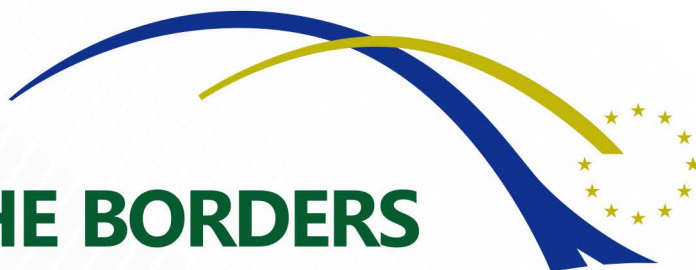


Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives
European Institute of Cross-Border Studies



CROSSING THE BORDERS

**Studies on cross-border cooperation
within the Danube Region**

**Case Study of cross-border cooperation
along the Serbian–Croatian border**
Drina Euroregion

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1. Introduction

This case study, dealing with the so-called Drina Euroregion is intended to illustrate institutionalised cross-border cooperation along the Serbian–Bosnian border. It is part of the project titled “Crossing the Borders” about the geographic and structural characteristics of cross-border cooperation in the Danube Region, led by CESCO – Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives. The case study was elaborated in December 2014 and January 2015 by three researchers of the Regional Science Association (RTT) from Subotica, Serbia.

The task was to prepare two separate case studies on cross-border cooperation (EGTC, Euroregion, twin cities etc.) which are institutionalised, have been established by cooperation between territorial administrative entities and do have development aspirations. Moreover, these examples have to present the border sections between Serbia and Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and/or Bosnia and Montenegro. The content requirements have also defined to choose such case studies that are the best examples of cooperation from a functional point of view: the collaboration intensifies cross-border relations, a kind of local identity can be dedicated to the area, the participants succeed in exploiting development funds, and their objectives contribute to the socio-economic development of the affected region.

Having in mind all these requirements, the authors of this paper have decided to find two different examples: one about regional cooperation, and another about the collaboration of two municipalities. This case study deals with the establishment and operation of the Drina Euroregion, while the other study is about the cooperation of the cities of Subotica from Serbia and Osijek from Croatia.

The reasons for choosing the Drina Euroregion as the best example of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian–Bosnian border are manifold. On the one hand, there were specific events in recent history taking place in the administrative units that initiated this cooperation, namely the Balkan wars of the 1990s, and on the other hand, the geographic, demographic, geopolitical and socio-economic changes resulting from setting new borders in this area. Yet there is the Drina River, which presents identical natural values on its both banks.

The Drina Euroregion is the youngest representative of this specific type of cross-border cooperation in the Western Balkans. It unites territorial entities of different administrative levels along the borders, which were set in the 1990s between four new countries, all of them being former member republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Among the members of the Drina Euroregion there is a town¹ from Croatia, a municipality² from

¹ Županja

² Plužine

Montenegro, three towns³ and three municipalities⁴ from Serbia, a canton⁵ of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and further eight Bosnian municipalities⁶ (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Map of the Drina Euroregion

Source: <http://euroregijadrina.com/>

Another specific structural feature of this Euroregion comes from the fact that these four countries are at different stages in their EU accession. Namely, Croatia is the newest, 28th member state of the European Union (since 1 July 2013), Montenegro and Serbia have already begun their pre-accession processes (Montenegro received official candidate status on

³ Užice, Loznica, Šabac

⁴ Bajina Bašta, Ljubovija, Mali Zvornik

⁵ Bosansko-podrinjski kanton Goražde

⁶ Foča, Novo Goražde, Rogatica, Višegrad, Srebrenica, Bratunac, Zvornik, Bijeljina

17 December 2010, while Serbia received full candidate status on 1 March 2013), whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina has only begun the Stabilization and Association Process (a bilateral SAA agreement has been signed in 2008, ratified in 2010, but it is still not in legal force).

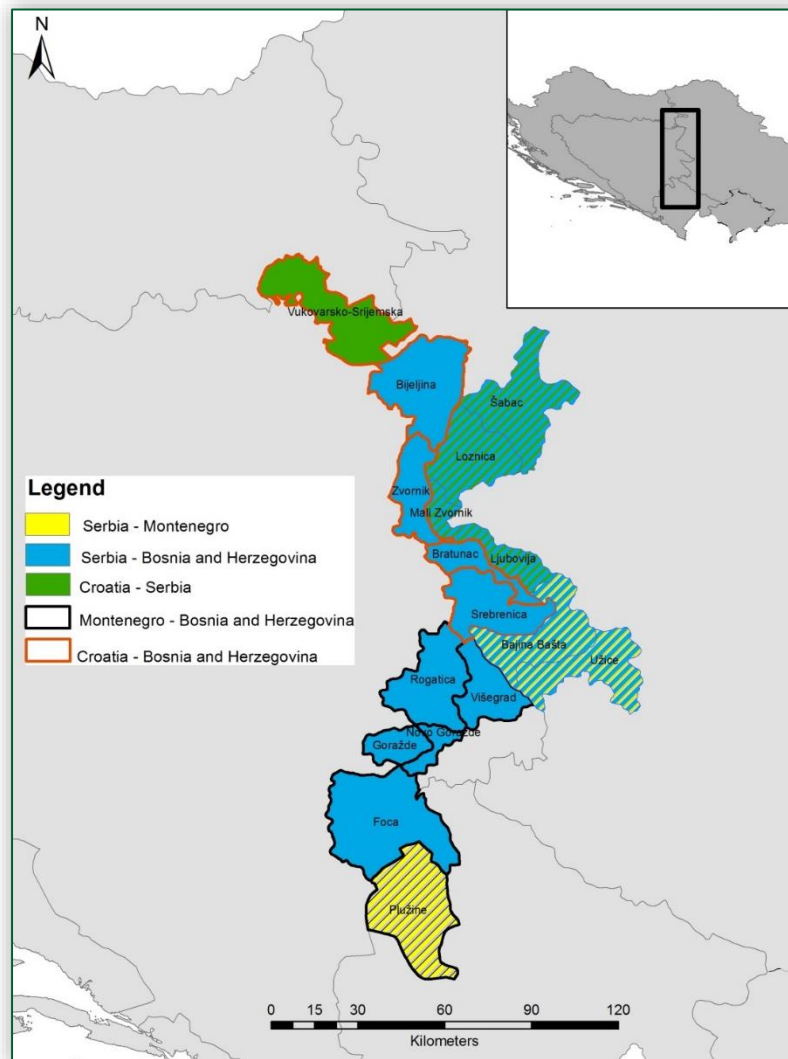


Figure 2: The territory of the Drina Euroregion covered by different IPA Cross-border Cooperation programme areas
Source: RTT's own compilation

The territory of the subject area lies in the Western Balkans, which is a southeastern European area including Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Albania. All of these countries are involved in the IPA Adriatic Cross-border Cooperation

Programme⁷ and the South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme,⁸ as well as five IPA cross-border programme areas of the European Territorial Cooperation (Croatia–Serbia;⁹ Serbia–Bosnia and Herzegovina;¹⁰ Serbia–Montenegro;¹¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina–Montenegro;¹² Croatia–Bosnia and Herzegovina¹³). Figure 2 shows how these programme areas cover the territory of the Drina Euroregion.

One must take into consideration that this case remarkably differs from the other examples of cross-border cooperation from the Danube Region in many respects. The easiest way of illustrating this difference is to compare the level of cooperation and collaboration along the Iron Curtain in the early 1990s. This two-decade-long backwardness is present in all spheres of everyday life. There are too many historic wounds that cannot be healed in such a short time. Having in mind the above, the establishment of the Drina Euroregion itself is a pleasant surprise and a prospective initiative.

Therefore, if we try to prop the above mentioned content requirements concerning the best examples of cooperation from a functional point of view, the expectations should not be exaggerated.

Firstly, the collaboration within the Drina Euroregion has intensified cross-border relations, but only compared to the previous situation at the end of the 20th century.

Secondly, a kind of local identity can be dedicated to the area, which is based on the Drina River and the population living along its banks. The natural, demographic and socio-economic conditions are very similar in the whole region.

Thirdly, when talking about development funds and their exploitation, it has to be stated that this is a question of the future, since there have been no considerable grants and development funds available for the actors of the observed area. In addition, even the available resources have not been exploited adequately. It is clearly visible when looking at the modest lists of projects from this area, which have been supported from EU sources.

Finally, it is also a requirement for choosing a case study that the formulated objectives should contribute to the socio-economic development of the affected region. In the case of the Drina Euroregion, even the fact of its establishment can be considered as a step forward, as the joint

⁷ <http://www.adriaticpacbc.org/>

⁸ <http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/>

⁹ <http://www.croatia-serbia.com/en/>

¹⁰ <http://srb-bih.org/?lang=en>

¹¹ <http://www.cbcsrb-mne.org/>

¹² <http://www.cbc.bih-mne.org/>

¹³ <http://www.cbc-cro-bih.net/en/>

formulation of common goals in preserving and utilising the river as a natural resource makes a good basis for any further development initiatives.

This introductory chapter is followed by a presentation of the cross-border cooperation; the events preceding and leading up to its establishment; the organisation, the management, the functioning, and the activities of the Drina Euroregion; and finally an insight into its future pathways. In order to provide a basis for analysing and understanding the future development of the Euroregion, we carried out a SWOT analysis (see chapter VIII) and listed the main points from the development program of the Drina Euroregion (see chapter IX).

As the main source of information presented in this study, we used the website of the Drina Euroregion (www.euroregijadrina.com) and its official documents. Moreover, we conducted personal interviews with Mr. Zdravko Krsmanović, the president of the Drina Euroregion as well as with 6 municipal officials and 17 local residents from the study area.

2. The development of the cross-border cooperation

The so-called Drina Euroregion unites territorial units of different administrative levels along the Drina River, which became divided by new state borders after the civil war in Yugoslavia during the 1990s.

The Croatian municipality of Županja (now the Town of Županja) became a border municipality towards Serbia and Bosnia after Croatia had formally declared its independence in June 1991. The border between Bosnia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, though unchanged, became the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska) in 1995. According to the Dayton Agreement¹⁴ the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina is composed of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and of Republika Srpska. Due to this division, the former settlement of Goražde has been divided, so Goražde (the Euroregion's member) in the Bosansko-podrinjski kanton belongs to the Federation, while the municipality of Novo Goražde is in the Republika Srpska. Finally in 2006, with the dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro (formerly the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia between 1992 and 2003) the municipality of Plužine from Montenegro became a border settlement with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Presumably, there have been many injuries and huge sufferings caused by the state border changes of the past century. These events have burdened the relations between the nations living in this region; however, their common history within the same country – the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes from 1918, then the Kingdom of Yugoslavia from 1929, and finally the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1945 to 1991 – together with their similar languages, cultural and family relations may speed up the cooperation of these four countries along the Drina River, within an institutional framework based on European principles.

Since this study is focused on cross-border cooperation along the Serbian–Bosnian border here follows an overview of this relation, based on the analysis of the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia published in 2011.¹⁵

As we mentioned above, the relations between the Serbian and Bosnian states were set down in the 1995 Dayton Agreement, according to which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

¹⁴ The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also known as the Dayton Agreement, Dayton Accords, Paris Protocol or Dayton-Paris Agreement, is the peace agreement reached at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, United States, in November 1995, and formally signed in Paris on 14 December 1995. These accords put an end to the three and a half-year-long Bosnian War, one of the armed conflicts in former Yugoslavia. The agreement's main purpose was to promote peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to endorse regional balance in and around the former Republic of Yugoslavia.

¹⁵ Strategies and euroregions for cross-border co-operation in Balkan and Danube European countries. (2011) Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) <http://isig.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SWOT-Strategies-and-Euroregions-for-CBC.pdf> (Downloaded: 28.12.2014) pp. 140-144.

(predecessor of Serbia) could establish special relations with the Republika Srpska on the basis of mutual interests with respect to the presence of a Serb majority in both countries. Since there are special institutional co-operation agreements already in force, the authors from ISIG claim that cross-border co-operation is at a satisfactory level.

Regarding territorial and environmental planning, the Drina River that flows along the border presents considerable potentials as a water reservoir, an energy source and a touristic attraction. As examples they mention the opening of new river ports on the Serbian side and the construction of the new rail segment between Valjevo in Serbia and Zvornik in Bosnia.

The intensity of cross-border mobility is fostered by the fact that the border between Serbia and Bosnia may be crossed without a passport. Educational and cultural cooperation is more problematic because the two systems differ greatly. For example, education in Bosnia and Herzegovina is differentiated on the basis of religion. However, textbooks from Serbia are used in the Serbian schools in Republika Srpska.

The experts from ISIG have defined several obstacles to intensified cross-border cooperation along the Serbian–Bosnian border. Firstly, Serbian and Bosnian institutional actors are mostly unprepared for planning and implementing cross-border cooperation projects, with serious shortcomings in their business approach and a lack of mutual trust due to recent events. Secondly, the establishment of political borders is questioned by the local population, leading to the phenomenon that the concept of “cross-border planning” is simply unclear to the inhabitants. Lastly, due to the limited knowledge of customs laws and provisions, there is virtually no concrete activity other than national and international planning, which often offers no financial contribution to local activities.

