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**EUROREGIONS –
NEW FRAMEWORK
FOR
INTERCULTURAL
DIALOGUE
AND CULTURAL
INTERACTION
CASE STUDY:
CROATIA**

67-95

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::ABSTRACT

TERRITORIAL COOPERATION IS A mainstream objective of EU regional policy today. During the 1990s numerous cross-border regions in Europe were established. In Croatia, the first was the Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion in 1998. This article analyses intercultural dialogue and cultural interaction in three Croatian Euroregions (Adriatic Ionian, Danube–Drava–Sava and Drina–Sava–Majevica) through three types of information relevant and collected for this examination: general informations, historic heritage and cultural events. The paper has three aims related to the state of successful Euroregions. The first aim is to research whether Croatian Euroregions have intercultural dialogue and cultural interaction in their territory. The second, is to explore how Euroregions accomplish intercultural dialogue and cultural interaction in their territory and the third is to explore possible reasons for uneven development.

I intend to show through a comparative case study analysis that intercultural dialogue in Croatian Euroregions exist, but is very unequal, due to the fact that they differ greatly in the degree of success and personal engagement of individuals involved in the work of the Euroregion.

Keywords: Euroregion¹, cross-border cooperation, Croatia, Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Danube–Sava–Drava Euroregion, Drina–Sava–Majevica Euroregion

POVZETEK**EVROOBMOČJA: NOV OKVIR ZA INTERKULTURNI DIALOG IN KULTURNO INTERAKCIJO. PRIMER HRVAŠKA**

Teritorialno sodelovanje je poglavitni cilj današnje evropske regionalne politike. V 90-ih letih so v Evropi nastale številne čezmejne regije. Na Hrvaškem je bila prva takšna Evroobmočje Donava-Drava-Sava iz leta 1998. Članek analizira interkulturni dialog in kulturno interakcijo treh hrvaških evroobmočij (jadransko jonska, Donava-Drava-Sava in Drina-Sava-Majevica) skozi prizmo treh vrst informacij, relevantnih za raziskavo: splošne informacije, zgodovinska dediščina in kulturni dogodki. Prispevek sledi trem ciljem na sledi uspešnim evroobmočjem. Prvi cilj je raziskati, ali na hrvaških območjih poteka interkulturni dialog in kulturna interakcija. Drugi cilj je raziskati, kako ta dialog in interakcija potekata in tretji cilj poiskati razloge za neenakomeren razvoj dialoga in interakcije.

¹ Also European Regions or Euregios.

Prispevek skuša s primerjalno analizo pokazati, da interkulturni dialog na hrvaških evroobmočjih obstaja, vendar je mogoče med njimi zaznati velike razlike. Razlog zanje pa je razlika v uspešnosti in osebnem angažmaju posameznikov, ki delujejo v okviru evroobmočij.

Ključne besede: Evroobmočje, čezmejno sodelovanje, Hrvaška, Jadransko jonsko evroobmočje, Evroobmočje Donava-Drava-Sava, Evroobmočje Drina-Sava-Majejica

::1. INTRODUCTION

Through the centuries people have always been trying to make alliances. Maybe the human race realized that alliances make everyone stronger – during war, in peace, trade... We can't tell when this process reached its peak – whether it was in the 20th or it will be in 21st century. But after the Second World War and after the foundation of the alliances of the European Coal and Steel Community, European Economic Community and European Atomic Energy Community, the next stage of alliances in Europe were Euroregions. At first they were formed on the basis of the European Economic Community (first was EUREGIO on German-Dutch border in 1958), but after the 1990s (after the fall of the iron curtain) countries of the former Eastern bloc also started to make Euroregion alliances (the first was the Carpathian Euroregion in 1993).

So the questions arise – What is a region? What is a Euroregion? What are the Euroregions in Croatia? How do they accomplish interaction and intercultural dialogue in their territory?

How can we define a region? The word region comes from Latin word *regio*, *regionis* meaning line of separation, bargaining. But we should not look at region just as a result of a internal division of one state. Instead, region should be viewed as an area that due to its characteristics (natural-geographical, historical and socio-economic) is special and thus differs from the surrounding area. It's homogeneous. It is spatially unique, and it has internal connections and influences that differ from neighboring areas. But on the other hand no space is so homogenous that it is unique in all its characteristics. Therefore homogeneity in the separation and study of regions should depend on the choice and systematization of the criteria.

Therefore, if the areas of the region are to be observed, it can be concluded that they can cover a larger or smaller part of the space within one country, but it usually crosses the state borders.

For this reason we can define different types of regions. They are: regions inside one state, small-scale regions (transnational regions, across one or more nation state borders) and larger (multi)-scale regions (Working Communities, transnational regions, across several nation state borders). The last two transnational regions are cross-bor-

der regions, but only European small-scale cross-border regions² on the European territory are called Euroregions. The other ones are called Working Communities.

The Council of Europe very early on (1972) defined a Euroregion as »territory characterized by homogeneous features and functional interdependencies«³. Later (1995) they transfrontier region explained as »potential region, inherent in geography, history, ecology, ethnic groups, economic possibilities and so on, but disrupted by the sovereignty of the governments ruling on each side of the frontier«⁴. The Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) defined Euroregions through several indicators: they are associations of local or regional authorities (administrative-territorial units) on both sides of the border, which have cross-border co-operation; they have The Assembly (the highest governing body), but may have other bodies such as The secretariat or the technical and administrative department; are organized as non-profit associations or foundations (in accordance with the relevant national laws in force on both sides of the border) and cooperate on the basis of interstate agreements.

But despite these pretty clear criteria the word Euroregion is also sometimes a rather imprecise concept used for all sorts of different arrangements⁵ (it is often stirred with the concept of the Working Community). From all the above, we have to conclude that the Euroregions are small scale transfrontier regions situated in the areas that extend over one or more boundaries (which width isn't smaller the 50 km or bigger than 100 km). Unlike them large-scale regions (Working Communities) take up a much larger area and usually stretch across more state borders⁶. Apart from the surface area, Euroregions and Working communities also differ in the way of organization within the association⁷ and at the level of the state bodies they cooperate with. The bodies in the Euroregions are: the Presidency, the Assembly, the Secretariat, and, where appropriate, different working groups each with a specific area of work. They usually co-operate with local authorities (lower level of government). Unlike them, the Working Community because of the size of the space they stretch on usually have a much larger organizational body⁸ and thanks to its size are slower in the decision-making and difficulty to bring them (Perkman, 2003: 163.).

² Perkman, 2005.

³ Council of Europe, 1972, 29.

⁴ Council of Europe, 1995.

⁵ Some associations have officially taken the name of the Euroregion, but they are in the nature of the Working community (eg Carpathian Euroregion).

