

Croatia bid

EUROVELO AND CYCLE TOURISM CONFERENCE

(New) EuroVelo Countries:
How to Accelerate Integration

October 2018
City of Osijek, Croatia



Osijek, the city on the Drava River

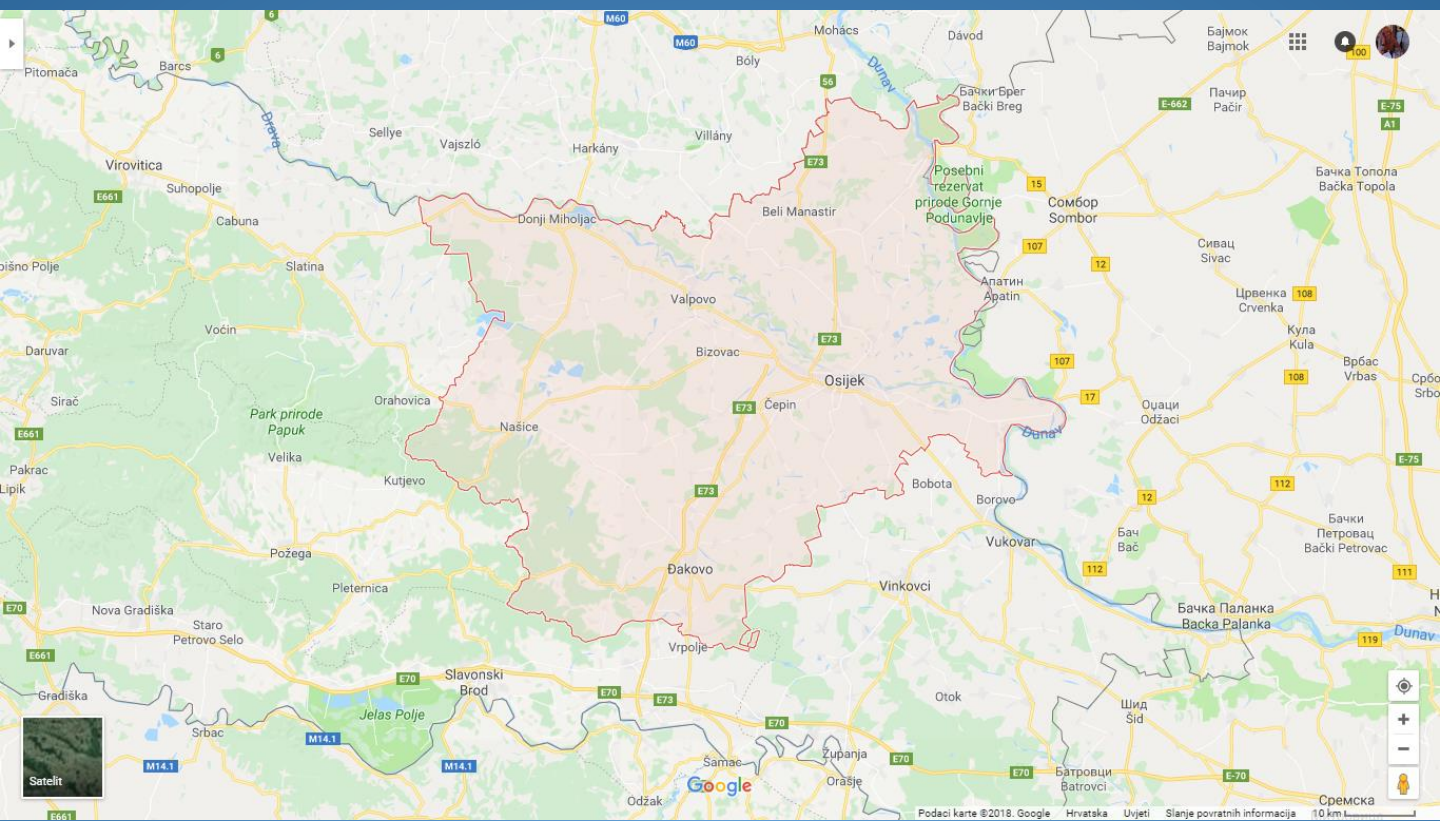


Our "City on the Drava River" was named after the word "oseka" which means low tide (a place near the river suited for inhabitants). It's the fourth biggest city in Croatia with a population of about 100,000 and the cultural, economic and scientific centre of Slavonia and Baranja region.

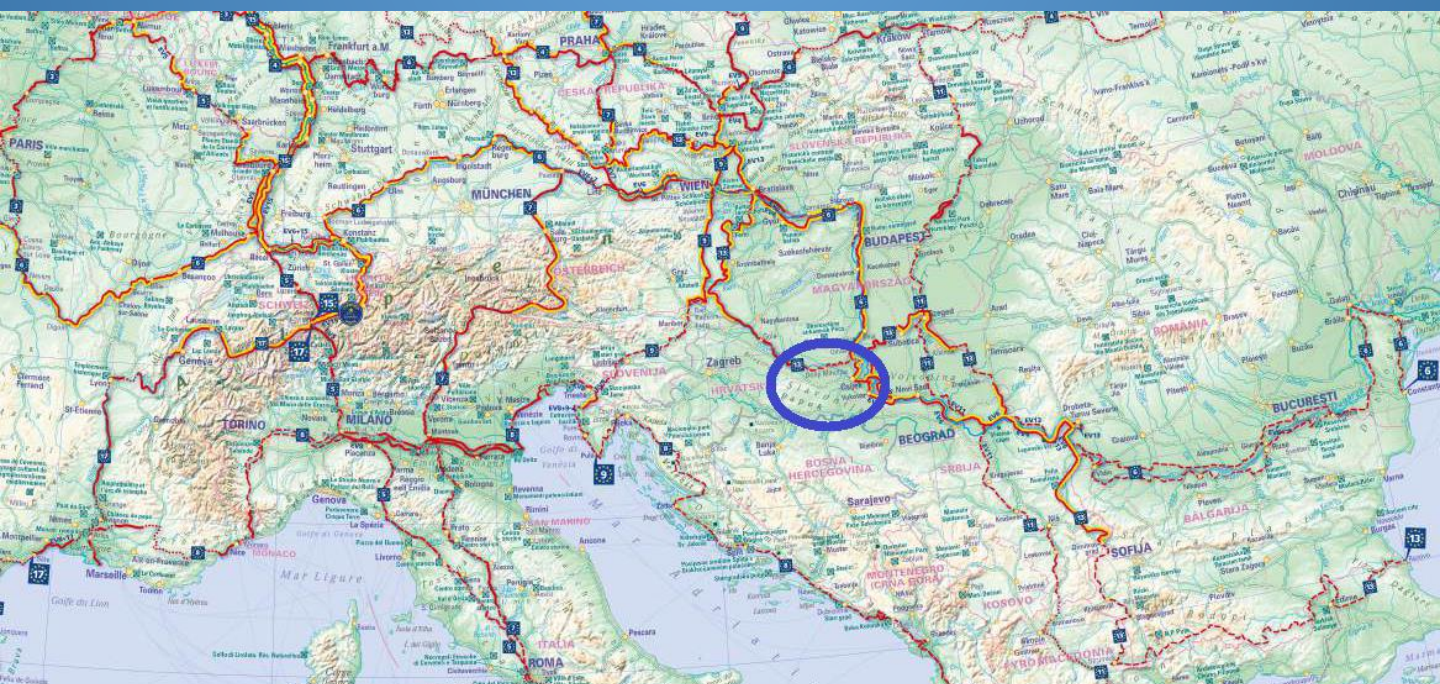
Osijek is located at only 20 km from the confluence of the Drava and the Danube, in the middle of its 2850 km long course from German Schwarzwald to the Black Sea. In this part of the European Podunavlje (Danube region) Croatian and old Austro-Hungarian heritage meet, and you will first notice that in the architecture and rich traditions and gastronomy.

Osijek is a lowland city and is perfect for cycling. More than 30 km of designated bike routes will allow you to easily move from site to site. You can easily pass Osijek by "length and breadth" by using main roads and the Promenade on the Drava river along which there is a cycle lane and a pedestrian zone.

Osijek, the capital of Osijek-Baranja County



Lying on EV 6 and EV 13



Osijek, the start of Tour of Croatia

Tour of Croatia is one of the most important sports events in Croatia, and with the desire to become an important part of the overall tourist offer and one of the main motives of the further development of cycle tourist segment, Tour of Croatia is also a unique tourist product in Croatia, adding to the image of Croatia in the world. Three editions were held so far, 2015–2017, starting in Osijek in spring, with no exception for 2018.



Osijek, the city of Pannonian Challenge



"Pannonian Challenge is carrying the title of the biggest extreme sports events in the region and that is because some of the biggest names in extreme sports come and participate at the festival. Pannonian Challenge is one of the few extreme sports events that unites BMX, skate, inline, MTB and also a few concerts. The competition is not only important for the extreme sports enthusiasts, but also for the city of Osijek, the town that owns the PC brand. The 19th edition of PC will be held from May 30 – June 2 2018.

2.1.1. Fundamental Questions

Q1. Why do we want to hold the conference?

For years, Croatia developed and promoted tourism mostly on the Adriatic coast. As a result, most tourists perceived Croatia through the sun and the sea and craved for its fabulous coastline and islands. In that context, the continental part of Croatia is yet an undiscovered jewel and cycle tourism is a potential force, still inadequately tourist-oriented to its part.



