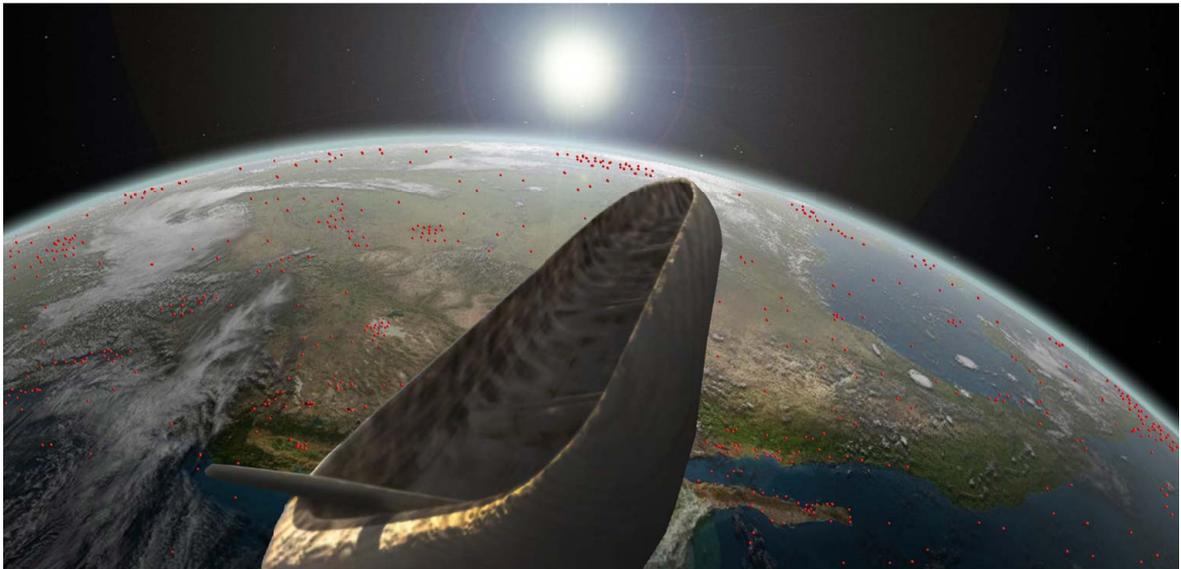


GLOBAL INITIATIVE:

Early Watercraft – A global perspective of invention and development

The First Ambassadors Meeting Minutes'

(Edited by: *Sara Ćorkovič, Saša Koren, Matej Školc and Miran Erič*)



Vrhnika, Slovenia
19th - 23rd of April 2015

GLOBAL INITIATIVE:

Early Watercraft – A global perspective of invention and development

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The first Ambassadors Meeting Minutes'

The idea of the Initiative is based on 20 year of topic forming and developing which culminate in paper given on World Cultural Heritage Conference EUROMED 2014 (supported and organized by ISPRS, CIPA, ICOMOS, ICOM, ICCROM) which held in November 2014 in Lemessos, Cyprus. Paper were recognise as best paper on Conference and it was awarded by first Prize of Werner Weber Award.

Paper was published in International Journal of Heritage in the Digital Era, Special Issue: EuroMed 2014 Best Papers, volume 3 number 4, 2014 by Miran Erič: **New reflections on the protection of World Heritage in the future: Global symbolic meaning of autochthonous and indigenous origins of water navigation**, p. 597-612; [On line] Available at: https://www.academia.edu/11655103/New_reflections_on_the_protection_of_World_Heritage_in_the_future_Global_symbolic_meaning_of_autochthonous_and_indigenous_origins_of_water_navigation

Place, time, participants, and welcome visitors

The meeting was, due to its' symbolic act, taking place on the W outskirts of *Ljubljansko barje* (Ljubljana marshes) in the town of **Vrhnika** near Ljubljanica river. This is the place where in last years a few very important find's was discovered. The oldest one is 45000 year old hunter weapons' point from yew wood which is of the global importance. The second one is the worlds' oldest wooden wheel with axis, dated to be 5200 years old, and in the same archaeological site *Stare gmajne* near Verd, one of many pile dwellings in *Ljubljansko barje*, also two logboats of the same ages, with the sophisticated hollowed transverse reinforcement between sides were found. This site was archaeologically researched by Anton Velušček from the Institute of Archaeology of Slovenian Academy of Science and Art. The third, and the fourth most important European artefacts in nearby area are two Early Roman flat bottomed ships from the beginning of first millennium, "Pontonium" from Črna vas (discovered in 1890 by Alfons Müllner), and after 120 years the ship from Sinja Gorica (discovered and researched in 2008/2012 by the Initiator of this meeting).

