

Cultural-Artistic Association Plac (KUD Plac)

kulturno umetniško društvo



Cesta bratstva in enotnosti 23, 8330 Metlika, Slovenia



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Date of registration: 16th of January 2004 at UE Metlika, Slovenia

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About Kud Plac:

Cultural-Artistic Association Plac or »Kulturno umetniško društvo Plac« (KUD Plac) has been established and registered on 16th of January in Metlika, Slovenia. Kud Plac is a non-profit voluntary association and a non-governmental organization, whose aim is to become the most active and recognized youth organization in the region.

Kud Plac Team:

- Management Board
(president, vice president, program manager, piar, 3 members)
- Court of Honour
- Supervisory Board
- Head of the Youth Centre Metlika
- members, volunteers

Kud Plac purposes:

- diverse and creative programs to fulfill the youthful cultural-artistic deficit
- to revive the old town Metlika
- to promote ecological awareness through actions
- to participate, organize and promote sports activities
- to organize cultural, educational, musical events and free creative workshops
- to offer non-formal learning through organizing creative workshops, round table discussions, lectures and courses
- to be actively included in the programme Erasmus+ (Key Actions 1 and 2)
- to empower, teach and give opportunities to youngsters
- to cooperate with similar organizations
- to facilitate exchanges and volunteering
- to emphasize mutual socializing and meeting new people

Projects undertaken by KUD Plac

Week of Culture on Plac / 3rd week in July 2004 – 2014

WCP is a free 7-day long festival, held in July in the old part of the town Metlika, visited by domestic and foreign people (up to 7000). It's offering afternoon activities up to 15 diverse workshops (photography, ecology, short movie, dance, music, arts, etc.) with renowned national and foreign mentors and rich cultural program in the evenings (concerts, theatre plays, stand-up comedy, dance shows, travelogues, films, etc).

Festival also provides camping by the river Kolpa. The festival, which got a reputation of the leading project in the culture and arts in the region of Bela krajina and Slovenia, is always finished with the grand presentation of workshops' final products and newly gained skills by participants themselves.

PungArt / 3rd weekend in April 2008 – 2014

PungArt is known as the first in-a-row open-air music festival in Slovenia. It is held in April in Metlika on the old school's playground. 2-day long event is visited by all generations from Slovenia, Croatia and abroad. The purpose of it is to present the lesser known, yet not to a greater extent recognized domestic and foreign bands, performing atypical musical genres and to offer listeners the musical opposite of what is daily saturated via commercial radio stations and massive festivals. Each year the festivals offers the stage to a rising star from Bela krajina region and announces concerts of some well-known music legends from Slovenia, ex Yugoslavia and other member countries of EU.

Bonfire Celebration of Midsummer Day / 30th April 2010 – 2014

There used to be a local tradition to lit a bonfire and dance to the music on the hill above Metlika. The roots of custom are in an ancient tradition of lighting bonfire, used as a signaling device, but later it served as a preservation of folk customs and now as a celebration of the first May, Labour Day. The custom slowly died away and KUD Plac decided to revive and upgrade the tradition. This event is held on 30th of April and now offers a wide range of retro sports, workshops for children, outdoor activities, street-ball, tarock and chess tournaments during the day, and lighting bonfire in the evening, a party with music, dance, regional foods and drinks.

Cinema under the stars / Sundays in August 2011 – 2014

Every Sunday in August 'Cinema under the stars' screens free outdoor movies at dusk, on a small hill above Metlika town or by the river Kolpa, under the moon and stars. This project is a social occasion where people meet their friends, and together but differently react to the actions on screen. The event screens mainly the movies from European Film production in foreign languages as an alternative to the popular American film productions, selected on the spot at the request of present viewers.

Environment Cleaning Action, since 2010 – 2014

This project is a continuation of an ecologically oriented campaign “Let's clean Slovenia in 1 day”. Since participating in this action for the first time, Kud Plac decided to repeat this project and to clean Metlika's environment each year in the spring time. The purpose of the project is to check the locations of illegal dump sites and to remove waste, to raise environmental awareness, consciousness and educate people about recycling and nature's welfare.

Metliška Koupa / Summer months in 2014

Metliška Koupa is the summer residence of Metlika's Youth Centre. It is located in an abandoned building along the river Kolpa, bordering Croatia. The building was renovated by KUD Plac members with their own hands and with funds of the Association. The building is managed and functioning also as bar, which executes as a profitable activity. The aim is to encourage leisure time in nature, sports activities, organizing evening cultural events, social networking and offering to travelers the accommodation in the camp.

Erasmus+ (former Youth in Action programme) / 2011 – present

KUD Plac has hosted 5 Youth Exchanges with more than 150 participants:

2011: Youth Exchange: **Share a place – create a bench** (SI-31-22-2011-R2)

2013: Youth Exchange: **Te čele đanglipe** (SI-11-E9-2013-R1)

2013: Youth Exchange: **FORM a bike - transFORM yourself** (SI-31-E2-2013-R1)

2014: Youth Exchange: **Healthy spirit - Harmonized world** (2014-2-SI02-KA105-000238)

2015: Youth Exchange: **Put it on the map** (2014-3-SI02-KA105-000778)

Kud Plac has until present sent abroad around 200 participants to different projects (youth exchanges, trainings, projects) around Europe and Caucasus.

KUD Plac is accredited as sending, hosting and coordinating organization for EVS, with 5 hosted volunteers for EVS project "KUD Plac in Action" (from Romania, Italy, France and Spain) in Youth Centre Metlika until present and has also sent 2 volunteers to Former Republic of Macedonia.

Youth Centre Metlika /2011 – present

Youth Centre Metlika was established in October 2011 at the initiative of the members of Kud Plac, run by the Head of YC Metlika and volunteers, located in the old Metlika centre. Its goal is to encourage young people to make a difference in the local community, to promote the idea of being active, to connect people of all generations.

Youth Centre Metlika is organizing various cultural events, acts as assistance in the operation of cultural and artistic associations, assist in the development of tourism infrastructure in municipality Metlika, enables education, additional knowledge and skills, organizing workshops, seminars and courses on a variety of topics, offering free legal counseling to NGOs and individuals and providing of qualified domestic and foreign mentors.

Activities during weekdays and weekends in YC Metlika are:

different workshops (artistic, educational, technical, environmental, etc.), language courses, discussions, travelogue lectures, un-plugged concerts, stand-up comedy shows, theater games, children parties, sports, dances, charity events, art and photo exhibitions.

NETWORK

- Membership (more than 200 members from all over Slovenia and abroad)
- Local, regional and national cooperations with other similar organizations
- TDM2000 International – Kud Plac is a member since 11th December 2013

AWARDS

- 2009: ***The Gangl Award for the year 2009***, handed to KUD Plac by the Municipality of Metlika, for an outstanding achievements and work in the field of culture and for the organization of the 5th festival Week of Culture (in Slovene: TKNP – Teden kulture na placu).
- 2012: ***The National Award in the Youth Sector for the year 2012***, handed to KUD Plac by the Republic of Slovenia, for a major increase of achievements in the field of youth work and for popularization of youth work, which is granted as a public recognition and award for outstanding achievements in the youth sector.
- 2014: ***Acknowledgement for participation in the organization of collecting aid*** to those affected by the floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, handed to Youth Centre Metlika by the Municipality of Metlika