



AER Summer Academy in Vojvodina

Ana Tomanova Mkanova

Vice-president of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina and Chairwoman of the Vojvodina Summer Academy Organising Committee

"During the meeting of the AER Committee 3 in Ukraine (Dnipropetrovsk) in April last year, it was clear that the Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina had best practice regarding the protection of the rights of minorities in Serbia. I held a short lecture on the topic of National Minority Councils in Serbia and the participants, who were high representatives of different regions, expressed their interest in the topic and posed a number of questions concerning our legislation. Given that Vojvodina is the best example of good practice for protecting the rights of national minorities, we were nominated to host the following AER Summer Academy, in addition to some other regions. However, in August 2013, in Sweden (Nykoping), we won the nomination and became the host of the 2014 AER Summer Academy. From that moment on until August 2014, we had great cooperation with and support from the AER and member regions of the AER Summer Academy Organising Committee (AER SAOC).

The AER Summer Academy is an event organized and financially supported by the AER and hosted by a different region each year, and the topic is determined by the AER SAOC and the host region. After carefully examining all options, the Assembly and Provincial Government of AP Vojvodina, together with AER SAOC adopted the title for the SA in Vojvodina, as well as its goals. The title of the AER SA2014 in Vojvodina was "Multicultural, Multiethnic and Multilingual regions – Regional diversity for socio-economic growth". The main goals were to share our – Vojvodina – knowledge



and experience of centuries-long intercultural and interethnic dialogue, to show the coexistence in practice and to illustrate that Vojvodina today is made up of 26 ethnic groups living peacefully together and using 6 official languages, showing that diversity is a strength which needs to be used to its fullest potential. "Vojvodina is more than just a symbol of coexistence: it is a historic icon of unity in the world – it's a 'small scale Europe'", said Mr. Pásztor at the opening. The locations were carefully planned because we wanted to demonstrate how people of different ethnic origin live in Vojvodina. Thus, we chose Sremski Karlovci to illustrate the rights of the Serbian majority, Kovačica as the symbol of the Slovakian minority, Subotica as the best example of the life of the Hungarian and Croat minority, the village of Belo Blato as the place where 7 national communities have been living together for centuries and speak lingua franca and, of course, Belgrade as the capital of Serbia.

More than 140 participants from 37 regions of 20 countries gathered at this year's AER Summer Academy from 17 to 22 August 2014. The participants were comprised of presidents and vice-presidents of regions, members of regional parliaments, regional civil servants and young people working or volunteering at regional institutions in Europe. The lecturers were from different European universities and institutions.

Vojvodina has been an active member of the AER since 2002, and until today it has organised 7 events together with the AER, including two peer-reviews and a report on regionalism. This Summer Academy has been the biggest international gathering in AP Vojvodina this year. The Assembly of AP Vojvodina plans to organise a training academy on renewable energy in Vojvodina next year, and I am a member of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group for the entire AER, nominated by the AER General Assembly, which shows that Vojvodina has a significant role in this interregional organisation."



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Cooperation between the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the State of Baden-Württemberg in the light of the signed Joint Statement of Intent

István Pásztor

President of the Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

“A long-lasting intensive and comprehensive cooperation between the Assembly of Autonomous Province (AP) of Vojvodina and the Parliament of the State of Baden-Württemberg was institutionalized in Stuttgart on 25th June 2014 by signing the Joint Statement of Intent. It was a great pleasure for my colleague Guido Wolf, President of the Parliament of the State of Baden-Württemberg, and me, President of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, to sign our names below the sentences that transform real-life matters into a formal statement, aware that democracy is preserved by form and procedures, and that democracy is always and nothing but freedom embedded in laws and procedures.

What is the essence of the Joint Statement of Intent? Behind the formulations that concisely list areas of cooperation: education, culture, sports, environmental protection; administrative capacity building and cooperation enhancement at local level; economic and social network development, experience exchange between small and medium-sized enterprises, and particularly, enhancement of intensive parliamentary cooperation regarding the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR): that is, the listed formulations clearly and unambiguously unveil the needs of safe, secure and dignified citizens.

