

---

## Model of the Realization of Ethnic Rights of National Minorities in The Republic of Croatia

---

SINIŠA TATALOVIĆ

Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb  
Assistant Professor of Governing Defense and National Security

MILA ŠIMIĆ

Deputy Head of the Committee for Ethnic and National Communities or  
Minorities of the Government of The Republic of Croatia

### *Summary*

The authors deal with the model of the realization of ethnic rights of national minorities in the Republic of Croatia. In the states in transition, these rights — whether ethnic, religious or linguistic — have from the very beginning stood in the way of a broader democratization of the society. The issue of administrative regulation and practical realization of the freedoms and rights of national minorities is an important measure and test of the degree of the democratization of a society, and the accomplishment of this goal one of the requirements for economic and political integration into European institutions. The Republic of Croatia, aware of this, and immediately upon gaining independence, not only provided for the continuation of the rights of the national minorities but also began defining a new — for a democratic state more appropriate — model of the realization of minority rights.

### *Introduction*

The states that came into being through the disintegration of multi-ethnic communist federations in eastern Europe, have to a certain degree proved lacking in their readiness and competence to abide by the principles proclaimed in their constitutions. This particularly applies to minority rights as a constituent part of civil rights. In these states, the rights of national minorities<sup>1</sup>, whether ethnic, religious or linguistic, have been an obstacle for a fuller democratization of their societies.

<sup>1</sup>In this paper the term “national minority” refers (using the SEI Instrument for the protection of minority rights of 1996 as its starting-point) to “a group numerically smaller than the rest of a state’s population, whose members — as the citizens of that state — have different ethnic, religious or linguistic characteristics from the rest of the population, and who wish to preserve their culture, religion or language.”

In some states, instead of an expansion of “the spirit of the law” as a guarantee for the realization of the proclaimed freedoms and rights, there has occurred an executory state policy characterized by intolerance and chauvinism regarding the distinctive features of other peoples, resulting in discrimination and, eventually, deportations. All this instigated inter-state conflicts and wars, which marked the early 90s in eastern Europe. These troubles with minorities were identified by European institutions (European Union, Council of Europe, Organization for European Security and Cooperation) early on and they began using it as a means of pressure with the intention of forcing the states into a desirable type of conduct, internally and internationally.

In this context, the issue of administrative regulation and practical realization of the freedoms and rights of national minorities is an important measure and test of the degree of the democratization of a society, and the accomplishment of this goal one of the requirements for economic and political integration into European institutions. The Republic of Croatia very soon became aware of this and immediately upon gaining independence provided for the continuation of the rights of the national minorities and also began defining a new, for a democratic state more appropriate, model of the realization of minority rights.

The Republic of Croatia inherited from the former SFRY the system of the protection of the rights of the minorities<sup>2</sup>, which included the right to education in their own language and alphabet, the right to the official use of their language and alphabet, the right to publishing in their mother tongue, various venues of preservation of ethnic, language and religious identity and the representation of minority interests. The Republic of Croatia defined the rights of “the new minorities” using the experience with the rights of “the old minorities” as its starting point; the issue of the definition of the Croatian Serbs’ status and their freedoms and rights escalated into an open conflict between the Republic of Croatia and a segment of Croatian Serbs.

### *Constitutional and legal position of national minorities*

In its basic provisions, the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia declares that “...the Republic of Croatia is established as a national state of the Croatian people and the state of the members of autochthonous national minorities: Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks, Italians, Hungarians, Jews, Germans, Austrians, Ukrainians, Ruthenians, and others, who are its citizens, to whom it guarantees equality with the citizens of Croatian nationality and the realization of their national rights in accordance with the demo-

<sup>2</sup>Hungarians, Italians, Czechs, Ruthenians and Ukrainians.

cratic standards of the OUN and the countries of the free world...”<sup>3</sup> So, though the basic provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia have no regulatory power, it is clear who the main proponents of statehood are and who the others are. Nevertheless, the regulatory section of the Constitution holds no exclusive ethnic emphasis on the majority Croatian people; “demos” is defined as “a people as a community of free and equal citizens<sup>4</sup>” to whom all power in the state belongs and from whom it stems. It is important to point out the stipulation according to which “the people exercises power by electing its representatives and by direct participation”<sup>5</sup>. In this constitutional definition, “people” has the meaning of “demos” and not “ethnos” (either majority or minority), and encompasses all citizens.