The proof of this last statement will be clear from chapter 6, which deals with the former activities of the Drina Euroregion together with some, actually quite few, other projects realised along the border; and chapter 9, which presents the future plans and goals of the cooperation, with regard to the set of goals stated in the relevant operative programmes. These operative programmes are exactly results of national and international planning without concrete plans for allocating resources and funding to the envisioned programmes.

2.1 Establishment of the Drina Euroregion

The idea of establishing a joint organisation of the local authorities that lie along the banks of the Drina River was a bottom-up initiative. The events preceding this initiative were related to the preservation of the Drina, since some Italian, German, and American investors wanted to utilise the hydropower of the river without any consultation with the actors of the subject area. Therefore the residents of the region formulated a 12-point list of their demands (charter) for the protection of the Drina River and its tributaries, as well as for starting organised water management activities, which had not existed along the course of the Drina beforehand. Their

aim was also to create a spatial plan of the region. Finally, another important claim of the charter referred to the protection of an endemic species of predatory fish, called *drinska mladica* (lat. Hucho hucho).

On 26 January 2012, the members of its Assembly established the Drina Euroregion as a civilian organisation, in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH no. 32/01). On their first meeting they also passed their Statute and the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.



Figure 3: The logotype of the Drina Euroregion

Source: <http://euroregijadrina.com/>

According to its Statute, the Drina Euroregion is a grouping of local governments or other sub-state entities that are situated in the basin of the Drina River in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia.

The members will strive to encourage joint actions, enhance and achieve development in the region, to create a perspective of improving the quality of life and the living standard of its population.

The members work together for the following objectives:

- Establishing and developing relations between the people and the institutions of the region as a prerequisite to better knowledge, understanding and cooperation;
- Creating the conditions for economic development that is consistent with the environment;
- Establishing common development interests, preparation, determination and harmonization of a common development strategy;
- Creating cultural exchange programs;
- Providing conditions for a successful flow of experiences and their application within EU programs.

The organisation operates under the name Drina Euroregion (Euroregija Drina). Its headquarter is located in Foča, Republika Srpska according to the seat of the President. The official languages within the Euroregion's bodies are the official languages of its members.

The Drina Euroregion is represented by the President. The acts and work of the Euroregion are public. The publicity of its work is mainly achieved by issuing its own publications.

In order to achieve the above listed objectives, the Drina Euroregion:

- Organises joint activities to propagate the richness and diversity that make up the unique value of togetherness;
- Organises and supports the development of cooperation in the fields of preservation of the Drina River as a valuable natural resource, transport and communications, agriculture, fishery, tourism, and cultural values;
- Undertakes activities aimed at promoting and participating in joint projects.

Members of the Drina Euroregion can be either regular or honorary members. Regular member can be any unit of territorial self-government in the basin of the Drina River, which adopts the act on joining the Euroregion. Honorary members may be non-governmental organisations and citizens' associations. Observer honorary member can be any unit of territorial self-government, which has not adopted the act on joining the Drina Euroregion.

The rights, duties and responsibilities of the members of the Drina Euroregion are:

- Participating in identifying the common policies and programs of the Euroregion;
- Deciding on the funds and property of the Euroregion and other acts;
- Cooperating to achieve common goals;
- Participating in activities of mutual interest;
- Entitled to elect and be elected in the bodies of the Euroregion;
- Rightful to be regularly and timely informed about the work of the bodies and the financial operations of the Euroregion;
- Responsible for acting in compliance with the provisions of the Statute and other acts of the Euroregion;
- Required to protect and promote the reputation of the Drina Euroregion.

The members are required to participate in the financing of the Drina Euroregion, while honorary members may do this only voluntarily and optionally.

3. Determination of geographical confines

Below follows a description of the geographic and demographic features of the region where the Drina Euroregion is situated. There is also an introduction of the member territorial units: the municipalities, towns, and the canton.

3.1 The Serbian–Bosnian border section of the Drina Euroregion

From all the border sections that are affected by the territory of the Drina Euroregion, the state border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is the longest one, with a length of approximately 300 km from the Bosnian–Serbian–Croatian triple border point on the Sava River to the other triple border between Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro. Along this borderline there are ten border crossings, which enable penetrability between the countries.

“The border was established in its present form in the 19th century during the Ottoman rule. At one time, the border separated Bosnia from the principality of Serbia, and gradually evolved between 1815 and 1833. It remained unchanged after the Berlin Congress (1878) when Bosnia passed under Austrian sovereignty and Serbia was recognised as an independent state. Only the stretch south of the Lim River (towards the Tara River) was fixed after the 1912-1913 Balkan War, when Serbia expanded into the Turkish province of Novi Pazar.”¹⁶ After 1995, it became the border between Bosnia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Serbian municipalities that belong to the Drina Euroregion are Užice, Loznica, Šabac, Bajina Bašta, Ljubovija and Mali Zvornik, while the Bosnian municipalities along the border and belonging to the Euroregion are Bijeljina, Zvornik, Bratunac, Srebrenica, Višegrad, Rogatica, Novo Goražde and Foča municipalities as well as Goražde canton.

It can be stated based on the census data presented in Table 1 that the number of inhabitants in the Serbian–Bosnian border region has fallen significantly since 1990.

¹⁶ The description is based on the work: Strategies and euroregions for cross-border co-operation in Balkan and Danube European countries. (2011) Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) <http://isig.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SWOT-Strategies-and-Euroregions-for-CBC.pdf> (Downloaded: 28.12.2014) pp. 140-144.

3.2 The Serbian–Croatian border section of the Drina Euroregion

Since the territory of the Drina Euroregion covers areas both from Serbia and Croatia, we have also considered this border section. However, it has to be stated that the Croatian member of the Euroregion, the Town of Županja is not bordering with any Serbian municipalities.

“The central stretch along the Danube is the oldest border section between Serbia and Croatia: this demarcation was established in the Karlowitz Treaty between the Austrian and Ottoman Empires in 1699, while the northern stretch was set in 1954 as the border between the Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Serbia, on the basis of indications provided by a special federal committee for borders (the Đilas committee). Given its large Croatian ethnic community, the Baranja region, on the right riverbank of the Danube, was assigned to Croatia. Other deviations from the river course are based on ancient municipal rights. The committee also proposed to trace a border line between the Danube and the Sava rivers; as a result, the region of Srijem, once Croatian, was divided according to the ethnic distribution of Serbs and Croats.”¹⁷

The state border between Serbia and Croatia was defined in 1992 after the disintegration of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Between two countries and their border regions the main transport axis represents the E-70 motorway, which is a road axis that is utilised daily by thousands of passengers who travel between the Middle East and Western Europe. The E-70 motorway is part of the backbone of the Pan-European transport corridor X.

3.3 The Croatian–Bosnian border section of the Drina Euroregion

The border section between the Croatian and the Bosnian parts of the Euroregion is quite short. There are only two neighbouring settlements, the towns of Županja in Croatia and Bjeljina in Bosnia. This border has also evolved in the past.

“The northern demarcation was established following the Karlowitz Treaty in 1699, with two subsections drawn up later in the Passarowitz Treaty. (...) Throughout the 18th century until 1918, this demarcation traced the border of the Austrian provinces of Croatia-Slavonia, Dalmatia, and Bosnia-

¹⁷ The description is based on the work: Strategies and euroregions for cross-border co-operation in Balkan and Danube European countries. (2011) Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) <http://isig.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SWOT-Strategies-and-Euroregions-for-CBC.pdf> (Downloaded: 28.12.2014) pp. 210-213.

Herzegovina, which joined the empire in 1878 after a long period of Ottoman rule.

In 1945, this border divided the Socialist Republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, with the only change involving a group of Croatian villages which were handed over to Bosnia and Herzegovina, thus bringing the borderline to Mount Pljesevica near Bihać. Apart from a few minor changes in the 1950s, the border remained the same until 1991, when it became an international border (no longer an administrative division) between the two post-Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although the border was internationally recognised in 1992 there have been serious objections since the early 1990s, beginning with the establishment of two independent Serbian states on both sides of the border that basically controlled the entire border area: the Serb Republic of Krajina (Srpska Krajina, dissolved in 1995) and the Serb Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Republika Srpska). Both republics made a clear attempt to merge into one single state. On the Croatian side, the border area was under UN control as a protected zone from 1992 to 1998 (UNPA). Afterwards, Croatia gained full territorial sovereignty and today the border area on the Croatian side is divided into nine administrative unions called županja.”¹⁸

3.4 The Montenegrin–Bosnian border section of the Drina Euroregion

The Drina Euroregion also includes a municipality from Montenegro (Plužine), bordering with Foča from Bosnia and Herzegovina, so this border section also needs to be presented.

The area was initially inhabited by the Illyrians; then the period between the 5th and 7th centuries saw the occupation of Slavic tribes that dominated the area until the 14th century when the Turkish Empire overruled the Serbian power over the Balkan territory.

After the Balkan Wars, the new territorial map of the Balkans was drawn up and after 1945, Bosnia and Montenegro were parts of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, enjoying the status of a Republic. As a result of the internal and external political situation, in 1989, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia dissolved. The Bosnian War of 1992 led to the creation of the new multi-ethnic state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while Montenegro became part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia until 3 June 2006, when it declared its independence (thus becoming the 192nd member of the United Nations on 26 June). Bosnia and Herzegovina recognised Montenegro as an independent state on 21 June 2006, and diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level were established as of 14 September 2006.

¹⁸ The description is based on the work: Strategies and euroregions for cross-border co-operation in Balkan and Danube European countries. (2011) Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) <http://isig.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SWOT-Strategies-and-Euroregions-for-CBC.pdf> (Downloaded: 28.12.2014) pp. 135-139.

The cross-border area between Montenegro and Bosnia is located in the southeastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the northwestern part of the Republic of Montenegro. The area is mostly mountainous, with an average altitude of more than 2 000 m. The rivers flow into either the Adriatic Sea or the Black Sea basin. In the mountains, the rivers flow in deep canyons, such as the Tara River Canyon, the deepest one in Europe, 78 km long and 1 300 m high. Infrastructure in the border area is in poor condition as a result of the lack of investments, which were directed instead towards the development of the more industrial regions of the two countries. The roads and the railways are also in very poor condition as a result of a low level of investment for maintenance and expansion during the period of crisis, as well as due to the overall distance of the cross-border area from the strategic national axes and corridors of both countries. No highway passes through the border area.¹⁹

3.5 The Montenegrin–Serbian border section of the Drina Euroregion

The Drina Euroregion includes one municipality from Montenegro (Plužine), though it is not bordering with Serbia.

Montenegro and Serbia had been under a common state since the First World War. After the Second World War, Serbia and Montenegro were both member states of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which ceased to exist in 1992. From 1992 to 2002, Serbia and Montenegro created the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In 2002, an agreement was reached to redefine the relations between the two republics, so the Belgrade Declaration was signed and a new Constitution was adopted, establishing the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Montenegro held a referendum seeking its full independence on 21 May 2006. The State Union effectively came to an end after Montenegro's declaration of independence on 3 June 2006 (recognised on 8 June 2006). On 6 June 2006, the Parliament of Serbia declared Serbia as the successor of the State Union. After the end of the State Union, Montenegro and Serbia established the policy of good and open neighbourly collaboration.

This area is one of the most culturally diverse in Europe. It is both ethnically (Serbs, Montenegrins, Bosnians, Albanians) and religiously (Christians, Muslims) mixed, but at the same time, as a result of the similarity of administrative and political systems, it has been very homogeneous throughout history. Cross-border relations are therefore closer and the cultural unity is stronger than on many other borders of the former Yugoslavia. There are no linguistic barriers in the area, despite the presence of different religious beliefs and traditions.

¹⁹ The description is based on the work: Strategies and euroregions for cross-border co-operation in Balkan and Danube European countries. (2011) Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) <http://isig.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SWOT-Strategies-and-Euroregions-for-CBC.pdf> (Downloaded: 28.12.2014) pp. 145-152.

Both countries are characterised by an unbalanced regional development, and the economic status in the border area is much lower than in the rest of the countries. There are significant differences between urban centres and rural areas, between different geographical locations, as well as between the centre and the outskirts. The border area has abundant natural resources such as vast forests, ski resorts, and a large number of spas. This makes it one of the most important tourism areas for Serbia, as well as an important inland tourist area for Montenegro – even if the latter has a more developed and focused tourism industry along the Adriatic coast.²⁰

3.6 Geographic features of the Drina Euroregion area

The Drina Euroregion has 17 administrative units among its members, which lie in four different countries, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina (see Table 1). All of them are situated in the basin of the Drina River. The total area of the Euroregion (as the sum of the members' area) is 7 907 km², while according to the latest census (from 2011 in Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, and from 2013 in Bosnia) the total population of the Euroregion counts 628 685 people.

