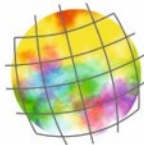


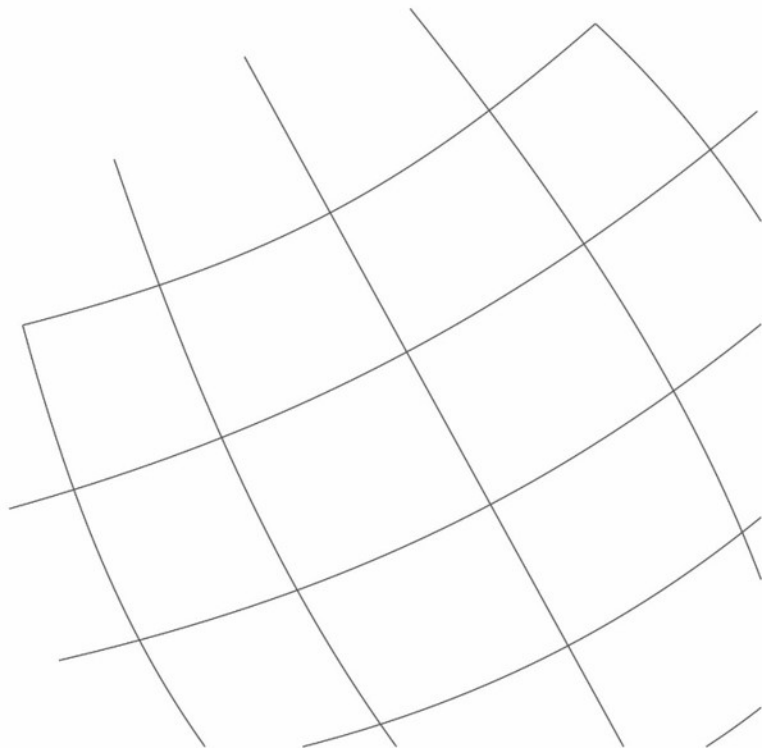
FOLIA GEOGRAPHICA

INTErNATIoNAl ScIeNTIFIC JourNAl
ISSN 1336-6157 (hard copy), ISSN 2454-1001 (online)



FOLIA GEOGRAPHICA

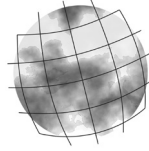
Volume 60, 2018, No. 2



FOLIA GEOGRAPHICA

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL

ISSN 1336-6157 (hard copy), ISSN 2454-1001 (online)



FOLIA GEOGRAPHICA

Volume 60, 2018, No. 2



International scientific journal for theory, research and practice
of geography and related disciplines

FOLIA GEOGRAPHICA

Volume 60, 2018, No. 2

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Publisher:

University of Prešov, Ul. 17. novembra 15, 080 01 Prešov, Slovakia, IČO 17 070 775

ISSN 1336-6157 (hard copy)

ISSN 2454-1001 (online)

EV 4949/14



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KANTIAN AND POST-KANTIAN THOUGHT AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF AN IDEATIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Piotr PACHURA ^{A*}

Received: July 7, 2018 | Revised: September 18, 2018 | Accepted: November 5, 2018
Paper No. 18-60/2-519

Abstract

The European Union is in a grave crisis. The idea of European integration ceased to be a carrier and an important value for many European societies. It seems that the current crisis is primarily the result of a deep erosion of the idea of common Europe that has been uniting this region for the last decades. In addition to dynamic economic phenomena, globalization, social changes, including a migration crisis, decomposition in the sphere of ideas and values seem to be the key. It seems, therefore, that references to universal and rationalist views shaping the consciousness of Europeans are fully justified. The discussion on the new shape of the idea of European integration should, among other things, refer to well-established and grounded thoughts that for centuries have shaped European Civilization. The aim of the paper is to present the most important trend of philosophical and historiosophical thoughts of the Enlightenment - the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and his follower Johann Gottlieb Fichte - regarding their idea of creation a "Common Europe". The aim of the study is to participate in a scientific discussion on the fundamental issues of the European idea and to seek ideological inspiration for a new look at the integration of European societies. The article was prepared on the basis of the historical studies on European Enlightenment literature, especially the German "cultural field" as well as a contemporary studies of scientific literature in the field of history, philosophy and European integration.

Key words

European integration, Kantian and Post-Kantian philosophy, European Union's crisis, Common Europe

INTRODUCTION

"For centuries, our civilization has been very interested in unifying tendencies. They are manifested in projects for whole or part of the world unification... [at the same time] Since modern times, an economic emphasis has started to be placed on almost all concepts of world political integration." (Chodorowski, 1972 p. 7).

Most often the idea of a community of European nations is sought in the medieval concepts of universal monarchies, such as the "Carolingian Empire" or the idea of the Otto III empire. However, as Szymaniec notes, "it was only the

A* Częstochowa University of Technology, Faculty of Management
Częstochowa ul. H. Dąbrowskiego 69, 42-201, Poland
piotr.t.pachura@gmail.com (corresponding author)



destruction of European countries as a result of long and bloody wars in the 17th and early 18th centuries that became an impulse to intensify the discussion about the possibility of integration” (2011, s. 13-14). It seems that this discussion was inspired mainly by the intellectuals and philosophers such as, for example, Abbé de Saint-Pierre (1658 – 1743), Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712 – 1778), Emer de Vattel (1714–1767) Adam Ferguson (1723–1816), or the commonly recognised today as the most outstanding mind of those times – Immanuel Kant (1724 – 1804).

At the same time, the concepts of unification or rather creation of a community were inspired by theories and economic practice related to the mercantilist doctrine, and later – by tendencies to liberalise international trade (see: David Hume 1711-1776, Adam Smith 1723-1790). However, returning to the classical philosophical reflection, one can assume that the most popular and influential modern concepts were formulated by Immanuel Kant.

Kant’s influence on modern philosophy and the science of Western civilization in general is undeniable. Perhaps even it can be assumed that “from the point of view of the history of philosophy, there are events that have played a special role in the development of philosophical thought. This peculiar “Copernican Overturn” concerned mainly issues related to the ways and possibilities of exploring the world around us (Bencivenga, 1987). As Noras points out, “cognition is not an acquisition of content existing in objects, but the creation of such content. Until now, cognition (in the ontological perspective) has been understood as a way of capturing the reality, now it becomes its creation” (2007, s. 27). At the same time, freedom is understood by Kant as “liberation from the laws of nature and obedience to the laws of reason, which are necessary because of their generality and universality” (Krajczok, 2009, p. 93).

It is worth noting that Kant’s legacy includes not only “pure” philosophy most often associated with “Critique of Pure Reason” (Kant, 2001), but also works for the classification of scientific knowledge of various disciplines (Matlovič, 2006, p. 10). Kant’s attempts to creatively solve contemporary for him social and political problems related to the age of wars and revolutionary chaos, by which Europe at that time was overwhelmed, are particularly important. It is also acknowledged that late eighteenth-century philosophy not only attempted to seek answers and recipes to the current situation, but first and foremost sought solutions for the future of Europe (Becker, 1995). In this context, as Kuźmicz notes, “Immanuel Kant is one of those great thinkers whose political philosophy is becoming more and more relevant, especially in the context of changes taking place in the modern world” (2015, s. 85). At the same time, the ideological message of Kant’s political philosophy is often regarded as inspiring for modern man and political challenges that faces the contemporary European Union.



OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The aim of the study is to present Kant's approach to the idea of "integration of Europe" together with an outline of the evolution of post-kantian thought, especially from the point of view of J. G. Fichte's thought, in the context of contemporary European disintegration processes. This paper is of theoretical character and attempts to synthesize the most important threads of Kant's political philosophy regarding challenges and discussion on the future of European integration processes.

The study has been prepared on a basis of interdisciplinary literature studies. In addition to the introduction, the paper includes section entitled "The idea of European integration by Immanuel Kant as an example of early modern period thoughts" dedicated to the presentation of the thinker's main opinions, especially those based on the thesis entitled *Zum ewigen Frieden*. The next part „*Philosophy after Kant and German Grossraumwirtschaft doctrine*“ („Large-area economy“, „*Économie de grand espace*“) represents a brief outline of German "unification" concepts associated with „Large-Area Economy" idea. The study is concluded with a summary.

THE IDEA OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION BY IMMANUEL KANT AS AN EXAMPLE OF EARLY MODERN PERIOD THOUGHTS

Kant derived his thoughts from the rationalistic philosophy of late Enlightenment (Matlovič, Matlovičová, 2015, p. 53-55, Szymaniec, 2007, p. 29), while believing in power of a human mind that could influence the political reality of the time, shape it and even increase its morality regarding to the values and laws (comp. Matlovič, Matlovičová, 2015, Becker, 1995, Zahn, 1994, and others).

Simultaneously, "Kant granted priority to the norms of natural law, but in its system it was understood in a specific way – not as a reflection of the order of things, but as an a priori creation of consciousness". (Stępień, 1995, p. 252).

Kant's most important achievement in the field of political philosophy is the study from 1795 *Zum ewigen Frieden ein philosophischer Entwurf* (Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch). This study is very deeply related to the spirit of pure philosophy. As Brandt (1995, p. 82) emphasizes, it is "a fragment of a pure theory, a practice inspired by theory and a truly anthropological experience". It also proves that Kant tried to face the greatest problem of the "practical philosophy" of his time and that he was not just a passive bystander of the war chaos in Europe. His study "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch" has a specific form that resembles a diplomatic treaty or an international agreement. (Błaszke, 2013, p. 101). In his dissertation, Kant proposes the establishment of a specific international pact aimed at definitively ending all armed conflicts in Europe and establishing an "eternal



peace". The philosopher calls this European pact "the Peace Union (*foedus pacificum*) suggesting that it should differ from the classic peace treaty (*pactum pacia*) thank to its power to end "all wars once and for all" (Kant, 2011, p. 345).

At the same time, "Kant rejects an ethnic concept of the nation, because only concepts independent of cultural differences – "cosmopolitan", can be treated as proper ideas of a pure practical reason. From this perspective, Kant recommends implementation of a "republican" system based on a principle of representation as the best of all existing systems, and proposes creation of a federation of countries to be a guarantee of eternal peace between nations" (Szymaniec, 2007, p. 32). Thus, the philosopher raises a significant issue – the idea of federalism understood as the creation of an association of different countries – "creation of such association is not only a matter of empirical practicality, but also a postulate of reason, which dictates moral law" (Błaszke, 2013, p. 104). Simultaneously, while constructing international law based on federalism, Kant calls for mutual agreements instead of forceful solutions based on "merging" all weaker countries by a single "world power" (Kant, 1995, p. 75).

At the same time, Kant believes that a specific guarantee of the idea of unification and eternal peace cannot be based on contemporary institutions or particular leaders, but rather transcendental ideas of reason. For example, French philosopher Abbé de Saint-Pierre postulated creation of the European Association as an international agreement guaranteeing "eternal" peace (*Projet pour rendre la paix perpétuelle en Europe*), but in Kant's opinion this concept, shared also by another famous French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, was too strongly related to current political reality. Thus, it cannot guarantee its foundation in the sphere of values, including Christian values. Kant refers directly to the idea of the Kingdom of God by writing "obstacles of a political and social nature, which occasionally may result from its spread, shall rather make the unification of minds around good even more passionate" (2011, p. 119). At the same time, "the conscious goal of the nature and, therefore, the goal of the history is to build the rule of law in the form of a "cosmopolitan universal state" as a "world republic" subordinated to the general coercion of the law". (Kuźmicz, 2015, p. 107).

PHILOSOPHY AFTER KANT AND GERMAN *GROSSRAUMWIRTSCHAFT* DOCTRINE

The German philosopher Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762 - 1814) is considered to be the most outstanding and most famous successor of Kant's work, (Noras, 2007). It seems, however, that Fichte's approach from the point of view of European "community" ideas includes primarily a creation of the ideological foundations for the so-called *Grossraumwirtschaft* doctrine. It is assumed that Fichte "was the first German researcher who proposed the creation of a large economic area in central



Europe" (Eberhardt, 2011, p. 466). The starting point for Fichte's considerations (1996, pp. 153-155) was the concept of the so-called closed commercial state (*Der geschlossene Handelsstaat*), based on assumption that "the goal of the state is to be a closed commercial space, just as it is closed as an area in which a single legal system applies" (Szymaniec, 2011, p. 29).

Fichte's concept derives from the social and economic situation in Germany in the second half of the 18th century. The division of Germany into a number of smaller states with a limited territory prevented creation of independent economic areas within their borders. At the same time Fichte's idea was based on the concept of complementarity, which he approached very extremely and pushed to the limits of complete autarky. His reasoning was based on the assumption that the economic area to be closed has its own resources. Fichte points out that the countries emerged from the break-up of the early medieval, unified Europe had not their natural borders, i.e. borders in which a closed territory forms an economically independent and self-sufficient area (Chodorowski, 1969). The space enabling self-sufficient and independent existence of its inhabitants should be a great space in comparison with the economic areas of European countries known to Fichte.

When Europe shall become a collection of closed, self-sufficient trade states, the reasons for wars will disappear. However, in order to achieve self-sufficiency, states must have "natural borders", i.e. gain sufficient access to resources (land, raw materials). Fichte's ideas, as a radical development of the concept of sovereignty, have contributed to the formation of German nationalist tendencies based, among other things, on the *Grossraumwirtschaft* doctrine.

German scientists, especially geographers, in the 19th century continued to develop the *Grossraumwirtschaft* concept. In other words, "on the basis of observations of economic processes, they came to the conviction that small political entities lose their *raison d'être*, so the aim should be to integrate, unite and form larger and larger territorial units" (Eberhardt, 2011, p. 456). *Grossraumwirtschaft* was essentially a macroeconomic doctrine – its assumptions concerned economic phenomena in a large scale. The doctrine was a vision of a new order in international economic relations and the integration of individual national economies into a single economic area under German leadership. This, combined with Germany's achievements in the field of national and state theory, created the ideological foundations of expansionism. It should be noted that in the 19th century the territory of Germany was divided into smaller areas (provinces) with political and economic independence and a relatively strong attachment of the inhabitants. Therefore, the idea of a large area was also a result of unifying aspirations, that were consequently realised under the leadership of Bismarck in the second half of the 19th century.



It should also be noted that as the result (as it later turned out) of the concept of the “Large area” was the tendency to recognise neighbouring nations (especially the Slavs) as ones that should naturally submit to the dominance of Pangermanism in the context of the European economic area (comp.: Ernst Moritz Arndt, 1769-1860, Friedrich List 1789-1846, Paul de Lagarde 1827-1891, Constantin Frantz 1857-1891, Gustav Schmoller 1838-1917). The supporters of the doctrine believed that “the industrially, technologically and organisationally advanced German nation was destined to construct and control the European region beyond German border” (Smith, Stirk, 2016 p. 88).

DISCUSSION

Analysing the views of Enlightenment thinkers, one cannot disregard the social and political situation of contemporary times. The philosophical and political thought of Kant in his epoch has been positively received by the nations of Central and Eastern Europe, that, most often, had not had their own statehood. “Kant’s philosophical project was received quite unequivocally in Poland as a condemnation of the occupiers who ignored the sovereignty of the Polish state” (Marulewska 2005, p. 175). What is also noteworthy, Kant’s opinions were then interpreted as an indirect condemnation of the partitions of Poland, “No state should interfere in other country system and governs with violence” (Kant, 2011a, p. 335).

At the same time, as Kupś notes, “there are still disputes to what extent the work “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” is an answer to the current events in politics, and to what extent it is only an expression of utopian thinking” (2015, s. 75).

The opinions and specific political or international concepts of Kant and other philosophers of the late Enlightenment, such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Abbé de Saint-Pierre, Adam Ferguson, explicitly emphasize the idea and necessity of building a community of European nations. And even more, as noted by Pojman, Kant’s views regarding „international federation of states bound by international law brings him close to the idea of a republican form of world government”. (p. 70)

In “these projects the idea of a Union – a federation of (European) states appears as a necessary premise for the establishment of lasting peace”. (Błaszke, 2013, p. 93). It is generally recognized that the ideas of Kant, as presented in the work “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” constitute the ideological basis for the concept of the European Union (see: Brown, 2014, Salikov, 2015).

Nowadays, many researchers (see Brown, 2014, Harste, 2009, Salikov, 2015, Schwarz, 2017 and others) strongly emphasize the direct link between Kant’s system of ideas for the future of Europe and the ideological foundation of the European Union, as a great political and economic project. “Kant’s political writings have become ‘classic’ texts of contemporary cosmopolitanism” (Fine, 2003, p. 609).



But at the same time, as Behnke points out, Kant's views should be seen more as a "metaphysical and transcendental rather than political project" (Behnke, 2008, p. 513). Criticism of Kant's views can be based mainly on his idealistic approach to social, political and moral realities.

CONCLUSIONS

In the field of post-kantian thought, one can notice the influence of the *Grossraumwirtschaft* Fichte's concept on other European international projects. In a certain way one can notice an inspiration with this idea in the Polish concept of *Intermarium*, where the integration ideas are focused on political or geopolitical aspects (Ištók, Koziak, 2009).

In this context, one should note a specific dichotomy and a specific "tension" between Western European countries and Eastern and Central European countries. This dichotomy is expressed in differences on the level of social and economic development conditioned especially by historical reasons. "Political and economic disintegration of Central European area did not start in 1918 but as soon as in 1867, by Austrian-Hungarian Settlement. In 1870s, both parts went their separate political ways. In the west, modernized and developed political system evolved, based on emerging civic society. In the east, the political system rather declined than evolved" (Gonéc, 2014, p. 78).

Apart from a more or less detailed analysis of both the history of the European Union and its legal and institutional system, it seems that in contemporary debates on the future of the European community it is possible to refer directly to the views of I. Kant and his successors, e.g. J.G. Fichte.

At this point it is worth emphasizing that Kant's ideas presented in the above mentioned work "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch" were, at that time, in a certain way "visionary", or even "revolutionary". The perception of the world presented by the philosopher from the provincial Königsberg, located at the periphery of Western civilization, should have been rather significantly limited compared to the "global" consciousness of the contemporary Europe.

Similarly, Fichte's opinions related to the *Grossraumwirtschaft* concept influenced (not always positively, as in the case of German Nazism) the way of thinking about Europe and shaped the political and socio-economic scenarios of this continent. Pojman notes that „nationalism offers us a special form of personal relationship that is so vital for personal identity, some form of nationalism may always be part of the human psyche" (p. 70). What seems to be confirmed in contemporary political processes in European countries and with the USA.

At the same time, one should ask whether it is possible to preserve European Community and integration ideas in a post-modern times characterised by a loss of trust in a "great narration" and during disintegration of the European Union, sym-



bolically expressed by “Brexit” and a lack of solidarity in the face of the migration crisis. It seems that, nowadays, planning of future scenarios is becoming more and more risky.

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UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE SLOVAK-POLISH BORDER REGION

Martin ROSIČ^A, Alena MADZIKOVÁ^B, Radoslav KLAMÁR^{C*},
Juliana KROKUSOVÁ^D, Tomáš PASTERNAK^E, Ján KOZOŇ^F

Received: August 2, 2018 | Revised: November 11, 2018 | Accepted: November 20, 2018
Paper No. 18-60/2-521

Abstract

The social-economic development in the border regions in the eastern part of the Slovak-Polish border area is difficult. It is determined by a wide range of factors of which, apart from location, the key role is played by human resources represented by inhabitants of nine border districts in the Prešov Region on the Slovak side, five powiats in the Malopolskie Voivodeship and six powiats in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship on the Polish side. The paper deals with the research of unemployment in the context of changes in the age and education structure of inhabitants in the last 15 years, such as human resources quality indicators in the demarcated region. The majority of the regions and powiats belong to the least developed regions within their national territory and that is also reflected in the development of registered unemployment. Inversely proportional dependence between the population development and educational level changes can be observed. While the population's educational level defined by the highest educational level achieved rises, the unfavourable population development negatively manifests itself in changed population age structure – decreased the share of youth population aged less than 15 in the region population and the increased post-productive group of population. For the future period continuous ageing of population is presumed that will be reflected in continuous labour force ageing. The situation is also worsened by the unfavourable migration trend associated with younger, economically active population leaving the region for work.

Key words

unemployment, human resources, age structure, educational structure, regional development factor, border region

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- A University of Prešov, 17. novembra 1, 080 01 Prešov, Slovakia
martin.rosic@unipo.sk
- B University of Prešov, 17. novembra 1, 080 01 Prešov, Slovakia
alena.madzikova@unipo.sk
- C* University of Prešov, 17. novembra 1, 080 01 Prešov, Slovakia
radoslav.klamar@unipo.sk (corresponding author)
- D University of Prešov, 17. novembra 1, 080 01 Prešov, Slovakia
juliana.krokusova@unipo.sk
- E University of Prešov, 17. novembra 1, 080 01 Prešov, Slovakia
tomas.pasternak@unipo.sk
- F University of Prešov, 17. novembra 1, 080 01 Prešov, Slovakia
Jan.Kozon@statistics.sk



INTRODUCTION

Unemployment is one of demonstrations that the market economy running is closely linked with the labour market. In Slovak and Polish conditions it is a relatively new phenomenon and is related to social-economic changes in the end of 1990's. It is a social and economic problem that, apart from some concrete local or regional indicators, is also influenced by globalisation tendencies. From the point of territorial distribution research of economically active population, there are certain natural relations coming through in connection with economic advancement or underdevelopment of the region, with its location within the core-periphery territorial classification as well as in relation to human resources quality.

Any border area, its demarcation and characteristic features are very closely linked with the national border, its function and impact on the surrounding territory. The regions neighbouring with the national border (border regions) are a part of national (intrastate) regional structures on one side and on the other side also a part of international cross-border structures. The social and economic occurrences in border regions can be considered depending on the used territorial context (intrastate vs. cross-border). Within the intrastate territorial polarisation (core-periphery) the border regions on the Slovak and Polish side are mainly marginal ones, whether on the mesoregional (districts) or the local (municipalities) level. It is a multi-dimensional expression of the peripherality or marginality, not only within the meaning of territorial but also social and economic peripherality (Halás 2008). The results reached by Švecová, Rajčáková (2014) with respect to the comparison of the regions on the Slovak side with the central ones conclude that they are economically less developed regions with deepening negative demographic features (population ageing, birth-rate decrease, overall population drop), but also social impacts (unemployment increase, young population migration for work to other regions of the country or abroad, low average income, poverty increase etc.).

The paper's goal is to analyze the unemployment development in the eastern part of the Slovak-Polish border in the last 15 years especially in relation to the human resources quality expressed by the demographic and educational population structure as well as in relation to the existing labour market conditions. With regard had to the above mentioned specifications of the researched border location of the territory a partial goal will be to compare and evaluate the dynamics of the changes in the border regions on both border sides, on the Slovak and the Polish one.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Employment or unemployment is one of the social-economic level indicators of a region. It is traditionally understood in a close relation to the labour market. In



the paper, we strive to point out to its relation to human resources quality, especially with the demographic and educational structure.

Human resources are deemed to be one of the key factors determining a region's development as they can influence some other co-affecting factors (Mládek et al. 2006). They dispose of a varying level of adaptability to external conditions, and so they can actively use newly arising market opportunities or minimize arising threats (Michaeli et al. 2010). Similar opinion is shared by Liptáková (2007) and Slobodníková (2012) according to whom human resources are the most crucial element for region's development. Educated labour force is the key competitive factor.

The term Human Resources is closely linked with the term Human Capital. Slobodníková (2012) attributes a synonymous character to these terms and, adds the terms Human Potential and Labour force to them.

Along with work, capital, engineering and technology, human capital is an important factor in regions' development (Galor, Tsiddon 1997). The term human capital itself is difficult to define, because its definition is relatively broad. Schultz (1961 In Rafaj, Rehák 2017) considered human capital to be any obtained skills and knowledge that make a difference between qualified and unqualified labour force. According to OECD (2007) human capital is all knowledge, learning, skills, abilities and qualities of an individual that facilitate the creation of personal, social and economic welfare. Gajdoš (2001, p. 270) understands it as „people, their social-demographic characteristics and qualities, education, skills, creation as a source of their productive abilities, qualification“. Čaplánová (1999, p. 42) uses the term human capital to name „aggregate of inborn and acquired abilities and knowledge that people dispose of“.

Dobeš (2003) recommends dividing human capital into a general and specific one. General human capital is deemed to be universal abilities, skills and givennesses usable more-or-less in any sphere of human activities. More other authors (e.g. Dobeš 2001, Ďuričková et al. 2010, Slobodníková 2012) divide the definition of human capital into two parts – human capital resources and its usage.

Human capital by its reproduction, education and abilities increases its value. This implies that the human capital value is not a stable quantity but variable, dynamic and constantly changing. Irreplaceable particularity of human capital is its creativity that cannot be substituted by anything else and so, it irreplaceably increases its value (Ďuričková et al. 2010).

According to Slobodníková (2012) human capital (and human resources) influences the development of a region in two ways. Apart from the fact that they act as a client and a customer supporting the development of production and services, they also represent the work offer within the meaning of the labour force qualification. Therefore, the labour market and especially employment are an important part of human capital formation and its development in a region and vice versa.



In many papers by foreign (e.g. Workie-Tiruneh 1998 In Dobeš 2001) or domestic authors (e.g. Kačírková 1998, Hamada, Kasagranda 2013, Vidová 2013, Hronec et al. 2014) a positive relation between education and employment was confirmed. Educated people have better opportunities to choose a job. They are as well more skilled in the process of looking for a job. They adapt to an employer's requirements more flexibly. They manifest a higher level of innovation (Dobeš 2001).

Therefore, education and investments in education belong to one of the fundamental pillars of human capital formation. Education is a determining factor of labour force's ability to adapt to new conditions (Valach 2007).

By contrast, during unemployment human capital and resources depreciate. There is the same risk for an employee without further education, but with much slower course of depreciation of human capital (Tarišková, Skorková 2016). If he is not able to adapt to work and given work conditions, he has to bear health, economic and social impacts (Ďuričková et al. 2010). A person without employment loses work and other habits (such as getting up earlier in the morning). The loss of knowledge, experiences and qualification leads to disqualification and thereby to the depreciation of human potential. The devaluation of an individual's human capital causes suffering not only to the individual himself, but also to the whole economics (The Big Sociology Dictionary 1996 In Porubčinová 2011).

Unemployment impacts have a broad-spectrum character. It is the main reason why unemployment is researched from various aspects by experts, namely from the point of demography, economy, psychology and sociology. Economists and sociologists deal with the unemployment issue more significantly and intensively than geographic provenance authors. The unemployment research in Slovakia has its specific features. More papers dealing with the topics were drawn up after 1990, when the problem of unemployment started to be discussed again. Practically from that time, unemployment is evident in our country and its increasing regional disparities can be observed. These circumstances lead to the increased interest in the research of territorial (geographic) aspects of unemployment in our conditions.

