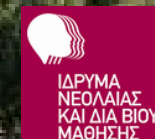
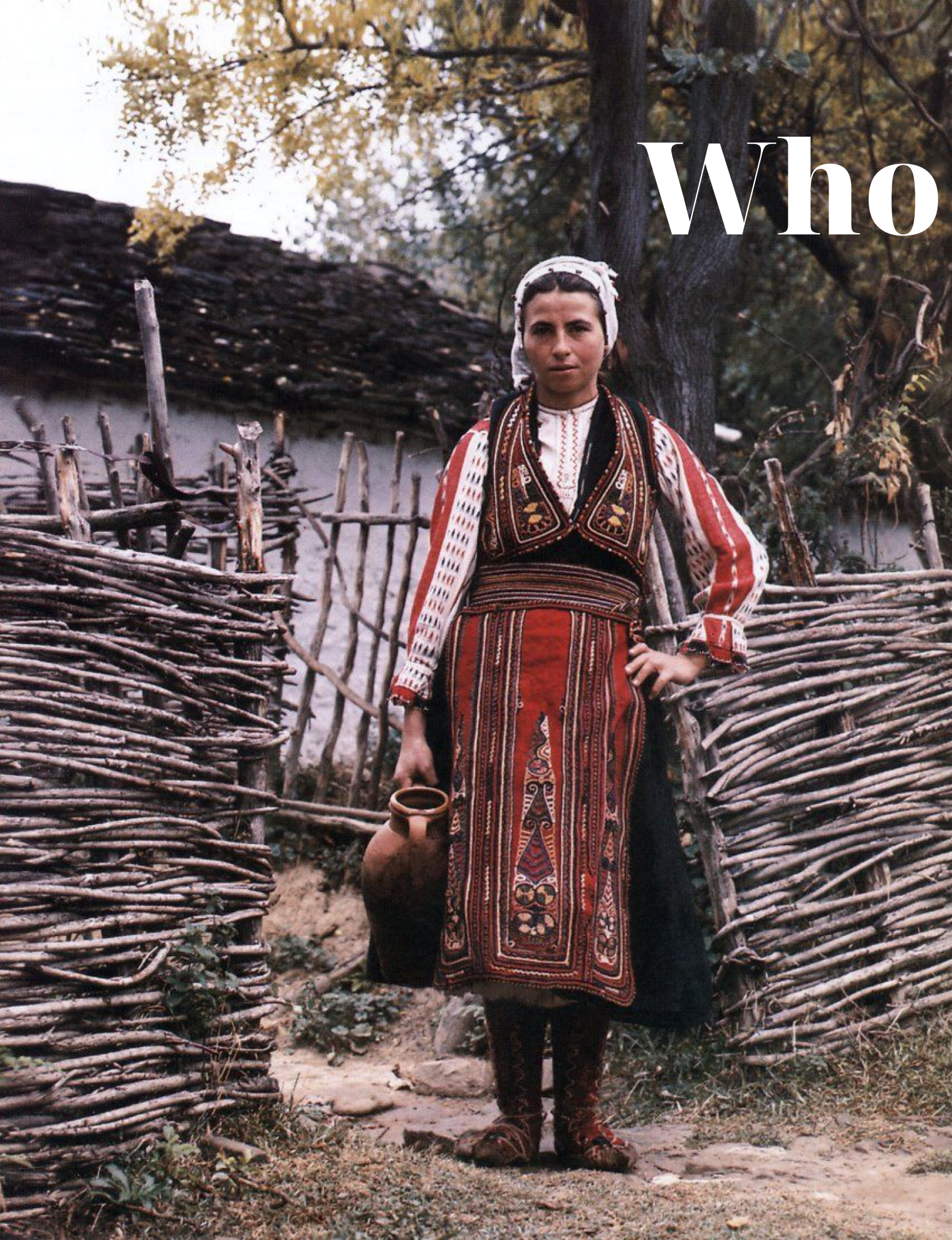


# Who are the Vlachs?



# Who are the Vlachs?



Vlach is a term that covers several modern Latin peoples descending from the Latinised population in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Groups that have historically been called Vlachs include: modern-day Romanians or Daco-Romanians, Aromanians or Macedo-Romanians, Morlachs, Megleno-Romanians and Istro-Romanians. Since the creation of the country of Romania, the term in English has mostly been used for those living outside Romania. We will focus on the Aromanians, who call themselves ARMĂNJI.



# The name: possible ethymologies

- 1- From the verb *βελάζω*: to bleat. Connected to one of the main occupations of Vlachs: being shephards.
- 2- From the word *φελάχος*: farmer. Connected to earth-related occupations of Vlachs.
- 3- From the ethnonym of an ancient Galatian population: *Volcae/ Ουόλκai*.

