



Upravni odjel za kulturu
Assessorato alla cultura

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Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Istrian Provincial Parliament

- » Digitalizing official bulletins of the National Parliament of Margraviate of Istria
- » Students create Istrapedia
- » Opening the info-center in the Parliament Building
- » Regional knowledge quiz "Krasna zemljo" (Beautiful Country)
- » International scientific conference on the Istrian Parliament
- » "Perom i šakama" (With pen and fist) – exhibition presenting Istrian life at the time of the Istrian Parliament
- » Promotion of the book "Istarski sabor" (Istrian Parliament)

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of parliamentary life in Istria, on February 28, 2011 in the Poreč Istrian Parliament Building, the Region of Istria – Regione Istriana presented the whole-year program marking the founding of the Istrian Provincial Parliament. The aim of the entire program is to familiarize the general public with the social, political and economic history of Istria connected with the activities of this legislative body in the second half of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century.

» In April 2011 digitalization will start, which will enable access via Internet to the official bulletins of the National Parliament of Margraviate of Istria that covered present-day Istria County and parts of Primorsko-goranska County, as well as places situated in today's Republic of Slovenia and Italy.

The official bulletins also contain all legal acts of the Margraviate that were directed to the Parliament. In addition to the minutes of the Parliament sessions, laws and decisions, there are also reports of the administration with annexes, minutes of meetings, reports of Margraviate institutions, numerous legal acts of different commissions, Istrian towns and municipalities. Plans and events that marked life in Istria from 1861 to 1918 are also recorded in the official publications. These include data on taxation policy, compensation in fluvial areas, construction of roads, railways, buildings and other infrastructure, medical services, education system, agriculture, etc. Other documentation created during the activities of the Istrian Parliament is kept in the State Archives in Rijeka.

The digitalization is financially supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia. The material will also be accessible on the portal "Hrvatska kulturna baština" (Croatian cultural heritage). Administering institutions of the project are: Historical Museum of Istria (Povijesni muzej Istre – Museo storico dell'Istria, Pula – Pola); Humanistic Society (Humanistično društvo, Società umanistica, Humanističko društvo „Histria“, Koper – Capodistria – Kopar). Project partners are: State Archives in Pazin; State Archives in Rijeka; Ethnographic Museum of Istria (Etnografski muzej Istre – Museo etnografico dell'Istria, Pazin – Pisino); Labin National Museum (Narodni muzej Labin); Central Library Srećko Vilhar Koper, Regional Archives Koper; Juraj Dobrila University; University Library, Pula; Rovinj Municipal Museum (Zavičajni muzej grada Rovinja – Museo della città di Rovigno); Poreč Municipal Museum (Zavičajni muzej Poreštine – Museo del territorio parentino).

» Also, in April the editorial board of Istrapedia will launch a drive aimed at enriching the Istrian Internet encyclopedia by motivating students to contribute their works, expand the encyclopedia and win valuable prizes. All Istrian undergraduate and graduate students studying in Istria County or elsewhere can participate. The student's task is to "register" a person, concept, event or fact by choice, which is directly or indirectly linked with the activity of the Istrian Parliament. The main prize is a laptop. The drive begins April 4 and the announcement of winner together with the prize-giving ceremony will be held at the Admiralty building on Pula's waterfront on May 27.

» The cross-border project "Revitas" – Revitalization of the Istrian interior and tourism in the Istrian interior implemented in Croatian and Slovenian Istria, continues the series of mentioned activities. One of the 6 info-centers planned by the project "Revitas" will be opened in the Istrian Parliament Building. The info-center is planned to be completely equipped by June and the opening ceremony will take place in September.

The ground floor of the Istrian Parliament Building will be adequately arranged and in front of it an info-kiosk will be placed, presenting the cultural offer of Istria and connected with another 20 info-kiosks throughout Croatian and Slovenian Istria.

Project “Revitas” is co-financed by the European Union through the Program of cross-border cooperation *Slovenia – Croatia 2007 – 2013* (IPA – Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance), and the area of project implementation is Slovenian and Croatian Istria. The project objectives are developing models and promoting the “revitalization” of Istria, creating tourist infrastructure and integrated cross-border promotional products, together with education and raising awareness on the significance of cultural heritage conservation in the function of tourism.

The beginning of parliamentary life in Istria will be also celebrated in schools at the initiative of heads of regional history teacher councils and under the auspices of the regional Administrative Department for Culture. The Catholic Society of Educational Workers of Istria Mons. Antun Hek will organize a quiz “Krasna zemljo” (Beautiful Country) aimed at popularizing regional history. The competition, which will be held in September and October in Poreč, is open to pairs of pupils of the 8th grade of primary school and pairs of students from the 4th grade of secondary school. The quiz will cover knowledge of Istrian history in the 19th century, especially focusing on the time of the founding of the Parliament, and will consist of a knowledge test and on-site tour where speed will be also rated. The most successful participants will receive valuable prizes.

The Istrian Historical Society, as well as the Poreč Municipal Museum will also contribute to the quality of the celebration program of the 150th anniversary of the Istrian Parliament by organizing an international scientific conference in October, resulting in the publication of its proceeding in 2012. Croatian, Slovenian, Italian and Austrian historians, as well as other scholars will talk about the political life in Istria in the second half of the 19th century and all segments of its social development, many of which affected the activities of the Istrian Provincial Parliament.

The exhibition on the life in Istria at the time of the Istrian Parliament “With pen and fist” of the Historical Museum of Istria, which will be opened in the Istrian Parliament in November, is conceived as a multimedia display of life on the Peninsula in the period between 1861 and 1918. The Museum will try to introduce the public to the everyday life of inhabitants of Istria, promote the valorization of heritage of parliament members and officials, as well as other sources significant for the history of Istria at that time. The leitmotifs in the exhibition range from political propaganda, politicians, officials to right to vote, public education, public works and construction, health and welfare, and life in inns. Part of the exhibition will be dedicated to the recollections of today’s inhabitants of Istria.

Poreč Municipal Museum and Humaniora Ltd. will publish a work on the history of the Istrian Parliament, with the promotion of this publication being in December 2011. The bilingual edition (Croatian and Italian language) aims to evoke the social and political history of Istria, closely linked to the founding of the Istrian Parliament, distinguished persons who marked its work and changes that resulted from its activities.

The theme “Istrian Parliament – sacral and profane heritage” will be discussed by Elena Uljančić-Vekić from the Poreč Municipal Museum; administrative bodies in Istria before 1861 will be covered by Maurizio Levak from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Pula; the history of the Istrian Parliament as a political body will be elaborated by Elena Poropat from the Poreč Municipal Museum; and Josip Banić from the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb will present biographies of famous members of Parliament.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

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