

CROATIA FIn Focus

CROATIAN GOVERNMENT BULLETIN | VOLUME XI | No. 25/26 | March/April 2007

e-Health

On line access to health
care services



SEECP's Foreign
Ministers Meeting

Law Enforcement Officer
Programme On
Combating Hate Crime

CBR Fair in Munich



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA FACTS AND FIGURES



Adriatic Sea

The Adriatic sea got its name from an ancient port of the same name. The Adriatic spans from the Balkan to the Apennine peninsula. The part belonging to the Republic of Croatia is the eastcoast which extends all the way from Prevlaka in the south to cape Savudrija in the west, including all islands, islets and cliffs along the coast, and the archipelago of Palagruza (the number of islands, islets and cliffs is more than 1700). This is a unique area in Europe for cruising with motor boats, speedboats, or sailboats, but also for enjoying the underwater world.

Geographical position

Croatia extends from the furthest eastern edges of the Alps in the north-west to the Pannonian lowlands and the banks of the Danube in the east; its central region is covered by the Dinara mountain range, and its southern parts extend to the coast of the Adriatic Sea.

Land area

56.542 sq. km

Territorial waters area

31.000 sq. km

Length of coastline (with islands)

5.790 km

Length of terrestrial border

1.777,7 km

Highest peak

Dinara (1.831 m above sea level)

Number of islands

1.185 (66 inhabited)

Population (census 2001.)

4.381,352

Capital

Zagreb

(779.145 inhabitants)

Religions

Roman Catholic, Serbian Orthodox, Islamic, Jewish, Protestant and others

Currency

kuna (1 kuna = 100 lipa)

Language

Croatian

I M P R E S S U M

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CONTENT

Croatia In Focus | No. 25/26 | March/April 2007

- 4** PM SANADER VISITS BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- 6** PM SANADER IN BRUSSELS
- 8** PM SANADER ATTENDS 5TH EUROPEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS
- 9** SEECP 'S FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING
- 12** CBR FAIR IN MUNICH
- 15** 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN ZAGREB
- 18** E - HEALTH
- 21** LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PROGRAMME ON COMBATING HATE CRIME
- 23** ZAGREB DOX
- 25** ŽUMBERAK SAMOBORSKO GORJE NATURE PARK
- 27** VINKOVCI
- 30** THE WORLD OF FOOD IN CROATIA



PM SANADER VISITS BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader led Croatian government delegation on first official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 29th and 30th March. During the visit PM Sanader met with the chairman of the Council of Ministers Nikola Spiric, members of the state presidency and of the state parliament.

Upon arriving in Sarajevo PM Sanader said he was bringing Bosnia and Herzegovina new proposals for the settlement of outstanding issues, notably for the status of southern Croatian seaport of Ploče. "We are bringing a draft agreement on the port of Ploče. In it we are proposing, and then we will talk about this, that Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a major user of the port, should have the status of the most privileged nation," said PM Sanader. He said that the proposal meant

special terms for Bosnia and Herzegovina, but added that in the future, once the highway on the VC corridor between the two countries was completed, Croatian companies would have identical privileges when transporting commodities through Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Good relations and readiness to cooperate advance regional stability

Croatian PM Sanader started his official visit by meeting with the chairman of the Bosnian Council of Ministers Nikola Spiric. After the meeting, Sanader said that both sides agreed that it was necessary to strengthen their cooperation and settle the outstanding issues without delay.

During the Croatian government delegation's visit to Sarajevo,

Croatian Interior Minister Ivica Kirin and Bosnia-Herzegovina's Civil Affairs Minister Sredoje Novic and Security Minister Tarik Sadovic signed a dual citizenship treaty and an agreement on cooperation in border control. The dual citizenship treaty regulates the rights and obligations of dual citizenship holders relating to place of residence and work, responsibility before law, military service and other issues. The agreement on cooperation in border control provides for exchanges of information, joint security assessments, communication, and special forms of cooperation such as joint border patrols and crime prevention teams. Prime Minister Sanader said that the signing of a dual citizenship agreement and an agreement on cooperation in monitoring the state border between Croa-

tia and Bosnia-Herzegovina represented an important signal to not only the countries of the region, but to Brussels as well because they confirm the readiness and ability to cooperate and advance regional stability. Sanader reiterated that the overall relations between Croatia and Bosnia were good and confirmed the two countries' readiness to find solutions to the remaining outstanding issues that would be to the satisfaction of both sides.

Great possibilities for economic cooperation and investment

Croatian Prime Minister Sanader spoke at a Croatian-Bosnian business forum on possibilities of economic cooperation and investment, held in Sarajevo. He called on Croatian and Bosnian business people to step up cooperation and the two countries' governments to create a climate that would boost economic cooperation. The forum was attended by representatives of some 70 Croatian companies. Sanader said that he and his Bosnian counterpart Nikola Spiric had agreed today on closer cooperation between the two governments in order to promote trade. "This economic forum is a sign of friendship between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. There can be no wealthy Croatia without a wealthy Bosnia-Herzegovina and vice versa," Sanader said. He stressed that the future of Croatia and Bosnia lay in Euro-Atlantic associations. Bosnian Prime Minister Nikola Spiric said that Croatia was one of Bosnia's most important trade partners. In 2006 Bosnia

exported around 507 million euros worth of goods to Croatia, while Croatia exported around 1.37 billion euros worth of commodities to Bosnia.

Good atmosphere and signing of agreements – most important result of the visit

Two members of Bosnia-Herzegovina's tripartite presidency, Haris Silajdžić and Željko Komsić, received Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader. The officials agreed that bilateral relations were good and that outstanding issues should be settled in line with the common goals of strengthening the already good neighbourly cooperation and drawing closer to Euro-Atlantic institutions. Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina have a lot more in common and a lot more reasons for cooperation than they have outstanding issues in their relations. Both sides agreed that it was necessary to strengthen their cooperation and settle the outstanding issues without delay.

During his official visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader opened the reconstructed library at the theology college of the Sarajevo Catholic Archdiocese. The library with about 90,000 entries is one of the biggest institutions of this kind in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Croatia has donated 880,000 kunas for its renovation.

Later in the day, Sanader, accompanied by Sarajevo Archbishop, Cardinal Vinko Puljić, visited the Croat-populated residential area of Sarajevo, called Stup. He toured the lo-

cal Catholic school and a day care centre, the construction of which is being funded by the Croatian government. Croatian PM also visited the Franciscan international students centre in Bosnia's capital that is currently under construction. During his talks with Bosnian friars, PM Sanader pledged that the Croatian government would donate additional four million kunas for the remodelling of the centre's interior. So far, Zagreb has allocated 1.3 million kunas for the centre's construction.

