THE ITALIAN NATIONAL COMMUNITY IN CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

Maurizio Tremul, October 2015

ITALIANS IN CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

They are not a folcloristic leftover, but an organized community which is an active part of a bigger Italian-Slovenian crossborder social and state reality

NATIONAL MINORITIES

=

part of a Nation whose majority lives in a nearby State

+

are minorities in the States in which they live

AUTOCTONOUS MINORITIES

=

have lived for centuries on the territory

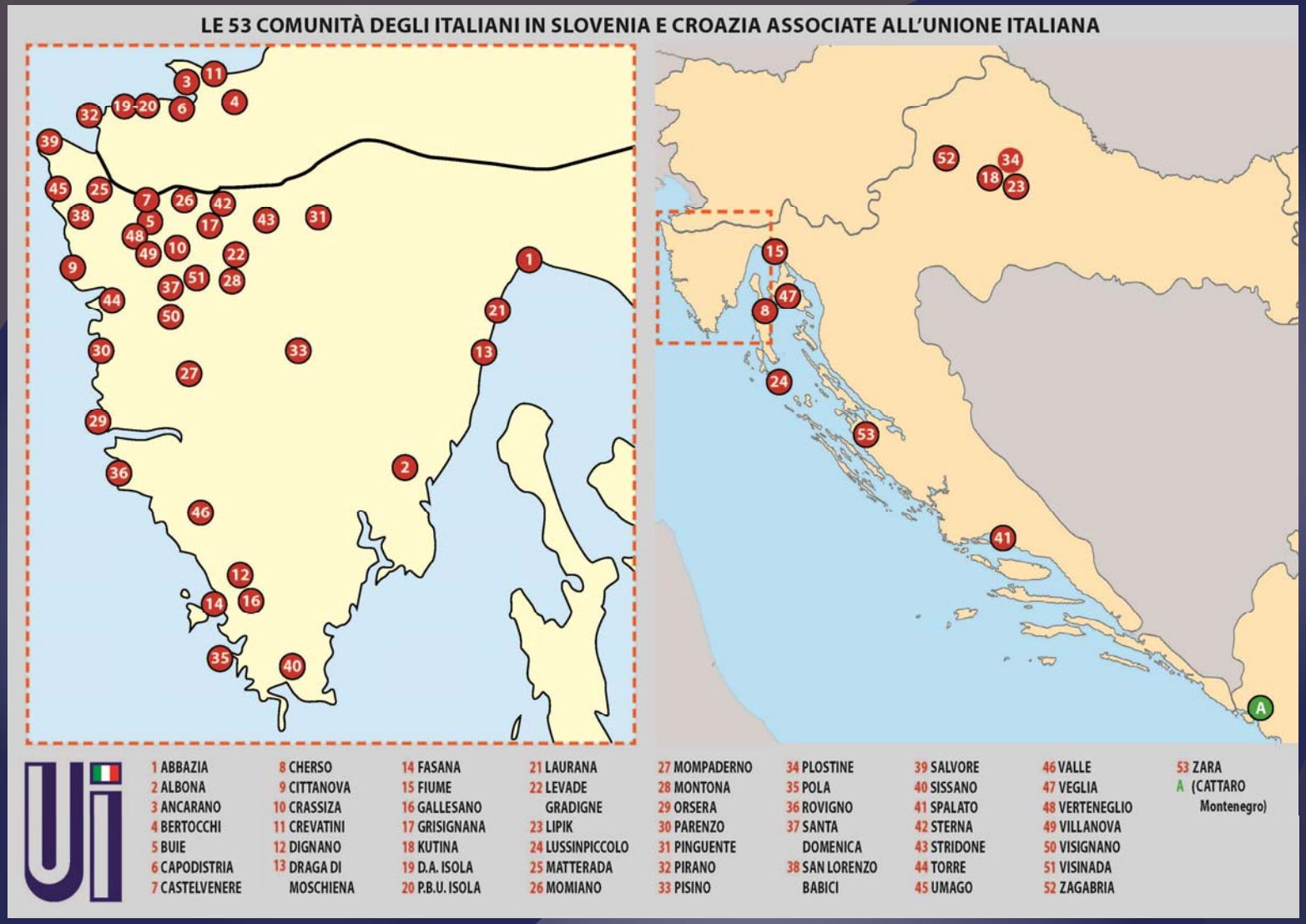
+

are not a consequence of the last Century's migrations

ITALIANS in CROATIA and in SLOVENIA, but WHERE EXACTLY?

