

UNIVERSITY OF ARTS IN BELGRADE
Center for Interdisciplinary studies



UNIVERSITÉ LUMIÈRE LYON 2
Faculté d'Anthropologie et de Sociologie



UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Management

Master thesis

State support to intercultural dialogue between cultural minorities and Serbian dominant culture in the multicultural environment of the AP Vojvodina

Državna podrška interkulturnom dijalogu između kulturnih manjina i srpske dominantne kulture u multikulturnoj sredini AP Vojvodine

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Belgrade, September 2012

"...Ignorance of each other's ways and lives has been a common cause throughout the history of mankind, of that suspicion and mistrust between the peoples of the world through which their differences have all too often broken into war. Thus, the main challenge for the international community today is to rethink the process by instilling the values of mutual understanding, respect and appreciation through a strengthened cooperation among nations."

UNESCO Constitution, 1945

CONTENTS

Abstract	5
Résumé in French	6
CHAPTER I	13
1.1. General introduction.....	13
1.2. Socio-political context of AP Vojvodina.....	14
1.3. Goals of the research.....	17
1.4. Research questions and hypotheses.....	18
1.5. Research design and methodology.....	20
CHAPTER II	22
2.1. Multiculturalism and interculturalism.....	22
2.2. Defining intercultural dialogue.....	24
2.3. Other relevant concepts.....	25
CHAPTER III	27
3.1. Institutional mapping and analyses of competences at the national level.....	27
3.1.1. The National Assembly.....	27
3.1.2. Ministry for human and minority rights, public administration and local self-government.....	29
3.1.3. Ministry for culture, media and information society.....	31
3.1.4. National council for culture.....	33
3.1.5. National councils of national minorities.....	34
3.2. Institutional mapping and analyses of competences at the provincial and local levels.	36
3.2.1. The Assembly of AP Vojvodina.....	36
3.2.2. Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities.....	38
3.2.3. Provincial secretariat for culture and public information.....	39
3.2.4. Institutes for culture of Vojvodina's national minorities.....	40

3.2.5. Institute for culture of Vojvodina.....	41
3.2.6. Councils for inter-ethnic relations.....	42
3.2.7. Other institutions at the local level.....	43
CHAPTER IV.....	45
4.1. Legislative framework for culture and national minorities.....	45
4.1.1. Framework convention for the preservation of national minorities.....	45
4.1.2. Constitution of the Republic of Serbia.....	47
4.1.3. Law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities.....	49
4.1.4. Law on Culture.....	50
4.1.5. Statute of AP Vojvodina.....	51
4.2. Financial support to culture of national minorities.....	53
4.2.1. Overview of the financial system for culture in Serbia.....	53
4.2.2. Financing of National councils and public cultural institutions of national minorities.....	56
4.2.3. Open contests for cultural programs and projects for national minorities.....	58
4.2.3.1. Contests of the Ministry of culture and information society.....	58
4.2.3.2. Contests of National councils of national minorities.....	61
4.2.3.3. Contests of provincial secretariats.....	62
CHAPTER V.....	66
5.1. Affirmation of multiculturalism and tolerance in Vojvodina.....	67
5.2. Analysis of minority cultural activities.....	70
CHAPTER VI.....	75
6.1. Discussion and analysis.....	75
6.2. Conclusion and recommendations.....	81
Reference list.....	84
Curriculum vitae.....	89

Abstract

The complex socio-political context and recent ethnic-based incidents in the AP Vojvodina, the multicultural northern province of the Republic of Serbia, have indicated that intercultural relations and communication in the province need improvement. The main goal of this research was to examine and analyze the state's support to the improvement of inter-ethnic relations in Vojvodina today, embodied in the state's support to intercultural dialogue activities and intercultural aspects of cultural and artistic projects of national minorities. Three research questions were formed, which provided three hypotheses: a) there is a great potential for institutional support to ICD but it is not fully utilized, b) cultural policy instruments of legislation and financial support, give little or no attention to intercultural relations, and c) public cultural institutions and organizations of national minorities in Vojvodina target mostly audiences from their communities and their programs do not include an intercultural aspect. In this research it was showed that the institutional potential is indeed great, but that it is only integrated into existing system at the provincial level of government. It was further showed that neither of the two cultural policy instrument support interculturalism and ICD, as well as that typical programs of public cultural institutions of national minorities target mostly audiences from their communities, and that intercultural aspects are practically non-existent. Findings of this research show that state's support to ICD and interculturalism is not efficient, and that cultural activities of national minorities lead to further segregation and ghettoizing of cultural minorities from the Serbian majority. As an outcome of this research, a set of recommendations was established in order to suggest ways in which state's support to ICD and interculturalism in Vojvodina could be improved.

Keywords: national minorities, interculturalism, ICD, Vojvodina

Résumé in French

A cause du multiculturalisme qui ne cesse d'approfondir dans des pays européens, les questions de la diversité culturelle et la cohésion sociale ont un rôle de plus en plus marquant sur les agendas politiques en Europe. Comme un concept qui vise à assurer le dialogue entre de diverses cultures, le dialogue interculturel (DIC) est devenu la stratégie de politique culturelle la plus soutenue dans l'UE. Comme un foyer de vingt-deux minorités nationales enregistrées en Serbie, sa province du Nord - la province autonome de Voïvodine montre la nécessité pour la promotion de l'interculturalisme et la compréhension entre les gens qui appartiennent à des cultures différentes, en particulier en tenant compte de la complexité socio-politique de la région.

L'objectif de cette recherche était d'examiner le soutien de l'Etat à l'interculturalisme et au DIC en Voïvodine, ce qui a été fait à travers trois aspects, contenus dans trois questions de recherche : a) Est-ce qu'il y a un potentiel institutionnel sur niveau de gouvernement pour la mise en œuvre et la supervision des programmes du DIC et la promotion de l'interculturalisme en Voïvodine? b) Est-ce que la préservation de la diversité culturelle en Voïvodine à travers les instruments établis de politique culturelle tels que le soutien financier et la législation encourage l'interculturalisme, et c) Est-ce que les programmes artistiques et culturels des institutions et organisations publiques minoritaires communiquent avec d'autres cultures, y compris la culture majoritaire serbe? L'hypothèse retenue est que le grand potentiel de l'appui institutionnel au DIC n'était donc pas pleinement exploité, et que les instruments actuels de la politique culturelle n'encouragent pas, de manière efficace, la coopération et le dialogue interculturels. En outre, il a été supposé que les activités culturelles des minorités nationales sont axées sur la préservation de leur identité culturelle, à travers une présentation des arts traditionnels et folkloriques – destiné uniquement aux spectateurs de leur communauté, et que l'interculturalisme n'est pas pris en charge.

Afin de confirmer ces hypothèses un ensemble de méthodes a été élaboré, notamment les analyses des documents législatifs pertinents, tels que les lois, les conventions et les autres règlements ; la cartographie des institutions pour les secteurs concernant la culture et les minorités nationales ; l'analyse des critères d'attribution pour l'appui financier de l'Etat et le système de financement global des minorités nationales ; l'analyse de la conceptualisation

artistique des programmes des institutions culturelles publiques des minorités nationales, ainsi que d'autres méthodes.

Selon la cartographie des institutions, il a été conclu qu'il y a plusieurs organismes qui s'occupent de la culture et des minorités au niveau national. Principalement, les conseils nationaux des minorités nationales, qui sont les voix des minorités au niveau national, et dont le rôle consiste à veiller à ce que tous les droits constitutionnels des minorités soient respectés et à surveiller et participer à toutes les questions relatives aux minorités dans plusieurs domaines, y compris la culture. L'exercice des droits des minorités est également supervisé par le Ministère des droits de l'homme et des minorités, l'administration publique et l'autonomie locale ainsi que par le comité des droits de l'homme et des minorités et de l'égalité des sexes à l'Assemblée nationale. Ce comité est le seul organisme chargé de relations inter-ethniques dans le domaine de la législation, et il n'y a pas d'organes spécialisés dans l'interculturalisme ou la DIC. Dans le domaine de la culture, les conseils nationaux des minorités nationales ont les droits fondateurs des institutions culturelles et ils participent également à la prise de décision, dans le choix des personnes pour les Conseils de Surveillance et du Directoire et dans le choix des directeurs généraux de ces institutions. Un autre organisme qui traite des questions de la culture des minorités nationales, c'est le ministère de la culture, des médias et de la société d'information, qui suit le développement global de la création artistique contemporaine des minorités nationales et incite également la coopération interethnique culturelle.

Au niveau provincial, il y a encore plusieurs organismes garantissant que tous les droits des minorités sont exercés, telles que le secrétariat provincial pour l'éducation, l'administration et les communautés nationales et le Conseil des communautés nationales de l'Assemblée provinciale. Les compétences en matière de la culture sont pour la plupart entre les mains du secrétariat provincial de la culture, qui détermine les besoins et les intérêts des minorités nationales dans le domaine de la culture, plus particulièrement pour les cinq minorités - ce sont les Instituts pour la culture des Hongrois, des Slovaques, des Roumains, des Ruthènes et des Croates de Voïvodine.

Il existe plusieurs institutions provinciales qui ont mis en place des activités qui tendent à promouvoir ou à traiter les questions de l'interculturalisme. Au plus haut niveau, le Conseil des communautés nationales de l'Assemblée provinciale examine et donne des avis sur la

coexistence de toutes les communautés nationales en Voïvodine et sur les activités qui préservent le multiculturalisme dans la province. Affirmation du multiculturalisme, de la tolérance et de la coexistence de tous les citoyens de Voïvodine est également l'une des principales compétences du secrétariat provincial pour l'éducation, l'administration et les communautés nationales, qui représente aussi l'organisme chargé de la mise en œuvre de l'unique grand projet du DIC en Voïvodine - affirmation du multiculturalisme et de la tolérance. Outre ces organismes, il existe aussi l'Institut pour la culture de la Voïvodine, formé par le gouvernement provincial avec les objectifs d'affirmer le multiculturalisme et l'interculturalisme de la province et de promouvoir les cultures et les langues de toutes les communautés nationales en Voïvodine.

Ayant à l'esprit tout cela, on peut facilement conclure que le potentiel institutionnel pour la promotion de l'interculturalité et du DIC en Voïvodine est énorme. Comme c'était précisé, cette question relève de la compétence de plusieurs organes au niveau provincial. Au niveau national, il n'est presque pas du tout utilisé, car il n'existe pas d'organisme qui traite explicitement le DIC, sauf une petite exception du Ministère de la culture, des médias et de la société de l'information, qui est en théorie chargé d'encourager la coopération interethnique. Le fait qu'à l'époque le ministère avait un organisme chargé du DIC - le groupe de travail pour la diversité culturelle et le dialogue interculturel, montre que la promotion de l'interculturalité et du DIC au niveau national devrait être sa responsabilité. Malheureusement, cela montre aussi que les concepts de l'interculturalité et du DIC ne sont pas une question pertinente au niveau national, et qu'ils sont délégués à des organismes provinciaux, qui sont nettement plus actifs dans ce domaine. Cette logique est raisonnable, compte tenu du fait que la majorité des minorités nationales vivant en Serbie sont en effet concentrés en Voïvodine, mais le manque d'initiative pour l'appui institutionnel au DIC au niveau national peut avoir des effets sur d'autres territoires qui sont culturellement et ethniquement diversifiées, en particulier sur les régions du sud, où l'on trouve une population importante de minorité albanaise. D'après l'hypothèse, le potentiel pour un appui institutionnel au DIC et à l'interculturalisme en Voïvodine existe à tous les niveaux de gouvernement en Serbie, mais il n'est pas pleinement utilisé, car il est intégré dans la structure actuelle des institutions au niveau provincial.

Le cadre législatif autour de minorités nationales en Voïvodine offre un environnement idéal pour leur coexistence avec la majorité serbe. Les droits constitutionnels sont en

correspondance avec les conventions et traités internationaux, et ils garantissent une protection spéciale et la pleine égalité aux membres des minorités nationales. Ils ont le droit à l'autonomie en matière de la culture, de l'éducation et de l'information, ce qui est pratiqué à travers l'existence des conseils nationaux des minorités nationales. Cela signifie que la politique culturelle des minorités nationales en Serbie est entre les mains de leurs conseils nationaux. La Constitution et la loi sur la protection des droits et libertés des minorités nationales garantissent le droit d'utiliser la langue de la minorité dans les territoires où ils ont un nombre important de la population, et les droits collectifs pour la conservation, l'enrichissement et le développement de l'identité culturelle. Sur l'aspect interculturel, les conventions internationales le considèrent comme un facteur d'enrichissement de la société, et incitent les signataires à encourager l'esprit de tolérance et de DIC. Cependant, le fait que l'article de la convention-cadre pour la protection des minorités nationales qui mentionne ce fait, est simplement copié dans la Constitution de la République de Serbie, mène à la conclusion que l'importance de promouvoir l'interculturalisme et le DIC n'est pas vraiment reconnue en Serbie, mais il est simplement mentionné pour suivre les tendances européennes. Ceci est encore confirmé par le fait que l'interculturalisme n'est pas mentionné dans d'autres documents, tels que la loi sur la culture et la loi sur la protection des droits et libertés des minorités nationales. Néanmoins, le Statut du PA de Voïvodine spécifie que le multiculturalisme, le multilinguisme et le multiconfessionnalisme présentent une grande valeur pour la province, et que tous les organismes provinciaux devraient encourager leur préservation, et aider dans le respect mutuel et la compréhension entre toutes les langues, les cultures et les religions en Voïvodine.

En matière d'appui financier, il a été conclu que les activités culturelles des minorités nationales sont financées principalement sous deux aspects : a) les activités de programme et les dépenses de fonctionnement des institutions publiques des minorités nationales sont financées par le budget de la République de Serbie - à travers les conseils nationaux des minorités nationales, ainsi que les gouvernements provinciaux et locaux b) les projets et les programmes des institutions publiques et des associations civiles sont soutenus dans le cadre du concours ouverts de subventions. Le premier aspect est une bonne occasion de créer une promotion systématique de l'interculturalisme, car les institutions doivent envoyer une proposition de programme à son organisme fondateur afin d'obtenir le financement annuel et le montant dépend, au moins en partie, de la portée de ces activités de programme.

Malheureusement, les critères nécessaires ne sont pas clairement définis, et les fonds sont alloués conformément aux parcours déjà établis, peu concernant la qualité du programme. Une situation similaire se présente dans le deuxième aspect du soutien financière de l'Etat, où il s'agit des concours ouverts- les fonds prévus pour les minorités nationales sont divisées en petites quantités et sont décernés à de nombreuses minorités différentes. Lors des concours au niveau national, les résultats d'attribution sont séparés en fonction de chaque minorité nationale, avec l'ajout de projets multiculturels ce qui fait un faible pourcentage du budget total. L'encouragement de la coopération interculturelle est mentionné dans les critères d'attribution, cependant il est généralement rattaché aux critères bien établis de préservation du multiculturalisme. Au niveau provincial, le plus grand concours ne divise pas des projets culturels selon des minorités nationales, et tous les projets sont dans la même catégorie, ensemble avec ceux de la culture serbe - et l'un des critères d'attribution clairement énoncés c'est la promotion des principes de l'interculturalité. Ce concours est destiné aux arts contemporains, tandis qu'il y a des concours distincts pour la préservation du patrimoine culturel et pour les manifestations traditionnelles des minorités nationales. Néanmoins, dans ces concours, aucun de critères d'attribution ne mentionne l'interculturalisme. Un très bon exemple est un concours pour des projets qui favorisent la tolérance interethnique en Voïvodine, qui est ouvert pendant toute l'année, ou jusqu'à ce que le budget prévu est dépensé, mais ce concours n'est pas adressé uniquement à des activités culturelles.

D'après l'hypothèse, la promotion de l'interculturalité n'est pas un critère d'attribution complètement intégrée à l'appui financier ou législatif de l'État aux activités culturelles des minorités nationales. Certes, il y a de bons exemples au niveau provincial, mais la conclusion générale est que les activités culturelles des minorités nationales sont financées quantitativement, en ne tenant guère compte de la qualité de leurs programmes. En matière de législation, toutes les lois et les textes juridiques garantissent l'exercice des droits des minorités, mais il semble que l'interculturalisme n'ait pas un aspect important. Avec le droit des minorités à l'autonomie en matière de la culture, chaque conseil national des minorités nationales a créé une politique culturelle qui est axée sur la préservation de leur identité nationale et la promotion de leur culture, ce qui n'est pas suffisant pour création d'un environnement interculturel dans Voïvodine, mais bien au contraire contribue à ghettoïsation future des minorités nationales.

Les programmes culturels typiques des institutions publiques des minorités nationales ont été analysés dans deux études de cas. L'étude de l'Institut pour la culture des Ruthènes de Voïvodine représente le concept typique de programme des institutions culturelles des minorités en Voïvodine, où une activité prédominante est le folklore et les arts traditionnels, destinée uniquement aux personnes appartenant à cette minorité, et qui est souvent peu attirant même aux plus jeunes membres de la population de cette minorité. Un très faible pourcentage de ce programme présente l'art contemporain, mais même les segments existants sont à nouveau destinés à un public restreint. Cette étude de cas a également montré que les institutions publiques des minorités peuvent avoir des programmes de coopération interculturelle, mais ils sont essentiellement limités à la présentation du folklore et des traditions d'autres minorités. D'autre part, l'étude de cas de l'Institut pour la culture des Croates de Voïvodine nous a montré que le principal outil pour la préservation de l'identité culturelle ne doit pas être la présentation des traditions et du folklore, mais que les arts contemporains et la promotion de la création artistique des artistes locaux peuvent être aussi efficaces. C'est aussi un bon exemple de l'initiative pour l'institutionnalisation de la production culturelle, qui se trouve entre les mains de la société civile, et pour la conception globale du programme qui encourage également la recherche dans le domaine de la culture, ainsi que pour le professionnalisme du système culturel existant pour minorité nationale croate. Les groupes cibles de ces programmes ne se limitent pas à la minorité croate, mais visent également un public plus vaste. Cependant, même si la promotion de l'interculturalisme figure parmi les objectifs de cet institut, ses activités ne sont pas interculturelles, mais elles sont uniquement axées sur la préservation et la présentation de la culture croate. C'est pourquoi l'hypothèse selon laquelle les institutions culturelles publiques des minorités donnent très peu d'attention aux projets interculturels est confirmée. Nous avons aussi vu que l'institution typique vise seulement les personnes appartenant à leur communauté, et même s'il y a des informations sur les activités disponibles pour la majorité serbe et des personnes appartenant à d'autres minorités, les programmes sont peu attrayants et axés principalement sur les traditions et les arts folkloriques. Un bon exemple d'un concept de programmation a également été analysé, le concept qui pourrait potentiellement atteindre un public plus large et qui offre des programmes plus diversifiés, mais même dans ce cas - projets interculturels n'existent pas.

