

Examples of good practice in the interpretation of maritime heritage

Abstracts

Zvijezdana Klobučar Filčić*

E-mail: info@visitlovran.com

Lovran Tourist Board

House of the Lovran Guc

Abstract

The *House of the Lovran Guc* is an interpretation center in Lovran, established in 2015, dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional shipbuilding, with a special focus on the Lovran *guc* boat. The project was initiated in 2007 based on an idea by Silvano Raffaelli, a member of the *Naš Lovran* association, and took eight years to complete. The Lovran *guc*, a boat built by shipbuilder Giovanni Gasparini, has become a symbol of the town's maritime heritage. Originally used for fishing, the boat also served as a tourist vessel, connecting Lovran with Opatija.

The project received support from experts at the Faculty of Maritime Studies in Rijeka, the Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral in Rijeka, as well as local enthusiasts and craftsmen. Its implementation involved local businesses and artisans, adding significant value to the community. The House of the Lovran Guc is located beside the town tower in a medieval loggia. Its mission is to preserve tradition and educate visitors about the historical and cultural significance of the Lovran *guc*. The center features exhibitions of ship models and tools and offers space for workshops and lectures.

The initiative was supported by the Municipality of Lovran, the local Tourist Board, the Ministry of Tourism, and private donors. Although the center currently offers free admission, its contribution to both tourism and cultural heritage preservation is substantial. Future plans include stronger collaboration with heritage associations and increased community involvement in the center's activities. The center aspires to become a key component of the cultural and tourism offer in Lovran and the wider Kvarner region.

Keywords: House of the Lovran Guc, Lovran *guc*, traditional shipbuilding, interpretation center, maritime heritage, *Naš Lovran* Association

* Director of the Lovran Tourist Board

Robert Mohović*

E-mail: robert.mohovic@pfri.uniri.hr

Ecomuseum Mošćenička Draga

Ecomuseum Mošćenička Draga – Story of the Sea – House of the Sea

Abstract

The Mošćenička Draga Ecomuseum was established in 2012 following a series of workshops aimed at mapping the heritage potential of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga. This process also resulted in the development of a Strategic and Action Plan and the creation of a visual identity for the Ecomuseum. The institution comprises five distinct components, one of which is *The Story of the Sea*, featuring the *House of the Sea* interpretation center in Mošćenička Draga. Opened in 2016 as part of the *Mala Barka* project, this center was enthusiastically embraced by the local community, which played a significant role in its realization. *The Story of the Sea* component is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the fishing and maritime heritage of the entire municipality. In addition to the interpretation center, it encompasses research activities and the organization of various events, thematic workshops, exhibitions, lectures, and spatial interventions that explore maritime and fishing traditions. The center itself is located within the protected historic core of Mošćenička Draga, situated above the waterfront. The permanent exhibition at the *House of the Sea* includes several thematic units: fishing, the sea and the underwater world, traditional shipbuilding, seafaring, and maritime skills. These are presented through both conventional museum displays and multimedia formats. A catalogue of the permanent exhibition has also been produced. Furthermore, the interpretation center extends to the waterfront area, where the living environment of the port is integrated into the exhibit, an essential feature of the ecomuseum concept. Through *The Story of the Sea* component, the Mošćenička Draga Ecomuseum plays a central role in preserving and revitalizing the municipality's maritime and fishing heritage. This is achieved through events that showcase traditional fishing, maritime, and shipbuilding practices; workshops on skills such as fish salting, preparing fishing tools, fishing, restoring wooden boats, making and repairing nets, making traps and longlines, sail-making and rigging, sailing and rowing in traditional vessels. The Ecomuseum collaborates with numerous associations, organizations, and institutions and has actively participated in all international projects conducted in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (e.g., *Mala Barka*, *Mala Barka 2*, *Arca Adriatica*, and *AdriPromTour*). It has also led several regional projects, including *Story of the Sea*, *Story of the Sea 2*, and *Adriatic PorTLand*, under the auspices of the Municipality of Mošćenička Draga.

