



NEWSLETTER No.3

Rovinj-Rovigno, 27th July 2023

**DOUZELAGE GENERAL MEETING IN ROVINJ-ROVIGNO
SEPTEMBER 28TH - OCTOBER 1ST 2023**

Dear Douzelage friends,

The date of the General Meeting in Rovinj-Rovigno is approaching and we would like to give you some further information about it.

1. Registration

Please find enclosed the registration form that includes more information in comparison to the pre-registration one: arrival and departure data, workshop attendance and excursion booking.

Please do send us the filled forms with all the requested data at latest by the **25th of August.**

2. Transfers

Transfers from the airport of Pula to the Resort "Amarin" will be organised on Thursday 28th of September and again, from the resort to the airport on Sunday 1st of October, depending on the time of arrival/departure of the majority of you. We will be able to share with you the exact transfer time-table after we'll receive the filled registration forms from all of you.

Transfers during the event will be provided from the entrance of the resort to the venue where all our different meetings and activities will take place. You'll receive all the data and maps at the registration desk, in a welcome kit, upon your arrival.

For those of you travelling by car, the address of the Resort "Amarin" is Monsena 2, 52210 Rovinj-Rovigno.

3. Accommodation

We have followed your accommodation preferences expressed in the pre-registration form when booking the accommodation, for the exception of the Youth. Upon Presidency indication, we have accommodated almost all the attendees of the Youth Meeting in the big villas (that consist of 2 bedrooms – 1 double, 1 twin, 1 bathroom, 1 toilette, a kitchen, a dining and a living area with a sofa bed) that can accommodate up to 6 people, because we want our Youth – the Douzelage future - to communicate and mingle as much as possible. We have

accommodated girls with girls and boys with boys, but delegations have been mixed. In this way we will have 2 to 3 delegations in the same villa. We have also asked the resort management to put the Youth villas close to each other.

4. Non-delegates

Please note the delegate rule that have their participation costs covered by the host town: 2 GM delegates, 1 EM delegate and 2 YM delegates plus the honorary presidents and the Presidency/Organisation representatives. It is not possible to have 1 GM/EM delegate more because you have 1 YM/EM less.

Stated that, we have tried to lower the announced price for the non-delegates and we succeeded to fix the final fee for their participation at 450,00 Euro.

But, it is mandatory to pay the fee before your arrival since the resort wants the whole amount being paid earlier (this is how we obtained a lower accommodation price). You need to transfer the 450,00 Euro to the following company:

VELA AL TERZO j.d.o.o.

IBAN HR7623600001102344347

SWIFT/BIC Code ZBAHR2X

Causal: GM DOUZEALGE Non-delegates

Only when the company confirms the payment, you'll be able to use the services of the resort. Please send us the bank payment confirmation when you execute it, so that we can check if everything is all right before your arrival, in order to avoid unpleasant surprises.

NOTE: Since we are aware that this amount is much higher than the previous years, the Municipality of Rovinj-Rovigno has decided to finance the participation of all the **Youth Non-delegates** who expressed their interest to participate in the pre-registration form. So, they will participate for free. This represents the contribution of Rovinj-Rovigno to the bright future of The Douzelage! ☺

5. 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 ask each Douzelage member town to prepare a presentation in English with the descriptions of what you are doing and which programmes and activities are you implementing in your towns (school programmes, municipal initiatives, NGO activities, events, examples in situ). The presentations are to be sent at latest by the **20th of August**, so that we have enough time to prepare a booklet with all of them and share the examples of good practice among us.

6. 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 of them). The workshops are intended for the Educational and Youth Meeting only.

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

- A. **"BITINÀDA" SINGING:** *bitinàda* is an original 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.
- B. **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.
- C. **"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).
- D. **"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.
- E. **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.

- F. **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.

- G. **“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 than 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 played before the arrival of plastic and digital toys, when children and grown-ups used to play with simple everyday life objects and their phantasy.

7. Saturday afternoon activities

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:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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 diagenetic 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 / Monkodonja 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.

8. Various

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!