



BSEC MONTH OF CULTURE 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Friday 2 June 2017

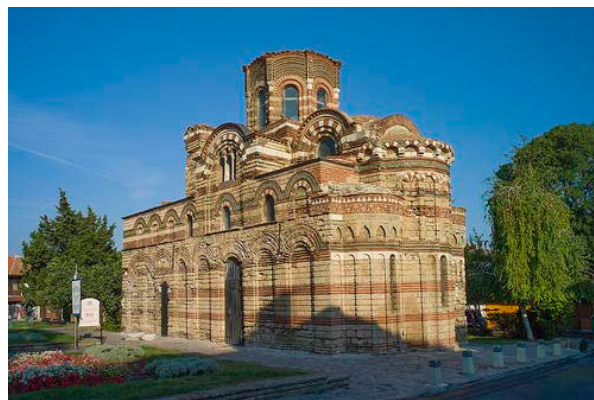
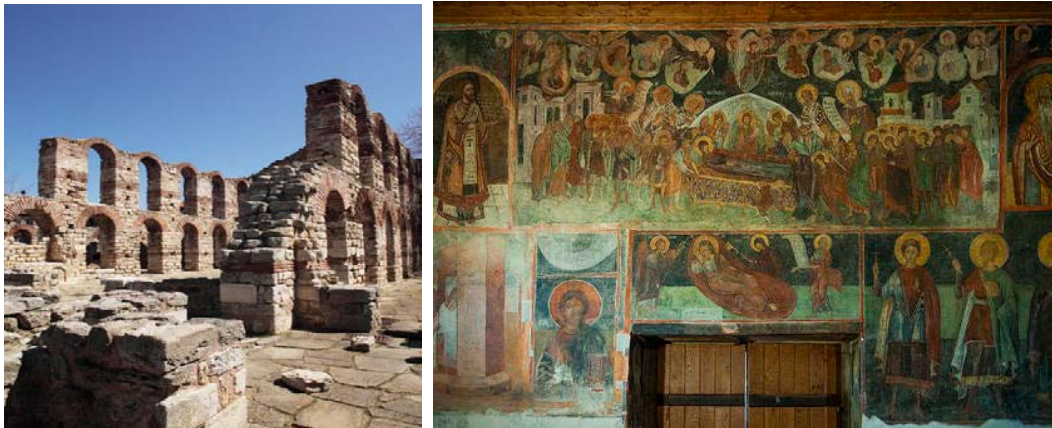
Bulgaria

What do you know about the Ancient City of Nessebar?

Ancient City of Nessebar

Situated on a rocky peninsula on the Black Sea, the more than 3,000-year-old site of Nessebar was originally a Thracian settlement (Menebria). At the beginning of the 6th century BC, the city became a Greek colony. The city's remains, which date mostly from the Hellenistic period, include the acropolis, a temple of Apollo, an agora and a wall from the Thracian fortifications. Among other monuments, the Stara Mitropolia Basilica and the fortress date from the Middle Ages, when this was one of the most important Byzantine towns on the west coast of the Black Sea. Wooden houses built in the 19th century are typical of the Black Sea architecture of the period.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Monuments #Bulgaria



Russia

Kinotravr

Kinotravr is the largest national film festival in Russia. Every year in June, on the Black sea coast in Sochi, the top talents directors, producers, actors, script writers, directors of photography of Russian cinema come together. They come to participate in the country's main cinematic event. For twenty three years Kinotravr has uncovered new names and talented people of cinema. The ten days of the festival are filled with a variety of events, among which competition, non-competition and special screenings, professional round tables, masters-classes, concerts and shows. Kinotravr will be held this year between 7th and 14th of June.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Cinema #Russia



Georgia

Tbilisi International Festival of Literature

The Tbilisi International Festival of Literature is held every year and it is hosted and organized by the Writers' House of Georgia in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and a number of international organizations based in Tbilisi. The festival shares the platform between Georgian and international authors and humanists, continuing the great literary and cultural traditions of Georgia. The 2017 festival takes place from 29 May to 03 June in Tbilisi.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Literature # Georgia



Romania

What do you know about Romanian music?

Doina

Known by various names throughout Romania, the "doina" is a lyrical, solemn chant that is improvised and spontaneous. As the essence of Romanian folklore, until 1900 it was the only musical genre in many regions of the country. Technically, the doina can be sung in any context and is always performed solo, with or without instrumental accompaniment. The doina has a wide-ranging expressive and thematic palette that spans joy, sadness, solitude, social conflicts, love and so on. Today, the doina is under threat locally because of a break in the line of transmission from parent to child. It is considered Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Music #Romania



Greece

Which BSEC country's director won an award in the recent Cannes festival?

Yorgos Lanthimos

Yorgos Lanthimos is a Greek director, born in Athens. *Kinetta*, his first feature film, played at Toronto and Berlin film festivals to critical acclaim. His second feature *Dogtooth*, won the Un Certain Regard Prize at the 2009 Cannes film festival, followed by numerous awards at festivals worldwide. It was nominated for a Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award in 2011.

His first English language feature film *The Lobster* was presented In Competition at the 68th Cannes Film Festival and won the Jury Prize. It also won Best Screenplay and Best Costume Design at the 2015 European Film Awards. In 2017 it was nominated for a Best Original Screenplay Academy Award (Oscar). He is considered one of the greatest modern directors. Last week he won an award in Cannes Festival for the screenplay of the film *The Killing of Sacred Deer*.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Cinema #Greece



Moldova

Do you know which savoury or sweet delicacy comes from Moldova?

Plăcintă

Plăcintă is a Moldovan traditional pastry resembling a thin, small round or square-shaped cake, usually filled with a soft cheese such as Urdă or apples.

In other varieties plăcintă is filled with potatoes, raisins and cheese or chocolate.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Gastronomy #Moldova



Interested in learning more about the fascinating culture of the BSEC Member States?

Join the BSEC Month of Culture, organised by the ICBSS from 1-30 June 2017 and learn about the remarkable and rich cultural heritage of the BSEC region.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and visit our [Website](#)!

About the BSEC Month of Culture:

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the BSEC Organisation, the ICBSS is launching a new initiative, the “**BSEC Month of Culture**”, a **month long programme of cultural highlights from the 12 BSEC Member States** (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine).

Being aware of the rich, diverse cultural heritage of the BSEC region, **the ICBSS will launch the “BSEC Month of Culture”**, from **1st to 30th June 2017**, with the aim to promote the cultural identity of the region and enhance its visibility to the wider public.

The programme will feature online tributes on **literature, music, cinema, archaeological sites and gastronomy**, including short videos and photos.

###

About the ICBSS: The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organisation. It has since fulfilled a dual function. On the one hand, it is an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region. On the other hand, it is a related body of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and serves as its acknowledged think-tank. Thus, the ICBSS pursues applied, policy-oriented research, promotes knowledge on the Black Sea region both within and outside its boundaries, and offers policy advice with the aim to foster multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.

For further information please contact us at email icbss@icbss.org or tel.: 210 3242321