



**INTERNATIONAL  
POLICE ASSOCIATION**  
INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

# IPA Newsletter

## September 2021

### Friendship is Priceless



A wonderful image from the IPA Photo Competition 2019  
submitted by Alan Keane from Ireland

# WORD OF INTRODUCTION

Dear IPA Friends,

A look at the international media has made me more and more thoughtful in recent months, and I am extremely concerned about the news from all over the world about the current world climate.



There have been new all-time heat records with almost 50 degrees Celsius in Canada and Italy. High temperatures have led to wildfires in the USA, Canada, Greece, Italy, Turkey, and many other countries in the Mediterranean region and around the Black Sea.

The increasing amounts of rain can no longer be absorbed by the ground, causing dramatic floods, such as in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, the UK, Russia, Turkey, Japan and China, as well as massive landslides in Japan and Norway.

The 'eternal ice' in the Arctic and Antarctic, plus the glaciers in Greenland and Iceland are melting faster than ever before, and the permafrost in Russia is beginning to thaw. This is already leading to rising sea levels, which according to the UN World Climate Report of August 2021 can no longer be stopped. Whole archipelagos and states will sink into the sea.

Strong hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones can be observed around the planet, and deadly tornadoes do not only threaten the USA all year round, but now also increasingly occur in Europe, such as most recently in the Czech Republic.

As if all this wasn't enough, for economic reasons, primeval forests in the Amazon and elsewhere are being burnt, decimating the green lungs of the earth bit by bit.

When I look at these dramatic events of the last year, it is difficult for me to remain optimistic. The future of our children and our planet is at stake!

In my opinion, it is also the responsibility of the IPA to become active in environmental protection, and to actively support environmental projects. One idea could be an annual "Save the Planet Award" for IPA sections, which are particularly committed to projects for the preservation of the planet. Practicalities and details would still have to be discussed.

I hope I don't come across as too negative, but I am sure we need to act now. The IPA can contribute in this field. Together we can achieve anything! We owe it to our children!

Finally, an important note: the IEB facilitates help for all sections struck by severe natural disasters, in which IPA friends or police colleagues are affected. We support you in applying for immediate emergency aid from the IEB, and with an international appeal to all IPA sections for donations. The relevant documents can be requested either directly from me ([ts@ieb-ipa.org](mailto:ts@ieb-ipa.org)) or via the IAC ([iac@ieb-ipa.org](mailto:iac@ieb-ipa.org)).

Servo per Amikeco,

***Martin Hoffmann, Treasurer Social Affairs***

# AROUND THE WORLD

## IPA Canada: New National Executive Board



In July of this year, IPA Section Canada members elected a new National Executive Board (NEB) for a three-year term. Unlike elections of the past, this election was done using a third-party service provider to send ballots to all IPA Canada members, tally all votes and provide the final figures to the Returning Officer. This is the first time all IPA Canada members voted in NEB elections.

I am honoured to have been elected as the new Section Canada National President and I am fortunate to have a great NEB team with members from across the country. The new NEB is filled with hard-working people, who like me, want to see our membership and our section flourish.

Although still new in our roles, we have determined that our first two goals will be to attempt to increase our membership numbers by starting a national recruiting program, which we hope will entice more police officers to join the Association. Our second goal will be to set up training courses which we hope to eventually make available to all IPA members across the country and around the world.



Even though we estimate that we have approximately 80,000 serving police officers across the country, it is noteworthy to learn that the International Police Association is not as well known here in Canada as it is in other parts of the world. Recruiting new members has always been a challenge and we have determined that recruiting younger, serving members, will require a paradigm shift.

In the past, recruiting events were usually local (regional) and there were no NEB-sponsored activities. New members usually found their way to IPA Canada by word of mouth or accidentally by surfing the Internet. We hope to change this by designing a Canada-wide advertising program aimed at younger serving members – our future.

Training and seminars for IPA members is another area where we hope to focus our attention. To this end, we have appointed a dedicated Training Officer who will first assess what types of training courses or seminars will best suit serving members and secondly, develop a toolbox for individual regions who wish to host training and seminar events across Canada.

In addition to our two stated goals, we also plan to organize more national membership activities, new affinity programs for members and we will also begin to explore different travel packages for our members and members visiting Canada.

