



SUMMARY



INTRODUCTORY NOTE

In front of You is a book that was conceived in the first year of work on the Project “Sustainable Development of Croatia” (No. 194-1941560-1550), financed through the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Croatia. The realization of this book was also accomplished through a cooperation between projects, since one of the contributions to this book is part of the project ‘Cultures of consumerism and sustainability: global challenges to the socio-cultural development of the Republic of Croatia’ (194-1941560-1549).

The Title of the book is ‘Development Competent for the Future’. This is a phrase used by a Berlin sociologist Ugo de Simonis in describing the term ‘sustainable development’. Someone might say, an inappropriate adjective together with the concept of development. Competence is a concept/idea which is tied to the characteristics of a personality. To us it appeared very appropriate to be linked with the concept of ‘sustainable development’ since its accomplishment implies the presence of a whole series of human competencies. More precisely, competencies that are not necessarily, here and now, present. The subtitle of the book is “Contributions to the Reflections on Sustainable Development of Croatia” and reflects the main aims of the Project.

The first part of the book (authors: Vladimir Lay, Zdenko Zeman, Dražen Šimleša and Marija Geiger) contains introductory, theoretical and methodological texts. Some of them are, in part or in total oriented towards Croatia. The second part of the book enters into the space of problematizing some of the aspects of sustainable development in Croatia (authors: Jelena Puđak, Sanja Špoljar Vržina, and co-authors Dražen Šimleša and Jasmina Branilović). It is interesting to mention that the authors range from research assistants to a scientific advisor, while the approaches range from the sociological to the most anthropologically engaged one.

This book is also the first book of the *Center for the Research of Integral Sustainability and Sustainable Development* which is one of the numerous functional units in the Institute of Social Sciences "Ivo Pilar". The best works of this Center will be published in the Library of this Center and this book in front of You is an important launching of this Library Series.

In the beginning of 1992., when the editor of this book published the text under the title "Sustainable Development and Social Changes; Contributions to the Reconceptualization of Today's Current Type of Development" and published it in the first number of the new Journal "Social Ecology" in Zagreb, it was hard to perceive all the hardships of promoting the theme of "Sustainable Development" in public scientific, professional, business, social-developmental and political scene in Croatia.

In the same year of 1992. the important Conference of United Nations, on the problems of Environment and Development, was held in Rio de Janeiro. Today's important document - AGENDA 21 - originates from that Conference, promoting an Action plan for the area of activism in the planetary sustainable development. In the same years the newly established and sovereign Republic of Croatia grapples simultaneously with the problems of war and questions of survival. Together with war devastations came self-afflicting ways of the transition into market economy. The "subtle questions" of sustainable development as well as their answers remain untreated, while the questions of the balance of the biological-ecological, economical, socio-cultural and political sustainability continue with their presentability annually and daily. Not incidentally, the covers of this book speak in their own way about these dimensions.

The last few years, coinciding with the beginning of the XXI century, questions of sustainability and sustainable development in different parts of Croatia's activities are emerging in the developmental agenda. These are in no way just reserved to the activities connected to the protection of environment and nature. Rich nature national resources, the space itself and all other wealth, are, in the context of globalization and neoliberal developmental solutions and aims of foreign actors, under a growing, not the least comfortable, pressure. The developmental dilemma's in the course of balancing between the material growth opposite to the maintenance of natural resources are multiplying, as well as those connected to the brutally neglected potentials for healthy living.

Questions connected to the conceptualization of the development of Croatia and its Croatian society, in the

spirit of sustainable development, as well as the questions of choosing concrete developmental solutions in certain domains of activities, like educating human resources for thinking in a sustainable manner; think and act in the dedication to a way of committed and modern sustainability, are becoming very actual.

Zagreb, 25th October 2007.

Vladimir Lay

Vladimir Lay
THE VISION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CROATIA:
CONTRIBUTION TO THE ARTICULATION OF THE STARTING
POINTS AND CONTENT OF THE VISION

Croatia is a small part of the ecological, economical, socio-cultural and political tissue of the modern world. The intention of this text is to introduce some elements in the articulation of the vision of Croatia's sustainable development, thus the approach and starting point, as well as the elements of the content of that vision. As a reminder, the term 'vision', among its other meanings, also signifies 'looking into the future'. This means that we are dealing with the possible content and ways of reaching the future of Croatia. Likewise, it is also visible from the title of this book that sustainable development, in the spirit of what the Berlin sociologist Ugo de Simonis proposed, we apprehend as synonymous to a 'development competent for the future'. Whichever path we choose to start from, this article is oriented towards the future of Croatia, not any kind of future, but a future that is sustainable in the long-term period of time.