Because of the expressed strong relationship with the local history, and important discoveries in this small region, the meeting was sponsored by (accommodation, meeting facilities, and service) a very sympathetic, and highly understanding hosts - Mrs. Marta Bajc and

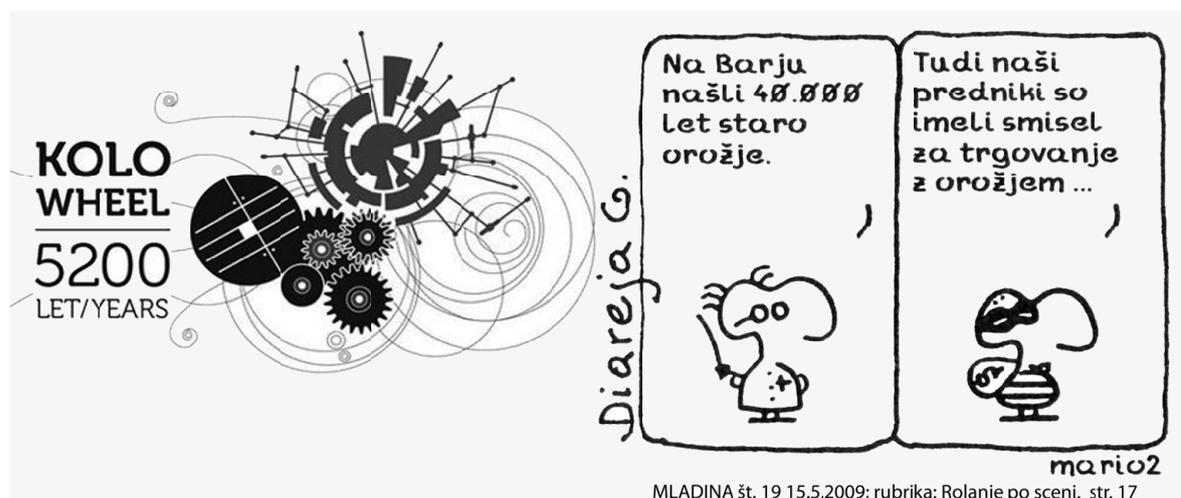


Figure 1: The graphic design of the wheel, made by the KSEVT/CCEST designers, for the occasion of a big exhibition in the City Museum of Ljubljana. On the right occasional comics after palaeolithic wooden point discovery: "40.000 years old weapon was found in *Ljubljansko barje*!" ... "Even our ancestor had the knack for the arms trade!".

Miss Mateja Bajc, the owners of the Bajc Inn, and Avtotrade Centre Bajc Vrhnika, for which we are truly sincerely grateful. The meeting was held between Sunday 19th and Thursday 23rd of April 2015 when the last participants left Ljubljana. Through all days between the meeting it was sunny with the daily air temperature app. of 22°C, RH 27% and wind speed of 2.2m/s. Perfect days for working!



Figure 2: Bajc Inn with the Autotrade Centre Ltd. of Mrs. Marta Bajc and Miss Mateja Bajc owner.

The meeting with the official title: “**First Initiative Meeting for establishing worldwide systematical research project about the origins of navigation on an universal scope, with a focus on the invention of the earliest native vessels**” was attended by 13 invited colleagues:

Chairmans:

Ronald Bockius, Museum für Shiffahrt des Römisch - Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Mainz and

Miran Erič, Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije, Ljubljana

Participants:

Michael Klein, 7reasons Medien GmbH, Wien

Otto Cichocki, VIAS - Interdisziplinäre Forschungsplattform Archäologie, Universität Wien

Waldemar Ossowski, Narodowe Muzeum Morskie w Gdańsku

Niall Gregory, Archaeology & Safety, Charter of European Rural Communities, Cashel

Lars Kröger, Archäologie des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit, Otto Friedrich Universität Bamberg

Dragan Živadinov, Kulturno središče evropskih vesoljskih tehnologij/ Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies, Vitanje

Franc Solina, Laboratorij za računalniški vid Fakultete za računalništvo in informatiko, Univerza v Ljubljani