The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia identifies the ultimate values of the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia: “Freedom, equality, national equality, peace, social justice, respect for human rights, sanctity of property, preservation of nature and human environment, the rule of law and a democratic multiparty system are the supreme values of the constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia”<sup>6</sup>. From thus defined paramount values of the constitutional order ensues the following Article: “Each person and citizen in the republic of Croatia has all the rights and freedoms, regardless of their race, skin color, gender, language, religion, political or other affiliations, national or social origin, property, birth, education, social status or other characteristics”<sup>7</sup>. This formulation explicitly, in word and in essence, eliminated ethnic affiliation as the basis for any preferential treatment in the field of human rights. Regarding the equality of peoples and minorities, there is the following formulation: “In the Republic of Croatia, the equality of members of all national minorities is guaranteed. All national minorities are guaranteed freedom of expression of national affiliation, free use of their language and alphabet as well as cultural autonomy”<sup>8</sup>. In order to realize this equality: “The citizens are guaranteed the right to free association enabling them to protect their well-being or advocate social, economic, political, national, cultural or other beliefs and goals. Thus citizens may freely set up political parties, trade unions and other associations, join or leave them. The right to free association is restricted solely by the prohibition of jeopardizing by violent

<sup>3</sup>The Constitutional Law on the Amendments and the Modifications of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, *Narodne novine*, No. 135/97, Article 1, Paragraph 3.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, Article 1, Paragraph 2.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, Article 1, Paragraph 3.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, Article 3.

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, Article 3, Paragraph 2.

<sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*, Article 4.

means the democratic constitutional order as well as the independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia”<sup>9</sup>.

Simply by quoting these few articles from the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, one can get an insight into the basic infrastructure of the constitutional order which defines all other relations among the citizens of the Republic of Croatia, regardless of their ethnic affiliation or any other distinction, under equal conditions.

However, the regulations regarding human rights and freedoms and the rights of national minorities in the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia had not been enough, so in late 1991 Croatia, as a condition for its international recognition, and following the examples of some other states of the “new democracy” (Hungary, Estonia and Lithuania) passed the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities, which was amended in 1992 and partially suspended in 1995.<sup>10</sup>

The Law on national minorities guarantees equality, full development<sup>11</sup>, the right to self-organization for the protection of ethnic interests, the cooperation with parent states<sup>12</sup>, the right to non-discrimination, identity, culture, religion<sup>13</sup>, public and private use of language and alphabet<sup>14</sup>, possession and use of national symbols, bilingual toponyms for towns and municipalities<sup>15</sup>. This Law also represented the framework for the education of the children coming from national minorities; this issue has been regulated in greater detail by several by-laws<sup>16</sup>.

Members of the national minorities whose share in the total population of the Republic of Croatia is smaller than 8 %, have the right to elect a total of 5 representatives into the House of Representatives of the Croa-

<sup>9</sup>The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, *Narodne novine*, No. 56/90, Article 43.

<sup>10</sup>This Law is based on the principles of the Chart of the United Nations, the General Declaration of Human Rights, the International Protocol on Civil and Political Rights and the principles of numerous other international documents, for which it was favorably assessed by international institutions.

<sup>11</sup>The Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities, *Narodne novine*, No. 27/92 and 34/92, Article 3.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., Article 4.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., Article 6.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., Article 7.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., Article 50.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid., Articles 14—17 and 48—49.

tian parliament (Sabor)<sup>17</sup>. According to the Constitutional Law, national minorities have the right to be represented in the bodies of local government and self-government, relative to their share in the total population of a particular unit of local self-government.

The possibility for the realization of the rights of national minorities was raised to a higher level after the Croatian National *Sabor* /Croatian Parliament/, as a condition for Croatia's full membership in the Council of Europe, adopted several international documents related to the protection of national minorities<sup>18</sup>.