- **In Croatia:**
Istria, Quarnero, Dalmatia and Slavonia

- **In Slovenia:**
along the coast and in the immediate hinterland of the municipalities of Capodistria-Koper, Isola-Izola and Pirano-Piran



THE 53 ITALIANS' COMMUNITIES IN SLOVENIA AND CROATIA ASSOCIATED TO THE ITALIAN UNION

The members of the Italian Union are 37,444.

ITALIAN MINORITY
in CROATIA and in SLOVENIA

= one community

- **autoctonous**
(has lived on the territory for centuries)
- **in minority** (at numerical level)

…WHICH BASES ITS ACTIVITY ON THE VALUES OF COEXISTENCE

Pola-Pula

Capodistria-Koper

Fiume-Rijeka

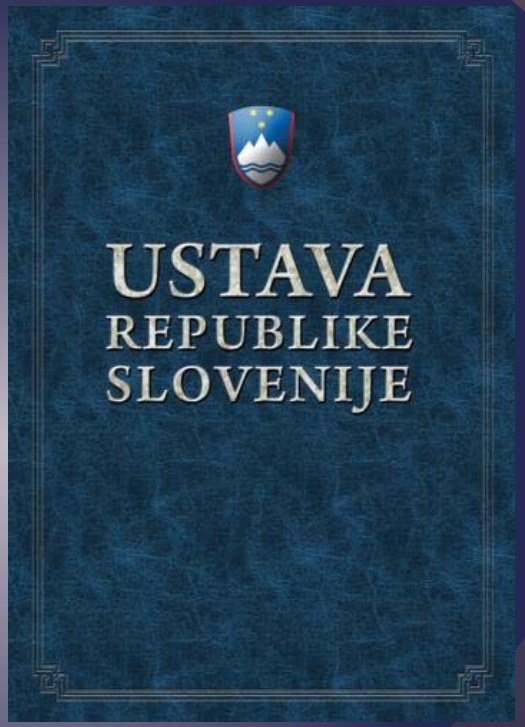
LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN SLOVENIA

The status of Italians in Slovenia is regulated by the articles 11 and 64 of the Slovenian Constitution and by two specific laws:

- *Law on the fullfilment of the specific rights of the members of the Italian and Hungarian Nationality in the educational field* of 1996

- *Law on the Self-governing Communities of the Nationality* of 1994, as well as some provisions of general laws

- the right to education and training in Italian language;
- the right to the public use of the Italian language and to visual bilingualism on the territory of historical settlement where the Italian National Community lives in Slovenia;
- the right to freely use national symbols in the territories recognized as nationally mixed;
- the right to establish organizations, develop activities in the economic, research, information and publishing fields;
- the right to establish relations with the motherland (Italy);
- The right to establish on its own territory of historical settlement the Self-governing Communities, which can conduct certain tasks of state competence;
- The right to have its own political representatives at local (city councils) and national (Parliament) level.



THESE RIGHTS ARE GUARANTEED

IRRESPECTIVE OF THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS

OF THE NATIONAL COMMUNIITY.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN CROATIA

Croatia protects its minorities with a series of specific rights, set by the Constitution and other specific laws, like:

- the *"Constitutional Law on the rights of national minorities", 2002*
- the *"Law on education in the languages and writings of national minorities"*, 2000
- The *"Law on the use of the languages, and writings of the national minorities in the Republic of Croatia", 2000.*

- the right to identity,, education and instruction in its own language;
- the right to the use of its own spoken and written language, in the private, public and official sector;
- the right to the use of own signs and national symbols;
- the right to its own cultural autonomy, realized through the maintenance, development and expression of itw own culture, like the preservation and protection of its own cultural heirtage and traditions;
- the right to self-organization and association for the realization of common interests;
- the right to develop the Mass Media and publishing services in its own language;
- the right to establish free relations and have contacts with the Motherland (Italy);
- the right for the members of national minorities to participate to the public life and to the management of local affairs through the medium of the councils and representatives of national minorities;
- the right to be represented within the representative bodies at state (Sabor) and local level as well as in the administrative and judicial bodies.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN SLOVENIA AND CROATIA

The protection of the Italian National Community in Slovenia and Croatia is further guaranteed by:

- the Special Statute (annex to the London Memorandum of Understanding),1954
- the Treaty of Osimo, 1975
- the Memorandum of Understanding on the protection of the Italian Minority in Croatia and Slovenia, 1992 (only Italy and Croatia signed the Memorandum, whereas the Republic of Slovenia committed itself to apply its provisions as if it had signed it)
- the bilateral Treaty between Italy and Croatia on the rights of minorities of 1996.

