

# ECONOMIC MIGRATION FROM MEĐIMURJE TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



Erasmus+ Migration Matters - Milazzo, Sicily  
December 2017



# NEWSPAPERS SAY:

- *An Irishman from Dublin has problems at work because he is the only one who doesn't speak Croatian*
- *Croatian will become the official language of EU because only Croats are present in every EU member state*
- *European Football Championship in France: Only one Croatian national team entered the quarter finals – the German one*



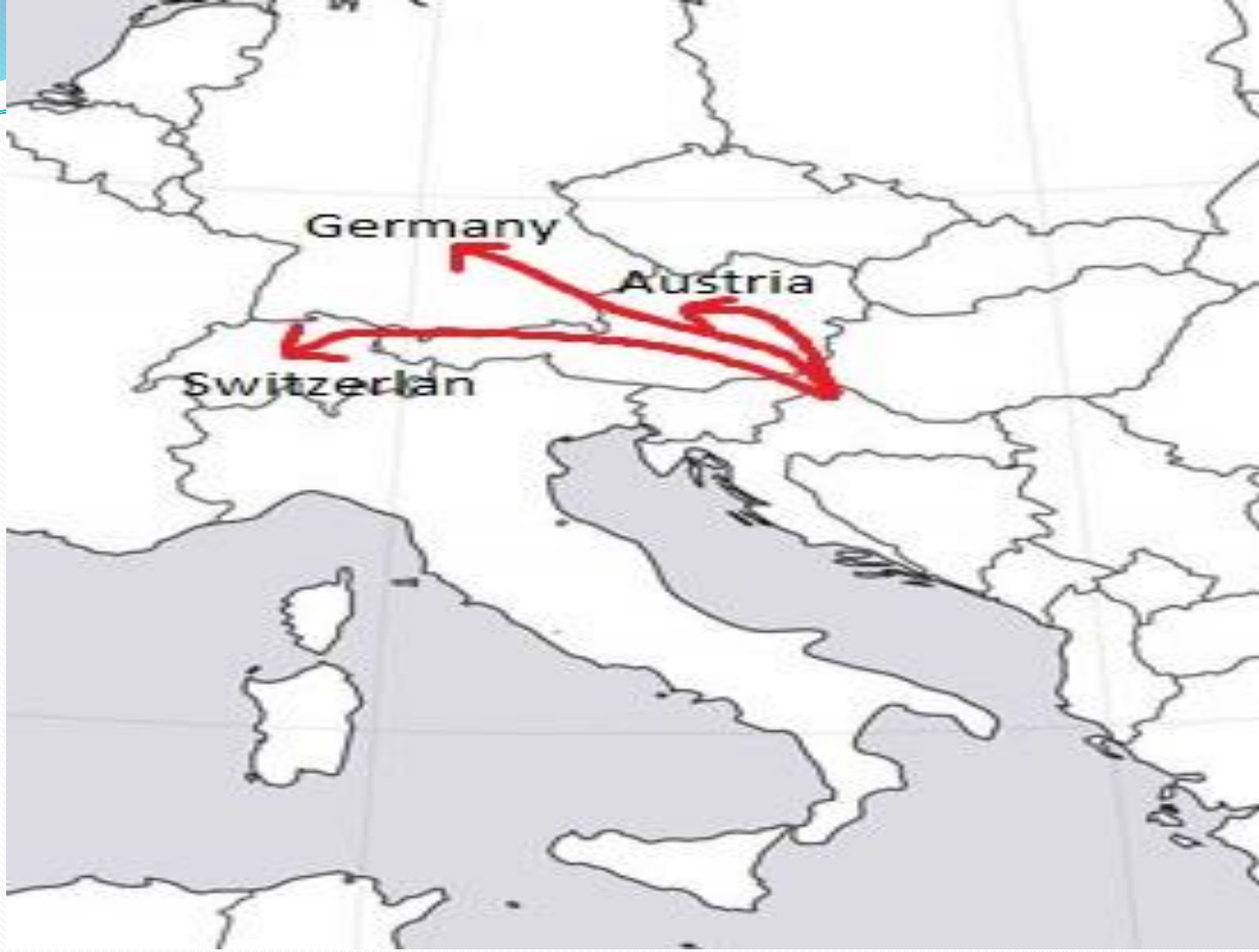
# MIGRATION AFTER WW II

- after WW II western European countries began reconstruction with the help of the USA, Canada and Australia
- rapid development of these countries
- "Economic miracle"
- the consequence of such development - lack of workforce



- Međimurje after WW II: underdeveloped, its inhabitants hit by unemployment
- economic migration of workforce
- Croats, as well as the inhabitants of Međimurje, looked for a job just to feed their families and/or earn for basic needs







# TRAVELLING TO THE PLACE OF WORK

- most often they travelled by train jammed with other economic migrants
- later on they also travelled by bus



# ECONOMIC MIGRANTS

- hard life (hard physical labour, working long hours)
- mostly men
- rare homecomings (holidays)
- kids growing up without fathers
- women raised kids alone, taking care of home and agriculture







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# A NEW WAVE OF MIGRANTS

- in the mid 80s economic migrations were declining
- in the 90s Yugoslavia collapsed
- after that the new wave of mass migration started because of the war



- People who lived in war-affected areas were running away in large groups to the countries of Central Europe to save themselves and their families



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- When the war ended in 1995 the nation hoped for a better future
- Croatia has faced many economic problems and economic crises (war destruction, privatization of state-owned property, unsuccessful reforms..)





# MIGRATIONS TODAY

- **Causes of present migration:**
  - economic crisis
  - unemployment
  - low salaries
- **New “promised lands”:**
  - Ireland
  - Scandinavian countries



# BRAIN DRAIN

- Economic migrations of highly educated young people (IT experts, doctors and scientists) together with their families



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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