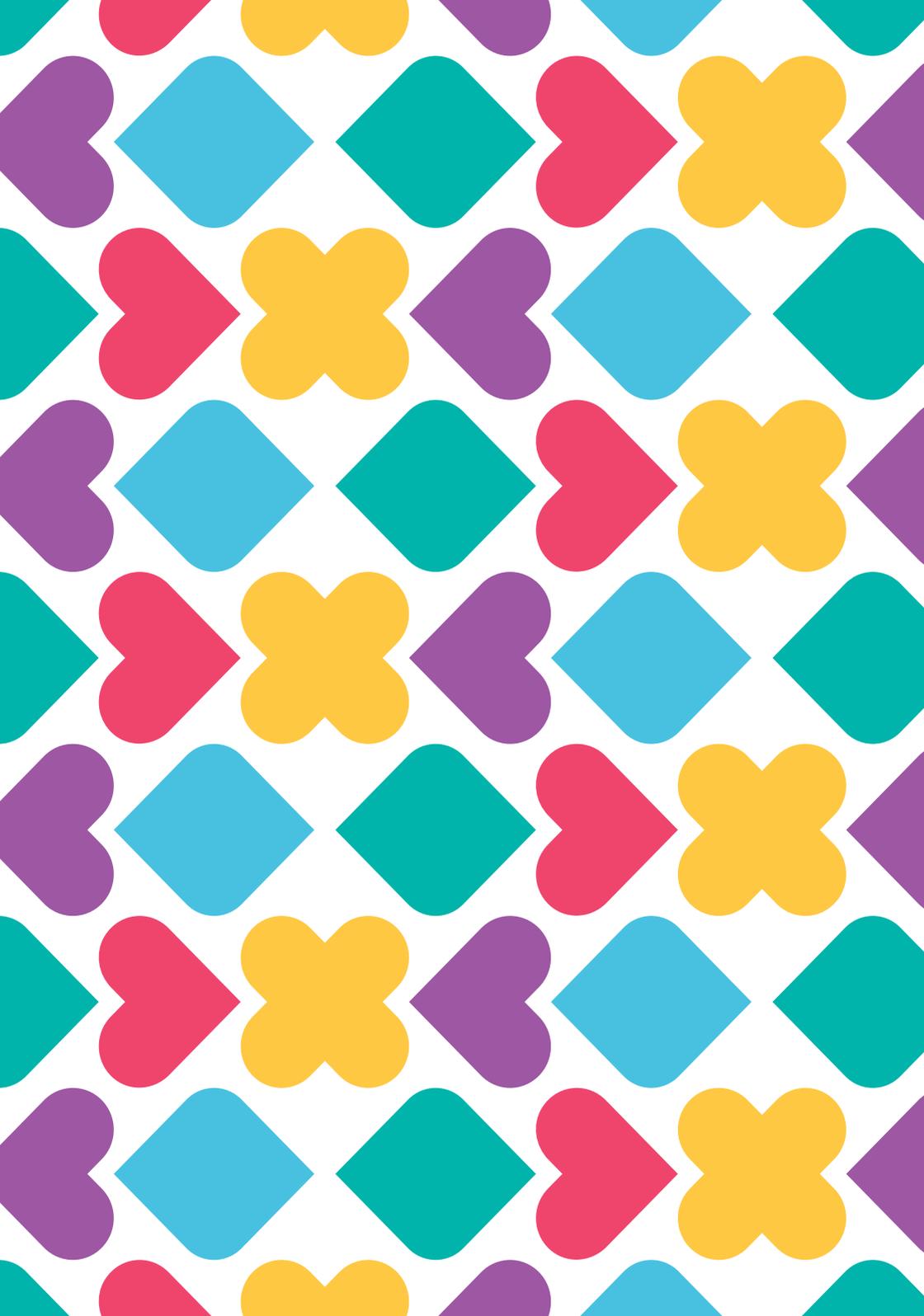


Once upon a time

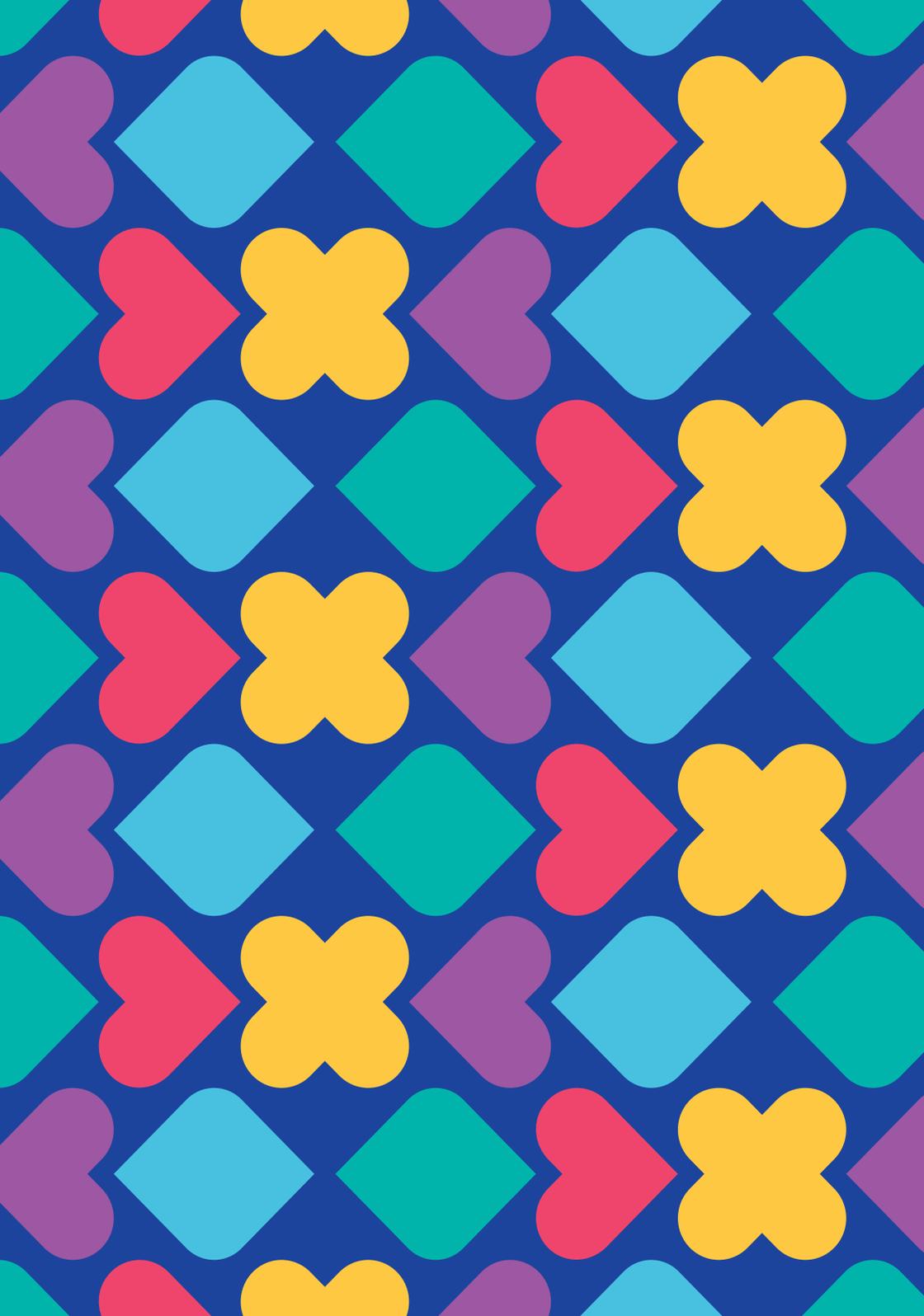
BANSKÁ BYSTRICA REGION



Once upon a time,

there was a land that inspired fairy tales and sprouted legends. There lies region of Banská Bystrica, filled to the brim with enchanting sites and places waiting to be discovered. It consists of eight unique counties, each inviting to an adventure in its ancient mountains or a stroll across its never-ending plains and colourful valleys. Orchards, vineyards, homesteads and lodges scattered across the land offer sanctuaries for you to slow down and enjoy the tranquillity of the moment. Why, it is in these rural areas where one can experience the legacy of our ancestors. Their wisdom is kept alive by the modern practitioners of ancient crafts like flax spinning, bagpiping, mining and shepherding.

