

**REGIONAL HERALD FOR PROMOTION OF CULTURE OF
MINORITY RIGHTS AND INTERETHNIC TOLERANCE**

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IV Summary:

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**MINORITIES IN CONTEXT OF REGIONAL
COOPERATION AND STABILIZATION**

National minorities were all too often used as initial flame and justification for spurring war conflicts both among and within countries of former Yugoslavia. Minority issues have an important place in overcoming consequences of war conflicts, normalization of relations, establishment of new cooperation and peace in former Yugoslavia region, and should have an active role in those processes.

This issue becomes even more important if we take into account that regional cooperation and minority rights are important demand for the process of integration into Europe itself. The // of this issue is what are the initiatives, as well as new problems present in and among our countries.

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I BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

1. Cross-Border Cooperation and its Reflections on the Status of Minority Peoples: FROM WAR TO MUNDOBASKET

Dusan Babic

The coined term from the title – “cross-border cooperation,” suggests more formalized relations of an inter-state character. In our post-Yugoslav case, we are closer to the term – “relations,” because it includes a broad and assorted range of mutual relations and actions, beside the traditional ones from the field of politics, business, economy, science, culture, education, sport, etc. One should certainly not overlook family relations, mixed marriages, godfatherhoods and godmotherhoods, friendships, neighborhoods, although their significance and potential impact on a favorable resolution to the Yugoslav crisis has evidently been exaggerated by many.

2. Special Agreements and Alternative Cooperation: THREADS OF INTEGRALISM AND SEPARATISM

Namir Ibrahimovic

The Dayton Agreement, among other things, allowed the entities to enter into special relations with neighboring countries: FBiH with Croatia and RS with then Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The former did this in December 1998 and the latter in March 2001. However, what was achieved by this? The issue of Ploce port has not been resolved yet, while all individual, entity agreements have been transferred to the level of state institutions of BiH, mostly as a result of pressure and demands from the international community’s representatives. Also, these agreements did not help in any way the Bosnian Croats and the Bosnian Serbs to resolve some of the many problems that they have as minorities in certain parts of BiH.

3. Regional Identification: VIRTUAL BIH

Ibrahim Prohic

Serbs in BiH are going through overdue romanticism, a historic process that Europe went through in mid-19th century. At this stage, national identity is stronger for them than identification with the state. This is a fact that must be counted on, just as BiH is a fact that they must count on, due to mutual interest. And the cure? Time and democratization for the benefit of social maturity of all.

4. Inter-Religious Cooperation as a Catalyst of the Reconciliation Process: A DEMOCRATIC AVALANCHE HAS SMASHED AGAINST WEST BALKANS

Sinan Alic

Much before the presentation of the South East Europe Stability Pact, sponsored by the European Union and United States, whose primary task was to promote a policy of respect, good-neighborly relations and cross-border cooperation among regions and local self-rules, a group of some 40 intellectuals and anti-war activists from then FR Yugoslavia arrived in the besieged Sarajevo (it happened in April 1995). They never suspected that their descent down Mt. Igman into Sarajevo, at that time under artillery and sniper fire by Karadzic’s forces, would grow into the strongest movement of the non-governmental sector in the Dayton Agreement states, which we recognize today as the Igman Initiative.

II CROATIA

1. REGIONAL COOPERATION - CONDITION FOR INTEGRATION INTO EU

By Dr. Milan Ivanovic

Croatia has accepted a series of international documents and obligations as part of accession into EU which, among else, demand active attitude regarding regional cooperation and

further development and upgrades of minority politics. However, apart from state level, much remains to be done in local and regional communities which need to be trained for the tasks. Extremely important in this context is activity of civic sector, especially NGO cooperation programs within regional frame.

2. WE SHOULD RETURN MENTION OF SLOVENIANS INTO OUR CONSTITUTION IN ORDER TO SEND POSITIVE SIGNALS TO LJUBLJANA

Interview with **Damir Kajin**, parliamentary representative and vice-president of Istrian Democratic Assembly

Interviewed by **Goran Vezic**

If Bosniaks are introduced into Croatian constitution as announced by prime minister Sanader, Istrian Democratic Assembly will submit amendment to that decision asking for Slovenian national minority to also be mentioned as traditional minority in Croatian constitution, said Damir Kajin. Given current tensions between Croatia and Slovenia as well as reactions in Croatia following statement of the vice-president of Italian government Gianfranco Fini that Istria and Dalmatia have always been Italian territory, Kajin warns that Croatia could face hysteria which could resemble 90s, but this time pointed not at Serbian minority, but others...

III SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

1. SEEKING FOR THE MODEL OF RECONCILIATION IN DATON TRIANGLE

IGMAN INITIATIVE

By Aleksandar Popov

Igman initiative is a movement of more than 100 non-government organizations in Serbia and Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia for the re-establishing of cooperation and normalization of mutual relations in the Daton triangle.

It was named after the event from April 1995 when after 48 hours of traveling through Hungary and Croatia a group of 38 intellectuals, anti-war activists from Serbia and Montenegro, arrived through Igman to Sarajevo which was under a fierce artillery fire of the Republika Srpska army.

The models and everyday activities of the Igman initiative are the mutual meetings of non-government organizations, its member's sessions and concrete field activities in the model of projects, as well as campaigns which follow their realization in order to seek the model of facing the past and reconstruction of understanding and mutual trust between the countries and peoples of the Daton triangle.

2. EUROREGIONS AS ELEMENTS OF COOPERATION AND TOLERANCE

By Danica Stefanovic

The philosophy of trans-border cooperation is based on the idea that few or more regions together can solve problems better and faster than if each of them would start the long process of solving these obvious problems behind the border.

Every contribution to popularization of idea of trans-border cooperation has for a starting point that principles of partnership and complementarity very important paragraphs in the process of planning and implementation of the concept of regional collaboration.

Concept which we in Vojvodina begun to work on, through cooperation with partners in Euro-region DKMT is developing of models, programs and materials for learning, in order to contribute to learning of culture dialogue, respect and accepting of diversities.

Initiatives for strengthening of civil trans-border cooperation are stronger every day. We shouldn't wait for others to tell us how important it is to work on developing of cooperation, or to arrange this sort of connection for us. It is our job, and therefore we should find more constructive models ourselves, as we are protagonists and famous actors in the project called regional collaboration.

3. THE ROLE OF RADIO IN THE INTER-REGIONAL AND TRANS-BORDER

COOPERATION

Experiences of Radio Novi Sad

By Aleksandar Grujic

Media was a very powerful weapon in the hands of politics when wars in the area of south-eastern Europe begun. Nowadays, media is- especially electroic, as equally important in the reconstruction of regional briges.

The idea of regional connection of radio-stations is one of the program directions in the new comprehension of the radio-difusion area, which was established in Novi Sad since October 5th 2000, when it was finished with isolationistic policy.

The year 2004 is crucial. With mediation of the Red Cross in spring this year the first radio-bridge was organized with the organization of the Red Crescent in the canton of Tuzla together with Red Cross of Osijek district , which later grew up into permanent radio-bridge with the canton radio in Tuzla. It was logical for Radio Osijek to join to that double radio-bridge. Although the constant initiative from Radio Novi Sad exists, there is no answer to it from Osijek.

In the meantime, Radio Novi Sad has established a permanent weekly radio-bridges with the Radio Republika Srpska in Banja Luka and program in Serbian language of Radio Pecuj, in a Hungarian distric Baranja, and a radio-bridge with the program in Serbian language in Radio Timisoara is expected as well. Radio Novi Sad would establish in this way a unique regional radio-ring connecting Vojvodina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, Croatia, Hungary and Romania.