Croatian cycle tourism wakes up and speeds up after decades of sleep. Numerous local initiatives and enthusiasm of citizens are supported by the ECF and various EU projects, which changed the situation in cycle tourism completely in the last couple of years. Hosting the Conference will be a great opportunity to present our new development of cycle tourism to the world and regions who are on the same path. On the other hand, the development initiatives in Croatia will get the much needed support by worldly experiences and best expertise.

Several key partners from different sectors, including Croatian Ministry of Tourism, share this delightment organising EuroVelo and Cycle Tourism 2018 Conference and strongly support this application (see C4. for details).

2.1.1. Fundamental Questions

Q1. Why do we want to hold the conference?



The host city is Osijek, the capital of a flat continental Croatian Osijek-Baranja County laying on two EuroVelo routes (13 and 6), with an immense potential for a radial boost of cycle tourism in the CEE and SEE region. This part of Croatia will become the cornerstone of cycle tourism development of the continental part of Croatia and will influence a balanced development of tourism in Croatia and Europe. With Osijek as the location of the Conference, we want to emphasize that cycle tourism is not crucial for nations capitals and most visited tourist centres, and to highlight the importance of Osijek and its County, which is ran through not only by two EuroVelo routes, but also the international Drava cycle route, which will be extended from Maribor to the River Drava estuary in Aljmas, near Osijek.

2.1.1. Fundamental Questions

Q1. Why do we want to hold the conference?

Osijek and the Osijek-Baranja County are already a growing cycle tourism destination, with admirable hospitality, natural beauties, rivers (Drava and Danube), cycle routes, gastronomy, wines and a great cultural heritage under UNESCO access list, but also with UNESCO intangible cultural heritage of the world. The Conference in Osijek is an opportunity for guests to discover new people and customs, culture, touristic gastronomic offer and more that delights this plane of Croatia and CE Europe. Our wish in future years is to compensate the delayed development of cycle tourism in Croatia, and Croatia being an equal member of the EU in respect of cycle tourism, in spite of its delayed start.



2.1.2. Program content

Q2. Overall theme of the conference

The theme of the Conference will be development and branding of cycle tourism product through EuroVelo routes, with a tagline

(New) EuroVelo Countries: How to Accelerate Integration.



The Conference is planned to be a three-day event with a main programme, side events, social events and study tour.

The programme

The complete programme and schedule is a subject for further discussion with ECF, as there is a possibility to make two full days of Conference with bike tour through the city on the second day, and make a study tour outside the city in Nature Park and wine roads on EuroVelo 6 during a possible third day. This option will offer attendees a prolonged stay at a private accommodation one more day, and to learn more about Slavonia and this part of Europe.



Q2. The programme

Day 0: Evening welcome reception

Welcome reception and social dinner at the Holy Trinity Square in old city Tvrđja, and in the Archaeological Museum



Q2. The programme

Day 1: full day conference

08:00 – 09:00 Welcome, Introduction

09:00 – 12:00 Three parallel sessions, all including panels and workshops as the main conference format, thematically divided in sections (cycle tourism products, marketing, technology and products), with a coffee break.

12:30–13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 18:00 Three parallel sessions

1) World cafe workshops (sections to be finalised with ECF). The aim is to discuss cycle tourism in different thematic areas such as: new technologies and usage in cycle tourism, targeting and profiling cycle tourists, greenways, new trends in cycle tourism etc.

2) Presentations – best practices, new trends in cycle tourism (experts with knowledge in the fields relevant to different aspects of cycle tourism)

3) Plenary session with a special theme – how to boost cycle tourism in countries that are still in the developing phase of cycle tourism

Evening – Social event and dinner themed by the Pannonian Challenge event.



Q2. The programme

Day 2: half day conference and study tour

3 parallel sessions

08:00–10:00 Decision makers meeting and roundtable discussion

08:00–10:00 Annual National EuroVelo Coordination Centres and Coordinators (NECC/Cs) Meeting and roundtable discussion – EuroVelo strategy, projects etc.

08:00–10:00 Bike industry roundtable discussion and presentation of products, apps etc.

Coffee break

10:00–13:00 Parallel workshops aiming at regional/international development of EuroVelo routes and touristic products

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00 Study tour (half a day), explained in detail in section C16.



2.1.3. City/region/country context

Q3. Current cycle tourism facilities/initiatives in the city and region, and plans to be completed by the date of the Conference

Osijek is one of the lead cities in the Croatia when it comes to cycling infrastructure and investment in cycle tourism.

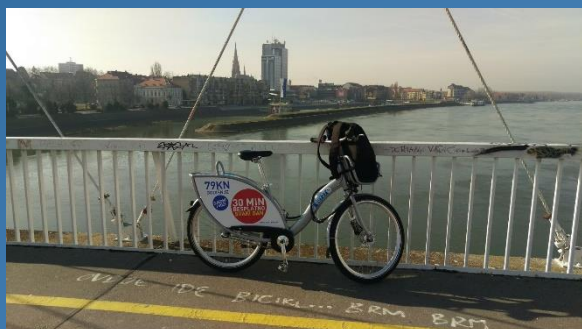


With a strategic plan for Slavonia, supported by the government, Osijek, as the capital of Slavonia is aiming to become centre of cycle tourism in the region. Some of the key measures are the development of EuroVelo 6 and 13, investment in cycling infrastructure and the development of a touristic product in the context of natural and cultural heritage on the local and regional level.

The Conference will be an opportunity for delegates to see all the measures that Osijek-Baranja County completed, and is planning to in the near future. Additionally, the Conference will accelerate already started activities for the development of cycle tourism.



Q3. Current cycle tourism facilities/initiatives in the city and region, and plans to be completed by the date of the Conference



One of the main activities, planned to be completed in 2018 before the Conference, is the establishment of a bike-sharing system in Osijek. The estimated time of opening is September 2018.

Cycle tourism has a great future in Slavonia and Baranja, and is lately becoming increasingly important for the development of continental tourism. Slavonia already has the conditions for cycle tourism development and has a huge potential – a multitude of cultural and natural heritage, top quality gastronomic offer, hospitality and a large number of low traffic roads. This does not mean that there is no need for further investment in additional infrastructure, on the contrary, but the current conditions are a good start. Cultural offer is perhaps the largest in Slavonia, and there is also Vucedol as the top museum, and Eltz which was awarded best museum in 2016. In 2017, the Osijek-Baranja County has published an Operational plan for the development of cycle tourism in the County for the period 2018–2025. This is the main framework and a strategic plan for the development of cycle tourism in the region.



Q4. Strategies in the city/region/country for increasing cycle tourism

In 2016, the establishment of the Coordination Body for the Development of Cycle Tourism, under high auspices of the Ministry of Tourism, enabled setting up of NECC in Croatia, and a stronger coordination with ECF. By signing the contract with ECF, the Coordination Body has taken over the rights and obligations with regard to the EuroVelo routes management. Each of the member organisations of the Coordination Body have confirmed its activities, in accordance with their field of work. As four EuroVelo routes pass through Croatia, EV6 – Atlantic-Baltic sea, EV8 – Mediterranean route, EV9 – Baltic-Adriatic and EV13 – Iron Curtain Trail, one of the core tasks of the Coordination Body is to define a national cycle routes network based on existing county and local routes, integration into the European network of cycle routes, and work on their improvements.



Together with 10 member organisations/institutions in the Coordination Body, as a result of the need for better field-work coordination and getting acquainted with the situation, problems and challenges of cycling and cycle tourism development of the Croatian counties, 20 appointed representatives of Counties and county Tourist Boards, and their deputies, were included in the work of the Coordination Body, since November 2017.

In 2013, Croatian tourism development strategy until 2020 has been published, detecting cycle tourism and sustainable tourism, especially in the continental part of Croatia, as a key goals. As a result, the national Government assured financial programmes for the development of cycle tourism, which started in 2016. In a 5 year period, the Government will allocate funds for 14 continental counties (NUTS-3) to invest in cycle tourism. The fund for cycle tourism in the continental part of Croatia is planned to grow annually, starting with the investment in activities such as action and strategic plans and promotion, while and ending with infrastructural investments.

http://www.mint.hr/UserDocImages/arhiva/Tourism_development_strategy_2020.pdf

Q4. Strategies in the city/region/country for increasing cycle tourism

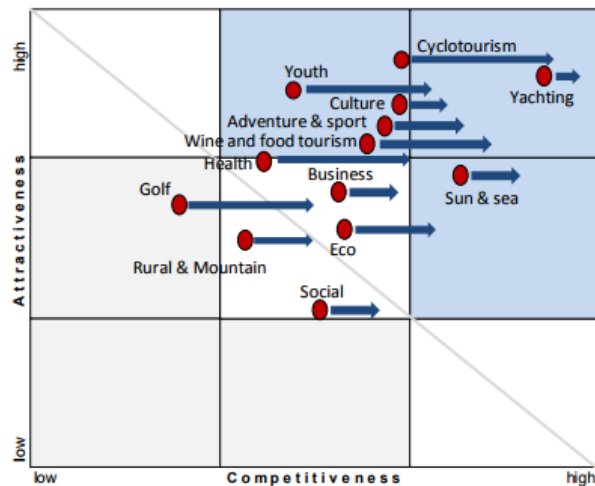
5.1.3 Tourist products system in Croatia

Starting with the existing characteristics of the Croatian tourism offer, and its high quality features, ten key products have been defined on which Croatia's tourism until 2020 should be built.