If you would like to spice up your holiday travels exploring unique places and discovering authentic stories of their people, Banská Bystrica region has plenty to offer. Come and see for yourself, you will surely find us home!



Central Slovakia

Once upon a time, there was a land in the heart of Slovakia that stood witness to the events shaping history. Fortresses and castles, rebellions as well as revolts spread across the land same way as did its precious ores. Tough and fierce during the times of trouble, the heartland of Slovakia, can though alleviate. Healing mineral springs as well as baths give the region its strength and the mountains provide man the shelter to refresh and revive. Central Slovakia is a symbolic heart of the country that brings lifeblood to all its corners. Whether you are travelling from the east or the west, the journey here is not that far and a visit to this place is and always will be for many of us a matter of the heart.

centralslovakia.eu





Uncovering the secrets of the lace

Lila Wilhelmerová

It was in a picturesque village amidst mountains, where someone long ago had an idea to carve the first wooden spindles able to create this beautiful decoration. In the village of Špania Dolina, the men spent most of their time working in mines and the women while taking care of the household were able to pursue the delicate craft. The miraculous spindles and the lacemaking mastery were passed on from generation to generation. Even Mrs. Lila discovered these wondrous tools at her mother's. Her life has thus become closely intertwined with her home village and its lacemaking tradition. To keep the ancient craft and the spindles never stop turning, Mrs. Lila dedicates on discovering secrets of making of the Špania dolina lace and training young apprentices.

centralslovakia.eu



A passionate cheesemaker

Martin Hiadlovský

As a child, Martin knew exactly what he wanted to be when he grows up. A dairy farmer – just like his father. His journey began at the family farm in the village of Slovenská Ľupča, where he looked after cows that provided high-fat, high-quality milk. From here Martin took a journey part in numerous exhibitions, fairs and farmer markets in Slovakia and abroad where he showcased his renowned line of Hiadlovec long-maturing cheeses. While his cheeses grew in popularity around the world, only few people in his home region knew about their existence and the production itself. After 10 years it prompted Martin to come back from his journeys and focus on the development of his home region. His community projects increase awareness of quality cheeses and bring gastronomic feasts to the locals.

centralslovakia.eu



Podpol'anie

Once upon a time, there was a land beneath an extinct volcano. The time there stood still like the now cold lava that emerged from the bowels of the earth eons ago. Can you take a moment to appreciate its stillness? In these lands shielded by Poľana mountain, everything but the rocks favoured by the climbers teems with life in the traditions of the old. The distinct way of life here has not changed for centuries. Burdening yet noble, like the holly crosses that were carved and erected along the road to guide your journey. A community of shepherds dressed in typical folklore costumes parading “fujara” a traditional wind instrument and “valaška” a traditional long axe have become an unmistakable part of Slovakia's image.

Born to be farmer

Jozef Kučera

The wrinkled hilly countryside of “podpolianske lazy” boasts its majestic, unchanging beauty. A young homesteader called Jozef Kučera is there to preserve it. Jozef has always felt enchanted by the traditional architecture, crafts and especially by the traditional work clothes. He gladly accepted the duty to look after these lands, but in order to maintain many tiny terraced fields; he needs all the help from the locals he can get. He is always happy to see others inspired by his effort. Indeed, finding the meaning in what we do is the worthies of efforts.



TURISTICKÝ
NOVOHRAD A
PODPOL'ANIE

regionpodpolanie.sk

regionpodpolanie.sk



Novohrad

Once upon a time, spread along the borders of two countries, there was Novohrad, a sunny land dotted by chestnut trees and vineyards. Days usually get warm and sunny, allowing people to enjoy the day at the beach, or at an easy hike manageable by even less experienced hikers. The walls of Modrý Kameň castle echo with children's laughter as they explore the toys and marionettes museum. This once proud fortress still bears the scars from the times it stood as the first in the line of defence against Turkish invaders. Novohrad also boasts a rich history of crafts that had brought both livelihood and beauty to its people. These include pottery making, glass works and ceramics.

An Earth's paradise, a bee's paradise

David Turčáni

David Turčáni has returned to Central Slovakia to look after his father. His family have been beekeepers for 65 years and David was determined to continue this tradition. The idea of Včelí KRaj was born. Together with his girlfriend, he established a project that seeks to raise awareness about beekeeping and the fragile nature of the environment. Young and old come from places near and far to visit their beehives around the village of Kokava nad Rimavicou. David and his girlfriend strive to set an example of how the care for your local area might instil a bigger change in the world around us.