Dans l'ensemble, on peut conclure que l'Etat apporte son soutien aux activités culturelles des minorités nationales en Voïvodine, sur un niveau très élevé. Les minorités ont le droit à l'autonomie en matière de la culture, et sont responsables de la politique culturelle leur concernant. Ils sont consultés sur toutes les questions relatives à leur minorité, et ils participent activement à la prise de décision à tous les niveaux de gouvernement. Leurs conseils nationaux sont consultés pour l'allocation des moyens financiers aux institutions et aux projets minoritaires, et l'Etat fait en sorte que, dans la mesure du possible, les minorités obtiennent des subventions pour leurs projets culturels.

Cependant, en dépit de tout le pouvoir en matière de culture donné aux minorités nationales, leur objectif principal reste la préservation de leur identité culturelle et l'enrichissement de leurs traditions. De différents échantillons ont été analysés, certains avec une conceptualisation du programme traditionnelle et certains avec contemporains, mais il a été conclu que, dans les deux cas - l'interculturalisme ne fait pas partie de la vie culturelle des minorités en Voïvodine. Ayant à l'esprit le contexte socio-politique de la région, ce genre de politique de programmation conduit à la future ségrégation et la ghettoïsation des minorités culturelles. Il n'existe pas d'organismes qui sont responsables explicitement pour la promotion du dialogue interculturel au niveau national, et le seul organe qui existait a été dissout. Au niveau provincial, les incidents interethniques au cours de la dernière décennie ont initié une réaction du gouvernement qui a abouti par un projet du DIC de grande envergure, visant les jeunes de Voïvodine, et promouvant la tolérance dans la région. Ce projet ne comprend pas de nombreuses activités culturelles, et lui-même n'est pas suffisant pour promouvoir la coopération culturelle interethnique. Il y a des organismes au niveau provincial qui pourrait jouer un rôle important dans la promotion du DIC, mais percevant toute cette recherche, le plus grand changement doit venir des échelons inférieurs, des travailleurs culturels et des responsables des institutions des minorités nationales qui ont besoins de conceptualiser de nouveau la totalité de leurs programmations et activités. Pour que cela se produise, l'Etat doit aussi jouer un rôle plus ferme afin de les animer, et d'inciter l'interculturalité à travers ses instruments de politique culturelle.

CHAPTER I

1.1. General Introduction

In the XXI century, Europe meets with many geopolitical changes, such as globalization, European Union (EU) enlargement and an increase in diversification of its population due to migration flows. The multicultural face of many European countries is constantly deepened with the diverse ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds of immigrants, refugees and citizens of other European countries migrating within the EU. Combination of these geopolitical phenomena and an increase in controversies and debates on value systems and a reported rise of incidents of discrimination, racism and populism, brought the issues of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion to a more prominent place on political agendas in Europe (European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research, 2008: III).

One of this trending concepts, intercultural dialogue (ICD), is one of the basic principles aiming to ensure the dialogue within diverse groups or within diverse cultures, which is supported by the European Union, and EU Institutions. The significance and the more prominent role of ICD in European cultural policies in recent years is evident from the fact that the year 2008 was named European Year of Intercultural Dialogue by the EU Parliament, with the aim of recognizing Europe's cultural diversity as an unique advantage and encouraging European citizens to explore the benefits of the rich cultural heritage and the opportunity to learn from many different cultures (Directorate General Education and Culture, 2008).

In addition to a large number of immigrants coming to the EU and EU nationals relocating within the EU, there are also regions and countries in Europe which have a historically and traditionally diverse ethnic population. The territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (AP Vojvodina), a northern autonomous province of the Republic of Serbia, and a home to all twenty two registered ethnic groups who live in Serbia according to the 2002 census (Republic Statistical Office, 2002) is a great example of that. Besides the Serbian majority, a considerable amount of national minority groups living in Serbia are focused in Vojvodina, including some of the largest minority groups, such as Hungarians, Croats, Slovaks, Roma, etc, making it an extremely diverse region. According to the population

census from 2002, the national minorities make around thirty five percent of the total population of Vojvodina.

In the contemporary cultural policy trends in Europe, ICD plays a vital role in the multicultural environments such as Vojvodina, which have a tradition for exercising national minority rights to nurture culture, religion, language and traditions. Vojvodina indeed has a several decades long practice of enabling minorities to preserve and develop their culture, form their cultural and educational institutions and organizations, have media in their own language, as well as participate in the social and cultural life of the community (Đukić, 2010). As opposed to the preservation of Vojvodina's cultural diversity, the inter-ethnic relations and communication is an issue that has not had a significant role in Serbia until recent years. Before year 2007, "Intercultural dialogue has not been a specific issue and/or a priority of cultural or other policies in Serbia" (Dragičević Šešić, Brkić, Mikić, 2011).

1.2. Socio-political context of AP Vojvodina

The region of today's AP Vojvodina was marked by constant changes in its ethnic structure throughout history, with the two major ethnic groups at the moment (Serbs and Hungarians) present on and off for almost one millennium. In addition to the two ethnic groups, the region was always rich with many ethnically and culturally diverse groups, especially since the XVII century when the region was ruled by the Habsburg Monarchy. The area was a cultural and religious centre of the Serbian people, who made around 70% of the population, but with increased diversification due to economical and social reasons, this percentage dropped to around 40%, when many ethnicities present even today started populating Vojvodina, such as Croatians, Rusyns, Slovaks, Romanians, Jewish, Roma, as well as more Hungarians and Germans. At that moment today's ethnic structure of Vojvodina started to form (Sokolovska, 2010: 145).

After the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian empire, in the 1918 the region became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. During the Second World War, the Jewish population in Vojvodina was severely decreased in the Holocaust, while a substantial population of Germans has willingly emigrated to Germany after the war, or was expelled or even killed by the Partisan forces. At the same time, the leadership in the Socialistic

Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) encouraged new settlers from the agriculturally disadvantaged areas in Croatia and Bosnia to relocate to Vojvodina. This resulted in a major demographic shift and new population in Vojvodina (around 90% of which were Serbs and Montenegrins), which "has become one of the key sources of tension in Vojvodina from 1980s onward" (Bieber, Winterhagen, 2006: 3). Vojvodina achieved full autonomy in 1974, in which it practically had the same rights as the six republics of the SFRY. With the emerging nationalistic current, many protested against the autonomy, and a discrepancy appeared between the settled population, which opposed the autonomy and the established Serb population "which had strongly supported provincial autonomy and was committed to inclusive multiethnic governance" (Bieber, Winterhagen, 2006: 4). After the resignation of the Vojvodina leadership in 1988, the province lost its autonomy and minorities, as well as political opponents of the upcoming regime of Slobodan Milošević, were marginalized (Bieber, Winterhagen, 2006: 4).

Vojvodina was spared large scale violence and massacres during the war in the 1990s. But even though Vojvodina avoided the war, another major demographic shift was caused by it. Of almost four hundred thousand refugees which fled permanently to Serbia (i.e., still lived in the province in 2002), 93% of which were Serbs, almost half of them found a home in Vojvodina. This increased the Serbian population in province to 65% . At the same time, the population of minorities declined during the 1990s, with three largest minority groups (Hungarians, Slovaks and Croats) significantly decreased in numbers, up to 20%, between the population censuses in 1991 and 2002 (Bieber, Winterhagen, 2006: 4). Without its autonomy, Vojvodina was under tight Serbian control, and the minorities had smaller access to government institutions, while the emphasis of the majority political parties on national issues excluded minorities from mainstream politics (Bieber, Winterhagen, 2006: 5).

However, cooperation between minorities and majority opposition parties increased gradually during the 1990s, and the Democratic Opposition of Serbia, which overthrew Slobodan Milošević included the largest Hungarian minority party, The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians, and both the republic and provincial governments included minorities. In the first years of the post-2000 transition period, some competences and responsibilities were returned to Vojvodina, particularly in the field of labor, pensions, health, and what is most important for this research - culture and education, but the question of Vojvodina's autonomy still remains a delicate topic.

In the last decade, Vojvodina has faced problems and challenges in relation to its cultural, linguistic and religious plurality. These challenges include an increase of anti-minority incidents throughout Vojvodina, such as the harassments, threats and physical attacks against national minorities (predominantly Hungarian) and pro-autonomy leaders, desecration of cemeteries, property vandalism, destruction of multilingual public signs, regular appearances of graffiti with racist and xenophobic messages, etc. The racist graffiti were written on public and private properties, and have included nationalistic and racist statements and threats such as "Death to Hungarians" ("Smrt Mađarima"), "Get out of Serbia" ("Marš iz Srbije"), "Serbia is an Orthodox country" ("Serbia je pravoslavna zemlja"), written in Cyrillic letters on the door of a catholic church, "Serbia to Serbs" ("Srbija Srbima"), etc. (Hungarian Human Rights Foundation, 2005).

The violence and nationalistic incidents in Vojvodina have been responded to in different ways. The timing of these incidents coincide with the increase in tension regarding the status of the other Serbian province of Kosovo, as well as the possible independence of Montenegro, the other federative republic from the State union of Serbia in Montenegro, which actualized in 2006. With that in mind, the Serbian media implied the threats to the territorial integrity of Serbia, while minorities in Vojvodina showed their dissatisfaction with the state of minority rights. (Bieber, Winterhagen, 2006: 2) . In Europe, these ethnically motivated incidents have triggered a number of debates about Serbia and its multiculturalism, arguing that the incidents could represent a broader problem. The report of the European Centre for Minority Issues (Bieber, Winterhagen, 2006: 1) claims that Serbian institutions and politicians have responded slowly and only under international pressure to these incidents, which "attests to the challenged of the majority-minority relations in Serbia". According to the report, this claim was also proven by the resolution that was passed by the European Parliament in 2005, declaring that the authorities in Serbia have failed to ensure respect for fundamental human rights and that "the Serbian authorities mostly turn a blind eye to the violence". Further, it is also stated that the incidents show a "strong attraction to nationalism" in today's youth, which grew up in the 1990s, under the regime of Slobodan Milošević. Finally, it is claimed that these incidents and their context are not only a continuance, or a legacy from the era of the 1990s, but that the nationalism and the tense relations between minorities and the Serbian majority "remain a formidable obstacle if not tackled".

However, recent sociological studies have shown that citizens of Vojvodina have a positive attitude toward its multiculturalism. According to research studies edited by Lazar Žolt (2007: 115), almost two thirds of citizens of Vojvodina perceive the province as multicultural and consider that the state should guarantee multiculturalism. On the other side, moderate or extremely negative attitude toward Vojvodina's multiculturalism is also a reality in the province, with almost seventeen percent of responders from the sample researched describing their views as such. Still, Lazar (2007: 117) concludes that "in spite of wars which were fought in its immediate surroundings, the capacities of the province are well-kept and can be increased and developed, which is of vital importance for all national minorities that live not only in Vojvodina, but also in a broader region."

Still, in the European Centre for Minority Issues report (Bieber, Winterhagen, 2006: 40) it is concluded that the above discussed incidents suggest that the sole protection of minority rights is not sufficient to improve the inter-ethnic relations in Vojvodina and Serbia. Even though some Serbian and international institutions did recognize the significance of tolerance and inter-ethnic communication in the socio-political context of Vojvodina, this aspect of interculturalism and improving of majority-minority relations has been neglected.

1.3. Goals of the research

In the above discussed paragraphs, it was mentioned that besides enabling the preservation of Vojvodina's cultural diversity, the issue of majority-minority relations need to be addressed. Having in mind the reality of a nationalist current, especially in the youth who grew up during the 1990s, and the history of tension and inter-ethnic incidents, there is also a need for greater inter-ethnic communication and promotion of tolerance in the province. As a tool for promotion of dialogue between cultures in a culturally and ethnically diverse society such as Vojvodina, Serbian authorities have only recently started including ICD in their agenda.

Having all this in mind, **the main goal of this research** was to examine and analyze the state's support to the improvement of inter-ethnic relations in Vojvodina today, embodied in the state's support to ICD activities and cultural and intercultural aspects of cultural and artistic projects of national minorities, with special attention made to the relations between minorities and Serbian majority.

The expected outcome was to come up with a set of suggestions for cultural policy instruments and ICD strategies aimed at decision-makers at all levels, which would contribute to greater implementation of the ICD concept in Vojvodina, improvement of the intercultural aspects of artistic programs and projects of minorities, and in that way promote tolerance and contribute to better inter-ethnic relations in the province.

1.4. Research questions and hypotheses

The starting point of every research is the establishment of a general research area that is of interest to the researcher. Development of research questions has the aim to provide a more narrow focus of the matter that is researched (Bryman, 2012: 88), which means that the process of formulating research questions is a process of narrowing down the general research area to specific research details, which will guide the overall research.

Transferred to the research of Serbia's support to intercultural dialogue and interculturalism in AP Vojvodina, the aim of the following research questions was to provide a clear and researchable guide to analyzing the state support to interculturalism in Vojvodina from several aspects.

The research questions that were formed for this reason were:

- 1) Is there institutional potential on any level of government for implementation and supervision of ICD programs and promotion of interculturalism in Vojvodina?
- 2) Does the preservation of cultural diversity in Vojvodina through established cultural policy instruments such as financial support and legislation encourage interculturalism?
- 3) Do artistic and cultural programs of public minority institutions and organizations communicate with other cultures, including the majority Serbian culture?

These research questions provide a clear focus on three aspects that were researched, all together coherently providing a detailed analysis of the state's support to interculturalism in Vojvodina.

The first question analyzes the organizational system, in search of the existing body (or the existence of a potential for one such body) which is responsible for initiating ICD programs,

supervising them, and overall promotion of interculturalism in Vojvodina. This aspect also includes the analysis of roles and competences of various bodies dealing with culture and minorities in Serbia and Vojvodina, and whether any of them participates in promoting interculturalism in the province.

Based on the first research question, a hypothesis is formed that **there is a great potential for institutional support to ICD at both national and provincial levels, but that this potential is not fully utilized.** This means that the existing system dealing with culture, cultural diversity and national minorities, often does not include or neglects promotion of interculturalism and ICD.

The second question is focused on the practical support of the state to cultural diversity in Vojvodina, through established cultural policy instruments - legislative and financial support. These two instruments were chosen because they provide a basis for exercising of minority rights and enabling them to nurture and protect their cultures. The legislation provides a legal basis for all that to happen, while the financial support provides the necessary means for existence of minority cultural activities. This question explores whether these two cultural policy instruments provide (or have the potential to provide) support to ICD.

Assumption based on the second research question is that these two cultural policy instruments aimed at **preservation of cultural diversity in Vojvodina are focused on the preservation of cultural identities** and traditions of national minorities, with little or **no attention made to interethnic and intercultural relations.**

The third question is focused on the artistic and cultural programs of the numerous minority cultural institutions and organizations, with the aim of analyzing their intercultural aspect. Specific attention is made to their availability and openness to other cultures and especially the Serbian majority culture, and establishing whether other cultures are a target group of these programs.

The hypothesis of the third research question is closely connected to the previous one, assuming that **cultural institutions and organizations of minorities in Vojvodina target only audiences from their own cultures** and create programs that preserve cultural identities and nurture traditions, but are rarely or not at all **including an intercultural aspect** and are not communicative to audiences from the numerous surrounding cultures.

1.5. Research design and methodology

Based on the above stated research questions and their hypothetical answers, it can be concluded that this research required an interdisciplinary approach, predominantly focused on the areas of cultural policy and cultural management. This approach is also adequate considering the interdisciplinary nature of the study programs of Cultural policy and management and Cultural development and project management, under whose framework this research was conducted. In addition, many methods used in this research and mentioned above, such as the analysis of relevant conventions and laws and other legislative documents, analysis of the organizational structure and competences of various state bodies, analysis of grants, contests and other types of financial support of relevant bodies, analyses of the artistic conceptualization of artistic and cultural programs, are some of the most common methods used by cultural policy researchers and cultural managers.

In terms of research design, which provides a framework for the collection of data, and considering the topic of the research, the design this research will be based on is a cross-sectional design. According to Alan Bryman (2012: 58), this type of research design collects data from more than one case (minority cultural institutions' programs, public bodies dealing with minorities), at a single point in time (researching the present situation in the state's support to ICD in Vojvodina), in order to collect data and examine the connection and relationships between two or more variables. In this research, the relationship examined was between state's financial, institutional and legislative support to minorities in Vojvodina, as well as artistic programs and projects of minorities, on one side and the level of interculturalism and existence of ICD programs in the province on the other.

Cross-sectional design is usually placed in the context of quantitative research. This research will however focus on a combination of quantitative and qualitative research, which is, according to Bryman (2012: 62), also reasonable within a cross-sectional design. In the chapter about bringing together research strategy and research design, Bryman (2012: 76) lists content analysis on a sample of documents as one of the typical forms of quantitative research strategy within the cross-sectional design, while for the qualitative data, he lists interviews, focus groups, qualitative content analysis, etc.

This research included a detailed content analysis of the current activities (artistic projects and programs) of public cultural institutions and organizations of minorities in Vojvodina, with

the aim of examining the level of interculturalism and their openness to audiences from other cultures, analyses of legislation in the area of minority rights and freedoms, as well as statutory documents on provincial and national levels, institutional system in support of minorities in Vojvodina and Serbia, etc. In order to collect the material for a conclusion and the examination of the accuracy of above mentioned hypotheses, as well as a set of recommendations for improvement of the level of interculturalism in AP Vojvodina, the design of this research follows the logic of the three research questions.