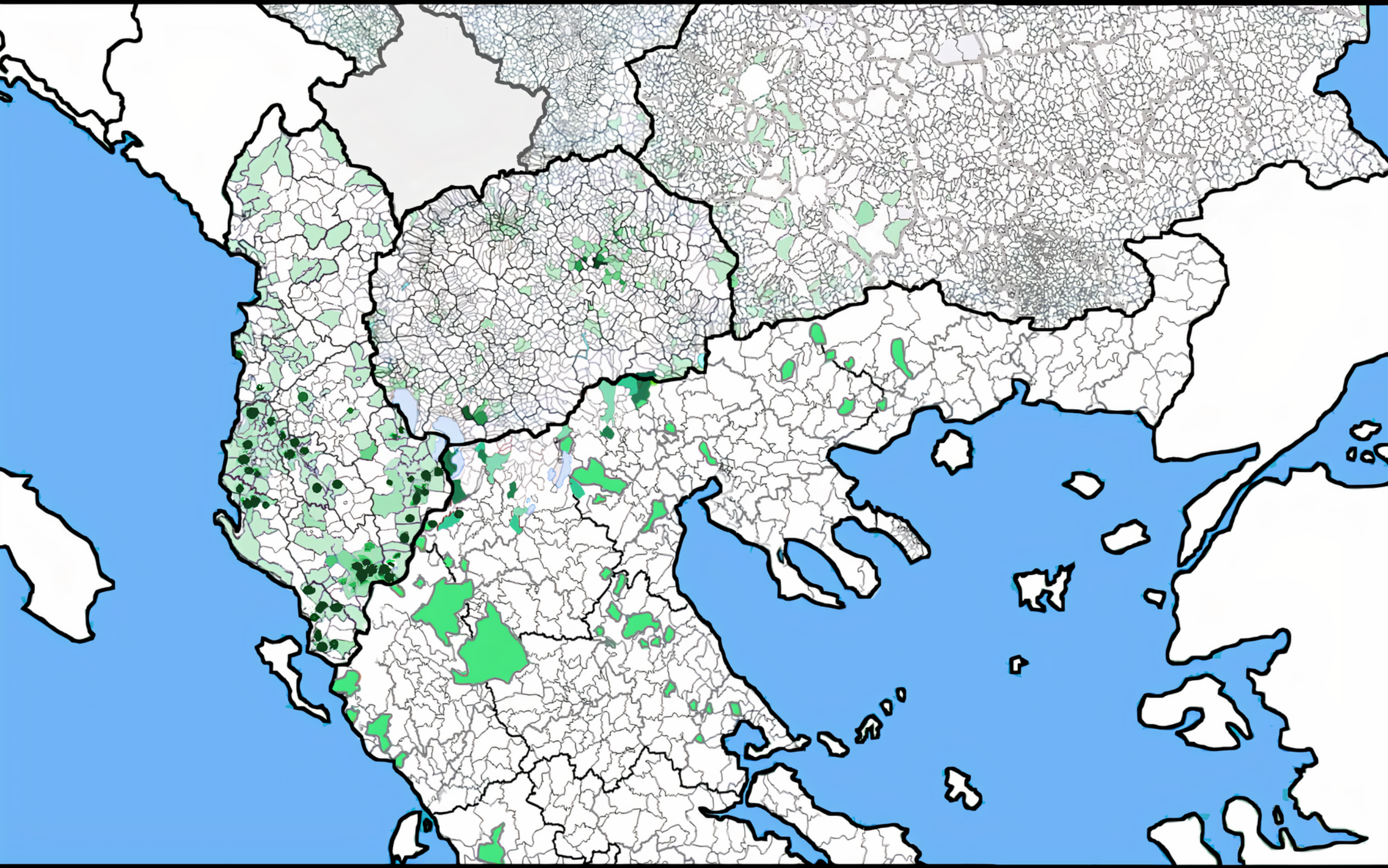
# The origins: different opinions

1- Vlachs are native Greeks who lost their language after that ancient Romans, once conquered Greece, installed Latin garrisons in the areas where the Vlachs lived.

2- Vlachs descend from ancient Roman shepherds and soldiers.

3- Vlachs descend from Dacorumanians, who moved towards South after the emperor Traianus conquered Dacia in 106 AD.





## Vlach population in Balkan countries by settlements

**Percentage of Vlachs in Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia**

**The status of Vlach Language in northern Greece** (source - Usage des langues minoritaires dans les départements de Florina et d'Aridea)

- 100%
- 90-100%
- 80-90%
- 70-80%
- 60-70%
- 50-60%
- 40-50%
- 30-40%
- 20-30%
- 10-20%
- 1-10%
- 0,00..-1%
- 0% (Serbia); no info (Bulgaria)

- Dominant Vlach minority**
- Notable Vlach minority**
- Small Vlach minority**
- Other areas with Aromanian/Meglenite population (Greece)**
- Aromanian majority settlements (Albania); source - Thede Kahl 1999**

**Where are the Vlachs?**



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# Language: τα Βλάχικα

- 1- It's a rare spoken language in the Balkans that derives from Latin.
- 2- UNESCO recognizes the language as "highly endangered": there are still people that speak it as their mother tongue and learned Greek in school.
- 3- It's a spoken language without a written tradition. Attempts to write it resulted in the adoption of Latin alphabet, which was able to adapt to the unique sounds of Βλάχικα.
- 4- For examples of words and poems, listen to the podcast!

# The economical activities

- 1- Many activities are related to the animals: livestock, making food from milk and meat, realizing clothes.
- 2- Another important activity related to animals is the transportation of things, which has been gradually abandoned due to the construction of the railway between Thessaloniki and Vienna in the late 19th century.
- 3- All of these products are also traded in small markets.
- 4- Important characteristic of the Vlach culture is also the Evergetism.



# The religion

The religion of Vlach people has never changed: it's the Orthodox Christianity!

In particular, they venerate the 12 apostles and the prophet Elias, to whom a lot of churches in Vlach towns are dedicated.

# Interviews

I had the great opportunity to meet three Vlachs coming from Kefalovryso, Vovoussa and Veria, and listen to their vision of this community. In the podcast, I will share with you all the information I have collected during the development of the project.

*"The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."*



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