

# CULTURAL MANIFESTATION BASED ON RURAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT- ISTRIAN EXAMPLE

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The competitiveness of Istrian rural areas as a tourism product is not satisfactory, as demonstrated by the stagnation of agritourism – the backbone of rural tourism – and the closing of farms, which has been occurring in recent years. The situation is even worse in some parts of Croatia. Increasing the competitiveness of rural tourism requires enhancing the recognizability of the rural destination. The best means to achieve this objective is "upgrading" agritourism – the basic product of rural tourism – with additional content.

The above considerations lead to the following question: Which content is adequate for this type of tourism? This paper aims to show that cultural and entertainment events can contribute significantly to enhancing the basic product of rural tourism by conferring "added value" upon the destination. Cultural, entertainment, sports and other events can thus become an important factor in the sustainable development of tourism, especially in the valorisation of cultural heritage through tourism, thereby increasing the opportunities for its conservation, preservation and promotion, and addressing both tourists and the local population.

On the example of Istria, this paper shall examine the extent to which cultural and entertainment events can impact the development of rural tourism. The authors also intend to devise a model for a better coordination between culture and tourism, in the interest of a better development of rural tourism products and the rural destination. The value thus added to the tourism products of rural Istria can increase the market value of these products and improve their competitiveness on the increasingly exacting tourism market.

## 2. CAUSES OF THE STAGNATION OF RURAL TOURISM IN ISTRIA

Rural tourism is playing an increasingly important role in modern tourism. However, while in western Europe it has recorded a 6% growth, the situation in Croatia and in Istria is quite the opposite: here, rural tourism is experiencing stagnation and even decline. (2)

The causes must be attributed to structural constraints, such as: lack of adequate legislation, rural tourism offer uncoupled from demand, lack of a development strategy for rural tourism in Croatia and specifically in Istria, fragmented and scattered farms, relatively underdeveloped rural areas, inadequate general infrastructure and tourism facilities, insufficient know-how in some farms, lack of a systematic approach to development, etc. (5) From a marketing point of view, the lack of coordination – uncoupled offer and demand, inadequate and imprecise marketing presentation of rural tourism – is accompanied by a poor development of rural tourism in Istria and other parts of Croatia, all of which undermines its ability to compete. The tourism product of rural areas in Istria is based on three elements: food, socializing with the hosts and enjoying the beautiful pristine nature of Istria's hinterland (4) . According to the authors, the added-value elements include cultural and entertainment events which already take place in Istrian rural areas, but apparently have not been sufficiently worked into the existing rural tourism product.

## 3. CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS AS A SOURCE OF ADDED VALUE TO RURAL TOURISM PRODUCTS

Research has shown that in modern tourism the focus has shifted from the accommodation facilities – hotels, farms, etc. – to a product which is now known as the tourism destination (Magaš, 1997). This is also true of rural areas: the integral tourism product to be exchanged on the tourism market is therefore everything that is offered at the destination. Consequently, the appropriate expression here is *integral rural destination product* (Krajnović, 2006). An active approach to the development policy of such a complex product actually means managing the product at the rural destination itself, which, in the contemporary environment, must also entail managing integral quality (Cetinski, 2005). There already exist ready-made management models for rural areas, for example the *IRQ (Integrated Rural Quality) model*, formulated especially for Istrian rural areas (Krajnović, 2006). (6)

Active quality management of rural tourism products must be combined with the "emotional component", which Jensen sums up with the term *storytelling*. Jensen believes that the two basic dimensions of the tourism product were originally product and price, which later were joined by quality and, most recently, by the *story*, understood in the widest sense of the word, as the "emotional component" of the tourism product. (3)

Thus the former aggressive battle on the market based on product and price (what is known as the *Red Ocean Strategy*) has been replaced by a "softer" confrontation, in which the winners are those whose tourism product offers "a better story" or, in other words, those who are most successful at embedding in their product the above-mentioned "emotional component", enabling the tourists to have an unrepeatably and unique experience (*the Blue Ocean Strategy*). (3)

An application of Jensen's theory on the subject-matter of this paper – the rural area of Istria – leads to the conclusion that valuable resources that can serve as foundation for the concept of "storytelling" in rural areas are authenticity, traditional values and cultural and historical

heritage - which most evidently reflects the traditional values. An adequate valorisation of these values for the purposes of tourism can provide the much needed "added value" to the tourism product. In the given circumstances, this means that rural areas should organise cultural and entertainment events as opportunities for "storytelling".

