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1.02 Pregledni znanstveni članek

1.02 Review Article

COLLECTIONS OF FORMER SOCIO-POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MEĐIMURJE AND KOPRIVNIČKA PODRAVINA REGIONS FROM 1945-1990

Jasna Požgan, Ph. D.

National Archives for Međimurje, Štrigova, Croatia
jasna.pozgan@dram.hr

Ivana Posedi

National Archives in Varaždin, Varaždin Croatia
ivana.posedi@gmail.com

Abstract:

This paper deals with the problem of collections from former socio-political organizations that resulted from the activities of the Communist Party of Croatia, such as local and district committees and the National Front, which are kept in authorized institutions in the National Archive in Varaždin and the National Archive for Međimurje. In this paper we will first provide a short description of the formation and constitution of the Communist Party of Croatia, and will then describe the collections of the organizations mentioned in the Međimurje and Koprivnička Podrava regions.

Key words:

Archive, archival collections, Communist Party of Croatia, committee, National Front, Socialist Workers' Federation

Izvleček:

Arhivsko gradivo nekdanjih socialističnih političnih organizacij na področju Medžimurja in Koprivniške Podravine med letoma 1945 in 1990

Prispevek obravnava problematiko zbirk nekdanjih družbenopolitičnih organizacij, ki so nastale z delovanjem Komunistične partije Hrvaške, kot so lokalni in okrožni komiteji ter Ljudska fronta, in ki jih hranita pristojni instituciji – Državni arhiv v Varaždinu in Državni arhiv za Međimurje. Avtorici najprej podajata kratek opis nastanka in razvoja Komunistične partije Hrvaške, nato pa predstavita zbirke gradiva.

Ključne besede:

arhiv, arhivska zbirka, Komunistična partija Hrvaške, komite, Ljudska fronta, Socialistična zveza delovnega ljudstva

1. Introduction

At the beginning of the 1990s, the Socio-democratic Party of Croatia gave the collections of their legal predecessor, the Communist Party of Croatia / Communist Federation of Croatia and their territorial organizations, to their authoritative archival institutions for archiving, that is to say the collections today stored in the National Archives for Međimurje¹ and the collections of the District Committee of the Communist Federation of Croatian Koprivnica, which is stored in the National Archive in Varaždin, the Archival Collection Centre of Koprivnica. A portion of the collections, which comprises up to the year 1963, that is the collections of the District Committee of the Communist Party of Croatia / Communist Federation of Croatia of Koprivnica, the District Board of the Workers' Socialist Federation of Croatian Koprivnica, and the National Youth District Committee of Croatian Koprivnica, which is kept in the Archival Collection Centre of Koprivnica was given to the National Archives in Varaždin by the National Archives in Bjelovar. It must be mentioned that the collections were given for permanent safekeeping with specific restrictions concerning their availability for consultation, which implied that certain procedures must be followed.²

Due to the socio-political environment in which the collections of the political parties mentioned were formed, they have been the object of repercussions in the past 26 years in several instances at the daily political level, and because of that, they have been seen as a less-than-desirable area of research. As far as the problems that will be discussed are concerned, it must be mentioned that this topic has rarely been researched.

The collections of the former Communist Party of Croatia were primarily the object of research during the work on monographs or articles concerning the 20th century and during the writing of syntheses on national history.³ Along with those mentioned, there is also a small number of works that deal with the topic of former socio-political organizations, such as the National Front and the Socialist Workers' Federation from an archivist's point of view, such as the words of J. Paver, M. Jukić and T. Šarić⁴; along with them, we should also mention the published reports of the district committees from Međimurje and Podravina which were sent to the Central Committee KPH/SKH in 1947. (Fontes: Izvori za hrvatsku povijest, 2011). With regards to the topic of this paper we must mention that, with regards to the region of Međimurje and Koprivnička Podravina, research on the topic of the operation of the Communist Party of Croatia as a political party and its mass organizations has not been published other than the fact that the party in question is mentioned in a general socio-political context in monographs by local authors such as V. Kalšan, M. Kolar and D. Feletar.

