

Međunarodna konferencija ARSUM 26 / SIMPOZIJUM

KULTURA U AKCIJI: OSNAŽIVANJE GRADOVA, UKLJUČIVANJE LJUDI, MJERENJE UTICAJA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ARSUM26 /
SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM
**CULTURE WORKS: EMPOWERING CITIES,
ENGAGING PEOPLE, MEASURING IMPACT**

14. 05. 2026. / Tehnopolis, Nikšić



20
godina



ISCA
Institute for Science, Culture and Art,
University Mediterranean Podgorica

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Nikšić 2030 European Capital of Culture

(ARSUM 26)



University “Mediterranean”
Podgorica, ISCA – Institute
for Science, Culture and
Art in cooperation with
the Nikšić 2030 European
Capital of Culture is
organizing the International
Symposium ARSUM26.

Univerzitet „Mediteran“
Podgorica, ISCA – Institut
za nauku, kulturu i
umjetnost u partnerstvu
sa Kancelarijom „Nikšić
Evropska prestonica
kulture 2030“ organizuje
Međunarodnu konferenciju
u formi simpozijuma
ARSUM26.

The concept of openness, which enabled Nikšić to win the European Capital of Culture 2030, is envisioned by the organizers as expanding radially from the city toward other European urban centres, mirroring the concentric circles of its urban plan, which historically symbolized a transformative vision of identity, community, and the future. This vision materialized in the creation of a new urban centre designed as Montenegro's western gateway and a symbol of modernity and openness aligned with European integration, inspired by Renaissance ideals through wide streets, large squares, and a radial structure expressing unity and connection. Today, this concept is being reinterpreted as urban spaces become platforms for creativity and co-creation, while openness also reflects solidarity, knowledge exchange, and collaboration through shared projects and partnerships. Ultimately, an "open city" relies on a community of open minds, fostering learning, creativity, resilience, and collective wellbeing, and enabling artists, cultural actors, and citizens to continue innovating and collaborating well beyond 2030.

The ARSUM26 International Conference is dedicated to examining new democratic and participatory models for building healthier and more sustainable communities that continuously evolve in harmony with their urban identities and the needs of their citizens. Organized in the form of a symposium, the conference will focus on key themes related to the ECOC 2030 designation, including the democratization of culture, capacity building, and evaluation processes. The program will also feature reflections and experiences from previous European Capitals of Culture.

(ARSUM 26)

Koncept otvorenosti, koji je omogućio Nikšiću da ponese titulu Evropska prijestonica kulture 2030, inicijatori vide kao proces koji se radialno širi iz grada ka drugim evropskim urbanim centrima, prateći koncentrične krugove njegovog urbanističkog plana, koji je istorijski simbolizovao transformativnu viziju identiteta, zajednice i budućnosti. Danas se ovaj koncept reinterpretira kroz shvatanje urbanih prostora kao platformi za kreativnost i zajedničko stvaranje, dok otvorenost podrazumijeva i solidarnost, razmjenu znanja i saradnju kroz zajedničke projekte i partnerstva. Na kraju, „otvoreni grad“ počiva na zajednici otvorenih umova, koja podstiče učenje, kreativnost, otpornost i kolektivno blagostanje, omogućavajući umjetnicima, kulturnim akterima i građanima da nastavu da stvaraju, sarađuju i inoviraju i nakon 2030. godine.

Međunarodna konferencija ARSUM26 posvećena je istraživanju novih demokratskih i participativnih modela za izgradnju zdravijih i održivijih zajednica koje se kontinuirano razvijaju u skladu sa svojim urbanim identitetima i potrebama građana. Organizovana u formi simpozijuma, konferencija će se baviti ključnim temama koje se nameću u jednoj zajednici osvajanjem titule Evropske prestonice kulture 2030, uključujući demokratizaciju kulture, jačanje kapaciteta i procese praćenja napretka. Program će takođe obuhvatiti refleksije i iskustva ostalih gradova koji sunosili EPK titulu.

PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE

14. 05. 2026. / Tehnopolis, Nikšić

10:00

Opening and welcoming words

Marko Kovačević, Mayor of Nikšić Municipality

Mato Uljarević, Manager of the Niksic 2030 ECOC Office

10:15

Opening the Symposium, introducing the themes for discussion and presenting speakers / Uvodne riječi i najava

Introduction to the first part of the symposium, providing a brief overview of the event's purposes and objectives, and highlighting its relevance to the broader goals of the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) initiative. / Uvod u prvi dio simpozijuma, koji podrazumijeva kratak pregled svrsishodnosti događaja, uz isticanje njegovog značaja u odnosu na šire ciljeve inicijative Evropske prestonice kulture.

