

“The long story of Italians in Tuzla and their integration into the city and its peculiarities”

Tihomir Knežiček

27/04/2021



3



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union





Sliding Doors



Association of Italian
origin citizens

“RINO ZANDONAI”

club TRENTINO TUZLA,

BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

The long story of Italians in Tuzla and their integration into the city and its peculiarities

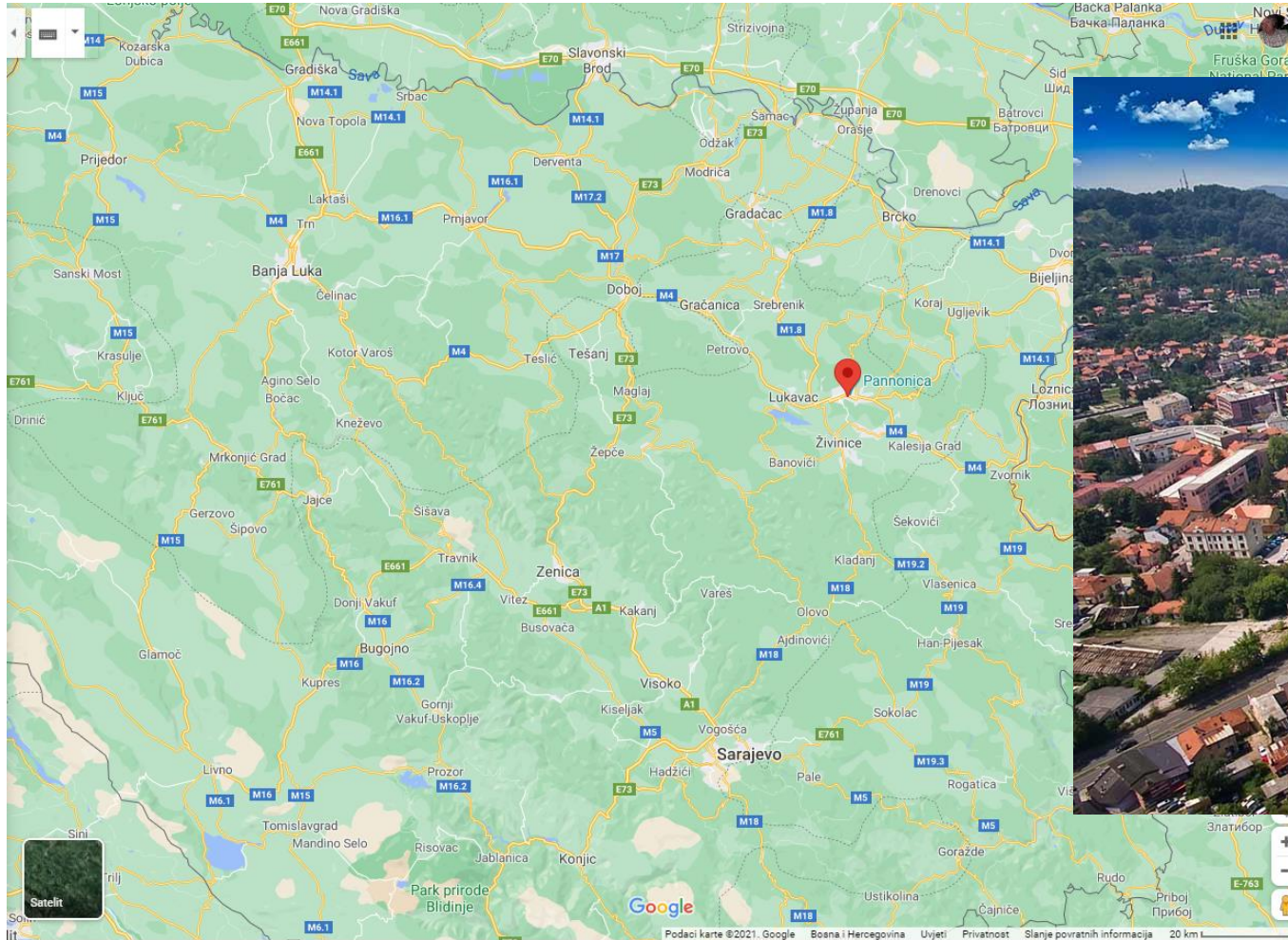
Prof.dr. Tihomir Knežiček



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

relation Tuzla – Trentino

Tuzla is the city of 120.000 citizens, located in the north-east of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



relation Tuzla – Trentino

Journey and migration from Trentino to the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina



relation Tuzla – Trentino

Journey and migration from Trentino to the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Migration from Trentino – South Tirol to Bosnia and Herzegovina started in 1880.

This was the **INTERNAL migration since the territory of Trentino and Bosnia and Herzegovina were within one ruling territory – Austro-Hungarian empire.**

Migration carried out in two ways:

- 1. Organised migration / colonisation** - where migrants from Trentino moved to Bosnia and Herzegovina, started in 1883 ended in 1884. Migrant groups came to Mahovljani in North Bosnia (near Banja Luka) and in Konjic in Herzegovina.
- 2. Individual migrations**, where migrants from Trentino moved to Tuzla, Zenica, Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Doboј vicinity, started in 1878, ended by 1912.

relation Tuzla – Trentino

Journey and migration from Trentino to the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina

ORGANISED COLONISATION – MAHOVLJANI

First group of 25 migrant families came from Trento by train on 15.9.1883. After 4 days journey, migrants from Banja Luka were escorted by army to Mahovljani settlement near Banja Luka. From Mahovljani families were directed to the various villages, mainly in the vicinity of Prnjavor town. They worked as rented labour for land owners. Later they got the land from government to work on it. Colonisation was finished in 1884.



