Networking event for Slovenian and Flemish researchers

28 November 2022 | 12:00 – 17:00
Leuvenseweg 38, 1000 Brussels

Catalogue of Slovenian researchers

MEDICINE

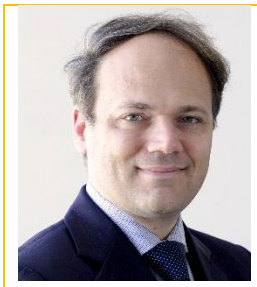
Dr. Boris Rogelj

Jozef Stefan Institute

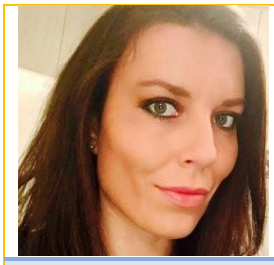
boris.rogelj@ijs.si

Research area:	*Basic medicine*
Description of organisation and research activity:	*In our group (https://www-b3.ijs.si/index.php/research/research-fields/neurodegeneration/) we investigate molecular processes associated with neurodegenerative diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), fronto-temporal dementia (FTD) and Alzheimer's disease. We mainly focus on the connection of these diseases with defects in intracellular nuclear transport, the response of cells to stress and with changes that occur in intracellular macromolecular interactions (protein-protein and protein-RNA interactions).* *TDP-43 and FUS proteins are among the main factors causing aggregation of intracellular proteins in ALS and FTD. These are predominantly nuclear proteins involved in RNA transcription and*

	transport. Therefore, most of our work is focused on the nuclear transport of these proteins, their RNA binding properties and the pathological significance of their interactions with RNA and other proteins. Our work also extends to the field of functional genetics, pathology and molecular mechanisms of the expansion mutation of hexanucleotide sequences in the intron of the C9orf72 gene. We show that the toxicity of this mutation may originate from the overabundance of repetitive RNA sequences in the cell, as well as from the overabundance of proteins composed of di-peptide repeats that are translated from such RNA. We were able to demonstrate that RNA from the coding strand of DNA can form G-quadruplexes, while the transcribed anti-sense RNA sequence can form i-motifs / protonated hairpins. We were able to characterize proteins that bind both types of RNA transcribed from C9orf72. We also participate in many international consortia for the genetic characterization of ALS and FTD. *Our work also focuses on the functional characterization of non-canonical RNAs, especially snoRNAs. We use state-of-the-art methods such as COMRADES and PARIS to capture rare and transient interactions. Our main goal is the functional characterization of non-coding RNA sequences in ALS/FTD and Prader-Willi syndrome.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*NO*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Medical biotechnology, fundamental medicine*

	*Dr. Martin Rakuša, MD, PhD* *Head of the Medical Research Department and consultant at the Division of Neurology* *University Medical Centre Maribor* *martin.rakusa@ukc-mb.si*
Research area:	*clinical medicine, abdominal surgery, paediatrics, oncology, gynaecology and obstetrics, orthopaedic surgery and clinical neurology.*
Description of research activity:	*The University Medical Centre Maribor is the second largest medical centre in Slovenia and performs health care services for the eastern half of Slovenia. The UMC employs approximately 3360 medical and non-medical staff members (approx. 600 medical doctors and 1500 healthcare workers). The UMC is a 1316-bed facility. Approximately*

	60,000 patients are treated annually. In addition, more than 390,000 outpatients are treated at 270 different outpatient clinics. *Researchers working at UMC Maribor are focused mainly on clinical research. Therefore, most research projects are in clinical medicine, abdominal surgery, paediatrics, oncology, gynaecology and obstetrics, orthopaedic surgery and clinical neurology. Internal grants partly fund research. However, most projects are funded by national and European research grants. In addition, UMC Maribor strongly cooperates with the Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Health Sciences, at the University of Maribor in basic and translational research.* *Assistant professor Martin Rakusa is head of the Medical Research Department and consultant neurologist at the Division of Neurology at the University Medical Centre in Maribor, Slovenia; he is also an assistant professor at the Faculty of Medicine, and Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Maribor. Professor Rakusa's clinical work involves treating patients with different types of dementia, and his current main research interest is in the biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease. In addition, he has worked on validating common screening tools and developing new ones for screening for patients with mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and mixed dementia.* *He received several awards and grants, among others, the Fulbright grant for research titled "Associations Between Cerebrospinal Fluid Biomarkers and Behavioural Measures in Pre-Symptomatic Alzheimer's Disease" at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA.* *Professor Rakusa has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, including Alzheimer's & Dementia, Neurology, European Journal of Neurology, Dementia and Geriatric Cognitive Disorders, and Brain Topography. He is also a Co-editor of the EAN Pages from the European Academy of Neurology (EAN).*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*We are open to bilateral and multilateral projects in all fields of medicine. We have the most international projects in clinical medicine, abdominal surgery, paediatrics, oncology, gynaecology and obstetrics, orthopaedic surgery and clinical neurology.*

