

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMRADESHIP

The Garden of Remembrance and Comradeship in Petanjci is a living commemorative botanical collection. Its fundamental message, »In memory of the victims of Fascism and Nazism and as a solemn reminder to the living,« is honored and preserved by the many trees and plants found within.

As academician Dr. Marjaž Kmecl described, »In Ljubljana, they have the Path of Remembrance and Comradeship, and here at Petanjci, we have the Garden of Remembrance and Comradeship.«

The Garden is a protected cultural and historical monument. It is part of the Network of Botanical Gardens and Arboreturns of Slovenia, a notable point on several cycling routes, the beginning and end of Kepler's astronomy trek, the headquarters of the ZRC SAZU Research Station Prekmurje, as well as an active co-creator of cultural, educational, research, and tourist life in the local and wider environment, and, above all, is an indispensable part of the cultural heritage of the world along the Mura and the Pomurje region.

In 1945, Apolonija Šiftar planted the first memorial trees—two weeping willows—at the entrance to Šiftar's homestead in memory of her two sons who did not return home after the war. Mother's weeping willows became the foundation of the Garden of Remembrance and Comradeship, and its construction became the life's work of her third son, Vanek. Vanek Šiftar continued to build the Garden of Remembrance and Comradeship to honor this touching act of his mother. A magnificent garden was created,

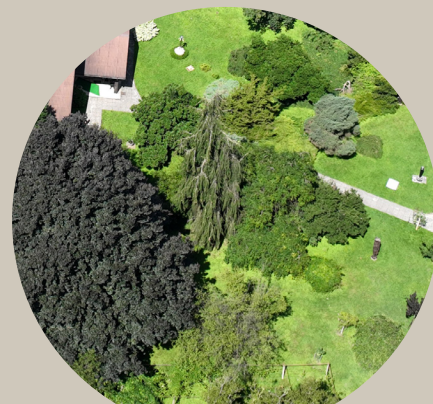
which has been a cultural monument and natural attraction and has been protected as such since 1968 by a decree of the Municipality of Murska Sobota, and since 2005, it has been protected as a cultural monument by the Municipality of Tišina.

The garden covers an area of 1.5 ha, where almost 500 different native (indigenous) and non-native trees from all over the world are planted, with botanical peculiarities and symbolic meanings linked to World War II and the quest for world peace. They remind us of the many bloody scenes of human suffering and death in Europe, the longing and struggle for survival and freedom of the Slovenian nation, and above all, the collective effort for peace, understanding, and peaceful cooperation in the world.

The garden, especially its historical and symbolic value and uniqueness, is also accentuated by memorial sculptures, each with its own humanistic and symbolic messages.

A commemorative plaque honoring the astronomer and scientist J. Kepler, who spent several months of his exile at the end of the 16th century at the then manor of the Hungarian counts Nádasdy in Petanjci, can also be found within the garden.

The garden is also the headquarters of the Institution Dr. Šiftar Foundation.



CONTACTS



**Ustanova dr. Šiftarjeva fundacija
Petanjci 19, 9251 Tišina, Slovenia**

<https://www.dr-siftar-fundacija.org/si/>

Telephone: +386 (0)41 677 782

E-mail: siftarjeva.fundacija@siol.net,
marjan.siftar@gmail.com

Tax number: 17945933

Bank account number: SI56 0234 0001 1633 302,
opened at NLB, dd

**The Garden can be visited every day from March
to November. Entry is free.**

Guided visits and group visits are possible with prior notice
at +386 (0)41 677 782 or siftarjeva.fundacija@siol.net.

USTANOVA DR. ŠIFTARJEVA
FUNDACIJA

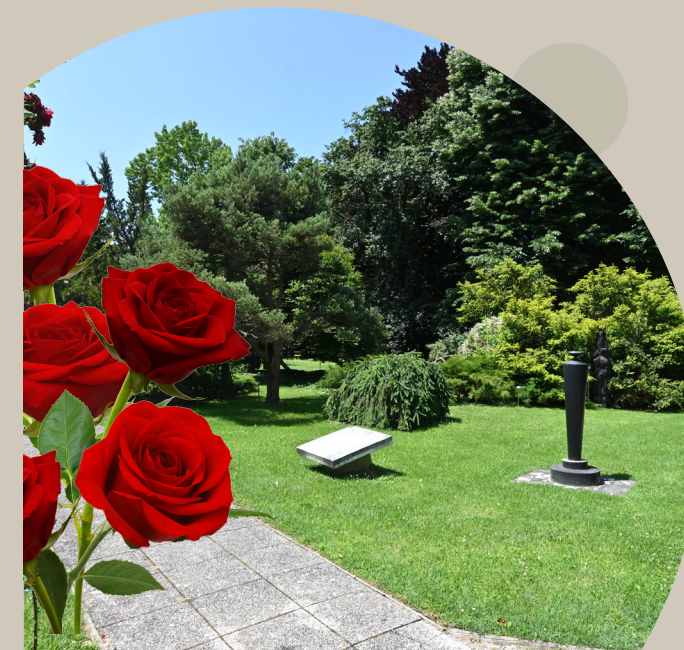


USTANOVA DR.



