

Comparative Study of National Directories and Portals in South and East Europe

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Outline

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- Overview of explored web pages
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Introduction

- **Definition of the World Wide Web:** a global information resource in the sense that anyone, anywhere regardless of country or language, is free to make information available in this space.
- **Our opinion:** national homepages, national Web directories and search engines will have a crucial role in Web expansion in the countries of south and east Europe.
- National homepages, national Web directories and search engines of south and east Europe countries were explored, in an attempt to evaluate them and make an analysis of their functionalities and search capabilities.
- Based on that research, a comparison study was made

Comparison study

- Special attention was paid to the Web directories
- Five main evaluation criteria were:
 - Web technology (technology used in development)
 - Directory (how is organized, how the data were collected, are the search results precise)
 - Information about country (is there any information about the country)
 - Visual appearance and usability (design, more languages, user friendly)
 - Commercial side (is it commercial, are there any banners)

www.slowwwenia.com

- **URL:** <http://www.slowwwenia.com/>
- **Web technology:** pages and search made in ASP, database used
- **Directory:** divided in categories, well organized, data collected manually
- **Information about country:** not available
- **Visual appearance and usability:** well designed, user friendly, no other language version except Slovenian
- **Commercial side:** commercial page with banners and sponsored links

www.najdi.si

- **URL:** <http://www.najdi.si/>
- **Web technology:** pages and search made in JSP, database used
- **Directory:** divided in categories, good organized, data collected manually and automatically
- **Information about country:** not available
- **Visual appearance and usability:** good designed, not very user friendly (categories are not present on the main page), no other language version except Slovenian
- **Commercial side:** commercial page with banners and sponsored links

www.matkurja.com

- **URL:** <http://www.matkurja.com/>
- **Web technology:** GNU Software, Perl, Apache, Mod Perl, Perl modules, Postgre SQL, GNU Linux
- **Directory:** divided in categories, well organized, data collected manually
- **Information about country:** country info about Slovenia (similar to the Facts about Croatia on www.hr)
- **Visual appearance and usability:** good designed, user friendly, have Slovenian and English version
- **Commercial side:** commercial page with banners and sponsored news

www.poland.pl

- **URL:** <http://www.poland.pl/>
- **Web technology:** pages made in HTML, search is performed by script
- **Directory:** divided in categories, well organized, data collected manually
- **Information about country:** country info about Poland
- **Visual appearance and usability:** very well designed, user friendly, have Polish and English version
- **Commercial side:** not commercial page maintained by Research and Academic Computer Network (NASK) Warsaw, Poland

www.search.lt

- **URL:** <http://www.search.lt/>
- **Web technology:** pages and search made in ASP, database used
- **Directory:** divided in categories, well organized, data collected manually
- **Information about country:** not available
- **Visual appearance and usability:** good designed, user friendly, have Lithuanian, English, German, and Russian version
- **Commercial side:** commercial page with banners

www.ee

- **URL:** <http://www.ee/www/>
- **Web technology:** pages made in HTML, search made with CGI scripts
- **Directory:** divided in categories, well organized, data collected manually
- **Information about country:** not available
- **Visual appearance and usability:** good designed, user friendly, have Estonian, English and Russian version
- **Commercial side:** commercial page with banners

www.zubr.com

- **URL:** <http://www.zubr.com/>
- **Web technology:** pages made in HTML, search is made with PHP, database is used
- **Directory:** divided in categories, well organized, data collected manually
- **Information about country:** not available
- **Visual appearance and usability:** good designed, user friendly, have Russian, English, German, French and Spanish version
- **Commercial side:** commercial page with banners and sponsored links

www.albafind.com

- **URL:** <http://www.albafind.com/>
- **Web technology:** pages and search made in PHP, database is used
- **Directory:** divided in categories, good organized, data collected manually
- **Information about country:** not available
- **Visual appearance and usability:** poor designed, user friendly, have English and French version
- **Commercial side:** commercial page with banners

www.bosnia-online.com

- **URL:** <http://www.bosnia-online.com/>
- **Web technology:** pages made in SHTML, search made with CGI scripts, database used
- **Directory:** divided in categories, well organized, data collected semiautomatic
- **Information about country:** not available
- **Visual appearance and usability:** good designed, user friendly, no other language version except Bosnian
- **Commercial side:** commercial page with banners and sponsored links

www.albinfo.com

- **URL:** <http://www.albinfo.com/>
- **Web technology:** pages made in HTML, Pico search is used for search (perl scripts), database used
- **Directory:** divided in categories, well organized, data collected manually
- **Information about country:** not available
- **Visual appearance and usability:** well designed, user friendly, have English version
- **Commercial side:** commercial page with banners and sponsored links

Results

- Some of explored sites are well designed
- Majority is user friendly
- Half have a more than one language version
- All directories are well organized
- Majority have manual data input
- Majority have a relatively precise search results
- Only two have country info
- Almost all have commercial background

Conclusion

- WWW.HR is among the best national homepages
 - Modern and user friendly design
 - Croatian and English version
 - Precise search engine results
 - Clear and intuitive structure of directory
 - Large number of hits
 - Among 10 most visited sites in Croatia