As fast growth of the unemployment rate was accompanied by very strong regional differentiation, it was closely related to overall regional development of the country and its individual regions. Only a limited number of authors were engaged in the unemployment problem in Slovak geographic literature. One of them was Bezák (1995, 2001), who was occupied with regional differences with respect to unemployment in Slovakia in his papers as well as with the relation between the development of regional and national unemployment, the regional labour market and the unemployment flow. Other authors were Székely (1999, 2001), Rajčáková (1999), Rosič (2002). All the authors put their minds to the issue of Slovak and regional unemployment as well as the unemployment of specific (endangered) population groups.



As for the latest papers dealing with territorial (geographic) aspects of unemployment we consider the most inspiring ones to be the papers by Rosič, Kaňuk (2009), Križan et al. (2009, 2010a, 2010b) and Rajčáková, Švecová (2010, 2014). Some of the mentioned authors pay their attention to the division of Slovak regions according to their social-economic level and search for the reasons of inadequate dimensions of certain regions. The analysis of the imbalance between the work offer expressed by the number of job seekers and job demand, expressed by job vacancies was the focus of Huber, Woergoetter (1997). They evaluated the sensitiveness of the regional unemployment rate to the changes on the national unemployment level. They noted that this sensitiveness is lower in the Slovak Republic i.e. the Slovak regions are in average more isolated from the national unemployment rate development, they are less influenceable by its development. Even the variability of the sensitiveness between the districts is higher in Slovakia.

The foreign authors' researches in the recent years have often focused on the research of social-economic indicators (including unemployment) in relation to the population's health or mortality rate. They understand the unemployment to be one of the factors influencing the population's health. Many studies point to the fact that unemployed people have worse health and higher mortality rate than the employed ones. It is generally acknowledged that the unemployed have lower quality of health and shorter life, especially men (Lindström 2009, Hayo 2007, Artazcoz et al. 2004).

A lower number of researches deal with the unemployment rate itself as a dependent variable and the indicators that imminently influence it (Coile, Levine 2007, Badinger, Url 2002). The papers focusing on similar issue in the surrounding countries should be also mentioned (Murawska 2016, Flek, Mysíková 2015, Kilimova, Nishnianidze 2017). All three papers deal with the research of the relation between the unemployment rate and social-demographic features, especially the relation between the educational level, gender and the age structure. The relation between the unemployment, demand on the labour market and educational structure in a region was observed in the papers by Pastore (2012), Szmielińska-Pietraszek, Szymańska (2015).

The majority of papers focused on unemployment deals with it on the national or the regional level (mesoregional level), sporadically on the district and the municipality level (microregional level). It evidently relates to a relatively good accessibility of the statistical database. The lower level (districts, municipalities) are the ones that are not paid attention to despite the fact that this point of view could be interesting or could disclose certain connections between the unemployment rate development and the influence of certain selected social-economic indicators on the local level. Sevä (2009) in his paper observes social risks on the local level (unemployment is one of the risks) in Sweden using the individual and multi-level



regress analysis. Strong influence of the demographic structure, education and the unemployment branch structure on the local unemployment rate in the small regions NUTS 4 level was established in the papers by Ciżkowicz et al. (2016).

DATA AND METHODS

In the analysis of population migration and the age structure we followed from the population census data in Slovakia in 2001 and 2011, in Poland in 2002 and 2011 and findings from the inter-census period in 2016. The population educational structure of the researched region comes out of the 2001 and 2011 Slovak census data and 2002 and 2011 Polish census data. As the outcome data we were finding out the numbers of inhabitants according to the highest achieved education that was recalculated per 100 inhabitants aged above 15 or 13 for both said periods. There was a certain problem with the comparison of the census data that consisted in the differences in finding methodology, in different school legislation that was also reflected in the school system and individual education levels.

The professional literature contains a lot of approaches to the selection of education indicators. A relatively frequent approach is e.g. the share of secondary or tertiary educated population in of various population age groups (of total population size, of population size older than 15 years, of population size aged 15-64 or 25-64 etc.). This approach was used by authors of population education level maps in *Atlas obyvateľstva Slovenska – Population Atlas of Slovakia* (Mládek et al. 2006) as well as the authors of the monograph *Školstvo na Slovensku v kontexte regionálnych disparít – Education in Slovakia Within the Context of Regional Disparities* (Lauko et al. 2011). Another approach is connected with using summary values – indexes or coefficients. Kulčár (2010) provides as an example the education index used by the UNO when calculating HDI, or the education index according to Klas (2000) calculated as a total of four-fold of the population share with tertiary education as the highest education achieved, the two-fold of the population share with secondary education as the highest education achieved and one-fold of other population's share. In their analysis, Rajčáková, Švecová (2014) use the education level index expressed as the population share with complete secondary education + three-fold of the share with tertiary education per inhabitants older than 15. In the study we used the methodology of education index calculation according to authors Blažek, Csank (2007). The index calculated as the share of the total of inhabitants with complete secondary education and a two-fold of tertiary educated population from the total population size aged more that 15 (for the Slovak side), or 13 (for the Polish side). Based on the comparison of the calculated values per districts and powiats with the average in the region or voivodeship, the administrative units were divided into three groups – with over-average values, with average values and with under-average values.



The methodical approach to collection and processing of statistical information on unemployment contains various differences. In Slovakia, the two essential statistical resources with respect to unemployment are *Selected Labour Force Survey* (SLFS, VZPS in Slovak language) and the *information system of unemployed job seekers via the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family* (ÚPSVaR in Slovak language). Apart from the number of people who lost their jobs, the information on unemployment also relate to their overall development and structure on the labour market: from the point of age, gender, education, occupation classification, length of their unemployment and territorial distribution.

The SLFS is a standard method recommended by the Eurostat and ILO (International Labour Organization). This method of information acquisition on the labour market development is applied in all the developed countries with the market economy. In Poland it is executed by the Central Statistical Office (GUS), in Slovakia it is the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. As the methodology is compatible, it is possible to compare the data from both databases. This permanent monitoring of labour force enables analyzing of the position and the development of various types of households and citizens from the economic, social and demographic point of view. It provides details on the economic activity of population, data on employed persons divided in more detail and information on overall unemployment size including those unemployed who are not registered by the Labour Offices.

Since the SLFS data show relatively high deviation on lower levels (districts and municipalities in Slovakia, powiats and gminas in Poland) and are suitable to analyze up to the level of NUTS 3, as the source of status data on unemployment rate and structure the second methodology was used. It was the information system of the unemployed citizens seeking a job via the ÚPSVaR register in Slovakia that is possible to use for comparisons on the district level. The database in Poland follows from similar presumptions as the one in Slovakia while the unemployment data were sourced from the powiat and voivodeship labour offices (Urząd pracy), the Public Employment Services and the central labour database, of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Polish Republic. Both data sources are comparable. The SLFS methodology and the labour offices statistics related to unemployment in the Slovak Republic and Poland provide mutually slightly different results of the unemployment rate. This fact is influenced by some factors. A brief overview of the basic factors influencing the unemployment rate from the SLFS and the labour offices statistics is documented in Table 1.

Within the researched regions we analyzed selected unemployment structures according to age, education and length of registration. The method of saving and archiving of the data from the point of the age structure was not consistent in both countries. The Slovak statistics used the age categories with 5-years intervals. The Polish statistical data contain 5 age categories – unemployed 24 years and under,



Table 1 Overview of essential factors influencing the unemployment rate from SLFS and Labour Offices statistics

Factors	SOURCE	
	SLFS	Labour Offices statistics
content specification of indicators ⁹	standard ILO definitions	national legislation
techniques of data collection	sociological survey	registration based on citizen's personal request in his place of residence
Unemployment rate construction		
Numerator	number of the unemployed during a referential period	number of the unemployed in the researched month
Denominator	number of EAP, i.e. working people + the unemployed during a referential period	number of EAP, i.e. aggregate number of working people from SLFS + average monthly number of the unemployed
compatibility with international standards	compatible	incompatible

Source: Kostolná, Hanzelová, 1997

25-34 years, 35-44 years, 45-54 years and above 55 years. The individual age categories are not identical and, that is why we have recalculated the Slovak age categories to the 5 Polish intervals. Based on the calculation, we were able to compare the unemployed age structure on the Slovak and the Polish side of the region.

The number of education categories was unified, their number was decreased for the purposes of mutual comparison and clearer arrangement and thereby the following groups were created:

- without education and primary education,
- training school and secondary vocational school without maturita (secondary education without maturita),
- secondary vocational school with maturita exam, grammar schools (secondary education with maturita),
- higher, tertiary education and scientific specialization.

The evaluation of the unemployment according to the length of the registration period followed out of four basic categories: up to 3 months (short-term unemployment), 4-12 months (medium-term), 13-24 months (long-term) and more than 24 months (extremely long-term).



Researched Territory

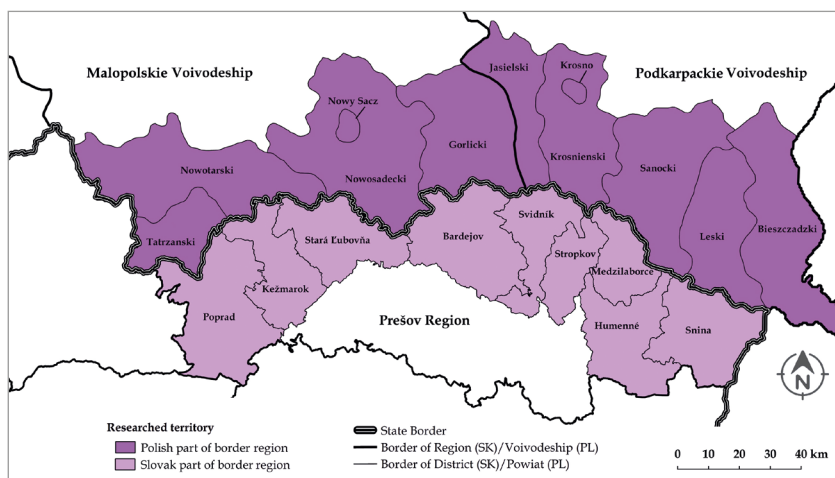
The researched territory with the area of 15,840 km² is located on the north-east of Slovakia and south-east of Poland and represents a compact territory along the Slovak-Polish border. The relief along with political and historical development of both countries caused that the regions on the Slovak-Polish border were developing relatively separately despite their territorial closeness and without any significant mutual social-economic bonds. This led to differences in arrangement of population, in the settlement system, the structure and the placement of economic activities while even in the Slovak-Polish border area there is observed the increase in these differences in the direction from the east to the west (Więckowski, Michniak et al. 2012).

The demarcation of an area is conditioned by the administrative division of Slovakia and Poland. On the Slovak side, it consists of nine districts of the Prešov Self-Governing Region – Poprad, Kežmarok, Stará Ľubovňa, Bardejov, Svidník, Stropkov, Medzilaborce, Humenné and Snina. On the north, its border is identical with the national Slovak-Polish border, on the west with the border between the Prešov and Žilina Region, on the east with the national Slovak-Ukrainian border. The southern border is made by the district borders of Snina, Humenné, Stropkov, Svidník, Bardejov, Stará Ľubovňa, Kežmarok and Poprad. The territory of 6,322 km² is located on the northern part of the Prešov Region (it makes 70.5% of its total area) and each of the regions has an imminent territorial contact with the Slovak-Polish national border. The characteristic feature of the researched territory in Slovakia as a whole is its marginality in relation to the economic-administrative centres and development axis. One of the impacts is also the high unemployment rate not only in the Prešov Region, but also within the Slovak context. More than a half of the districts in the researched territory (Kežmarok, Svidník, Bardejov, Medzilaborce, Snina) belong to the group of the least developed districts in Slovakia.¹ Another important attribute is its border location that, from the point of social-economic development, represents certain limitations conditioned mainly by the problems in transport accessibility, incomplete infrastructure as well as in labour market functioning. Despite the real throughput of the Slovak-Polish national border, it seems more like an obstruction in the researched area despite the fact that the potential of the cross-border contact and cooperation is used rather occasionally and only in selected domains of activities with the emphasis put on the development of cultural-social contacts and tourism development (Rosič, Madziková 2014).

1 Under Act No. 336/2015 on least developed districts support and on amendment and supplementation to certain acts (hereinafter referred to as the „Act“) that became effective on 15th December 2015 the least developed district (LDD) is considered to be a district in which the registered unemployment rate calculated from the disposable number of job seekers recorded by the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family was in the period of at least nine calendar trimesters during the last twelve consecutive trimesters higher than 1.6-fold of the average registered unemployment rate in the Slovak Republic in the same period.



Regarding the focus of our paper, the territorial demarcation, apart from the above specified Slovak districts, also comprises the surrounding Polish administrative units on the powiats level. The Polish part of the Slovak-Polish border area is created by the powiats of two voivodeships – Malopolskie and Podkarpackie (Figure 1). From the Malopolskie one the following powiats are concerned: Tatrzański, Nowotarski, Nowosadecki, Gorlicki, from the Podkarpackie Voivodeship: Jasielski, Krosnienski, Sanocki, Leski, Bieszczadzki. In the region, there are two towns with the powiat rights – Nowy Sacz in the Malopolskie Voivodeship and Krosno in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. The total area of the Polish border territory is 9,518 km², of which 4,522 km² is created by the powiats of the Malopolskie Voivodeship (30% of the Malopolskie Voivodeship) and 4,996 km² the powiats of the Podkarpackie voivodeship (28% of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship area). Similarly as in the case of districts on the Slovak side, the Polish parts also consists of marginally located and, from the vast part, less developed region of Poland exclusive of the town powiats. The common feature from the point of urbanisation processes is the prevailing share of rural population, the urbanisation rate on the voivodeship level on the Polish side is 49.4% in the Malopolskie one and 41.6% in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, which is at the same time the lowest share in Poland on this administrative level, on the Slovak side it is 48% in the Prešov Region. The likeness of both border regions from the point of location, physical-geographical situation and the overall social-economic character creates the grounds for the comparison and identification of similar or different tendencies that manifest themselves in the human resources development and changes in the unemployment rate.





RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Population Migration

The districts in the Slovak part of the region can be divided into two groups according to the population size. The first group is made of the districts with the highest number of inhabitants (at least within the context of the Prešov Region). Those are the Poprad, Bardejov, Kežmarok, Humenné and Stará Ľubovňa District. The second group consists of smaller districts, namely Snina, Svidník while the smallest number of inhabitants within the region live in the Stropkov (2.5%) and the Medzilaborce (1.5%) District. The smallest share of urban population live in the following districts: Stará Ľubovňa and Kežmarok – as much as 2/3 of population of these districts live in the countryside (year 2016). This situation is influenced by the territory's peripheral location and specific natural conditions causing disintegrated settlement structures. The Polish powiats can be similarly divided. Significantly stands out the Powiat Nowosadecki, the powiats with larger population are the Gorlicki, Jasielski and Krosnienski Powiats. The third group is made of the Tatrzański, Nowotarski and Sanocki Powiat, that are slightly under-average rated. Significantly different are the Leski and Bieszczadzki Powiats which significantly lag behind as for the population size as well as its arrangement.

The population size development in the whole researched region was continuously growing from 1991, but similarly as on the entire-Slovakia level, on the entire-Poland level there is progressive deceleration of demographic development which is connected mainly with the changes in the reproduction situation and population ageing. Despite the increase in the number of region's population found in the last census in 2011, only in two districts of the monitored districts (Kežmarok and Stará Ľubovňa) we observe the growth of the population size in 2011-2016. In this case, the higher share of Romany population plays its part due to its specific reproduction behaviour and higher share of younger population. In the remaining districts of the territory in interest (Poprad, Bardejov, Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina, Stropkov and Svidník) there is a tendency of progressive slight decrease in the population size in the last years. In the most declining districts, their problem is their peripheral and marginal location within Slovakia in contact with the Polish and Ukrainian borders and weaker transport connection to the important regional centres. Its role also plays the fact that they are smaller districts from the point of population size (Rosič et al. 2017). The very similar trend is monitored in the Polish part of the monitored region, but with slightly different development. The population in this territory is younger than on the Slovak side and has more favourable demographic behaviour (higher natality), but despite this fact, the tendency of progressive natality decrease or population mortality is also monitored here. The most positive development can be observed in the Nowosadecki Powiat. To the contrary, highest population mortality was recorded in the following powiats:



Leski, Jasielski and Bieszczadzki. This fact concerns their peripheral location and natural conditions of the area.

The mortality rate is not the deciding process influencing the size of natural increase in population in the European continent. It is a logical result of the age structure (Bleha 2009). In this case, mortality is higher in the districts with older population (Medzilaborce, Snina), and by contrast, the lowest mortality is observed in the Kežmarok and Stará Ľubovňa Districts (younger population age structure).

Both processes have an impact on the gross natural increase in population in the region. Based on this number, the districts and the powiats in the monitored region can be divided into three groups:

- districts and powiats with the natural increase in population higher than the average of the superordinate region – Kežmarok, Stará Ľubovňa, Nowosadecki, Krosnienski,
- districts and powiats with the natural increase in population lower than the average of the superordinate region – Poprad, Bardejov, Stropkov, Svidník, Tatrzański, Nowotarski,
- districts and powiats with the natural decrease in population – Medzilaborce, Snina and in the last monitored year also the District of Humenné, Gorlicki, Jasielski, Sanocki, Leski and Bieszczadzki.

The decrease in population size or the slower growth of the population size in all the districts and powiats of the monitored territory is significantly influenced by a high number of emigrated people on a long term basis. This trend is typical for the whole Prešov Region, but also for the Podkarpackie and the Malopolskie Voivodship, while its intensity progressively increases. It is a negative phenomenon that is the result of a long-term economic lag of the whole border territory. Due to the lack of inadequate work opportunities, there is emigration of younger and more educated population for work to other regions or to foreign countries.

Based on the gross migration balance value, we can divide the districts on the Slovak part in the monitored territory into three groups:

- districts with a population migration decrease lower than the regional average – Kežmarok and Stropkov,
- districts with a population migration decrease higher than the regional average – Poprad (except for 2016), Bardejov, Humenné, Snina, Stará Ľubovňa and Svidník,
- a specific is the Medzilaborce District where fluctuating values were recorded.

A slightly different situation is on the Polish side. A significant migration increase is observed in the Nowosadecki and Krosnienski Powiat that are important economic centres of the area and attract population from the surrounding Polish regions. They are partially responsible for the negative migration balance of the



remaining monitored powiats (the highest migration increase is in the following powiats: Gorlicki, Jasielski, Sanocki).

Based on the gross overall population increase/decrease value (Figure 2), the districts and the powiats in the monitored territory can be divided into three groups:

- districts and powiats with an overall population increase higher than the average of the superordinate region – Kežmarok and Stará Ľubovňa (in both cases the natural increase in population cannot compensate its migration loss so far), Nowosadecki and Krosnienski Powiat,
- districts with an overall increase in population lower than the average of the superordinate region or in one of monitored years with the overall population decrease – Poprad, Bardejov and Stropkov, powiats: Tatrzański, Nowotarski, Gorlicki, Jasielski, Sanocki, Leski and Bieszczadzki,
- districts with an overall population decrease – Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina and Svidník (in these districts there is a long-term negative trend with the possibility of further overall population decrease intensification).

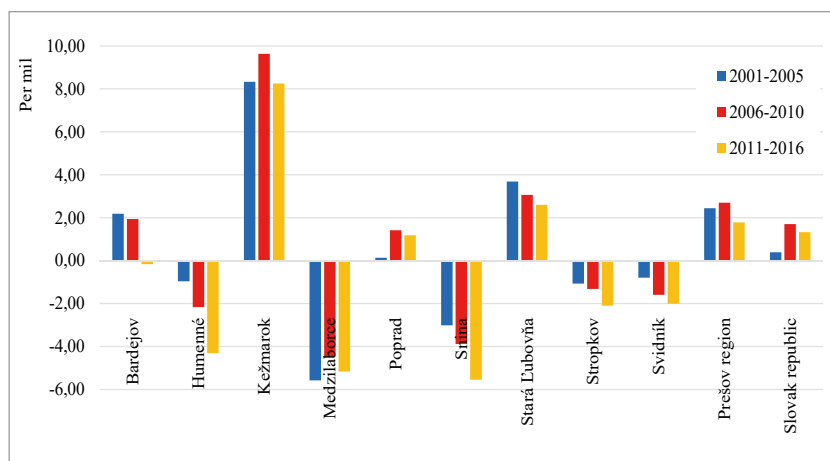


Figure 2

Gross overall increase in population in the Slovak part of the researched territory (%)

Source: own processing based on the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic data

Population Age Structure

The consequence of the younger population share decrease compared to the total population size is the progressive worsening of the population age structure that also relates to the decrease in population reproduction abilities and the growth of economic load. Population ageing that progressively accelerates is the consequence of the birth rate decrease and secondly, due to human life lengthening (Bleha



2009). This trend is coped with by the districts and powiats of the monitored region (Figure 3). The ageing index levelled up in the monitored region from 44 (2001) to 76 (2016).

As for the districts in the researched territory, the oldest population is in the Medzilaborce District. The youngest population was in Kežmarok and Stará Ľubovňa in 2016. On the Polish side of the region, the youngest population was in the Nowosadecki Powiat. To the contrary, the powiats with the oldest population were Sanocki and Leski. The age structure in the remaining powiats was very similar (Figure 4).

From the point of the presumed population development (Kolektív 2013) in the region, there are 6 districts belonging to a group of the presumed decrease in population size – Bardejov, Humenné, Medzilaborce, Snina, Stropkov and Svidník. More significant decrease is expected in the Medzilaborce District (-9.76%) because it is a territory with a difficult economic situation without any economic foundation from where people are moving out for work, whereby its age structure is to be significantly disrupted. At the same time, this district is typical for natural increase in population where the number of death people prevails over the number of newborns. The highest growth of the population size is presumed in the districts of Kežmarok and Stará Ľubovňa, where the development is significantly influenced by the share of Romany population, for whom higher natality, low average age and high children share in population are typical.

The middle aged population share continuously rises in the whole region but is higher on the Polish side. The Slovak part has younger population. Generally, the older age groups share rises and so does social dependence of older population.

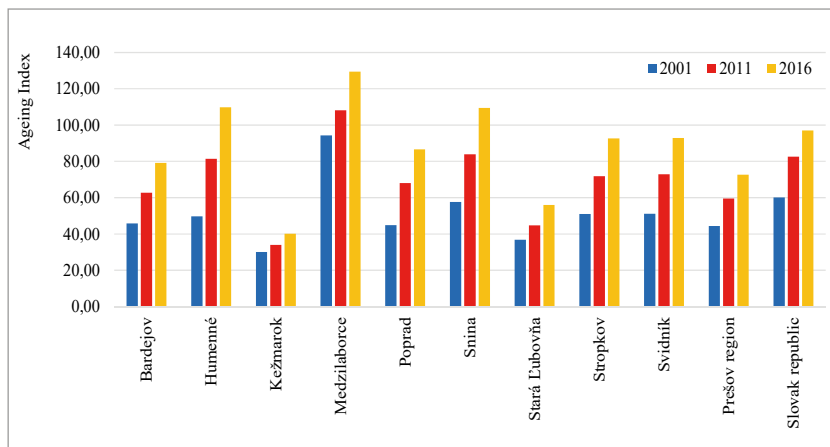


Figure 3

Ageing Index in the researched region's districts in 2001, 2011 and 2016

Source: own processing based on the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic data

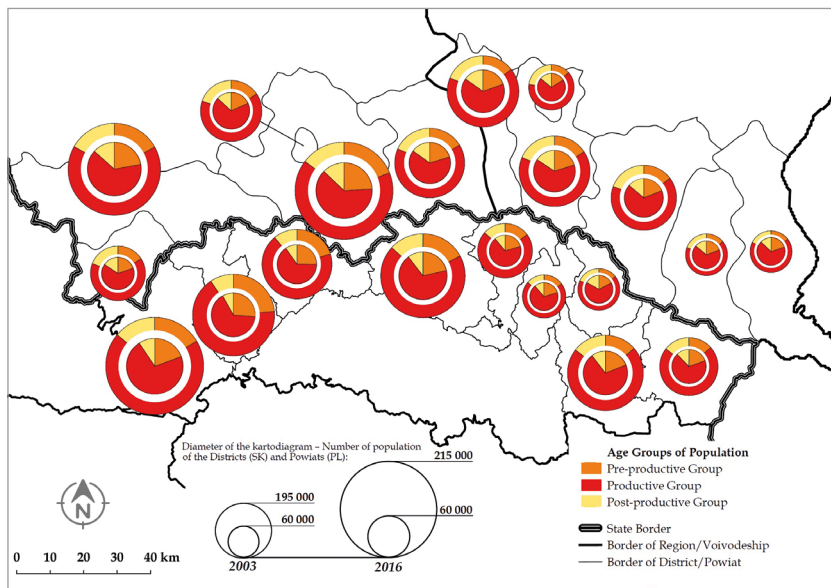


Figure 4

Share of population in the age groups according to the relation to economic activity (%)

*Source: own processing based on the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic data
& the Central Statistical Office (GUS) Poland data*

Population Education Structure

One of the determining indicators of human resources quality is the population educational level. The geographic location of the researched territory is also connected with the statements with respect to the under-average education level in border regions with higher share of population having only primary education and lower share of people with university education (Moravanská 2004). Based on the educational situation evaluation in the districts of Slovakia in 2001, three of the researched districts are classified into the group of districts with the unfavourable educational structure – Kežmarok, Stará Ľubovňa, Bardejov and Snina (Gajdoš 2004). The persisting problem of human resources' low level in the context of social inclusion is also proven in the findings by Rajčáková, Švecová (2014). In 2013, as much as seven of nine districts in the researched region were classified into the category with under-average level of human resources and only two of them – Poprad and Stará Ľubovňa reached the average level. The human resources analysis according to districts included the indicators of population movement, population age and educational structure, labour market status and indicators of economic and social level. The educational structure indicator using the data obtained in census in 2011 was used to evaluate the educational structure of population.



Numerous economic, sociological, geographical and other resources point out to growing importance of education even in the context of knowledge based economy. Majo, Šprocha (2016) understand education as a qualitative side of human capital that also reflects the dominant role of the knowledge-based economy, while as for development trends, there is a tendency of obtaining a higher education degree. At the same time, they declare that in Slovakia there is a „historically unique transformation of educational structure“ (Majo, Šprocha 2016, p. 85).

