

TCA: RAC Venezia-Mestre and RAC Osijek

The twinning program between Rac Venezia-Mestre and RAC Osijek, began after the great experience of the project regarding the demining of a special area in Bosnia in 2006, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Venice (with the special collaboration of the Rotaract Club of Venice-Mestre), when a decision of helping another part of the Balkan peninsula was made. A Rotarian, Phf Dr. Vesco, thanks to his skilled abilities and his role as a Commission Contact Club member, suggested us the idea of the service we are now experiencing.

In order to make a satisfactory social project he acted as an intermediary in establishing the connection between the Osijek and the Venice-Mestre Rotaract Clubs.

The main goal of our twinning was to raise funds which would be subsequently used in order to demine a part of the "Kopački Rit", a nature park near Osijek, Croatia.

This project was therefore very important as the whole meaning of life protection will be highlighted. Funds will be used for demining all the areas in which mines, dangerous for both the human kind and the animals, can be found. The problems regarding nature and human life are seriously linked and for Rotaract it is important not to forget them and to be a valid support for all who may need our help.

The two clubs had another very important purpose: eliminating the tensions occurred among the previous generations (i.e. Croatian and Italian) in the past.

Last but not least the aim was to give back to the Croatian people one of the most important areas, both economically and socially relevant.

The first letter - interaction between the two clubs goes back to Spring 2007 and it collected all the information needed and many events were organized also in order to raise as much money as possible for starting a funds collection, for example:

- 4th April 2007: A press conference held by Osijek Club at the Central Hotel in Osijek in order to explain the aim of our demining project.
- 24th June 2007: Thanks to CAI (Alpine Italian Club) Chorus "La Cordata" a special concert called "Sunset Melodies" was held in the beautiful park of Villa Zoppolato, in Mogliano Veneto (near Venice), followed by a typical venetian dinner in the restored glasshouses of the Villa.
- 13th October 2007: A pic nic at Villa Zoppolato was held. Some members of the Mestre, Venice-Mestre and Rijeka

Clubs, the President of the Bressanone Rotary Club, the Venice-Mestre Rotaract Club, some representatives of the Osijek Rotaract Club were present.

- 14th October 2007: the Osijek Rotaract Club had the chance to visit Venice, one of the most fascinating cities of the whole world.
- 21st October 2007: A party in which chestnuts were eaten and the so-called "Novello" wine was appreciated, took place at Villa Zoppolato.
- 19th November 2007: a piano concert (by Igor Cognolato which took place in Rijeka) was organized in order to collect some money for the de-mining project we have been carrying on until now.

Rotaract Club Venezia-Mestre, in co-operation with Rotary Club Venezia-Mestre organized two charity gatherings in Venezia-Mestre, in which several Rotary and Rotaract Clubs from District 2060 took part, along with members of Croatian and Slovenian clubs. In this occasion we awarded RAC Osijek for the funds raised during the two charity events in Italy. These two events helped in raising 3.500 €. On the other hand Rotaract Club Osijek organized a piano concert by Igor Cognolato, a well known and much appreciated Italian pianist. The concert took place in October in Osijek. The Croatian events contribute was of 3.500 €. Some other sponsor added a special donation of 3.000 €. The total sum of the gatherings is equal to 10.000 €.