⁶ Usually 4 or more state borders.

⁷ According to the statute of the Euroregion, the Danube-Drava-Sava is an association with the following bodies: Assembly, President, Executive and Supervisory Boards and various other working bodies.

⁸ The internal organization of the Carpathian region consists of the Council, the President, the Presidency, the Executive Director, the 5 National Offices (Member States) and the Financial Commission, the Commission for Regional Development, Environmental Protection, Social Infrastructure, Cross-border Trade and Natural Disasters. (Tanaka, 2006: 68). From its internal structure it can be seen that it acts as a Working Community rather than an Euroregion.

Due to their size, they usually cooperate with regional authorities (higher levels of government).

But no matter what level of government co-operated Euroregions don't have political power nor do they correspond to any legislative or governmental institutions. Their purpose is to promote common interests across the border and cooperate for the common good. Their main goal is development of cross-border area. Experience shows that most of the cross-border areas now engaged in cross-border cooperation had a marginal role in economic, geographical or political sense in the pre-accession period. After accession the marginal role transformed into a more central position.

According to some information border regions are 40% of the EU territory, so they play a crucial role in Europe. At this moment in time (2017) the European Union has 79 Euroregions. Three of them are from Croatia and surrounding countries. They are: Adriatic–Ionian, Danube–Sava–Drava and Drina–Sava–Majevisa cross-border Euroregions. These are the area of our interest.

Cross-border areas usually are linked together through history or cultural, linguistic or some other reason. Adriatic–Ionian Euroregion is linked by its natural position – around the Adriatic Sea. One of the motives for establishment of Danube–Sava–Drava Euroregion was the project of European highway construction (corridor Vc), and establishing of the Sava waterway in Drina–Sava–Majevisa Euroregion⁹.

Euroregions are supported by the policies of the Council of Europe (from Madrid Convention in 1981. and its additional protocols) and by the financing of the regional policy of the European Union (INTERREG EUROPE). Territorial cooperation is a mainstream objective of EU regional policy. Legal frameworks for territorial cooperation in Europe are: European Economic Interest Grouping (established 1985), European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation¹⁰ (EGTC; established 2006) and Euroregional Cooperation Grouping (ECG; established 2009).

Although most of the effort in Euroregions is aimed at removal of barriers for cooperation and economic growth, enabling workers and employers who are seeking employment, the mobility of people, services, goods or capital, numerous problematic question remain such as lack of cultural knowledge and language, social or political system knowledge and lack of appropriate methodologies for intercultural work.

What is intercultural dialogue?

Declaration on Intercultural dialogue and conflict prevention enacted in Conference of the European Ministers of Cultures held in Opatija 2003., defined intercultural dialogue as »set of tools used to promote and protect the concept of cultural democracy, and encompasses the tangible and intangible elements likely to foster all

⁹ Croatia also has cross-border cooperation in Alps–Adriatic Alliance and tourism zone Haloze–Zagorje but they are not Euroregions and therefore are not within the scope of this research.

¹⁰ Mura Region European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Limited Liability (Mura Region EGTC) formed on May 28th 2015.

forms of cultural diversity, manifesting themselves in multiple identities whether individual or collective, in transformations and in new forms of cultural expression«. The conference concluded that intercultural dialogue must »extend to every possible component of culture, without exception, whether these are cultural in the strict sense or political, economic, social, philosophical, or religious«.

The European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research (ERICarts Institute) in the *Sharing Diversity* project (2008)¹¹ defined intercultural dialogue as »a process that comprises an open and respectful exchange between individuals, groups and organizations with different cultural backgrounds or world views. Among its aims are: to develop a deeper understanding of different perspectives and practices; to increase participation (or the freedom to make choices); to ensure equality; and to enhance creative processes«. A similar definition of intercultural dialogue is also provided by the *White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue*¹² published in 2008 by the Council of Europe. It intercultural dialogue defines as a process of co-operation an open and dignified exchange of opinions between individuals and groups of different ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds and heritage with mutual understanding and respect.

Intercultural dialogue within the Euroregion involves cultural initiatives and activities which bring together individuals/groups/organizations from different communities together in order to enter into a multi-directional communication process. Taken into consideration that Euroregions are shared space the aim of an intercultural exchange can be transformative of all those participating. Constructive dialogue and cultural exchanges brings cultures closer. They can teach us how to surpass the differences and old conflicts or historical animosities by finding common objectives.

2. METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

The paper was extended research of the author's first article on intercultural dialogue and cultural interaction in the area of one Croatian euroregion (Danube–Drava–Sava)¹³, which is now extended to all three Croatian Euroregions.

Study combines two types of research; primary (personal contact with cross-border organization, via e-mail¹⁴) and secondary (gathering and analyzing already available print, published or Internet based information) from which will be taken inferred and deduced inferences.

¹¹ *Sharing Diversity*, 2008., pp. XIII.

¹² https://www.coe.int/t/dg4/intercultural/source/white%20paper_final_revised_en.pdf

¹³ Published in Croatian in the magazine *Studia lexicographica*, no. 21.

¹⁴ A questionnaire for multicultural dialogue and cultural co-operation and their implementation in the Euroregion was sent to the leaders of all three Euroregions. Unfortunately, during the writing of the article I did not receive any answer (either in writing or in the oral form).

There are three types of information relevant and collected for this examination. This relevant information will be collected on all three Euroregions and they are divided into several small research areas. They are¹⁵:

Official information	Historic heritage	Cultural events ¹⁷
Statute (regarding organization of the Euroregion and cultural interaction)	whether they have a common heritage	festivals (film, dance, literary)
officially recognized national minority in other countries	are there any mutual projects, exhibitions or promotion of common heritage, culture or languages	prizes (artistic, literary)
legally recognized languages of national minority groups		publication (books, guidelines etc.)
information on crimes (culture or religiously motivated)		social (cultural) associations,
whether rights to self-government or regional autonomy exist		development of information system (newspapers, web pages, television programs)
		other (exhibitions, concerts, other)

I believe that it will not be possible to collect all of this information for all Euroregions, but they are outlined here as guidelines on what to observe.

::3. GENERAL INFORMATION AND DETERMINING GEOGRAPHICAL CONFINES

The text will list geographical confines in three levels: state, first after the state. Of course it is possible to have more detailed territorial space analysis, but this is not necessary for this research.

::3. 1. The Euroregion Danube–Drava–Sava

After initial steps The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion was formed on 28th of November 1998 in Pécs (Hungary). It was recognized by the European Council on 15th of September 2000.

¹⁵ Some of the criteria are similar to the ERICarts proposal for discussion on Intercultural Dialogue, Cultural Policies and the Compendium.

