

## Short presentation of “**Traditional Wrestling Our Culture**”

This book, which was achieved in 2018 after the European project TRADWOC, organized in the framework of a program for the general promotion of European traditional sport and games. The project brought together several small European federations, but mainly groups from South East Europe (Balkans).

These practices (traditional games in general) are perceived paradoxically like futilities, outside of the culture and therefore don't deserve a lot of attention on behalf of the governmental institutions. Yet, all recent scientific studies show the opposite: traditional sports and games reveal the deepest aspects of the life style of the regional communities.

It is mainly from the 1980s that we can assist in Europe in the emergence of an awareness regarding the disappearance of traditional sports and games, which are often bound to popular local feasts. This interest for local, regional and decentralized activities was accelerated by the intensification of the new exchanges between citizens thanks to the opening of the borders in the European Union.

For attentive observers, these popular festivals are also a way for the inhabitants of a territory, of a region, to show their will to be actors in their own life, rather than to be spectators in the margin of another culture. It is a way to establish an intergenerational solidarity, an important factor of social health. In the increasingly standardized and globalized world of today, where decisions that concern our life are often taken without consulting us.

The wealth contained in the playful, traditional and popular cultures are threatened at the present time, and it has become an imperative to promote, or risk seeing it disappear.

Diversity is the pedestal of the education and the inventiveness of the future generations. To accept the world turning into a standardized society is to accept that the children of the future generations will only have a very restricted vision of a possible world, as if with blinders on.

The two main persons in charge of the project were Guy Jaouen, a researcher in cultural anthropology, also president of the European TSG Association, and Petar Petrov, Ethnologist at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies of Sofia, Bulgaria.