TOURIST PRODUCT SYSTEM

- Sun and sea
- Nautical tourism
- Health tourism
- Culture tourism
- Business tourism
- Golf tourism
- Cycling tourism
- Wine and food tourism
- Rural and mountain tourism
- Adventure and sports tourism
- Other important products: eco-, youth and social tourism)

CROATIAN TOURISM PRODUCTS – PORTFOLIO MATRIX



In 2015, the Action plan for the development of cycle tourism has been published by the national Government. The Action plan has been developed with the expert assistance of Institute for Tourism (Zagreb, Croatia). It is a framework for the development of cycle tourism, including key measures and activities.

In 2016, after years of advocacy from Sindikat biciklista, a national Book of Regulations for Cycling Infrastructure has been published, thus setting up a clear framework for the development of cycling on the national level.

In 2016, the Government set up main strategic investment projects for the programme period until 2020. One of the main strategic project is the investment in the Slavonia region, which is the biggest region in continental part of Croatia, with Osijek as the capital city. This strategic project aims to invest in all sectors, i.e. industry, infrastructure, tourism etc.

On the local/regional level, in November 2017, the Osijek-Baranja County has published an Operational plan for the development of cycle tourism in the County for the period 2018–2025. EuroVelo and Cycle Tourism 2018 Conference fits within the plan, in regards with foreseen infrastructural projects, legislative work, education of the industry and bike guides, adaptation and implementation of the tourist offer and content, and informing the public and marketing.

Q5. National and local political situation



There are no local or national elections until 2021. The current national Government set the strategic goals and a programme for the 2016–2020 period for the development of Slavonia, an eastern continental part of Croatia, with the city of Osijek as the capital. National and local governments are stable, and there are no foreseeable changes in the near future.

2.2.1. Basics

C1. Time of the Conference



Considering the tourist offer and scheduled events, the availability of the accommodation, the gastronomy and wine season, and beautiful autumn atmosphere, the **first week of October 2018** is in high concordance with the needs of the Conference.

Osijek is the 4th largest city in Croatia, with around 100.000 inhabitants and with a developed traffic infrastructure including trams, buses, taxis and, of course, a network of cycle lanes. Being a relatively small city, Osijek will have a general and propulsive feel for the Conference and a cycling atmosphere in a wider centre area.



The whole city and its citizens and students will be a part of the cycling culture during the Conference days in beautiful Osijek autumn, obtaining the festive atmosphere that would be lost in a city of a larger scale.

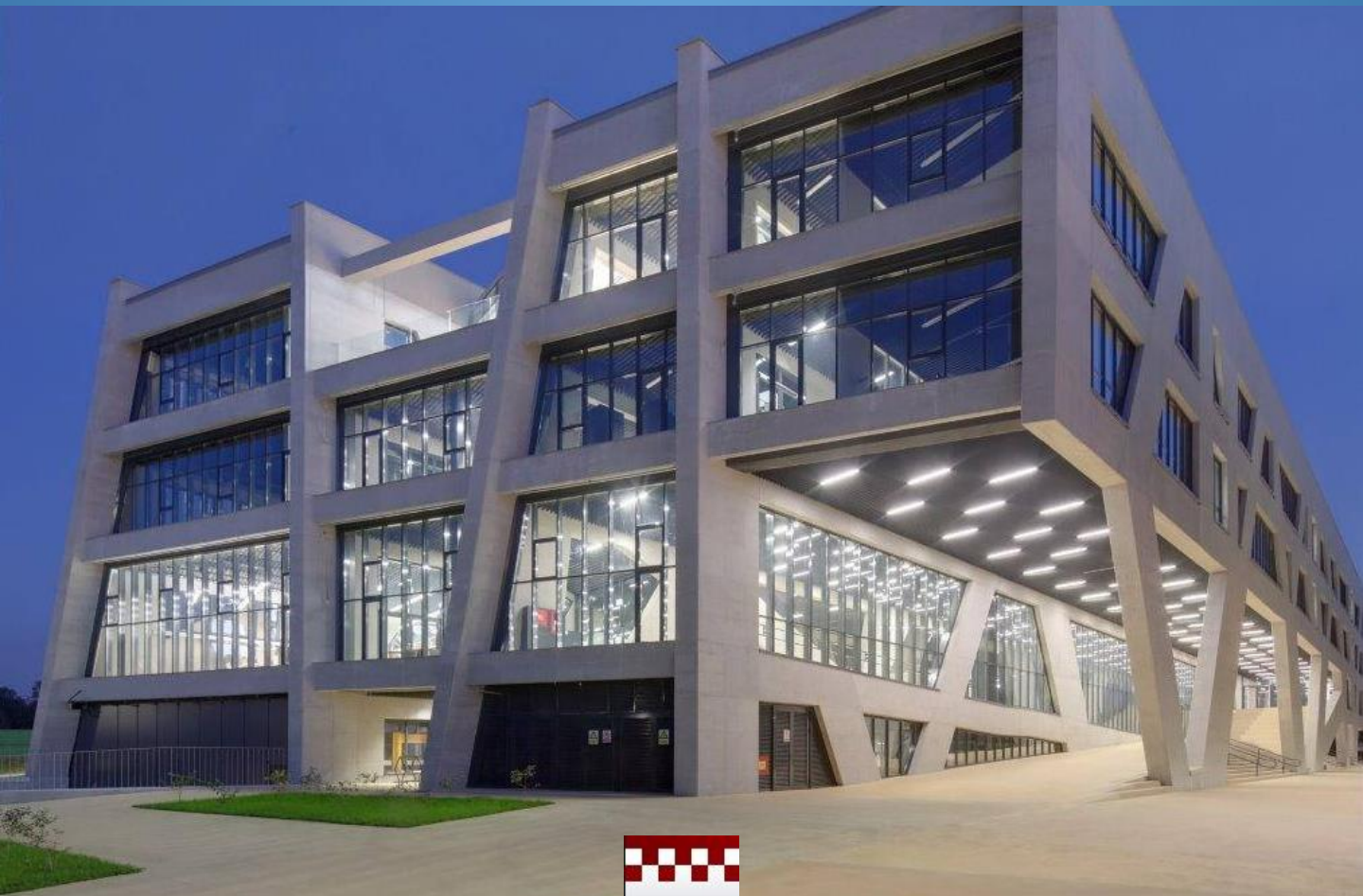


C2. The conference venue

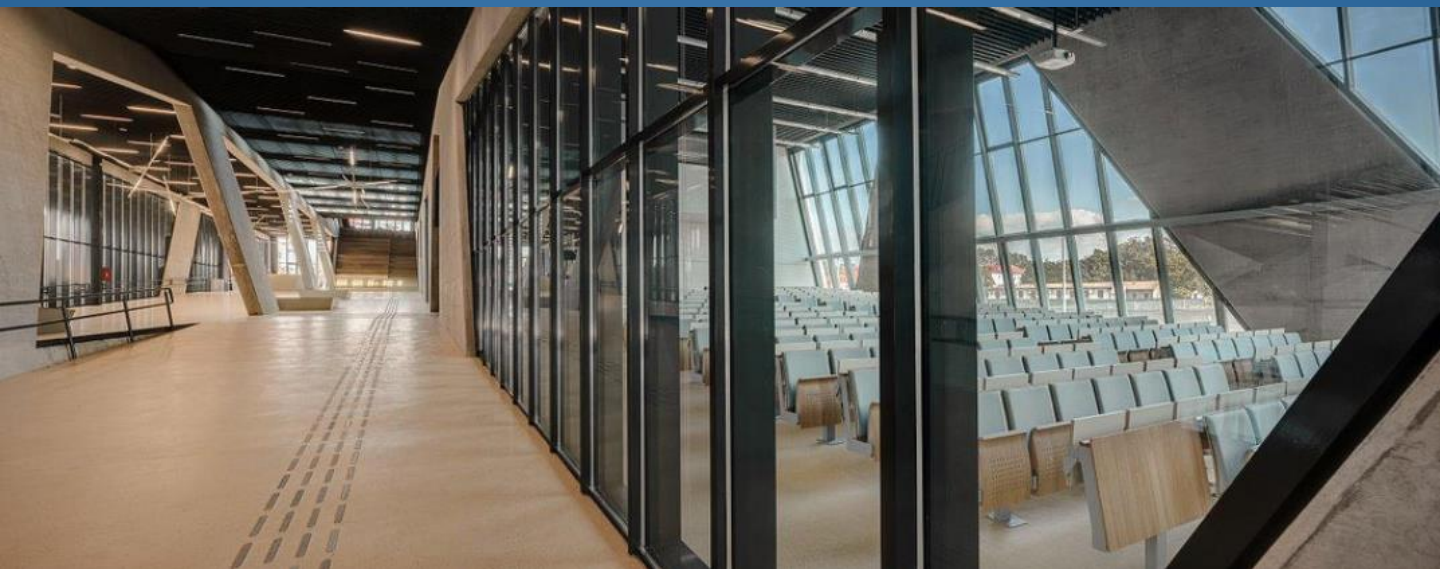
The Conference venue is the Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Osijek, with a new building, highly accounted for its architecture, located in the student campus.