MINORITY POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS - 1
UNIONE ITALIANA/ITALIAN UNION

- Is the unitarian, autonomous, democratic and pluralistic organization of the Italians of the Republics of Croatia and Slovenia, representing the Italian Community's political, economic, cultural and social needs.
- Is legally registered, as a citizens' association, in the Republic of Croatia (located in Fiume) and in the Republic of Slovenia (located in Capodistria)
- Is active in the cultural, educational, training, publishing, information, sports, theatrical, social, juridical (for the respect and affirmation of the rights of the INC), socio-economic, scientific, research fields, etc…

Modello Palace
Seat of the IU Fiume

Carli Palace
seat of the IU Capodistria

MINORITY POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS- 2

ITALIAN NATIONAL COMMUNITY'S COUNCILS

In Croatia, in compliance with the "Constitutional Law on the rights of national minorities", the Councils of the INC are established for the promotion, safeguard and protection of the position of the INC within society, for the **inclusion of the INC in public life** and in the **management of local affairs**.
The Councils of the INC are **subjected to public law**.

The Councils have the right to make proposals for the promotion of the INC's position, to present the proposals of general acts regulating the issues relevant for the INC, to present the candidates for various functions within the statal administrative bodies and the self-governed bodies, to be informed on the issues regarding the status of the Italians which are being discussed by the local autonomous bodies, to present opinions and proposals regarding the programmes of the radio and television stations at local and ragional level directed at the INC, or the programmes that concern minoritarity issues.

MINORITY POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS- 3

SELF-GOVERNING COMMUNITIES OF THE ITALIAN NATIONALITY (CAN) MUNICIPAL AND COASTAL

• the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia of 1974 established for the first time the CIA - Comunità d'Interesse Autogestite per l'istruzione e la cultura/ Self-governing Communities of Interest for education and culture. In 1989, the emendaments to the Constitution of the Socialist Rep. of Slovenia transfromed the CIA in CAN: Self-governing Communities of the Italian Nationality

• the municipal CAN are four: Ancarano, Capodistria, Isola and Pirano, and they constitute the Coastal CAN of Slovenian Istria

• the CAN participate, together with municipalities, to the management of minority's problems and, on a state mandate, they can overtake competences which belong to the central State

MINORITY POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS- 4

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ITALIAN NATIONAL COMMUNITY

The minority has the right to elect in the Republic of Slovenia, as well as in the Republic of Croatia, its own representative to the seat for the Italian national community.

One member of parliament for the Slovenian Parliament (National Assembly) in Lubiana and one for the Croatian Parliament (Sabor) of Zagabria.

the FIRST SCHOOL in ISTRIA?

▼

ITALIAN AND PUBLIC

=

THE COLLEGIO DEI NOBILI

▼

IN 1612 IN CAPODISTRIA

Before that *"magister grammaticae"* - in Pirano was active already in 1290!!

WHY ITALIAN SCHOOLS in CROATIA and in SLOVENIA ?

SCHOOL IS NOT merely a place of education, it is also one of the main places for socialization and identity formation of an individual

IN CROATIA

3.382 enrolled in Italian schools (S.Y. 2015/16)

IN SLOVENIA

1.140 enrolled in Italian schools (S.Y. 2015/16)

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS of the ITALIAN MINORITY

= minority's vital roots

▼▼▼

PUBLIC

- **kindergarten**
- **elementary school (compulsory education– 9 years)**
- **high school**
- **university degrees**

Foto: Italian Highschool pupils at the EU Parliament

...the structure of the education system

- **on the territory of the Republic of Croatia:**

- 14 kindergartens attended by 1.171 children,
- 11 elementary schools (with 5 separate branches) attended by 1.664 pupils,
- 4 highschools attended by 547 students;

- **on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia:**

- 3 kindergartens (with 6 separate branches) attended by 512 children,
- 3 elementary schools (with 5 separate branches) attended by 482 pupils,
- 3 highschools attended by 146 students.

