



## **OPATIJA SUMMIT 2006**

# Communication of Heritage: A new Vision of Southeastern Europe

(June 1-2, 2006)



# Welcome to Opatija!



## **General information**

In May 2005 the regional Summit “Cultural Corridors in Southeastern Europe” was held in Varna, the Republic of Bulgaria, in cooperation with UNESCO and the Council of Europe.

This conference brought together not only national experts and the representatives of the international community (the Director General of UNESCO and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe), but also the heads of some ten states in Southeastern Europe. In line with the prior agreement, the Final document of the Summit stipulates that the following Summit will take place in the Republic of Croatia in 2006.

## **Theme**

As a follow up of the Varna meeting, the central theme of this years’ Summit will be **Communication of Heritage**. The Summit provides a unique opportunity to acknowledge the fundamental role that culture and science have in the development of Southeastern Europe.

Following discussions on cultural corridors, the aim is to enable experts to look closely at central elements of cultural corridors – the cultural and natural sites themselves. The central theme of the discussion will be to explore potentials for enhanced cooperation within the region in order to promote a common European heritage. Special emphasis will be placed on the consolidation of knowledge of existing activities and initiatives so as to achieve greater regional cooperation and a synergy and coordination of existing projects and initiatives – whether they are projects developed by UNESCO, the Council of Europe or European Union or projects specifically initiated in or for this region.

Experts who will be participating in the Summit in Opatija will be invited to analyze Communication of Heritage from different aspects:

- Integration of heritage conservation as an integral part of sustainable development (cultural tourism, urban regeneration, regional development etc.);
- Innovative techniques in restoration and preservation based on scientific research;
- Bringing knowledge about heritage closer to the citizens (awareness-building, education, promoting cultural heritage through publications and new media etc.)



These three sub themes will be included in the materials for discussion (background paper).

### **Participants**

The presidents and the First Ladies of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, Montenegro and Serbia as well as the Director General of UNESCO, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and European Commission representative with their spouses are invited.

One day before the beginning of the Summit, experts from the aforementioned states and international organisations will meet in Opatija in order to have a separate discussion on the aspects of the topic requiring their expertise and later on follow the discussions at the Summit and participate in the preparation of the Joint Declaration.

### **Programme**

The programme of the Summit foresees plenary session followed by the Joint Declaration presentation and with the view to be adopted consequently.

There will be opportunities for bilateral meetings at the margins of the Summit.

In the evening, the participants will visit the town of Poreč, where they will visit Euphrasian basilica, one of the six monuments in Croatia to be placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The heads of delegations will be invited to a dinner hosted in their honour by the President of the Republic of Croatia and the county prefect of the Istrian county.

### **The organisation of the Summit and implementation of the programme**

The Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia is responsible for the organisation of the Summit, and the programme will be implemented by the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia.



The summit will take place at **“Ambassador” hotel**

Address:

F. Peršića 1, 51 410 Opatija  
Phone: + 385 51 743 333  
Fax: + 385 51 743 444  
web: [www.liburnia.hr](http://www.liburnia.hr)



**«Admiral» hotel**

Address:

M. Tita 139, 51 410 Opatija  
Phone: + 385 51 271 533  
Fax: + 385 51 271 708  
web: [www.liburnia.hr](http://www.liburnia.hr)



Information on other hotels are available at [www.opatija-tourism.hr](http://www.opatija-tourism.hr).

### **Press centre**

The press centre will be situated in the “Ambassador” hotel in the “Kamelia” hall.

The contact person for the press and for issuing press accreditations is:

Mrs. Danijela Barišić

Head of the Information department of the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia

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Fax: +385 1 4565 256

E-mail: [danijela.barisic@predsjednik.hr](mailto:danijela.barisic@predsjednik.hr)

The Croatian Radio Television (HRT) will provide technical support for the radio and television.

Plenary sessions will be directly broadcast in the press centre.