### *The model for the realization of the rights of national minorities*

The national minorities are guaranteed the preservation and development of their identity (ethnical, cultural, linguistic, religious), both individually and in association with others. Most ethnic rights are realized by the national minorities through the regular institutions of the system that are professionally and administratively responsible for certain areas of social life, by which the principle of participating in the development of cultural and national identity is put into practice. Only a fraction of ethnic rights is exercised through the operation of various associations of national minorities, which makes for an additional protection from assimilation. The Republic of Croatia promotes the relations between the national minorities and their parent state, for the purpose of advancing their national, cultural and linguistic development<sup>19</sup>.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid., Article 18.

<sup>18</sup>After joining the Council of Europe, the Republic of Croatia pledged it would immediately sign the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and that it will, within a year, sign and ratify the European Universal Convention on the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter on Local Self-government as well as the Charter on Regional and Minority Languages; plus, it promised its minority policy would be in compliance with the principles stipulated in the Recommendation of the Assembly 1201 (1993) and that it would incorporate these principles into the legal and administrative system and the practice of the state; this was carried out to the letter.

<sup>19</sup>With this aim in mind, the Republic of Croatia signed the Agreement on the Protection of Hungarian Minority in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Minority in the Republic of Hungary; the Agreement on Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary; the Declaration on the Principles of the Cooperation between the Republic of Hungary and Ukraine, whose cosignatory was the Republic of Croatia; the Memorandum on the Understanding between the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Italy and the Republic of Slovenia on the Protection of Italian Minority in Croatia; in 1996, it signed the Agreement on the Normalization of the

National minorities have the right to self-organization and association with the aim of realizing their ethnic and other interests. In Croatia, the national minorities have self-organized themselves by means of different, autonomously structured associations and institutions. In 1996, on the basis of the proclaimed needs and interests, Croatian government financially supported the programs of 28 national minorities' non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and in 1997 34 NGOs<sup>20</sup>.

In 1996, depending on the level of the development of these organizations and the feasibility of their programs, the allotted funds were used to finance the programs in the fields of information dissemination and publishing, social research, professional culture (libraries, theaters) and cultural amateurism. In 1997, Croatian government adopted the Methodology for Monitoring the Realization of the Programs of the Associations and Institutions of the National Minorities, which at the same time represented the criteria according to which the funds were meted out. On the basis of this Methodology, the Office for Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities remits the required funds to national minorities and monitors the realization of the programs in the following areas: information dissemination, publishing, cultural amateurism and cultural events; also, the essential overhead expenses are financed. Through the authorized government institutions, the programs are financed and monitored in the areas of: public libraries (National and University Library), education (Ministry of Education and Sports), social research (Ministry of Science and Technology), protection of national heritage and museum and archival activities (Ministry of Culture).

*Publishing* in the languages of the national minorities ranges from publishing dailies, weeklies, biweeklies, monthlies and annuals to other types of publications. Though almost exclusively funded from the national budget, the organization of the publishing activities of the national minorities is not satisfactory and is sporadic; there is no real distribution network of its publications and no possibility for the broader public to get acquainted with the life and the problems of the minorities. The exceptions to the rule are Serbian, Italian, Czech, and Slovakian national minorities<sup>21</sup>.

Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as well as the Treaty on the Protection of the Italian Minority in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Minority in the Republic of Italy. With the parent states with which international agreements or treaties have not been signed yet, the Republic of Croatia signs contracts on concrete programs such as the building of the school in Josipovec which is jointly financed by the Republic of Slovakia and the Republic of Croatia for members of the Slovakian national minority.

<sup>20</sup>In 1996, 16,036,073 kunas were earmarked from the national budget for the programs of the national minorities and in 1997 it was 20,097,336 kunas.

<sup>21</sup>Most associations of Serbian national minority dabble in publishing. SKD (Serbian Cultural Society) "Prosvjeta" publishes the magazine *Prosvjeta*, a quarterly

National minorities organize various *cultural activities*. The organizers of the biggest portion of these activities are cultural societies; those national minorities without the organized cultural societies, organize these activities through their associations<sup>22</sup>.

