

**YM Newsletter**

**Rovinj-Rovigno, 2nd August 2023**

**Douzelage General Meeting in Rovinj-Rovigno**

**September 28th - October 1st 2023**

**- YOUTH MEETING -**

Dear participants to the Youth Meeting,

The date of the General Meeting in Rovinj-Rovigno is approaching. Several newsletters have been sent to your municipalities regarding all the organisational details. With this YM Newsletter we would like to share with you the programme of our gathering in Rovinj-Rovigno and give you indications regarding the preparatory work you need to do in order to get the utmost of it.

**1. Requested preparatory work**

The topic of our meeting is the historical and cultural heritage of our beautiful towns, the way we preserve it, how we pass over the knowledge and thus the respect for it to the new generations and the new inhabitants of our towns. We, the representatives of the Youth are crucial for preserving the identity of our towns and even if it might not be one of our priorities right now, we are called to be the guardians of our heritage, our culture, our tradition and our identity in the future.

The beautiful historic buildings, sites and parks make life in our towns more comfortable. The tradition that we learned from our families or in school, give us a sense of belonging. So, please prepare a short paperwork where you will describe what does the historic and cultural heritage of your town represents for you? Are you acquainted with it? Is it important for you? Is it cherished enough by the municipalities and/or educational institutions or could it be done more? What would you do in order to make the heritage and the traditions of your town interesting for the youngsters?

These papers will represent the starting point for a round table we’ve planned in our programme, where we will discuss all together about it. And we will try to answer the question does a common European culture/heritage/identity exists?

Please do send the papers by the **30th of August** at the following e-mail address: maria.crnac.rocco@rovinj-rovigno.hr , so that we can prepare everything for you on time.

**2. Programme**

Thursday, 28.9.2023:

Arrival of the participants

Transfers from Airport Pula-Pola to the resort “Amarin”, *Monsena 2, 52210 Rovinj-Rovigno*

Registration at the “Registration desk” on the resort front office where

all the instructions, vouchers and maps will be handed over

20:00 hours:

Welcome dinner, resort “Amarin”

Friday, 29.9.2023:

8:30 hours:

Ice-breaking games in the hotel surrounding

09:45 hours:

Transfer to the town centre

10:15 - 12:15 hours:

Guided tour of the historical centre

12:15 - 13:30 hours:

Treasure hunt

 13:30 – 14:30 hours:

Lunch “Da Nino”, *Pignaton Square 8*

 14:45 – 15:45 hours:

Round table: How important is the knowledge of our history and traditions for our common European identity

*Dom kulture (Culture Centre), M. Tito Square 8*

16:30 – 18:00 hours:

Workshops in various groups - traditional games

18:15 hours:

Transfer to the hotel *(from the bus station Valdibora, outside the pedestrian area)*

19:50 hours:

Walk to the dinner for YM participants only

20:00 hours:

Dinner at “Konoba Bruna”, *Monsena 1*

23:00 hours:

Walk back to the resort “Amarin”

Saturday, 30.9.2023:

 8:30 hours:

Transfer to the locations where the workshops will be held

 9:15 – 12:30 hours:

Various workshops, upon prior booking (see below)

 13:00 – 14:00 hours:

GM Rovinj-Rovigno Conclusions, Multimedial Centre, Trg brodogradilišta (Shipyards’ Square) 6

14:00 – 15:00 hours: Buffet lunch in MMC

15:00 hours:

Photo of all the participants (parking S. Nicolo’, in front of the MMC)

15:30 hours:

Excursions (upon prior booking, see choice below)

 18:30 – 19:30 hours:

Free time

19:30 hours:

“Douzelage Celebration” on the main square with live music and festival food

*\*Please note, the programme is subject to minor changes.*

**3. Workshops**

Since we want to demonstrate on the spot what Rovinj-Rovigno’s is doing with regard to its tradition and culture, we have prepared various workshops that you can attend prior booking (the number of participants is limited and different for each workshop).

Please choose among the below described (and note your preference in the registration form):