As the current situation continues to unfold, we are hopeful that soon we will be able to welcome our colleagues and friends from around the world who wish to visit our beautiful country. We look forward to seeing IPA members from around the world here in Canada so they can enjoy our hospitality and friendship.

Servo per Amikeco,

***Luis Agostinho CD, President IPA Canada***

## IPA Estonia: New National Executive Board



The annual meeting of IPA Estonia was held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and included, amongst other topics, discussions on the election of the board for the next three years.

The meeting took place on the shore of Võrtsjärv in the Lake Museum. (<https://kalala.emu.ee/et/galerii/fotogalerii/jarvemuusum>). Võrtsjärv is the biggest lake in Estonia entirely located in the country's territory (270.7km<sup>2</sup>) with a length of 35km, a width of 15km, but with an average depth of only 2.8m.

Different to previous times, the elections were separated into three phases: In the first phase, every member was able to submit their candidates for the president and any other positions via a predetermined email address. Thereafter, a team of volunteers, confirmed by the board as the electoral commission, called all nominated candidates to ask for their approval to be presented as a candidate. Candidates could then submit their vision for the nominated position. Finally, in the third phase, all members of IPA Estonia were able to vote electronically. Members who wished to change their vote were able to do so at the annual meeting. The possibility remained to give another IPA member the power of attorney for the annual meeting.



All of this might seem complicated, but we hope we ensured the possibility to vote for every member, and Estonian laws enable electronic elections. We hereby thank our wonderful IT person, Lauri Läänsoo, who guaranteed honesty and proof from falsifying results. It is noteworthy that Estonia is the only country in the world where local government and parliamentary elections

can take place electronically (online). After the elections, leading or assisting positions were determined as well.

The members of IPA Estonian decided that for the next three years:

**Uno Laas** will continue as the President of IPA Estonia.

**Janek Pedask** will continue as the Secretary General.

**Lauri Läänsoo** will carry on with the obligations as Treasurer, travel arrangements, and of course as Webmaster.

**Maret Tamra** will head the Social and Cultural Commission, assisted by a new member of the board, **Mailis Palm**.

**Üllar Kütt** will be responsible for the Professional Commission, and will be assisted by another new member, **Sigrit Hang**.

I wish our new board many days of activities and new ideas. I also hope colleagues from other sections and commissions will give comprehensive assistance to the Social and Cultural, as well as Professional Commission.

Dear colleagues – we have a lot to learn from each other!

Servo per Amikeco,

**Uno Laas, President IPA Estonia**

## IPA Cross-Border Cooperation to organise a Fairy Tale Wedding in Albania

12 July 2021 was an important event for the family of Arjana and Haxhi Zeneli, who live in Tirana, the capital of Albania. Their son Eledin got married to Elisaveta Kurziakova from Yekaterinburg in Russia. The young couple met each other at university in Turkey, and decided that the wedding ceremony was going to be conducted by me as the president of the IPA Albanian section. I am happy to say that I willingly accepted this challenge!

Taking into consideration the traditions, cultural diversity, language, as well as religion, I consulted with my friend Olga Birкина from IPA St. Petersburg in Russia, and both of us prepared a scenario aimed at realising a special event combining traditional elements from both Albania and Russia.

It was a beautiful coincidence that the bride was born on 28 November, which is the Day of Albanian Independence, and that the wedding ceremony was fixed for 12 July, which is Russia Day.

We were able to welcome guests from Yekaterinburg, the parents of the bride, Anastasia and Alexander, who came together with their friends, Aleksei and Olga Degtarjova. It was the first visit to Albania for all of them.



The wedding ceremony was organised in a restaurant resembling a small castle in the mountains, and it felt almost like a royal occasion!

All guests danced and sang, and in addition, a small group of dancers wearing traditional Albanian and Russian costumes performed dances from both countries.

During their stay in Albania, our friends from Russia experienced our country's traditions and hospitality, and they were also able to enjoy a few beautiful days at the Albanian Riviera.