Keywords: Ecomuseum Mošćenička Draga, Story of the Sea, House of the Sea, preservation and revitalization of maritime, fishing and shipbuilding heritage

* Full professor with tenure, president of the Ecomuseum Mošćenička Draga

Nedeljko Dunato*

E-mail: nedeljko.dunato@gmail.com

Sailing Club Plav Krk

Krk Sails

Abstract

The article *Krk Sails* offers a concise overview and timeline of activities related to the sailing of traditional wooden boats and efforts to preserve, restore, and publicly present them. Founded on May 29, 1876, the *Plav* Sailing Club from Krk is the oldest sailing club on both coasts of the Adriatic, a legacy deserving of recognition. In early 1998, the club's Board of Directors initiated the organization of a traditional boat regatta named *Krk Sails*, with the inaugural event held on August 16 of that year. The race began precisely at noon, marked by the final chime of the cathedral bell tower in the port of Krk. In the years that followed, combined regattas featuring both traditional boats and cutters were held annually on the Feast of the Assumption, always beginning at noon. In 2012, the regattas were divided into separate events for traditional boats and cutters. Collaboration with Liburnian associations of traditional boats began in 2009, culminating in the founding of the Coordination of Associations for the Protection and Revitalization of Maritime, Shipbuilding and Fishing Heritage of Kvarner and Istria in Mošćenička Draga on August 23, 2014. Meanwhile, Krk successfully restored two boats: the pasara *Bodulka* and the guc *Bodul*. In 2012, the Port Authority introduced preferential conditions for the mooring of traditional boats, designating the western shore of the Fisherman's Wharf for this purpose. That same year, Krk was represented at the Brest Maritime Festival. In 2015, the event expanded into a three-day maritime festival with the introduction of the Night Dance of Boats, alongside various workshops and performances. The *Bodulka* also took part in Venice's *Regata Storica* and the *Coppa del Presidente*, a traditional boat regatta.

The club celebrated its 140th anniversary in 2016. A year later, *Krk Sails* joined three other Adriatic maritime heritage events in Stari Grad on Hvar to mark their 20th anniversaries. In 2018, several major projects were completed: the creation of the Island of Krk Maritime Heritage Interpretation Center, the restoration of the traditional fishing boat bragoc *Paolina*, and the renovation and outfitting of the city's guc *Plav* 1876. The renovation of the *Lastavica* gajeta, part of the *Arca Adriatica* project, followed in 2020. The 25th anniversary of the Krk Sails event was celebrated in 2022, and in 2024, the *Krk Sails* exhibition will be presented in Kotor.

Keywords: Plav, sails, pasara, bragoc, boat, regatta

* Member of the Sailing Club "Plav" management

Toni Kraljić*

E-mail: toni.kraljic@malinska.hr

Cultural Association Dubašnica d.o.o., Malinska-Dubašnica

DUBoak – Maritime Heritage Interpretation Center

Abstract

The municipality of Malinska – Dubašnica has historically been shaped by two exceptionally valuable resources that have complemented one another for millennia, fostering the development of culture and civilization in this part of the island of Krk: the Adriatic Sea and the region's abundant oak forests and fertile fields. In recent decades, shifts in lifestyle have led to the sea becoming the dominant resource, not as a source of sustenance or transportation, but as a provider of services through seasonal tourism. This transition has brought about significant changes, including the concreting and landfilling of coastal areas, the expansion of construction zones into once-valuable agricultural and forested lands, and the rapid, often unregulated development of residential apartments. At the same time, traditional knowledge and practices related to both maritime and rural heritage, as well as broader elements of cultural heritage, are being increasingly neglected, resulting in the erosion of a community identity forged over centuries.

In the mid-2010s, a vision of the urban and architectural revitalization of the Malinska waterfront emerged. Within this framework, the idea of establishing an interpretation center was conceived, aimed at presenting, valorizing and revitalizing the rich maritime, cultural, and natural heritage of the Municipality of Malinska – Dubašnica. The vision was realized in June 2022 with the opening of the DUBoak Interpretation Center for Maritime Heritage. The Center serves as a unique venue that, in addition to its interpretive display, hosts associations connected to the Municipality's maritime traditions. Through multimedia presentations and interpretive content, the Center highlights the municipality's two most valuable resources and their interrelationship, showcasing the maritime and natural heritage of Malinska – Dubašnica.