Table 1: Members of the Drina Euroregion, their area and population number

Administrative unit	Country	Area (km ²)	Population in 1991	Population in 2001	Population in 2011
Županja – town	Croatia	50	14 435	16 383	12 090
Plužine – municipality	Montenegro	854	n/a	4.272	3.246
Užice – town	Serbia	667	82 723	83 022	78 040
Loznica – town	Serbia	612	86 875	86 413	79 327
Šabac – town	Serbia	795	123 633	122 893	115 884
Bajina Bašta – municipality	Serbia	673	29 747	29 151	26 022
Ljubovija – municipality	Serbia	356	18 391	17 052	14 469
Mali Zvornik – municipality	Serbia	184	14 029	14 076	12 482
Goražde – canton	Federation of BiH	573	40 205	n/a	25 336
Foča – municipality	Republika Srpska	1 135	35 491	n/a	19 811
Novo Goražde – municipality	Republika Srpska	119	4 468	n/a	3 391
Rogatica – municipality	Republika Srpska	645	21 881	n/a	11 603
Višegrad – municipality	Republika Srpska	448	21 199	n/a	11 774
Srebrenica – municipality	Republika Srpska	527	36 666	n/a	15 242

²⁰ The description is based on the work: Strategies and euroregions for cross-border co-operation in Balkan and Danube European countries. (2011) Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG) <http://isig.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SWOT-Strategies-and-Euroregions-for-CBC.pdf> (Downloaded: 28.12.2014) pp. 214-222.

Administrative unit	Country	Area (km ²)	Population in 1991	Population in 2001	Population in 2011
Bratunac – municipality	Republika Srpska	293	33 619	n/a	21 619
Zvornik – municipality	Republika Srpska	376	67 795	n/a	63 686
Bijeljina – municipality	Republika Srpska	734	96 988	n/a	114 663

Note: There are no census data for Bosnia and Herzegovina from the beginning of 2000s, only from 1991 and from 2013. Source of data: official statistics of the countries

Features of the terrain:

Situated in the south-eastern part of Europe, the area of the Drina Euroregion consists of three highly diverse geographic parts: the northern part is a plain area along the rivers Sava and Drina; the central part of the area is a hilly landscape, while the southern part is mountainous.

The northern part of the region is covered by lowlands in the basin of the Sava River, with fertile agricultural lands and low hills.

To the south the altitude above sea level increases and the area becomes a hilly landscape with low hills, valleys and ravines, ranging from about 200-350 metres to 350-600 metres. The upper regions in Bosnia are located below the eastern slopes of Jahorina at an altitude between 335-1 300 meters.

Further south the terrain becomes rather mountainous in the region of Divčibare, Golija, Zlatar, and the Tara Mountains, which are potential areas for economic development due to the presence of natural resources and expanding opportunities for tourism.

On the northern Bosnian side are lowlands (300 metres above sea level) with the basins of the Sava and Drina rivers, with the valleys of the rivers Tolisa, Tinja, Brka, Gnjica and Janja, offering the most favourable conditions for agricultural production. This is the most important Bosnian area for grain production.

In a morphological sense, the southern part of the Euroregion, in Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina, has a diverse relief with high mountains and canyons, deep valleys and river fields. The terrain is mostly mountainous including some of the most rugged landscapes in Europe. The average altitude is above 2 000 meters.

The most of the municipalities are located in the middle, hilly part of the Euroregion with an average height above sea level between 300 and 700 meters. This part is very rich in various minerals and hydro-electric potential as important resources for industrial production. Due to the configuration of the terrain the most of the arable land in this area is on slopes, subject to erosion, impeding the use of agricultural mechanisation. This land is climatically and physically more suitable for fruit growing and pasture.

Climate:

The climate in the Euroregion is continental, defined by hot, dry summers and autumns as well as cold winters with heavy snowfall due to the presence of the mountains.

In the north of the Euroregion, in the Sava River Valley there is a temperate continental climate. Due to the openness of the Pannonian Plain, its lowland parts in the north are under the influence of the Pannonian continental climate, while the hilly mountainous regions to the south at 700 meters above sea level are under the influence of the mountainous climate. Precipitation is a very important climatic element. Apart of the air temperature, it is of great importance for the survival of flora. The quantity and the annual and territorial distribution of precipitation are different. The amount of rainfall increases from the northeast to the south and southwest. The middle part of the Euroregion is characterised by significant rainfall, rains are frequent, as well as floods. Around Užice the climate is mostly mountainous in the higher and moderate-continental in the lower regions.

On the south the climate varies, but in general it is characterised by the continental climate, with cold winters and hot, humid summers together with well distributed rainfall patterns and heavy inland snowfall. The mean annual temperature ranges between 2 and 8°C. Going towards the valleys of the Piva, Tara, and Komarnica rivers the temperature increases, and the average temperature reaches about 8°C in the valleys of these rivers.

Climatic conditions along the Drina River are defined by its north–south direction with decreasing altitude from high through medium to low, from the mountains towards the Pannonian Plain. The source and the highest area of the basin are influenced by the Mediterranean climate. Its influence gets weaker in the upper part of the basin, towards Foča, where tempered continental climate becomes more prevalent. Finally, in the lower basin of the Drina River, downstream from Zvornik, the climate passes into continental.

The precipitation amounts decrease with the flow, but not proportionally. High mountain regions of the basin over 2 000 meter above sea level receive 2 000-3 000 mm atmospheric precipitation annually. In the moderately mountainous middle region, the precipitation varies from about 1 400 mm in Foča to 890 mm in Ljubovija, while around the mouth of the Drina it is only 700 mm. Considered as a whole, the basin of the Drina River on average receives 1 030 mm of rainfall a year, based on which it is rich in water. Therefore, the Drina and its larger tributaries (Tara, Piva, Lim) possess large flow rates.

Hydrography:

The Drina River, with several high dams, forms 185,3 km of the border between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It joins the Sava River in the north. Both rivers are rich in natural resources, various species of fish, and other fauna. This area involves the Tara National Park and Lake Perućac.

The rivers in the south of the Euroregion flow in the mountains along deep canyons such as the Tara River Canyon, which is the deepest canyon in Montenegro and in Europe with 78 km in length and 1 300 meters at its deepest point. There are around forty natural and seven artificial lakes in the area. This region is rich in water and forests that cover 32% of the territory of the border region.

The hydropower potential of the Drina River and its tributaries has long been recognised. Great water resources, uniform annual and perennial flow, a significant decline in the longitudinal river profiles and canyon – gorge structure of some river valleys make the Drina suitable for building powerful concrete dams, to form artificial lakes. In addition to those already built, there are some projects for constructing new ones. Regarding its hydropower potential the Drina has no equal in the Balkans, but at the same time its hydropower is the least utilised. The economically exploitable water power of the river is estimated at 14,4 billion kWh, while there has been used less than 5 billion kWh so far, which is about 35%. From the possible 40, only nine large hydropower plants have been built on the Drina, Piva, Lim and Uvac rivers.

Nature:

The Drina and its tributaries are rich in fish. In its upper course it has the characteristics of a mountain river, while downstream from Loznica the Drina is a lowland river. Therefore it has various types of fishes typical either to mountain or to lowland rivers. In its upper flow there are species like salmon, trout, barbel, nase, gudgeon, chub, and grayling. Downstream from Višegrad one can find pike, catfish, burbot, and roach. In its lower course, there is bream, tench, crucian carp etc.

There are thick forests along the Drina River and its tributaries in the Tara, Zlatibor, Jahorina and Zelengora Mountains. The southern mountainous area in both countries is characterised by a very well preserved natural environment offering natural resources and biodiversity, suggesting a high potential for the development of agriculture, power generation, and tourism.

Population:

Ethnicity has played an important role in the recent history of the region and is reflected in the current profile of the Euroregion. In the 1990s extensive migrations of inhabitants took place between these countries on all sides of the borders. As a result, today's demographic picture in the border areas is significantly different from the one before the war. These changes seem irreversible given the slow and difficult return of refugees. Most of the population decline is visible in the rural areas along the borders.

The biggest minority group in Croatia is the Serbian minority. Relations between Croats and Serbs have been tense and difficult during the nineties, but the situation has somewhat improved since the beginning of the new century. The ethnic structure in BiH is complex. BiH

consists of three constituent nations: Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats. Relations of those constituent nations have been, and continue to be a main challenge for the stability and development of the country. The biggest national minority in BiH is the Roma minority. In Serbia the ethnic majority of the Euroregion's population is Serbian, while the largest ethnic group is that of the Bosniaks.

Today, all inhabitants in the Euroregion enjoy full equality in each country, ensured by the constitutions of the countries strongly guaranteeing minority rights.

Economy:

Thanks to the fertile soil in the valley basin, the main economic resource in the north of the Euroregion is good quality land suitable for all types of agricultural production. There are landscapes of intensive agriculture with the production of cereals and vegetable crops, as well as fruits. Bijeljina (BiH), Županja (Croatia) and Šabac (Serbia) are large centres for production and trade of food. The rivers Sava and Drina contribute to the development of many branches of industry – metal industry, water management, agriculture, river transport, and tourism. Therefore the key industrial activities within the Euroregion are food-processing, wood-processing and furniture manufacturing, chemical and light metal industry, and textile industry.

The western and southern parts of the region are favorable for tourism in the summer (canyons of Piva, Sutjeska, Tara and Zlatibor mountains) and winter (Jahorina, etc.). The surrounding countryside, the environment and the abundant natural beauty make good preconditions for the development of mountain sports and recreation, religious, rural and hunting tourism.

Transport:

The region has a connection with the Belgrade–Zagreb motorway in its northern part. Furthermore, a section of the Belgrade–Podgorica main road is passing through it in the east, while the Foča–Goražde–Višegrad–Užice road and the Nikšić–Plužine–Foča–Sarajevo route also cross the area of the Euroregion.

The above indicates that the entire region has a connection only with the E-70 international road in the north, while in all other directions it is far away from all the important European corridors. No highway passes through this area. The largest part of the road network consists of class 1 roads and local, class 2 roads.

Concerning the railroads, the Belgrade–Bar railway line passes through Užice, however it is in a very bad condition. Practically, all other forms of transport within the Euroregion, so railway, air and water transport are at a negligible level.

3.7 Administrative units – members

As it is shown in Table 1, there are seventeen members of the Drina Euroregion, which represent different levels of self-government, from municipality through town to canton level. Figure 4 presents and the text below describes these administrative units.

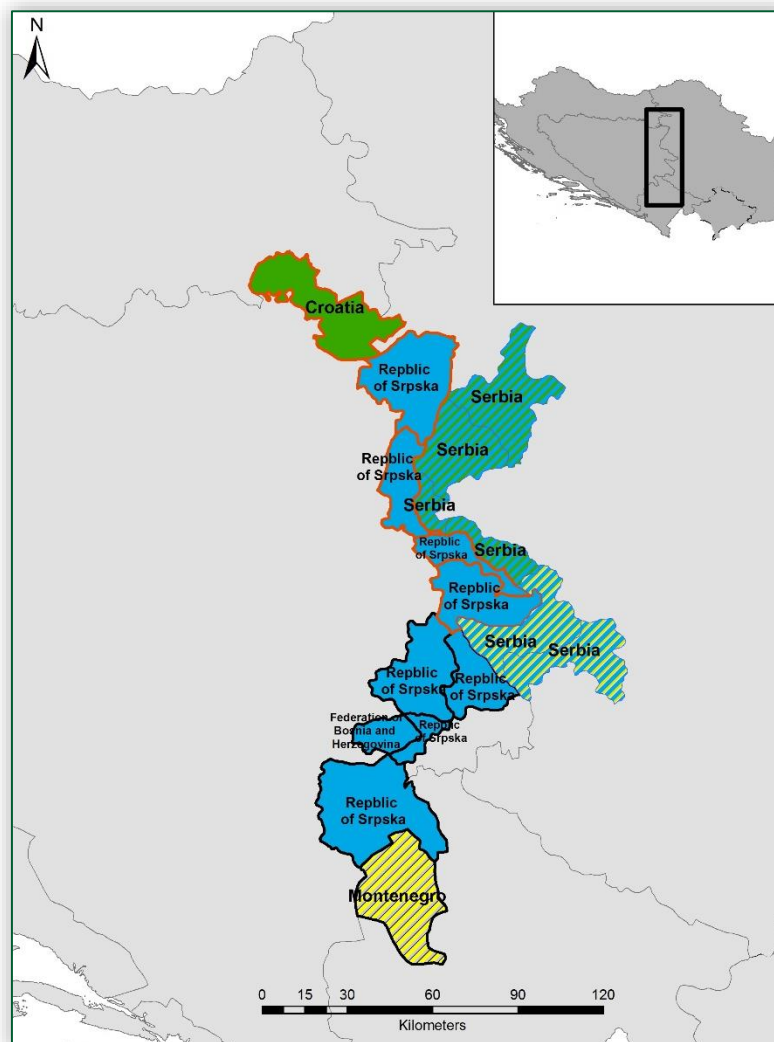


Figure 4: The administrative structure of the Drina Euroregion

Source: RTT's own construction

Županja (Croatia)

Županja is located in Slavonia, Eastern Croatia. The town, which in 2011 counted 12 090 inhabitants (in 1991 14 435 and in 2001 16 383), lies in an area of 50 km² along the Sava River and it is the centre of the Županja Microregion. The majority of its population is Croat (96,72%), but there are also Serbs, Bosniaks, Albanians, Hungarians, and others nationalities.

This town is an important junction of major road routes in east-west and north-south directions. The Belgrade–Zagreb motorway passes next to Županja, which is the main connection between Bosnia and other parts of Europe.

Concerning industrial production, there are food processing companies, a factory of agricultural machines and a wood processing firm. The surrounding forests are rich in many kinds of wildlife, and the waters of Županja region offer a rich fishery potential. During the year there are traditional cultural events such as harvest feast and actors' festival, and the town is known for its gastronomy as well.