In order to collect data for the first question, examining the institutional potential for ICD in Vojvodina, the following set of methods was used:

- Mapping and analysis of the organizational system at all levels of government that deal with culture and national minorities, collected from official government websites and documentation
- Analysis of the roles and competences of public bodies dealing with culture and national minorities, based on data gathered from official reports and documents
- Examination of existing ICD programs in Vojvodina, initiated and/or implemented by public bodies

For the second question, examining the intercultural sphere in the state's support to cultural diversity through financing and legislation, the following set of methods was used:

- Analysis of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, and the Statute of AP Vojvodina
- Analysis of the relevant conventions and international documents, signed or ratified by the Republic of Serbia (such as the Framework convention for the protection of national minorities)
- Analysis of the relevant laws adopted by the Serbian Parliament (such as the Law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities, Law on Culture)
- Examination of the system of financial support to minority cultural institutions and artistic programs and projects, as well as existing ICD projects
- Analysis of the criteria for awarding grants to artistic project of minorities at national, provincial and local levels

For the final research question, examining the intercultural aspects of minorities' cultural programs, the following methods were used:

- Analysis of the artistic conceptualization of cultural programs of public minority institutions and organizations was implemented through two representative case studies - Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Rusyns and Vojvodina's Croats.

CHAPTER II

This chapter represents a theoretical basis for the research, which precisely defines all the concepts that are relevant to the topic. Two most relevant concepts for this research are multiculturalism and interculturalism, particularly the difference between them.

2.1. Multiculturalism and Interculturalism

Multiculturalism is a concept which includes cohabitation of diverse ethnic and cultural groups inside a pluralistic society (Dragičević Šešić, Stojković, 2007: 318), and according to Vesna Đukić (2010: 73), the term multiculturalism implies that there is no hierarchy between cultures, but that all the cultures are equal. Almost every contemporary society is multicultural, and will likely remain as such in the future, but also almost every culture, excluding the most primitive ones, is inherently plural and represents constant conversation between diverse traditions and opinions (Mesić, 2006: 113). According to Dragičević Šešić and Stojković (2007: 318), as a concept of ideology, multiculturalism includes acceptance of different ethnic groups, religions, culture, language, all inside a pluralistic society. In the world of politics, the term multiculturalism explains a state policy which has the goals to support good relations between different ethnic groups as well as defining relations between the state and ethnic minorities.

However, in practice, multiculturalism is often misunderstood and misinterpreted. Some of the critics of multiculturalism, and contemporary politicians interpret the term superficially. It is understood as a concept a society where different cultures live parallel to each other, such as immigrant communities and dominant majority population, where the immigrants are in no way integrated into the society. This kind of interpretation of the term, and recent statements of politicians, such as the German chancellor Angela Merkel, which pronounced multiculturalism in Germany to be dead, lead to the term becoming unpopular. However, the issues and problems of de facto multicultural societies remain an issue that need addressing (Vorša, 2010). Mesić (2006) lists the following problems of contemporary multicultural societies, which are without historical parallels: reconciliation of the legitimate demands for unity and diversity, achievement of political unity without cultural uniformity, inclusion but not assimilation, nurturing of the common sense about belonging of all citizens with respect for their cultural diversity, etc.

Đukić (2010: 74) claims that the term multiculturalism is often in use when describing the relations between the dominant, majority culture and cultural minorities, but also states that in practice this term often does not include exchange of values between cultures, but the emphasis is on their preservation which leads to their isolation, or rather - segregation. Precisely that static nature of multiculturalism has lead to the formation of the concept of interculturalism. Having that in mind, the concept was created in order to define dynamic relations between different cultures of one society.

Dragičević Šešić and Stojković (2007: 322) define interculturalism as a concept that assumes a systematic support to creation of dialogue between cultures, which encourages the dynamic relations mentioned in the chapter above, as well as an exchange of values and mutual influences of different cultures. Establishment of interculturalism assumes intercultural dialogue is the first step in creation of intercultural mediation. They further define mediation as the establishment of relations through artistic activates, media and programs of socio-cultural animation.

2.2. Defining Intercultural dialogue

In the Council of Europe's White paper on intercultural dialogue (Dimitrijević, ed., 2009: 18) the term intercultural dialogue is described as "a process which includes an open and dignified exchange of opinions between individuals and groups of various ethnic, cultural, religious or linguistic origin and heritage, with mutual respect and understanding". It is also claimed that the aims of intercultural dialogue are to nurture equality and human dignity, to contribute to political, cultural, social and economical integration and cohesion of multicultural societies, to promote mutual tolerance and respect.

According to the official report on national approaches to intercultural dialogue, written by the ERICarts institute for the European Commission (European Institute for Comparative Cultural Research, 2008), ICD refers to "interactive communication between individuals, groups or larger communities and can involve a wide range of actors from international organization to governmental bodies, arts and media organizations and networks". The report further elaborates on the concept, and claims that ICD should not be understood as a showcase of specific cultures, but that the dialogue should represent different forms of communication which promotes understanding among individuals that act in larger institutional contexts.

The report also shows the official statistic in what ICD means to people in Europe, implemented in year 2007, which perhaps should be taken as the most fitting definition of the concept. The definition of ICD for most people was: communication among different communities, cooperation, exchange, trans-national mobility, living together and understanding different cultures, co existence and cultural diversity, etc.

The concept of ICD is clearly multidisciplinary, i.e., applicable to activities in various areas. One of the most significant areas for promoting interculturalism is education, but also youth activities, sport, media, arts, etc. In this research, the focus is on ICD and the overall concept of interculturalism in the area of artistic production.

2.3. Other relevant concepts

This sub-chapter lists several concepts which are relevant to the research topic, and provide a wider theoretical basis in addition to the concepts of multiculturalism, interculturalism and ICD described in the sub-chapters above.

Legislative and linguistic definition of the term "national minority"

The Law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities (Zakon o zaštiti prava i sloboda nacionalnih manjina, 2002) defines national minorities as any group of citizens which are representative enough by their number, but still constituting a minority on the territory of Serbia, which is in a long and firm bond with the territory of Serbia and has characteristic such as culture, language, national or ethnic affiliation, origin and religious confession, which makes them different from the majority of the population, and whose members are characterized by care for collective nurture of their common identity, including culture, tradition, language and religion.

The term "ethnic minority" is also often used as a synonym to the term "national minority". According to the Oxford dictionary (Oxford University Press, 2012.), the difference between the two terms in English language are that the term "national" signifies a relation to the whole nation, something that is of national interest, common to a whole nation - which can be interpreted as something that directly relates to the state, while the term "ethnic" is relating to a population subgroup with a common national or cultural tradition, and thus is relating to the people, not necessarily the state they live in. Having that in mind, the more linguistically appropriate term for use in the context of this research would be the term "ethnic minority", however, in all the official translations of Serbian government reports, as well as in many international document, the term that is used is "national minority" and for that reason this term will also be used in this research.

Cultural diversity and cultural pluralism

According to the UNESCO universal declaration on cultural diversity, cultural diversity exists through uniqueness and plurality of identities of various groups and societies, which together

make the human kind. It is a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, and as such it is a common heritage of humanity. Đukić (2010: 76) points out that cultural diversity leads to cultural pluralism, which enables a harmonic interaction between groups and people with different cultural identities and their willingness to live together. From the standpoint of cultural policy, cultural pluralism signifies streaming toward enabling that harmonic interaction.

Cultural identity and intercultural communication

According to Stojković (2009), in the context of intercultural communication, the concept of identity is used to describe a reflexive notion which people have about themselves, and which is formed during the process of cultural, ethnic, gender and other types of socialization. Socialization of an individual within a wider cultural group and mediation between various cultures with which that person meets during that process creates cultural identity.

The most important element for intercultural communication are mutual experiences, and they present its basis. There more mutual experiences there are - the easier communication is, and vice versa. Stojković (2009) presents these modalities of communication through five circles: circles that almost entirely match (people belonging to the same culture), circles that partly match (people belonging to different cultures but having some common elements), circles that are only touching (people do not have any mutual experiences, but are recognizing each other as human beings), and finally circles that do not touch (there are no mutual communication at all). Similarities of different cultures are significantly increasing under the process of globalization, which can be reflected through the way of dressing of people, the global use of English language, the way many modern metropolises look like, etc.

Social cohesion

The term social cohesion relates to the attempts of decreased polarization between two opposing groups, such as rich and poor, minority and majority cultural groups, but also between cities and villages (Đukić, 2010: 75). Social cohesion is an important theme in social policies, and it has many dimensions in which relations between communities and cultures are

affected. For this research, the most relevant dimension is the decrease of polarization between cultures of minorities and majorities, as it increases the level of common values among people belonging to different cultures, and emphasizes the need for social inclusion of minorities, i.e. integration of minorities into the contemporary society.

CHAPTER III

3.1. Institutional mapping and analyses of competences at the national level

In this sub-chapter, the existing bodies that deal with culture and national minorities at the national level, as well as their competences were analyzed. The mapping process covered The National assembly and its committees, the Ministry of human rights and minority rights, public administration and local self-government and its Directorate for human and minority rights, Ministry for culture, media and information society, National council for culture as well as National councils of national minorities.

3.1.1. The National assembly

The highest representative body and the holder of constitutional and legislative power in Serbia is the National assembly of the Republic of Serbia (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2010a: 28). As such, the Assembly is responsible for adopting and changing the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, as well as giving approval for the Statute of the autonomous province, adopting and ratifying international agreements, deciding on the country borders, declaring wars and states of emergency and other details regarding the national defense, electing the government and persons for various important positions.

The assembly consists of two hundred and fifty members, chosen through election, according to the law. The decisions are made, according to the Constitution and the Law on the National assembly, with the vote of the majority, when most of the members of parliament are present at the session (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2010a: 29). The sessions are called by and lead by the president of the assembly. Other relevant positions and bodies in the assembly are the deputy president, Collegiate and the general secretary.

Permanent working bodies in the National assembly are various committees, which are responsible for consideration of laws and other acts proposed to the Assembly, analysis of the state of policy implementation by the Government, following the implementation of laws by the Government and other relevant public bodies, etc. The committees can cooperate together and have joint sessions. Each committee can also form its sub-committee, for dealing with specific issues. Currently, in the National assembly there are nineteen committees, including the committee for human and minority rights and gender equality, as well as committees for education and science, culture and information, social issues and social inclusion and poverty reduction, children's rights, finances and public budget, defense and internal affairs, EU integration, etc.

In the previous convocation of the Assembly, one of the thirty committees was a committee for Inter-ethnic relations, whose role was to review laws and other acts from the aspect of exercising of national minorities' rights and inter-ethnic relations (Jelinčić, ed., 2006). At that convocation a separate committee existed for gender quality, while there were no committees that dealt with human rights. In the current convocation, the three issues merged into one committee, for human and minority rights and gender equality, which has seventeen members. According to the official rulebook of the National assembly (Narodna skupštine Republike Srbije, 2010b: Article 52), which is applied since August 5th 2010, this committee is responsible for reviewing laws and other acts, in the areas of:

- exercising and protecting human rights and freedoms, as well as and children's rights
- implementation of ratified international agreements from the area of human rights
- ensuring the freedom of religion and the positions of religious communities and churches
- exercising national minorities' rights and inter-ethnic relations in Serbia, in collaboration with National councils of national minorities

The rulebook of the assembly also states that this committee reviews and follows the implementation of laws and other acts, as well as policy implementation by the Government and other officials, from the point of view of gender equality.

At the moment of conducting this research, the National assembly has not yet published the report on the activities of its committees since the implementation of the new rulebook in 2010, and the creation of the Committee for human and minority rights and gender equality. By observing the number of committees that existed in the previous convocation of the assembly, which is thirty, and the number of committees today, which is seventeen, it can be concluded that the above discussed merger of several issues into one newly created committee was part of downsizing, and should not be analyzed as a sign of priority shift. The new committee has continued reviewing laws and other acts dealing with minority rights and inter-ethnic relations, which was the primary role of the previously existent committee for inter-ethnic relations.

Another indicator that exercising rights of national minorities is a relevant issue in Serbia is the creation of the National minority council of the Serbian government in 2009, with primary tasks of ensuring all aspects of minority self-government (Cvetković, 2009). At the time of creation, the Council consisted of Ministers for human and minority rights, culture, education, youth and sport, religion, justice, as well as presidents of the National councils of national minorities.

3.1.2. Ministry for human and minority rights, public administration and local self-government

One of current seventeen ministries of the Republic of Serbia is the Ministry for human and minority rights, public administration and local self-government, created in 2011 after the overall downsizing of public bodies. What was earlier the Ministry for public administration and local self-government was practically merged with the Ministry for human and minority rights (which ceased to exist), which became the Directorate for human and minority rights - an administrative authority under the new Ministry.

The ministry's competences are in the areas of: the status of national minorities, protection and development of human and minority rights, official use of languages and scripts, public

administration and work of Ministries, professional training of employees in state agencies, system of local self-government and territorial autonomy, territorial organization of the Republic of Serbia, as well as enabling the conditions for realization of projects (falling under competences of the Ministry) financed from donations, EU pre-accession funds and other sources (Ministarstvo za ljudska i manjinska prava, državnu upravu i lokalnu samoupravu, 2012).

Competences of the Directorate for human and minority rights are related to:

- administration and keeping of registers of the National councils of national minorities, election of National councils of national minorities, the status and jurisdiction of the National councils of national minorities,
- status of national minorities living in Serbia and the exercise of their rights, creation of relations of national minorities with their homelands,
- writing of regulations in the area of human and minority rights and making sure they are in line with international regulations, antidiscrimination and determining the competences of the commission for examination of responsibilities and human rights violations,

and other issues determined by law (Ministarstvo za ljudska i manjinska prava, državnu upravu i lokalnu samoupravu, 2011).

The Directorate for human and minority rights consists of three sectors: Sector for development and protection of human rights, Sector for protection of minority rights, and Sector for general affairs and projects. Logically, the Sector for development and protection of human rights follows the international trends in the area of human rights and fights discrimination, while the Sector for general affairs and projects deals with administrative, financial details, as well as initiated projects and applies for EU funding in the areas of human and minority rights. The Sector for protection of minority rights deals with administration and registers of National councils of national minorities, and follows the exercising of rights of minorities in the areas of culture, media, education, official use of their languages and scripts, and other relevant areas. The Sector also deals with other relevant issues with minority rights, including making sure international treaties are followed, but also implements the Strategy for improvement of the position of Roma people.

The Sector for protection of minority rights is divided into three groups: group for improvement of rights of national minorities, group for election and keeping registers of National councils of national minorities and group for improvement of the position of Roma people. The second and third group's roles are clearly explained through their name. The first group's primary role is to make sure minority rights in all areas are implemented, but is also responsible for communication with EU institutions, writing reports, analyses and comments on the state of minorities in Serbia.

Based on the above discussed lists of competences, it can be concluded that in terms of the topic of this research, the role of the Directorate for human and minority rights is important. The Directorate supervises the exercising of rights of minorities guaranteed by the Constitution and international acts, and reviews their status, oversees the functioning of the established national councils of national minorities and elects new ones, and also works to enable communication between national minorities in Serbia and their homelands.

3.1.3. Ministry for culture, media and information society

The downsizing of the public bodies in 2011 affected the Ministry of Culture as well. Two other bodies merged with this Ministry, the Ministry for telecommunications and information society, and the Republic institute for informatics and internet, to create the new Ministry for culture, media and information society.

The competences of the Ministry for culture, media and information society are in the areas of: development of culture and artistic creation, support to development of literature, translation, music and performing arts, visual and applied arts, design, film and other audio-visual media, support to librarianship, book publishing, cinematography and music and performing arts activities, scientific research in the area of culture, financial support to cultural activities, protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, system of public information, implementation of the law on public information, following the activities of institutions and organizations in the area of public information, information of national minorities, support to creation of projects from IPA funds of EU in these areas, etc. (Ministarstvo kulture, informisanja i informacionog društva, 2012).

According to their newest rulebook (Ministarstvo kulture, informisanja i informacionog društva, 2011), the Ministry consists of several sectors. Sector for cultural heritage, dealing with the state of protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, implementation of international agreements on protection of cultural heritage, realization of educational programs in the subject, etc. The Sector has two units: Group for legal affairs in the area of cultural heritage and the Department for protection of cultural heritage.

Sector for contemporary artistic creation and creative industries is responsible for financial support, supervision of state founded cultural institutions, analyses and proposing of measures for development of the contemporary artistic creation in the fields of literature and book-publishing, visual arts and multimedia arts, music and music publishing, performing arts and cinematography. Further more, this Sector is responsible for following the development of contemporary artistic creation of national minorities, development of the diversity of cultural expressions, as well as inter-ethnic cultural cooperation. The Sector consists of two bodies: a) Department for contemporary artistic creation, creative industries and management in culture, which is among other things dealing with subsidizing projects, analyzing and reporting on the state of contemporary arts and creative industries in Serbia, etc., and b) Group for international cooperation in the area of contemporary artistic creation, which deals with international agreements and creation of cultural cooperation programs at the national level, among other things.

Sector for information and media prepares and implements strategic acts in the area of public information, supervises institutions, regulates new media, but also ensures the conditions for exercising and development of the minorities' right for information, which is done by the Group for exercising and development of the right for public information and media pluralism, under the Department for regulatory affairs, media pluralism, and accreditation of foreign correspondents.

The Sector for electronic communications is working on development of electronic communication and digitalization of media, among other things. The Sector for information society promotes and incites research and development of the information and communications technologies, promotes the use of internet and informatics in providing information, prepares laws and other acts in the area, etc. Other bodies of the Ministry include the Sector for European integrations in the area of electronic communication, postal services,

and information society, Sector for postal services, Sector for economic and financial affairs, Directorate for digital agenda, Sector for sustainable development of digital agenda, Secretariat of the Ministry, Minister's cabinet, as well as a Group for internal revision.