#### 4. CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS IN RURAL ISTRIA

Throughout its eventful history, Istria has always been the place where many peoples and their respective cultures met and blended. The presence, the customs, the work of Liburnians, Histri, Greeks, Celts, Romans, Ostrogoths, Byzantines, Langobards, Croats, Franks, Venetians, Austrians, Italians have left traces, both on the coast and in the rural areas, which the present-day inhabitants of Istria are trying to preserve, nobilitate and modernize. This work on preserving traditional values speaks of the multiculturalism and tolerance prevailing in Istria and among its inhabitants, who for centuries came and went, always making their mark on this soil.<sup>1</sup>

As part of a Public Need Programme in culture, the County of Istria gives financial support to most of the cultural events in rural areas, but these are also organised by tourism boards, local authorities, associations, volunteers and others.

Table 1: Overview of the most significant cultural and entertainment events in rural areas in Istria for the year 2008 (selected by the authors).

Nr.	Title	Place	Date
1	Central Istria Wine Fair	Gračičće	24/03
2	Supci pod mavricun (traditional music festival)	Grimalda	20/04
3	Z armoniku v Roč (accordionists festival and competition)	Roč	10-11/05
4	Town of Hum Day, history-themed event	Hum	07/06
5	Astrofest	Višnjan	21-22/06
6	Jules Verne Days	Pazin	22-25/06
7	The Seven Days of Creation, creative workshops	Pazin	07-15/07
8	9th Dance and Non-Verbal Theatre Festival	Svetvinčenat	20-24/07
9	Motovun Film Festival	Motovun	28/07-01/08
10	Istrian Folk Song and Dance Review	Buzet	09/08
11	Trka na prstenac (Donkey Race)	Barban	3rd weekend in August
12	Subotina po starinski (folk fair)	Buzet	13-14/09
13	Ex tempore	Grožnjan	25-28/9
14	Truffle Days	Livade	October
15	ISAP – International Prosciutto Fair	Tinjan	25-26/10

From: Authors' research.

<sup>1</sup> From: <http://www.istra-istria.hr/index.php?id=258>, 18/2/2008

Table 1 shows the most important cultural and entertainment events planned in rural Istria for the year 2008. The selection of events covers all aspects of the cultural offer: wine culture (1), traditional music culture (2, 3), history (4), education - astrotourism<sup>2</sup> (5), literature (6), new media (7), dance and theatre (8), film (9), folk songs and dance (10), traditional culture (11,12), figurative art (13), cuisine (14, 15).

In 2008 the County of Istria will make a financial contribution to – among others – literary events, for example tributes to Mate Balota, Anton Šoljan and Fulvio Tomizza, then to the publishers' meeting *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* in Pazin, the *Council of Vernacular Poets* in Žminj, the *International Vernacular Poetry Competition Histria* in Grožnjan and events from the fields of music, dance, cultural heritage, visual arts, figurative and performance art and film. Some of these events have become traditional, such as the *Istrian Folk Song and Dance Review*<sup>3</sup>, the *Verši na Šterni* (Verses on the Well) in Vižinada, whereas some have been recognized as "original and worthy of follow-up", especially the *Festival prez štrumienti* (traditional music) in Lindar, *Zasopimo na organič* (traditional instruments playing) in Gračišće. Some of these events are famous beyond Istrian borders, as the international organ festival *Organum Histriae*, the *Dance and Non-Verbal Theatre Festival* in Savičenta and the *Early Music Festival* in Dvigrad.

By number of visitors, the most popular event in the area of Pazin during the Summer of Culture 2007 were the *10th Jules Verne Days*, with an adventure race around Pazin in 80 minutes, a book promotion and a costume party in the Pazin Castle, which evoked the 19th century spirit. Furthermore, Pazin was the venue of the *Seven Days of Creation* and Gračišće held the *6th Fantastic Literature Festival* with the participation of writers from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. Of music events, special mention deserve the *6th A Cappella Choir Evening* in Trviž, with 15 a cappella choirs from Istria, the Littoral and Zagreb, and the *2nd Meeting of A Cappella Choirs* from Istria and the Kvarner Region. The central event in Motovun was the *Motovun Film Festival* which is held on the streets and squares of Motovun, a medieval fortified town on a hill above the River Mirna, and every year attracts more and more visitors.