All listed areas of cooperation are aimed at improving the quality of our citizens' lives. That is why, after a decade of thorough preparation, the Joint Statement of Intent allows the cooperation between the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and the State of Baden-Württemberg to develop into a reliable concept: a concept of cooperation based on solidarity, which has been and will be developed by joint efforts on real-life projects in the years to come. Those will be projects that will contribute to the improvement of citizens' safety, security and mobility, not only in our



two regions, but primarily in the broader Danube region and Southeastern Europe.

I certainly perceive the Joint Statement of Intent as an important part of our intensive cooperation within the EUSDR framework. I see the funds supporting the EUSDR as an important source for the implementation of projects that will contribute to a greater mobility and infrastructure network in AP Vojvodina, Republic of Serbia, for example the construction of the Szeged-Röszke-Horgoš-Subotica-Csikéria-Bácsalmás-Baja railway. Faced with the grave consequences of the floods in May, I believe that it would especially be important to establish a center that would be active in the Danube region and that would be aimed at the development of a flood early warning system.

A solidarity Danube identity essentially means different dimensions of cooperation: in policy, economy, security, culture, peacekeeping, and last but not least, intensive parliamentary cooperation in the Danube region.

At the same time on 25th June, it was agreed that the Committee on European Affairs of the Parliament of Baden-Württemberg would visit the Committee on European Integration and Interregional Cooperation of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina on 29th September. The successful and comprehensive cooperation of reliable partners has been continuing.”

Enhancement of regional cooperation with Germany

Bojan Pajtić SJD

President of the Provincial Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina

Prof. Bojan Pajtić SJD, President of the Provincial Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, and Johannes Schmalzl, Stuttgart District President, German state of Baden-Württemberg, signed a Joint Statement of Intent for cooperation between Stuttgart and Vojvodina on 5th July 2014. The signed document will allow to enhance and expand the cooperation between the two regions, especially in the fields of education, agriculture, partnership of local authorities and administration.

Upon signing the agreement, Prof. Bojan Pajtić SJD, President of the Provincial Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina said: "Stuttgart is Germany's strongest economic region and it is important for us, as a poverty-stricken society, to cooperate with the most successful ones. Signing the agreement on cooperation has created preconditions for Stuttgart's assistance in the attraction of foreign investment, exchange of know-how and technology in agriculture, involving not only the exchange of technological achievements, but of scientists, students and pupils as well". He added that the cooperation should contribute to the creation of conditions for the export of domestic farmers' produce to the German market, especially in relation to crop and vegetable farming.

President Pajtić also indicated that the representatives of the State of Baden-Württemberg and Stuttgart District expressed their readiness to offer Vojvodina additional support in the recovery of the consequences of floods. "We have already received help from our friends from Baden-Württemberg and Stuttgart during the floods, when the situation was the most difficult,



and we will not forget their friendship and support", said President Pajtić.

Johannes Schmalzl, Stuttgart District President, expressed his satisfaction with the intensification of cooperation between Vojvodina and Stuttgart, emphasising it was important for the Republic of Serbia, on its path to EU accession, to enhance regional cooperation, primarily in education and agriculture.

Germany is one of Serbia's major economic partners and after the Russian Federation, it is the second most important partner in terms of the total scope of trade exchange in goods. According to investment amount in Vojvodina, Germany tops the list with a total investment of EUR 878 million in 54 projects, employing 8.534 people in 29 companies. The major German investors in Vojvodina are: STADA, HENKEL, PHIWA, FRESENIUS, METRO C&C, LINDE GAS, SIEMENS, THYSSENKRUPP, NORMA. The tops sectors according to investments have been medicine – pharmaceutical industry, automotive industry – machine and metal, construction and trade.

Vojvodina and Umbria signed an agreement on enhancement of regional cooperation



The Province of Vojvodina and the Italian region of Umbria have signed an agreement to enhance cooperation in the field of economy, agriculture, education, science and culture. During a two-day visit of the Vojvodina delegation to Umbria, the agreement was signed by Bojan Pajtić, President of the Provincial Government and Carla Casciari, Vice President of Umbria Region. Branislav Bugarski, Provincial Secretary for Interregional Cooperation and Local Self-Government also attended the signing of the agreement.

The document, confirming previous successful cooperation and defining the

direction of future cooperation between the two partner regions, entered into force during the Italian presidency of the Council of the European Union from July to December 2014, when the relations with Italian regions were to be intensified and priorities for regional cooperation in Europe defined.