PM Sanader also visited the Croatian cultural society Napredak, saying Croatia would continue to support Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their associations.

On the second day of his visit, PM Sanader went to Travnik and Nova Bila in central Bosnia and Herzegovina, talking about the situation in the area with Croat and Muslim municipal officials. In the village of Nova Bila, Sanader visited a new hospital. Croatia financially assisted in its construction and the premier said Croatia would invest another HRK5 million in it. Sanader also visited Zepce and Usora.

Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader described as successful his first official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina during which he had talks with the most senior officials. Before leaving, PM Sanader said the good atmosphere during the talks, alongside the signing of agreements on dual citizenship and border control, was the most important result of the visit. ■



PM SANADER IN BRUSSELS

The Croatian PM Ivo Sanader went to Brussels where he met the President of the European Parliament Hans-Gert Poettering, heads of almost all parliamentary fractions –Martin Schulz, Chairman of the Socialist Group; Daniel Cohn-Bendit, the president of the group of European Greens; Graham Watson, the president of Liberal Democrats; the president of the international

political committee Jacek-Emil Saryusz-Wolski, and he addressed to Socialist Group of the European Parliament. PM Sanader also met the European Commissioner for Enlargement Olli Rehn and took part at the EPP’s summit.

In his addressing to the representatives of the socialist fraction in the European Parliament PM Sanader said that

this year was going to be the year of opening chapters, and the following one the year of closing them, and that it was really possible to end the negotiations in the next year. After that it was the EU’s task to do necessary institutional changes that would provide new enlargement. He also pointed out he did not want the process of enlargement to be finished with Croatia, but to

be continued on other countries in South East neighbourhood when the countries were ready for accessing the EU. He thanked the leaders of socialist fraction on support that they give Croatia even though the Government in Zagreb is of opposite political sign. Particularly he mentioned the words of Martin Schulz who once said to PM Sanader that he had to admit, although being in an opposite political side, he had done a lot for Croatia and the region.

PM Sanader also met the President of the European Par-

liament Hans-Gert Poettering. After the meeting Poettering said that the European Parliament in its Report on Croatia could mention the year 2009 as a targeted year for admission in the EU. "Report on Croatia's progress has been preparing in the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. If I am well informed, reporter Hannes Swoboda has an ambition to suggest Croatia to be the member state in 2009" Poettering said. PM Sanader said he thought there was a wide consensus in the European Parliament for support to Croatia.

PM Sanader met the Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn who, after the end of the meeting, stated that the accessing negotiations with Croatia were developing quickly and smoothly. PM Sanader thanked Olli Rehn for the support he gave to Croatia once again pointing out that, regardless the pre-election year, the Union in Croatia had been functioning very well which showed the maturity of the Croatian political scene.

PM Sanader participated at the EPP's summit that gathered around ten PMs of the EU member states. ■



PM SANADER ATTENDS 5th EUROPEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS

Croatia isn't just a pleasant destination for vacation, but a place for investment

Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader in Brussels attended the opening of the 5th European Business Summit and the presentation of investment opportunities in Croatia. PM Sanader was one of the speakers at the opening of the summit and he said that Croatia was not just a pleasant destination for vacation, but a

place for investment. He also said that the Croatian Government was doing everything to create a convenient milieu for investment like: simplification of the process of company registration via one-stop-shop, land-ownership records reform, digitalisation of civil service and the continuation of the policy oriented toward

macroeconomic stability.

In his speech, Belgian PM Guy Verhofstadt mentioned Croatia as the EU 28th member state. Bulgarian Foreign Minister Ivailo Kalfin and European and Social Committee President Dimitris Dimitriadis were also speaking at the summit, while the European Parliament President Hans-Gert Poettering addressed the summit via video link.



In the presentation "Croatia, EU 28th member state – How to invest in Croatia" the key information about the Croatian economy circumstances were presented. The essential factor that would contribute to the greater economic growth for PM Sanader is accessing the EU and NATO. He also pointed out Croatia's aim to become the EU member state in 2009, and in next year to get an invitation to the NATO.

PM Sanader opened the Croatian stand which provided to visitors a lot of information about Croatian economic possibilities. ■



SEECP'S FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

Historical moment for South Eastern Europe

The current political moment in South Eastern Europe is the time of a real shaping of a genuine European character of the region

“The meeting of foreign ministers of South Eastern European Cooperation Process is of extreme importance and is being held at a historical moment for South Eastern Europe that is standing on the threshold of renewed maturity and modernity”, PM Sanader said in his keynote speech on opening the meeting on 2 March 2007 in Zagreb.

The meeting took place behind closed doors at Zagreb's hotel Westin hosting the ministers of SEECP: Croatia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece and officials of Monte Negro, European Commission, and German Presidency of the EU, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, OESS and UNIMK/Kosovo as a special guest of the presiding country.

The summit was held during

Croatia's one-year presidency of the SEECP. Just to remind, in Salonika on 4 May 2006 the President of the Croatian Government dr. sc. Ivo Sanader has taken over one-year presidency over summit presiding from Greece, and it is going to last till 11 May 2007. During the Croatia's presidency the SEECP is going to be institutionalised, it will get a permanent secretariat and headquarters of the Council for Cooperation. The Council for Cooperation will be

established during the meeting of the SEECP foreign ministers on 11 May 2007 in Zagreb. The work of the secretariat should be financed by the countries in the region, the European Commission and interested donors.

"As the presiding country of the SEECP Croatia has recognised the importance of the current political moment in South Eastern Europe, a time of shaping

of the genuine European character of the region. Without a doubt the European and Euro-Atlantic capacities of our region are growing and South Eastern Europe is on the threshold of renewed maturity and modernity", dr. sc. Ivo Sanader said in his speech.

The ministers discussed the situation in the region, issues linked to the exit strategy of the

Stability Pact for the SEE and about the role of the SEECP as a political forum that would assume the leading role in regional cooperation. Another topic was the Montenegro's future participation in the SEECP and the continuation of the involvement of the European Commission and international donors in the new bodies of the regional cooperation that will replace the Stability Pact.



As a significant contribution to the economic development, liberalisation and strengthening of mutual trade, the ministers welcomed the signing and highlighted the importance of the ratification of the new CEFTA's contract in 2006 initiated by the Republic of Croatia.

The SEECP's member countries were considering the Kosovo status as an important

part for the future safety and stability in South Eastern Europe. Kosovo was recognised as a democratic and multiethnic society based on system of rights, minority rights protection, cooperation and solidarity of all the communities. The ministers also pointed out the Euro-Atlantic perspective to be the best frame for solving this question and confirmed the SEECP's interest to continue the involvement into the process.

