



5. Dopolavoro

Work is Dead, Long Live Work!

Rijeka is a workers' city. Its population grew based on its industries, harbours and resulting job opportunities. In the past two decades, Rijeka lost most of its jobs. It underwent de-industrialisation but never fully transformed from an industrial centre into a knowledge hub.

Work is a foundation of existence, an act of creation. A human right, inseparable from life itself. Homo Sapiens is also Homo Faber, the working man. Work becomes also boredom, effort, a necessary evil. Work is difficult, idleness a nightmare.

Rijeka and its immediate cultural surroundings mark a region with the highest rates of unemployment in Europe, staggering when it comes to youth. Precarious work has become a paradigm of the European south.

There is a certain elation ignited by the freedom of digital communication as a sector, the colourful cityscape of start-ups and co-working, the economics of sharing. The world of work has never been more exciting. The world of idleness has never been so depressing.

What is Rijeka's future with 20,000 students replacing the 25,000 industrial jobs lost in the last 20 years? Dopolavoro means fun after work, but also Europe post labour.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Lead Project Host:

Drugo more, Rijeka

Local: BADco, Zagreb, Radiona.org/Makerspace, Zagreb, Multimedia Institute, Zagreb, Rijeka City Library, Rijeka, Film-protu-film, Zagreb, Institute for Political Ecology, Zagreb

International: Aksioma (Ljubljana), The Influencers (Barcelona), AND (Manchester), Bulegoa z/b (Bilbao), Maska (Ljubljana), SKOGEN (Göteborg), Science Communications Research, (Vienna), TKH – Walking Theory (Belgrade), Institute for Applied Theatre Studies at Giessen University (Giessen), Chocolate Factory (London)

Supplementary funding

sources: Creative Europe – Culture, European Social Fund – ESF, local businesses

Marko Marković, Labour Saves, 2012, courtesy of the author

Logos of most important Yugoslav companies and brands



IMPULSE

Artists and unsentimental searchers have large roles to play in this afterlife. To look at something from an unexpected position, to question, provoke and invent are all traits associated to cultural work. We have asked some significant Croatian artists/researchers, both local and national, to invite their closest European colleagues to reflect on the subject of work, with performances, media works, public sessions and street actions. A gathering over the 6 year period, repeated, changing and reminding Rijeka of its complicated relationship to work.

Societies today are no longer able to provide full employment. Despite abundance so great that it threatens the limits of the planet's ecosystem, the manufacturing sector dwindles, people are pushed from the labour market, institutions of solidarity collapse, marginalisation grows. Work is no longer an instrument of social development, in its conventional form. Who knows more about this than artists and creative workers, who have always lived with temporary and precarious support for their work?

This is our *thinking* Flagship in the Cluster of Work, where art stirs the community, where a special sheltered space for deeper reflection is carved out. To step outside conventional statements, often repeated but seldom justified with data, about innovation feeding growth, profit and effectivity.

PLACE

Actions take place in former working environments – abandoned factories, port facilities, shipyards – and more recent ones – art institutions and NGO spaces with precarious working conditions. One Fleet action – **from Gredeľj to Benčić** – uses the existing railway to connect Croatian cities that share the same post-industrial realities.

ACTION

Dopolavoro is formed as a **school of thought** about past and present forms of working conditions, with an emphasis on the relationship between work and technology, rooted in Rijeka's industrial and engineering heritage. The Flagship Highlights **Work Examination Laboratory** and **Idle Actions** form the core on the way to 2020. Other side programmes include research activities, workshops, exhibitions, mini-festivals, concerts, waste facilities, children's games competitions and joint work actions.

FLAGSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Work Examination Laboratory

A laboratory for examining different work processes and their relationship to technology we use on a daily basis. Technology transfer, ways of organising labour and the effect of technology on social structures and political systems, the Lab explores through practical activities that straddle the balance between art, sociology and economic exchange. A variety of smaller events – seminars, conferences, workshops, lectures, exhibitions, knowledge and skill exchanges, studies, publications – the Lab stimulates the local community to define their own narratives and work organisation models. This thread continues throughout the entire Rijeka 2020 experience.

Lead Partner: Drugo more. **Local:** Radiona.org/ Zagreb Makerspace (Zagreb), Multimedia Institute (Zagreb). **International:** Aksioma (Ljubljana), The Influencers (Barcelona), AND (Manchester).