The text is organized in two chapters. The first chapter relates to various preliminary starting point questions and approaches in the process of articulating the vision of sustainable development. In this segment, we are opening the following themes: starting point questions – What does Croatia through its development wish to achieve?; A preliminary question of the agencies of articulating and social promoting of sustainable development; the Actual planetary context of sustainable development (the phenomenon of growth at any cost and the concept of sustainability as an equilibrium); the phenomenon of integral

sustainability; life as a central value and backbone of integral sustainability; the social powers 'for' and 'against' sustainability/consideredness.

The second chapter relates to the questions of some of the basic architectural elements that the vision of sustainable development contains. In this part we thematize the basic dimensions of sustainability/consideredness, as well as the elements of the contents concerning particular basic dimensions of sustainability. This effort as the 'initial matrix' should help some other structuring of a programme for sustainable development of Croatia, as well as the creation of an academic curriculum for the education of sustainable development in Croatia.

This text functions as an introductory text for the whole monograph. Furthermore, in the totality of thinking through the thematic of sustainable development this text gives some sort of general 'frame of orientation'.

Zdenko Zeman

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS IMITATING LIFE

This article analyzes the issue of proposing an expansion of the existing definitions of sustainable development. The authors starting point is a short résumé of a 25 years long history in forging ahead and establishing the idea/concept of sustainable development, while also answering on various (seemingly convincing and founded) critiques of those ideas/concepts with indicating the basic impossibility of securing 'perfect', *bullet-proof* definition of any notion, state or process. In this strand of thought the author shows that the existing definitions of sustainable development, regardless of their abstractness and normativeness, can be of use (and already are) as sufficient landmarks as well as clear and distinct guidelines of an ecologically conscious performance. In the second part of the text the author – on the basis of a new understanding of the nature of life (as an endless and multidimensional webs of webs), convincingly endorsed in the last decade by an American scientist Fritjof Capra – suggests a deeper level of understanding the essence of sustainable development. According to the known definitions, sustainable development is such a development which satisfies the needs of current generations without endangering the possibilities for the future ones to fulfill their needs, through a deliberate caution of the present generations in living within the framework of the capacities of the global ecosystems. How to live within this framework is more understand-

able through Capra's synthesis, which means to behave in a manner that does not accumulate harm to the key inherent capability of the network of Life – the capability of self organizing life in a multidimensional, potentially endless web. Concretely, this implies a consistent respect of six critical principles necessary for sustaining life (webs, circles/cycles, solar energy, partnership, diversity, dynamic balance), in other words, a determined promotion of eco-literacy with a shift towards eco-design – a thorough conversion of human technology and social institutions in accord with the six critical principles.

Dražen Šimleša

HOW WE MARCH THE PLANET – WORLD AND CROATIA

The aim of the paper is to present the main characteristics of an ecological imprint as a method for measuring the impact of human influence upon the planet. The ecological imprint is currently one of the most representative indicators of sustainability, specially accessible, since it can be applied to the whole planet, certain region and country, city and village, different institutions and products, or even persons. It is calculable in line with the internationally acknowledged and comparable values of global hectares, giving a result that tells us how much of the planets surface is needed to sustain all our needs in food, energy, accommodation, transport, waste disposal and other. An Ecological footprint also clearly indicates the relations of power in the world, so that the results enable us to read and conclude much farther than solely in the domain of ecological. Therefore, this paper also tries to explain the background of the ecological imprint with reference to the directions of influence upon the ecological imprint on other categories of our societies. Data of the ecological imprint for Croatia are separately analyzed and compared with ecological imprints for other countries.

Marija Geiger

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF MONOCULTURE – TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND NEW ECOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW

This paper questions the potentials of traditional ecological knowledge in its support of biocultural diversity and the creation of new ecological worldview. In connection to this the ambivalences of tradition and traditional

ecological knowledge is recognized and it is emphasized how revitalization and/or the modification of traditional environmental knowledge, as well as its implementation into the developmental projects for rural and undeveloped areas, is also viewed as a way of an overcoming of asymmetrical gender relationships in the rural community. In the framework of scientific thought of the last decades a critique has been formed of a mechanistic worldview which promotes the monoculture, at the same time reducing the many strands of choices and endangering the support to biological and cultural diversity. The monovocality of the mechanistic worldview is confronted with a new ecological worldview which affirms multidisciplinary, flexible and integrative approaches and the logic of inclusion. It is precisely in this context that the conceptual defining of the traditional ecological knowledge is analyzed and the sketching of their gender problematic segments is made, as well as its relationship towards scientific knowledge and its role in the global environmental politics.

Jelena Puđak

CONFLICTS OF ECONOMICAL AND ECOLOGICAL
INTERESTS IN CONTEMPORARY CROATIAN
SOCIETY – AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF FOUR CASE STUDIES

The main aim of this contribution is to present the conflict of economical and ecological/environmental interests on the basis of an empirical analysis of four case studies from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Firstly, a framework will be provided within which a distinction will be made between the mentioned interests. The ideas of the well-known scientist, Edward O. Wilson, will be used in which he builds his study on the attitudes of 'economists' and 'environmentalists', however, aware of the possibility of not making a stereotypization. His presentation helps us to grasp a rough sketch of the main dedication that the interest groups of economic or ecological interests express.