Cynthia Dunning Thiersten, ArchaeoConcept Sàrl, Biel/Bienne (by SKYPE)

Participants and organisational help of the meeting:

Saša Koren, Student, Oddelek za arheologijo Filozofske fakultete, Univerza v Ljubljani

Sara Ćorković, Student, Oddelek za arheologijo Filozofske fakultete, Univerza v Ljubljani

Matej Školc, Student, Oddelek za arheologijo in dediščino Fakultete za humanistične študije, Univerza na Primorskem

Ambassadors who were overloaded with another important part of his work:

Beát Arnold, Doyen - European pioneer of systematic scientific research of Early Watercraft, Neuchâtel

Andrej Gaspari, Oddelek za arheologijo Filozofske fakultete, Univerza v Ljubljani

David John Gregory, Miljøarkæologi og Materialeforskning, Nationalmuseet er Danmarks, Kongens Lyngby

Aivar Ruukel, Soomaa rahvuspark, Keskkonnaamet

Karl Brady, Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Geological Survey of Ireland and Stationery Office Dublin

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Philippe Guillonnet, GRAS - Groupment de recherches archéologiques subaquatiques / Médiateur du patrimoine indépendant Préhistoire interactive, Rennes

The importance of our scientific meeting of regional and even global dimension was recognized by the **Mayor of the Municipality of Vrhnika Mr. Stojan Jakin**. On the first day of the meeting he expressed his hope that the purpose of participants will be successful, because this will be another further plus for the cultural heritage of the Vrhnika Municipality, and world wide recognition of the importance of Ljubljana river and the heritage of *Ljubljansko barje*.

*The bridge between knowledge and skill is practice.
The bridge between skill and mastery is time.*
Jim Bouchard



Figure 3: Welcome meeting with the Mayor of Vrhnika Municipality Mr. Stojan Jakin. *Left*: Matej, Ronald, Lars, Waldemar, Niall, Otto, Mayor Mr. Jakin, and Miran. *Right*: Mayor Mr. Jakin, Otto, Niall, Lars, Matej, Waldemar, Sara, Ronald and Miran.

Short-term conclusions of the meeting

Homework for the participants in the next few weeks and months will be:

Miran, Sara, Saša and **Matej** are responsible for the preparation of the record of the the meeting. Will be prepared until the middle of May 2015.

Ronald and **Miran** are responsible for the preparation of the **Proposal of the Initiative** after they receive the record of the meeting. This should be done in the next few weeks but no later than the second half of May 2015.

Niall and **Miran** will visit *First international regatta with prehistoric logboats* in Biel/Bienne organised by the Neues Museum Biel, and the ArchaeoConcept in the end of May 2015. They will participate in international round table on experimental archaeology with the topic of logboats and other prehistoric wooden objects building. Their task on round- table is to the Initiative. As **Cynthia** is one of the Ambassadors they will meet with **Cynthia** and discuss about the form of Organisation of the Initiative and about possibilities to prepare the local, international, European and global projects within the context of Initiative.

Niall and **Michael** will prepare a draft (suggestion) for website. It will be prepared in the next few weeks. It is not hardly time-limited.

Miran will start immediately (list exist from Friday 24th of April 2015) with closed address list of 20 Ambassadors (*Ambassadors level*: mail address of list is ewa@list.arnes.si). All Ambassadors are committed to prepare a list (*Global level*) of colleagues all around the world and send them the Proposal of Initiative. Address list should be prepared (**Miran**) until middle of June 2015. The list will be open for all new interested researchers.

Lars will take care of the Facebook page with the help of **Sara**. Facebook page was opened on Friday 24th of April 2015 with the name "Early Watercraft – A global perspective of invention and development".

After Skype discussion with **Cynthia** the question about early beginning organisational form of the Initiative comes up. **Saša**, as she is also educated as graduated lawyer, will do the local and international law review to find the best solutions for the Initiative, which should be as much as possible relieved of local, regional and global political, ideology and religious interference. Cynthia suggested by Skype for early form to be the form of NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation. It is just the question of country where we could have the best conditions.

Waldemar suggested to create a poster to promote the Initiative for the upcoming ISBSA 2015 conference in September in Gdansk. **Miran** will prepare poster until 15th May 2015.