The 29 educational institutions of the Italian nationality in Croatia with 3.382 attendants and the 9 institutions in Slovenia with 1.140 attendants (Tot: 4.522) costitute the education network of the Italian national Community, but are founded by local or regional autonomous bodies and in Slovenia even by the local or coastal Self-governing Communities of the nationality.

ALL
in ITALIAN??!!

Yes = schools
"with Italian as the language of instruction"

- **the programmes= ministerial**

► completely similar to those of the croatian/slovene schools + the subject "Italian language and literature + some supplements in history, geography, art history and music history programmes.

These institutions are present both in Croatia and Slovenia.

The Italian Minority in Slovenia and Croatia

▼▼▼

BEARERS OF CENTURIES-OLD CULTURAL VALUES – THOUSAND-YEAR OLD CIVILIZATION

in Capodistria, the first printed books were published already between the years 1461-1462

▼▼▼

INTENSE CULTURAL PRODUCTION WHICH ENRICHES THE TERRITORY

Foto: Highschool Gian Rinaldo Carli, Capodistria

53 ASSOCIATIONS…

=

ITALIANS' COMMUNITIES

- **46 IN CROATIA (34.345)**
- **7 IN SLOVENIA (3.099)**

For a total of: 37.444 members (2014)

Parenzo

Dignano

The members of the Italian minority freely express themselves in their mother tongue!!!

The Italian minority

- **articulates its own interests**
- **creates its own culture**
- **promotes its own identity**

Tartini House, Pirano

Rovigno

ITALIANS' COMMUNITIES IN CROATIA

IC of Abbazia.
IC of Albona.
IC of Buie.
IC of Castelvenere.
IC of Cherso.
IC of Cittanova.
IC of Crassiza.
IC of Dignano.
IC of Draga di Moschiena.
IC of Fasana.
IC of Fiume.
IC of Gallesano.
IC of Gradigne.
IC of Grisignana.
IC of Laurana.
IC of Lipik.
IC of Lussinpiccolo.
IC of Matterada.
IC of Momiano.
IC of Mompaderno.
IC of Montona.
IC "*Dante*" of Moslavina (Kutina).
IC of Orsera.
IC of Parenzo.
IC of Pinguente.
IC of Pisino.
IC of Ploštine.
IC of Pola.
IC of Rovigno.
IC of Salvore.
IC of San Lorenzo Babici.
IC of Santa Domenica Labinci.
IC of Sissano.
IC of Spalato.
IC of Sterna.
IC of Stridone.
IC of Torre.
IC "*Fulvio Tomizza*" of Umago.
IC of Valle.
IC of Veglia.
IC of Verteneglio.
IC of Villanova.
IC of Visignano.
IC of Visinada.
IC of Zagabria.
IC of Zara.

ITALIANS' COMMUNITIES IN SLOVENIA

IC of Ancarano;
IC of Bertocchi;
IC "Santorio Santorio" of Capodistria;
IC of Crevatini;
IC "Dante Alighieri" of Isola;
IC "Pasquale Besenghi degli Ughi" of Isola;
IC "Giuseppe Tartini" of Pirano.

Tartini House, Pirano

Gravisi-Buttorai Palace, Capodistria

53 ASSOCIATIONS…

Numerous groups are active within their range

- artistic - cultural: choirs, amateur dramatic socities, folklore, ballet, singing …

53 ASSOCIATIONS

- sport - recreational:

futsal, volleyball, tennis, basket, chess, bowl game....

CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY?

THE DRAMMA ITALIANO OF FIUME
theater company
of the Italian minority

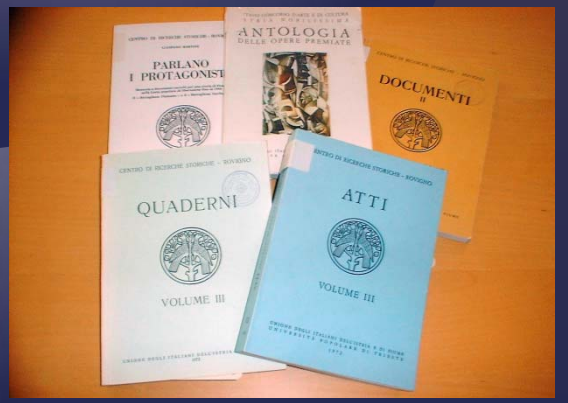
- founded in 1946
- nowadays it operates within the range of the Croatian National Theatre "Ivan Zajc" of Fiume
- unique Italian language theater company outside Italy
- since 1946 over 350 performances

Source: www.hnk-zajc.hr

CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY?