In the pre-season, the area of Buzet hosts several important events, such as the Encounter of Triestina Accordion Players in Roč (*Z armoniku v Roč*), the election of the *Prefect of Hum «na letu dan»*, the *Encounter of Violinists*, whereas in the afterseason (September) there is a major folk festival called *Subotina*, with two central events: it begins with the preparation of an enormous portion of scrambled eggs (*fritaja*<sup>4</sup>) with truffles in a giant pan and continues on the following day with a journey into the past, the *Subotina po starinski* (Age-Old Subotina), when the historical centre of Buzet travels back in time by a hundred years. The streets of Buzet are then flooded by people wearing original folk costumes, by sounds of traditional Istrian music and masters of ancient crafts who have preserved their skills to the present day.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Further reading on the concept of astrotourism and its role in modern tourism: A. Krajnović i K. Korlević, *Razvoj astroturizma u Višnjanu*, in the magazine *Tourism and Hospitality Management*, nr.1-2/99, Opatija/Wien, 1999.

<sup>3</sup> The folk music and dance review is held every year in a different place. In 2008 it celebrates the 43rd anniversary and is organised by the Open University «Augustin Vivoda» of Buzet.

<sup>4</sup> Traditional Istrian term indicating scrambled eggs or omelette.

<sup>5</sup> *Puna je Pula festivala*, Glas Istre (local newspaper), October 3rd, 2007., p. 20-21., Sonda, rujan/September 2007., nr. 35., p.25.

Grožnjan is the place where every year young Croatian musicians organize music workshops and attract large numbers of participants, artists and a considerable audience from the country and abroad. By offering a wide selection of music- and non-music-related workshops and courses, and inviting many notable experts to lecture (Krpan, Lutoslawski, Šafran, Krauze, Sebon, Dešpalj, Žislin, Benda, Flaskman, Hayashi, Bauman, Arnold, Glennie, Lesnik, Rosauero ...), the Culture Centre of Grožnjan has not only played a crucial role in music teaching in Croatia, but has also offered young people from all over the world the opportunity to attend quality classes and training courses in an artistic and cosmopolitan environment. This can be confirmed by 13 000 participants from 70 countries around the world who throughout the years have come to the International Culture Centre of the Croatian Musical Youth in Grožnjan.<sup>6</sup>

Folklore events that should be mentioned here are: *Meh na srcu* – traditional encounter of Istrian dancers and players – and *Labinske konti* in Raša, *Bajsi in Draguč*, *Trka na prstenac* in Barban, the *International Folklore Festival «Leron»* in Vodnjan, *«Supci pod mavricun»* in Pagubice, *Zarozgajmo u Čićariji* in Lanišće, *Z vijulin sopu muškardini* in Roč ...

*Organum Histriae* is a project which, in addition to safeguarding and renovating the Istrian organ heritage, promotes organ music and skilful organists from Croatia and abroad, popularizing at the same time the Istrian localities which preserve this precious heritage. Since the main objective of the project is the restoration of historical organs, the festival takes place in urban and rural communities where centennial and older organs can be found. In 2007, the festival was held from September 9th to 16th and in the hinterland concerts were set in Sv. Petar u Šumi, Završje and Motovun.<sup>7</sup>

For the year 2008, the County of Istria has set aside 1.64% of its budget for culture programmes, specifically for literary and publishing events, music and stage performances, art and exhibitions, film photography and other media, for the preservation of traditional values, cultural and natural heritage, museums, libraries, scientific congresses, anniversaries, international and interregional cultural collaboration programmes, new media and other cultural events. Culture programmes taking place in rural areas have been allocated 1.24% of the total budget. A more detailed breakdown of the funded programmes can be found in Annex 1.

The larger percentage of funds earmarked for events in rural Istria as opposed to allocations for happenings in the coastal areas is supposedly the result of a decision to foster the development of Istria's hinterland, which is considerably poorer than the coast. This is not only a powerful incentive for the development of rural tourism, but opens up many more possibilities, considering that coastal areas have significantly more funds deriving both from the budget and the sojourn tax.