Train station in Trento in 1883.

relation Tuzla – Trentino

Journey and migration from Trentino to the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina

ORGANISED COLONISATION – KONJIC

**No Italian origin families today
reside in Konjic.**

At the same time, in 1883 166 families (in 2 groups) arrived to the area of Konjic in Herzegovina, near Mostar. Since colonists did not get the properties and land promised by the government, almost all families return to Trentino during March 1884.

relation Tuzla – Trentino

Journey and migration from Trentino to the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina

INDIVIDUAL MIGRATIONS – B&H

Started before organised colonisation, and continued till 1911.

- **Zamboni family came to Zenica in 1878,**
- **Mott and Piccolotti families came to Tuzla in 1880,**
- **Montibeller family came to Štivor in spring 1883 (before arrival of other Trentino families in 1883)**
- **Bancher family arrived to Tuzla in 1911.**
- **Andriusi family arrived in Sarajevo in 1930. late arrival**

In later years, individual families arrived in Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Zenica, Travnik, Doboј, Gračanica, and other towns.

relation Tuzla – Trentino

Reasons for migration – situation in Trentino

- **Recession and general low living standard.**
- **Silk and wine production declined.**
- **New borders between regions reduced trade and employment opportunities.**
- **Flood in 1882.**
- **No drafting in Monarchy army.**
- **Government promised land for migrants.**
- **Business opportunities.**



New start. New life.

About 75% families



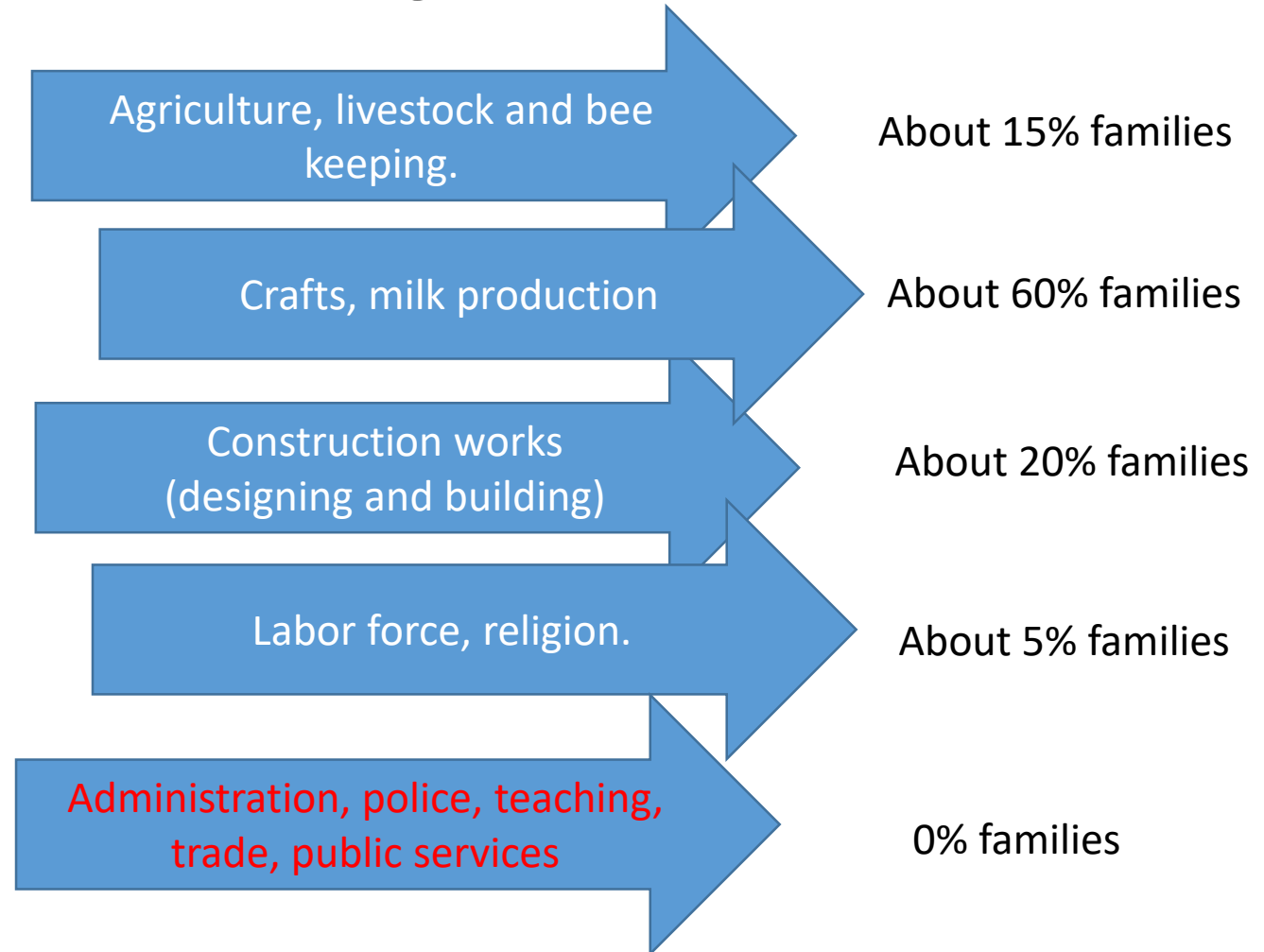
Business opportunity.

About 25% families

- Region rich by natural resources and land
- A-H required labour and qualified workers.
- Tuzla is military important town, near border with Serbia.
- A-H wanted reduce impact of Islam and populate Christians.
- A-H wanted to have loyal citizens in Monarchy.
- Italian rarely came with investments.

relation Tuzla – Trentino

Reasons for migration – situation in Tuzla / B&H



Occupations of Italians in Tuzla

Agriculture, livestock and
bee keeping.