The educational level in the districts of the researched area in 2011 can be seen in Figure 5. The biggest share from the point of individual degrees of education was found in population with complete secondary education with maturita (34.9%), it is followed by population with complete secondary education without maturita (26.4%), population with primary education and without formal education (21.8%), the share of population without any education 0.3%, and the smallest share is the population with tertiary education – all three degrees (13.4%). Compared to the educational structure of the Prešov Region population, the researched border region differs by the highest share of population with complete secondary education with maturita (Region's average 33.9%) and with primary education (Region's average 20.9%) and smaller share of inhabitants with tertiary education (Region's average 14.3%) and inhabitants with secondary education without maturita (Region's average 26.8%).

More significant differences with respect to the degrees of education achieved can be seen in the comparison of the educational structure according to individual districts. The highest share of population that highly exceeds the researched area's and region's average with primary education is found in the Kežmarok District (28.3%) which is due to young population and higher share of Romany community. The other way round, the smallest share is found in the Humenné District (16.6%), where there is population with secondary education with maturita and population with tertiary education which is over even the Region's average (36.5% or 18.3%). The highest share of secondary educated people without maturita are in the Stará Ľubovňa District (28.3%) which, apart from others, is connected with the development of secondary training schools until 2008 and the dominant position of these schools as for the share of secondary schools' students. In the secondary education degree, the dominant one is the Poprad District (40.1%) with traditionally numerous and diversified network of secondary vocational schools, that were linked with the industrial production in the district in the past. The highest share of university educated people of all is in the Humenné District (18.3%) and together with people with secondary education with maturita, it is a district with the highest education index in the researched region.

In 2011, the education index average value was 62.7 and, compared to the Region as a whole, it was a little lower (average in the Prešov Region 63.5). Compared to 2001, the most dynamical growth was in the group of people with



tertiary education, on the similar level remained people with secondary education with maturita. The most significant decrease was recorded in the group of people with primary education, even the share of population with secondary education without maturita slightly decreased. The growth rate (2011/2001) in the monitored districts generally correlates with the development in the whole Region (Table 2).

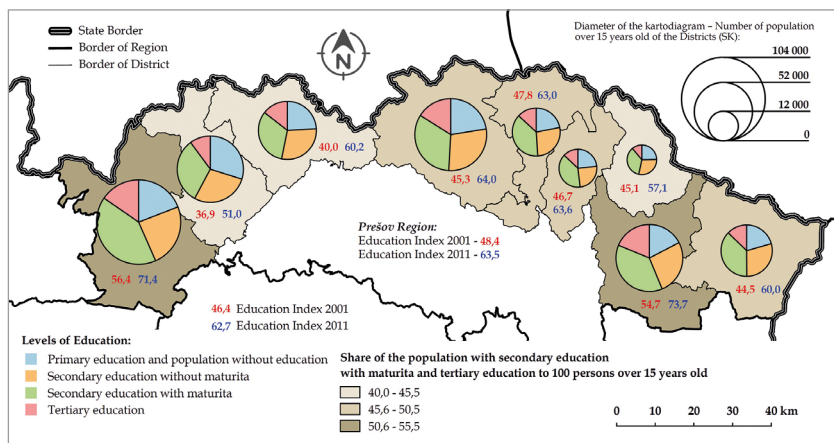


Figure 5

Education structure of population in the Prešov Region districts on the Slovak-Polish border in 2011

Source: own processing based on the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic data

Considering the education index in 2011 and comparing it with the average values in the Prešov Region, we can divide the districts into three groups:

- first group consisting of districts with education index significantly lower than the regional average (71-74%) – Humenné, Poprad with distinctive representation of population with complete secondary education and tertiary education,
- second group consisting of the districts having the index values approximately on the regional level (63-64%) – Bardejov, Stropkov, Svidník with distinctive share of population with secondary education with maturita,
- last third group is represented by the districts having the index values under the regional average (less than 63%) – Stará Ľubovňa, Snina, Medzilaborce and with a notable difference the Kežmarok District (51%).

We proceeded analogically also in the case of Polish border regions (Table 3). The calculated education index values in 2011 were compared with the average values in the Malopolskie (66%) or Podkarpatskie Voivodeship (59%). As presumed, the highest values were found in the towns with the powiat status – Nowy Sacz (81%) and Krosno (84%). Not even one of the remaining powiats reached the index



Table 2 The population share growth index according to the degree of highest education achieved in 2001, 2011 in the border districts in the Prešov Region

District	Primary education	Secondary without matura	Secondary with matura, higher vocational	Tertiary education	Secondary with matura, higher vocational and tertiary education	Education Index
Bardejov	0.71	0.90	1.04	2.28	1.26	1.41
Humenné	0.67	0.88	1.01	2.05	1.21	1.35
Kežmarok	0.88	0.87	1.18	1.81	1.29	1.38
Medzilaborce	0.70	1.06	1.04	1.83	1.16	1.27
Poprad	0.75	0.87	1.13	1.47	1.21	1.27
Snina	0.63	0.94	1.12	1.89	1.25	1.35
Stará Ľubovňa	0.70	0.89	1.12	2.43	1.35	1.50
Stropkov	0.72	0.86	1.12	1.97	1.25	1.36
Svidník	0.68	0.94	1.09	1.85	1.22	1.32
OVERALL	0.72	0.91	1.09	1.93	1.24	1.35
Prešov Region	0.73	0.91	1.07	1.79	1.21	1.31

Note: The shares of population counted per 100 inhabitants older than 15 years

Source: own processing based on the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic data

Table 3 The population share growth index according to the degree of highest education achieved in 2002, 2011 in the border powiats of the Malopolskie and Podkarpackie Voivodeship

Powiat	Primary education	Secondary without matura	Secondary with matura, higher vocational	Tertiary education	Secondary with matura, higher vocational and tertiary education	Education Index
Gorlicki	0.76	1.00	1.01	1.79	1.15	1.24
Nowosadecki	0.80	0.96	1.06	2.06	1.21	1.32
Nowy Sacz	0.72	1.00	0.88	1.61	1.05	1.15
Nowotarski	0.77	0.91	1.00	1.65	1.12	1.20
Tatrzański	0.81	0.87	0.96	1.46	1.07	1.14
Malopolskie v.	0.76	0.91	1.00	1.70	1.17	1.28
Bieszczadzki	0.84	0.85	1.08	1.94	1.24	1.35
Jasielski	0.77	0.94	1.03	1.78	1.18	1.28
Krosnienski	0.77	0.90	1.05	2.04	1.23	1.35
Sanocki	0.73	0.90	0.95	1.73	1.11	1.22
Leski	0.78	0.91	0.97	1.90	1.13	1.24
Krosno	0.66	0.94	0.90	1.46	1.06	1.15
Podkarpackie v.	0.77	0.91	1.09	1.71	1.14	1.25

Note: The shares of population counted per 100 inhabitants older than 13 years

Source: own processing based on the Central Statistical Office (GUS) Poland data



average value in the region. In the case of Malopolskie Voivodeship powiats, the index values vary from 41-52%, while the lowest value was reached by the Nowotarski powiat (at the same time the lowest value within the whole border area) and the highest was in the Gorlicki Powiat. The education index values were higher in the Podkarpatskie Voivodeship – ranging from 51- 58%, the lowest value in the Leski Powiat and the highest value in the Sanocki powiat. Overallly higher education index was recorded in the powiats of the Podkarpatskie Voivodeship – as much as four of them ranging from 53-58% (Jasielski, Krosnienski, Bieszczadzki and Sanocki).

Based on the found data we can make the following conclusions with respect to the educational structure development in the period between the two censuses:

- in the regions in the eastern part of the Slovak-Polish border the educational level of population increases – in the period between the census in 2001 or 2002 and the census in 2011 the population education index increased in all the districts and powiats,
- the share of university educated people increased which is reflected in the fastest growth rate in the group,
- minimum changes are recorded in the number of inhabitants with secondary education with maturita,
- the number of people with primary education as the highest education achieved and secondary education without maturita,
- from the point of territorial distribution, the regions with the biggest share of population with tertiary and secondary education with maturita are found in towns-powiats (Nowy Sacz and Krosno) and powiats of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship excluding the Leski Powiat on the Polish side and on the Slovak side there are the Humenné and Poprad District.

Unemployment rate development in the researched region

The analysed region disposed of 59.5% of economically active population (EAP). There are notable changes observed between the Slovak and the Polish part. In the districts, the share of EAP was 49%. In the Polish powiats we register as much as 63% EAP (2011). This value was significantly higher. The differences are observed also in the main domains of the population employment. While in the Slovak districts the main employers were engineering, electrical engineering, textile, leather manufacturing and shoemaking industries, in the Polish powiats it was oil, gas, glass-making and wood processing industries. The analyzed region can be considered as an industrial-agricultural territory with a significant representation of services (Venglár 2013).

The development of the EAP number and their share on the total number of inhabitants in the researched area has a decreasing tendency similarly in the Prešov Region and in Slovakia. It is due to a progressive manifestation of population ageing and the advance of the good-sized population to the older age level. The



decrease of EAP share on the total population size can be monitored on the whole researched territory, but mainly in the Slovak part districts. The lowest EAP share in 2011 was observed in the following district: Medzilaborce (43.2%), Kežmarok (44.4%) and Stará Ľubovňa (44.5%), the highest share was in Svidník (47.2%) and Humenné (47.1%).

The important part of the EAP in the Prešov Region and the researched region consists of the Romany population whose low qualification structure fails to meet the requirements of the economy orientation mainly to qualitative priorities. The highest share of unemployed Romanies in individual districts negatively influences the social-economic development of towns and municipalities. The important factor when directing such labour force will decidedly lie in a different pre-setting of the primary and primarily secondary education system considering the specifications of the Romanies. The high share of Romany population also indirectly influences the concentration of economic activities, while prevail those that do not require any higher forms of labour force educational level. This fact consequently reflects in the possibilities of labour force implementation on the labour market. Within the selected economic activities in the Prešov Region, the dominant position is observed in the industry providing work opportunities to as much of one third of the total employed people in the Prešov Region. Agriculture and construction have their important positions, however their importance continuously decreases. Other selected economic activities are of only supplementary importance when solving the problem of population employment. However, there is an interesting fact that, despite notable potential of the territory for recreation and tourism, the local hotels and restaurants have a small share of the total employees from the given territory and region. Here can be observed the considerable difference when compared to the Polish part of the region where a significant part of EAP works in services, business and agriculture.

The average nominal wage of the employees working in the researched region by the end of 2016 was EUR 864. In the Slovak part, the average monthly wage was EUR 830, in the Polish side EUR 897. Both the countries, Slovakia and Poland, show one of the highest unemployment rates in the EU on the long-term basis. The monitored border districts and powiats belong to the regions suffering from unemployment in their countries.

The basic specific feature characterising the unemployment development in the monitored region is mainly permanently high unemployment rate. In the beginning of the 1997-2003 period analyzed by us, we observe the unemployment rate ranging from 15.2-25.1%. However, there are differences between the Slovak and Polish part of the territory. While the unemployment rate in the Slovak monitored districts exceeded 20% only in one case, on the opposite side – in our northern neighbours, the unemployment rate did not decrease in the monitored powiats under 20% and was oscillating between 23.5-25.1%.



Year 2003 was characterised by a high unemployment rate on both sides, the Slovak and the Polish one. Alike in Slovakia, many restrictive economical measures were taken by the government during the period, the unemployment rate was lower in the Slovak districts. The following period was accompanied by a successive decrease of the unemployment rate in the entire region (by 1 up to 3 percentage points). Despite broadly increased unemployment, in the Polish powiats was this decrease slower. The unemployment rate in the border region is continually decreasing until 2008. It is connected with the countries' accession to the EU.

In 2005-2008 there is a positive effect observed in both economies due to their accession to the EU, that was supported by increased foreign investments causing the formation of higher number of job vacancies. Despite this, the unemployment rate in Slovakia was decreasing only slightly. By contrast, on the Polish side, the decrease is more dynamic. While in the Slovak researched district the unemployment decreased in average by 1-2%, in powiats it was as much as by 7-8%. Year 2008 is considered revolutionary because for the first time we observe a higher unemployment rate in the Slovak districts than in Polish powiats. In the following period, the unemployment rate in the region starts to be influenced by the economic and financial crisis which caused its growth. Exclusive of Svidník and Stropkov, it does not reach the level as in 2003. The development after 2010 continues with a progressive slight increase of the unemployment rate that has something to do with the still felt crisis influence. The region has recorded turnaround in the unemployment rate development since 2013 when it started to level down and the trend practically continues until now. (Figure 6).

The unemployment rate values in all the districts (excluding Poprad, Stará Ľubovňa and Humenné) and the territory of the Prešov region as a whole exceed or significantly exceed the level of Slovak average and are one of the highest in the Slovak Republic with significantly negative impact mainly on the social situation of inhabitants (especially in the district: Kežmarok, Medzilaborce, Svidník and Bardejov). The high unemployment rate of the region does not indicate any positive prospects even in the long-term tendencies (Figure 6). The similar trend is observed in the monitored powiats (Figure 7) where the only ones with lower values of the unemployment rate are the powiats with the important centres that also influence their wider surroundings (those are the following powiats: Krosnienki, Nowosadecki, Tatrzański and Sanocki). The powiats of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship show higher unemployment rate on a long term basis than the powiats of western Malopolskie Voivodeship.

The permanent problem is the formation of new job vacancies (mainly on the Slovak part of the researched region). The new job vacancies formation in the area is insufficient for a long time and this situation needs to be sorted out on the national level also in the form of a more notable support for small and middle business undertaking at the expense of big investments. At the same time, the

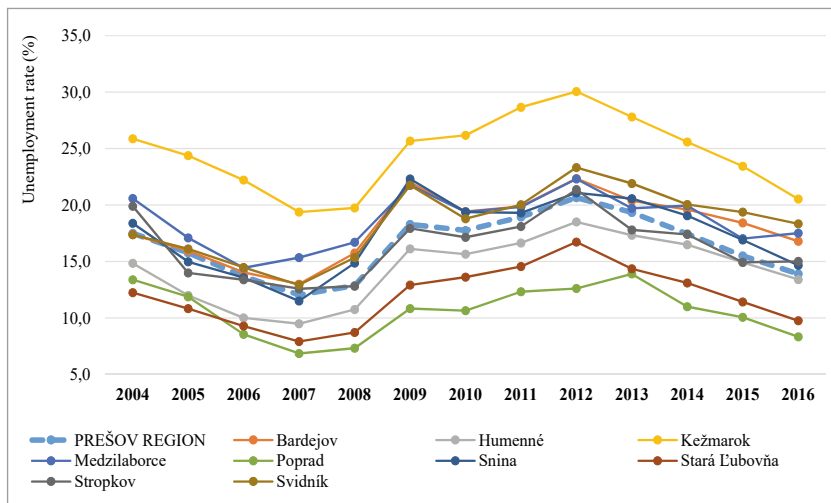


Figure 6

Unemployment rate development in the Slovak part districts of the researched territory 2004-2016

Source: own processing based on the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

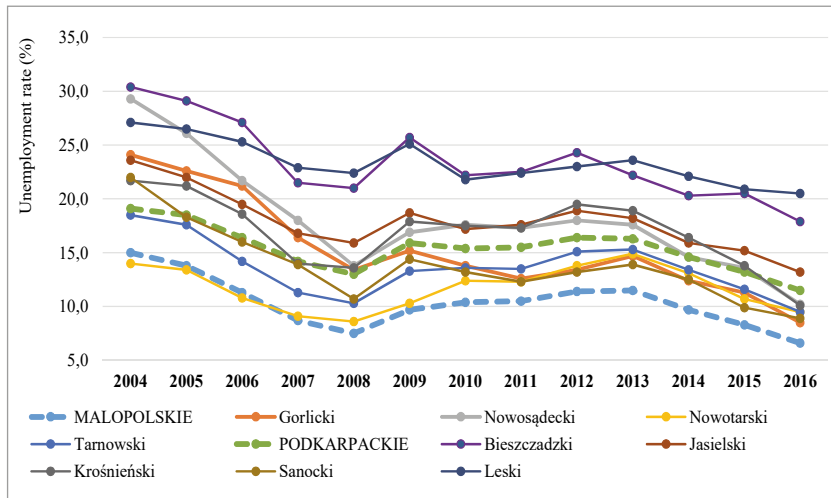


Figure 7

Unemployment rate development in the Polish part powiats of the researched territory 2004-2016

Source: own processing based on the Central Statistical Office (GUS) Poland data



stability of job vacancies is considerably higher. Only the Districts of Poprad, Stará Ľubovňa and Humenné show a long-term positive development of the unemployment rate in the context of monitored territory. Here, we monitor substantially different trend on the Polish side of the researched region where the majority of work opportunities is offered by small and middle business undertakings. The stability and long-term sustainability of the work positions is higher which results in the positive development of the unemployment rate in the northern part of the researched territory.

The structure of the unemployed is also very important. The structure of the unemployed shows certain groups of persons who are more endangered within the researched region and they need priority solutions (Tej 2012).

In 1997-2003 we observe an interesting difference in the share of men and women unemployment on the Slovak and Polish side. While in the Slovak districts men unemployment significantly prevails (55-59%), in the Polish powiats, there is an opposite situation: the women unemployment is higher 51-54%. This disproportion most likely concerns the different structure and the orientation of economy in the researched regions on the Polish and Slovak side. The continuous improvement of the economic situation causes the decrease of men unemployment in both countries. Despite the crisis in 2008, a similar development in men's and women's employment is observed in this region not earlier than in 2009. As they are less efficient regions, the crisis manifested itself later compared to economically developed areas. Since 2010, there has been a more significant growth in the share of men unemployment in all the monitored regions. The highest growth is seen in the Krosno Powiat (increase from 37.3% to 46.5%), similarly high growth, almost by 10% can be observed in the Bardejov District. Before the crisis burst, the share of unemployed men was decreasing. The main reason was the increased employment of men in industry. After the economic crisis, the fundamental industrial sectors employing men were affected. This situation is typical for the border region. There are no significant differences in the development on the Polish or the Slovak side.

From the point of job seekers structure based on gender, women are endangered group for a long time. This statement applies to all the districts in the area exclusive of Kežmarok. In case of Kežmarok (specific population structure – younger population = higher men share, significant influence to the fact has also the higher share of Romany ethnics in the district population) unemployed men prevail.

The general trend is that, currently, men have more favourable conditions to succeed on the labour market than women. Especially women with little children are considered a marginalised group on the labour market. Employers prefer men labour force. It is the result of men being less loaded with household shores and parental duties, higher men's territorial mobility is also the important factor (Buchtová et al. 2002).



With regard had to the absent data from Poland in 1997-2004, we compared both parts of the researched region until 2005. During the whole period of 2005-2010 we observe the differences in unemployment of individual age categories between the Slovak and Polish part of the border region. Basically, the following generalisation applies: the Polish powiats have higher unemployment in younger groups up to 24 years and 25-34 aged persons (mainly the second mentioned group). Together they make more than 50% of the unemployed. The age group of 35-44 is characterised by a very similar level of unemployment rate in all the districts and powiats. This group makes some kind of a transition between the younger and older age groups. As for the older age groups of 45-54 and over 55, the Slovak districts show a higher share of the unemployed. The differences in both parts of the region are caused by a different economic structure. While in the Polish border region the higher employment percentage is in agriculture, in the Slovak districts the base of employment is in industrial production (older age groups after the job loss find harder another one). In the whole region the important role in employment is played by services and trade (Mitříková 2014). Another problem of older employees is their lower flexibility and decreased mobility to work.

The difficult situation is also in the age group of up to 24 years, because they are the unemployed without professional qualification with completed or incomplete primary education as well as school graduates who, when not employed shortly after their study completion, lose their motivation to work or to make it in the field they studied. There is a big presumption that these candidates for work will to the large extent be included in the group of the long-term unemployed persons.

Similarly as in age, the unemployment development can be generalized according to the education achieved in 2003-2010. During the whole monitored period the category of the unemployed without education and with primary education was characterised by the higher share of unemployment in Slovak districts as well as in the Polish powiats. The only deviation was found in the Gorlice Powiat that, compare with the Slovak districts, regularly showed the 3-times lower and with the Polish ones 2-times lower unemployment share. The category of training school and apprentice school graduates without maturita showed a slightly higher unemployment share than the Polish powiats. While this group share was progressively decreasing in the districts, it had a sinusoidal character in the powiats. The unemployment in the third group represented by training schools, secondary vocational schools with maturita and grammar school graduates (secondary education with maturita) was higher in the powiats. While unemployment in the districts oscillated usually up to 30%, in powiats, it exceeded 30% in a majority of cases. The last group made of the unemployed with higher, tertiary education and scientific qualification naturally showed lower unemployment rate compared with all the categories. Also here we can observe a higher unemployment share in the Polish part of the researched region. In this group, the problem is the trend of progressive



unemployment increase (more notable in the Polish part of the region) compared to the previous years.

As for fresh graduates, the most endangered group in the whole region are secondary vocational school with maturita and secondary training school with and without maturita graduates. The least endangered groups are university and grammar school graduates. These school graduates in the region have considerably less opportunities to find an adequate job position in the region. One of the reasons is the discordance between the study branches structure and the job vacancies structure; the second one is insufficient formation of new job vacancies on the weakly functioning regional labour market.

Based on the degree of achieved education the biggest share of the unemployed in the region are the groups of trained people, with primary education and with complete secondary education with maturita. This trend can be observed in Humenné, Snina, Medzilaborce, Svidník and Stropkov. In the districts of Bardejov, Stará Ľubovňa and Kežmarok, the most endangered group is the category of people without education instead of the group with the complete secondary education with maturita. The job seekers structure according to achieved education is one of the most important partial structures of the unemployed. There is a general rule that along with growing education level the opportunities to make it on the labour market grow.

A special attention was paid to the structure of the unemployed according to the length of their unemployment. In the beginning of the researched period (2003), the Slovak districts showed in the first category (up to 3 months) a higher share of the unemployed than Polish powiats. The unemployment was significantly lower in the Polish powiats. It did not reach even 20%, while in three districts on the Slovak part it exceeded 30%. The proportion between these two parts of the border area progressively changed. In 2010, we observed in average a doubled unemployment share in the Polish powiats than in Slovak districts. On the Slovak side, the unemployment share in this group (up to 3 months) oscillated between 13.5-18.6% while in Poland it was 26.4-31.0%. Unemployment lasting up to three months is called frictional unemployment. It is related to labour market functioning and labour force natural mobility. It is not a problematic element in unemployment and a higher share of this group does not cause a social problem. We can state that the situation is improving on the Polish side of the border area and, to the contrary, it is worsening on the Slovak side. The second category of unemployment (lasting 4-12 months) was generally stabilized during the whole period and its values were similar in the entire region. Certain changes occurred in 2009 and 2010. Progressively, we observed the increase in this group of the unemployed on the Polish side. While in Slovak regions the share does not exceed 30%, in Poland this level is exceeded in each powiat. The third group (unemployment lasting 13-24 months) records the lowest unemployment rate in all categories. In the Polish powiats



unemployment did not exceed 20%, not even once in the years. Slovak districts exceeded the level only in some cases and that was mainly in the last year of the analysed period. The last category lasting more than 24 months formed the highest unemployment share. There were differences between the Slovak and Polish part of the region. While in our part it decreased, the unemployment share in this group was growing in the beginning of the period, in the middle period it stagnated and in the last years it decreased, in powiats there was a long-term decrease. Currently, long-term unemployment on the Polish part of the region shows significantly lower amounts than on the Slovak part and for powiats, this kind of unemployment does not represent any risk. Quite the opposite, for the researched Slovak districts the long-term and extremely long unemployment make problematic elements in unemployment and represent a big social risk. The Slovak Republic is not able to solve and decrease this kind of unemployment on a long-term basis. This our indicator represents first places in the EU for a long time. During long-term unemployment a person progressively loses qualification presumptions and work habits. His placement into a work process is then much more complicated and as well more financially demanding.

Long-term unemployment was most represented by auxiliary and unqualified workers and unemployed without any work classification (according to KZAM – Job Classification), workers in construction (according to OKEČ – Economic Activities Industrial Classification). The highest long-term unemployment share (over 12 months) is observed in the Kežmarok District. The remaining districts of the monitored area have relatively high levels of long-term unemployment. All possible solutions fail when employing the long-term unemployed.

Especially problematic part of long-term unemployment is very long unemployment that lasts more than 24 months. The indicator of very long unemployment in the Slovak Republic is approximately 4-times higher when compared to the EU-25 average, it is significantly higher also when compared to the V4 countries. The long-term unemployment does not affect alike all age groups. Its load in the form of extremely long forms (more than 4 years) affects mainly polar age groups i.e. the age cohort of 15-24 years and the age cohort of more than 50 years of age and older (Kostolná, Hanzelová 2007).

The negative trend of long-term unemployment rate development in the region in the last years are the increased differences between men and women, which just proves the intensification of long-term women unemployment and tendencies of long-term unemployment feminisation. Long-term unemployment rate indicators in the group of the unemployed without school education and in the unemployed with primary education are higher when compared to the indicators of other education groups. The long-term unemployment rate according to the degree of achieved education points to the fact that the distribution of the long-term unemployment risk is inversely proportional to the degree of education



i.e. the lower education level of the unemployed person, the higher risk of long-term unemployment. The growth of education level of the unemployed causes the decrease of their long-term unemployment (Kostolná, Hanzelová 2007).

CONCLUSIONS

The area of the researched region is beyond the reach and influence of agglomerations of metropolitan European importance. This is also the only reason of lacking development impulses mainly in the peripheral areas of the territory. The main economic flows are predominantly concentrated around the transport systems and important water resources. The whole researched area creates cross-border periphery.

The peripheral location, weaker infrastructure and problematic transport accessibility into centres make an impact on progressive migration of the younger and educated population for work to other regions (this migration is more notable on the Slovak part). Migration influences progressive population ageing. Older population with lower education stays in the region (or problematic groups in the sphere of employment). These population groups are typical for lower flexibility and willingness to commute to work or it is more complicated for them to adapt to changed conditions on the dynamically changing labour market.

Slovakia and Poland show ones of the highest unemployment rates within the EU countries. The monitored border districts and powiats are in their countries ones of those that are considerably suffering from unemployment. From the point of unemployment rate development, we observe some common and different features in both parts of the border region. The common trend was similar unemployment rate development; the differences were in the changes of positions of the Slovak and Polish side.

The unemployment and labour market development on the Slovak and Polish side had their specific features. In both parts of the region the labour markets were developing rather separately, without any significant mutual connection. Their development is bond to their territorial and economic position within their countries. The mutual influence of both parts of the researched region is considerably weaker. In the researched region no common cross-border market has been formed yet. There are two relatively isolated labour markets with their own specific features.