Keywords: Dubašnica, maritime heritage, Interpretation Center, Malinska, DUBoak

* Director of the Utility Company Dubašnica d.o.o., Municipality Malinska – Dubašnica

Marija Marinković*
E-mail: marija@lopar.com
Lopar Tourist Board

Interpretation Center *Man and the Sea* – preservation and promotion of fishing and maritime heritage of Lopar

Abstract

This paper examines the establishment and operation of the *Man and the Sea* Interpretation Center in Lopar, opened with the aim of preserving and interpreting the region's maritime and fishing heritage. It details the various phases of the center's development, including planning, community initiatives, project implementation, selection of thematic units, and the challenges encountered during the process. Particular emphasis is placed on the contributions of the local community and the center's activities since its opening. The *Man and the Sea* Interpretation Center opened on December 18, 2023 in Lopar with the aim of preserving and interpreting the maritime and fishing heritage of this region. The initiative to create the center stemmed from the recognized need for a dedicated space to safeguard, exhibit, and interpret both tangible and intangible elements of maritime heritage. It also aimed to foster education and awareness among the local population and visitors regarding the rich maritime traditions of Lopar and the wider island of Rab. By analyzing the center's initial challenges and outlining strategic directions for future development, this paper highlights the crucial role of heritage interpretation in preserving community identity and promoting the sustainable development of tourism and the local community.

Keywords: interpretation center, *Man and the Sea*, Lopar, fishing heritage, maritime tradition

* Head of marketing in the Lopar Tourist Board

Valentina Preni*

E-mail: lagur.tunera@gmail.com

Fisheries Local Action Group Tunera

The Klenovica Fishermen's House Interpretation Center

Abstract

The *Klenovica Fishermen's House* Interpretation Center is located in the coastal settlement of Klenovica, one of twenty settlements within the City of Novi Vinodolski. Klenovica is the second most populous settlement in the municipality, following the city of Novi Vinodolski itself. The Fishermen's House has been in existence since at least 1966, and likely earlier, and was historically used by local fishermen, members of the first *Udarnik* fishing cooperative. In 2023, the building was fully renovated and outfitted to house a small interpretation center featuring a permanent exhibition composed of objects donated by fishing families from Klenovica. The center was established at the initiative of the City of Novi Vinodolski, with the support of the *Tunera* Local Action Group for Fisheries (*Lokalna akcijska grupa u ribarstvu* – LAGUR Tunera). The idea emerged from a recognized need to preserve and interpret the unique fishing traditions deeply embedded in the local community. The project was co-financed by the European Union through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, via the Tunera LAGUR grant. The Klenovica *Fishermen's House* Interpretation Centre holds exceptional significance for this small but historically rich community. It is open to the public free of charge, ensuring that all visitors, regardless of social or economic status, have the opportunity to engage with and learn about the fishing heritage that helped shape Klenovica. The center serves as a living space where cultural heritage is preserved, interpreted, and passed on to future generations. While Klenovica was once almost entirely dependent on fishing, the center now enables the community to safeguard and celebrate this legacy.

Keywords: Interpretation Center, fishing heritage, Klenovica, Tunera LAGUR, European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

* Professional associate in the Fisheries Local Action Group Tunera

Jelena Dunato*

E-mail: jelena.dunato@cres.hr

Cres Museum, Cres

***Creski kaić* – manifestation and interpretation center**

Abstract

The *Cres kaić* is a wooden boat of the *pasara* type, characteristic of traditional small-scale shipbuilding on the island of Cres. To preserve and revitalize this maritime heritage, in 2019 the JK *Reful* association and its partners launched the event *Creski kaić – Days of Cres maritime heritage and traditions*, held in late May and early June. The event combines traditional practices, educational activities, and entertainment. Through its involvement in the event, the Cres Museum collected and documented materials and testimonies related to the *Cres kaić*, ultimately initiating the establishment of a permanent exhibition space dedicated to this iconic vessel. In 2023, the Town of Cres and its partners began developing the *Creski kaić* Interpretation Center, located in the town gallery on the main square, adjacent to the historic port *Mali Mandrač*, where traditional wooden boats are still moored. The conceptual design of the center has been completed, space adaptation is currently underway, and the official opening is scheduled for June 2025.

