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The “Our Rights” Project: Human Rights Education

In September 2009, Slovenia -- as the Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe -- has begun implementing the human rights project “Our Rights” for 50,000 children in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and North Ossetia-Alanya in the Russian Federation. This is Slovenia’s concrete contribution to the democratization of these societies, especially by promotion of tolerance and respect through human rights education.



Human rights education and training is a lifelong process. If effective, it can prevent human rights violations by promoting a culture of peace, non-discrimination and tolerance, anchored in the respect for universal human rights and fundamental

freedoms. The empowerment of children – both by educating them on their rights and by ensuring them access to justice – remains a key priority of Slovenian foreign policy.

During the Slovenian chairmanship of the OSCE in 2005, Slovenia initiated a pilot project on human rights education called “Our Rights”, which was based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Slovenian experts designed, initiated and led the implementation of the pilot project, which involved a number of governments of the OSCE participating States, NGOs, individual experts, ombudsman’s offices, field offices of international organizations and other stakeholders. The participating countries showed great interest, so the teaching tool has been translated into 17 languages and used with about 66,000 children.

The evaluation of the “Our Rights” project clearly shows that it has contributed significantly to raising awareness of human and children’s within all

the participating countries. The successfully implemented “Our Rights” pilot project was integrated into Kosovo’s school curricula, which is a big strategic step forward in the education of the young.

In preparation for the Slovenian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2009 – during

the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Council of Europe, whose core objectives remain promoting rights, rule of law and democracy – Slovenia chose to support partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and North Ossetia–Alanya in the Russian Federation in continuing the “Our Rights” project in the 2009/2010 school year.

Former Defense Attaché to U.S. Attends Legion of Merits Annual Conference

Former Defense Attaché to the United States, Brigadier General Janez Kavcar (ret.), attended the 29th annual conference of European Legion of Merit recipients in Heidelberg, Germany, on November 18 and 19, 2009.

Brigadier Kavcar served as Defense, Military, Army, Naval and Air Attaché to the United States between 1999 and 2003. He was awarded the United States Legion of Merit medal in 2005. Brigadier Kavcar is one of two Slovenian military officers to be awarded the Legion of Merit medal, the other one being the former Chief of the General Staff,

General Ladislav Lipič.

This was the first time that Slovenia was represented at the conference, which takes place every year to gather active and retired military leaders to share their expertise and experience with the U.S. Army-Europe leaders. The conference recognizes military leaders who have worked closely with the U.S. Army and have been presented the U.S. Army Legion of Merit medal. The conference also serves as an open forum for allied military leaders to share their perspectives on today’s military challenges.

Students from SEED School visited the Embassy of Slovenia

As a part of their Career Day, the Embassy of Slovenia hosted a class of students from Washington DC SEED school. Students were focusing on careers in international environment and were especially curious about the role of the embassy, how to become a diplomat and how a typical day in diplomat’s career looks like. Miriam Mozgan, Deputy Chief of Mission was quizzed extensively also about Slovenia.

SEED is a public school and dormitory for District of Columbia teenagers that was put in the media this April when President Obama dropped by the school to sign a \$5.7 billion National Service Act and showcased a successful public school model

where practically every SEED graduate continues their education in college.



Slovenia - A Place to Stop When Backpacking in Eastern Europe!

A generation ago, young travelers hit the road with nothing more than a backpack, a few dollars and a Eurail pass to cover as many Western European countries as possible. But these days, that Eurail pass can take travelers far past the old West-East borders, all the way to the Black Sea. On the way, Eurorail lets one make a stop also in Slovenia, more precisely, in Ljubljana. Traveler Dara Bramson reported about the city:»The city itself has the same dual vibe of funky and immaculate.

In the charming town center that is reminiscent of Austria's big cities, a chandelier hangs from the power lines outside a cafe and an old church. From this intersection, visitors can

begin the trek to the 12th-century Ljubljana Castle, another example of old, medieval architecture that has been updated and renovated to become a modern cultural attraction.« She was amazed by the former military prison, now turned into a most popular hostel in Europe.

Hostel Celica --The Cell -- was redone in the 1990s by a group of artists and architects. They transformed the once stark and harsh prison into a bright, colorful hostel to welcome travelers into the "new" Slovenia. So now, when winter is coming and you are planning to spend your vacation in Slovenia, do not forget that you can stay in a former military prison!

Hostel CELICA is an artistically renovated former prison turned into a hostel, centrally located and near the bus & train station. Experience to sleep in a former prison cell with bars on the door and on the window which was artistically renovated in a priceless work of art!



According to archeological surveys, the area of the present castle has been settled continuously since 1200 BC[1], when the first settlements and later fortifications were built. The castle was first mentioned in 1144 as a seat of the Carinthian dukes of the House of Spanheim.