The structure of the unemployed is very important and we observe a significant share of the long-term unemployed and relatively big representation of registered unemployed people with primary education and trained people without maturita, from the point of economic activities they are people working as auxiliary or unqualified workers. This fact is influenced by more factors, e.g. peripheral territorial location, historical aspect (little developed region in the past), narrow and unsuitable industrial structure, industry in individual districts based on one key company



that has economic problems in the majority of districts now (dismissals), slow industrial restructuring, decrease in construction, disorganisation of agricultural cooperatives etc.

The most problematic element of unemployment is long-term and extremely long unemployment (over 12 months or 24 months and more). This type of unemployment is mostly experienced by the Slovak part of the researched region while the Polish powiats succeeded to solve the problem effectively despite similar starting position. The Slovak Republic fails to deal with the situation and decrease unemployment on a long term basis. Right here, the cross-border cooperation offers the possibility of how to resolve the problem. The options lie in the implementation of experiences and concrete programs used to solve long-term unemployment in Poland.

The both parts of the cross-border region show similar monthly wage levels. This fact influences lower mobility for work. Just small differences in the average monthly wage are not sufficiently motivating for people with respect to commuting to work. The border between the both parts of the region is not made of any significant barriers and does not influence the labour market development as it was in the past. However, the legislative barriers are much more noticeable (e.g. when using purpose funds for the region in both countries) or problematic transport accessibility between the Slovak and the Polish part of the researched region. As for the activities of cross-border cooperation only to a small extent there are such that would be focused on the development of cross-border labour market and their main task is to intermediate and exchange information.

From the point of presumed population development we can expect a progressive decrease in natural population migration that is reflected in lower share of young population and higher share of older population. The result of the development is worsening of the population age structure with which the decrease of population reproduction is connected (in compliance with Slovak and European trends). The population ageing in the districts of the researched region and its worse reproduction function is significantly influenced by negative migration balance, especially emigration of productive-aged population due to unfavourable work conditions in the region (whereby the region becomes a storage of labour force for other Slovak regions or foreign countries). For another period progressive ageing of population as a whole and also ageing of labour force is presumed which will eventually have a negative effect to the quality of such labour force. Progressively, in the whole region the size of middle-aged population rises and that is higher on the Polish side. The Slovak part disposes of younger population, but compared to the Polish side, its ageing is faster. This is how the share of older population groups generally grows and thereby also their social dependence. The positive trend lies in the increase of education level of population and that namely in the group of university educated population. However, the problem is



that the districts with the highest educational structure have a negative development of age structure within which the older population share increases. To the contrary, the districts with positive population development are, regarding the national composition, not perspective for the labour market from the point of labour force age and educational structure which has negative impacts on the region's economy.

Considering the continuous trend of decreasing population migration, it is important to focus the future development on the support of young people and their stabilisation in the region, on family national policies and programs to create new job vacancies in order to maintain the productive population in the region.

Acknowledgement

The paper was supported by the scientific project KEGA 011PU-4/2017: *Integration of teaching and increase of the content coherence of the related disciplines of the specialized module of Regional development and regional policy* and scientific project VEGA 1-0077/1: *Political – spatial structure of the state in conditions of the globalization*.

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ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

Rahman NURKOVIĆ^{A*}, Janusz REWUCKI^B

Received: April 30, 2018 | Revised: May 16, 2018 | Accepted: June 24, 2018
Paper No. 18-60/2-515

Abstract

The paper analyzes the contemporary economic relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Islamic countries. In recent years, there have been major changes in regional development and orientation of foreign trade of Bosnia and Herzegovina due to irregularity of relations in the internal market, rational behavior of most economic activities, impact of economic policies and measures brought in the country, as well as situation and relations in world economic division of labor and international economic and political relations. For a more complex assessment of the importance and role of Islamic countries in the world relations, more precise and more comprehensive research of the economic, social, political, geographical and other characteristics of Islamic countries is needed. This knowledge is absolutely necessary if planning a longer-term strategy of economic cooperation with these markets, or at least aspiring better contacts, exchanges and cooperation.

Keywords

Economy, regional development, policies, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Islamic countries

INTRODUCTION

Possibility of attracting foreign capital investments is a significant segment of economic strategy of each country. In such a situation, there is a common interest of both an investing country which gains control of the whole or part of a company abroad, and a country in which the investment is made, thus creating jobs. Of course, the conclusion of this kind of partnership between countries largely rests on the political interests of both the investor country and the recipient country, so that the good political relations are a desirable condition for the development of economic relations. With this in mind, it can be assumed that the policy of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be greatly conditioned by the political interests of various interest groups in the neighborhood, Islamic

A* University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Science, Department of Geography
Zmaja od Bosne 33-35, Bosna and Hercegovina
rahmannurkovic@hotmail.com (corresponding author)

B University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Science, Department of Geography
Zmaja od Bosne 33-35, Bosna and Hercegovina
janusz@rewucki.de



countries and beyond. Looking at the individual national communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina as potential exponents of foreign geopolitical interests based on their cultural characteristics and traditional ties, a presumption is created that the spatial distribution of direct investments of Islamic countries will be concentrated in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

There are a number of studies on the foreign investments published at the global, regional and Bosnian and Herzegovinian level (BH level). However, it should be noted that most of the available regional and BH titles that deal with foreign direct investment are related to wider or narrower theoretical discussion on the subject with particular reference to foreign direct investment in transition countries, or in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The titles of general themes include *Foreign Direct Investment in International Trade* by Duško Pavlović (2008), *International Finance* by Oskar Kovač (2002), *Foreign Direct Investment* by Adnan Rovčanin and Sahrudin Sarajčić (2009) and *Foreign Direct Investment* by Mehmedalija Hadžović (2002).

More specifics on FDI in transition countries are discussed in *Foreign Direct Investment and Transition* by Nenad Avramović (2006), *Foreign Investment in Countries in Transition* by Dragana Radenković -Jocić (1997), *FDI in the Transition Countries of South-Eastern Europe* by Jurica Vukušić (2007), *Effects of Direct Foreign Investment in the Economy of the Host Country* by Ismet Velagić (2011) and *Foreign Direct Investment and the Transition: Current Results and Future Prospects* by Sahrudin Sarajčić (2006). Special emphasis on foreign direct investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, either exclusively in that country or by comparison with the rest of the world is put by *Foreign Investments in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the World* by Tufik Burnazović (1996), *FDI as a Factor of Economic Development of Bosnia and Herzegovina* by Sahrudin Sarajčić (2004), *Foreign Direct Investment and the Economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina* by Goran Pejaković (2011), *Bosnia and Herzegovina: Post-conflict Reconstruction* by Alcira Kreimer, Robert Muscat, Ann Elwan Margaret Arnold (2000) and *Foreign Direct Investment and Sustainable Development* by Dika Mustafić-Cokoje (2008).

However, as the title may suggest, most of these works present new approaches with clear economic benchmarks, either on a theoretical or on an empirical level. In other words, due to the approach of this paper to the issue of foreign direct investment from the perspective of political geography and related disciplines, relevant literature cannot completely meet the needs of its research subject. An exception is the paper of Joel I. Deichmann (2012) *Historical Legacies and Foreign Direct Investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, which the relationship between the investor and the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a recipient country establishes, among other things, on the basis of historical relationships and geographic distance, thus significantly coincides with the interests of the paper.



Based on real limitations in the choice of literature to meet the needs of this study, the mentioned methodological approach, which places emphasis on the qualitative and quantitative analysis of available statistical data on foreign direct investment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is crucial for gaining a more comprehensive insight into meeting the geopolitical interests of the investor country in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Given that the logic of direct investment as agents of geopolitical positioning must necessarily follow the principle of cost-effectiveness as the basic economic logic of investors, the relevant literature provides the author with an opportunity to acquire a basic level of economic theory and empirical awareness necessary for this primarily non-economic paper. (*Jurica Botić, 2013*)

METHODS AND DATA SOURCES

The methodological approach is imperatively suited to the purpose of work by the modern economic development investment of Islamic countries in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Researches of economic development in Bosnia and Herzegovina are covered by the local and regional areas. In assessing the economic contribution of the development of new areas, quantitative methods are almost exclusively used ranging from deterministic to stochastic. Data for the production of the paper are based on the research of secondary publications of previous researches in this subject and previous research of economic geography by the author, statistical documentation of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Agency 2008). The sample consisted of about 25 economic activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Rating of direct contribution of economic development on local and regional development is a good basis for the definition and application of the model. (*Sarajčić, S, 2006*)

Certainly, it is necessary to point out that we were, while writing this paper, warned by the experts on political and economic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the problems that may arise due to non-compliance of statistical data of various state agencies. By analyzing available data, we have grouped the investor countries according to the criteria of similarity, which allows more vivid display and easier monitoring of any focus-group differences of investors towards certain national communities. Namely, on the basis of statistical data it can quite clearly be ascertained the orientation of certain international geopolitical entities towards exponents of their interests in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, the investor countries are put into three groups - the neighboring countries, the EU member states and the Islamic countries and others. On the contrary, due to easier comparisons of height of invested capital, we considered it more appropriate in the description and interpretation to use relative values. Similarly, we created a series of parallel graphic drawings using different geographic printing methods. (*Vukušić, J, 2007*)



ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

In recent years there have been major changes in the regional development of foreign trade of Bosnia and Herzegovina, because of broken relations in the internal market, rational behavior of most economic activities in the country and the situation and relations in the global division of labor and international economic and political relations. (*Burnazović, T, 1996*) These authors, who in their papers discuss FDI in Bosnia and Herzegovina, agree that their level in the country is generally unsatisfactory. Although, it is not the topic of this work, we should mention the fact that most of the authors stated that the amount of direct foreign investments in Bosnia and Herzegovina is far behind the other countries in transition. Deichmann particularly emphasizes that the discrepancy of actual and potential levels of foreign direct investments in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the largest among all transition countries (Deichmann, 2012).

The largest share of foreign capital in Bosnia and Herzegovina was invested through the takeover of companies during the privatization process. In other words, FDI in the form of greenfield investments are generally insufficient, especially in export-oriented sectors (*Velagić, 2011*). Furthermore, among foreign direct investments, especially those who come from European countries and also from Croatia and Serbia, dominate brownfield investments, with rare major investor companies in which the parent state has a significant stake such as Telekom Serbia, which again does not necessarily mean that a particular company on such an investment is not encouraged by a home country (<http://www.telekom.rs/Contents/ContentDefault.aspx?temp=0&sid=1253&id=1254/14.01.2013./>). Among the investments from Islamic countries that do not make up a large share of total FDI in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is a significantly higher proportion of greenfield investments, and that of the companies in majority state ownership, such as the Saudi Islamic DB or the Turkish banking house TC Ziraat Bankasija (<http://www.ziraatbosnia.ba/turkish/text.Php?Text=16/14.01.2013./>).

Basic characteristic of Foreign Trade of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a gradual reduction of the volume of trade with the developed countries of the West and at the same time increasing the volume and value of trade with Islamic countries and the developing countries. While, in 2014, the participation of developed western countries in total trade with foreign countries amounted to 50,1%, Islamic countries 37.8% and developing countries 15.1%. The share of developed countries in Bosnia and Herzegovina in total trade with the world amounted to 40.8%, European countries 39.3% and developing countries 19.9% (total value of Bosnia and Herzegovina foreign trade in 2014 amounted to 22.308 million US dollars. (*www.fipa.gov.ba 2014*) It is difficult to estimate or provide more reliable forecasts on how these changes would affect the economic development of Bosnia and



Herzegovina (markets of developed western countries import from Bosnia and Herzegovina not only the technology and raw materials, and other goods of high degree of processing, but also knowledge and a significant pool of capital).

For investors from Islamic countries, the ratio of invested capital by sectors is similar to that found in European investors: 51% of production, eighteen percent of the financial sector), however, particular attention is drawn to a separate category within the service sector vaguely referred to as «services», which takes eighteen percent of the invested capital. In the case of investors from Islamic countries, this is mainly due to various real estate agencies as well as cultural institutions. However, even those investors differ in the industries in which it is invested. As the largest investor in this group of countries, Turkey directs 78% of invested capital to the production. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia invests 44% of capital in the indefinite category of services and 36% in the financial sector. The course should be taken to ensure that investment in intangible sector leaves more room for different speculations about the goals of investors. (*Radenković-Jocić, 2004*)

Islamic countries in foreign trade are ranked in the group of developing countries, although among them there are a few countries that only according to the criterion of national income per capita should be classified as the most developed countries (Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia). However, analyzing the other criteria for measuring the level of development of a region or a country, economic structure, population, energy consumption and the value of exports, all Islamic countries can be rightfully aligned with developing countries or underdeveloped countries. For many years, Islamic countries have been a very important economic partner of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The political and therefore economic relations were established with some even before World War II, but more significant trade started only between the fifties and sixties as well as the visits of political and economic representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from Islamic countries. The close cooperation was established with the establishment of the non-aligned countries movement, whose members are almost all Islamic countries. (*Jurica Botić, 2013*)

Merchandise trade between these countries in 2014 reached a value of 1.529 or 21.5% million US dollars but the total imports in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the trade balance reached 2,247 or 22.8 (Table 1 and Figure 1). From Table 1 it is evident that from 2001 until 2014 exports to those countries grew and then by 2014 was in decline. At the same time, the import was constantly increasing, with the exception of 2014 when there was a surplus of 186 million US dollars. However, in 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina was forced to import expensive oil more precisely from the countries of North Africa and the Middle East due to the problems with the supply of Russian nonconvertible oil, which exactly affected such a high negative balance in trade with these countries. From Islamic countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina today imports about 50% of total oil imports, but also a lot of raw ma-



terials important for the functioning of our economy as cotton, phosphates, iron ore and similar products. However, viewed as a whole, the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in foreign trade with Arab countries, given the size of this market and its increasing purchasing power and developmental goals, is very modest.

Table 1 Trade of goods between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Arab countries, 2001-2014

YEAR	EXPORT	% OF TOTAL EXPORT	IMPORT	% OF TOTAL IMPORT
2001	604	10.0	746	9.0
2010	742	12.0	1.104	11.0
2013	1.046	18.0	1.356	13.0
2014	1.529	21.5	2.247	22.8

Source: Statistics of Foreign Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2014)

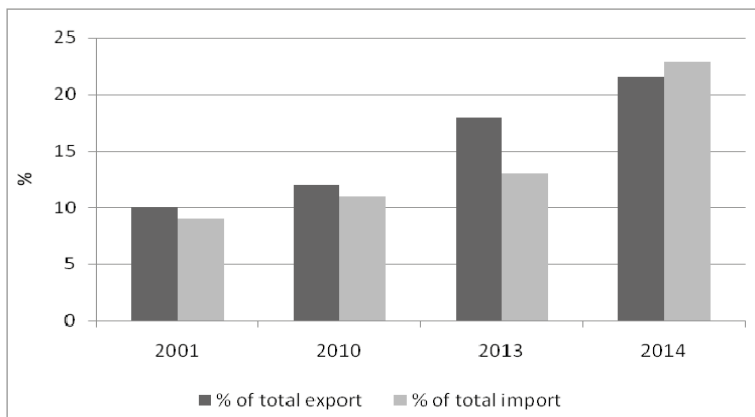


Figure 1

Trade of goods between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Arab countries, in %, 2001-2014

Source: Statistics of Foreign Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2001- 2014)

In our export, the most part have only Iraq 7%, Libya, Algeria and Egypt between 1-2% of our total exports to foreign countries, while exports to other Islamic countries is much more modest. Similar is with the BH imports where only Iraq and Egypt are directing most of their exports to our country. Five countries, Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Algeria and Iran, account for about 90% of total exports from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Islamic countries, while our imports are only from those countries from which we import oil. These are Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. Other Islamic countries in our foreign trade, for now, have a marginal place. In the structure of trade, the biggest item in our export are the products of processing industry, and in our imports oil and gas. From products of



processing industry, most exported are chemical products, machinery, and transport equipment, metal products, pharmaceutical goods, beverages, tobacco, raw materials, various types of industrial and food products, mineral fuels, oil, grease and other similar goods. In addition to oil, which in our total imports from that region accounts for 87-90%, Bosnia and Herzegovina from Islamic countries also imported cotton, phosphates, iron ore and agricultural commodities that thrive in the subtropical and Mediterranean zone (coffee, figs and citrus fruits).

Imports of crude oil in the period 2001-2014 was reduced to 1,858 million tons, or 264 million US dollars, and there was also reduced the share of Islamic countries in total import of BH oil with 59 to 49% (Table 2 and Figure 2). The reason for this lies not only in the reduction of our oil imports, especially from the market with convertible payment, but also in problems in oil production in many Islamic countries. Thus, the reduction of oil imports from Iran and Iraq, our traditional suppliers, was more difficult and still is due to the conflict, and buying oil in Libya and Algeria also varied. Therefore, oil is bought from Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.

Table 2 Import of oil in Bosnia and Herzegovina from Arab countries and Iran, 2001-2014

Countries	2001		2014	
	000 tones	000 000 USD	000 tones	000 000 USD
Iraq	1.035	254	983	173
Libya	321	24	276	23
Iran	267	14	175	15
Algeire	75	10	75	10
Egypt	53	9	58	10
Kuwait	90	10	98	11
Saudi Arabia	73	12	95	12
United Arab Emirates	98	10	98	10
Total	2.012	343	1.858	264

Source: *Statistics of Foreign Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2014)*

Among other forms of economic cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Islamic countries, only in recent years, investment cooperation has been developing, and the first steps are being made in the production cooperation and joint ventures. Investment cooperation is mainly composed of exports of capital goods and carrying out investment projects in some Islamic countries (Industrogradnja in Iraq or Hydroelectric power plant in Algeria). Not only Islamic, but developing countries in general are the main market for industrial enterprises carrying out investment projects abroad. However, construction works (construction of dams, housing settlements, hotels, military facilities and roads) make up about 85% and

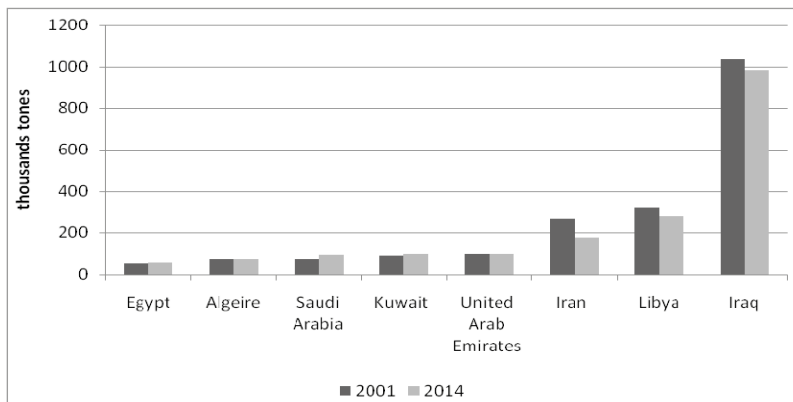


Figure 2

Import of oil in Bosnia and Herzegovina from Arab countries and Iran in thousands tons, 2001-2014

Source: *Statistics of Foreign Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo (2014)*

construction of complete works 10-15% of all investment projects. There is very little participation of engineering services 2-3%. (*Foreign trade chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina (EFTA, EU, others) 2010-2014*) In hydro urban facilities, a substantial amount of equipment from Bosnia and Herzegovina was built, but also not sufficient material that is consumed during the execution of these or similar works as well as other goods consumed by the workers during their stay and work in those countries (food and textile products). It is also important to point out that many contractors of investment projects in Islamic countries are not connected enough or do not appear together in these markets which creates unfair competition and harms not only these organizations but also the reputation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in these countries. It would be useful if economic activities from Bosnia and Herzegovina were connected and appeared together in the market of Islamic countries and with foreign companies, especially with companies in developed countries and developing countries. (*Pejaković, G, 2011*)

Of particular importance would be if in the foreseeable future economic activities from Bosnia and Herzegovina entered the market of Islamic countries also with other forms of economic cooperation, in particular to connect with the science, design, engineering and consulting companies in the development of regional, economic and spatial planning in those sectors where certain technology from Bosnia and Herzegovina can be offered to Islamic countries. In this way, we would not only ensure the export of domestic equipment and materials but also the placement of various other products as well as marketing services. For now, apart from trade, other forms of economic cooperation are somewhat more developed only with Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. (*Mustafić-Cokoja, D, 2008*)



The market in Islamic countries is not only spatially large, but also is very important today for the placement of products from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Islamic significant population of potential buyers of products from Bosnia and Herzegovina makes good prospects for cooperation with these countries for their very ambitious plans for economic and social development. Good perspectives for cooperation with these countries open for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Nevertheless, as of now, there is a significant difference in the degree of economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina and almost all Islamic countries and very good political relations with most of these countries are of a great significance. (*Pavlović, D, 2008*)

THE IMPORTANCE OF OIL IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

Oil and gas are the largest and the most important economic wealth of almost all Islamic countries. Islamic countries, in total world oil production, participate with about 40% of global exports even with about 75%, and the total oil reserves in these countries are estimated at around 65% of world reserves. Surely, these basic data suggest that the oil wealth determines the specific economic and social development of these countries and puts them in a specific position in international economic but also political relations and events. Oil production in the Islamic countries of North Africa, like other regions in the world, declined in 2008 because of internal problems and due to the decrease in demand for oil and other reasons. However, here, the basic cause of the drop in production was the policy of the Islamic countries which was based on a strategy of moderate but long-term use of oil revenues.

Islamic countries are the largest oil producer in the world and the largest exporters. Based on the large oil and gas reserves, Islamic countries build a long-term policy of exports, and the rational use of resources for long-term economic development. However, the region has still maintained a leading role in world production and export of this energy source. In the total world production, this region accounts for 30.2%, and it is precisely in these countries that there have been found the greatest reserves, especially in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Abu Dhabi. We should not forget that a large part of the area of Middle Eastern countries have not even been investigated yet, especially the underwater world that still gives a greater production than export to the mainland.

Up until the end of World War II, and in some Islamic countries even later, the exploitation of oil and organization of the market was entirely in the hands and under the control of large multinational companies from the UK, France, the Netherlands, Italy, the United States and some other countries. Moreover, it is not only a consequence of the colonial status of Islamic countries in the period up to the World War II, but also the fact that most of these countries did not have and still do



not have a sufficient number of highly qualified personnel, the necessary technology, not even the investments for research, production and placement of oil and gas to the world market. By the end of World War I, the share capital from Great Britain in Islamic countries was 80%, and the US 13%, while today it is the other way round. The share capital of the US in the oil production in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain is 100%, Kuwait 50%, Iraq 22%. What is the influence of American capital can be seen from the data that in all Islamic countries it accounts for about 60%, while the share of Anglo-Dutch fell to just 24%. Interestingly, Japanese capital participation is growing, and also some other developed countries in Europe. (*Foreign trade chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina (EFTA, EU, others 2010 - 2014)*)

It is not known exactly how large the profits of many multinational companies operating in Islamic countries are. According to some calculations and research, they are definitely twice the size of the income that is generated by the countries in the area where these companies operate. It is well known that Islamic countries in 2014 received 10.5 billion US dollars of its oil, and companies at least 20 billion US dollars. It should be noted that, at the same time, Western European countries have made over 30 billion US dollars only from duties on petrol and tax on naphta derivatives. Using their revenues generated from the export of oil and gas, Islamic countries currently keep a strong pace in raising general and individual standard, building a number of objects, primarily industrial facilities, modern highways, power plants, hospitals, water supply systems and devices for desalination and a significant portion of revenues is set aside for the education of professionals and to develop their own science. Most of the investment projects, surely, are carried out by foreign companies and experts, the technology comes also from developed (mainly western) countries, and thus most of the foreign exchange earned from oil sales in developed countries is returned directly to importers of these raw materials. However, oil is the most important natural wealth of Islamic countries, which allows those developing countries accelerated integration into the global division of labor and is considerably a factor of the political struggle for full economic and political independence of these countries.

CONCLUSION

In the first part of the article, general economic relations of development between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Islamic countries are elaborated, with a focus on oil production and the industry as a dominant branch. In recent years, there have been major changes in the regional development of foreign trade of Bosnia and Herzegovina due to broken relations in the internal market, rational behaviour of most economic activities in the country and the situation and relations in the global division of labor and international economic and political relations. For many years, Islamic countries have been a very important economic partner of Bosnia and



Herzegovina. The political and therefore economic relations were established with some even before World War II, but more significant trade started only between the fifties and sixties as well as the visits of political and economic representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from Islamic countries. The close cooperation was established with the establishment of the non-aligned countries movement, whose members are almost all Islamic countries. The highlights would be relatively favorable development prospects of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the agricultural production, forestry and livestock hilly Bosnia and Herzegovina and the development of tourism. There were mention the basic data and a period of development of Islamic countries investments in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The second part of the article refers to the importance of oil and gas in economic and social development of Islamic countries. Oil and gas are the largest and most important economic wealth of almost all Islamic countries. Islamic countries in total world oil production participate with about 40% of global exports with about 75%, and the total oil reserves in these countries are estimated at around 65% of world reserves. Surely these basic data suggest that the oil wealth determines the specific economic and social development of these countries and puts them in a specific position in international economic but also political relations and events. Among other forms of economic cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Islamic countries, it is only in recent years that investment cooperation has been developed and the first steps in the production cooperation and joint ventures have been made. Investment cooperation is mainly composed of exports of capital goods and carrying out of investment projects in some Islamic countries (Industrogradnja, in Iraq or Hydroelectric power plant in Algeria). Not only Islamic but developing countries in general are the main market for industrial enterprises for carrying out investment projects in foreign countries. However, construction works (construction of dams, housing settlements, hotels, military facilities and roads) make up about 85%, and construction of complete works 10-15% of all investment projects. Basic characteristic of Foreign Trade of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a gradual reduction of the volume of trade with the developed countries of the West and at the same time increasing the volume and value of trade with Islamic countries and the developing countries. While in 2014 the participation of developed western countries in total trade with foreign countries amounted to 50,1%, Islamic countries 37.8% and developing countries 15.1%. The share of developed countries in Bosnia and Herzegovina in total trade with the world amounted to 40.8%, European countries 39.3% and developing countries 19.9% (total value of Bosnia and Herzegovina foreign trade in 2014 amounted to 21 304 million US dollars).



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ABBREVIATIONS

- BH – Bosnia and Herzegovina
EU – European Union
FBiH – Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
FDI – foreign direct investment
KM – Convertible mark
IMF – International Monetary Fund
RS – Republic of Serbian
UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
WTO – World Trade Organisation



CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION ON THE POLISH-SLOVAK BORDERLAND - EXAMPLES OF JOINT TOURISM INITIATIVES

Małgorzata BUCZEK-KOWALIK^{A*}, Teresa MITURA^B

Received: August 27, 2018 | Revised: October 24, 2018 | Accepted: November 1, 2018
Paper No. 18-60/2-520

Abstract

The article presents examples of cross-border cooperation between Poland and Slovakia based on the EU funds. The article presents jointly implemented projects and micro-projects. A micro-projects are a separate projects implemented under the Umbrella Project by at least two entities - a minimum of one on each side of the border. Micro-projects are identified as relatively small budget projects which elaborate their objectives and implement their activities with the involvement of local civil societies. Particular attention was paid to actions that contribute to the protection and promotion of natural and cultural heritage and undertakings affecting the development of tourism in the border areas. The background for the analysis is a short characteristic of the study area and a theoretical introduction to the problems of European cross-border cooperation.