Midterm conclusions of the meeting

Goals for the participants in the period of next two to three year should be:

Founding of to find the best type of organisational framework for **Early Watercraft – A global perspective of invention and development**. Purpose of the Initiative is to include **a. professional researchers and institutions** - in research frame of prehistoric and historic findings, modern times, indigenous and autochtonous tradition, contemporary use – on the topic of *Early Watercraft*, **b. local and regional communities, and individuals** who are dedicated to the research and maintenance of tradition, and traditional use,

c. local and regional communities, and individuals where the *Early Watercraft* are still in use for economical and daily live purpose and d. local communities and individuals which *Early Watercraft* is main interest for their contemporary educational, promotional, sports, and touristic purposes.

Indicative starting point for the organisation should be to include all continents aka. all world without any daily geopolitical – local, regional, international and global –, religious, ideological, economical, or any other influence. Most likely it is that the most appropriate form in our case will be "Non-Governmental Organisation".

Scientific point must include the widest angle of views of research interests. *Early Watercraft* should be studied from different scientific sides: archaeology, anthropology, history, ethnology, art, geology, paleo- environmental, physics, biology, geology, philosophy, computer and information, technology, sociology, etc.

Contents preparation for the various calls for projects which may be targeted in different fields like, science, culture, heritage protection, IT development, rural community development, sustainable tourism, alternative sports, traffic and transport, art, etc. will be prepared. Examine the possibilities of how to include our contents under the UNESCO auspice.

Together with the web page should be "**International Journal for Early Watercraft Researching** build up. From the beginning Journal will be in function just as electronic version. If the purpose of Journal will be proved as necessary and useful (and there is no any doubt), we will contact one of the existing scientific publishers (Elsevier, Springer, ...) to include the Journal into its' editions. Journal should be organised with a. journal selected peer- review, b. self selected peer- review, and c. non- review leveling which provides us a wider net of availability authors.

Approximate transcript of the initiatives' meeting

20th April 2015 start at 9.30 and end at 17:30

We were talking about what is possible to do in the next 2-3 years without any budget money. **Miran** suggested to write a paper with goals and main ideas (why are we doing this, why is it important, . . .), make a list of people that are interested in this topic, to make promotions through social networks. He would like to change and update Hornell's and Greenhill's ideas. Hornell is talking about groups A, B and C groups which have no sense, and no systematic understanding of the vessels, their material, and shape. Hornell made the categories chronologically, and in vertical understanding of ship evolution from their roots (Early Watercraft) to modern vessels. We should reorganize this way of thinking and pay scientific and systematic attention just in horizontal scientific research of Early Watercraft until the edge of phenomenon, when development and evolution continue.

Ronald doesn't agree with it. He believes that the categories should be made differently, since we have more and better data, which are recorded all over the world. We have a different platform with which we can start over.

Niall suggest one of the possible approaches - looking at the environmental regions. We shouldn't be looking only at the *dugout boats* and hard evidence, but we should be observing the whole humanity, and other things that are preserved. For example, a technique with which they were building a boat, could also be used at church building. If we see these evidences in architecture, we can assume, that this technology was also used at constructing a *reed boat*.



Figure 4: First working day- discussion. Michael presented us the possibility in virtual reality, and use of computer and IT technologies. Ronald, Franci, Lars, Niall, Saša, Sara, Waldemar, Michael and Miran. (Photo: Matej)

Miran suggests to make 5 categories of watercraft which would be *log/dugout-*, *reed-*, *skin-*, *bark boats*, and *rafts*.

Lars believes that the system, which is presented by Hornell, is ethnological. He is wondering where it possible to have *logboats*. We can find out for what the boats were being used for, and which technology was used in a certain society. Hunters-gatherers need light, small boats which are served only for crossing the rivers. If the right plant isn't in the environment, it's impossible to make certain watercraft.

Miran agrees with **Otto's** idea that we should start with the headline and material without the time frame. We will not be talking about the evolution of ships, we will be doing this horizontally. **Miran** would also like to start with some very simple sections without stressing of how scientific they should be. The idea of the Initiative is through the long life scientific research systematically build up the classifications and typology of Early Watercraft.

Otto recommends on the contrary, that we should think about a 3D matrix: 1st matrix – **region**; 2nd matrix – **time**, and 3rd matrix – **type of vessel**.

Miran suggests that we should have 5 material based sections (e.g. log, reed, skin, bamboo, bark), and then time and region at the end. He suggests that we should make an open platform, so we could have knowledge from different parts of the world.