	*Sandra Martič* *University Medical Centre Maribor, EU project office* *sandra.martic@ukc-mb.si*
Research area:	*clinical medicine, abdominal surgery, paediatrics, oncology, gynaecology and obstetrics, orthopaedic surgery and clinical neurology.*
Description of research activity:	*The University Medical Centre Maribor is the second largest medical centre in Slovenia and performs health care services for the eastern half of Slovenia. The UMC employs approximately 3360 medical and non-medical staff members (approx. 600 medical doctors and 1500 healthcare workers). The UMC is a 1316-bed facility. Approximately 60,000 patients are treated annually. In addition, more than 390,000 outpatients are treated at 270 different outpatient clinics.* *Researchers working at UMC Maribor are focused mainly on clinical research. Therefore, most research projects are in clinical medicine, abdominal surgery, paediatrics, oncology, gynaecology and obstetrics, orthopaedic surgery and clinical neurology. Internal grants partly fund research. However, most projects are funded by national and European research grants. In addition, UMC Maribor strongly cooperates with the Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Health Sciences, at the University of Maribor in basic and translational research.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*We are open to bilateral and multilateral projects in all fields of medicine. We have the most international projects in clinical medicine, abdominal surgery, paediatrics, oncology, gynaecology and obstetrics, orthopaedic surgery and clinical neurology.*

	**Dr. Katja Groleger Sršen** ***Head of Department for rehabilitation of children*** *University Rehabilitation Institute Republic of Slovenia Soča* **katja.groleger@mf.uni-lj.si**
Research area:	*Clincal medicine (rehabilitation medicine)*

Description of organisation and research activity:	*The University Rehabilitation Institute Republic of Slovenia Soča (URI Soča) is the central Slovenian public institution in which we perform comprehensive rehabilitation of adults and children with central and peripheral nervous system disorders, movement of related body structures and functions, and patients with muscular and neuromuscular diseases with chronic pain and with cancer.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*NO*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Clincal medicine (rehabilitation medicine)*

BIOLOGY

Dr. Tinkara Tinta

National Institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station Piran

tinkara.tinta@nib.si

Research area:	*Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*
Description of a research activity:	*Marine Biology Station Piran operates within the framework of National Institute of Biology (NIB) and is the only Slovenian institution that studies the sea and monitors its quality. The researchers of MBP Piran are focused on the research in the areas of physical, chemical and biological oceanography. Tinkara is a marine microbial ecologist investigating microbial community dynamics during natural and anthropogenic perturbations in marine environment.* *My research focuses on the interactions between bacteria and jellyfish and the implications for the biogeochemical cycles in the ocean. I have a multidisciplinary scientific background with B.Sc. in Biochemistry and Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences with more than 10 years of full time research experience in the field of marine microbial ecology.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*NO*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Biological Sciences, Earth and related Environmental sciences, in particularly jellyfish-related research topics, including jellyfish*

	positioning in marine food web, jellyfish-microbes interactions and incorporation of jellyfish in biogeochemical cycles.

