

Sharing Cultural Heritage between Ethnos

**The Danube-Networkers invite to the 31th international session by
Videoconferencing:
Come together! Connecting people in times of Corona by culture**

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emiliya Velikova
University of Ruse, Bulgaria
evelikova@uni-ruse.bg**

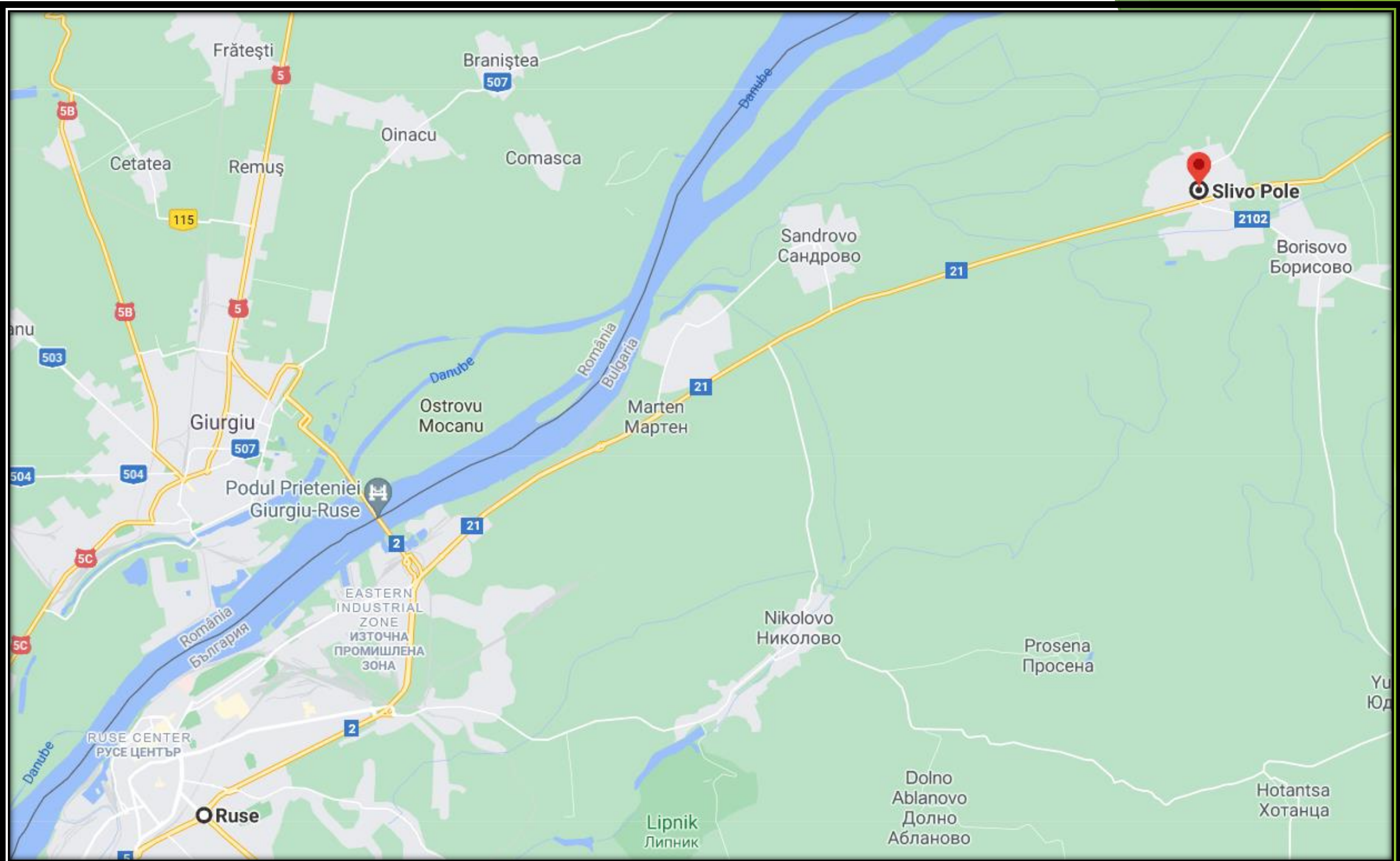
Earth as one human palm...
But I don't need you bigger,...

