

TERRITORIAL-DEMOGRAPHIC AND FUNCTIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE NEGOTINSKA KRAJINA SETTLEMENT NET*

Abstract: The research results presented in the paper refer to the territorial-demographic and functional organization of Negotinska krajina which is, in many ways, specific area in north-eastern Serbia. The researched area is a complex territorial system according to its position, economical and demographic areal and functional development. Physical and geographical basis is no longer a limiting factor of the inner structure and functional differentiation of Krajina. The effect the basis has on the development of Krajina is double: direct and indirect. The direct effect that the natural elements (configuration, climate, water, biogeographical and pedological features) have on city and village location can be seen in the possibility of their territorial and functional spreading. The indirect effects are realized through influencing population position and economical resources and their evaluation.

Key words: natural features, population, settlement transformation, regional development, revitalisation

Introduction

Negotinska krajina is located in the north-eastern part of Serbia. Many of its properties are known and recognized far beyond its borders. What sets it apart is the distance and isolation from the central parts of Serbia, excess and climatic extremes in some of its elements, a significant hydro-potential, rare geomorphologic sites and bio-geographic rarities. It is also known as migrant worker region with a changed demographic picture, as well as important archaeological sites and cultural and historical monuments.

During historic times it had been inhabited and maintained as the first bulwark of defence toward hostile neighbours. Therefore, the name of Negotinska krajina leaves a stronger mark of the historical category centred by Negotin than being geographically bounded by the neighbouring area. The word

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Krajina is of the Serbian origin and means the area near the border. The entire northern Serbia was a border area for a century after the fall of Smederevo in 1459, but only a part of the north-east kept the name. Since falling into the Turkish power, in historical documents several territories were mentioned under this name, joined and parted, but always centred by Negotin. Thus, in the 15th and 16th centuries there was a border military-civilian organization from the Danube to the middle of the river Timok, on the border of the Ottoman Empire towards Wallachia, Hungary and Serbia. This status was retained until the mid-eighteenth century when sultan Mahmud I singled out from the imperial feud 63 villages of Fethislamska and Krivinska nahia (current Negotinska krajina).¹ Thus Krajina was territorially defined for the first time (with Ključ). By the gradual development of Negotin from military camp to the established small town, when as the seat of the duke it became the political centre and the market for Krajina, this area also got name Negotinska, separating itself from Ključ. By the middle of the 19th century Negotin was the town known as trade, cultural and administrative centre of former Serbia.

Defining the border of Negotinske krajina is a problem. Geographical indication is under the historical one and according to the government needs the same name in different time periods included the larger and smaller spaces. The east and west borders are clear, since they are presented by striking lines, the Danube and Timok, and the mountain crests of Veliki Greben and Deli Jovan. However, northern and southern borders have never had such natural markings. Thus the division of settlements between Negotin and Kladovo on the one hand and Negotin and Zaječar on the other hand, is always determined by different criteria. In the past, this was the ownership properties (if the cities belonged to different authorities), or functional properties (economic and transport links). At the beginning of the 20th century this part belonged to the Moravska regional unit and was divided into districts: Ključ, Brza Palanka, Negotin and Krajina. K. Jovanović² defined the last three districts as Negotinska krajina, naming the borders of the village areas they belong to the border area. It is now the widely understood term of Negotinska krajina, based on three centres, Negotin, Brza Palanka and small towns (after World War I) Salaš and Brusnik. Therefore, the southern border extended to the Jelašnicka River, left tributary of the V. Timok (near the village Čokonjar), and the northern one included village Reka north of Brza Palanka. The impression is that K. Jovanović did not want to enter into the problem of borders of districts, but they were united by looking at them as a unique place because the subject of his research was "Negotinska Krajina and Ključ", and the author did not matter whether it was little north or south of Brza Palanka.³ However, the southern border of several settlements of the Krajina

1 Бојанић-Лукач Д., „Неготинска крајина у време турске владавине – на основу извора из 15. и 16. века“, *Гласник ЕМ*, књ. 31–32, Београд, 1969, стр. 57–139.

2 Јовановић К., „Неготинска крајина и Кључ“, *Насеља и порекло савременог живота*, књ. 29, Београд, 1940.