Lars believes that there is too much material to process. First we should know what do we want to do. We should be joining all the databases. We could also think about other types of ships/boats such as *plank boats*. He presents scheme for classification in the next order:

1. PHYSIC: **(I.)** raft; **(II.)** boat;
2. MATERIAL: **(1.)** wood; **(2.)** reed; **(3.)** skin; **(4.)** bark;
3. MULTI/SINGLE: **(A.)** multi; **(B.)** single;
4. JOINERY: **(i.)** carve; **(ii.)** sewn; **(iii.)** bound; **(iii.)** ...;

... in this case it is easier to classified watercraft wher “I.1.B.i.” is a **logboat**, “I.1.A.ii.” is a **woodenraft**, and “I.1.3.A.iii.” is a **skinraft** ...

Miran commented, that we really need to think about this kind of classification, which would be the base for all serious databases which we must prepare. It should a part of scientific research which will be one of the many topics of research. But at first we need to think in two parallel “worlds” but connected to each other. One is scientific part of the Initiative and the other one is public part. If we plan to make worldwide open society interlaced between science, education, heritage protection, recreational amateurs, tourism etc., than we should know that we need to also think about website interface, where it is not so useful to use scientific classifications like “I.1.3.A.iii.”. Early from the start of the Initiative we need some user friendly web page with different levels of access, where it’s possible to pass from the first - public level to deeper - scientific levels.

All participants tried to create multi- level categories:

Boat, and floating devices							
Material	Type	Skill	Region/Maps	Scientific view	Databases	Articles	I.
log reed skin bark bamboo	boat coracle raft canoe kayak board	carved burned joinery*	Europe N America S America Africa N Territories N Asia C Asia Far East*	Archaeology* Anthropology Historical Modern Environmental Philosophical Iconography Linguistic Etymology Comp. and IT	¹⁴ C dendro DB existing DB special DB DB of copies DB of parks	Review (R) Self-R Non-R Misc.	II.
		lashed stitched sewn M&T dowel t.nails m.nails rivets ...	China Japan Indonesia ...	Palaeolithic Neolithic Ancient ...			III.

As this is early beginning of web page leveling, all possibilities are open and could/will be changed in the future progress of web page building.

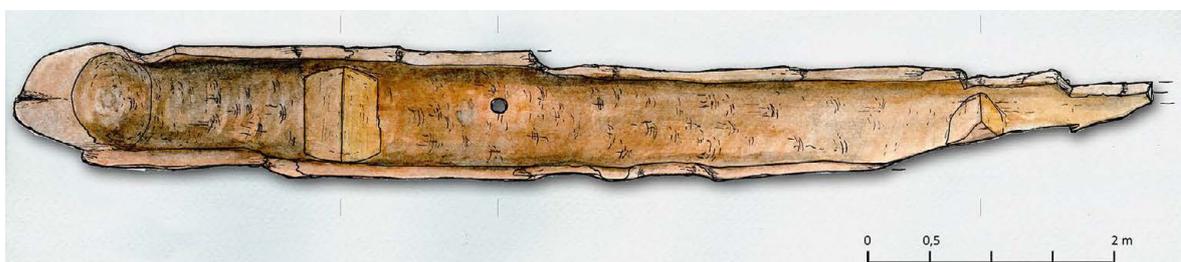


Figure 5: Mesolithic, 7500 year old, logboat from Hotiza, Mura river, NE Slovenia. (Drawing: Miha Erič Davidkov)

In the frame of topic, and working area of the Initiative and the future Institute, and because of open discussion if early **Plank boats** are also the part of the family of Early Watercraft, **Miran** suggested (after meeting - during preparation of this report) that we have the solution, which is hidden in the new accepted title "Early Watercraft – A global perspective of invention and development". We should together with the other sections (e.g. *material, type, skill, region*), just add new section **Invention/Development**. Invention will be understood as really primarily invention against development which is possible easily to see in the case of reed boats on *Figure 6*.

Ronald is asking what are the profits for society.

Lars suggest that we show do what we can in the next 2 years and then get the money with which we could pay students to gather the information for the database and sort them properly. The gathering of data would be a separate kind of work.

Ronald suggest that we should start with the use of a catalogue. With a platform we would give all objects faces, measurements, datations, if possible.

