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from drinking shots to listening Beethoven

It was exactly like that – and what a great time we had! ☐

What has **now become tradition**, the Split Tech City Festival once more took place during the first weekend of September at the Bačvice Open-Air Cinema – a perfect location with a **vibe that is as Mediterranean as our tech community and this Festival!**



Pre-Program Panel Discussion by Silicon Castles: "AI Beyond ChatGPT"

The International Day, which took place on Saturday, September 7, was in English and drew the attention of numerous internationals and digital nomads, as well as many locals.

And if the initial reactions are anything to go by, we managed to realize our intention: for **all of you to have a great time**, enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, be inspired, and meet as many interesting people as possible!



Pre-Program Panel Discussion by NEXT Youth Conference: "Youth Leadership"

Once more we gathered together as a community to be inspired and learn from one another. So, we can definitely say that the Split Tech City Festival again demonstrated that **Split is much more than what meets the eye**. More than just a sunny city full of history. More than just a tourist hotspot.

Split is an international city with a vivacious tech community filled with entrepreneurial potential!



Pre-Program Fireside Chat by CroAI: "The Solo Founder's AI Odyssey"

The Festival was opened on Friday with welcoming words from **Toni Trivković**, founder and president of Split Tech City, followed by a greeting by Split's Mayor **Ivica Puljak** who was also in attendance.

What followed after these words of welcome was an **excellent and program-packed day in Croatian**, led by the MC **Pinja Poljaković**, that showcased all the richness of the local community – with a focus on technology and entrepreneurship but also going beyond that.



Pre-Program Vox Populi Panel Discussion by [LAB Croatia](#): “Tech Trends in Marketing to Watch”

However, the focus of this particular brief overview is the **International Day** of the Festival. After all, it is the day that we have included for three years in a row now to **foster even more connections** – ones that bridge the borders, too!

*The Pre-Program was reserved for our dear partners, friends, and supporters: **Silicon Castles**, **NEXT Youth Conference**, **CroAI**, and [LAB Croatia](#). □*



They brought us a variety of interesting topics to discuss – from AI, over youth leadership, to future marketing trends – in many different forms – from a fireside chat to a vox populi panel discussion. Thus **enriching even more** the already substantial Split Tech City Festival program!

The main stage program brought its fair share of surprises, fun games, and laughs, well mixed with a lot of inspiration, new knowledge, and motivation for further discovery, learning, and growth.

*Both sections of the program were seamlessly connected by **Michael Freer**, our star of an MC. □*



Main Stage Panel Discussion by FBOA: "Lessons from Split's Internationals: Creating Positivity in Life and Business"

We'd like to credit him for making people drink shots on stage and play interesting games that made our panelists **Flor, Keith, and Kent** uncover all the positive points of life in Split after moving from abroad. Among other things they shared in their panel discussion on **lessons from Split's Internationals**.



Main Stage Lecture by David Jakić andCarolynn Breeze: “International Expansion: Strategies and Insights for Success”

We also got the knowledge and motivation to kickstart international expansion from **David and Carolynn**, while **Jaïr and Petra** uncovered how important knocking out taboos and cultivating psychological safety are for innovation.





Main Stage Lecture by Jaïr Halevi and Petra Salarić: “Safe Spaces, Bold Ideas: Cultivating Psychological Safety for Innovative Teams”

And, last but certainly not least, there was **Matthias** whose interesting lecture included listening to Beethoven – the 21st century AI version and the age-old (but still brand new) originals written by the hand of Ludwig himself.



Main Stage Lecture by Matthias Röder: “Unleashing Creativity: How AI is Rocking the Music World”

Needless to say – the Split Tech City Festival program had it all and it blew our minds! ☐

The **cherry on top after the wonders of the content** of this year’s Split Tech City Festival was, of course, the networking!



Enthusiasts from various fields and levels of expertise had a chance to network at **the most Mediterranean location** a *#MediterraneanTechHub* like Split can offer – the Bačvice Open-Air Cinema.

Surrounded by beats chosen by **DJ Pepi Jorgarde** and kept well-nourished by tasty food made by **Barbarossa Barbecue** and drinks courtesy of **TapB**, **Mandrill**, and **Prostor**, this was a party we needed after the inspiration we received from the stage.



As in all previous years, we have given a lot to this event, but we felt that the return was, once more, greater than what we gave in the end. It is that **power of a community coming together**, as it did during the Split Tech City Festival, that brings great satisfaction and happiness to all of us behind the scenes!

We also must bring your attention to the fact that we would have never been able to pull this off on our own. □



Without the recognition and support from the **City of Split**. Without our sponsors **AGILO**, **Bitcoin Store**, **GetByBus**, and **RaST**. Without the **Boban+Partners** team who decorated the venue.

Without all the **outstanding lecturers and panelists** who selflessly gave their time and expertise for the betterment of our community.

Without awesome MCs **Pinja** and **Michael**. Without the super-professional *Hiperprodukcija* duo **Brie** and **Luka** hidden in the production tent.

And without our volunteers – **Karlo**, **Katarina**, **Lana**, **Luka**, **Niko**, **Pavao**, **Paula**, **Rino**, and **Timea** – who were the stars of this show hidden in the shadows and whose selfless effort made the entire event run smoothly.

*A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of them!* □

To wrap this overview up – we can promise you this: stay tuned because our work for Split's tech community will continue and we're already looking forward to the next events we're about to organize in the upcoming months and the **#STCFestival2025!** □



Photos: Bruno Dubravec & Ivan Gracin