

Preserving the Endangered Material Knowledge of Hutsul Peoples' Sheep-Based Products in Ukrainian Carpathian Mountains

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ABSTRACT

The endangered material knowledge of Hutsul peoples' sheep-based products needs preservation. Ten serious factors endanger material knowledge of wool and cheese production from sheep. Fast changing occupations, and resulted giving up of sheep rearing, cause an acute endangerment to the sustenance of material knowledge associated with sheep-based products. Next is the issue of paucity of grazing lands for sheep herding. Recently, Russian war against Ukraine has affected severely the sheep farms even in the mountains. Conclusively, material knowledge of cheese and Lizhnyk making is highly endangered. Efforts of preservation are urgently needed; and documentation is first step towards preservation of the tangible material knowledge. This paper not only describes 9 types of tangible material knowledges but also recommends 6 different measures to preserve material knowledge of ethnic communities. It is also suggested to evolve multi-stakeholder comprehensive projects documenting and restoring various material knowledge systems of Hutsul people. Linking the traditional material knowledge systems with economic livelihood opportunities of communities, regional and local governance bodies need to reorient their respective development plans.