The County of Istria apportions the bulk of funding to other culture programmes, events and other types of cultural activities which it funds and sponsors, such as the *Motovun Film Festival*, the *9th Dance and Non-Verbal Theatre Festival* in Svetvinčenat, the *Festival of Istrian Stories, Legends and Myths*, the *International Early Music Festival*, etc. Considerable funds have also been set aside for the preservation of cultural and historical heritage – that is, for the restoration and renovation of buildings, castles, squares, frescoes in the rural churches.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.hgm.hr/html/gro\\_njan.html](http://www.hgm.hr/html/gro_njan.html), 6/2/2008. A great role in preserving cultural heritage is played by the Ethno-Music Workshop «Glazba Istre» which in 2007 took place in July. Sonda, srpanj/July 2007., nr.33.

<sup>7</sup> Sonda, rujan/September, 2007.

Museums, colleges and other institutions are apposite bodies the task of which is the safeguarding and preservation of immaterial cultural heritage. To this end, they organise exhibitions on Istrian folk culture, Istrian emigrants, preserve documents on language and culture, strive to revitalize the Istro-Rumanian language, etc. There are events held indoors or outdoors requiring a greater involvement of the rural inhabitants, such as folk song and dance reviews, or festivals which promote traditional instruments such as the diatonic accordion, *meh* or *mih* (woodwind instrument), organic<sup>8</sup>, violins, two-stringed basses, which fall under the heading of preservation of traditional values.

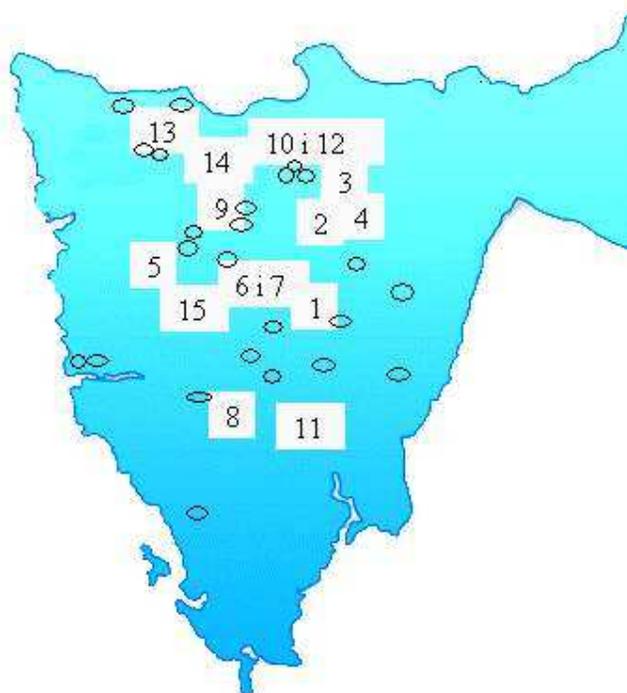
Interestingly enough, some of the above-mentioned events go beyond local boundaries and grow into regional, interregional and even international products, for example the International Prosciutto Festival, Truffle Days ...

## 5. EVENTS IN RURAL ISTRIA AND AGRITOURISM

In order to establish a link between cultural events and rural tourism, the researchers have carried out an analysis of spatial distribution of events with regard to the presence of farms, which are "focal points" for the development of rural tourism. The results of the analysis have also been used to determine the recurrence of events.

Map 1 shows the results of the spatial analysis.

Map 1: Overview of the most significant cultural events and farms in the rural area of Istria



Symbol key:

○ – farms

1..15 – events (the number indicates the place of the event in table...)

From: Authors' research

<sup>8</sup> Mouth organ

The spatial analysis shown on the map indicates that the most significant events occur mostly where there is a large number of farms, substantiating the hypothesis that cultural events should really be an extension of the agritourism product, which is still the basic rural tourism product in Istria. The spatial distribution of events is mirrored by the "scattering" of farms, showing that the two taken together are the basic elements of the tourism destination of rural Istria. A short distance from the farm to the event venue is therefore one of the main motors of the development of agritourism and, consequently, of rural tourism in this area. It also works the other way around: farm guests going to events boost attendance, thus increasing the popularity of the events themselves and legitimizing the funds and effort invested in organisation.

The analysis of the calendar of events in rural Istria shows that in the summer months there is a greater frequency of happenings, which tends to decrease in spring and autumn, and especially in winter. The intent of this calendar was probably to provide additional content to visitors of the nearby coastal destinations, which are heavily dependent on the season, so that the organisation of events in Istrian coastal areas reflects that trend.