¹⁶ Active participation of minority in the life of the local community contributes to its prosperity and integration.

The main motive for establishment was to enhance traffic connections of the cross-border area itself and with other parts of Central Europe and the Adriatic coast by constructing European highway (Pan-European Corridor Vc). Today it comprises areas of Croatia (surface 14 590 km²; 51% of Euroregion's territory), Hungary (10 850 km²; 37%) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (3 900 km²; 12%) with a total population around 2 804 570 inhabitants (40% in Croatia, 32% in Hungary and 28% in Bosnia and Herzegovina). Serbia has status as an observer.

Members¹⁷ of this Euroregion today are:

country	administrative structure
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Tuzla Canton
	Posavska County
	Brčko District
	Municipality of Tuzla
Croatia	Brod-Posavina County
	Koprivnica-Križevci County
	Osijek-Baranja County
	Požega-Slavonija County
	Virovitica-Podravina County
	Vukovar-Srijem County
	City of Koprivnica
	City of Osijek
	City of Požega
	City of Vukovar
Hungary	Baranya County
	Somogy County
	City of Barcs
	City of Pécs
	City of Szekszárd

(source: official Internet page)

¹⁷ Beside administrative structures members of this Euroregion are: Cantonal Chamber of Commerce Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Croatian Chambers of Economy (Municipal Chamber Osijek, Municipal Chamber Požega and Municipal Chamber Vukovar) and Pécs-Baranya Trade and Industry Chamber (Hungary), but they aren't part of this research. This Euroregion also has observer members in Serbia (Apatin, Bač, Sombor, Subotica).

3.2. The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

After initial steps Adriatic Ionian Euroregion was formed on 30th of June 2006 in Pula (Croatia). The main motives for establishment was to protect cultural heritage and the environment, to form an area of peace, stability and co-operation, to enhance traffic connections and secure sustainable economic development (particularly in tourism, fishery and agriculture) and to create a joint framework for better absorption of EU funds and support to others in the Adriatic area on their path towards the EU¹⁸. Today it comprises areas of Italy (surface 92 628 km²; 62% of Euroregion's territory), Croatia (24 650 km²; 16,6%), Albania (12 196 km²; 8,2%), Greece (11 509 km²; 7,75%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (5 763 km²; 3,88%), Montenegro (1 781 km²; 1,2%) and Slovenia (28 km²; 0,13%), with total population around 22 224 900 inhabitants (80,5% in Italy, 8,7% in Albania, 6,3% in Croatia, 2,4% in Greece, 1,5% in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 0,5% in Montenegro). According to its Statute (Article 5) it is »Association of territorial government, typically the first level below state level in the area of the Republic of Italy, the Republic of Slovenia, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Montenegro, the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Greece, which are located on the Adriatic and Ionian Sea¹⁹«.

Members of this Euroregion today are:

country	administrative structure
Italy	Apulia Region
	Molise Region
	Abruzzo Region
	Marche Region
	Emilia–Romagna Region
	Veneto Region
	Friuli–Venezia Giulia Region
Slovenia	Izola (municipality)

¹⁸ Adriatic Euroregion brochure, pp. 8

¹⁹ See list of references for internet page of The Statute.

Croatia	Istria County
	Primorje–Gorski Kotar County
	Lika–Senj County
	Zadar County
	Šibenik–Knin County
	Split–Dalmatia County
	Dubrovnik–Neretva County
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Herzegovina–Neretva Canton
	West Herzegovina Canton
Montenegro	Municipality of Kotor
	Municipality of Tivat
	Municipality of Ulcinj
	Municipality of Herceg Novi
	City of Cetinje
Albania	Shkodër County
	Lezhë County
	Durrës County
	Tirana County
	Fier County
	Vlore County
Greece	Epirus Region
	Ionian Islands Region

(source: official Internet page)

3.3. The Drina–Sava–Majeвица Euroregion

After initial steps The Drina–Sava–Majeвица Euroregion was formed on 7th of May 2003 in Brčko (Bosnia and Herzegovina)²⁰. The seat of the Euroregion today is in Bijeljina (Bosna and Herzegovina). The main motives for establishment were to give solutions on environmental problems (cooperation in prevention, rescue service and elimination of disaster consequences in cross-border area), cooperation with the aim to undertake common educational projects between schools of Tatty EGTC (education/training coordination across the border)²¹ and to revitalize connections with the neighboring areas (development of poorly developed backward areas along the borderline²². Today it is the least intensive cross-border cooperation in the Croatian Euroregional cooperations. Priority projects are: to place in the function of the Sava River Navigation Way, simplification of customs procedures, creating a Investment Opportunities Map and development of a strategy for economic development with a focus on tourism development, agriculture, use of geothermal resources, protection of life medium and media connection (Klapić, 2007: 185–200).

Today it is comprises areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina (surface 2 636 km²; 54,4 % of Euroregions territory), Serbia (1 975 km²; 40,8%) and Croatia (231 km²; 4,7%), with total population around 579 000 inhabitants (57,3% in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 41,2 % in Serbia and 1,5 % in Croatia).

Members of this Euroregion today are:

country	administrative structures
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Serb Republic
	Federation (Tuzla Canton)
	Brčko District
Croatia	Vukovar–Srijem County
Serbia	Mačva District

(source: Bijelić, 2008, pp. 4-6)

