

## WDoR Ljubljana 2017 - Report

### Partners



European  
Commission



FOUNDATION

### Main World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims Ceremony at Ljubljana Town Hall on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2017

This year's main event of the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (#WDoR2017) took place in Ljubljana. At the same time the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Zavod Varna pot was also celebrated.

The WDoR was acknowledged in several cities and countries around the world with the main goal of: »Decreasing the number of traffic casualties and severely injured for at least 50 percent by 2020«.

In Slovenia, the activities were carried out under the national slogan, In honour of life. This is so since the family members of the deceased, wounded, and also their loved ones need to find a new compass in this difficult path ahead of them.

The main event occurred on 18<sup>th</sup> of November at 17.00 in the Town Hall of Ljubljana.



Before the main event, there was also a signature gathering in front of the Town Hall dedicated to the goals of the »Decade of Action 2020« commitment. The Decade of Action 2020 hopes to achieve a 50 percent decrease in road deaths and injuries by the year 2020. There was also a signature gathering for the »Vision 0«.



The signatures were obtained throughout the whole day on special FEVR stand on Stritarjeva Street in Ljubljana where no less than 250 signatures were gathered.



6 stands situated on Stritarjeva Street in Ljubljana, one of which was FEVR's, were holding the balloons with names of all people who died on the Slovenian roads since 2007.



The Vision Zero commitment had also been signed by following officials:



*The President of FEVR, Jeannot Mersch*



*The Mayor of Ljubljana, Zoran Janković,*



*European Commissioner for Transport and Mobility, Violeta Bulc*



*The President of the National Assembly of Slovenia, Milan Brglez*



*The Slovenian Minister of Infrastructure,  
Peter Gašperšič*



*Minister of Education, Science, and Sport,  
Maja Makovec Brenčič*



*The President of Euro RAP, Ferry Smith*



*The Founding Chairman of iRAP, John  
Dawson*



*The President of Zavod Varna pot, Robert  
Štaba*



*The Leader of Slovenian Road police, Ivan  
Kapun*



*Director of Slovenian Road Safety Agency,  
Igor Velov*



Song titled “Missing” that was composed by the president of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims, Jeannot Mersch and dedicated to his daughter Sandy that died in a car crash was playing in the background. Find the link to the song [here](#).

The special guest of this year’s World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims was the president of the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims, Jeannot Mersch.



In his speech he said that he is happy that the voice of road traffic victims has been heard, that he is happy to hear words of 2020 goal, to hear about Vision Europe 2030, to hear words of gratitude given to the emergency services who are giving their best to save lives. He attended the beautiful ceremony and he said: “I was in Slovenia twice. This is the third time I am here. I did not understand much the last two times, and I don’t understand much today. But when I am with you I feel love, and love is all that matters.”

The video of his speech can be seen [here](#).



Robert Štaba the president of Zavod Varna pot greeted the guests at the beginning of the main event. He stated that it is the hardest to change, to change our ways after the event such as a road traffic crash. After facing serious obstacles in our path or we are even forced to leave them and start anew, we turn into hedgehogs. We are full of spikes, full of anger and we force people away. Zavod Varna pot (Safe Journey Institute) removes the spikes and lets us give each other a warm embrace.



The highly esteemed guests were greeted by the host, mayor of the Municipality of Ljubljana, Zoran Jankovič. In his speech he expressed his will, as a mayor, to make the world a safer place, to make Ljubljana the first Slovenian city with ZERO road traffic victims, to protect those most vulnerable and not to spare the costs on the lives of the innocent.



The key speaker for international and home guests was the President of the National Assembly of Slovenia dr. Milan Brglez who gave his gratitude to Zavod Varna pot for banishing the ignorance of society towards suffering of road traffic victims.



European Commissioner for Transport, Violeta Bulc, stated, that we must not wish for small change but invest all of our strength and work as a system to actually achieve the number zero.



Jean Todt, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety and Violeta Bulc, EU Commissioner for Transport delivered a video message to the whole world, which can be seen [here](#).





The young moderators of the Zavod Varna pot presented the meaning of life even after loss or severe injury of loved ones. Dario, Neja and Kaja read their messages, their gift to life.



