

Croatia

Alan Uzelać, Marko Bratković, Iva Pejić, Rea Štoković, Iva Udovičić, Nika Vuletić & Marija Žarak

Part I. General context:

1. Is there a multicultural context in your country?

Besides Croats, people of other nationalities also live in Croatia, a reflection of its geographical position and historical influences. Members of today's national minorities, who traditionally settled in Croatia, arrived during the periods of Ottoman, Habsburg, Austro-Hungarian, and Yugoslav rule. The ethnic composition of Croatia has also been significantly shaped by wars, including both world wars and the Homeland War.

While these groups do not have the status of national minorities, recent multiculturalism has also been influenced by the migration of people during the refugee and migrant crisis, as well as by labour migration.

2. How many nations or cultural groups exist within your State?
What is the percentage of the population belonging to these groups with respect to the majority group, if any?

Croats are the only constituent nation in the Republic of Croatia, making up 91.63% of the population. The Constitution recognises 22 national minorities that live in and are part of the population in

Croatia. According to the 2021 census, the Republic of Croatia has a population of 3,871,833, of which 240,079 are members of national minorities, as follows:

Nationality	Population	Percentage
Croats	3,543,894	91.63%
Serbs	123,892	3.20%
Bosniaks	24,131	0.62%
Roma	17,980	0.46%
Albanians	13,817	0.36%
Italians	13,763	0.36%
Hungarians	10,315	0.27%
Czechs	7,862	0.20%
Slovenians	7,729	0.20%
Macedonians	3,555	0.09%
Montenegrins	3,127	0.08%
Germans	3,034	0.08%
Slovaks	3,688	0.10%
Ukrainians	1,905	0.05%
Russians	1,481	0.04%
Rusyns	1,343	0.03%
Poles	657	0.02%
Turks	404	0.01%
Jews	410	0.01%
Romanians	337	0.01%
Austrians	365	0.01%
Bulgarians	262	0.01%
Vlachs	22	0.00%

According to the same census, Croatia is also home to members of the following nationalities who do not have the formal status of national minorities (their numbers are not specifically listed as they collectively make up only 0.46% of the total population): Kosovars, Belgians, Belarusians, Britons, English, Scots, Danes, Finns, French,

Greeks, Dutch, Irish, Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians, Norwegians, Portuguese, Spaniards, Swedes, Swiss, Moldovans, Ashkali, Gorani, Americans, Canadians, Mexicans, Cubans, Argentinians, Bolivians, Brazilians, Chileans, Peruvians, Colombians, other South American nations, Algerians, Egyptians, Libyans, Sudanese, Arabs, Indians, Iraqis, Iranians, Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Jordanians, Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, Armenians, Georgians, Australians, and New Zealanders.

3. Do these nations or cultural groups speak different languages? Do the people in these groups speak their native languages or are they bilingual? Could you offer statistical data?

The national minorities traditionally reside in the territory of the Republic of Croatia. They are mostly individuals who were born and live in Croatia, and therefore are familiar with the Croatian language. However, we do not have statistical data on how many of them use only their mother tongue and how many also speak Croatian.

According to available data from the 2021 census, the share of speakers of different languages within the total population is as follows:

Language Share (%)

Croatian 95.25

Serbian 1.16

Bosnian 0.45

Romani 0.39

Albanian 0.35

Italian 0.33

Slovenian 0.20

Hungarian 0.19

Czech 0.13

German 0.09

Macedonian 0.09

English 0.07

Slovak 0.07

Russian 0.05
 Spanish 0.03
 Ukrainian 0.03
 Ruthenian 0.03
 Montenegrin 0.02
 Polish 0.02
 French 0.02
 Romanian 0.02
 Arabic 0.02
 Chinese 0.02
 Turkish 0.01
 Dutch 0.01
 Portuguese 0.01
 Hindi 0.01
 Filipino 0.01
 Bulgarian 0.01

Only a small share of 0.54% of Croatian citizens remains linguistically unclassified. Based on the available data, we can indirectly conclude that if Croats make up 91.63% of the total population, and Croatian is the native language for 95.25% of the residents, at least 3.62% of members of other nationalities speak Croatian.

4. Does your legal system constitutionally or legally recognize the existence of various cultural and/or ethnic groups within your national territory? Are there constitutional dispositions or statutes acknowledging them with legal protection?

The preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia states that the Republic of Croatia is established as the national state of the Croatian people and the state of members of national minorities. It lists the minorities of Serbs, Czechs, Slovaks, Italians, Hungarians, Jews, Germans, Austrians, Ukrainians, Rusyns, Bosniaks, Slovenes, Montenegrins, Macedonians, Russians, Bulgarians, Poles, Roma, Romanians, Turks, Vlachs, Albanians, and others who are its citizens, guaranteeing them equality with citizens of Croatian nationality and

the exercise of national rights in accordance with the democratic norms of the United Nations and the free world.

The law defines a national minority as a group of Croatian citizens whose members have traditionally resided in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, and whose members have ethnic, linguistic, and/or religious characteristics different from other citizens, and who are guided by the desire to preserve those characteristics.

The Constitution guarantees national minorities equality and protection, which is specifically elaborated in the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Particularly important are equality before the law and equal legal protection (which means that they exercise the protection of their rights in the same manner and to the same extent as members of the majority Croatian people), prohibition of discrimination, the right to express national affiliation, and the free use of their language and script.

5. Does your legal system recognize as official languages some or all the languages spoken by the various cultural groups? What are the consequences of such recognition?

According to Article 6 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CCP), civil proceedings are conducted in Croatian using the Latin script unless another language or script is permitted by law for use in certain courts. This rule principally applies to written submissions and documents used in the proceedings. In oral hearings, the parties and other participants have the right to use their own language when taking procedural actions orally before the court. If the procedure is not conducted in the language of the party or other participants, they will be provided with an oral translation into their language at the hearings. The translation includes all relevant parts of the hearing, including an oral translation of the documents used as evidence.

According to the CCP, parties and other participants in the proceedings have the right to be informed about their right to follow the oral proceedings before the court in their own language with the help of an interpreter. The use of languages and scripts of national

minorities in civil proceedings is regulated by law, and the costs of translation into the language of a national minority are borne by the court. In other cases, if translation into other languages is needed, the translation costs are borne by the party or participant concerned.

Article 12 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities guarantees the equal use of the language and script of a particular national minority when its members make up at least one-third of the population in a local administrative unit. In 2013, these prerequisites were met in Vukovar, and the Government decided to introduce bilingual name signs at state institutions. This decision provoked mixed feelings among the Croatian population in Vukovar, as the city was heavily attacked during the Homeland War and suffered the most casualties, some of which have not been found to this day. Protesters destroyed the name signs with hammers and their hands, stating that the occasion and manner of introducing the Cyrillic script in Vukovar were completely ill-starred. Some protesters went further and stated that such a decision represents an open affront to the defenders who fought to save the city from aggression. They also claimed that the actual number of Serbs living in Vukovar is not as high as the official statistics suggest. Moreover, in 2016, the Council for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Croatian Parliament lodged an application to the Constitutional Court regarding the alterations of the Statute of the City of Vukovar concerning the equal official use of the language and script of the Serbian national minority. The Constitutional Court dismissed the application.

There is also a recent example from 2023 in Orehovica Municipality (in the county of Međimurje, the northernmost region in Croatia). According to the latest population census, the prerequisites from the above-stated Article 12 are met as a third of the municipality's population is Roma. The question remains open whether bilingual name signs in Croatian and Roma languages should be introduced in all state institutions. The Roma member of the Croatian Parliament, Mr. Veljko Kajtazi, called for the consistent enforcement of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Furthermore, he proposed trilingual name signs in Croatian, Romani

Chib, and Roma Bajaši languages. The Council for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Plan for the Inclusion of Roma discussed the matter but did not deliver a decision, as it is not within their jurisdiction. The question of bilingual name signs in Orehovica currently remains open.