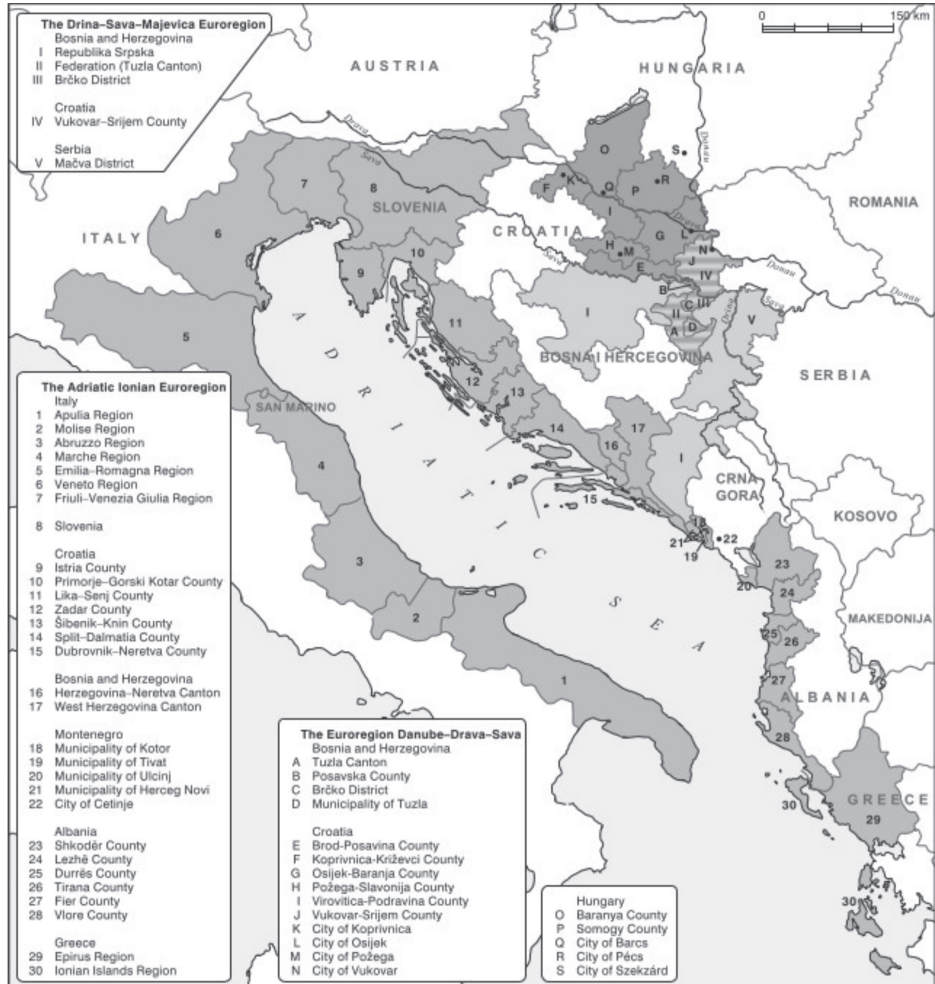
²⁰ Since December 16th 2003, the founding municipalities (municipalities Bijeljina, Zvornik, Lopare, Ugljevik from Serb Republic, Tuzla from Federation of Bosna and Herzegovina, Brčko Distrikt and Loznica, Bogatica, Šabac and Mali Zvornik from Serbia) welcomed seven new members of this Euroregion: municipalities of Čelić and Teočak from Tuzla Canton in Federation Bosna and Herzegovina, Pelagićevo, Srpsko Orašje and Šekovici from Serb Republic and Gunja and Drenovci from Croatia.

²¹ Gyelník, Pete, 2016.

²² Živković, Mandić, Papić, Stanojević, 2016, pp. 208–213.

Picture 1.

The area of The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion, The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and The Drina–Sava–Majevica Euroregion (created by Tomislav Kaniški, The Miroslav Krleža Lexicographic Institute)



::4. THE RESULTS

::4. 1. The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion

:4.1.1. *Official information*

Article 8 of The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion Statute states: »The members join in the Euroregion to coordinate special interests and joint action in achieving common goals based on, among other things and the interest in improving the position of national minorities on both sides of the border«. One of the goals of cooperation article 9 of the Statute specifies as »improving the position of national minorities on both sides of the borders«. In order to accomplish these goals Euroregion will undertake activities such as: »Organizes joint activities to promote the wealth of diversity that makes it unique value of communion; organizes the preparation, development and implementation of joint development projects; organizes the establishment and encourages and assists in the development of cooperation in the field of spatial planning, nature conservation and environmental protection, transport and communications, economy, tourism and vacation, health and social welfare, science, education, culture, sports and information activities« (Article 10).

The Euroregional Secretariat (Secretary Office of Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion) provides administrative, technical and professional support to the functioning of all Euroregion bodies. It is a joint administrative-technical and expert service for this Euroregion, organized in three national offices with headquarters in Osijek, Pécs, and Tuzla (Article 36).

Numerous wars in this area have caused the migration of a large number of different nationalities. The most numerous minorities are Hungarians, Croats and Bosniaks divided by state borders. According to some assumptions there are around 2 500 000 inhabitants in this area today. All national minorities are recognized in the countries where they live. All three countries have Laws on national minorities. Official languages are: in Croatia; Croatian, in Hungary; Hungarian, and in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatian, Serbian and Bosnian. All three countries signed and ratified the European treaty – European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages²³ (adopted 1992). Hungary ratified this treaty in 1995, and recognized among others²⁴ the Croatian language (but not Bosniak or Bosnian). Croatia ratified the treaty in 1997, and recognized among others²⁵ the Hungarian language (but not

²³ The European Charter on Regional and Minority Languages states that language is often a barrier to intercultural dialogue. Intercultural approach recognizes different linguistic diversity (minority communities), but it is necessary for minority communities to learn the language spoken by most people in order to be full citizens.

²⁴ Hungary on April 26th 1995. recognized Armenian, Boyash, Bulgarian, Croatian, German, Greek, Polish, Romani, Romanian, Rusyn, Serbian, Slovak, Slovene and Ukrainian.

²⁵ Croatia on November 5th 1997. recognized Czech, Hungarian, Italian, Rusyn, Serbian, Slovak and Ukrainian.

Bosniak or Bosnian). Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the treaty in 2010, and recognized among others²⁶ Hungarian (Croatian is one of official languages).

Working languages of the Euroregion are English, Croatian and Hungarian. The Bosnian or Bosniak language is used in communication between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

Members of national minorities are guaranteed the right to education in their spoken and written language by the Constitution of all three countries. Members of national minorities can effectuate their constitutional right to education in their mother tongue in Croatia via three basic models and a specialized educational framework: first is in classes in the language of the national minority, second is in bilingual classes and third is in nurturing language and culture. Education in Croatia is being organized for the Hungarian national minority²⁷.

In each of the three state-members schools exist in minority languages. For example in Hungary (Pécs) there is Croatian Educational centre Miroslav Krleža through which Kindergarten, elementary school, gymnasium and student housing are organized. In Pécs is also the Croatian Institute of Science in Hungary, Croatian Theater (the only professional Croatian theater outside Croatia), the Croatian club August Šenoa and Croatian editorial office of Hungarian television and Hungarian radio that broadcast program in Croatian language.

The Croatian language is taught in University Janus Pannonius (in Pécs), ELTE in Budapest and Universities in Sambotel and Baja.

According to the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina Croats are one of the three constituent peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatian is one of three official languages. So in the areas with large Croatian populations, elementary and secondary schools are organized according to the curriculum in the Croatian language. Due to the small number of children teaching in Hungarian this education isn't performed in Bosnia and Herzegovina²⁸.

On the area of Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion there is no information on crimes that are culturally or religiously motivated. In Hungary there is a Croatian state government that works as self-government for Croatian national minority.

