



**PLATFORM FOR
INTERCULTURAL EUROPE**

*In collaboration with its
Member Organisations*



and



And with the kind support of

5th Intercultural Practice Exchange

30 November – 1 December 2011



Students' Halls of Residence
Ivan Cankar, Ljubljana



Mestna občina
Ljubljana

DRAFT PROGRAMME – 24th November

Small European Countries Prepare for Globalisation: The Challenge of Diversity and Engagement

Case Study: Slovenia

*Venue:
Municipality of Ljubljana
Town Hall
Mestni trg 1
1000 Ljubljana*

Introduction of the Event

National cultural identity can be a fixation for small European countries. Often this stems from a historical experience of foreign domination or follows a period of belonging to a multi-ethnic state entity. Such **small European countries** nevertheless **face the challenge of diversity** – from small minorities within or new minorities from outside. **How do they face up to this challenge in view of the yet greater diversity which globalisation will bring? Are minorities engaged with? Is immigration acknowledged and inclusion of newcomers facilitated? Is fear or hate of foreigners taken seriously?**

The *Platform for Intercultural Europe* (an NGO based in Brussels and supported by the *European Commission* and the *European Cultural Foundation*) brings these questions to Slovenia for its fifth Intercultural Practice Exchange – previous events have taken place in London, Rome, Vienna and Malmö.

The *Platform for Intercultural Europe*, together with its Slovenian member organisations *Kud Pozitiv* and *Zavod Exodos*, will look at examples of good intercultural practice in Slovenia and contextualise them in the wider European experience. A two-day programme will feature an avant-garde of Slovenian practitioners and thinkers as well as international experts. Around 60 participants will put their heads together for analysis and debate.

The event takes place against the backdrop of early national parliamentary elections in Slovenia on 4th December. At a time when economic and financial crisis dominates politics, this *Intercultural Practice Exchange* will serve as a reminder that protectionism and defensiveness are attitudes of old which will not make Slovenian society, or any other, fit for the future. The capacity of a society to engage with minorities in their midst will also define the skill and competence needed to deal with the rest of the world. Practicing interculturalism at home prepares us for negotiation with a complicated global future.

Slovenian politicians are invited to present their viewpoints on diversity and intercultural engagement in the public forum on the second day of the event.

The event is locally supported by the Municipality of Ljubljana, and the boarding school *Dijaški dom Ivana Cankarja*.

Day 1: Wednesday 30th November 2011

PRACTICING DIVERSITY, CULTIVATING EMPATHY

Why is debate about The Other so heated, when numbers are so few? Minorities & migrants in smaller European countries: why the fear?

10.00 Coffee & registration

10.30 Welcome by **Sabine Frank**, Platform for Intercultural Europe
Drago Pintarič, KUD Pozitiv

10.45 **Culturalism revised**

Keynote Address by **Rajko Muršič**, Professor of Anthropology,
University of Ljubljana

Culturalism denotes the belief that essential human differences are based in culture. Multiculturalism and transculturalism contain this notion. While terms derived from 'culture' have increasing political currency, they have less epistemological value in anthropological scholarship. A very good example of the problem is 'Culturalism' as an attitude, which became prevalent in Slovenia, following the break-up of Yugoslavia. Previous 'co-citizens' began to be considered as Others. How do we reckon with 'culturalism' – in Slovenia and elsewhere?

11.00 **Case study Slovenia:
Roma inclusion in public life**

Presentation of project "Media training of young Roma" by **Tom Gomizelj** and **Dženi Rostohar**, DZMP (Society of Allies for Soft Landing)
with **Šarenka Hudorovac**, film-maker and **Nataša Brajdič**, police-woman and film subject

11.30 Break – video documentary "Du baro mesto / in the big City"
by Šarenka Hudorovac (about the life of Roma in Ljubljana)

11.45 **Slovenia in European perspective:
Roma inclusion in public life**

Panel discussion with

- **Domino Kai**, Roma activist, chair - Swedish International Roma Film festival, cultural producer
- **Enisa Brizani**, Slovenian radio journalist
- **Vinko Cener**, Roma Academic Club Murska Sobota
- **Monika Sandreli**, Roma radio ROMIC

Guiding question:

The Romany population constitutes 0.17 % (around 3,300 people) of the Slovene population (2002 census). It is granted special statutory rights. Why is it so difficult to assure the

participation and flourishing of the Romany in Slovenia?