TURISTICKÝ
NOVOHRAD A
PODPOĽANIE

regionnovohrad.sk

regionnovohrad.sk



Dudince / Hont

Once upon a time, there was a land of Hont and Dudince where the waters of life healed your body and the wine of legends relieved your soul. Take a big bit of juicy and tasty fruit to find out again lust for life. Meet the people you were supposed to meet. Meet them in a land that nurtures and greenness that heals. Dig out your own cellar or carve out a hovel in the stone that will gladly house you.



dudince.sk

Healthy Gardens Designer

Patricia Černáková

A daughter of a permaculture pioneer in Czechoslovakia, Patricia Černáková, she is a chip off the old block. The permaculture designer found favourable conditions in Hont: fertile soil heated by the rays of the sun, as well as warm relationships with the locals, growing together with nature and traditions. With their help, she built a garden called MedoUka in the village of Medovarce - one of the first and still functioning community gardens. In the village of Hrušov she set up a garden on the school premises. By working on the Pavlovsky Stable farm within the School of Permaculture project, Patricia is gaining more and more new followers. She also spreads the knowledge through the co-organisation of the Permaculture in the Town Festival.

dudince.sk



Mask Collector

Jakub Dvorský

In Lišov, in a village on the southernmost headland of the Štiavnica Hills, Jakub Dvorský founded a civic association the Lišov Museum. He had previously been involved in cultural heritage conservation and rural development projects in various European countries and in Africa. With this experience, he returned to his native region. Thanks to the civic association, the Lišov Room was created in the house from 1916 - a smaller ethnographic museum, a replica of a Celtic dwelling and a gallery of masks with 400 exhibits from all over the world - the only one in Slovakia. The distance in space and time has thus turned into closeness because the vanishing life comes to life in the present.

dudince.sk

Region Banská Štiavnica

Once upon a time, there was a golden town of Banská Štiavnica. The people here have learned to turn the boons of the land in their favour, expanding the natural riches thanks to their wisdom, experience and technological inventions. If you want to learn about mining, you do not need to seek anymore further. Its history was set in stone right here, in these picturesque lands. It is easy to fall in love with the town that inspired the author of the greatest Slovak romantic poem. Indeed, Banská Štiavnica has been favoured by tourists and artists alike. Even UNESCO decided to take under its wing and preserve the town. The perfect combination of rich history and vivid cultural atmosphere is quite impossible to resist.

banskastiavnica.travel



Región
Štiavnica



Bound with Calvary

Katarína Vošková

As an architecture student, Katarína has been drawn to Banská Štiavnica for a long time. She was fascinated by the distinct beauty of the land shaped by centuries of mining and by the legacy of generations hidden here, in now neglected historical sights, waiting to be restored. One sight, in particular, became of special interest to her: the poor conditions of Banská Štiavnica's Calvary was widely known to many, but none dared to rebuild it. However, Katarína together with other members of Calvary Fund have, for more than 10 years, strived to remedy the damage caused by ravages of time and human negligence. Together, they hope to see the Calvary shine in its former glory once again.

banskastiavnica.travel

A vintner beneath volcano

Miroslav Bahna

Miroslav Bahna's childhood was shaped by Štiavnické mountains. When the time to stand on his own feet came, he fulfilled his childhood dreams and moved to these mountains for good. He and his brother listened closely to the advice of their elders which made them to return to viniculture tradition held by his family. However, few Slovak connoisseurs knew about the enticing taste of wine made in these lands. Therefore, Bahna brothers united local winemakers into the project „VINOCENTRUM“. They started Štiavnická vína špacírka, a festival where visitors may explore the ancient streets of Banská Štiavnica while tasting the wine made by the local winemakers. Thus, the tale of exceptional beauty and delicious wine offered by Banská Štiavnica has begun to spread all over the world.