The SEECP's summit ended up in acknowledging the common statement that offered a compromised solution of the Kosovo status by the officials of ten member states and they also expressed their support to efforts and activities of a special delegate of the UN's Secretary General Marttia Ahtisaaria.

SEECP - in brief

The South East European Co-operation Process (SEECP) was launched on Bulgaria's initiative in 1966. Namely, at the Bulgaria-chaired meeting in Sofia, the SEE countries laid the foundations for regional co-operation for the purposes of creating an atmosphere of thrust, good neighbourly relations and stability. By now the SEECP has been consisting of ten member states: Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Moldova, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia. The Republic of Croatia has become a member state in October 2004, and after becoming independent Monte Negro submits a request for gaining the status of a full participant.

The SEECP is a regional non-institutionalised structure coordinated by the presiding country. The SEECP presidency lasts for one year and is rotated among the member states. The presiding country presents the Process at international meetings and hosts the annual meeting of heads of state and government, foreign ministers meetings and a number of annual meetings of political directors.

Talks on stronger connection between the SEECP and the European Commission are being in process just as talks about the SEECP's role in the exit strategy of the Stability Pact.

The basic goals of the SEECP include the strengthening of security and political situation, intensification of economic relations and co-operation in human resources, democracy, justice, and fight against illegal activities and conversion of the region into area of peace and stability that will provide approach of Process toward European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

A special characteristic of the SEECP is that it is an original form of co-operation among the countries in the region launched on their own initiative and not on the initiative of some other international organisations or other countries. In that way, the SEECP presents an authentic voice of SEE complementary to the Stabilisation and Association Process. ■





CROATIA - favourite tourist destination

Due to its position in the circle of favourite tourist places, Croatia participated as a partner country in one of the biggest tourist fairs in the world.

One of the biggest tourist fairs CBR (Camping-Boat-Reisen; Camping-Boats-Travel) in Munich gathered some 1 500 exhibitors from more than 70 countries on the area of 70 000 square metres. The fair lasted for five days, from 22nd to 26th February. This year's fair had a special significance

for Croatia since it participated as a partner country. This privilege was given due to the position that Croatia holds in the circle of favourite tourist places, and its popularity still grows. Croatia has been an attractive destination for German tourists for a long time, and the last year the Ger-

mans were the most numerous guests in Croatia with the nearly 11 million nights.

The fair was opened by the Croatian Prime Minister dr. sc. Ivo Sanader and Bavarian counterpart dr. Edmund Stiober, in the presence of many representatives of political and so-

cial life of both countries. Except for the Croatian Premier, Croatia was represented by the Minister of the Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development Božidar Kalmeta, State Secretary for Tourism Zdenko Mičić, director of Croatian National Tourist Board Niko Bulić and many other invited persons. Premier Sanader congratulated to all those who participated in preparing Croatian tourist presentation in Munich, expressing his hope that the very season would be better than the last had been. "We can be proud of Croatia's presentation in Munich today", PM Sanader said.

The first day of the fair was rich in events and business flurry which ended up in the

representative space of one of the oldest Munich hotels Bayerischer Hof, where Croatian Tourist Association organised "Croatian Evening" for the most important partners and media reporters, offering them traditional Croatian cuisine specialties and well chosen original wines.

Since Croatia was a partner country the fair was in sign of Croatia and the opening was made attractive by the island's Rab crossbowmen that walked along all the fair exhibition stands accompanied by strong drum beating. Rapska fjera was particularly presented. It is a celebration in the spirit of the middle Ages with the presentation of customs, trades, life and spirit of

the island's medieval period. Besides the regional presenting of Kvarner, Istria, Dalmatia and continental Croatia, also Croatian companies showed their programmes.

The Croatian Chamber of Economy opened the stand "Be CROative" with the presentation of the products entitled "Originally Croatian" or "Croatian Quality", so the visitors could get themselves familiar with various Croatian products and got the chance even to taste some of them, like paprika-flavoured sausage and smoked ham.

The Croatian and German media was presented the novelties from the Croatian tourist offer by the State Secretary





for Tourism Zdenko Mičić, director of Croatian National Tourist Board Niko Bulić and the president of the Croatian Chamber of Economy Nadan Vidošević.

The press was mostly interested in investment in new capacities in Croatia as well as the hunting and nautical tourism. State Secretary for Tourism Zdenko Mičić announced the renewal and building of new capacities in which the state, as the main investor, together with a private sector would invest EUR 13.6 million by the end of 2009.

Niko Bulić said that there were three types of investment in Croatian tourism, and he also announced the renewal of hotels ruined in the war with 25 000 beds temporarily being out of function. These hotels are going to be of three to five stars range. He added that the

objects built in the 60s were in the process of removal and the new ones were being built. Moreover, in accordance with regional plans the construction of completely new capacities is planned, so-called Greenfield investments.

It was said that Germany stayed an important country for the Croatian tourism for sure, concerning the official information that Germans spent EUR 60.5 billion for foreign visits in the last year. The planned German economic growth of 1.7 per cent in 2007 is a good indicator for Croatia and its forthcoming season. This number surely justifies the Germans' readiness for visiting other countries again and Croatia as well, while the CBR fair in Munich contributed in strengthening interest for spending summer holidays on a truly amazing Croatian coast.

Traditionally good relations between Croatia and Bavaria

In the margins of the fair the two premiers discussed some political issues and Premier Stoiber expressed his strong support on Croatia's admission to the EU and NATO.

Premier Stoiber also expressed his will that the date of Croatia's accession would be known during Germany's current presidency of the EU. He said he was sure that Croatia was going to be the EU's 28th member state and expressed his hope that the following year Croatia would enter the NATO, and in 2009 would be a full member of the EU.