Bijeljina (Republika Srpska)

The town of Bijeljina is the centre of the municipality located in the northeastern part of Republika Srpska in Bosnia, at the confluence of the Sava and the Drina. These two rivers represent the border with Croatia in the north and Serbia across the Drina. The town has an attractive geo-strategic position: it lies along the borders of Serbia, Croatia and Republika Srpska; here are the crossroads of the major urban and industrial centers – Belgrade, Novi Sad, Banja Luka, Šabac, Tuzla, and Sarajevo; moreover, it is at the edge of the Pannonian Plain and the Balkan Peninsula.

Bijeljina municipality covers an area of 734 km². The estimated number of inhabitants in the municipality of Bijeljina, according to the 2013 census is 114 663 (in 1991 it was 96 988). This is the second most populous municipality in Republika Srpska, right after Banja Luka.

Thanks to the fertile soil, Bijeljina is one of the centres for the production and trade of food, mostly cereals and vegetable crops. It lies on a vast underground lake of thermal water used for spa treatment in the famous Banja Dvorovi, six kilometers from the town of Bijeljina. The municipality has become an attractive tourist destination visited by more and more domestic and foreign tourists.

Zvornik (Republika Srpska)

The territory of the municipality of Zvornik covers an area of 376 km², and it is located in northeastern Bosnia. Zvornik lies on the eastern slopes of Majeвица at an altitude of 146 m. The town has a favorable geographical position and is located in the middle of the road towards three major urban centers: Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Sarajevo. The municipality of Zvornik has 63 686 inhabitants according to the 2013 census (67 795 in 1991).

The municipality has 61 settlements. The Drina River with its tributaries provides a significant hydroelectric potential. Zvornik is one of the nine most developed municipalities of the Republika Srpska. It is rightly considered as an urban, commercial, communications, industrial, medical, educational, sports, cultural and tourist centre of the wider region. For its great strategic importance Zvornik is considered for the „key to Bosnia“.

The Drina River and the Lake Zvornik are rich in trout and suitable for fishing, water sports and vacation, which presents a solid base for the development of tourism.

Bratunac (Republika Srpska)

The territory of the municipality of Bratunac is located in the eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as part of the Republika Srpska, and it covers an area of over 293 km² with 21 619 inhabitants (2013 census, 33 619 in 1991). The Drina River forms the border with Serbia (municipalities of Ljubovija and Bajina Bašta). The town itself is situated 3 km from the border with Serbia, 140 km from Sarajevo, and 210 km from Belgrade. The municipality covers a large lowland belt on the left bank of the Drina River.

The economic activity in the municipality takes place within shops, construction, industrial and transport companies and two farms.

The rapid flow of the Drina River offers possibility of drifting, and the municipality of Bratunac used it in promoting its tourism potential. The development of agriculture can be based on favourable climate, altitude, hydropotential and traditions.

Srebrenica (Republika Srpska)

The municipality of Srebrenica lies in the eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the Republika Srpska. It is a small mountain town of 527 km². The current population counts 15 242 people (according to 2013 census). However, before the war in Bosnia Srebrenica had 36 666 inhabitants (1991 census), with an ethnic structure of about 75% Muslims (about 27 500 people), 22,7% Serbs (about 8 300 people) and 2,3% other nationalities at that time. The current composition of the population is quite different. Based on the preliminary results of the census from 2013, the share of Muslims fell to 44,8% (about 7 000 people), while the share of Serbs has more than doubled to 54,5% with slight rise in absolute numbers (about 8 500 people).

Under the 1995 Dayton Agreement that ended the Bosnian War, Srebrenica was included in the territory assigned to Bosnian Serb control as part of the Republika Srpska entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although guaranteed under the provisions of the Dayton Agreement, the return of survivors was repeatedly obstructed. In 2007, verbal and physical attacks on returning refugees continued to be reported in the region around Srebrenica.

Before 1992, there was a metal factory in the town, as well as lead, zinc, and gold mines nearby. The town's name (Srebrenica) means "silver mine", the same meaning as its old Latin name Argentaria. Before the war, Srebrenica also had a big spa and the town prospered from tourism and salt mining, too.

Višegrad (Republika Srpska)

The municipality of Višegrad is located in the east of the Republika Srpska and Bosnia and Herzegovina, 16 km from the border with Serbia. The municipality with its 448 km² is among the smaller ones in Bosnia, with 11 774 inhabitants according to the last census of 2013 (21 199 in 1991).

Until 1970, the narrow gauge railway Belgrade–Sarajevo passed through Višegrad. Today a part of it is renewed for tourism purposes, the famous Šargan Eight between Mokra Gora and Kremani in Serbia, and the reconstruction works on the railway line from Mokra Gora to Višegrad are in progress. The Drina River also provides great opportunities for tourism development.

Until the war Višegrad had a dynamic socio-economic development with an extremely developed metal, chemical, textile and wood processing industry. Today there is a hydropower plant, a company for producing steel ropes, a textile firm, a rehabilitation centre, and a commercial company. Three hydropower stations have been built on the Drina River so far, which has turned a greater part of its course into a quiet lake surface.

Rogatica (Republika Srpska)

Rogatica spreads in the mid-eastern part of the Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. It covers an area of 645 km² with a population of 11 603 inhabitants according to the preliminary results of the 2013 census (almost half than twenty years ago; 21 881 in 1991).

Rogatica is an area of outstanding natural beauty, with clear mountain rivers, dense deciduous and coniferous forests, blossoming pastures and meadows, rich cultural and historical heritage, clean air and healthy homemade food.

Widely famous Borike are a paradise for those who want to enjoy nature walks, collecting medicinal herbs, berries and mushrooms; or to engage in hunting, biking or horseback riding.

Novo Goražde (Republika Srpska)

The municipality of Novo Goražde, previously called Srpsko Goražde, was established with the division of the prewar municipality of Goražde in 1994, and verified after the Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995. It is bordered by Goražde, Čajniče, Rogatica, Višegrad and Foča.

Novo Goražde is a place where many important roads and rivers cross, civilisations meet, nations, religions and customs get mixed. The municipality covers 119 km², the population after the 2013 census was 3 391. It is located in the heart of Upper Drina Region and below the eastern slopes of Mount Jahorina.

Within its industrial zone there is a wire factory, machine works, a refrigerator factory, and several private firms and small private companies.

Foča (Republika Srpska)

The municipality of Foča is a spatial unit occupying an area of 1 135 km², along the upper part of the basin of the Drina River. Located in the southeastern part of Bosnia, respectively the Republika Srpska, the eastern and southern boundaries of the municipality are also the borders with Montenegro, while in the north it borders with the Federation of BiH. Foča has a favorable geographical position, at the intersection of the roads towards Sarajevo and Nikšić.

Foča had 19 811 inhabitants at the last census in 2013, so the number of people has almost halved in the last two decades (in 1991 there were 35 491 inhabitants).

This area includes the Sutjeska National Park with the Perućica forest, the Zelengora and Maglić Mountains; the deepest canyon in Europe, the Tara River Canyon shared by this municipality and its Montenegrin neighbours, a number of lakes teeming with fish, as well as important natural reserves. All these attractions are awaiting lovers of unspoilt nature.

Many streams are crossing this area, which is thus rich in water. Therefore it would only be necessary to introduce certain technical procedures in order to ensure the benefit of the wider community.

Bosansko-podrinjski kanton Goražde (Federation BiH)

Goražde is the smallest canton in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It covers an area of 573 km² and has a very favorable geographic position, extending to the eastern slopes of Jahorina, Borovac and Klek.

Within the canton there are the municipalities of Goražde, Foča-Ustikolina and Pale-Prača. The current population of the whole canton is 25 336 (2013), while the same area had 40 205 inhabitants in 1991. Goražde is the administrative, political, educational, and cultural centre of the canton.

This canton has always been a link between the East and West. It is bordering with Serbia and Montenegro, and the routes to Dubrovnik in Croatia as well as to central Bosnia are passing through it. Goražde is rich in natural beauty. There are excellent conditions for tourism development, especially rural, but also adventure tourism, attractive to people who like untouched nature and camping.

Šabac (Serbia)

The town of Šabac lies in the northern part of western Serbia and represents the economic and cultural centre of Podrinje and the wider area. The geographical position of the municipality is very convenient because it is located on important traffic routes, passing towards Belgrade, Novi Sad, Loznica, Valjevo and Bijeljina.

The municipality of Šabac covers an area of 795 km² and has 115 884 inhabitants (in 2011, 123 633 in 1991, and 122 893 in 2002). The town itself has 52 822 inhabitants according to the census of 2011 (53 919 in 2002), with about 70 000 people living in its suburbs.

The basic economic potentials are in high quality land suitable for all types of agricultural production and the water of the rivers Sava and Drina suitable for the development of many branches of industry, water management, agriculture, river transport, and tourism.

The dominant industries in the town are chemical, pharmaceutical, metal, mechanical, food and construction material industry. There are nearly 4 200 companies (about 2 800 entrepreneurs) operating in Šabac.

Loznica (Serbia)

Loznica is located at the foot of the northern slopes of the Gučevo Mountain, at an altitude of 142 m. The municipality of Loznica extends to 612 km², lying between the Cer Mountain, the southern parts of Mačva, the Drina River to the west, and Gučevo and Boranja Mountains to the south. According to the 2011 census it has 79 327 inhabitants (86 875 in 1991 and 86 413 in 2002), while in the town of Loznica there are 18 714 people.

Loznica has a good geographic and traffic position. The main roads Belgrade–Šabac–Loznica–Zvornik–Tuzla–Sarajevo, and Bijeljina–Loznica–Mali Zvornik–Bajina Bašta–Užice and further to the Montenegrin coast are passing through Loznica. The road through Loznica–Osečina–Valjevo–Lajkovac connects to the Ibar highway. The Šabac–Zvornik railroad is also passing through Loznica.

Loznica is the natural, economic, transport and cultural centre of this part of Podrinje.

Ljubovija (Serbia)

Ljubovija is a municipality located on the road Šabac–Bajina Bašta. It is a mountainous area in western Serbia along the border with the Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ljubovija covers an area of 356 km² and has 14 469 inhabitants according to the 2011 census (formerly 18 391 in 1991 and 17 052 in 2002). The municipality consists of the settlement of Ljubovija with 3 946 inhabitants, and another 27, mostly smaller villages.

Agricultural land in the municipality of Ljubovija occupies 57,5% of its surface, and beside mining and industry agricultural production is the largest source of income.

From the branches of industry, there is mining, metal processing as well as chemical, building materials, food and tobacco industry in Ljubivoja. Despite its relatively satisfactory growth rates, the degree of industrialisation of the area is below the level of similar municipalities in Serbia.

Ljubovija with its environment is involved in the tourism offers of Serbia. The surrounding villages of Azbukovica are abundant in natural beauty and conditions for the development of mountain sports and recreational, religious, rural and hunting tourism. The Drina Regatta in Ljubovija has a tradition of almost a decade.

Mali Zvornik (Serbia)

The municipality of Mali Zvornik is located in the western part of Serbia, in the Middle Drina Valley. The western boundary of the municipality to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska is the Drina River. On the opposite bank of the river, there is the Bosnian municipality of Zvornik.

The area of the municipality is 184 km², which is the smallest one in Mačvanski District and one of the smallest municipalities in Serbia. The total population according to the census of 2011 is 12 482 (it was 14 029 in 1991 and 14 076 in 2002). The settlement Mali Zvornik itself has 4 384 inhabitants, while the whole municipality has 11 local governments on its territory.

The only economic organization is the hydropower plant Zvornik, employing 80 workers and producing more than 22 billion KWh of electricity.

Mali Zvornik, which is outstanding primarily in the preserved nature of the surrounding mountain landscape and water resources of the Drina River, provides ideal conditions for rural tourism and tourism with special interests, primarily fishing and hunting.

Bajina Bašta (Serbia)

Bajina Bašta is a town in western Serbia, on the right bank of the Drina River, below the Tara Mountains. The whole municipality, lying on 673 km² has 26 022 inhabitants according to 2011 census (29 747 in 1991, 29 151 in 2002). The town itself has 9 323 inhabitants.

The once peripheral and quite closed region in Serbia has gradually become an important centre of forestry, energy industry, and tourism. Hydropower plants with artificial lakes on the Drina and the Tara river have supplemented and embellished the tourist card of Račanski district. Tara is a national park with an area of 19 200 hectares and covers the largest part of this mountain.

Užice (Serbia)

The town of Užice is the seat of the Zlatibor District, located on the banks of the Đetinja River in Serbia. Its area is 667 km². The highway to the Adriatic coast and the railway between Belgrade, Serbia and Bar, Montenegro pass through Užice. There is the state border with Bosnia and Herzegovina in Mokra Gora and the Ponikve airfield is qualified for civilian air traffic.

According to the census of 2011 the whole municipality had a population of 78 040 (82 723 in 1991 and 83 022 in 2002) and the town itself has 52 199 inhabitants (54 717 in 2002).

The town is a centre of metal and machine industry and fruit-growing. Užice, as the economic centre of western Serbia, is one of the few cities in Serbia with a surplus in foreign trade. This fact confirms that the economy of Užice is healthy, competitive and export-oriented.

Companies from the manufacturing and coloured metal industry, construction, trade, textile and wood industry and other branches of tertiary activity have the greatest impact on the local economy.

The potentials of the rivers Drina, Lim, Uvac, and Đetinja are used to raise five hydroelectric power plants. Zlatibor and Tara are the leading centres of mountain tourism, while Zlatar, Golija and Javor mountains are also popular.