Key words

Borderland, cross-border cooperation, Euroregions, umbrella projects, micro-projects, natural and cultural heritage

INTRODUCTION

The Polish-Slovak borderland is one of the most attractive tourist destinations, which is due to its generous and diverse cultural and natural values. An attractive, diverse terrain, natural plant communities and a clean environment, free of significant settlement concentrations, are the assets of this area. A rich, multicultural history of the area where different ethnic and national groups came into contact and coexisted left many traces, often considered a European rarity, which constitute today the sightseeing richness.

The way in which these resources were developed does not fully exploit their values and possibilities therefore a number of actions related to the protection and promotion are now being taken. However, these actions require financial support and such support comes from the projects implemented in the framework of EU programs.

A* University of Rzeszów, ul. Cicha 2a, 35-326 Rzeszów, Poland
malgorzatabuczek1@wp.pl, Poland (corresponding author)

B University of Rzeszów, ul. Cicha 2a, 35-326 Rzeszów, Poland
miturat@wp.pl



OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this article is to present directions of the cross-border cooperation between Poland and Slovakia and to approach some forms of this cooperation which contribute to the development of tourism in the border region.

Cross-border cooperation

The idea of regional cooperation appeared in Europe in the 60s of the twentieth century. It was related to the emergence of the concept of “the Europe of the regions” (Lechwar 2012). At that time, there also appeared Western Europe’s first Euroregions (on the borderland between the Netherlands and Germany), which are characterized by highly institutionalized cooperation structures (Berzi 2013)

Cross-border cooperation is one of the most important elements of the European policy of development of the regions (Greta 2003, Lechwar 2012, Sumpor, Dokić 2011). It is also one of the forms of international cooperation. According to the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (1980), the cross-border (or transfrontier) cooperation must be understood as any concerted action designed to reinforce neighbourly contacts between the communities and territorial authorities of two or more contracting parties, as well as the conclusion of agreements and adoption of arrangements necessary to implement such plans.

The European Charter of Border and Cross-Border Regions demands that the cross-border cooperation included the relations between the regions adjacent to each other, and the relationships of local authorities and institutions representing particular border areas (Wieczorek, Głąb 2016).

Actions under cross-border cooperation may involve many issues, such as tourism, protection of natural and cultural environment, infrastructure, development of small and medium-sized enterprises, education, activation of various social groups.

The cross-border cooperation may take various forms and can be carried on different planes like agreements on cooperation between the neighbouring countries, as well as partnerships (cooperation of two communes). Euroregions are considered to be the most institutionalized form of cooperation. The European Union supports all kinds of activities carried out within the framework of Euro-regions, which are based primarily on contracts concluded between local and regional authorities. The cross-border cooperation within the Euroregion framework is supposed to undertake and harmonize various actions in the field of science and culture, as well as education and economy. These actions should be beneficial for both parties, as well as serve the deepening of the relationship between economic operators and local community residents (Wieczorek, Głąb 2016).



Among different forms of cross-border cooperation on the Polish borders, Euroregions prevail. They were created during the entire period of Polish political and structural transition, both as a result of bottom-up actions taken by the territorial authorities located on both sides of the border (as well as in three or more adjacent countries), and as a result of government initiatives. A Euroregion focuses on establishing and implementing cross-border contacts between citizens, politicians, institutions, economies and social partners, which is reflected in admitting these entities to participate in the decision-making processes, as well as in various programs and projects. (Wieczorek, Głęb 2016).

European border regions require support and assistance, mainly legal and financial ones. A special role in this area has the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC). Its actions are directed at supporting, promoting and implementing international projects within the European Union. The ETC, known as Interreg is built around three aspects of cooperation: cross-border (Interreg A), transnational (Interreg B) and international (Interreg C). Poland acting within the ETC participates in 7 cross-border cooperation programs (Raszeja – Osowska 2016).

The cross-border policy is implemented through operational programs and projects.

The projects carried out and financed by the cross-border programs should encourage development of relationships and connections between local governments, educational and cultural institutions and non-governmental entities. An important factor is the support for the socio - economic development of border regions which are characterized by a lower level of development than the country's average (Lechwar 2012). Cross-border cooperation contributes to cohesion in Europe, which means it tackles the disparities between rich and poor regions and improves the functioning of the so-called "Peripheral regions" (Ślusarz 2008, Sumpor, Dokić 2011).

Depending on the program, financial support may relate to the so-called hard projects (e.g. investment), or to soft ones (e.g. training, courses, festivals).

A significant role is played by micro-projects, which are designed to promote local initiatives in line with the idea of "people to people". They are implemented under the umbrella projects. Of all these actions special attention should be paid to: organization of trainings, courses, educational activities, organization of cultural events, development of infrastructure, participation in joint sports events that promote healthy lifestyles (Raszeja – Osowska 2016). The vast majority of micro-projects are soft projects.

Cross-border cooperation on the Polish-Slovak border area

The first program of financial support for the Polish - Slovak borderland was launched in 2000 by the EU Phare CBC Poland - Slovak Republic. Throughout 4 editions of the program (2000-2004) the support was given to the operations for the de-



velopment of communication infrastructure, environmental protection, improvement of the quality of life and the development of local networks. The greatest interest raised the Small Projects Fund, which was continued in a different form in later programs (Halás 2007).

In 2004, the actions of the Phare pre-accession program have been replaced by the initiative Interreg III A. In the years 2004 to 2006 more than 315 projects were completed ranging from technical and communication infrastructure projects (25), environmental infrastructure projects (22), projects for the development of human resources and entrepreneurship support (32), protection of cultural and natural heritage (40) to projects supporting local initiatives called micro -projects (196).

The subsequent years, 2007 - 2013, saw the continuation of actions under the Interreg PL - SK in the four priority axes:

- Priority axis 1. Development of cross-border infrastructure:
 - communication and transport infrastructure
 - environmental protection infrastructure,
- Priority axis 2. Socio-economic development:
 - the development of cross-border cooperation in the field of tourism,
 - protection of natural and cultural heritage,
 - network projects
- Priority axis 3. support for local initiatives (micro-projects)
- Priority axis 4. Technical Assistance. (Interreg Polska–Słowacja 2018a, Program Operacyjny Współpracy... 2018).

In the current financial perspectives 2014 - 2020, the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Poland–Slovakia focuses on three challenges:

- protection, strengthening and development of the main potential of the area - natural and cultural heritage,
- improving transport infrastructure,
- development of education and increasing opportunities for lifelong learning in order to use the resources of the area.

Implementation of the a/m challenges is based on four axes:

- Priority axis 1. Protection and development of natural and cultural heritage of the border area.
- Priority axis 2. Sustainable cross-border transport.
- Priority axis 3. Development of cross-border education and lifelong learning.
- Priority axis regarding technical assistance. (Program współpracy... 2015)



Possible beneficiaries are:

- government administration and local governments, their unions and associations,
- units established by the state or local government to provide public services,
- education system institutions and universities,
- NGOs, non-profit organizations,
- the European grouping of territorial cooperation,
- churches and religious associations,
- research units. (Interreg Polska–Słowacja 2018b)

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Prior to the analysis the following research questions had been raised:

- Who are the project applicants?
- What projects in connection with tourism have been and are being implemented in the area of the Polish-Slovak borderland?
- What are the effects of actions undertaken in the projects?
- Which districts the highest number of beneficiaries applying for EU funds come from?

DATA AND METHODS

The method applied in the study was a desk research method, i.e. a method based on the analysis of existing documents that present phenomena and things that occurred in the past and predict the trend of changes. The study relies on official documents, statistics, statements and reports issued by offices and other institutions, and the so-called contextual information providing a broader view of the analysed issue. The information used was received from such institutions as Marshal Offices, Euroregions, Statistical Offices, the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Poland – Slovakia. It is available on these institutions' websites, published in the form of brochures and statistical studies. Another source was the authors' own unpublished information. During the analysis the obtained data were compiled, verified and processed. These actions helped to develop conclusions on the studied issue (Bednarowska 2015).

Unfortunately, the authors failed to collect the whole set of data partly because of the lack of reply of some institutions to the requests for information. Therefore, this study relates to the projects and micro-projects implemented by two Euroregions: the Carpathian Euroregion and Tatras Euroregion whose area of operation covers a large part of the Polish-Slovak borderland (Małopolskie and Podkarpackie Provinces in Poland and: Žilina and Prešov Regions in Slovakia).



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of the study area

The Polish border with Slovakia has 541 km, representing 15.4% of the total length of the Polish border, and 39.9% of the total length of the Slovakia's border. On the Polish side the border provinces are Małopolskie, Podkarpackie and the Province of Silesia (a total of 11 districts) bordering the two Slovak provinces or regions (called "kraje" in Slovak nomenclature) - Žilina Region and Prešov Region (13 districts). (Pogranicze polsko – słowackie 2009)

In this study, the analysed area is that covered by the Cross-border Cooperation Program Poland - Slovak Republic, i.e. larger than the area immediately adjacent to the border.

In Poland, these are the Districts of Pszczyna, Cieszyn, Bielsko-Biała, the municipality of Bielsko-Biała with county rights, the Districts of Żywiec (Silesia Province), Olkusz, Chrzanów, Oświęcim, Wadowice, Sucha, Myślenice, the Tatras District, the District of Nowy Targ, Limanowa, Nowy Sacz, the municipality of Nowy Sacz with county rights, the District of Gorlice (Małopolskie Province), the Bieszczady District, Districts of Lesko, Sanok, Brzozów, Krosno, the municipality of Krosno with county rights, the Districts of Jasło, Rzeszów, the municipality of Rzeszów with county rights, the Districts of Przeworsk, Przemyśl, the municipality of Przemyśl with county rights, the Districts of Jarosław, Lubaczów (Podkarpackie Province). While in Slovakia these are the districts of: Čadca, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Bytča, Žilina, Martin, Turčianske Teplice, Ružomberok, Dolný Kubín, Námestovo, Tvrdošín, Liptovský Mikuláš (Žilina Region), Spišská Nová Ves (Košice Region), Poprad, Kežmarok, Stará Ľubovňa, Levoča, Sabinov, Bardejov, Svidník, Prešov, Vranov nad Topľou, Stropkov, Medzilaborce, Humenné, Snina (Prešov Region) (Figure 1).

The overall size of the support area is 39 167 km², of which the Polish side covers 58.2% and the Slovak side 41.8% (Program współpracy... 2015).

The study area, thanks to the abundant resources both natural and cultural ones, is extremely attractive for tourists. It allows for practising various forms of tourism - leisure tourism, sightseeing or interest tourism (Klamar, Mika 2015).

Active tourism is promoted by the land relief, which, on the Polish-Slovak borderland is the most important factor in the development of tourism. The entire border between Poland and Slovakia runs along the Carpathians ridges, mainly within the Western Carpathians (Outer, Central and Inner), and in the east along some part of the Eastern Carpathians (Outer and Inner) (Krokusová 2017). The highest peak of the Carpathians is Gerlach (2 655 m above sea level) situated in the Tatra Mountains in Slovakia. We can identify here mountain ranges of alpine type as well as lower foothills and milder forms. This diversity creates the possibility of active recreation for a wide range of tourists, and some of its forms are walking, riding, cycling and water skiing or water recreation, birthwatching on a number of water reservoirs in the region. (Koščová, Koščová 2017).



Figure. 1

The support area covered by the program Interreg VA Poland - Slovakia

Source: *Interreg Polska–Słowacja 2018b*

In the Carpathians, there are many areas that have retained their original character. The most valuable ones were covered by legal forms of nature protection. In Poland, within this area there are 6 national parks (Babiogórski, the Bieszczady National Park, Gorczański, Magurski, Pieniński, Tatrzański) whose total area is 825,88 km². In Slovakia, there are also 6 national parks (Little Fatra, Poloniny, Pieniny, Tatras, Big Fatra, Slovak Paradise) with a total area 1 901.19 km². (Kucharczyk 2009)

Important natural assets are numerous and varied mineral water sources, creating foundation for the development of spa tourism. On the studied area operates a total of 21 health resorts of various therapeutic profiles: Iwonicz Zdrój, Rymanów Zdrój, Polańczyk Zdrój, Horyniec Zdrój, Goczałkowice Zdrój, Krynica Zdrój, Muszyna, Piwniczna Zdrój, Rabka Zdrój, Swoszowice, Szczawnica, Wapienne, Wysowa Zdrój, Żegiestów Zdrój (Poland), Bardejovské Kúpele, Vyšné Ružbachy, Korytnica – kúpele, Liptovský Ján, Lúčky Kúpele, Rajecké Teplice, Turčianske Teplice (Slovakia). (Narodowy Fundusz Zdrowia 2018, Kúpele na Slovensku 2018, Pawlusiński 2015)

An important addition to the natural values is rich and diverse cultural heritage. Particularly noteworthy are the sites listed in the UNESCO World Heritage, which are represented on the studied area by 9 sites, out of which 3 are complex sites. In the Polish part of the border area these are: Auschwitz – Birkenau, the German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp (1940 - 1945) in Auschwitz, the Mannerist Architectural and Park Landscape Complex and Pilgrimage Park in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, wooden Churches of Southern Małopolska Region (in Binarowa, Blizne,



Dębno, Haczów, Lipnica Murowana, Sękowa), wooden Orthodox Churches of the Carpathian region (in Radruż, Chotyniec, Smolnik, Turzańsk, Powroźnik, Owczary, Kwiaton, Brunary Wyżne). Whereas in the Slovak part these are: A Urban Complex of Bardejov, Wooden Churches and Orthodox Churches of the Slovak part of the Carpathian region (in Hervartov, Tvrdošín, Kežmark, Leštiny, Hronsek, Bodružal, Ladomirova, Ruska Bystra), the primary beech forests of the Carpathians and other regions of Europe, Vlkolíneec, Levoča, Spišský Hrad and the associated cultural monuments. (UNESCO 2018)

Financial perspectives 2007 – 2013

In the years 2007 - 2013 a total of 26,563,851 euros was allocated for the implementation of Priority Axis 3. The allocation amounted to 22,514,924.15 euros, of which 99.40% was used. Funding the umbrella project by the European Regional Development Fund amounted to 85% of eligible costs. On the Polish side the Priority 3 was managed by: The Carpathian Euroregion, the Tatras Euroregion, the Beskydy Mountains Euroregion, and on the Slovak side by Higher Territorial Units (through the Regional Development Agencies). (Interreg Polska – Słowacja 2018c)

The micro-projects in this perspective were to establish and strengthen direct contacts between Polish and Slovak communities in the border areas and create foundation for further projects in the future.

To actions which were mostly supported included the protection and preservation of natural and cultural heritage; expansion and modernization of tourism infrastructure; actions to improve the situation of marginalized groups; implementation of minor “soft” investments, organization of cultural and sports activities.

On 3 calls for applications there were submitted 1676 applications, 729 of which received funding.

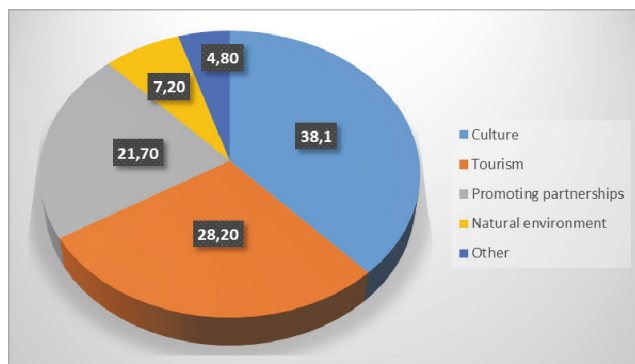


Figure 2

Implemented micro-projects acc. to main categories (in %)

Source: Own work based on: Euroregion Tatry 2018a



In the Carpathian Euroregion we implemented 123 projects and in the Tatras Euroregion – 143 (Tab.1). The largest percentage of completed applications concerned culture (38, 1%) and tourism (28.2%) (Figure 2).

Table 1 Implemented micro-projects acc. to main categories in Euroregions

CATEGORY	CARPATHIAN EUROREGION		TATRAS EUROREGION	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE [%]	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE [%]
Culture	21	17.1	43	30.1
Tourism	35	28.4	39	27.3
Promoting partnerships	44	35.7	48	33.6
Natural environment	14	11.4	8	5.6
Other	9	7.4	5	3.4
Total	123	100	143	100

Source: Own work based on: Euroregion Tatry 2018a

Beneficiaries of the micro projects over the analysed area were: local government units (44%); public administration (26.1%) and non-governmental organizations (21.1%). Other units, i.e. educational, cultural or ecclesiastical institutions accounted for 8.8%. A similar structure of beneficiaries showed the Carpathian and Tatras Euroregions: (Tab.2).

Table 2 Beneficiaries of the micro projects

CATEGORIES	CARPATHIAN EUROREGION		TATRAS EUROREGION	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE %	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE %
Local government units	51	41.4	64	44.7
Non-governmental organisations	34	27.6	26	18.2
Educational institutions	12	9.7	13	9.1
The state administration	5	4.1	13	9.1
Ecclesiastical institutions	2	1.6	0	0
Cultural institutions	9	7.5	24	16.8
Others	10	8.1	3	2.1
Total	123	100	143	100

Source: Own work based on: PL-SK 2007–2013 2015a



Most often the micro-projects applicants on the Polish side were entities in the districts of Nowy Targ, Rzeszow (including the municipality of Rzeszow), Krosno and the Tatras District (Figure 3.). Their partners from Slovakia came mainly from the the districts of Prešov (including the municipality of Prešov) – 22,4%; (including the municipality of Svidník) – 21%; Humenné – 10,1% and the districts of: Bardejov and Snina (5,7% each).

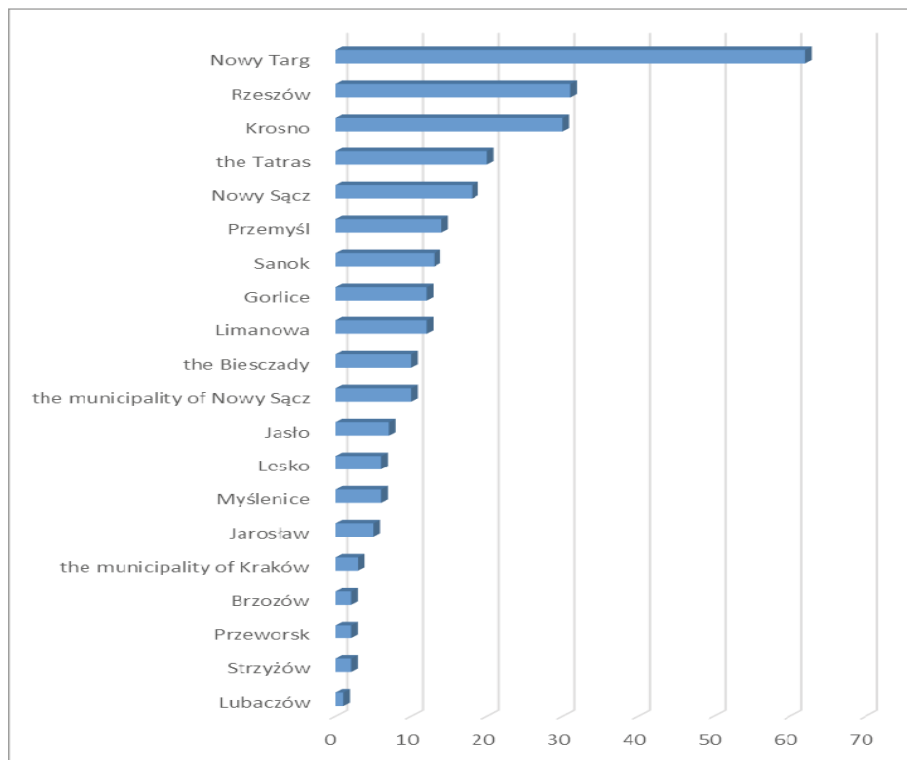


Figure 3

The micro-projects applicants by districts

Source: Own work based on: PL-SK 2007–2013 2015b

Judging by the amounts of received funding in the area of the entire Polish - Slovak borderland the dominant role played the projects for an amount of 25 - 50 thousand euro. They accounted for over 60% of completed applications. (Figure 4)

In the Carpathian Euroregion the largest share had the projects over 35 thousand euro (56.1%) and the Tatras Euroregion was dominated by micro-projects with a budget of EUR 25-35 thousand. Euro (34.3%) (Tab.3).

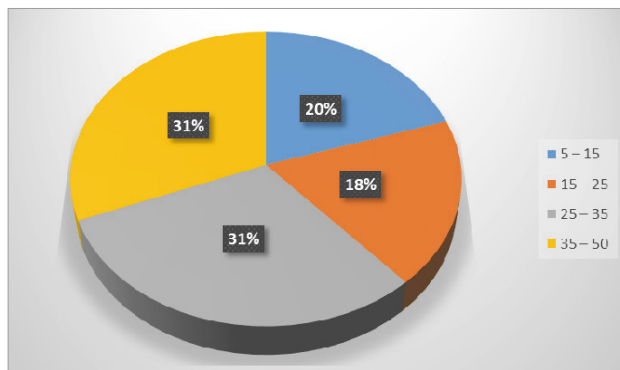


Figure 4

Implemented micro-projects - by the amount of received funding

Source: own work based on: PL-SK 2007–2013 2015b

Table 3 Implemented micro-projects - by the amount of received funding in Euroregions

THE AMOUNT [EURO IN THOUS.]	CARPATHIAN EUROREGION		TATRAS EUROREGION	
	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
5 - 15	12	9.8	18	12.6
15 - 25	9	7.3	32	22.4
25 - 35	33	26.8	49	34.3
35 - 50	69	56.1	44	30.7
Total	123	100	143	100

Source: own work based on: PL-SK 2007–2013 2015b, own sources

The most important effects of the Umbrella Project within the tourism industry should be: demarcation, marking and modernization of more than 1644 km of hiking, walking and biking trails, creating more than 500 new tourism products on the Polish - Slovak border area, organization of more than 4,000 training sessions, meetings and conferences and a publication devoted to the Polish - Slovak topics (albums, maps, guides, videos). The added value of all actions taken was a strong commitment of more than 1,800 partners and cooperating institutions after the completion of the project (Tab. 4).

In the present financial perspectives particular interest raised the issues related to active tourism, mainly cycling, skiing and horse riding (approx. 55% of the complex micro-projects). Part of this activity was modernisation of the existing bike trails, horse riding trails and cross-country skiing trails and marking the new ones, publishing the maps, organisation of Polish - Slovak rallies and competitions to promote this form of activity. In the Carpathian Euroregion, cooperation and EU funds allowed for creating new tourism products related to astrotourism (including

**Table 4** Program indicators and additional umbrella projects in the years 2007 – 2013

INDICATORS	TOTAL	THE CARPATHIAN EUROREGION	TATRAS EUROREGION
Number of joint projects	729	123	134
Number of partners	1,630	304	334
Number of institutions cooperating after the project completion	1,812	379	246
The length of marked biking / walking/ ski trails	1,644 km	330 km	265 km
Number of new tourism products	517	27	33
Number of issued publications by the number of copies	1,647,108	228,570	680,000
Number of organized meetings / conferences	4,188	850	932
Number of permanent cooperation structures	42	9	11
Number of web pages on the projects	224	75	51

Source: Own work based on: Euroregion Tatry 2018a

an information centre of the “Bieszczady” Dark Sky Park). Several projects (approx. 4%) concerned building a common brand and development strategy of the Tatras and the Bieszczady Mountains as tourist regions. For this purpose, joint tourism and recreation events were organized, and there was developed an integrated system of tourist information. Another, equally important aspect of tourism activities, was related to the development of a common system of monitoring road, water and tourism safety on both sides of the border.

Over 90% of the projects resulted in the publications related to the implemented topic of natural assets, cultural history or ethnography. These were information folders, albums, maps, popular science books, information boards, e-books, usually published in several languages (Polish, Slovak, English).

Especially important in the implementation of micro-projects was social integration of people living on both sides of the Polish and Slovak border. Multiple meetings, conferences, courses, and events were attended by approx. 36 000 people of different ages and social status.

In addition to the Priority Axis 3 micro-projects in the period 2007-2013, there were also carried out other projects in the field of tourism, financed from the budget of the Priority Axis 2.

In the Carpathian Euroregion 3 “large” projects for a total amount of more than EUR 3 721 000 could be completed. They focused on niche tourism, i.e. astrotourism



and archaeological tourism. They lead to the building of viewing platform in the Open Air Museum Carpathian Troy in Trzcinica and there was created an archaeological park in the Local History Museum in Hanušovce nad Topľou. The objective of the project "Carpathian Sky" was to develop tourism products related to astronomy in the area of Polish - Slovak borderland through the construction or modernization of infrastructure related to astronomy, the exchange of experience and knowledge of astronomy, light pollution and tourism but also building a network of cross-border cooperation. The greatest founding received the project called Development of Infrastructure of Active Tourism through the creation of a network of cross-border tourism products in Krosno, Prešov and Svidník. These actions allowed for creating the Adventure Park in Krosno, modernizing the ski lift in Czarnorzeki, an artificial skating rink in Svidnik and Rope Center in Prešov. Additionally, there were organized conferences, training sessions for trainers, as well as the Summer and Winter Games for Polish and Slovak Youth. (Serwis Programów... 2017).

Financial Perspectives 2014-2020

Analysing the projects submitted in the current financial perspectives, the focus is on those implemented under the Priority Axis 1, which aims to develop new forms of promotion of the natural environment and cultural heritage, providing a sustainable and effective way of using them. The actions undertaken under the projects should result in raising the level of economic and settlement attractiveness of the border area and the increase in tourism and recreation services (Program współpracy... 2015).

We analysed both large projects and micro-projects implemented under the Umbrella Projects.

