**Fostering hungry Istrian children during WWI in Varaždin**

Due to a long warfare the Austro-Hungary was not prepared for, and due to the drought of 1916 – 1917, the population was literally starving. Adults and children starved throughout Istria, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gorizia, and the Slovenian Littoral.

The Central Committee for the Care of Mobilized Soldiers' and War Casualties' Families was established in Zagreb by the Croatian Government in January 1916. It directed wide humanitarian campaigns to move the children from the coastal and mountainous regions to the north of Croatia. The action meant salvation for the children whose chance for survival in their homes were bleak.

It achieved massive support and over 20,000 children were brought to northern Croatia. Varaždin with its neighbouring area fostered hundreds of children, mostly from Istria.