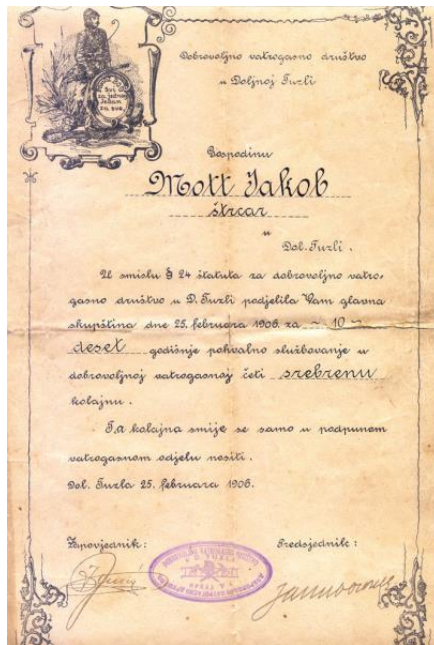
Bancher family



Daldon and Broch families

Occupations of Italians in Tuzla

Crafts, milk production



Jakob Mott,
chimneysweep



Batista,
tailoring



Gojo, concrete
elements
production



Daldon, milk
production

Occupations of Italians in Tuzla

Construction works
(designing and building)



Dorigi, railway building

Candotti and Bancher,
reconstruction of Plehan monastery

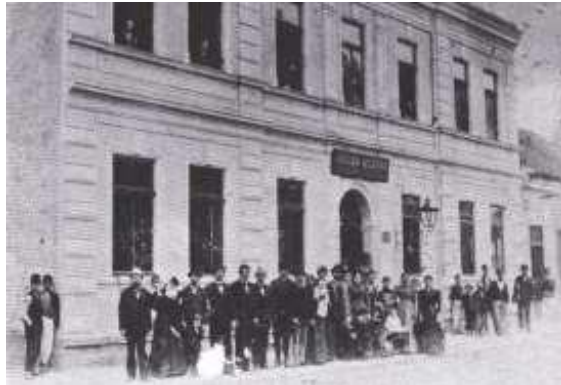
Occupations of Italians in Tuzla

Construction works
(designing and building – the best of)

Cordignano and Candotti
works



Buildings destroyed due to land subsidence caused by salt exploitation – post office, catholic church, gymnasium



Buildings in the hart of the city

Occupations of Italians in Tuzla

Labor force, religion.



Fontan family



Zamboni family

Living standard of Italians in Tuzla – early days



Silvia Mott, lived in extreme poverty

poor 5%



Segat family, lived in an ordinary house

estimates

ordinary 80%



Cordignano home, wealthy family

rich 15%

**Italians came to Tuzla with the basic capital.
They purchased land and started businesses.
In business creation participated all family members (brothers).
They brought new crafts and skills.**



Living standard of Italians in Tuzla – these days



No families live in extreme poverty Fontan family, lived in an ordinary house

ordinary 75%

Mott family home, good standard

good standard 25%

- Italians are educated – about 25% senior and 60% youth have university degree or study.
- Italians have good positions in the society – have responsible jobs in health sector, education, politics.
- They are investors, run private business.
- Do not include other Italian families in business.
- Contribute in overall social life in Tuzla.
- Active in art, music, painting, writing, sport, red cross, CSOs, politics.

Integration processes since 1879

Obstacles in integration processes

- Language barrier.
- Different religion (73,7% Muslims).
- Lack of churches (no church in the city till 4.10.1893).
- Mentality and habits of locals.
- Less contacts with the population since the properties Italian own were not in the city centre, often in rural areas.

Advantages in integration processes

- Multilingual city.
- Huge population spoke non-domestic language (in 1919 12,64% citizens spoke non-domestic language).
- Opportunities in offering new working skills.
- Opportunities in offering organisational skills.
- Migrants were literate when they arrived (comparing to domicile population - 97% illiterate in B&H).

Integration processes since 1879

Population of Tuzla, and number of Italians – where available statistics

	1879 (first census)	1885	1895	1910	1921	1971	1991	2013
Total population	5.119	5933	10.227	12.353	416460 district, no data for Tuzla	121.717	131.618	131.402
Italians	unknown	unknown	unknown	180 2500	237 in district	unkown	39	88 Embassy records

- Small number of citizens who declare themselves as Italian is the consequence of progressive integration process in Tuzla.
- In the history, no assimilation was present in Tuzla.
- Italians declared themselves as the citizens of one of the majority nations: Croat, Serb and Muslim / Bosnian.

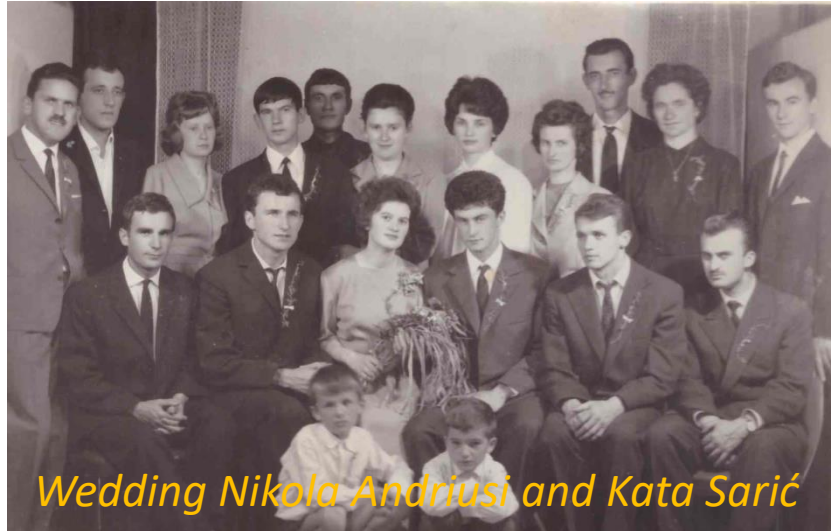
Integration processes since 1879

Membership in the association of Italians in Tuzla

	1993	1995	2004	2019
Association members	693	245	186	334
Trentino club members	about 75%	about 75%	100%	about 80%
Non-members	?	?	?	minimum 30 persons with Italian origin
Having Italian citizenship	?	?	?	88 in 2016