In the financial perspectives 2014 - 2020 the approval was granted to 32 major projects (as of June 2018) for the above-mentioned axis. The vast majority of applicants were both the state and local government authorities (65.6% of the total number of approved applications) and the group of beneficiaries which included museum centres, cultural centres, national parks etc. (21.9%). The smallest group were associations, local action groups, foundations and other organizations (12.5%). Most applications, 75% were submitted by partners acting within Poland. Overall, 91 beneficiaries are involved in these projects, including 43 from Poland. The largest number of beneficiaries come from the Districts of Nowy Targ (Poland) and Dolny Kubin (Slovakia) (Figure 5). In the Districts of Brzozów, Jasło, Krosno, Lubaczów, Przemyśl, Przeworsk, Sanok, the municipality of Przemyśl, Limanowa, Myślenice, Olkusz, Auschwitz, Wadowice, Pszczyna, the municipality of Bielsko-Biała (Poland), Bytča, Liptovský Mikuláš, Martin, Turčianske Teplice, Humenné, Spišská Nová Ves (Slovakia) no activity of even one beneficiary was recorded. The amount of the ERDF funding for all projects is 47,332,541.73 euros.



Figure 5

The participation of beneficiaries in the projects by districts

Source: Own work based on: *Interreg Polska–Słowacja 2018d*

The implemented projects can be noted for their focus on the development and promotion of active tourism (43.7% of applications), and secondly on culture and heritage tourism (37.5% of applications). Among the applications regarding active tourism the majority refer to cycling tourism (28.1% of all applications submitted), hiking tourism (12.5%) and combined forms of tourism - hiking and cycling (6.2%). The projects are primarily aimed at the creation of new routes, expansion or modernization of existing infrastructure on routes and trails.

Heritage promotion and development of tourism are also fostered by conclusions which help build new cross-border thematic routes. In the current financial perspectives there will be created the following new cultural routes:

- *On the footsteps of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire* - a digital route connecting sites, in which the Austrian troops stationed: Rzeszów, Strzyżów, Korczyna, Dukla, Barwinek, Stropkov, Velkrop, Bukovce, Mirol'a, Bodružal, Krajná Poľana and Nižný Komárnik (Serwis Informacyjny Urzędu Miasta Rzeszowa 2018)
- *Living Archeology Trail* – an archaeological and cultural trail running from Trzcianica through Nowy Żmigród, Bardejov to Haniušovce nad Topľou, with a mobile application (Muzeum Podkarpackie w Krośnie 2018)
- *Tracing technical monuments from Podhale to Liptov* - it connects sites related to the technical heritage of the borderland in Nowy Targ, Pribylina and Ludrová (Miasto Nowy Targ 2018)
- *Wallachian Culture Trail* – presenting cultural heritage of Wallachian settlers, one of the “Fathers of Europe”, depositories and emissaries of the mountains



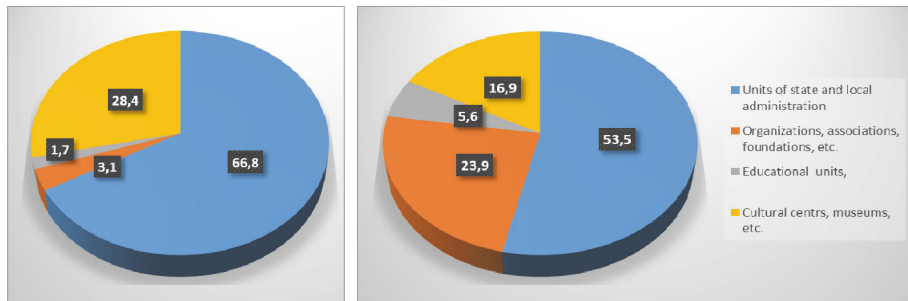
culture which paved the way for the development of the Carpathian Region since the Middle Ages (Procarpatia 2018)

Another group of border area projects are micro-projects implemented under the umbrella projects. Likewise, their analysis covered only those that fall within the framework of Priority Axis 1.

The Association Carpathian Euroregion Poland together with the partner Prešov Self - Governing Region implement the umbrella project entitled "Implementation of micro-projects relating to the conservation and development of natural and cultural heritage in the Carpathian Euroregion and HTU in Prešov", which were founded by the ERDF to the amount of EUR 5,334,089. 22. The association of "Tatras" Euroregion and Žilina Self-Governing Region implement the umbrella project entitled "We share the nature and culture" for a total amount of EUR 5,956,041. 96. There were already two calls for micro-projects and currently (as of June 2018), there have been jointly carried out or are being implemented 137 micro-projects. The total of 71 micro-projects implemented in the Carpathian Euroregion involved 96 beneficiaries, and 66 micro-projects implemented in the Tatras Euroregion had 104 beneficiaries. Among all beneficiaries the largest group are administrative units - communes: 32 in Poland and 42 in Slovakia; towns and municipalities: 13 in Poland and 19 in Slovakia; districts: 5, only in Poland. The record holders when it comes to participation in micro-projects are: The town of Svidník (8 participations in micro-projects) and the Regional Development Agency in Svidník (7 participations in micro-projects).

Applicants for micro projects, as in the group of projects analysed above, are mainly from Poland (59.2%). These are: administration units, which make up for 53.5% in the Carpathian Euroregion and 66.8% in Tatras Euroregion of micro-projects lead partners. In addition, there are various types of associations, local action groups, foundations, organisations (13.9%), cultural centres, museum centres, libraries, Forest Inspectorates (21.2%), and the smallest group constitute educational units - universities and schools (3.6%) (Figure 6).

Among the districts covered by the program the majority of applications (as the micro-project lead partner) were submitted in Nowy Targ (11.7%), in the municipality of Rzeszów with county rights (8%) and in the districts of Sanok, Limanowa and Nowy Sącz (5.8% in each). In Slovakia, the number of applicants is much smaller. Most applications were filed in the District of Prešov (3.6%), while the beneficiaries of the District of Svidník are co-partners of the largest group of micro-projects, up to 8.2% (Figure 7). Districts, where neither one beneficiary was involved in cross-border cooperation in the framework of micro-projects are: District of Brzozów, the municipality of Przemyśl, Chanów, Olkusz, Oświęcim, Wadowice, the municipality of Nowy Sącz (Poland), Bytča, Čadca, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Martin, Ružomberok, Turčianske Teplice (Slovakia).



We share the nature and culture

Implementation of microprojects relating to the conservation and development of natural and cultural heritage in the Carpathian Euroregion and HTU in Prešov

Figure 6

Applicants for micro-projects (in %)

Source: own work based on: *Interreg Polska–Słowacja 2018e, Euroregion Tatry 2018b, own source of the Carpathian Euroregion*



Figure 7

Share of beneficiaries in micro-projects by districts

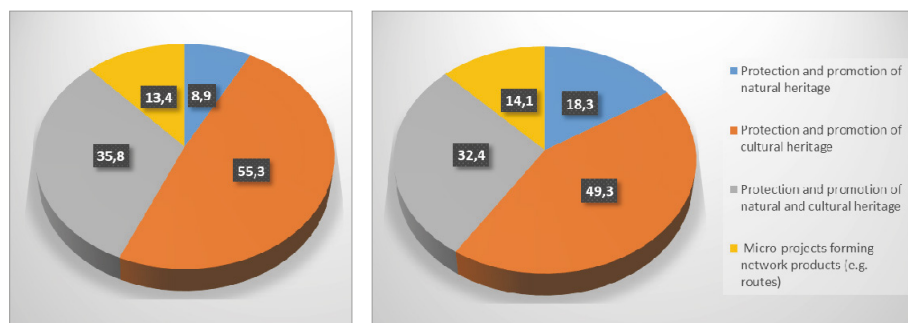
Source: own work based on: *Interreg Polska–Słowacja 2018e, Euroregion Tatry 2018b, own source of the Carpathian Euroregion*

Micro-projects represent mainly so called soft projects, supporting the development of cooperation, being important for an exchange of views and experiences, seeking common solutions to various problems and presenting achievements of partners. Currently implemented micro-projects are meant to increase the utilization of natural and cultural heritage, development of new forms of promotion, the creation of local networks of cooperation in the border area. These actions will



undoubtedly contribute to increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of the area, will help to create new cross-border tourism products, thus contributing to the protection of natural and cultural heritage which in many cases is already disappearing.

The largest number of micro projects relate to the protection and promotion of cultural heritage. They represent 52.5%. The second significant group are mixed micro-projects (which refer to natural and cultural heritage), the smallest number are those which relate exclusively to natural heritage. (Figure 8)



We share the nature and culture

Implementation of microprojects relating to the conservation and development of natural and cultural heritage in the Carpathian Euroregion and HTU in Prešov

Figure 8

Types of micro-projects (in %)

Source: Own work based on: *Interreg Polska–Słowacja 2018e*, *Euroregion Tatry 2018b*, own source of the Carpathian Euroregion

CONCLUSIONS

Cross-border cooperation plays an important role in the development of border areas, which are often peripherally located parts of the countries with poorer infrastructure. Therefore, a common exchange of experience, joint cross-border activities contribute to the growth of their economic and social attractiveness. Projects presented in this article are of particular importance for the development of tourism and recreation. Undertakings that are jointly and consistently carried out on both sides of the Polish - Slovak border contribute to the protection and preservation of a generous natural and cultural heritage, allow for the extension and modernization of tourism infrastructure, create new tourism products, promote heritage through the organization of joint cultural events, entertainment or sports. The key added value of the projects is an increase in the attractiveness of the border area, and an indicator of success of these undertakings should be satisfaction of the communities living in border areas and increase in tourist interest in the region.



Referring to the hypotheses posed in the introduction, it must be stated that:

- On the Polish - Slovak borderland, most project and micro-projects applicants come from Poland. In the financial perspectives 2014 - 2020 approx. 75% of applications for projects and 59% applications for micro projects were submitted by Polish beneficiaries. The majority of applicants are both state and local government administration units, accounting for over 50% of all applicants.
- The projects relate mainly to the protection and promotion of natural and cultural heritage by organizing meetings, festivals, conferences, and at the same time contributing to the promotion of the area and the development of tourism
- The material results of these joint actions are: new tourism products, tourist walking, cycling, horse riding trails, and the expansion and improvement of tourism infrastructure. In the financial perspectives 2007-2013 more than 500 new tourism products were created and there were marked more than 1 400 km of new trails. It is worth noting that the resulting tourism products are frequently one point-oriented, they don't have a developed marketing strategy allowing for further development and increase in tourist attractiveness of cross-border area.
- Most active in applying for the EU funds turned out to be beneficiaries from the districts of: Nowy Targ, the Tatras, Krosno and Rzeszow in Poland and Prešov, Svidnik and Humenne in Slovakia.
- Although the financial perspectives 2007-2013 led to the creation of more than 200 websites and editing more than 1 million copies of various publications, unfortunately, in many cases, what remains after the completion of the project is „inactive“ websites lacking current information, renewed publications of maps, folders or updated information boards.
- Nonetheless, over 1,800 institutions that established cooperation in the financial perspectives 2007-2013 and continue to cooperate with their partners, along with 42 permanent structures of cooperation, can be hailed as a great success.

Acknowledgement

The paper was supported by the research grant KEGA 011PU-4/2017: *Integration of teaching and increase of the content coherence of the related disciplines of the specialized module of Regional development and regional policy.*

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REGIONS IN TV NEWS BROADCASTING: SELECTED ASPECTS ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Jaroslav URMINSKÝ^{A*}

Received: August 21, 2018 | Revised: September 29, 2018 | Accepted: October 4, 2018
Paper No. 18-60/2-517

Abstract

The presented contribution evaluates the role of mass media within territorial development. The purpose of the paper is to analyze and evaluate regionally bound TV news reporting in the Czech Republic between years 2005-2011. The attention is focused on the information about economies of self-governing regions (NUTS III) broadcasted in the news reporting of main television stations in the Czech Republic. A combination of research methods was used. Due to the character of dataset, empirical research is based on the contingency tables. Afterwards Pearson's chi-square test and Cramer's V were used. Correspondence analysis was applied for the evaluation and visualization of virtual reflection of economic information about regions. Development potential of the territory could be suppressed or supported by the mass media, as virtual portrayals may (not) correspond to the real character of the territory. One single event can distort the entire portrayal of a particular territory. We find also differences in the structure of information between public and commercial televisions. Content structure of concrete TV broadcasting substantially affects audience opinion.

Key words

Territorial development, mass media, mental maps, correspondence analysis, regions, Czech Republic

INTRODUCTION

Effective functioning of a globally connected society is dependent on ensuring the access and flow of information. Individual actors make decisions and act on the basis of information available to them. But the information often comes from secondary sources, e.g. statistical databases, cartographic maps or mass media. Attention is focused on the mass media. They can be perceived as means communicating a message to a wide range of recipients, populations, organizations, investors etc. They provide information from the economic, social and environmental spheres of life. It should be stated that most of them contain spatial connotations (McLuhan, 1994; De Fleur and De Fleur, 2009 or McQuail, 1994).

A* VŠB -Technical University of Ostrava, Department of Regional and Environmental Economics, 17. listopadu 15/2172, 708 33 Ostrava, Czechia
jaroslav.urminsky@vsb.cz (corresponding author)



Thus, among others, mass media compose spatial patterns of information, also containing economic characteristics of towns, regions, countries etc. Based on them, people can create ideas, opinions, stereotypes, expectations and preferences about places in which they have never been before. These mental aspects directly enter into the decision process in the context of behavior in space. Mass media represent actors actively influencing territorial development. Some authors call it media-territorial or meditorial development (see Sucháček *et al.*, 2015). Obviously, the management of regions and municipalities should take into account the role of the media in everyday world. The resulting virtual portrayals, which are created by the media, co-determine the resulting form of territorial image. Through mental maps they influence current situation but also the future success of particular territories. Finally, it's possible to claim that mass media play an increasingly important role in the society and also within territorial development (Gregory *et al.*, 2009; Gould and White, 1986 or Canter, 1977).

Psychological aspects are among the primary factors influencing formation and evolution of territorial inequalities. This underlines the complexity and multidimensional nature of territorial inequalities (Kutscherauer *et al.*, 2010 or see Klamár *et al.*, 2015). These psychological aspects represent also images that people have about particular territory. Mass media have capability to influence formation, change or conservation of images by content of published information, their processing and contextual interpretation. Thus, it is important to focus on the differentiation among territories within massmedia world.

It can be argued that such issues reflect the growing attention given to intangible geographies and soft factors of territorial development.

The structure of the contribution is divided into three parts. The first part is focused on role of the mass media in the society. The main attention is devoted to the issue how the media select real events for inclusion and processing into the news reporting. It should be stated that this selecting process does not have a random character. The news reporting can be perceived as one of the most important sources of information. By selecting the real events that are ultimately presented to the public, mass media set up a public agenda and co-shape mental maps of the actors.

The second part of the paper contains input data and description of the method of correspondence analysis. The input data matrix encompasses data about regionally bound TV news contributions reflecting the economic character of self-governing regions (NUTS III) in the Czech Republic. News reports were broadcasted by the largest TV stations in the Czech Republic between 2005-2011. The method of correspondence analysis was applied to capture, evaluate, and visualize the relationships among the monitored categories, i.e. among TV stations, regions and thematic structure of the information. The basic methodical procedure can be described as follows. The first step contains quantification of potencial depen-



dence between observed categories in the contingency tables. Basic measure of association between categories is represented by χ^2 statistics. Then, based on χ^2 the statistic, Pearson's Chi-Square test of independence at the level of significance $\alpha=0.05$ was applied. Cramer's coefficient V was used for the evaluation of the level of potential dependence. Correspondence analysis was applied in the last step. The results of the correspondence analysis are expressed in a synthetic form through scatter plot, due to the limited scope of the article.

The third chapter contains results of our research, their visualization and interpretation in the context of territorial development. The author will test three basic research hypotheses in this part.

OBJECTIVES

Based on unique database including wide spectrum of TV news about particular regions, the objective of the paper is to analyze and evaluate regionally bound TV news reporting in the Czech Republic. The attention is focused on the economic information. Correspondence analysis was applied for the assessment and visualization of virtual reflection of the economic information about regions in the Czech Republic.

MASS MEDIA AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

Globalization substantially transformed a spatio-temporal context, in which we are acting. The suppression of space-time barriers has allowed mutual interconnection, but also the mutual interdependence of an ever-wider spectrum of actors and their activities. We are dependent on actors located often in remote locations. Contrary to that, the interaction of people with each other and with the environment is still partly limited by physical possibilities. Nonetheless, it is possible to claim, that we have the opportunity to gather as much information about our surroundings as never before. We do not live in an informational vacuum. We are informed about what's happening in remote streets, towns, regions, countries etc. One obtains information and experience on events beyond their own personal experience. This was made possible through mediated information. The issue of securing flow of information in the mass scope comes at the forefront.

The systematic interconnection of human society necessitates increasing requirements to the technical equipment and to the ability of mutual communication. Access to the information, capability of their perceiving, cognitioning and the capability of effectively evaluating and transforming of them to the knowledge, usable for specific purposes, with a pervasive number of communication links is becoming a key area for the functioning of human societies and their systems and subsystems including economic ones. In other words, the information needs are currently put at the level of physical needs. One of the key aspects of the commu-



nication process is the way to find such a transfer of information that would ensure that the information gets from the original source to as many as possible and to the widest range of recipients. This feature is fulfilled by mass media. They provide access to a broad information sources and extend the boundaries of imagination and knowledge. Mass media is a means of communication that provides mass information flows in this context (Giddens, 1990; Harvey, 1989, Franklin and Murphy, 1991 or Jakubowicz, 2004)

The mass media can be perceived as an institution. Institutions represent socially established rules. They influence and limit human relations and activities. The main function of the institutions is to reduce the uncertainty of everyday life through the provision of stable structures of human relations. These structures can take the form of both formal and informal rules (see North, 1990). Developed countries have established rules applicable for organizations providing mass communication. The so-called „*Media laws*“ are formal institutions in this sense. On the other hand, there are also informal rules such as ethical codexes. Work routines and stereotypes affect the resulting form of media products, including also TV news reporting. The news reporting are broadcasted in the prime time. They can be considered as one of the key media products. It is possible to claim they represent one of the primary sources of information in the current world at the same time (Amin and Thrift, 1995; Jakubowicz, 2001; Karlsson and Picard, 2011 or Rottig, 2016)

Obviously, personal characteristics also play a significant role within the process of creating news reporting. But Shoemaker *et al.* (2001, p. 242) suggests that: „*The data support the idea that routine forces are more successful in winning the competition to determine what becomes news than are individual forces*“. The theory of gatekeeping deals with the issue of how are events selected and transformed into the news.

The wide spectrum of events happens in every municipality, region or country virtually every day. Naturally, all events can not be transformed to the form of news. Gatekeeping is the process by which a vast number of everyday events are filtered, processed and transformed into a few news that are actually transmitted. This is not only about selection of events. It also includes how the news are edited, disseminated in time, but also how are manipulated. The gatekeeping can be perceived as a complex process by which the transfer of social reality through the media is constructed (Galtung and Ruge, 1965; Shoemaker *et al.*, 2001 or Jiráková, 2003).

Every event is representing potential news. But every event contains certain aspects that facilitate or limit their passage through media channels. Therefore, the selection of events for processing and inclusion into the news reporting is not random. It is governed by routine rules that represent so-called news values or news factors. By the news values are understood all factors that directly influence both selection and transformation of events into the news reporting. These



values are always dependent on the given social and cultural environment and on the analyzed period (see Dearing and Rogers, 1996; Shoemaker and Vos, 2009 or McCombs and Shaw, 1972).

The first methodologically-based analysis of news values was provided by Galtung and Ruge (1965) in their study focusing on the structure of Norwegian foreign news reporting. They defined twelve fundamental factors that predetermine the event for transformation into the news. Unambiguity, personification, negativity, frequency and others can be classified as key factors co-determining the selection of events.

Potter (2012) describes the nature of people's reactions to stimuli coming from the media. He mentions cognitive effects among others. The mass media presents information that can be processed, memorized and later called back and used to the audience. Thus, they help to perceive, recognize, evaluate and orient within environment of the particular territories from the spatial point of view. In other words, the capability to construct a mental description of places in which he or she has never been is typical for human. This ability is possible through texts, speeches, friends' descriptions, but also through information transmitted by the media. Within the news reporting, information that can be assigned to the particular territory are mainly published. They co-shape perception, knowledge, expectation and evaluation of these territories. Put succinctly, mass media co-shape mental maps of the population (Kitchin, 1994; Saarinen and McCabe, 1995; Gould and White, 1986; Crang, 1998 or Haq and Rahman, 2015).

Mental maps reflect psychological representation of space. We receive information and adapt them to our own schemes of similar events, with which we have either a personal or a mediated experience. In this way, our cognitive schemas allow us to create and copy unknown information about territories. According to this, we design our own forms of mental maps. Mental maps, among other things, serve as one of the oldest mnemonic tools. They serve as means of structuring and retaining knowledge. They extend beyond mere spatial knowledge towards social and environmental characteristics. Mental maps are not a stable entities. Conversely, they are characterised by dynamics, changes and evolve over time. They are highly complex, selective, abstract and generalized structures. They are incomplete, schematized, expanded and also distorted. Mental maps can also be seen as models, in which people make day-to-day decisions (Kitchin, 1994; Tuan, 1975; Downs and Stea, 1977; Bellazza, 1983 or Sucháček *et al.*, 2016).

Mental maps can be linked to the so-called image of the territory. The image can be understood in terms of perception of the territory in the minds of the population, enterprises or institutional structures that are located both inside and outside of the territory. Rijnks and Strijker (2013) describe two main aspects that affect the image. The first aspect is how people get information about the territory and the second how they interact with the territory. The amount of personal



interactions usually decreases with increasing distance from the territory. Information is obtained through sources other than personal experience in this case. The resulting range of information, knowledge and ideas can be severely limited as well as distorted. The image of the region is becoming even more streamlined and uniform with growing distances, through the production and reproduction of information about territory. The important is that stereotypes about individual territories are deeply rooted in the past and very resistant to the change. The information about territory itself can be also consciously or unconsciously distorted. The mass media play an important role in this context. Management of respective territories should monitor regionally bound information appearing in media. The main reason is that the resulting virtual portrayal does not have to match the real situation of the territory. Development potential of the territory can be suppressed or supported by the mass media (Kotler *et al.*, 1993; Vanhove and Klaasen, 1987; Sucháček *et al.*, 2014, Bačík *et al.*, 2015 or Matlovičová, 2008).

DATA AND METHODS

The contribution is focused on intangible aspects of the development of self-governing regions in the Czech Republic. The main attention is devoted to the virtual reflections of economic information from individual regions within television news reporting. Regionally bound TV news were analyzed between 2005 and 2011. The territory of the capital city of Prague and Central Bohemia was aggregated into one territorial unit, due to the natural characteristics of these territories (for more information see Sucháček *et al.*, 2015). Altogether, 13 regions in this paper were analyzed. The thirteen regions are: Prague/Central Bohemia, South Bohemia, Pilsen, Karlovy Vary, Usti, Liberec, Hradec Kralove, Pardubice, Olomouc, Vysocina, South Moravia, Zlin and Moravia-Silesia.

Three basic research hypotheses are tested in our paper:

- H1: *We assume independence between TV news reporting and economic information variables.*
- H2: *Independence between regions and TV news reporting variables can be assumed.*
- H3: *We expect independence between region and economic information variables.*

The news were published within the four news reporting of the three largest television stations in the Czech Republic. The news reporting *Televizní noviny* and *Zprávy TV* of the commercial stations TV Nova and FTV Prima and *Události a Události a komentáře* of the public Czech TV were monitored at the same time. Database of news contribution was purchased from Media Tenor, Ltd. This company deals with systematic analysis of media reports, which includes also content analysis of media.



CORRESPONDENCE ANALYSIS

Correspondence analysis is a multivariate statistical technique. It is an algorithm capable of some measurement of correspondence between the rows and the columns in a correspondence table. Using this method, it is possible to describe associations of nominal or ordinal variables and to get a graphical representation in multidimensional space, i.e. subjective map in this case. The position of points directly expresses associations in graph (Hirschfeld, 1935; Yelland, 2010 or Sucháček *et al.*, 2014).

The method of correspondence analysis is based on contingency tables with n rows and m columns. It is possible to define matrix U as $n \times m$ with elements U_{ij} . These elements correspond to elements of the contingency table. We can formulate row sums N_{j+} , column sums N_{+i} and the total sums N_T according to:

$$N_{j+} = \sum_{i=1}^m U_{ij}, \quad N_{+i} = \sum_{j=1}^n U_{ij}, \quad N_T = \sum_{j=1}^m N_{j+} + \sum_{i=1}^n N_{+i}.$$

It is also possible to define the marginal relative frequencies of the rows $r_j = N_{j+} / N_T$ and columns $c_i = N_{+i} / N_T$. When we define frequency matrix P with elements $p_{ij} = U_{ij} / N_T$, then the chi-squared statistic χ^2 , used to test the null hypothesis of non-existence of associations between rows and columns can be calculated as follows:

$$\chi^2 = N_T \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m (p_{ij} - r_i c_j)^2 / r_i c_j.$$

The formula $t = \chi^2 / N_T$ represents the Pearson mean quadratic contingency coefficient. The homogeneity is characterized by a small t value and heterogeneity by a large t value. The t value can be expressed as follows:

$$t = \sum_{i=1}^n r_i \sum_{j=1}^m [(p_{ij} / r_i - c_j)^2 / c_j].$$

This is equal with weighted Euclidean distance between the vector of relative frequencies and the average of row profile.

The row profile of the matrix U is determined as vector $p_j = (p_{j1}, \dots, p_{jm})$ for $j = 1, \dots, n$ with elements $p_{ij} = U_{ij} / N_{j+}$. The average row profile $\bar{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_m)^T$ has components $p_j = N_{+j} / N_T$. As a measure of how rows profiles are different from average rows profiles, we utilized χ^2 distance as follows:

$$d_{c_j}^2 = (p_j - \bar{p})^T D_p^{-1} (p_j - \bar{p}),$$

where D_p^{-1} is diagonal matrix with elements $1/\bar{p}_i$ on the diagonal. Then the statistic χ^2 is:



$$X^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n N_{j+} d_{c_j}^2.$$

When we denote $r = P I$ and $c = P^T I$, where I are vectors containing only ones, then we can denote matrix J with elements proportional to the standardized residues of contingency table U . Matrix J is defined as follows:

$$J = D_r^{-1/2} (P - r c^T) D_c^{-1/2}$$

It is possible to decompose the rectangular matrix E to the three matrices $E = U S V^T$, where S is matrix of singular numbers and U and V are left and right eigenvectors. The row profile components of contingency table f_i are rows of matrix

$$F = D_r^{-1/2} U S.$$

The column profile components of contingency table g_j are rows of matrix

$$G = D_c^{-1/2} V S.$$

The pairs of row and column components f_i, g_j are elements of orthogonal residue decomposition ordered hierarchically according to the importance. Finally, this decomposition is referred to as correspondence analysis. Components f_i, g_j are uncorrelated. They have zero mean values, but they are connected by the following linkages:

$$G = D_c^{-\frac{1}{2}} P^T F S^{-1}, \quad F = D_r^{-1/2} P G S^{-1}.$$

Correspondence analysis allows the decomposition of the X^2 statistics to assess the structures in matrix N . The main objective of correspondence analysis is to identify the sources of heterogeneity in the contingency tables (see Meloun and Militký, 2004; Greenacre, 2007 or Rencher, 2002).