...

Earth, like a human palm...
But you are a whole universe to me,
That I do not measure you at a distance,
But with love, of which I am drunk!

from the poem “**BULGARIA**” of Georgi Dzhagarov

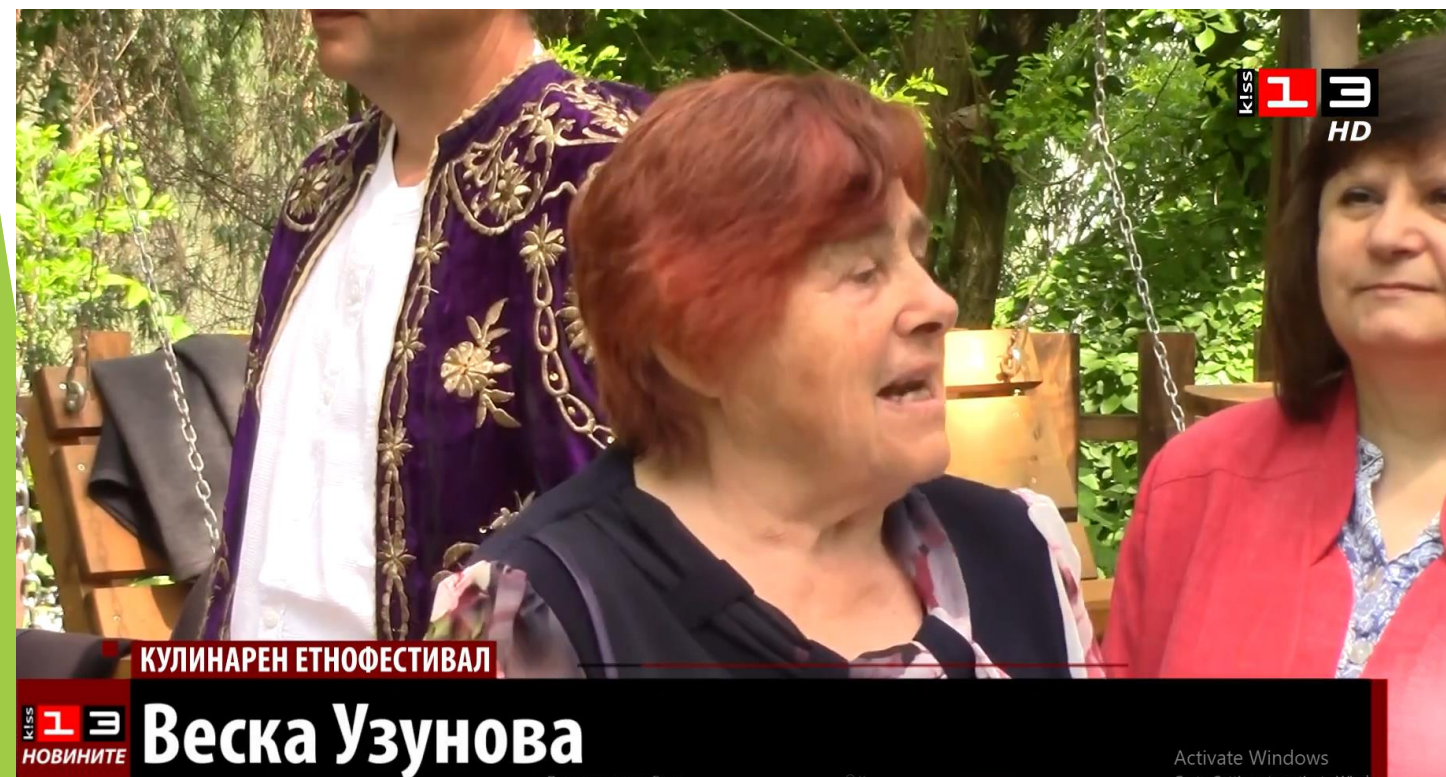
- ▶ The municipality of Slivo Pole is an example of interethnic good neighborliness. There live peacefully 6 different ethnic groups: Bulgarians, Tatars, Pomaks, Turks, Romani, Russians.
- ▶ And the pensioners in the Municipality are organized in a union that includes 20 clubs.



