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# Researching border deaths in Croatia and Slovenia

Death and the dead amidst us. Death in contemporary society

An international conference at the Department of Ethnology and  
Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana,  
Ljubljana, 7 May 2021

## ERIM

*The European Irregularized Migration Regime at the Periphery of the EU: from Ethnography to Keywords*



Research project *The European Irregularized Migration Regime at the Periphery of the EU: from Ethnography to Keywords* (ERIM) coordinated by **The Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research**, and financed by **The Croatian Science Foundation** (IP 2019-04-6642), strives to document and analyse irregularized migrations in the transnational space formed by migratory movements that in various directions cross borders between Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia etc. Based on the multi-sited ethnographic research (observation, participation, interviews and other methods), research associates from Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia in the framework of ERIM aim to encompass the levels and experiences of different agents, from refugees and other migrants, to members of local communities, and employees and

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## Border deaths

“premature deaths of persons whose movement or presence has been unauthorized and irregularized as they navigate or interact with state-made boundaries” (Tamara Last 2020: 21)

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izr. prof. dr. Uršula Lipovec Čebren

Filozofska fakulteta Univerze v Ljubljani

Številka: 092-1/2021/71 (2132-5)

Datum: 12. 3. 2021

**Zadeva: Projekt ERIM - informacija**

**Zveza: Vaše elektronsko sporočilo z dne 4. 3. 2021**

V zvezi z vašim zgoraj navedenim zaprosilom vas obveščamo, da slovenska policija ne vodi evidence smrti za posamezno skupino ljudi (npr. migranti).

V prilogi vam posredujemo seznam smrti tujcev za leto 2019 in leto 2020 po državljanstvu. Seznam je narejen na podlagi podatkov v evidenci dogodkov (123. člen Zakona o nalogah in pooblastilih policije, Uradni list RS, št. 15/13 z dne 18. 2. 2013).

## List of 36 570 documented deaths of refugees and migrants due to the restrictive policies of "Fortress Europe"

Documentation by UNITED as of 1 April 2019

### Death by Policy - Time for Change!

Campaign information: Facebook - UNITED Against Refugee Deaths, UnitedAgainstRefugeeDeaths.eu, listofdeaths@unitedagainstracism.org, Twitter: @UNITED\_\_Network #AgainstRefugeeDeaths

UNITED for Intercultural Action, European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees

Amsterdam secretariat: Postbus 413, NL-1000 AK Amsterdam, Netherlands, tel +31-6-48808808, listofdeaths@unitedagainstracism.org, www.unitedagainstracism.org

The UNITED List of Deaths can be freely re-used, translated and re-distributed, provided UNITED is informed in advance and source (UnitedAgainstRefugeeDeaths.eu) is mentioned. Researchers can obtain this list with more data in xls format from UNITED.