Contribution in integration processes

family bonds and mixed marriages



Contribution in integration processes

music and theatre



Bajazzo band 1926 – four Italians



Play Emina – five Italians

Contribution in integration processes

voluntary firebrigade



Mott and Zamboni

Contribution in integration processes

sport



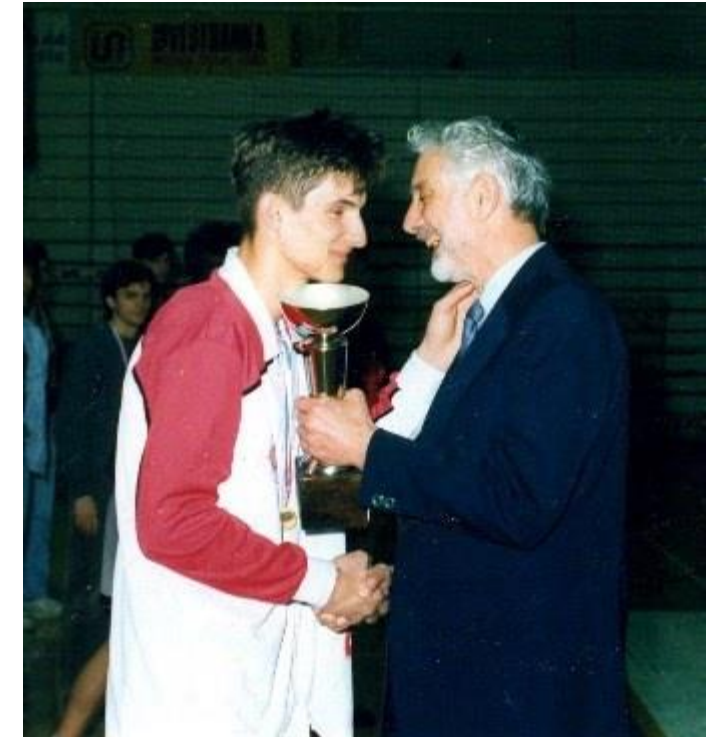
Karlo Segat - volleyball



Zdravko Batista in handball club
"Sloboda"



Perin Mott in football club "Solvaj"



Jakob Mott referee in basketball

Contribution in integration processes

social gathering



Mott Jakov, member of Napredak society 1898 Tuzla

Contribution in integration processes

revolutionary movements



Proslava 1. maja 1923. godine na imanju Bancherovih pod Gradinom na Solini. Prisutan je velik broj Italijana, što pokazuje visok stepen patriotizma Italijana u Tuzli koji su bili na strani radničke klase. Na slici su mnoga poznata imena iz prošlosti Tuzle: Mitar Trifunović Učo, Simon Bancher, Leonardo Bancher, Cano Goja, Leopold Volavka, Marija Jakubec, Perin Mott, Gusti Mott, Viki Mott, Marija i Matilda Mott, Miroslav Pinter, Marija Piccolotti, Ankica Cuvaj, Mijo Cuvaj, Jure Jurić, Hasan Odobašić, Aljo Bakalović, Giovanna Bancher, Franciska Bancher, Mulaga Mustačević, Bogdan Banjanin, Feliks Križan, Juliska Cuvaj, Mica Jakubec, Ivan Gojo, Ljubica Bancher, Pero Smit, Alija Alibegović, Dousolina Bancher, Mijo Đumić, Vladimir Pesut, Mašo Altumbabić i Kosta Bašić.

1. May 1923, Italian families Bancher, Gojo, Mott, Piccolotti, Križan



Leonardo Bancher (1900-1936) political prisoner, about 1935



Rafael Mott, komunist party (1905-1977), political prisoner arrested several times 1932 -1941



August Mott (1900-1963), political prisoner arrested 1932



Ferdinand Zamboni (1905-1982), political prisoner arrested 1929

Contribution in integration processes

revolutionary movements – 2 World War



Rinaldo Bancher
in Bari 1944



Nevenka Bancher
in 1944



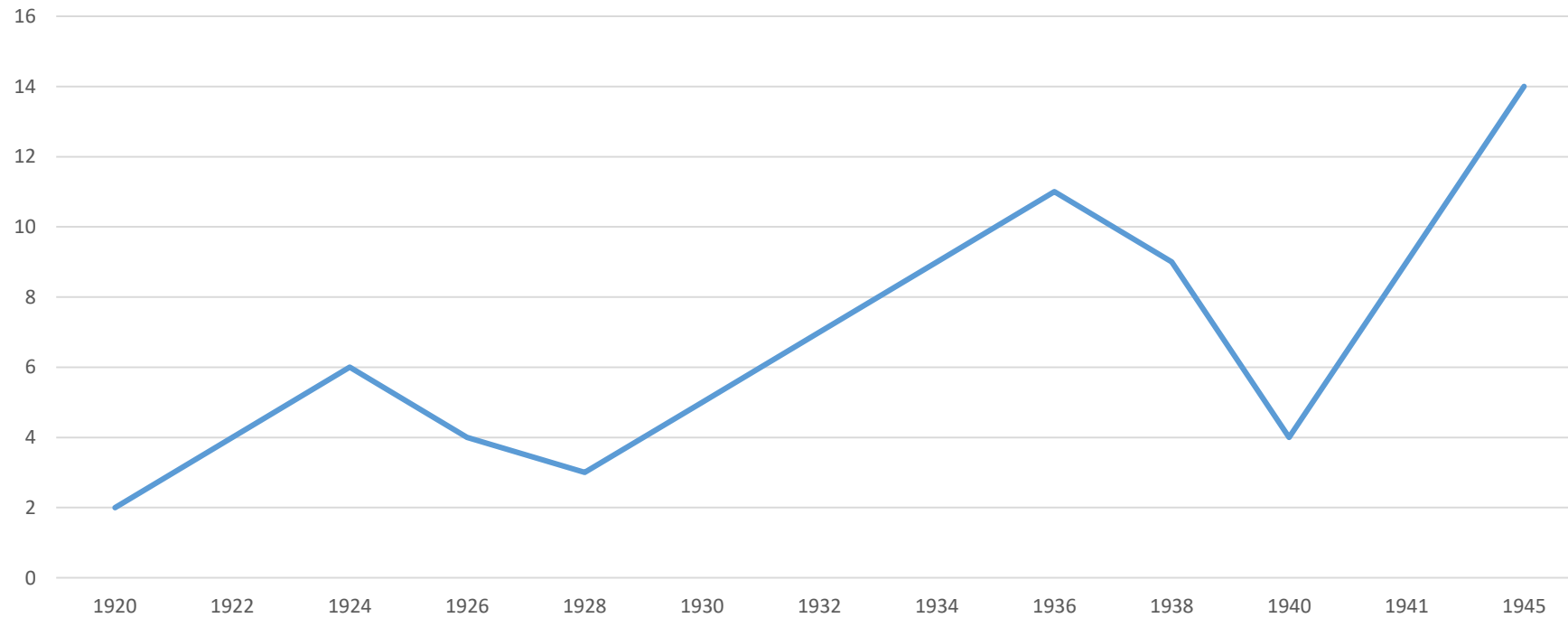
Bruno Bancher street
in Sevran -Paris, died
1944