THE CENTRE FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH, ROVIGNO

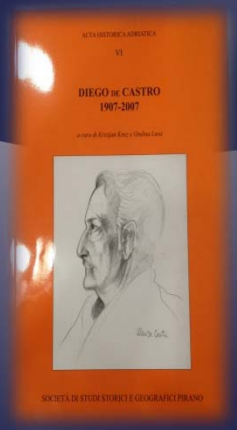
- founded 1968
- with historical research tasks– 6 sections: regional general hisotory, etnography, dialectology (Romanic), history of the labor movement, history of the Resistance movement, documentation activity relative to the Italian minority
- equipped with a scientific library with more than 90.000 volumes (especially regional topics)
- in 1996 the Institute was granted the status of Depositary Library of the Council of Europe, specialized in human rights, the safeguard of minorities and protection of the enviroment
- it publishes various series:*"Atti"*, *"Collana degli Atti"*, *"Quaderni"*, *"Monografie"*, *"Documenti"*, *"Fonti"*, *"Acta Historica Nova"*, *"Ricerche sociali"* and *"Etnia"*
- *www.crsrv.org*



Society of Studies Pietas Iulia - Pola
Society for Historical and Geographic Studies - Pirano

- Founded in October 1995 at the Italians' Community of Pola, the "Pietas Iulia" is committed to the valorization of the cultural heritage of the Istro-Venetian area , especially its richness and woven aspects.. The Society is mainly active in the literary, linguistic, etno-folkloristic and educational-pedagogical sectors.

- Active since 2001, the Society for historical and geogrphic studies of Pirano, promotes the knowledge of the history and culture of the upper Adriatic area with the organization of conferences and meetings, the publication of books. It gathers historians and lovers of the subjects from the region and Trieste. The main activity of the Society is the organization of study meetings, directed at the setting up of both dialogue and debate.



The Publishing House EDIT Fiume

In addition to having had the honor of taking over from the Italian journalistic traditions of these border territories, EDIT had the duty, at the same time, to reinvent itself as a publishing company capable of turning to a human group that was coming into the world for the second time: the group of the Italians of Istria and Fiume reborn as a minority. And in the frame of a reciprocal exchange, EDIT and its readers have taught and learned to be a minority. The role and especially the chances for development of the Italian National Community have always been indissolubly tied to those of its Mass Media or, better, to the ability of the minority to become a subject.

EDIT publishes:

- the daily newspaper LA VOCE DEL POPOLO since 1945, one of the 6 daily newspapers in Italian language that are published ouside of Italy, with various inserts and 40 full color pages of information in Italian language produced and published every day
- the magazine PANORAMA, fortnightly publication , since 1952, with in-depth analysis on politics, society, art and culture
- the magazine ARCOBALENO, monthly publication for kids, since 1948
- the literary magazine LA BATTANA, quarterly, since 1964

Moreover, the EDIT publishing house publishes books of various nature, mainly in Italian.

Also produces and publishes manuals for the elementary and secondary Italian language schools of Croatia and Slovenia.

Regional broadcasting Centre:

RADIO KOPER – CAPODISTRIA, Italian programmes

- Radio Capodistria operates within the frame of the Radio and Television Public Corporation of Slovenia – RTV Slovenia
- one of the first bilingual broadcasting stations in Europe
- launching of programmes on May, 25th 1949, with the name of Radio Trieste Yugoslav Zone, the programmes were broadcasted in three languages: Slovene, Italian and Croatian
- in 1979 the Slovene and Italian programmes start the broadcasting on separate frequencies
- Italian broadcasts 24h a day

TV Capodistria

- The Italian programmes of TV Caèpdistria started in 1971 for the needs of the INC and since three decades it has operated within the frame of the Radio and Television Public Corporation of Slovenia – RTV Slovenia

- It represents an irreplaceable instrument of communication, protection of the linguistic and cultural identity of the Italian Community, as well as an important regional and transborder information centre.
- It broadcasts 9, 30 hours of programming a day in Italian language (2 hours of own production) on channel 27 in cohabitation with the programmes in Slovene language of TV Koper – Capodistria

- TV Capodistria is broadcasted via satellite.