Official bilingualism in Istria County (in western Croatia) is regulated by the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities (Official Gazette, 155/02, 47/10, 80/10, 93/11), the Act on the Use of Languages and Scripts of National Minorities in the Republic of Croatia (Official Gazette, 51/00, 56/00), the Act on Local and Regional Self-Government (Official Gazette, 33/01, 60/01), the Statute of Istria County (Official Gazette of Istria County, 10/09; 4/13; 16/16; 1/17; 2/17; 2/18, 30/18), and the statutes of cities and municipalities. According to the Statute of Istria County, Croatian and Italian languages "are in equal official use in the work of county bodies within their self-governing scope" (Article 6), and "equal official use of Croatian and Italian languages is achieved in the work of all county bodies within their self-governing scope and in proceedings before administrative bodies" (Article 21). This applies "in part or throughout the entire area of municipalities and cities in Istria County, where members of the Italian national community reside" (Article 23). In accordance with the Statute of Istria County, as well as the statutes of bilingual cities and municipalities, Croatian and Italian languages are in equal official use, and publicly published content on websites should be composed bilingually, meaning it should be translated into Italian.

Sources:

Odbor za ljudska prava šalje Statut grada Vukovara na ocjenu ustavnosti - Večernji.hr (vecernji.hr)

Hoće li Orehovica dobiti ploče na hrvatskom i romskom? Kajtazi predlaže trojezične - tportal

Prosvjednici čekićima razbili ćirilične ploče u Vukovaru! - Večernji.hr (vecernji.hr)

6. Does your legal system recognize to the various cultural groups their own customary law or any special statutes ruled or enacted by them?

Customary law or special statutes enacted by various cultural groups are generally not recognized. Customary law, which refers to the traditional norms and practices followed by cultural groups, generally does not have official standing in civil courts. Roma generally engage in sexual relations at a very young age, which is sometimes considered a mitigating factor in criminal cases involving consensual sexual relations.

7. Does your legal system recognize to the various cultural groups any special adjudication system or method for solving conflicts? What value does these decisions could have in your State? Is there any coordination mechanism between these two adjudications systems?

In the context of civil litigation, the legal framework is uniformly governed by the Croatian CCP.

8. If your legal system does not recognize any special adjudication system for these cultural groups, is there any kind of legal relief or mechanism to ensure or guarantee the protection of rights in face of the standard judicial adjudication?

In Croatia, the legal system is unified and does not formally recognize any special adjudication systems specifically for cultural groups within the realm of civil procedure. Everyone has the right to access the court system to resolve disputes, including individuals from cultural groups who may face challenges navigating the judicial system.

While Croatian is the official language of the judiciary, the system accommodates those who do not speak Croatian by allowing them to use their own language in court proceedings, according to the CCP. This is facilitated through the Regulations on Permanent Court Interpreters, which ensure that non-Croatian speakers can fully understand and participate in legal proceedings by providing access to court interpreters.

To further ensure access to justice, the Croatian legal system offers mechanisms for free legal aid, which is crucial for individuals who cannot afford legal representation. Various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies also provide legal support services, enhancing the accessibility of legal assistance for individuals from different cultural backgrounds. Anti-discrimination laws provide rules that protect against discrimination based on ethnicity, language, religion, and other characteristics. The Anti-Discrimination Act, coupled with institutions such as the Ombudsperson's Office, ensures that cultural groups have avenues to report and seek redress for discriminatory practices, reinforcing the legal framework's commitment to equality and justice.

Training programs on cultural sensitivity for judges and lawyers help ensure that the judiciary is aware of and responsive to the needs of various cultural groups. Through case studies, role-playing, and collaboration with cultural experts, these initiatives aim to foster a judiciary that is responsive and respectful to individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds within the legal system. Ongoing education and evaluation further enhance judges' and lawyers' ability to reflect on and improve their cultural sensitivity practices.

Sources:

JUDICIAL TRAINING: - European Commission

https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/be9f8125-b561-4d06-acc-96312f0df0d2_en?filename=Digitalisation%20of%20Justice%202023_Rapport_interactive%20def%205.pdf

https://www.innovatingjustice.org/sites/default/files/documents/Cultural_Responsiveness_0.pdf

Part II. Language choice:

1. Does your legal system recognize the right of persons belonging to different cultural groups to use their own language in proceedings involving them as parties? What does such recognition entail? If this right is not recognized, how does the right of defense could be granted and protected to the members of these cultural groups?

Pursuant to Articles 102–105 of the CCP, parties are entitled to use their language in the proceedings. This recognition includes the right to oral translation of the proceedings and documents used as evidence if the proceedings are not held in the language of a party or a particular participant. Parties and other participants in the proceedings shall be informed of their right to follow the oral part of the proceedings in their language, with the help of a court interpreter. Parties and other participants may waive that right if they state that they understand the language of the proceedings. This statement will be noted in the record. The costs of translation are to be paid by the party or participant concerned.