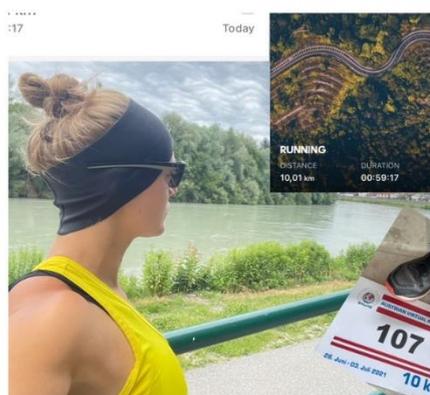
***Skender Doda, President IPA Albania Section in Foundation***

## Austrian Virtual Race Week: Laufen, damit Kinder wieder lachen können

Die erste „Virtual Race Week“ der IPA auf internationaler Ebene im Februar 2021 war mit großem Erfolg durchgeführt worden, und auch Mitglieder der österreichischen Sektion nahmen mit viel Motivation an dieser Laufveranstaltung teil. In diesem Zusammenhang entstand auch die Idee, eine ähnliche Veranstaltung in Österreich durchzuführen.



Make-A-Wish  
ÖSTERREICH



PIC•COLLAGE

Um das Ganze unter die Schirmherrschaft eines wohltätigen Zweckes zu stellen, entschied sich die IPA als Partner für die Make-A-Wish Foundation Österreich. Make-A-Wish ist weltweit tätig und wurde in Österreich im Jahr 1997 gegründet. Die Organisation erfüllt schwer kranken Kindern Herzenswünsche und ist dabei zu 100% auf Spendengelder angewiesen. Unter den vielen Wünschen, die Make-A-Wish bereits erfüllt hat, war vor einigen Jahren etwa auch jener eines kleinen Bubens, einmal einen Tag bei der Polizei in Wien zu verbringen.

Vom 26. Juni bis 03. Juli wurde daher in ganz Österreich die erste „Virtual Race Week“ der IPA österreichischen Sektion durchgeführt. Über 100 Teilnehmer von Polizei und Justiz aus ganz Österreich nahmen daran teil und liefen entweder 5 oder 10 Kilometer für den guten Zweck. Am Ende konnten den Siegern Reisegutscheine der IPA österreichischen Sektion übergeben werden, sowie allen Teilnehmern handgefertigte IPA Medaillen aus Ton.



Für die Make-A-Wish Foundation Österreich kam am Ende eine Spendensumme von € 2.400 zusammen. Dieses Geld wird unter anderem für die 18 Jahre alte Jenny genutzt, die an einem Hirntumor leidet. Sie wünscht sich einen Laptop, der es ihr ermöglicht, mit ihren besten Freundinnen in Kontakt zu bleiben – eben ganz nach dem Motto: Laufen, damit Kinder wieder lachen können.

**Mag. (FH) Anna-Susanne Paar, IPA Österreich**

**Bildnachweise: IPA Österreichische Sektion und Make-A-Wish Österreich**

## IPA UK Member David King shares Memories of a Secret Special Mission to Gibraltar

I had booked a trip to Gibraltar in February 2021 for a special reason, which was to marry my partner of 16 years, Caroline. We both wanted a secret wedding, which with the Covid regulations at that time restricted attendance to 15 anyway.



Gibraltar was on the UK green list, so there were no travel restrictions. Having met some IPA members from Gibraltar at an IPA Friendship tour in Canada a few years previously, I contacted Henry Sacramento, IPA member from Gibraltar, who recommended a wedding event organiser to arrange our Registry Office wedding for us. A date for our wedding was fixed for 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Arrangements were made for flights and a hotel for 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June, staying at The Rock Hotel in Gibraltar. In February, I then completed the IPA travel form stating that I would like to meet up with some IPA members whilst we were there.

The Chairman of the Royal Gibraltar Police (RGP) and IPA Gibraltar President, Sgt Craig Philbin contacted me, and arrangements were made to meet some IPA members during our stay. Both Craig and his deputy Sgt Paul Clarke were very helpful prior to us travelling to Gibraltar.

We arrived on the 6<sup>th</sup> June and stayed at the wonderful Rock Hotel, which is steeped in history. The following day we had to do complete official paperwork for our wedding on 9<sup>th</sup> June. It was then arranged that we would meet Paul Clarke at the RGP Police and IPA bar on the 10<sup>th</sup>.



On the day of our wedding, we met IPA member PC Nick Warner, who was on duty near the registry office. I thought it was crowd control for our wedding! But alas, no.

The registrar had worked with the police in an official capacity, and as a result made the ceremony very friendly with lots of laughter, although I was locked in until I signed the register! It was all smiles after I had afterwards, as you can see, and it was a wonderful and memorable day for both of us.