3 Since the district also included Plavna, Štubik, Jabukovac, Vratna, Malajnica, Urovica, Mihajlovac, M.

district that have gravitated Negotin (Popovica, Sikole, Metriš, Brusnik Klenovac, Salaš) moved about ten kilometres south and west to the village of Luke.⁴ Functional connection between settlements and the aspiration to the centre of gravity is more important than other criteria, and once established border does not mean that it will stay there.

The names of territories and their boundaries are changing terms as indicated by two examples from the studied area. Between the First and Second World War the term Timočka krajina was introduced encompassing the confluence of the Timok with Negotinska krajina and Ključ, although it is justified neither historically nor geographically. Second, Krajina historically always relied in the east on the Timok. After World War II, the Kingdom of SCS (Serbs, Croats and Slovenians) included the right bank of the river with six Bulgarian villages, four of which were incorporated into Negotinska krajina (Aleksandrovac, Kovilovo, Crnomasnica, Bračevac).

After the Second World War the new territorial division formed. In the historical development, several settlements were more related to Negotin, but after the war they belonged to Zaječar (Metriš, Klenovac, Brusnik), that is, Kladovo (Brza Palanka). Border by geographical principle is difficult to determine which is also discussed in the example of the Negotinska krajina and Ključ demarcations by several researchers. K. Jovanović⁵ and M. Lutovac⁶ placed it between the villages Reka and Grabovica tying it for Visoki Čukar (632 m), and J. Dj. Marković⁷ states that the border is farther to the south and represented by the river Vratnica. Finally, S. Stojimirović⁸ based on population surveys determined that the boundary line run Brza Palanka-section of the road Brza Palanka – Alun – Cvetanovac – Konjska Glava – Visoki Čukar. The opinions of the heads of the “Museum of Krajina” and “Historical Archives of Krajina, Ključ and Poreč” are that “Old Krajina” historically comprised the northern part of Zaječar “around Salaš and Brusnik”, and that the modern concept of Negotinska krajina is identified with the territory of the settlements that are functionally related to Negotin.

The boundary at the north begins at the mouth of the Slatina River in the Danube and follows its watershed to the top of the Kraku Srbu (447 m) from where it turns south to Gypsy cemetery and source parts of the small river Valja Mare belong to Miroč village in the municipality of Majdanpek. It continues by the crest of Veliki Greben and Deli Jovan to the tops of Veliki Deli Jovan (973 m) and Tilva (635 m) from where it turns east across the source branches of the Salaška and Sikolska rivers to the top of Lepa Glavica (340 m) located

Kamenica and Slatina, it would be logical to be joined to Krajina and not Ključ.

4 Јовановић К., „Неготинска крајина и Кључ“.

5 *Ibid.*

6 Лутовац М., „Неготинска крајина и Кључ“, *Зборник радова ГИ*, књ. 15, Београд, 1959.

7 Марковић, Ј. Ђ., *Регионална географија СФРЈ*, Грађевинска књига, Београд, 1980.

8 Стојимировић С., „Дунавски Кључ, савремене регионално-географске промене“, магистарска теза, Универзитет у Београду, Географски факултет, Београд, 2000.

on the road Zaječar–Negotin. Then the boundary turns southeast by the Sikolska River, between the villages of Klenovac and Rečka, that is, Brusnik and Tamnič and emerges on the Timok. By the right valley side of the river the border intersects several small rivers between the villages of Mali and Veliki Jasenovac and Šipikovo in Zaječar and Crnomasnica and Bračevci in Negotin municipality. The eastern border is the state border with Bulgaria up to Bregovo, where it continues downstream by the Timok and upstream by the Danube to the confluence of the river Slatina.⁹ In these boundaries Negotinska krajina has the area of 1 089 km², 195 km long border, of which 141 km is land and 54 km water. The Danube includes 39 km and the Timok 15 km and coincides with the municipality of Negotin.