Idle Actions

Over a five year period, **BADco** invites a number of local and European artists/researchers to propose performances and presentations in **speculative time formats:** (1) **8 + 8 + 8** – a format dealing with the eight-hour day, the division of the day into eight hours of work, eight hours of rest and eight hours of sleep. **BADco** organizes one 24-hour event each year, and in 2020 two events; (2) **24/7** – a format that explores the rela-



tionship between art and sleep, sleep disorders, wakefulness in the context of the imperatives of productivity and efficiency; (3) $1 + 0 = 10$ – a format which deals with issues of accumulation and growth. In addition, Idle Actions includes three smaller seminars and in 2020 a larger conference “Profession, Occupation, Invitation, Freelance labour, Hobby” – about the value of art.

Lead Partner: BADco. **Local:** Rijeka City Library, Film-protufilm, Institute for Political Ecology. **International:** Bulegoa z/b (Bilbao), Maska (Ljubljana), SKOGEN (Göteborg).

FLEET

Work is dead, long live work

Universal basic income and feminist visions of a just society. A range of topics rooted in Rijeka’s industrial and port history, including the phenomenon of “gastarbeiter”, shift of production to developing countries, temporary and precarious work patterns, feminisation of labour, labour of parenting, domestic labour and care work. We maps these topics in an open process with public seminars, as well as residencies of artists, writers and thinkers. In 2020 it culminates with an *international group exhibition* at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMSU).

Lead Partner: What, How & for Whom/WHW. **Local:** Centre for Labour Studies, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art. **International:** Tensta Konsthall (Stockholm), The Showroom (London).

From Gredelj to Benčić

A participatory art project connecting Rijeka with other cities and regions in Croatia, using the existing railway. Three train wagons, donated by the Croatian Railways, are converted into exhibition-educational-archival spaces in a joint labour process with workers from the Gredelj Factory of Railway Vehicles from Zagreb (in bankruptcy procedure since October 2012). Each wagon encompasses a segment: (1) **participatory work**; (2) **educational platform** and (3) **creation of**

archives, about bankrupted factories closed since 1991. The train travels throughout Croatia, stopping in chosen places, adapting to each local context. After 2020, the “archive of collapsed factories” remains at the Richard Benčić Complex, as an exhibition and an educational platform.

Locations: Zagreb, Split, Knin, Zadar, Šibenik, Osijek, Vinkovci, Vukovar, Koprivnica, Varaždin, Sisak, Novska, Kutina, Moravice, Pula, Rijeka

Lead Partner: Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rijeka. **Local:** Gredelj Factory of Railway Vehicles, Croatian Railways.

RiUse Centre

RiUse Centre is a facility to creatively process discarded clothes, furniture, books, electronic waste, audio and video girders, home appliances, computers, tools and in return provides ecological and functional products for personal use and in the home. Merging lifelong learning, employment and trade of recycled products. Culture meets sustainability, inventive ecology. The project aims to be self-sustaining by 2022 with more than 30 employees, mostly marginalised citizens, and more than 100 innovators supported.

Lead Partner: Molekularni proces. **Local:** Merlin, Kombinat, Delta, Socijalna zadruška Humana nova Čakovec. **International:** ENSIE (Brussels), RepaNet (Wien), Ateliere Fără Frontiere (Bucharest).

FRIS 2020

A multimedia festival about **robots** and **light**. The “robot” is explored as a machine to help with or even replace human labour. Participants are invited to create own narratives related to robots: stories, e-picture books, comics, computer illustrations, audio clips, video pictures or animations.

Lead Partner: Peek & Poke. **International:** Cirkulacija2 (Ljubljana), Ljubljana Digital Media Lab.

Mladen Stilinović,
Artist at Work, 1976,
courtesy of the author





Petra Mrša,
Rehearsing Family,
2015, courtesy of
the author

Rijeka Industrial Olympics (RIO)

RIO links people and buildings of Rijeka's industrial heritage with popular local children's games of the 60s, 70s and 80s. Motivating people to spend the day, in the company of friends and family, learning about the history of their city by playing games that their grandparents, parents, or they themselves played as children. RIO contestants compete in five disciplines: flying paper planes, tying boating knots, shooting from *štukalnica* [shtoo-khal-nee-tza] – a spitball gun made from a pen, cities-and-countries quiz and the battleship game. Each game is played at a location with close links, for example the battleship game is played at the Torpedo Launch Ramp – dedicated to Rijeka's most significant invention.