The requests for issuing press accreditations should be sent to the following address: [danijela.barisic@predsjednik.hr](mailto:danijela.barisic@predsjednik.hr)

**NOTICE: Radio and television crews should send the additional technical support requests to the following address:**

radio – [medjunarodni\\_hr@hrt.hr](mailto:medjunarodni_hr@hrt.hr) (phone: ++ 385 1 6343 199;

fax: ++ 385 1 6343 936)

television – [irdcoord@hrt.hr](mailto:irdcoord@hrt.hr) (phone: ++ 385 1 6343 681; fax: 6343 692)

Find enclosed the form for the press accreditations.

### **Bilateral meetings**

Bilateral meetings are foreseen in the afternoon of the 1<sup>st</sup> June and in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> June (according to the programme). Bilateral meetings will be held in the lounges in the “Ambassador” hotel.

### **Interpretation**

Simultaneous interpretation into Croatian, English and French will be provided at the plenary sessions.

### **Secretary of the Summit**

The Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia  
Protocol

Pantovčak 241, 10 000 ZAGREB

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## OPATIJA – the Nice of the Adriatic

- more than 160 years of tradition in tourism – dubbed “the Queen of tourism”
- at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, owing to its favourable geographic position making it the closest gateway of Central Europe to a “warm sea” and due to its agreeable climate, Opatija developed into one of the most famous tourist resorts in Croatia and it is a town with the longest tradition in tourism on the east Adriatic coast
- still attracting tourists throughout the year due to its mild climate and relative vicinity (just around 500 km from Milan, Vienna and Munich)
- named after the Benedictine abbey of St. Jacob (“opatiija” is the Croatian word for abbey), which is mentioned for the first time in the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century
- today it accommodates beautifully the architecture and horticulture from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries
- cultivated parks, illuminated waterfront (12 km long), well-tended beaches and fountains are a setting for villas and hotels which can accommodate up to 6 000 guests



**View of Opatija**



**Girl with a seagull (1956)**



## Villa Angiolina



- the construction of this villa marks the beginning of tourism in Opatija
- Up until the construction of this summer residence – Villa Angelina – in 1844, Opatija was a relatively big town with around 120 houses, grouped around land lots removed from the sea coast and mostly living on fishing and seafaring
- By building Villa Angiolina (built by Higinio von Scarpa, a nobleman from the town of Rijeka), Opatija opened its door to a series of distinguished guests, among others to Austrian empress Maria Anna, botanist Heinrich Noë, Croatian governor (“ban”) Josip Jelačić and others, who, enchanted by its vegetation and climate, spread the word about Opatija throughout Europe
- During their visit to Opatija, the Austrian heir to the throne Rudolf and his wife Stéphanie stayed in the villa, as well as their guest, the satirist from Styria, Mr. Rosegger
- The villa is being transformed into the Museum of the town of Opatija

## Park Angiolina

The park, where many different plants, from all around the world, especially from the Far East, South America and Australia, are successfully grown, although untypical for this area, was created from 1845 until 1860.

- It is considered to be a valuable horticultural monument (covering a surface of 3,64 ha; divided into 60 fields where some 150 plant varieties are planted)
- Among other interesting plant varieties, the Japanese camellia (*Camellia japonica*) grows in the park, and it became a symbol of Opatija



**Camellia japonica**

## **St. Jacob`s church**



### **St. Jacob`s church in St. Jacob`s park (view from the sea)**

- Situated in St. Jacob`s park, which is a continuation of the Angiolina Park
- The oldest building in Opatija, mentioned for the first time in the historical books in 1449
- Most likely built several years earlier as a colony of Benedictines who fled the Furlanian monastery San Pietro di Rosazzo
- This abbey gave the later developed town its name
- Little from its original appearance has been preserved: in 1506, as the text over the portal reads, abbot Simon built or remodelled the church
- At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was completely renovated and in the 1930s it was significantly extended
- One of its curiosities is the replica of a relief made by the sculptor Ivan Meštrović
- In the earliest times, the monastery was a place where court trials and fairs were organised; the first cemetery was situated in its vicinity and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century it accommodated the first school in Opatija
- The church used to belong to different church orders, from the Benedictines and Augustinians to Paulists and Jesuits
- Apart from being a place for liturgies, today this is a venue of musical performances