banskastiavnica.travel



Gron

Once upon a time, in a place where Hron river gained enough strength to carve a valley into the plains, there was a land of Gron. Although the region of Pohronie is crossed by motorways, the old castle highway, used by king's troops set to defend the wealthy mining towns of Kremnica and Nová Baňa, still rims these modern paths. Slovakia's second oldest monastery silently guards the entrance to the valley, the so-called Slovak Gate. The land is dotted by Štále, secluded little homesteads where local people live in peace, still observing the tradition of their elders. Gron is also an important stomping ground for the musicians admiring the traditional instruments like bagpipes and accordions.



regiongron.sk

A piper

Dominik Garaj

Bagpipe tunes, played by the pipers of Central Slovak village of Velká Lehota, have lingered along the countryside for centuries. Garaj family were renowned for their skills in both crafting and playing these magnificent instruments. The secret crafting method has been passed from grandfather to father, later to son and even grandson. Although Dominik Garaj does not craft bagpipes anymore, he keeps leading a troupe of folklore pipers he founded himself. Drawing on his experience from the local theatre, he aims to share the story of his village as remembered by the village elders.

regiongron.sk



A spellweaved potter

Ján Fiala

As a child, Ján Fiala paid little attention to pottery, his father's trade. His interest was rekindled when a film crew arrived to his village of Brehy to make a documentary about its famous pottery tradition. Although his father died when Ján was only fifteen, the memory of observing his father working has resurfaced when being interviewed by the members of the film crew. This inspired him to take up the craft himself. Despite starting as an adult of 30 years, he endured the hardships of training and after ten years of hard work, his wares gained recognition after being featured in various documentaries, historical and children's films. Ján also taught himself to craft "štiavnička" a distinctive clay smoking pipes typical for the region.

regiongron.sk



Horehronie

Once upon a time, there was Horehronie, a land of forests and caves shielded by the mountains of Nízke Tatry. The scent of fresh wood, flowering plants and wild game will dazzle your mind. The sounds of sheep bells and flutes accompany your every step. Even Hron river enjoys these tunes lingering along thousands of trees. The river has formed impressive meanders that imitate the track left by skiers on the nearby slopes. Once you feel tired after hours of hiking across these lands, chalets, lodges, or even large hotels provide an ideal place to rest and recover.

horehronie.sk

**horehronie**
RAJ V TATRAH



Cycling for snaps

Filip Majerčík

Filip Majerčík from Dolná Lehota had his first taste of photography in the analogue era, thanks to his father and grandfather. Spending countless hours roaming the countryside on bike and foot, the natural sights became an obvious focus of his photography. At the break of dawn, burdened with a backpack, braving the fog, cold and snow, sometimes barely escaping a blizzard, he does anything it takes to capture that one special moment in the flow of time. In the span of two years, he completed more than thirty mountain treks. While trekking, he took over twenty thousand photographs. Filip merged these photos into a time-lapse video honouring the most gorgeous model of all - the countryside of Nízke Tatry. His hobby has now become his occupation.

horehronie.sk



Full steam ahead

Aleš Bílek

Aleš Bílek came from Czech Republic to Slovakia as one of the highschoolers that had volunteered to aid in restoration project of Čiernohronská railway. This unique narrow-gauge railway was threatened by the authorities' plans to scrap it. This was prevented only thanks to enthusiasts from Čierny Balog who organised a summer restoration camp to save the railway. Their effort didn't go unnoticed and soon, the aid of Strom Života / Tree of Life / foundation intensified the restoration works. After years of labour, mountain railway is now usable by steam trains again. Aleš still watches over this route as a railway director, ensuring that this wonder of Banská Bystrica region will never again fall to ravages of time.

horehronie.sk



Horehronie in His Heart

Marian Čupka

As a child born under Kráľova Hoľa Mt, Marian Čupka absorbed folklore together with breast milk. The melodies and lyrics of the songs reflecting life in the middle of rough but beautiful nature penetrated his being and shaped him, just like his mother's upbringing for modesty, or caressing of his father's hard palm. Just as singing gets louder with more voices, so are the local people stronger in their mutual help and unity. Everything, that the life teaches them, is reflected in the art that travels in time and space, is given and received. That is why Marian Čupka always returned wiser and richer from his trips to explore and study songs and dances.