The Context of the Research

An important starting point in the development of theoretical and methodological bases of regional differentiation of space was given by W. Christaller in *Die Zentralen Orte in Süddeutschland*.¹⁰ Observing the development of settlements through the tertiary sector, he set the theory of central places. By this author centrality of a settlement lies in the concentration of functions allocated for individuals of other settlements. In the process of intensive urbanization, which is characterized by concentration of population and services in the city, it comes to the formation of functional urban regions. The model of functional regionalization shows the dynamics of process of economic changes in the functional organization of space. Tošić¹¹ in his doctoral dissertation studied the structure of space through the role of the city and rural settlements in the region and the functional relationships that determine it. The author, using the indicators on the structure of the active population by activity, determined the method of functional classification of settlements, which is adapted to a particular stage of regional development. The model is based on changes in participation of some sectors of activity in contingent employment of working population. According to this model nine functional types of settlements are identified: agricultural, agro-industry, agro-service, industrial, industrial-agricultural, industrial-service, service, service-agricultural and service-industrial.¹² In order that the settlements belong to a particular functional type they must have a certain share of individual sectors of activity in the contingent of the population.

9 Живковић Љ., „Неке карактеристике размештаја насеља Неготинске крајине”, *Зборник радова*, књ. 43, Географски факултет, Београд, 1994, стр. 123–128.

10 Christaller W., *Die Zentralen Orte in Süddeutschland*, Berlin, 1933.

11 Тошић Д., *Просторно-функцијски односи и везе у подалној регији Ужича*, докторска дисертација, Унивезитет у Београду, Географски факултет, Београд, 1999.

12 *Ibid.*

The Economic Structures of Population

The economic structures of the population are a direct indicator of changes in production structure. Among the economic structures, it is important to determine the basic characteristics of the population as the workforce, because they determine the economic and social structures of the total population. Therefore, the analysis of the economic population structure of Krajina is based on the structure by activity, and then follows the dynamics and structural changes of the active population. In Negotinska krajina natural conditions were directing people to agriculture in the 20th century. Only in the second half of the 20th century it has come to a process of functional differentiation of settlements in the region. Key indicators of the allocation of functional types of settlements are changes in the structure of activity of the population, the results of which are used as reliable indicators in determining the spatial functional relationships.

The economic structures of the population are best illustrated by the degree of social and economic development in the territory of Krajina. Balkan and world wars, as well as organized and spontaneous resettlements, among others, have affected changes in the structure of activity. The period after World War II leads to certain changes in the population structure by activity, with still present specific historical heritage. Changes in economic structures of population in this region are most obviously manifested in the changed relations of agricultural and non-agricultural population. This is a consequence of industrial development in Negotin and Prahovo, as well as activities of the tertiary-quaternary sector, which has followed the growth of living standard of the population. The process of industrialization after the sixties was acting lawfully to the strengthening of the process of deagrarization, that is, agricultural population shift from rural to urban settlement and its immediate surroundings.

Population by economic activity is a division of the total population on active population (labour force), persons with personal income and dependent population, whose relations depend on the current trend in the economic and demographic development. Specific course of industrialization, urbanization and deagrarization and the process of demographic transition that began a long time ago in Negotinska krajina have caused weak changes of these economic characteristics of the population.¹³ The general rate of activity in Krajina was 43.3% and the share of persons with personal income was 22.1% and 33.9% of dependents in 2002.

Rural settlements recorded higher rate of activity because agricultural population in them is characterized by increased activity, particularly increasing due to ageing of rural population. Impaired reproduction of the labour force in agriculture (the young people's departure) extended the work engagement of older farmers. On the other hand, the dependent population with the prevailing youth on schooling is more represented in the city, due to favourable age composition and conditions for training.

13 Живковић Љ., „Неке карактеристике размештаја насеља Неготинске крајине”.

Reducing the number of active population is a direct consequence of the decline of the total population. The highest percentage of active population is employed in agriculture, but this share is significantly reduced in the post-war period. Comparing with the structure of the population by activity from 1953 (66.71% of active, 1.9% of persons with personal income and 31.43% of dependents), there is a tendency towards the reduction of the share of active persons and increase of the proportion of persons with personal income and the dependent population. The decline in overall activity rate is the result of demographic factors and is achieved due to a faster decline of active than the total population. The number of active population is growing only in Negotin, while in other settlements the number of active population is reduced even up to 40%.

Unlike the situation in 1953, in 2002 the general rate of economic activity between the rural settlements in Krajina is quite uneven. It ranged from 25.2% in Rajac to 58.44% in Malajnica and is heavily influenced by the proportion of active agricultural population in active population. The general rate of activity is the highest in settlements where active farmers make the most of the active population.