The realization and the financing of the programs of national minorities in the area of public libraries is the responsibility of the National and University Library, which has set up central libraries within public libraries for national minorities<sup>23</sup>. The purpose of their existence is a better availability of books in mother tongues and alphabets, as well as helping and coordinating efforts of bigger and smaller collections and libraries which exist in the minorities' organizations, and elementary and secondary schools. The library holdings of national minorities vary, but all the libraries increase the number of their books mostly in two ways: donations from governments, libraries, associations, individuals from parent countries and Croatia and from the funds that the Office for Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities sets aside for this purpose. The activities and the programs of central libraries are different, and cater for all ages. The activities include: publishing the new acquisition bulletins, lending books and organizing exhibitions in different places, working with young children, reading the required school literature, marking the traditions and customs of the parent nation, meetings with writers, and so on.

Education in the languages of the national minorities is a part of the integral educational system in the Republic of Croatia, and is organized in compliance with all the statutory provisions and subordinate legislation which are valid for Croatian schools. The special facets of the functioning of the schools and kindergartens in which classes are held in the languages of the national minorities are defined by the Constitutional Law and several other laws that regulate the operation of all types of schools at various levels (from pre-school to tertiary education); the special law on education in national minority languages in the Republic of Croatia is under preparation.

for cultural and social issues; a children's magazine *Bijela pčela*, a local paper *Gomirske novine*, a periodical *Artefacti*, an annual *Narodni srpski kalendar* and *Ljetopis SKD Prosvjeta*. "Zajednica Srba u Hrvatskoj" publishes the monthly *Naš glas*, a magazine for social issues; "Srpski demokratski forum" publishes a monthly *Identitet*, a Serbian independent paper; "Srpski narodni kongres" publishes a monthly *Alkion*, a magazine for social issues, culture of peace and civil society.

<sup>22</sup>The minorities with the organized cultural societies who organize various cultural activities are Italian, Czech, Slovakian, Hungarian, Ruthenian, Ukrainian, Serbian, German, Austrian, Jewish, Slovenian, Albanian, Muslim, Romany, Montenegrin, and Macedonian.

<sup>23</sup>Central libraries have been set up for the Italian, Hungarian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian, Serbian, Slovenian, and Albanian minorities.

All the overhead costs generated by the organization of classes and teaching (teachers' salaries, maintenance costs and the building of schools and other material expenses) are financed by the Ministry of Education and Sports in the manner and according to the criteria applied to regular Croatian schools. In order for the pupils from national minorities to have books at the same price like the children who have classes in Croatian, the Croatian government provides extra funds.

School records in those schools in which *all* classes are held in a national minority's language or in two languages, are kept in two languages (in Croatian and the national minority's language); if classes are *partly* held in a minority's language, the school records are kept in Croatian. National minorities have the right to open private kindergartens and schools<sup>24</sup>.

In the schools attended by national minorities children, besides the regular curricula there are supplementary curricula. They contain topics on fundamental features of the mother tongue, history, geography, art and music<sup>25</sup>. Which of the mentioned curricula is to be actually used in a school attended by the members of a national minority, depends on their choice, and the decision of the local (municipal) government which of these programs is most pertinent under the circumstances. The choice of the programs and the type of teaching is defined by municipality and school statutes.

In practice, some national minorities (e.g. Italian) choose solely the syllabuses where classes are held entirely in their mother tongue<sup>26</sup>, while other minorities choose those that cultivate the learning of mother tongue,

<sup>24</sup>Constitutional Law, Article 17.

<sup>25</sup>There are four curricula currently in use:

1. The curricula that include, apart from the teaching material that can be found in regular Croatian schools, additional materials in their mother tongue, on literature, history, geography, art and music, and all the classes are held in the mother tongue.

2. The curricula containing all the elements mentioned under 1., but the classes are held in two languages (in Croatian and the minority's language).

3. The curricula envisaging the so called cultivating (i.e. optional learning) the minority's mother tongue, culture and history; and

4. The intensive "summer school" curricula, containing the basic material in the minority's mother tongue, culture and history, which the pupils learn during summer holidays, usually lasting between 10 and 15 days.

<sup>26</sup>For members of the Italian minority there are 18 pre-school institutions in Italian, 19 elementary schools with a bigger number of classes (the classes are held exclusively in Italian, while Croatian is learnt as the language of social environment), 4 secondary schools. The Pula branch of the Faculty of Pedagogy in Rijeka educates and provides in-training in Italian for educators and teachers from the Italian minority.

history and culture (for example Ruthenians and Ukrainians), though all the minorities enjoy the same legal provisions.