As noted above, the costs of translation are to be paid by the court in the case of translation to national minorities' languages. The use of language and script of national minorities in proceedings is regulated by the Use of Language and Script of National Minorities Act from 2000, which is applied as *lex specialis* regarding this matter.

According to the Report on the Enforcement of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities for 2021¹, only five

¹ Report on the Enforcement of Constitutional Act on Rights of National Minorities for 2021, Government of the Republic of Croatia, <https://shorturl.at/JLewn> (accessed 21 June 2024), p. 7.

proceedings at first-instance (municipal) courts were held in national minorities' languages. All of them were criminal proceedings. In nine cases, parties waived their right to use minorities' languages in the proceedings. One proceeding was held in Italian, whereas in six cases parties waived their right to use Italian in the proceedings. At the Municipal Court in Sisak, one criminal proceeding was held in Czech, and three in Ukrainian. A party waived the right to use Serbian in two proceedings at the Municipal Court in Pazin, and in one proceeding at the Municipal Court in Vukovar. The Report for 2022² presents very similar statistics. There were again only five cases held in national minorities' languages, and in nine cases parties waived their right to use minorities' languages in the proceedings. Among those five cases, three were criminal proceedings and two were civil proceedings. Altogether, three proceedings were held in Italian, all at the Municipal Court in Pula. One of them was a criminal proceeding, whereas the other two were civil proceedings. One criminal proceeding at the Municipal Court in Virovitica was held in Hungarian, and one in Ukrainian at the Municipal Court in Sisak. The Report for 2023 has not been published yet.

In the National Plan for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Prevention of Discrimination for 2024–2027³, the Government recognized that strengthening the mechanisms for enforcement and monitoring of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities is one of the key aims to promote and protect human rights guaranteed by the laws of the Republic of Croatia and international instruments ratified by the Republic of Croatia.

2. Is there any specific mechanism for the selection of judges to ensure any geographical appointment or commission in the

² Report on the Enforcement of Constitutional Act on Rights of National Minorities for 2022, Government of the Republic of Croatia, <https://shorturl.at/B5J5U> (accessed 21 June 2024), p. 9.

³ National Plan for Protection & Promotion of Human Rights and Prevention of Discrimination for 2024–2027, Government of the Republic of Croatia, <https://shorturl.at/nC7OR> (accessed 22 June 2024), p. 68.

settlements or places where these cultural groups are located? If so, please offer statistic data.

Provisions regulating the appointment of judges do not include geographical criteria. Therefore, a candidate for a judge can apply for a position anywhere in the country without limitations and regardless of cultural background.

Article 50 of the State Judicial Council Act recognises the importance of having members of national minorities appointed as judges and prescribes that in the appointment procedure, representation of judges from national minorities must be taken into account, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities. Section 2 of the same article emphasises that candidates from national minorities in the appointment procedure may refer to their rights guaranteed in the Constitutional Act. This general provision is further elaborated in the Rules for the evaluation of candidates in the appointment procedure for first-instance, second-instance, and high court judges.⁴

Article 17, paragraph 5 of the Rules, which regulates the evaluation order of the candidates, provides an interesting solution. The State Judicial Council may increase the number of points a candidate from a national minority has achieved, in proportion to the degree of under-representation and the need to establish equality of opportunities. Such an increase is “temporary,” as it is possible only while such under-representation lasts. To increase a candidate’s points, the State Judicial Council must investigate the representation of judges from national minorities at the court for which the candidate has applied. After that, the State Judicial Council must compare that representation with the total number of members of national minorities in the jurisdiction of a particular court. Naturally, other significant circumstances are taken into account. This increase, however, cannot add more than 10 points to a candidate’s achieved

⁴ Rules for evaluation of candidates in the appointment procedure for first-instance, second-instance, and high courts judges, <https://shorturl.at/KPjCG> (accessed 22 June 2024).

result in the evaluation procedure. There was a case in 2015 in which a candidate was given an additional 3 points at an interview in the appointment procedure based on the criteria explained above.⁵

3. Is there a specific mechanism for state judges in your country to have an adequate knowledge of cultural manifestations (and their implications) regarding the diverse existing cultures in your country? Are anthropological experts usually called or appointed to serve as cultural experts in courts?