¹ This is referring to organization structures, such as county, district and local committees, as well as mass organizations, such as the National Front and the Social Workers' Federation. The collections, of course, were preserved not only by the institutions mentioned, but by other authoritative archival institutions across Croatia as well. The National Archives for Međimurje received the collections from the National Archives in Varaždin according to the Treaty on demarcation from 2008.

² According to the currently still valid Act concerning archival collections and archives from 1997, this meant for users that they would make a request for material from the KP Croatia, which the authoritative establishment would then send to the Social Democratic Party of Croatia as its legal successor, pending their approval the person making the request would be able to access the material, in particular the personal files of members of the party. The material is also subject to current legislation concerning the protection of personal information.

³ This refers to monographs on Croatian history in general, as well as those, which are concerned with the second half of the 20th century, written by historiographers such as Ivo Goldstein, Zdenko Radelić, etc.

⁴ These works by the aforementioned authors were published in 1987, 2014 and 2016. They are cited in the bibliography.

In the following section, a brief review of the establishment and organization of the Communist Party of Croatia (henceforth noted as KP Croatia) will be given, and the most important mass organizations will be described.

2. The Establishment and Organization of the Communist Party of Croatia

The foundation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians (later Yugoslavia) at the end of 1918 allowed for the unification of earlier socio-democratic parties in the southern Slav territory. The Socialist Workers' Party of Yugoslavia (communist) was established at a congress in Belgrade in April of 1919 and adopted the program of the Third International Comintern and with Leninism, both as an ideological basis and its political program. At a congress in Vukovar, in June of 1920, the party changed its title to the Communist Party of Yugoslavia, and in the next two years of its legal activity gained a significant number of members. In 1921, according to the Act concerning the protection of public safety and the protection of the national order, the Communist Party was formally banned, and with that its legal activities ceased, and its illegal activity began. (Goldstein I., 2013., pg. 268-272., 295; Jandrić, B., 2005., pg. 15-16). On Croatian territory, the Communist Party of Croatia was formed in 1937, adopting Leninism as an ideological platform. After the attack on the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in the beginning of 1941 the Communist Party of Yugoslavia and the Communist Party of Croatia consolidated and began to attract an ever larger number of supporters in order to organize a resistance to the occupying powers and their associates on the entire territory of Yugoslavia, thus beginning the implementation of the "socialist revolution", which was supposed to facilitate the subjugation of power by the KP Yugoslavia and the KP Croatia and the introduction of the "dictatorship of the proletariat". During the Second World War, KP Yugoslavia played a dominant role in the partisan movement, national governing bodies, and extra-party or mass antifascist organization as the leading ideological and political power; on Croatian territory it organized and directed the antifascist movement and government (The National Liberation Board / NOO, the Ground Antifascist Council for the National Liberation of Croatia /ZAVNOH). (Goldstein, pg. 317-332).

At the end of the Second World War, the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (and KP Croatia as an integral part of that organization) had the support of the Allied forces (Great Britain, The United States of America), and in 1945, became the governing political and social power. After the end of the war in 1945, the Yugoslav Federation with six republics and two autonomous regions with a strictly centralized organization (all decisions and relationships were upheld at the national level through the republican to the local governing bodies) was formed. There was a one-party system with KP Yugoslavia (KP Croatia) at the head, which encouraged the formation of socio-political organizations with the functions of political organizations. The socio-political organizations were in reality transmissions or satellites and mass political organizations with the task of linking and transferring the decisions and politics of KP Croatia to citizens and realizing them.

Other than KP Croatia, the following organizations were socio-political organizations: the Croatia National Front (later renamed the Socialist Federation of the Workers of Croatia), the Federation of the Society of Fighters in the National Liberation War (SUBNOR), the National Youth of Croatia, Federation of the Socialist Youth of Croatia, Socialist Federation of the Youth of Croatia (SSOH), the Antifascists Woman's

Front (AFŽ), and the Federation of Disabled War Veterans of Croatia (SRVIH).⁵ Along with the aforementioned organizations, syndical organizations of the time are also considered socio-political organizations (Jandrić, B., pg. 204-207).