found dead	number	name, gender, age	region of origin	cause of death	source
28/03/19	2	N.N. (men)	unknown	drowned, bodies recovered off coast of Chios (GR), 36 rescued	HelCoastG/IOM
27/03/19	1	Ali (boy, 18)	Afghanistan	suicide in shelter for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in Geneva (CH), bad housing conditions	Vivre/RTS/Le Courrier/TribuneGeneve
26/03/19	1	N.N.	Sub-Saharan Africa	drowned, found in advanced state of decomposition on beach near Tetouan, south of the Strait of Gibraltar (MA)	El Pueblo de Ceuta/IOM
26/03/19	1	N.N.	Sub-Saharan Africa	drowned, found dead on beach in Azia (MA), presumably while trying to reach Spain	FaroCeuta
26/03/19	1	N.N.	Sub-Saharan Africa	drowned, found floating in advanced state of decomposition in sea in Tarajal area of Ceuta (ES)	FaroCeuta/Ceutaaldia/El Pueblo de Ceuta/IOM
26/03/19	4	N.N. (baby, 3 women)	Afghanistan, Iran	drowned when migrant ship sank on way from Ayvacik (TR) to Lesbos (GR); 11 rescued	Reuters/DailySabah/HurriyetDN/ArabNews/TurkCoast
23/03/19	1	Hamza Ben Nasr (man, 26)	Tunisia	drowned in shipwreck on way from Mahdia, Tunisia to Italy	TNnum/Kapitalis/IOM
23/03/19	1	Ftima (woman, 26)	Tunisia	drowned in shipwreck on way from Mahdia, Tunisia to Italy	Kapitalis/IOM
23/03/19	1	Hanen Saidi (woman, 26)	Tunisia	drowned in shipwreck on way from Mahdia, Tunisia to Italy	TNnum/Kapitalis/IOM
23/03/19	1	Ons Zaouali (woman, 26)	Tunisia	drowned in shipwreck on way from Mahdia, Tunisia to Italy; 3 other dead, 5 missing including her brother	TNnum/Kapitalis/IOM/Shems
23/03/19	5	N.N. (young men)	Tunisia	missing after migrant boat sank on way from Mahdia (Tunisia) to Italy	TNnum/Kapitalis/IOM/Shems
21/03/19	1	Sylla Noumo (man, 32)	Senegal	died in fire at new government-built migrant tent camp of San Fernando (IT)	InfoMigrants
19/03/19	7	N.N. (1 baby)	unknown	1 drowned, 6 missing when migrant ship capsized very soon upon leaving coast of Sabratha, Libya	Ansamed/Libyan Express
18/03/19	3	N.N.	Sub-Saharan Africa	found dead on boat in distress in Alboran Sea off coast of Nador (MA); 53 people rescued	HuffPostMaghreb/HelenaMaleno/IOM
17/03/19	19	N.N.	Morocco	missing in migrant shipwreck off coast of Sidi Warzeg (MA), while trying to reach Canary Islands	Hams/Zoubeidi/IOM
14/03/19	45	N.N. (girl, 14; 6 w (incl. preg.))	Comoros, Congo, Mali, Mauritania	1 died, 44 missing in shipwreck off coast of Bouyafar (MA) on way to Spain; 22 people rescued	AP/DailyMail/EurPress/ElDiario/WatchTheMed/IOM/H
12/03/19	3	N.N. (1 woman, 2 men)	Sub-Saharan Africa	died in Zintan detention centre (LY) due to lack of food and medical treatment	InfoMigrants
10/03/19	1	N.N. (woman)	unknown	drowned, body found in rocky shore area near Agios Theodoros, Akra Korakas, Lesbos (GR)	HelCoastG/IOMGreece
10/03/19	1	N.N. (girl 4-6)	unknown	drowned, headless body found on Vatera beach, Lesbos (GR)	HelCoastG/IOMGreece
08/03/19	2	N.N.	unknown	drowned, body found on unspecified location off coast of Libya	IOMLibya
08/03/19	1	K. A. (man, 30)	Algeria	stowaway, electrocuted while trying to board a train in Sid, Serbia for Croatia	APCSerbia/IOMSerbia
08/03/19	1	N.N. (man, 20s)	Ethiopia	crushed between pallets in trailer of truck, probably during displacement at port of Calais (FR)	VoixDuNord/IOM/Parisien
06/03/19	3	N.N. (man; 2 boys, 4)	unknown	drowned, two small boys as well as their father died when their boat sank near Samos (GR)	AlarmPhone/AP/IOMGreece

# Obituary

*Padaj, padaj hladni dež,  
hladni dež jesenski,  
padaj, padaj tihi dež,  
padaj na gomile ...  
(Srečko Kosovel)*

Z žalostjo sporočamo, da sta bili 28. 11. 2019  
s padcem iz prtljažnika v prometni nesreči pri Vrhniki  
kruto izgubljeni življenji dveh mladih

## ljudi iz Sirije

**Njuni smrti so zakrivile nečloveške in diskriminatorne  
evropske politike, ki so jima onemogočile varno  
potovanje.**

