



# Kuterevo newsletter



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

## Bear news



We entered into the season which brings new bear lives, since mother bears are giving birth when almost no other species does. In a couple of months, mothers with their cubs will join the survival game in which they will be competing with male bears, avoiding hunters, poachers and dangers created by human such as cars and trains.

We wish them lots of wisdom, since 2012 has not been an easy year for bears, but we hope that 2013 will bring good bear news and that people will remember that bears should rule the forest and we shall stay masters of cities and villages.

January 2013



## Special points of interest:

- Bear news
- inter
- International Volunteer Day
- Climate Justice
- Topic of the Week
- Conference in Slovenia
- Who's in Postaja
- Christmas and New Year 2013

## Winter

We've been told that the winter here will be a challenge and we've prepared for it! We have food (sour cabbage, dried and frozen mushrooms, vinegared tomatoes, jams, ajvar, garlic, onions), rakija and wood — we will survive! And because winter time doesn't mean winter sleep for the volunteers, we have a lot of projects for the coming cold days. Making souvenirs, preparing signs for visitors and educational activities for volunteers, organizing the summer program, working on the future bear foundation, learning Croatian, getting to know the village community better and local handicrafts... Will there be some time left for snow fights? :-)



On the 5th of December we celebrated the **International Volunteer Day** by promoting volunteering in Otočac. Some of us went to OŠ Voltino school in Zagreb, to give a concrete example of volunteering with the story of the Kuterevo-Bear Refuge. Others together with the girls from a high-school volunteer club gave a presentation and organised workshops about volunteering in the Otočac library for a class of primary school kids and in the high-school for a group of teenagers.

During the **Global week of Action to Demand Climate Justice** our volunteer team created an informative and funny video called "Polar Bear Story". The video talks about global warming and its influence on the melting poles and polar bears, and what we can do to save the polar bears.

Check it out! : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIcyoRy0L8c>





# Kuterevo newsletter



Our latest invention in Postaja is the **Topic of the Week!** Every week we choose a topic we want to know more about and all week long find different ways how to explore it and learn about it! So far we've had a week dedicated to the history of the refuge, to coffee, to volunteering, to climate, to Transition Town, and a week where we made Postaja more environmentally friendly.

## International conference in Slovenia

On 12.12.2012 Kristine, Elina and Ivan attended the international conference in Ribnica, Slovenia named *"The European Capital of the brown bear"*. The conference was five hours long, with presentations representing different experiences and points of view. Many specialists, professors and representatives of organizations from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and even France spoke in the conference. Our volunteers also gave a presentation about the refuge, bears and volunteering.



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)

## Who's in Postaja? (and who's not)

After two months of waiting the EVS team is finally complete—the Russian Tatar Azat is here! He is eagerly learning Croatian, loves to work and has knitted a woolen bear!



Also our nice guests Alice and Wendy from France, who stayed here for a month, have left Kuterevo to continue their travel. We wish them all the best, we love you, guys!

On departure news—our dear Helena Ulla returned home to Sweden in November, leaving Postaja without fresh bread. Good luck in Sweden, Helena, be brave!



## Christmas and New 2013 Year

For volunteers living in Kuterevo this year Christmas was all about making others happy! We baked hundreds of cookies for our neighbours and friends in the village, prepared Christmas cards—čestitke for each other (we even sent them to France and Sweden!) and had a nice common dinner in Postaja with vegetarian sarma.

The New Year's Eve was internationally special—we visited Jamaica with Bob Marley's documentary, celebrated Russian New Year, burned and drank our wishes and after the clock hit twelve it was time for the Spanish tradition—eating 12 grapes in a minute. We also visited family Bukovac in the village, where everybody danced, laughed and joyfully greeted the New Year. All the best wishes in 2013 from us—volunteers, bears, dogs, cats, chickens, ducks and



## Greetings from the Kuterevo team—

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