The Faculty and staff will be very generous hosts, allowing the use of the facilities for 4–5 days, while the students will be volunteers, giving hands-on help with the Conference and exhibition, whilst gaining new knowledge, experiences and contacts.

The Conference venue is at the student campus and is located not far from the main 4* hotel Osijek, with only a 2 km bike ride in the cycling and pedestrian zone along the river Drava bank, called the Promenade, passing next to the entrance to the old city centre Tvrđja.



C2. The conference venue

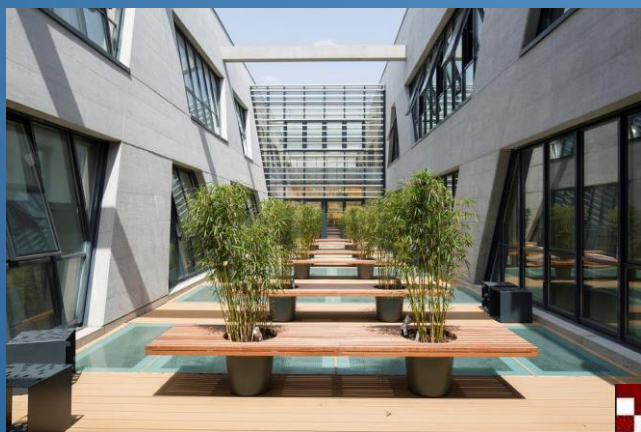


The building has a large conference room, with just under 300 seats and state of the art technical equipment, along with two big screens, an integrated projection and sound system, a technician back-office and a translation booth. The room is located in the ground floor, next to the 200m2 atrium area, where the exhibition will take place, along with a bar for coffee breaks and a lounge area.



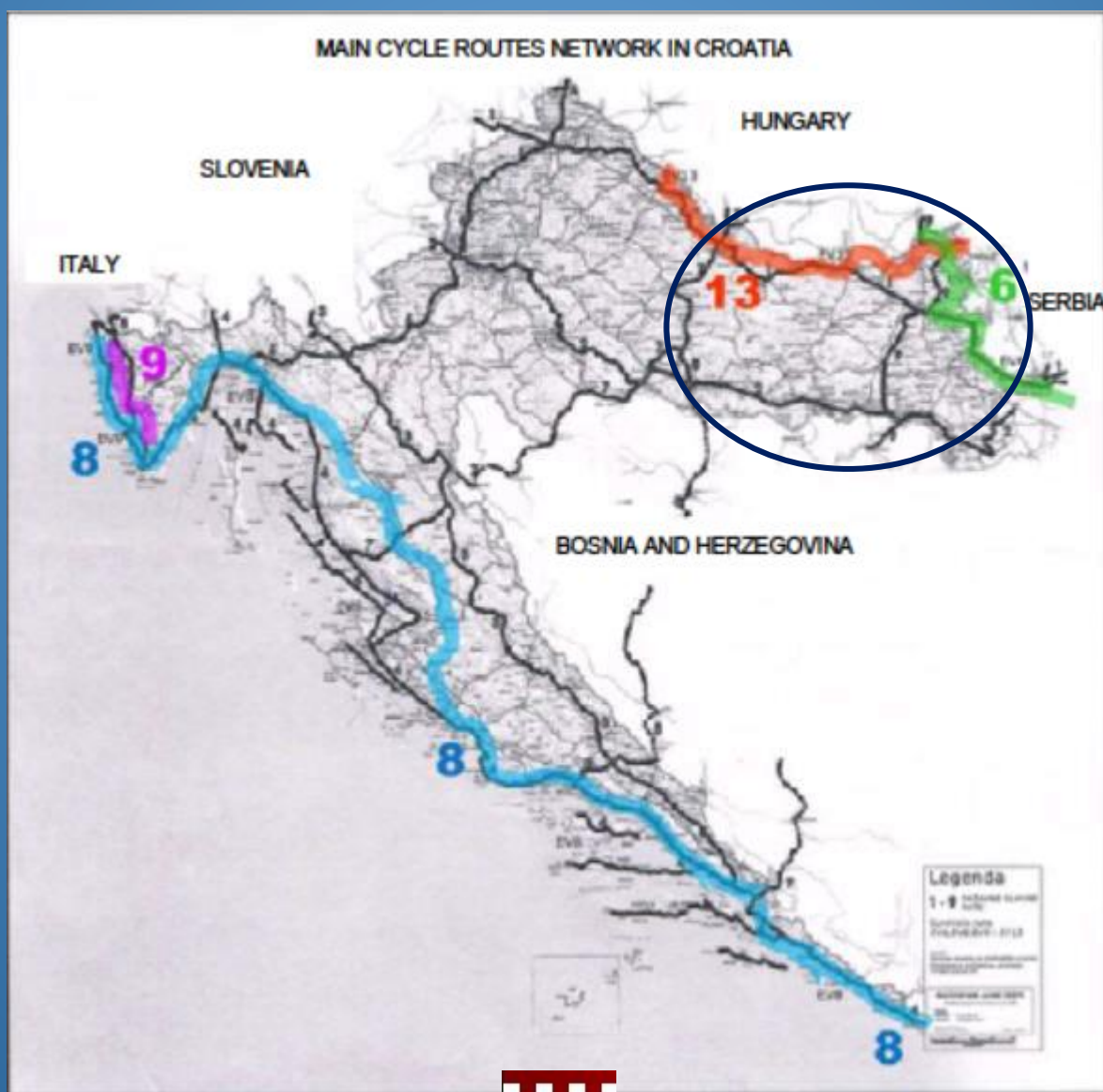
C2. Where is it proposed to hold the conference?

The 1st and 2nd floor have smaller conference rooms, ranging from 30 to 100 seats, also equipped with state of the art technical requirements. The centre of the building is a high hall, cascading into the ground floor area (the before mentioned 200m² atrium area), with closed and open spaces that can be used for the exhibition and coffee breaks. The top floor has a restaurant, which will be used for lunch breaks, and there is also a beautiful view of the river Drava and city.



C3. EuroVelo routes in the County

There are two EuroVelo routes in Osijek-Baranja County. EuroVelo 6 route in Croatia goes through the beautiful region of nature park of Kopacki Rit which is one of the most important, largest and most attractive preserved intact wetlands in Europe. From there, it goes straight through the city of Osijek which is less than 20 km from the Nature park. The other EuroVelo route is EuroVelo 13, the Iron Curtain Trail, passing through the northern part of the Osijek-Baranja county, through the town of Donji Miholjac.



C4. Main partners and supporters

The organizational team for the EuroVelo and Cycle Tourism 2018 Conference is a strong, heterogeneous group of people, consisting experts and decision makers. The organisational team is composed of 7 crucial and key point entities for the development of cycle tourism including:

- 1) Tourist Board of Osijek-Baranja County represented by the director, as the main bidder
- 2) Association Cyclists Union (Sindikat biciklista) represented by the program coordinator
- 3) Coordination Body for the Development of Cycle Tourism represented by the president
- 4) National EuroVelo coordinator
- 5) Ministry of Tourism represented by the deputy Minister
- 6) Osijek-Baranja County and the City of Osijek
- 7) Institute for Tourism represented by two expert associates

This team will be assisted by the University in Osijek, the director of Pannonian Challenge, the designated PCO and the cycle tourism companies that are members of the Coordination Body for the Development of Cycle Tourism.



C5. Lead body responsible for the project

The lead body responsible for the project is the Tourist Board of Osijek-Baranja County, while the partners are the Association Cyclists Union (Sindikata biciklista) and the Croatian Ministry of Tourism.

The Tourist Board is the authority on the regional level, and will be overseeing financial planning for the Conference.

Sindikata biciklista is the National EuroVelo Competence Centre and the leading advocacy cycling association in the country and a ECF member, and will be responsible for the Conference program and communication, together with the deputy Minister of Tourism, directly assisting in the organisation.

Also, a highly experienced PCO is engaged in the process, while the main platform for registration and information updates will be the main website of the Coordination Body for the Development of Cycle Tourism – www.cikloturizam.hr.



C6. The programme coordinator

The programme coordinator will be Tena Saric from Sindikat biciklista. As a programme coordinator, she has worked on Pedalafest 2016, and is currently working on Pedalafest 2018 (May 25–27, 2018, Zagreb), and also for Design District Zagreb 2017, a 6-day international event that showcases the gentrification of a cultural hub quarter in Zagreb.

She attended the Vienna Velo-City in 2013, and Nantes Velo-City in 2015, which inspired her to fully commit her time and knowledge in cycling advocacy issues.

Altogether, Tena has a highly versatile experience with international conferences and events of a larger scale, as she has been a part of many organising teams for 10 years, within her work at the Institute for Anthropological Research and Sindikat biciklista. She has performed a series of activities: editorial work, programme coordination, team coordination, review processes, communications, hospitality, fundraising, budgeting, reporting, community management, location management, production, technical support, web management, marketing and PR, selection of, management and communication with PCOs, and also presenting, often with tight schedules and deadlines, financial restrictions, and an enormous amount of contacts.

Tena is supported by Sindikat biciklista, as a leading advocacy association in Croatia established in 2011, a member of ECF, having a big backup in active expert volunteers, and a history of successful organisational, promotional and project activities.

