

**ALAI 2008.  
Dubrovnik - Croatia**

ALAI Croatia is the organiser and host of this year's Conference of ALAI, founded by Victor Hugo way back in 1878. ALAI Croatia is extremely proud of this fact because this is the first time that such an event is being held in the Republic of Croatia. In terms of its area and population Croatia is a small country, but it has provided a substantial historical and cultural contribution to the cultural and artistic heritage of the world. We shall have the great pleasure of hosting the Conference participants and accompanying persons in our beautiful country abounding in tangible and intangible cultural wealth, creative people and artists.

ALAI Croatia, the Croatian Copyright Society, a non-profit association of experts and all other people involved in the development of copyright science, the exercise and protection of copyright and related rights in practice, and in enhancing awareness of such rights, has organised this Conference in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb, the law school with the longest tradition in this part of Europe, and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO), the government agency responsible for copyright matters.

The Conference is held in Dubrovnik, a medieval city on the Croatian Adriatic coast, a treasury of cultural and historical monuments spanning a thousand years. In the past Dubrovnik was a republic and, along with Venice, one of the leading cultural and business centres in the Mediterranean. Today Dubrovnik hosts many cultural and tourist events, including the globally renowned summer festival of music and drama, and it has many museums and art galleries. It also offers many other exciting and varied activities, but also complete relaxation in its soothing environment enhanced by mild Mediterranean climate and beautiful coastal landscapes.

WELCOME to Dubrovnik - a city with a tradition a thousand years long offering a lure to every visitor.

**Dubrovnik, 06 - 08 /10 / 2008  
Hotel Excelsior**

[Brochure \(PDF\)](#)

[Registration and hotel booking \(Online\)](#)

This year, for the first time, the ALAI Conference is devoted to cultural diversity as related to the position of authors and performing artists. The globalisation prevailing during the past several decades has highlighted the need for the understanding and promotion of development, and in particular the protection of cultural diversity and expression, rather jeopardised by mass subjugation to current trends. Culture, customs and folklore are treasures, and cultural diversity is the symbol of efforts focused on preventing worldwide uniformity. It is the starting point for coexistence in a multicultural world. Creative people - authors and performers - contribute to this treasure, and to its development and preservation.

At its General Conference in 2005 UNESCO adopted the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression. The Republic of Croatia, itself a country of a rich and varied heritage, was one of the first states to ratify the Convention. This is also symbolically emphasized by the choice of Dubrovnik as the venue of the ALAI 2008 Conference. The Conference will discuss the role of the Convention and other international instruments, copyright included, in the implementation of agreed objectives, relations with international companies, and forms and dangers of cooperation with them, the possible role of organisations for collective right management, and other issues. We believe that these and other topics will attract the attention of the participants, provide answers and promote consideration of future action.