

Mediterranean – Croatia – Identity: historical and cultural interplay (MEDHRID)

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Project goal:

National identity is defined by the interaction of various factors within a certain space, which is not only a geographical category but also the contours of the cultural space within which identity is formed. In the Croatian case, this is the Mediterranean and Central European identity framework. Identity is a complex and dynamic construct of the collective consciousness of members of a certain nation, shaped by history, language, literature and intangible cultural heritage. It is built and modified in the constant interaction of local and global influences and through the multi-layered relationship between the past and the present. Selected historical studies within this project testify to historical processes and experiences in the Croatian historical space that collective communities subsequently internalize as part of the identity narrative. Furthermore, microhistorical studies of Croatian local spaces reconstruct specific historical situations that represent the key identity environment of communities that operated in a specific cultural space at the border of the Mediterranean and Central Europe. By exploring traces of oral history and local narratives as part of Croatian intangible heritage, interpretive spaces are opened for understanding the ways in which identities were shaped, negotiated and transmitted in specific temporal-spatial contexts. Given the need to research language and literature as a means of constructing Croatian identity, through diachronic analysis of texts and discourses, project activities also include comparative linguistic and literary research.

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