
Introductory Note

This issue of “Politička misao: Croatian Political Science Review” focuses on Croatia’s new role in the international community. Croatian scholars and researchers have contributed with analyses and reviews of some key aspects of Croatia’s integration in both European and North Atlantic structures.

Europeanization is a long and cumbersome – and often highly disputed – process. The process that often opens more issues than it provides answers for.

Croatia will almost certainly join the EU before long. In Croatia, as well as in the member states, this issue draws a lot of attention. Croatia has an excellent track record in the transposition of the *Acquis Communautaire*, as well as in the harmonization with it. The key issue, however, is whether the Croatian economy is prepared to withstand the competitive pressures of the single market, and whether Croatian institutions and social structures are sufficiently prepared to implement and enforce the *Acquis Communautaire* in accordance with the basic principles and values that facilitate the day-to-day workings of the EU machinery.

This is a question that causes a serious debate between politicians, officials, scholars, researchers and experts. There is no definite answer to the question – in reality, a significant part of the answer lies in the discussion itself and how it is conducted. This issue of “Politička misao: Croatian Political Science Review” is an attempt to produce a modest contribution to this debate.

This thematic issue of “Politička misao: Croatian Political Science Review” is sponsored by the Danish Bilateral Pre-accession Assistance Programme to Croatia. The publication of this issue constitutes the final part of the project designed to develop and implement a genuinely cross-disciplinary master course on European Studies, which has been ongoing since 2006.

The process of developing such an educational novelty – all the lectures are held in English – has not been without obstacles; on the contrary, from the very outset, the process has been encountering several legal and bureaucratic problems related to the implementation of the Bologna Process in Croatia.

It is our hope that the students of the traditional disciplines, as well as the students engaged in cross-disciplinary studies here in Croatia and abroad, may benefit from having access to a genuine Croatian perspective on key issues in the current developments.

Michael Kümmel
Senior Advisor
Danish Bilateral Pre-accession
Assistance to Croatia