:4.1.2. Historic heritage

This area has historical heritage. The Euroregion area encompasses the southern part of Pannonia Vally. From the Roman Empire times Croatia and Hungary share parts of Baranja and Podravina region and from the 19th and 20th centuries they

²⁶ Bosnia and Herzegovina on September 21st 2010. recognized Albanian, Montenegrin, Czech, Italian, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Polish, Romanian, Rusyn, Slovak, Slovene, Turkish, Ukrainian and Jewish languages (Ladino and Yiddish).

²⁷ In year 2011, 14 048 members of the Hungarian national minority were registered in the Republic of Croatia, mostly on the area of Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem County.

²⁸ Today in Bosnia and Herzegovina there is less than 1000 Hungarians.

are a part of Habsburg Monarchy (Austrian Empire and Austro-Hungarian Empire). Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina share Posavina region and both were under Ottoman Empire (since 15th century), The state of Slovenians, Croats and Serbs (from 1918), Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1918–29), Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1929–41), Independent State of Croatia (1941–45) and Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1945–92).

Hungarian minority in Bosnia and Herzegovina is there since the beginning of the 13th century and during the medieval times. Their contacts are interrupted by the Ottomans winning Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the beginning of the 18th century. Relationships are re-established in 1878 when Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the Austro-Hungary Empire²⁹ but after World War I. and the disappearance of the Austro-Hungary Empire, the Hungarian national minority mostly retreats in Hungary.

The cultural and historical heritage created during that time can be and is a good base for development in all sorts of tourism. There are some mutual projects, exhibitions or promotion of common heritage, culture or language in Euroregion. For example Croatia and Hungary have *Festival of common cultural and historical heritage of cross-border area*³⁰. That festival promotes Croatian and Hungarian cuisine, the Croatian language in Hungary and Hungarian in Croatia, mutual historical and cultural connections, national literature, national folk costumes, national music and dances, presents historical paths in both countries and sightseeing of some cultural and historical notabilities.

Common historical past, geographical unity and ethnographic diversity are nurtured in the project *Baranja ...that binds us*³¹. Baranja is one region in two states – Croatia and Hungary. Osijek and Pécs are twin-towns from 1975. Collaboration between these areas will result in project *Complex cultural tourist cooperation*. Project holder is Osijek-Baranja County and partners in the project are City of Osijek, Baranja County (Republic of Hungary) and City of Pécs. The project was submitted in 2005 and lasted 18 months. Financed by funds of Neighbourhood programme INTERREG IIIA the total nominal value for this project was 432 425 € (195.000 € for Croatian and 232.425 € for Hungarian part in this project).

Project aims are joint cultural and tourist promotion of the Baranja County, the City of Pécs, City of Osijek and Osijek-Baranja County. In order to do this, they agreed on the key activities. They are: a joint cultural-tourist events as part of the preparation of the City of Pécs for the European Cultural Capital 2010, making the application form of the Osijek Fortress for entry to UNESCO's list of monumental cultural heritage, restoration of the rural economy of the Šokačka kuća (house) in Baranjsko village in Topolje (municipality Draž) and production of

²⁹ Some of the Austro-Hungarian governors of Bosnia and Herzegovina were Hungarians – Kállay Beni and Burián Istva.

³⁰ For 2011. held in Pécs.

³¹ <http://www.obz.hr/hr/pdf/baranja/baranja.swf>

promotional materials related to the promotion of mentioned cultural-tourist events and localities³².

One of the results of this cooperation is publication of *Baranja ...that binds us* (as written and Internet page edition)³³. The aim of this publication is to present shared values of the historic Baranja now divided by the border but still as a unique product on the tourism market of Europe, Croatia and Hungary.

The project *Digital history*, was realized by cooperation between Pécs, Đakovo and Srijem Diocese primary³⁴, but with time project also included Osijek-Baranja County, Osijek's State Archives, Osijek Tourist Board, Osijek's Slavonia Museum, and numerous other cultural institutions. This project aims to present the church and secular cultural monuments on both sides of the Croatian-Hungarian border, namely the Bishopric of Pécs, Đakovo and Srijem Diocese. Result of the project was Internet page *Digital history* and book *Our European heritage* published on Croatian, Hungarian, English and German language. Book presents 60 church parishes and their sacral and historical heritage and other objects shown on around 18 000 pictures.

:4.1.3. Cultural events

Numerous cultural events are organized in the Euroregion. Some of them organizes the leadership of the Euroregion, and some are not. One of the longest festival events is the International Festival of Art Tamburitza Music³⁵, founded in 1961, organized by the Croatian Tamburitza Association from Osijek. During the years festival was mostly held in Osijek, but also in some other Slavonian towns and other areas of Euroregion (once in Tuzla and twice in Pécs). But the festival did not gain an international character just by the hosts but also by the numerous participants (tamburitza orchestras and chamber ensembles) that came from Hungary, Vojvodina and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Because of international character of the festival and the fact that the content of the event contributes to the realization of the goals of establishing the Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion, ie the implementation of its program orientations, the Executive Board of the Euroregion decided in 2007 that it will be its sponsor (organizer is the same)³⁶.

Within the Complex Cultural Tourist Cooperation project (Složena kulturno-turistička suradnja), the planned calendar of events consisted of Week of Gastron-

³² http://www.ddseuro.org/portal/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=201&Itemid=65

³³ <http://www.obz.hr/hr/pdf/baranja/baranja.swf>

³⁴ Today Đakovo-Osijek Archbishopric.

³⁵ The festival has changed its name several times over the years. In 2009, in the title was added to the word *international*, and in 2017 the word *artistic* was added and *Croatian* was excluded.

³⁶ In a conversation with the president of the association organizing the festival, Krešimir Račić, it was found that the decision that patronage of the Euroregion over the festival never came to life.

omy and Art (in Pécs), Croatian Day as part of the Festival of Cultural Heritage (taught on Croatian language), Jazz Spring Festival (in Pécs and Osijek), XVII. Folklore days (in Pécs), XI. European songs (popijevke) festival, performances of Croatian choirs in Pécs and Hungarians in Osijek, Zsolnayeva Ceramics Exhibition (in Osijek), concert of the Panonian Philharmonic from Pécs (in Osijek).

Euroregion also had a project named @CCESS (from the INTERREG IIIA program), with aims to contribute to the development of digital society by networking and internetization of the documentation of the units of regional and local self-government along the Croatian-Hungarian border. The project holder was Baranya County (Hungary) and partners of project were Osijek-Baranja County (Croatia), University of Pécs, regional NUTS III authorities in Pécs and Foundation for youth economists from Hungary.

One of the projects was project of interlibrary cooperation between the City and University Library of Osijek and the County Library »Csorba Győző« from Pécs. Aims of cooperation were exploration and enablement of interlibrary cooperation in order to achieve rich all cultural cooperation between the two people and two states on the satisfaction of researchers and scientists.

