

**ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY "PLEJADE" TUZLA,
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

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Astronomical society "Plejade" from Tuzla was founded on 10.01.2009. and alongside Astronomical society "Orion" from Sarajevo is only full active association of this type in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Society "Plejade" is non-profit, non-political, and non-governmental organisation which has the following goals:

- Popularisation and expanding of astronomy knowledge;
- Equal development of technical and scientific aspects of astronomy;
- Helping the other educational institutions in deducing and improving astronomy classes;
- Gathering, organisation, qualification and broadening the membership base;
- Studying astronomical bodies and phenomena;
- Research in a field of astronomy and related natural sciences;
- Training and education of individuals in astronomical observation techniques;
- Training of members for participation in Society's astronomical activities;
- Duly informing of members and public about new astronomical discoveries in the world;
- Research and training in astronomy;
- Studying mysteries in astronomy and astroarchaeology;
- Publishing of scientific journals, fliers and similar promotional materials;

The society founders are: Ervin Adrovic-president, Nadir Ibrahimovic, Husein Hadzic and Sabina Husic. The seat of institution is in the most beautiful ambient promenade „Slana Banja“ in the house called „Kuća Plamena mira“. At this moment we have 150 members, and about 20 active members.

Among numerous activities of AS „Plejade“ members, the most important is annual manifestation „7 days of astronomy in Tuzla“, which is organised during summer months. The whole week is fulfilled with all day astronomy and related sciences contents, including lectures and workshops for kids, exhibitions, evening sky observations, astrocamps, movie projections and round tables. Manifestation „7

days of astronomy in Tuzla“ gathers visitors from Tuzla, Tuzla Canton, and from whole Bosnia and Herzegovina and countries in the region. Untill now, we have succesfully and continously managed to organize 4 such events.

It should be mentioned that great support came from Dragan Radmilovic, the man who indefatigablypropagated astronomy in whole region and with his decades-long experience was on service to astronomical assotiations in genesis, such is „Plejade“ from Tuzla. Dragan Radmilovic was included in activities of AS „Plejade“ from the first day, and was participant in all three manifestation „7 days of astronomy in Tuzla“.His last activities in AS „Plejade“ have been linked with youth education, where we made the sunspots observation with his personal telescope. Dragan Radmilovic tragically deceased on19.02.2014. in Sutomore, Montenegro, where he was participant of seminaron astronomy popularization in local elementary school.



Figure 1: Lectures and sky observations during „7 days of astronomy in Tuzla“.

Among numerous lectures which we organised for our members and local people, we would emphasize the organisation of „Yuri's Night“ and „World space week“, taking placetraditionally in Tuzla.Local citizens have opportunity to attend the lectures, documentary projections, and the most attended are telescope observations. Our Societyowns the next astronomical equipment:

- Telescopes: Sky Watcher 254/1200 (reflector), Sky Watcher 150/700 (reflector), Meade ETX 70 (Schmidt-Cassegrain), Meade ETX 80 (Schmidt-Cassegrain), Saturn 114/1000(reflector) i Galileoscop 60/400 (refractor).

- Mounts: EQ 5 GO-TO, EQ 2 and EQ 1 (few pieces), Camera Canon 550 D and other equipment.

Important segment of our society work is to provide help for educational institutions in Tuzla Canton in deducing and improving astronomy classes. AS „Plejade“ is active in educational field and astronomy popularisation. Pupils and students often visit our Society, and our members organised astronomy sections in a few schools in Tuzla.



Figure 2: Astronomy section in Elementary school „Tušanj“.

One segment of work in AS „Plejade“ is a journal for astronomy and similar sciences called „Plejade“. Concept of this journal is that Society members and all others with affinity for writing, can express themselves through different topics of interest in area of astronomy, astronautics, robotics etc. The Journal is free, and until now we have published five issues.



Figure 3: Journal for popularisation of astronomy and related sciences „Plejade“.

We must underline that AS „Plejade“ is full authorized partner of „SYNERGY MOON INTERNATIONAL SPACE AGENCY“, and Team leader for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Director of European Operations is secretary of our Society, Emir Tanovic. „Synergy moon“planning to send mission to the Moon, with intention to land it's lunar modul in crater Irene, where Apollo 17, landed once. The main goal is that rover „Tesla“will drive on Moon surface at least 500 meters and send to Earth HD photos and live stream video (AS „Plejade“ itself participate in constructing of rover „Tesla“).„Synergy Moon“ participates in competition in

„Google lunar Xprize program“, where the main award is 30 000 000 US dollars. Up to now, this Team is selected in groupe of 4 Teams who plan to launch rockets toward the Moon. After that mission, they will send their first crew in orbit around Earth, and one of those crew members will be Nebojsa Stanojevic, the founder of this respectable agency and member of AS „Plejade“. Their pleasure for having „Plejade“ with them, the Team members of „SYNERGY MOON PROJECT“ have expressed on official „Google lunar Xprize program“ and on official page of „SYNERGY MOON“.

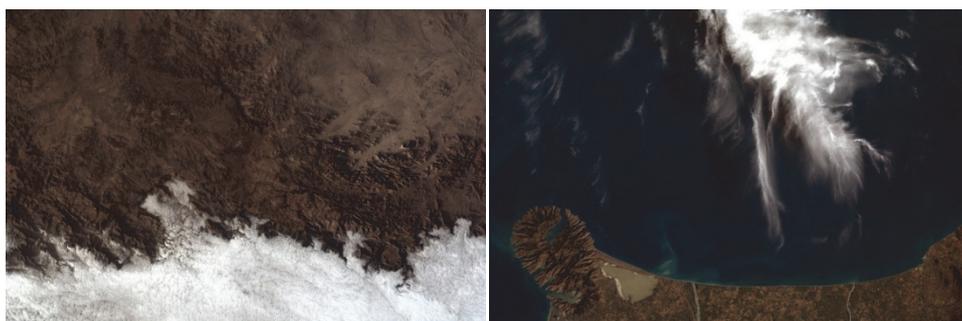


Figure 4: Photos of planet Earth taken from ISS.

Nebojsa Stanojevic has linked our Society with Maria Catalina, who works in NASA. At that occasion, she ensured for us a few minutes of conversation with astronauts, which are settled at ISS. Through „Earth Cam project“ the Society members, students, pupils and all other interested persons, with help of ISS, can make photos of our planet from space. Until now we have finalised 8 missions with around 1000 photographies. Some of them can be seen on our official web page: www.adplejade.org.

On “Zeleni kamen” location, which is 15 km north of Tuzla, the members of our Society are preparing the terrain for the construction of the Observatory. We have a concept near the Observatory, among telescope with auxilliary equipment, establish meteorological station, which would be common good for our city. We are sure that our Observatory can significantly enrich the city contents, in scientific, cultural, amusement and touristic aspects. It should serve on longer period of time for all citizens, especially for educational purposes for all school students. The best solution is one that allows longterm stationary of the object, which implies constructing observatory from solid materials. As a temporary solution, it's acceptable the installing of cheaper container enabled for special purposes.



Figure 5: Location of future observatory in Tuzla “Zeleni kamen”.

Unfortunately, among all the activities which members of the Society practise for common good, the project financing is big problem, and sometimes, a problem without solution. For all those problems the „Plejade“ journal is temporary stopped, although some time was the only journal of this kind in the country. Without serious financial support in the future, it is going to be more and more difficult to realize project ideas, which can make an enormous loss for a Society. For now, „Plejade“ can certainly rely only on enthusiasm and energy of its members.