Some minorities make use of the first three kinds of syllabuses (e.g. Czechs), so that in some schools the classes are held solely in their mother tongue, in other they hold classes in the two languages, while in the third they only cultivate their minority's literature, history and culture.

It should be mentioned that in the national minorities' schools, regardless of the type of the curriculum, the number of pupils in the classrooms is much smaller than in regular Croatian schools, so that the education in the national minorities' languages represents an additional financial burden. The biggest portion of the schoolbooks is translated from the Croatian language into the minority languages, some are published as original schoolbooks while a fraction of them is imported from the mother country.

The organization of classes in the language and alphabet of the Serbian national minority was intensified following the proposal of SKD "Prosvjeta" in 1995, when the work on the supplementary curricula for the study of the Serbian language and culture commenced. In 1996, a summer and a winter school were organized for this national minority and the necessary preconditions (syllabuses and schoolbooks) for the smooth beginning of school in the 1997/98 schoolyear were created. The organization of classes for the members of the Serbian minority in the Croatian Danube region poses special challenges and is being carried out within the context of the general process of reintegration of this region with the help of international community.

Since the 1991/92 schoolyear, religious education has been a part of elementary and secondary school education (as an optional subject). This subject is taught according to the curricula designed by religious communities, and accepted by the Ministry of Education and Sport, in whose domain the approval of all curricula and syllabuses is<sup>27</sup>. Religious education is held in the language of the national minority, following the syllabus of the faith which pupils and parents belong to. These syllabuses are financed by the Republic of Croatia in its entirety.

The *cultural heritage* of national minorities is a part of the heritage of the Republic of Croatia and is treated integrally, as the Croatian cultural heritage. Museums and ethnographic collections as the institutions and points of collection, preservation and presentation of cultural heritages are the central institutions for identity preservation and the realization of national minorities' ethnic rights. In Croatian museums there are major ethnographic collections of national minorities that have so far not been

<sup>27</sup>The following proposed religious education syllabuses have been approved: Catholic Church, Serbian Orthodox Church, Islamic Community, Adventist Christian Church, Baptist Church, Evangelist Church.

studied well enough, while there are also big collections owned by the national minorities' associations or exhibited in separate venues<sup>28</sup>.

The financing and monitoring of *social research* of interest to the national minorities is in the domain of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Until 1997, the Office for Ethnic and National Minorities directly helped social research of national minorities; its primary goal was to create the personnel and organizational base for these efforts. In 1997, the associations and institutions of the national minorities sent their research projects to the Ministry of Science and Technology; the Ministry duly reviewed them and those that had been favorably assessed were recommended for financial aid. Thus, in 1997, the Ministry will finance the research projects by SKD "Prosvjeta" from Zagreb and the Society of Hungarian scientists and artists.

As part of the campaign for enabling the national minorities *access to the media*, there is a special team on the Croatian TV which prepares the multinational program "Prizma". This is a regular fifty-minute show, prepared in Zagreb, in cooperation with all regional studios. Also, in its news, documentary and music programs, the Croatian TV presents national minorities, their cultural heritage and major institutions. The teams of the central evening news program cover the most important events in the life and work of national minorities.

Croatian Radio, Radio station Zagreb, regularly reports in its news and cultural broadcasts about everything of importance for the national minorities living in Croatia. On Croatian Radio, Radio station Zagreb, there is a weekly two-language thirty-minute news and music program about the minorities' cultural and educational activities entitled "Iz života naših nacionalnih manjina" /From the life of our national minorities/. In the cities with a bigger concentration of certain national minorities, these national minorities take part in the realization of the local radio and TV programs in their mother tongues. To provide for the influence of the public on radio and television programs, the House of Representatives of the Croatian Parliament set up the Council of Croatian Radio and Television in 1996; one national minority was appointed into the Council.