The greatest growth in the period 1953–2002 recorded persons with personal income, from 1,201 to 9,621. At the beginning of the period the share was almost irrelevant. More than half of the economic contingent lived in an urban settlement of Krajina – Negotin. In rural settlements the percentage was 2.08%, while according to the 2002 census it raised to 25.2%. The concentration of these persons is higher in rural settlements than in town (17.6%).

This large increase is caused by the implementation of the right to retire and many farmers are becoming formally persons with personal income, and their number in rural settlements is growing, from 549 to 6,486. Number of dependents in Krajina during the same period fell from 20,177 to 14,729. At the same time there has been a redistribution of dependent population and reduction of its concentration in Negotin where in 1953 lived 53.3%, and in 2002, 34.7% of dependents. Higher shares of dependent population have settlements in which more rapid structural changes are taking place, and in which the age structure of population is more favourable and demographic ageing process is at least under way. The dependent population dominated by children in school, as evidenced by the age structure of dependents in which 60.4% were younger than 19 years.

Sex structure of active population has also changed. Women represented 42.8% of the workforce, while in the early period they participated with 48.7%. A large relative increase in the female active population was recorded in the city, from 27.3% to 45.7%, as a result of the numerical increase in active women and increased demand for female labour. The increase in economic activity of the female population is a side effect of economic development only in Negotin. As the urban processes led to development of the city functions and new activities, so the possibility of the women activation increased. In

other settlements, increased activity of women is an indication of the negative tendencies of demographic development, as in the female labour force in rural settlements women active in agriculture prevail. Out of 9,993 active women in rural settlements, 9,009, i.e. 90% are active in agriculture in 1991. According to the 2002 census, there was a significant reduction of the active female population in the absolute number for 3,227 persons, and a relative reduction is 8.8%. The percentage of male rural population who achieve activity in agriculture is significantly lower (72%).

Age structure of active population reflects the demographic ageing process that takes place in Negotinska krajina. More than a third of active (34.4%) consists of those aged 20–39 years, 33.7% of the active are aged of 40–59 years, while the shares of over 60 years (28.5%) are significantly higher than the share of the youngest workforce contingent (3.4%). Particularly notable is different structure of active persons in agriculture and non-agricultural sectors, where the shares of some age groups are inversely proportional.¹⁴ Accelerated ageing of agricultural population reflected in the age structure of the labour force in agriculture.

The rate of utilization of working age contingent in 2002 in Krajina was 63.7%, but the differences between the sexes and different age groups were observed, illustrated by specific activity rates. Thus, the utilization of the female working age contingent was 66.4% and 80.5% of the male one. The highest rates of activity in the male population, indicating the almost complete utilization of working contingent, were in five-year age groups from 25 to 49 years, ranging from 91.5% to 98.2% in the age group of 30 to 34 years. The specific activity rates have shown that in the studied area older population that is not of working age is significantly engaged in work (60.8% for males and 56.6% for women). Causes of this situation should be sought in the already mentioned greater activity of rural i.e. agricultural population. The activity of male persons over the age of 60 is mainly done in agriculture, while the dominance of agriculture has been present at women over the age of 45.

Active Population by Sectors

Socio-economic development of Krajina, industrial development above all, has contributed to the transfer of population by sectors, and this caused the growth of population in all sectors except agriculture. Classification of population by activities is an indicator of unemployment of working contingent. It enables a perspective on the impact of economic trends on the change of the economic structure of population and is an indicator of the level of economic development of Negotinska krajina.¹⁵

14 Живковић Љ., Шабић Д., „Нека демографска обележја Неготинске крајине”, *Зборник радова „Еколошка истина”*, Д. Мнлановац, 2003, стр. 478–482.

15 Живковић Љ., „Старосна и полна структура становништва Неготинске крајине”, *Зборник ра-*

The number of active population in the period 1953–2002 reduced by half, that is, from 42,980 to 26,973 persons. In the same period the share of labour force increased in all sectors except agriculture and handicrafts, which indicates the intensification of the industrialization process of the municipality. Agriculture, hunting and fishing recorded the largest number of employees in 1953, even 89.2%, while workers in industry represented only 0.1% of the employees. In all of the following inter-census periods the number of employees in agriculture is declining and the trend continues. Unlike agriculture, the number of employees in industry in the observed period slightly increases and is 10.7% of the total active population. This increase in the number of employees in the mentioned activity is the characteristic of underdeveloped areas, which recorded faster industrial growth after 1970.