Both Premiers highlighted their satisfaction over already traditional relationship between Croatia and Bavaria. ■



400th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN ZAGREB

From Jesuitical course library to the European library

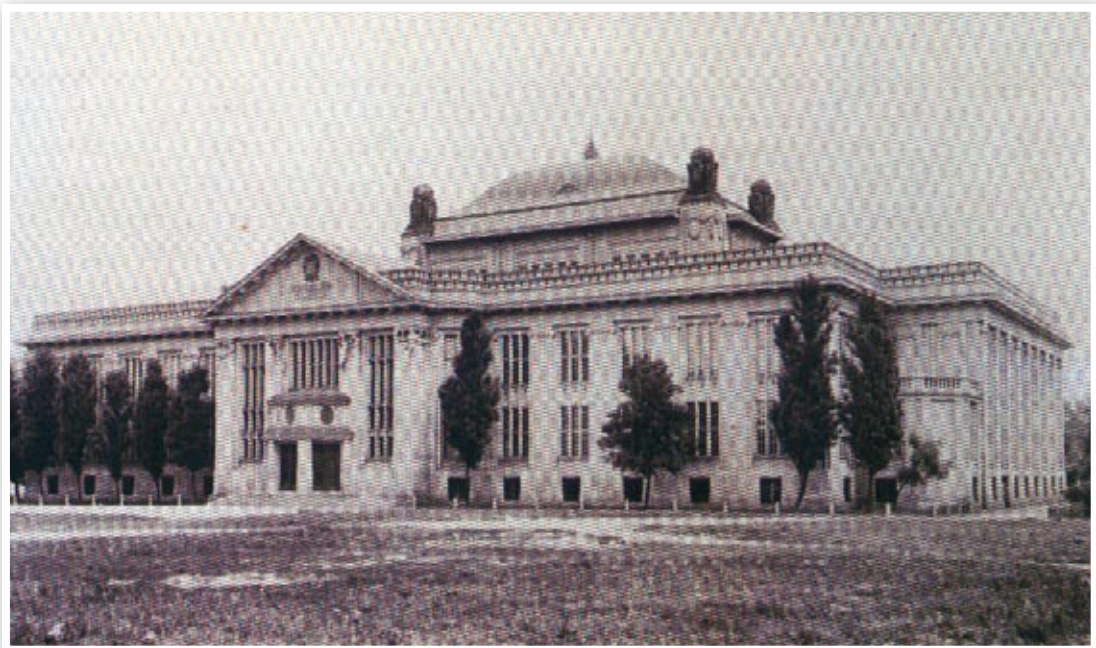
“Gdo knjige počtue da e knjigami počtovan”

deacon Broz Kolonić said not even suspected that his words would become the motto of four hundred years old National and University Library. The Library is an institution of a long and rich history, the treasury of the Croatian heritage with untouchable national significance and indisputable European status. Since the language and script in Croatia the thread of the national identity and our people's destiny on this area can be best read and resolved in the Na-

tional and University Library holding. In these terms, this Croatian institution primarily has a national role as a place of preservation of cultural and spiritual reality of Croats during restless centuries, and later on its role is also educative and scientific. Or as suitably formulated by Mr Josip Stipanov, the manager of the National and University Library, the NUL is “the diary of the Croatian people”.

Occasional exhibitions and ceremonies will witness the specifics of our culture on occasion of marking the 400th anniversary.

The exhibition “NUL’s treasure” by academician Josip Bratulić, Stjepan Damjanović and the associate Ivan Kosić presents selected valuable of our written heritage and reminds of Croatian curiosity from the period when the Croats used three languages in a parallel way: Latin, Old Church Slavic and Croatian, and wrote in three scripts: Glagolitic and Latin script and Croatian Cyrillic script.



The monograph "National and University Library in Zagreb from 1607 to 2007" by prof Aleksandar Stipčević presents a historical development of the institution and its holding in that way introducing us with four important collections: collection of manuscripts and old books, graphic collection, collection of musical supplies and audio-materials and the collection of maps and atlases.

On marking four centuries of the institution during the whole year ten most important works of Croatian written history will be shown ("Libellus Gothorum", "Missal of 1483 – the 1st printed book", "Evangelarium Spalatenese", "Judita" by Marulić, "Theory of natural philosophy" by Ruđer Bošković, "Pleasant Conversation of Slavic People" by Andrija Kačić Miošić, Gaj's "Short base of Croatian-Slavonian orthography", "Death of Smailaga Čengić" by Mažuranić,

"Ballads of Petrica Kerempuh" by Krleža and "Thirsty stone at the wellspring" by Tin Ujević).

The 4th century of the library deserves a short survey.

Although we can seek the history of the National and University Library in the library of the Jesuit Gymnasium in 1606, the beginning of librarianship in Croatia dates earlier in the Middle Ages with the establishing the Benedictine monastery in the 9th century. Our oldest preserved manuscript, *Evangelarium Spalatenese*, emerged in the 7th or 8th century at the copycat-workshop in Split cathedral.

The development of literacy, culture and science in the Middle Ages is closely linked with church, and the libraries of that time were established within the Croatian bishopric. The most significant library in Croatia is Metropolitana – Zagreb bishopric library from the

11th century. From the development of libraries of Humanism and Renaissance and after the arrival of Jesuits and Jesuitical courses libraries we are genealogically approaching contemporary central National Croatian institution.

The establishment of the Academy of Science in 1776 is of a special importance for the development of the NUL. Namely, after the abolition of the Society of Jesus, or gymnasium of Zagreb course in 1773, the library of the former Jesuitical course becomes a part of a newly established Academy. The Enlightenment played a special role in collecting books and historical material and founded more systematic approach to language, culture, science and book collecting. The role of Adam Baričević and Bishop Maksimilijan Vrhovac is unavoidable.

It is worth to mention that the Library holding was enriched by private donations and one of the most valuable donations was that by Baltazar Adam Krčelić (1715-1778), a canon of Zagreb, historian and the head of the Croatian course in Vienna. He left by will his "better" books and manuscripts, he gifted 757 book volumes and 50 manuscripts.

The public category of this institution dates back to 1777 when it was determined that the libraries of the academy should serve for public use, while from 3 December 1816 by the written replay of "visokog vugerskog kraljevskog tolnača" the academy library got the right for a free sample of each edition from the university printing-works in Pest and gained the public significance. In 1818 the institution was proclaimed pub-

lic by emperor Franjo I who on visiting Zagreb went around the Academy and the library.

Collecting of Slavic books got the full swing with the members of the Illyrian movement, and finally, after thirty years, by the establishment of the University in 1847, the library grew into university library at the same holding the features of a national library.

Our first Croatian librarian by occupation and professional qualification was Ivan Kostrenčić who was the manager for 35 years from 1875.

Regular influx of books from Croatia and Slavonia guaranteed the Press Law from 1875, supplemented by the ban's decree from 1897. Due to the then division of Croatia, the books from Dalmatia, Istria and other areas were procured by purchase.

