

INTERNATIONAL STRUMICA CARNIVAL – North Macedonia

March, 15th and 16th 2024

The Strumica Carnival is traditionally held every year within the framework of Trimer Days, at the beginning of the great Easter Lent.

We arrived by bus with Zametski zvončari and Zametske maškare from Rijeka on **Friday March, 15th**. In the evening, together with local carnival groups and members of the Federation of European Carnival Cities from 11 European countries, we participated in a masked ball and a friendship evening at Hotel Sirius.

On **Saturday March, 16th** the International Carnival Parade was held, which lasted for four hours. Masked people on Goce Delchev square offered to the audience colorful, interesting and unique creations, as well as interesting messages, with their musical and stage performances. About 1,500 carnival participants in 49 groups from Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria and North Macedonia took part in the international carnival parade.

At the beginning of the carnival, the mayor of Strumica Kostadin Kostadinov met and welcomed us on the red carpet, and we presented him with appropriate gifts. Before the arrival of the carnivalists, members of the Ravenchild group from Cttbus, Germany performed. The mayor then addressed all the spectators with the words "It is a great pride to be the mayor at a time when the Strumica Carnival celebrates its 30th anniversary of membership in the FECC (Federation of European Carnival Cities). I am especially proud as the mayor that the citizens of Strumica opened the door for guests from the country and abroad to see Strumica's creativity and feel the Strumica carnival magic." The president of the Federation European Carnival Cities Lars Algell presented him with a memorial plaque "Memoriam vivat", and I, as the international vice-president with a large FECC medal.

After the parade, we visited the Exhibition of photos and records about the 30th anniversary of the membership of the Strumica Carnival in the Federation of European Carnival Cities in the City Gallery. On that occasion, the chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Strumica Carnival and the general treasurer of the FECC, Aleksandar Cicimov, presented commemorative plaques to the guests.

We congratulate the organizers for the excellent organization of this year's Strumica Carnival and thank them for the warm hospitality and unforgettable socializing.

Josip Silov, International Vice President of FECC



