



## **BSEC MONTH OF CULTURE 2017**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**Thursday 8 June 2017**

## Russia

How many sizes of balalaika are there?

### Balalaika

Balalaika is a Russian stringed musical instrument of the lute family. It was developed in the 18th century in Russia and Central Asia. The balalaika is made in six sizes, from piccolo to double bass, and has a flat back and a triangular table, that tapers to the fretted neck. There is a small, round sound hole in the narrow end of the belly. The three strings, usually gut, are end hitched and strung over a violin-like, or pressure, bridge. The instrument was used in folk music but was also employed in large balalaika orchestras in the 20th century.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Music #Russia



## Serbia

Who won a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1961?

Ivo Andrić

Ivo Andrić was novelist and poet, born in 1892 and died in 1975. He started his career as a poet. His lyrical prose, *Anxieties* (1919), reflect Andrić's experiences of the war and his imprisonment. During the Second World War, Andrić wrote his three large works, *The Bridge on the Drina*, *Bosnian Story* and *The Woman from Sarajevo* and in 1948 he wrote *New Stories*. The first two deal with Bosnia and her history. The next two presented present-day people and problems. Ivo Andrić won Nobel Prize in Literature in 1961.

#BSEC25 #Culture #Literature #Serbia



## Turkey

What do you know about künefe?

### Künefe

Künefe is a cheese pastry soaked in sweet, sugar-based syrup. A semi-soft cheese such as Urfa peyniri is used in the filling. In making the *künefe*, the *kadayıf* is not rolled around the cheese; instead, cheese is put in between two layers of wiry *kadayıf*. The recipe belongs to the southeast regions of Anatolia. Kadayıf is produced commercially in small plants like güllaç. Tissue thin layers of rolled pastry are shredded finely. It is sold in "Pastry Shops" everywhere.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Gastronomy #Turkey



## Ukraine

Do you know where the Wooden Tserkvas are in Ukraine?

### Wooden *Tserkvas* of the Carpathian Region in Ukraine

It is UNESCO's World Heritage Site. Situated on the eastern fringe of Central Europe, the transnational property numbers a selection of sixteen *tserkvas* (churches) between Poland and Ukraine. They were built of horizontal wooden logs between the 16th and 19th centuries by communities of Orthodox and Greek Catholic faiths. The *tserkvas* bear testimony to a distinct building tradition rooted in Orthodox ecclesiastic design blended with elements of local tradition, and symbolic references to their communities' cosmogony. The *tserkvas* are built on a tri-partite plan surmounted by open quadrilateral or octagonal domes and cupolas. Integral to *tserkvas* are interior polychrome decorations, and other historic furnishings. Important elements of some *tserkvas* include wooden bell towers, churchyards, gatehouses and graveyards.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Monuments #Ukraine



*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.

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*About the BSEC Month of Culture:*

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**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.

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