NATAŠA KRALJEVIĆ, UNIVERSITY "MEDITERRANEAN" PODGORICA

MORNING SESSION

10:30

Democratization of culture through the lens of the European Capital of Culture / Demokratizacija kulture kroz prizmu inicijative EPK

This theme explores how the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) initiative can serve as a catalyst for strengthening cultural democracy, expanding access to cultural participation, and ensuring that culture is not limited to institutions or elites, but becomes a shared and inclusive public resource. / Tema istražuje kako inicijativa Evropska prestonica kulture može djelovati kao katalizator za jačanje kulturne demokratije, proširivanje pristupa kulturnom učešću i za osiguravanje da kultura ne bude ograničena na institucije ili elite, već da postane zajednički i inkluzivan javni resurs.

SPEAKER: ANA ŽUVELA, IRMO ZAGREB

11:15

Strengthening communities and institutions through ECOC capacity building / Jačanje zajednica i institucija kroz izgradnju kapaciteta u okviru inicijative EPK

This theme explores how the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) initiative serves as a platform for strengthening the capacities of cities, cultural institutions, and communities. Capacity building refers to developing the knowledge, skills, networks, and organizational structures necessary to effectively plan, manage, and sustain cultural projects. Focusing on ECOC, this topic highlights how cities can enhance their institutional, professional, and community-level capabilities to ensure that cultural initiatives are inclusive, impactful, and sustainable. / Tema is-

tražuje kako inicijativa EPK služi kao platforma za jačanje kapaciteta gradova, kulturnih institucija i zajednica. Izgradnja kapaciteta podrazumijeva razvoj znanja, vještina, mreža i organizacionih struktura neophodnih za efikasno planiranje, upravljanje i održivost kulturnih projekata. U fokusu EPK, ova tema naglašava kako gradovi mogu unaprijediti svoje institucionalne, profesionalne i kapacitete na nivou zajednice kako bi osigurali da kulturne inicijative budu inkluzivne, uticajne i održive.

SPEAKERS: MILENA STEFANOVIĆ & VIRĐŽINIJA ĐEKOVIĆ – MIKETIĆ, FDU BELGRADE

12:00

Discussion & Q&A

Open dialogue, definition of the key points, and deepen understanding of the themes presented during the symposium. / **Otvoreni dijalog, definisanje ključnih tačaka i analiziranje tema predstavljenih tokom simpozijuma.**

12:30

LUNCH BREAK

AFTERNOON SESSION

14:00

From Implementation to impact: Monitoring ECOC initiatives / Od implementacije do uticaja: praćenje procesa Evropska prestonica kulture

Introduction to the second part of the symposium dedicated to monitoring project implementation, evaluating outcomes, and measuring the impact of the ECOC initiative on the quality of urban life. Participants will explore methods and tools for assessing cultural projects, discuss lessons learned from previous European Capitals of Culture. / **Uvod u drugi dio simpozijuma posvećen je praćenju realizacije projekata, evaluaciji rezultata i mjerenju uticaja projekta EPK na kvalitet života u zajednici. Učesnici će razgovarati o alatima za procjenu projekata, kao i razmatrati iskustva i naučene lekcije iz prethodnih EPK iskustava.**

NATAŠA KRALJEVIĆ, UNIVERSITY "MEDITERRANEAN" PODGORICA

14:15

Baseline analysis: Main topics and framework for the planned evaluation – Nikšić ECOC 2030 / Polazna analiza: glavne teme i okvir za planiranu evaluaciju – Nikšić Evropska prestonica kulture 2030

This session focuses on the initial assessment and data collection that form the foundation for the planned evaluation of the ECOC project. Participants will explore the key topics, indicators, and methodologies used to establish baseline conditions, which serve as reference points for measuring progress and impact. / **Sesija će se fokusirati na početnu procjenu i prvobitno prikupljanje podataka koja čine osnovu za planiranu evaluaciju projekta EPK. Učesnici će čuti o ključnim temama i metodologiji koja će se koristiti za utvrđivanje polaznih, referentnih tačaka, za mjerenje napretka i uticaja.**

SPEAKER: NATAŠA KRIVOKAPIĆ, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UCG

(ARSUM 26)