Under the influence of the Croatian national minority in Hungarian city of Mohács is held every year at the end of February a six-day carnival – Busó Festival. The festival was named after a costume commonly worn by men, and consisted of wooden horn-jacket and large woolen cloaks. The festival has so far grown into one of the most vibrant symbols of the city. Today, two museums dedicated to this costume can be found in the city – Busóudvar and Busó House.

Numerous national societies and associations have been organized in the Euroregion. The Associations / Societies of Croats working in Hungary are: Bunjevačka Catholic reading room (in Baja), Basic museum (in Mohács), Society of Croatian Journalists, Hungarian-Croatian Society, Croatian Literary Circle, Society of Croatian Catholic Youth, Museum of the Sacred Art of the Croats in Hungary (in Priska), some Basic Libraries, Croatian Clubs (Baja, Mohács, Pécs, Budapest, Koljnof etc.), cultural-artistic societies, singing choirs and tambura compositions³⁷.

Hungarian Associations / Societies working in Croatia are: The Hungarian Democratic Union of Croatia (in Bilje), Association of Hungarian Associations (in Beli Manastir), the Society of Hungarian Scientists and Artists in Croatia, (headquarters in Zagreb) and Association of Hungarian Teachers of the Republic of Croatia³⁸.

In Bosnia and Hercegovina there are three associations of citizens of Hungarian origin but only one works on the area of the Euroregion – Hungarian Association Petefi Šandor (in Brčko District)³⁹.

³⁷ Središnji državni ured za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske. Hrvatska manjina u Republici Mađarskoj (see reference, Internet pages).

³⁸ Ured za ljudska prava i prava nacionalnih manjina (see reference, internet pages)

³⁹ Nacionalne manjine u BiH, 2015.

As far as the Croatian associations and societies are concerned, there are too many for them to be mentioned here, but they can be located on the internet page of Central State Office for Croats outside the Republic of Croatia⁴⁰.

The Euroregion had its magazine *Our Europe*, published in Croatian language, lunched in the spring of 2000 on the initiative of the Local Democracy Agency in Osijek (of the Council of Europe). The magazine was published occasionally (4 numbers) until April 2002, when the Bosnian and Herzegovinian side took over the presidency of the Euroregion.

The official Internet page of The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion (www.dd-seuro.org) established immediately after the start of Euroregions work provides information on members of the Euroregion and their action, cultural cooperation, regional development (economy, traffic, tourism, sports, education), calendar of events, work reports and etc.

::4. 2. The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

:4.2.1. Official informations

Article 5 of The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion Statute declares the aims of Euroregion. One of them is aim to create cultural exchange programs. Article 29 states that Euroregion has 7 thematic Commissions, among others they are The Commission for Tourism and Culture and The Commission for Social Affairs.

According to the survey of Eurydice⁴¹ almost all countries have one national language that is taught in schools. There are also several languages of the region or languages of national minorities that can be taught in schools as well.

Almost all national minorities are recognized in the countries where they live. All seven countries have the Law on national minorities. Official languages are: in Italy; Italian in Slovenia; Slovenian, in Croatia; Croatian, in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatian, Serbian and Bosnian, in Montenegro; Montenegrin, in Albania; Albanian and in Greece; Greek.

Five of them signed and four of them ratified European treaty European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (adopted 1992). Italy signed (2000) but did not ratified treaty. Italian Law no. 482/1999 recognize among others⁴² minority languages: Albanian, Croatian, Greek and Slovenian (but not Bosniak or Bosnian, Montenegrin and Albanian). Slovenia ratified treaty in 2000, and recognized among others⁴³

⁴⁰ Središnji državni ured za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske. Hrvati u Bosni i Hercegovini (see references, Internet pages).

⁴¹ Ključni podatci o poučavanju jezika u školama u Europi, 2012.

⁴² Italian Law (no. 482/1999) recognized following historical language minorities: Albanian, Catalan, German, Greek, Slovenian, Croatian, French, Franco-Provençal, Friulian, Ladin, Occitan and Sardinian.

⁴³ Slovenia on October 4th 2000 recognized Hungarian, Italian and Romani.

Hungarian and Italian language as minority languages and protected them by the Constitution of Slovenia. Croatian, Bosniak or Bosnian, Albanian or Greek are considered as significant languages but they are not recognized in European treaty or they are protected by Constitution of Slovenia despite the fact that more people speaks Croatian or Serbian than Italian or Hungarian⁴⁴. Croatia ratified treaty in 1997, and recognized among others⁴⁵ Hungarian and Italian language (but not Bosniak or Bosnian, Slovenian, Montenegrin, Albanian or Greek). In Croatia minority languages are in official use in local government units where more than a third of the population consists of national minorities or where local legislation mandates their use. Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified treaty in 2010, and recognized among others⁴⁶ Albanian, Hungarian, Italian, Montenegrin and Slovenian (Croatian and Serbian are official languages) but did not recognized Greek as minority language.

Montenegro ratified Treaty in 2006, and recognized among others⁴⁷ Albanian language. Montenegro's language has historically and traditionally been called Serbian. In 2003. Government of Montenegro defined the mother tongue in the school curriculum as »Montenegrin, Serbian, Bosniak and Croatian languages« but after Serbia and Montenegro broke up, via proponents of Montenegrin independence an idea emerged that Montenegrin standard language separates from Serbian and that Montenegrin became the official language of Montenegro with the ratification of a new Constitution on 22 October 2007. Since 2011. mother tongue in schools are Montenegrin – Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian language and literature. Albania didn't signed or ratified European Treaty. Minority languages among others⁴⁸ in Albania is Greek. All other languages spoken within this Euroregion are not minority languages in Albania. As Albania Greece also didn't signed or ratified European Treaty. Like in Albania all other languages spoken within this Euroregion are not minority languages⁴⁹.

According to the Statute of Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (Article 2) working languages of the Euroregion are official languages of the member states of the Association.

In the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion there is no informations on any crimes that are culture or religious motivated.

Although most countries have a law that permits a certain measure of self-government by the national minority where it is inhabited, I have not found a case of

⁴⁴ According to the Census 2002.

⁴⁵ Croatia on November 5th 1997. recognized Czech, Hungarian, Italian, Rusyn, Serbian, Slovak and Ukrainian.

⁴⁶ Bosnia and Herzegovina on September 21st 2010. recognized Albanian, Montenegrin, Czech, Italian, Hungarian, Macedonian, German, Polish, Romanian, Rusyn, Slovak, Slovenian, Turkish, Ukrainian and Jewish languages (Ladino and Yiddish).

⁴⁷ Montenegro on February 15th 2006 recognized Albanian and Romani language.

