Udruga NTN – Mreža Nikola Tesla

Nikola Tesla Network Association

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O Nikoli Tesli je ispričano puno toga – ispravnoga i neispravnoga. Svojata ga se sa svih strana, a on i dalje, u najvećem dijelu, ostaje nepoznanica i misterij. Istovremeno, njegovo se ime koje je brend samo po sebi, polako istiskuje i zamjenjuje novim brendom električnih automobila *Tesla*.

Nikola Tesla je čovjek koji je doslovce stvorio 21. stoljeće i upravo zato je poznat širom svijeta, ali ipak nekako nedovoljno. A što ga više upoznajemo, samo nam daje prostora za otvoriti nova pitanja.

Grupa entuzijasta i obožavatelja Nikole Tesle pokrenula je početkom 2019. osnivanje udruge *NTN – Nikola Tesla Network* s idejom stvaranja kulturne rute, a kasnije i certifikacijom iste od strane Instituta za kulturne rute pri Vijeću Europe. Kulturne rute Vijeća Europe su projekt Vijeća Europe pokrenut još godine 1987., osnivanjem prve kulturne rute Santiago de Compostela. Zbog naknadnoga velikoga interesa europ-

People say correct and incorrect information about Nikola Tesla. He remains admired but unknown. *Tesla* electric cars replaced his name.

Nikola Tesla is a man who created the 21st century. That is why he is known all around the world but somehow not known enough. We have new knowledge and questions.

In early 2019, a group of Nikola Tesla enthusiasts and fans launched the initiative to establish the *NTN – Nikola Tesla Network* association with the idea of creating a cultural route. It received a nomination in the European Institute for Cultural Routes at the Council of Europe. The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe are a project of the Council of Europe initiated in 1987 with the establishment of the first cultural route of Santiago de Compostela. Due to the subsequent great interest of other European countries, the project continued with new cultural routes in increasing numbers. A total of 52 cultural routes received this certificate from the Council of Europe. The routes are thematically diverse and rich. There are cultural

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skih zemalja, projekt se razvio i pokrenuto je sve više novih kulturnih ruta.

Do sada su ukupno 52 kulturne rute dobile certifikat Vijeća Europe, a rute su tematski različite i bogate, pa tako postoje kulturne rute posvećene arhitekturi, religiji, slavnim pojedincima i sl.

Više o kulturnim rutama Vijeća Europe može se saznati na: https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes

Od ukupno 52 certificirane rute, kroz Hrvatsku prolazi njih 20, a postoji mogućnost i za proširenje. Hrvatska može puno toga ponuditi i pokazati o Nikoli Tesli i idealan je kandidat za pokretanje novih ruta koje bi pokazale bogatu povijest Hrvatske i njenu povijesnu povezanost s drugim europskim zemljama.

Udrugu *Nikola Tesla Network* osnovali su Ličko-senjska, Karlovačka i Šibenroutes dedicated to architecture, religion, famous individuals, etc.

More about the cultural routes of the Council of Europe is available at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes

Out of a total of 52 certified routes, 20 of them pass through Croatia with a possibility for extending. Croatia has a lot to offer. She is an ideal candidate for starting new routes that would show the rich history of Croatia and its historical connection with other European countries.

The Nikola Tesla Network association has many founders. They include the Lika-Senj, Karlovac and Šibenik-Knin counties, the cities of Gospić, Karlovac, Ozalj, Skradin, Šibenik and the tourist boards of those counties and cities. In addition, the original founders and initiators include the Lika Museum and a large number of cultural and scientific institutions as well as six Croatian ministries.





sko-kninska županija te gradovi Gospić, Karlovac, Ozalj, Skradin i Šibenik te turističke zajednice tih županija i gradova. Uz njih, prvi osnivači i pokretači uključuju i Muzej Like te podršku brojnih kulturnih i znanstvenih institucija, kao i šest hrvatskih ministarstava.

