

50 years of municipal administration in the Krško municipality

ENVIRONMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR MAIN CONCERN

Municipal services in the past

Much has already been written about municipal services. The book "Krško Through Time 1477-1977", published to mark the 500th anniversary of Krško, states that in 35 BCE the Roman emperor Augustus finally conquered the Posavje region and established the new administrative centre "Neviodunum" (today's Drnovo near Krško). This was raised along the Emona – Siscia road. The name Neviodunum is of Celtic origin meaning "the new town". The town was supplied with water coming under the Gorjanci mountains. The water collection area under Izvir village was surrounded by a 5m wide wall on two sides and was protected on the other side by natural rock. At the efflux there was a smaller water cleansing area just prior to the water flowing into clayed piping. The water crossed the Krka river over a narrow arched bridge. After that the piping was laid in the ground in a straight line to Neviodunum. The town had its own spa whose outlet pipes leading to the former Sava riverbed can still be seen today together with parts of the river port and pier. Over 5000 cremation and skeleton graves were found in the town's cemetery - called a necropolis. Among them were built-up tombs which are characteristic of this part of Pannonia, some of them even containing walls decorated with pictures. Other important findings are remains of the Celtic tribe of Latobiki and their house-shaped urns with an opening, some of them also containing slots.

The history of the area is also described in the well-known book *The Glory of the Duchy of Carniola* written by Baron Janez Vajkard Valvasor, who in the year 1693 bought a house in Krško from a local townsman, Jakob Vodnik. It is thought that he died there in the same year on September 19.

It is in this house at Valvasorjevo nabrežje 4 that the headquarters of the first financially independent local municipal administration “Komunalna uprava Videm-Krško” were set up. It was founded on 26th February 1954 by the resolution of the municipality of Videm-Krško people's committee.

The administration first employed 12 people but the number increased as the water and sewage infrastructure work started. Until then the town had been using wells, but these were polluted and new water sources had to be found. It took several years to find a solution to this problem. Finally, in the year 1964 a water pump in Drnovo was completed and linked to Krško by a pipeline. At the same time, a water and sewage system was built in other parts of the municipality, very often by the work brigades. In later periods this responsibility was handed over to local communities but a decade ago it again became municipal property maintained by Kostak. This means that at the moment we maintain 500 km of water system and 110 km of sewage system. We supply 2 million litres of water and dispose of half of that amount through the sewage system. In the near future, all the waste water will be led through the municipal waste water treatment plant. One such waste water plant is already in operation in Kostanjevica. We are currently building one in Brestanica and completing another one in Krško next to the Vipap industrial waste water treatment plant.

The municipal administration that changed its name into “Zavod za komunalno dejavnost Krško” also started with waste collection, first with horse teams collecting in the town centre only. When a proper waste collection truck was obtained, the waste collection area slowly extended to the whole municipality. This also required the setting up of a municipal waste disposal site and provision of rubbish bins. In the recent past we introduced separate waste collection, ecological islands and the first waste collection centre. We also embarked on the restoration of the municipal waste disposal site. Kostak collects 100,000 m³ of waste a year. By 2010 we plan to recycle half of this amount.

In 1972, municipal administration changed its name once again, this time to “Komunalno stanovanjsko podjetje KOSTAK” as the company undertook the maintenance of residential housing and later also building construction work. At that time, the company had 70 employees servicing the roads, market hall, cemetery, residential heating, shops and undertook various other projects. The number of employees peaked to 300 a few years ago. Kostak employees also played an important role in cleaning and performing other tasks on the business and production premises of the Nuclear Power Plant Krško, contributing towards its uninterrupted and reliable running.

50 years behind us

In the first 50 years the company endured its highs and lows at times when the economic circumstances were not always favourable. It had to adjust to the changes in the law, political interests, undergoing two compulsory administrations and having many directors, experts, workers. However, throughout this time the company has been striving to expand its business activities, invest in its people, offering scholarships and purchasing new equipment and machinery. Today it is organised as a joint-stock company with the Krško Municipality having the largest stake. At the moment we have 260 employees which makes us the 5th biggest company in the Posavje region. Our turnover in 2003 was SIT 3.2 billion, that is slightly over EUR 13 million or SIT 12,098,000 per employee, with each employee creating SIT 4,264,000 of added value per year.

Kostak today

As a company in 2004, when we look back at the path we have trodden in the past 50 years under this or some other name, we are pleased with what we have accomplished. At the same time we have to express our respect towards all those who helped us in accomplishing our goals, especially to our employees. They have always watched over our progress, ensuring that we are as a company well appreciated within, as well as outside, our local community. Very often we hear that we managed to progress from an ineffective and inadequate institution into a modern company offering a wide range of services. Public services continue to be complemented with other business activities that currently represent 75% of our business.

A survey of our consumers also confirms that we are on the right track. The height of our efforts for a clean environment and quality services is the ISO 9001 certificate for quality. This proves that we are aware of the need for working for the benefit of the environment in which we live. Over the years we have made many donations and sponsored various projects.

Kostak tomorrow

Employees in Kostak will continue to offer high-quality and reliable service. Our mission is to deliver expert, diligent and responsible service and our goal is to achieve results that are comparable to other successful companies in Europe. We aim to achieve this with the help of our partners at home and outside Slovenia, but

also by employing an indispensable entrepreneurial boldness which is required for fulfilling the long-term expectations of our shareholders and ensuring our growth for the benefit of all the inhabitants of the Krško municipality and Posavje region. Our plans for the future are daring but we are confident they will be realized and we are hoping our partners will continue to support us and have confidence in us. After joining the EU we will persist in striving for permanent growth as this involves maintaining a sensitive balance between environmental considerations, economic growth and social development.

To mark the occasion, for our 50th anniversary we decided to modernize our company logo design, but the most important part of our company image will remain our employees who can be praised for having qualities such as extensive expert knowledge, reliability, politeness, teamwork and a willingness for problem solving.

Looking after our environment

One of our main goals has been care for our environment. We are all becoming more and more aware that all of us have to change the way we treat our environment if we wish our grandchildren to be able to experience some of its beauty. I would like to quote the co-ordinator of the national project "Ecoschool as a way of life", Nada Pavšer, who says: "When you return to your homes, open the water tap and listen to the water running. It is beautiful because it is a carrier of happiness, health and prosperity."

Not everyone is as fortunate as we are here in Slovenia where there are plenty of sources of good quality drinking water, which needs to be preserved. We all have to be aware of its importance in our survival and development as there is no such thing as artificially produced water.

In Kostak we are convinced that we offer indispensable service to our community, at the same time taking care of our environment for the benefit of us all. This is why we devote a lot of our attention to educating the younger generation about environmental matters and the urgency in addressing them now, that being either waste, drinking water, cleaner appearance of our towns or other environmental issues.

A large, stylized white number '50' is centered on a green rectangular background. The number is composed of thick, rounded strokes, giving it a modern and celebratory appearance. It is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page, partially overlapping the text area.

Božidar Resnik
Director Kostak d.d.