The Communist Party of Croatia renamed itself the Communist Federation of Croatia in 1952 after the 6th congress of KP Yugoslavia in Zagreb, due to changes in internal and external political circumstances. (Savez komunista, b. d.).⁶ The Communist Party of Croatia (later the Communist Federation of Croatia) was, in the postwar period after 1945, organized by the Central Committee as one of the highest bodies of the party. Along with the Central Republican Committee, the organizational structure of KP Croatia followed a territorial structure (district, region, county, local, neighbourhood committees). The Republican Central Committees represented the highest bodies of the party (Parties) and organized its work between two congresses. Lower level committees (from district to neighbourhood) manage the Party between two conferences. Central Committees represent the Party according to other organizations, led the work of institutions and convoked plenary meetings. The authority, functions, method of election and structure of the Central Committees were prescribed by the statutes of KP Yugoslavia (SK Yugoslavia) up until 1968, seeing as the first republican statute of SK Croatia was then given for the first time, which pledged the organization across Croatia, much as they had until that time pledged to those at the federal level. The activity of the Central Committee took place through plenums during which program tasks and resolutions were affirmed. The Central Committee organized an executive-political body (the Political Bureau / Politbiro from 1937-1952, the Executive Committee from 1952-1974, the Presidency from 1974 –1989). The activity and the internal organization of the Central Committee were organized by the Standing Orders for Work, and the work of the Central Committee (CK) were directed towards Party conferences and through permanent or periodical working bodies (departments, administration, committees). The Central Committee SK Croatia, as the highest republican party leader, coordinated with and sought prior approval from CK SK Yugoslavia, the highest party body in the nation.⁷ The basic features of the activity and work of KP Croatia / SK Croatia were the existence of a hierarchy (Politbiro, SK, regional and other committees), the subordination of lower bodies of the party to higher bodies (directives, advisories, etc.), the practice of decision making among a small circle of individuals, and democratic centralism or the obligation of accepting the decisions and resolutions given at the highest level of the Party among all lower-ranking organizations (Jandrić, B., 2005., pg. 39).

The National Front of Croatia was first established under the name The Integral National Liberation Front of Yugoslavia (JNOF) in 1944 as a mass organization, which gathered the supporters of the antifascist, labour, peasantry, intellectuals and women's movements. JNOF had, in fact, begun activity after the first congress in Zagreb in 1946 and during the same conference, its statute was passed with a definition of the organizational structure and a working plan of the organization, along with a name change to the National Front of Croatia. The National Front of Croatia played a main role in the implementation of various national mass actions, from the eradication of illiteracy

⁵ On the aforementioned mass socio-political organizations more may be found in the works of M. Jukić and T. Šarić, published in the *Arhivski vjesnik* and *Časopis za suvremenu povijest*, in particular concerning organizations such as the Federation of Socialist Workers, youth organizations, etc.

⁶ Much like the other republican organizations, seeing as the umbrella organization KP Yugoslavia changed its name to the Communist Federation of Yugoslavia, KP Croatia did the same. With regards to the internal circumstances we are referring to the liberalization or introduction of self-government, and with regards to external circumstances we are referring to the reliance on economic and military help from western forces.

⁷ More at: http://arhinet.arhiv.hr/details.aspx?ItemId=3_9469.

to the realization of the five-year plans, the construction of communal and traffic infrastructure to the resolution of the general poverty problem and the care for war orphans. In 1953, the National Front of Croatia changed its name to the Socialist Federation of the Workers of Croatia at the initiative of SK Croatia and continued activities under that name until 1990 (Jukić, M., 2014., pg. 293-295).

The Antifascist Women's Front (AFŽ) was active throughout the Second World War as a component of the National Front, and after 1945, it had, as a mass socio-political organization, a considerable political representative role, as it had to witness the equality of women in a new order and their inclusion in national institutions and public life. The Antifascist Women's Front in practice dealt with, for the most part, various forms of humanitarian activity and the enlightenment of women with regards to general education and health protection. The organization, with time, began to lose its political meaning.

The National Youth of Croatia (later the Federation of the Socialist Youth of Croatia) was established during the Second World War and acted within the framework of the National Front. In 1946, it changed its name from the United Federation of Antifascist Youth of Croatia to The National Youth of Croatia, and its activities were focused on participation in various political manifestations and activities geared towards literacy and primarily on various labour actions during which important traffic and industrial projects were built in the post-war period (Jandrić, B., pg. 207-210).