	*Dr. Martin Vodopivec* *National institute of Biology, Marine Biology Station Piran* *martin.vodopivec@nib.si*
Research area:	*Biology*
Description of a research activity:	*With 190 employees, the National Institute of Biology (NIB) is one of the independent public research institutes for the natural sciences in Slovenia. The basic activity of the institute is fundamental, developmental and applied research in the fields of natural science and biotechnology, biophysics, biomedicine and systems biology. Many activities are involved in environmental issues, agriculture and food, and recently more and more in health.* *The Marine Biological Station operates within the NIB, where Martin is employed as a research associate. It is the only Slovenian institution that studies the sea and monitors its quality. MBP Piran researchers are focused on research in the fields of physical, chemical and biological oceanography. Martin's area of research is numerical models of the sea with an emphasis on coupled physical-biological models. He deals with numerical modeling of marine circulation, marine ecosystems, transport of marine organisms (e.g. gelatinous zooplankton) and pathogens, and using satellite measurements to observe the state of the sea.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*NO*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Biology, earth and environment*

CHEMISTRY

	*Dr. Petar Djinović* *Institute of Chemistry* *petar.djinovic@ki.si*
Research area:	*Chemistry, Chemical engineering, Materials*
Description of a research activity:	*The National Institute of Chemistry is a public research institute based in Ljubljana, Slovenia. With our research, we are solving the most pressing challenges facing society including: health, sustainable energy, climate change, a circular economy and safe food. Our research goals push the boundaries of science and create new values. We successfully transfer knowledge to industry and, in the long-term, support the role of science in the development of society.* *Dr. Petar Djinović, research activities: Catalytic transformations for energy storage, hydrogen-based economy and CO2 valorization. I work with thermally driven and photo-thermal catalysis by addressing the: (i) reaction mechanisms in thermally catalysed and/or photo-thermal mode, (ii) development and understanding the catalytic sites of (photo)catalytic materials, and (iii) identification/resolving the kinetic and selectivity bottlenecks in these reactions.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partner:	*NO*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*catalysis, photocatalysis, materials, CO2 adsorption and conversion*

	*Nina Victoria Čarman* *National Institute of Chemistry, Slovenia* *nina.carman@ki.si*
Research area:	*Materials research, life sciences, biotechnology, chemical engineering, structural and theoretical chemistry, analytical chemistry and environmental protection.*

Description of a research activity:	*The National Institute of Chemistry is a scientifically excellent, established and breakthrough research institution in Europe and the second largest natural sciences research institute in Slovenia with 374 employees (31. 12. 2021), of which around 331 carry out research work in 9 departments and two infrastructure centers. Through our cutting-edge research, we are enriching the global treasury of knowledge and working together to solve the most pressing challenges faced by society. Health, sustainable energy, climate change, circular economy and safe food are the most important among them. We measure our research goals in surpluses that push the boundaries of science and create new values. We successfully transfer knowledge to the industrial environment, thus supporting the placement of science in societal development in the long run.* *We are members of international multidisciplinary research networks, and we collaborate with the best global research institutions, groups and individuals. This is how we enrich our scientific excellence. We aim to be an open learning space for young researchers on a daily basis. With a variety of projects and material support, we create a stimulating environment where they can develop their curiosity and realise their research creativity. By doing so, we ensure the integration of the profession into the lives of future generations.* *We provide our employees with an inspiring working environment in which they can carry out their professional mission. We are proud that our interpersonal relationships are based on an open, integrated, equitable and inclusive culture that is not limited in terms of gender or race. At the same time, we strive to become the reason for the return of excellent Slovenian scientists abroad. With our mission, we contribute to the well-being of the wider Slovenian society and are also an example of excellence.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*YES, with VITO institute*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*materials research, life sciences, biotechnology, chemical engineering, structural and theoretical chemistry, analytical chemistry and environmental protection*