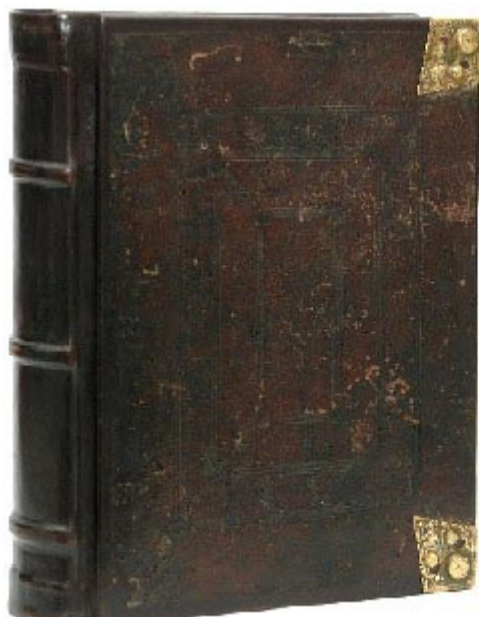
Simultaneously, the enlargement of the holding and widening of the activity caused the re-

location of the library from the Upper Town to the University after which the Croatian Parliament in 1907 decided to build a new building. With the striking secessionist exquisiteness the draft made by Rudolf Lubynski was realised in 1913.

Eighty years passed until the next relocation was done. Today's new building of the NUL that was built during the aggression on Croatia was opened in 1995.

Today, four centuries later, the National and University Library holds the same national and cultural role. It is the keeper of the Croatian heritage. Those who still like to feel the paper under fingers, peculiar scent of bookish paper - they have a chance to engage all their senses there.

The modern building, furnished with windows with the internetisation of library looks onto all four sides of the world, farther and farther. ■



Missale Romanum Glagolitice
(first Croatian printed book, AD 1483)

e-Health

By the e-Croatia 2007 programme the Croatian Government has transformed the Croatian society into an information one. The basic objectives of the programme are to provide an opportunity for the citizens and entrepreneurs to receive information in time and therefore actively participate in the society through the networked information system; to improve and join the Croatian economy; to provide a comprehensive exchange of information and experience in the business world and entrepreneurship and, finally, to enable the state to become a transparent, fast and efficient service. The programme is divided into several areas: e-Government, e-Justice, e-Education, e-Business and e-Health.



Informatisation - the fastest step forward into future of Croatian Health Care

On line access to health care services and quality medical assistance

The informatisation of Health is one of the priorities of the e-Croatia programme which expects to improve the quality of service to citizens with significant financial savings. The main areas of the application are: informatisation of primary health services, introduction of an integral information system for hospitals, informatisation of the Croatian Institute for Health Insurance (HZZO) with the introduction of multi-functional smart

cards. One of the main tasks of this project is the establishment of the standards of interoperability of these information systems by the introduction of the on-line appointments for examinations by specialists.

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare conducted evaluations of the Informatisation of primary health services projects, and the Informatisation of the Hospital Information system. In the meantime, the implementation of the project on the informatisation of the Primary Health Services was initiated. The development of functional



Integrated information system - Croatian "know-how" project

The most recent integrated information system – connecting of institutes of the primary health care, labs and pharmacies at the national level

In February, the integrated information system of the primary health services was officially put into operation at the ceremony that was held at the Croatian Government, and was presented by the president of the Croatian Government dr. sc. Ivo Sanader, minister of Health and Social Welfare doc. dr. sc. Neven Ljubičić, the state secretary of the Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia of the Government of the Republic of Croatia Miroslav Kovačić and the president of Ericsson Nikola Tesla Company.

In the collaboration with the Ericsson Nikola Tesla Company and Central State Administrative Office for e-Croatia the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has designed the most recent technological solution, integrated information system that presents the Croatian reference for the whole world. The system anticipates that by the end of the next year all the offices of the primary health care, labs and pharmacies will be joined into integrated health care information system and in that case will simplify the work of medical staff. The PM

Sanader noted that the system would eliminate unnecessary administrations, patients would no longer have to "walk" around the institutions, and any sign of corruption would be prevented due to the transparency of the whole procedure.

Within the project already 350 offices of general and family practice have been informatically connected. By the end of the year joining of the paediatric, gynaecological and dentist's offices, labs and pharmacies will start, and by the end of 2008 all six thousand of the primary health services institutions will be informatically connected.

The members of the Croatian Institute for Health Insurance welcome the informatisation as it will provide a good layout of doctors' work and in that way will ensure a full control and reduce costs. As well, primary health service will be possible to be paid due to the realised work, contrary to the case before – through the amount that the Institute paid to a doctor on the number of the registered patients. The Croatian National Institute of Public Health also expresses its satisfaction by the project as integrated data will provide them a good survey of manifestations of some diseases and doctor's actions and all of that will provide a better prevention.

By now HRK 70 million has been invested in the project. During the year another HRK 40 million will be provided for informatical equipment of a family practice and HRK 80 million for the paediatric and gynaecological offices.

and technical specification had been completed, as well as the creation of the health information system. Moreover, necessary equipment was acquired and the system and application software implemented.

Also, preparations for the production of application solutions for primary health services offices were completed.

The Croatian Institute for Health Insurance (HZZO) initiated the HZZO Portal project in accordance with the project of the informatisation of primary health service. The HZZO Portal ensures a secure electronic data exchange with the subjects within the Croatian health system. The first phase of the pilot project referring to the introduction of a smart card into the system of health insurance has been finished.

Minister of Health and Social Welfare doc. Dr. sc. Neven Ljubičić highlighted that the informatisation of the primary health services system was a huge step forward for the Croatian health, and when it came to the informatisation of the primary health services system, we spoke about the systems of general/family practice, dentistry, paediatrics, gynaecology, pharmacy and laboratories. Unnecessary administration will be significantly reduced, so doctors and other medical staff will spend more time with patients.

A great sum of money has been invested in the project, but the experience of the countries in which this kind of a project operates for years already witnesses that a profit surpasses funds for multiple times.

The informatisation of the primary health services is the first step in the informatisation of the whole health, State Secretary Miroslav Kovačić said, adding that e-Health has been the most compound project till now.

Primary health services information system developed by the Croatian experts from the Ericsson Nikola Tesla Company is unique in the world and shows strong aspects to become a valuable Croatian export product. This project differs from similar systems in other countries as it comprises all the



business processes and entities of the primary health services. The information health care system in Croatia will be integrated at the national level, and opened standards and protocols will provide integration with the similar systems of other countries. A great advantage of this system is seen in costs and data control of all the patients, and on the other hand it enables connection with the insurance companies. The system is among the most recent ones in the world, and is unique in Europe due to its application at the national level.

Patients in the centre of attention of the new system

No patient will have to walk from a lab to an outpatients', test results will be automatically conveyed into his/her electronic card

For a patient the informatisation actually means that by his/her e-card a doctor will get an insight into his/her whole medical card by now, and access to an "electronic card" will be possible for all other doctors in different doctors' offices in Croatia if a patient happens to

ask for a help.

In future patients will no longer have to pick their test results at labs because they will be electronically delivered to doctors and they will be able to order an examination via the Internet. Moreover, a patient will be appointed for a medical examination by his/her doctor within an institution of the primary health services and he will also possess a schedule of free appointments.

