

report: ersamus+ videoconference 20th December 2020 (Paula Bohl)

- Mostly in a written form via our instagram, because most of us didn't have time to participate in the videoconference •

(family) tradition during christmas:

1. Ioana (Greece):

- baking huge cookies which last until after the new year

2. Thiemuth (Austria):

- "wichteln" ; everyone gives one person a gift and it must be guessed which present belongs to whom (on 26th)

3. Nadja; 4. Vanja (Serbia):

- baking a bread which is called "cesnica":
 - Nadja: putting pieces of corn, little branches of trees and money in it (the filling depends from family to family);
 - before eating it, they spin it and everyone takes a piece that they break off;
 - whatever is found in that piece is what is believed to follow them for that year (little branch = health; corn = the family has food all year; coin = money)
- buying a little oak tree (some families also seeking it themselves), which is called "badnjak" and light it a little on fire so that there are little sparks
- buying no gifts for christmas but for New Year's Eve!

5. Hannah (Austria):

- having cookies after dinner which were baked before (24th)
- playing cards: it's called Jassen and typical in Vorarlberg (every family plays it another way); (24th)
- go skiing with the whole family (25th)

Procedure of christmas celebration:

1. Ioana (Greece):

- meet their extended family and stay with them because they live far away
- playing board games together

2. Thiemuth (Austria):

- celebrating christmas eve together with her grandma or her other grandparents: start eating approximately at 5 o'clock, sing christmas songs and eat cookies
- meeting more relatives (also aunts, uncles and cousins): eating dinner and "wichteln"
- meeting her godfather together with her family and eat, catch up and open the gifts

3. Nadja; 4. Vanja (Serbia):

- celebrating Christmas Eve on 6th January:
 - already mentioned tradition with the oak branches
 - in the evening, parents bring oak branches and straw in house; put it under the table, pour coins and sweets in it and tell kids to pretend they are little chicken and take as many sweets and coins as they can
 - going to the bonfires which are organised by the churches: taking a small oak tree, cross themselves, kiss the tree and put it in fire; priest is praying during that
- celebrating Christmas on 7th January:
 - identify the Native Fast
 - meeting the extended family for lunch; celebrating Christmas for three days

5. Hannah (Austria):

- celebrating Christmas eve together with grandma:
 - having dinner at 4 pm; eating the cookies together
 - playing Jassen
 - singing, also with instruments; unpacking gifts
- 25th:
 - skiing in the morning
 - seeing the relatives

Tradition to New Year's Eve:

1. Ioana (Greece):

- coming back home and spending it separately with friends

2. Thiemuth (Austria):

- no important event; spending it differently each year
- often meeting friends and watching the fireworks at midnight

3. Nadja; 4. Vanja (Serbia):

- mainly unpacking the presents

5. Hannah (Austria):

- also playing cards
- watching fireworks; staying up late
- skiing on the 1st January