Considering the scope of her organisational experience, and knowledge in cycling issues, we decided that she is most suitable for the position of the EuroVelo and Cycle Tourism 2018 Conference programme coordinator.



C7. A draft budget

Budget line	Cost	Source	Explanation
Project coordination	8000 Euro	Cyclists Union	Assisting the programme coordinator, 7 month salary
External expert associates	3000 Euro	From the attending fees	Help with the programme, communication
Venue	Free of charge	Osijek-Baranja County and University of Osijek	Venue for the Conference will be provided by Osijek-Baranja County and University of Osijek
The EuroVelo Conference fee	5000 Euro	Tourist Board and Osijek-Baranja County	Fee paid to the ECF
Travel and accommodation for organisers	1700 Euro	From the attending fees	Travel costs for the organisation team
PCO	4045 Euro	National Tourist Board	Assisting in the organisation and logistics
Social events	5600 Euro	City of Osijek, Sponsor	Welcome reception and dinner
Catering	3500 Euro	Financial Programme of Ministry of Tourism	Catering including drinks for 2 days of the Conference
Exhibition stands and material	500 Euro	Tourist Board and Osijek-Baranja County, exhibitor fees, Sponsor	Exhibition equipment
Complementary bicycles	400 Euro	City of Osijek, Sponsor	Bicycles for daily usage, bicycles for the study trip to Kopacki rit
Bus for the study tour	600 Euro	City of Osijek	Bus from the Nature park Kopacki rit to Osijek
Promotional material	2000 Euro	Tourist board, Sponsor	Printed material, web promotion, design
Translation costs	800 Euro	Financial Programme of Ministry of Tourism	Translation from/to English
Lunch on the study trip	2000 Euro	Tourist Board, Sponsor	The study tour in Kopacki rit includes lunch on the site
TOTAL:	37145 Euro		

C7. A draft budget

The budget will be covered through planned sources, including:

1. Ministry of Tourism
2. Cyclists' Union's national project for coordination of cycle tourism
3. Tourist Board of Osijek-Baranja County and National Tourist Board project aiming to the organisation of tourism events and conferences
4. Osijek-Baranja County
5. City of Osijek
6. Attending fees
2 categories of fees for expected 150+ attendees.
early bird: 50 Euro
regular: 100 Euro
7. Exhibitor fees (100 Euro)
8. Sponsors



2.2.2. Planning and organization

C8. National EuroVelo Coordinator Centre or Coordinator (NECC)

Association Cyclists Union (Sindikat biciklista) is the partner in this bid, and one of main organisers of the Conference, which will have a paid team member to coordinate the production of hosting the Conference, assisting the programme coordinator.



As NECC for Croatia, Sindikat biciklista continuously promotes cycling as a desirable form of daily transport, carries out numerous EU projects, educational actions with citizens and participates in the adoption of cycling regulations.

Along with the Ministry of Tourism, Sindikat biciklista is a co-signatory of the Partnership Agreement between ECF and the Coordination Body for the Development of Cycle Tourism.

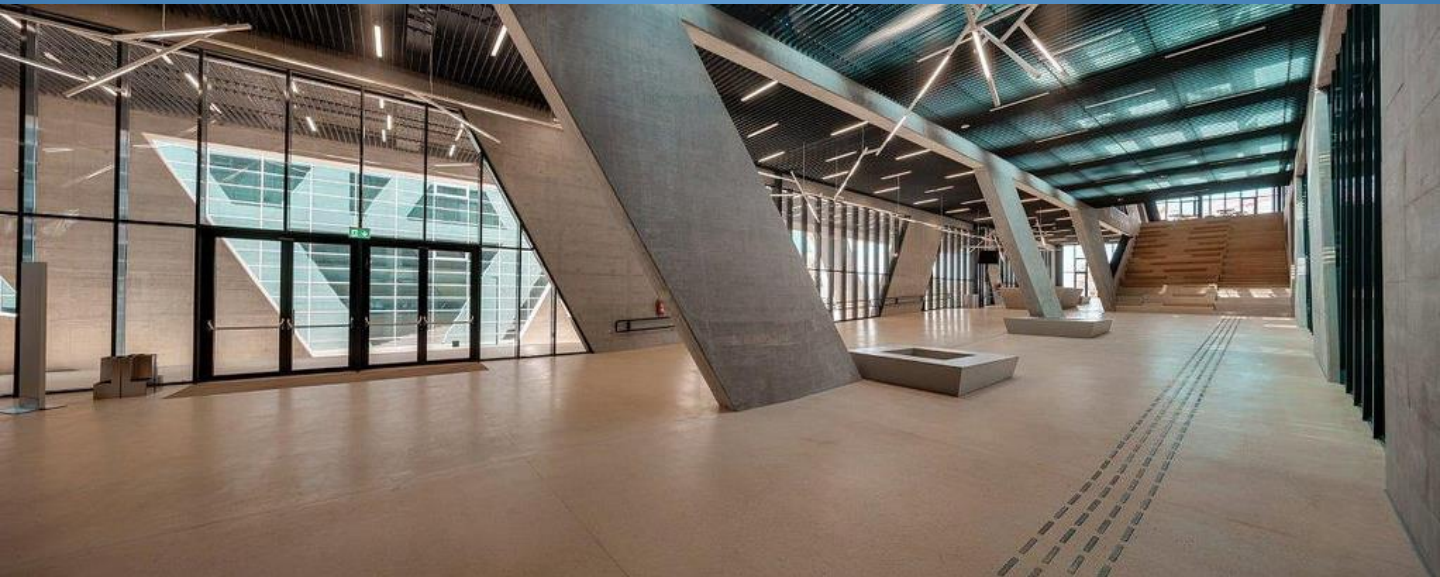
National EuroVelo coordinator will be directly involved in programme planning and side events.



C9. The exhibition

The conference venue and exhibition venue is the Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Osijek. The main conference room is located in the ground floor, next to the 200m² atrium area, where the exhibition will take place, along with a bar for coffee breaks and a lounge area. The centre of the building is a high hall, with additional platforms cascading into the ground floor area (the above mentioned 200m² atrium area), with closed and open spaces that can also be used for the exhibition and for coffee breaks.

The organising team will provide the space for exhibitors, as they are found of high importance for tourism development in the region. With the inclusion of a separate participation fee, international, but especially local tourism industry, government organizations, companies, tour operators, destinations etc. will be welcomed to exhibit at the Conference venue. The participation process will be undertaken by the designated PCO, in coordination with the organising team and within the possibilities of the venue, through the official Coordination Body for the Development of Cycle Tourism website www.cikloturizam.hr, while the local industry will be subcontracted for the construction work, if necessary.



C10. Communications

The Tourist Board, as the main organiser, and partner Sindikat biciklista, along with the help of the Ministry of Tourism and the designated PCO, have the experience with branding Croatia and international communication, and contacts in abundance.

As for the Tourist Board expertise, it has the experience of international promotion for various international sports events. Osijek was the host for the Davis Cup Match between Croatia and Spain in 2017, and will host the Davis Cup match between Croatia and Canada in February 2018.



In 2009, Osijek was one of the host cities of the World Handball Championship in Croatia. Every year, Osijek hosts the World Cup in Gymnastics, and every second year the European Championship in Shooting.

Osijek is most popular for its distinctive international championship in extreme bike sports Pannonian Challenge, while the most important, headlining and Croatian specific international cycling event Tour of Croatia traditionally begins in Osijek.

The contacts and expertise from promoting the above mentioned events will be used in international promotion activities for the Conference. Also, Pannonian Challenge organiser, having 19 consecutive years of international organisation experience for the event, will be included in the designated communications team, as an external associate.



C10. Communications



Sindikata biciklista has the expertise in media communications and news conferences, but especially in community management, showing a high yearly number of media mentions for their campaigns, bike rides, Pedalafests and other activities, and a high number of conversions on social media, with more than 33.000 followers on Facebook.

Local audiences and media representatives are already expressing a high interest for urban cycling and cycle tourism issues.

Of course, the communications team will appreciate the kind help of ECF's communication legacy, if possible. A draft of the communication strategy will be provided in April 2018.



2.2.3. Event quality

C11. Accommodation for delegates

The main hotel for the Conference participants and organisers will be the 4* hotel Osijek, located in the city centre and on the river Drava bank, called the Promenade, which is the main connection link for cycling and walking to the old town Tvrdja and to the student campus, where the Conference venue is located. The capacity is as follows: 35 double bedrooms (47 Euro per night per person), 27 single bedrooms (80 Euro per night), 40 double bedrooms with separated beds (47 Euro per night per person); in total 100 rooms with 135 beds. Hotel Osijek has been contacted and holds the accommodation capacity for the Conference in October.



There is a smaller, more classicist 4* hotel Waldinger, located in the city centre, just across the Croatian National Theatre, connected with the Conference sites by trams and cycle lanes, but also within a walking and cycling distance to the hotel Osijek. The city centre also offers several 3* and 2* hotels and hostels. The accommodation capacity for the Conference participants in the mentioned hotels is available and more than enough for the estimated number of participants and exhibitors.



