

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 'BETWEEN THE WORLDS: PEOPLE, SPACES AND RITUALS'
Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum
October 30-31, 2017

CĂLUȘ IN ROMANIA BETWEEN TRADITION, HERITAGE AND NATIONAL CALENDAR

Lina Gergova

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum –
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Căluș as a ritual

- **functions:** healing, protecting from Rusalii, bringing fertility to the households, initiation
- **participants:** *vătaf*, *călușari*, *stegar*, *ajutor de vătaf* (*primul călușar*), *mut*
- **clothing:** festive clothing, some special elements
- **regions:** Oltenia (Calus Oltenesc) mainly, Moldova, Transilvania
- **time:** in the villages starts on Saturday (Sîmbăta Rusaliilor), Pentecost and Monday of the Holy Spirit (Rusalii), the week between Pentecost and the Sunday of All Saints
- **other attributes:** clubs/ wooden swords; bells and spurs; bete (two belts) (see also Firică 2010: 7-8); garlic and wormwood; red wooden phallus; 'cioc' / 'iepure' (an item of rabbit's skin) sometimes instead of 'mut'
- **ritual:** 1) preparation; 2) taking the oath and rising the flag (rite of passage); 3) going from house to house; 4) burying the flag in conjunction with the dissolution of the group (Kligman 1981: 13)
- **music:** in past – two bagpipers, now: violin, clarinet or/and accordion

Căluș as an element of cultural heritage

- Căluș and modernization
- Alaiul Călușului Oltenesc in Craiova

CONSILIUL LOCAL CARACAL PRIMĂRIA MUNICIPIULUI CARACAL
CENTRUL JUDEȚEAN PENTRU CONSERVAREA ȘI PROMOVAREA CULTURII TRADIȚIONALE ȘI CULTURAL OLT
CENTRUL CULTURAL MUNICIPAL CARACAL

**festivalul internațional de folclor
"CĂLUȘUL ROMÂNESC"**
ediția a 48-a --- 9 - 11 iunie 2017



PROGRAM:

VINERI - 9 Iunie
Ora 18.00 : B-dul Antonius Caracală, Platoau Administrativ
- Parada portului popular
- Deschiderea oficială a Târului „PRODUS ÎN ROMANIA” - ediția a II-a
Ora 19.00 : Teatrul de vară
- Concurs călușăresc
- Spectacole susținute de ansamblurile folclorice invitate
- Spectacol folcloric susținut de Ansamblul Artistic Profesionist „Doina Gorjului”

SĂMBĂTĂ - 10 Iunie
Ora 18.30 : Teatrul de vară
- Concurs călușăresc
- Spectacole susținute de ansamblurile folclorice invitate

DUMINICĂ - 11 Iunie
Ora 11.00 : Sala de Consiliu a Primăriei
- Simpozion științific cu tema “CĂLUȘUL TEZAUZ UNIVERSAL”
Ora 18.30 : Teatrul de vară
- Concurs călușăresc
- Spectacole susținute de ansamblurile folclorice invitate
Ora 21.30 : Festivitatea de premiere și gala festivalului

CARACAL --- OLT --- ROMÂNIA



CONSILIUL JUDEȚEAN DOLOJ
CENTRUL JUDEȚEAN PENTRU CONSERVAREA ȘI PROMOVAREA CULTURII TRADIȚIONALE DOLOJ
cu sprijinul
PRIMĂRIEI și al CONSILIULUI LOCAL MUNICIPAL CRAIOVA
organizează

