

RECONSIDERING THE ROLE OF INNOVATION AGENCIES AND MUTUAL LEARNING





FOREWORD

Changes brought by the COVID pandemic, rising inflation and energy prices have demonstrated the important role of governmental institutions in helping the economy and stakeholders in a rapidly changing world. National innovation agencies have an essential role in designing policy measures to efficiently target changing needs and priorities of innovation stakeholders while trying to protect and further improve national innovation ecosystems.

Taftie, the European Network of Innovation Agencies, is an important network that enables and promotes the exchange of knowledge and best practices of its members to deliver better R&D and innovation programmes and policy responses.

The central theme of the Presidency for 2023 will be **Reconsidering the Role of Innovation Agencies and Mutual Learning**.

For the 2023 Presidency of Taftie we want to emphasize knowledge exchange, mutual learning, exchange of best practices between innovation agencies and knowledge capitalisation. We are planning to do map the expertise and experts within Taftie network and find ways to use this knowledge to benefit all members. During the Presidency, we would like to enhance the visibility of Taftie to remaining national innovation agencies in the European innovation ecosystem, especially in South-Eastern Europe. A big emphasis will be given to creating a vibrant Taftie community active online throughout the year between Taftie physical events. We will work on the establishment of a Taftie alumni network and build a community for potential future collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Let's make Taftie even more successful in 2023!

Ante-Janko Bobetko,
Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors

PROGRAMME



Zagreb, 15-16 February 2023

Technology transfer and cooperation between academia and businesses

The Insight Session will look at how Taftie members support technology transfer in their ecosystem and what should be the role of national innovation agencies in that field, having in mind numerous important stakeholders.

Dubrovnik, 19-20 April 2023

The future of intellectual property

The Insight session will cover current trends in intellectual property rights, the main challenges that entrepreneurs face in this area and what expectations from innovation agencies they have. We will discuss how entrepreneurs could use intellectual property rights to develop their business activities further and how innovation agencies should help them.

Šibenik, 14-15 June 2023

Horizon Europe with a focus on EIC and EIT

The Annual Conference will help innovation agencies to exchange best practices in supporting entrepreneurs within their national innovation ecosystems regarding participation in programmes of HORIZON EUROPE, the European Innovation Council and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. A Mutual Learning Event (MLE) between innovation agencies represented in Taftie will also be organized on the second day in cooperation with TRAMI, a HORIZON EUROPE project. The project aims to foster cooperation and coordination between EU-level actions and complementary national, regional and local actions in support of the implementation of missions.

Opatija, 3-4 October 2023

The role of innovation agencies in supporting startup/scaleup ecosystems

The Insight Session will look at how agencies can better address the needs of startups and scaleups, what kind of support they need in different stages of development and in what way could national innovation agencies adapt their support.

Brussels, 21-22 November 2023

The role of innovation agencies in the absorption of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Policy Forum will be organized in cooperation with the European Commission to address the main challenges Taftie members have regarding the implementation of ESIF in national innovation ecosystems and how the processes could be optimised, leading to the better absorption capacity of ESIF.

PRESIDENCY TEAM



Ante-Janko Bobetko
Chairman
of the
Board



Neno Rakić
Executive
Secretary



Dunja Margeta
Treasurer



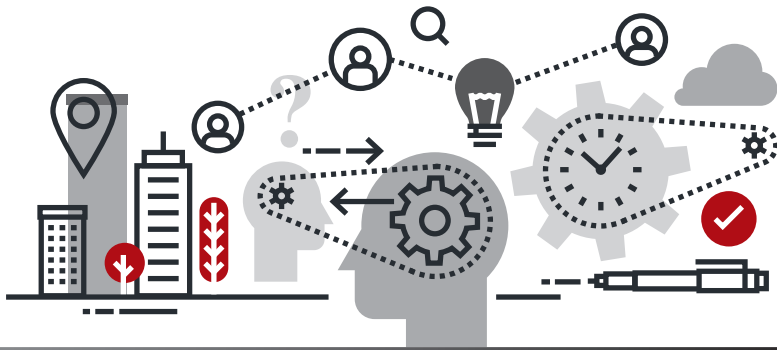
Mate Kovač



Marija Galeković



Kristina Grabovica



ABOUT CROATIA

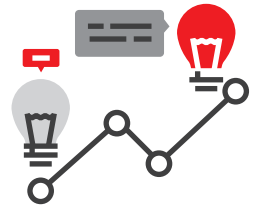
Croatia is a Central European and Mediterranean country spreading over a land area of 56,691 square kilometres with a population of 3.88 million. There are 1,244 islands and islets in the Adriatic, although only about 50 are populated. Croatia has an amazing 5,835 km of coastline, 4,057 km of which belongs to islands, cliffs and reefs. Famous symbols of Croatia are the cravat (a necktie).