Keywords: Cres, *Cres kaić*, interpretation center, traditional wooden boatbuilding

* Director at the Cres Museum, senior curator

Ozana Ursić*

E-mail: ozana@clinica.hr

Vedran Kasap**

E-mail: vedran@clinica.hr

Clinica Studio

University of Zagreb Faculty of Architecture, School of Design

5 Dollar House Interpretation Center Mario J. Puratić

Abstract

This text explores the creation process of the *5 Dollar House* interpretation center, from content development to implementation, through the lens of design, not solely in terms of visual aesthetics, but as a holistic approach centered on the overall user experience. Using the development of the *5 Dollar House* as a case study, the article outlines the key stages of the process and offers practical guidelines and recommendations for future initiators of similar projects.

Keywords: design, experience design, interpretation center, Mario Puratić, Puratić Power Block, Brač

* Graduate designer, Clinica studio

** Art professor, assistant professor at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Architecture – Design Study

**Maritime museums and museums
with maritime collections**

Abstracts

Silvija Huljina*
E-mail: silvija@mgc.hr
Crikvenica Town Museum

The Crikvenica Town Museum – contribution to the preservation of maritime heritage

Abstract

The article provides a brief overview of the establishment and operations of the Crikvenica Town Museum, as well as various activities related to the preservation of maritime heritage in the region where the museum is located. These activities are closely aligned with the museum's core mission and span over the past fifteen years.

Keywords: museum, Crikvenica, maritime heritage

* Professor, director of the Town of Crikvenica Museum

Kate Šikić Čubrić*

E-mail: kate@mbdb.hr

Betina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding

Betina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding: a model of preservation and interpretation of maritime heritage

Abstract

The Betina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding was founded in 2014, with its museum space and permanent exhibition opening to the public in 2015. Its foundation was the result of extensive preparation, including the collection of artifacts and the documentation of oral histories, supported by the active involvement of numerous volunteers from the local community. The museum's initial collection, comprising approximately 450 objects related to shipbuilding, agriculture, and fisheries, along with documented testimonies from shipbuilders, ethnographers and local practitioners, offers a comprehensive insight into the traditional way of life on the island of Murter.

Operating as a public institution under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, the museum is primarily funded by the Municipality of Tisno, with additional financial support obtained through public tenders and FLAG initiatives. Its organizational structure, which includes a director as well as professional and technical staff, ensures the effective management and execution of annual programs. The museum's mission focuses on the preservation, education, and promotion of traditional wooden shipbuilding, with a particular emphasis on engaging children and young people through interactive workshops, lectures, and hands-on demonstrations. A strong digital presence, featuring virtual content and video material, further supports the global dissemination of knowledge about the region's maritime heritage.

Notable projects include the creation of an open-air museum, that spans 1381m² and houses 43 traditional vessels, as well as the restoration of the *gajeta Marija*, built in 1922 and fully restored in 2021. Today, this vessel serves as an educational platform within the *Sailing in the gajeta* program, which aims to preserve the art of lateen sail navigation through a combination of theoretical instruction and practical experience. Despite challenges such as the limited storage and exhibition space, the museum continues to advance its mission through close collaboration with the local community and relevant institutions, ensuring the ongoing development and preservation of maritime heritage.

Keywords: traditional shipbuilding, maritime heritage, open-air museum, wooden ships, intangible heritage

* MA in ethnology, director of the Betina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding

Marijana Dlačić*

E-mail: mdlacic@hazu.hr

Institute for Historical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zadar

Maritime Collection of the Institute for Historical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zadar

Abstract

The Maritime Collection, part of the Institute for Historical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts (HAZU) in Zadar, was first opened to the public in 1966. In late 1972, its most valuable items were officially entered into the Register of Movable Cultural Monuments by the Regional Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Split. The establishment of the collection was significantly supported by the Society for the Study and Advancement of Maritime Studies of Yugoslavia, while additional contributions came from maritime-related economic entities, other cultural and scientific institutions in Zadar, and numerous individuals who played a key role in item acquisition. Particularly fruitful was the inter-museum cooperation with other maritime museums and collections across Yugoslavia. Today, the collection comprises approximately 400 artifacts, covering a historical range from antiquity to the modern era. In 2019, HAZU, the University of Zadar, the City of Zadar, and Zadar County signed a letter of intent, and in 2024, they finalized an agreement to establish the Museum of Croatian Maritime Culture in Zadar. The Maritime Collection will be an integral part of this newly established institution.