## POREČ



- town, port and a tourist resort on the west Istrian coast
- settlement from the Roman period – even today Roman construction elements are preserved in the grid of town streets: cardo – decumanus
- in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century it was a Roman castrum; later on it was granted the status of a municipium and in the 1<sup>st</sup> century it was known as Colonia Julia Parentium
- it became the seat of the bishop at the turn of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> centuries
- after the fall of the West Roman Empire it was ruled by the Eastern Goths, Byzantium and the Franks
- in the 12<sup>th</sup> century a self-government was set up in Poreč
- from 1267 to 1779 it was under Venetian rule which was after that replaced by the Austrian rule
- in 1861 it became the capital of Istria and the seat of the Istrian parliament; from 1918 to 1943 it was under Italian rule. During the World War II (1944) it was severely damaged in bombings.

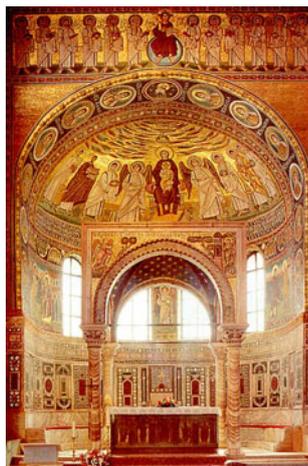
### Sights:

- in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, when Euphrasius was the bishop, Euphrasian basilica complex was built (consisting of the church, atrium, baptistery and the former bishop's palace); this monument is placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997.
- Romanic houses and gothic and late gothic palaces are still preserved in the town



- Museum of the Poreč region (in the Sinčić palace) has a collection of stone monuments and a collection of archaeological findings, furniture, paintings and ethnographic objects
- The collection of the Poreč parish (set up in 1974) consists of around 40 exhibits the most important of which are the fragments of a mosaic (the oldest one dates back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century), crosses (13<sup>th</sup> century) and several altar pieces (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> centuries) as well as the choir benches.
- On the nearby little island of St. Nicholas a former castle (from 1886) was transformed into a hotel. A round tower built in 1402 is one of the oldest preserved lighthouses on the Adriatic.

### **The Euphrasian Basilica In Poreč (Eufrasiana) - localities and monuments on the UNESCO world heritage list**



- One of the best preserved monuments of early Byzantine art in the Mediterranean
- Erected in the 6th century in Poreč, during the time of Bishop Euphrasius
- Unique in that it is the only church of its type with the original structure preserved
- Main structure of the complex : the three nave basilica, with the central nave wider and taller and separated from the side naves by two series of arcades
- All three naves end in semi-circular apses, while in the main apse, taller and wider than the other two, is the ciborium



- In the northeastern corner of the basilica, the trefoil Memorial Chapel is connected with an elliptical vestibule, while the external vestibule is connected with the spacious quadratic atrium
- On the western side of the atrium is the octagonal baptistery
- In the region between the northern side of the atrium and the seashore, a second large church was built at the same time, with its axis vertical to the axis of the main basilica, and new additions were made during the Middle Ages, when it was transformed into the Bishop's Palace. Much later, the remaining structures of the complex came into being
- In the 18th century, the entire complex suffered significant damage, many sections were destroyed and the complete restoration was conducted following World War II
- Richly ornamented in the Byzantine style of mosaic (which, with the mosaic of the Church of San Vitale in Ravenna represent the most significant examples of mosaic art in Europe); also ornamented with incrustations, stucco and plaster