The Federation of the Association of the Fighters of the National Liberation War of Croatia (SUBNOR H) was established in 1948 as a socio-political organization, which brought together members of the National Liberation Movement, the wounded and captive members of the NLP (National Liberation Movement), antifascists, former participants of the Spanish Civil War and the French Resistance Movement. In Croatia, the organization was established according to a territorial principle and membership was given voluntarily. The highest bodies in the organization formed assembly associations. The organization, other than gathering the participants of the NLP, cared for the preservation of the heritage of the NLP as an example of the care of monuments dedicated to the National Liberation Movement, etc.⁸ (Jukić, M., 2006., pg. 123-138).

The Federation of Disabled Veterans of Croatia was established on October 21, 1945 as a socio-political organization in Zagreb under the name Ground Board for the Board of Disabled Veterans of the National Republic of Croatia. The next year, it changed its name to the Ground Board of Disabled Veterans of Croatia, and after 1948, to the Head Board of the Federation of Disabled Veterans of Croatia. From 1956 – 1962 it operated under the name Republican Board of the Federation of Disabled Veterans of Croatia and from 1962, in joining with SUBNOR, it ceased to operate as an independent association.⁹ The Federation gathered disabled war veterans, cared for their retraining and employment, cared for the children of slain members of the NOB (tuition and scholarships), gave financial help to poor members and stimulated the gathering of its own members through sports.

The following section is a description of the collections created through the work of the Communist Party of Croatia itself, as well as its more important mass organizations and satellites (committees, National Fronts, SSRN), which pertain to the regions of Koprivnička Podravina and Međimurje.

⁸ More at: https://www.sabh.hr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1&Itemid=2.

⁹ More at: http://arhinet.arhiv.hr/details.aspx?ItemId=3_9363.

3. Collections of the Communist Party of Croatia and its Organizations in the Međimurje Region

The collections of the former Communist Party / Communist Federation of Croatia (henceforth KPH/SKH) and its mass organizations are kept at the National Archives for Međimurje. The collection of the KPH/SKH consists of 13 archival fonds. As in the rest of Croatia, the structure of the party itself depended upon the provisos of a certain territory, that is to say it followed structural and territorial changes and reorganization. This finally resulted in the KPH/SKH being active at the district, city and county level from 1945 to 1962 with regards to territorial structure and preserving 11 fonds (Pregled arhivskih fondova i zbirki Republike Hrvatske, 2006., pg. 872-873). In the period from 1955 to 1990, two fonds are kept: HR-DAM-228, the basics of the KPH/SKH organizations from the Međimurje region (1945 – 1990) and HR-DAM-217, the District Committee of the Communist Federation of Croatia in Čakovec (1955 – 1990) (Pregled arhivskih fondova i zbirki RH, pg. 873). Along with the aforementioned fonds, another fonds that arose through their activities with regards to the enterprise Međimurski ugljenokopi Mursko Središće is preserved, namely HR-DAM-227, the Mining Committee KPH/SKH Međimurski ugljenokopi Mursko Središće (1946 - 1955), which has all of 0.2 m in length of collections. Along with the collections of the political party itself, such as with KPH, the collections of its mass organizations and its satellites, such as the National Front (later the Socialist Workers' Federation) and the National Youth of Croatia (later the Federation of the Communist Youth of Yugoslavia), are also kept. It is implied that such mass organizations also followed the administrative territorial structure and according to that, established their offices at district, city, county and local levels.

From the period from 1945-1962, some archival fonds were preserved that had originated from the activities of its establishers, such as the National Front (later SSRN), and from the period dating 1962-1990, one fonds was preserved (Pregled arhivskih fondova i zbirki RH, pg. 873-874). As far as the establishing parties, such as the organization the National Youth of Croatia (SKOJ), there are a total of five preserved collections at the administrative unit level (district, city, county), and of those, only one dates to the period from the 1950s to 1990, while the other four date to the period until 1962 (Pregled, pg. 874-875). Along with the aforementioned fonds, the H-group classification consists of another 4 archival fonds that originated from the activities of founders such as the Federation of United Fighters of the National Liberation War and the Federation of Disabled Veterans of Croatia. Because the founders mentioned brought together and documented documents about specific segments of the population, such as participants in the NOB, antifascists, those killed in the war and their families, as well as disabled war veterans, we will not pay any particular attention to them in the rest of this chapter, seeing they were not active in a wider social framework as were the National Front or the National Youth of Croatia.