However, the specific nature of services provided on farms, the mild climate and the greater distance from the sea as an element of attraction, offer the opportunity to practise rural tourism throughout the year. This should be borne in mind when organising events and planning the yearly calendar. For example, in the winter months – i.e. when there are no tasks to attend to on the farm – guests can be offered various wine and food experiences, folk events, exhibitions and local crafts workshops, etc. These can also serve an additional purpose: make up for the lack of outdoor activities due to cold weather.

The farms, as key accommodation facilities in rural tourism in central Istria, could play a role in promoting culture tourism by advertising events taking place in the vicinity. A printed or online yearly event calendar with a map of the area or similar could be used to this end. Similar attempts have already been made: for example, the web-site of the Istria County Tourism Board includes a yearly event calendar<sup>9</sup>, which however is not informative enough, in that it does not differentiate between events taking place in the rural areas and those on the coast.

Furthermore, some folk events can only be organised on the farms themselves. Nikočević suggests (or advertises) farms as epicentres for the dissemination of immaterial cultural heritage, which is to be achieved in three ways: by organising workshops (cooking, weaving, comb-making, dance, musical instrument-making, building *kažuni* – typical stone dwellings, learning to dance, sing, play instruments, etc.), participating in farm chores (working with animals, on the field, gathering and picking olives, grapes, asparagi...) and theme evenings (telling stories, making music, dancing and singing<sup>10</sup>). These events are a direct way to increase the added value of the rural tourism product on farms.

The only constraint when it comes to organising events as part of agritourism is the lack of space on farms, especially outside of the summertime period. There are many more opportunities for organising events on farms during the warm weather because there is much room in the open to be used for these purposes.

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<sup>9</sup> [www.istra.hr/hr/sto\\_raditi/kalendar](http://www.istra.hr/hr/sto_raditi/kalendar)

<sup>10</sup> Lidija Nikočević, *Agroturizmi i nematerijalna kulturna baština (Agritourism and Immaterial Cultural Heritage)*, presentation in Pazin, Ruraltour workshop, Pazin, February 6th, 2008.

## **6. PROBLEMS, CONSTRAINTS AND DRAWBACKS AFFECTING THE ORGANISATION OF EVENTS**

The illustrated research results indicate that throughout the year, rural Istria sees a large number of events, for which the Istrian County, the Tourism Boards and the local authorities allocate considerable funds as part of their public need programmes in the area of culture.

However, it must be mentioned that tourism sociologists and cultural operators have been warning about threats, mistakes and pitfalls that have become apparent during the organisation of some events in Istria. Some of the unwelcome episodes were "stereotyping, 'Istrianizing', 'inventing' tradition, etc."<sup>11</sup>, which could even be described as a *touristification of sorts*, that is, "exaggeration", inappropriateness of content and deprivation of the original context.<sup>12</sup> Such occurrences have been noted mostly with events taking place in coastal areas, as opposed to those in the hinterland; therefore, it can be said that the latter better reflect the authenticity, the tradition and the customs of the area.<sup>13</sup>

There are also existing problems and constraints encountered by cultural operators when organising events: for example, the lack of adequate primary and secondary legislation regulating this field, the lack of networking and understanding on the part of tourism operators, lack of know-how and expert support, etc.

## **7. CONCLUDING REMARKS, THE PROPOSAL FOR A NETWORK PARTNERSHIP IN CULTURE TOURISM AND OF A VERTICAL COORDINATION MODEL IN CULTURAL TOURISM AT CLUSTER LEVEL**

Drawing upon research results and their own experience in planning, organising and realizing cultural events, the authors of this paper have come to interesting conclusions confirming the hypothesis that cultural and entertainment events should confer the necessary "added value" upon the existing basic tourism product both in the rural areas of Istria and beyond.

What follows are two model offered by the authors as possible solutions:

- The culture tourism networking model and
- The vertical coordination model in cultural tourism at Cluster level.

### **The culture tourism networking model.**

One of the fundamental conclusions reached by the authors on the basis of their research is that much effort should be channelled into achieving a better coordination of the "cultural" and tourism systems. The outcomes that could thereby be achieved would have a beneficial influence on the tourism product in this area and would help obtain better results in the cultural activities system by increasing event attendance, thus fulfilling their basic task.