Kako su popularnost Udruge i obujam njenih aktivnosti rasli, s vremenom joj se pridružilo još tridesetak partnera iz Hrvatske i inozemstva pa danas broji 44 predstavnika organizacija iz 14 država diljem svijeta. Cilj je Udruge obvezno uključiti sve zemlje koje su na bilo koji način povezane sa životom i radom Nikole Tesle, pa su uključeni članovi iz Hrvatske, Slovenije, Austrije, Mađarske, Češke, Francuske, Srbije i SAD-a.

I sastav članstva je vrlo zanimljiv, jer osim zemalja koje se povijesno vežu uz Nikolu Teslu, ima i onih koje s Teslom nisu izravno povezane, poput Rusije, Izraela, Australije, Venezuele i Južne Koreje. I profil članstva je vrlo zanimljiv i broji znanstvene institucije, od kojih 14 sveučilišta, nevladine organizacije, mala i srednja poduzeća, turističke organizacije, gradove i općine i dvije komore.

Kako bi sve iznesene činjenice i informacije vezane uz Nikolu Teslu bile istinite i znanstveno potvrđene brine se znanstveni odbor kulturne rute *Nikola Tesla Network* koji u svom sastavu ima 11 doktora znanosti iz različitih područja djelovanja, a dolaze iz osam zemalja svijeta što još više naglašava međunarodni karakter cijeloga projekta. Takva rasprostranjenost i raznolikost članstva velika je prednost u stvaranju jedinstvenoga globalnoga projekta *Nikola Tesla Network* kojemu je upravo cilj promovirati lik i djelo velikana Nikole Tesle širom svijeta. Uz to, projekt pro-



As the popularity of the Association and the volume of its activities grew, thirty more partners from Croatia and abroad joined over time. Today the Association has 44 representatives of organizations from 14 countries around the world. The goal of the Association was to include all countries that are in any way connected with the life and work of Nikola Tesla. This means the members from Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, France, Serbia and the USA.

The composition of the membership is very interesting. In addition to the countries that are historically associated with Nikola Tesla, there are several countries such as Russia, Israel, Australia, Venezuela and South Korea that are members but are not directly connected to Tesla. The membership profile is likewise interesting. It includes scientific institutions, 14 of which are universities, as well as non-governmental organizations, small and medium-sized enterprises, tourist organizations, cities and municipalities and two chambers. In order for all the presented facts and information related to Nikola Tesla to be correct and scientifically confirmed, the scientific committee of the cultural



movira važnost i značaj zemalja u kojima je Nikola Tesla živio i radio, a koje su pomogle u stvaranju njegovih izuma i patenata.

Jedna od odrednica u aktivnostima udruge *NTN* jest proširiti svijest i znanje o Teslinim izumima i patentima među mladima, posebno izumiteljima, jačanjem međunarodne suradnje i razmjene studenata i mladih među zemljama članicama rute.

Izgradnjom *Nikola Tesla Experience* centra u Karlovcu, stvara se dodatna snažna platforma za još intenzivnije i kvalitetnije promocije i rad s mladima iz svih zemalja svijeta.

Osim promocije samoga lika i djela Nikole Tesle, cilj je Udruge potaknuti nove i unaprijediti sve postojeće suradnje između zemalja članica, koje svaka na svoj način i danas održavaju Teslinu znanstvenu ostavštinu.

route Nikola Tesla Network has 11 doctors of science from different fields of work who come from eight countries of the world. It emphasizes the international character of this project even more. This distribution and diversity of membership is a great advantage in the creation of a unique global project, the Nikola Tesla Network, which is precisely aimed at promoting the image and work of the great Nikola Tesla around the world. In addition, it promotes the importance and significance of today's European Union countries and all other countries where Nikola Tesla lived and worked, the countries which helped the creation of his inventions and patents.

One of the determinants of NTN activities is to spread awareness and knowledge about Tesla's inventions and patents among young people, especially inventors, through strengthening international cooperation and student and youth exchange among the member countries of the route.