According to the above described competences, the Ministry for culture, media and information society is the main body responsible at national level for the artistic creation of national minorities, and the overall development of their culture, as well as the minorities' accessibility to information. What is most relevant is that one of the roles of the Ministry is the promotion of inter-ethnic cultural cooperation.

One of the working bodies of the Ministry of Culture, that was formed in 2007 by the decision of the Minister of Culture, was a Working group for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. The Group's roles were to improve and develop intercultural dialogue, to plan, prepare and coordinate projects, to promote and implement projects by the Council of Europe, European Commission and UNESCO, to implement programs in collaboration with cultural institutions and local governments. One of the main activities of the Group was implemented in collaboration with the Cultural Centre REX, and it was called Mapping and affirmation of Intercultural dialogue projects in the Republic of Serbia. This ambitious working group ceased to exist soon after the end of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008.

3.1.4. National council for culture

According to the recent Law on Culture, adopted by the National assembly in 2009 (*Zakon o kulturi*, 2009), the National council for culture was established in 2011, as an expert advisory body which provides support in the preservation, development and dissemination of culture. The council consists of nineteen members, elected by the National assembly for a five-year term. The members can be prominent artists and experts in the field of culture, employees of culture institutions founded by the Republic, Province or local self-government from the areas of cultural heritage protection and museums, performing arts, libraries, as well as cultural-educational institutions. Members also include people proposed by the Serbian academy of science and art, Councils of art universities and National councils of national minorities.

The role of the National council for culture is to analyze and give its opinion on the state of culture in the Republic of Serbia, create suggestions for cultural policy and development of

cultural activity, participate in the development of the strategy for cultural development, propose criteria for, and determine the status of outstanding artist or cultural expert, etc.

Having in mind its recent establishment, the National council for culture has not had many work results at the time of this research, however it has managed to adopt a set of rules regarding the criteria for the statuses of the cultural institution and artist of special significance. The large body of nineteen council members is split into smaller working groups, in order to be more productive, and has already started discussing the problems and proposing instruments for development of culture in Serbia (Matović, 2012).

3.1.5. National councils of national minorities

In order to achieve their constitutional right for self-government in the areas of culture, education, information and official use of languages and scripts, national minorities in Serbia have the right to constitute their national councils. These councils represent the minority in the previously mentioned areas and actively participate in the decision making processes in these areas. The councils also have the right to establish new institutions and organizations in these areas (Zakon o nacionalnim savetima nacionalnih manjina, 2009).

As discussed in the chapter 4.1.2., the Directorate for human and minority rights, under the Ministry for human and minority rights, public administration and local self-government, is responsible for keeping the register of existing national councils, as well as for accepting propositions for new councils. When inserted in the register, a council has the status of legal entity.

Councils consist of the president, who is representing the council, executive body, as well as four boards for: culture, education, information, and official use of languages and scripts. Some councils can also have other bodies, according to their Statute. The councils can have anywhere from fifteen to thirty five members, depending of the total number of ethnic population, according to the official statistics. Ethnicities with less than ten thousand people in Serbia have the smallest number of members in their councils, while ethnicities with over one hundred thousand have the maximum number of thirty five (Hungarians, Bosnians and Roma, according to the 2002 census).

Competences of national councils of national minorities include determining of symbols and holidays of the minority, founding of institutions, organizations, foundations, etc. in the areas of culture, education, information, and official use of languages and scripts, as well as other areas that are relevant for preservation of the minority's identity, initiation of new laws and reviewing the implementation of existing laws and other acts (including the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia) in the four areas - culture, education, information, and official use of languages and scripts. Protection of constitutional rights includes also preparation of regulations and supplement of existing regulations in the areas where the specific minority has the right for self-government, with the goal of achieving full equality between national minorities and citizens who belong to the Serbian majority.

When founding new institutions, the councils can share the founding rights with the Republic, the Province or local self-government units. These bodies can also fully or partially transfer the founding rights of existing institutions to the Councils. In the area of education, in institutions founded by the Republic, Province or a unit of local self-government, which use a minority language or in which the language and culture of a specific minority is studied, a national council can give its opinion on proposed members for the executive and school boards, as well as directors of the institutions, and for the educational institutions where the majority of instructions are made in a minority language, or an institution for which is determined a special significance to a minority, the council can also propose members of boards and elect directors. The council can, among other things, also propose the school curriculum, in elementary and high schools, especially in the areas of history, music and arts.

Councils also have founding rights in the area of culture, and can establish institutions for its minority for the purpose of preservation, improvement and development of cultural and national of identity of the minority. Same as in educational institutions, a council has a right to name one of the executive board members and give its opinion on suggested members, as well as its opinion in the selection of the institution's director.

Councils determine the strategy for cultural development of their minority, decide which cultural institutions and organizations have a significant role in preserving and developing the minority's identity, decide which cultural goods are of special importance for their minority and suggest measures for their protection and reconstruction, and also give opinions in the process of establishment or shutting down of libraries which have books in the language of

their minority. Another important role of Councils is that they give their suggestions, and in that way actively participate, in the allocation of grants to cultural institutions, manifestations and organizations of minorities, at concourses at Republic, provincial and local levels. Councils also participate in the selection of members for the National council for Culture, as well as have a representative who participates in its work related to the culture of the specific minority.

Same as in the areas of education and culture, National councils of national minorities have the rights to form their institutions in the area of media and information, and determine which institutions are relevant to their minority, adopt strategies for development in the area of information in the languages of minorities, participates in the management and execution of minority related programs and institutions in the area of information, through suggestions for board members, their representatives, etc.

3.2. Institutional mapping and analyses of competences at the provincial and local level

In this sub-chapter, the mapping and analysis of public bodies that deal with culture and national minorities was continued at the provincial and local levels. It included analysis of The Assembly of AP Vojvodina, Provincial secretariats for education, administration and national communities, and for culture and public information, five Institutes for culture of Vojvodina's national minorities, Institute for culture of Vojvodina, as well as Councils for inter-ethnic relations of local governments and other cultural institutions of national minorities at the local level.

3.2.1. The Assembly of AP Vojvodina

The Assembly of AP Vojvodina is a representative body of citizens of Vojvodina, which adopts regulations and other documents for implementation of laws and other acts of the Republic of Serbia, according to its jurisdiction, defined by the Statute of Vojvodina, which has to be approved by the Assembly with prior consent of the National assembly of Serbia. The Assembly of AP Vojvodina consists of one hundred and twenty members, chosen by

election for a period of four years. Besides Serbian language, Hungarian, Slovakian, Romanian, Rusyn and Croatian languages are also in official use in the work of the Assembly (Skupštine AP Vojvodine, 2011).

Competences of the Assembly of AP Vojvodina include adoption of the Statute of the province, adoption of resolutions, declarations, suggestions, and other acts relating to the province, determines the basics of politics in Vojvodina and supervises the work of the Vojvodina Government, adopts strategies of development in various areas, supervises the finances in the province, ratifies international agreements made by the Vojvodina government, founds institutions, etc.

Separate bodies of the Assembly are the Council of national communities and twenty boards dealing with various areas, including administration, finances, EU integrations, agriculture, education and culture, gender equality, urbanism and many more.

The Council of national communities has thirty members, chosen by the Assembly. What is interesting is that one half of the council consists of the members of Assembly which are declared as citizens of the Serbian majority, while the other half is made up of the members of Assembly which declared they belong to a minority community. More than half of members of both of these groups have to be in favor in order for a decision to be made. The opinion of the Council is necessary for all the decisions of the Assembly that are related to exercising the rights of minorities, especially in the areas of education, culture, information and use of languages and scripts. Other competences of the Council include reviewing and giving opinion on issues dealing with coexistence of Serbian population and population belonging to national minority communities, with activities which incite and preserve multilingualism and multiculturalism, etc. (Skupština AP Vojvodine, 2010a).

The twenty boards, as permanent bodies of the Assembly, suggest acts and review issues in various areas, under the jurisdiction of the Assembly. The Board for inter-ethnic relations functions in the area of protection and exercising of minority and human rights, with focus on areas such as education, culture, information of national minorities in their own languages, etc. There is also a Board for determination of the equality of legal documents in languages that are in official use, which makes sure that all the documents such as, regulations, decisions, by-laws, and others, are the same in all the languages whose legal use was officially adopted by the Assembly of AP Vojvodina. The Board for education, science,

culture, youth and sports is active in all the areas mentioned in its title, by proposing decisions and by-laws as well as creating program proposals, and proposals for development activities. In the field of culture, the Board works on improving and managing cultural heritage, and also considers proposals and by-laws in the areas of film, endowments and foundations, cultural heritage, and other relevant issues, including the insuring of development of minority national communities' culture. This board also follows the Cultural development program, adopted by the Assembly of AP Vojvodina (Skupština AP Vojvodine, 2010b).

3.2.2. Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities

The Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities was formed in 2011, with the merger of two provincial bodies that were covering the areas of education, administration, regulation and national communities.

Competences of the Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities relevant to the topic of this research include preparation of various acts to the provincial assembly, which deal with: official use of languages and scripts of national communities, determining the development strategy for interculturalism, affirmation of multiculturalism, tolerance and coexistence of national communities living in AP Vojvodina. It further deals with exercising of human and national minority rights, provides funding for financing National councils of national minorities, association and organization of national communities, religious organizations, etc. (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za propise, upravu i nacionalne zajednice, 2010).

The organization of the Secretariat is split into six sectors, for: educational system, administration, national communities, regulations, financial affairs and IT affairs and eRegulations. The Sector for national communities works on legal, analytical, statistical and documentation activities which deal with practicing of human and minority rights in AP Vojvodina and monitoring the situation with them, as well as proposing new measures of improvement of these rights; collaboration with bodies dealing with minority rights, collaboration with the civil sector and various associations dealing with national minorities, collaboration with the National councils of national minorities and other public institutions

dealing with minority rights; conceptualization and implementation of projects in the areas of culture, education, information, official use of languages and scripts and other areas that are relevant to exercising the rights of national minorities, as well as for preservation of interethnic tolerance in Vojvodina (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za obrazovanje, upravu i nacionalne zajednice, 2012).

3.2.3. Provincial secretariat for culture and public information

The Provincial secretariat for culture and public information has competences in the field of culture, protection of cultural heritage, cinematography, endowments and foundations, libraries, publications and public information (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za kulturu i javno informisanje, 2011).

The principal role of the Secretariat is to determine the needs and interest of citizens of AP Vojvodina in the sphere of culture, and to provide financial support for cultural activities. It is also responsible for determining needs and interest in the sphere of culture of national minorities, as well as providing the financial support for them. Besides these roles, it is also responsible for founding cultural institutions, such as museums, libraries, institute, etc. and appointment of their general managers; it suggests parts of the cultural development strategy of Serbia for parts concerning AP Vojvodina, and according to the strategy creates a plan for cultural development of AP Vojvodina. The Secretariat is also responsible for interregional cooperation in the area of culture for projects that are of interest for the overall cultural development in the province, as well as for providing funds for cultural institutions that were founded by the Secretariat, and other cultural institutions in the province which contribute to the cultural development in Vojvodina, or development of cultures of national minorities. The Secretariat is also responsible for writing reports and analyses for the provincial government or board of the Vojvodina's Assembly, which relate to honoring minority rights in the areas of artistic creation and protection of the cultural heritage.

In practice, the workload of the Provincial Secretariat is focused on the thirteen cultural institutions that were founded by AP Vojvodina: three museums (Museum of Vojvodina, Museum of contemporary arts of Vojvodina, Theatre museum of Vojvodina), Archives of Vojvodina, two galleries with memorial collections, Serbian National Theatre in Novi Sad

and the National Theatre in Subotica, Vojvodina Symphony Orchestra, two publishing institutes (*Misao* and *Forum*), as well as Provincial institute for protection of monuments and the Institute for Culture of Vojvodina. Other institutions that the Secretariat supervises include forty four libraries, thirteen museums, ten archives and ten galleries. The Secretariat is also responsible for inspections and supervision of the work of these institutions. One of the most relevant activities of the Secretariat is the call for grants for subsidizing programs and projects in the area of arts and culture.

The Provincial Secretariat for culture and public information consists of nine sectors, for: cultural heritage and public collections; contemporary artistic production and interregional cooperation; culture of national minorities and amateurism; administrative, inspection and financial affairs; public relations; analytics; media; informational systems and electronic media; legal and economic affairs in the area of information.

The most relevant sector for this research is the Sector for culture of national minorities and amateurism, which is responsible for: analytical, administrative and statistical work and creation of reports and analyses in the areas of arts and culture; following of laws on culture and other legislative acts, which guarantee rights of national minorities and their freedoms to express their culture; identification of problems, and suggestions for solutions in the areas of amateur arts creation and cultural tourism; supervises the work of several AP Vojvodina founded institutions, including the Institutes for culture of national minorities; collaborates with authorities on local, provincial and national level responsible for culture, as well as various institutions and non-governmental organizations working with arts and culture.

3.2.4. Institutes for culture of Vojvodina's national minorities

The five Institutes for culture of Vojvodina's national minorities were founded in 2008, by the National councils of the five minority groups and the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, which decided to establish cultural institutions of minorities whose languages are in official use in Vojvodina. The goal of these Institutes for culture of Hungarians, Slovaks, Romanians, Rusyns and Croats of Vojvodina, is to preserve, improve and develop their culture.

According to the official website of the Provincial secretariat for culture and public information (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za kulturu i javno informisanje, 2008), the founding of

these Institutes and inciting their activities shows the "commitment to the preservation of multicultural identity in Vojvodina, pluralism in culture and open society". It is also claimed that this formation is unique for the countries of the Western Balkans.

The activities of these Institutes include scientific research in culture, arts and science, organization of cultural events, publication of books, newspaper and magazines in minority languages, cultural cooperation with countries of origin and neighboring countries, all with the goals of nurturing and preservation of their cultural identities, and development and enrichment of Vojvodina's multiculturalism.

The structure of these Institutes varies from very basic, such as the Institute for culture of Rusyns of Vojvodina, which has only one employee - the director of the Institute, to quite elaborate, such as the Institute for culture of Slovaks of Vojvodina, which has several units: Developmental-research unit, Information documentation and communication unit, Cultural manifestations, specialization and education unit, and International cooperation unit.

3.2.5. Institute for culture of Vojvodina

Institute for culture of Vojvodina was formed in 2003 by the Assembly of AP Vojvodina, with the goals of nurturing and promoting cultural strategies, exploring the possibilities of implementation and development of new cultural models in Vojvodina, networking of existing cultural institutions, and most importantly - "affirmation of multiculturalism as a privilege of our context" (Zavod za kulturu Vojvodine, 2012).

Program activities of the Institute include scientific research in the area of culture and the promotion of contemporary artistic production in Vojvodina. The projects of the Institute deal with production of cultural and artistic events, cultural management, cultural tourism, new media, education in arts and culture as well as professional trainings in for cultural workers, etc. According to the Institute website (Zavod za kulturu Vojvodine, 2012), the common criteria for all the activities is streaming toward creative and scientific development strategies, which would profile the cultural identity of Vojvodina.

The activities of the Institute for Culture of Vojvodina are multidisciplinary and include production and development of visual arts, film, music, theatre and drama and other forms of

arts. Through its activities, the Institute promotes cultures and languages of national communities in Vojvodina, affirms multiculturalism and interculturalism, promotes equality between cultural initiatives in public, civil and private sector, supports amateurism and young arts professionals, develops cultural tourism, etc. (Zavod za kulturu Vojvodine, 2012).

The Institute has six departments. The Research and development department is in charge of conducting scientific research in the area of culture, and organizing professional symposiums and lectures. One of the main activities of the department is also publishing of a magazine for inciting and affirmation of intercultural communication, called "Interculturalism", which is published twice a year, and consists of a collection of scientific, philosophical, linguistic and other texts dealing with the issues of intercultural communication. The Information, documentation and Communication department is in charge of creating and maintaining of an electronic base for data related to arts and culture, watching the development of cultural institutions and collaborating with similar institution. The Department for cultural and artistic manifestations, professional development and education in arts and culture coordinates and realizes programs and manifestations, nurtures the cultures of national minorities, and implements programs of the amateur artists' alliance. The Department for international cooperation communicates and collaborates with international cultural institutions and organizations, collaborates with Serbian communities who live outside of Serbia, as well as helps the collaboration between national communities in Vojvodina and countries of their origin. The remaining departments are Department for nongovernmental organizations, which collaborates with cultural NGOs and artistic organizations, and the Publishing department, which is responsible for publishing of books, brochures, magazines, music discs and other publications.

3.2.6. Councils for inter-ethnic relations

Local governments in ethnically diverse areas, where one minority population exceeds five percent of total population, or the population of all minorities together exceeds ten percent of total population, can form a Council for inter-ethnic relations. The Council works as an independent body, consisting of representatives of Serbian majority as well as members of national minorities. The membership structure of the Council is formed by the decision of the Assembly of the local government, but it has to respect a certain uniformity, in which persons

belonging to Serbian population and national minorities should be equally represented, and none of the groups is allowed to have a majority in the number of council members (Zakon o lokalnoj samoupravi, 2007).

The work of the Council includes deliberation on exercising, protection and improvement of national equality, in accordance with the law and the Constitution. The decisions of the council are made with the consensus of its members, and the decision is then brought to the Assembly of the local government. Also, the Assembly and other bodies of the local government are obliged to consult the Council with all the decision regarding ethnic equality (Zakon o lokalnoj samoupravi, 2007).

This method of functioning of Councils for inter-ethnic relations - decision-making by consensus, means that the decisions can only be made with the opinion of all members. This way encourages dialogue and a need for compromise to find solutions which are acceptable to all nationalities (Centar za istraživanje etniciteta, 2012). According to the Center for research of ethnicity (Centar za istraživanje etniciteta, 2012), effective work of Councils for inter-ethnic relations contributes to strengthening the bonds between different national communities, stability in the local environment, better exercising of human and minority rights on the local level, and peaceful resolution of inter-ethnic conflicts and tensions.