- Simone Bancher
- Leonida Bancher Ćatić
- Sofija Piccolotti
- Rudolf Zamboni
- Nikola Zamboni
- Dara Zamboni
- Stjepan Batista
- Danica Fontan Lazarević
- Ignjac Mott
- Rafael Mott

No Italians served in Nazi army, two served in domestic army („domobrani”), several drafted for „domobrani” and escaped to partisan military units.

Contribution in integration processes

revolutionary movements and 2 World War



Return to Italy

Year	From	To
1884 organised	Konjic	Trentino
1885 – 1918 individual	Štivor, Mahovljane, etc	Trentino
1928	Tuzla / Segat	Argentina
1939, 1940	Štivor, Banja Luka	Ardea – Ardeatina, Rom
1940, 1941, 1945	Tuzla, other places	Trentino
1947	Tuzla / Candotti	Torino
1970-1985	Tuzla, other places	Italy, Germany, etc.
1992-1995 – war time	Tuzla, other places	Trentino, Germany, etc.

Italian families in Tuzla

ALASSIO
ANDRIUSSI
BATTISTA
BANCHER
BARBINNI
BATTICELLI
BUSSATTA
CANDOTTI
CORDIGNANO
CUKIATTI
DALDON
DELONGA
DELSANTE
DORIGHI
DRUSIANI
FACCIO
FIAMENGO
FONTAN
GIACONI
GOJO
GROTTI

KOMLIJEN
KONRAD
KRISTEN
KRMEK
LAGINJA
LAZZARI
MARCOLLINI
MERLUZZI
MICHELINI
MIKILINI
MONTIBELLER
MORETTI
MOROZINI
MOTT
MURADORI
MUSULINNI
OLIVARI

PACHER
PALLA
PAPINUTI
PICCOLOTTI
PIONDI
ROSSI
SCALCERI
SCIOCCI
SEGAT
SORAVIA
TARADE
TOSON
TROMBETTO
VENERUS
VIDONI
ZAMBONI

Red letters – families
living in Tuzla

Italian family Zamboni



Amadio Zamboni, 1874, Brez, Trento
Fiorenza Donna, 1878, Brez, Trento



Amadio Zamboni, Fiorenza Donna, 5 (+1)
children, all born near Zenica, Bosnia.
Family moved to Tuzla in 1911. (1 generation)
All children did not speak Italian.



Rudolf Zamboni, 1903, Vranduk, near
Zenica, married Marija Matijašec, 1904,
Tuzla. (1 generation)

Italian family Zamboni



Rudolf and Marija Zamboni, 1979



Rudolf and Marija Zamboni and 2 children, daughter Antonija, son Miroslav (2 generation)

Italian family Zamboni - Knežiček



Antonija Zamboni, 1926
married Zdenko Knežiček,
1921, in Tuzla



Antonija and Zdenko Knežiček have 2
children Željko, 1951 and Tihomir 1959,
both born in Tuzla (3 generation)



Tihomir and Smilja Knežiček have 2
daughter Marija, 1997 and Sonja, 2002,
both born in Tuzla (4 generation)

Italian identities

- Italians changed original surname spelling do to legislation in former Yugoslavia – saying names and surnames need to be spelled i.e. written as it is pronounced. In addition, Serbo-Croatian grammar did not recognise double letters.
- Changes effected on families Bancher (Banker), Mott (Mot), Piccolotti (Pikoloti), Michelini (Mikelini, Mikilini), Dorigi (Dorigi), Andriussi (Andriusi), Candotti (Kandoti). Names also were substituted by local **pronunciation** Maria – Marija, Augusto – August, Giovanni – Đovani, etc.
- Legislation in B&H permits using “foreign” names and surnames, so some families were permitted to change family documents where can be written original surname.
- Italian families maintain identity by giving Italian names to male and female children **PERIN, SILVIA, IVAN, RENATA, KARLO**.
- Italian families living in Italy give Italian names to their children.

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Italians did not organise activities within an association form or any other type of organised gathering when Italians established their presence in Tuzla. While German (in 1911), Czech (1912) and Jews (1902, 1911) have national associations in Tuzla.

Italian association in Tuzla has three phases of existence.

Phase 1. Established association in 1993.

Phase 2. Registration of association – Trentini club in 2000.

Phase 3. New registration of association, including Trentini club in 2010.

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Phase 1. Established association in 1993.

Association was established on May 8, 1993 in order to organise reception of humanitarian aid during war conflict in B&H. Operated in continuity without activities till 2000.



Membership
card

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Phase 1. Established association in 1993.