Kulturna ruta *Nikola Tesla Network* projekt je koji će pridonijeti brendiranju i promociji svih zemalja na ruti. Interes za povezivanje s Nikolom Teslom kao brendom očit je i na primjeru svjetske izložbe Expo, održane u Dubaiju, gdje su čak tri zemlje predstavile Nikolu Teslu kao velikana uz kojeg se žele vezati pa je Nikola Tesla bio je prisutan u paviljonima Hrvatske, Srbije i SAD-a.

Ni turistički aspekt i utjecaj brenda Nikola Tesla nije zanemariv i vidljiv je već u turističkim ponudama Like, Karlovačke i Šibensko-kninske županije te grada Zagreba. U suradnji s turističkim agencijama, nekima čak i iz SAD-a, izrađuju se turistički paketi za europska putovanja tragom Nikole Tesle. To je dobar primjer kako su uz razvoj rute povezane brojne aktivnosti – gospodarske, kulturne, turističke, obrazovne i mnoge druge. Hrvatska kao domovina Nikole Tesle ima sve veći broj destinacija koje se izravno vežu uz život i rad Nikole Tesle i nezaobilazni su dio niza aktivnosti.

Naravno, kao najvažnije i jedinstveno u čitavom svijetu je mjesto s rodnom kućom Nikole Tesle. Smiljan, malo selo pored Gospića u Lici gdje se Tesla rodio, igrao, učio o prirodi i na neki način se inspirirao energijom silnoga Velebita. Danas je u Smiljanu *Memorijalni centar Nikola Tesla* gdje posjetitelji mogu vidjeti i naučiti nešto više o samom Tesli, ali i o njegovoj obitelji, prvenstveno majci i ocu koji su uvelike utjecali na njegovo djetinjstvo, rani razvoj i obrazovanje. I Gospić je dio Teslina puta gdje je neko vrijeme živio i školovao se, a kasnije kraće vrijeme i radio. Teslin životni put nastavlja se odlaskom u



The construction of the *Nikola Tesla Experience Center* in Karlovac creates an additional powerful platform for even more intensive and high-quality promotion prospects and work with the youth from all over the world.

In addition to promoting the character and works of Nikola Tesla, the goal of the Association is to encourage new and improve all existing collaboration projects between included countries since all still maintain Tesla's scientific legacy in their own way.

The Nikola Tesla Network cultural route is a project that will contribute to the branding and promotion of all the countries on the route. The interest in connecting with Nikola Tesla as a brand is also evident in the recent example of the Expo world exhibition that took place in Dubai where as many as three countries presented Nikola Tesla as a giant with whom they want to be associated. Nikola Tesla was present in the pavilions of Croatia, Serbia and the USA.

The tourist aspect and influence of the Nikola Tesla brand is not negligible either. We see the tourist offers of Lika-Senj, Karlovac and Šibenik-Knin counties as well as the city of Zagreb. In cooperation with travel agencies, even from the USA, we create tourist packages for European trips following the footsteps of Nikola Tesla. This is a good example of how numerous activities are connected with the development of the route – economic, cultural, touris-

Karlovac u Višu realnu gimnaziju gdje dobiva prva znanja iz fizike od svoga briljantnoga profesora Martina Sekulića, pa je Karlovac jedno od najvažnijih edukacijskih mjesta u Teslinu životu.

Od ostalih hrvatskih mjesta povezanih s Teslom važno je spomenuti Ozalj i Šibenik, s dva projekta hidrocentrala. Hidrocentrala Ozalj prva je kontinentalna hidrocentrala u Hrvatskoj. Izgradio ju je poznati arhitekt Herman Bolle, a u tehničkom dijelu izgradnje i savjetima je pripomogao i sam Tesla.

Druga važna lokacija je hidrocentrala Jaruga 1 na Slapovima Krke, puštena u pogon tri dana nakon svjetski poznatije centrale na Niagari. Tako je Šibenik postao prvi grad u Europi osvijetljen električnom energijom – prije Londona ili Pariza i drugih metropola.

Tesla je imao i kratki susret i potencijalno veću i jaču poveznicu sa Zagrebom da je povijest drugačije pisana. Dolaskom i govorom u Skupštini Grada ponudio je tadašnjem gradonačelniku elektrifikaciju Zagreba. To nažalost, nije odmah ostvareno, ostavivši tako Zagreb još neko kratko vrijeme u mraku.

