
2nd INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL “MINING LIGHT”

About the Festival

International folklore festival “Mining light” is the joint project of two neighboring folklore ensemble from Croatia and Slovenia: Croatian Folklore group Oštrc from Rude and Slovenian Folklore Group Svoboda from Senovo. Following two decades of their successful cultural cooperation and lifting the border controls between Croatia and Slovenia as of January 1, 2023, unusual opportunity of having performances in two countries at one festival was launched for the first time in 2024!

Less than 50 kilometers separates these two places with a rich mining tradition that connected them through joint projects of restoring their underground heritage!

In the first weekend of July, the festival will gather folklore groups from five countries each year. Saturday is reserved for exploring Slovenia and Sunday for sharing spirit of multiculturalism in Croatia!

The Guidelines and Rules of the Festival

Directors of the festival: Bojan Vovčko, Slovenia, +386 51 632789, fssenovo@gmail.com; Goran Ivan Matoš, Croatia, +385 91 5557654, etnostudio@gmail.com

Number of foreign groups: In addition to the local groups from Slovenia and Croatia, each year 3 foreign groups will be invited to the festival at least. In even years, Croatia will be host of 2 foreign groups and Slovenia of 1 group. In odd years, 2 groups will be hosted in Slovenia, and one in Croatia. Totally, at least 5 groups from 5 countries will take part at the festival each year.

The maximum size of each group: 30 people, including all the management staff and drivers.

Arrival and departures of foreign groups: Arrival is planned for Friday, July 4, in the afternoon. Small refreshments will be available upon arrival. Departure is planned for Monday morning, July 7, after breakfast.

Accommodation: The groups invited by the Folklore group Oštrc from Rude, Croatia, will be accommodated in the elementary school in Rude (Address Rude 93, 10430 Samobor, Croatia). Each group will have 2 classes available - one for male and another for female participants. The school is connected to the local sports hall where showers are available. Each participant should take towels and a personal hygiene kit. Groups invited by the Folklore Group Svoboda from Senovo, Slovenia will be accommodated within families and hostel. The arrival address is Trg XIV. Divizije 1, Senovo.

Financial conditions: Each foreign group pays the travel cost to the host country. Organizers are not able to contribute to any other expenses for the coming of foreign groups.

Acceptable means of transportation: Arrival of foreign groups by bus, vans or motor cars is acceptable. The organizers can't cover any cost of local transportation for groups coming by plane or train (for example from the nearest airport to the festival venues).

Meals: Organizers will provide three meals per day. Foreign groups are invited to indicate if some of their members require special meals (e.g. because of religious beliefs, vegetarians, etc)

Introductory meeting: The meeting of foreign groups and festival directors will be held upon arrival, on Friday evening in Rude, Croatia. Each group should be represented by the group director and interpreter, as a minimum. Leaders of musicians and dancers are also welcomed. The rest of the participants, meanwhile, will take part in an entertainment in Rude.

Performances: Only groups with live music will be invited, no tape-recorded music is acceptable. A few events will be organized within the festival, however, for different audiences. Each group will have to prepare the program lasting up to 30 minutes. A precise duration of each performance will be indicated in the festival program. To better present its cultural diversity, groups are invited to change costumes between performances at the same event. Organizers will provide at least 30 minutes of time for changing costumes. The distance from the stage to the changing rooms is about 50 meters in Rude and 20 meters in Senovo. Rehearsals on stages in Senovo and Rude will be possible 2 hours before the concerts start.

Technical arrangements: Performances will be held on 3 stages – one in Senovo, Slovenia (about 80 m²), one in Samobor, Croatia (about 48 m²) and one in Rude, Croatia (about 72 m²). The concert in Senovo will be held in the local Concert Hall. Concerts in Samobor and Rude will be organized in the open-air parks/playgrounds with roofed stages installed. All the stages will be equipped with an appropriate number of microphones. As stated earlier, full sound rehearsals for musicians, singers and dancers will be arranged for events in Senovo and Rude. Each group is obliged to provide the list and number of musical instruments, number of microphones for musicians and number of microphones for (solo) singers. Also, information about chairs (if needed) on the stages for musicians will be welcomed.

Parades: Short parades of festival participants from the changing rooms to the stages will be organized. Foreign groups should take their national flags. The two-minute performance is expected during a parade. The expected walking distance for the longest parade might be up to 500 m.

Language spoken by local guides: Organizers will delegate at list one guide to each foreign group. Foreign groups are obliged to have at list one person proficient in English language, or alternatively in Croatian or Slovenian language.

Gift exchange: Groups are invited to take about 10 small gifts for other groups and local town officials. Gift exchange among groups is planned for Saturday evening, in the end of gala concert in Senovo, Slovenia.

The gastronomy workshop: The gastronomy workshop is planned to be held in Senovo, on Saturday afternoon. The organizers will present some of their culinary traditions. However, each foreign group is entitled to nominate a few representatives who might prepare and present some delicious gourmet food (preferable finger food type) and drinks, traditional for the region it comes from.

Other matters: All groups should take with them their national flag, ready to be displayed and carried during parades.

The groups agree that their performances may be recorded and published publicly for the purpose of promoting the festival.

In the case of unfavorable weather conditions, venues of the Croatian part of the festival might be changed accordingly.

The festival is not of a competitive nature among the participating groups.