

## *EXPOSÉ OF RESEARCH PROJECT*

The area covered by this research will be the municipalities of Bihać, Cazin, Bosanska Krupa and Velika Kladuša. This area had different names in the past - Ljuta Krajina, Cazinska Krajina, and Serhat. Nonetheless, these different toponyms make the present territory of the above-mentioned four municipalities. This is also a part of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a very distinct local identity. This research is informed by the intention to find out the elements that have constructed the identity of the population of this region, and the relations between national and local identities:

Due to several reasons, I would start with 1971:

1. The first generation of seasonal workers (the so-called *gastarbeiters*), who used to leave this region in search of job from 1965, and who have already acquired experiences of living abroad and adopted a certain lifestyle which, in a way, influenced their identity.
2. In this period, we see the emergence of intellectuals who emphasize more strongly the particularity of Muslims and insisted on recognition of Muslims as one of the recognised peoples of SFRY, and acceptance of their identity. Thus, the people of Krajina were put into the position of stronger national (i.e., ethnic) than regional identification due to the need to homogenize as people in order to achieve their collective rights.
3. Constitutional amendments in SFRY, crowned by the adoption of a new Constitution in 1974, made Muslims equal with other peoples, which, undoubtedly, affects the Krajišniks and their understanding of identity.

The issues and problems, which will be addressed and clarified by the research, are:

- migration and mobility of the population of North-Western Bosnia in a historical perspective,
- the issue of identity of the population of Bihaćka Krajina (Krajišniks-Bosniaks-Yugoslavs),
- elements that developed the people's awareness of their identity (military past, affiliation to Islam, refusal of a national centre, etc.)

- ways and forms of mobility of people to and from this region,  
Yugoslav form/pattern of mobility of population: massive emigration of Krajišniks to Western Europe as well as to the Socialist Republic of Slovenia and the Socialist Republic of Croatia (economic migration and their impact on the formation of identity),  
- permeation of Krajina identity to the Yugoslav and European identities.,  
'Bosnian-Herzegovinian form/pattern of mobility of population (after 1995);  
'movement of Krajišniks towards the national centre (conflict or synthesis of local and national identities?),  
role of the diaspora from Krajina in SFRY (until 1992) and in Bosnia and Herzegovina (after 1992),  
'cultural patterns in the light of belonging to Bosniak people/Bosnian people, Yugoslavia and Europe – changes and inter-actions (between local, national and cosmopolitan), "identity under pressure"( influences leading to various perception of oneself and others, which bear the seed of change in terms of acceptance of others or rejection of one's won social forms, symbols and factors of self-identification).

In this research I will use archival materials and also use ethnographic and anthropological methods consisting primarily of interviews. I would try to understand the mentality of Krajišniks from within and through the Krajišnik experiences. I would also use survey questionnaire to try to get credible indicators that would provide answers to the issues raised by this research.

Questionnaires and interviews would include the representative sample of the life of Bihaćka Krajina: workers abroad, intellectuals, political representatives, peasants, religious intelligentsia, and artists. Thus, an attempt would be made to reach an understanding of the transformation of identity through different social groups and, consequently, the impact of individual social groups on the formation of a single identity.

Questions included in the questionnaires will relate to the perception of those questioned about the changes that have occurred in the customs, everyday life, attitude towards obligations and duties, departure from certain forms of social life and acceptance of some others (even in terms of class differences within different socio-economic systems: e.g., the Krajina peasants in the era of socialism vs. the Krajina workers in capitalism, etc.). An important issue would be that of attitude towards language and to what extent language is the means of identity in view of the linguistic situation in SFRY.

I will also ask questions addressing the extent of physical alienation of gastarbeiters and the effects of this alienation on identity through cultivation of certain activities (Krajišniks' clubs, sporting associations, organisations based on religion, etc.) This questionnaire would also seek answers to a score of questions on is considered to be Krajina, Bosniak or Yugoslav identity and how each of them was experience sin specific periods of time (1971-1974, 1980, 1983, 1987-1990, 1992-1995 and 1996-2005), i.e., to what extent self-identification was historically conditioned.

Work and time plan (January- December, 2007.)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter (January-March)  | <p><b><i>Theory and methodology</i></b></p> <p>Theoretical approach, working on literature of anthropology and methods of ethnography.<br/>Preparing for conference in Graz, Austria.</p>  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter (April-June)     | <p><b><i>Archive and field research</i></b></p> <p>Archive work will be based on preliminary research in Regional archive of Una-sana, municipality archives (Bihać, Velika Kladuša, Bosanska Krupa and Cazin) and regional libraries. Attention will be focused on homeland anthologies.<br/>Gathering of biographic information's for interviews and questionnaires.</p> |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter (July-September) | <p><b><i>Questionnaires and interviews</i></b></p> <p>These works include interviews and questionnaires with approximately twenty different people, from working class to academics. They will give answers on fifteen questions about identity of Krajišniks, Bosniak nation-building and Yugoslav national unity.</p>  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | I'm going to talk with peasants, workers, teachers, businessmen, politicians, artists, university professors and people who worked out of Bosnia and Herzegovina in period from 1971. to 2005. |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter (Oct.-December) | <b><i>Working on achieved results, Evaluation</i></b><br>Systematization, emphasize problems and research which must be taken in second period.  |