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Setting up a Community of Online Communities: A case study

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This paper illustrates practical experience in development of an online community and connection of several communities into one. Since 1996 a group of authors from Slavonski Brod has been developing the resource network called "SBOOnLine".

The results of our work are visible in web portals of Brodsko-posavska county and a network of complementary online resources, from the radio station, newspapers, schools, to city and county official web sites.

Second objective was communication of people originating from this area by using the Internet (located in Croatia or around the world).

At the beginning, the communication with people originating from Brod consisted of directory services, web publication and news/information broadcasting. Later, other services emerged: mailing lists, boards, chat and similar. Through the development of multi-user online tools for content publishing, the community became interactive. Today, there is an increasing number of authors and associates from all around the world participating in the content production.

Through connection with similar projects from Slavonia, like "Pozega online" and "Osijek online" during 2001, a community of online communities called "Putokazi ravnice" was born. Modules of the online community are using integrated online resources, thus enabling the remote cooperation of the individuals and teams from all communities.

Željko Klindžić is a founder of SBOOnLine Community and SBWebTeam - a group of Web authors from Slavonski Brod. Currently employed by HT as system engineer. Owner of a design studio SBNET and 3 Web portals. From 1996, as author or team leader, he participated in creation of online resources about Slavonski Brod and Brodsko-posavska county, from radio station, newspapers, schools, to city and county official Web sites. He initiated several education programs about the Internet, developed online collaboration platform and together with other authors started joined online communities project "Putokazi ravnice". On "CUC 2000" Web festival he received two awards for SBNet.hr and SBOOnLine portals.

Žarko Vučković is the owner of the firm "Wolf", located in Požega, specialized in IT services. He presented his works on several international conferences. His field of interest (and work) lies in the field of UNIX, SQL, Oracle database management, and automated data processing. He is the owner and Web developer of "Požega online" portal and co-author on the "Putokazi ravnice" project.

Jasmin Klindžić is a student at Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb. Main fields of his work are Web development and education. Since 1995, he has taught numerous courses and seminars on both computer and Internet literacy to Croatian students. He is one of the authors of CARNet's official learning material, and CARNet approved lecturer. He is also active on PR position in design studio SB NET from Slavonski Brod, and works as Internet-based support at Target research agency. Currently attending a local Cisco Academy of Networking Technologies at CARNet.