

Cultural and linguistic revitalization as a potential means of preservation of specific German ethnic group in Slovakia

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Huncokári

- ▶ “Huncokári”- an isolated German minority group
- ▶ living in the mountainous area of Western Slovakia
- ▶ is a ethnic group proof of the cultural diversity and the multiculturalism of the linguistic environment in Slovakia and the entire area of Europe
- ▶ an important part of the Slovak and European cultural heritage.



Huncokári

- ▶ Research and scientific processing of data about this group is considered to be of utmost importance and urgency bearing in mind:
- ▶ the imminent passing away of the generation of offspring who witnessed the traditions of the Huncokári
- ▶ the absence of systematic scientific attention focused on the Huncokári issue in Slovakia with a lack of material information and expert analysis;
- ▶ the possibility of revitalising the culture and language of the Huncokári.
- ▶ great importance and value in recording the last three native speakers who will complexly document the language, its grammar, phraseology and current state.



The language situation

- ▶ only three remaining survivors or three native speakers
- ▶ Other older members of the community - rememberers



Where are you from?

- ▶ Original homeland - mountainous areas of Austria or Germany (Bavaria, Unterammergau, Andechs a Beuerberg)
- ▶ They were woodsmen and from their home they brought a way of life, a specific value system and a language.
- ▶ Huncokári did the work of woodcutters/lumbermen, foresters and woodsmen



Who are you?

- ▶ Holzhacker and Holzfäller
- ▶ *Hulzhok and Hulcokr*
- ▶ *Huncokár or Hulcokr*
- ▶ The first records of the Huncokári from the 1740's where they were registered as Catholics, without origin or place of birth, with the place of residence stated as:
 - ▶ **ex montibus, ex silvis** - from the mountains, forests;
 - ▶ or it would be their profession ***lignicida, lignisector*** - woodcutter, lumberman.



en-Nr.

Ur-Groß-Eltern

Geburts- u. Tauffchein

Zahl

1093

Auszug aus der Geburtsmatrize
des unterzeichneten

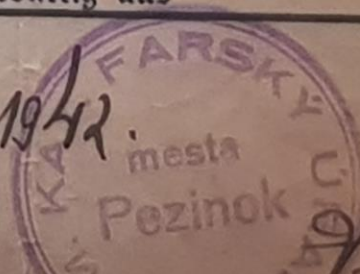
Pezinok
Band XI, Blatt 59

Gültig nur zum
Nachweis der arischen Abstammung

Familien- (Zuname)	<i>Marie Kraus</i>		
Vornamen	...		
Geburtstag	<i>15. August 1 896</i>	Geburtsort	<i>Lajla</i>
Tauftag		Nachgericht	<i>Pezinok</i>
Religion	Anabe — Mädchen <i>Pömlast</i>	Eheliches — legitimierte uneheliches Kind der Eltern:	
Vater	<i>Albert Kraus</i>	Beruf <i>Holzhammer</i>	Religion <i>Rkat</i>
Mutter	<i>Agnes Proster</i>	wohnhaft in <i>Lajla</i>	Religion <i>rkat.</i>
		geborene gebürtig aus	

Pezinok, am *5. November 1942*

Gebühr



Kundm Kristufek



CZECH REP.



