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The Croatian-Dutch Rashomon Effect

The research results prove and/or disprove some of the widely accepted perceptions Dutch people have about Croats and vice versa, but also reveal certain facts about us. The perception of particular problems, the social and cultural environment, from the Croatian point of view, as well as of the Dutch “below the sea level”, definitely requires additional reflection. Without any doubt, the conclusion should be that Croatia needs much stronger overall promotion now, today and every day in every situation. Satisfaction lies in presuming that our research and the presentation of the results constitute a small contribution to Croats promoting themselves outside Croatian borders in a positively aggressive manner. Therefore, let us join forces and work together, let us not be anonymous on the map of Europe. We should have a strong awareness that our place has always been, and will be, exactly there.

Key words: interaction, the Croatian culture, the Dutch culture, cross-cultural awareness, perception, social environment