Upon signing the agreement, Bojan Pajtić, President of the Provincial Government emphasised that the cooperation with Italy was most important since Italy had provided great support to the accession of Serbia into the EU membership. "The agreement with Umbria, which is an important Italian partner region for us, defines a range of forms of cooperation, among which priority is given to cooperation in foreign investment attraction", said President Pajtić and added that Vojvodina would put efforts into investment attraction and joint participation in fairs with its strategic Italian partners, especially Umbria, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Emilia Romagna and Marche.

Italy is the second largest economic partner of the Republic of Serbia, and Italian investments in Vojvodina are worth over half a billion euros. Last year the total scope of trade exchange in goods between Vojvodina and Italy amounted to approximately a billion dollars. Faza, a leading Italian company in agricultural machinery production, has already opened production capacities in Sombor. In addition, cooperation has been established between the City of Sombor and Città di Castello, which have specified priorities for cooperation in the following areas: agriculture, food industry, education, culture, tourism and waterways management.

Sremski Karlovci – one of the most beautiful and significant cities of Vojvodina



“Sremski Karlovci is certainly a city that in many aspects differs from other Serbian municipalities and is Serbia’s ambassador to the world.”

Milenko Filipović, Mayor

Sremski Karlovci was first mentioned in historical documents in 1308 with the name *Karom*, and since 1567 with its current name. Sremski Karlovci is an educational and cultural centre situated in the northern part of Srem, on the right bank of the Danube, at the foot of Fruška Gora, at an altitude of 80 meters.

Sremski Karlovci lies on the slopes of Fruška gora. The soil consisting of different types is of high quality and suitable for viticulture and fruit growing.

For several centuries Sremski Karlovci has been considered Serbia’s capital of wine. The vineyards are on the steep slopes of Fruška Gora and the Danube has a favourable impact on them. Because of the suitable geographical location, vicinity of the Danube, microclimate and reflection of the sunlight from the river surface, grape ripens here earlier and has between 1% and 2% more sugar in comparison with other wine regions in our country. The air flow in the winter has a positive impact on the vine, because it prevents freezing.

Emphasis is placed on the promotion of high-quality local wines. One of the main goals, which gathered the winemakers of this region, is the protection of geographic origin and name of a special dessert wine “Bermet”, as a traditional product of Fruška Gora.

Sremski Karlovci is a town offering a range of cultural and historic attractions. The most popular among them are:

Patriarch Court – the most monumental edifice of 19th century in Vojvodina, today the residence of the Bishop of Srem; **Karlovci Grammar School** – the oldest Serbian grammar school, established in 1791 and named after the poet Branko Radičević who was its pupil; **Fountain “Four Lions”** – built in 1799, in honour of finishing the first public system of water in Sremski Karlovci; **Orthodox Cathedral** – baroque church build in 1762 and dedicated to St. Nikola; **Chapel of Peace** – built in 1817 on the site where the famous Treaty of Karlowitz had been signed between the countries of the Christian Alliance and Turkey in 1699; **Roman Catholic Church** – dedicated to the Holy Trinity and build in 1768; **Town Hall** – a monumental two-storey edifice dating from the beginning of 19th century.

NATURAL RESOURCES OF SREMSKI KARLOVCI

Sremski Karlovci is a real treasury of natural resources, especially protected natural areas covering 1484 ha.

The complex of the Royal Garden is situated in the town, 500 m away from the centre. It is one of the oldest botanical gardens in the country. It consists of two levels: sports and recreational facilities are

situated in the upper level and the walking lanes in the lower one.

Stražilovo is a picnic ground within the National Park “Fruška Gora”, situated 5 km away from Sremski Karlovci, Stražilovo is also the site of Branko Radičević’s tomb, built in 1885, two years after his remains had been moved from Vienna.

Marshes of Kovilj and Petrovaradin is a special nature reserve under the state protection, which is characterised by attractive landscape and significant biodiversity. The greatest values of this wetlands are the excellent state of preservation and diversity of genuine relief and hydrographic features; the state of preservation and variety of green areas; diversity of fauna, especially the presence of rare species.