To our knowledge, there is no mechanism for state judges to have an adequate understanding of cultural manifestations regarding diverse cultures. Pursuant to Article 250 of the CCP, expert witnesses may be appointed, which would allow for expertise in the field of anthropology. However, we are not aware of any cases where such experts have been appointed to assess and address issues of cultural diversity.

As noted above, in 2021 and 2022, there were a total of four proceedings held in Italian. Three of these were at the Municipal Court in Pula (Istria), and one was at the Municipal Court in Sisak.⁶ This data shows that some judges are proficient in Italian. Data from the previously noted reports also show that most parties waive their right to use Italian in the proceedings.⁷

The Judicial Academy encourages judicial officials to learn foreign languages through its projects coordinated with the European Social Fund and the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN). In 2023, the Judicial Academy organised online conversational courses in foreign languages. The Annual Report for 2023 does not mention which languages the courses were offered in, but we may assume that,

⁵ U-III/4818/2015, Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, <https://shorturl.at/2v1Wc> (accessed 22 June 2024), section 3.2 of the judgment.

⁶ Report on the Enforcement of Constitutional Act on Rights of National Minorities for 2021 and 2022 noted *supra* and cited in footnotes 1 and 2.

⁷ *Ibid.*

among other languages, Italian was probably offered, as the Annual Report for 2022 explicitly notes that there was a course in Italian. Apart from that, we are not aware of judicial officials' opportunities to learn the languages of other national minorities (e.g. Roma, Ukrainian, etc.).

4. Is there a policy for state judges to learn the languages of the cultural groups involved in judicial affairs?

There isn't a policy for state judges to learn the languages of other cultural groups involved in judicial affairs. According to the latest population census (2021), 95.25% of the population stated Croatian as their mother tongue. However, in some parts of Croatia (Istria), Italian is taught in schools, and some judges are proficient in that language. Yet, there are no official studies on the judicial knowledge of minority languages, even in the territories where such languages are recognized, and no special programs for learning minority languages offered to judicial staff and judges.

5. What mechanisms exist in your country to ensure that members of cultural groups exercise their right to defense? Do these mechanisms differ from those that exist for a foreigner who speaks a different language than the official one?

According to Article 102 of the CCP, parties and other participants in the proceedings have the right to use their own language when participating in hearings and when taking other procedural actions orally before the court. If the procedure is not conducted in the language of the party or other participants, they will be provided with an oral translation into their language of what is presented at the hearing and an oral translation of the documents used as evidence at the hearing. The parties and other participants in the procedure will be informed about their right to follow the oral proceedings before the court in their own language with the help of an interpreter. They can waive their right to translation if they declare that they know the language in which the proceedings are conducted.

6. Are there official translators of the different languages spoken by diverse cultural groups? Do they differ from the standard translators that a non-resident party (foreigner) could have access to?

According to the Courts Act, permanent court interpreters translate spoken or written text from Croatian into a foreign language, from a foreign language into Croatian, or from one foreign language to another at the request of a court, state body, legal entity, or citizen. There is no distinction between official translators of the different languages spoken by diverse cultural groups and standard translators that a non-resident party (foreigner) could access. According to the Regulation on Permanent Court Interpreters, the conditions for a permanent court interpreter are met by a person who, in addition to the general conditions prescribed for admission to the civil service, also meets the following special conditions: in addition to knowledge of the Croatian language, they must be completely fluent in a particular foreign language, and in the court area where, in addition to Croatian, the official language is also the language of an ethnic or national community or minority, they must be fluent in that language as well.

Part III. Translation questions:

1. Are there special procedural rules in your State to ensure that the use of translators does not affect the equality of the parties within a judicial process?

According to Article 245 of the CCP, a witness who does not understand the language in which the proceedings are conducted will be heard through an interpreter. The court will instruct the interpreter to faithfully convey the questions asked of the witness and the statements made by the witness.

2. How is the role of the cultural languages translator understood in your legal system? Does it only consist in a translation of phrases,

or does it also imply and understanding of cultural context or diverse understandings? Are there official institutions to train them?