With regards to the documents of the political party KP/SK Croatia and its mass organizations (National Front, National Youth of Croatia) and the physical preservation of said documents, one may conclude that they were mostly kept in a good physical state with the exception of a few minor damages that arose due to physical manipulation, and that these were not processed and described according to the standards of the field, but were brought into the archival institute in a disorderly fashion or were registered as current documents. As far as the integrality of the collections and the documentation units for the concerning founders who were active at the county level up until 1962 (County committees KPH/SKH, County Boards SSRN, County Committees NO Croatia), one may conclude that the fonds were not kept integrally, that a substantial portion of the documentation unity is missing or stored in a fragmentary state. Concerning the collections of the founders, who acted at a higher level of authorization (District

committee KPH/SKH, District Boards SSRN, District Committee NO Croatia), one may conclude that they were kept in a mostly integral state and that there is a larger documentation unity. The collections that originated through the activities of KP Croatia and founders such as the committees, comprise as far as the quantity of the collections is concerned between 0.5 and 7 metres (in length), an indicator of the level of authority, implying that the founders at a lower level of authority (county) created less material in comparison to founders at a higher level (district committees).¹⁰ With regards to the collections of mass organizations, such as the National Front or the Federation of the Socialist Workers of Croatia, the quantity of the collection is between 0.5 and 4 metres in length, which is again an indicator of the level of authority and the fact that founders (County Boards SSRN) created less material in comparison to those at higher levels (Opći inventar Državnog arhiva za Međimurje). As far as the quantity of the collections of organizations such as the National Youth of Croatia is concerned, they also comprise on average between 0.25 to 1.5 metres (in length) and again imply the level of authority of the founder, which means that those with less authority documented their activities in comparison to those with a higher level of authority (Opći inventar Državnog arhiva za Međimurje).

Considering the documentation unity and the content physiognomy which is preserved in the fonds of the founders with a higher level of authority such as district committees, it may be stated through the following units or series: proceedings of the meetings of the committees and helping bodies and conferences, proceedings of the meetings of the district committees, conferences and helping bodies contain proceedings from the meetings of the committees, sessions of annual conferences, which brought together elected delegates / representatives at the district level and proceedings of meetings of various panels, whose name gave information on which problem they were dealing with (for example the panel for ideological-educational work, the control panel, etc.). The statistical unit most often contains reports, various statistical questionnaires with addenda such as instructions, explanations, etc. Financial series are most often made up of financial reports, plans, closing receipts, etc. Membership documentation is mostly made up of various records (lists, indices, registers) concerning the members of the party, records on membership cards, various records on the members and members' personal files.¹¹ The work relations mostly hold collections such as lists of employees of the party (committee), reports on employees, pay stubs, formal decisions, etc. The general work series contained collections that arose through general administrative work such as various analyses, various reviews, correspondence, office books (indices, order forms) and various documents relating to general work such as general advisories and suggestions from the Central Committee, lists of members for annual conferences and congresses, opinions on the division of public recognition (memorials), work offers for the acquisition of journals and publications from various publishers, institutes and educational institutions, monthly payment receipts from members at various posts, different types of reports, opinions and party recommendations for enrollment in secondary schools or universities, etc. The "other" series was made up mostly of various

¹⁰ This refers to founders at the county level up until 1962, as opposed to founders such as the County Committee SK Croatia in Čakovec, which was active until 1990 over the entire county of Čakovec and Međimurje. Founders at a higher level contain more documentation units. Of course, the fonds of the Foundation Organization KPH/SKH from the Međimurje region is also an exception, as it contains collections of various founders, committees by institution, firm, and various organizations, and its total quantity is 4.68 meters in length.