3.2.7. Other institutions at the local level

Many national minorities in Vojvodina are focused in one geographical area, usually close to the border of a neighboring country, e.g. Hungarians in the northern parts, close to the Hungarian border, Romanians in the south-eastern part, close to the Romanian border, etc. or there is simply a significant percentage of a certain minority in a small geographical area, such as Rusyns in a small town of Ruski Krstur, Montenegrins in Vrbas, Slovaks in Kisač, etc. For this reason, many cultural institutions of national minorities are active on local levels.

Hungarian institutions are the most numerous, which is logical having in mind that Hungarians are the biggest national minority in Vojvodina, with almost fifteen percent of total population in Vojvodina, according to the 2002 census (Republic Statistical Office, 2002). Cultural institutions presenting Hungarian culture include: publishing house *Forum* from Novi Sad, which printed more than two thousand books in Hungarian language and is printing

daily newspapers in Hungarian language - *Magyar Szó*; Cultural and educational center *Thurzó Lajos* in Senta, which consists of the city museum, library, open university, house of culture, cinema, etc.; Hungarian cultural center *Népkör* in Subotica which consists of a library, literary, drama and music sections; Many theatre performances of the National theatre in Subotica and Zrenjanin are in Hungarian, as well as shows of Children's theatre *Gyermekszínház* in Subotica; The Novi Sad City Theatre, *Ujvidéki színház*, was established in 1973 with the goal to "develop drama arts and nurture the purity of Hungarian language" (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za kulturu i javno informisanje, 2008).

Slovakian national minority has one of the oldest libraries in Vojvodina, library *Štefan Homola* in Bački Petrovac, which has a fond of over forty thousand books in Slovakian language. Publishing house *Kultura* in the same city is also publishing books in Slovakian, as well as a magazine called *Nový život*. Most of Slovakian theatre and music performances and manifestations are organized by amateur groups and associations, which is the case also for the visual arts, which are an important part of Slovakian culture. There are also Slovakian national houses, which function as houses for culture in Kisač and Stara Pazova. Similar to Slovaks, cultural activities of Romanians of Vojvodina are also organized mostly by amateur groups and associations, and they include thirty cultural and arts societies and around ten amateur theatre troops. Institutional support to many manifestations and events is given by the Institution for cultural affairs - House of culture *Doina* from Uzdin, which consists of an amateur theatre *Todor Krecu Toša*, a folklore ensemble, national orchestra and a visual arts gallery. A newspaper-publishing institution *Libertatea* from Pančevo is annually publishing around ten books in Romanian language.

Publishing of Rusyn literature is done by a newspaper-publishing institution *Ruske slovo*, which publishes around ten books annually as well as Magazine for culture and literature *Švetlosc* and a magazine for children *Zahratka*. Since 1945, in Ruski Krstur, Rusyns of Vojvodina have a *Matica Rusinska*, cultural, educational and scientific institution, whose goal is to nurture language, tradition, culture and arts of Rusyns in Vojvodina. One of the most central institutions for Rusyn culture is also the Rusyn national theatre *Đađa* from Ruski Krstur, which had more than hundred and thirty premiers since its opening in year 1970. The House of culture in Ruski Krstur is the center point of the large Rusyn community in the city, and it consists of a library, museum, theatre, folklore and music ensembles.

Cultural activities of Croats in Vojvodina are in large part in the hands of amateur societies and associations, most notably the Croatian cultural educational society *Matija Gubec* as well as *Matica hrvatska* in Subotica, which is a civil organization aiming to preserve national and cultural identity of Croats in Vojvodina. Cultural activities of other national minorities with smaller population in Vojvodina are entirely organized by the civil societies and cultural artistic societies and other associations. These include cultural artistic society *Bunjevka* from Subotica, which organizes a festival of national artistic creativity of Bunjevci; Society for Ukrainian language, literature and culture is nurturing the Ukrainian language, Association *Donau* and the Society for German language, literature and culture are preserving the German identity and nurturing language and tradition; Jewish choir *Hašira*, etc.

CHAPTER IV

4.1. Legislative framework for culture and national minorities

As part of the analysis of the two cultural policy instruments that support national minorities in Vojvodina, relevant legal documents were analyzed in order to establish the legislative framework relating to culture and national minorities.

4.1.1. Framework convention for the Preservation of National Minorities

One of the most relevant international documents relevant for the topic, signed by Serbia in year 2001 (at the time, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), is the Framework convention for the Preservation of National Minorities. The Convention was created by the Council of Europe in 1995, having in mind that "the upheavals of European history have shown that the protection of national minorities is essential to stability, democratic security and peace in this continent"

(Council of Europe, 1995). One of the basic views of the Convention is also that the pluralist democratic society of today's Europe should have respect for ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of all people, as well as should enable the expression, preservation and development of their identity. Most importantly, it further states that the climate of tolerance and dialogue enables cultural diversity to be a factor of "enrichment for each society" instead of a factor for "division".

Section one of the Convention (Council of Europe, 1995) explains that protection of minority rights falls under the international protection of human rights, and that the Convention is applied with understanding and tolerance as well as friendly cooperation between States. Section two further explains that equality in front of the law is guaranteed and that any kind of discrimination is prohibited, as well as that the signatories should promote conditions that are necessary for minorities to develop their culture and preserve their identities and refrain from practices aimed at assimilation. Most important statement for this research is that the signatories of the Convention should encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue, promote respect and understanding as well as cooperation between people living in their territory, regardless of their ethnic, cultural, religious and other identities.

The Convention further lists rights and freedoms of minorities that the signatories should guarantee, such as freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, right to manifest religion or belief, right to use their own media and receive information in the minority language, use freely their minority language - in public, in written and spoken, in media, when writing their name officially, write topographical signs in minority language in appropriate places (with a large number of minority inhabitants), education in minority language, etc.

The Convention signatories should take measures that in the areas of education and research, knowledge of culture, history, language and religion of national minorities and of the majority are fostered. Opportunities for teacher training and contacts among students and teachers of different communities are also suggested. Also, the right to learn minority language should be exercised within the framework of the existing educational system in places where there is sufficient demand, without prejudice to learning the official language and teaching in this language (Council of Europe, 1995).

On the other hand, the Convention (Council of Europe, 1995) states that people belonging to a national minority must respect the national legislation and rights of others - particularly belonging to a majority or other minorities. None of the rights explained in the Convention does not guarantee people belonging to minorities to perform any act which is contrary to the principles of international law, as well as territorial integrity and political independence of States.

4.1.2. Constitution of the Republic of Serbia

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia is the supreme legal document, and all the laws enacted in Serbia, as well as all the ratified international agreements have to be in accordance with it (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 194). The Constitution determines the principles on which the Republic of Serbia is governed, and its version currently in effect is adopted by the National Assembly of Serbia in November 2006. Equality of all citizens and ethnic communities in Serbia is one of the basis for the Constitution, according to the Serbian Government official website (Vlada Republike Srbije, 2004), which can also be seen from the Article 14 from the section of the principles of the Constitution (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006), which states that the State guarantees "special protection to national minorities for the purpose of exercising full equality and preserving their identity".

Further, the second section of the Constitution is relating to Human and minority rights and freedoms, where in Article 18 it is stated that human and minority rights that are guaranteed by the ratified international treaties and law will be directly implemented (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006). Article 21 guarantees that all citizens of Serbia are equal before the law, and prohibits all direct and indirect discrimination based on race, national origin, social origin, cultural, language, religion, and other. In order to protect their freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Constitution, all citizens have the right to address international institutions. (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 22).

In terms of religious rights, Article 43 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion and beliefs, as well as their manifestation in "worship, observance, practice and teaching", in private and in public. Article 44 further states the freedom of churches and religious communities to perform religious rites in public and establish religious school and charity and

social institutions, in accordance with the law. The same article further states that if a religious community incites religions, national or racial intolerance, it can be banned by the Constitutional Court (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006).

The most important for the topic could be Article 48 (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006) in which it is clearly stated that the Republic of Serbia promotes recognition and respect, as well as understanding for the diversity of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identities of its citizens, and that it does so through education, culture and public information. It is also relevant that inciting discrimination and hatred based on someone's ethnic or racial identity is prohibited (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 49).

Rights of the national minorities are further elaborated in the third segment of the second section of the Constitution, where it is stated that in addition to the rights guaranteed to all the citizens, described above, people belonging to national minorities are guaranteed special individual and collective rights (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 75). An example of collective rights is their right to participate in the decision-making on issues relating their culture, education and information, as well as the use of their language. National minorities also elect their national councils and in that way exercise self-governance in the areas of culture, education and information, as well as the official use of their language (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 75). Members of national minorities also have the right to participate in the public administration and have public positions. In fact, "appropriate representation" of members of national minorities is taken into consideration in public bodies at the national and provincial levels, as well as in local self-government units. (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 77).

Equality in front of the law and the prohibition of discrimination based on national affiliation is guaranteed (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 76), in addition to the prohibition of forced assimilation of national minorities, and all activities directed toward the same goal (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 78). Some of the most relevant rights stated in the Constitution (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 79) are the rights of minorities to preserve and nurture, develop and publically express their national, ethnic, cultural and religious specificity, use their language, have education in their own language, use their name in the original form in their language, as well as use local names of streets and settlements, information in their own language, establishment of mass media in

their language, use their symbols in public spaces, form public bodies in the areas where they make a significant part of population, etc. Members of national minorities also have a right to found their educational and cultural associations, which are recognized by the state as having a specific role for the national minorities in the exercise of their rights. Constitution also guarantees the "undisturbed relations and cooperation" of national minorities and their compatriots outside of the Serbian territory (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 80).

The last article from the second section of the Constitution (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006: Article 81) copies the article six from the Framework convention for the preservation of national minorities (Council of Europe, 1995): Article 6) and states that the state incites tolerance and intercultural dialogue in the fields of education, culture and information. The State "undertakes efficient measures for enhancement of mutual respect, understanding and cooperation among all people living on its territory, regardless of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity".

4.1.3. Law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities

The law on protection of rights and freedoms was adopted by Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 2002, but after the reconstitution into the State union of Serbia and Montenegro and later Montenegro's declaration of independence in 2006, the law remained active in the Republic of Serbia.

The Law determines the ways of exercising the individual and collective rights of national minorities, which are guaranteed by the Constitution and by international treaties. The Law also determines the ways of protection of national minorities of any kind of discrimination and establishes instruments which provide and protect special rights of national minorities for self-government in education, language, culture and information.

Basic principles of the Law include prohibition of any kind of discrimination, on national, ethnic, racial or linguistic basis of all members of national minorities; providing of full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and majority population; freedom of national affiliation; right of persons belonging to a national minority to form and maintain collaborations with their compatriots and people from other countries, with whom

they share mutual ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, etc. (Zakon o zaštiti prava i sloboda nacionalnih manjina, 2002).

The Law also guarantees the right for preservation of identity. Persons belonging to national minorities have the right to: use and write their personal name in their language and script, in all official documents and records; officially use their language in territories which are traditionally inhabited by national minorities; broadcast and receive public information in their languages; have education in mother tongue; use national symbols, etc. One of the most relevant right for preservation of identity of persons belonging to national minorities is the right to preserve their culture and tradition. According to the Law (Zakon o zaštiti prava i sloboda nacionalnih manjina, 2002), they have individual and collective right for expression, preservation, nurturing and development of national, ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic specificity. In order to preserve their culture, persons belonging to a national minority have the rights to found their institutions and organizations in all areas of arts and culture, which the state will finance in accordance with its possibilities, and whose activities will be independently performed. Also, the museums, archives and institutions dealing with protection of cultural heritage will ensure the protection of cultural and historical heritage of national minorities on the territory of Serbia.

The Law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities also determines unique features, which is their participation in the decision-making process on issues that are of significance in the government and administration affairs. Through National councils of national minorities, which function as consultative bodies for the Government, members of national minorities participate in the decision-making process on questions of importance to them (Dragičević Šešić, Brkić, Mikić, 2011).

4.1.4. Law on Culture

Some of the basic principles of the national cultural policy, as described in the Law on Culture of the Republic of Serbia (Zakon o kulturi, 2009), are the freedom of expression in cultural and artistic creation, respect of cultural and democratic values of European and national tradition, as well as diversity of cultural expression, integration of cultural development into socio-economic and political long-term development of the democratic

society, decentralization in decision-making, organization and financing of culture, inciting cultural and artistic creativity and preservation of cultural and historical heritage, etc.

The general interest in culture in Serbia, according to the Law (Zakon o kulturi, 2009) is to create the environment for intensive cultural development and for encouraging cultural and artistic creativity; to finance programs of cultural institution founded by Republic of Serbia, as well as programs and projects of cultural institutions and organizations which contribute to overall cultural development with their quality; discover, creation, studying, preservation and presentation of Serbian culture and well as culture of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia; enabling availability of cultural heritage to the public; encouraging international cultural cooperation, scientific research in the area of culture, improvement of education in the area of culture; use of new technologies in culture; encouraging artistic creativity in children, amateurs and persons with disabilities, etc.

According to the Law, the Autonomous province of Vojvodina is in charge of implementing cultural policy in its territory, and is responsible for issues in the area of culture that are of provincial significance. For the cultural policies of national minorities, the role is assigned to the National council of national minorities, which also participate in the process of decision-making or are the sole decision-makers for issues concerning their own culture. Also, on the proposition of the National councils for national minorities, the Republic of Serbia, AP Vojvodina, or local authorities can found new institutions aimed at preservation, improvement and development of cultural specificity and preservation of national identity of national minorities, or give the corresponding status of special significance to already existing institutions (Zakon o kulturi, 2009).

4.1.5. Statute of AP Vojvodina

The Statute of AP Vojvodina was adopted according to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, and the "right of citizens of Vojvodina to exercise, nurture and protect the autonomy within the Republic of Serbia, preserve high degree of democracy and human rights, achieve sustainable economic and social progress, wish to live together in freedom, justice and peace, persevering on common interests and respecting the diversity of cultures of national communities who live in the territory of Vojvodina" (Skupština AP Vojvodine, 2009).

In the basic principles of the Statute, it is stated that Vojvodina is an autonomous province, inseparable from the Republic of Serbia, of all the citizens living in its territory. Vojvodina is traditionally multicultural and multiconfessional, and is respecting European values and principles. The autonomy of the citizens of Vojvodina means that none of the provincial bodies, political organizations, groups or individuals can assume the rights of the citizens to provincial autonomy, nor can they establish authority without the will of the citizens. The citizens practice their autonomy rights through initiatives and referendums, or through freely elected representatives.

Part of the autonomy of Vojvodina is also reflected in the responsibility of AP Vojvodina for its own sustainable development in economy, science, education, culture and tourism, as well as for equal development of all its geographical areas. AP Vojvodina also has a right to cooperate with territorial communities of other countries, as part of the foreign policy of the Republic of Serbia, and can also found government branches around Europe, with the goal of promote and improve its economic, scientific, educational and touristic capacities.

The fact that the Vojvodina is based on the principle of multiculturalism is clearly stated in the opening statement. It is also evident from additional basic principles of the Statute, which state that all ethnic communities that live in Vojvodina, including the majority Serbian population, but also all persons belonging to national minorities, are equal in exercising their rights. Also, multilingualism, multiculturalism and multiconfessionalism are claimed to present a special value and significance to the AP of Vojvodina. The Statute states that it is a duty of all the provincial bodies, institutions and organizations to encourage and help with preservation and improvement of multilingualism and cultural heritage of national communities which traditionally live in the territory of AP Vojvodina, as well as to help with mutual respect and understanding of different languages, cultures and religions in Vojvodina (Skupština AP Vojvodine, 2009).

Section two of the Statute is dedicated to exercising of human and minority rights. In it, it is claimed that all the citizens of Vojvodina are equal in their rights and duties, regardless of their race, gender, birthplace, language, national affiliation, confession, education, social circumstances, political or any other beliefs, etc. Any form of discrimination based on the above mentioned basis is strictly prohibited. Special rights are given to children, pregnant women, and single parents, for the purpose of stabile demographic development. Persons

belonging to national communities also have a special protection and all the rights that are guaranteed to them by the acts of the Republic of Serbia. Interesting fact is also that in the list of employees of provincial bodies, institutions and organizations, persons belonging to national minorities should be represented with a percentage which corresponds to the overall percentage their national minority has compared to the total population of Vojvodina.

Persons belonging to national minorities also practice their autonomy through their national councils which enable them to found institutions, and independently make decisions, or participate in the decision-making process in the areas of education, culture, use of language and scripts and information. The Statute also states that besides the Cyrillic and Latin script of Serbian language, other languages are in official use: Hungarian, Slovakian, Croatian, Romanian and Rusynian.

4.2. Financial support to culture of national minorities

Another cultural policy instrument that was analyzed in order to establish whether state's support includes promotion of interculturalism was the financial support. This sub-chapter will provide an overview of the financial system for culture in Serbia, and analyze the financing of National councils of national minorities and public institutions for culture of national minorities, as well as analyze the open contests of bodies at all levels of government that are aimed at cultural activities of national minorities.

4.2.1. Overview of the financial system for culture in Serbia

The current financial system for culture is described (Mikić, 2011) as a model of mixed sources of financing in which public and private sectors participate in creating the sustainability environment for cultural institutions. Private sector supports culture through corporate social responsibility, through which mostly international companies provide donations and sponsorships to cultural programs. Still, the public budget for culture creates a large pressure of the state budget, with over five hundred institutions being financed from the public budget for culture. Regardless of that, in the current socio-economic environment of

the Republic of Serbia, the issues of arts and culture and overall cultural development are severely marginalized. The ongoing economic crisis and the marginalization of culture on the political agenda has led to a stagnation in the increase of public funds for culture, as well as missed chances for diversification of sources for public funds for culture (Mikić, 2011).

According to Mikić (2011) it is evident that there is a discrepancy between the increase of funds for culture and the expenses of cultural institutions, which leads to their "financial handicaps" - which are solved by lowering the program and running costs. Mikić further states that there is a lack of public awareness of this problem, as well as lack of political interest in reforming the financial system for culture.