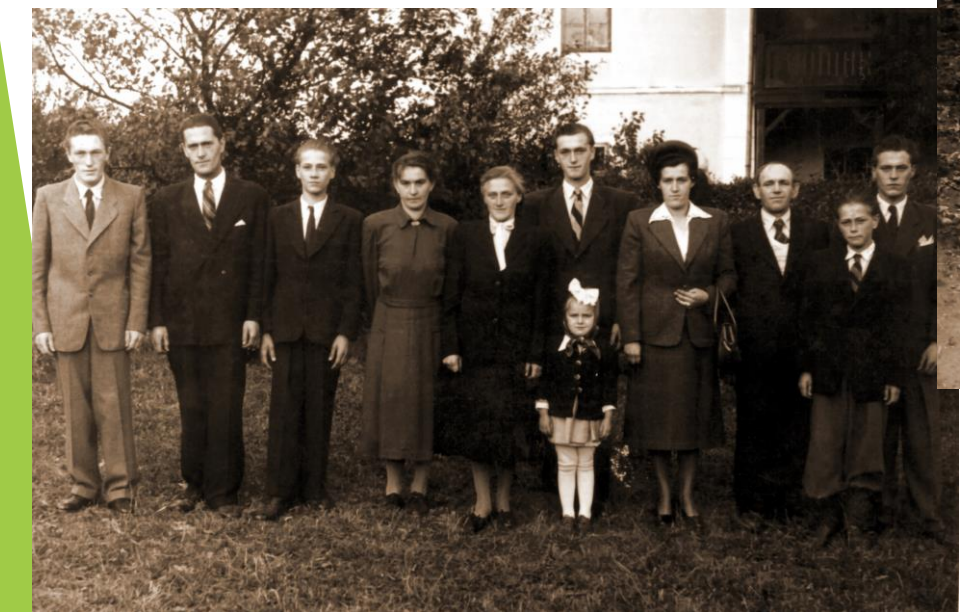
- National Capital (445,000 in 2005)
- over 200,000
- over 50,000
- over 20,000
- over 10,000
- other city
- Capital of region (Kraj)
- Slovak regions (Kraj) have the name of their capitals



The place of living



Endogamy group



How many members of the group?

- ▶ By the mid-20th century approximately 1 000 people were reported to be Huncokári, but the latest results from the family genealogies -possibly at least 3 000 people, by the middle of the 20th century.
- ▶ During the inter-war period they were forced, by the changing political situation as well as by the changing ownership of the forests, to move from isolated settlements closer to towns and villages.
- ▶ Another major impact on moving from the mountains was the introduction of compulsory school attendance.
- ▶ After the Second World War, some of them were forcibly deported to Germany due to the outcome of the Second World War



Dialect:

dialect	Standard German	translation
trukka	trocken	dry
ti socha	die Sachen	things
ta summa	der Sommer	summer
khá wuat	kein Wort	no word
tos hulc	das Holz	wood
mochcha	machen	make
mílka	melken	to milk
fakhaffa	verkaufen	to sell
suacha	suchen	to search
ké	gehen	to go
hokka	hacken	to hew

The first research of this group:

- ▶ The research of the German minority in Slovakia until the 1980's.
- ▶ The first ethnological and historical works on the German minority in Slovakia were published in the early 1990's
- ▶ they were not particularly focused on German mountain loggers
- ▶ Intensive community research and the rescuing of their traditional culture and language was started in 2014 at UCM in Trnava



"Help us, save us, we are dying!"



Key elements in the field of revitalisation include:

- ▶ active descendants of Huncokári with an interest in restoring their own identity, revitalising their culture and as well as their language
- ▶ involvement of Huncokári civic associations: NGO Huncokári (www.huncokari.sk),
- ▶ a scientific team from UCM, which carries out ethnographic, sociological, historical and linguistic rescue field research and cooperates with NGO





Native speakers- semi-speakers

- ▶ There are 3 last individuals, all born 1930 or earlier.
- ▶ Each of them was born in the mountains to Huncokári parents and from the beginning they were bilingual or trilingual.
- ▶ They attended German school while at home with their parents and with members of the community they used the dialect of Huncokári.
- ▶ They speak the Huncokári language fluently



Rememberers:

- ▶ Speakers with very limited knowledge of phrases, shorter genres etc.;
- ▶ They are not able to speak the language actively, but they recall short phrases, songs, short folklore genres and particular phrases.
- ▶ They number approximately 50.



Latent new speakers:

- ▶ The youngest generation who do not speak the language at all nor do they understand it
- ▶ The youngest generation have a great interest in learning how to teach their children and how to use it in group and family communications.
- ▶ We estimate these to number 150 across selected locations.



