



Community project of safeguarding the living culture of Rovinj/Rovigno: the Eco-Museum Batana



EHHF 17TH ANNUAL MEETING

28 SEP 2023

SEVILLE

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Ministry of Culture and Media
Directorate for the Protection of Cultural Heritage
Davor Trupkovic, Chief conservator



A batana is a type of traditional fishing boat found in Rovinj, Croatia. Important to the town's trade and heritage, with craftsmanship methods handed down by families, it became scarce with the popularity of industrial models until 2004 when local enthusiasts started an association to help safeguard it and its associated practices (an old dialect and traditional songs).

The not-for-profit House of Batana, with the support of the municipality, the Heritage Museum of the City of Rovinj, Rovinj Historic Research Centre, the Italian Community of Rovinj and an eco-museology expert created the Batana Eco-Museum to raise public awareness and provide training on practices linked to the batana.

It features a permanent exhibition showcasing how the batana is built and fishing equipment is made, as well as the variety of fishing activities conducted; runs workshops on constructing the boat, also available for shipbuilders; publishes expert material; hosts regattas encouraging involvement from young people; has a shipyard for building and repairing the boats that are now also used for guided tours; and cooperates on a national and international level, taking part in festivals, regattas and roundtable discussions to highlight the batana's role in traditional vessel communities and to help safeguard maritime heritage.

The Eco-Museum Batana was inscribed in 2016 under UNESCO's Register of Good Safeguarding Practices. It represents a unique approach to the preservation of the tangible and intangible heritage of the town of Rovinj.

This project is based on knowledge, respect for cultural heritage and dialogue, it successfully integrates multimedia and uses an interdisciplinary approach. The museum evaluates and protects maritime heritage and it presents Rovinj and its cultural identity which works to attract both residents and visitors. In this way, the Eco-Museum promotes innovative cultural tourism and applies its principles in the local community.



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