

- YCARHe -

Young Citizens in Action for Rural Heritage

SEMINAR (C3) – Brač workshop

20/3 - 25/3 2017.

1st day: getting to know each other, introduction to project YCARHe, a quick orientation

- Monday, 20. 03. – young people from France, Greece, Bulgaria and Italy arrived on Brač. Together with young people from the island, second sequence of the European non-formal educational pathway started in Croatia, in the context of YCARHe project. Udruga Brač is the partner in this project, and the general objective is to initiate young people in rural areas to take action for their future and their heritage.
- Topic of the Brač seminar (module) is the heritage that gives evidence of the ancient history of the island. The first day started in classroom, where the participants were introduced to the topic and the schedule, and the mission was to link the participants in one team.



Group
cohesion
games



Vidova gora. We are searching for the viewpoint, so our participants can orient and understand the space. The first lookout point allows them to see *Splitska vrata*, the space between islands Šolta and Brač with tiny island Mrduja in the middle.



Vidova gora peak

The island is unique geographical and spiritual totality which is not easily understood by non-island residents. Therefore, we take our guests to the highest peak of all the Adriatic islands, from where the view stretches over *Zlatni rat* and Hvar to islands Vis and Svetac, to St. Ilija on the Pelješac peninsula, and even to Monte Gargano on the other side of the Adriatic coast.

From this viewpoint, it may be easier to understand life on the island, the need for connectivity, the islanders' thirst for transportation and cultural linking.



Remains of the medieval
church of St. Vid



MIRJE; LOVREČINA; POSTIRA

2nd day: getting familiar with traces of the Roman history of Brač, understanding natural and historical conditions in which Villa Rustica and early Christian basilicas on Brač occurred

Tuesday, 21.3. – we follow the footsteps of Roman history of Brač: Mirje, villa rustica. To which extent everyday life has changed from Late Antiquity to the present day? What about the environment?

Participants spread around, divided into groups with the predefined tasks.





Roman traces lead us to Lovrečina bay, to the remains of an early Christian basilica. Imagining commercial areas and patrician quarters, based on remains of villa rustica in the neighbourhood.





We take a break in the magical bay, resting the body on the grass and the spirit on the sea azure.
Walking to Postira on the old road.









Working in classroom in the afternoon: we processed the collected information in nationally heterogeneous groups. Each group expressed their experiences in different way: through words, numbers, role-playing...







3rd day: exploring Roman quarries – stone and economic activities in the Roman episode of Brač history; *Škrip* – a place of life for Roman slaves and their masters

- Wednesday, 22.3. – moving forward: following the Roman traces necessarily leads us to the quarry *Rasohe*, between Splitska and *Škrip*. Everyone is impressed by the fact that on this place, almost two thousand years ago, the Roman slaves extracted the stone to build an empire that conquered them. The stone from this place was used to build Diocletian's Palace in Split. We keep in mind that the huge stone blocks had to be transported to the sea, which is one kilometer away from the quarry – without any means of transportation. We explain that the "slaves" – *kavaduri* (workers on stone extracting) have been working in similar way until recently in Brač quarries. Only 50 years ago machines were introduced, which meant significant help in this difficult and painstaking work.



Elisavet doing ancient stonemasons job



- Rasohe quarry is also known under the name of Hercules among locals. Hercules was worshiped by warriors, miners and stone workers in ancient time, so they called him in hard moments: sun burning, sweat dripping, thirst tormenting ... Hercules answered the prayers of the slaves in those moments, showing himself in a form of relief on the nearby stone. He showed himself today also, although we didn't practice particularly hard labour – we had just built a small piece of drywall when Hercules invited us for a common photo!