The following day, 10<sup>th</sup> June, Gibraltar celebrated the Queen's birthday, so the Police were very busy with parades, which was interesting to see. We then went to the RGP Police and IPA bar to meet Sgt Paul Clarke and his lovely wife Sharon. We exchanged some gifts and had a lovely time in their company. Paul and Sharon are both ex-Metropolitan Officers who transferred to RGP 3 years ago. Paul is a Detective Sergeant in charge of Domestic Violence and the witness support unit. It was very



interesting to hear about his work, and how different for the pair of them working in Gibraltar compared to the Met. I was surprised how many officers have transferred to Gibraltar, but then the law there is very similar to the UK. It was wonderful to experience the Police and IPA bar, which brought back very fond memories for me of when we in the UK had police clubs/bars, where officers and families could relax and enjoy themselves in their own environment. It was also a place where officers could talk openly about their work and some of the difficult and stressful jobs they had dealt with on duty. I believe such a club was a stress relief/breaker where problems were shared and suggestions of how to handle situations were given by those officers who had experienced such situations. I feel this what is lacking for today's officers, who are having to deal with so much stress and violence in their duties, but have nowhere to openly talk to colleagues in such an environment as police clubs/bars.



Gibraltar is steeped in history and has a lot to offer to visitors, and IPA Gibraltar were very helpful to us at a time when they were busy. Police and IPA bar and club, they even have their own IPA bouncy castle, but I was too young to use it they said!!!

I cannot thank our wonderful IPA association enough. I have been a member since 1985, and have travelled a lot through IPA friendship tours, as well as this time on my own, and making contact with IPA members in Gibraltar.

I highly recommend our wonderful association for its friendship nationally and especially Internationally. There is always a smiling face to either assist or help you with almost anything anywhere in the world where there are IPA members.

***David King, member IPA UK***

## IPA Estonia's 'Bear Cubs' enjoy a Visit to Germany

For the third year in a row, a camp for children from low-income or large families was organised by IPA Bork (Germany), together with the IPA Estonian section. The camp took place from 8-18.07. 2021, and all of the 20 participants, aged 9-13, were from Estonia, as the Covid-19 numbers of our neighbouring countries were too high.

On the morning of day one, we had to start our travels early. By midday, we had made it to Panevežys, Lithuania, where lunch was organised by the local IPA members. Thank you! After lunch, we headed to Bialystok, Poland, where our hotel for the night was waiting for us. After dinner, we went for a walk to a close-by park to see types of trees we don't have back home.



Waking up on day two, our goal was to make it to our hotel in Slubice, Poland, where our hotel was located right next to SOSiR stadium. To stretch our legs during the trip, we visited Swiebodzin, where the world's highest statue of Jesus is located. By the time we got to Slubice, the weather had turned, and as it was raining, we spent the night playing inside.

The level of anticipation had got high for all the children by the morning of day three, as everyone knew we would be reaching our destination, Selm Bork, by the evening. On our way there, we stopped near Magdeburg where the children could see the Magdeburg Aqueduct, which crosses over the Elbe River and is navigable.

We were greeted by our IPA hosts when we arrived in Selm Bork, and, after unpacking we were taken on a tour of the school's premises where we saw police vehicles and equipment. The kids were most excited by the chance to sit in police vehicles and driving in a car with a siren.



During the next six days, we were introduced to a German bird hunting tradition, saw the Dülmen wild horses near Münster, got acquainted with the old town of Münster, ate different sorts of cheese, played ninepins, visited a fire department, and went to

the Heinrichshöhle caves. We ate pizza and visited the Maximilianspark with its incredible LEGO exhibition and wooden sculptures. In addition, a visit to the Rheine Zoo with its many animal species was organised, and to top it all, we went to the Borussia Emsdetten Football Stadium, where the children could play football on an actual football pitch. On our last night in Selm, we sang and danced around a bonfire. Some even shed a few tears during our last night in Selm.



With our last things packed, breakfast eaten and a lunchbox prepared, we started our journey back home on the morning of the tenth day. We had our last dinner in Warsaw and used our very last Bear Cub circle, which took place every night, to discuss what was good and bad about the day to make ourselves better for the next day. The next morning, our last day, our goal was to get home to our families, which we managed to do by the evening.

