

BANATSKI FORUM – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ZRENJANIN May 31st 2001

More than one hundred participants of the international conference ***EUROREGIONALISM - PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR ALL CITIZENS OF EUROPE*** organized by Banatski Forum and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Zrenjanin on May 31st 2001, reached the following conclusions in a working atmosphere full of mutual understanding:

PRIORITIES AND GOALS FOR THE BANAT REGION

One of the special characteristics of the Banat region is its cultural versatility on a relatively small territory, which makes it a perfect testing ground for European integration projects. This versatility imposes barriers, but it also opens new possibilities. The task of the region is to tear those barriers down and take advantage of all of its possibilities. In spite of the steady integration process, all border regions still suffer the consequences of the historically established boundaries induced by state borders, and the marginalized position that came as a natural result of these boundaries. National borders still present the system barriers that pass through different regions. This is why Banat region should strive to accomplish the following global goals in near future:

- Overcoming the barriers caused by the national borders and coordination of the administrative differences between the national systems involved;
- Establishing the Banat region as an economic entity and a bond between east and west Europe on one side, and north (Carpathians) and south (Balkans) on the other.

PRIORITIES AND MEASURES

Banatski Forum suggests five priorities that should further be elaborated within five workgroups.

These priorities and measures are:

1. Enhancing physical infrastructure

- 1.1 Enhancing working environment
- 1.2 Hastening cross-border traffic

2. Enhancing economic, scientific and technological cooperation

- 2.1 Stimulating innovative enterprises
- 2.2 Tourism

3. Protection of the environment

- 3.1 Protection of living and natural environment
- 3.2 Development of countryside
- 3.3 Improving the quality aspect of water management

4. Development and usage o human potentials

- 4.1 Forming a cross-border labour-market
- 4.2 Education and professional development

5. Advancement in social integration

- 5.1 Enhancing cross-border NGO cooperation
- 5.2 Preserving the cultural identity
- 5.3 Cooperation between social establishments
- 5.4 Cooperation between public administrations

ORGANIZATION

Our initiative is to form five workgroups and nominate their presidents. These presidents should report the results their workgroups have accomplished to the president of Banatski Forum by the end of 2001. These reports should include the potentials, perspectives wishes and problems that they encountered in their work on the aforementioned priorities and measures.

These conclusions have been forwarded to general public, media and all parties concerned.