

May 1<sup>st</sup>



**Os Maïos (from Maio  
galican May)**

The 1st of May is received in some places in Galicia with a very old tradition. Before the sunset in the previous evening, some yellow flowers called

“xestas” are cut and put on the gates of houses, on cars and on every place we don’t want witches to come in.

In former times necklaces used to be made out of these flowers.



## *SPAIN*

### **Day of the Workers/ Saint Joseph Worker**

## *CZECH REPUBLIC*

### **Labour Day**

The Czech Republic, like most countries, celebrates Labor Day on the first of May. The origins of this holiday are based on a significant event from America’s labor movement history. The Knights of Labor and other labor unions went on strike in Chicago on May 1, 1886 in an attempt to shorten the workday to eight hours. Clashes between strikers and the police resulted in the Haymarket Massacre on May 4, 1886. By 1889, the International Working Men’s Organization, The First International, had declared the first day of strikes, May 1, an international working class holiday in commemoration of the Massacre. Unfortunately, Czech citizens were required to celebrate the holiday during the communist era; therefore after 1989 they usually observe this holiday quietly with family.

## *GREECE*

### **Labor Day**

It is called “Protomayia” and it is a urban holiday when people traditionally go to the countryside for picnic and pick great bunches of flowers.

It marks the Feast of the Flowers, a springtime appreciation of flowers which is a celebration with very ancient "roots" in festivals of the goddess Demeter. People traditionally go to the countryside for picnic and to pick flowers.

It 's also a day of national labour strike where large demonstrations are organized. On the island of Kalymnos the traditional departure of the sponge divers is organised with a special church service.



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## LITHUANIA

### LABOUR'S DAY AND LITHUANIA'S JOIN TO THE EU



**International Labour Day** origins go back to 1886. This festival had been celebrated in Lithuania during Soviet times and, therefore, when Lithuania regained its independence in 1990, celebrations were avoided to celebrate. Nowadays during the festival of the International Labour good workers are honored and attention to workers' rights are drawn in order to help unemployed people to overcome poverty, to have workers' safety and health.

**On 1st May, 2004** Lithuania joined the European Union. The European Union is the European Union of the countries which seek to maintain peace and prosperity. The Member States have set up common institutions to which they delegate some of their sovereignty so that all parties to the issues of concern to be addressed together democratically. An idea of European integration was first raised by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, in 1950. The first European Union of six countries was created in 1951, when the contract was signed on the merger. The first Union countries were Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, France, and Germany. Europe lives in many different nations, speaking different languages, complying with different values. European Union defends the values of all peoples, protect their distinctiveness and encourages cooperation.

## ITALY

### **Worker's day**

The first May day celebration in Italy took place in 1890. It started initially as an attempt to celebrate workers' achievements in their struggle for their rights and for better social and economic conditions. It was abolished under the Fascist Regime and immediately restored after the Second World War. (During the fascist period, a "Holiday of the Italian labour" (*Festa del lavoro italiano*) was celebrated on the 21st of April, the date of *Natale di Roma*, when ancient Rome was allegedly born.)



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Now, May Day is a very important celebration in Italy. Very popular is the *Concerto del Primo Maggio* ("1 May's Concert"), organized by Italian Labour Unions in Rome in Piazza San Giovanni. It is attended by more than 300,000 people every year, and involves participation of many famous bands and songwriters. The concert is usually broadcasted live by Rai Tre.



## *BULGARIA*

Labor Day

## *ESTONIA*

Spring Day