Community revitalising strategies:

- ▶ The possibility of approaching and addressing members of the community about the revitalisation of language and culture
- ▶ access to the web portal for active members of the community with the possibility of entering and completing information and thereby promoting their own activities
- ▶ lectures and workshops for the public and active members, as well as other forms of dissemination of information about traditional material and the spiritual culture of the Huncokári

 Mesto Modra, Penzión Huncokár
O.Z. Huncokári na Piesku



Vás pozývajú na
LETNÉ SLÁVNOSTI
HUNCOKÁRSKE HODY
v termíne
22. – 23. – 24. júla 2016
v areáli penziónu Huncokár
Modra - Piesok



Program slávností

Piatok

16:00 Otvorenie slávností
17:30 Michal Dočolomanský a band
22:00 STOP band

Sobota

15:00 Siedmy element
17:30 Belasí
20:00 Gold Boys - skupina L. Stankovského
(bývalý Modus)
22:30 Stop band

Nedeľa

13:00 Vystúpenie ľudového súboru

V priebehu slávností výstava fotografií o huncokároch



Počas celého priebehu slávností je pripravené non-stop občerstvenie

Alcén sa koná za každého počasia

Reklamný partner:

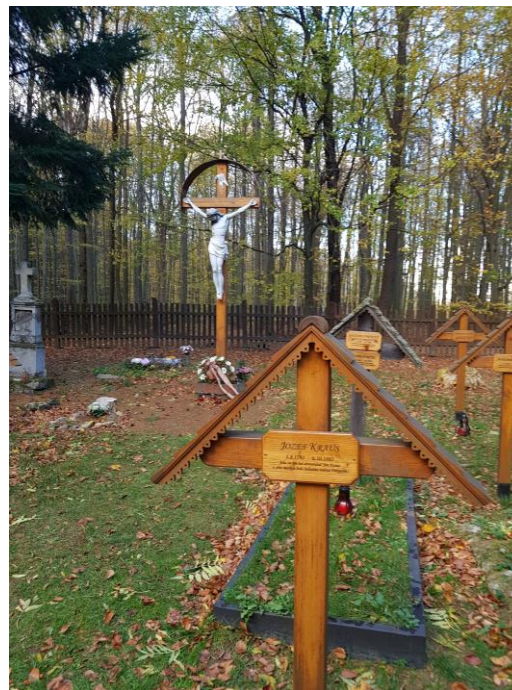
 PRVÁ STAVEBNÁ SPORITEĽNA



V nedeľu o 10:30 sa koná omša pri kaplnke



- ▶ organizing community events such as Huncokári feasts, forest festivities, celebrations in the Huncokári chapel, All saints day at the Huncokári cemetery, religious pilgrimages to the localities of their ancestors' original pilgrimage sites, organising cultural festivals, musical activities, literary productions, theatre performances plus traditional music groups and songs, the revival of traditional games and more
- ▶ Creating language teaching groups; language meetings for the "native speakers" and prospective (latent) "new speakers"



Revitalisation strategies outside the community:

- ▶ - creating a language grammar
- ▶ - creating a Huncokári alphabet in order to address those language specifics that cannot be expressed by the Slovak grammar system
- ▶ - creating a German-Slovak-Huncokári dictionary
- ▶ - creating textbooks for teaching the basics of the language
- ▶ - creating workbooks
- ▶ - creating e-learning courses for the members of this minority group as well as the public
- ▶ - seminars at UCM and Huncokári dialect courses at the university
- ▶ - dictionaries distributed to Huncokári families



Summary

- ▶ Apart from the strictly professional, documentary and linguistic-cultural level advances leading to the achieved and documented findings, the planned revitalisation activities should be reflected in the re-emergence of the almost forgotten Huncokári traditions in the Little Carpathian Mountains region and in the raising of awareness of the multi-ethnic and multicultural background of the area; visually the bilingual signs would enrich the linguistic landscape and could help the process; however, given the overall context, it is also necessary to consider the possible implications of "ethnic/linguistic engineering".





Thanks for your attention
Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit
Dziękuję za uwagę