C11. Accommodation for delegates

Due to the Pannonian Challenge event, and due to the increasing tourism and cycle tourism demand, numerous private accommodations have been newly renovated and offer a variety of prices and locations in the city. Also, as a result of this urban gentrification, rural family and agricultural households near Osijek have developed and offer accommodation, for which the organising team can help in arranging and connecting. The hospitality issues will be dealt by the PCO, in concordance with the programme coordinator of the Conference.



A more detailed list of all the accommodation options will be provided upon the visit by the EuroVelo Management Team, but some useful links are given here:

<http://visitosijekbaranja.com/en/accommodation/hotels/>

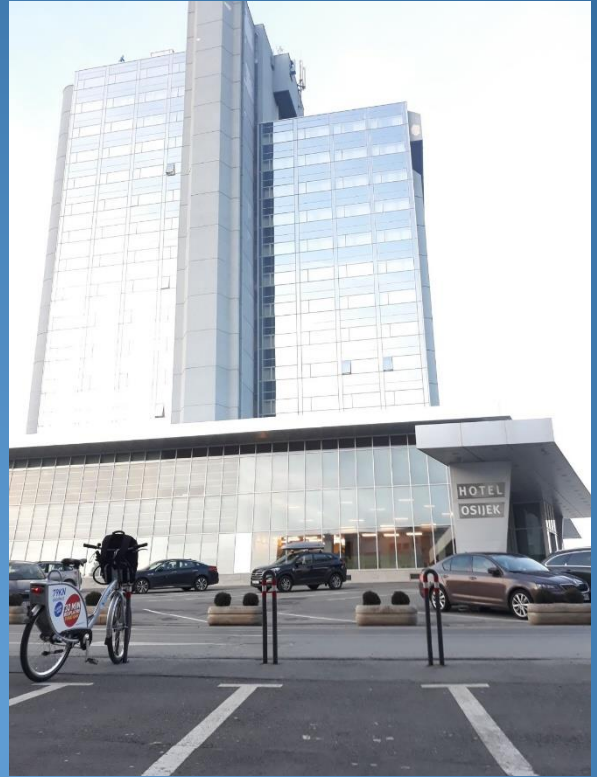
<http://visitosijekbaranja.com/en/accommodation/private-accommodation/>

<http://visitosijekbaranja.com/en/accommodation/rural-households/>

C12. Complementary bicycles for delegates and partners attending the conference

There will be several options for arranging complementary bikes for participants and exhibitors, depending on the situation in late summer of 2018.

The EuroVelo Conference possibility has accelerated the negotiations for the implementation of a public bike scheme in Osijek. During the preparation process for this bid, the organising team has met with the deputy mayor of Osijek and other representatives, introducing them with a public bike provider and with financial possibilities given by the national bodies (i.e. Ministry of Tourism and The Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund). As a result of these meetings and negotiations, the City of Osijek gave a strong support for the Conference, agreed to participate in the Conference organisation team and to push the efforts for public bike implementation in the city transport network.



The estimated time of opening of the first four public bike stations (one of which is in front of the main Conference hotel Osijek) is the beginning of September 2018.

In case Nextbike Croatia is chosen as the provider, being the largest company servicing 15 cities in Croatia, and several in other CE and SE Europe countries, complementary bikes are expected to be sponsored by Nextbike Croatia and by the German Nextbike company, having a reference to previous successful cooperation with Sindikat biciklista. In case another provider is chosen, the organising team will contact the company for sponsorship and exhibition. Also, during the preparation time for the Conference, the Municipality is expected to increase the number of high quality bike parking spaces in the city. Bike parking spaces required for the Conference venue will be rented at the cost of the organising team or sponsored by a provider.

C12. Complementary bicycles for delegates and partners attending the conference

On a more secure side, County and regional bike shops, bike clubs, tourist agencies and private accommodation households will be invited to provide the complementary bikes, at the cost of the organiser and sponsor, or will be compensated with an exhibition space. The National Railway company will be invited to be a sponsor for the Conference, in reference to previous successful cooperation between the Company and Sindikat biciklista, providing free of charge bike transfers for the Conference participants traveling to Osijek by train (presumably from Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and within Croatia). With this effort, we will try to increase and motivate a more sustainable and environmentally friendly travel.



C13. Social events

Two social events will be organised, and will be covered with the participation fee and by members of the organising team.

The first one is the welcome reception, the day before the Conference, in the open air at the main square in the old city Tvrđja, accompanied with drinks and local traditional musicians under UNESCO intangible cultural heritage of the world.



The reception is followed by a dinner in the closed atrium of the Archaeological museum, located on the same square.



In the evening of the first day of the Conference, a social event will be organized on the other bank of the river Drava, just across hotel Osijek. The transfer is either by walking or riding over the legendary cycling and pedestrian suspension "Bridge of Youth", or by ferry "Kompa", which began operating in 1916. The event will be in a tent specially risen for this occasion,

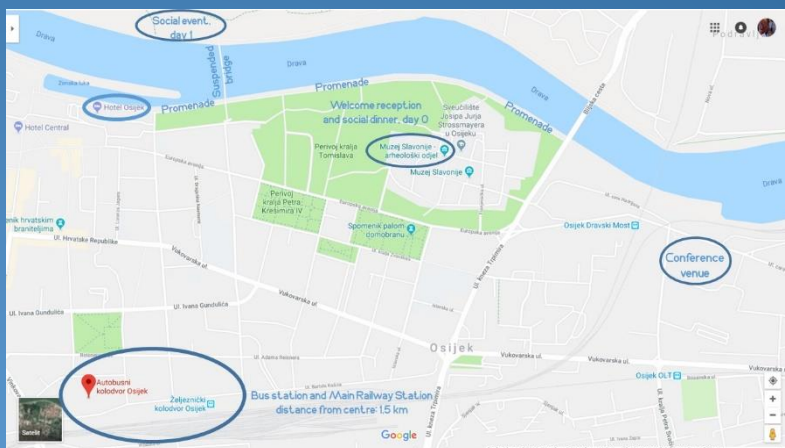
where local and international delegates and participants will have a chance to network and mingle freely, whilst trying out local delicacies and wines.



An additional social event will be organised upon the arrival of the EuroVelo Management Team in the following months, covered by the organising team.

C14. Proximity of the conference and accommodation sites to major transport links such as airports, train and bus stations

Osijek is a levelled urban area with low car traffic, lots of cycle lanes, trams and pedestrian zones. The bus station and main railway station are within a walking distance from each other, and from the city centre. The stations are connected with the main accommodation locations and Conference venues by cycle lanes and by trams, but also all manageable by foot since there is a walking distance of only 2 km, at most.



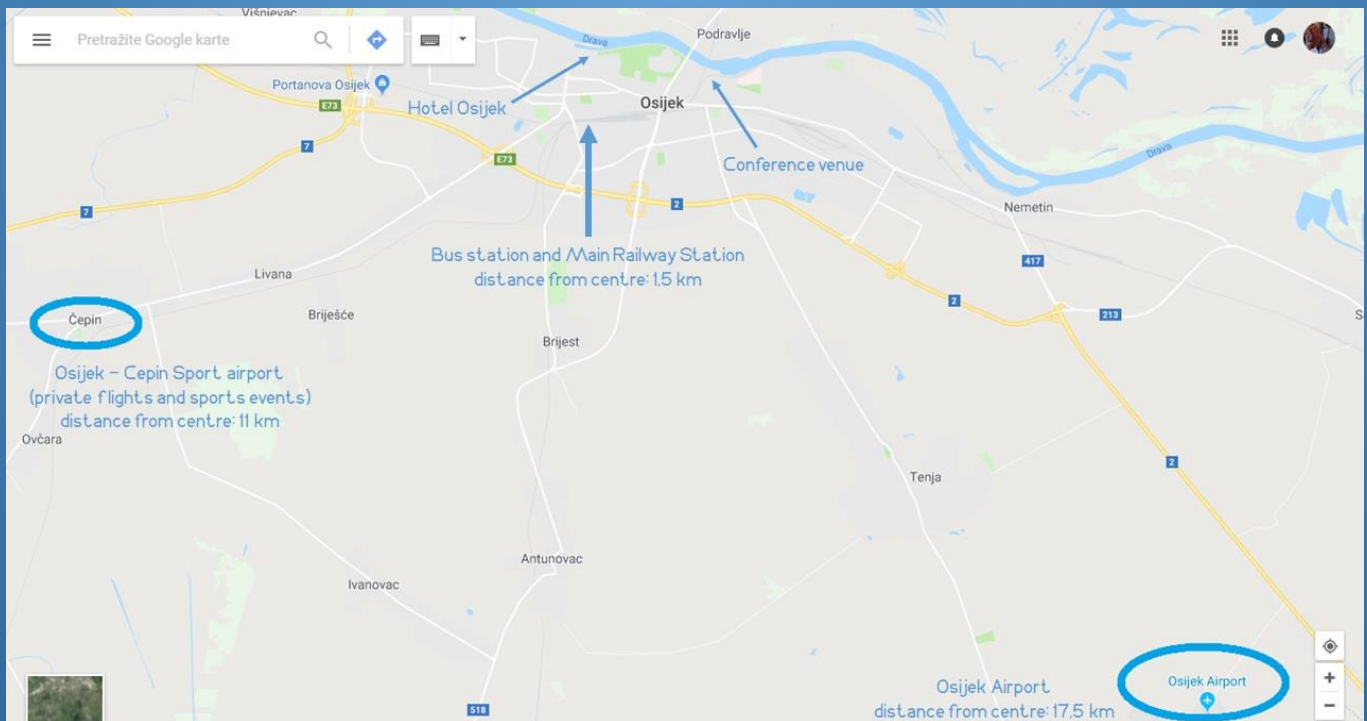
The Conference venue is at the student campus and is located not far from the main 4* hotel Osijek, with only a 2 km bike ride in the cycling and pedestrian zone along the river Drava bank, called the Promenade, passing next to the entrance to the old city centre Tvrdja. Tvrdja, along with many museums, restaurants and bars, hostels, and main Municipality buildings, will host the welcome reception and social dinner event on the evening before the Conference, with the Mayor and Minister of Tourism as hosts. The other social dinner is located on the other side of the river Drava bank, across hotel Osijek. Crossing the river Drava has two options, and will be specially organised for the event. You can do it by walking or riding across the legendary cycling and pedestrian suspension "Bridge of Youth" or by ferry "Kompa", which began operating in 1916. Kompa is a favourite mean of transportation for the citizens of Osijek when they are visiting the Zoo and the beautiful park that surrounds it. Another reason for using the ferry is recreation. Cycling, skating or walking down the Promenade along the river Drava is unimaginable without the use of this interesting and ecological vessel. Ferry is run only by the current of the river Drava and, to avoid it from sailing downstream to the nearby Danube River, it's firmly adhering to the steel cable that comes from the mines in distant Carpathians.