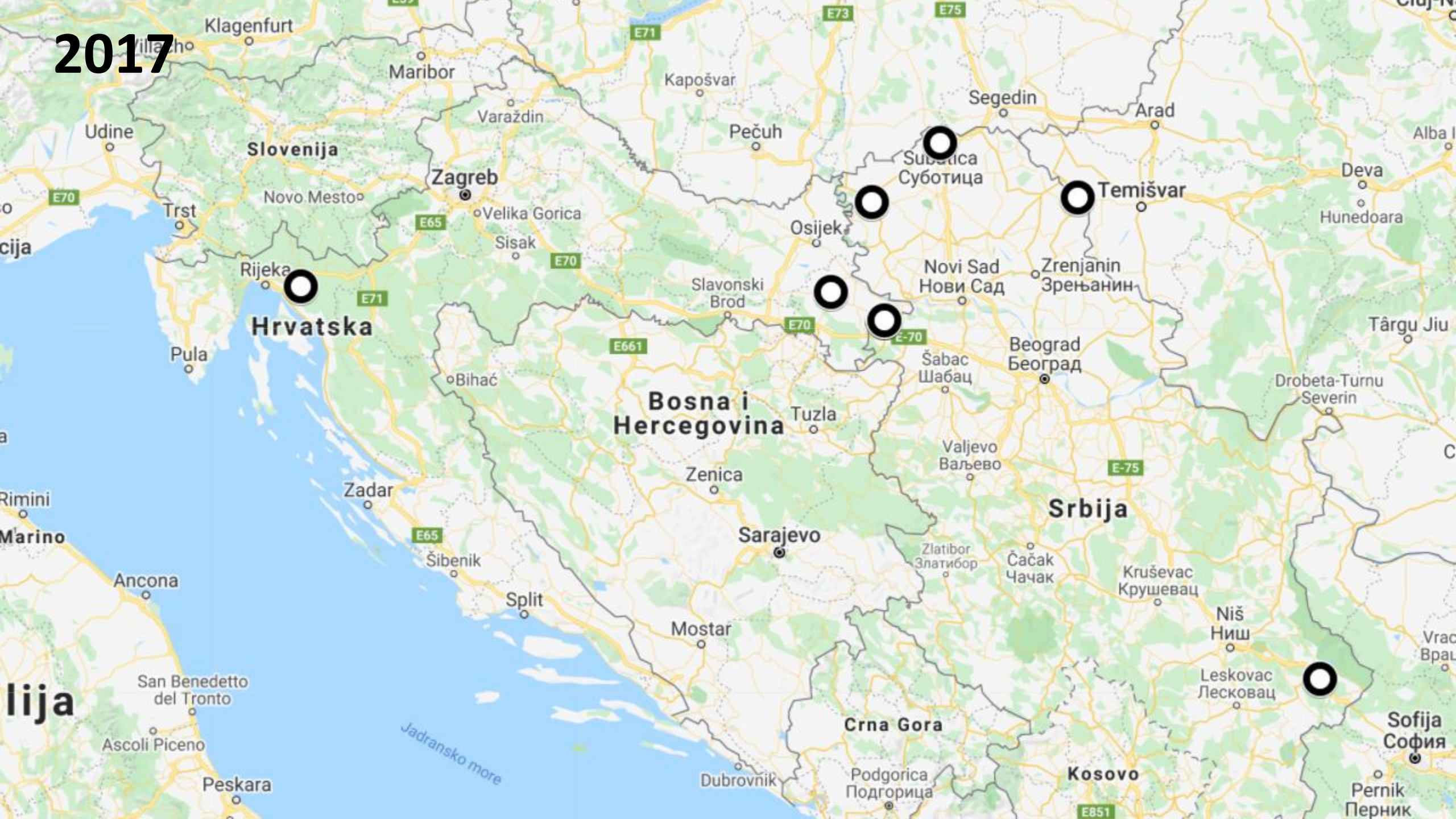




fx Location

B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
Name	Age or date of birth	Sex	Country of departure (with additional notes)	Date or presumed date of death	Cause or possible cause of death	Border zone	Country	Location	Latitude
	21	male	Afghanistan	15/05/2018	Drowning, found in river Korana	Bosnia and Herzegovina - Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Cazin	44.967.398
Unidentified	unknown	male	unknown	01/05/2018	Electrocution, found on railroad track		Croatia	Kamačnik, Gorski Kotar	45.367578
Unidentified	unknown	male	Algeria	29/04/2018	Drowning, found in river Korana		Croatia	Pavlovac, Slunj	45.184899
Unidentified	unknown	male	unknown	29/04/2018	Drowning, found in river Kolpa	Croatia - Slovenia	Croatia	Žakanje	45.613783
	unknown	male	unknown	22/04/2018	Drowning, found in river Kolpa	Croatia - Slovenia	Slovenia	Črnomelj	45.527461