⁴⁸ All mother tongues in Albania are Greek, Macedonian, Romani, Serbian and Aromanian.

⁴⁹ Minority languages in Greece are Armenian, Bulgarian, Romani and Turkish.

this practice in the area of this Euroregion. For example Croatia has Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities passed by the Croatian Parliament at its session on December 13th 2002. Article 21 writes »Local and regional self-government units in which members of national minorities do not comprise the majority in the population may, by means of their statutes, determine that members of national minorities or a greater number of members of national minorities than their share in the overall population in the unit, may be elected to the representative body of the local self-government unit or regional self-government unit«. National minorities who are represented in the total population of the municipality or city represented by 5-15% have the right to one representative in the representative body and if represented more than 15% have the right to proportional representation in the representative and executive body. But I did not find any self-government on Croatian area of Italian, Slovenian, Bosnian, Montenegrin, Albanian or Greek national minority.

:4.2.2. Historic heritage

This area has historical heritage. First contact were made in The Archaic Age (800 to 480 BC). The Archaic Age is characterized by Greek colonization on the coasts of the Mediterranean (Sicily, southern Italy, southern France) and Adriatic. After that time the oldest and largest Greek colony on the Adriatic are established – Issa on the island of Vis (founded between 397 and 390 BC), Pharos on the island of Hvar (around 384th BC), Tragurion (end of III. century BC), Epetion and Asseria.

The autochthonous cultures of Liburna and Delmata were subject of helenization. Hellenistic cultures are found in Greek colonies around Adriatic, Ionian and Mediterranean Sea. In the end, the Romans 146. BC beat the Achaic Alliance and made Greece into their province.

Numerous settlements in Roman times acquire the features of the Roman city (Parentium / Poreč, Salona / Solin, Iader / Zadar, Naronia / Vid near Metković, Aenon / Nin, Varvaria / Bribir), forum complexes with basilicas, turrets, (Pola / Pula, Salona) and amphitheatres (Pula, Salona, Burnum / Ivoševci near Kistanja), villas (Brijuni, Polače on Mljet), the road (Salona-Sirmium, Emona-Sirmium) and the bridges and aqueducts (Diocletian's waterworks). Diocletian rises his Palace in Split. After Constantine's Tense of Tolerance 313 begins the flourishing of early Christian art in natural symbiosis with antique culture (most important monuments of Early Christian sacral architecture were located in Salona).

After Roman Empire, Bizant, as the eastern successor of the Roman Empire, became the main political force. At that time a series of fortifications were erected to defend and control the waterway, including the Byzantine castrum on Veli Brijun and magnificent architectural monument from that time and complex of Euphrasius Basilica in Poreč. The Venetian Republic was of great importance during the

Middle Ages. As a naval and commercial force Venetia controlled the trade of the Adriatic and Ionian Sea. After few centuries Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were under Ottoman Empire.

In 20th Century Italian invasion of Albania was a short-lived armed conflict that occurred between the Kingdom of Italy on one side and the Kingdom of Albania on the other side. Invasion of Albania made her a part of Italian Empire. It lasted from 1939 until 1943 (Italian capitulation in the Second World War).

Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro share common history throughout the 20th century. From The state of Slovenians, Croats and Serbs (from 1918), Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1918–29), Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1929–41) and Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1945–92).

Throughout the past, this whole space was very much interwoven in cultural, political, economical and in a variety of other ways. In the Statute of Adriatic Ionian Euroregion are listed 4 areas of action of this Euroregion: international cooperation, sustainable development, environmental and nature protection and democratic political culture (Article 5). None of them are involved in cultural interaction in this Euroregion area. Although Article 29 states that Euroregion has 7 thematic Commissions, among others The Commission for Tourism and Culture and The Commission for Social Affairs, there are no information on their work in the annual reports.

Adriatic Ionian macro-regional strategy The EUSAIR⁵⁰ has a limited focus on areas of mutual interests. It is built on four thematic pillars: blue growth, connecting the region (transport and energy networks), environmental quality and sustainable tourism. The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion will play an active role in some ETC programmes like the cross-border programmes (Interreg Italy–Croatia, IPA Italy–Albania–Montenegro, Interreg Italy–Greece). Nor is this strategy (EUSAIR) or this ETC programmes envisaged any form of intercultural cooperation. There aren't any mutual projects, exhibitions or promotion of common heritage, culture or language.

:4.2.3. Cultural events

The Euroregion is not conducting any form of intercultural activity, all the intercultural cooperation existing among the members of the Euroregion has emerged as an incentive for the states that implement it and is not part of the common Euroregion policy.

⁵⁰ EUSAIR is short for EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region. It is a macro-regional strategy developed by European Commission and Adriatic Ionian Region, adopted in 2014. by European Commission. This strategy aims at creating synergies and fostering coordination among area of Adriatic Ionian Euroregion. First meeting of EUSAIR was held in Dubrovnik on 12 and 13 May 2016. (<http://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/>)

::4. 3. The Drina–Sava–Majevisa Euroregion

:4. 3. 1. *Official informations*

The Statute of this Euroregion encourages among other joint regional projects. The Euroregion will encourage cooperation between citizens and cultural and public institutions, and will also work to simplify and advance the human rights and multiethnic linking of citizens of the Euroregion Drina–Sava–Majevisa (Osmanković, 2007: 69–90).

All national minorities are recognized in the countries where they live and all countries have the Law on national minorities. Official languages are: Croatian in Croatia, Croatian, Serbian and Bosnian in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbian in Serbia. They all ratified European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1997, 2006 and 2010). Far the largest number inhabitants of this Euroregion speak Serbian⁵¹ which is priceless base for easy communication, education and cultural cooperation.

Daily newspapers frequently come up with news of attacks on hate against members of national minorities. Those attracts have been ongoing over the past 25 years. They are result of a war that separated the republics of former Yugoslavia and gained their independence. No national minority has any special self-government or is otherwise organized in any other way within the country in which it is inhabited.

:4. 3. 2. *Historic heritage*

Area of this Euroregion throughout centuries was the line of separation of East and West, of Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity. During some time it was obstacle for Ottoman Empire's expansion in Europe. But from the times of the penetration of the Ottoman Empire in Croatia it lost its separation role. Since Ottoman Empire this area was mostly under the rule of Habsburg Monarchy (since 1878). In the 20th century it was part of several states: The state of Slovenians, Croats and Serbs (from 1918), Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1918–29), Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1929–41), Independent State of Croatia (1941–45) and Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1945–92). Since the independence of the former Yugoslavian republics their state borders became fairly rigid borders, especially those between Croatia and Serbia. Areas that was previously closely connected suddenly had new artificial barrier that stopped development process and cultural cooperation. Due to the brutal past in this area, the existence of this Euroregion has a lot of importance and is a prerequisite for economic and cultural development of this region.