C14. Proximity of the conference and accommodation sites to major transport links such as airports, train and bus stations

More than 30 km of cycle lanes will allow you to easily move from site to site. The option to be a pedestrian may seem harder at first glance but by moving around town on foot you will feel the real pulse of the city. Don't be surprised by patience of the vast majority of citizens of Osijek who will wait until the traffic lights go green even if there's not a single car in sight at the intersection. If you're walking around the upper town, take a moment and look at individual traffic lights. At most of them you will notice the silhouette of the "Walker" (setac – pedestrian), the famous writer August Cesarec who's monument "is walking" at the Liberty Square.

Also, Osijek has several taxi companies, available for all transfers, and with reasonably fair prices.

Osijek airport is located 17.5 km from the city centre, and it is connected with a bus to and from the bus station, or with a train to and from the main railway station, but the transfers will be handled within the hospitality activities by the PCO, in concordance with the programme coordinator.



C15. How much time would you need, after learning that your bid has been successful, before you could start working?

The organisational team is planning to start working immediately upon the decision on hosting of EuroVelo and Cycle Tourism 2018 Conference. Coordination Body for the Development of Cycle Tourism had a meeting in January 2018, and set up an Action plan for 2018. The organisation of the Conference is one of the main activities in this Action plan, with delegated activities to all members of Coordination Body.

Since December 2017, the organisation team has already started planning the possibilities for the Conference, having two meetings in the Ministry of Tourism, one at the offices of Sindikat biciklista, and two visits to Osijek for meetings with the Municipality, the hotels, the Faculty of Civil Engineering and other possible venues, tasting the social event menus and riding around the city.



PRELIMINARY TIMELINE:

March 2018

EuroVelo Management Delegation visit

April 2018

Signing the contract

Draft of the communication strategy

Call for papers and registration

June 2018

Deadline for early bird registration

Preliminary programme

August 2018

Deadline for registration

Call for volunteers

September 2018

Public bike stations opening

Media conference

Location management

Programme and Proceedings published

October 2018

The Conference

C16. Side events

There are three main side events planned for the Conference:

1. Annual meeting of the Coordination Body for the Development of Cycle Tourism.

70+ representatives from all 21 counties in Croatia, including Ministries, cities, travel agencies, NGOs, institutes, expert organizations, academia)

2. Study tour

We have three different proposals for the study tour. In the cooperation with ECF this should be discussed and decided.

Proposals include:

a) study trip along EuroVelo 6, going through bike-friendly wine routes and Nature park Kopacki rit,



b) study trip along cultural heritage including Vucedol and experience of tradition in Slavonia.



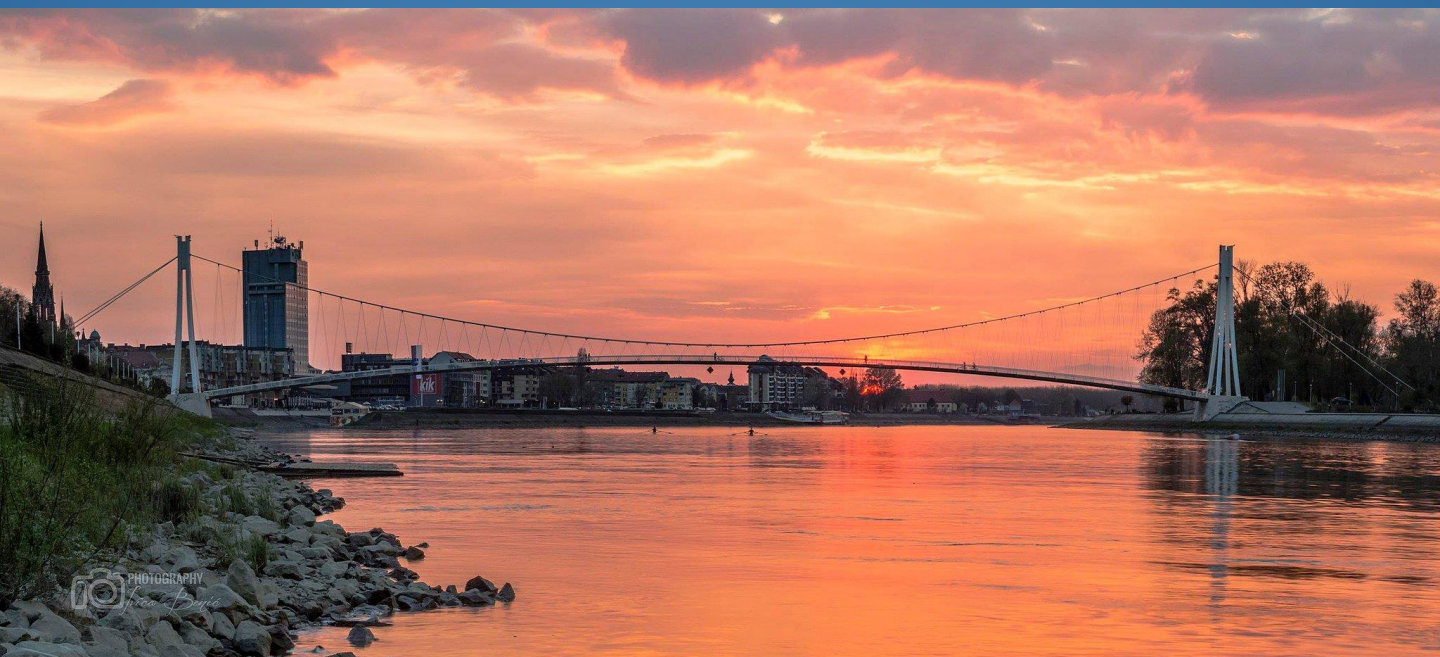
Both of proposals above include cycling through nature, but a) has a slight emphasis on natural heritage, while b) on experiencing a local (and prehistoric) culture.

c) Study trip along the river Drava, supporting the completion of the Drava cycle route development.

3. Regional workshops on the development of international/regional cycle routes.

Having in mind initiatives/cooperations such as CIVINET networks, we want to organise parallel workshops with the aim of developing new touristic products, international routes, projects etc. The workshops could be done on the principle of neighbouring countries (like CIVINET), but also could be done through the development of new touristic products on a general level.

See you in Osijek in 2018!



www.cikloturizam.hr
(not yet available in English)