Keywords: Maritime Collection, maritime, Zadar

* Head of the Maritime Collection of the Institute for Historical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Zadar

Biljana Bojić*, Barbara Crnobori**

E-mail: muzej.grada.umaga@pu.t-com.hr

Umag City Museum - Museo civico di Umago

Preservation and interpretation of maritime heritage in the work of the Umag City Museum

Abstract

Since its founding in 2000, the Umag City Museum has been actively involved in the preservation, documentation, and interpretation of cultural heritage in northwestern Istria. Between 2021 and 2023, the Museum carried out three significant projects: *Grue – Preservation and Promotion of Traditional Wooden Boat Cranes*, *Miracle of the Sea – Explorations*, and *With a Taste of the Sea – Sapore di Mare*. These initiatives were supported by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia and the European Union through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, under the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) *Pinna nobilis*. Through these projects, local maritime and fishing heritage was valorized via scientific research, educational programs, exhibitions, multimedia content, and publishing activities. This paper examines key aspects of maritime heritage preservation at the Umag City Museum, discusses the challenges of project implementation, highlights collaboration with the local community, and outlines future plans for the interpretation of maritime heritage.

Keywords: maritime heritage, Umag City Museum, fishing, wooden boat cranes, the sewn ship *Zambratija*, gastronomic heritage

* Acting director of the Umag City Museum – Museo civico di Umago

** Senior curator educator

Marija Plenković*

E-mail: mplenkovi@gmail.com

Duje Dorotka**

E-mail: duje.dorotka@gmail.com

Jelsa Municipal Museum

The Fisherman's Museum in Vrboska – a pioneering venture in protecting the Adriatic fishing heritage

Abstract

The Fisherman's Museum in Vrboska, founded in 1972, is the oldest institution of its kind on the Adriatic coast. Established within the former Center for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Island of Hvar and supported by the strong enthusiasm of the local community, the museum has endured various institutional and management changes throughout its history. Today, it functions as a collection within the Jelsa Municipal Museum. For the first 49 years of its existence, the museum operated in rented premises. In 2023, with funding from the European Union and the Municipality of Jelsa, construction began on a new building to house the museum permanently. The project, a collaboration between the Jelsa Municipality and the Jelsa Municipal Museum, included not only the construction of the new facility but also the publication of a collection catalogue and the development of a museum application. All project activities have been completed, and the museum is set to open its doors to visitors in the summer of 2025 with a temporary exhibition, while awaiting funding for the implementation of the Permanent Exhibition Project, developed in 2024.

The new premises will offer improved conditions for the museum's continued growth and foster stronger ties with the local community, enhancing educational opportunities related to the significance of fishing and its associated traditions. While the temporary exhibition will launch in 2025, the long-term objective remains the realization of a permanent exhibition that will comprehensively present the rich history and traditions of this historic fishing region.

Keywords: Fisherman's Museum, Vrboska, Jelsa Municipal Museum, fishing, central Dalmatia, island of Hvar

* Director of the Jelsa Municipal Museum, curator

** Head of the Fisherman's Collection, curator

Draženko Samardžić*

E-mail: drazenko@muzej-biograd.com

Biograd na Moru Heritage Museum

A hundred years of museum activities in Biograd na Moru

Abstract

This paper, drawing on preserved documentation at the Biograd na Moru Heritage Museum, explores the early efforts in the systematic collection and preservation of material remains from the former residences of Croatian kings. These efforts ultimately led to the founding of the Museum of Croatian Antiquities in Biograd na Moru in 1925. The present-day museum can rightfully be considered as the successor to that original institution, which was established as part of the celebration marking the thousandth anniversary of the Croatian Kingdom.

Keywords: museum, heritage, collections, maritime

* Director of the Biograd na Moru Homeland Museum

Festivals and other good practices of preserving and revitalizing maritime heritage

Abstracts

Jakov Karmelić*

E-mail: jakov.karmelic@gmail.com

Pro Torpedo, Rijeka

Kvarner Festival of the Sea and Maritime Tradition FIUMARE – a model of organizing a festival of maritime tradition

Abstract

At many traditional sailing boat festivals and regattas, the central focus remains on the regatta itself, while other accompanying events, intended to explore and promote the local tangible and intangible maritime, fishing, and shipbuilding heritage, are often secondary in scope and impact. This narrow focus represents a missed opportunity to preserve, present, and transmit traditional values, customs, crafts, and skills to younger generations of the local population, as well as to the many tourists who visit coastal and island communities during the summer season.