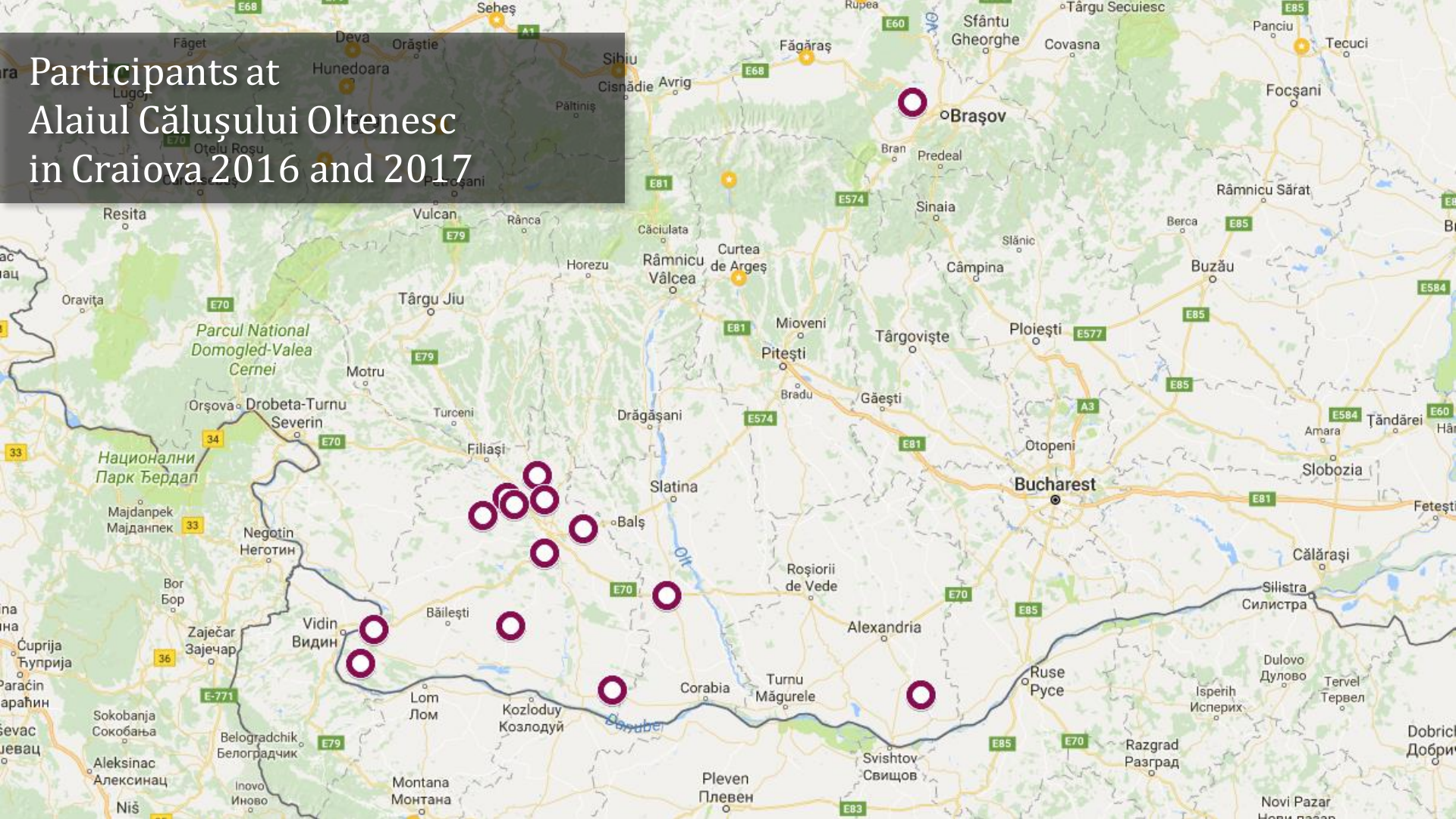
ALAIUL CĂLUȘULUI OLȚENESC
În Dumineca Rusaliilor, 4 iunie 2017, Craiova, ediția a XIX-a

Participă:

Ceata de călușari din comuna Ciuperceii Noi, Dolj	Ceata de călușari din orașul Dăbuleni, Dolj
Ceata de călușari din satul Potmețu, comuna Cotofenii din Dos, Dolj	Ceata de călușari din comuna Giurgiuța, Dolj
Ceata de călușari din orașul Codlea, Brașov	Ceata de călușari din comuna Goești, Dolj
Ceata de călușari din orașul Caracal, Olt	Ceata de călușari din satul Pietroara, comuna Sopot, Dolj
Ceata de călușari din comuna Conțești, Teleorman	Ceata de călușari din satul Leșile, comuna Șimnicu de Sus, Dolj