Medical data are permanent and clandestine. They are permanent because they can not be subsequently altered, erased or added, and they are clandestine because they can only be available for medical staff and patients.

This system puts a patient in the centre of attention, but it also brings various advantages to all its users. It provides a complete and right in time information about a patient to doctors and nurses, it provides application support in a daily work, efficacious management of working hours, reduction of administrative works, computer support in decision making, and after all it provides medicine based on evidences, and the most important it advances the relation between a doctor and a patient. Patients will be provided by much better and more efficacious health care system with less administrative works, more privacy and data confidentiality about the health care system of patients.

A patient, as well, will get an access to his/her own medical card and access to all of his/her medical and clinical information. ■



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PROGRAMME ON COMBATING HATE CRIME

Better future with more tolerance

Croatia is the first country in the region that has provided to its police officers opportunity for training on combating hate crime. Besides the Ministry of the Interior's officers, the members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Office for Human Rights and NGO's Iskorak and Kontra took part in the training, too.

The European Union welcomes the progress of minority rights and diminution of number of ethnically motivated incidents. No organised violence against certain groups has been recorded in Croatia. Mostly it is a case of individual and non-organised

incidents that were motivated by national, racial or some other affiliation of damaged party which do not indicate planned and organised execution of such crimes.

We have come to these results by systematic and dedicated work, we are not hiding our satisfaction by what we have accomplished taking in consideration a turbulent war time left behind us.

Apart from influencing lives of individuals, hate crimes have negative consequences on social order, peace and quality living in a community. Regarding this, hate crimes put in the unequal position persons concerning their affiliation to a certain social group, their distinctive characteristics which

are contrary to the Croatian Constitution. Assault motivated by hatred toward certain social group causes damage not only to a victim but it is an assault on his/her value as a human being.

The Republic of Croatia ratified the International Convention on Eliminating of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Article 4 of the Convention obliges the member states to punish "promotion of ideas based on superiority or hatred, incitement of racial discrimination, violence or incitement of such acts against any race or a group of people of different colour of skin or ethnic origin."

Apart from the statutory regulations a significant attentiveness is given to monitoring of minor-

offence issue on this area as to other safety interesting conducts, events and occurrences, with the main goal of preventing and taking adequate measures either individually or in the collaboration with other government bodies, citizens and civil societies.

One of the imperatives for recognition, diminution and suppression of hate crimes is definitely adequate police officers' education.

Law enforcement officer programme is a part of the OESS's efforts orientated to combating hate crime and is designed in accordance with special circumstances of each country.

In the beginning of 2006 Croatia became the first country that provided training for its police officers on combating hate crime. Nine police officers went through the training at the Police Academy in Zagreb and received know-how and skills of a coach who will train other police officers in the future. Besides the Ministry of the Interior's officers, the members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Office for Human Rights and non-governmental organisations Iskorak and Kontra took part in the training, too.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia and ODIHR on combating hate crime was signed in Dubrovnik.

By signing the Memorandum the Republic of Croatia obliged itself to introduce training on combating hate crime within the existing state instructional

programme for police officers' training.

In the Memorandum of Understanding the Croatian Government and OESS/ODIHR have taken the obligation to continue the co-operation referring to the police officers training both in Croatia and within wider OESS's region and to engage a Croatian expert for combating hate crime in order to provide training and support to other OESS member states.

Continuation of the implementation of the Law Enforcement Officer Programme on Combating Hate Crime is going to be realised in the following way by the Ministry of the Interior:

- Within the national police curriculum through all the instructional programmes in the basic police training
- through the specialist courses that are implemented within the Department of professional training
- through the remedial professional training that is carried out at police departments, which means it is necessary to carry out another training for multipliers in order each police department to have at least one educated police officer for this problem area
- through the co-operation of

all relevant government's bodies (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Ministry of the Interior, Office for Human Rights, Ministry of Justice, General Attorney's Office, judicature, Judicial Academy) in gathering, processing and exchange of data

- through the co-operation with the non-governmental organisations at all the levels, in the state and local alike.

This programme temporarily gathers eight countries that actively participate in the implementation, these being: Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Spain, the UK and the USA, and just recently Poland and Serbia.

Three-day training for the future police coaches from thirteen countries was held in the beginning of January 2006 in Paris, with the emphasis on an efficacious reaction, investigation, gathering and exchanging of data as well as on dealing with victims, witnesses and affected community.

Interesting to note is that the programme was designed and developed by the police officers themselves along with the practical realisation. ■





ZAGREB DOX

The biggest international documentary film festival in the region

Zagreb Dox was held from 26 January to 4 March at the Student Centre in Zagreb. The festival presented around 29 documentary films immediately after the world premieres at the international documentary film festival in Amsterdam.

Big Stamp Award for the Best Film in International Competition went to the film "Civil Status" by Alina Rudnitskaya from Russia. In her film in black and white contrast she shows the

world of bureau and shows emotions of the visitors and employees. Jury thought it was a mix of creativity, humanity and unique humour.

Special awards in International Competition went to Armenian film "A story of people in war and peace" and Finnish "No man is an island".

In the regional competition Big Stamp Award for the Best Film went to the film "Evropa preko plota" by Želimir Žilnik (Ser-

bia), which shows the effects of Schengen Agreement at Hungarian-Serbian border from the summer of 2004 to the spring of 2005. According to the Jury's opinion the author leads the story with a brilliant dramaturgy, perfectly weaving in the narrative parts which are almost unrecognisable from the film's documentary foundation.

German-Romanian film "Village of Socks", Serbian "National Park", Croatian "Last



Native Petrović” and Macedonian Dream: “A Girl and her Accordion” were conferred special awards in the regional competition.

Little Stamp Award for the Best Film by Young Author (up to 30 years) went to young Petra Seliškar from Slovenia and her documentary film “The Grandmothers of Revolution”.

Thirty eight films were competing for awards in International Competition consisting of a statue and a diploma. Among 23 documentary films in the regional programme there were eight premiers of Croatian films. Two new film festivals were introduced this year – “Zavjera” (“Conspiracy”) and “Auto-dox”, while “Controversial Dox” brought a huge interest. ■





ŽUMBERAK

Samoborsko gorje

Nature Park

The hilly area of Žumberak – Samoborsko gorje, one out of eleven nature parks in Croatia, is located in the western central part of the country, only 30 kilometers south-west from the capital city, along the borderline with Slovenia. The Park joins the Žumberak mountains, with the highest peak Sveta Gera (1178 m) and the Samobor mountains whose highest peak is Japetić (971 m). Mount Plešivica (780 m) is also part of the Samobor mountains.