2017



2020



# Field research:

- interviews with representatives of local funeral companies, religious communities, municipality services etc.
- questionnaires sent to Red Cross, Ministries of interior (Police) of Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia, IOM (Slovenia) about data, procedures and practices related to border deaths
- multi-sited field visits to cemeteries in Slovenia and Croatia

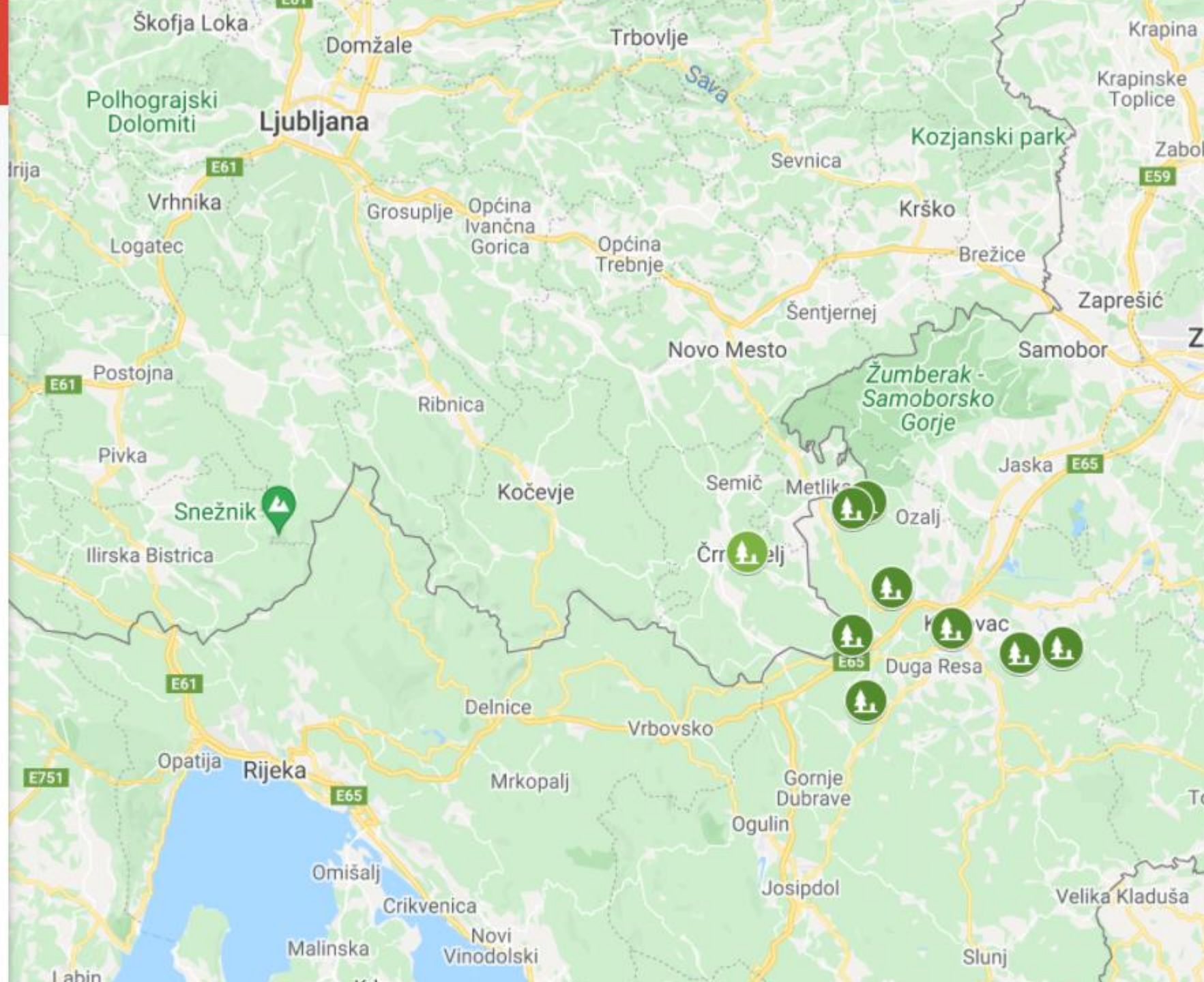


This map is working research material. It is made in the framework of the ethnographic research in Croatian and Slovenian