horehronie.net

Gemer

Once upon a time, there was a fairy-tale land of Gemer. The old iron road might have become a little rusty, and mines and smelters have been long abandoned, but the land still hides treasures waiting to be discovered. They are still to be found in underground caves and their mysterious corridors. If the peace and tranquillity are the treasures you seek, you can find them within the walls of gothic churches and castles. There is even an opportunity to embark on a Hutsul horseback journey across the wide plains, discovering the unique nature reserves of Slovenský kras and Slovenský raj.

regiongemer.sk

IG|EM|ER



A master blacksmith

Andrea Durčová

Andrea didn't hang out much with her mother in the kitchen. She spent most of the time with her father, who made everyday from morning till evening in his smithy a variety of iron products. Her eyes were glowing as if with fire when she for the first time tried out the „old craft “of her ancestors. The time flowed and Andrea became a trained blacksmith. In the middle of the volcanic region of Cerova vrchovina, just a short distance from the village of Hajnáčka, she built her own smithy. You can often meet the talented iron woman at various craft markets and castle festivities. Women's hands give this seemingly masculine craft the real passion and fine details.

regiongemer.sk



Gemer's landscape painter

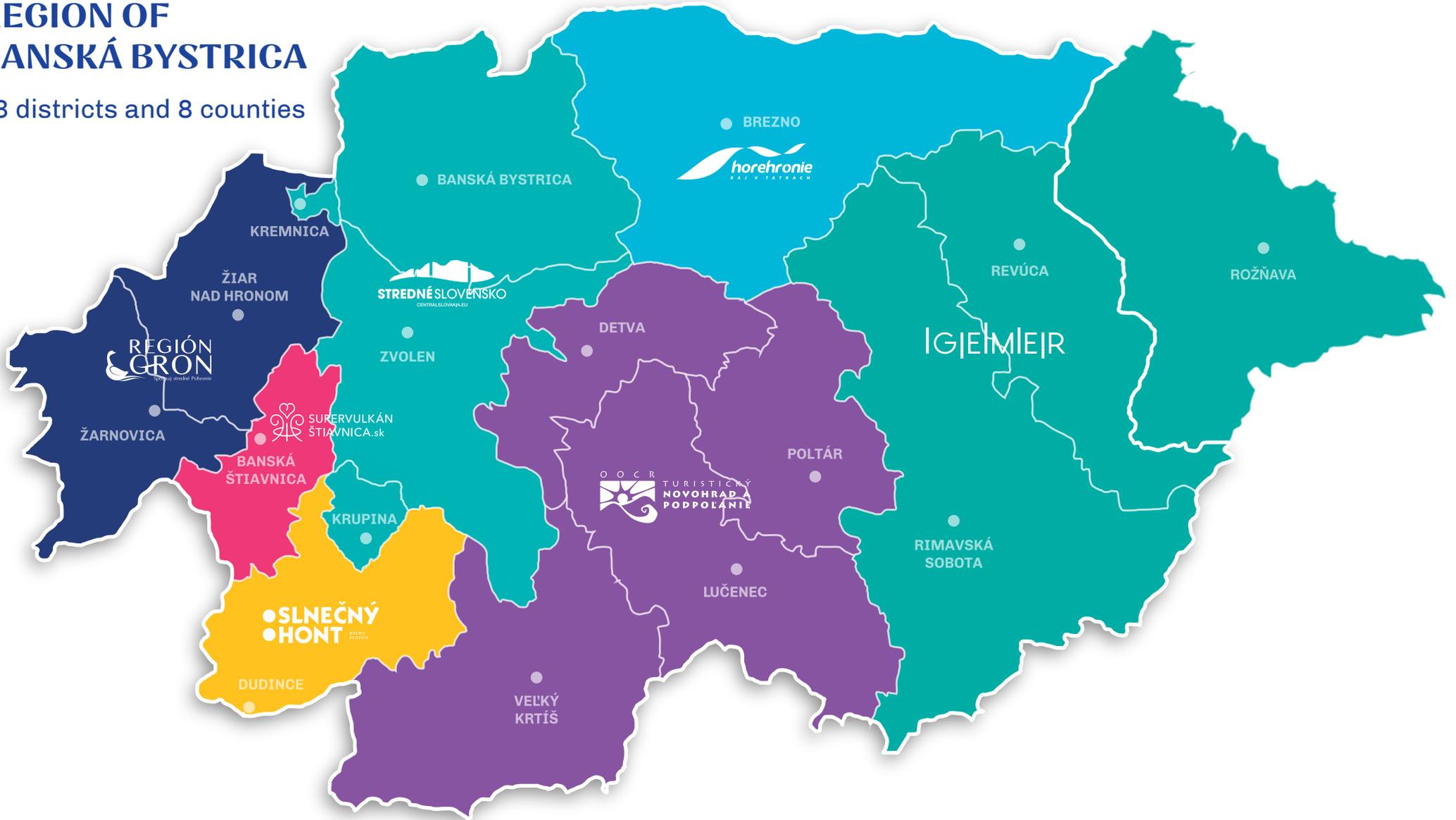
Maroš Detko