Radio Fiume and Radio Pola

Radio Fiume (Radio Rijeka) was constituted on September, 16th 1945. The radio station broadcasts daily three bullettins (at 10am, 12am, 2pm) and one radio newscast (4pm) in Italian language.
Born as a bilingual broadcast channel, Radio Fiume (nowadays a regional center of the Croatian public radio HRT) endured for a long period of time, a strong limitation of its Italian language programming until the restoration of its editorial board (1974). During its long existence, the Italian editorial board has gone through very harsh moments . From the initial almost uninterrupted daily broadcast, it experienced a remarkable reduction of its broadcast time as a consequence of well known politcal happenings.

The Italian Editorial Office of **Radio Pola was established on July, 1st 1968** in order to fulfill the needs for radio-production information for the members of the INC.
The Italian programme has a duration of 40 minutes daily split in three segments; the topics: home news, international news, region and activities of the INC.

ITALIAN PROMOTIONAL, CULTURAL, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE"CARLO COMBI" CAPODISTRIA

Founded in 2005 by the Coast Self-governing Community of the Italian Nationality with the aim of coordinating and supporting the cultural activities and initiatives promoted and realized by the INC in Slovenia. The main objective is the maintenance, promotion and development of the INC's identity, of the Italian language and culture on the territory of historical settlement.

The Centre promotes the visibility, the role and function of the INC (Italian National Community) as a subject capable of driving the cultural and social development of the territory in which the INC lives, fostering inter-ethnic co-existence, multiculturalism and plurilingualism.

The Centre is a public sector body.

The Italian Union's activity at the European level

The Italian Union is manily active in the cultural, educational, training, publishing, sport, information, teathrical, social, juridical (for the respect and affirmation of the INC's rights), socio-economic and scientific research fields.

In the sphere of the EU programmes of crossborder cooperation (Phare CBC Slovenia-Italy, Interreg IIIA Italy-Slovenia 2000-2006, Interreg Adriatic and Interreg IIIA Slovenia - Hungary - Croatia 2004-2006), now IPA Adriatic 2007-2013 and Programme for the Crossborder Cooperation Italy-Slovenia 2007-2013), the Italian Union has realized, successfully, both as lead partner and partner to the projects, more than 30 projects, in the cultural, educational, training, economic and touristic fields. For this purpose, it has constituted, in Capodistria, the Office Europa of the Italian Union.

OFFICE “EUROPA”

The Office Europa was inaugurated on January, 9th 2006, at the seat of the Italian Union in Capodistria, thanks to the financial contributions of the INTERREG IIIASLO-CRO-HUN EU Programme

The tasks of the Office "Europa”

- writing and realization of projects financed by EU funds
- information on various EU financing programmes in various sectors
- counselling on the redaction and writing of project applications and preparation of the necessary documentation
- realization of project activities and coordination of the partnership
- technical assistance for companies, municipalities and other structures in Slovenia e in Croatia

The realized projects…

- EDUKA (lessons on national minorities for the students of the majority population in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and Slovenia)

  The Italian Union has participated as a Partner to the project EDUKA - educating for diversity. The project's Lead Partner was the Slovene Research Institute of Trieste (SLORI). The main goal of the project was the active promotion of the value of intercultural dialogue as a fundamental item for the formation and development of a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multilingual society. The project's objectives were the realization of various instruments for the promotion of cultural and linguistic diversity (school manuals, publications, games…) for primary, high schools and universities. These materials were dericted at both teachers and students.

  Other activities: relization of the multilingual publication on historical minorities in the trans border area Amici…vicini, Italiani, Sloveni e Friulani si incontrano (Friends… neighbours, Italians, Slovenes and Furlans meets each other) and 60 conferences of sensibilization about diversity in our area, about historical and so called new minorities. The conferences were directed at the students of the high schools and universities of Italy and Slovenia.

- **LEX (Analysis, application and development of the protection of the minorities in Italy and Slovenia)**

The Italian Union has participated as a Partner to the project LEX, realized in cooperation with the Slovene National Community in Italy. The project's Lead partner was the Slovenian cultural and economic union (SKGZ) from Trieste. In November 2012, the Italian Union of Capodistria organized an International symposium, entitled National Communities in the new Europe. The meeting, held in - Capodistria, was attended by several experts, professors and researchers in the field of minority rights and institutional representatives, among which: Staffan de Mistura (Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic), Matjaž Longar (Secretary of State - Minister for Slovenians in the world of the Republic of Slovenia), Roberto Natali (Funcionary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Italian Republic). The main guest and relator of the symposium was the famous Italian writer and columnist of the daily newspaper "Corriere della Sera", Gian Antonio Stella.

