

South-Eastern Europe

= region of great ethnic diversity

= *Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yugoslavia, Macedonia* = former communist Yugoslavia together with Slovenia (leader: general Tito)

= *Albania* – the poorest country of Europe

= *Romania, Bulgaria* – they will join the EU in the future (2008-2010)

Croatia

Capital: Zagreb

Population: 4.5 million

Population Density 83/km²

HDI: 0,841 - high

GDP/capita (2004): 12,000 USD

= crescent-shaped country, border rivers Sava and Drava + Dinaric Alps,

- independence from Socialistic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1991

Regions: *Slavonia* and *Dalmatia*

- Croats (89.6%). There are around twenty minorities, Serbs being the biggest one (4.5%), others having less than 0.5% each. The predominate religion is Catholicism (87.8%), with some Orthodox (4.4%) and Sunni Muslim (1.3%) minorities.

- A Serb population living in some areas of Croatia revolted in 1991 and proclaimed their own state - Republic of Serbian Krajina. They were supported by the Yugoslav army. In 1995, the Croatian Army successfully launched two major offensives to retake the rebel areas by force, leading to a mass exodus of the Serbian population. A few months later, as a result, the war ended upon the negotiation of the Dayton Agreement. A peaceful integration of the remaining Serbian-controlled territories was completed in 1998 under UN supervision.

· after the war with the Serbs and Bosnians => many historic towns/cities were destroyed, but Croatian economy was quick to recover

Croatia has an economy based mostly on various services and some, mostly light industry. Tourism is a notable source of income.

· long coastline with hundreds of bays, islands and beaches => famous tourist destination nowadays especially for people from CZ, SK, H, BiH, I, D

- EU accession negotiations started in December 2005

· other large cities: Osijek, Rijeka, Pula, Zadar, Šibenik, Split, Dubrovnik

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Capital: Sarajevo

Population: 4 million

GDP/capita (2004): 6,500 USD

HDI: 0,786 - medium

· independent in 1992, mixture of Muslim Bosnians, Catholic Croats and Orthodox Serbs => tension between these ethnics => civil war => many thousands of people were killed

Bosnia & Herzegovina comprises the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska, and the Brčko District.

· *ethnic cleansing* = removing or “cleansing” of Muslims and Croats from areas they inhabited alongside Serbs => thousands of non-Serbs were murdered => many refugees in Germany, Italy, Sweden and Turkey

ethnic groups: Serb 37.1%, Bosniak 48%, Croat 14.3%

religion: Muslim 40%, Orthodox 31%, Roman Catholic 15%, other 14%

Three years of war destroyed a large part of the economy and infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina, causing unemployment to soar and production to fall.

Unemployment: 44%~

Industries: steel, coal, iron ore, lead, zinc, manganese, bauxite, vehicle assembly, textiles, tobacco products, wooden furniture, tank and aircraft assembly, domestic appliances, oil refining

23km of coastline around town of Neum

· other cities: Mostar, Visoko, Banja Luka, Tuzla

Yugoslavia

-The country does not have a unified capital anymore, dividing its common institutions between Belgrade (political) in Serbia and Podgorica (judicial) in Montenegro.

-Each of the two states may seek full independence via a referendum. Montenegro will hold a referendum on this matter on May 21, 2006.

-Population: 10.8 million

GDP/capita (2004): 2,400 USD

Unemployment: 30% (Kosovo-50%)

Ethnic groups: Serb 62.6%, Albanian 16.5%, Montenegrin 5%, Hungarian 3.3%, other 12.6%

Religion: Orthodox 65%, Muslim 19%, Roman Catholic 4%, Protestant 1%, other 11%

-On February 4, 2003, the federal parliament of Yugoslavia created a loose commonwealth of Serbia and Montenegro called Serbia and Montenegro.

-MILOSEVIC-era mismanagement of the economy, an extended period of economic sanctions, and the damage to Yugoslavia's infrastructure and industry during the NATO airstrikes in 1999 left the economy only half the size it was in 1990.

The complexity of Serbia and Montenegro political relationships, slow progress in privatization, legal uncertainty over property rights, scarcity of foreign-investment and a substantial foreign trade deficit are holding back the economy.

-Serbia and Montenegro industrial heartland of former Yugoslavia (engineering, food and textile industries)

= reserves of coal and hydro-electricity from the Danube river, Balkan mts.

· >60% of the people are Serbs, Hungarians in Vojvodina

· *bribery and mafias*

· variety of languages (+ Cyrillic script and Latin alphabet)

· famous gastronomy (cevapcici, raznjici)

· other cities: Novi Sad, Priština, Podgorica

Macedonia (FYROM)

Capital: Skopje

Population: 2 million

GDP/capita (2004): 7,100 USD

unemployment: 38%

· poor country => many emigrants, no access to the sea, historically linked to Greece

· tension between Macedonian Slavs and ethnic Albanians

· cultivation of fruit crops and industrial crops, e.g. rice, cotton + tobacco

· location determines the import of machinery, fuel and manufactured goods

· *seismic zone* => plenty of earthquakes

Albania

Capital: Tirana

Population: 3,5 million

GDP/capita (2004): 4,900 USD

HDI: 0,780 - medium

Unemployment: 15% - official (unofficial 30%)

= the poorest country of Europe

half of the economically-active population still engaged in agriculture and a fifth works abroad

The country has almost no exports, and imports most of its goods from Greece and Italy. Money for imports comes from financial aid and from the money that immigrants working abroad - mostly in neighbouring Greece - bring to Albania. This is a good status quo business for both Greece and Italy.

· rugged relief was ruled by Ottoman Turks, during the 20th century ruled by a fascist king and communist dictator => *corruption and economic collapse* in 1997

- = *Romania and Bulgaria*
- = Danube is the axis of transportation
- = most of people are Greek Catholics and Orthodox Christians

Romania

Capital: Bucharest

Population: 22 million

GDP/capita (2004): 8,000 USD

Unemployment: 6,3%

= 1 of the largest countries in Europe

- *Carpathian mts.* = arc across the country (Transylvania)
- the land is rich and fertile => growing of corn (food + fuel) and grapes (for wine to export)
- 1989: revolution overthrew communist government => improving the life of Romanians vs. high unemployment and high prices
- Bucharest = many FDI (manufacturing plants)
- *Constanta* = important port
- communist dictator: *Ceausescu* = encouraged women to have large families but many people could not afford to keep their babies => *orphans*
- *population diversity* = Romanians, Hungarians, Ukrainians, Turks
- *wooden buildings* – using spruces, pines and beeches, constructed throughout the country
- Slovaks living in Romania = result of migration in the 1700s and 1800s => poor communities, quite underdeveloped
- *Black Sea* = holiday destination but without any special services – not so developed destination compared to Dalmatia or Côte d'Azur
- other large cities: Oradea, Timisoara, Sibiu, Brasov

Bulgaria

Capital: Sofia

Population: 7,7 million

GDP/capita (2004): 8,500 USD

Unemployment: 12%

= was ruled by Greeks, Turks and Romans in the past

= since the WWII until 1989 it was a part of the communist bloc

- mountains: *Rhodopi, Stara Planina, Balkan mts.*
- Sofia = industrial centre
- *Burgas* = important port, good transportation system of the country
- majority of population are Bulgars + minorities of Macedonians and Turks
- traditional tourist destination (also during the communist period), nowadays *boom of tourism*
- growing of tobacco and roses (oil used to make perfume), textile mills (factories) and food-processing industry
- nuclear power stations = 40% of all the electricity generation
- other large cities: Varna, Rila, Plovdiv