With this wonderful trip behind us, the IPA Estonian section would like to thank IPA Bork for all the financial support and wonderful emotional activities they had put onto the agenda, and for all the efforts they had made to turn this trip into a memorable experience for all children. For many of them, this was their first trip outside of Estonia, and a once in a lifetime opportunity. We could not have offered them such an amazing experience, if you had not helped us.

Thank you, IPA BORK!



***Uno Laas, President IPA Estonia***

## IPA Brazil represented at Spanish Police Gala Dinner

On June 19<sup>th</sup> of this year, the traditional Spanish Police Gala Dinner was held, at the Gran Hotel España in Oviedo, in the Principality of Asturias / Spain, in the presence of officers from the Civil Guard, the National Police, the Judiciary Police, as well as military personnel from the French Legion, the Spanish military and invited authorities.



Amongst the special guests was a Brazilian police officer, representing the President of IPA Brazil, Dr. Joel Zarpellon Mazo: Dr. Alexandre Rodrigo Moreira, Attaché of the Secretariat of IPA Brazil in Spain.

This beautiful occasion was enjoyed with a special “Legion Francesa” wine, and tributes were paid to the police, the military and the authorities.

During the event, the Brazilian Attaché received a Certificate of Recognition, and the floor was given to IPA Brazil. Dr Moreira manifested the excellent relationship that IPA Brazil and the Spanish Police have cemented over time with courses and training, a great relationship based on friendship.

He stated that the Academic Center - IPA Brazil is waiting for the Spanish Police to attend the “Jungle Amazon - Training” course in November of this year.

The Academic Center of IPA Brazil and the Institute IPA Brazil have established an official partnership with the Spanish Institutions Armed Defence - Security, the Institute Observatório as well as Oviepol, for courses and police training.



### ***Joel Zarpellon Mazo, President IPA Brazil***



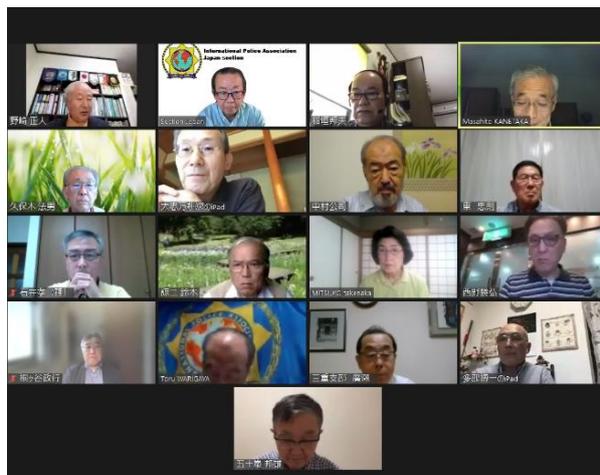
## IPA Japan: Online Conference of Executive Board & District Directors

With Covid-19 still requiring caution and careful planning, the Conference of the Executive Board and District Directors of IPA Japan was held online on 4 July 2021.

Chaired by President Masahito Kanetaka, 17 persons from Hokkaido, Tokyo, Chiba, Yokohama, Kyoto, Osaka, and Mie discussed for more than 3.5 hours from 3:00 to 6:40 pm.

The main motions to the conference were:

- Report on 2020 and the Budget for 2021,
- Section Japan's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events in 2022 and 2023 as follows,
- Celebration Ceremony with a seminar by a top officer of the Japanese Police and speeches (presentations) by young members in foreign languages,
- 'Friendship Week in Japan', visiting Osaka, Hiroshima, Himeji-Castle, Kyoto, Hakone and Tokyo,
- Group tours to other countries, group participation in Friendship Weeks organised by other Sections,
- Amendments of the National Statues regarding the qualification for membership.



All motions were approved, and will be proposed to the National Annual Congress (NAC) of IPA Japan, which after having being originally scheduled for July, has now been postponed to 18 September 2021. The NAC is planned to take place in Kyoto, and all of us are looking forward to seeing each other in person for the first time in more than one year. In addition, we can't wait for the one-day-excursion on the next day, organised by the Kyoto Region, to visit historical locations in the ancient capital of Japan!