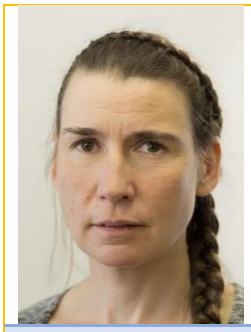
	*Dr. Tina Kosjek* **Institut Jozef Stefan** ***tina.kosjek@ijs.si***
Research area:	*Chemistry, environmental sciences, environmental analytical chemistry, biogeochemical cycles, microbial ecology, environment and health, environmental technologies*
Description of a research activity:	*The Jožef Stefan Institute is the leading Slovenian scientific research institute, covering a broad spectrum of basic and applied research. The staff of about 1050 specializes in natural sciences, life sciences and engineering. The Department of Environmental Sciences (O-2) is one of the biggest depratments at Jožef Stefan Institute. O-2 focuses on interweaving the physical, chemical, and biological processes that shape our environment. The research we perform at the Department of Environmental Sciences is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary and covers several areas, such as environmental analytical chemistry, biogeochemical cycles, microbial ecology, environment and health, environmental technologies, risk and environmental assessment, and environmental monitoring.* *Tina studied pharmacy at University of Ljubljana and then obtained PhD in Ecotechnology at Jožef Stefan International postgraduate school. During her PhD studies she worked in the field of analytical chemistry, aiming to identify transformation products of pharmaceuticals degraded by photodegradation in the environment or during wastewater treatment. Besides activated sludge biodegradation studies they performed photo- and photocatalytic degradation, cavitation, etc., in particular from the viewpoint of recognizing transformation products that generate during these treatments. Lately her research field has been more oriented into health and environment, i.e. following biomarkers of exposure via targeted and nontargeted and suspect screening. Tina has worked in the JSI Mass spectrometry centre as responsible for LCMS/MS, LC-HRMS and GC-MS/MS platforms. They have developed several analytical methods for trace-level analysis in different biological matrices including tumour cells, plasma, urine, bone tissue, etc.* *Major international collaborations involve* *- Prof. Damia Barcelo, Dr. Sandra Perez and Miren Lopez de Alda at IDAEA CSIC in Barcelona, Spain* *- Prof. Henrik R. Andersen from DTU Environment, Lyngby, Denmark*

	- *Prof. Davide Vione form University of Torino, Faculty of Chemistry* - *Prof. Juliane Hollender form EAWAG in Switzerland.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partner:	*YES, University of Antwerp*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Chemistry, environmental sciences, environmental analytical chemistry, biogeochemical cycles, microbial ecology, environment and health, environmental technologies*

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE

	*Dr. Neža Čadež* *University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical faculty* *neza.cadez@bf.uni-lj.si*
Research area:	*Agriculture, forestry and fisheries*
Description of a research activity:	*The fundamental mission of the Biotechnical Faculty at University of Ljubljana is to provide university level, advanced professional, and postgraduate education, as well as to carry out scientific research and technical and consulting work concerning the sciences of living nature (biology, microbiology) as well as agriculture, forestry and fisheries (forestry, animal husbandry, agronomy) and the related production technologies (wood technology, food technology, biotechnology). The common denominator of all academic and scientific disciplines at the Biotechnical Faculty is natural resources (soil, physical space, flora, fauna, and water). Environmental and landscape protection, the protection of the natural heritage, environmentally friendly and sustainable use of natural resources, the production and processing of quality food, together with modern biotechnology all entail global challenges which may only be positively addressed by pursuing a continuous and relentless search for what is newer and better, by acquiring the latest knowledge and applying such in everyday use.* *At Food Technology Department we are part of a group s devoted to study microbial biotic and abiotic interactions at the molecular, cellular or population levels, in terms of evolutionary and/or ecological aspects, including diverse topics of food safety, bioactive components from plant origin, microbiology of food processing, microbial stress response and resistance in food-related environment, of microbial communities, microbial signalling, biofilm formation.*

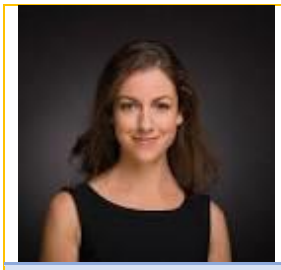
	Our research interests and methodological approaches are focused on linking yeast diversity with their biotechnological potential for various industrial processes. As an on-going work we isolate and characterize microorganisms from artisanal foods and surrounding natural habitats and preserve them in Collection of Industrial Microorganisms (www.zim-collection.si). We are interested in driving forces of microbial speciation combining genomic, phenotypic and ecological data, with focus on industrially important yeasts. Our interest also covers adaptive experimental evolution of yeasts on various substrates as selective drivers of novel non-GMO variants for industrial applications. In addition, we investigate the role of non-conventional yeasts in alcoholic fermentations for production of new sensory active compounds, which opens possibilities for the development of new types of products.
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Yeast, fermented foods, genomics, adaptive evolution, climatic changes*