14:40

Dilemmas in the Evaluations of ECOs / Dileme kod evaluacije projekata EPK

This session will present the “Evaluation Dilemmas Model”, a valuable heuristic for considering the endogenous and exogenous issues in cultural evaluation. Developed from evaluation processes of the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) in Aarhus, Denmark (2017) and Galway, Ireland (2020), the model captures the main challenges arising during the design and delivery of an ECOC evaluation. The process of developing an evaluation of an ECOC is by no means a well-structured or clear process, and the model is a useful tool for addressing many of the challenges. / **Ova sesija će se osvrnuti na „Model dilema u evaluaciji“, vrijedan heuristički alat za razmatranje unutrašnjih i vanjskih procesa u evaluaciji kulture. Razvijen na osnovu evaluacionih procesa Evropske prestonice kulture u Århusu, (Danska, 2017) i Golveju, (Irska, 2020), model identifikuje glavne izazove koji se javljaju tokom dizajna i realizacije evaluacije EPK. Proces razvijanja evaluacije ni u kojem slučaju nije jasno strukturisan ili jednostavan, a ovaj model predstavlja koristan alat za rješavanje mnogih od tih izazova.**

SPEAKER: STEVEN HADLEY, SCHOOL OF CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND CULTURE, DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY AND CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF, CULTURAL TRENDS

15:15

Discussion & Q&A

Open dialogue, allowing participants to ask questions, share experiences, and engage directly with speakers to deepen understanding and foster collaborative learning. / **Otvoreni dijalog, definisanje ključnih tačaka i produblјivanje razumijevanja tema predstavljenih tokom simpozijuma.**

15:30

Closing Remarks for the Symposium / Završne riječi

The symposium will conclude with closing remarks summarizing the key insights, discussions, and outcomes of the day. It will serve to highlight the main takeaways, and reflect on the lessons learned. The closing remarks will also acknowledge the contributions of all participants, speakers, and organizers, and reinforce the importance of continued collaboration and knowledge exchange.

20:00

DINNER

** radni jezici simpozijuma biće Engleski jezik i jezici ex-YU*



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University "Mediterranean" Podgorica, Institute for Science, Culture, and Art - ISCA, as an interdisciplinary research unit of the University of "Mediterranean" Podgorica, is dedicated to studying cultural changes and their impact on the social community, educating younger generations, and ensuring a leadership role in the professional, scientific, research, and intellectual spheres, with the aim of contributing to the common good. Understanding culture as a common and public good, the University of "Mediterranean" Podgorica, through the establishment of the Institute for Culture and Art, also seeks to contribute to the understanding of cultural policy as an independent field of public policy, fostering a critical approach to the study of cultural practices. The aim is to effectively respond to the challenges of contemporary society by understanding and critically reflecting on the role of culture in social change, mastering and anticipating the impact of cultural and historical factors on the choices and behaviors of individuals and communities, in interaction with (geo)political, media, technological, social, and economic conditions. www.unimediterran.net



The Nikšić 2030 European Capital of Culture (ECOC) Office operates within the Municipality of Nikšić as the central hub for coordinating and implementing the city's ECOC activities. Dedicated to fostering an Open City, the office serves as a platform for creativity, collaboration, and community engagement, connecting local residents, artists, cultural institutions, and international partners. It manages the planning, organization, and promotion of cultural programs, ensuring that projects are inclusive, participatory, and aligned with the city's vision of openness, heritage, and sustainable development. By facilitating dialogue, supporting artistic initiatives, and strengthening partnerships, the Nikšić 2030 ECOC Office plays a key role in transforming the city into a vibrant cultural hub and a model of shared cultural growth across Europe. niksic2030.com



Tehnopolis Nikšić Innovation and entrepreneurship centre
Tehnopolis is the most important centre for the development of innovative and startup companies and entrepreneurship in Montenegro. It was founded by the Government of Montenegro as one of the key actors in the creation and transformation of the Montenegrin innovation ecosystem. Since September 17, 2016, when it officially started operating in the new building in the centre of Nikšić, in a new central location in Nikšić, IEC Tehnopolis has been actively providing a range of infrastructural and other support measures. These initiatives are specifically designed to facilitate the establishment of new companies and foster the development of businesses grounded in innovative ideas and technologies. tehnopolis.me



OPŠTINA NIKŠIĆ

City of Nikšić: Situated in the heart of Montenegro, at approximately 630 meters above sea level, Nikšić is the largest Montenegrin municipality, covering an area of 2,065 km², which accounts for 15% of the country's total territory. Nestled between mountains and the sea, the region is characterized by a unique natural landscape featuring rugged karst terrain, six lakes, rivers, pits, springs, plateaus, and mountain ranges, creating a setting of remarkable beauty. Nikšić boasts a long and rich history, reflected in its numerous cultural and historical landmarks, including archaeological sites, Roman monuments, and medieval and modern-era heritage. Much of the municipality remains rural, with katuns and villages preserving traditional ways of life and producing organic foods. This contributes to a diverse gastronomic scene, highlighted by local wines, brandies, and one of the town's most famous products – Nikšičko beer, first brewed in 1896 – offering a unique culinary experience for visitors. niksic.me