

PRESS RELEASE

Main World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims Ceremony at Ljubljana Town Hall on Saturday, 18th of November 2017

This year's main event of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) took place in Ljubljana. With it the 10th anniversary of Zavod Varna pot was also celebrated.

The WDR was acknowledged in several cities and countries around the world with the main idea of: »Decreasing the number of traffic casualties and severely injured for at least 50 percent by 2020«.

In Slovenia they have decided that this year's event should be in honor of life. This is so since the family members of the deceased, wounded, and also their loved ones need to find a new compass in this difficult path ahead of them.

The main event occurred on 18th of November at 17.00 in the Red Hall of the Town Hall of Ljubljana.

Before the main event took place there was also a signature gathering in front of the Town Hall dedicated to the goals of the »Decade of Action 2020« commitment. The Decade of Action 2020 hopes to achieve a 50 percent decrease of road deaths and injuries by the year 2020. There was also a signature gathering for the »Vision 0«.



The signatures were obtained throughout the whole day on Stritarjeva Street in Ljubljana where no less than 250 signatures were gathered. The following people also signed the petition before entering the Town Hall:



The President of the National Assembly of Slovenia dr. Milan Brglez



The Mayor of Ljubljana mr. Zoran Janković,



European Commisioner for Transport and Mobility, Violeta Bulc



The President of FEVR, Jeannot Mersch



the Slovenian Minister of Infrastructure, Peter Gašperšič



Minister of Education, Science, and Sport, Maja Makovec Brenčič



The President of Euro RAP, Ferry Smith



The Founding Chairman of iRAP, John Dawson



The President of Zavod Varna pot, Robert Štaba



The Leader of Slovenian Road police, Ivan Kapun

Robert Štaba the president of Zavod Varna pot greeted everybody at the beginning of the main event. He stated that it is the hardest to change, to change our way. All of us together are changing the World. After facing serious obstacles in our path or we are even forced to leave them and start anew, we turn into hedgehogs. We are full of spikes, full of anger and we force people away. Zavod Varna pot (Safe Journey Institute) removes the spikes and lets us give each other a warm embrace.



The highly esteemed guests were greeted by the host, mayor of the Municipality of Ljubljana, Zoran Janković. In his speech he expressed his will, as a mayor, to make a world safer place, to make it the first Slovenian city with ZERO road traffic victims. To protect those most vulnerable and not to spare the costs on the lives of the innocent.



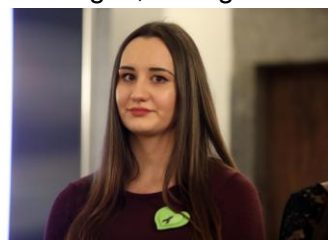
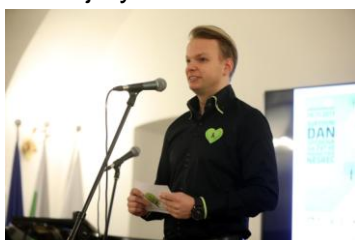
The key speaker for international and home guests was the President of the National Assembly of Slovenia dr. Milan Brgelez who gave his gratitude to Zavod Varna pot, Safe Journey Institute, for banishing the ignorance of society towards suffering of road traffic victims.



European Commissioner for Transport, Violeta Bulc, stated, that we must not wish for small change but invest all of our strength and work as a system to actually achieve the number zero.



The young moderators of the Zavod Varna pot presented the meaning of life even after loss or severe injury of loved ones. Dario, Neja and Kaja read their messages, their gift to life.



The event was adorned with the poems of the new poetry collection by Breda Marija Kovše, *Opus obstoja, Brezkončna zgodba*. In emotional sympathy, the young artists Alen and Vita Kovše dedicated their performances of "Can you feel the love tonight", "Nothing's gonna change my love" and "In your eyes only" to those present and especially their grandmother Breda.



The children of the kindergarten "Pod gradom" sang the song "Ta pikapolonica", which is the title song of the puppet show: "With Pikapoka on the way, and there will be no accidents" that is performed by the moderators of the Zavod Varna pot in schools and kindergartens, and was created especially for this purpose by kindergarten educators Neda Cuder and Eva Keber.



The recipients of FEVR Certificate of Appreciation were:



Zoran Janković - Mayor of Ljubljana, for support given to Zavod Varna pot since its beginning and his efforts in the framework of the World Day of Remembrance of Road Traffic Victims from its first Slovenian commemoration. Also, for erecting the Slovenian Memorial to Road Traffic Victims and for the support given to the programme aimed at the protection of road traffic accident victims.

Academic Marko Marijan Mušič – architect, for voluntarily offering his vast knowledge and imagination for designing and building the memorial to road traffic casualties in Slovenia.

John Dawson – Founding Chairman of iRAP and EuroRAP

for establishing iRAP as a global institution with the aim to raise Infrastructure Safety to a 3-star rating and to support the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

Ferry Smith – Chairman of EuroRAP

for working together with the Dutch government and ensuring that the Netherlands has become the first country in Europe to commit to a 3-star minimum target by 2020.

Vanja Kržan, who could not attend the event, for her contribution in the promotion of correct values, purpose and orientation within Zavod Varna Pot.

Let us finish with the words of Jeannot Mersch: “I was in Slovenia twice. This is the third time I am here. I did not understand much the last two times, and I don’t understand much today. But when I am with you I feel love, and love is all that matters.”

More useful information on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDR) and the events surrounding it (official videos, statements, promotional material and live videos) can be found and [Facebook](#) page of Zavod Varna pot.

For more information we are available at info@varna-pot.si.