Plužine (Montenegro)

The municipality of Plužine is located in northern Montenegro and covers an area of 854 km². This is an extremely high land, with peaks over 2 300 m. It is a historical territory since it has been one of the most important destinations of migration; it took namely quite a long time for the population to descend from the high mountains to relatively lower lands. Currently the municipality has 3 246 inhabitants, while a decade ago there were a thousand more people living in these settlements.

In the municipality of Plužine there is no industry that could undermine the purity of air, while the meteorological conditions are favorable for the dispersion and diffusion of pollutants.

Although most of the inhabitants of Plužine live from agriculture and animal husbandry, this area has great potentials for tourism development. Huge canyons of the Tara, Piva, Komarnica, and Sušica, Piva Lake, alpine massifs with transparent lakes, idyllic villages in the Piva Mountains could be ideal scenes for adventure and holiday. Unfortunately, most of this natural wealth is not valued in the right way.

In the municipality of Plužine there are some industrial, forestry, agricultural and commercial enterprises, with a high proportion of micro-enterprises making up 71% of all businesses.

4. Organisational and institutional structure, operation

The bodies of the Drina Euroregion are:

1. Assembly
2. President
3. Executive Board
4. Supervisory Board

Assembly

The Assembly is the representative and the highest body of the Drina Euroregion. The Assembly is formed by the legal representatives of the member territorial self-governments. Each member's representative is entitled to one vote in the Drina Euroregion. Each member appoints one representative and his/her deputy.

The Assembly of the Drina Euroregion decides on the number of representatives and its structure. The status of the representative of a member in the Euroregion is acquired by submitting a written decision on the appointment, issued by an authorised body of the respective member.

Concerning its scope of work and competence, the Assembly of the Euroregion:

- a) Passes the amendments to the Statute of the Drina Euroregion, the internal rules of procedure, the annual program of the Euroregion, the financial plan and annual financial statements, decisions on admitting new members and awarding the observer or contributing institutions status, the decision on the award of public recognition of the Euroregion, as well as any other activities that the Statute has not explicitly delegated to other bodies;
- b) Selects the President and Vice-President of the Drina Euroregion, as well as its Supervisory Board, the members of the commissions and the members of the Executive Board;
- c) Considers the realisation of program activities and other acts of the Euroregion, the reports on the work of the Euroregion's bodies, and other issues of importance to the operation of the Euroregion;
- d) States the basic elements of the policies of the Euroregion contained in its programs, and the methods of ensuring, distributing and using the resources available to the Drina Euroregion for achieving its objectives.

The Assembly holds regular sessions at least once a year, as a rule every time in another member state. The Assembly sessions are convened by the President of the Drina Euroregion on his/her own initiative, by a reasoned decision of the Executive Board or the Supervisory

Board, or if the majority of the members require it. The Assembly can elect a working presidency and entrust it to conduct the session. The Assembly generally makes decisions by unanimous vote of the members present, except in cases when the Statute and the Rules of Procedure prescribe a different majority.

President

The Drina Euroregion has a president and a vice-president. They are elected by the Assembly for a two-year mandate with the possibility of re-election, so that the president and the vice-president are from different countries.

The President convenes and presides over the meetings of the Assembly and the Executive Board, signs their acts, adjusts the work of the bodies, presents and represents the Euroregion, and performs other duties provided for in the Statute.

Executive Board

The Executive Board is the executive body of the Drina Euroregion and it has 17 members. The Executive Board is elected by the Assembly for a term of two years, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure. Of these 17 members, the president of the Drina Euroregion and the vice-president are ex officio members of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board is accountable to the Assembly within the limits of the powers and duties entrusted to them. The Executive Committee or any of its members can be revoked if they do not meet the obligations laid down in the Statute, or act contrary to the provisions of the Statute and the guidelines established by the Assembly.

The duties of the Executive Board are that it ensures the implementation of the Statute, other acts and guidelines established by the Assembly; performs financial plan, cares about the proper use of funds and making of implementation decisions; organises and coordinates cooperation with other organisations; follows the work of commissions and considers their proposals; regulates and organises publishing and information activities of the Drina Euroregion; appoints the secretary of the Executive Board; determines the organisation to perform professional duties of the Euroregion and adopts the respective acts; and performs tasks entrusted to it by the Assembly necessary for the normal functioning of the Drina Euroregion, using already existing structures that work in the field of cross-border cooperation.

The Executive Board meets regularly at least once every six months, each time in another member state. The decisions of the Executive Board are valid if the majority of its members support them. The Executive Board shall be convened by the President of the Drina Euroregion at its discretion, at the request of one third of the members of the Executive Board or by the Supervisory Board.

Supervisory Board

To protect the regularity of its operations, the Drina Euroregion established the Supervisory Board. It has a president and four members elected by the Assembly for a term of two years. Members of the Supervisory Board may not be members of the Executive Board. The president and the members of the Supervisory Board may be revoked under the conditions and in the manner prescribed by the Executive Board and its members. The Supervisory Board supervises the implementation of acts adopted by the bodies of the Drina Euroregion, as well as the regularity of material and financial operations. It submits a report to the Assembly about its work and the results of the supervision.

5. Composition of the working organ

Since its establishment in January 2012 the Drina Euroregion has its headquarters in Foča, which is a Bosnian member municipality situated in the Republika Srpska. It has an office, the address of which is 77 Cara Dušana Street, 73300 Foča, Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This office is the seat of the President and the Secretariat.

There are commissions established by the Executive Board made up of experts and professionals from the member municipalities, responsible for different areas such as:

- Hydropower: for example, the Drina Euroregion has managed to ban the construction of hydropower plants on the Sutjeska River, a tributary of the Drina;
- Water quality: working for preserving the quality of the Drina River from its source to its mouth;
- Tourism in protected areas: responsible for the activities on preparing and implementing the project titled “Drina ecological region of Europe”;
- Waste water management: dealing with the construction of sewage plants;
- Agriculture: coordinating activities for developing regional products.

According to the Statue and the rules of procedure, these bodies have regular meetings in order to resolve the important questions for the operation of the Drina Euroregion.

6. Main activity areas, profile

The activities performed by the Drina Euroregion since its establishment can be followed on their official website at www.euroregijadrina.com. In the first part of this chapter, we give an overview of these activities, followed by a description of the residents' view on the Euroregion, while in the third part we give an insight into all the cross-border projects realised within the area of the Drina Euroregion and between the states of its members.

6.1 Activities of the Drina Euroregion

The following list summarises all the activities realised within the past three years of operation of the Drina Euroregion.

Date	Description
January 2012	The Initiative Committee of the Drina Euroregion was founded on a meeting held in Foča, and the decision was made to establish the Preparatory Committee of the Drina Euroregion which included representatives of the municipalities of Foča, Goražde, Bijeljina, Novo Goražde, Bajina Bašta, Loznica, Bratunac and Ljubovija.
26 January 2012	Constitutional Assembly of the Drina Euroregion in Foča, Republika Srpska with the participation of 17 administrative units from the basin of the Drina River, coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro
February 2012	A delegation of the Drina Euroregion visited the County of Istria in Croatia. The seat of the Adriatic Euroregion is in Pula. In the delegation there were representatives of the municipalities of Foča and Bratunac from BiH, and Bajina Bašta from Serbia.
22 March 2012	Celebration of World Water Day. At a meeting of the Executive Board of the Drina Euroregion in its extended composition, held in Bajina Bašta, it was concluded that all 17 towns / municipalities that make up the Euroregion would celebrate the World Water Day on 22 March to call attention to the importance of water and to promote sustainable water management.
24 May 2012	The president of the Drina Euroregion, Zdravko Krsmanović participated at the International Conference titled Ecotourism in protected areas, held in St. Petersburg, Russia. He presented the potential that encompasses the area of the Drina Euroregion, indicating three protected areas: national parks Durmitor, Sutjeska and Tara, Nature Park Mokra Gora with the ethno village of Drvengrad and the town of Višegrad with the old bridge.

Date	Description
June 2012	Višegrad faced environmental incident. A large amount of floating waste came into Drina Lake with the Lim River from Serbia and Montenegro. The waste originated from the hydroelectric power plant Potpeć in Serbia, because during its recent maintenance and cleaning, they let trash and floating waste into the water.
November 2012	President of the Drina Euroregion expressed his objection to working on projects of hydropower plants on an ad hoc and profit oriented basis.
21 December 2012	US Ambassador to BiH Patrick Moon began his visit in Foča with a meeting with the president of the Drina Euroregion, Zdravko Kršmanović.
21 February 2013	An expert conference titled Water potential of the Drina River Basin and the integral development of the region, was organised by the Drina Euroregion, Italian OXFAM and Kaliopolis, and held in Bijeljina. The participants concluded on the following: “The construction of hydropower plants on the Drina with the majority share of foreign capital in the ownership and control structure would be national treason.”
March 2013	There was a repeated environmental incident in Višegrad, when hundreds of cubic meters of waste material were released over the Višegrad Hydroelectric Power Station. The waste material arrived with the Lim River from Serbia and Montenegro.
15 March 2013	The World Day for the protection of rivers from high dams was celebrated on 15 March in Kumanica on the border of Serbia and Montenegro, where representatives of the Environmental Movement Lim from Priboj expressed once again their disagreement with the construction of hydropower plants on the Lim River. They also requested to declare the Lim a protected natural resource.
April 2013	Professors and students from the Technical University of Vienna, Department of Spatial Planning, stayed in Goražde from 22 to 24 April. The visit was organised as part of the preliminary project entitled Prospects for development in Goražde Canton, which would be realised in the framework of master studies at the University.

Date	Description
29 May 2013	Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to BiH Renzo Davidi, Spanish Ambassador to BiH Maria Aurora Mejia Eraskvin and Bulgarian Ambassador to BiH Angel Angelov, together with the head of the Belgian diplomatic mission in BiH Jean-Pierre Bibek, deputy Slovenian ambassador David Brozina and Second Secretary of the Italian Embassy Ilaria Ragnoni visited the municipality of Foča. They also met the president of the Drina Euroregion. The main subject of the discussion was the integral development of the area in the basin of the Drina River, and the current activities of the Euroregion, as well as the potentials for cooperation of the Drina Euroregion with other regions in Europe, especially with the Danube Region.
22 November 2013	Euroregion Drina and OXFAM Italia in collaboration with the municipality of Bratunac organised a panel discussion titled The hydropower project Central Drina and its impact on the environment. The participating representatives of the designer from the Institute Jaroslav Černi from Belgrade and of the reviewer of the Institute for Water Engineering from Sarajevo have discussed the current state of the technical documentation. On the basis of all the parameters that have so far related to this project, the story of the construction of three hydroelectric power plants on the Drina River stretching from Zvornik to Bajina Bašta would be totally unrealistic in the near future.
During 2014	<p>The list of activities of the Drina Euroregion in 2014 is based on an interview with its president conducted on 03/02/2015:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration and evaluation of the impacts of large hydro plants on the environment in the area of the Euroregion 2. Consideration of the possibilities of utilising hydro potential on the middle flow of the Drina River between hydropower plants in Zvornik and Visegrad, in the area of Bratunac and Srebrenica 3. Activities related to the construction of small hydropower plants in the Sutjeska National Park <p>Members of the Euroregion are of the opinion that they should not allow the construction of small hydropower plants on the territory of the National Park. Despite this opinion, there have already been made all plans, contracts have been signed, and the foreign investors are only waiting for the building permit.</p> <p>The Euroregion members' opinion is to make zoning within the National Park area in order to define different categories of protection.</p>

6.2 The residents' opinion of the Drina Euroregion

The activities of the Drina Euroregion are primarily intended for developing the Drina River as a natural resource. The Drina is the river of all the people and the settlements along its banks, having numerous ties with the population. Thus the future of the Drina is an important question to all.

In order to reveal the opinion of the residents and the administrative workers or representatives of the member local governments about the Drina Euroregion, we made interviews with a random sample of interviewees from the riverside settlements. The aim of this non-representative survey was to ask people what the river meant in their lives, how they felt about it, and what type of cooperation they had with people and institutions from the other side of the Drina. They were also asked about the Drina Euroregion, whether they knew it, its operation, and if there was a need for such cooperation in their region. Finally, they were asked to name some activities related to the Drina Euroregion.

The interviews were conducted partly in person, partly by phone, and we managed to speak to 23 respondents from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro.

The answers concerning the Drina Euroregion can be divided into two groups. The majority of the residents had never heard about the Euroregion or cannot evoke the context of mentioning it, while a few younger respondents knew about it in relation with environmental protection. Most of the interviewees agreed that the river was both dividing and connecting the region. As this area had belonged to the same country before the 1990's wars, the Drina had not been a border river. However, according to the respondents, this border is only administrative, symbolic for them even today. Most of the inhabitants are Serbians on both sides of the border; therefore they do not see the river as an obstacle that could divide them. Furthermore, they are allowed to cross this border without a passport, just as before in former Yugoslavia.

The Drina River is of great importance to all of them. Some earn living from it, others have emotional ties with it, and certain respondents see the symbol of the unity of the Serbian nation in it. Young respondents expressed the importance of environmental protection, without which the future of the river would not be ensured. The Drina Euroregion as an institution was known only among these younger people, due to some environmental activities.