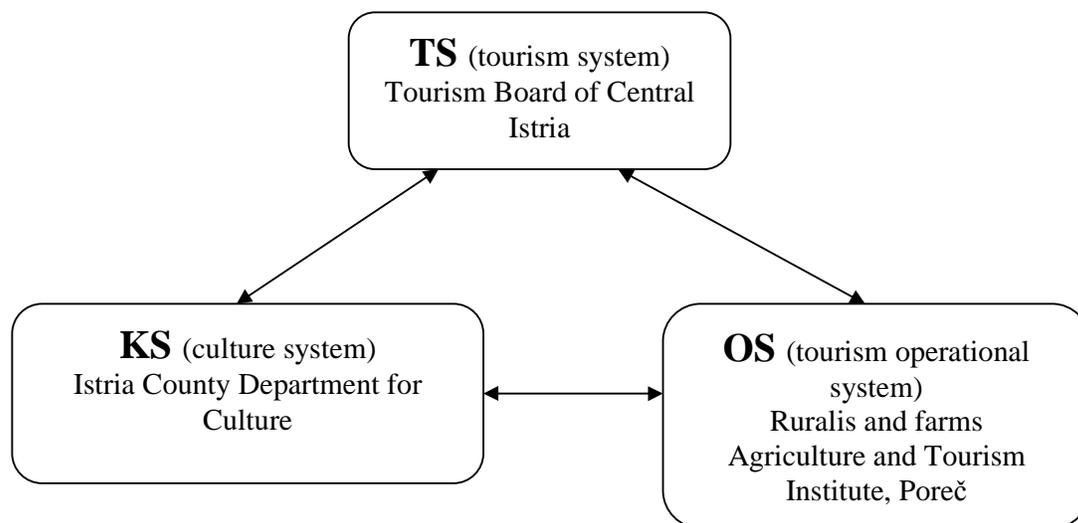
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<sup>11</sup> Lidija Nikočević, *ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> For example, the Istrian A Cappella Choir Festival – these types of choirs are originally from Dalmatia; or the Folk Song and Dance Review presented on stage, not in the original environment – in front of a house or on the town square; then the scrambled eggs with truffles – a dish which combines foods that were not used in traditional cooking, but is advertised as genuine, etc.

<sup>13</sup> Authors' research.

The model suggested by the authors entails establishing a culture tourism network partnership, with systematic coordination of the following:



The graph illustrates the model suggested by the authors as the solution to the problem. Networking and network partnerships of the tourism system, the culture system and the operational system in tourism is the key to success, and the tourism system – in this case the Tourism Board of Central Istria – must play the leading role. As a matter of fact, this is their role by virtue of legislation, because the tasks of a tourism board include "*promotion, coordination (underlined by the authors) and organisation of cultural, artistic, economic, sports and other events which contribute to enriching the tourism offer, ... promoting the protection, conservation and renovation of cultural and historical monuments and other material heritage of interest for tourism and their inclusion in the tourism offer ...*"<sup>14</sup> (in the authors' opinion, this task should be interpreted in the broader sense, as referring to immaterial cultural heritage and its valorisation in tourism, immaterial heritage being on a par with material heritage). The above model indicates the Institute of Agriculture and Tourism in Poreč as the reference point – in collaboration with the Department for Culture of Istria County – for the scientific research of the link between culture and tourism, the preparation of quality cultural tourism programmes and an adequate promotion of the latter in collaboration with the Tourism Board of Central Istria. The operational system is comprised of hospitality and tourism operators working "on the field", who are the stakeholders in this tripartite partnership, since they are in direct contact with the final beneficiaries – visitors and, in this case, consumers of rural tourism. One of the basic goals of this network partnership would be designing, planning and coordinating cultural events in central and coastal Istria with adequate timing, location and content selection, whereby the partner in the tourism system should be the Istria County Tourism Board. A thorough analysis of the timing, content and distribution of events should be carried out every year for the previous year. Planning should be based on the results of that analysis, which should identify the events best suited to the given micro-locations in Istria and adapt the programmes to the source of funding – tourism boards, local authorities, cultural institutions, etc.

<sup>14</sup> Act on Tourism Boards and the Promotion of Croatian Tourism., Official Gazette - NN 45/94, Art. 26.

