

No.16

Kilimi Carpets

Bulgaria

Montana

Chiprovtsi



Categories of cultural heritage

Professional craftspeople	Knowledge transfer	Presentation of crafts	Network for preservation of crafts	Local community building	Crafts within tourism
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Description

Chiprovtsi carpets are handwoven with traditional patterns that date back centuries. This craft is crucial for the cultural identity of the region and supports the local economy through global sales. Kilimi carpets from Chiprovtsi are renowned for their intricate geometric designs and vibrant colors, often inspired by nature and local folklore. Each carpet is unique, reflecting the weaver's creativity and skill. The use of natural dyes and high-quality wool ensures durability and authenticity, making these carpets highly valued both locally and internationally. Chiprovtsi carpets, with their vibrant colors and intricate geometric designs, reflect centuries of cultural heritage and craftsmanship.

<https://www.facebook.com/Chiprovtsicarpets>

Types of handicrafts

Carpet-weaving	Wool production	Wool processing	Dyeing
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Craft touchpoints - where to find?

Workshop of an artisan (directly from the craftsman) Shop selling local artisans' products eShop selling local artisans' products online platforms	Social media accounts Events (workshops, exhibitions, courses) Local festival
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What can we learn?

Heritage preservation / valorisation practice	What do they expose with their practice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Werkraum Bregenzerwald promotes traditional craftsmanship through community collaboration and educational initiatives.
Success factors	Achievements and strengths that make this case inspiring for other attempts in the DR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • almost 400 years of experience • traditional combined with modern motifs
Local community involvement	Fundamental values that help to connect the target groups for the social prosperity of the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpet weaving - deeply integrated into the social and cultural life of the population
Link to professional network	Reflecting on its strategic position in the region; making the most of networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festival of Chiprovtsi Carpet
Communication	The use of social networks to disseminate and promote their mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook, Instagram • deluxe edition of the book The Chiprovtsi Carpet: The Tapestry Road to God with summaries in English, Italian, and Japanese (Chiprovtsi History Museum, 2020)
Sustainability factor	Operations and maintenance that drive the practice forward; opportunities for financial sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inscribed in 2014 (9.COM) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity • Chiprovtsi - one of the country's oldest cultural centers and keepers of Bulgarian traditions • Dr. Anita Komitska, ethnographer and director of the Chiprovtsi History Museum - has been the official custodian of the Chiprovtsi carpet — since 2017 • process of transmission - informally from mothers and grandmothers to daughters • dyed with natural dyes

What makes it a best practice?

SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Kilimi carpets from Chiprovtsi are a best practice in social sustainability due to their community-driven production. Local women weave these carpets, passing down skills through generations, fostering cultural continuity. The entire community, including men who handle wool processing and dyeing, is involved, ensuring economic benefits and preserving traditional knowledge. This collective effort strengthens social bonds and sustains local heritage.

Contact information

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