VIRTUAL REFLECTION OF REGIONS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Regionally oriented TV news contributions contain information about economic, social and environmental characteristics of the territories. All contributions were categorized into their respective areas based on a uniform methodology through the so-called coding book. Based on the coding book, it is possible to create the content analysis of text documents. Content analysis can be perceived as a method used for the objective, systematic and quantitative description of the content of the communication (Krippendorff, 2012).

**Table 1** Distribution of economic information - categories

Category	Frequency	Percent
Economic Life	1 575	23.5
Economic Policy	775	11.6
Economic Criminality	2 518	37.6
Research, Development and Education	1 824	27.3
Total	6 692	100

Source: author calculation, data - Media Tenor

Altogether the amount of more than 52 thousand contributions was published within TV news reporting in the period from 2005 to 2011. Economically-oriented contributions were aggregated into four categories and they can be characterized as follows: economic life, economic policy, research, development and education and economic criminality (see Table 1). The share of news about economic characteristics of the territories was almost 13 % (6 692 news) on the total number of contributions. Each contribution was linked to the particular region.

ECONOMIC INFORMATION WITHIN NATIONAL TV NEWS REPORTING

Relationship between TV news reporting and structure of economic information will be examined in the first part of the chapter. We test the following research hypothesis:

H1: We assume independence between TV news reporting and economic information variables.

The category of economic criminality can be considered as the most attractive for TV broadcasting. This is in compliance with previous research (see Sucháček *et al.*, 2015), in which criminality was one of the most attractive category within TV news broadcasting. The share of this category was almost 37.6% on the total amount of economically oriented contributions. Then follow the categories of research, development and education with 27.3%, economic life with 23.5% and economic policy with only 11.6% on the total amount of news.

The results of Pearson chi-square are shown in the Table 2. Based on the chi-square test we can claim, that statistically significant independence between categories of TV news broadcasting and thematic categories of economic information is not existing. Thus, hypothesis *H1* can not be rejected at the level of significance $\alpha=0.05$. On the other hand, the value of Cramer's V coefficient of contingency means very weak measure of dependency.



Table 2 Measures of dependence in contingency table – TV news and economic information

Description	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	164.017 ^a	9	0.000
Cramer's V	0.090		
N of Valid Cases	6692		

a. 0 cells (0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 106.31.
Source: author calculation, SPSS

The results of correspondence analysis are syntetically shown in the Figure 1. Scatter plot visualizes relationship between observed categories based on the method of symmetrical normalization. Figure 1 consists of two dimensions. Correspondence analysis describes 100% of information from the original contingency table in this case. This value can be considered as very high. The first dimension covers 99.2% of variability (inertia) and the second are 0.08%.

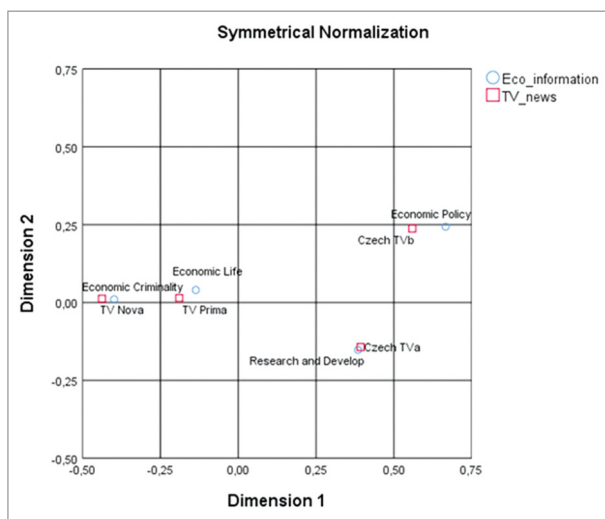


Figure 1

Scatter plot for both TV news broadcasting and economic information

Source: edited by the author, SPSS

Scatter plot shows some interesting relationships. The differences among news reporting of the commercial television and news reporting of public Czech TVa (*Události*) and Czech TVb (*Události, komentáře*) are quite obvious. We can observe the relative proximity of commercial TVs with thematic categories related to the



economic crime in case of TV Nova (*Televizní noviny*) and the economic life in case of TV Prima (*Zprávy*). Contributions about economic crime are primarily of tabloid nature. There are published information about the biggest negative events associated with extensive corruption, misuse of powers and unlawful behavior of actors in the economic system in general (for more information see Urminský, 2018). Contrary to that, TV news reporting of Czech TV is closer to the categories of research, development, education and economic policy. Greater attention is given to the topic associated with the active intervention of the government or with activities, which are connected with the spending of public expenditure. They cover also areas of inequalities, dysfunctions, investors, labor market, basic and applied research etc. It can be argued that it is important, which TV news reporting is watched by internal, i.e. local, regional organizations, entrepreneurs, residents, bureaucrats, etc. and external, i.e. domestic and foreign investors, tourists, visitors, professional associations, competitive regions, etc. target groups of territorial development.

REGIONS WITHIN TV NEWS REPORTING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The next part of the article is focused on the relationship between TV news broadcasting and regions in the Czech Republic. We utilized the same procedure as in previous case. We will test the following research hypothesis:

H2: Independence between regions and TV news reporting variables can be assumed.

Pearson chi-square test of independence reflects that significant dependency of observed categories exists (Table 3). Hypothesis *H2* can not be rejected at the level of significance $\alpha=0.05$. Cramer's coefficient of contingency *V* shows very similar value as in the previous case.

Table 3 Measures of dependence in contingency table – TV news broadcasting and regions

Description	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	192.807 ^a	36	0.000
Cramer's V	0.098		
N of Valid Cases	6692		

a. 0 cells (0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 24.83.

Source: author calculation, SPSS

Relationships between 13 regions and TV news broadcasting of 3 TV stations are visualized by scatter plot at the Figure 2. The symmetrical normalization was used too. Figure 2 contains two dimensions too. Correspondence analysis captures



94.5% of information from the original contingency table. This value can be considered very high. The first dimension covers 72.7 % of inertia and the second dimension 21.8%.

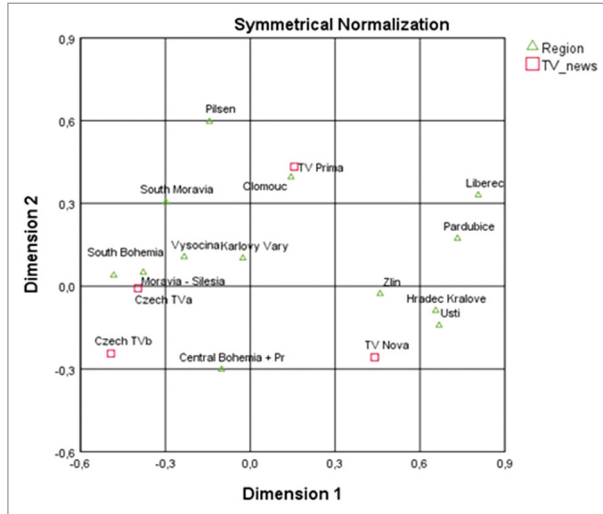


Figure 2

Scatter plot for both TV news broadcasting and regions

Source: edited by the author, SPSS

With the help of Figure 2 we can identify, which regions are more accentuated than others within particular news programs of the biggest TV stations in the Czech Republic. The public news reporting (Czech TV), which can be found on left side of the Figure 2, accentuated primarily regions with the largest population size, such as Central Bohemia + Prague, Moravia – Silesia and South Moravia. These territories concentrate more than 45% of the population in the Czech Republic. It should be mentioned that there are located the biggest towns in the Czech Republic, which represent main economic and institutional centers of the country. The main organizations, including universities, research centers, major corporations and banks are located in this areas. It should be noted, that regional branches of the public Czech TV are located in Brno (South Moravia region) and Ostrava (Moravia-Silesia region). The presence of branches can have a positive effect on the amount of news published about these territories. The commercial news program (TV Nova, TV Prima), which can be found on right side of the Figure 2, are more interested in smaller region in terms of their population size. This relationship is apparent especially in case of TV Nova.



VIRTUAL CHARACTERISTICS OF REGIONAL ECONOMIES – SELECTED ASPECTS

Virtual portrayals of regions are investigated in the last part of the article. We examined the following research hypothesis:

H3: We expect independence between region and economic information variables.

The results of Pearson chi-square test are shown in Table 4. Based on the results we can state that statistically significant independence between regions and categories of economic information does not exist. The hypothesis *H3* can not be rejected at the significance level $\alpha=0.05$. Cramer's coefficient of contingency *V* shows the highest value in comparison with previous cases. Nonetheless, the value of Cramer's *V* is low. Thus, the virtual portrayals of regions are relatively similar.

Table 4 Measures of dependence in contingency table – regions and economic information

Description	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	424.296 ^a	36	0.000
Cramer's V	0.145		
N of Valid Cases	6692		

a. 0 cells (,0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 20.96. Source: author calculation, SPSS

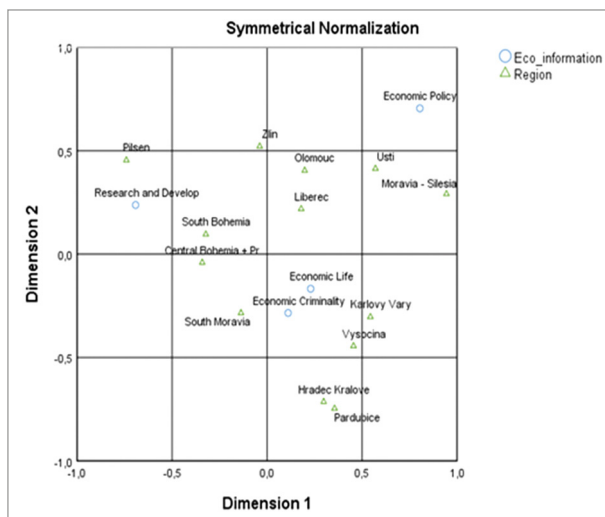


Figure 3

Scatter plot for both regions and economic information

Source: edited by the author, SPSS



Relationship between 13 regions and 4 categories of economic information are visualized by scatter plot in the Figure 3. The symmetrical normalization was applied. Figure 3 contains two dimensions. Correspondence analysis captures 97 % of information from the original contingency table. This value can be considered as high. The first dimension covers 78 % of inertia and the second dimension 19%.

Some relationships can be at least partly revealed on the basis of the results of the correspondence analysis (Figure 3). The most straightforward relationships will be mentioned and interpreted due to the limited scope of the paper.

It is clearly possible to observe the mutual proximity of the category of economic policy with the Moravian-Silesian and Usti regions. In terms of news frequencies, they are the territories attracting media attention. The proximity with category of economic policy can be derived from the thematic structure of the published contributions. In sum, information about labor market, unemployment, strikes and taxes, including environmental taxes, belong among the most frequent news in this category. Moravian-Silesian and Usti regions can be perceived as the problematic territories from the economic point of view. They are traditional industrial regions with inappropriate economic structure, long-term problems on the labor market and the low quality of the environment at the same time. It is legitimate to assume that the published contributions have a rather negative bias. On the other hand, one specific event with positive connotations caught the attention of the media in the Moravia-Silesia. This involved a large investment of Hyundai automotive. A lot of attention was given to this event mainly in 2005 and 2006.

Contrary to that, one event with strongly negative connotations is evident in case of Pilsen region. Pilsen region is in close proximity to the thematic category of research, development and education. Significant media attention was attracted the scandal at the Faculty of Law in Pilsen. This scandal is related with a phenomenon when students accelerated their course of study to complete degree requirements in extraordinarily short times (for more information see Sucháček *et al.*, 2016). In sum, the thematic category of research, development and education has become the most frequented within all studied categories in Pilsen region. Obvious is also the largest percentage share of this category compared with the all regions in the Czech Republic. However, this condition does not correspond to the physical infrastructure or real expenditures on research and development in the Pilsen region. Thus, the resulting media portrait is questionable compared to the real characteristics of this territory (see Vyskočilová and Urminský, 2017).

Some elements of gatekeeping, such as negativity, threshold or unexpectedness can be observed in the above mentioned events. On the basis of the results obtained above, we can claim that one event, it does not matter whether positive or negative one, can significantly affect the composition of the whole thematic category. Moreover, one event can significantly affect the overall media portrayal of the territory at the same time.



CONCLUSIONS

The importance of the positive territorial image in the minds of the target groups, both internal, i.e. local and regional organizations, entrepreneurs, residents, bureaucrats and external, i.e. domestic and foreign investors, tourists, visitors, professional associations, competitive regions etc. is also perceived by the responsible managements of the regions, towns and municipalities in the Czech Republic. A lots of strategies and program documents contain active creation of the positive image of the particular territory. Of course, currently there exist some tools how to influence image of the territory within both real and virtual environments. On the other hand, creating the image is not only in hands of territorial managements. There are many channels of communication, via which each target group receives information about particular territory. The mass media enabling mass communication play a very important role in this context. This concerns primarily external target groups located outside the territory. For these target groups, mass media and their products, such as news reporting, are one of the most basic information sources.

It can be stated that it matters, which news in TV broadcasting are particular actors and target groups watching. The reason is that the thematic structures of the information about regional economies are different. The news reporting of commercial TV coverage emphasizes information about common economic events (*category - economic life*) as well as economic crimes (*category - economic criminality*). Contrary to that, news reporting of the public Czech Television accentuated rather information about research and development activity (*category - research, development and education*) in the regions and also information about governmental activities within economic system of the regions (*category - economic policy*).

Differences are observable also in the regional pattern. The news reporting of the public television, contrary to their commercial counterparts, more accentuated regions with the largest population size, in which the biggest towns in the Czech Republic are located. They represent the most important economic and institutional centers of the Czech Republic at the same time.

Naturally, some regions are more connected with some specific thematic area of the economic information. This is apparent, for example, in case of the traditional industrial regions of Usti and Moravia-Silesia. These regions are more accentuated in the area of economic policy. Problems with the economic structure of regions persist, mainly on the labor market.

It should be noted that in some news it is possible to observe elements of gate-keeping, such as negativity, threshold or unexpectedness. The large investments accomplished with the help of investment incentives have attracted the attention of the media in the Moravian-Silesian region. A typical example of an event with negative connotations is a scandal in the Pilsen region. It is possible to claim that virtual portrayals may not correspond to the real characteristics of the territories.



Acknowledgement

The paper was supported by the VSB-TU Ostrava under the SGS project SP2018/92 and research grant KEGA 011PU-4/2017: *Integration of teaching and increase of the content coherence of the related disciplines of the specialized module of Regional development and regional policy.*

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IMPORTANCE OF MIGRATION AND COUNTERURBANISATION AS FACTORS OF STABILIZATION OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF THE PERIPHERAL REGIONS – EXAMPLE OF SOUTH BOHEMIA

Dagmar POPJAKOVÁ^{A*}, Karolína DANIELOVÁ^B,
Michaela VALEŠKOVÁ^C

Received: August 31, 2018 | Revised: October 21, 2018 | Accepted: November 18, 2018
Paper No. 18-60/2-518

Abstract

The article presents an example of two regions of the northern periphery of South Bohemia, as a territory where following a prevailing out-migration of the population and negative demographic development resulting from historical socio-economic events, a reversal occurred one hundred years later which tended to stabilise its migration. The determining factor of this change is the volume and character of migratory flows. The negative migration balance (-2.4‰ between 1991 and 2010 for both regions) has changed over the last five years of 2011-2015 to a positive one (3.1‰), especially for municipalities with up to 100 residents (11.0‰ between 2011 and 2015). The values of the migration importance index point to a change in the importance of migration from the “negative” level to the “preservative” level. The weakly prevailing in-migration and (in certain cases) counterurbanisation flows from metropolitan and regional centres have been confirmed. Although the observed peripheral regions are naturally continuing to lose population (rate of natural increase of -4.4‰ in 2015) and overall the number of inhabitants does not grow, or it grows to a minimum degree (overall increase of 0.5‰ in 2015, -0.7‰ between 2011 and 2015), the important factor for the potentially more progressive demographic development of the peripheral region is the favourable age structure of the in-migrants (the share of children below the age of 15 years of 22.9%, the age index 140.3%). Counterurbanisation based on the migration of seniors was not confirmed. The identified trends of counterurbanisation and in-migration of young families thus becomes an important process for demographic “healing” of the peripheral regions, as illustrated by the example of remote rural areas of South Bohemia. Given its low volume and low economic and social impact, in general counterurbanisation

A* University of South Bohemia, Faculty of Education, Department of Geography
Jerónymova 10, 37115 České Budějovice, Czechia
dpopjakova@pf.jcu.cz (corresponding author)

B University of South Bohemia, Faculty of Education, Department of Geography
Jerónymova 10, 37115 České Budějovice, Czechia
daniek01@pf.jcu.cz

C University of South Bohemia, Faculty of Education, Department of Geography
Jerónymova 10, 37115 České Budějovice, Czechia
valesm02@pf.jcu.cz



cannot be compared with urbanisation, however it is important not only for the population stability, but also for the overall social stability of the affected, long depopulated rural regions.

Key words

Peripheral region, depopulation, migration importance, counterurbanisation, population change

INTRODUCTION

The Northern periphery of southern Bohemia is the territory that lies on the border of two Czech administrative and statistical regions NUTS3 (Jihočeský and Středočeský). Given its location with respect to more important regional and metropolitan centers, it is a territory that can be identified as a remote rural area (Šimon, 2014); a territory which is located beyond the external border of the suburban zones of these centers (Geyer and Kontuly, 1993; Popjaková 2012, p. 155; Ouředníček et al. 2014, p. 5). Musil and Müller (2008) refer to this category of rural areas as inner peripheries. Southern Bohemia and especially its peripheral regions have been affected by long-term out-migration and depopulation, related to specific historical events, such as the industrialisation since the early 19th century and especially at the turn of the centuries and in the 1940s, several cases of migration of the German and Czech population between the world wars. Another factor was the quantitatively dramatic expulsion of the German population after the Second World War with further socio-economic implications for the regions, as well as the policy of a central system of settlement and integration of municipalities which has been put into practice between 1971 and 1990. This has supported the growth of medium-sized centres at the expense of rural areas (Boháč 1928, p. 57; Trnková, 1989; Kučera, 1998; Deiters, 1998; Musil, 2001; Serb, 2004).

The northwest (NW) and northeast (NE) periphery regions of South Bohemia have long been (for over a hundred years) regions with negative population change. Even as early as the 1880 Census, Southern Bohemia recorded a population decline. Korčák (1929) and Srb (2004) discuss its depopulation during the interwar period; the out-migration of young people in particular and the highest population losses, among others “throughout the northern outskirts of South Bohemia, from Blatná through Milevsko up to Mladá Vožice”. Even though the population change and the migratory situation of South Bohemia have stabilized since the 1960s and mid-1970s (Drbohlav, Blažek 1992; Čermák, 1997), the outflow of population from the peripheral parts in the north as well as the south of the region has continued uninterruptedly from the 1980s (Aleš, 2001) to the present.



OBJECTIVES

The basic aim of the study is to point out the importance of migration on the basis of analysis of migration and of the population change in the example of two delimited homogeneous regions in the Northern periphery of South Bohemia – the Northwestern (NW) Belčice-Mirovice region and the Northeastern (NE) Mladovožicko region.

Both regions are evaluated together based on the average for all municipalities of both regions together with parallel demonstration of the specifics of each of them. In-migration and especially positive net migration to the remote rural areas has a character of counterurbanisation. Is this type of urbanisation present in the northern periphery of South Bohemia? How strong is it? To what extent does it affect the overall balance of the population and the overall demographic situation of the regions? How did the migration evolve and what is the nature of migration in these regions over the last 25 years? Who are the participants of the counterurbanisation? These are the basic research questions of this study.

This article elaborates a brief overview of the theoretical concept of counterurbanisation. The methodological part defines the delimited peripheral regions of South Bohemia. A method of assessing migration significance in relation to the total population change is presented, together with the methodological procedures of applied quantitative and qualitative research on population migration in the analysed peripheral area.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Counterurbanisation is an urbanisation process linked with the rural space. Unlike urbanisation and re-urbanisation, counterurbanisation and suburbanisation are deconcentration processes (Berry, 1976; Berg et al., 1982). It is a migration flow (Champion, 1992) moving people from towns to rural settlements that are located in non-metropolitan areas, i.e. beyond the external border of the suburbs (Šimon 2011, p. 248). Similarly, Cloke (1995) defined it as the deconcentration of the urban population “behind” the suburban zone. Counterurbanisation occurs in a situation where the population moving in the direction of concentration, i.e. from rural and suburban zones to cities, is lower than the number of inhabitants migrating in the direction of deconcentration, i.e. from the city and suburbs to the countryside (Geyer and Kontuly 1993). This process can also be represented graphically (Popjaková 2012, p. 155, Fig. 1; Ouředníček, et al. 2014, p. 5, Fig. 1). A distinctive characteristic feature of counterurbanisation is that it represents a negative dependence between net migration and settlement size (Fielding, 1982), i.e. when the settlement size decreases then the net migration intensity grows. At the same time, it applies to the population revival and growth of rural areas together with the corresponding population decline of cities and large towns (Halfacree, 1994: 164). The



criticism of the concept of counterurbanisation (even questioning source data) occurred right after the publication of the first studies that pointed out the reverse of population decline in some rural areas (Beal 1976, p. 953). The criticism was based on the fact that this urban process is not very intense, especially in comparison to the urbanisation. Champion (1992) argues that if the migration to rural areas was significant, it would not increase the number of people in cities at the same time in developed countries. Deconcentration, according to critics, does not represent a radical turn in the development of the settlement system (Spencer, 1995). Counterurbanisation does not have a distinctly increasing development trajectory, but shows a change in growth and decline in intensity. Alternation of deconcentration and concentration flows often occurs. Some authors refer to counterurbanisation only as a certain “chaotic concept”, “exclusive hypothesis” or “periodic exceptions” (Champion, 1992, Mitchel, 2004; IE, 2008; Šimon, 2011).

In the USA and Western European countries, trends of rural population growth in the 1970s were monitored. They were called „rural change“, „rural turnaround“, „rural renaissance“ or urban processes of „ruralisation“ (Beale, 1976; Berry, 1976; Cloke, 1978). However, in the 1980s, there was a decline in rural population growth and the situation returned to the historical migration patterns of “rural to urban migration”. In the 1990s, the growth and decline of rural non-metropolitan areas occurred again (Johnson, 2003).

The deconcentration tendencies appeared in post-socialist Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs; OECD, 2001) with a time delay of approximately two decades in comparison with western countries, similarly to others’ socio-economic processes (Popjaková 2008, p. 20). The exception was Poland where the deconcentration of the population occurred earlier, similarly to Western Europe (Kupisewsky et al., 1998; Jażdżewska, 2006). The main reason was the relatively low level of urbanisation, the big differences between cities and the countryside, and the fusion of suburbanisation and hinterland transformation into specific contiguous urban areas (Lisovski, 2004). A detailed comparison of counterurbanisation in the post-socialist and Western countries was described by Šimon (2014). In general, the intensity of counterurbanisation is affected by previous processes of urbanisation. The varying intensity and timing of the realization of industrialisation and its associated urbanisation in post-socialist CEECs on one hand, and western countries on other hand, has an impact on the differences in the counterurbanisation processes in these countries. Additionally, in the post-socialist CEECs, the urbanisation processes are influenced by the directly controlled, artificially forced urbanisation accompanied by the mass construction of pre-fabricated apartment buildings in towns, which culminated in the 1970s (Matlovič and Sedláková, 2004, p. 86; Mykhnenko and Turok, 2007). In general, counterurbanisation is a phenomenon linked to changes in lifestyle. It appeared thanks to the development of transportation and communication technologies, which made it possible for people to choose



their residential preferences. Counterurban migrants are attracted mainly by the lifestyle in the countryside (Campbell et al., 1984; Šimon 2014). The migration to remote rural areas is often linked to ecological motives of migrants; this is the so-called amenity migration (Bartoš, 2011; Gosnel and Abrams, 2011).

In the Czech Republic, a reverse of migratory balances occurred in the second half of the 1990s including the migration stabilization, i.e. the migration and, in some cases, the population gains of small-scale rural municipalities. This process was initially typical for the suburban areas of large cities (Librová, 1997; Hampl, 2005; Čermák, 2001; Ouředníček et al., 2013), and the remote rural areas began to grow with a delay (Šimon, 2014; Popjaková and Blažek, 2015).

DATA AND METHODS

The investigated territory (Fig. 1.) consists of two regions – the Mladovožicko region in the Northeast and the Belčicko-Mirovicko region in the Northwestern part of the South Bohemian NUTS3 region. They were delimited in a way to match the criteria of the so-called rural remote areas beyond suburban commuting zones, e.g. beyond the prevalent commuting hinterland of cities (Šimon 2014). Concurrently, the delimited peripheral area matches the criteria of the Czech countryside settlements (Perlín, 2003), the so-called 'inner peripheries' (Musil and Müller, 2008) and South Bohemian peripheral areas (Kubeš and Kraft, 2011). The peripheral regions represent a territory of 44 settlements with the number of inhabitants between 35 and 2,720 (Fig. 1).

The research on counterurbanisation and the character of migration and its effectiveness was based on the analysis of statistical data on internal migration (without international migration) of the Czech Statistical Office (ČSÚ, 2016) over a 25 year period (from 1991 to 2015). Even if the official evidence of migrants in the Czech Republic has some objective flaws, the anonymised migration database of the CSO per settlements provides quite a detailed picture of the size and the flows of migration as well as the basic demographic and social characteristics of the migrants. The quantitative analysis was based on the absolute and relative indicators such as migration, population changes, age structure, migration turnover, net migration, total increase, natural increase, etc.

To express the importance of migration, we used the migration importance index (I_{mi}) as a percentage share of the net migration (NM) over the total population increase (TI) – $I_{mi} = NM/TI * 100$. It is an alternative to the Webb cross method, which lacks, however, a more accurate specification of the weight of migration in the population dynamic of a region. On the basis of I_{mi} and the relation between net migration, natural increase and total population increase, five types of migration effectiveness were set apart – from significantly positive, positive, preservative, negative, to significantly negative (Tab. 1).