[DIJELI](#) [UREĐIVANJE](#)

## Cemeteries

-  Jamadol, cemetery
-  Skakavac, cemetery
-  Popović Brdo, cemetery
-  Kamanje, cemetery
-  Prilišić, cemetery
-  Lipa, cemetery
-  Reštovo, cemetery
-  Završje Neretičko, cemetery
-  Otok, cemetery
-  Vojna Vas, cemetery



# Preliminary insights:

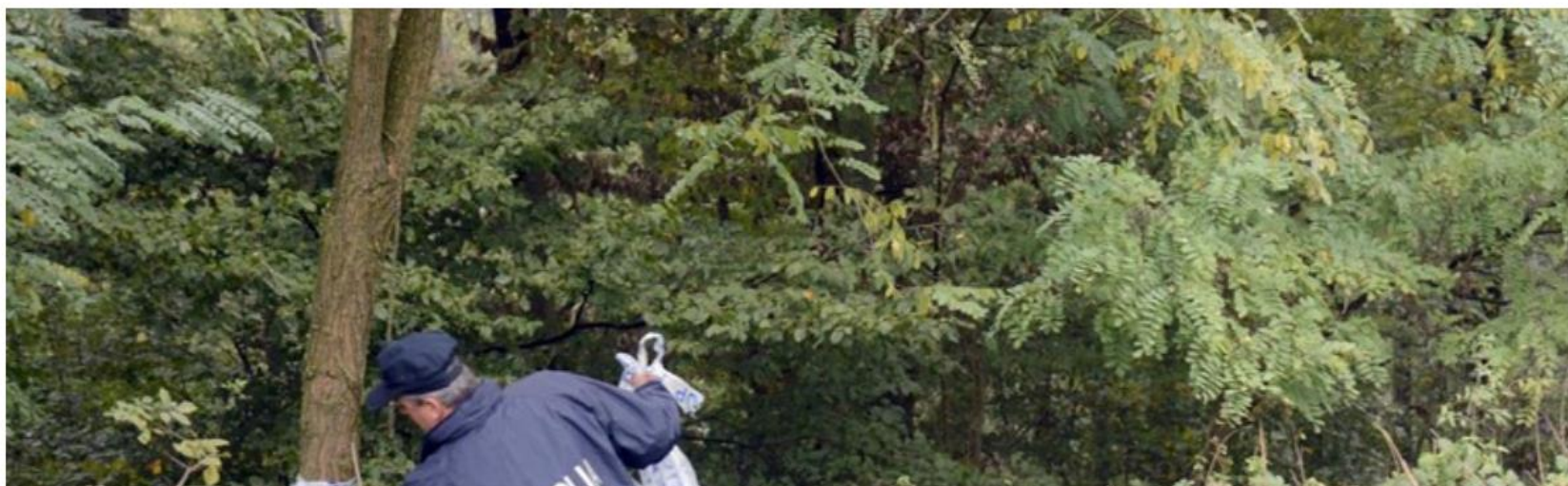
- border deaths are defined as accidents

## Policija objavila: Migrante je ubio odron kamenja

R.A., Media servis

13.8.2018.