A well-rounded event program, with socio-cultural, educational, entertainment-competitive, and economic dimensions, has the potential to foster synergistic collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, small businesses, cultural and museum institutions, educational institutions, and local and regional government bodies.

This paper presents examples of best practices in the organization of the Kvarner Festival of the Sea and Maritime Tradition – *FIUMARE*. Over the years, the festival's program has been expanded and refined, evolving into a potential general model for similar events along the Adriatic coast. The model emphasizes the promotion of indigenous values, the valorization of traditional maritime heritage, and the advancement of cultural tourism.

Keywords: FIUMARE, traditional boats, maritime festival

* PhD, assistant professor, Association Pro Torpedo, Rijeka

Vladimir Skračić*

E-mail: vladimir.skracic@gmail.com

Association Latinsko Idro, Murter

A note on the Latinsko idro

Abstract

This paper outlines the informal chronology of the *Latinsko Idro* Association from Murter. It begins by examining the maritime and cultural context in which the Lateen sail regatta was initiated, followed by the founding of the *Latinsko Idro* Association. Central to this story is the historical fact that the town of Murter once owned a vast archipelago, including the Kornati and neighboring islands, whose economy depended heavily on maritime activity. As a result, Murter entered the motorized era with the largest fleet of traditional boats on the Adriatic. The idea of launching a regatta and forming an association based on these traditional vessels was therefore met with strong local support. The paper then traces the development of the Association and its program dedicated to preserving traditional rowing and sailing practices. It describes the mobilization of rowers from Murter and the surrounding region, the construction of a training vessel, and the evolution of the *Latinsko Idro Days* event – from a single-day regatta into a month-long celebration. Today, the event includes multiple sailing and rowing regattas, sailing along the aquatorium, educational activities, culinary experiences, lectures and exhibitions, as well as performances of *klapa* and traditional folk singing. Special attention is given to the widespread enthusiasm for traditional sailing, which initially spread among neighboring communities and soon extended across the Adriatic. This growing interest sparked a revival in the restoration and construction of new wooden boats, sails, masts, booms, oars, and traditional maritime equipment.

In addition to maintaining its own vessel, the Association now has a dedicated facility to meet its most pressing needs and has adopted a new visual identity. It actively supports youth education and participates in religious pilgrimages to Murter's patron saints in the surrounding archipelago. The Association has also established its own award, the Register of Guardians of Croatian Maritime Heritage, in memory of its most prominent member, Željko Jerat (Cuma). Today, the *Latinsko Idro* Association is an associate member of the Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums (AMMM), and, together with other cultural organizations, has been included in the Register of Croatian Intangible Cultural Heritage. It is currently engaged in a joint initiative with sister associations from neighboring Mediterranean countries to apply for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Keywords: association, *Latinsko Idro*, regatta, traditional ship, maritime heritage, sailing, rowing

* PhD, retired full professor with tenure, member of the Management Board of the Association *Latinsko Idro* Murter

Marinka Fržop*

E-mail: marinka.frzop@gmail.com

Association Betinska Gajeta 1740, Betina

Betina gajeta – tradition within the community

Shipbuilding through history

Abstract

Over the centuries, Betina has developed into one of the most important centers of traditional shipbuilding on the Adriatic. The arrival of the Filipi and Uroda families marked a turning point, as shipbuilding became a key economic activity that profoundly shaped the town's identity. The location of the shipyards was adapted to natural conditions, with their eventual relocation to the western side of Zdrače Bay enabling further development. Following World War II, nationalization brought significant changes to Betina's shipbuilding industry, requiring shipbuilders to adapt to new circumstances. The introduction of engines into vessels almost led to the disappearance of traditional sailing. However, the dedication of the local community and maritime enthusiasts led to a renewed interest in preserving these skills and traditions. The launch of the *Za dušu i tilo* regatta and the founding of the Betina Museum of Wooden Shipbuilding created a lasting platform for the promotion and preservation of this important aspect of Betina's maritime heritage. The regattas evolved into more than just sporting and cultural events, they became vibrant gatherings that reinforced community ties. The story of the Betina *gajeta* and the community's commitment to its preservation illustrate how cultural identity can be safeguarded and passed down. Thanks to the continued work of master caulkers and the dedication of wooden boat owners, Betina's shipbuilding tradition remains a living link between past and present. The Association for the Preservation and Revitalization of Maritime Heritage plays a crucial role in maintaining the community's identity, culture, and traditions. By protecting both tangible and intangible maritime heritage, the Association not only preserves historical knowledge but also integrates it into contemporary social development. It serves as a key bridge between the past and the future, ensuring that valuable skills are passed on to new generations.

