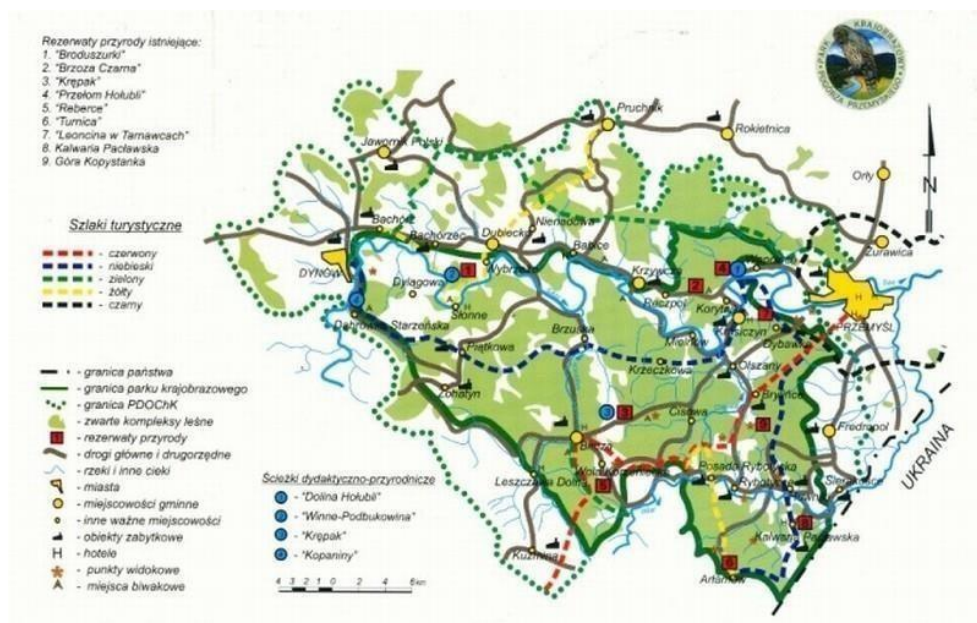
In Italy, there are Portovenere, Cinque Terre and the islands of Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto, Monte Sacro in Piedmont and Lombardy, Valle d'Orcia Villas and Medici gardens in Tuscany.

3.3 Protection of landscape values

The concept of cultural landscape has emerged as a result of the new relationship between man and his environment, partly due to a new awareness of the effects his actions can

have on the environment. The proper protection of the landscape must therefore not be forgotten. Each country's adherence to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage indicates the need to strengthen the effectiveness of measures to ensure its survival, including identification, documentation, research, preservation, conservation, promotion and transmission, especially through education, as well as the revitalisation of various aspects of this heritage.

Cultural landscape values can be protected within the nature conservation system. In Poland, these include national parks, landscape parks and nature reserves. A national park comprises an area of outstanding natural, scientific, social, cultural and educational values, with an area of not less than 1,000 hectares, where all nature and landscape values are protected. It is established to preserve biological diversity, resources, formations and components of inanimate nature and landscape values, to restore proper condition of resources and components of nature and to restore deformed natural habitats, plant habitats, animal habitats or fungi habitats. A landscape park encompasses an area protected due to its natural, historical and cultural values as well as landscape values with the aim of preserving and popularising these values under conditions of sustainable development. A nature reserve comprises areas preserved in their natural or little-changed state, ecosystems, sanctuaries and natural habitats, as well as plant habitats, animal habitats and fungi habitats, as well as inanimate objects and components of nature, distinguished by special natural, scientific, cultural or landscape values.



Landscape Park of the Przemyskie Foothills and its management (Poland)

In the Czech Republic, the protection, care, planning and sustainable use of landscapes are addressed by the European Landscape Convention, which states that every landscape is valuable, precious and irreplaceable. The provisions of the European Landscape Convention are reflected in the Building Act. Particularly valuable parts of cultural landscapes can be a direct part of cultural and national monuments. This applies in particular to the grounds of castles and palaces or archaeological sites. Otherwise, monument protection applies only where a protected area is declared, for example in the form of a conservation zone or a conservation area, or within protected landscape areas. Act No 20/1987 Coll., on State Heritage Protection, protects selected landscape units of significant cultural value in the form of landscape conservation zones. Interpretation and educational activities play a key role in the protection of historic cultural landscapes. Conservation first entered the landscape indirectly, by protecting landscape landmarks (castles, churches), i.e. individual buildings or their grounds, protected as cultural monuments or national cultural monuments. Some of them have also received a protection zone, which protects the undisturbed landscape effect of these elements. This includes the area protection of historic towns and villages in the form of conservation reserves and zones, particularly in those where the settlement has a dominant position and a distinctive silhouette.

Another form of the entry of conservation into the landscape was, for example, the protection of hillforts, which often represent very distinctive landscape features. However, some explicitly natural elements are also protected as cultural monuments (the Ploučnice gorge near Noviny pod Ralskem). Quite frequent is the protection of historic technical water management works, which today are also perceived mainly as "natural" elements and in any case as important landscape elements. These are mostly fishponds. The caves, important for conservation, have an explicitly natural character from an archaeological point of view. It is worth mentioning that the Lednice–Valtice Cultural Landscape is a cultural-natural landscape complex of 283.09 square kilometers in the South Moravian Region. It comprises the municipalities of Lednice, Valtice and Hlohovec, and the rural area of Břeclav. In 1996, it was registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List because of its unique mix of Baroque, Neoclassical, and neo-Gothic architecture, and its history as a cultural landscape designed intentionally by a single family. It is adjacent to the Pálava Landscape Protected Area (Pálava

Biosphere Reserve), a biosphere reserve registered by UNESCO several years before. The close proximity of two cultural landscapes protected by UNESCO is unique.