f 75



NAJNOVIJE

NAJČITANIJE

VEZANO

**5**  
min

Svećenici KBC-u Split darovali uređaj vrijedan 400 tisuća kuna

**11**  
min

Francuska desničarka Marine Le Pen oslobođena optužbi za govor mržnje

**16**  
min

Svjedok ubojstva u Kaštelima povukao iskaz: "Ne sjećam se, bio

- apparent anonymity of the deceased



Vojna vas cemetery, Slovenia 25 March 2021



Skakavac cemetery, Croatia 21 June 2020

- formal integration in death

**24**COMUR

NASLOVNICA

NOVICE

ŠPORT

POP IN

VREME

KORONA

CESTE

SVEŽE

TV ODDAJE

TV SP

DEJSTVA

**Stroške pokopa in smeti migrantov bi morala plačati država?**

Ljubljana, 10.11.2018, 7:00 | Posodobljeno pred 2 leti

 PREDVIDEN ČAS BRANJA: 2 min

 AVTOR  
Alenka Marovt

 KOMENTARJI  
62



Županja Črnomlja, ki se poteguje za vnovični mandat, Mojca Čemas Stjepanović, je v soočenju v oddaji Svet izjavila, da bi morali biti stroški pokopa in smeti migrantov breme države. Država pojasnjuje, da so po zakonu to stroški občine.

- provisional burials of migrants' bodies

CRNA KRONIKA

NEMA MIRA

Objavljeno 1.12.2019. - 12:26

Autor [Radio Mrežnica](#)