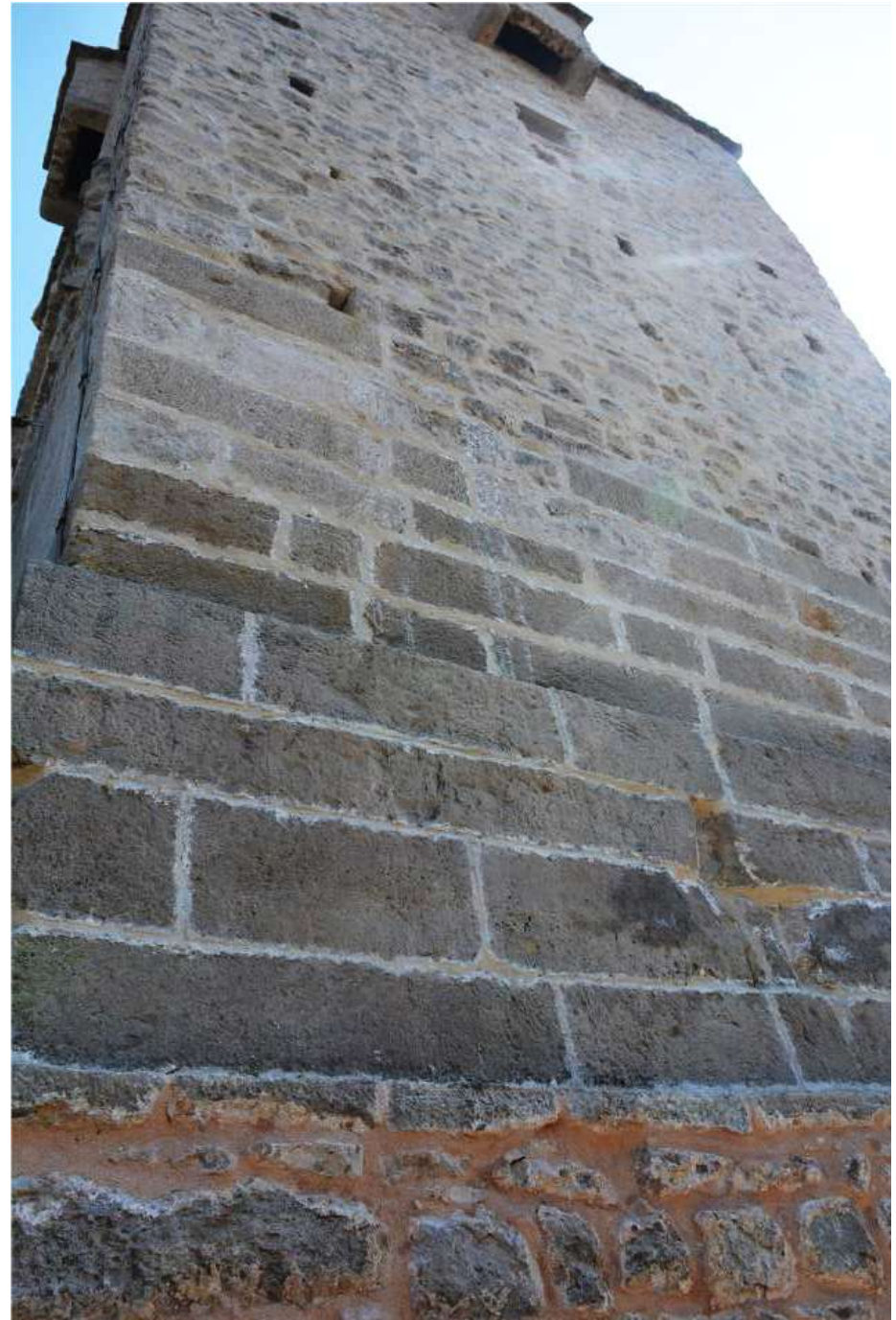


From Rasohe quarry we went to Škrip, the oldest settlement on the island. We stopped just to take a look at the sad state of the remains of an early Christian basilica of *St. Jadro*. Can someone presenting the local authorities intervene ???



In Škrip, Brač *Akropolis*

- Geographical location of Škrip has provided safety for its inhabitants from ancient times. They could observe the sea, easily spotting the danger of invasion from the sea and land. The biggest Illyrian fortification on the island is the one in Škrip. Roman slaves working in quarries also lived here. Later, the Croats settled in Škrip. All these historical layers can be easily identified in the landscape.