Since the year 2001, Serbia introduced a budgetary system that is based on financial statistical codes, which enabled the entire public sector to form and monitor public expenditure in new, internationally accepted, way. However, this system does not provide an overall picture of the expenditure for culture, since revenue of many cultural institutions comes from different places. For example, arts education is financed by the Ministry of Education, international cultural cooperation is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, scientific research in the area of culture is financed by the Ministry of Science, etc. (Dragičević Šešić, Brkić, Mikić, 2011).

On the other hand, annual programs costs and running expenses of cultural institutions which were founded by the Republic of Serbia, the autonomous province or the local government are all financed, i.e., subsidized by their founders. A body which is in charge for culture at the national level is the Ministry of Culture, which is the founder of thirty eight institutions of national importance (Mikić, 2011). On the Provincial level, that is the Provincial secretariat for culture and public information, which is the founder of thirteen cultural institutions and the five Institutes for culture of national minorities of Vojvodina. On local level, the responsible bodies are the city secretariats for culture, or a sector for culture or any other sector (e.g. social services) which work in the area of culture, under the city administration. Cultural institutions whose founder is the local government usually include city theatres, cultural centers, city museums, libraries, etc.

In year 2002, the Omnibus law, which regulates the jurisdiction of the Autonomous province of Vojvodina, was adopted and it established a two-part system of financing cultural institutions of provincial significance. The system functions in a way that the Republic of

Serbia is obliged to participate in financing of provincial institutions with one third of their total costs. Institutions which fall under this rule are the Provincial institute for protection of monuments and other institutions for protection of cultural goods, archives on the territory of AP Vojvodina, Museum of Vojvodina, Serbian National Theatre, Museum of contemporary visual arts, Theatre museum of Vojvodina, and main libraries in Vojvodina.

The process of annual financing of cultural institutions functions in a way that the institutions have to create an annual program proposition, which shows the necessary funds for program costs and other running expenses. Based on this proposal and the strategic plan of the institution, the founder of the institution decides on the amount of the annual budget. After deciding on what programs will be financed and the amount of the annual budget, the founders sign an annual contract for financing of programs with the institution (Zakon o kulturi, 2009).

Institutions or organizations that were not founded by the Ministry, the Provincial secretariat or the local government also have a right to be subsidized by the State, but only up to forty five percent of total running expenses. The condition for eligibility is to have successful cultural programs which satisfy the cultural needs of a certain area. These institutions are obliged to send a report on the activities of previous five years, and a strategic plan for the next five years.

Another instrument of financial support to culture are public contests for various types of artistic creativity. This form of financing was established in year 2003, and the public contests are published on all levels, by the Ministry of Culture, Provincial secretariat for Culture and public information, and the local governments. The contests are published at least once a year, with the purpose of collecting proposals for subsidizing cultural projects, including projects for artistic and scientific research in culture. The results of the contests are made by an independent expert panel, which is formed by the body which organized the contest. This body is also in charge of setting the award criteria, meaning that the Minister of culture is in charge of regulating the ways, values and criteria for selection of projects at the contests on the national level, while the responsible bodies on the provincial and local levels are in charge for the same for the contests their levels of government. These criteria were formed only in 2010, and according to Mikić (2011), they lack qualitative and quantitative measures for selections of projects, as well as financial criteria such as rationality, sustainability, and

economy of their budgets. Additional financing of cultural projects, outside of public contests is possible, but only for relevant projects which were impossible to plan in time. The budget planned for these projects can be up to twenty five percent of total projects budget.

Besides the two-part financing system between the republic and provincial levels of government (for institutions of provincial significance), collaboration between levels exists also between the republic level and the local (City of Belgrade), where the Ministry is participating in subsidizing traditional manifestations which are largely financed by the Secretariat for Culture of the City of Belgrade (Mikić, 2011). However, there are no three or four-part agreements between different levels of government and institutions, which would provide long-term stability for the institutions and enable better planning and development. Mikić (2011) also notices one gap in financial system for culture in Serbia, which is the non-existence of systematic public-private partnerships, which could be used for development and improvement of cultural infrastructure, support to nationally, provincially and/or locally relevant cultural projects as well as for creation of mixed funds for culture.

4.2.2. Financing of National councils and public cultural institutions of national minorities

As it was explained in the previous chapter, cultural institutions that were founded by a body at one of the three levels of government is financed by the that particular body. On the republic level, none of the institutions founded by the Ministry of Culture are responsible solely for the culture of national minorities in Vojvodina. This can easily be explained by the fact that most of national minority population is concentrated in the territory of Vojvodina, and since the Omnibus law transfers jurisdictions for culture at the provincial level, it is logical that culture of minorities is handled on provincial level or local levels. There are, however, bodies on republic level, dealing with minority issues, which are the National councils of national minorities.

In the chapter 4.1.5. *National councils of national minorities*, where the roles and jurisdictions of the National councils of national minorities were analyzed, it was explained that some of the founding rights were transferred to the National councils, for institutions which have a great significance to a certain national minorities, either by working in the area of public

information in the language of that minority, or by working on preservation and development of that minority's culture. Besides the transferred founding rights, Councils have the right to found new institutions. Having that in mind, the National councils as founding or co-founding bodies of institutions are responsible for providing funds for their program and running costs, while the financing of the institutions whose founding rights were transferred to the Councils is the responsibility of the original founding body, a not the Council (Zakon o nacionalnim savetima nacionalnih manjina, 2009). Cultural institutions dealing with minority cultures on the local level are funded by the local governments.

The National councils for national minorities are funded by the budget of the Republic, budget of the Autonomous province, budget of local governments, donations and other sources (Zakon o nacionalnim savetima nacionalnih manjina, 2009). The amount of the budget from public funds is determined every year by appropriate law and decisions on all three levels - the Budget law of the Republic of Serbia, and decisions on the budget of AP Vojvodina and local government. The budget coming from the republic level is allocated in a way that thirty percent of the budget is split equally between all the registered Councils, while the rest is split proportionally, having in mind the population number of that minority, number of institutions financed by the Council and their activities. This budget is allocated by the Ministry for human and minority rights, public administration and local self-government, to whom the Councils also provide annual financial plans and reports. Funds from the provincial government are allocated to the thirteen Councils which are registered in the territory of AP Vojvodina, and this procedure is done through the Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities. Same as the budget from the Republic, the funds from the Provincial government are allocated in a way that thirty percent of the total budget is allocated equally to all the Councils, while the remaining seventy percent is split according to the criteria determined in the Decision about the ways and criteria for allocation of budget funds of the Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities to the National councils of national minorities (2010). These criteria take into consideration the size of the population of the minority at the territory of AP Vojvodina, the number of institutions the Councils are responsible for, as well as the scope of their activities, and the number of local government which have the minority language in official use. The funds from the local governments are allocated to Councils of national minorities which make more than

ten percent of the local population, or have their language in official use in the local government.

Among Councils' running costs, which include the office costs, travel costs, salaries for employees, etc., the budget is used for:

1) financing the work of institutions, foundations or organizations which were founded or co-founded by the Council, as well as institutions for which the founding rights were transferred to the Council

2) financing or subsidizing programs and projects in the areas of education, culture, information or official use of languages and scripts of a national minority

Based on all this, it can be concluded that the National councils of national minorities play a very important role in financing of culture of minorities, either by providing funds for running and program expenses of public minority cultural institutions they founded, or by providing funds for contests for minority's cultural projects and participating in the contests of the Ministry for human and minority rights.

4.2.3. Open contests for cultural programs and projects of national minorities

It was already concluded in the process of institutional mapping and analysis of competences (Chapter IV) that a significant part of cultural activities of national minorities is focused in the civil sector, instead of public, particularly cultural activities of national minorities which are smaller in population number. Having that in mind, it can be said that the most important instrument for financing culture of national minorities in Serbia are the open contests for financing programs and projects of national minorities, which exist on several levels and are organized by several bodies.

4.2.3.1. Contests of the Ministry of culture and information society

The Ministry of culture and information is organizing several open contests in the area of culture and information. Contests are public, and the Ministry has a rulebook (Ministarstvo kulture, informisanja i informacionog društva, 2010) which specifies the criteria for awarding

funds, which are evaluated by twenty three independent panels, made for twenty three areas of cultural activities. One of these panels is for cultural activities of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia.

According to the rulebook, any selected project at any contests by the Ministry needs to meet at least three of fourteen listed criteria, which include: innovative programming; sustainability; long-term effects, encouraging diversity of cultural expressions; promotion of Serbian culture in the world and its participation in international cultural cooperation; creating conditions for equal cultural development in all geographical areas of Serbia; use of new technologies; realistic financial plan and diversity of sources of revenue; creation of conditions for exercising and preserving cultural identities of national minorities in the Republic of Serbia, as well as Serbs abroad; etc. Specific award criteria for contests in the area of national minority cultures are very general, and they include evaluation of the participation of professionals in creation and/or implementation of the project, technical possibilities for project realization, sustainability of the project, cooperation with the local community, etc. Besides these, "impact of the project on the preservation of cultural values of national minorities in Serbia, as well as for intercultural cooperation" is also evaluated (Ministarstvo kulture, informisanja i informacionog društva, 2010).

The principal and largest contest of the Ministry of culture and information is the contest for financing and subsidizing projects in culture, as well as projects of artistic and scientific research in culture. The contests is open to projects from several areas of culture, including drama arts, music, visual and applied arts, publishing and literature, cinematography, folklore and amateur creativity, but also cultural activity of youth and children, cultural activities of Serbs outside of Serbia, and cultural activity of national minorities living in Serbia - which also includes projects in the area of multiculturalism. The contest is open to artistic and cultural organizations and institutions, and other associations, as well as individuals, from Serbia. Cultural institutions which were founded by the Republic do not have the right to apply at this contest.

According to the official website of the Ministry (Ministarstvo kulture i informisanja, 2011), the total budget for national minorities for the open contest for year 2012 was 8.000.000,00 dinars (less than seventy thousand euro), which was split to projects of fifteen national minorities, plus multicultural projects. The smallest amount of the grant was as little as

25.000,00 dinars (a little over two hundred euro), while the largest was 585.000,00 dinars (around five thousand euro), and the average grant amount per project was 123.076,92 dinars (a little over one thousand euro). In the 2012 contest only three multicultural projects were awarded with a grant, in total amount of 350.000,00 dinars (around three thousand euro).

Another contest of the Ministry for culture and information for year 2012 was the contest for projects in the area of public information in languages of national minorities. The goal of this contest was to support the exercising of minority rights for information in their languages, support to printing and distribution of printed, audio and audiovisual works in languages of minorities, and encouraging of media creation in the area of culture, education and science of minorities (Ministarstvo kulture i informisanja, 2011). This contest has more specific award criteria, listed in the contest open call. Besides the basic criteria of contribution to media pluralism, valid argumentation of the project, importance of the project for the exercising of minority rights for information in their languages, balanced budget and sustainability of the project, the listed additional criteria includes also that projects with multicultural and intercultural content are supported with the purpose of "development of the culture of dialogue, better understanding and familiarization between different communities" (Ministarstvo kulture i informisanja, 2011).

The total budget for this contest was 20.000.000,00 dinars (around one hundred and seventy thousand euro), and sixty eight projects received grants, making the average grant amount of 294.117,65 dinars (around two thousand five hundred euro). The smallest grant was 60.000,00 dinars (around five hundred euro) and the largest was 680.000,00 dinars (around five thousand and seven hundred euro) which was awarded to a multicultural project. This contest has also split awarded projects according to the national minority, or in this case according to the language of a national minority, plus multicultural projects. Projects in sixteen languages were supported, including one project in Serbian language, which was proposed by the Jewish minority. In this contests fifteen multicultural project were supported, with total amount of 4.515.692,00 dinars (around thirty eight thousand euro), which is 22,6 percent, i.e. almost one fourth of the total budget.

4.2.3.2. Contests of the National councils of national minorities

According to the Law on National councils of national minorities (Zakon o nacionalnim savetima nacionalnih manjina, 2009), it was stated in the previous chapter that part of the running costs of the Councils is also organization of open contests. Of the thirteen Councils located on the territory of AP Vojvodina, many have very limited budgets¹ due to the small number of population, such as National Councils of Ashkalis, Egyptians, Bunjevci, etc., and their activities are very limited. The largest National Council is the one of Hungarian national minority, having in mind that Hungarians are the second largest ethnic group in Vojvodina, and also other Councils, mostly of larger ethnic groups such as Slovaks, Croats, Rusyns, etc., have developed activities, including open contests for organizations and institutions dealing with their minority.

National council of Hungarian national minority organizes several open contests in the area of education, culture, public information in Hungarian language, etc. These include scholarships for students who are members of Hungarian national minority, contest for promotion of Hungarian language and public information in Hungarian language, contest for participation in the festival of Hungarian science, contest for purchase of valuable assets, as well as for running costs of institutions, and cultural projects of Hungarian institutions, organizations, and amateurs' associations (Magyar Nemzeti Tanács, 2012).

The total amount of the budget for the contest for support to cultural projects for year 2012 was 1.490.000,00 dinars (around twelve thousand seven hundred euro). Thirty four projects received funding, making the average amount of grant 43.823,50 dinars (around three hundred and seventy euro). The budget for running costs was similar in size, and was 1.480.000,00 dinars (around twelve thousand five hundred), while the budget for purchase of valuable assets was 1.530.000,00 dinars (around thirteen thousand euro).

Another National council that has established a grant scheme for culture is the National council of Slovak national minority. The Council has a set of criteria for awarding grants on open contests, which was based on the established cultural policy of the Council as its strategic goals. The criteria which are valued in cultural project applications include: protection of heritage, professional development of cultural heritage¹ and promotion of

¹ the budgeting process was explained in detail in Chapter 5.2.2.1. *Funding of National councils and public cultural institutions of national minorities*

traditional culture, development of all areas of contemporary arts, encouraging artistic activity of youth, balanced development of all areas where Slovak minority lives in Serbia, affirmation of Slovak culture, affirmation of intercultural dialogue, with the emphasis on Slovak culture, etc. (Nacionalni savet slovačke nacionalne manjine, 2012).

4.2.3.3. Contests of the provincial secretariats

The Provincial secretariat for culture and public information has several open contests which are related to the culture of national minorities. The largest contest of the Secretariat, in terms of the number of selected projects and the budget, is the Contest for subsidizing programs and projects in culture in the area of contemporary artistic creation in AP Vojvodina, whose budget for year 2012 was 125.580.000,00 dinars (around one million sixty six thousand euro). This is a general contest covering several areas, similar to the one of Ministry of Culture, described in Chapter 5.2.2.2.1., but the difference is that cultural projects of national minorities are not separated from other projects.

The contest subsidizes projects in six areas: music and performing arts, visual and applied arts, literature, theatre, film presentations and workshops as well as multimedia projects. Another two separate categories exist, festivals and international cultural cooperation, which are classified separately from the six areas. Decisions are made by the Secretary for Culture, with the previous opinion of the Commission for allocation of funds. The Provincial secretariat also has a set of criteria for projects that are awarded, and they include projects which contribute with its program and artistic quality to the development of culture and arts, promote the culture of Serbia abroad, or participate in the interregional networks and projects; have a long tradition of existence, and are part of the cultural identity of AP Vojvodina; promote principles of interculturalism and multiculturalism, and the multiethnic society of AP Vojvodina; contribute to development and promotion of contemporary artistic creation in Vojvodina; contribute to networking and cooperation as well as professionalization of cultural institutions, organizations and associations; projects dedicated to youth and children; etc. (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za kulturu i javno informisanje, 2008).

Due to the fact that projects of national minorities are not separated from other projects, but are included in categorization based on the areas listed in the chapter above, it is impossible to

tell the exact amount of the budget that was allocated to cultural activities which deal with national minorities. However, it is evident that culture of national minorities is present in all the areas, and that some of the most relevant festivals, theatres, literary events, etc.

Other contest of the Provincial secretariat for culture and public information is for protection of cultural heritage. The contest is split into several thematic areas, including protection of tangible and intangible heritage, protection of intangible heritage of Serbs, as well as protection of intangible heritage of Serbs in Romania, Croatia and Hungary. Remaining themes include protection of intangible heritage of national minorities, and financing of programs of traditional (folklore) manifestations. The total amount of budget for this contest for year 2012 was 37.120.000,00 dinars (around three hundred and fifteen thousand euro). The largest percentage of this amount, 44,28 percent, was allocated to the theme protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, which in money makes 16.440.000,00 dinars (around one hundred and forty euro). This theme is accepting projects for conservation, restoration and protection of immovable cultural heritage; preservation, research and protection of movable cultural heritage, museums and archives; projects for digitalization of cultural heritage and presentation of cultural heritage to youth and children; projects which introduce new methods and international standards in the field of preservation of cultural heritage; as well as projects which promote principles of multiculturalism through cultural heritage. The next theme, protection of intangible cultural heritage of Serbs in AP Vojvodina makes 29,63 percent of the total budget with 11.000.000,00 dinars (around ninety three thousand and five hundred euro), while the protection of intangible cultural heritage of national minorities makes 15 percent with 5.600.000,00 dinars (around forty seven thousand six hundred euro). The remaining theme is for programs of traditional manifestations which makes 8,29 percent of the total budget with 3.080.000,00 dinars (around twenty six thousand euro), which helps with financing of traditional manifestations in Vojvodina, which promote multiculturalism through simultaneous presentation of folklore of Serbs and national minorities from Vojvodina, as well as manifestations which present one nation's folklore, and which gather participants and audiences from Vojvodina, entire Serbia, and the surrounding region. The theme with the smallest percentage of the budget (2,69) is presentation of intangible cultural heritage of Serbs in Romania, Croatia and Hungary, which has the budget of 1.000.000,00 dinars (around eight thousand five hundred euro).