*Moderators: **Guillermo Ruiz**, Platform for Intercultural Europe & **Brankica Petkovič**, Peace Institute Ljubljana*

13.00 Lunch

14.00 **Case study Slovenia:
Controversy over the building of a mosque in Ljubljana**

*Presentation of project "Divided God" by **Drago Pintarič**, Kud Pozitiv, and **Mateja Demšič**, Municipality of Ljubljana*

14.30 **Slovenia in European perspective:
Controversy over building of mosques**

Panel discussion with

- **Anne Boukris**, *Intercultural Art, Management & Diversity Strategies, Denmark*
- **Vasa Perović**, *Professor at Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana (tbc)*
- **Nedžad Grabus**, *Mufti of Muslim Community*

Guiding question:

Slovenia's Muslim community is rather small - approximately 47.000 people. The vast majority of Muslims in Slovenia stem from Bosnia, some from Kosovo and Macedonia. There are no Muslims from outside Europe. Why was the controversy over the building of a mosque in Ljubljana between 2001 and 2008 so extreme?

*Moderators: **Tarafa Baghajati**, Platform for Intercultural Europe & **Mateja Demšič**, Municipality of Ljubljana*

15.45 Coffee break

16.15 **Diversity, social development & democracy**

Closing Discussion

*Moderator: **Chris Torch**, Platform for Intercultural Europe*

17.00 Finish

19.00 Dinner

20.30 *Performance at Kreatorij DIC*

- *Pozitiv Theater: "15. Warrior" Radovan Jaušovec and co-authors, young performers (play is part of the project BITI), 30min*

Video screenings and socializing at Galerija DIC

Day 2: Thursday 1st December 2011

SHARED SPACE, SHARED VALUES, COMPLEX IDENTITIES

Concrete actions to create shared space

09.00 Coffee

09.30 **Case study Slovenia:
Environmental care and responsible cohabitation as a
factor in overcoming cultural differences and conflicts**

*Presentation of project "BITI / Being" by **Drago Pintarič**, KUD Pozitiv, with **Radovan Jaušovec**, video artist, and **Bara Kolenc**, choreographer.*

Documentary video: Recycling in Novi Sad (production Teater 34, Novi Sad), 12 min

10.00 **Slovenia in European perspective:
Environmental care and responsible cohabitation as a
factor in overcoming cultural differences and conflicts**

Panel discussion with

- **Margit Leuthold**, Naturefriends International, Austria
- **Bent Blindbaek**, Fair Denmark
- **Želimir Žilnik**, film-maker
- **Mateja Demšič**, Municipality of Ljubljana

Guiding questions:

(Lack of) care for the environment can reveal cultural differences but also be the rallying point for overcoming them. Is intercultural engagement around common problems the way out of emotionally charged identity politics? What does it take to promote this approach?

*Moderators: **Sabine Frank**, Platform for Intercultural Europe & **Rajko Muršič**, Professor of Anthropology, University of Ljubljana*

11.15 Departure by bus for
**Study visits to *Labirint umetnosti / Labyrinth of art*
(devised by Bulgarian artist Venelin Shuralov, produced by
Zavod Exodos Ljubljana in the context of Ljubljana World
Book Capital 2010)**

Boxed Lunch.

*Presentation by **Nataša Zavolovšek**, Zavod Exodos*

*Labyrinth of Art is a park, which offers urban inhabitants a place to stroll and to read. It demonstrates the link between the ecology and culture. Located in **Fužine** close to the Ljubljana Psychiatric Clinic, it offers a public space that can bring people from different spheres of life together. A place to get lost and to find yourself afresh. <http://www.labirint-umetnosti.si>*

12.50 Return by bus from Fužine to Ljubljana Town Hall.

13.30 **Education for Intercultural Relations**

by **Jure Gombač & Mirjam Hladnik Milharčič**

Research presentation & discussion

*Moderator: **Mateja Demšič**, Municipality of Ljubljana*

Guiding questions:

Intercultural learning and active citizenship in Slovenia was researched for the first time in 2001. The research identified some educational establishments, which - by their own devices and despite the absence of a national policy strategy for intercultural learning – had established programmes of inclusion and intercultural learning. Good local initiatives of addressing the needs of minorities and migrants in education have been identified. How can the good practice be spread? How can it inform the creation of a solid policy framework? Slovenia was the driving force behind the adoption of an EU Council resolution on Intercultural Competences in 2008. How could this resolution be implemented in Slovenia?