IZVJEŠTAJ O BORAVKU prof.dr LJUBE RADIĆA U
U COMUNE DI FIERA DI PRIMIERO, PROVINCIA
DI TRENTO - ITALIA

Od 01.07. do 10.07.1994. godine boravio sam u Italiji gdje sam obavio razgovore sa velečasnim Vanfettom Don Erminiom, parokom Parochia Di S.Maria Assunta, Fiera di Primiero, gradonačelnikom Comune di Fiera di Primiero Sindaco dott. Bruno Simion i dott. Architetto Nicola Chiavareli, predsjednikom Koordinacionog odbora za pomoć građanima Tuzle.

U svim razgovorima učestvovao je član našeg Udruženja gospodin ing. Anđelko Dobnik.

Cilj moje posjete bio je da dogovorim organizovanije prikupljanje i slanje humanitarne pomoći iz ovog dijela Italije za Udruženje građana italijanskog porijekla i prijatelja Italije - Tuzla, kao i pomoć "Caritas" provincije Trento "Caritas" Tuzla.

Za obavljanje ovih razgovora posjedovao sam uredno izdate i ovjerene punomoći gospodina gvardijana fra Petra Matanovića i našeg predsjednika Udruženja i izvršnog odbora gospodina Mott Branislava.



Membership
card

Report of Ljubo Radić (Mott) for visit
Trento in 1994 – in local language

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Phase 2. Registration of association – Trentini club in 2000.

DOC. NO.208 19.12.'03 13:37 ID:Ass. Trentini Nel Mondo FAX:+39 461 230840 PAGIN 2



ASSOCIAZIONE
TRENTINI NEL MONDO
ONLUS
Pass. Peterlingov, 8
entrata Via Torre Vanga, 20
38100 TRENTO (Italia)
Tel. 0461 234379
Fax 0461 230840

Trento, 18 dicembre 2003
Prio.n. *Alk mpp*

Prog. Signor
SEGAT KARLO
Tuzla – BIH

Carissimo Presidente,
in data odierna Ti è stata inviata la somma di Euro 7.600,00
così suddivisa:

- n. 22 casi solidarietà a Euro 300,00 ciascuno	Euro 6.600,00
- compenso assistenti sociali	Euro 60,00
- Corso di Cultura e Lingua italiana.	Euro 100,00
- Spese gestione Circolo	Euro 100,00
- Spese bancarie e varie	Euro 60,00
- C.T. Tuzla – rimborso spese viaggio a Sarajevo	Euro 80,00
- Compenso al Trio musicale per manifestazione a Sarajevo	Euro 150,00
- C.T. Tuzla – Sicurezza sede C.T.	Euro 450,00

Ti ricordo di far firmare a tutti la ricevuta relativa al contributo consegnato.
Cordiali saluti e Auguri di Buone Feste.

Rino Zandonai



Opening club premises –
Rino Zandonai and Tuzla
major Jasmin Imamović
2005

The name of
association was
„Association of
citizens
Trentini Tuzla“. In
May 2004 the club
has 69 families and
186 members.
Intensive
cooperation with
Trentini nel mondo,
material support
and solidarity fund
support.



Membership
card

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Phase 3. New registration of association, including Trentini club in 2010.

Association was registered on 3.6.2010, named Association of Italian origin citizens “Rino Zandonai” Tuzla. Within the association, it is established a Trentini Club.