The other group of interviewees consists of the representatives of local governments, members of the Euroregion. Their answers were quite different and varying. Most of them considered the initiative of establishing the Drina Euroregion for being important, however the foundation and the operation of this institution was said to be non-professional. The elected president of the Euroregion is not the mayor of his settlement anymore; therefore the legitimacy of his presidency is also problematic. However, some respondents expressed that the cooperation should be continued, on a new and revised basis, with new goals.

6.3 Cross-border cooperation projects in the study area

The neighborhood programs of the European Union offer a significant amount of funding for the cooperation projects of the partners from the Western Balkan countries. However, the real effects of these projects are questionable as the eligible areas cover the inner municipalities of these countries as well, and the majority of cross-border cooperation projects is not realised right along the state borders.

There are strong relations between these areas due to the region's unique historical heritage, though there was some reduction in cooperation intensity during the period of the disintegration of Yugoslavia.

The territory of the Drina Euroregion is located within the eligible area of five cross-border cooperation programs: Croatia–Serbia;²¹ Serbia–Bosnia and Herzegovina;²² Serbia–Montenegro;²³ Bosnia and Herzegovina–Montenegro;²⁴ and Croatia–Bosnia and Herzegovina²⁵. All of these programmes have become open to potential partners and applicants since the middle of the 2000s with a common aim of increasing the development status of border regions.

Analysing the program documents of the above CBC programs, it can be concluded that most of them are targeting three different priorities:

- contribution to economic development in the eligible areas;
- supporting environmental projects;
- improving people-to-people relations in the border areas.

According to the available data on the finalised projects implemented by project partners from the area of the Drina Euroregion, most projects were realised along the Serbian–Bosnian border, fewer on the Montenegrin–Bosnian border, while we could not identify any Serbian–Croatian and Bosnian–Croatian CBC projects implemented within the member municipalities of the Drina Euroregion.

There had already been some calls for proposals and project implementations even in the years before the establishment of the Drina Euroregion. This fact proves that the relations created during those projects, the experience of those co-operations, and the results of former projects have been fruitfully utilised during the establishment of the Drina Euroregion.

²¹ <http://www.croatia-serbia.com/en/>

²² <http://srb-bih.org/?lang=en>

²³ <http://www.cbcsrb-mne.org/>

²⁴ <http://www.cbc.bih-mne.org/>

²⁵ <http://www.cbc-cro-bih.net/en/>

On the other hand, this Euroregion may be an important actor in generating and implementing future cross-border cooperation projects along the borders between the member countries. Thus it may contribute to economic development in this region.

Below follows an overview of the cross-border projects implemented within the area of the Drina Euroregion, meaning that any of the project partners have a seat on the territory of the Euroregion.

**Cross-border Programme Serbia–Bosnia and Herzegovina
1st Call for Proposals – application deadline by 6 October 2009**

(7 relevant projects from the area of the Drina Euroregion)

Project title:	THE BRIDGE ON THE DRINA	
Project partners:	Association “Natan”, Serbia	Choir “Srbadija” from Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total amount of the project:	EUR 111 352,00	
Description:	The objective of the project is to strengthen cross-border people-to-people interaction through joint cultural activities in the field of music. Activities: The string orchestra Kraljevski Gudači Svetog Đorđa from Serbia and choir Srbadija from Bosnia and Herzegovina rehearsed together, made new music pieces, and organised 22 concerts of classical music with ethno elements, 10 in Serbia (Irig, Sremska Mitrovica, Bogatić, Šabac, Šid, Loznica, Valjevo, Užice, Prijepolje and Priboj) and 12 in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Brčko, Ugljevik, Tuzla, Foča, Zvornik, Doboj, Goražde, Lopare, Sarajevo, Bijeljina twice and Višegrad).	

Project title:	BALKAN – HOUSE OF DIVERSITY	
Project partners:	Grupa 484, Serbia	Office for Human Rights, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total amount of the project:	n/a	
Description:	The aim of the project was to contribute to the development of social cohesion in the region by promoting ethnic and cultural diversity in the border region. Activities: Being aware of the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural identities in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was a way to strengthen the ability of young people to adopt new social experience and reach an understanding. A group of local mentors worked with young participants who gathered material for a tourist tour, which will be a tool for promoting interculturalism and interethnicity. With the help of a mentor, ninety young people from Tuzla, Bijeljina, Brčko, Užice, Kosjerić and Požega explored the daily life of writers who live in these municipalities, as well as the places and events that inspired them to create the characters of their novels. Then they created a tourist tour "through the eyes of writers" in order to promote inter-cultural and inter-ethnic diversity.	

Crossing the borders. Studies on cross-border cooperation within the Danube Region

Case Study of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian–Croatian border

Drina Euroregion

Project title:	YOUTH LEADERSHIP FOR SOCIAL COHESION AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION	
Project partners:	Užice Child Rights Centre, Serbia	Foundation for Creative Development, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total amount of the project:	EUR 124 835,24	
Description:	<p>The project’s objective was to strengthen leadership capacities of young people from targeted areas in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to help them becoming leaders in community actions and promote youth cooperation. Activities: The project has been successfully implemented through training, cross-border study visits, platforms, workshops and cultural events for young people aged 15-27 from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina during which they had a chance to meet and exchange experiences and widen their understanding of other cultures, traditions and customs. The greatest challenge was to overcome prejudices and stereotypes that young people had in relation to other countries, cultures and their peers. This was expected, given that in recent years the young people had no opportunity to learn about other cultures and that relations between them have been broken off during the past two decades. This challenge was successfully overcome by organizing preparatory workshops with youth groups before each travel to the partner country. Young people from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina showed that existing differences between them do not pose an obstacle to understanding and cooperation.</p>	

Project title:	NEW RELATIONS IN THE BORDERING REGION OF SERBIA AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	
Project partners:	Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Beograd, Serbia	Democracy Development Institute from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total amount of the project:	n/a	
Description:	<p>The overall goal of the project is to inspire young people to embrace multiethnic values and develop friendly relations and closer ties with their peers across the border. Activities: Forty young people were educated on cross-border relations, human and minority rights and multiethnic and civil society principles through seminars, exchange visits, street actions and a festival. At those events they learned about the basics of democracy, human rights, EU integration. The “New Ties” Festival was the final and the most visible activity within the project during which a group of 40 high school students from Užice, Požega, Priboj, Prijepolje, Višegrad, Goražde, Srebrenica and Bratunac presented the touristic, cultural and economic potentials of this region.</p>	

Project title:	INTRODUCTION OF SUSTAINABLE MODELS OF YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WESTERN SERBIA AND EASTERN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	
Project partners:	Forum of Civic Action FORCA Požega, Serbia	Prijatelji Srebrenice, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total amount of the project:	EUR 77 364,55	
Description:	<p>The project objective is to develop personal skills and abilities of young people which will help them embrace future challenges and overcome professional and private obstacles. Activities: The project directly targeted 250 high school students from Požega, Užice, Arilje, Bratunac, Srebrenica and Milići who explored the following themes: self-initiative, self-confidence, creativity, teamwork, reliability, responsibility, honesty, determination, knowledge of market mechanisms and the process of decision making. Through project activities the students learned how to put their knowledge into practical use after graduating. The project also promoted youth entrepreneurship through various education activities and provision of business counselling services, as well as through creation of a competitive business environment in the underdeveloped municipalities of Zlatibor County and North-Eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p>	

Project title:	SUPPORT TO ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE	
Project partners:	Business Incubator of Technical Faculties from Belgrade, Business Incubator Centre Užice, Serbia	Innovation and Serbia and Innovation and Technology Foundation from Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total amount of the project:	n/a	
Description:	<p>The project aims to enable the exchange of experiences, build capacity and enable young people to realise their entrepreneurial ideas, as well as to promote entrepreneurial initiatives for cross-border cooperation between existing businesses. Activities: The activities target final year technical faculty students and young people with formal education in technical studies with no working experience or relevant practical skills. In order to raise awareness about the importance of entrepreneurship and motivate young people to participate in project activities, 255 young people were interviewed on both sides of the border and a range of information and motivation workshops were held. Over 60 young persons, on both sides of the border, were trained on entrepreneurship and acquired skills that will help them start their own businesses.</p>	

Project title:	DEVELOPMENT OF TYPICAL PRODUCTS IN NORTH-EASTERN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND ZLATIBOR COUNTY IN SERBIA	
Project partners:	Regional Development Agency Zlatibor from Užice, Serbia	Association Independent Development Office from Gradačac, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Total amount of the project:	EUR 211 420,25	
Description:	<p>The overall objective of the project is the protection of traditional food and handcrafts in accordance with EU standards and their wider regional visibility. The project aims to renew old customs and traditions in the targeted cross-border area, increase sales, provide possibilities for access to new markets and develop an attractive tourist offer.</p> <p>Activities: The project involves four main groups of activities: mapping and analysis of traditional products and key stakeholders that could support the development of typical products; support to producers of traditional products via trainings, a study trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina, creation of a touristic guide, workshops, creation of an action and marketing plan; and promotional activities including a final conference and an exhibition of traditional products. Trainings emphasizing the significance of protected geographical origin and benefits of marketing and promotion contribute to the increased capacities of producers and their associations, and may also define common objectives and strategic directions for further development of selected products.</p>	

**Cross-border Programme Serbia–Bosnia and Herzegovina
2nd Call for Proposals – application deadline by 5 December 2011**

(11 relevant projects from the area of the Drina Euroregion)

Project title:	Agriculture Forecast-Reporting System (AFRS) in the Cross Border Region	
Project partners:	Agricultural Extension Service Užice – Užice, Serbia Regional Development Agency Zlatibor	Federal Institute for Agriculture Ilidza – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency
Budget (EUR):	160 234,40	137 645,00
Description:	<p>Overall objective: To contribute to the improvement of the competitiveness of stakeholders in agriculture sector within the project area in using land as economic, rural and environmental resource</p> <p>Specific objective: Establishment of the innovative concept of integrated agricultural production based on IT forecasting and reporting between agriculture extension service providers and production sector within the project area</p>	

Project title:	Agriculture Forecast-Reporting System (AFRS) in the Cross Border Region
	<p>Estimated results of the action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EU best practice models in forecast-reporting system introduced among project stakeholders. 2. System for agriculture reporting and forecasting established; 3. Agricultural producers' awareness raised for using information from forecast-reporting systems; 4. Project objectives and results promoted and disseminated.

Project title:	Beekeeping – Activity for Future (BAF)	
Project partners:	<p>Association of beekeepers Prijepolje – Prijepolje, Serbia Municipality of Prijepolje Association of Fruit “Golden Raspberry”</p>	<p>Municipality of Goražde – Goražde, Bosnia and Hercegovina Beekeepers Association “Behar” Fruit Growers Association “Drina”</p>
Budget (EUR):	87 168,41	95 480,00
Description:	<p>Overall objective: The overall objective is to promote rural development of the border areas of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>Specific objectives: The specific objective is to improve the conditions for the development of beekeeping in the border communities of Prijepolje and Gorazde municipalities.</p> <p>Target groups: Target group in this Project are members of the associations of beekeepers and fruit producers.</p> <p>Final beneficiaries: Indirect target groups are: families of the members of the associations of beekeepers and fruit producers, persons involved in beekeeping and fruit growing that are not members of the associations. End-users are local population in the cross-border region of Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as foreign market users.</p> <p>Estimated results of the action: 1. Improved institutional – managerial and productive capacities of active beekeepers'; 2. - Promoted beekeeping at the local, regional and national level 3. Improved competitiveness of bee products and market access</p>	

Project title:	Increasing competitiveness of SMEs and enhancement of cross border links in metal industry – EUMETAL2	
Project partners:	<p>Regional Development Agency “Zlatibor” Ltd – Užice, Serbia National Agency for Regional Development</p>	<p>Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina Ministry of economy of Canton Sarajevo</p>
Budget (EUR):	181 320,48	184 111,81

Project title:	Increasing competitiveness of SMEs and enhancement of cross border links in metal industry – EUMETAL2
Description:	<p>Overall objective: Improve SME development in metal processing sector in the border area in order to improve their competitiveness</p> <p>Specific objectives: Support provided to 20 SMEs selected in the metal sector in the project area to develop their export potential.</p> <p>Target groups: SME/SMI; Professional category</p> <p>Final beneficiaries: FB1: Other companies from project region not covered by project activities; FB2: Associations of entrepreneurs; FB3: 50 unemployed persons;</p> <p>FB4: Inhabitants of project region</p> <p>Estimated results of the action: 1. Lessons learned during EU Metal project in Bosnia presented and promoted to stakeholders within the project area; 2. Skills and knowledge of staff from SMEs from border area improved; 3. Targeted SMEs from border area met formal requirements for export on EU markets; 4. Targeted SMEs promoted on regional and international level</p>

Project title:	Development and Promotion of Health Tourism Spas in Cross-border Area of B&H-Serbia – CROSS SPA	
Project partners:	Tourism Organization of Western Serbia – Užice, Serbia Regional Development Agency Zlatibor	Local Democracy Foundation – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina Sarajevo Economic Region Development Agency SERDA
Budget (EUR):	183 031,32	269 121,90
Description:	<p>Overall objective: Enhancing the regional cooperation and the sustainable economic development of the cross-border area (BiH-Serbia) through the development of new tourism forms. The action aiming to contribute towards to improving the regional cooperation and economic development of the border areas through the establishment of specific cross-border joint tourist offers, whereby offers will be treated as a segment of the development of new health tourism product.</p> <p>Specific objectives: Development and Placement of a new joint health tourism product – integrated unified tourist offer of health tourism within the cross-border region. Increasing the capacity of offering healthcare tourism in the cross-border region through expanding the assortment of tourism services in segments that promote healthy living and responsibility for own health. The action is intended to achieve the mentioned specific objectives contributing to the overall objectives.</p>	

