THE STRUGGLE FOR THE UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITY IN LVIV THE
ITALIAN AND SOUTH SLAVIC CONTEXT (1908 – 1914)

At the beginning of the twentieth century all the nations of the Habsburg
monarchy fought for the possession of their own university, e.g. Czechs in Brno,
Italians in Trieste, Slovenes in Ljubljana, Ukrainians in Lviv. Among the most
active Ukrainian politicians in this struggle were Stanislav Dnistriansky, Oleksandr
Kolessa and Kost Levytsky. This postulate, they many times reported in the
Galician Diet and in the parliament of Vienna.

Vienna government recognized the demands of all nations, but not all
nations treated equally. Riots university in Vienna in the harsh light revealed the
need to resolve disputes nationality. January 20, 1909, the State Council met,
putting the main objective to solve the most ethnic dispute - Czech-German. The
government then filed a draft law on the creation of a legal department with the
Italian instruction in Vienna. Meanwhile, deputies Stanislav Dnistriansky and
Oleksandr Kolessa reported January 21, 1909 a joint proposal for the establishment
of a separate Ukrainian university in Lviv.

In the spring of 1910, Prime Minister Richard Bienerth wanted to create an
Italian law department in Trieste and he needed to support the Ukrainian Club in
parliament. Ukrainians demanded own university, based on iunctum. Using this
structure meant no consent to implement a settlement agreement without
simultaneous another one (or several others) and it was used in the legislative
process as a form of political pressure on the government. Ukrainian politicians
announced iunctum to government projects aimed at creating an Italian University
of Trieste.
Croats and Slovenes recognize the right of Italians to have a law department, but objected to the location in Trieste, considering that the city was not the central hub for the settlement of the Italian. They would not mind the location of the Italian department in such cities as Rovereto and Trient (southern part of Tyrol), where he dominated the Italian colonization, or in the capital of the monarchy. On the other hand feared the growth of the significant impact of the Italian language on the Slavic population in Slovenia and Dalmatia.

This case was heard again at the meeting of the Budget Committee February 7, 1913. On behalf of the Ukrainian Club, Stanislav Dnistriansky stated that Trieste was the right place for the Italian law department. Member of Parliament in Vienna, supported the location in the city with strong traditions of Italian, which was a natural consequence of the demand Ukrainian university in Lviv.

Talks on the Ukrainian university continued to the end of the period of autonomy. June 15, 1914, was one of the last conference at which Prime Minister Count Karl von Stürgkh promised that the issue of Ukrainian university will "definitely" settled. However, after the outbreak of war, the implementation of these plans has been discontinued. Only after the expulsion of Russian troops from Galicia, in 1916., authorities of Vienna returned to talks with Ukrainian leaders. The compromise proposed by the government had to rely on the resignation of Ukrainians from the location of the university in Lviv, in exchange for the expansion of the University of Chernivtsi.