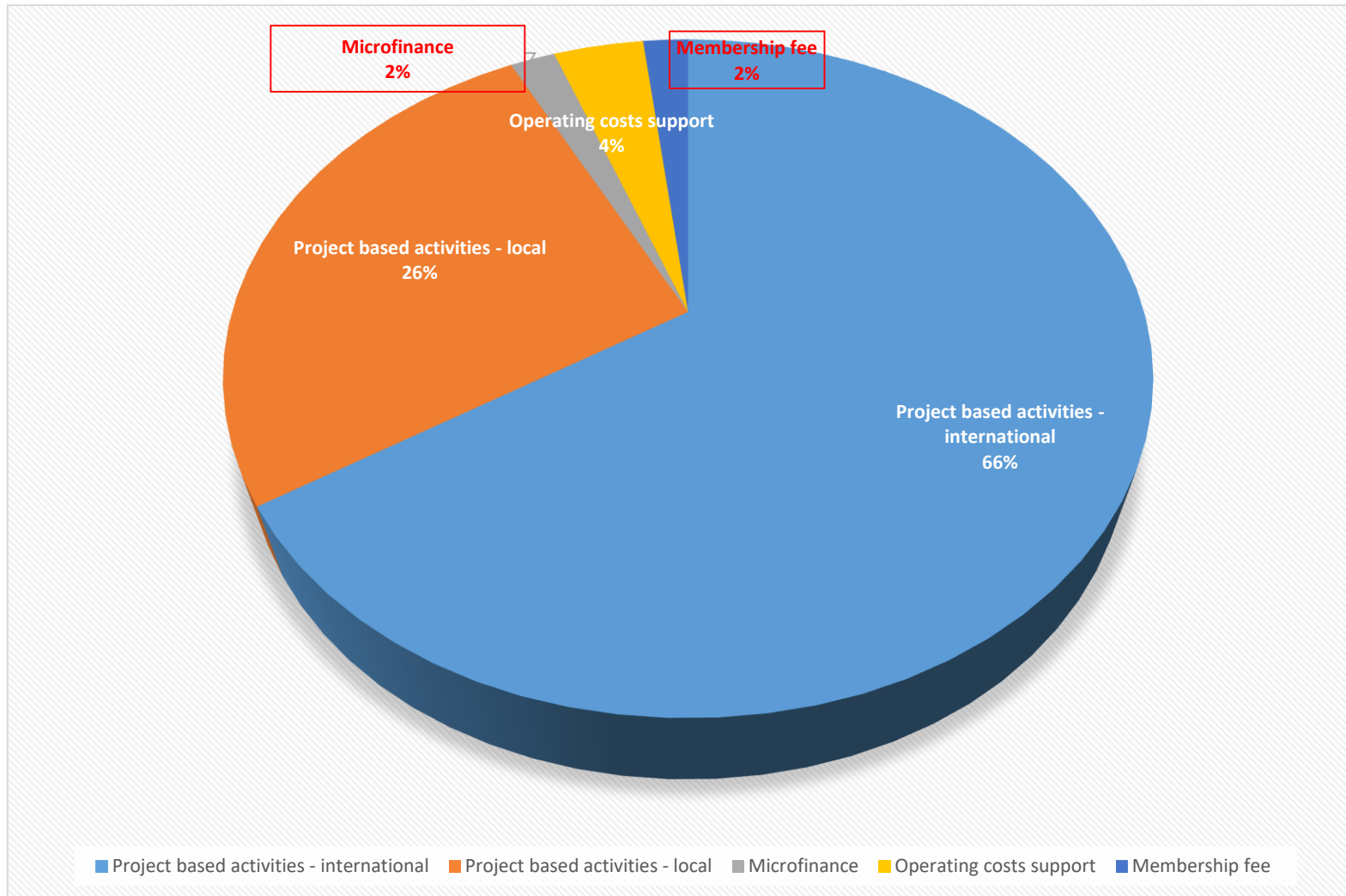


Membership
card

Meeting Trentini nel mondo and Assembly 2010 – new registration

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Funding sources – 15.000 EUR in 2020



Association of Italians Tuzla – activities

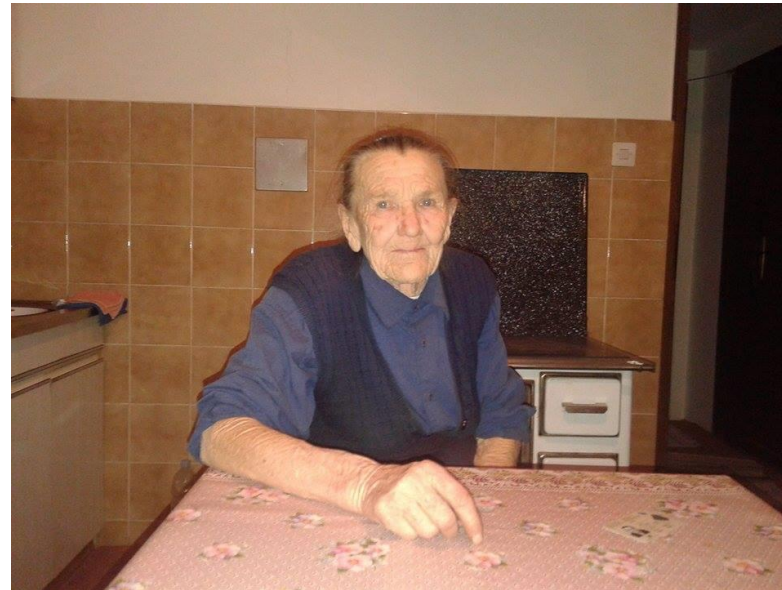
Language courses, tradition, culture, art, social gathering, exhibitions, publications, web, researches, covid monitoring, cooperation with Trentini nel mondo and B&H Italian associations

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Social care – solidarity fund Trento



JAKOV MOTT



ZORKA DALDON



VLADO ZAMBONI



VALERIJA SEGAT

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Gathering – large events



Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Gathering – small events



Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

exhibitions



Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Exhibitions - art



Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Music



Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Tradition

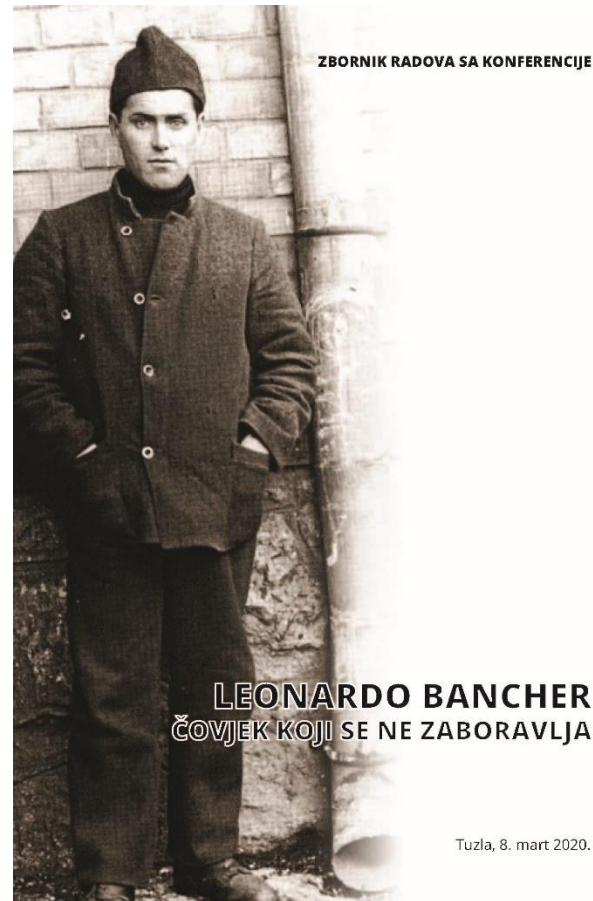
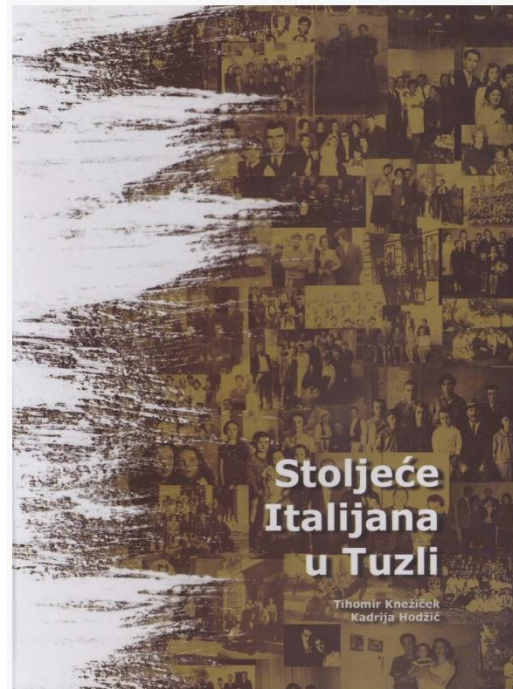


A DAY OF ITALIAN GASTRONOMY – EVERY YEAR SINCE 2010 IN CONTINUITY



Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Publications and research



Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Library „Salinas” 1312 units



Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Recognition by state and city leaders



Haris Silajdžić, president B&H attended the event „A century of Italians in Tuzla” 2010.