ŠIFTARJEVA

REPOSITORY OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AND A CULTURAL- SCIENTIFIC HUB



VISION AND MISSION OF THE INSTITUTION DR. ŠIFTAR FOUNDATION

The Institution Dr. Šiftar Foundation is a non-governmental, non-profit, and socially beneficial organization and a legal entity under private law with its headquarters in Petanjci in the municipality of Tišina.

Mission of the institution:

- the protection of cultural and natural heritage, especially the preservation and development of the Garden of Remembrance and Comradeship in all its intact substance and symbolism,
- consolidation and development of cooperation between nations, especially from neighboring regional areas in the fields of the institution's core activities,
- supporting and implementing scientific research work,
- promotion of activities in the field of environmental protection and cooperation in the efforts of other organizations in this field.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

The Institution Dr. Šiftar Foundation (hereinafter: the Foundation) was founded in 1996 on the initiative of Professor Emeritus Dr. Vanek Šiftar. Its founders were many Pomurje municipalities, ZRC SAZU, University of Maribor, the Union of the Associations for the Values of the National Liberation Movement of Slovenia (ZZB NOB Slovenia), Zavarovalnica Triglav, NLB, larger Pomurje or Slovenian companies (Mura, Radenska...), and the Šiftar family.

Its primary objective is to take care of the maintenance and preservation of the Garden of Remembrance and Comradeship in Petanjci.

In accordance with its founding act, the Foundation is active in many areas that are related in various ways to the values, mission, and messages of the Garden—in the cultural, scientific, and journalistic fields—and cooperates with many partners in these areas in Slovenia and abroad.

The highest body of the Foundation is the Founding Assembly. Its work is managed by a nine-member board. In the nearly twenty-member Program Committee (its first president being acad. Dr. Anton Vratuša) are numerous academics, emeritus and still-active professors, distinguished individuals, and carriers of important social functions. The board is supported by a large circle of colleagues and a branched network in the local, regional, national, and cross-border frameworks (Association of Slovenes in Hungary, Article 7 Cultural Association from Graz, Pannonian Institute of Gradišče Croats in Austria).

You can collaborate and cooperate with the Foundation in various ways:

- as its sponsors or donors,
- as sponsors of individual activities,
- or sponsors of the Institution's individual events,
- you can participate in the Foundation's activities and the organization of additional events,
- or set up cooperation by individual agreement.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation carries out activities defined by the Establishment Act. It supports, encourages, and organizes scientific research activities, especially research tasks and projects in the fields of history, ethnography, biology, geography, archaeology, ecology, and others, which are justified by the multicultural role, border location, and development of the region on both sides of the Mura.

The Foundation organizes a wide variety of meetings and events with its partners in the garden in Petanjci and at other locations:

- cultural events (book presentations, art colonies, poetry readings, exhibitions, memorial ceremonies, etc.);
- various activities within the framework of the program »Ograček mladih« (common name for youth activities and for young people; academician Dr. A. Vratuša); for more than a decade, annual literary competitions for primary and secondary schools on socially relevant topics;
- Vanek's evenings: public talks with prominent guests on nature conservation and other current social topics (more than 80 organized so far);
- various conferences, round tables, and international symposia (the first in 1999; in 2023 a symposium on the 300th anniversary of the birth of Štefan Kuzmič);
- traditional event »Day of Remembrance and Comradeship: Our Treasures« on May 9 (21st edition in 2023).

The Foundation is also active in the publishing field and has so far published more than 25 book units alone or with various partners.

So far, the Foundation has already been involved in many broader social campaigns and projects. The Foundation played an incredibly active role in the preparation and implementation of the program commemorating the 100th anniversary of the annexation of Prekmurje and the unification of Prekmurje Slovenes with their mother nation (2017–2019), as well as actively participating in many other current projects of wider importance in the regional, national, and cross-border context.