⁵¹ Most of the Euroregion is situated in the border area of Serb Republic and Serbia.

:4. 3. 3. Cultural events

During the research I came across several major difficulties. The greatest was that this Euroregion does not have its own Internet site. So, all the information I sought was very time consuming to research. Another complication as a result of a lack of an official site meant that it is difficult to evaluate the accuracy of information in other sources. During the research I realized that the lack of information related to the activity of this Euroregion is a result of its weak activity or no activity at all. On the area of this Euroregion there are 5 cities: Bijeljina, Zvornik, Brčko, Loznica and Šabac. They aren't small and they are well placed in space. In the period of official census⁵² the biggest was Bijeljina (population of 114 663) and the smallest was Zvornik (population of 12 674). That means that these are not small towns without a cultural scene and that they are capable for cultural cooperation. I suppose this cultural cooperation is weak because this Euroregion does not work.

I learned that there is only one cultural manifestation – Drisama fest, an international singing festival and competition in literary and art works on witch children attending elementary school in the area of this Euroregion compete.

::5. CONCLUSION

This examination of Croatian Euroregions had three aims: to research whether Croatian Euroregions have intercultural dialogue and cultural interaction in their territory; to explore how Euroregions accomplish intercultural dialogue and cultural interaction and to explore possibly reasons of uneven development.

During the research I found out that just one Euroregion actually has intercultural cooperation. That is Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion. The Adriatic–Ionian Euroregion had no cultural interaction between its members (some cultural cooperation is considered in their Statute but it is in reality not implemented or implemented in a very small proportion). Almost the same situation is in The Drina–Sava–Majevisa Euroregion because it organizes only one festival in its territory, so it can not be said that there is intercultural cooperation and cultural dialogue on that territory.

But, how The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion accomplishes intercultural dialogue and cultural interaction? The area where The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion extends has a rich common historic heritage used by the leaders of the Euroregion to better connect this area and it's people. Their connection is seen in mutual projects, exhibitions and cultural events, such as (projects) Baranja ... that binds us, Complex cultural and tourist cooperation, Digital history, (festivals) Festival of common cultural and historical heritage of cross-border area, The Festival of Croatian Tamburitza Music, Busó Festival, Jazz spring festival and in action of different social associations and societies. The Euroregion activity is visible on their official

⁵² Last census in Serbia was held in 2011 and in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013.

website, and during some time in its publication *Our Europe*. Concern about intercultural cooperation is visible in the Statute of Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion and in everyday life. National minorities inhabited in the area of this Euroregion are recognized in Croatia, Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina, their language can be taught at school, and it is also visible in everyday life (eg. in street names). A small number of crimes cultural, religiously or minority motivated has been recorded. That is why this Euroregion was the best example of this research.

The leadership of this Euroregion is active and thus this space is progressing. The same can be said for the Adriatic–Ionian Euroregion, but The Drina–Sava–Majeвица Euroregion has weakly or almost no activity. Unlike The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion Adriatic–Ionian Euroregion had no cultural interaction between its members. Some cultural cooperation is considered in their Statute but it is in reality not implemented or implemented in a very small proportion so that it is not reported on their official website⁵³ or in other sources of information.

It can be said that the whole area of the Euroregion is in some way impoverished because cultural development is also one of the preconditions of overall progress. Given that the Euroregion did not conduct cultural co-operation among its members, I researched each member state as it treats national minorities and their language in the area that Euroregion extends. During the research, I learned that most states have the rules (Law) that regulate their attitude towards the national minorities inhabiting its space. Some of the grants from their budgets take care of the activities of national minorities, their associations, publications and so on. Based on this it can be concluded that cultural cooperation within the Euroregion would not only be possible but would be very rich if the Euroregion decided to deal with this aspect of its action as well.

The worst Croatian Euroregion in its ineffectiveness, then in cultural cooperation too, is The Drina–Sava–Majeвица Euroregion. The only cultural manifestation is Drisama fest, international singing festival for the children attending elementary school in the area of this Euroregion. According to the acknowledgments of some of the leaders of the Euroregion published in the daily press in Bosnia and Herzegovina, this Euroregion is almost inactive (not only in terms of cultural cooperation but in general). Thanks to this fact, it is easier to understand why this Euroregion does not have its own website, why it is difficult to reach its Statute and why we can learn about her rare meetings from short articles in the daily press or news section on the web pages of a few municipalities that are her members. Therefore despite rich cultural heritage and the fact that this Euroregion is established – inhabitants of this area have no benefit of it and cultural and economic progress of this region has left in care to their home countries. Considering the painful past that still affects people today and creates their thinking, intercultural dialogue must be encouraged. Constructive dialogue and cultural exchange will be transformative of all

⁵³ The activity of this Euroregion is primarily directed towards economic activity and maritime affairs / fishing.

those participating. It can help to learn how to surpass the differences and old conflicts or historical animosities and how to find common objectives for the future. I can confirm my assumption that (through a comparative case study analysis of intercultural dialogue in Croatian Euroregions) intercultural dialogue exist, but only in one Euroregion – The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion.

What are possibly reasons of uneven development and why the cooperation in one of the three Euroregions is better than in the others?

They differ greatly on the degree of success and personal engagement of people involved in the work of the Euroregion. The Danube–Drava–Sava Euroregion doesn't have better driving forces and favourable circumstances than the two others. The only obstacles that I observed were the weak activity of leading people in the Euroregion (or their inactivity) or the focus on some other (economic) aspects of co-operation. There are not findings of data or problems that The Euroregion leadership has failed to solve and therefore have failed to leave this kind of cooperation.

In this article Euroregions were seen as a key driver of intercultural dialogue and cultural cooperation, but a very important role in this process has Internet and written media. Freedom of expression under Article 10, Paragraph 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights is *conditio sine qua non* in intercultural dialogue. The media are required to accept new and objective information and to fight against stereotypes, because the information that is insulting and abusing (not to be mentioned defamatory) is perceived as a direct threat to cultural tolerance. The media should show the cultural diversity of a society so that viewers / listeners / readers who do not come into contact with different cultures every day gain a certain platform, or an exact context, where they can upgrade reconciliatory intercultural dialogue.

Another important things are families, school, workplaces and cultural centers. They are the pillars of social cohesion. Leadership that nurtures multiculturalism is recognized by providing public space (available to everyone) to engage in intercultural dialogue. Such spaces can be educational (kindergartens, schools, universities), religious (churches, synagogues, mosques) and cultural institutions (museums, libraries, cultural centers, youth clubs). That's a something that all Euroregions (as one of the ways of association the area) certainly can strive for.

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