Stay safe and take care,

***Toru Warigaya, Secretary General IPA Japan***

## IPA Moldova: Scientific and International Cooperation in the field of Protection of Minors' Rights

The scientific-practical approach in the field of protection of minors' rights consists of researching the phenomenon and international cooperation between different political, social, educational, judicial, forensic as well as investigative forces, with the aim of obtaining better knowledge of different experiences, and studying the fundamental rules of identification or improvement of the situation of minors in different realities, including through the harmonisation of national and community legislation.

The coordinator of the course, which was organised by the Criminalistic Association ASS.PE.93-CAMERA MINORILE, was the lawyer Antonino Centorrino, in cooperation with the IPA Section of the Republic of Moldova, under the patronage of the Bars of Messina, Barcelona PG, Patti and the Sicilian Bar.



The course on the study of rights of internationally recognised minors in different countries is a training project that proposes the specialisation of youth workers, the comparison between legislation and experiences in the field of different nations, for the best treatment of minors with deviant behaviour, socio-family members, or violators of the law.

One of the important questions of the conferences was how useful detention is

for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of minors. This and other issues were the topics we tried to find answers to in the final stages of the training course.

The meetings on 23 June and 16 July 2021 in Messina, Italy, were attended by a delegation of the IPA Section of the Republic of Moldova composed of President Mihai Cebotari and First Vice President Gheorghe Gandrabur, following an invitation by Antonino Centorrino,

In his speech, the President of IPA Moldova, Mihai Cebotari drew particular attention to internal and external migration, emphasising the enormous scale of this phenomenon, as well as the need to find new forms of recovery for deviant minors, as most of them enter the penitentiary circuit for minor crimes that leave them as potential perpetrators of more serious crimes.

The First Vice President of IPA Moldova, Gheorghe Gandrabur, stressed the improvement of Moldova's domestic legislation and its harmonisation with European legislation on the protection of fundamental rights of minors, referring to Italy with the island of Lampedusa as the border gateway and entry point into Europe for minors, with distinct differences in language, race, religion, customs and rituals from those of European citizens, in addition to frequent uncertainty about their personal identity and age.



All aspects of the study can only be achieved through international cooperation, and for this reason, the current scientific project is gaining importance in international jurisprudence.

In addition, moving away from the often-depicted image of deviant minors as street children, Mr Gandrabur highlighted the primary right to family.

With great determination, Mr. Gheorghe Gandrabur also emphasised the importance of increased sanctions for the theft of minors' identities, essential for the fight against illicit organ trafficking, citing a recent case of abduction of ten children and moving them to Bulgaria for organ harvesting.

He also highlighted the growing concern of aggression as a symptom of extreme and growing social unrest, as well as sexual violence, including domestic violence, and called for the modernisation of legislation, including national legislation (taking into account cultural diversity).

Finally, the speaker emphasised the importance of the juvenile's right to justice.

At the end of the meeting, gifts were exchanged amongst the representatives.



This was followed by a visit to the Palace of Justice in Messina, and at the headquarters of the Bar Association, the IPA delegation of the Republic of Moldova was received by the President of the Bar Association, Domenico Santoro, as well as advisers, with whom a bottle of champagne was opened from the famous Moldovan wine cellars, as a symbol of friendship.

The delegation was thereafter welcomed at the police headquarters in Messina, which was also honoured with a gift from the IPA Moldova delegation.

Further meetings will follow according to a calendar included in the programme.

***Mihai Cebotari, President IPA Moldova***

## IPA Romania's continued Process of Modernisation: Regional Conference in Covasna

The IPA Romanian Section continues a process of modernisation and transparency of decision-making at organisational level. Thus, during the regional conference organised in Covasna between 25 and 27 June 2021, the members of the National Executive Committee, together with 55 other representatives of the country's regions, had the opportunity to discuss landmarks and projects for the next period. Meanwhile, the hosts of this event, the IPA regions in Covasna County, under the coordination of Mr. Popa Florin - Vice President of the IPA Romanian Section - had made every effort to ensure that this event was at the highest standard!



The opening of the discussion session took place in the presence of representatives of the main county institutions within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Mihail Avram - Secretary General of IPA Moldova - and last but not least, Mr. Helmut Duckadam - Emeritus Master of Sports, and nicknamed the 'Hero of Seville'.

The advantages of institutional partnerships were pointed out, as well as the coordination of future professional activities, meaning that we believe that relaxing the measures regarding the coronavirus pandemic will find us in a common attempt to start beneficial projects for both members and their institutions.