The Secretariat has also determined a set of criteria which guides the decisions for awarding grants to these projects. None of the criteria specifically emphasizes the preservation of Vojvodina's multiculturalism nor awards encouragement of interculturalism, besides the already existing thematic scope described above. Most of the criteria revolves around protection of cultural heritage, including general contribution to preservation, protection, presentation and popularization of cultural heritage in AP Vojvodina; contribute to the overall availability of cultural heritage and improvement of its presentation; encourage cooperation between institutions dealing with cultural heritage and cooperation between public and civil sector organizations in the field; etc. (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za kulturu i javno informisanje, 2008).

The Secretariat for culture and public information also has an open contests for subsidizing publications (books and magazines) for the territory of AP Vojvodina, whose budget is 15.500.000,00 dinars (around one hundred thirty two thousand euro). This contests has two thematic scopes, for supporting publishing of magazines - for culture, arts and literature, youth and children in Serbian or minority languages, as well as bilingual and multilingual magazines; and for supporting publishing of first editions of books of importance for culture of AP Vojvodina - in Serbian or minority languages, translations of important books from other languages in Serbian or minority languages and vice versa, as well as from minority languages to Serbian and vice versa. The decisions for allocation of funds is based on a set of criteria which includes: high artistic and literal quality, cultural and public interest for publishing, contribution to the promotion of cultural of Vojvodina and its cultural heritage, openness to other cultures and improvement of mutual understanding and familiarization, etc. (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za kulturu i javno informisanje, 2008).

Several contests in the area of public information, that are of relevance for this research, were also organized. The principal contest, for subsidizing projects in the area of public information, has the budget of 45.125.000,00 dinars (around three hundred and eighty five thousand euro) in year 2012, and is aimed at projects that create new and inventive programs as well as promote multiculturalism, improve multilingualism and interculturalism. These aims can be implemented through improvement and of programs in news-papers or electronic media in Serbian language, as well as languages of national minorities, in the area of economy, sociology, culture, minority communities, social protection, problems of youth and children, gender equality, etc. The criteria for selection of projects include: the relevance of

the project in exercising the right of citizens for public information; relevance of the project in exercising the rights of national minority population for public information in their language, as well as preservation of their linguistic and cultural identities; stability in financial plan, etc. Projects which are available to a greater number of audience, as well as projects that have multilingual, multicultural and intercultural programs are favored. Another contests in the area of public information include support to projects for development of professional standards in media as well as contest for projects of public information abroad, aimed at the Serbian Diaspora.

The Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities is also organizing contests that are useful for national minorities in Vojvodina. One of them is a contest for allocation of budgetary means to bodies and organizations of AP Vojvodina with official use of national minority languages, which help with financing courses, seminars and other types of training for employees, as well as manufacturing of official signs in minority languages, for these bodies and organizations, streets, squares, city names, and such; printing of official government forms and other documents in minority languages, etc. (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za obrazovanje, upravu i nacionalne zajednice, 2012).

Another relevant contest is the contest for grants for organizations of ethnic communities of AP Vojvodina. With the total amount of budget of 30.500.000,00 dinars (around two hundred and sixty thousand euro) in 2012, which is split according to nationalities with almost half of the budget - 48,59 percent - going to the Hungarian national minority, while the rest is split among remaining communities, with the addition of multicultural projects. The grants are aimed at regular activities, purchase of new equipment and financing of projects and manifestations, particularly with the emphasis on: creating the environment for development of science, culture and arts; projects of multicultural nature with the goal of promoting tolerance; preservation of languages and traditions; encouraging traditional and folklore arts and amateurism; etc. Similar like other contests, the average size of the grant in 2012 contest was very small, with less than 100.000,00 dinars (less than eight hundred and fifty euro). Of the total budget, the grants for multicultural projects (nine was awarded) was 680.000,00 dinars (around five thousand eight hundred euro), which makes 2,23 percent of the total budget (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za obrazovanje, upravu i nacionalne zajednice, 2012).

The Secretariat for education, administration and national communities also has a contest for subsidizing project with preserve and nurture interethnic tolerance in Vojvodina. The funds are aimed to co-financing of programs, projects and activities of organizations and associations, whose goal is the affirmation of values of a multicultural society and preservation and nurturing of interethnic tolerance in Vojvodina, with special attention at: development and improvement of electronic media, radio and television programs, as well as printed media; publishing and printing of books, magazines, brochures and other types of publications; seminars, conferences, and other scientific and educational gatherings; as well as cultural, educational, sport and youth manifestations. The budget for year 2012 is 9.670.000,00 dinars (around eighty two thousand four hundred euro), but the process of allocation of funds is slightly different than the other contests. There is no deadline for sending project proposals, but the contest is open until the end of the calendar year, or until the intended budget is spent. This contest is organized under the framework of a large intercultural dialogue project of the Secretariat, called Affirmation of multiculturalism and tolerance in Vojvodina.

CHAPTER V

The goal of this chapter is to examine and analyze concepts of programs and projects of selected institutions and organizations, with the aim of determining whether promotion of interculturalism and intercultural dialogue are relevant issues to them and whether they are an integral part of their programming concepts.. Two types of organizations/projects were considered: existing projects that are promoting and dealing with intercultural dialogue and were initiated and/or implemented by public bodies, on one side; and programs and projects of public institutions dealing with cultural activities of minorities in Vojvodina, on the other.

Other than the project "Affirmation of multiculturalism and tolerance in Vojvodina" implemented by the Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities, there are no large-scale projects of public bodies and institutions that deal with interculturalism and intercultural dialogue, and that is why this project was selected as a case study for the first segment. Cultural programs and projects of public institutions of national minorities were analyzed based on two case studies - Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Rusyns and Vojvodina's Croats. Rusyns are a specific minority group, as they are very much focused on preservation of their identity due to the fact that they do not have their origin state and are recognized as a minority in only six countries in the world - Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland. On the other hand, Croats are a specific minority group due to complex inter-ethnic relations during the war in the 1990s, but are also a good example for a model of management of a minority cultural institution.

5.1. Affirmation of multiculturalism and tolerance in Vojvodina

The largest project implemented and initiated by a public body that deals with intercultural dialogue is the project Affirmation of multiculturalism and tolerance in Vojvodina, which was started by the Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities in year 2005. The entire project was initiated as a response to the increasing number of incidents of nationalistic nature in Vojvodina, that were happening in that period². The project was started after the Provincial assembly declared that there is a need for a thought-out and organized activity for prevention of further expansion of these incidents and provocations on inter-ethnic basis, and that the Provincial secretariat was required to conceptualize projects and measures in the areas of education, culture and public information which will preserve good and neighborly inter-ethnic relations and promotion of the spirit of tolerance, particularly aimed at youth (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za obrazovanje, upravu i nacionalne zajednice, 2012).

The main goals of the project are preservation of cultural diversity and development of the spirit of tolerance. The starting aim of the project was to appease the inter-ethnic tensions in Vojvodina, and the long-term aim was to develop the spirit of tolerance, mutual respect and reliance between citizens of Vojvodina. The subject of the project is nurturing and

² More about this issue is described in chapter 1.2. Socio-political context of AP Vojvodina

development of values of multiethnic and multicultural society of AP Vojvodina, on the basis of an open democratic society. Primary target group are the participants of the project, but it is also targeting all the other groups which is included in the realization of the project, which is counted in thousands - which means that the project also impacts a wider population of AP Vojvodina (Pokrajinski sekretarijat za obrazovanje, upravu i nacionalne zajednice, 2012).

The project is conceptualized with a multidisciplinary program, based on the idea of strengthening good inter-ethnic relations of youth of Vojvodina. The project consist of numerous sub-projects, all of different themes and scopes, and through its manifestations and activities, includes thousands of pupils and high-school students from all around Vojvodina. The project was organized in several phases, starting from 2005, going through numerous structural changes, in terms of its sub-projects. For example, the first phase (years 2005-2006) included seven sub-projects, five of which were considered successful and were continued in the next phase, while the remaining two were cancelled. The second phase (years 2006-2007) was marked by an addition of three projects, making it eight in total, all of which were considered successful. The third phase (years 2007-2008) was significant as it brought a considerable increase in program activities, implemented through thirteen sub-projects. The reason for this increase is easily explained having in mind that, by the decision of the European Parliament and of the Council, year 2008 was promoted as the European year of intercultural dialogue. The next phase (years 2008-2009) was marked by restructuring of the sub-projects and their activities, making the total of eight sub-projects, which formed the approximate structure for the next phases. The implementation of the planned projects and their activities was also affected by the financial crisis, starting from the phase in years 2009-2010.

Several sub-projects were organized since the very inception of the project. One of these is the "Tolerance Cup", a sport competition followed by additional cultural activities. The competition is organized according to the Cup system in five popular team sports, and is aimed at pupils in elementary schools and students in high-schools around Vojvodina. Through successful cooperation with educational institutions in the entire province, this sub-project has reached great visibility in the project's target audiences. The last Tolerance Cup that was organized in autumn 2011, was the seventh in the row, and has attracted around three thousand participants from various cities in Vojvodina. This great visibility means that the idea and the message of the entire project has reached many members of the youth population.

In addition to the sport activities, a supporting activities of cultural and entertainment program is organized for all the participants of the competition.

Another sub-project that has been organized for seven years is a television quiz "How well do we know each other?", which is aimed at high-school students from Vojvodina. The subject of the quiz is history and culture of all the national communities that live in Vojvodina, and the goal of this sub-project is to educate youth and the rest of the population on mutual history and cultures of different national communities that live next to each other in the province. In the 2012 edition of the quiz, students of forty eight high schools from Vojvodina will take part in the quiz, which will consist of fourteen quarterfinal, three semifinal and one final episodes, aired at the Radio Television of Vojvodina, which covers the entire territory of Vojvodina, and is a integral part of the cable network that makes it visible throughout Serbia. This sub-project also has several additional activities, such as a radio version of the quiz also called "How much well do we know each other?", which is open to the general public; "We also know", a competition in knowledge of history and culture of Vojvodina's national communities organized for persons with disabilities; a book called "How well do we know each other?" which is primarily aimed at elementary and high-school teachers, as a tool for improvement in knowledge and in teaching skills about intertwining of cultures and national in the territory of Vojvodina.

Sub-project "Living Together" has also been organized in several editions of the project, and it represents a series of activities, mostly in the area of visual arts, which promote coexistence of Vojvodina's nations from a historical perspective. An example of a successfully implemented visual arts exhibition are exhibitions about co-existence of Hungarian and Serbian people, as well as German and Serbian people at the territory of Vojvodina. The goals of these projects were to promote positive values from the mutual history of the two nations, to demonstrate intertwining and mutual cultural influences of the two nations, as a relevant contribution to the historical and European experiences in development of multiculturalism. The exhibition was also showed to a wider, European audience, for example - the exhibition on Hungarian and Serbian coexistence has visited several cities around Europe. Additional activities of this sub-project included an amateur photography contest called "Richness of diversity", whose goal was to select and exhibit quality works on the theme of Vojvodina's multiculturalism; but also a documentary television show called "Together", which showed

Vojvodina's diversity and mutual life of all its citizens, their intertwining and influences on each other.

In addition to sub-projects described above, many other activities and sub-projects were organized in the period of the past seven years, since the inception of the project. These included media promotion of the ideas of multiculturalism and tolerance; "Ethno days" - presentations of Vojvodina's national communities and their folklore, culture, history, food and other characteristics; "Inter-ethno festival" - a festival of traditional arts and crafts of Vojvodina's nations; printing of a publication about the European Union called "Let's get closer", and others.

This project is financed in most part from the budget of AP Vojvodina, through the Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities, but also partly by donations and sponsorships from the civil and private sectors. The estimated budget of the sub-project "Tolerance Cup" in the second phase of the project (2006-2007) was 34.630.000,00 dinars (around three hundred thousand euro), for the quiz "How well do we know each other?" it was 5.100.000,00 dinars (around forty four thousand euro), and for the "Living together" exhibition 3.700.000,00 dinars (around thirty one thousand euro). The overall budget of the project has continuously changed during the years, especially having in mind the economic crisis in the last years, but it does represent significant amounts, compared to the budgets intended for contests for cultural activities of minorities.

5.2. Analysis of minority cultural activities

Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Rusyns was formed with the goals of preservation, improvement and development of cultural uniqueness and preservation of cultural identity of the Rusyn national community in Vojvodina.

The Institute has activities in various artistic spheres, from music, performing arts, visual and applied arts, to photography - all providing a general interest for the culture of Rusyn national community in Vojvodina. This general interest for Rusyn culture considers creation of possibilities for cultural development and encouraging artistic creativity of the Rusyn community, creation, research and preservation of Rusyn culture, encouraging of international cultural cooperation, encouraging youth and amateur artistic creativity, etc.

The program activities of the Institute include several thematic scopes, such as: information and documentation program, development and research program, cooperation programs, presentation of Rusyn culture, etc. As part of the preservation and promotion of Rusyn culture, the Institute publishes music scores for the songs that were performed at the largest music festival of Rusyn music, publishes the Institute yearbook which follows the cultural development of Rusyn culture in Vojvodina, supports and partners with cultural festivals organized by other associations and organizations, etc.

The institute plays a vital role in the organization of Rusyn festivals of national importance. One of these is the festival of Rusyn culture "Red rose" in a small town of Ruski Krstur, which consists of exhibitions of Rusyn artists, folklore and national music performances, a fair of amateur arts and crafts made by Rusyns of the region, as well as an amateur singing competition. Another festival of importance to the Rusyn culture is "Harvest" in a village Kucura, which is nurturing the folklore and traditions of Rusyns in Vojvodina. This festival also includes guest performances of other national communities' folklore societies. The Institute also participates in the organization of the "Rusyn Days in Serbia", which consist of round tables and discussions in the area of economy as well as traditional folklore cultural program.

As it can be concluded from the brief description of activities above, the program conceptualization of the Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Rusyns is such that most of the activities is focused on the members of their national community. The cultural production is almost entirely made of Rusyn traditional and folklore arts, which is a program conception that appeals only to middle-age and elderly members of the Rusyn national community. Contemporary artistic creativity is only encouraged in a very small dose, mostly in the area of music - with the amateur singing competition at the largest festival of Rusyn culture. This segment of that festival is also not appealing to the younger or non-Rusyn audiences, as it is not following the trends in contemporary arts around the world, and is based also on the traditional and folklore sounds of Vojvodina's Rusyns. However, in the cultural scene of Rusyns in Vojvodina, there are also productions of contemporary theatre in the Rusyn language - in the Rusyn national theatre *Đada*, but unfortunately these performances are made by amateur theatre troupes, and are again not appealing to the younger and non-Rusyn audiences. On the other hand, most of the festivals have bilingual program brochures, and there are information about all the major activities in Serbian language in the media, so the

production of Rusyns cultural activities is not entirely closed to their own national community.

The Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Croats is more elaborate and diverse in its activities, and has a much more developed mission to guide them. It is an institution for scientific research in the area of culture, management in culture and cultural production of the Croatian national community in AP Vojvodina. Same like the Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Rusyns, this Institute was formed for the preservation, improvement and development of Croatian culture in the province (Zavod za kulturu vojvođanskih Hrvata, 2012).

The mission of the Institute is to promote, encourage, preserve, develop, systemize and develop, in a competent and contemporary manner, cultural heritage of Vojvodina's Croats on one side, and production of contemporary cultural events, artistic creativity and scientific research on the other, as well as to raise the capacities for Croatian culture in Vojvodina.

The goals of the Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Croats are to promote, encourage, preserve, organize and develop culture of Croatian national community in Vojvodina, multiculturalism and interculturalism in the province, collaboration with cultural institutions and organizations from the Republic of Serbia, normative activities in the area of culture, information and documentation activities in the area of culture, artistic creativity of youth and amateurs, professional development of cultural workers, and other.

The program activities of the Institute include scientific research in the area of culture, arts and science of Vojvodina's Croats, archiving and librarianship, management and education in culture and most importantly cultural production of the Croatian national community in Vojvodina. According to the official website of the Institute (Zavod za kulturu vojvođanskih Hrvata, 2012), all program activities of the Institute are formed according to the needs of all the factors in the cultural system, and are based on cultural heritage, traditions on one side, and according to the contemporary conditions and needs of Vojvodina's Croats on the other. In its activities, the Institute aims to include participation of professionals in the area of culture, all interested organizations and institutions, representatives of republic, province or local bodies, as well as individuals from the areas of culture, arts, science and education. This means that the Institute collaborates with Croatian cultural institutions and organizations from Vojvodina and abroad, as well as from institutions and organizations of other national

communities, in order to have the highest quality cultural production, strong human resources and in order to increase the number of recipients of Croatian cultural activities in Vojvodina.

The target groups of the Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Croats are the following: cultural workers and professionals as well as scientists, talented youth and gifted pupils and students, Croatian cultural organizations and institutions in Vojvodina and in Croatia, wide general public and citizens.

Initial program activities of the Institute were focused on the presentation of the Institute to Croatian cultural institutions and organizations in Vojvodina and esteemed cultural workers, artists and scientists, but also to local government where they are active, and other cultural and scientific institutions in Vojvodina and in Croatia. After that, the program activities were divided into several areas. One of these areas is the work on strategies and plans for scientific researches, as well the beginning of their realization and public display of results. The scientific research in sociology, culture studies, anthropology, politics, etc., is done according to segments of social life which are of relevance to the history, contemporary life or future life of Croats as a national community in Vojvodina. The research studies are published either individually, or as part of the annual yearbook of the Institute. Another area of Institute's program activities is the organization of the archive built within the Institute, and codification of the existing archive built around Vojvodina, in various Croatian associations, catholic churches, private archives, etc.

It was already stated in the Chapter 4.2.7. of this research, during the mapping of institutions and organizations in Vojvodina that deal with minority rights, culture or interculturalism, that most of cultural production of the Croatian national community is in the hands of amateur societies and organizations. Precisely for this reason, another important area of program activities of the Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Croats is the institutionalization of cultural production and linking of academic visual arts and music. Activities in this area include mapping and overview of Croatian cultural scene in Vojvodina, and building of a firm institutional and organizational form. The aim of these activities is also to systematically research, document and present contemporary visual and applied arts of Croats from Vojvodina, which is done through organization of exhibitions around Vojvodina and Croatia. It also includes research of the Croatian contemporary art scene and publication of monographs. In the area of music, activities of the Institute include ethnomusicological

research of Croatian musical heritage and its promotion, as well as promotion of contemporary musical creation and production of concerts around Vojvodina and the region. Interesting example of this include promotion of organ music of Croatian composers from Vojvodina - Vidaković, Preprek and Šram.