	*Dr. Anja Klančnik* *Biotechnical Faculty University of Ljubljana* *anja.klancnik@bf.uni-lj.si*
Research area:	*Animal and dairy sciences, food microbiology, pathogen bacteria, food safety, biofilm, antimicrobial resistance*
Description of a research activity:	*The research group deals with the current problem of the modern way of life - the production of safe food. The main topic is resistance of food bacteria, which is a threat to public health and the economy. One of the resistance mechanisms is biofilm, which protects bacteria from adverse environmental factors and host immune response. Alternative strategies include new sources of antimicrobial agents as well as bioactive action of existing antimicrobial drugs that act on more than one intracellular target even at subinhibitory concentrations. Bacteria of the Campylobacter, which are among the leading foodborne pathogens of intestinal infections in humans in industrialized countries, serve as the research model.*

	The main objective is to modulate the number/presence of bacteria due to critical conditions in the food chain as a result of food processing, the microbial community present and the resistance of Campylobacter bacteria. The starting point is preliminary research on mechanisms of multiple Campylobacter resistance (efflux pumps), stress response and survival modes (VBNC, biofilm), colonization of biotic/abiotic surfaces, and microbial interactions. Research will focus on understanding the impact of the microbial community potentially present in food on the cellular adhesion/interaction/stress response mechanisms of Campylobacter bacteria. A systematic assessment of the influence of production-related parameters (e.g., surfaces, T/atmosphere, addition of active ingredients) and survival mechanisms of C. jejuni bacteria (e.g., stress response, adhesion, biofilm, mutual interaction) will also be addressed. The integrated approach includes research at the level of genetic information, proteins, and extracellular matrix to the physiological response of the cell and biofilm.
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*YES, with University of Ghent on microbiology*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*The research based on interdisciplinary approach using molecular biology and microbiology, that targets the most urgent problems of increasing antimicrobial resistance in food supply chain; including basic research of biofilm (structure, bacterial response, interaction).*

SPORT

	*Dr. Gregor Jurak* *University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sport* *gregor.jurak@fsp.uni-lj.si*
Research area:	
Description of a research activity:	*Study of physical performance, 24-hour movement behaviour, pedagogical phenomena*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*NO*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	

	*Dr.* **Janja Tekavc** *Faculty of Education, University of Maribor* janja.tekavc@um.si
Research area:	*sport psychology*
Description of a research activity:	*The research area covers sport psychology and psychology in education; more specifically: holistic development of athletes, balancing education and sports (dual career), mindfulness.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*YES, with Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Sport Psychology & Mental Support research group, led by Dr. Paul Wylleman*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*sport psychology*

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

	*Dr. Mimi Urbanc, deputy director* *Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts* *mimi.urbanc@zrc-sazu.si*
Research area:	*(ERC panels) PE 10 Earth System Science (geology, paleontology, remote sensing, geomorphology, karst sciences, hydrology, geo hazards); LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution (biodiversity, conservation biology, evolutionary genetics); SH3 The Social World and Its Diversity (social integration, interethnic relations, social policies, welfare, work and employment); SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity (sociolinguistics, philosophy of mind); SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production (literature, history of art, musicology, cultural studies, ethics, aesthetics), SH6 The Study of the Human Past (archaeology, history)*
Description of organisation and research activity:	*Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts has a multidisciplinary character; in addition to the humanities, its spheres of research also cover the natural and social sciences. It primarily conducts research on a broad variety of topics connected with natural and cultural heritage in Slovenia. ZRC SAZU has its own publishing house, bookstore, and audio-visual laboratory; it houses the*

	Geographical Museum, and boasts numerous collections. Among its rich publishing activity, five research journals listed in the Thomson Reuters indices are especially noteworthy. *In more than two decades of cooperation in EU-funded research, we have gained reach experience in a variety of EU programs; besides the Framework programs we have proven that we are competent and reliable partners or coordinators in the following programs: Interreg, Life+ program, AMIF, Creative Europe etc.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*YES, with KU Leuven, University of Ghent, FARO, FARO - Vlaams steunpunt voor cultureel erfgoed vzw, Brussels, The Hugo Observatory, l'Université de Liège, Liège, University of Kent, Brussels, Digital Leadership Institute Universiteit Antwerpen, Vlaams Gewest Instituut voor Natuur - en Bosonderzoek.*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Geography, cultural studies, ethnomusicology, spatial planning, research evaluation/performance, migrations, spatial studies, gender equality*