I grad Varaždin je jedna od lokacija u Hrvatskoj vezanih uz Teslu. U Varaždinu je živio Teslin ujak kojega je Nikola posjetio nakon govora u Skupštini u Zagrebu. I nekoliko manjih gradova i sela povezano je s Teslinim životom u Hrvatskoj – to su Senj, Plaški, Tomingaj. Te se poveznice većinom odnose na život njegovih roditelja, kao i jedan period kad je Tesla bio bolestan i liječio se kod majčine obitelji u Tomingaju.

Iz navedenoga razvidno je da Hrvatska ima što ponuditi turistima koji dolaze upoznati rodnu zemlju Nikole Tesle.

tic, educational as well as many others. Croatia is the homeland of Nikola Tesla. She has a large number of destinations that are directly related to the life and work of Nikola Tesla and as such are an unavoidable part of the itinerary of a series of activities.

The most important and completely unique in the whole world is the birthplace of Nikola Tesla. Smiljan is a small village near Gospić in Lika where Tesla was born, where he played, where he learned about nature and in some way found inspiration in the energy of the mighty Velebit. There is a Nikola Tesla Memorial Center in Smiljan where visitors can see and learn more about Tesla himself but also about his family primarily his mother and father who had a great influence on his childhood, early development and education. Gospić is also part of Tesla's route where he lived and studied and later worked for a while. Tesla's life journey continued in Karlovac where he attended the Higher Real Gymnasium where he got his first knowledge of physics from his brilliant professor Martin Sekulić. This makes Karlovac one of the most important formative places in Tesla's life.

Regarding other Croatian places connected with Tesla, it is important to mention Ozalj and Šibenik and the two hydropower projects. The Ozalj hydropower plant is the first continental hydropower plant in Croatia. Its builder was the famous architect Herman Bolle. Tesla participated in the technical part of the construction with advice. Moreover, the hydroelectric power plant Jaruga 1 at the Krka Falls started operating 3 days after the world-famous power plant at Niagara Falls. Šibenik became the first city in Europe lit by electricity – before London or Paris and other metropolises.

If history was written differently, Tesla would have had a bigger and stronger link with Zagreb. By coming and speaking in the City Assembly, he offered the electrification of Zagreb to the mayor at the time. This failed unfortunately. It left Zagreb in the dark.

Udruga *NTN* s europskim partnerima aktivna je na nekoliko projekata digitalizacije i moderne interpretacije rute putovima Nikole Tesle. Cilj je ispričati Teslinu priču bez dodavanja neprovjerenih informacija i nagađanja, što je čest slučaj kad je riječ o velikanima čiji život nadahne razne filmske, muzičke, popularno-znanstvene i slične interpretacije.

Od djelovanja Udruge svakako je vrijedno spomenuti uspješnu organizaciju konferencije *„Nikola Tesla – The starting point"*, održane u Europskom Parlamentu u Briselu. Na njoj su sudjelovali predstavnici svih europskih zemalja na ruti, predstavili su nove projekte koji se odvijaju u njihovim zemljama, a tematski ili stručno su vezani uz Nikolu Teslu i njegovu ostavštinu.

Udruga aktivno organizira radionice i predavanja s ciljem upoznavanja što većeg broja zainteresiranih s planovima za buduće aktivnosti. Među značajnim događajima bila su gostovanja poznatoga slovenskoga umjetnika Janeza Dovča s njegovom multimedijskom predstavom *Tesla*, prikazanom u Zagrebu, Gospiću, Karlovcu i Šibeniku. Udruga je ugostila i Laurenta Simonsa, međunarodno priznatoga kao jedno od najpametnije djece na svijetu i velikoga obožavatelja Nikole Tesle.

Udruga aktivno surađuje s međunarodnim obrazovnim institucijama i inicijativama. Sudjelovala je kao gostujući predavač na Češkom tehničkom sveučilištu u Pragu sa svojim obrazovnim programom *Istraživanje Tesle*. U povodu 100. obljetnice Teslina dolaska u Ameriku, udruga Nikola Tesla Network organizirala je posebnu radionicu u Međunarodnoj američkoj školi u Zagrebu.