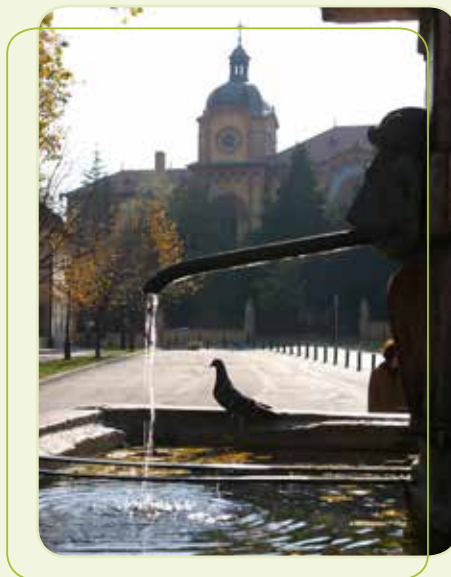
Because of its exceptional natural values, in 1989 “Marshes of Kovilj and Petrovaradin” was declared the bird habitat of international importance (IBA). In 2004, it was proclaimed a protected area dependant on water and significant for the Danube basin (ICPDR) and it also on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

MANIFESTATIONS IN SREMSKI KARLOVCI

- The event **“Christmas Celebration in Karlovci”** celebrates Christmas, the greatest Christian holiday in Sremski Karlovci.
- **“Art Colony of Watercolours and Drawings in Sremski Karlovci”** – exhibition of the artistic works followed with the promotion of books and other cultural events held at the end of May and the beginning of June. The organizer is the Cultural Centre “Karlovci Art Workshop”.



- *“The Market at the Four Lions”* – held on Saturdays, during the spring and autumn tourist season.
- *“Karlovci Karate Cup”* – sport competition held at the beginning of June.
- *“Kuglof Festival”* – traditional manifestation with the emphasis on a competition in making Kuglofs held the last weekend in June.
- *“In the Memory of Kornelije”* – religious choir singing, workshops and concerts held at the end of July and beginning of August.
- *“Summer Educational Camp in Sremski Karlovci”* – camps for talented children and youth organized in cooperation with Mensa Serbia – department for the gifted, held at the end of July and beginning of August.
- *“Festival of the National Cake”* – the first weekend in September; the main aim is familiarizing with the tradition of different national communities that live in Vojvodina.
- *“Branko’s Wreath”* – a poetical manifestation held at the beginning of September.
- *“Danube Art Colony, Oil Session”* – exhibition of art works (oil paintings) held at the end of September and beginning of October.
- *Film festival “Vigil of Soul”* – presentation of the films from the fields of history, culture, art and spirituality held in October.
- *“Karlovci Grape Picking”* – held the last weekend in September. The main aim of this event is nourishing of the cultural and spiritual tradition of the town, improvement of tourism, and, above all, an incentive to the wine makers to persist in wine production and, thus, to continue the rich tradition of their ancestors. The festival mostly takes place in the centre of Sremski Karlovci and approximately 100,000 people visit the town during the manifestation.



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Aware of its cultural and historic potentials and opportunities for rapid economic growth, the municipality of Sremski Karlovci, led by the Mayor, Milenko Filipović, has decided to focus the resources on the development of congress tourism.

Bearing in mind the fact that the municipality is situated between the two largest cities in the Republic of Serbia (Novi Sad – 9 km and Belgrade – 65 km), that it has access to the Danube, that it lies on the main road m22 and that within its territory it has access to the National Park “Fruška Gora”, the municipality of Sremski Karlovci, led by the Mayor, Milenko Filipović has put a lot of efforts in the production of all necessary documents, development strategies and simplification of procedures related to investments in this local authority. All the processes have contributed to a number of successfully implemented investments, through partnerships, on the territory of this beautiful town.

Guided by previous experience, Sremski Karlovci may offer to investors the following:

- Human resources:

1. Database of graduated students (approximately 700 students and highly educated citizens) which makes it one of the municipalities with highest level of education because of a large number of educational institutions – University, Faculty of Management, Linguistic Secondary School, Seminary and Higher School of Professional Studies
2. Employment – 77% employed, 23% unemployed (863 people)
3. Good transport connections with all business centres
4. Average monthly pay – €290 net, €400 gross (according to official data from republic institutions)
5. The municipality has everything that is necessary for a comfortable life – new kindergarten, primary school, health centre, grammar school of national importance, university, healthy environment and clean air, basic infrastructure (telephone, gas, internet...), peace and culture of living.