14.30 Coffee break

15.00 **Developing intercultural competence for a globalized future. Special challenges for small countries**

Public Forum:

Round One:

Distillation of the panel discussions

- *Recap with selected speakers from previous one and a half days, 20 mins*
- *Short interventions from selected participants*, 5 mins each, *e.g. Nataša Zavolovšek, Ahmed Ahkim, Michael Walling, Nevzet Porić, Sonja Kralj-Bervar*
- *Open discussion*

Round Two

Exchange with local politicians and journalists

- *Short interventions, 5 mins each*
- *Open discussion*

*Moderator: **Chris Torch**, Platform for Intercultural Europe & **Mateja Demšič**, Municipality of Ljubljana*

16.30 **Summary, thank yous and future steps**

16.45 Finish

19.00 *Dinner of organising team and internal evaluation*

A programme produced in collaboration by:

Sabine Frank and **Chris Torch** of the Platform for Intercultural Europe and **Drago Pintarič** of Kud Pozitiv, **Nataša Zavolovšek** of Zavod Exodos and **Mateja Demšič** from the Municipality of Ljubljana.

Overall responsibility: **Sabine Frank**, Platform for Intercultural Europe



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



The Platform for intercultural Europe acknowledges the support of the European Cultural Foundation

SPEAKERS and MODERATORS

1. **Tarafa BAGHAJATI** - Founder of the Austrian Muslim Initiative, established in 1999 which promotes Muslim perspectives in the media, engages on issues relating to the Middle East, encourages interreligious dialogue, promotes Muslim participation in public life, and builds bridges among Muslim communities, also addressing racism within the Muslim community. Member of the Advisory Council of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR). Born in Damascus. Civil engineer by profession.
2. **Bent BLINDBAEK** - project leader at Intercultural Centre, Denmark's oldest intercultural organisation. Has been working since the 70s with projects about diversity, interculturalism and inclusiveness. Founder of several cultural institutions – latest "FAIR Denmark", an NGO which works on the re-use of IT-equipment in educational projects in the South. www.fairdenmark.dk, www.ikc.dk
3. **Anne BOUKRIS** - Audience Developer. Advisor on Intercultural Management in the Arts, Diversity Strategies & Equal Opportunities. Member of EU Intercultural Expert Panel. Training, facilitation & reporting at Equal Consult & www.cki.dk in Copenhagen, Denmark
4. **Nataša BRAJDIČ** - activist in different NGOs, worked as journalist for Roma TV programme. Employed by police for last 4 years where she works on projects for better a understanding between different cultures.
5. **Enisa BRIZANI** - journalist on Slovenian national radio, editor of Roma radio broadcast *Amare Droma – Our ways*.
6. **Vinko CENER** - employee at Roma Academic Club as manager of the project »The increase in social and cultural capital in areas with a Roma population«. Vice president of the Roma Academic Club. Graduated as Tourist agency manager in 2010 at Vocational College for Catering and Tourism in Maribor. Certificate in cultural management. Has been working with Roma culture in media for many years now - journalist and a moderator of television programme »So vakeres« on national Slovenian television RTV SLO. Co-author with Slovenian festival of Roma culture and music »Romano ☐hon« - Roma Month.
7. **Mateja DEMŠIČ** - Historian, specialized in Balkan History. Head of the Youth Office of the Municipality of Ljubljana, she works on topics youth participation; tolerance, intercultural learning, integration and youth empowerment.
8. **Sabine FRANK** - Secretary General of the Platform for Intercultural Europe, Brussels. Previously Deputy Secretary General of Culture Action Europe, the European arts advocacy umbrella. Ex-parliamentary assistant to MEP Dr. Barbara O'Toole, socialist coordinator on the European Parliament's Committee on Education and Culture (1999-2004). Political scientist by training.
9. **Jure GOMBAČ** - Historian and Sociologist. Researcher at the Slovene Academy of Arts and Science. His research fields are forced migrations in former Yugoslavia and in East and Central Europe during the post Second World War period, and since recently labour