- On May 26, pensioners from various ethnic groups gathered on the banks of the beautiful Danube River.



- ▶ The main goal of this meeting was to promote ethnic peace by sharing intangible cultural heritage, such as food for traditional holidays, national costumes, songs, customs.
- ▶ Another goal was to acquaint and actively involve the Municipality in the projects of ILEU with the coordinator Carmen Stadelhofer:
 - ❖ Codanec: Connecting Danube Neighbors by Culture
 - ❖ Leaving Intangible Culture.
- ▶ The organizers of the meeting were Veska Uzunova, President of the Union of Pensioners, and Valentin Atanasov, Mayor of the Municipality.



- Guests of the meeting were representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, the University of Ruse, the mayors of all towns and villages, the chairmen of the pensioners' clubs, the community centers, the national and regional televisions, electronic media.



During the Crimean War (1853-1856) between the Russian and Ottoman Empires, **Crimean Tatars** expelled from their country by the Russian conquerors, settled in the Bulgarian lands. Their religion is Islam.



- ▶ They presented food, books, national costumes, songs, rakiya, household utensils. They use *Kobete* for St. George's day only. This is a bread with rice and beef.
- ▶ These persons are hardworking and perfectly honest.



- **Pomaks** are known officially as Bulgarian Muslims. They are inhabiting Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, North Macedonia and Albania.
- It is generally considered they are descendants of native Eastern Orthodox Bulgarians or Catholics, who converted to Islam during the Ottoman rule of the Balkans in a period of 500 years.
- The mass Islamization used different methods including executions of whole families, destroying thousands of churches, chapels, houses.
- A lot of Bulgarians preferred to die instead of becoming Muslim.
- The Pomaks in Slivo Pole came from the Rhodopes mountains.



- ▶ The Pomaks presented kachamak (polenta, mamaliga), katmi (pancakes), baklava, pastarma (bacon), sushenki (dried fruit).
- ▶ The Pomaks are very famous with their specific beautiful voices. One of them is Valya Balkanska who presented Bulgaria in NASA - USA. Her song “Izleyal e Delyu Haydutin” was chosen and sent 55 years ago in space.



- ▶ The Bulgarian table included bread, banitsa (specific delicious bread with white cheese), biscuits, pickles, mixed salt, yoghurt, rakiya, red wine, salted bacon and pastrami (dried meat).
- ▶ The word *yoghurt* is a word of first Bulgarians who came to the Balkans. It is known that it contains very good probiotics and is considered a medicine for maintaining youth.



- ▶ The Turkish table included small breads with herbs and Pide (fine bread with cheese).
- ▶ Turks came to Bulgaria with the Ottoman army.



- ▶ **Romani (Gypsies)** came to Bulgaria (14th -15th centuries) with the Ottoman army.
- ▶ Another migration was from Romania (19th - 20th centuries).
- ▶ The Romani presented a table with many milinki (small breads) and many sweet balls.





- Russians came to Bulgaria in the periods of:
 - ❖ the Russo-Turkish War (1877-1878)
 - ❖ the Russian Civil War
 - ❖ after the World War II
 - ❖ the socialist times.
- The Russians presented a table with a beautiful tea set, special dishes such as fish, pelmeni, tea.



This meeting finished with exchanging of bread between all participants from the ethnos of the Slivo Pole Municipality.





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