Jasmin Imamović, mayor of Tuzla city attended the event „Christmas in Tuzla” 2018.

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

Media, internet





Udruženje građana italijanskog porijekla

Rino Zandonai Tuzla

Klub Trentina

Adresa: Mitra Trifunovića Uče 135,
75 000 Tuzla
Telefon: +387 62 335 930
E-mail: info@ugip-tz.ba

Broj tekućeg računa:
132100202234966 (KM);
Ino uplate: IBAN:
BA391320010746823476
PADOR BA-2020-APP-0705174316
DUNS: 300569115, NCAGE: SEB24

UGIP "Rino Zandonai" partner u evropskom projektu "Klizna vrata" 14.4.2021.

Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

POČETNA
SLIKA UDRUŽENJA
VJESTI
Italijanska biblioteka "Salinas" u Tuzli
OBITELJI
ARHIVA
Š
UDRUŽENJA ITALIJANA
ZAKONI
PUBLIKACIJE
DOWNLOAD

Osamnaestmesečni projekat "Klizna vrata" realizuje 12 partnerskih organizacija iz 9 evropskih zemalja u okviru programa "Evropa za građane". Cilj projekta je analiza integracionih procesa migranata sa aspekta socijalne i istorijske perspektive. Specifičnost projekta je zajedničko učešće akademske zajednice i organizacija civilnog društva u evropskim državama, a u konačnici projektom će biti definisane naučno-stručne preporuke evropskim relevantnim institucijama. Bosna i Hercegovina je zastupljena udruženjem "Rino Zandonai" Tuzla koje će biti uključeno u obuke, terensko istraživanje, izradu analize, debate, učešće na konferenciji na kojoj će biti definisani zaključci koji će biti upućeni institucijama Evrope nadležne za socijalnu brigu o migrantima u evropskim državama. Nosilac projekta francuski Institut za nauku i tehnike antikviteta (l'Institut des Sciences et Techniques de l'Antiquité - ISTA) iz Besancon. Partneri u projektu su: Belgija, Brisel, Foyer de Molenbeek - Saint Jean i Muzej migracija, Bosna i Hercegovina, Tuzla, Organizacija UGIP "Rino Zandonai", Rumunija, Univerzitet u Oradea, Odjel za političke nauke i komunikacione nauke, Francuska, Besancon, Institute of Sciences and Techniques of Antiquity, Université de Franche-Comté, Francuska, Besancon, Association Miroirs de Femmes - Reflets du Monde, Italija, Pistoia, Fondacija Roberto Marini Oltre il Secolo Breve, Madarska, Budimpešta, Organizacija Mahatma Gandhi Rights Organisation, Italija, Firenca, Univerzitet u Firenci, School of Law, Italija, Trento, Asocijacija Trentini nel mondo, Nizozemska, Amsterdam, Organizacija Stichting Culturissima, Portugal, Porto, Organizacija Rede Inducar, Španija, Barcelona, Centre ERDISC - Equip de Recerca en Diversitat i Inclusió en Societats Complexes- and the Catedra d'Educació Comunitària de l'Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Statut Trentini nel mondo
(Statuto Associazione Trentini nel Mondo)

Knežević - član Naučnog komiteta za projekat "Klizna vrata" 14.4.2021.

Predsjednik UGIP "Rino Zandonai" imenovan je za člana Naučnog komiteta koji je formiran u okviru projekta "Klizna vrata" koji se finansira u okviru programa "Evropa za građane". Uloga naučnog komiteta je da predloži relevantnim evropskim institucijama preporuke kako da se tretiraju migranti koji dolaze u evropske države sa socijalnog aspekta.

Ai confini dell'impero
L'emigrazione trentina in Bosnia 1878-1912
1878 - 1912

Tanti volti, un'unica comunità
Storia e realtà dei Circoli Trentini nel mondo (Mariacarla Fallo), Trento 2007 - due knjige koja opisuju Trentinane u BiH Sarajevo - Slonov i Tuzla

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

QUALITY OF ITALIAN'S LIFE IN LOCAL SOCIETY

Italians are former migrants, came to B&H long time ago, who are recognised by legal framework in B&H, and treated as a national minority. By law, Italians are allowed to maintain and protect own tradition, culture and language. Foreigners who are former students from Asia and Africa, who remained in B&H, are not recognised as the national minorities. Newcomers from abroad who came for business purposes are not recognised as the national minorities in B&H.

All national minorities, including Italians, gave and give significant contribution in Tuzla development. Italians never misuse the Italian origin i.e. nationality, never asked for extra benefits, have identical rights as all other citizens. This status contributes in the integration processes.

Italian identities – Association of Italians Tuzla

QUALITY OF ITALIAN'S LIFE IN LOCAL COMMUNITY

Italians have no restrictions in any sector of life. No restrictions in schooling and education, employment, health care, sport and culture, choice of wedding partner, choice in religion, choice the place of residence, choice to use local languages and script, maintaining relationship with church and other religious institutions, hosting in media.

Italians see citizens of Tuzla as the ordinary population living in friendly environment.

Citizens of Tuzla see Italians as citizens of Tuzla, no different than others.





Sliding Doors



Association of Italian origin citizens

“RINO ZANDONAI”

club TRENTINO T U Z L A,

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

THE END, THANKS

The long story of Italians in Tuzla and their
integration into the city and its peculiarities

Prof.dr. Tihomir Knežiček



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union