Keywords: shipbuilding, tradition, lateen sail, regatta, gajeta, sailing, association

* President of the Association *Betinska Gajeta* 1740, Betina

Joško Božanić*

E-mail: josko.bozanic@gmail.com

Association Ars Halieutica, Komiža

UNESCO Geopark Vis Archipelago, Komiža

Falkuša Comeza-Lisboa – a ship from the UNESCO geopark Vis archipelago Thirty years of worldwide promotion of the Croatian maritime heritage

Abstract

The Maritime Heritage Association *Ars Halieutica* was founded in 1986 in Komiža, on the island of Vis. Its establishment was prompted by the sinking of a unique type of vessel, the *gajeta falkuša*, on 26 August 1986 in Komiža. In response, a maritime heritage research team was formed, focusing on the *gajeta falkuša*, with the goal of reconstructing it. From the outset, our research extended to other types of traditional Croatian vessels – from Rovinj in Istria to Dubrovnik. These included the Rovinj *batana* and the Kvarner *guc*, the Murter *gajeta*, the Neretva *lađa* and *tropa*, the Mljet *gajeta* to the Dubrovnik galleon. In 1987, we reconstructed a historical type of *gajeta falkuša* and embarked on a 43,000-kilometer journey with a replica named Comeza-Lisboa with the mission of promoting Croatian maritime heritage across Europe (Expo 1998, Lisbon; Palamós 1998; Brest's Fête internationale de la mer et de marins 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012; Regata Storica, Venice 2005, 2006; the Bicentenary of the Norwegian Constitution, Oslo 2014; XII Encontro de embarcações tradicionais de Galicia, Cabo de Crus 2015; The Boats Festival on the Vltava river in Prague 2017; Terra Marique – Heritage in Support of European Recovery, International Conference, Strasbourg, EU Parliament, 6 July sailing on the *gajeta falkuša* to Strasbourg, Strasbourg 2022). Historically, the eastern Adriatic region was known as *Terra Nauta* (Land of Navigation), as navigation along the Adriatic during the age of sail was safer along the eastern coast thanks to the many islands, sea channels and sheltered bays that offered protection from storms. This thousand-year-old tradition of seafaring has been preserved through our ongoing project to safeguard the cultural and maritime heritage from Istria to Dubrovnik.

Keywords: *Ars Halieutica*, *falkuša*, maritime heritage, Vis archipelago, Adriatic Sea, traditional fishing

* Professor emeritus, scientific advisor, president of the Association *Ars Halieutica*, Komiža

Miro Cvitković*

E-mail: mirocvitkovic@gmail.com

Association Palagruza, Komiža

Workshop for the preservation of traditional tools, crafts and traditions “Barake Palagruzone”

Abstract

In today's fast-paced world, marked by the widespread use of modern technologies, we increasingly suppress and forget traditional values – our greatest wealth. At the heart of these values is the human being, followed by knowledge, both of which are embodied in customs and cultural heritage.

Komiža has long been recognized for its rich maritime tradition, particularly in fishing and fish processing. Komiža fishermen, known for their offshore expeditions, possess deep knowledge and experience of Adriatic maritime culture. Three key elements underpin this maritime wealth: the abundant fishing grounds around Palagruža, Biševo, Svetac and Jabuka; the traditional fishing boat, the *ofalkono gajeta*, from which the renowned *falkuša* emerged, and the invaluable human knowledge passed down through generations aboard these vessels.

However, with the rise of modern technologies, this rich maritime heritage is fading. Wooden *gajetas* are being replaced by plastic boats, sails and oars by engines, and with them, the collective knowledge and experience of generations are being lost. To counter this decline, the Palagruza Association launched the educational program *Barake Palagruzone*, which introduces young people to various aspects of this heritage, ultimately offering them a unique, hands-on experience with the *ofalkono gajeta*.

Keywords: *ofalkono gajeta*, *Barake Palagruzone*, Komiža, Palagruža

* President of the Association *Palagruza*, Komiža



Foto: Marko Valjak