Croatian War Drama Wins 20th Ljubljana Film Festival

The 20th Ljubljana International Film Festival (LIFFe), which opened on November 11, has ended. This year's festival featured 106 films, including 15 short films. The festival hosted 29 foreign guests and was covered by 171 journalists. It featured 254 screenings, which sold a total of 45,800 tickets.

Croatian war drama "Crnci" (The Blacks) by Zvonimir Jurica and Goran Devic

won the Kingfisher Award, the top award. The jury commented that the winner was a "film which boldly depicts state of war and does not only evoke a true war, but also faces us with an enemy in every man." The jury explained that the film deserved the Kingfisher Award because of expressive acting, convincing story and imaginative directing.

Moderna Galerija Reopens with Great Zoran Mušič Show

An exhibition on the great Slovenian artist Zoran Mušič opened at the refurbished museum of 20th century art in Ljubljana on Tuesday evening, also featuring his earliest works that have never been included in retrospective shows of his work worldwide.

The comprehensive exhibition on the world-acclaimed modernist painter Zoran Mušič (1909-2005) has been chosen to launch Moderna galerija as the 20th century museum after it had been closed for nearly three years for renovation.

The 179 oil paintings, gouaches and drawings on display come from Slovenian

public and private collections. They include works from the first decade of Mušič's career as an artist, so they will showcase the Mušič the world has not known before.

The curator of the exhibition, Breda Ilich-Klančnik, explained that works from this period had never been included in exhibitions of his works across the world, which had been quite a few.

The exhibition marks the 100th anniversary of Mušič's birth, while it also pays tribute to the 50-year friendship between the artist and Zoran Kržišnik (1920-2008), the long-time director of Moderna galerija.



For more
informations about
Moderna Galerija go
on: <http://www.mg-lj.si/node/174>

Slovenia Considers Hosting European Basketball Championships

The Slovenian Basketball Association (KZS) on Tuesday announced its candidacy for hosting the European Basketball Championship in 2013. And where did Slovenia get this idea? KZS secretary general, Iztok Rems, explained that the idea of organizing the European Championship goes

back to 2005, when the Slovenian basketball team made it to the playoff phase in Belgrade and advanced to the World Championships. “That is when we knew that we have a team for the very top, while the second motive was development, as we would like to bring basketball closer to the young.”

Success in Soccer Puts Slovenia in Many Newspapers!

Slovenia’s win over Russia in soccer previous Wednesday was so resounding that many newspapers wrote about it. Among other, they wrote that »this small, tiny, country, squeezed between Italy, Hungary, Croatia, and Austria, with a mere 2 million inhabitants« has during its 19-year history proved to be

a difficult opponent of much larger soccer nations, and took part in major tournaments. A decade before the triumph over Russia, Slovenia knocked Ukraine out of Euro 2000 and created another sensation by reaching the 2002 World Cup by beating Romania. So, we wish all the best to the guys!



Our To Do/ To see list:

- Bogdan Grom, Selected Works, 1947 – 2008, exhibition at the Embassy of Slovenia
 - In Ljubljana Theatre Architecture In Focus
 - 25 Book Fair in Ljubljana

1. Bogdan Grom, Selected Works, 1947 – 2008, exhibition at the Embassy of Slovenia

On September 25, 2009, the Embassy of Slovenia opened extensive body work of Bogdan Grom's from 1947 to 2008.

If you had not seen the exhibition yet, you still have the chance! It will be on view at our Embassy till January 31, 2010.

2. Theatre Architecture in Focus in Ljubljana in Coming Days

Theatre Architecture in Central Europe (TACE), a three-year international project, left its mark on Slovenia this week with an exhibition opening in Ljubljana on Wednesday 25th and a symposium underway in the following two days.

Architectural ideas that resulted from a workshop held earlier this year in Ljubljana were presented at the exhibition.

Visitors were able to see the ideas of 63 students and 11 mentors from seven European architecture faculties for a new theatre in Ljubljana which try to combine the urban context of the Ljubljana old town and the demands of contemporary theatre practice.

Welcome to stop by!

3. 25th Book Fair in Ljubljana

Between 25th and 29th of November Ljubljana will host 25th Book Fair!

The accompanying program will feature an exhibition, debates on books within the Debate Café, various events within the Publishers' Academy, the Reference Book Tracker and the School Book Tracker program, and the announcements of this year's award winners.

For more information go on: cankarjev.dom@cd-cc.si.

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Network of Slovenes by connecting professionals, training entrepreneurship and reanimating Slovene culture.

Your online connection to everything Slovenian all around the world

