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The summary of doctoral thesis entitled:

The socio-cultural activity of Lemkos in the Low Beskids after 1989.

The political transformation in Poland, which started from the election in June 1989, enabled the revival of crucial democratic state structure. Along with the social and political changes, slow but systematic work on transformation of ethnic politics toward the national minorities in Poland was being done. Getting rid of every results of mono-ethnic politics in new system conditions of country required the work of not only many distinguished politicians but also the interested ones.

The main aim of this thesis is to present the socio-cultural activities of Lemkos, one of the most disadvantaged minorities. Expectations of Lemkos' leaders were oriented to emancipating the group in new political conditions of Republic of Poland and obtaining the rights to fulfill the most elementary needs in order to maintain the ethnic identity.

What was the process of reconstructing of the individual Lemkos' organizations? What actions were done in the culture and education sphere and defining their place in local community? Searching the answer for such questions is the domain of this doctoral dissertation.

Another issue raised in problematic aspect is the reduced range of conducted research about Lemkos to their historical land – Lemkivshchyna. This purposeful effort is made in order to show the real picture of present socio-cultural actions of Lemkos on their indigenous territory.

As a result, the issues of the thesis concern:

- showing the process aiming to guard and protect the political and socio-cultural rights of Lemkos in Poland after 1989;
- the analysis of activities done by Lemkos' leaders which aim to critically review their past;
- discussing the main Lemkos' organizations and their leaders in the Low Beskids, which make relations and process of inner division evident;
- descriptions of every form of socio-cultural activity of Lemkos in a 25 years period of democratic government in Poland.

Chronological frames of thesis are opened in 1989, when the present process of revival of structures of Lemkos' organizations begun, and closed by the current year, precisely the date of finishing the dissertation i.e. April 2015.

In presented thesis, there is the historical-problematic method employed. While analyzing, archival and printed documents were used as well as elaborations, articles, periodicals or Internet websites, which contributed to presenting the issues in factual-chronological order.

The dissertation takes into consideration the current official files of Lemkos' organizations. The author was able to reach to the reports of work of board of directors, presidium, statutes and official letters about socio-cultural activities of particular institution. A lot of valuable information was provided by preliminary research of Lemkos press from 1989 to 2015 such as „Наше Слово”, „Ватра”, „Бесіда”, „Лемко”, „Загорода” which very often were in private possession of individual people. Any gaps in sources were attempted to be completed with analysis and reports compiled for public institutions such as bulletins of the Sejm commission, GUS reports etc.

Interviews with leading activists of Lemkos' organizations such as Teodor Gocz, Stefan Hładyk, Piotr Trochanowski, Bogdan Gambal, (transcription of recording owned by the author) Bohdan Gocz, Wacław Szlanta, Olena Duć-Fajfer, priest Roman Dubec, Piotr Szafran, Andrzej Kopcza, enabled the gathering of information valuable for understanding the socio-cultural situation of Lemko community.

The dissertation is consisted of seven chapters divided into detailed subchapters. Every chapter is devoted to different issues of cultural life of Lemkos. As a result, the thesis presents the variety of all Lemkos' organizations and events in historical land of Lemkos.