¹¹ During the review of the files of the fonds and the review of the collections in the depository, the existence of personal files of members of the parties was not noticed, which again implies that there is a possibility that such material was destroyed or removed, or perhaps that the files were preserved in the party centre in Zagreb.

publications, journals, bulletins and other material that did not fall into any of the series mentioned previously.

With regards to the collections of mass organizations, such as the National front (Socialist Workers' Federation), it must be mentioned that it, much like the collections of the Communist Federation of Croatia, contains sequential documental units such as the proceedings of board meetings (district, city, county) and conferences of the National Front and their helping bodies, documentation on the members of the organization (records, lists), finances (monthly reports, cashier documentation, etc.), general work, which contains various type of work such as various suggestions, conclusions, opinions, correspondence, etc., and the "other" series. The "other" unit may have contained various publications, bulletins, the reports of higher level bodies (district committee NF). As far as series such as the proceedings of the committee of the National Front, conferences, the Presidency of the Board is interesting because the daily agenda from proceedings of the meetings of the presidency, plenums, foundation groups gives an insight into a very broad field of issues with which such organizations dealt, such as the organization of political activities (public meetings, protests...), cultural-educational work (promoting literacy through courses, lectures, workshops), organizing mass actions (volunteer work, labour actions), deliberation of candidacies for election in public office (public advocates, judges...), deliberation of local problems, etc. As was the case with founders such as committees, here the documentation units of founders of higher level authority (district, city) were more integrally preserved.¹² The collections of organizations such as the National Youth of Croatia at higher levels of authority coincided, as far as content physiognomy is concerned, with those of founders such as the National Front and mostly contain documents such as the proceedings of sessions and meetings, general work (correspondence, suggestions...), documentation about members (lists and data on the members, characteristics of the members), finances (plans, budgets, reports) and units such as documentation on youth work brigades in public institutions, firms, etc., documents on the education of members (e.g. a list of course takers of the Youth Political School, courses), various documents such as reports on youth activities, reports, etc.

The collections of mass socio-political organizations are significant primarily from the aspect of the perception of the wider context with regards to the fact that such organizations ultimately served as a method of transmitting or translating decrees and conclusions given by the party committee. Ultimately, they dealt with real, everyday questions that burden citizens, beginning with public order and peace, municipal orderliness, food and fuelwood, all the way to problems of public interest such as the elections members of parties of socio-political organizations in charge in public institutions or firms. Of course, such collections may serve as an additional, supplementary source in researching themes related to the second half of the 20th century, that is, the socialist period, even though that period is well documented in public administration funds.

¹² Here we are referring to the fact that with regards to fond like these at least the majority of the collections are preserved, unlike those at the county level which on average contain from two to perhaps three series as examples of meeting proceedings, documentation about membership or general work.

4. The Collections of the Communist Party of Croatia and its Organizations in the Region of Koprivnička Podravina

In the National Archives in Varaždin, the Archival Collections Centre of Koprivnica, there are four fonds of the former Communist Party / Communist Federation of Croatia being kept, and the collections are concerning Koprivnička Podravina. There are three fonds dating from the period from 1945 to 1962, these being: HR-DAVŽ-SCKC-596 District Committee KPH/SKH, HR-DAVŽ-SCKC-609 District Board NF/SSNH Koprivnica, and HR-DAVŽ-SCKC-623 District Board of the National Youth of Croatia in Koprivnica (Pregled arhivskih fondova i zbirki Republike Hrvatske, 2006., pg. 832). There is one fonds dating from the period between 1955 and 1990, HR-DAVŽ-SCKC-1093 County Committee for Communist Federation of Croatia in Koprivnica (1955 - 1990) (Pregled arhivskih fondova i zbirki RH, pg. 832).