ABOUT HAMAG-BICRO

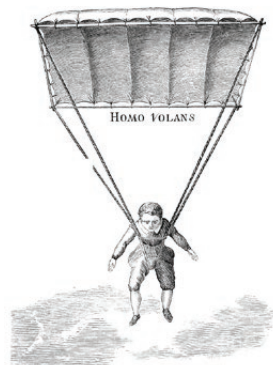
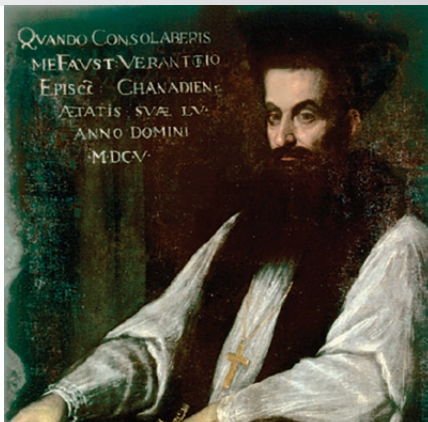
Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO) is the key government agency that provides support to small and medium-sized enterprises. By supporting the growth and development of SMEs and crafts, it attempts to stimulate Croatia's economic growth to strengthen Croatian global competitiveness. Almost 30 years of operation, HAMAG-BICRO has been consistently committed to growth and development of SMEs and crafts in the Republic of Croatia by facilitating their access to finance. The Agency provides financial support to innovative and technology-oriented enterprises in Croatia by increasing commercialization of knowledge and awareness about the value of innovation. HAMAG-BICRO supports the transfer of knowledge and technological solutions from the science to the market, and participates in the creation and development of venture capital industry. Strengthening international cooperation through membership in different international associations and programs is one of the essential priorities of the Agency.

CROATIAN INVENTORS DID YOU KNOW THEM?



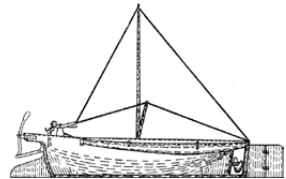
Faust Vrančić

1617: parachute. The polymath, inventor, philosopher and lexicographer Faust Vrančić (1551-1617) was the first to stretch fabric over a wooden frame to make a parachute, allegedly tested by jumping from a tower in Venice. In his work *New Machines*, he described it in detail, along with 56 more inventions, and called the parachute *Homo volans* (Flying Man). He also published a *Dictionary of the Five Most Noble European Languages* in 1595, the first dictionary printed in Croatia.



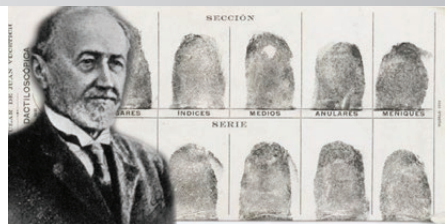
Ivan Blaž Lupis

1861: torpedo. The naval officer and inventor Ivan Blaž Lupis (1813-75) built a prototype of an explosive weapon that could be used to attack enemy ships in 1861. After signing a contract with Lupis, a factory in Rijeka developed his invention and it was the first in the world to begin mass production of torpedoes similar to those used today. The technical solutions of the Rijeka torpedo are used today for peaceful purposes.



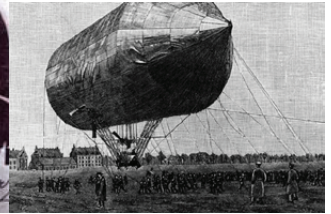
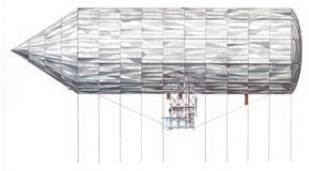
Ivan Vučetić

1891: dactyloscopy. Ivan Vučetić (1858-1925) was a criminalist who emigrated to Argentina in 1884, where he was employed in the police force. He was one of the founders of dactyloscopy and invented a system for classifying fingerprints which he applied in solving criminal cases.



David Schwarz

1897: airship. The Croatian aviation architect of Hungarian origin, David Schwarz (1850-1897), made the first steerable airship with a metal frame. Due to his sudden death, the credit for the invention went to Ferdinand Zeppelin, who built his airship based on Schwarz's project.



Slavoljub Penkala

1906: ballpoint pen. The Croatian inventor of Polish origin, Slavoljub Penkala (1871-1922), patented many inventions still used today. The most famous was his ballpoint pen, which the Penkala factory sold in around 70 countries. He also invented the thermos flask, the rotating toothbrush, and many more devices. He built the first airplane in Croatia in 1910 and is considered the father of modern aircraft.

