

## **CUSTOMS SYSTEM IN THE WIDER AREA OF RAKOVICA MUNICIPALITY FROM THE HOMELAND WAR TO THE OPENING OF THE BORDER CROSSING KORDUNSKI LJESKOVAC IN 2017.**

In the process of creating an independent Republic of Croatia, it was particularly important to establish an independent customs system, whereby the opening of border crossings was the basis of territorial sovereignty. Due to the occupation of the area around Rakovica, the Croatian customs system was established after the military operation Storm.

During the occupation of Rakovica and all other parts of Kordun, illegal cross-border trade was carried out from the Republic of Serbian Krajina to the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the administration of the 5th Corps of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia. Due to the inability of the Croatian border services to monitor the border crossings, the territorial, legal and fiscal sovereignty and the customs system of the Republic of Croatia were violated. At the same time, the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council were violated.

After the Croatian borders at Kordun and Lika were liberated in the military-police operation Storm, the customs administration opened customs offices in Maljevac, Ličko Petrovo Selo, Bogovolja and Pašin Potok. Since July 1, 2013, the organizational units of the Customs Administration have gained an additional role because they have become entry customs offices in the European Union on the political and traffic maps. The complete functionality of the Croatian border in the Rakovica area will be reached with the opening of the Kordunski Ljeskovac border crossing in 2017.

**Keywords:** Customs administration of the Republic of Croatia, Customs house Ličko Petrovo Selo, Customs house Maljevac, Customs office Bogovolja, Customs office Kordunski Ljeskovac