- Identified thematic areas for investment:



1. The complex of hotels and other functional facilities for tourist accommodation and visit – “Stražilovo”
 2. The complex dedicated to the town centre facilities
 3. Business areas and facilities of the general city centre
 4. The site of “Kalište” – town port
 5. Facilities for sports and recreation
- The complete documentation necessary for the commencement of investment negotiation process
 - Simplified procedures
 - Efficient and professional municipal administration

Successful implementation of “SAFE” Project under Hungary–Serbia IPA CBC Programme

Slobodan Puzović PhD

Provincial Secretary for Urbanism,
Construction and Environmental Protection



Given that one of the most important priorities of the EU is environmental protection aimed at the protection of people's and animals' health, the Provincial Secretariat for Urbanism, Construction and Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the European Affairs Fund of AP Vojvodina, City of Sombor and Local Government of Baja implemented the project “Support to Allergen-Free Environment- SAFE”, Project ID: HUSRB/1002/122/195, under the Hungary–Serbia IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme. The project involved the monitoring and reduction of the negative impacts and spread of allergy-causing plants, focusing on common ragweed (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), as well as education and awareness raising of target groups about its negative effects and measures for suppression. The project has been listed among the eight projects as examples of best practice under the Hungary–Serbia IPA CBC Programme 2007–2013. The overall objective of the project was the improvement of the living conditions in the border regions (AP Vojvodina and the Bács-Kiskun County) by preventing further spread of allergen plants. The total value of the project was EUR 390,349.90 and its implementation lasted from 1st October 2011 to 30th September 2013.

The project had several results. In order to eradicate ambrosia, necessary equipment was procured and ragweed was treated mechanically and chemically on over 7.1 km². Six measuring units were purchased to measure the pollen in the air. The collected data was stored in the database, developed along with a software solution for monitoring the pollen count at 6 locations, and published on the multi-language dynamic project website, so that allergy traffic lights became visible to the general public.

After the project, the count of ambrosia pollen in the border region was lowered, especially in Sombor, where it decreased by more than 50% in August 2013 in comparison to the values before the project start. As a part of the awareness raising and educational activities, four seminars for agriculturalists, four for doctors and one for communal inspectors were organised, as well as art and literary competitions for primary and secondary school pupils. For that purpose, multilingual guides for doctors, brochures for agriculturalist and leaflets for pupils and the public were printed and distributed. All project activities were given media coverage. The project aimed at providing equal opportunities to both gender and different nationalities, as well as promoting sustainable development in a healthy allergen-free environment. To provide for project sustainability, the Provincial Secretariat has continued with the activities of eradicating ragweed and measuring pollen concentration of allergy-causing plants in 2014.



Hungary-Serbia

IPA Cross-border Co-operation Programme

Hungary–Serbia IPA CBC Programme

Kovács Imre

Programme Manager, Department for International Affairs
Prime Minister's Office, Hungarian Government

The success of the Hungary–Serbia IPA CBC Programme implementation can be proved by the number of successful projects: all together 200 projects have been implemented with the contribution of the Programme. Another important figure is the number of submitted applications (649 in the three Calls for proposals), showing high interest among the organizations being potential applicants. The cross-border activities contain a strong economic and social dimension, leading to sustainable development and growth. The significance of cultural and natural resources is seen as the main leverage for the development of the cross-border area. The Programme highly contributed to the improvement of cross-border cooperation with partnership building, networking, with joint planning and implementation of projects, resulting in smoother and stronger professional relations.

In the frame of the on-going evaluation of the Programme identification of high-quality projects has been done according to the quality assessment scores, performance of project activities, relevance of activities, level of sustainability and the main results achieved. Beside other 7 selected “best practice” projects, the project “Support to Allergen-Free

Environment” (HUSRB/1002/122/195) implemented in the framework of 2nd Call for Proposals of the Hungary – Serbia IPA CBC Programme 2007 – 2013, performed outstandingly in the above mentioned areas.