	*Dr. Polonca Kovač* *Professor of Administrative Law and Public Administration* ***University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Public Administration*** ***polonca.kovac@fu.uni-lj.si***
Research area:	*Law & Public Administration*
Description of organisation and research activity:	*Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts has a multidisciplinary character; in addition to the humanities, its spheres of research also cover the natural and social sciences. It primarily conducts research on a broad variety of topics connected with natural and cultural heritage in Slovenia. ZRC SAZU has its own publishing house, bookstore, and audio-visual laboratory; it houses the Geographical Museum, and boasts numerous collections. Among its rich publishing activity, five research journals listed in the Thomson Reuters indices are especially noteworthy.* *In more than two decades of cooperation in EU-funded research, we have gained reach experience in a variety of EU programs; besides the Framework programs we have proven that we are competent and reliable partners or coordinators in the following programs: Interreg, Life+ program, AMIF, Creative Europe etc.*
Previous cooperation	*Faculty of Public Administration, Univeristy of Ljubljana is a leading educational and scientific research organisation on the field of interdisciplinary studies of public administration and public governance in*

with Flemish partners:	*Slovenia and beyond, combining law, policy analysis, economics and management as well as IT/digitalisation related topics. More: https://www.fu.uni-lj.si/en/research-development/research-areas/* *Polonca Kovač is a full professor of administrative law and public administration. Her expertise cover particularly principles of good public administration and administrative procedures. She is the co-author and co-editor of a series of monographs (Tax Law 2021, Admin Science 2021, The Sound of Silence in European Administrative Law 2020, Transparency Laws in Action 2019, Commentary on APA 2020/2022, Commentary on the Slovenian Constitution 2011 and 2019, PAR in the new EU MS 2017, Inspection Supervision 2016, and others), textbooks, and numerous scientific papers. She was the editor-in-chief of Central European Public Administration Review 2017–2020 and also a member of the Scientific Council for Social Sciences at the Slovenian R&D Agency. She is a member of basic research supra- and national projects groups for the development of the Slovenian and European administrative system (esp. basic project 2004–2024) as well as European projects (COGOV, PROTEGO, One-Stop-Shop). She is ranked as No. 1 researcher on the fields of law and PA according to the Slovenian R&D Agency indicators in the last five years and the recipient of awards for research excellence and of a gold plaque of the University of Ljubljana in 2019 for special contributions to the field of pedagogy and research. Her activities include being a member of the NISPAcee Steering Committee (2016–2022), a co-director of the permanent study group on law at EGPA/IIIAS (2017-), she is a member of the RENEUAL, ELI, EATLP, and EDPB Pool of Experts. Her experiences include consultancy for SIGMA/OECD, World Bank and ReSPA.* *ORCID 0000-0002-7743-0514, email: polonca.kovac@fu.uni-lj.si, bibliography:* *https://bib.cobiss.net/bibliographies/si/webBiblio/bib201_20221102_095053_a541027.html*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*public, administrative, tax, inspection, data protection law & public administration reforms, its organisation and functioning, legal regulation, transparency and participation in public governance, in particular principles and rights in various admin procedures*

Rade Trivunčević

The Science and Research Centre Koper (ZRS Koper)

rade.trivuncevic@zrs-kp.si

Research area:	*Philosophy of law, International relations, Extremism and Radicalism, Military Economy*
Description of a research activity:	*The Science and Research Centre Koper (ZRS Koper) works on an interdisciplinary basis, involving humanities, social and natural sciences, with special emphasis given to the research in the specific environments of the Mediterranean and the upper Adriatic region.* *Rade Trivunčević completed his bachelor studies at the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security in Ljubljana. In 2019, he attended the Erasmus + exchange master's program at the Faculty of Law of the Lomonosov State University in Moscow. A year later, he obtained the title of Master of Security Sciences at the University of Maribor, Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, defending his master's thesis under a title: "Arab Spring through the Perspective of Comparative Criminology".* *He is currently working at the Law Institute ZRS Koper, as a young researcher under the mentorship of prof. Rok Svetlič. He is attending his doctoral studies of Humanities at the AMEU-ISH Faculty, in Ljubljana. Under the young researcher's training program, he is currently researching influence and interaction of the Arab world with Europe as a consequence of globalization. Increased spendings in military economy and its socio-political impact in future. Embodiment of national narratives that enhance militarization of society and are in contrast to multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*NO*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Humanities and law, Militarization and human rights*