The Lednice Castle in the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape

Source: <https://www.invia.sk/blog/lednicko-valticky-areal-perla-juznej-moravy/>

Culture, for the Italian Republic, is so central that it is one of the twelve fundamental principles of the 1948 Constitution. Article 9 states that "The Republic promotes the development of culture and scientific and technical research. It protects the landscape and the historical and artistic heritage of the Nation". Through an extensive interpretation of the concept of landscape, the Constitutional Court ensured that the Republic was also concerned with the protection of the environment, understood in a broad sense, including the nature, the landscape (result of human labour) and the cultural heritage. With the reform of the Title V of the Constitution in 2001, Article 117 attributes to the exclusive legislation of the State the "protection of the environment, the ecosystem and cultural heritage". The concept of culture is, therefore, closely connected to that of "cultural goods", that is, of material and intangible goods considered particularly significant for the culture of a population or of humanity as a whole.

Summary:

Culture plays a very important role in the lives of the Czechs, Italian, Poland. Not only it is an important and enriching leisure activity but also an essential part of social life.

The Czech understand culture not only in terms of cultural events as such but also in terms of gastronomy and folk celebrations. The Czech Republic possesses many tangible and intangible items of cultural heritage, e.g. literature and theatre that are very important for them in order to form as an independent nation. The most significant organization for cultural heritage protection is the National Heritage Institute, a specialized governmental heritage institution. They also get significant support from the European Union. As for cultural landscape, the historical cultural landscape, reflecting traces of historical development to varying degrees, is in a broad sense the majority of the territory of the Czech Republic. One of the most notable ones is The Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape, registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Italy is a country characterized by a rich cultural heritage of great attraction, by very valuable professional skills in this sector and by a refined and constitutionally sanctioned vision of the role of culture and landscape for the growth of the person and communities. From the exposition it emerges that culture is synonymous with the well-being and growth of a country; therefore, recognizing the importance of the cultural sector as a potentially decisive voice for the development of our territory will result in an increase in tourist attraction and the revival of the Italian economy. The preservation, development and enhancement of the excellences that characterize the cultural sector, widely understood, must be a priority objective both public and private, even better if in a relationship of mutual understanding. In this regard, the synergistic collaboration between public and private still shows a certain resistance constituting one of the most problematic aspects in Italy, but it must be said, not only in the cultural field. Although the recent legislation on Cultural Heritage defines the roles of the State, Regions, local authorities and citizens, the dispute over cultural management does not end in the texts in force, but in fact requires effective compensation.

Referring to Poland, the culture of its citizens is their material and spiritual heritage, accumulated, preserved and enriched over the course of its country's history, and handed down from generation to generation. Italy is an almost mono-ethnic country. Only a certain mixing of cultures can be observed in the border areas in the northern part of the country, where German, Slovenian or French are spoken in addition to Italian. The rhythm of family life is determined

by customs and religious traditions. Although Italy is practically a mono-ethnic country, it is more common to feel attached to a particular region than to the country as a whole. The distinctiveness of the different regions manifests itself in local cultural traditions, living standards, dialects and also in the landscape. The culture and artistic tradition of Italy has had a huge influence on the art and culture of other European countries. Almost everyone knows names such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo or Botticelli. Their works, often not even associated with their authors, have entered the art canon permanently: the 'Mona Lisa', the Sistine Chapel or the Pieta. Florence, Rome and Venice are cities to which many Europeans travel to discover their cultural roots. The Czech Republic attracts enthusiasts of wandering through medieval streets and lovers of visiting the displays of famous museums, while Czech culture includes ancient castles, openwork bridges, classical music and puppet theatres.

Both Poland and Italy are countries that attach great importance to religion. In each of these countries, the majority of the population is Catholic. In the Czech Republic, according to the 2011 census, up to 65% of the population declare atheism. In Italy, the most celebrated holiday is Easter. In contrast, in Poland it is Christmas.

In addition to similarities in culture, both Poland, Italy and the Czech Republic can boast a sizeable national heritage. Poland, Italy and the Czech Republic are on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Poland has 17 sites on the list. Fifteen of them belong to cultural heritage, two to natural heritage. In Italy, the number of sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List is as high as 55. Northern Italy's world heritage sites include city centres, archaeological sites and natural sites. The Czechs, on the other hand, have 16 entries, 15 of which belong to cultural heritage, one to natural heritage.

The concept of culture should also be associated with the cultural landscape. This is a type of landscape that has been transformed by man and has lost its ability to regulate itself. A particular example of this is the natural-cultural landscape (e.g. man-planted pine forests). The concept of cultural landscape has emerged as a result of the new relationship between man and his environment, partly due to a new awareness of the effects his actions can have on the environment. The proper protection of the landscape must therefore not be forgotten. Each country's adherence to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage indicates the need to strengthen the effectiveness of measures to ensure its survival, including identification, documentation, research, preservation, conservation, promotion and

transmission, especially through education, as well as the revitalisation of various aspects of this heritage.

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