„If you put your mind to it, anything is possible.“ thought young Maroš Detko when the camera he had borrowed off his grandfather finally gave up. His ingenuity helped him to devise a way to take snaps of his schoolmates and friends without the aid of film or camera. Setting up a darkroom in his parents' house and using kitchen tools instead of lab equipment, his first photos came to be. Maroš replaced these for modern digital equipment long ago but has never forgotten the humble beginnings of his journey.

regiongemer.sk

REGION OF BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

13 districts and 8 counties



● **STREDNÉ SLOVENSKO** - Banská Bystrica + Zvolen + Krupina

● **DUDINCE** - town

● **GRON** - Žarnovica + Žiar nad Hronom

● **BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA** - Banská Štiavnica

● **HOREHRONIE** - Brezno

● **PODPOĽANIE** - Detva

● **NOVOHRAD** - Poltár + Lučenec + Veľký Krtíš

● **GEMER** - Revúca + Rimavská Sobota + Rožňava

Tourism Organisations

Regional Destination Management Organisation

Banskobystrický kraj Turizmus (Banská Bystrica Tourism Region)

Námestie SNP 1, 974 01 Banská Bystrica
kocr@dobrykraj.sk / www.dobrykraj.sk



Stredné Slovensko (Central Slovakia)

Námestie SNP 1, 974 01 Banská Bystrica
pec@centralslovakia.eu / www.centralslovakia.eu

Región Banská Štiavnica

Kammerhofská 1, 969 01 Banská Štiavnica
region@banskastiavnica.travel / www.banskastiavnica.travel

Región Gron

Nám. SNP 33, 966 81 Žarnovica
regiongron@gmail.com / www.regiongron.sk

Región Horehronie

Nám. gen. M.R. Štefánika 3, 977 01 Brezno
info@horehronie.net / www.horehronie.net

