Interesting facts about Vlasotince

Vlasotince spreads over the mountainous area on the one side and through a valley on the other. Its arable land, forests and water reserves are the most valuable resources.

The first Wine Ball was organised in 1960 with the aim to promote Vlasotince, its tradition and entrepreneurial spirit. Each year competitions are staged for the best wine maker, the best vineyard, the best song and cartoon about the wine.

"Library "Desanka Maksimović", which burnt in fire, became functional again thankfully to EU PROGRES funded project. It was very important to the Municipality of Vlasotince, which permanently intend to improve conditions for education of the young population."

Zoran Todorović
Mayor of Vlasotince
The library “Desanka Maksimović” in Vlasotince was reconstructed with the financial support from the European Union and the Government of Switzerland through EU PROGRES worth 59,245 Euros.

The building which was home to the library for 101 years, better known as “Gigina kuća”, was burned down during a fire in 2008, along with the one third of the books. The reconstructed library initiated special treatment for the preservation of its rare and antique books, store books in foreign languages and launched activities in the non-literary materials department. Alongside this, the legacy room of the Vlasotince painter Miodrag Nagorni, the best young artist at the 1967 Paris Biennale, who left 400 prints, books and various objects to the library, was opened. The Ministry of Culture contributed 25,000 Euros for the reconstruction.

RECENT SUCCESS

New Home for the Books

The main design for the School in Nature enabled the municipality to issue the building permit and to prepare a project proposal in order to seek funding for the construction. The School in Nature will be used by the children with disabilities and those on post-operative treatment, but also for the training of athletes with disabilities.

Step by Step, We are Moving Forward

This project supported local Gender Equality Mechanism and contributed to the improvement of health care services for the most vulnerable groups of women.

Programme Budgets and Capital Investment Plans

The Programme Budget and the five-year Capital Investment Plan prepared and have been adopted by the Assembly in October 2013. Programme budgeting is a key step towards improving public spending efficiency and effectiveness. It enabled the municipality to plan its public finances against the longer-term priorities, to improve the accountability of budget beneficiaries and facilitate more precise estimates of public funds spending. The Plan allows Vlasotince to take a systemic approach to external funding sources.

Restoring of the National Library “Desanka Maksimović”

The restoration of the building of the National Library “Desanka Maksimović” (known as “Gigina kuća”), which is under the protection of the Institute for Cultural Heritage from Niš, contributed to preservation, promotion, development and sustainable utilisation of architectural legacy. The building, one of the most recognizable symbols of the area, is now providing adequate space for the library, combining authentic atmosphere and new forms of work, modern equipment and approach. Four new departments were established: for rare and old books, foreign literature, non-book material and memorial room.
# LIST OF EU PROGRES PROJECTS IN VLASOTINCE

## Infrastructure

**Protection of the Vlasina River basin**

The new equipment and the management plan for the Public Utility Company "Vodovod" in Vlasotince resulted in provision of continuous supply of clean drinking water for the entire municipality, and in protection of the Vlasina River basin from further pollution after an efficient collection and treatment system of the wastewater was established. Vlasina River represents a significant natural resource for Vlasotince and Crna Trava, both for communal facilities and as a significant tourism resource.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipal Co-funding</th>
<th>EU PROGRES funds</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>38,693 Euros</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Total for all projects

| 6,850 Euros | 139,888 Euros |

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