- migration. Involved in several research projects in Italy, Finland and Croatia.
10. **Tom GOMIZELJ** - activist in different NGOs. Producer. One of the founders of DZMP (Society of Allies for Soft Landing). Experience in the field of youth media and inclusion of vulnerable social groups.
 11. **Nedžad GRABUS** - mufti of Islamic Community in the Republic of Slovenia since 2006 and professor of religion and Islamic beliefs at the Faculty of Islamic Studies. Has attended different workshops and seminars on education of religion. Many articles in local Bosnian newspapers and magazines (*Preporod, Muallim, Glasnik, Takvim*) on topics of religion in general, religions doctrines, interreligious dialogue, importance of proper religions education in public school, etc. Wrote articles in Slovenian and Croatian newspapers.
 12. **Mirjam HLADNIK MILHARČIČ** - senior research fellow at the Institute for Slovenian Emigration Studies at the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Ljubljana. Assistant professor and a lecturer at the University of Ljubljana and University of Nova Gorica. Lived in New York City (2000-2004) - principal research project »The Role of Women in Preserving Cultural Heritage among Slovenian Migrants in the United States«, which later became the basis for a documentary film "Americanke" ("100% Slovenian" in English) - released in October 2005 on TV Slovenia and in festivals around Europe and the United States. Regular contributor to newspapers and magazines in Slovenia and abroad. Fields of work: politics of education, migration, women migrants, human and children's rights
 13. **Jože HORVAT** - long time activist and president of the Roma Union of Slovenia. Romologian, lecturer, researcher and writer.
 14. **Šarenka HUDOROVAC** - assistant pre-school teacher. Experienced in organising different projects in Roma community. Author of documentary film about Roma living in Ljubljana.
 15. **Brendan JACKSON (rapporteur)** - independent writer, photographer and producer, member of artists' group Laundry.
 16. **Radovan JAUŠOVEC** - freelance artist, photographer, video artist, light designer, choreographer and performer. Also a youth worker and a volunteer in the fields of culture and youth-related issues. Spent 18 months in Turkey as an EVS volunteer in 2008 and 2009. Has been cooperating with Kud Pozitiv for 10 years as a mentor of the Pozitiv theatre group, the video workshop and the photography workshop. He took part in all the international projects organized by Kud Pozitiv, the latest in the BITI project as one of the coordinators of the project.
 17. **Domino KAI** - drama teacher and trained mediator. Rom from the Kaale group (also called Finnish Roma); grew up in a traditional Finnish Roma family. Combing two passions: drama education and the struggle for minority rights. Has twice led and produced Swedish television programme series on the situation and history of the Roma. Works as an educator and Roma officer at the Ombudsman against ethnic discrimination and as an Enquiry secretary at the Delegation for Roma Issues at the Government