1. **“Bitinàda” singing:** *bitinàda* is an orginal expression of Rovinj-Rovigno’s folk songs. It represents a special method of performing musical accompaniment with singer’s (*bitinadùr*) voice. When a soloist or solists in a duet intones the song, *bitinadùri* (singers) begin imitate the sounds of various musical instruments with their voices, sounding like an orchestra. Rovinj-Rovigno’s *bitinàda* emerged from among the fishermen who spent hours on their boats fishing or repairing their nets. As their hands were not free to hold instruments, they came up with the idea to achieve a superior orchestra performance using just their voices. The *bitinàda* is an object of intangible cultural heritage included on the list of protected cultural goods of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia.
2. **Fishing nets repairing**: an inevitable component of the fishermen life, especially when the nets were made of natural materials and were not so resistant as the modern ones are. The skill of using the fishermen needle and fishing treads are proportionate to the length of fisherman’s experience, important even today as the nets are an expensive tool.
3. **“Batàna” rowing**: *batàna* belongs to the numerous family of flat-bottomed boats, perfect to sail in shallow waters. The name “*batàna*” is connected to the sound of the Italian verb “battere” (to bang, to beat), which resembles the sound of the boat’s flat bottom as it hits the waves. The *batàna* has a flat bottom slightly curved towards the stem and the transom, with a lightly convex end at the bow. Its dimensions vary between 4 and 8.5 meter. It is entirely made of wood. A *batàna* is navigated with the aid of a sail, oars or, in modern time, an outboard motor. For long journeys it is powered by a lugsail (”vila al tièrso” in the Rovinj-Rovigno dialect). For fishing it is powered and manoeuvred with two long oars, whilst a notch in the transom was intended for rowing like a gondola with one oar (“vùga in gondola” in the Rovinj-Rovigno dialect).
4. **“Batàna” sail painting**: the lugsail of the *batàna* (”vila al tièrso” in the Rovinj-Rovigno dialect) has a quadrangle shape. The name is attributed to the way it is lifted and fastened to the mast. It was sewn from a kind of cotton fabric, and then painted. Painting the sails initially served as impregnation so it would last longer, but eventually became a distinguishing mark. Each family had its own painted sign that was recognised by its members, as well as others, so the boat and its owners could be recognised from faraway at sea.
5. **Demijohn wickerworking**: demijohns are large glass bottles with a short neck and a handle, encased in wickerwork, used in the past for all liquids meant for human consumption. In order to protect them from breakage the bottles used to be encased in wickerwork.
6. **Doll “poùpa da bieco” creation**: in the past only rich people could afford ceramic dolls since they were very expensive. The majority of children had dolls made of fabrics. The “poùpa da bieco” is a simple doll women made of offcuts of the clothes they used to sewn for their families.
7. **“Bukaleta” creation**: “*bukaleta*” is a wine jug made of majolica. It was widely used in the past in the Istrian inland, since it was more durable and cheaper then glass. They exist of various sizes. People used to drink the typical “*supa*” (red wine with honey, pepper etc. with toasted bread) from a big “*bukaleta*” and then share it among themselves.

Beside the above described, as a warm up for other planned activities, the Youth Meeting attendees will have a traditional outdoor games session: race with fishing cases, cards game “*briscola*” and “*tresete*”, “ice queen”, hopscotch etc. A recollection of the games our parents and grandparents used to play.

**4. Saturday afternoon excursions**

Since we are all going to work pretty much, we’ve prepared few excursions for Saturday afternoon, after the conclusions of the GM work. You can choose among:

1. A boat excursion around the islands and islets surrounding Rovinj-Rovigno (there are 19 of them, 3 of which are inhabited): a very nice and relaxing excursion since the view of Rovinj-Rovigno from the sea is the most beautiful ever. Be prepared to take stunning photos!
2. A bike-excursion around the field chapels in the Rovinj-Rovigno inland: a dynamic excursion suitable for young and/or fit participants where you will discover the chapels Rovinj-Rovigno’s farmers used to construct in the past when their connection with Nature and God was tighter.
3. Visit of Monfiorenzo Quarry and Moncodogno Archeological Site: the quarry is a unique example of limestone sedimentation in the world. Vertical and horizontal cross sections show layers of genetically different types of dolomite with preserved texture and digenetic and genetic characteristics. The rocks in this quarry are older than 130 million years and are used to provide a scientific explanation of similar rocks elsewhere. Hill-fort settlement Moncodogno was inhabited in the period from 2000 to 1200 B.C. The settlement, girded by strong dry walls, is located on the leveled top and wide terraces that originate back to the period when stone blocks were dug out and used for construction.

**5. Note**

Please take with you clothes and shoes that are comfortable and in which you can move easily and wear the whole day. We are going to be very active, the EM and YM will have many activities in the open. After the Saturday afternoon excursions, we’ll have a concert on the main square so that the locals can join too, and festival style food will be served. So be prepared to sing and dance!

**6. Contact persons**

If you have any questions please contact:

* Valentina Orbanić, Rovinj-Rovigno YM Representative: valentina.orbanic96@gmail.com
* Maria Črnac Rocco, Head of Municipal Council and Mayors’ Office and Co-ordinator of the General Meeting in Rovinj-Rovigno: maria.crnac.rocco@rovinj-rovigno.hr