Nature Park was founded in 1999., both for its preserved natural and rich cultural heritage. Pitoresque landscapes of this large area, covering approximately 333 sq.km, present a cultural environment - it is the result of a long-time coexistence between man and

land: alternating cultivated parts and intact nature have the value that deserves special effort in their protection. That's why the Public Authority was established in 2001.: to run this area, meaning its protection, conservation, sustainable use and promotion.

Deciduous forests of the area, covering almost two thirds of its territory, are mostly beech and mixed oak-hornbeam. This type of habitat provides home to numerous species of fauna and flora, some of them endemic and threatened. The central part of Žumberak is characterised by many clearings, deeply incised valleys, sinking rivers, waterfalls and caves, hiding many underground endemic species that haven't yet been explored. By cutting trees, over

many years man has unintentionally created a new type of habitat in this area – grasslands that host completely new plant and animal species. Apart from the human impact, the richness in biodiversity of meadows and pastures in the Park is also based on natural factors, such as geological base (which is mostly karst), soil, relief and climate, especially in plant species. It made a great impression even on foreign experts and encouraged them to explore and participate in their conservation.

Except for being wealthy in biological sense, this area has a big importance for preservation of Croatian cultural heritage. Žumberak mountains is an entirely rural area without any urban settlements. How-



ever, the highest altitude settlements in the middle part of Croatia are situated here. The earliest known cultural history of this region goes as far as the early Stone Age - Palaeolithic, evidenced by remains of a mammoth-hunter's camp in Podstranak. Numerous other findings detected by the end of 19th and during 20th century, provide evidence that this territory had been settled during various epochs of prehistory. Methodical archaeological exploring during the last 20

years has provided important findings that enrich the cultural-historical significance of Žumberak. A settlement and a necropolis dating from the early Iron Age, situated nearby the village of Budinjak, represent one of the most significant findings of that kind in the south-east Alps area. Two copper helmets, which were found in duke's graves, make the most important finding in necropolis. The helmet found in the grave of duke Tumul no. 3, is the only entirely preserved specimen from one of the six groups of different helmet types dating from early Iron Age in middle Europe.

On the fields below Gornja Vas and in the center of the Bratelji village, antic necropolis that date from early-emperor period of Roman state have been found and explored. The discoveries resulting from study of this site contribute to our understanding of lifestyle and burying customs of local residents during the roman dominance on our territories.

Preserved nature, rich cultural

heritage and closeness to the big cities of this part of Croatia are some of the reasons that the number of visitors, both local and foreign, is constantly increasing. People that choose to visit Žumberak – Samoborsko gorje Nature Park can get all the information at info-centres in Slani Dol and in Budinjak. Along with other services, such as professional guideness along the 4,2 km long educational walking trail called "The Trail of the Princes" in Budinjak and visiting exhibitions at the centres, the Nature Park staff also provide educational programme for elementary school children. Fans of hiking can choose among numerous marked hiking trails, mostly maintained by mountainering clubs. There are 9 mountain huts in the area, most of them offering food and accomodation and a few places offering rural-tourism. There are also many beautiful natural and cultural sights to visit, such as: Žumberak fortress, Tuščak fortress, the Canyon of Slapnica river, Ethnographic collection of Žumberak everyday life at Basilian Sisters Monastery in Sošice etc.

Two take off points at Plešivica and Japetić are provided for fans of paragliding, and there are also two areas for free climbing. Four bicycle trails, all together over 200 km long, were marked by the Nature Park staff.

All these information should be an invitation to everyone that wants to spend free time gathered with astonishing nature and cultural history of this precious mountain site. ■



VINKOVCI

THE TREASURY OF LUXURY, BEAUTY AND TRADITION

The existing economic structure and disposable capacities, not enough used possibilities and world development trends provide positive prerequisites to overall future development along with the well created global strategy of development.

Vinkovci is a Croatian town in eastern Slavonia and lies on the banks of the river Bosut. It is the biggest town of both eastern Slavonia and Vukovar-Srijem County. The site of Vinkovci was inhabited from the Neolithic period and as the first significant site found in the written documents was the Roman town Colonia Aurelia Cibalae. Vinkovci is the town founded on mediaeval place St Elias. Vinkovci was left a very nice baroque core by Austro-Hungarian period.

During three centuries the cultural events of Vinkovci and Vu-

kovar-Srijem County had been enriched by different names out of which many were registered in Croatian cultural and art history like: "Satir iliti divji čovik" by M.A. Relković, "Dead capitals" by Josip Kozarac, "Inoče" (Second wife) by Jozo Ivakić, "Đuka Begović" by Ivan Kozarac, M.S. Mađer, Dionizije Švagelj, Josip Bogner, Josip Runjanin, Vanja Raduš, and many others.

Along with the historical sights and cultural particularities that make this area interesting, Vinkovci and its surroundings offer their various and univer-

sal catering-tourist service and attractiveness. The Tourist Board of Vinkovci in early 1975 launched an initiative for the ancient beauties of rich and beautiful Slavonia to be used for the rural tourism development, since the villages Otok, Ivankovo, Rokovci, Andrijaševci, Lipovac and some other were situated in the breathtaking setting of the famous oak-tree forest and meandering flow of the rivers Bosut, Biđ, Spačva, Studva and their tributary rivers. Especially popular are "Virovi" near Otok – a natural phenomenon of almost untouched forest nature. Even today, besides pure nature



and relaxation in silence, walk, fishing and hunting, a guest can take part in farm work with his/her host and enjoy in famous Slavonian cuisine specialties. All those villages have preserved their genuine appearance, their folk customs, holidays, folk costumes, games and merry Šokac songs. This type of tourism holds the long-lasting tradition due to the different species of wildlife such as red deer, fallow deer, known to European hunters, then wild boars and wild fowl. Near the town there are famous hunting-grounds: "Kunjevci", "Spačva" and "Merolino".

One can fish in the rivers Bosut, Spačva, Studva, Otok and Bošnjak eddies.

The rivers abound in freshwater fish: carp, pike-perch, European catfish, tench, perch, crucian carp and pike. Sporting fishing has been nourished from the old days and it is quite often possible to see numerous fishermen in summer months competing along the Bosut in the very centre of the town.

The site of Vinkovci and Vukovar-Srijem County dispose of rich natural resources and famous are: cultivable land, forests, oil, gas, clay and gravel fields, and advanced hydro-graphic network. The natural resources present the factors that mostly determine the structure and define the courses of economic development of Vinkovci and the whole County. The entire forest area together with Spačva pool take up the space of 69.011 ha or 28.30 per cent of the County's area. The area is mostly covered with Slavonian common oak and ash-tree. That was a good basis for the development of wood-processing industry. Lately there is much more companies – wood-processors from small and middle business. Rich fields of clay, gravel and sand have enabled the development of construction material industry, especially brick making and building trade. In the past few years the commerce, trades and services are more and more represented to the detriment of agriculture,

food and processing industry. One can say that the existing economic structure and disposable capacities, not enough used possibilities and world development trends provide positive prerequisites to overall future development along with the well created global strategy of development.