Miran explains that a student from Faculty of computer science in Ljubljana will be trying out new meta- database web- and standalone platform ARCHES. This is application which start to be in charge at the end of April 2015, and it is free share application prepared by GETTY Institute. Idea for this database is - together with all other possibilities of search engines - that everyone would be able also to open 2D drawings, 3D models, video, photography etc.

Otto would like to address a serious problem that he faced. In Levant the archaeologists were trying to research the stratigraphy of the bronze age. His colleagues' idea was to establish a database where each archaeologist from a different region would contribute



Figure 6: Traditional reed boat on Blue Nile river (photo: Marta Semu, Flickr) [On line] Available at: <http://davidshinn.blogspot.com/2013/07/turkish-view-of-nile-water-issues.html> [Accessed 20nd April 2015] (**Left top**); Making a reed boat on Lake Awasa, Ethiopia (photo: Andy Graham - hobo travel) [On line] Available at: http://www.hobotraveler.com/bce_ethiopia2.php [Accessed 20nd April 2015] (**Left bottom**); A reed boat built by the Aymara, Lake Titicaca (photo: Eva Piccozzi) [On line] Available at: <http://gonomad.com/destinations-xxx/3023-a-homestay-with-the-aymara-on-lake-titicaca> [Accessed 20nd April 2015] (**Right**). Left side reed boats we can classified as invention and right side as developed kind of reed boats.

his or her data. The final experience was that a lot of archaeologists didn't find time to enter the data or they didn't want to do it because it was top secret. If people would like to contribute actively, we should think how would they benefit.

Lars is asking what would be the target group of the database. We should provide some insight of available subject also to people who are not involved in underwater archaeology. He presents an example where a neolithic archaeologists asked him if there was some sort of a watercraft found near a specific neolithic site.

Niall suggests that the people who would like to actively contribute to the database, should have a subscription, and one year of free access.

Miran suggests a point system. For every watercraft that you would upload in the database, you would get a point. With 10 points you would go to the park and rent a logboat. He believes that the database should be open for public.

Otto disagrees and suggest that it shouldn't be full open right at the beginning. It should be, but under different conditions, because in this way we can motivate people.

Ronald suggests a control system.

Miran think that we should have 3 or 4 levels of accessing. The available topic will only be for certain people. We should also figure out how many categories should we put into the database, such as GPS points, material, types of boats, dimensions. . . we have to consider if all the conditions would be appropriate for all types of boats.

Lars presents an already made excell database as an example.

On the end of first day meeting we had a chance to visit a really special theatre performance. Ambassador of the Initiative **Dragan Živadinov** invited all the participants to visit an excellent performance. It is better to just read their statement:

We: Dunja Zupančič, Dragan Živadinov and Miha Turšič

have on 20 April 1995 at 22.00, together with fourteen actors and actresses (Milena Grm – syntapiens/umbot, Mateja Rebolj, Romana Šalehar, Maruša Oblak, Marinka Štern, Mojca Partljič, Iva Zupančič, Damjana Černe, Uroš Maček, Mario Šelih, Marko Mlačnik, Robert Prebil, Borut Veselko, Jonas Žnidaršič), performed a theatrical biomechatronical projectile NOORDUNG::1995-2045. The viewer's perspective was directed vertically downwards from the dome. First repeat performance, NOORDUNG::1995-2005-2045, was performed ten years later – same day, same hour, same actors, same text – at Star City, in the cosmonaut training centre. Second repeat performance will take place ten years later on the same day, at the same hour, using the same method at KSEVT in Vitanje. Third repetition will occur in 2025, fourth in 2035 and fifth, last repetition, in 2045. If any of the actors or actresses dies in the ten year interval, we shall replace him in his mise-en-scene with a remote-controlled abstract, a sign.

If an actress dies, her text will be replaced by melody, if an actor dies, his text will be replaced by rhythm. In 2045, there will only be fourteen signs, substitutes for the actors' bodies, and music to replace their text in the theatrical biomechatronical projectile NOORDUNG::1995-2045.

*In 2045, Dragan Živadinov will take the substitutes to the equatorial orbit aboard a **space vessel** and install them on fourteen points around the planet Earth.*

The sign will thus become an artistic satellite, umbot, in real space. Each of the fourteen umbots will send „syntapiens“ information about the actor or the actress to the planet and in deep space.

Milena Grm left us in 2011.