We visited
Island's
Heritage
Museum





In Museum of olive oil, owner hosted us and fed us with the food based on precious olive oil.







From Škrip, with bodies and spirits fed, members of our fellowship descended in Dol on foot (in memory of the moving along the island in ancient times).



4th day: The stone, modern exploitation and production

- Thursday, 23.3. – We started the day watching a great documentary *Hop-jan* from 1968. The emotional experience of the film is extremely powerful, so it is easy to imagine the former slaves working in the quarries. For over two millennia things haven't changed much. The biggest changes happened around 40 years ago, with rapid advancement of technology.

We visited the quarry *Veselje* and Stonemasons' school, making a connection between past and present.



In the afternoon we entered the classroom in order to learn how to transform ideas to reality. We started in a relaxed manner, trying to find the best solution for creating a flying machine with limited resources. The principles used in these exercise would serve us later, when we start to develop our ideas for community projects.

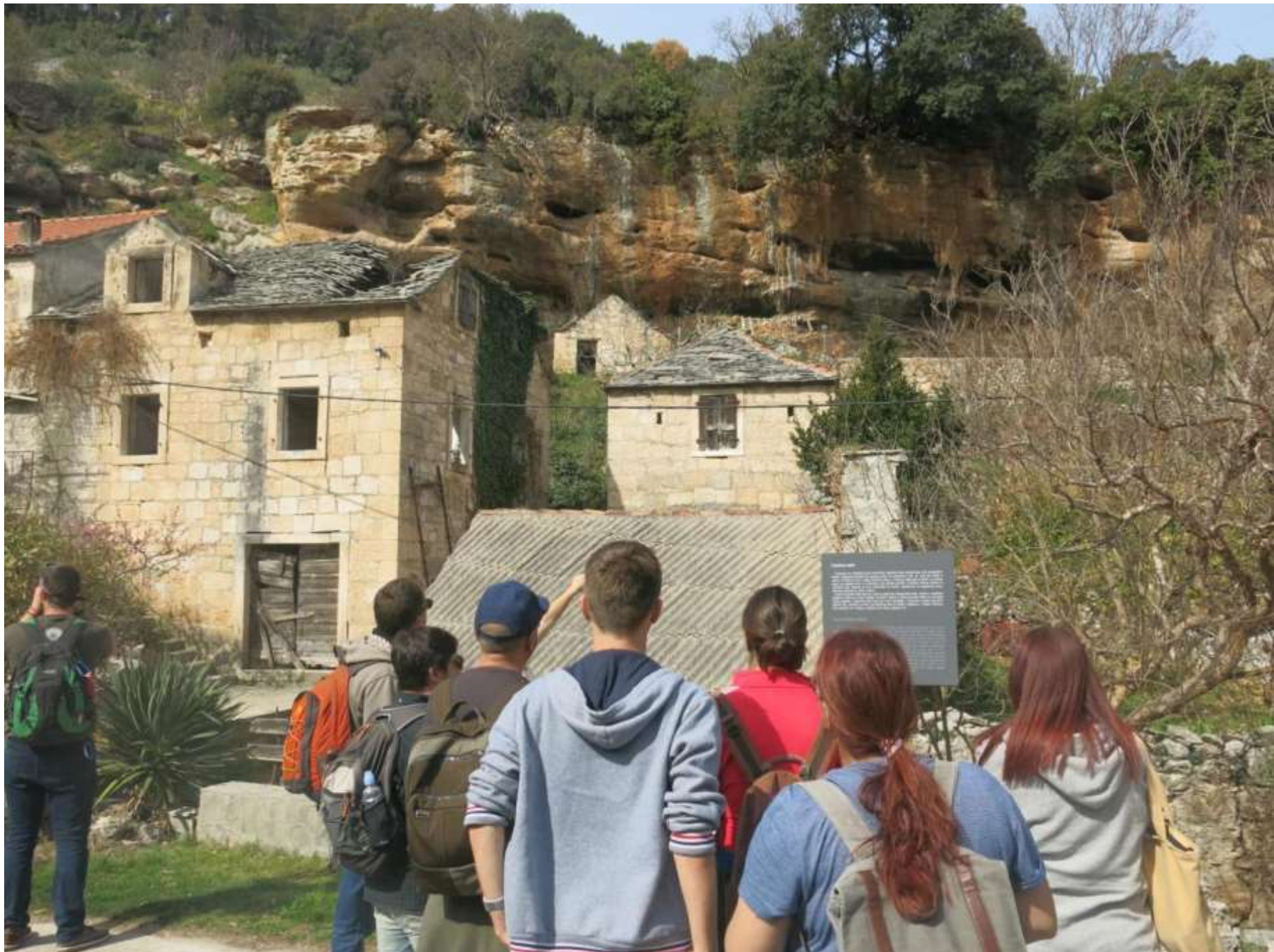


5th day: Tenacity and longevity of the island's rural values



- Friday, 24.3. – Dol is ethno-eco village beneath Škrip, situated along the fertile valley that stretches all the way to Postira. Today, life rhythms in Dol pulsate almost the same way as it did in the past. Ivana, our host in Dol, showed us the stone beehives, that are imperishable means of production (it would be still possible to produce honey in these beehives).
- We brought the participants of the seminar here so they can easily understand the way people had lived on this island for overall past, almost to the present day.







The chalkboard contains the following handwritten text, organized into columns from left to right:

- Column 1:** ROMAN HERITAGE, BASILICA, TRANSPARENT SEA, SHEET, TEAMWORK, HOP-JAN, STONECUTTING, FISHING
- Column 2:** DRYWALL, VILLA RUSTICA, CASTLE, SLAVES, TOOLS, HERCULES, TRADE
- Column 3:** A central drawing of a map of Italy with the word "ITALY" written inside.
- Column 4:** SUSTAINABILITY, MUSEUM (AGE) 55, OLIVE OIL, RESTAURATION, EDUCATION (STONE), LOCATION
