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The Classical Tradition in Central-Eastern Europe

How to look at the relation between, what I will call *Intermarium* (the space between Baltic sea and Black sea) and Mediterranean cultural space? How to invent past, reshape it and use it to make our present world a little bit more understandable, more human?

[...]

The history of classical cultures expanding from Mediterranean countries to the north and north-east demonstrates that this message was always an important factor constituting the identity of the *Intermarium* region giving to the individuals and communities language and signs to describe their place in European culture, their place in European history. From this point of view “East-Central European *Intermarium* encompassing Baltic states, Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Hungary, Czechia, Slovakia, Rumania and Moldova cannot be understood without deep understanding of Mediterranean message received and domesticated by these nations.

This cultural encounter was extremely productive and has to be repeated in contemporary Europe to help us in making “Project Europe” better established in European chronotopos - space-time dimension.

[...]

Respublica Litteraria Europaea - the community of scholars and artists which functioned from the times of Erasmus for almost 300 years, reached *Intermarium* very early, in the first quarter of the 16th century. The ideal of a *republic of letters* was implemented by means of intensive contacts among its citizens. Networking took place primarily through the exchange of letters, the main language of these being Latin, and the auxiliary languages – Italian, German, Spanish and French, depending on the region. This correspondence was conducted largely over and above ethnic and religious divisions, and outside political control. This network is a very important

model, if we would like to discuss the idea of “Il Grande Mediterraneo”. The autonomous community of scholars, intellectuals and artists has to be reconstructed.

[...]

Once more like In the Renaissance time *Intermarium* and Mediterranean needs each other. The interdisciplinary and international intellectual think tank can be an equivalent of the *Respublica Litteraria Europaea* of the past. OBTA has pleasure to propose to Mediterranean partners both research and educational project: *Mediterranean Classical Readings for XXIth century (Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Arabic)*.

We are ready to give to the disposal for such cooperation all our contacts in the Region, and cross EU border in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. We will welcome enthusiastically a cooperation with Maghreb and Middle-East partners. Only together we can conduct intercultural dialog and make encounter of civilizations beneficial not devastating.

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