We: Dunja Zupančič, Dragan Živadinov and Miha Turšič, stand up for the abstract theatre in conditions of zero gravity, for the absolute zero!

Second repeat performance, NOORDUNG:: 1995-2015-2045 / Biomechatronical projectile NOORDUNG:: 1995-2045 / 20. 4. 2015 at 10 PM / KSEVT Vitanje / Co-production: Delak Institute, The Mladinsko Theatre.



Figure 7: Substitute of actress Milena Grm at performance NOORDUNG::1995-2015-2045 participate at 20th April 2015 by Ronald, Otto, Niall and Miran start at 22.00, and (right) building of KSEVT in Vitanje with Dragan.

And why is so important to include this in our Minute of the Meeting?

As the fact, which is traveling through the space with all included understanding inventions like navigation, mobility, networking (use of (loose) world water network system - Geomorphologically: Dendritic- drainage network), colonisation, travelling and similar, could not exist without – one of the earliest (together with fire, art, hunting, craftworking, housing) human – inventions of the Early Watercraft! This connection was at the right time at the right place with exact chosen people. And very important emphasis of this invention is the fact that it is the only invention in the world, which did not change until the modern time. A lot of nations, and in a lot of regions around the world even today they make watercraft completely the same, for the same purpose, than from the beginning. And on the other side Early Watercraft transform through the evolution of shipbuilding and changing of types, and power options (just wind, flow, and paddling was in use until 19th century as primary drive) of naming the space travelling vessels, aka. *spaceship, spacecraft, space vessels!* And this means that right now in this moment the unchanged distant ancestors (*invented Early Watercraft*) live together with today's transformed offspring (*Spacecrafts*)! An incredible family.

EFFECTUS SEQUITUR CASUAM

21st April 2015 start at 9.30 and end at 18:00

Miran would like to stay in the frame of working in the institute. As a topic for discussion he suggests web-connecting, websites that we should be complementing. On the website we should be collecting the bibliography from all around the world. It would be nice if every one of us would gather the literature on the topic that we are discussing about at this meeting.

Ronald suggests that we should start with a catalogue/list that was published in 1998 in a Polish journal. It includes ¹⁴C and dendrochronological dates and we could compare the catalogues published after late 80'. And slowly we could expand this catalogue.

Miran thinks it would be the best if we would prepare a basic structure of the database that we were discussing about the previous day.

Ronald believes that we should have a list of references which you can also check, and to have a catalogue with the finds of logboats which we could slowly expand, especially if it's open for public.

Niall emphasizes that it's not only important how the list is put on the website, but also how can we access to it. He wants to upload his own catalogue and update it. He also thinks it would be nice if we could have a central system with which we could work, which is 100% compatible with what we will decide to do.

Miran suggests that the first step we should take should be easy, something that we could work on weekends, without pressure.

Next step we decided to take was to generate our own web of people who are involved in this topic. Each of the participants will create a list of people who might be interested in cooperating, and an invitation will be send to them.

Lars believes we should make a conference paper, and to show that we are gathering data and that we want to make them accessible for readers.

Niall offers to create the website. With **Lars** they agree that facebook is a great tool for communicating with people, and that the facebook page should be updated with information once or twice per week. Niall could be the administrator because he's native language is English.

Lars says that we need a name of the project. In the end it has been voted that the name will be "**Early Watercraft – A global perspective of invention and development (EWA)**".

Saša thinks that the website should be attractive for general public. For experts, or people interested in scientific pages, we should make a special access with username and password, so we could control who is accessing the data.



Figure 8: For the meeting the presentation of the activities of postgravityart was very refreshing and constructive. Matej I can't talk, Sara I can't hear, Niall, Saša I can't see, Ronald, Dragan, Waldemar, Lars, Miran and Arno Lensky (Photo: passerby).

Miran suggests that we should create a journal, firstly only online. With the journal we can later open a library, where you could find everything about the topic.

Matej emphasizes that we should write in a way that would be understandable for general public. It's important to explain scientific terms.

Dragan presents his philosophy, development and goals of his work to us. It is treated as *a production house exploring postgravity art and outlining space culturalisation. It produces different sorts of contemporary art practice in the field of postgravity art: informances, exhibitions, musical and theatrical productions. Delak's main mission is the culturalization of space, which enables merging of art and science in real space. The historical foundation of space culturalisation is the European pioneer of spaceflight Herman Potočnik - Noordung, the engineer of the first geostationary space station. For more than ten years, Delak is intensely cooperating with Yuri Gagarin cosmonaut training centre, Star city.* He also presents the story of stand up Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies in Vitanje.