Ora 9⁰⁰ - Piața „Mihai Viteazul” Craiova
Ora 10⁰⁰ - Traseul: Piața „Mihai Viteazul” - str. Liniei - Parcul „Nicolae Romanescu” Craiova
Ora 11⁰⁰ - 14⁰⁰ - esplanada „Debarcader” Craiova

Participants at Alaiul Călușului Oltenesc in Craiova 2016 and 2017



Alaiul Călușului Oltenesc in Craiova (observations)

- the Căluș dance is in the center of the performances
 - *“Jocul călușarilor este unul dintre cele mai spectaculoase dansuri populare românești”*
(The play of calusari is one of the most spectacular Romanian folk dances)
- beliefs and superstitions still exist



Alaiul Călușului Oltenesc in Craiova (observations)



Căluș as an element of (intangible) cultural heritage



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intangible
cultural
heritage

Connection EN FR ES

Search ICH website ⓘ
Webpages, elements, decisions... 🔍

[NEWS](#) [EVENTS](#) [CONVENTION](#) [LISTS](#) [SAFEGUARDING](#) [ACTORS](#) [BY COUNTRY](#)

[UNESCO](#) » [Culture](#) » [Intangible Heritage](#) » [Căluș ritual](#) » [Browse the Lists](#)

 Nomination file No. 00090

 Decision

Inscription: [3.COM 1](#)

 Periodic reporting

The report on the implementation of the Convention, due by States Parties every 6 years, includes a section on the elements inscribed on the Representative List. [Read more on periodic reports.](#)

- A report will be due by 15/12/2018
- [Report submitted on 15/12/2013](#)

Căluș ritual

Romania

Inscribed in 2008 ([3.COM](#)) on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (originally proclaimed in 2005)

Performed in the Olț region of southern Romania, the Căluș ritual dance also formed part of the cultural heritage of the Vlachs of Bulgaria and Serbia. Although the oldest documented music used in this dance dates from the seventeenth century, the ritual probably derived from ancient purification and fertility rites using the symbol of the horse, which was worshipped as an embodiment of the sun. The ritual's name derives from the Căluș, the wooden part of the horse's bridle. The Căluș ritual features a series of games, skits, songs and dances, and was enacted by all-male Călușari dancers to the accompaniment of two violins and an accordion. Young men used to be initiated into the ritual by a vataf (master) who had inherited the knowledge of descântece (magic charms) and the dance steps from his predecessor. Groups of Călușari dancers, sporting colourful hats, embroidered shirts and trousers adorned with small jingling bells, perform complex dances, which combine stamping, clicking of the heels, leaping and swinging of the legs. According to tradition, groups of dancing and chanting Călușari, who were thought to be endowed with magical healing powers, went from house to house, promising good health and prosperity to villagers. Until today, Călușari meet to celebrate their dancing and musical prowess on Whit Sunday. Testifying the rich cultural diversity of Romania, the Căluș ritual is




Rusalii in the Romanian national calendar



Rusalii in the Romanian national calendar

- 1 and 2 January: New Year's Day (*Anul Nou*)
- 24 January: Union Day/Small Union (*Unirea Principatelor Române / Mica Unire*)
- April/May: Easter (*Paștele*)
- 1 May: Labour Day (*Ziua Muncii*)
- 1 June: Children's Day (*Ziua Copilului*)
- May/June:** **Pentecost (*Rusaliile*)**
- 15 August: Dormition of the Theotokos (*Adormirea Maicii Domnului / Sfânta Maria Mare*)
- 30 November: St. Andrew's Day (*Sfântul Andrei*)
- 1 December: National Day/Great Union (*Ziua Națională / Marea Unire*)
- 25 and 26 December: Christmas (*Crăciunul*)

A group of people, likely dancers, wearing traditional Bulgarian folk costumes. The costumes are white with intricate embroidery and are adorned with long, colorful ribbons in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and red. The dancers are captured in a dynamic pose, suggesting a traditional dance performance. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a cobblestone street.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

This paper is a part of Lina Gergova's work on the project "National Festive Calendar: Spaces and Rituals (Bulgarian-Romanian Comparative Perspectives)" funded by the Ministry of Education and Sciences of the Republic of Bulgaria within the Program for Supporting Young Scholars at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.