

## **Union of Croatian Innovators (UCI)**

### **2020 Activity Report**

#### **1. F&F**

The Union of Croatian Innovators (UCI) is a non-profit NGO, a legal entity registered as a legally corporate member of the Croatian Association of Technical Culture (HZTK).

UCI goals, mission and vision are:

- Boosting innovation on the national and international levels
- Development of the national innovation movement by creating the national innovation support network.
- Improvement of the existing legal framework to encourage and evaluate innovation more effectively through assuring better links between the public, R&D, and the real-economy sectors.
- Raising awareness of IPR issues
- Continuous commitment to achieving better general status, evaluation and rewards of individual innovators;
- Coordination of local associations of innovators, members of the UCI;
- Strengthening competitiveness and overall development of the Croatian economy by directing inventive work towards commercialization of innovations.

Activities are defined as:

- Organization and participation in domestic and international fairs and exhibitions
- Organization of seminars, workshops, conferences related to innovations issues
- Consulting and advising innovators through the Innovation Counseling Hotspot
- Creation, promotion and participation in programs and projects aimed at encouraging and supporting innovators
- Creating and executing tailor-made innovation incentive programs to certain vulnerable groups (young, women etc )
- Publishing contents relevant to innovation

Altogether, UCI encompasses 30+ regional and local associations with around 2000 members (individual innovators, companies, institutions and other entities dealing with innovation). UCI employs 4 professionals and 2 volunteers (The president and the UCI v representative to the IFIA).

Funding sources include the state budget, membership dues, the sale of services, financing from private companies, philanthropic foundations, local and state agencies, or private donations.

2020 was a very challenging year for innovators around the world due to the Corona pandemic. Croatian innovators' community associated with UCI faced additional problems given the March earthquake in Zagreb. UCI suffered logistic consequences as a result of the earthquake and was forced to relocate its headquarters to less damaged premises.

Despite this Croatian innovators remained active, focused on corona-fighting issues.

Bearing in mind the above, the UCI as a national umbrella association has made a lot of efforts to continue with the usual activities by carrying out the programs and projects envisaged by the annual plan for 2020. Due to pandemic circumstances, programs that were not cancelled were performed partly online and partly in a standard format.

Significant performance of UCI expert has been traditionally recognized in many international online projects, through participation in jury panels mostly.

## **2. ACTIVITIES IN 2020.**

### **2.1. DOMESTIC EVENTS ORGANIZED BY UCI**

2.1.1. ARCA, The 18th International Exhibition of Innovation, (IFIA main event), Zagreb, 15.-17.11.2020.

2.1.2. "Innovation of the Year 2020 Award" –The National innovation contest, December 2020

#### **2.1.3. PROGRAMS AIMED AT YOUTH**

- „ A small Step to Success“, workshop aimed at disabled youth, Cakovec, 6.02.2020
- “ IPR “ workshop, Sibenik, 13.02.2020.
- “Nilola Tesla – A Mind for the Future”, IPR workshop, 18.02.2020.
- “Making a remote controlled stroller” workshop, 15.10.2020.
- “Making a decorative vase” virtual workshop 12.05.2020, **online**
- Nikola Tesla Physics Quiz , Zagreb, 6.03 2020.
- „Youth – drivers of technical innovation " workshop, Kanfanar, 10.11.2020.
- “IPR” workshop, Rijeka, 26.10.2020.

#### **2.1.4. CROATIAN EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS ORGANIZED UNDER AUSPICES OF UCI**

- The 7th Innovation Salon, Bjelovar, 02.12.2020-**online**
- „INVENTUM 2019“, The 14th International Youth Innovation, Commerce, and Technical Creativity Fair, Ilok, 20-21.11.2020.
- „ Adriatech", 4th innovation exhibition, 26-30.10. 2020, Rijeka
- “MIPRO 2020” International Convention on Information, Communication and Electronic Technology, Opatija 28.09-2.10.2020

### **2.2. INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS WITH UCI PARTICIPATION**

- “Inventions vs Corona” – the virtual international contest organized by IFIA, July 2020, **online**
- Regional Virtual Fair of Innovation and Entrepreneurship “Sarajevo 2020”, 23-24.11.2020, **online**
- ISIF '20, The 5th Istanbul International Inventions Fair, Istanbul, 05.08.-27.09.2020., **online**
- IWIS, Warsaw, 19.-21.10.2020. **online**

- 4th International Fair of Patents, Inventions, Innovations and New Technology “INOVAMAK 2020”, Skopje, 9.-11.11.2020, **online**

### **2.3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

Throughout 2020, UCI has been continually advertising and branding membership and partnership with IFIA. The UCI delegate, member of EXCO IFIA, was appointed the director and vice-president of IFIA.

A UCI expert was the head of the “Inventions vs Corona” Jury panel, and participated in many other international Jury panels as well (e.g. Sarajevo 2020, ISIF '20, SOLVE etc.)

### **2.4. INNOVATOR COUNSELING IN 2020**

UCI provided the following services:

- Recherche using both domestic and international non commercialised patent databases;
- Assistance in the preparation of application for various forms of IP protection;
- Twinning with possible commercial partners;
- Facilitation of applying for public and commercial financing of innovation.

### **2.5. PR ACTIVITIES**

Many of UCI officials and members were regularly presented in the media (press, WEB, TV etc.)

December 2020.

Zoran Barisic, M.Eng.

IFIA Vicepresident