Skype call with **Cynthia**:

It has been explained to **Cynthia** what is the purpose of the establishment of the institute.

Cynthia suggested that we should create an association, so we can connect people with the same interests in it. While we want to have organisation without any daily geopolitical (local, regional, international and global), religious, economical or some other influence, the best choice in our case is "Non-Governmental Organisation". It also wouldn't cost much. For example, each of the members would pay around 50€ for the membership. With this budget we would cover the expenses of creating an online platform. While as we would like to establish organisation that will be credible and worthy of trust it is also possible and necessary that we create two groups of members: private and institutional. Institutional members provide much more credibility.

There were some questions about where the association would have its seat and if it's possible to create it based on European laws. It is maybe possible to be under UNESCO's underwater convention.

We agree that more detailed about all questions about organisational questions, and about possibilities to apply on different local, regional and European calls for projects will be discuss by **Cynthia**, **Niall** and **Miran** between 30th May and 2nd June in the occasion of *First international regatta with prehistoric logboats* in Biel/Bienne organised by the Neues Museum Biel, and the ArchaeoConcept in the end of May 2015. They will participate at the international round table on experimental archaeology with the topic of logboats and other prehistoric wooden objects building.

End of Skype call with **Cynthia**.

Niall will be doing a webpage draft concept in the next few weeks. We, Ambassadors, can have our own forum on the site.

22nd April 2015 start at 10.00 and end at 15:30

On the last day of meeting we realised professional excursion on few points near Vrhnika which show importance of this small, but big local and regional importance of western part of *Ljubljansko barje*.



Figure 9: Visiting the hill Planina over the Vrhnika where is really nice view over the all *Ljubljansko barje*. Ronald, Lars, Waldemar, Otto, Niall, Sara and Matej (Photo: a random kid).

The Ljubljansko barje Nature Park is located in the area of Ljubljana Marsh, in Central Slovenia, in the southernmost part of the Ljubljana Basin. The Park stretches from a natural passage, called the Ljubljana gate, between the hills of Golovec, Grad, and Šišenski hrib in the north and north-east, to the Polhov Gradec hills in the north-west and west. In the south it borders on the Krim range and Menišija, and in the south-west it is flanked by the Dolenjsko podolje region.



Figure 10: Important finding around Vrhnika is Early Roman flat bottomed barge, discovered in 2012 in Ljubljanica river. Very near, also the palaeolithic wooden point from yew wood was found. Miran, Ronald, Saša, Sara, Lanrs and Matej elbows (Photo: Niall).



Figure 11: Nearby to the site of Roman barge are Sinja Gorica Fishponds where Ministry of Culture established State depository for waterlogged wooden findings in Slovenia. This place is very good for future activities of the Initiative in the case of active Park of prehistoric Early Watercraft. Sara, hidden Matej, Saša and Lars (Photo: Niall).

The Park covers Slovenia's largest complex of wet grasslands with hedges and forests, shrubs and watercourses. The area is well-known for its rich biodiversity, which is the result of specific cultivation practices (extensively-mowed meadows). Most of the protected, classified animal



Figure 12: Finally we visit also Technical Museum of Slovenia where we could see one interesting extended logboat, dated to 1930 with rare construction solutions. It was also possible to see the collection of Titos' cars. Lars, Niall, Ronald, Saša, Sara, Matej and Miran. (Photo: selfie i.q. sEWAlfie)

and plant species and habitat types are vitally dependent on the preservation of the wetland character of the Ljubljansko barje ecosystem and on the maintenance of extensively-managed meadows (rational fertilisation, late mowing).

Over two thirds of the surface area is agricultural land, most of it taken up by meadows (46%), and fields and gardens (31%). Urban areas account for approximately 5% of the Park, and forests cover 9% of the area.

The Park was founded with the Decree on the Ljubljansko barje Nature Park (Official Gazette of RS, No. 12/08), and its managing body, Ljubljansko barje Nature Park Public Institute, was established by a decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Gazette of RS, No. 55/2009).

Minutes of the Meeting was prepared in Ljubljana at 5th May 2015
by Sara Čorković, Saša Koren, Matej Školc, and Miran Erič