*The political rights of the national minorities* are realized in the same way as those of other citizens, through the regular institutions of the sys-

<sup>28</sup>The Czech national minority has its ethnographic collection in Ivanovo selo, founded by the Czech Union in the Republic of Croatia, which was in 1995 given over to the City Museum of Bjelovar. The Hungarian minority has its Ethnographic museum in Hrastin. The Ruthenians and Ukrainians have their Ethnographic collection in Petrovci, which belongs to the Vukovar City Museum. The building of the Jewish religious community in Zagreb houses a significant number of works of art and crafts, mostly religious objects from the 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century; a permanent gallery of paintings and sculptures with Jewish motifs or by Jewish authors is being arranged.

tem and as stipulated in the following documents: the Constitution, the Constitutional Law, the Law on the Election of Representatives for the Croatian National *Sabor*, the Law on the Election of Members of Representative Bodies of Local Self-governing Units and the Law on Political Parties. The national minorities are represented in the House of Representatives of the Croatian National *Sabor* with 8 delegates; three are from the Serbian minority in the special electoral unit, from several political parties. There is one representative from each of these minorities: Italian, Hungarian, Czech and Slovakian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian, and German and Austrian. The Serbian ethnic and national community or minority has two representatives in the Croatian National *Sabor*'s House of Municipalities. The representation of national minorities in local government and self-government bodies is proportionate to a national minority's share in the total population of a particular local self-government unit.

In order to enforce the provisions of the Constitutional Law and promote the implemental legislation linked with the minority rights, the Office for Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities in the government of the Republic of Croatia was established in 1990. Its competences are:

- proposing measures for the realization of ethnic rights;
- monitoring the implementation of international conventions regarding the protection of national, religious and cultural rights of minorities;
- gathering information and data on the realization of ethnic rights in Croatia and elsewhere in the world;
- proposing the implementation of certain practice-tested models of the realization of ethnic rights.

Within the Croatian National *Sabor* (the Croatian Parliament), the Committee for Human Rights was established, and within this Committee there is the Sub-committee for the Realization of the Rights of National Minorities. The Committee designs and monitors the implementation of the relevant policies and participates in the process of making laws and other regulations passed by the House of Representatives. It has the rights and duties of the central working body in the fields related to, among other things, the implementation of the ratified international acts regulating the protection of human rights, the realization of minority rights, international treaties and programs of international cultural, educational and other cooperation, when this is of interest for certain minorities. In June of 1997, the Croatian parliament launched the initiative for the revision of the Constitutional Law. Among the proposed changes is the one about the formation of the National Minorities' Council, which should represent the minorities' interests in *Sabor* and the Croatian government.

### *Conclusion*

When summing up the situation regarding the realization of the national minorities' rights in the Republic of Croatia, it should be pointed out that the cultural autonomy rights are most fully made use of by those minorities that used to enjoy these rights prior to the creation of the independent Croatia, due to their already existing organizational base. The non-Croatian nationals of the former SFRY, who at that time lived in Croatia and who, by the act of the international recognition of Croatia became national minorities, are still at the organizational stage and are paving the way for the comprehensive realization of their minority rights.

The position of the national minorities in the Republic of Croatia until now was defined independently or in cooperation with international institutions; this resulted in the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities and the definition of the status of Serbian national minority in the Croatian Danube region. The passing of the Constitutional Law officially expanded the scope of the national minorities' rights, particularly after the passing of appropriate implemental legislation and the ratification of fundamental international documents relating to the protection of national minorities. The analysis of the realization of minority rights on the example of the Republic of Croatia leads to the conclusion that the parent countries influence the realization of ethnic rights of national minorities not only by monitoring them, but by their active support for their compatriots' programs.

### *References:*

Deren-Antoljak Š., Constitutional and Legal Aspects of the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, *Balkan forum*, no. 1/1994, pp. 125—53

*Informacija o ostvarivanju kulturne autonomije pripadnika etničkih i nacionalnih zajednica ili manjina u Republici Hrvatskoj* (Information on the state of cultural autonomy of the ethnic and national communities or minorities in the Republic of Croatia), Government of the Republic of Croatia 1996 and 1997

*Instrument SEI za zaštitu manjinskih prava* (Instrument of the SEI for the protection of human rights), Center for Information and Documentation, Trieste, 1996

*Izješće o stanju ljudskih prava u Republici Hrvatskoj za 1996. godinu* (Report on the state of human rights in the Republic of Croatia for 1996), Government of the Republic of Croatia, 1997

*Manjine na području Alpe-Jadrana* (Minorities on the Alpe-Adria territory) proceedings from the Bled conference, 21—22 October 1993, Ljubljana, 1994