During the second part of the meeting, the members of the National Executive Committee and the representatives of the IPA regions of the Romanian Section discussed new partnerships and the need to adapt Internal regulations to current needs, in addition to several professional topics.



All those present appreciated both the open discussions and the social programme that allowed everyone to spend two days in a relaxed setting, to socialise, as well as to find and establish new connections and relationships. We parted with the promise that we would meet again, and would not let a long time pass until the set objectives are met.

***Mihai-Liviu Tărtăreanu, President IPA Romania***

## 7<sup>th</sup> International Five-a-Side Football Tournament organised by IPA Regional Club West Herzegovina

The traditional 7<sup>th</sup> International 5-a-Side Football Tournament IPA West Herzegovina (IPA ŽZH) was held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at the Sports Centre in Posušje, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). 26 June marks the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Young people are important actors in addiction prevention, and our 5-a-side football tournament is an example of a healthy life without intoxicants.



*The official opening ceremony with all participating teams present*

Seven teams from the following sections and clubs took part: IPA Split-Imotski, Croatia, IPA Dubrovnik, Croatia, and IPA Montenegro. From the host's side, teams from the regional clubs IPA Bijeljina, IPA Unsko-sanska, IPA Herzeg-Bosnia and IPA West Herzegovina County (IPA ŽZH) participated in the tournament.

The IPA Vukovar team from Croatia, which did not compete this time, won the interim trophy for their permanent ownership in 2019, after winning the tournament three times in a row.

The winner 2021 was the host IPA ŽZH, who defeated the very good team of IPA Montenegro in a dramatic final, by taking penalty kicks. The best player of the tournament, Marko Polić, also came from the winning team IPA ŽZH, and received a mobile phone as a prize from the sponsors HT Eronet.

The second place in the tournament was won by the IPA Montenegro team, and the bronze medal went to the IPA Dubrovnik team. The best goalkeeper was Mirko Drobniak from IPA Montenegro, the best scorer of the tournament was Željko Adžić from IPA Montenegro, and the fair-play award was won by the IPA Split-Imotski team.



*The winning team:  
Regional Club IPA West Herzegovina County  
(IPA ŽZH)*

The winners were awarded trophies and medals by the Mayor of Posušje, Mr. Ante Begić, and the President of IPA ŽZH, Mr. Zoran Smital.

About 150-200 IPA members, competitors and guests celebrated the victory and our traditional friendship with a barbecue, drinks and music.



*Vice-President Milan Galić and President Zoran Smital of IPA ŽZH with VIP guests Zoran Galić and David Grbavac*

Our celebrations were enriched by the presence of the Director of the BiH Border Police, Mr. Zoran Galić, Member of the House of Peoples of the Parliament of the Federation of BiH, Mr. Damir Jurišić, Minister of the Ministry of the Interior of the West Herzegovina County Mr. David Grbavac, directors of the police of Herzeg-Bosnia County and the West Herzegovina County, respectively Mr. Ilija Jakić and Mr. Milan Galić, and businessmen, sponsors and donors. These are all people who, whenever they have free time, enjoy the charms of our traditional tournament.

The gathering lasted until the early morning hours, and was enjoyed by all participants, as we had not met for more than a year due to the pandemic. Finally, it was an opportunity to share experiences and future plans.

We are happy to say that the event was successful and well organised thanks to the diligent work of our members, who do everything to make the tournament better and better every year, and according to the competitors and guests, unforgettable.

Servo per Amikeco,

**Zoran Smital, President Regional Club IPA West Herzegovina County**

## LAST WORD

After the summer break, it is lovely to see the wonderful mix of articles in this September Newsletter edition. It has it all, as far as I am concerned!

Tales of weddings arranged both home and away, a children's camp with fantastic excursions, a virtual race competition benefitting the 'Make a Wish' foundation, as well as a football tournament and a gala dinner.

From a professional perspective, updates and visions of two new national boards are featured, plus a successful virtual board meeting, and two ground-breaking conferences.

It feels as if normality is returning slowly, but surely, giving us all a glimpse of hope.

At the IAC, we are very much looking forward to receiving more exciting news from your activities in all IPA sections – the more articles you send to us, the more we can share with everyone. 😊

*Elke*