In details this project has a significant potential for replication, as similar actions can be organized encompassing new border municipalities/target groups, etc. Thus environmental protection and development can be stimulated, extended and expanded. The project allowed establishment of institutional relations, which serve as a stepping stone for the creation of an institutional network. The machinery and measuring stations purchased in the project remain in the ownership of project partners, who will make use of them and be responsible for their maintenance. The database developed ensures the project's sustainability. The project brought together actors from both sides of the border to combat an important common issue which tackles everyday life of a significant number of people both in Hungary and Serbia. Simple and clear results were achieved in removal of ambrosia, data management and education/awareness raising, which have benefits for the end beneficiaries, i.e. entire population of the targeted area. Sustainability of results is enabled by the comprehensive partnership.

The Municipalities of Sombor and Baja were included as the most seriously affected areas; the Provincial Secretariat for Urbanism, Construction and Environmental Protection and European Affairs Fund of AP Vojvodina enabled the implementation of the activities in other municipalities and awareness raising throughout the Province of Vojvodina.

Agency for Balanced Regional Development of AP Vojvodina

Valentina Ivanić PhD
Director

The Agency for Regional Development of the AP Vojvodina (hereinafter Agency) took over all the activities and role of the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies "Vojvodina-CESS" (hereinafter CESS), which was established in 2004 by the Government of the AP Vojvodina.

The establishment of CESS, as a precursor of the Agency, coincided with the appearance of the first cross-border cooperation programmes, and thereby, opportunities for applicants in the AP Vojvodina to apply for EU funding. The impact of the Agency as a regional research institute becomes obvious against the background of ongoing European integration, in conjunction with the growing importance of regions.

The relations established by the Agency in the framework of the project with the Vienna based institutes, WIIW and HIS, have a long lasting impact beyond the actual cooperation. This cooperation has been of vital importance for the Agency, it has helped the Agency to develop its skills in line with augmenting requirements, through the development of different methodological tools, with aim of employing the tools independently by the Agency.

The Provincial Government of the AP Vojvodina has policy instruments that have short-term, as well as medium- and long-term effects. In order to make the proper choice of instruments, ends and means, aims and resources, targets and instruments should be aligned in order to ensure that the actual effects are those that were desired and that the latter ones are in fact feasible. That leads to the need to have an institution that will meet the need and supply the policy-makers with strategic studies and business-related research.

The Agency translates profound theoretical knowledge into high-quality applied research. By providing high-quality economic and social research output, the Agency helps policy-makers, regional government entities, local municipalities, business and academic leaders in Vojvodina to design policies and strategies for sustained economic growth and job creation and to respond quickly to the changing economic and social environment in a globalized world.

The range of tasks covered in applied research at the Agency is very broad and extends from economic, social and political analyses to sophisticat-



ed evaluations and feasibility studies. Areas of competence and product portfolio consist of the following activities: economic forecasts, trade analysis, FDI location attractiveness, monitoring of regional economic and social development, analysis of regional labour market. Economic Mirror is a monthly publication that monitors all relevant macroeconomic indicators for the Republic of Serbia and the AP Vojvodina; Economic Forecast for Serbia, Strategy for Export Improvement of the AP Vojvodina 2011-2015; Strategy for Development of Business Incubators in the AP Vojvodina in the period from 2011 to 2015; Competitiveness of Economy of AP Vojvodina. All the studies are available at Agency's website: www.vojvodina-rra.rs.

The Agency is an outlet for high-skilled graduates of the University of Novi Sad, who want to establish themselves in applied economic research, while keeping open the option of a scientific career. The profiles needed by the Agency are still not being delivered by the University of Novi Sad, so the Agency has to instruct the graduates additionally in the fields that are more important for its work. Researcher training is a kind of bypass and quick generation of profiles needed in the capacity-building process.

Record edition of the best major European Festival

Over 260 000 adventurers enjoyed the great summer EXIT Adventure and over 140,000 Euros raised for Flood Relief Aid

Dušan Kovačević

EXIT's Strategic Director

As the last acts on Sea Dance festival stages came to a close, the great EXIT Adventure finally came to an end. A record number of adventurers answered the call to join the summer adventure spanning 8 days in 2 different countries – over 260.000 of them partied at EXIT (10-13th July 2014), Sea Dance (15-17th July 2014), and Rock@EXIT (11th June 2014). The bar has been raised yet again, and now EXIT has an even harder task of doing one better next year.

EXIT is a summer music festival held every July for four days at the Petrovaradin Fortress in Novi Sad, Serbia. EXIT's key stages are the Main Stage, Dance Arena, Fusion, Explosive, Reggae Stage, accompanied by various smaller ones. The Exit festival was founded in 2000, as a student movement, fighting for freedom and democracy in Serbia.