Pavlović, Č., Kulturno i etničko jedinstvo i politički pluralizam (Cultural and ethnic unity and political pluralism), *Demokracija*, No. 1/1994, pp. 10—4

Sporazum između Republike Hrvatske i Republike Mađarske o zaštiti mađarske manjine u Republici Hrvatskoj i hrvatske manjine u Republici Mađarskoj (Agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Hungary on the protection of the Hungarian minority in the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian minority in the Republic of Hungary), Osijek, April 5, 1995

Tatalović S., *Manjinski narodi i manjine* (Minority peoples and minorities), Prosvjeta, Zagreb, 1997

Tekst mišljenja o primanju Hrvatske u Vijeće Europe (Text of the opinion on admitting Croatia into the Council of Europe), *Vjesnik*, April 25, 1996, p. 3

Ugovor između Republike Hrvatske i Talijanske Republike o pravima manjina (The Treaty between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Italy on minority rights), Zagreb, December 5, 1996

Ustav Republike Hrvatske (The Constitution of the Republic of Croatia), *Izješća hrvatskog Sabora* (Sabor's reports), Zagreb, 1990

Ustavni zakon o ljudskim pravima i slobodama i pravima etničkih i nacionalnih zajednica ili manjina (The Constitutional Law of Human Rights and Freedoms and Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities), *Narodne novine*, No. 34/1992 and 68/1995

Ustavni zakon o izmjenama i dopunama Ustava Republike Hrvatske (The Constitutional Law on the Amendments and Modifications of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia), *Narodne novine*, No. 135/97

*List of societies and institutions of ethnic and national communities or minorities whose programs were financially supported by the Government of The Republic of Croatia in 1997*

No.	Name of the Organization or Institution	Seat	Minority
1.	NIRO "Edit"	Rijeka	Italians
2.	Centar za historijska istraživanja	Rovinj	Italians
3.	Talijanska drama	Rijeka	Italians
4.	Talijanska unija	Rijeka	Italians
5.	NIU "Jednota"	Daruvar	Czechs
6.	Savez Čeha u RH	Daruvar	Czechs
7.	"PRAMEN"	Našice	Slovaks
8.	Matica Slovačka u RH	Našice	Slovaks
9.	Savez Mađara Republike Hrvatske	Osijek	Hungarians
10.	Uredništvo "HUNCRO"	Osijek	Hungarians
11.	Demokratska zajednica Mađara RH	Zagreb	Hungarians
12.	Društvo mađarskih znanstvenika i umjetnika	Zagreb	Hungarians
13.	Uredništvo "Nova Dumka"	Zagreb	Ruthenians/ Ukrainians
14.	Savez Rusina i Ukrajinaca	Zagreb	Ruthenians/ Ukrainians
15.	SKD "Prosvjeta"	Zagreb	Serbs
16.	Zajednica Srba u RH	Zagreb	Serbs
17.	Srpski demokratski forum	Zagreb	Serbs
18.	Inicijativa za srpski narodni kongres	Zagreb	Serbs
19.	Savez srpskih organizacija	Zagreb	Serbs
20.	Tolerancija	Rijeka	Serbs
21.	Savez Nijemaca i Austrijanaca RH	Osijek	Germans/ Austrians
22.	Zajednica Nijemaca u RH	Zagreb	Germans/ Austrians
23.	Njemačka narodnosna zajednica	Zagreb	Germans/ Austrians

No.	Name of the Organization or Institution	Seat	Minority
24.	Narodni savez Nijemaca Hrvatske	Zagreb	Germans/ Austrians
25.	Udruga Austrijanaca u Hrvatskoj	Zagreb	Austrians
26.	Deutsches Wort	Zagreb	Germans/ Austrians
27.	Židovska općina	Zagreb	Jews
28.	Savez Slovenaca u RH	Rijeka	Slovenians
29.	Zajednica Albanaca u RH	Zagreb	Albanians
30.	KD Bošnjaka Hrvatske "Preporod"	Zagreb	Bosnians
31.	Savez udruženja Roma Hrvatske	Virovitica	Romanies
32.	Zajednica Roma Hrvatske	Zagreb	Romanies
33.	Nacionalna zajednica Crnogoraca RH	Zagreb	Montenegrins
34.	Zajednica Makedonaca RH	Zagreb	Macedonians