Project title:		Safe Food Region
Project partners:	Regional Chamber of Commerce Valjevo – Valjevo, Serbia	Regional Chamber of Commerce Bijeljina – Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Budget (EUR):	53 309,38	34 580,00
Description:	<p>Overall objective: 1. Strengthening of competitiveness of SMEs in Serbia and BIH. 2. Prevention of food health injuries for consumers in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and in EU countries. 3. Exchange of best food safety practices among food actors in the cross-border region.</p> <p>Specific objectives: Targeted food safety education of actors in food supply chain in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>Final beneficiaries: Food consumers in Bosnian, Serbian and international markets</p> <p>Estimated results of the action: 1. Spreading practical knowledge throughout the whole food chain in the cross-border region. 2. Direct implementation of food safety principles in Serbian and Bosnian SME's. 3. Protection of consumers in BIH, Serbia and the EU. 4. Exchange of food safety implementation best practices among over border food actors.</p>	

Project title:		Schools Waste Less
Project partners:	Public Utility Company Regional Waste Sanitary Landfill Duboko – Užice, Serbia Regional Development Agency Zlatibor Ltd; Teacher's Association Opstanak	Public Utility Company Komunalac – Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina The Center for Ecology and Energy
Budget (EUR):	190 168,00	127 580,00
Description:	<p>Overall objective: To contribute to the maintaining of the high quality of the border area environment by cooperating in joint initiatives</p> <p>Specific objectives: Establishing the concept of primary waste selection in 28 schools in Užice and Tuzla.</p> <p>Estimated results of the action: R1: Technical framework for primary waste selection created in 28 schools in Užice and Tuzla; R2: Technical and human capacities of 2 Public Utility Companies for collecting, transport and primary waste selection increased; R3: 112 employees in 28 schools prepared for primary waste selection management and support in schools; R4: Primary waste selection concept implemented and promoted in schools in Užice and Tuzla; R5: Local and wider communities introduced with examples of good practice in primary waste selection in schools</p>	

Project title:		Strengthening professional adult education in rural areas
Project partners:	Caritas Šabac – Šabac, Serbia Caritas Serbia, City of Šabac	Caritas of Bishops Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina Municipality of Kresevo Municipality of Kiseljak
Budget (EUR):	124 540,00	103 610,00
Description:	<p>Overall objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinforcing social links in rural areas 2. Preventing social isolation of marginalized rural groups: women, youth, the elderly 3. Revitalization and development of rural areas 4. Fighting rural exodus in the cross border area <p>Specific objective: Offering new employment opportunities to rural families in Central Bosnia and Macvanski County through professional adult education. We strive to upgrade technical skills of rural vulnerable groups by provision of tailor made trainings, better access to market information and regional networking.</p> <p>Estimated results of the action: 1. Offering new professional skills to rural families through tailor made assistance; 2. Rural families linked to professional and social network in respective areas by regional exchanges and better access to information; 3. Local decision makers/public stakeholders better informed about innovative tools for fighting against social exclusion.</p>	

Project title:		Youth – Most Important Driving Engine of Our Region
Project partners:	Center for Equitable Regional Development- CenTriR – Belgrade, Serbia	Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska – Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Budget (EUR):	47 085,00	42 355,95
Description:	<p>Overall objective: The project’s overall objective is creating the preconditions for the sustainable development of the cross-border region between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) through the means of strengthening institutional, human and civil mechanisms for the promotion of the position of young people who are the bearers of development in both countries.</p> <p>Specific objectives: 1) Analyzing the work of local youth commissions/offices in 16 target municipalities in B&H and Serbia by means of conducting research on their performance over the previous period; 2) Improving capacities and skills of young people for advocating changes which will improve their current position in 16 target municipalities; 3) Establishing an informal network of young people who will be focal points in promoting cross-border cooperation and youth activism in these regions</p>	

Project title:	Youth – Most Important Driving Engine of Our Region
	Estimated results of the action: Result 1 – Completed preparatory activities as step one towards successful implementation of subsequent project activities; Result 2 - Conducted research on the achievements of youth offices in 16 municipalities of the cross-border region between Serbia and B&H; Result 3 – Printed publication on the work of local youth offices in the cross-border region between Serbia and B&H; Result 4 – Media promotion of the Project and findings of research on work of youth offices/commissions; Result 5 – Strengthened youth capacities to actively address problems in local communities; Result 6 – Local actions carried out by the youth in 16 municipalities of B&H and Serbia; Result 7 - Organized regional cross-border youth conference – “Do You Really Hear What We Say?”

Project title:	Wise use of common natural resources – road to sustainability of the Serbia/BiH cross-border region	
Project partners:	Uneco – Belgrade, Serbia Municipality of Bogatić Municipality of Mali Zvornik	Center for Environmentally Sustainable Development (CESD) – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina Public Utility Company Directorate of Construction and Development, Bijeljina Municipality of Zvornik
Budget (EUR):	134 958,35	121 072,25
Description:	<p>Overall objective: Overall objective of the Action is to contribute to the sustainable development of the Serbia-BiH cross-border region by fostering cooperation and multi stakeholders approach in the integrated natural resources</p> <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To increase the capacities of local stakeholders to actively operate in environmental management in cross-border area. 2. To foster cross-border institutional partnerships through developing joint actions for the protection and efficient utilization of the regional resources. 3. To increase public awareness and public support for the protection and sustainable use of natural resources in the cross – border region. <p>Estimated results of the action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Increased capacities of local stakeholders in 6 target municipalities (3 in BiH, 3 in Serbia) to actively operate in environmental management in the cross-border area. (2) Developed the Action plan for the wise use and protection of natural resources in 6 municipalities in the Drina River Basin. (3) Increased public participation in environmental decision making through active involvement in the action plan’s drafting. (4) Increased public awareness for the protection and sustainable use of natural resources by implementing public outreach activities. 	

Project title:	SA-ŠA Support to cooperation, inclusion, education and promotion of Roma culture in BiH and Serbia	
Project partners:	National Council of Roma in Serbia – Regional office Šabac – Šabac, Serbia	City of Sarajevo – Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina SERDA
Budget (EUR):	155 052,17	140 082,00
Description:	<p>Overall objectives: The overall objective is to support the social inclusion of Roma population in the border area of Bosnia and Serbia. Specific objective: Project partners will seek to influence the situation of Roma in the border area of the two countries in terms of reducing the differences between Roma and other citizens; will treat the vital areas that are of particular importance for the inclusion in the social trends and improving the economic and social status of Roma such as education, health care, the status of women, better informing, developing of Roma cultural identity, cooperation and experience exchange with neighboring organizations dealing with Roma issues, discrimination and raising awareness about necessary inclusion of Roma in all social processes, which is aligned with strategies relating to improving the situation of Roma in both countries.</p> <p>Estimated results of the action: 1. Established cross-border cooperation through an informal network of NGOs; 2. Promoted the culture and traditions of Roma in the cross border region of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia with the aims of: preserving their identity; raising public awareness about the need of breaking prejudices about Roma; and promoting their integration into social life in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina; 3. Developed educational modules for the Roma population with the aim of their social inclusion.</p>	

Project title:	Bijeljina and Bogatić-together on the way towards energy sustainability through increasing energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy sources	
Project partners:	Municipality of Bogatić – Bogatić, Serbia Europäisches Zentrum für Erneuerbare Energie Güssing Austria	Municipality of Bijeljina – Bijeljina, Bosnia and Hercegovina
Budget (EUR):	262 948,74	317 529,25
Description:	<p>Overall objectives: 1.To contribute to maintaining the high quality of environment in the region Bijeljina-Bogatić using RES (Renewable Energy Sources) and raising energy efficiency / 2. To improve the competitiveness of local economy by creating conditions for the use of RES The project contributes to providing an optimal and safe energy supply for the municipalities of Bijeljina and Bogatic; improving the level of</p>	

Project title:	Bijeljina and Bogatić-together on the way towards energy sustainability through increasing energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy sources
	services that municipalities provide to their citizens and the economy, reducing energy consumption in private and commercial sector, reducing energy consumption and energy costs in public utilities. Completion of this project will create conditions for a minimum investment of 10 million Euros in renewable energy sources and open 200 new jobs by 2017. The potential of two municipalities in biomass is equivalent for the investment of 130 million Euros in power-plant on biomass. This project contributes to the use of 3 % of the potential that could create 200 new jobs. This action creates a base for the reduction of CO ² emission that could be by 20% until 2020.

**Cross-border Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina–Montenegro
1st Call for Proposals – application deadline by 9 October 2009**

(6 relevant projects from the area of the Drina Euroregion)

Project title:	Sustainable waste management in border region of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro	
Project partners:	Municipality Kotor (MNE)	Arbiter – Samariter – Bund (BiH)
Grant amount:	109 751,60 EUR	138 006,85 EUR
Description:	To foster joint sustainable development and to increase the effectiveness of waste management of the cross-border area by strengthening capacities of joint institutional networks among private, public and civil society sectors.	

Project title:	Sustainable tourism development and natural environment protection in Northern Montenegro and Southern Bosnia	
Project partners:	Comitato do Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario – COSV (MNE)	“SUTJESKA” NATIONAL PARK (BiH)
Grant amount:	274 869,31 EUR	226 008,58 EUR
Description:	Support the creation of the common socio-economic environment for people, communities and economies in the cross-border rural areas in and around the two national Parks of Durmitor (MNE) and Sutjeska (BiH).	

Crossing the borders. Studies on cross-border cooperation within the Danube Region

Case Study of cross-border cooperation along the Serbian–Croatian border

Drina Euroregion

Project title:	Cross-Bordering by book	
Project partners:	Centre for culture Plužine (MNE)	National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Grant amount:	49 711,60 EUR	48 131,42 EUR
Description:	Improved exchange of cultural goods, ideas and people between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina (renewal of cultural, educational and commercial bounds between the northwestern part of MNE and the southeastern part of BiH).	

Project title:	Establishing Via Dinarica – a Preface to Regional Cooperation Platform	
Project partners:	Centre for Sustainable Tourism Initiatives (MNE)	Extreme Sport Club Limit (Limit) (BiH)
Grant amount:	103 093,75 EUR	50 025,85 EUR
Description:	Enhanced tourism valorisation and rural development of the trans-boundary region, economic diversification and revitalisation, as well as social cohesion in the communities along the initial Via Dinarica Route.	

Project title:	Better Opportunities for Youth Employment	
Project partners:	TE MONITORING CENTAR – CEMI (MNE)	Youth Information Agency Bosnia-Herzegovina (OIA) (BiH)
Grant amount:	46 120,14 EUR	42 922,78 EUR
Description:	To contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic situation in the cross border region of Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The specific objective is to support youth employment in the cross-border area of Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.	

Project title:	Active involvement of young people in process of reaching social cohesion in Cross Border Region: Young people in joint action	
Project partners:	Omladinski kulturni centar "Juventas" (MNE)	Association XY (BiH)
Grant amount:	38 430,11 EUR	36 113,62 EUR
Description:	Enhancing social cohesion between the Montenegrin and Bosnian youth through people-to-people actions. To encourage MNE and BiH youth from the border region to get involved in joint initiatives which will promote cooperation between these groups.	

**Cross-border Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina–Montenegro
2nd Call for Proposals – application deadline by 1 July 2011**

(1 relevant project from the area of the Drina Euroregion)

Project title:	Sustainable Cross-Border Development of Foča and Plužine Municipalities	
Project partners:	Municipality of Plužine (MNE)	Municipality of Foča (BiH)
Grant amount:	165 108,74 EUR	152 988,37 EUR
Description:	<p>InTER provides support to the Municipality of Plužine and the Municipality of Foča to implement the project "Sustainable Cross-Border Development of Foča and Plužine Municipalities", funded within the scheme of EU IPA CBC BiH-MNE Programme. Implementation of the project has started on 1 March 2013 and it will last for 24 months. This project initiative has been developed through capacity building, training modules for writing grant applications, that InTER held to representatives of two municipalities back in 2010, and it is in line with the Foča-Plužine Cross-Border Cooperation Strategy that has been designed through technical assistance provided also by InTER. InTER's role within this project will be to provide support in project management and to monitor the results of the intervention.</p>	

7. Management

The legal representative of the Drina Euroregion is its President. Since its establishment, the President of this Euroregion is Mr Zdravko Krsmanović. He has his deputy, the Vice-president, who comes from Bajina Bašta, Serbia.

The headquarters of the Euroregion are located in Foča, Republika Srpska, and here is the seat of the Secretariat as well. The Secretariat of the Drina Euroregion helps the work of the Euroregion and its organs, and it performs only professional, administrative and technical tasks for the needs of the Drina Euroregion.

To achieve the objectives set in its Statutes, the Drina Euroregion obtains funds from the following sources:

- from the fee of each member, in a manner defined by the Assembly,
- from international and other funds intended for financing projects and other activities,
- from grants, donations and other voluntary or optional contributions,
- from other sources.