THE BEST EUROPEAN FESTIVAL!

Exit won the "Best Major European Festival Award" on European Festival Awards 2013 with the help of 620 000 votes all over the world, all the while facing stiff competition from over 300 festivals in 34 countries; it won the "Best European Festival" award at the UK Festival Awards in 2007, and was ranked one of the 10 best major festivals at European Festival Awards 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 and one of the 10 Best Overseas Festival at UK Festival Awards 2013.

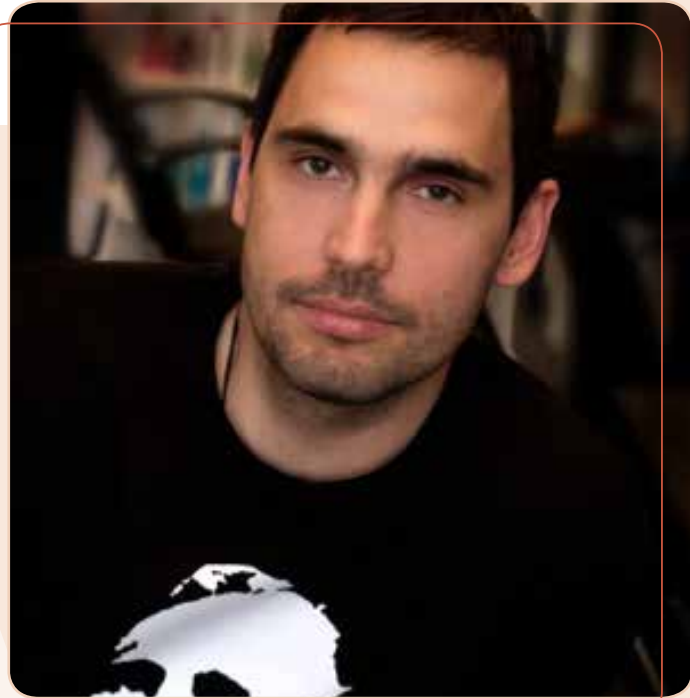
More than 2.5 million people from over 60 countries around the world have visited the festival so far. Known for its incredible atmosphere, and one of the best Dance Arenas in the world and unique location, it offers visitors the most exciting, versatile summer adventure. During 4 days there are from 150 to 200 000 visitors, of which there are at least 40-50% international visitors.

OVER 140,000 EUROS RAISED FOR FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

The grand finale of EXIT Adventure was Sea Dance festival in Montenegro at the beautiful Adriatic coast. Jamiroquai, Example and Underworld headlined the Main Stage with visitors dancing till sunrise on the stunning Jaz beach with a host of other stages serving up a variety of different music with something for everyone.

In addition to Sea Dance Festival, EXIT stayed true to its roots and helped to raise money for the flood victims in the Balkans, which saw the worst floods in more than a century and a state of emergency was declared in 14 municipalities. Numerous cities and villages were lost, dozens of people lost their lives, and over one million of people were evacuated.

The "BE HUMAN" was hosted by Jamiroquai and Example and was part of the EXIT foundation's EXIT AID programme, which aimed to raise mon-



ey for the flood relief efforts in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia. BE HUMAN was held in collaboration with the Municipality of Budva and Dukley Gardens, and supported by the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Government of Montenegro, Budva Tourism organization and Hipotekarna Bank. Taking place in the luxurious Dukley Gardens complex, Jamiroquai and Example performed a special DJ set which helped raise over 140.000 Euros and 80,000 Euros in goods for flood relief efforts. More info here: <http://www.exitfest.org/en/exitaid>

Dušan Kovačević, founder and director of the EXIT festival, spoke at the charity gathering: "I'm pleased to see the EXIT Adventure end with a charity event, the goal of which is to help those who were affected by the catastrophic floods that hit the region a month and a half ago. Social betterment is at the heart of EXIT Festival, so we're glad that we're able to say goodbye to this year's adventure this way, and we'll definitely see you all next year!"

Thanks to everyone who helped make EXIT Adventure a success and we hope to see you in 2015. More info on next year's event will be announced soon.

EXIT. Where hedonism meets activism.

www.exitfest.org