Dr. Polona Tratnik

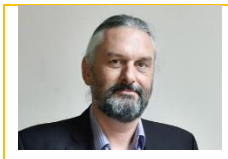
IRRIS Institute for Research, Development and Strategies of Society, Culture and the Environment

polona.tratnik@guest.arnes.si

https://www.irris.eu/en/home/

Research area:	*Arts and humanities*
Description of a research activity:	*In the modern world, there is a growing need for the preparation of new and original broad theoretical foundations and more narrowly focused strategies for resolving conflicts that occur at the levels of human relations on the one hand with society (culture, ethics, politics) and on the other with the environment.*

	Therefore, the IRRIS Institute will devote its work to the study of historical, anthropological, philosophical, sociological, political, linguistic, legal, geographical and wider social aspects, which will enable the perception of key or paradigmatic points or developmental shifts that enabled frictions and disputes between social actors throughout history to be resolved in a way that enabled the growth of narrower and broader civilizational environments. In order to achieve this goal in modern times, such interdisciplinary comparative studies of social dynamics include the study of the complexity of cultural heritage as an essential component in the relationship between man and the environment.
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*NO*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Arts and humanities*

	*Dr. Gorazd Andrejč* *Institute for Philosophical Studies, Science and Research Centre of Koper (ZRS Koper)* *gorazdeo@gmail.com*
Research area:	*Philosophy, Religious Studies*
Description of a research activity:	*Institute for Philosophical Studies at ZRS Koper is a leading research institute for philosophy in Slovenia, working especially at the intersection of philosophy of religion, intercultural philosophy and environmental humanities.* *My own research in recent years have been in Wittgenstein; epistemology of religion; religious language; nature religions, science and technology; humanism and posthumanism; philosophy of nature; as well as political philosophy (religious freedom, politics and ecology, green utopias).*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*YES, Dr Gorazd Andrejč has contacts with scholars at KU Leuven (Stephan van Erp) and University of Antwerpen (Walter van Herck)*
Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Nature religions, science and technology; humanism and posthumanism; philosophy of nature; as well as political philosophy (religious freedom, politics and ecology, green utopias).*

	*Dr. Tina Čok* *The Science and Research Centre Koper (ZRS Koper)* *Institute of Linguistics* *tina.cok@zrs-kp.si*
Research area:	*Languages and literature*
Description of a research activity:	*The public research institute Science and research center Koper is characterized by extremely interdisciplinary (interweaving of humanities, social sciences and natural sciences) research activities. The Institute for Linguistic Studies is among the eight institutes that drive the scientific activity of ZRS Koper.* *Its mission is to follow dynamics and questions in the field of linguistics and literary studies, with special attention to areas of contact and languages. Since its foundation, the institute has been carrying out basic, applied and developmental projects in the fields of languages, cultures and literatures in contact, intercultural studies, social and contact linguistics, dialectology, applied linguistics and language didactics. The institute is one of the reference points for cross-cultural and cross-linguistic research, in which researchers start from contemporary relations between the individual and society and social groups, since language is always considered in a social context. For this reason, the institute's linguistic and literary research, taking into account new methodologies and technologies, is aimed at transmitting scientific results to the general public at the national and international level.* *My research objectives concern the cognitive aspects of learning and teaching languages in contact, focusing on the learning and teaching of unrelated languages and cultures. Consequently, my research also includes topics such as contemporary methods of language teaching for immigrant children, cognitive dimensions of multilingualism and plurilingualism, first language influences from a cross-language perspective, and inclusive and cognitive language didactics. Using empirical research and approaches based on cognitive linguistics, I focus on issues of contact, i.e. the encounter between typologically, psychologically and historically close or distant languages, and how this language contact can be used or the linguistic distance bridged in language acquisition.*
Previous cooperation with Flemish partners:	*YES, with University of Antwerp inICT are, the name of the project was DIADEM.*

Area of future cooperation with Flemish partners:	*Languages and literature*