- Offices. Has held various positions of trust – e.g. member of the General Assembly of the European Roma Information Office (ERIO).
18. **Bara KOLENC** - professor of philosophy and BSc of comparative literature. Freelance artist, choreographer, performer and theorist in the field of performing arts. Has been cooperating with Kud Pozitiv for 14 years as a mentor of the Pozitiv theatre group. She took part in all the international projects organized by Kud Pozitiv, the latest in the BITI project, where she was leading the theatre workshop for young participants together with Bogdan Jankovič.
 19. **Margit LEUTHOLD** – Member of Scientific Advisory Board for Sustainable Tourism Development/Education for Sustainable Development for *Respect - Naturefriends International*. Worked for *Respect* from 2001-2010, last as CEO. Several intercultural and interreligious projects (e.g. PILGRIM - pilgrimage on sustainability, and PILGRIM Schools). Born in Germany, migrated to Austria in 1992. 1999 Doctorate in Political Education (Alternative education concepts of the civil society movements in the 1980s). Works as hospital chaplain at two Vienna hospitals. Member of the interreligious platform AKH and of *Du Siach*, Coordination-board for Christian-Jewish Cooperation in Vienna.
 20. **Rajko MURŠIČ** - Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts, in the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Ljubljana. He teaches courses in methodology, social structure, kinship and popular culture. His main research interests comprise anthropology of popular music (fieldwork in Slovenia, Japan, Poland, Germany, Macedonia and Serbia), theory of culture, cultural complexities, and transnational studies. In past few years he worked as well on post-socialism and racism.
 21. **Brankica PETKOVIČ** - MA in sociology of culture. Researcher and project manager at the Peace Institute Ljubljana – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies. Editor of the Media Watch book series and Media Watch journal. Researcher, author and advocate on media accountability, citizens' and minority groups' communication rights, and media pluralism.
 22. **Vasa PEROVIČ** - MA BiA (1992) graduated from Faculty of Architecture, Belgrade, 1994 masters degree Berlage Institute of Architecture, Amsterdam, NL. Professor at Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana. Author of awarded proposal for Ljubljana' Mosque together with Matija Bevk, Bevk Perovič Arhitects Office.
 23. **Drago PINTARIČ** – historian and sociologist, pedagogue, media mentor for media. Founder and director of the NGO *KUD Pozitiv* from Ljubljana. Extensive experience in journalism and in project leadership in the fields of art, culture, and youth-related issues.
 24. **Nevzet PORIČ** - secretary of the Islamic Community in the Republic of Slovenia since 2003. Since 2003 involved in solving the problem of building a mosque in Ljubljana. Participated in various conferences and round tables on this issue. Attended different workshops and seminars about education of religion.
 25. **Dženi ROSTOHAR** - social pedagogue, mentor for film & video. Founder and leader of DZMP (Society of Allies for Soft Landing).

- Extensive experience in the field of education, youth media and inclusion of vulnerable social groups.
26. **Guillermo RUIZ TORRES** - PhD student of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Germany at the Freie Universität Berlin. Member of the Centre for Politics, Culture and Research (Berlin). Adviser for Roma and migration organisations in Belgium, Germany and Spain. Previously Policy Officer at the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) and involved in advocacy initiatives for the improvement of policies towards Roma, Sinti and Travellers in Europe. Regular lectures at universities in Germany and Latin America and work for research institutes on minorities, racism and discrimination. Diplomas in Law and Political Science at the Universidad San Marcos, Lima, Peru and in Political Science at the Freie Universität Berlin.
 27. **Monika SANDRELI** - editor on the Roma radio ROMIC. Correspondent for the weekly broadcast *Amare Droma – Our ways* on Radio Slovenia. Was presenter, translator and journalist for TV broadcast *So Vakeres – What you're saying?* Extensive experience in the preservation of the Roma language and Roma dances. Romany language translator and teacher for the Roma and non-Roma. Active member of the Women's Forum at the Association of Roma in Slovenia.
 28. **Chris TORCH** - Founder and Senior Associate at Intercult, a Stockholm-based independent resource and production unit focusing on international exchange and distribution. Member of the Steering Group of the Platform for Intercultural Europe. Vice-President of Culture Action Europe 2005-2010. Member of the Board of Trustees for the European Museum Forum (since 2010) and the European platform River//Cities (since 2007). BA in Dramatic Arts/Business Administration from Amherst College, Massachusetts, USA. Has lived in Sweden since 1978.
 29. **Želimir ŽILNIK** - film director with a career in socially engaged film and documentary since late 1960s' Yugoslavia. Over 40 feature and documentary films and shorts. Has been developing his unique docu-drama language - unleashing compelling narratives out of the lives of ordinary people - since the 1980s and used it throughout the 1990s to reflect on political tensions, including EU sanctions, the NATO bombings, and Milosevic's regime, e.g. *Tito's Second Time Amongst the Serb (1994)*. More recently, his focus has shifted to tightening European border controls and issues of refugees and migrants, e.g. *Fortress Europe (2000)*, *Kenedi Goes Back Home (2003)*, *Kenedi: Lost and Found (2005)* and *Europe Next Door (2005)*. Lecturer on documentary film at Academy of Arts in Novi Sad. Visiting lecturer at several European film schools (Goldsmiths College, London, UK, 2006 and Leiden University, Holland). Master classes and international film workshops in Slovenia since 1997 for students from Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Croatia and Serbia.