

COMMUNITY KITCHEN in the Old Market Hall

In the Community kitchen, under the baton of Azim Farhadi, new minorities living in Slovakia alternate and present their national meals. Over the two years duration of the project, there have been many communities and nationalities that have each presented their specific gastronomy. The cuisines of the new minorities are gradually becoming an inseparable part of the food markets as well as of Bratislava itself.

Azim Farhadi comes from Afghanistan, but he has lived in Slovakia since December 1997. He has been involved in the sphere of integration for fifteen years and has been able to gather many contacts with representatives of foreign communities living in Slovakia. Together with the passion for cooking, the perfect mix was created to launch the Community Kitchen project. The aim of the project is to present the culture of Bratislava's minorities through their gastronomy. Representatives of these minorities also have the opportunity to present themselves, to come to in contact with the inhabitants of Bratislava outside their own community. The community kitchen creates space for both-ways enriching relationships, wiping out differences and integrating minorities with the majority.

Community Kitchen runs on a regular basis, taking place every Saturday at the food markets (Trh-Piac-Markt) in the Old Market Hall (Stará tržnica) in Bratislava. The market takes place every Saturday (excluding Easter and Christmas holidays) from 09:00 to 15:00. The Community Kitchen is a stable part of it, and in two years of its existence, it has gained a steady clientele among market visitors while still attracting new ones. Its popularity can also be proofed by the fact that meals are regularly sold out in the afternoon.

Representatives of the following countries have already presented their gastronomy in Community Kitchen: Mexico, Kenya, Libya, China, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Palestine, and others.

The ambition of the Community Kitchen is to continue to connect, integrate and encourage intercultural dialogue. As it is said, love goes through the stomach and we believe that good food can connect and create new bonds that are enriching for all parties.

Community Kitchen was created as a project by the Alliance Stará tržnica, which invited Azim Farhadi to cooperate on the project. Azim is the face of the project and is also its main coordinator. He communicates with the community representatives and invites them to cook, on some days he himself becomes the chef and presents Afghan cuisine. Alliance Stará tržnica provides space for the project during the Saturday food markets, provided kitchen equipment, and finances for the project and at the same time takes care of the communication of the project externally.