



Social Café



**International Rescue Committee (IRC)
and Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation**



INTRO

In March 2016, the Balkan route was closed, and thousands of people going from the war affected countries towards Western Europe were unable to continue their journey. Most of those people were sheltered inside asylum and reception centers.

In July 2016 Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation in partnership with International Rescue Committee - IRC started the first "Social Café" in Asylum Center Krnjača. Commissariat for refugees and migrations recognized Social Café as a good model of offering services and organizing activities for refugees and migrants, and IRC and Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation were invited in April 2017 to start another Social Café in Reception Center Obrenovac.

The aim of Social Cafés is to offer refugees a place where they can spend quality time, have tea or coffee while playing board games with their friends, listen to music or watch a movie, but also where they have some occupational activities, attend courses, and develop new and extend their own skills.

Since July 2016, there were over 1,500 different workshops organized inside Social Cafés, with over 4,000 participants.



ART & CRAFT WORKSHOPS

In Krnjača, girls and women learned how to use decoupage techniques, draw, paint and make jewelry while in an all-male center in Obrenovac, boys and men were drawing, sculpting and crafting objects out of wood. Our most popular workshop in Krnjača is "Hand painted t-shirts" where participants design and create their own t-shirts, which they can proudly wear afterwards.



SEWING COURSE

By attending this course, women can quickly learn how to use the sewing machine, how to patch their clothes or make alterations, but also how to create completely new pieces of clothes. Women attending the classes longer have already become very proficient, and have already made some of their own creations. A famous Serbian designer Dejana Momčilović joined the course for a week, assisting the women to create high fashion dresses. 6 best dresses were shown during a fashion show on Mikser Festival in May 2017, with the presence of the creators.

Since the start of these workshops, over 300 women have participated



ENGLISH COURSE

The basic course in English is held by the young men and women from the refugee population who wanted to help other women and boys to make basic communication in English. The course in advanced English was tailored for the young people who already have basic knowledge, and would like to expand on it, and use it to teach others.



IT COURSE

On the course the participants learn and practice the basic computer skills and the use of internet and online services. Most of the participants didn't have any previous experience with computers.



ECO WORKSHOPS

Participants of these workshops learn about the importance of recycling, ecology and protecting the environment through creative process, lectures and films. So far during these workshops, refugees and migrants from Reception center Obrenovac have made several pieces of equipment and furniture presented in Social Café. Also there were 8 volunteering activities aimed at protecting the environment, and cleaning river banks and parks.



MUSIC WORKSHOPS

Many people accommodated in Reception center Obrenovac are very talented for music and learn quickly how to play simple tunes or sing. Every workshop gathers a lot of spectators, which make these workshops look more like a concert. Many of the participants have learned the basics of playing the guitar, and the most talented have become a part of the band. The four most talented boys sing in concerts whenever we get the opportunity to make a concert inside the Reception center Obrenovac.



GEOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Participants of these workshops learn about Serbia and European countries and their customs and cultural differences through short films, lectures and quizzes. The results in quizzes show they are really keen to learn more, and that they are really paying attention during lectures.





SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Weather permitting, the sports activities are organized inside both centers on a daily basis. Most popular sports in Krnjača are football and volleyball, while in Obrenovac they attend a cricket training twice a week in cooperation with Cricket Federation of Serbia. Several tournaments in football, table tennis and cricket were organized.



MOVIE PROJECTIONS

Among the refugee population, movies are very popular. They can choose which ones they would like to watch, and they mostly choose Bollywood movies. Once a week in Obrenovac we organize a movie night, which got so popular that we had to move it to the mess hall to be able to accommodate over 200 people.



BOARD GAMES

Every day, board games and fun activities fill every minute around workshops and courses. Billiard, table football, cards, jigsaw puzzles, board games are played every day. With very limited options on how to spend a day, many people just come to both Social Cafés to just meet and talk with their friends, as they serve also as a meeting point.

Ana and Vlade Divac Foundation with the support of IRC is continuously designing new workshops and courses according to the needs and wishes of the people visiting our Social Café.



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