The event was adorned with the poems of the new poetry collection by Breda Marija Kovše, *Opus obstoja, Brezkončnazgodba*. In emotional sympathy, the young artists Alen and Vita Kovše dedicated their performances of "Can you feel the love tonight", "Nothing's gonna change my love" and "In your eyes only" to those present and especially their grandmother Breda. The children of the kindergarten "Pod gradom" sang the song "Ta Pikapolonica", which is the title song of the puppet show: "With Pikapoka on the way, and there will be no accidents" that is performed by the moderators of the Zavod Varna pot in schools and kindergartens, and was created especially for this purpose by kindergarten educators Neda Cuder and Eva Keber.



The event included award ceremony of FEVR and Zavod Varna pot. FEVR presented 5 Certificates of Appreciation. The recipients of FEVR Certificate of Appreciation were:



Zoran Janković - Major of Ljubljana, for support given to Zavod Varna pot since its beginning and his efforts in the framework of the World Day of Remembrance of Road Traffic Victims from its first Slovenian commemoration. Also, for erecting the Slovenian Memorial to Road Traffic Victims and for the support given to the programme aimed at the protection of road traffic accident victims.

Academic Marko Marijan Mušič – architect, for voluntarily offering his vast knowledge and imagination for designing and building the memorial to road traffic casualties in Slovenia.

John Dawson – Founding Chairman of iRAP and EuroRAP for establishing iRAP as a global institution with the aim to raise Infrastructure Safety to a 3-star rating and to support the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

Ferry Smith – Chairman of EuroRAP for working together with the Dutch government and ensuring that the Netherlands has become the first country in Europe to commit to a 3-star minimum target by 2020.

Vanja Kržan, who could not attend the event, for her contribution in the promotion of correct values, purpose and orientation within Zavod Varna Pot.

Zavod Varna pot presented three awards and two diplomas.



The recipients were:

Marjana and Lojze Kračun (who could not attend the event),

Katja Blatnik for 10 years of devoted work at Zavod Varna pot which could not be what it is without her,

Franc Kozel for 10 years of work in his local community to implement road safety measures to protect most vulnerable road traffic participants.

Maja Makovec Brenčič, Slovenian Minister of Education, Science and Sport and Peter Gašperšič, Slovenian Minister of Infrastructure received a diploma for their strong, professional effort to support goals and programs for protection of road traffic victims and introducing safe mobility programmes into the curriculum. Ms. Makovec Brenčič presented a new educational programme for secondary schools which will be based on peer to peer communication and will focus on students whose road safety education is often forgotten.

Mr. Gašperšič stated that we all have to give all of our joined efforts to make road safety happen. He mentioned that road safety in Slovenia is improving, yet there is lots to be done to finally achieve not a day, not a week but years without road traffic crashes.

At the end of the ceremony, pupils of the 7th grade of the Primary School Rodica presented a gift, bonsai trees as a symbol of life and search for new hope to support the growth of Vision Zero and in memory of their classmate Pia who died in a car crash recently.



The event ended with celebration of Zavod Varna pot's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.







Fédération Européenne des Victimes de la Route  
European Federation of Road Traffic Victims




Slovenian partners joining us for the World Day of Remembrance of Road Traffic Victims were:

Different municipality in Slovenia which held an event for World Day (list of the events can be found [here](#)),

City of Ljubljana,  Mestna občina Ljubljana

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport,  REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA IZOBRAŽEVANJE,  
ZNANOST IN ŠPORT

Ministry of Infrastructure,  REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA INFRASTRUKTURO

Public Agency for Safety of Traffic of the Republic of Slovenia.  JAVNA AGENCIJA  
REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE  
ZA VARNOST PROMETA



More useful information on the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDoR) and the events surrounding it (official videos, statements, promotional material and live videos) can be found on [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) of Zavod Varna pot, on [Facebook](#) and [website](#) of World Day of Remembrance and [Facebook](#) and [website](#) of FEVR.

For more information we are available at [info@varna-pot.si](mailto:info@varna-pot.si) and [info@worlddayofremembrance.org](http://info@worlddayofremembrance.org).

Jeannot Mersch,  
President of the European Federation  
of Road Traffic Victims

Robert Štaba,  
President of Zavod Varna pot and vice  
president of the European Federation  
of Road Traffic Victims