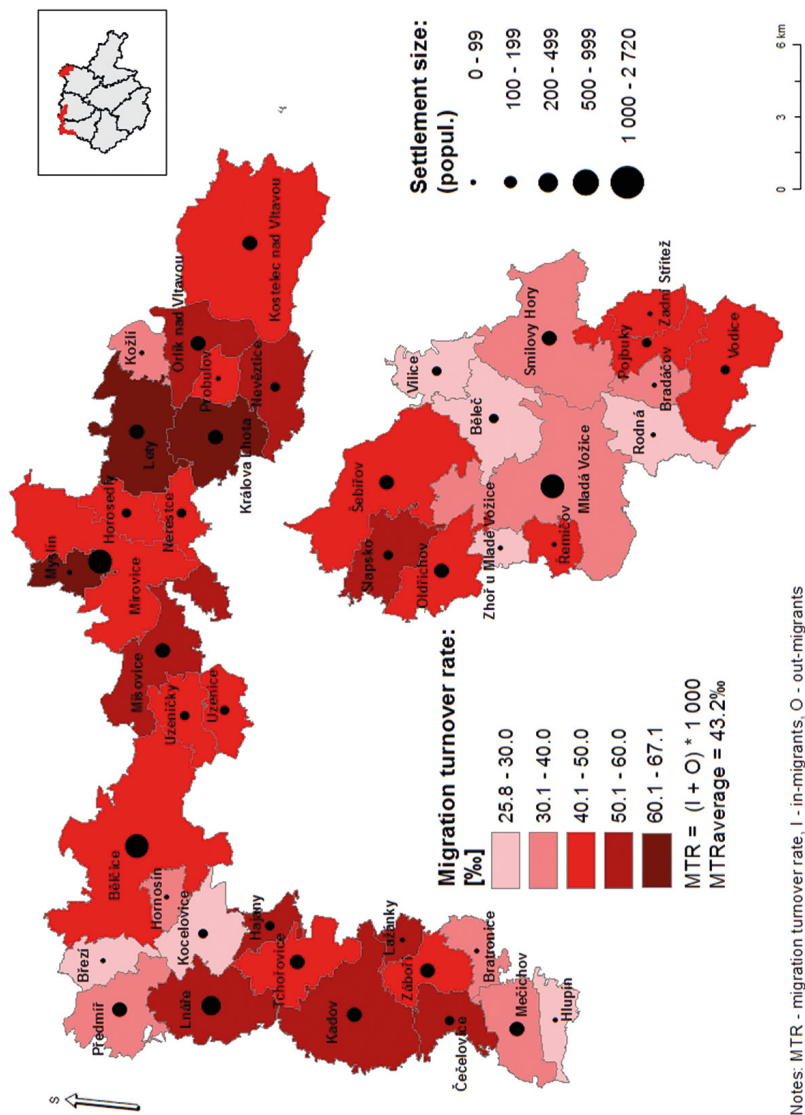


Figure 1
 Migration turnover in the northern peripheral regions of South Bohemia between 1991 and 2015
 Source: ČSÚ, 2016



Table 1 Importance of migration in terms of its impact on population change

Cat.eg.	Importance of migration	NM	NM vs. NI	TI
V	significantly positive: significant impact of M on the positive population change, M (significantly) ensures the positive population change; $NM > 0 \wedge TI > 0 \wedge NI \leq 0$; NM (multiply) exceeds NI; under the condition of the positive total population increase, i.e. $TI > 0$, for the <i>migration importance index</i> it applies: $I_{me} \geq 100$	$NM > 0$	$NM \gg NI$ $NM > NI$	$TI > 0$
IV	positive: relatively strong influence of M on the positive population change; M contributes to the positive population change; $NM \geq 0 \wedge TI > 0 \wedge NI > 0$; under the condition of the positive total population increase, i.e. $TI > 0$, for the <i>migration importance index</i> it applies: $0 \geq I_{me} < 100$	$NM \geq 0$	$NM > NI$ $NM < NI$ $NM = NI$	$TI > 0$
III	preservative: preserving influence of M on the population change, which is however negative; $NM \geq 0 \wedge TI \leq 0 \wedge NI \leq 0$; under the condition of the negative total population increase, i.e. $TI \leq 0$, for the <i>migration importance index</i> it applies: $I_{me} \leq 0$	$NM \geq 0$	$NM \geq NI$	$TI \leq 0$
II	negative: negative impact of M on the population change; M contributes to the negative population change; $NM < 0 \wedge TI < 0 \wedge NI < 0$; $NM \geq NI$; under the condition of the negative total population increase (population decrease), i.e. $TI < 0$, for the <i>migration importance index</i> it applies: $I_{me} \leq 50$	$NM < 0$	$NM \geq NI$	$TI < 0$
I	significantly negative: (significantly) negative impact of M on the population change, i.e. M (significantly) contributes to the negative population change, in other words it does not contribute to the positive population change; $NM < 0 \wedge TI < 0$; $NM < NI \wedge NI > 0$; $NM \ll NI \wedge NI < 0$; under the condition of the negative total population increase, i.e. $TI < 0$, for the <i>migration importance index</i> it applies: $I_{me} > 50$	$NM < 0$	$NM < NI$ $NM \ll NI$	$TI < 0$ $TI > 0$

Source: ČSÚ, 2016

Notes: M – migration, TI – total increase, NI – natural increase, NM – net migration, I_{me} – migration importance index

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Northern periphery of Southern Bohemia has long been among the “depopulation areas” of Czechia with a persistent negative balance of population change. For the entire monitored period (since 1880), its population has continuously decreased. 14,458 inhabitants lived on the territories of both delimited regions in 1991. At the end of the observed period, in 2015, there were 12,872 inhabitants. It

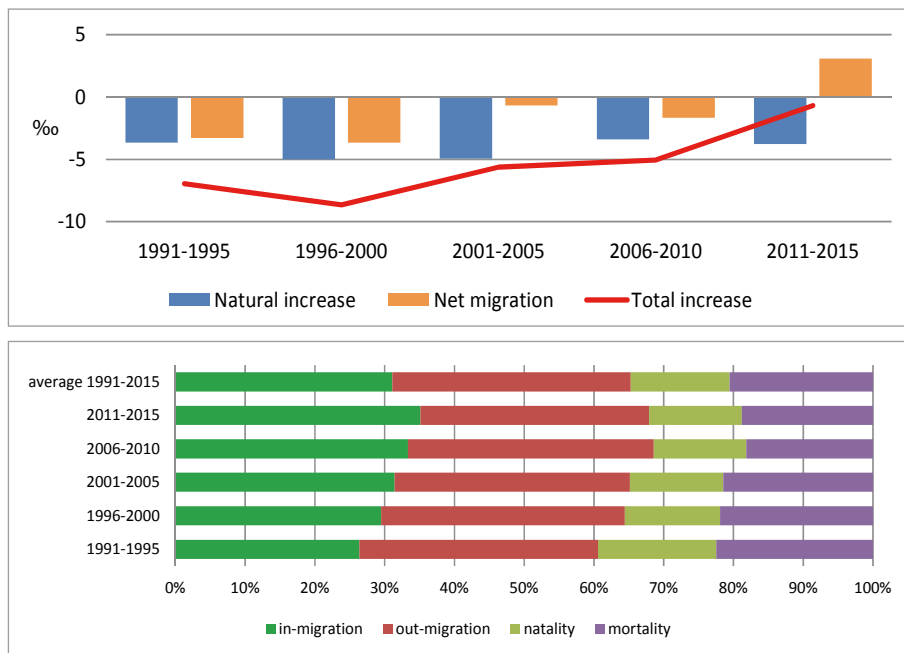


Figure 2
Population changes in the northern peripheral regions of South Bohemia between 1991 & 2015
Source: ČSÚ, 2016

was also observed that the North-eastern periphery had lost the population more intensively than the North-western periphery. The growth index of immigration was $I_{1991-2015}=88.9\%$ for the whole territory. The annual decline for the whole peripheral region never dropped under 98.3%. The population decreased constantly and very gradually and moderately in the whole period between 1991 and 2015. The growth was registered only in 2013 (100.2%) and again in 2015 (100.1%).

The Northwest (NW) and Northeast (NE) peripheries have been losing the population naturally on a long-term basis (average of natural increase $NI=-3.1\%$ between 1991 and 2015), i.e. the natality does not cover the mortality of the population. It is therefore obvious that the state of demographic condition of the region is mainly influenced by migration (Fig. 2). The intensity of the migration turnover indicates relatively high migration activity in the region. Over the investigated period between 1991 and 2010, the migration intensity in this territory (migration turnover rate $MTR=42.0\%$) was higher than in South Bohemia (30.2), respectively in the migration region of its centre: the metropolis of České Budějovice (33.5). MTR of the region has grown over the last five years (48.1% between 2011 and 2015).



The migration turnover is higher in NW periphery. The smallest municipalities have the lower migration turnover in absolute terms (see also Fig. 1).

6,985 migrants had immigrated to both parts of the northern peripheral region between 1991 and 2015. The average in-immigration rate (IR) reached 20.9‰. For the last twenty years, immigration has an increasing tendency, with maximum amount for the last five years ($IR_{2011-2015}=25.6‰$). In the NW part, which is more active in the sense of immigration, the IR was even 28.9‰ in the last five years. On the other hand, the emigration has a more stable character. 7,419 people moved out of the region (average out-emigration rate $ER_{1991-2015}=22.2‰$). For the last five years, the out-emigration from NW Belčicko-Mirovicko region has moderately grown and on the opposite has dropped in the less active NE Mladovožicko part of the peripheral region.

It is not only the number of migrants which has been growing overall, but also the importance of migration. Migration thus greatly improves the population change (Fig. 2). If during the twenty year period between 1991 and 2010 the net migration rate (NMR) has achieved -2.4‰ and the region lost population due to migration, its value is positive (3.1‰) in the last five years. This is the first time the region has gained in population, all owing to migration factors. In comparing the NW Belčicko-Mirovicko and NE Mladovožicko regions, there is no great difference in migration intensity over the whole period (Fig. 3). Over the past five years, the gap has been growing slightly. The rate of migration gains is higher in the NW than in the NE part of the periphery (NMR = 4.4 vs. 1.1‰). The number of municipalities with positive net migration has almost doubled (to 26). It is obvious that the favourable development of the net migration of the peripheral region is mainly connected with municipalities of the smallest size categories, up to 100 inhabitants (Fig. 4). This is the only category of municipalities that has grown on average over the entire period between 1991 and 2015. This fact is even more important, taking into the consideration the situation from the first period under review, in the 1990s, when the population of these municipalities continuously declined.

According to the migration importance index (Tab. 1, Fig. 5), the number of municipalities with a more significant impact of migration on their total population change increased in the region. The category of municipalities with migration importance index III, IV and, above all, V has increased (i.e. the municipalities with migratory gains or in which the migration has at least a minimal positive influence on the overall balance of the population). At the same time, the transfer of some municipalities from the category II to I was recognized. It means that the number of municipalities where the total population decline is balanced by the migration ($NM > NI$) has decreased (Cat. II) and the number of municipalities with a total population decline, in which the net migration does not reach their natural increase levels ($NM < NI$) has increased (Cat. I). The migration importance index of Northern

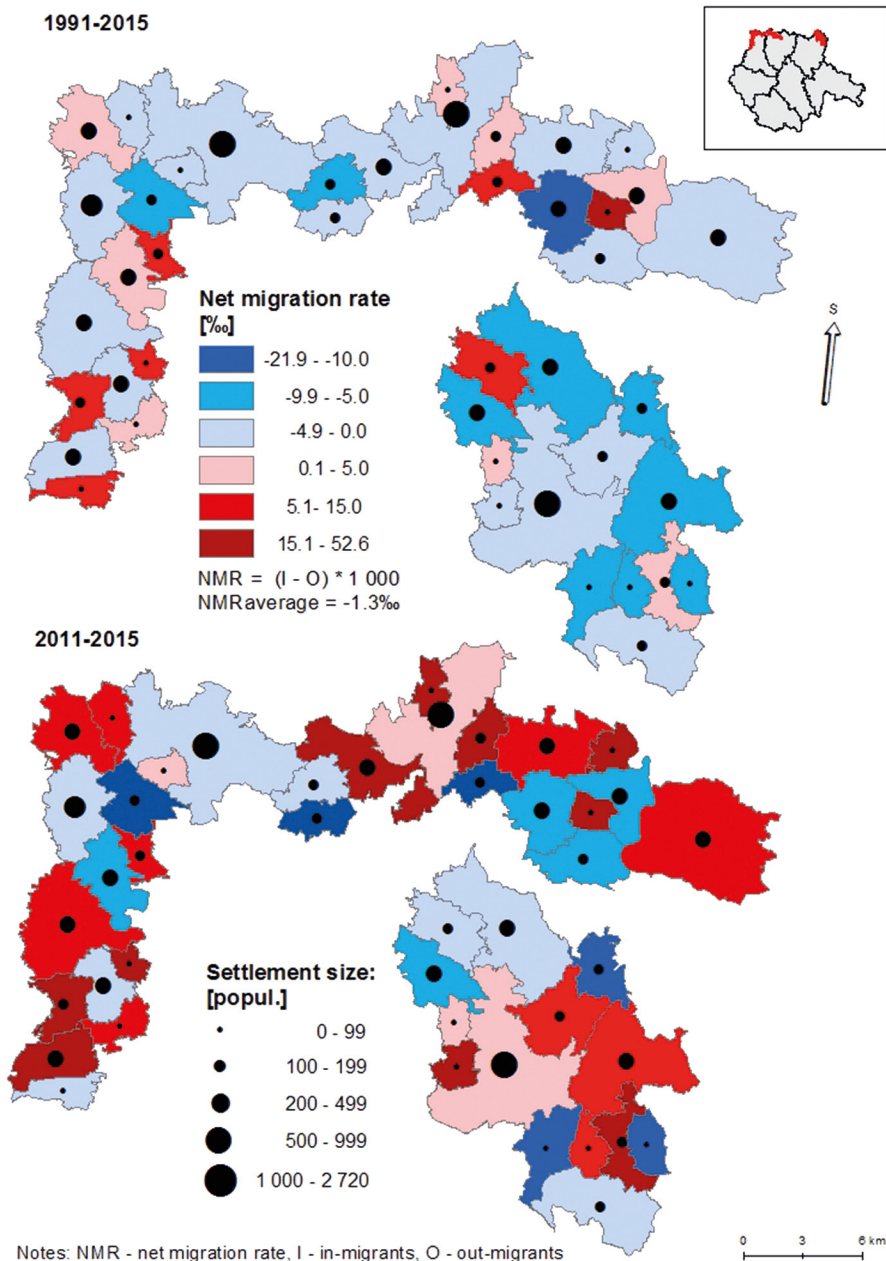


Figure 3
Net migration in the northern peripheral regions of South Bohemia
between 1991 and 2015

Source: ČSÚ, 2016

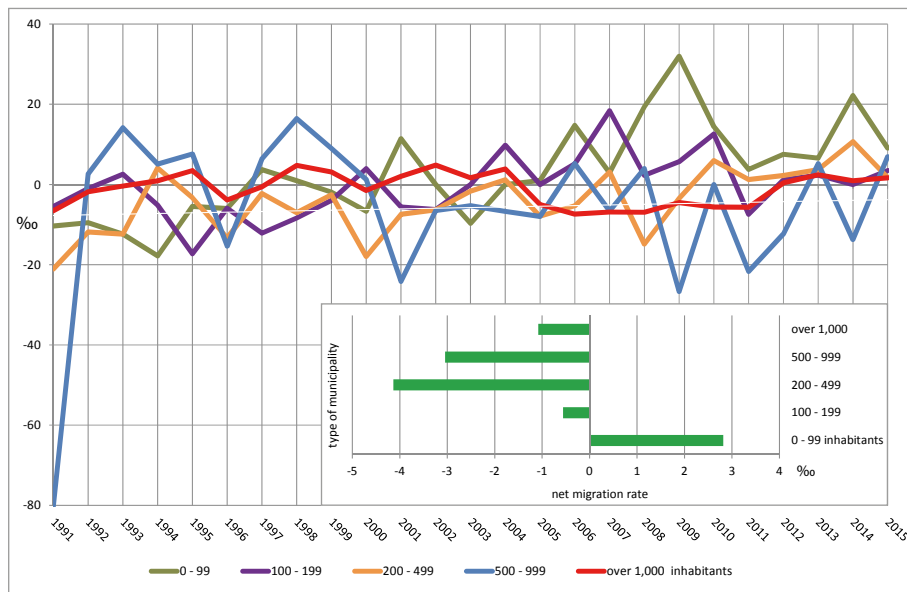


Figure 4

Net migration by size categories of municipalities in the northern peripheral regions of South Bohemia between 1991 and 2015

Source: ČSÚ, 2016

peripheral region shifted from the negative level (Cat. II - between 1991 and 2015) to the preservative level (Cat. III - between 2011 and 2015).

When examining migration flows of the evaluated region, the strongest ones are confirmed with the capital city of Prague. Average distance from the northern periphery of South Bohemia to Prague is about 85 km. Among Czech towns and settlements, Prague is the most important migration centre for the Northern periphery of South Bohemia. Prague is where the most significant part of migrants comes from (almost 10% of in-migrants). However, it should be noted that the migration balance regarding reaches the negative values. Therefore, counterurbanisation for the whole region and for the whole period under review is not confirmed. However, counterurban flows with Prague have been confirmed for the NE Mladovožicko region, which has the positive migration balance with Prague for the whole period between 1991 and 2015 and a slightly increasing trend in recent years. The importance of České Budějovice as a South Bohemian metropolis has not been confirmed. Migration flows between České Budějovice and northern peripheral part of South Bohemia are weak. The region has a stronger migration turnover with several smaller regional migration centres geographically more or less remote. It is for example Blatná – average distance 15 km; Písek – 35 km; Příbram – 27 km, for the NW part of region. And Tábor – average distance 20 km;

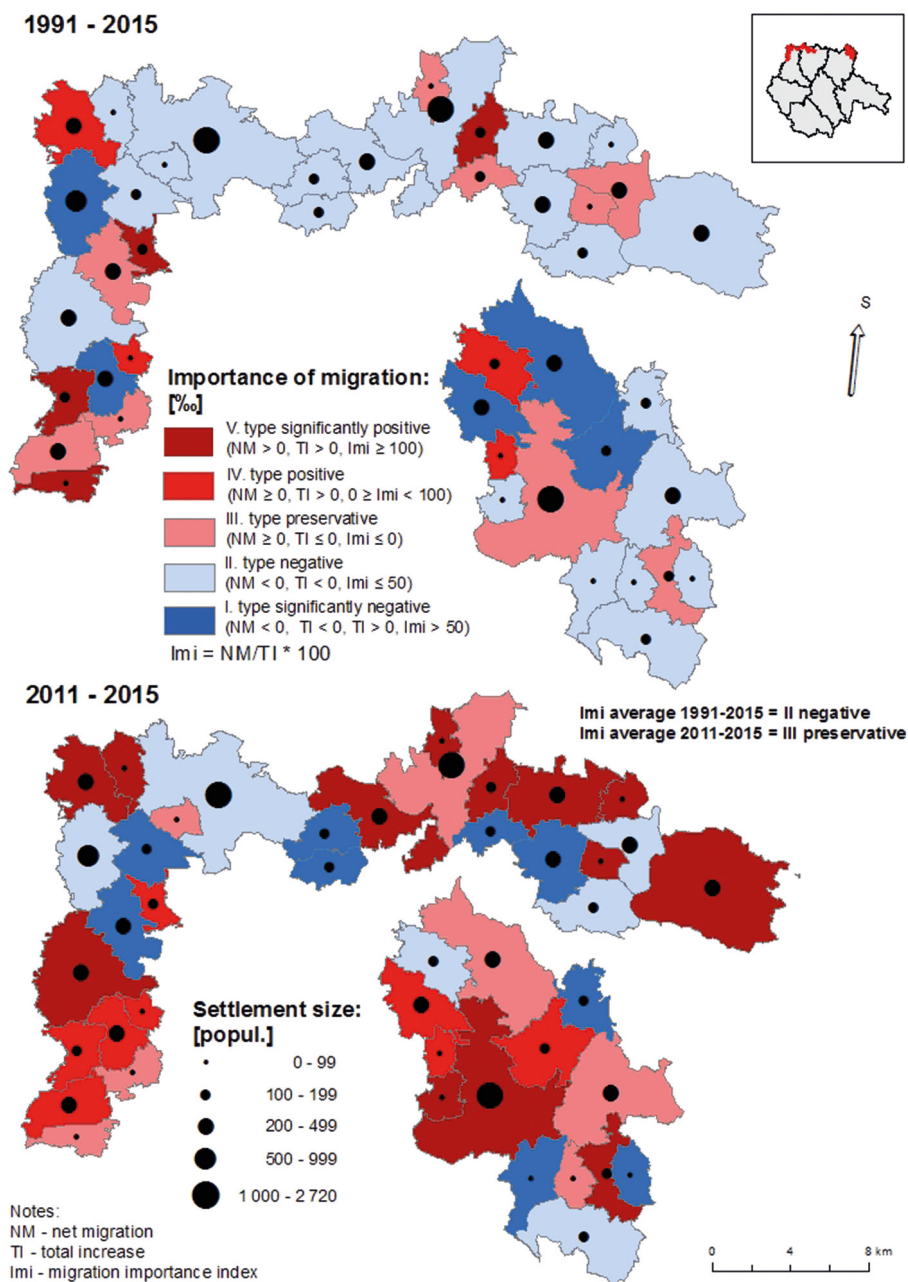


Figure 5
Importance of migration in the northern peripheral regions of South Bohemia between 1991 and 2015

Source: ČSÚ, 2016



Miličín – 12 km; Pacov – 27 km, for the NE part of region. As a result of the analysis, it is the closest small regional centres – Blatná in the NW and Mladá Vožice in the NE region itself which represent the most important centres of migration, especially in the recent years. Along with Prague (for the NE part of the region), next counterurban centres of the north periphery of South Bohemia are confirmed: Příbram and Milevsko (for the NW part) and Miličín and Pacov (for the NE part). These centres have a positive migration balance with the peripheral region.

The importance of net gains from migration and counterurbanisation in terms of age structure objectively cannot be directly evaluated. However, the age structure of in-migrants is very favourable. The major part of in-migrants (77 %) is under 45 years; there are the families with children. The share of in-migrants under the age of 15 is almost 23%. The major part of out-migrants under 45 years is also very high (even up to 81%). The share of out-migrants up to 15 years is a little bit lower (22%). When examining the autochthonic population, the share of the children component is more important in the NE region (27%); the proportion of the population aged over 45 is slightly higher in the NW region (24%). According to the study Čekal (2006), in the northern part of the South Bohemian region in 1992-1998, the majority of migrants were over 45, mainly over 60 years old. However, according to the official statistics (ČSÚ, 2016), the average share of these older age groups of migrants for the whole 1991-2015 period is significantly lower, only a quarter (23%). The in-migrants over 65 represent only 7% and the out-migrants over 65 constitute more than 9%. These facts may potentially become a more significant factor in terms of positive influence on the development of the natural change of the population, especially the natality in the near future.

CONCLUSIONS

The region of the northern periphery of South Bohemia, as an example of a remote rural area, has seen a major turning point in its demographic development. In recent years, it has grown with positive net in-migration. The importance of migration has grown in terms of its impact on population change from negative (II type) to preservative levels (III type). The size of migration has been able to hide the natural loss of population to such an extent that after a period of long-term depopulation, the population had risen for the first time in 2013 and 2015. Although the region has recorded an average total population decline in recent years (crude rates of total change -0.7‰ between 2011 and 2015), we can evaluate this reversal in the demographic development of this type of peripheral region of Czechia as crucial, regardless of the evolution of population change in the coming years. For the region, what Beale has observed and commented on was the example of the USA 40 years ago (1976, p. 953), that it was not apparent in the modern history of our country to ever have had a previous time when nonmetropolitan population



growth rates exceeded metropolitan rates. There has been some population stabilization in the region, although perhaps only of a temporary nature.

The growth of the net migration rate (4.0‰ between 2012 and 2015) confirms counterurbanisation in certain cases in the northern periphery of Southern Bohemia in recent years. Although counterurbanisation means a relatively small intensive migration and urban process, mainly in comparison with urbanisation and although it was not confirmed in the case of all the migration centres, the counterurban flows contribute to the population's stability in the region. Taking into consideration the fact that the share of out-migrants under 25 years is high (44.7%), it is proven that the share of in-migrants under 25 years is almost on the same level (43.1%). Contrary to previous research (Čekal, 2006; Šimon, 2014), the majority of in-migrants moving to the Northern peripheral region of Southern Bohemia are not older people, but younger age group in-migrants. This means that there has been a radical change in the type of counterurban migrants over the last 15-20 years. Primarily young families with children under 15 are coming to the remote rural areas.

For the whole surveyed period of 2011-2015, most of the migrants came to the smallest municipalities with up to 100 inhabitants, while in the 1990s, their numbers were still decreasing. These municipalities, however, were not the most active in terms of migration: they had a relatively lower migration turnover rate and a lower absolute number of in-migrants. Overall, the number of municipalities that gained inhabitants has increased due to migration. On the other hand, the number of municipalities with a total population decline has also increased and the migration contributes to unfavourable demographic developments in these municipalities as well.

The overall population mood of the region is adversely affected by a low and continually negative natural increase. The population has not grown naturally, but only through migration. In the periphery, fewer children are born. Although the above-mentioned positive age structure of in-migrants and the prevalence of in-migration of younger families trigger some optimism, the future evolution of the overall population change of the region may not be unambiguously favourable in the future.

Taking into consideration the experience of counterurbanisation in the US and Western Europe, it is not possible to think of the counterurbanisation as an "emergent phenomenon" (Beal, 1976). The current positive demographic developments can be only "a periodic exceptions over the last several decades" (Johnson, 2003). Still, it is not possible to agree with the opinion of Champion (1992) about the insignificance of counter-urbanization on the grounds with the argument that "at the time when the country grows demographically, cities are also growing." When assessing the importance of migration and counterurbanisation at this stage of population change, it is not important to compare the country with cities.



More important is the fact that besides the stagnation of decline in metropolitan areas and cities, there is also stabilization of remote rural areas. This development suggests an attenuation of the suburbanization process.

Acknowledgement

The paper was supported by Grant Agency of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice No. 160/2016/S: *Key competencies in the context of the inter-linkages of science subjects*, the research grant KEGA 015UMB-4/2018: *Geography Interactive E-books for Lower Secondary Schools* and the research grant KEGA 011PU-4/2017: *Integration of teaching and increase of the content coherence of the related disciplines of the specialized module of Regional development and regional policy*.

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ISSN 1336-6157 (hard copy)

ISSN 2454-1001 (online)

EV 4949/14

Editor-in Chief: prof. RNDr. René Matlovič, PhD.

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Publisher: University of Prešov,
Ul. 17. novembra 15, 080 01 Prešov, Slovakia, IČO 17 070 775

Official e-mail: foliageographica@unipo.sk

Periodicity: Twice a year in June and December

This journal is available online:

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