The collections of the County Committee KPH/SKH Koprivnica are partially preserved. A summary inventory for the aforementioned fond has been created. There are 10 boxes of collections and registries. Concerning the series of collections, there are two series: activities of the central bodies and general administrative work. The largest portion of the collections is made up of proceedings of meetings of which the largest portion is preserved from the period dating after 1949, with a smaller number dating from an earlier period, as well as general documents originating after 1955. From the proceedings of the district conferences, as well as from other bodies, the political, social and organizational situation, state and work of the party organizations is apparent, and besides that data on the development of the districts with regards to economics, health, education and the social and cultural domains. Besides the proceedings and the general documents, other types of documents have been preserved such as work plans, reports, analyses and material relating to elections. The district committee KPH Koprivnica was founded in 1940, but abolished in 1941, then re-founded at the end of 1942. At first, the organization had only 11 members, but after 1944, the organizational state was significantly better, and in 1955 along with the District committee, there were 11 county committees and 96 organizations which had been founded. Right before the abolition of the District committee SKH Koprivnica, 7 county committees and 157 fundamental organizations along with the district committee were active, with more than 3,200 members. The District committee SKH Koprivnica was abolished on November 1, 1962, and its domain became a part of the composition of the newly formed District Committee SKH Bjelovar.

The collections of the fonds of District Board SSRN Koprivnica are partially preserved, and a summary inventory was created in Bjelovar before receiving the collections from the National Archives in Bjelovar.

The largest portion of the preserved collections is made up of proceedings from conferences and meetings from which we gain an insight into the socio-economic state and political activity of the organizations in the district domain. Of the nine fascicles, five of them are proceedings (minute books). Besides the proceedings, there is one fascicle of general documents, one of statistical reports and one of payout sheets. The collections date from the period between 1957 and 1962, which is a very brief period of time keeping in mind that the founder was active from 1944 under the name District Board of the United National Liberation Front of Koprivnica, changing its name in 1946 to the National Front. After the Country Boards were founded in 1952, at the end of the same year, it changed its name to the Workers' Federation. With the District and County Region Act in NRH, the Đurđevac district is abolished, and as such, SSRN Đurđevac then formed a part of SSRN Koprivnica. At the end of 1962, SSRN Koprivnica was abolished and formed a part of SSRN Bjelovar.

The collections of the District Committees of the National Youth of Croatia of Koprivnica (henceforth noted as The District Committee NOH Koprivnica Croatia) is partially preserved, that is, two fascicles of the collections are preserved dating from after 1956. The proceedings of some meetings and conferences are preserved, and a portion of the general documents. The District Committee NOH Koprivnica began its activity after the liberation and founded the District of Koprivnica in 1946, resuming activities up until the abolishment of the District of Koprivnica in 1962.

As we are dealing with a mass youth organization which gathers youth from 14-25 years of age from the District of Koprivnica region in order to have them actively participate in the construction of the, at the time new, socialist social movement, even a small quantity of preserved collections offers an insight into the Working Actions conducted in the District of Koprivnica region, as well as data on other activities which were conducted by the District Committee of National Youths, such as lectures and discussions on political and social questions.

The County Committees SKH in the Croatian region were founded in 1955, following the new Act concerning district regions and counties of NRH (NN 36/55); the County Committee SKH Koprivnica was then founded as well. Unfortunately, the collections of that fonds were only partially preserved, and dates after the year 1978, with 35 meters (in length) of documentation being preserved. Several types of documents are preserved from that period: general documents, proceedings of the county committee, conferences and working bodies, and the largest portion of the documentation is concerned with the members' files, records of the members organized by organization, and the proceedings of the fundamental organizations. The collections are partially put in order, the proceeding of the meetings of fundamental organizations are alphabetized according to the name of the fundamental organization and are also placed in chronological order under each organization name. Personal files are alphabetized, as well as member records, which are alphabetized according to fundamental organizations. The collections contain data concerning activities, which may be found in the proceedings of the county conferences and other bodies. Seeing as the proceedings of fundamental organizations of the SK are well-preserved after the year 1978, it is possible to follow the work of fundamental organizations such as the lowest organizations of the SK, which then form into means of production and other work and self-governing organizations, local communities, towns, units and institutes, it is possible to follow the work of foundational organizations such as the lowest organization of the SK, and the influence that the work of the Committee had on the everyday life of towns, companies or other organizations in its composition had is evident. It is possible to follow the amount of members and similar data through statistical reports.