## **Vertical coordination model in cultural tourism at Cluster level.**

Istria has witnessed the first useful attempts at vertical coordination at the level of individual clusters as defined by the Master Plan of Tourism Development in Istria. The goal was to achieve a better and easier coordination in event planning and coordinate promotion by publishing a joint event calendar at cluster level. For example, within the Cluster Novigrad – Umag, the rural localities of Buje, Brtonigla, Grožnjan, Oprtalj and Momjan have achieved excellent coordination with the seaside resorts of Umag and Novigrad, so that they jointly published a yearly event calendar. They are also preparing a joint image-catalogue for the entire cluster to promote events of the area of Buje, which, in addition to attaining creative and promotional synergy, gives visitors the opportunity to obtain information about all events in the Cluster from a single source. Furthermore, those who stay in the coastal resorts are stimulated to attend events in the rural area of the cluster, thus also achieving an indispensable expense saving. This calendar can be distributed in the cluster's seaside resorts, but also elsewhere, on farms, for example, where visitors will also be able to learn about events taking place on the seaside.

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## **ANNEX 1**

### **List of events taking place in the rural area funded by the County of Istria**

#### LITERATURE, PUBLISHING AND LITERARY EVENTS

Verši na šterni - Vižinada

12th International Publishers' Encounter "Journey to the Centre of the Earth"

Award for Literary and Translation Work

40th Council of Vernacular Poetry - Žminj

#### MUSIC AND STAGE PERFORMANCES

Lifestyle Ltd.-11th International Festival Organum histriae and competition of organists

Performance by the mixed choir Mosaico ZT Poreč – throughout Istria

#### ART AND EXHIBITIONS, FILM, PHOTOGRAPHY

Miroslav Šutej Foundation – prepares collections for exhibition in Motovun

9th Festival of Audio and Visual Media Visura aperta Momiano, Momjan

Encounters on the River Dragonja

Exhibitions in Šikuti and Savičenta

#### PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL VALUES

43rd Istrian Folk Song and Dance Review

Mali kanat, Pazin

20th International Review of Diatonic Accordions «Z armoniku v Roč»

VI. International Folklore Festival Leron

Meh na srcu and Labinski konti in Raša

Preservation of Istrian Cultural Heritage – area of Barban

Supci pod mavricun, Grimada

Zarozgajmo na Čičariji, Lanišće

Zasopimo na organič, Gračišće

Bajsi in Draguč

Ceremonial election of the prefect for a year, Hum

Fešta prez štrumienti, Lindar

Z vijulino sopu muškardini, Hum

#### CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Castle restoration/investment in Emi Pazin

Restoration of Kaštel Dvigrad

Uređenje zgrade Špitala, Gračišće

Restoration and Renovation of Castle Morosini-Grimani, Svetvinčenat

Restoration and Renovation of the renaissance square in Svetvinčenat

Restoration of the Pazin Castle /renovation of the main facade

Restoration of castle Pietra Pelosa

Restoration of frescoes in the church of St. Primus and Felician, Grožnjan

Restoration of frescoes in the parish church of St. Nicholas, Pazin

Completion of works on Vela šterna (the Great Well), Buzet

Bells of Istria

MUSEUMS, COLLEGES, LIBRARIES, SCIENCE CONGRESSES, ANNIVERSARIES  
New permanent exhibition of Istrian ethnography at the Ethnographic Museum of Istria, Pazin  
Exhibition on Istrian emigrants at the Ethnographic Museum of Istria, Pazin  
Culture and language-related documents and revitalisation of the Istro-Rumanian language,  
Ethnographic Museum of Istria, Pazin  
Night of the Museums, Ethnographic Museum of Istria, Pazin  
Scientific Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Pazin State Archive  
Pazin Memorial 2008., Pazin  
50 years of the mixed choir KUD Istarski željezničar, Roč

#### NEW MEDIA

The Seven Days of Creation, Pazin  
Istrakon 2008, Pazin  
Kulturama, Buje  
Metazin, for the association Metamedij

#### CULTURE PROGRAMMES – OTHER

Motovun Film Festival  
9th Dance and Non-Verbal Theatre Festival, Svetvinčenat  
Statutes of Istrian Cities  
Legendfest/ Festival of Istrian Stories, Legends and Myths  
Artists' Organisation Transhistria ensemble-Dialecta istriana  
Sacred music - Dvigrad festival 2008./ međunarodni festival rane glazbe  
Kultivator, Nezavisna istarska televizija, Pazin  
Art Film - Sv. Marija na Škrilinah near Beram  
Celebrating the work of Mate Balota Marčan  
Trka na prstenac (donkey race), Barban  
Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Luigi Dallapiccola, Pazin

#### OTHER EVENTS

Kulturistra, for the association Metamediji  
Heart of Istria, EU/ Interreg IIIA Programme