Professional training for permanent court interpreters is conducted within professional associations of permanent court interpreters. There is no difference between the training attended by interpreters for national minority languages and those for other languages. The cultural context of typical minorities residing in Croatia is generally not very different from that of the majority population, with the notable exception of the Roma minority. However, the Roma minority in Croatia usually speaks and understands the Croatian language, making translation into Romani rare.

Veljko Kajtazi, a member of the Croatian Parliament, is the only court interpreter for the Romani language at the County Court. Regarding the rights of the Roma national minority, the significant case of Oršuš and Others v. Croatia was brought before the European Court of Human Rights on behalf of 15 minor primary school students from villages in Međimurje County. The Republic of Croatia was sued for violating the right to education and for discrimination, as these students were placed in Roma-only classes. They also complained that the proceedings, particularly before the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Croatia, took an unreasonable length of time. The government justified this situation by citing the insufficient knowledge of the Croatian language among Roma children.

The Court emphasized that, in assessing the case, it was necessary to consider the specific position of the Roma population, which represents a vulnerable group in society and therefore requires special protection. The Court determined that there was no clear and concrete legal basis for placing Roma children, who lacked sufficient knowledge of the Croatian language, into exclusively Roma classes. The Government failed to prove during the proceedings that this practice was also applied to other students lacking sufficient knowledge of Croatian in other parts of Croatia. Additionally, instruction in these exclusively Roma classes was conducted in Croatian. The Court noted in its judgment that the state had an

obligation to take appropriate positive measures to help the Roma students, the applicants, acquire the necessary language skills.

3. Is there any specific mechanism to object or challenge cultural translators or their translations?

As there are no specific "cultural translators," there are also no special mechanisms to object to their work. However, if there are doubts about the accuracy or impartiality of a translator's work, the parties involved in legal proceedings can raise objections or challenges. This may involve questioning the translator's qualifications, requesting additional verification of translations, or providing evidence to dispute the accuracy of translated content. Additionally, if there are concerns about bias or errors in translation, the parties can bring these issues to the attention of the court. The court may then take appropriate measures to address them, such as appointing a different translator or seeking expert opinions on the matter.

4. Is there any specific mechanism to object or challenge the meaning, understanding or sense associated with a cultural translation, or the way how the judge or the defendant could have understood it?

See the answer to the question above. As stated earlier, Croatian legislation does not elaborate in detail on the role of cultural language translators.

5. Are there any legal provisions in your country that ensure to a different language speaking party understand the meaning given in any judicial decision or the arguments of the opposing party?

See the answers provided above. In accordance with Article 102 of the CCP, parties and other participants in the proceedings have the right to use their own language in court hearings and when performing other procedural actions orally before the court.

If the proceedings are not conducted in the language of the party or other participants, they will be provided with an oral translation into their language of what is presented at the hearing, as well as an oral translation of documents used as evidence at the hearing. Parties and other participants will be informed of their right to follow the oral proceedings in court in their own language with the assistance of an interpreter. They may waive the right to translation if they state that they understand the language in which the proceedings are conducted.

On the other hand, according to Article 103 of the CCP, subject to the exceptional cases of areas where a minority language is officially used in courts, summonses, decisions, and other written communications addressed to parties and other participants must be in Croatian and Latin script. Additionally, in accordance with Article 104 of the CCP, parties and other participants must submit their statements of claim and defence, appeals, and other submissions and memoranda to the court in Croatian and Latin script. Attached documents must also be accompanied by a certified translation into the official court language.

6. Is there any work, initiative in your country or legal or jurisprudential developments that face the problem of not only translating judicial sentences but also explaining them in diverse cultural contexts?

To our best knowledge, there is no specific initiative in Croatia in this regard. While this is generally understood by most interpreters (the knowledge of foreign languages in Croatia is very good, and their university study is highly regarded), there has been little discussion within the legal community about the cultural ability of parties and the general public to understand judicial sentences. This may also be due to the fact that court decisions are often written in a way that is difficult to read and generally only sufficiently understandable for legal professionals.

Anthology

Procedural Law in Multicultural Contexts

**The Annual Colloquium of the International
Association of Procedural Law (IAPL) 2024**

Anna Carlberg – Miika Kaakinen (eds.)



Örebro Studies in Law 21



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