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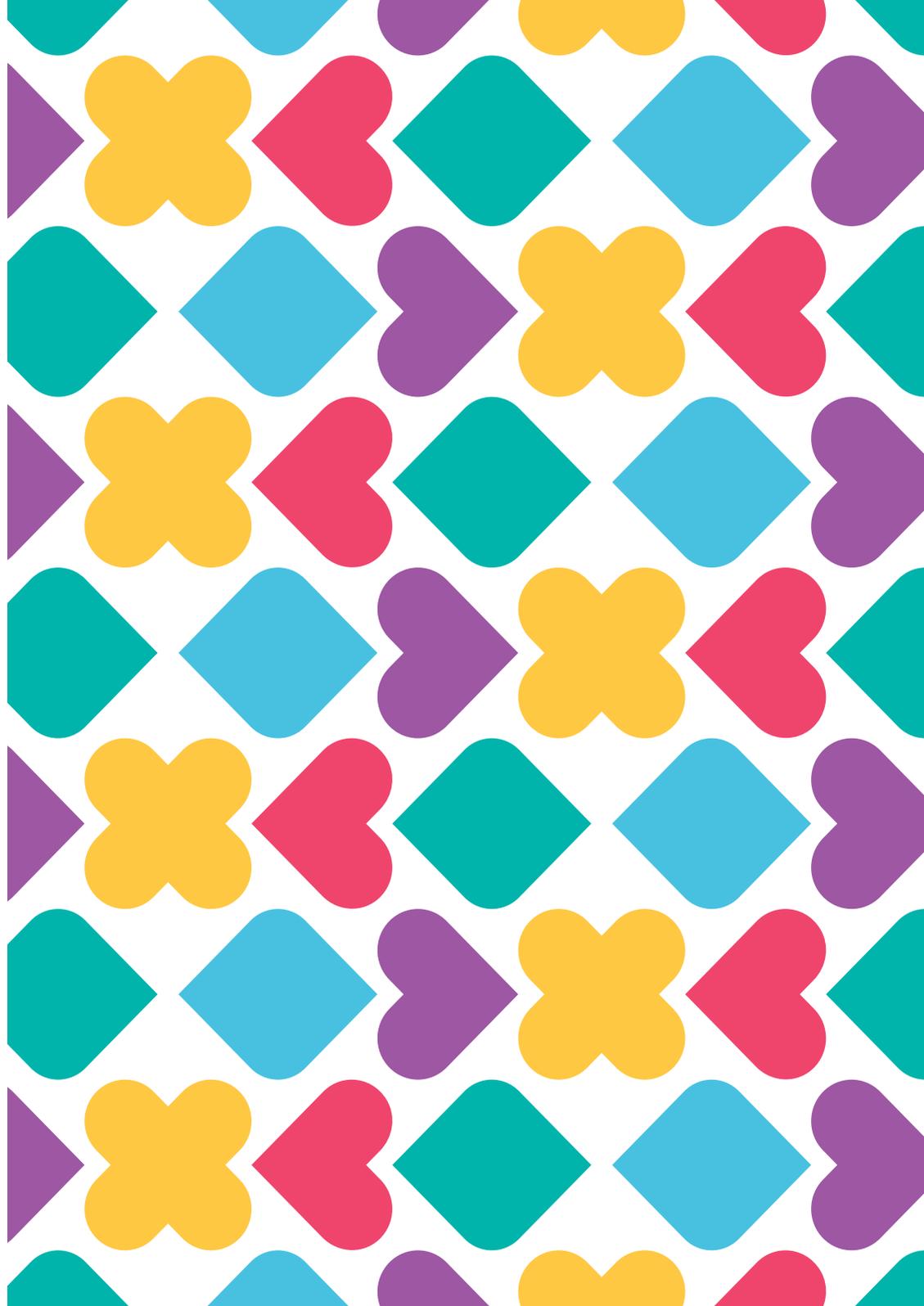
Námestie Slobody 13/17, 050 80 Revúca
oocr.gemer@gmail.com / www.regiongemer.sk

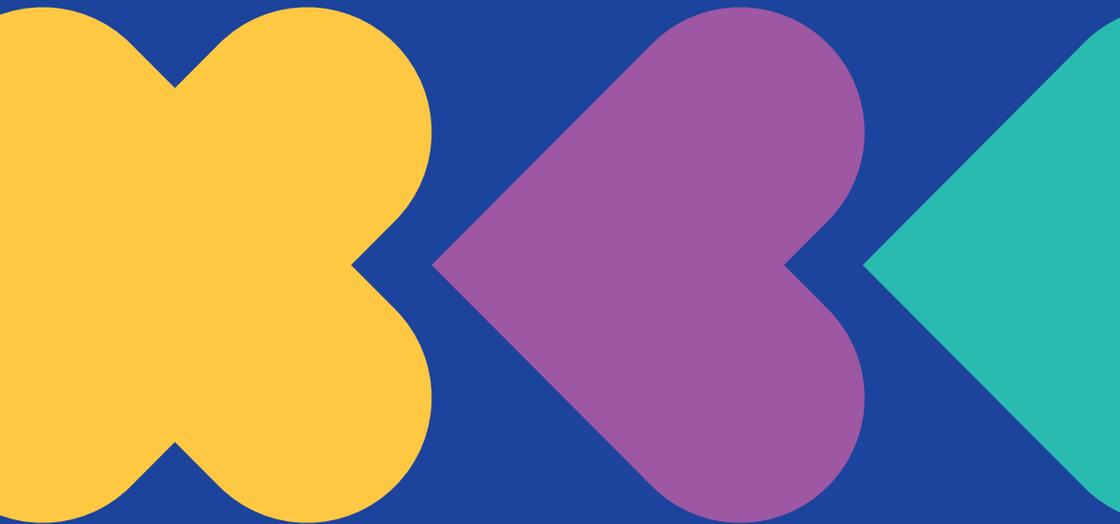
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Dudince

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www.bbregion.sk



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