Furthermore, the city of Varaždin is another place in Croatia related to Tesla. Tesla's uncle lived in Varaždin. Nikola visited him after his speech in the City Assembly in Zagreb. Even several smaller towns and villages have connections with Tesla's life in Croatia, Senj, Plaški, Tomingaj. These links refer to the life of his parents as well as the period when Tesla was ill and was being treated by his mother's family in Tomingaj. From this overview, it is evident that Croatia has a lot to offer tourists who come to see the birthplace of Nikola Tesla.

The Association works on several digitalization projects as well as modern ways of interpreting the route with European partners that ensure the most modern and high-quality approach to the presentation of Nikola Tesla by showing the true story of Nikola Tesla. The goal is to tell his story without adding unverified information and speculation which is a very common case when it comes to great men whose lives inspire various film, musical, popular-scientific and similar interpretations.

In the overview of activities, it is certainly worth mentioning the successful organization of the conference *„Nikola Tesla – The starting point."* The conference took place in the European Parliament in Brussels. Attendees included the representatives of all European countries on the route who presented new projects taking place in their countries and are thematically or professionally related to Nikola Tesla and his legacy.

Nikola Tesla Network supports a wide range of promotional, educational, and cultural activities dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of Nikola Tesla. Among the notable events were guest performances by renowned Slovenian artist Janez Dovč with his multimedia performance Tesla presented in Zagreb, Gospić, Karlovac and Šibenik.

The Association hosted Laurent Simons internationally recognized as one of the smartest child-

Od 12. ožujka 2025. do 12. ožujka 2027. Nikola Tesla Network provodi projekt *Teslina STEM akademija – učenje kroz inovaciju i zabavu* u sklopu projekta ESF + Jačanje kapaciteta organizacija civilnog društva za promociju STEMA, Ureda za udruge Vlade Republike Hrvatske i Nacionalne zaklade za razvoj civilnog društva. Partneri na projektu su Fakultet elektrotehnike i računarstva iz Zagreba, 1. Tehnička škola Tesla iz Zagreba, OŠ Vladimir Nazor iz Duge Rese, OŠ dr. Jure Turić iz Gospića, OŠ Juraj Dalmatinac iz Šibenika i centar za razvoj lokalne zajednice *Alba* iz Lasinje. Cilj je toga projekta potaknuti mlade na inovativno razmišljanje i kreativnost kroz STEM obrazovanje uz naglasak na praktičnu primjenu znanja.

Udruga Nikola Tesla Network trenutno aktivno organizira radionice i predavanja s ciljem informiranja što većeg broja zainteresiranih o svojim budućim aktivnostima. Osim toga, u fazi razvoja i pripreme su novi projekti kojima se proširuje njeno obrazovno i kulturno djelovanje.

ren in the world and a great admirer of Nikola Tesla. The Association collaborates with international educational institutions and initiatives. It participated as a guest lecturer at the Czech Technical University in Prague with its Exploring Tesla educational program. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Tesla's arrival to America, Nikola Tesla Network organized special lessons at the International American School in Zagreb.

From March 12, 2025 until March 12, 2027, Nikola Tesla Network implements the project *Tesla STEM Academy – Learning through Innovation and Fun* within the ESF+ program Strengthening the Capacities of Civil Society Organizations for STEM Promotion supported by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Republic of Croatia and the National Foundation for Civil Society Development. Project partners include the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb (FER), the 1st Technical School Tesla Zagreb, Vladimir Nazor Elementary School from Duga Resa, Dr. Jure Turić Elementary School from Gospić, Juraj Dalmatinac Elementary School from Šibenik, and the Local Community Development Center *Alba* from Lasinja.

The Nikola Tesla Network organizes workshops and lectures with the aim of informing as many interested parties as possible regarding the upcoming activities. In addition, new projects expanding its educational and cultural activities are in the development and preparation phase.