Locations: Different locations in Rijeka linked to industrial heritage (the old paper factory – Hartera, torpedo launch station, etc).

Lead Partner: Society for Sports Recreation – DSR Primorje. **Local:** Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral, Rijeka City Museum, ProTorpedo.

Dry stone

Turning dry-stone masonry into a cultural and tourist product that interprets the heritage through collaboration with local artists, cultural workers and organisations. A centuries old craft.

Location: Island Krk .

Lead Partner: Srce za Volosko Association.
Local: Žmergo, Suhozid & Dragodid associations, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

May Day Assembly

An international festival of work and socially engaged contemporary art, whose main goal is to encourage the protection and preservation of a fundamental human right – the right to work. The festival takes place on MayDay each year (2017–2020) and includes concerts of local and international Workers Choirs.

Lead Partner: Association SIZ. **International:** Art Academy – Mimar Sinan (Istanbul), ASK Centre, University Bocconi (Milan), Narva Art Residency – Estonian Academy of Arts (Tallinn).

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ŠKVER

Unique experimental contemporary art festival takes place in July 2020, in the shipyard (in local slang: Škver) on the island Lošinj, inviting local and international contemporary artists to invade the rugged workplace of the Mali Lošinj ship-workers, installing art into a historic, but still very real and operational shipyard. Shipyard workers, contemporary artists, locals and tourists stroll through the enormous warehouses, scrap piles, workshops, ships, and outdoor spaces and collaboratively create site-specific installations.

Lead Partner: ŠKVER Festival. **Local:** Škver Shipyard, Mali Lošinj City Museum.

Printing handicraft

Walking through the basics of printing handicraft the project is dealing with the history of Rijeka, emphasizing the narrative of paper manufacturing and printing thus referring to the golden age of paper processing in Rijeka (middle of 19th century). The project takes place in Museum of Rijeka City and former Paper Factory in Ružičeva street. The idea of collaborative participation is thought of as a merger of workshops and exhibiting spaces into a new whole, aiming to achieve a maximum effect of interaction and communication with targeted public groups.

Lead Partner: Centre for Industrial Heritage – University of Rijeka, City Museum of Rijeka. **International:** National Print Museum (Dublin), Tipoteca Italiana (Cornuda).

Crane Choreography

The idea of the project is to organize an unannounced performance in the port area. The event will connect orchestra performance (Rijeka National Theatre orchestra and potential locally renowned musicians), with the recognizable Rijeka dockside and bridge cranes “dance choreography”. Cranes will thus perform predefined gestures in sync with the music and light repertoire.

Lead partner: Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc/Rijeka. **Local:** JMZM.

TIMING

[ri:map] 2016-2017

- ▶ establish Work Examination Laboratory
- ▶ research of labour, complex organizational systems and material conditions of production in the arts, effect of technology on social structures and political systems, various forms of work from the perspective of narrative, information flow and the organisation of work
- ▶ conversion of train composition into the exhibition-educational-archival space

[ri:learn] 2017-2019

- ▶ performances and presentations in speculative time formats
- ▶ public lectures, workshops and interdisciplinary research seminars, conferences
- ▶ residencies of artists, writers and theoreticians
- ▶ presentations and artistic interventions in public space
- ▶ creation of archives about factories that are in bankruptcy procedure

[ri:build] 2019-2022

- ▶ conference titled “Profession, Occupation, Invitation, Freelance labour, Hobby”
- ▶ international group exhibition
- ▶ creation of an archive of Rijeka’s collapsed factories in the Rikard Benčić Complex
- ▶ establishing RiUse centre – a creative waste facility

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

This Flagship is envisioned as a collaborative and participative project with all the stakeholders serving as both, participants and audiences – local community, shipyard workers, railway workers, workers from collapsed factories, or those in bankruptcy procedure, Workers Choirs, civil society organisations, musicians, visual artists, performance artists, universities, cultural and educational institutions, organisations and associations, private companies, craftsmen, creative industries.

POTENTIAL IMPACT

Dopolavoro stimulates the local community to search forms of self-organisation, inventing their own narratives and work organisation models. The end goal is to increase the new employment forms, re-integrate marginalised people into the social economy and offer support and inspiration in generating creative workplaces.