In the area of production of new events and coordination of existing cultural manifestations of Croats, the Institute is responsible for production of exhibitions, concerts, forums, lectures and debates, publishing of books and brochures, etc. On the other hand, the Institute helps with the production of cultural manifestations of Croats that are of significance to the national community in the province. Coordination of existing cultural manifestations includes program adjustments to already existing activities and planning of joint activities, as well as creation of calendar of cultural activities of Croats in Vojvodina.

Institutional cooperation, both regionally and internationally is also one of the areas of activities of the Institute, and it concerns programs that are significant for arts and culture as well as science, and their development, of the Vojvodina's Croats. Examples include collaborations with galleries for organizing exhibitions of Croatian artists, Museum of Vojvodina for the segments of their exhibitions that relate to cultural heritage of Croats, but also cultural institutions from Croatia and institutions of Croats as minorities from other countries. Another important segment of Institute's activities is its work on professionalization and profiling of human resources, which is particularly important for professionalization of cultural workers that are managing amateur cultural associations and organizations in Vojvodina.

The programming activities of the Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Croats show a good example for a successful concept, which includes preservation of cultural heritage of the community, but is not focused only on the traditional arts, as it also promotes contemporary artistic creativity of Croatian artists in Vojvodina, incites research in the area of culture, and overall cultural development that follows the trends in Europe and the world. Through cooperation with institutions locally and internationally, the Institute's activities also have more visibility and are open to a more diverse audience. The Institute's target groups include a wider audience besides cultural workers and members of Croatian national minority, which means that they are aiming to attract other national communities and Serbian majority as well. One of the Institute's goals is also to promote and develop multiculturalism and

interculturalism in Vojvodina, however its activities are mostly focused on the primary goal of the Institute - which is promotion and preservation of Croatian culture.

CHAPTER VI

After researching the organizational structure, competences of public bodies, ICD projects, cultural policy instruments and cultural programs and projects of national minorities, the next step, in this chapter, aims to interpret, analyze and discuss the gathered material in order to give answers to the research questions formulated in the Chapter 2.1. and check if the hypothesis that were formulated in the same chapter are confirmed. Furthermore, a set of recommendations was established according to the findings of this research.

6.1. Discussion and analysis

The principal research question that was formed, explored the existence of an institutional potential to state's support to ICD and interculturalism in Vojvodina. It was hypothesized that this potential does exist, but that it is not fully utilized.

According to the institutional mapping in the Chapter IV, we saw that there are several bodies dealing with culture and minorities at the national level. Most notably, the National councils of national minorities, who are the voice of minorities at the national level, and whose role is to make sure all the constitutional minority rights are respected and to oversee and participate in all the issues dealing with minorities in areas of culture, education, information and use of language and scripts. The exercising of minority rights is also supervised by the Ministry for human and minority rights, public administration and local self-government, which is administrating the work around the National councils, but is also

making regular analysis of the state of minorities in Serbia and writing reports to EU institutions. Above them, the committee for human and minority rights and gender equality at the National assembly, supervises the exercising of minority rights, and can propose new policies and legislation. This committee is also the only body responsible for inter-ethnic relations, and there are no bodies that deal with interculturalism or ICD.

In the area of culture, the National councils of national minorities have founding rights for cultural institutions and they also participate in the decision-making, in selecting people for supervisory and executive boards and in selection of the general managers of these institutions. Other body that deals with culture of national minorities, is the Ministry for culture, media and information society, which follows the overall development of contemporary artistic creation of national minorities and also incites inter-ethnic cultural cooperation.

At the provincial level, there are again several bodies making sure that all the minority rights are exercised, such as the Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities and the Council of national communities of the Provincial Assembly. The competences in the area of culture are in the hands of the provincial secretariat for culture, which determines the needs and interest in the area of culture of national minorities, but more specifically for five minorities, these are the Institutes for culture of Vojvodina's Hungarians, Slovaks, Romanians, Rusyns and Croats.

Unlike at the national level, there are several provincial institutions that have established activities that promote or deal with interculturalism. At the highest level, the Council of national communities of the Provincial Assembly is reviewing and giving opinions on the coexistence of all the national communities in Vojvodina and on the activities which preserve multiculturalism in the province. Affirmation of multiculturalism, tolerance and coexistence of all of Vojvodina's citizens is also one of the main competences of the Provincial secretariat for education, administration and national communities, which is also the body responsible for implementation of the only large-scale ICD project in Vojvodina - Affirmation of multiculturalism and tolerance. Besides these bodies, there is the Institute for culture of Vojvodina, which was formed by the provincial government with goals to affirm the province's multiculturalism and interculturalism and to promote cultures and languages of all the national communities in Vojvodina.

Institutions on the local level include a large number of cultural institutions of minorities, that are all focused on the preservation of each specific minority and its traditions. However, there are Councils for inter-ethnic relations in selected local governments whose goal is to strengthen the bonds between different national communities and creating stability in the local environment. These councils mostly supervise the exercising of minority rights, as consultative bodies of the local governments.

Having all that in mind, it can easily be concluded that the institutional potential for promotion of interculturalism and ICD in Vojvodina is vast. As it was stated, at the provincial level this issue falls under competences of several bodies. At the national level, it is almost not at all utilized, as there is no body that explicitly deals with ICD, with the small exception of the Ministry of culture, media and information society, which is in theory in charge of encouraging inter-ethnic cooperation. The fact that the Ministry had a body responsible for ICD in the past - the working group for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, only shows that promotion of interculturalism and ICD at the national level could be its responsibility. Unfortunately, it also shows that the issue of interculturalism and ICD is not a relevant issue at the national level, but is delegated to the provincial bodies, which are clearly more active in that sphere. This logic is reasonable, having in mind that a majority of national minorities living in the Republic of Serbia are in fact focused in Vojvodina, but the lack of initiative for promotion of ICD on the national level can affect other territories that are culturally and ethnically diverse, specifically in the southern parts, where there is a large population of Albanian minority.

As it was hypothesized, the potential for institutional support to ICD and interculturalism in Vojvodina exists at all levels of government in Serbia, but it is not fully utilized, as it is only integrated in the existing institutional system at the provincial level.

The second research questions explored the current cultural policy instruments for culture of national minorities - financial support to cultural activities and legislative framework for culture and minority rights. It was hypothesized that besides protection of cultural heritage and identities and other rights of national minorities, these instruments incite interculturalism and ICD only in small extent.

The legislative framework around national minorities in Vojvodina provides a great environment for their coexistence with the Serbian majority. The Constitutional rights are in

correspondence with the international treaties and conventions, and they guarantee special protection and full equality for national minorities. They have a right for self-government in the areas of culture, education and information, which is practiced through the existence of National councils of national minorities. This means that cultural policy of national minorities in Serbia is in the hands of their National councils. The Constitution and the Law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities guarantee the right to use minority language in territories where they have a significant population number, and collective rights for preservation, nurturing and development of cultural identity. Preservation and presentation of culture of minorities is also listed as a general interest of culture in Serbia in the Law on culture, however, interculturalism is not mentioned.

On the intercultural aspect, international conventions do see it as a factor of enrichment of the society, and incite signatories to encourage a spirit of tolerance and ICD. However, the fact that the article of the Framework convention for the preservation of national minorities that says that the state should undertake measures for enhancement of cooperation among all the people on its territory is simply copied to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia leads to the conclusion that the importance of promoting interculturalism and ICD is not really recognized in Serbia, but is mentioned for the purpose of following European trends. This is further confirmed by the fact that interculturalism is not mentioned in other documents, such as the Law on culture of the Law on protection of rights and freedoms of national minorities.

However, the Statute of AP Vojvodina is based on the multicultural built of its society, which is clear from its first sentence which states that Vojvodina is based on the principle of multiculturalism. The Statute states that multiculturalism, multilingualism and multiconfessionalism present a special value to the province, and that all provincial bodies should encourage their preservation, and help with mutual respect and understanding between all the languages, cultures and religions in Vojvodina.

In terms of financial support, it was concluded that cultural activities of national minorities are primarily financed from two aspects: a) program activities and running expenses of public institutions of national minorities are financed from the budget of the Republic of Serbia - through National councils of national minorities, as well as provincial and local governments b) projects and programs of public institutions and civil associations are supported through open contests for subsidies. The first aspect provides a good opportunity to create a systematic

promotion of interculturalism, as the institutions have to send a program proposal to its founding body in order to get the annual funding, and the amount at least partly depends on the scope of these program activities. Unfortunately, the criteria for this is not clearly set, and the funds are allocated according to already established paths, with little regards to the quality of the program.

Similar situation is in the second aspect of state's financial support, where in the open contests, the funds predicted for national minorities are split into small amounts and awarded to many different minorities. At the national level contests, the award results are even separated according to each national minority, with the addition of multicultural projects which make an incredibly small percentage of the total budget. Encouragement of intercultural cooperation is mentioned in the award criteria, however it is usually attached to the more established criteria of preservation of multiculturalism. Interculturalism is more supported in the area of public information, where the overall budget is fairly larger, and the projects that promote interculturalism are clearly described in the award criteria. In this contests, interculturalism was supported with one fourth of the total budget.

At the provincial level, the largest contest does not separate cultural projects according to national minorities, but all of the projects are in the same category, together with those of Serbian culture - and one of the clearly stated award criteria is promotion of principles of interculturalism. This contest is aimed at contemporary arts, while there are separate contests for preservation of cultural heritage and traditional manifestations of national minorities. In these contests, however, none of the award criteria mentioned interculturalism. A very good example is a contest for projects that nurture interethnic tolerance in Vojvodina, which is open during the entire year, or until the provided budget is spent, however this contest is not aimed only at cultural activities.

As it was hypothesized, promotion of interculturalism is not a completely integrated award criteria in state's financial or legislative support to cultural activities of national minorities. Granted, there are good examples at the provincial level, but the overall conclusion is that cultural activities of national minorities are financially supported quantitatively, with little regard to the quality of their programs. In terms of legislation, all the laws and legal documents guarantee exercising of minority rights, however it seems that interculturalism is not an important aspect. With minorities' right for self-government in the area of culture, each

National council of national minorities has created a cultural policy which is focused on preservation of their national identity and promotion of their culture, which is not sufficient for creation of intercultural environment in Vojvodina, but is on contrary contributing to further ghettoizing of national minorities.

The third research question was focused on cultural activities of public institutions of national minorities, particularly their openness to other cultures in Vojvodina. It was hypothesized that cultural activities of minorities are targeting only members of their community, and are not including an intercultural aspect.

As it was already mentioned above, and concluded in the analysis of two case studies of minority public institutions, almost all cultural activities of national minorities are dealing with preservation of their cultural identity. The study of Rusyn cultural activities represented the typical program concept of cultural institutions of minorities in Vojvodina, where a predominant activity is folklore and traditional arts, which is aimed only at the persons belonging to that minority, and is often unappealing even to younger population of that minority. Very small percentage of the program is presenting contemporary arts, but even the existing segments are again targeting only limited audiences. This case study also showed that public institutions of minorities can have programs of intercultural cooperation, but they are mostly limited to presentation of other minorities' folklore and traditions. On the other hand, the case study of the Institute for culture of Vojvodina's Croats showed us that the main tool for preservation of cultural identity does not have to be presentation of traditions and folklore, but that contemporary arts and promotion of artistic creation of local artists can be equally efficient. It is also a good example of the initiative for institutionalization of cultural production, which is mostly in the hands of civil society, and the overall program conception which also encourages research in the area of culture, as well as professionalism of existing cultural system for Croatian national minority. The target groups of these programs are not limited only to the Croatian minority, but are also aimed at the wider, general public. However, even though promotion of interculturalism is mentioned in the goals of this institute, its activities are not intercultural, but are only focused on preservation and presentation of Croatian culture.

This is why the hypothesis that public cultural institutions of minorities give very little attention to intercultural projects is confirmed. We have also seen that the typical institution

targets only persons belonging to their community, and even if there are information about the activities available to the Serbian majority and persons belonging to other minorities, the programs are unappealing and focused mostly on traditions and folklore arts. A good example for a programming concept was also analyzed, which could potentially reach wider audiences and which provides more diverse programs, but even in that case it was concluded that intercultural projects do not exist.

6.2. Conclusion and recommendations

Overall, it can be concluded that the state is supporting cultural activities of national minorities in Vojvodina in a very high level. Minorities have the right for self-government in the area of culture, and are responsible for cultural policy concerning them. They are consulted on all issues relating to their minority, and are actively participating in decision-making on all levels of government. They even have the outstanding possibility to transfer founding rights onto their National councils for public institutions that are of significance for them, and in that way have a vital role in the further activities of that institution - with the original founding body still providing the financial means for the running of the institution. Their National councils are consulted for allocation of financial means to minority institutions and projects, and the state makes sure that as much minorities as possible get grants for their cultural projects.

However, with all the power over culture given to the national minorities, their primary goal remained preservation of their cultural identity and nurturing of their traditions. Different samples were analyzed, some with more traditional and some with more contemporary programming conceptualizations, but it was concluded that in both cases - interculturalism is not included in the cultural life of minorities in Vojvodina. Having in mind the socio-political context of the region, this kind of programming policies leads to further segregation and ghettoizing of cultural minorities. There are no bodies at the national level of government that are responsible for intercultural dialogue, and the only body that existed was disbanded. On the provincial level, inter-ethnic incidents from the last decade have initiated a reaction of the government which resulted with a large-scale ICD project which is targeting youth from Vojvodina, and promoting tolerance in the region. This project does not include many cultural activities, and by itself it is not sufficient in promoting interethnic cultural cooperation. There

are bodies at the provincial level which could potentially play an important role in promotion of ICD, but perceiving this entire research, the biggest change has to come from the bottom, from the very cultural workers and managers of national minority institutions who need to re-conceptualize their entire programs and activities. In order for that to happen, the State should also have a more firm role in animating them, and inciting interculturalism through its cultural policy instruments.

During the process of this research, the process of elections on all levels of government was taking place in Serbia. As it was during the period of the previous government, culture was not an important item on the political agenda even during the pre-election period, which indicates that arts and culture will continue with being marginalized, and that the budget for culture will not be increased. The newly formed government has brought personnel changes on all relevant positions, who have a difficult task of running the country in the unfavorable economic and political times. In this suitable moment, the following recommendations were formed in order to more precisely suggest in which ways the state's support to interculturalism and ICD in Vojvodina could be improved:

- There should be a body at the national level, which would oversee, write recommendations to appropriate bodies and work on development of interculturalism in the whole country. The re-forming of the working body for cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue of the Ministry for culture could be the best solution for that.
- The criteria and the system for awarding grants at open contests aimed at contemporary artistic creation of national minorities at the national level should reshape. Grants should be awarded according to the quality of the proposed project, and not split to all the minorities that applied. According to the criteria, this means that projects with intercultural aspects would have more chances of getting a grant.
- Funds for intercultural projects within the contest mentioned above should increase significantly, or there should be a separate contest for financing cultural project of solely intercultural character, that promote dialogue and good inter-ethnic relations.
- Open contests for cultural projects at all levels of government should include another award criteria which is existence of partnerships with institutions of other national minorities, or with institutions and organizations of the Serbian majority.

- When deciding on the annual budget of public cultural institutions of national minorities, their founders should have a more precise criteria for evaluation of proposed program activities, which should include promotion of interculturalism
- As any kind of improvement of the financial support to interculturalism would require an increase of the budget, a new fund for ICD could be established with the cooperation of all levels of government (or perhaps, just the national and provincial), and help of European foundations and institutions or the private sector could provide the necessary means.
- There should be more ICD projects that include cultural production of all nationalities living in Vojvodina. Implementation or coordination of such projects could be a task of the Institute for culture of Vojvodina, as a provincial institution that was formed for affirmation of Vojvodina's multiculturalism.
- General managers and staff of Institutes for culture of Vojvodina's national minorities, and other public cultural institutions of national minorities, but also the Institute for culture of Vojvodina mentioned above, should work on their professionalization, learning of contemporary managerial skills, especially in the areas of fundraising, project management and similar, which would enable them to establish a more contemporary programming concept as well as diversify their sources of revenue. Professional seminars could be organized by the provincial government.
- Institutionalization of cultural production of national minorities would mean that all cultural activities could have a more harmonized programming concepts, which would be a great potential for promotion of interculturalism. This is something that Institutes for culture of Vojvodina's national minorities and existing public cultural institutions of minorities could do.

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Curriculum Vitae



Viktor Varoši (1985) came to this world as a son of a Hungarian/German mother from Vojvodina, Serbia and an Italian father from Istria, Croatia. Growing up in the multicultural environment of Vojvodina, he never felt like he had a singular cultural identity, but has always accepted all the different cultures around him as his own.

As an eight year old, he realized that he had an incredible talent for music. For him it was very easy and enjoyable to play the piano, so he has dedicated the next decade of his life to practicing and widening his knowledge about music. He finished elementary music school "Josip Slavenski" and music high school "Isidor Bajić" in Novi Sad with highest grades and diplomas from international competitions and seminars. As a successful young student of piano at the Academy of Arts at University of Novi Sad, Serbia, he was awarded a scholarship by the USA government to spend a year studying in the USA. Spending a year surrounded by so many foreign and different cultures was real pleasure for him, and he returned to his hometown inspired and with an itching desire to travel the world and explore as many cultures as possible.

This lifechanging experience also made him realize that he is not an artist - he was a cultural manager. He enrolled to the Cultural policy and management study program at the University of Arts in Belgrade, for which he conducted this research. Currently, he is working as a producer of the largest classical music festival in Montenegro, and collaborates with numerous artists on various cultural projects.