

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



'Clothing from my  
country  
tells a story of national  
heritage'  
Romania



ERASMUS+ KA229  
2020-1-KA229-PL01-081615\_6

# INTRODUCTION

Today, the vast majority of Romanians wear modern style dress on most occasions, and the folk costumes largely fell out of use during the 20th century. However, traditional clothes can still be seen in more remote areas, on special occasions, and at ethnographic and folk events. Each historical region has its own specific variety of costumes. Romanian traditional clothing can be classified according to eight traditional regions.



# MOLDAVIA



The popular women's costume from the Moldavia has a unitary structure, consisting of a traditional folk shirt (ie), waistcoat, traditional shoes (opinci), traditional bag (traista) and flowered scarf with ornaments.

Wool was a material that was the basis of the clothes and hats of that time, regardless the season. The colors most used in the seams on the popular costume are black, red, yellow, green to which blue is added.



# BANAT

The folk costume of Banat presents in its composition some elements that shed light on the local peculiarities of this province.

The 'opreg'-a rectangular piece of fabric with tassels, an ancient local tradition and a cap worn on the head by women, indicate the presence of forms of clothing specific only to Banat, which distinguish the types of costume in our country.

The Banat costume, and especially the one from the Northern Banat region, is also distinguished by the use of precious materials.



# MUNTENIA



What differentiates this area from the rest is the 'fota'- folk skirt consisting of a wide woolen material that went around the body and held the place of the skirt. This old skirt was decorated with vertical lines or gold or silver threads.

Being crossed by the trade routes that connected the East to the West made the acquisition of the gold and silver threads, sequins, silk and beads that ennobled the folk costume from the end of the 18th century onwards possible. In the same period, men's pants with a wide waist, black silk threads to decorate thick clothes and gold coins adorning the heads of young women were worn.

# ARDEAL

The folk costume of Ardeal has a few differences compared to other areas. In Ardeal, the legs have fixed folds and the back part is missing in the female costume; for men, the shirt is short and worn without a belt, and the cuffs are wide. However, the traditional Romanian plant-inspired motifs and the fabric and stitching technique are preserved.

The popular women's costume from Ardeal consists of the headdress, the shirt or lapel, the skirt, the belt and the shoes. While the men's folk costume from Ardeal consisted of a cușma (hat), a white shirt, trousers and shoes.



# MARAMUREȘ



The port of Maramureș stands out for its sober, restrained elegance, it is unitary and has "a completely original character, with specific elements that we do not find in other areas.

The women's costume consists of a flowered headscarf (black for older women), a shirt with a rectangular neckline, three-quarter sleeves, lapels over which two 'zadis' are worn, a breastplate made of sura wool or a 'lecric' (jacket), the 'guba' of white wool with long sleeves, and as an accessory the "expensive collar" (coral beads) or necklaces (small beaded cloths around the neck).

Men's attire has as its basic element the white shirt, short, with wide sleeves, long trousers (ismene) up to the middle of the calf in summer, white woolen mittens in winter, wide chemise at the waist; leek and leprosy. From the range of accessories, we note the bell and the woven vest in vivid colors.



# DOBROGEA

The folk costume from the Dobrogea area is distinguished by its originality, a special chromaticity and the wealth of geometric and vegetable motifs. It was proudly worn by two of Romania's queens, Elisabeta and Maria, who imposed it as an outfit at the Royal Court.

Since a lot of national minorities live in the area of Dobrogea, such as Lipovans, Bulgarians, Turks, Macedonians, Tatars, the Dobrogean folk costume has borrowed elements specific to these ethnic groups.





# OLTENIA



The Oltenian folk costume represents one of the most complex fields of folk art. Oltenia is an ethnographic area that boasts several types of folk costumes.

The differences are determined by the arrangement of the folk motifs or by the greater importance given to a certain part of the folk costume ensemble. This folk costume is made up of elements such as the vâlnicul (specific skirt from Oltenia), 'catrința' (skirt coverage), 'ia' (shirt) and the cotton or gossamer cloth. The colour black is predominant in the motifs. The lower part is made up to look like the traditional Romanian dance, hora. As for ornaments, coloured glass beads were often found either around the neck or on the hand of females from Oltenia.



# CRIȘANA

The popular costume from Crișana presents some deviations from the authentic type of Romanian clothing through the fixed wrinkled hems and the lack of a back hem of the women's costume and through the short shirt, worn without a belt and the men's wide waistcoats.

However, it is maintaining the faithful preservation in the ornamentation of the traditional Romanian motifs, as well as the technical systems of seams and fabrics.

Another aspect representative of the popular costume from this area is given by the head covering for both women and men.



**"This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of The author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."**

