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## "Kitty Gotsas": The Revival of a Pontic Dance Act at Thrylorio Rodopis

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### Abstract

The present study deals with the revival of "Kiti Gotsa", a folk dance event in the community of Thrylorion of Rodopi during the Twelve Days, as well as its cultural management by the local cultural association. Through memorable "rituals", customs and events, the community maintains its collective representations, strengthens cohesion and ensures the continuity of its cultural identity. One of the parameters that contributes to the work of the above practices is dance. The aim of the research was to study all those cultural elements that, along with historical and collective memory, were the components of the dance identity of its subjects. In order to achieve the objectives of the study, the qualitative method of research was used. The collection of the survey data was carried out on the basis of the ethnographic method and comes from primary and secondary sources. In order to analyze the data and draw conclusions, a comparison of the performance of the event was made in two time periods - before and after the operation of the cultural association- through the comparative analysis. The data analysis shows that the dance teacher, who was a catalytic figure in the contemporary presentation of the event, and his presentation in tourist areas intensified the observed changes in its form. Also, in the revived form of the event, there are elements from other regions of Pontus, which did not exist in its traditional performance. Despite all the observed changes, experiential participation in community ritual practices readjusts the community reality by protecting cultural identity and shaping the sustainability and future of the community.

**Keywords:** folk event, customs, dance events, cultural associations, cultural management