**Sabahudin Hadžialić**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina and XXI century: Canton (a county like)**

***Strategy of a magpie***

There are ten units that "unify" the space of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina [1]. We call them cantons or counties (although the Constitutional Court of the Federation has a special position on the latter administrative units - a county name is unconstitutional, they say) but they still exist as such. "That is what has been given to us through our fight" - echoes on the pulse of a youthful student. Within the Canton / Counties should be organized a cultural space for the purpose of improving life for all citizens of the above mentioned areas. But instead of an *ad-hoc* solution of the approach to the culture as something that is defined as: ***“Hi pal, you need so much money, no problem, but do not ask for much because it should be given to others!?”***... We must cross the river, it is deep, it is broad...

The aim to which we should be focused on a long-term basis is moving the cultural sector into one of the key priorities of the overall development. It is necessary to constantly review the cultural values ​​and to promote cultural pluralism, along the development of multiculturalism and openness to the surroundings. It is necessary to encourage individual creativity and develop cultural communication, including the one in the new information technologies.

The main aim is not only to raise consumer tastes of residents of Canton / Counties, but also the quality of life in these areas. In all segments of cultural creativity is necessary to keep the attained levels of development, and create a basis for further development, having in mind, as it is particularly important, openness for new initiatives. These goals will be achieved by thoughtful connecting of professional, amateur and alternative activity in the culture, fostering and presenting traditional culture, and by linking different sectors of life in Canton / County: culture, education, economy, tourism, sport...

The basic prerequisite for the achievement of the stated objectives is the ensuring of the **infrastructure**, i.e. space and time to work.

How to reach it? As follows:

1. Gathering information about the complete "cultural infrastructure" in Canton / County, in other words, within all municipalities.
2. Finding funds for repairs, construction and upgrading of existing and new facilities, depending on the needs in a particular area.

3. After finishing of the work find the possibility of providing space (i.e. the use of existing infrastructure resources) for:

a) Rehabilitation of space for movie screenings and theater;

b) Library and reading room;

c) Studio (all types- ballet, folk dance, theater);

d) Theater (for children, youth and the elderly);

e) Space for youth (lectures, screenings, alternative contents).

4. Another important prerequisite are **financial resources**. It takes planning to access the cultural sector in the budgets of the Canton / County so as to establish a balance within funds between spending for institutions and spending for programs in culture, and build a system for evaluating the cultural content. It is also necessary, in the budget, to provide funds for investment. Of course, in addition to the above funding, it is necessary to encourage other ways to finance culture (sponsorships and donations).

5. In determining priorities for assistance to institutions of importance to the development of culture in all its forms, the government should be focused on the following:

a) Request the presentation of plans by cultural institutions for a 12 month period;

b) Require reporting from cultural institutions for a period of past twelve months;

c) Submission of the shaped methodological requirements for funds - how funds will be invested and how projects are self-sustained for the future.

6. Every six months ask the relevant municipal departments for the complete information about active cultural institutions, individuals, clubs, NGO's, associations dealing with issues of cultural interest.

7. Assist the establishment of clubs, associations of cultural significance. Publish a public announcement about the support and establishment of the Association of Writers, Artists and all those institutions involved in the promotion of cultural values.

8. Publish an announcement at the end of the year for the best work of authorship in three categories (novel, poetry books and stories). The first three awarded works should receive awards and will be published from the funds from authorized ministries.

9. Establishment of the Council for Culture at the level of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports in accordance with the Law (where the Law exists - so far it exists only in the Sarajevo Canton) with the aim of shaping the program in the field of culture in the Canton / County.

Proposal for an article on the Law on culture:

"Article \_\_\_\_

Council for culture:

- Determine the content and guidelines for establishing of programs in the field of culture of Canton / County.

- Participate in the development of programs in the areas of culture Canton / County;

- Monitors and evaluates the performance of the program in the field of culture Canton / Counties and provides incentives for its amendment;

- Give opinions on the execution of programs in the field of culture Canton / County;

- Assess the situation and development of cultural activities in the Canton / County;

- Give opinions on draft laws and other regulations in the field of culture and the proposals of other laws and regulations that interfere with the field of culture;

- Takes the initiative and proposals for editing other issues in the field of culture. "

10. In accordance with the current or strategic needs it should be established a council, commissions and expert groups. Proposal of the article \_\_\_\_ draft for culture:

"Article \_\_\_\_\_

To participate in the execution of the tasks of the Ministry, the Minister establishes councils, commissions and expert groups, as expert advisory bodies for specific areas of cultural activity.

The composition of the councils, committees or expert groups, their tasks and the way of work is determined by the Minister, through the founding act"

11. Twice a year should be organized a joint meeting with all the cultural institutions, associations from Canton / County with the aim of presenting the situation on the ground and trying to create a long-term strategy for culture.

12. The operation in formulating the vision of cultural heritage protection in collaboration with museums and other institutions dealing with the protection of cultural heritage.

13. Make contacts and arrange meetings with writers from Bosnia and Herzegovina in all municipalities of the Canton / County. Contacts should be realized with associations of writers. Plan month of the books in Canton / County and then in each municipality made ​​a presentation of certain literary works and writers as well as the propagation of the book as a common good oriented towards reconciliation, coexistence and prosperity. To this end it is necessary to revive / establish working memorial museums of Ivo Andric, Mehmedalija Mak Dizdar, Mesa Selimovic, Nikola Sopa, Aleksa Santic, Musa Cazima Catic and other ones, through hiring professionals, curators of literature, who would coordinate the work of the association in Canton / County and begin various programs in the literary field. These memorial museums would become organizational, documentation and informational centers of literary activity in the area of Canton / County.

14. Establishment, by passing the law, relevant inspection services in the domain of culture.

15. Individual requirements should be implemented by respecting:

a) The geographic coverage of a wider area of the Canton / County;

b) Current activities in the field of culture;

c) The quality of the planned activities;

d) The recommendations of the Council for Culture;

e) The sustainability of projects.

**The methodological approach you have is great, my dear student!** **But when and how will you implement it?** - Suddenly interrupted my dreams from the side of my favorite professor. *Should I do not dare to even have a dream, my professor? For once, leave me alone. I'm trying to do in my dreams what dreams I cannot do in the reality!*

**Go back to sleep.**

**And have a dream.**

**Keep an eye out just for the awakening.**

**It is always painful in these areas.**

**Like in the movie: “Strategy of magpie”.**

----------------------------

Notes: [1] Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is an entity within Bosnia and Herzegovina (another entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina is: Republic of Srpska). Within Bosnia and Herzegovina should be mentioned Brčko District as well, aside of two entities, as the part of BiH.

-------------

*Signature under the photo: In the left down corner – Poster of the ex-Yu (BiH) movie “Strategy of magpie”, directed by Zlatko Lavanić and co-written by Emir Kusturica and Mladen Materić back in 1987. The movie is about broken dreams and broken believing.*