For its three years of operation, the Drina Euroregion obtained funds from its members, each of which pays 1 000 euros per year as membership fee, as well as through donations from Telekom, banks, other sponsors, and from European sources.

8. SWOT-analysis

The situation analysis and the interviews with the leader of the Drina Euroregion led to the preparation of a SWOT analysis for all thematic priorities, which is presented in the table below.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presence of hydroenergy • rich biodiversity of the area • natural resources (Tara and Durmitor National Parks are on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites) • production of healthy food products based on extensive agriculture • fishery • fifteen border-crossings in the Drina Euroregion • former existing relations (economic, cultural, family relations) • similar language and ethnic structure of the population • cultural similarities • absence of language barriers • shared history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • problematic navigation of the Drina River • the area is located in a place which is difficult to reach from the major economic centres • distance from main transport corridors • quality of transport in general is low and there is poor planning and maintenance of the road network • the topography of the region hampers the development of transport infrastructure • unindustrialised area • danger of the still not eliminated land mines • unfavourable demographic trends • low living standards and an aging rural population • migration of young people and the skilled workforce to urban centres and foreign countries • inadequate communal infrastructures and public utility management

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction of small hydropower plants (on the upper, middle and lower Drina) • joint flood protection and drought • sustainable utilisation of natural endowments (extreme sports - rafting, tourism) • coordinated activities for preserving water quality • treating the area as unique tourist site with common tourism products and accompanying infrastructure objects with all facilities necessary for a serious and long-term work of a tourist region • implementing the project titled “Drina ecological region of Europe” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unstable political situation • lack of development funds • lack of state-level regulation for the stabilisation of the riverbed • poor quality of waste water treatment, sewage and solid waste disposal facilities • high turnover of administration staff due to political changes • different speed of the EU accession processes of the member countries

Based on the above, we could make the following conclusions:

- The major part of the Drina Euroregion registers above average unemployment rates. A high number of redundant workers from large industrial complexes and poor economic prospects cause negative migration trends from the area, in particular among the educated youth. The poor socio-economic situation negatively influences the position of vulnerable groups, like national minorities, women and disabled people, whose integration and inclusion are still limited.
- The environmental potentials and availability of alternative energy sources represent a strong competitive advantage of the subject area. However, the limited infrastructure and the low level of investments, on the one hand, directly endanger the environment, and on the other hand, prevent the efficient use of available resources.
- The tourist potential of the Drina Euroregion lies primarily in its natural resources of mountainous areas (Tara and Zlatibor in Serbia, Jahorina in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sutjeska, Tara and Piva rivers in Montenegro). However, the potentials of gastro- and cultural tourism of the northern plain area (Bijeljina in Bosnia, Županja in Croatia and Šabac in Serbia) are also considerable.

Taking into account the overall economic situation of the region, tourism represents one of the few realistic and immediate opportunities for improvement. The available natural resources, potentials for development of niche tourism (for instance adventure sports, rafting along the Drina River and its tributaries, rural tourism in mountain villages) and connectivity with other economic branches (food processing, bioagriculture) represent solid bases for tourism efforts, with the potential of considerable economic effects.

9. Future plans and goals of the cooperation

The pace of change in the study area, namely along the Drina River – a bordering waterflow between four member countries of the Drina Euroregion (Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Montenegro) – is very explicit. To illustrate this statement, we will deal with the future plans and goals of the cooperation. The founders of the Drina Euroregion have formulated their strategic goals in a separate document called the Development Programme of the Drina Euroregion for 2012-2014. Based on that, we can enumerate the following future plans of the cooperation:

- “Joint and coordinated use of major development and ecological potentials of the Drina River and its tributaries, preserving the area as a unique hydrological unit;
- Strengthening joint cross-border cooperation activities with coordination in projects of mutual interest within the unique structure of European regions and European funds for projects aimed at strengthening regional cooperation;
- Activities of relevant municipal and state authorities to implement jointly harmonized and coordinated development and protection projects in all coastal municipalities along the Drina River;
- Joint and coordinated development of spatial planning documents with studies of environmental impacts within large joint hydropower projects (on the upper, middle and lower Drina) as well as in areas of flood protection and drought, water quality, as well as the regulation and stabilisation of the riverbed to the Drina River basic flow and its tributaries.
- The Drina River has remarkable water and ecological potentials that allow the development of tourism in riparian areas. For the best utilisation of this potential, there should be identified unique tourist sites with common tourism products and accompanying infrastructure objects with all facilities necessary for a serious and long-term work of a tourist region.”²⁶

A key prerequisite for the realisation on the aforementioned basic targets of the Drina Euroregion is to consider the problem of constructing hydraulic structures in an appropriate way, because the confluence of the Drina River is the largest unused hydropower (green energy) potential in Europe. Therefore it is necessary to implement the project titled “Drina ecological region of Europe”, which must be done by the highest international standards with the involvement of all scientific and social resources of the stakeholders.

²⁶ Development programme of Drina Euroregion 2012 - 2014. (2012) Euroregija Drina, Foča. (<http://euroregijadrina.com/images/Dokumenti/Razvojni%20program%20Euroregije%20Drina.pdf>)

This strategic document was prepared in early 2012, for a three year period. However, most of these questions were not treated in the meanwhile, the goals have not been reached, and there was no rethinking of the development programme either. What is more, according to a recent interview with the former president of the Drina Euroregion, this institution is not operating any more. This is the consequence of local elections and political changes in the member local governments.

Thus the future of this bright initiative of cross-border cooperation has become questionable. Hopefully, this situation will be resolved soon and the original ideas of the founders will come into being.

10. Unique, regionally specific features of the cooperation

The Drina Euroregion is not unique if considered by the core of its organisation: the presence of a river that crosses the area. There are other examples of such cooperation in Europe, like the Euroregion Dniester, the Danube–Cris–Mures–Tisa Euroregion, the Euro-region “Middle Danube–Iron Gate”, the Euroregion Silesia and many others.

However, there were specific events in recent history taking place in the administrative units that initiated this cooperation, namely the Balkan Wars of the 1990s that are indeed unique to the Drina Euroregion. On the other hand, the geographic, demographic, geopolitical, and socio-economic changes resulting from the drawing of new borders in this area have created specific situations in this region. Yet there is the Drina River, which presents identical natural values on its both banks.

Presumably, there have been many injuries and huge sufferings caused by state border changes in the past century. These events have burdened the relations between the nations living in this region; however, their common history within the same country, together with their language, cultural and family relations may speed up the cooperation of these four countries along the Drina River, based on the European principles of independence, equality and tolerance.

The fact itself that these municipalities, now lying in four different countries of the Balkans are ready and willing to cooperate, to set their common objectives and to operate jointly makes the most important feature of the Drina Euroregion.

The involved countries have many unfavourable features that are common to all of them, which should be targeted jointly and thus the overall backwardness of the area could be eliminated in the long run. All four countries are characterised by unbalanced regional development, which is lower in the border area than in the rest of the country. There are significant differences between urban centres and rural areas, between different geographical locations, as well as between the centre and the outskirts. The border area, which is in fact the area of the Drina Euroregion, has abundant, but mostly unused natural resources. The infrastructure is in a poor condition as a result of lack of investments, which were directed towards the development of the more industrial regions of the countries. The roads and the railways are in very poor condition as a result of a low level of investment for maintenance and a lack of construction during the period of crisis, as well as due to the overall distance of the area from the strategic national axes and corridors of the involved countries.

11. Summary

This case study, dealing with the so-called Drina Euroregion was intended to illustrate an institutionalised cross-border cooperation along the Serbian–Bosnian border. The Drina Euroregion is the youngest representative of such cooperation in the Western Balkans. It unites territorial units of different administrative levels along the borders, which were set in the 1990s between four new countries, all of them former member republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The idea of establishing a joint organisation of the local authorities that lie along the banks of the Drina River was a bottom-up initiative. The events preceding this initiative were related to preserving the Drina, preferring sustainable economy in the region, developing ecologic tourism, while denying some foreign investors who wanted to utilise the hydropower of the river. Therefore the residents of the region formulated a list of their demands for the protection of the Drina River and its tributaries, for developing mountain and river tourism, as well as for starting organised water management activities, as there had been no harmonized water management along the course of the Drina before. For this purpose, there arose the idea of creating a spatial plan of the region, which could ensure the sustainable utilisation of the Drina Basin and have an expressed strategic goal of protecting an endemic species of predatory fish, called *drinska mladica* (lat. Hucho hucho).

The examination of the Drina Euroregion led to the following conclusions about its characteristics:

- The Drina River plays a significant role in the life of the municipalities and larger regional units of the four involved countries.
- A Euroregion as a form of cooperation can be appropriate for achieving common goals, but only if it has sufficient resources in the background.
- The population of the study area does not see the state borders as separating factors, thus the cohesion of the Euroregion is quite strong.
- With the utilisation of this cohesive power, considerable development projects could be realised if the necessary cooperation and resources were available.
- Their formulated development plan foresaw activities only for the short run, and even those were realised only partially.
- The activities of the Drina Euroregion were communicated to the population in a limited way; therefore it was not accepted widely.
- The representatives of local municipalities see an opportunity in such cooperation.
- The political changes among the founders affect the future of the Euroregion as well.
- The functioning and operation of the Euroregion would always require a dedicated leader who has an adequate team in the background.
- In spite of the strong relations between the people living on the banks of the river, cross-border cooperation has not become natural in these areas.

The lack of proper planning and of necessary resources, as well as the limited cooperation of the Euroregion members have made them unable to achieve their goals so far. In our opinion, it should not be allowed to stop this construction process right after its foundation and after facing the first obstacles. There are several good examples of cross-border cooperation in Europe that could be followed by the Drina Euroregion to fulfill its mission on behalf of the population. Settling the situation in the Euroregion, consolidation of political relations, development of a resources-based medium-term strategy that is accepted by all stakeholders, as well as a new management team ready for action – these are all prerequisites for achieving outstanding success in the Drina Euroregion.

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13. Annex

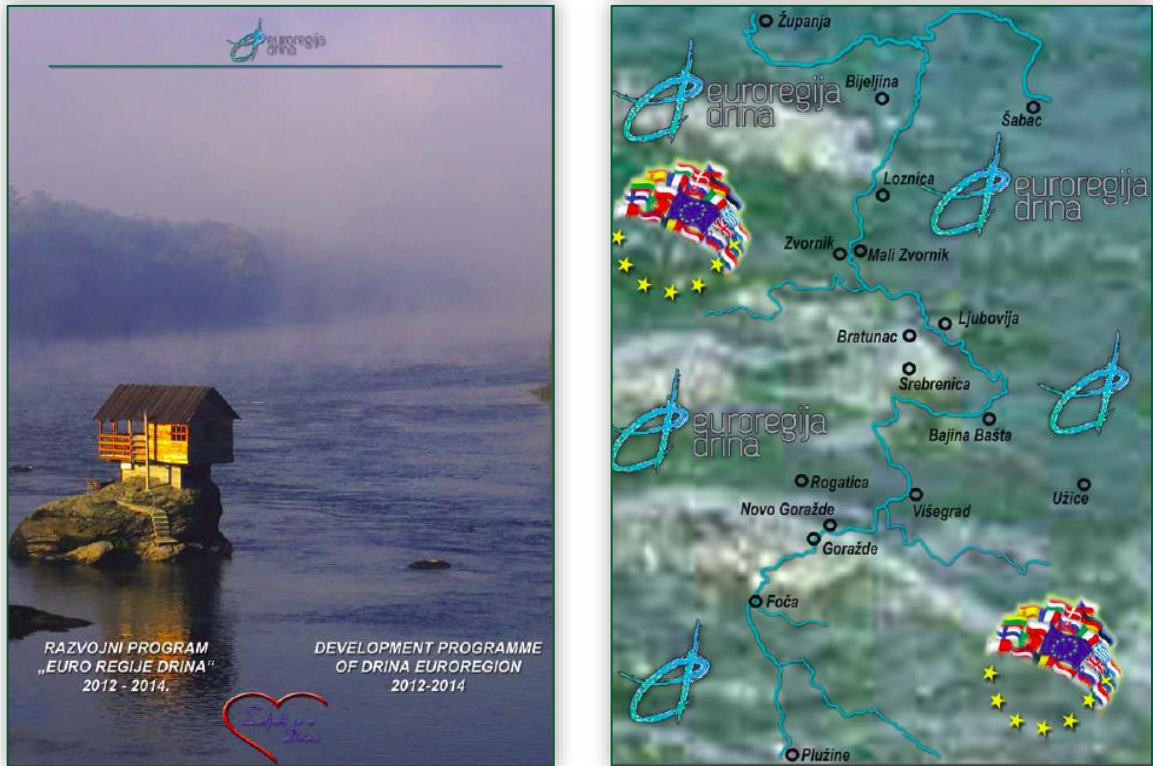


Figure 5: The cover pages of the Development Programme of the Drina Euroregion

Source: <http://euroregijadrina.com/>



Figure 6: Picture of the Drina River

Source: <http://euroregijadrina.com/>



Figure 7: Picture of the Drina River
Source: <http://euroregijadrina.com/>



Figure 8: Picture of the Drina River
Source: <http://euroregijadrina.com/>



Figure 9: Picture of the Drina River
Source: <http://euroregijadrina.com/>



Figure 10: Picture of the Drina River
Source: <http://euroregijadrina.com/>

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