The debate at the conference was focused on the status of minorities and the prospects for the future, the role of minorities in cross-border and transnational cooperation, the features of the schemes of minorities in Europe, visual bilingualism optics and the real state of the effective application of the laws about minorities in Slovenia and Italy.

- ***JEZIK*LINGUA (Multilingualism as a richness and value of the cross-border area between Italy and Slovenia**

The strategic project JezikLingua - Multilingualism as a richness and value of the cross-border area between Italy and Slovenia, is a long-term collaboration between the Italian minority in Slovenia and Slovenian minority in Italy, in order to promote and enhance multilingualism and the common historical heritage between Italy and Slovenia. Within the project, the Italian Union has followed the activities aimed at the promotion, enhancement and dissemination of the Italian language and culture on the territory of the three coastal municipalities of Koper-Capodistria, Izola-Isola and Piran - Pirano.

The language services offered included the realization of as many as 32 free language courses of Italian language directed at employees of public bodies of the territory, like: the District Court of Koper, the general hospital of Izola-Isola, the hospital Franc Derganc of Nova Gorica, the Clinic of Nova Gorica, the police stations of Koper-Capodistria and Lucija - S.Lucia, the municipal administration offices of Koper-Capodistria and Piran-Pirano and the Regional Radio and Television Centre of Koper-Capodistria for a total of 347 attendees.

- *JEZIK*LINGUA (plurilinguismo quale ricchezza e valore dell'area transfrontaliera italo-slovena)

Other activities: the publication of the bilingual brochure Conoscere.it/Spoznati.it dedicated to the promotion and information on the main institutions and activities of the Italian National Community in Slovenia and Croatia, distributed to families of the three coastal municipalities of Koper-Capodistria, Izola-Isola and Piran-Pirano.

The historical and cultural heritage of the Italian National Community was promoted through the publication of an Anthology of the Italian literature through centuries in Koper-Capodistria, Izola-Isola and Piran-Pirano. (in Italian and Slovenian languages), a monumental work that gathers for the first time the main Italian poets and writers from the '200 to the present days.

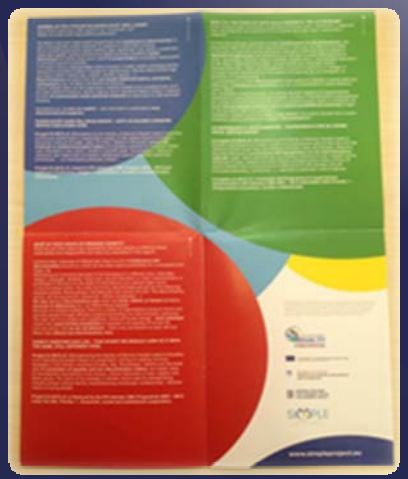
There were translated into Slovenia language four books of four prominent authors of the Italian national Community, Mario Schiavato, Ligio Zanini, Nelida Milani and Alessandro Damiani.

A book for kindergartens was realized, ALFABETOLANDIA.

- S.I.M.P.L.E. (Strengthening the Identity of Minority People Leads to Equality)

- SIMPLE
- The Italian Union has participated as a partner at the European project S.I.M.P.L.E., financed by the IPA Adriatic Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013, which involved partners from 5 countries of the Adriatic area: Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania and Montenegro.

- The Italian Union has realized the guidelines on Minorities and media in the Adriatic countries - a handbook for foster fair and correct information services, as part of a joint strategy to be implemented in the Adriatic in order to promote the culture of coexistence, intercultural dialogue and the values of equality and non-discrimination. The Guidelines have been translated into six languages (English, Croatian, Albanian, Italian, Montenegrin and Slovenian).
- The Italian Union has organized an awareness campaign against discrimination and intolerance with the creation of promotional materials (posters, videos, CDs, bags and brochures), in order to raise awareness on these issues.



The video "What's the colour of your point of view" against discrimination and intolerance, was transmitted by the national public Televisions of Slovenia and Croatia.

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