- Column 5:** QUARRY, HIKING, ROADS, STRATEGY, COAST
- Column 6:** HISTORY

Based on these impressions, four (nationally heterogeneous) groups develop different project ideas





6th day: finishing and public presentation of the final product

Saturday, 25.3. – Project ideas were elaborated and completed on this last morning, and presented to all the participants:

- 1. tourist product: following the Roman traces on Brač
- 2. proposal for reconstructing Villa rustica site *Mirje*, where educational heritage programs would be conducted for tourists and locals
- 3. proposal for improving and protecting “Brač stone” products
- 4. creating website for connecting producers from Brač with their target groups

1st group



Our promise and our value

- You will discover Brač's rich and beautiful rural heritage
- You will meet fascinating local people
- You are promised that you will understand the local life
- You can take many souvenirs to your home
- You can do many amazing different activities

2nd group



3rd group



4th group



BRAČ,

In the shoes of Hercules...

www.bračhercules.com





"Young *Ycarhe*-zens for young people on Brač"

- After six days of common work it is clear that the participants of our workshop got well acquainted with the most important facts on historical period that has played significant role for life development on Brač. They understood the relation between natural and social conditions of Brač settlements development and the way of living in these settlements. Using creative methods of information processing, they understood the everlasting values of the island and sustainable way of managing those values, for the purpose of wellbeing of the community.
- Working in four groups, the participants proposed four different ways of improving living and enterprising on Brač, with maximum respect for the heritage values.
- Final results may serve as an inspiration to the local community for developing the island. Association Brač will do its best for these propositions to reach the local authorities and decision makers.

The last day afternoon we all enjoyed our reward: Brač shepherd feast on genuine rural family farm (*Mladinić farm, Moli ratac, Pučišća*)



Farewell, until the next meeting in France!