“Vinkovci Autumns” – folk music festival of great traditional value

The most famous annual event held in September in Vinkovci is the folk music festival “Vinkovci Autumns” (Vinkovačke Jeseni), which includes the folklore show, cultural, economic and tourist presentations. Many folklore groups from different parts of Croatia, Diaspora and other countries from Europe and America take part in this festival. The first Vinkovci Autumns festival was held in September of 1966. In the beginning it was just a local review of the authentic Slavonian folklore at which groups from the Vinkovci surroundings, then from Slavo-





nia and Baranja took part. Since 1977 Vinkovci Autumns festival is recognised as the review of the authentic folklore of the Croatian nation and nationality, and since 1990 it is seen as the review of the authentic Croatian folklore at which even many folklore groups from Diaspora take part.

The Folklore Evenings precede the opening ceremony of Vinkovci Autumns. They are held a few evenings before the opening ceremony of Vinkovci Autumns, and folklore groups from Vinkovci surroundings

and since 1993 groups from Vukovar-Srijem County perform.

Since the 80s Folklore Evenings hold a competing character. The best groups receive the right to perform at the international Folklore Review in Zagreb and Đakovo Embroidery.

One of the most interesting performances of Vinkovci Autumns is Šokac talks (Šokački divani), emerged as an event that evokes the authentic speech, games and fun, i.e. the spirit and mentality of Šokac, a Slavonian and to remind of old talks. Vinkovci Autumns festival celebrates, preserves, nourishes and shows the genuine folk treasure, culture and customs of Slavonia and Croatia as well as some other people's culture like our dear and respected guests. ■

Vinkovci is the treasury of luxury, beauty and tradition. Each season will offer you something for your soul in this town and its surroundings. So come and visit our Slavonian town rich in tourist offer.



When we speak about the Croatian cuisine we speak about a diverse cuisine of different Croatian regions. Typical for the continental cuisine, along with the earlier ancient and Common Slavic roots, is Hungarian, Viennese and Turkish influence as a copy of a historical and geographical windswept area where Croatia has always been placed. Maritime cuisine is marked by the Greeks and Romans' influence together with Slavonian, Illyrian, Italian and French cuisine influence.

THE WORLD OF FOOD IN CROATIA

An interesting exhibition "The world of food in Croatia" is taking place at the Ethnographic museum in Zagreb showing vividly that food can also be a museum artefact. The authors did not exaggerate with the ambition and breadth of the display in desire to distance themselves from a common inventory of the Croatian food through the centuries. On the other hand, they chose historical feeding flashes that just evoke the course of history and a parallel development of preparation and food consumption. The exhibition

reminds us of the Neanderthal feasts, the use of a fork and a spoon in the New Stone Age as well as on the level of civilised behaviour during the meal, it reminds us of an unavoidable Roman feasts, the revolutionary invention of a cooker in the 19th century, and in the end the exhibition reminds us of the present days that evoke shopping carts stuffed with the processed food ready for the usage.

The exhibition displays Croatian confraternities of the Middle Ages, the description of the Croatian ban Nikola Zrinski's eating and the author of a cookery-book with dishes prepared on a Čakovec court. One can also see a peaceful reign of the Austrian emperor Franjo Josip that widened Viennese and Danube-region cuisine specialties and the Josip Broz Tito's feasts prepared for the leaders of the non-aligned countries at the Brijuni.

A rich literary opus witnesses of a high level of a gastronomic culture in Croatia. There are recorded facts on food from the early history, like, for

example, in "Gazophylacium illyrico-latinum" - dictionary from 1740 by Joannis Bellosz-tenect published 65 years after the author's death, and which preceded the similar French dictionary with the headwords linked to food collected in the 17th century and which refer to an earlier period before the coming of a potato in Croatia and versatile use of a corn. The exhibition depicts scarcity and modesty of rural and poor people's cuisine, feasts and gourmandise aristocracy's cuisine, and through the portraits of contemporary women it presents the frames of a feeding culture of Croatia.

The exhibition will be opened until September.

Contemporary nutritionist trends which promote health food have forced the return to simple traditional recipes and the good news is that in Split besides the "global" and famous pizza one can buy slices of soparnik, old Poljice's cheese, known also as the Dalmatian prisnac, which allegedly Napoleon liked. This vegetarian dish was traditionally prepared during the Lent, on Good Friday or Christmas Eve. ■





Soparnik (prsnac, Swiss-chard pie)

The day before wash and dry 1 kg of Swiss-chard, then cut into pieces leaving out the white parts. Spread over the clean cloth and sprinkle with salt or Vegeta.

Next day, knead out the dough from ½ kg of flour, a pinch of salt, little olive oil and 2 dl of lukewarm water. Divide the dough in two loaves and set aside for 15 minutes. Slice several onions and mix with Swiss-chard and four spoonfuls of olive/sun seed oil.

Roll out one loaf of dough so that it overlaps the edges of the greased baking tin. Arrange the filling evenly over the whole surface of one sheet of the dough, sprinkle with tablespoon of maize flour to absorb the moisture and cover with the other sheet of dough. Overlap the edges of the upper sheet with the lower and press firmly so that it keeps the filling in. Drill the upper dough with fork several times, so that the soparnik does not grow high in the oven. Put into the preheated oven, 180° C, and bake for 35 to 40 minutes. Soparnik should be a little burnt on the surface. Leave it to cool and sprinkle over the top with mixture of olive oil, pressed garlic and coarsely chopped almonds. Cut into rhombi and serve.

Hvarski paprenjaci (Hvar gingerbreads)

Bring 50 dag of honey to the boil and skim it. Ad 1.2 dl of oil, 0.5 dag of salt, 1.25 dl of prošek (sweet wine), 0.1 dag of saffron, a pinch of cinnamon, half of grated nutmeg, a half teaspoon of white pepper, 6 pounded cloves, 1.5 dag of bicarbonate of soda, and enough flour to absorb the mixture (about 80 dag). Roll out the dough in cylindrical shapes, and press them into moulds. Bake in the preheated oven at the temperature of 160° C for about 25 minutes. Cakes are baked when they get characteristic light brown colour. Beat 1 egg white, then gradually add 4 tablespoons of powder sugar and use the glaze to decorate the cakes.



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