

Izdavač Forum za etničke odnose, 11000 Beograd, Narodnog fronta 45, tel. +381-11642 743 • *Za izdavača* dr Dušan Janjić • *Urednik* dr Božidar Jakšić • *Korice* L. W. Gadowski • *Kompijerska priprema* Živan Lazović • *Štampa* Izdavačko preduzeće „Filip Višnjić“, 11000 Beograd, Ustanička 25 • *Tiraž* 500 • ISBN 86-7093-079-X

INTERKULTURALNOST VERSUS  
RASIZAM I KSENOFOBIA  
INTERCULTURALITY VERSUS  
RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

Priredio/Editor  
BOŽIDAR JAKŠIĆ

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Prilozi za međunarodni skup  
„Intekulturalnost versus rasizam i ksenofobija“  
Beograd, 17-19. maj 1997.

Papers for International Conference  
„Interculturality versus Racism and Xenophobia“  
Belgrade, May 17-19, 1997

Međunarodni skup „Intekulturalnost versus rasizam i ksenofobija/ Interculturality  
versus Racism and Xenophobia“ pomogao je *Confidence building Measures  
Programme, Council of Europe* (Strasbourg), a objavljujuće knjižice *Fond za  
otvoreno društvo* (Beograd)

Beograd 1998.

## INTERCULTURALITY VERSUS RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA

### Outline and Review of the Conference

The fourth meeting on interculturality devoted to the topic *Interculturality vs. Racism and Xenophobia*<sup>1</sup> was held in Belgrade May 17-19, 1997. It was an attempt to apply an interdisciplinary perspective in considering ideas related to these concepts and agree on actions that could contribute to overcoming xenophobia, primarily in the Balkan societies, and establishing confidence in post-war circumstances. In this respect the Meeting was complementary to the preceding conferences on interculturality held in 1994, 1995 and 1996.

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<sup>1</sup> The Meeting *Interculturality vs. Racism and Xenophobia* was one of the rare occasions for a public debate in which problems of racism and xenophobia are considered from the aspect of interculturality and from an interdisciplinary perspective. This Meeting was the fourth one in a series of meetings which, with an interdisciplinary focus, and devoted to interculturality, were initiated in 1994, with the topic *Interculturality in Multiethnic Societies* (Belgrade, June 2-4, 1994, see the book with the same title, Belgrade, 1995), the continuation of which was *Towards a Language of Peace* (Belgrade, March 17-18, 1995, see the book with the same title, Belgrade, 1996) and *Frontiers - A Challenge to Interculturality* (Belgrade, May 30-June 1, 1996, see the book with the same title, Belgrade, 1997). All four meetings were supported by the *Council of Europe (Confidence Building Measures Programme)*, and other sponsors. While the first two meetings were mostly in an academic format, the third was open for young people, activists of NGOs and various initiatives of civil society. It also dealt with issues of cooperation in "grass-root level activities". These innovations undoubtedly added a new quality to the work of the conferences, so that the same concept was retained in the case of the fourth Meeting as well.