

Urban Incubator Blog

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PARABROD'S

“ŽUPA” RETURNS FROM RETIREMENT

On board the scrapped ship, which celebrated one century of existence last year, her admirer

will gather and present plans of turning the vessel into a cultural and exhibition space. Derelict and rusty - steamboat “Župa”, a cultural heritage monument moored on the right bank of the Sava River between the “tram” and Branko’s Bridge, will, on Saturday, host the festivities which should help this boat to “sail” from oblivion. The ship will host her admirers, gathered in the citizen’s initiative “Community Župa”. The start of the restoration of this old vessel, which only last year turned one hundred will be marked by symbolic re-erection of the chimney. On this occasion, a reconstruction project will be presented for the steamboat to become a new cultural and exhibition space for the capital. The idea is to turn the “Župa” into a gathering place for artists, as well as all lovers of history, the Sava and Danube, Belgrade...

From the moment the art collective „Karkatag” raised the chimney on Saturday, a new stage of the ship’s revival begins. At the moment, local associations active in Savamala will be included in programming events on this boat like the Mikser Festival, Kulturni Centar “Grad”, “Nova Iskra”... Technical work will follow, such as the removal of heavy fuel oil from the water below deck, which is derived from the waste fuel of the boiler. Then a concrete trough will be installed in order to stabilize the hull, since a complete reconstruction, which would enable to move the vessel again, would be too expensive – says Zlatko Crnogorac, executive producer of the cultural institution “Parabrod”.

In the final stage of work, the infrastructure of “Župa” will be secured to the end and the wiring will be laid to avoid any danger for visitors. - This ship, that took part in the First World War, should be saved in a year when the century marked the beginning of this historic event. This steam tug will remain formally owned by the company „Ivan Milutinović”, but given the fact that the reconstruction had no purpose, we obtained permission to re-engineer

the ship. This is mediated by the Museum of Science and Technology as the competent institution under whose protection the nine ships, including the “Župa”, stand. This institution will oversee the project of revitalization – explains Crnogorac. Hamburg and Belgrade united by the treasure from Savamala Zlatko Crnogorac states that the “Community Župa” project was initiated by representatives of the “Urban Incubator” project, launched by the “Goethe-Institut” in order to reactivate Savamala, and project assistance was provided by the Ministry of Culture, as well as the “Telenor Foundation”. The initiative for the reconstruction of “Parabrod” was initiated in 2012 as the “Mikser Festival” in Savamala organized part of its program on the “Župa” and around it in order to draw attention to the ship. At the end of October 2013, students of the Faculty of Applied Arts in Hamburg, the class of Marjetica Potrč in cooperation with the “Urban Incubator”, started a new stage in the life of this ship – says Crnogorac. Century of glory and doom The steamboat “Župa” was built in Budapest and was first “baptized” as – “Una”. The cargo carrying capacity of the ship was 127 tons, and the ship was armed with „Škodina” guns, 66 mm and three machine guns. She participated in the military attack on Belgrade in 1915. She first sank in 1919 after being caught in fire. She was restored in 1920 and sold to a Romanian company that owned her in the inter-war period under the name “Cozio”. Soviet troops seized her in 1944 and used her as a minesweeper. At the end of the year, she sank for the second time – she was “killed” on a mission, striking a mine at the Old Slankamen. The ship was recovered from the Danube in 1945, followed by restoration and transfer to the fleet of the Yugoslav River Shipping where it got the name “Župa”, under which she retired.