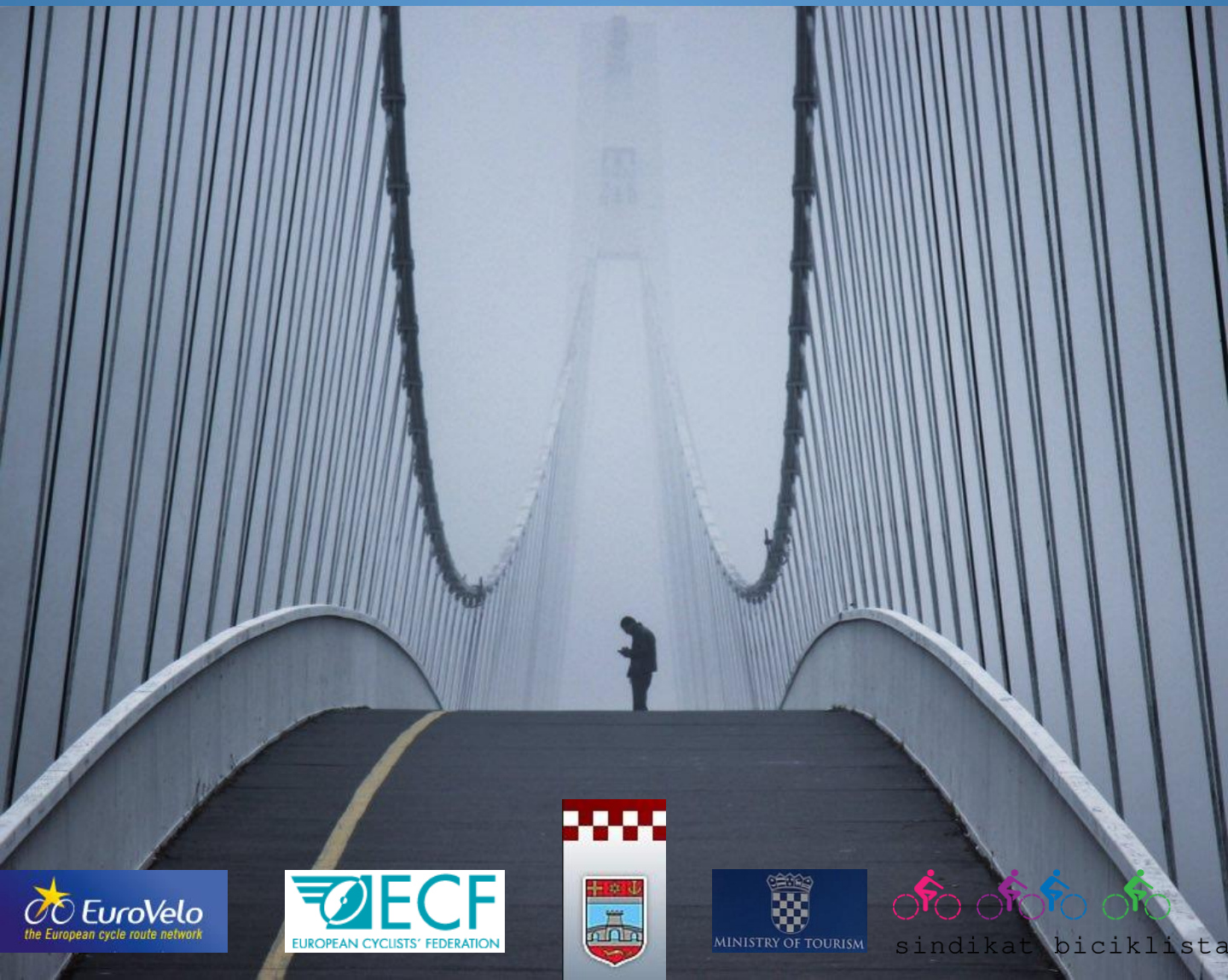
Tourist Board of the Osijek-Baranja County
Mr Antonio Sobol info@tzosbarzup.hr
<http://www.tzosbarzup.hr/>

Sindikata biciklista
Ms Tena Saric tena.saric@sindikatabiciklista.hr
www.sindikatabiciklista.hr

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REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM



KLASA: 334-01/16-01/34
URBROJ: 529-04-18-80
Zagreb, January 26, 2018.

European Cyclists' Federation
Mr. Jesus Freire
Rue Franklin, 28
1000 Brussels, Belgium

EXPRESSION OF PARTNERSHIP

We are writing to express our partnership in the organisational team for the EuroVelo and Cycling Tourism Conference 2018 with Osijek being the host city. We believe that the City of Osijek is a candidate of a high quality and has to offer all of the necessary requirements, and beyond. It is a river city, laying on two EV routes, the capital of a flat continental Croatian county with an immense potential for a radial boost of cycling tourism in the CEE region. Osijek and the County are already a growing cycling tourism destination, with admirable hospitality, natural beauties, rivers (Drava and Danube), cycling routes, gastronomy, wines and a great cultural heritage under UNESCO.

The members of the organisational team have each gathered a wide and long-term experience in organising and hosting cycling, sports, scientific and other conferences and events, and has showed great success, with Croatia being a growing touristic country, breaking records each year in the last two and a half decades.

In conclusion, we foresee that the Conference will greatly benefit the community, the city of Osijek, the County of Osječko-baranjska and Croatia, the CEE region and the cycling tourism community, and will serve as an example of cycling tourism development and similar events in the future.

Looking forward to welcoming you at the EuroVelo and Cycling Tourism Conference 2018 in Osijek.

Sincerely,



National EuroVelo Competence Center
Eurovelo Coordinator for Croatia
Ribnjak 3, Zagreb

January 25, 2018

European Cyclists' Federation
Mr. Jesus Freire
Rue Franklin, 28
1000 Brussels, Belgium

Letter of support

I am writing to express my support and direct involvement in the organisational team for the EuroVelo and Cycle Tourism Conference 2018 with Osijek being the host city. I believe that the City of Osijek has to offer all of the necessary requirements, and many more. It is a city and county with two EuroVelo routes and a great possibility to become County where Sava river international route will pass through. Moreover, Osijek is the capital of a continental region Slavonia with an immense potential for a radial boost of cycling tourism in the Southeast Europe, and have a great support by the government who has a strategic project for Slavonia.

Thanks to the establishment of NECC and your help, we put cycling tourism on the map for our ministries and one of the results was defined plan for continental counties in Croatia, to boost cycling tourism with special investment fund which started last year and will last for at least five years. All of this means that our advocacy payed out and that cycling tourism is recognised on the national level as a lever for development of sustainable tourism in the continental Croatia.

To conclude, the organisational team have gathered at meeting with Minister of Tourism and the hosting of EuroVelo conference got a widely support on the national and local level, so I can assure you that 4th EuroVelo conference, in Osijek, will be the best so far. Personally, I foresee that the Conference will greatly benefit the local community, the city of Osijek, the County of Osijek-Baranja and Croatia in the context of cycling tourism, and will serve as an example for similar events in the future.

Looking forward to welcoming you at the EuroVelo and Cycle Tourism Conference 2018 in Osijek.

Sincerely,



Marko Stančec
National EuroVelo coordinator
Croatia

Coordination Body for Development
of Cycling Tourism of Croatia
Prisavlje 14
10000 Zagreb, Croatia

January 30, 2018

European Cyclists' Federation
Mr. Jesus Freire
Rue Franklin, 28
1000 Brussels, Belgium

EXPRESSION OF PARTNERSHIP

We are writing to express our partnership in the organisational team for the EuroVelo and Cycling Tourism Conference 2018 with Osijek being the host city. We believe that the City of Osijek is a candidate of a high quality and has to offer all of the necessary requirements, and beyond. It is a river city, laying on two EuroVelo routes 6 and 13, the capital of a flat continental Croatian county with an immense potential for a radial boost of cycling tourism in the CEE region.

Osijek and the Osijek-Baranja County are already a growing cycling tourism destination, with admirable hospitality, natural beauties (Nature Park Kopački rit), rivers (Drava and Danube), cycling routes (international Panonian Peace Cycle Route „Via Pacis Panonnie“, Osijek-Sombor 78 km), gastronomy, wines and a great UNESCO natural and cultural heritage (Transboundary UNESCO MaB Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube and Bečarac Singing Intangible Cultural Heritage of Mankind on Representative UNESCO List).

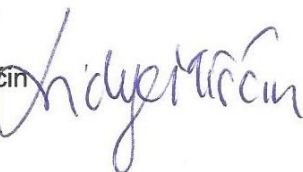
The members of the organisational team have each gathered a wide and long-term experience in organising and hosting cycling, sports, scientific, tourism and other conferences and events, and has showed great success, with Croatia being among fastest growing tourism destinations, breaking records each year in the last two and a half decades.

In conclusion, we foresee that the Conference will greatly benefit the community, the city of Osijek, the Osijek-Baranja County and Croatia, the CEE region and the cycling tourism community, encouraging the development of cycling and infrastructure on the local and regional level and the development of international Drava cycling route from Maribor all the way to Osijek and the confluence in Aljmaš. It will for sure, serve as a valuable example of cycling tourism development and similar events in the future.

Looking forward to welcoming you at the EuroVelo and Cycling Tourism Conference 2018 in Osijek.

Sincerely,

Lidija Mišćin
President





REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
OSTROVO-BARANJSKA ŽUPANIJA
OSIJEK

ŽUPAN

Klasa: 022-04/18-03/1
Urbroj: 2158/1-01-02-18-11
January 16, 2018

European Cyclists' Federation
Mr. Jesus Freire
Rue Franklin, 28
1000 Brussels, Belgium

LETTER OF SUPPORT

We are writing to show our support for Osijek being the host city of the EuroVelo and Cycling Tour s.n Conference 2018. We agree that the City of Osijek is a candidate of a high quality and has to offer all of the necessary requirements, and beyond. It is a river city, laying on two DV routes, the capital of a full continental Croatian county with an immense potential for a radial host of cycling tourism in the CRS region. Osijek and the County are already a growing cycling tourism destination, with admirable hospitality, natural beauties, rivers (Drava and Danube), cycling routes, gastronomy, wines and a great cultural heritage under UNESCO. We believe that the proposed venues and side events will greatly benefit the community and region, and serve as an example of cycling tourism development and similar events in the future.

103 The members of the organisational team have each gathered a wide and long-term experience in organising and hosting cycling, sports, scientific and other conferences and events, and has showed great success, with Croatia being a growing tourist country, breaking records each year in the last two and a half decades.

In conclusion, Osijek-Baranya County will express their support to the organisational team, guests, delegates, tourists and exhibitors in any way possible for the EuroVelo and Cycling Tourists Conference 2018 in Osijek.

Sincerely,

Osijek-Baranya County
Direct
Ivan Anušić