Following this is an analysis of four cases of confronting interests, which encompass the actual cases: 1) the case of 'Karlovačke Pivovara' (brewery in Karlovac), 2.) the case of the oil refinery in Sisak, 3.) the case of the Hydro-Electric power plant "Lešće" on river Dobra, 4.) the case of the project 'Upper Horizons'. The last case is not strictly a case from Croatia, since it is happening in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but social actors from Croatia

are involved in it, and its consequences spread into the territory of Croatia.

After an empirical analysis of the mentioned cases, which provides us with the facts and sources for the analysis of the social relations towards the environment and nature, a discussion will be opened about social actors and their typology. Additionally, nominal and real roles of social actors will be presented with an identification of some basic causes of ecologically unsustainable behaviors. Simultaneously, through the analysis of these cases, we will emphasize the main implicit characteristics of the conflict of economical and ecological interests, the interests of gain and well-being, with the intention to emphasize the possibilities of reconciliation of these contradictory interests. Lastly, we will provide some ideas about the ways of perceiving and functioning that could in the future bring to a higher level of ecological sustainability.

Sanja Špoljar Vržina

SYMPTOMS OF THE GLOBAL SYNERGY OF A
HEALTH/ENVIRONMENT DESTRUCTION OR WHY ADVOCACY
ANTHROPOLOGY IS NEEDED IN CROATIA?

Through an analytical discourse of critical medical anthropology, this paper breaks the silence of the growingly difficult conditions in maintaining health and a healthy environment. The imperative of this approach is contesting the insights based on the local context of Croatia and the wider region, with the global, to the point of exposing and identifying the total planetary expression of pathology which we encounter. This approach necessarily penetrates into the mechanisms of creating generally worsening conditions of sustainability on the level of individuals, populations and environment, however in a way which analyses and arguments that they are only a part of a declarative discourse of 'sustaining health', as a concept that is in the past three decades present as an accompanying phenomena of the culture of healthiness, but not also activated in all geographical, economical and political dimensions. Naturally, in the function of a total market liberalization and the conduct of neoliberal model determinants.

The articulation of all levels on which there are visible consequences of a declarative willingness and found states of reality, demand new scientific orientations, innovative analyses and in-depth insights, that are not conductible

without a confrontation of the fact that organic is part of the cultural system. Respectively, that medicine and ecology, regardless of their exactness in all their multiple areas of multidisciplinary, are nevertheless parts of the general cultural system. The same cultural system in which the documents of global arrangements of great summits are declaratively created and even more declaratively conducted. The same cultural system in which there is a global and continuous discrepancy between the state of worsening health and unstable environments towards the growingly powerful technology and ever-present numerous documents of 'stabilizing states'.

This study is not orientated towards presenting the most valuable activist responses in the battle against the global neoliberal exploitation, although it would be the most suitable way of maintaining a minimum of optimism for the analyzed thematic. While these sources will be saved for some other analyses, the present one is orientated towards an attempt of revealing some of the blind spots and mechanisms of its creation. Only this type of insights can over bridge the gap from the periphery of itemizing phenomena's into the nucleus of needed changes – in other words places of confronting social constructions, as well as ways of working and thinking in the places of their creation. Overall, the analysis presented in this paper also has its more demanding aim, if not contributing, then making a realistic, at least minimal shift towards observing the barriers for the development of sustainable health and environment in Croatia – in the framework of what Rogić (2000) defines, the third modernization period and our consistent commitments towards developing *an autonomous Croatian society and country* on the path of integration into the *obligatory planetary horizon of (post)modernization*.

Dražen Šimleša
Jasmina Branilović
STATUS AND INFLUENCE OF ECOLOGICAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN CROATIA

The aim of the paper is an attempt at analyzing the status and influence of ecological organizations in Croatia. The theme is approached through three directions. First, the main actors of global ecological movement in the world are presented in order of recognizing the similarities and differences among the ecological organizations in Croatia.

The second direction is aimed at giving an overview of the development of the activist scenery and ecological organizations in Croatia, in order to present its beginnings, downfalls and successes, as well as the experience that is used in today's practice. The historical overview is also a good introduction into the most important part of this study, where we will talk in detail about the position and influence of ecological organizations in Croatia. The position and influence of ecological organizations is researched through: relations with the state and its institutions as the most important actor influencing the organizations beyond their boundaries. Through their distribution in Croatia, their resources upon which the success of their activism depends, as well as their inter-organizational cooperation. Lastly, a typology of ecological organizations in Croatia is given, in line with the classification given by Neil Carter (2004) in his book *Strategies of the Environmental Protection: Ideas, Activism and Operation*.