5. Conclusions

The collections of the political parties of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia and the Communist Party of Croatia (later the Federation of Communists of Croatia) and its satellite organizations, such as the National Front/Socialist Federation of the Workers of Croatia, National Youth of Croatia and others, were given to their authoritative institutions across Croatia for permanent safekeeping at the beginning of the 1990s. The collections of the aforementioned political parties and their mass organizations, which were given to what is today the National Archives in Varaždin and which pertain to the region of Međimurje and Koprivnička Podravina, are mainly kept in an integral state by the founders at higher levels of authority (County Committees, County Boards, District Committees), while the collections that arose through the activities of the founders on lower levels of authority were kept in a non-integral and even fragmental manner. The

collections of KP/SK Croatia contain data, which pertains to the structure of the party itself, its organizational forms (committees, conferences, fundamental organizations) as well as their activities in a wider political context. The collections of the aforementioned party can be of interest primarily in historical research concerning socialism and one-party systems. The collections of mass socio-political organizations are primarily interesting with regards to research on local socio-political context keeping in mind the fact that such organizations primarily had the goal of realizing all decisions and conclusions given at plenums and conferences of the authoritative party committees. The collections of KP/SK Croatia are significant primarily in research on historiographic themes concerning the economic and socio-political environment after 1945 at the local or wider regional levels. Such themes, of course, can be researched in the well-kept fonds of public boards and judicature after 1945.

POVZETEK

ARHIVSKO GRADIVO NEKDANJIH SOCIALISTIČNIH POLITIČNIH ORGANIZACIJ NA PODROČJU MEDŽIMURJA IN KOPRIVNIŠKE PODRAVINE MED LETOMA 1945 IN 1990

dr. Jasna Požgan

Državni arhiv za Međimurje, Štrigova, Hrvaška
jasna.pozgan@dram.hr

Ivana Posedi

Državni arhiv v Varaždinu, Varaždin, Hrvaška
ivana.posedi@gmail.com

Avtorici predstavljata problematiko zbirk nekdanjih družbenopolitičnih organizacij, ki so nastale z aktivnostmi Komunistične stranke Hrvaške, kot so na primer lokalni in okrožni komiteji in Ljudska fronta, in ki jih hranita Državni arhiv v Varaždinu in Državni arhiv za Međimurje. Podan je krajši opis oblike in sestave Komunistične stranke Hrvaške ter zbirk gradiva.

Komunistična stranka Jugoslavije je bila ustanovljena leta 1919 pod imenom Socialistična delavska stranka Jugoslavije, leta 1920 je spremenila svoje ime. Komunistična stranka Hrvaške je bila ustanovljena leta 1937. Med drugo svetovno vojno je postala Komunistična stranka Jugoslavije moč, ki je združila vse antifašiste in tiste, ki so nasprotovali okupatorju na jugoslovanskem in hrvaškem območju. Na območju, ki ga je nadzorovala, je razvila prihodnje oblike politične strukture (narodnoosvobodilne odbore) kot tudi prihodnje oblike organizacij, kot so Ljudska fronta, Ljudska mladina itd. Po koncu druge svetovne vojne leta 1945 je komunistična stranka prišla na oblast in uvedla enostrankarski sistem. Na kongresu leta 1952 je ime spremenila in postala Komunistična partija Jugoslavije, enako so storile tudi politične organizacije v vseh šestih republikah. Politične organizacije na Hrvaškem so bile organizirane po takratni teritorialni razdelitvi. Množične organizacije, kot Ljudska fronta, Ljudska mladina Hrvaške in Ženska protifašistična fronta, so predstavljale družbenopolitične organizacije, ki so bile v resnici sateliti, ki so uresničevali odločitve in predloge, podane na letnih konferencah in kongresi partijskih komitejev. Zbirke vseh teh organizacij so bile v zadnjih 26 letih predmet različnih dnevno-političnih obračunavanj in so bile redko predmet raziskav. Nekaj

arhivskega gradiva je bilo v Zgodovinski arhiv v Varaždinu predanega pred letom 1990, večina pa po letu 1992. Te zbirke predstavljajo pomemben vir za raziskovanje družbenopolitičnih okoliščin in vsakodnevnih aktivnosti na lokalnem in regionalnem nivoju, čeprav so pomembni podatki hranjeni tudi v vladnih in sodnih fondih Državnega arhiva v Varaždinu in Državnega arhiva za Međimurje.

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