



# Kuterevo newsletter



October 2012

## New volunteers in Kuterevo



The old EVS team is gone and we welcome the new volunteer generation in Kuterevo—five brave people who have decided to leave their countries for a year and help the bears.

The EVS Team of this year is formed by 5 people—Elina, Kim, Dominik, Marco and Azat. **Elina** comes from the freezing Finland. She is 19 years old and loves her cats.

**Kim** comes from Netherlands. She is 25 years old and is a very organized biologist. **Dominik** comes from Germany. He is 18 years old and has been involved in the environmental organisation “Friends of the Earth” for ten years.

**Marco** comes from Spain. He is 24 years old and is an environmentalist specialized in soil research.

We are still waiting for **Azat**, who is coming in few

days from the far-away Russia. And **Amelie**’s back!

Read more about the new volunteers in our blog [kuterevo.wordpress.com](http://kuterevo.wordpress.com)



Special points of interest:

- New volunteers
- The new bear
- SCI annual meeting
- Summer madness
- Autumn market in Gospić
- Split mid-term training
- Getting ready for winter—us and the bears

## The new bear



In the night between Sunday 16th of September and Monday 17th of September a new bear arrived from Šmrika, a village near Rijeka.

He was only 8 months young and 29 kilos light, the first couple of weeks he did not have a name. But now he has a name worth waiting for—it’s **Marko Kralj**. Marko from the latin name meaning Mars, the god of war, and Kralj from the Croatian word meaning king.

## Autumn in Croatia



Croatia is getting ready for winter. Here in Kuterevo we’re harvesting, preserving and conserving vegetables (onions, garlic, cabbage, tomatoes, pumpkins, cucumber)and fruits (plums, cornels /*cormus más*), making ajvar, jam, syrup and rakija. Also the bears are preparing—they’re getting fatter every day! We received two trucks loaded with tons of bread and sweet corn for the bears; that will be enough to get them through the winter. We’ve also prepared a lot of fire wood for heating the volunteers station.

Another autumn sign is the tradicional autumn markets, and we have atended few of them—”Eko-Etno Gacka” market in Otočac, “Vinkovačke jeseni” in Vinkovci, “Jesen u Lici” in Gospić and healthy food market in Vrhovine for the World Food Day.





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## Hosting of the SCI SAVA working group annual meeting



From the 27<sup>th</sup> until the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, the evaluation meeting of SCI SAVA which was supported by Youth In Action programme took place in Kuterevo.

SCI stands for Service Civil International, it is a worldwide organization that promotes peace through voluntarism. SAVA is the Balkan working group of SCI. During the annual meeting, representatives of SCI groups from nine countries came together to discuss their cooperation, talk about procedural issues and formulate a year plan. There was a special focus on including youth

with fewer opportunities in voluntary work. We hosted the event in the local restaurant/hotel and took care of the logistics. Read more about the meeting in our blog.

## EVS trainings

In the beginning of October Kristine and Helena went to the EVS mid—term training in Split. It was organized in Split redcross house. They shared experiences, discussed how to solve problems and improve the EVS.

In november the on- arrival training in Orhovica awaits our new volunteers.



## The summer madness

**This summer was full of work, events, visitors, sun and volunteers.**

In the beginning of summer we celebrated 10 years of the refuge. We were visited by local families, friends of the refuge, ex-volunteers, media and the government. We were visited by the Peace Caravan and three SCI workcamps. We cannot complain about the amount of volunteers—during the summer we had more than 300 volunteers from more than 20 different countries! We built new paths, stairs, stone walls, flagpoles, renovated bear enclosures and did a lot of work in Kopija.

Read more about this summer in our blog— [kuterevo.wordpress.com](http://kuterevo.wordpress.com)



Velebitska Udruga Kuterevo  
Pod Crikvon 109, HR-53225, Kuterevo  
<http://kuterevo.wordpress.com>  
Tel: +385 53 799 001  
E-mail: [kuk-kuterevo@gs.t-com.hr](mailto:kuk-kuterevo@gs.t-com.hr)  
[kuterevo.volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:kuterevo.volunteers@gmail.com)

### Greetings from the Kuterevo team—

Ivan Crnković, Helena Poučki, Amélie Jaquet, Helena Davidsson, Elina Hirvonen, Kim van Groningen, Kristine Valtere, Dominik Bruker and Marco Antonio Millan Valera!



'Youth in Action' Programme