Podijeli

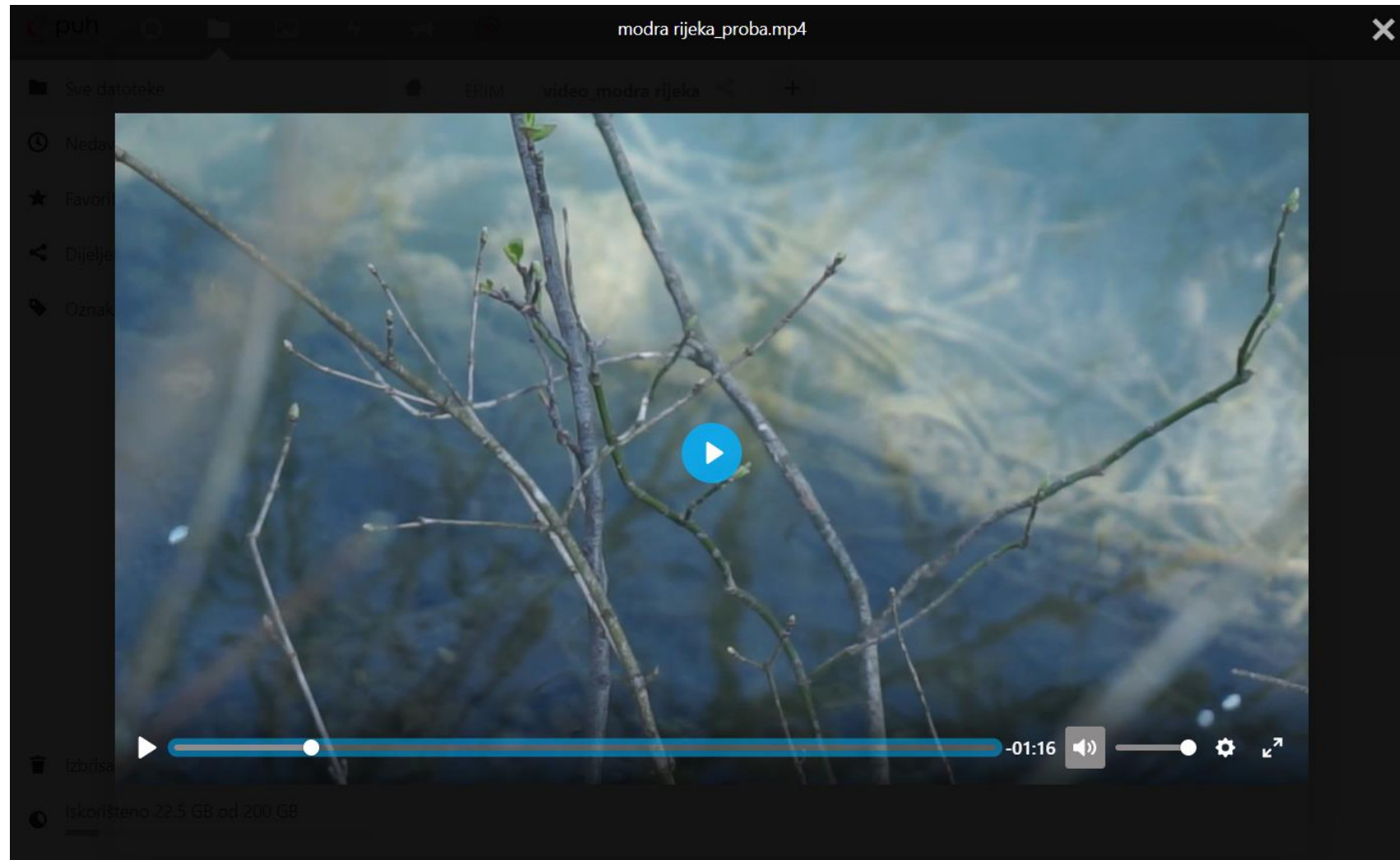


## Netom nakon što su u Prilišću pokopali migranta, morat će ga ekshumirati. Tijelo se vraća u Maroko

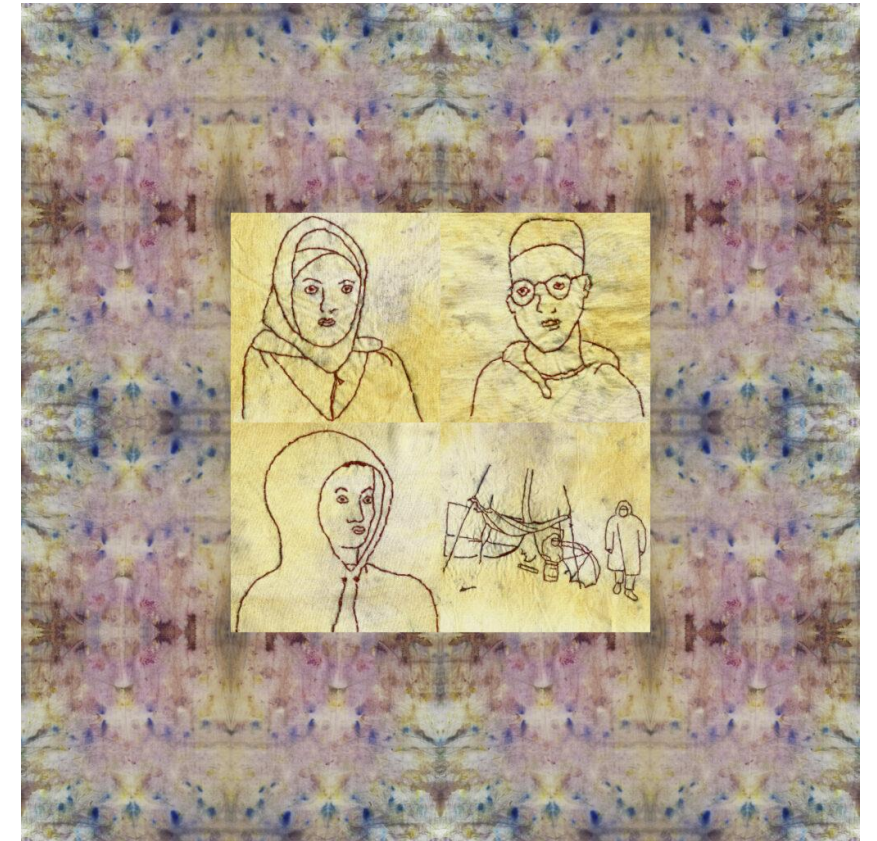
Stradao je pred godinu dana, a prije nekoliko dana zahvaljujući DNK analizi i otiscima prstiju došlo se do identiteta Marokanca



# Art practices: Jasminka Dedić & Bojan Mucko *Modra rijeka* by Mak Dizdar



# Art practices: selma banich and Women to Women *The Passage*



# Thank you!

This work has been fully supported by Croatian Science Foundation under the project *The European Irregularized Migration Regime at the Periphery of the EU: from Ethnography to Keywords* (IP-2019-04-6642)



**ERIM**