The first chemical factory was built in Prahovo in 1961 and in 1964 the majority of vintners and winegrowers in Krajina abandoned the wine growing in their wine shops and the produced grapes delivered to the sections of “Krajina wine”. Other activities that recorded a slight increase in the number of employees are transport, trade, tourism and catering industry, which are explained by the gradual economic growth and increasing purchasing power. Share of retailers and restaurateurs in the total active population ranged from 0.8% in 1953 to 6.2% in 2002. Administrative, educational and health activities recorded a growth of active population in the observed period. Of 1483 employed in 1953, the number of employees in this activity doubled to the 2002 census and was 3 293. With the gradual development of the economy, conditions were created for greater affirmation of these activities. Besides agriculture, the participation of artisans in the structure of active population decreased, and production trades slowly disappeared (only 0.8% of active population). In the Negotin region, after the fifties process of deagrarization was carried out with pronounced spatial polarization, which led to a concentration of non-agricultural population in Negotin and settlements in the immediate vicinity. Other rural settlements of peripheral traffic-geographical position retained their dominant agricultural character, because they were not included in the zone of working commuting, which could transform their economic structure and reduce migration.

The structure of the active population by activity points to the social division of labour and the development trends in the sector structure of the economy. Therefore, the economic composition of the workforce is one of the indicators of socio-economic development of Krajina, so that from this point it can be concluded that the studied area is in transition. Namely, the active population performing occupation, according to the 2002 census results, is mostly engaged in the primary sector (62.6%), followed by the tertiary-quaternary (24.8%), while the secondary sector is still underdeveloped, but growing (12.7%). This structure of the population is under the dominant influence of population structure of Negotin, while the population in rural areas still mostly

дова са научној скупи „Проблеми ревијализације пограничних крајева Југославије и Републике Српске”, Географски факултет, Београд, 2002, стр. 293–299.

works in the primary sector (82.7%). The exception is the central settlement with the type of structure III – II – I, while in settlements with favourable geographical-transport position, Jasenica, Miloševo, Prahovo observed type of structure is III – I – II and it includes another 12 villages, and the remaining 23 belong to type of structure I – II – III. More than 30% of active, employed in the secondary sector, live in urban settlement.

Rural settlements that are weakly traffic related and in which activity in the secondary sector involves migration have the least share of active persons in the secondary sector. The tertiary sector activities are also concentrated in the central settlement where there are more than 60% of employees in this sector. Given that Negotin is administrative, educational and medical centre of Negotinska krajina, this structure is quite expected.

Analysis of the main sectors of activity in the observed inter-census periods shows that Negotinska krajina is at the beginning of industrialization. Of all active persons in the primary sector in 1953 there were 38,353 employees. In the same year, the tertiary-quaternary sector was the second place according to the number of active population, in which there were 3,478 hired persons, while the secondary sector hired only 66 people. Categories ‘outside the activity’ and ‘unknown’ hired 1 083 persons or 2.5% of all active. The share of urban population in the secondary sector is higher than the share of rural active population. Employment in the tertiary-quaternary sector from 1953 to 2002 was also increasing. The share of employed in this sector was 24.1% with an increasing tendency, given the present processes of industrialization and deagrarization, one should expect even more intensive participation of labour force in the performance of the tertiary-quaternary activities. An increasing number of different activities and incomplete knowledge of their structure at those working abroad, then the inability that the total population of 100% is accurately recorded and others, influenced the constant increasing number of active population in sectors ‘outside the activity’ and ‘unknown’.

According to the 1961 census, the active population performed jobs most in the primary activities (87.3%), in the secondary sector only 2.8% and 9.9% in the tertiary-quaternary. Of the activities of the secondary sector industry was the most developed, then construction industry and trades. In 1961, in industry job performed 52.9% (657) of active persons from the secondary sector. As in that time it has not yet come to a striking change in the economic and demographic development of Negotin and rural settlements, the active in the secondary sector were more numerous (821) in rural areas. In the tertiary-quaternary sector, where active people participated with 9.9%, dominant were the state administration and judiciary, trade and educational activities.

Economic restructuring in the settlements of the studied area shows that there has been a “shift” of the structure of the various settlements. Although it is still the primary sector in most villages, the most important process is deagrarization. The largest structural changes have occurred in the settlements of Prahovo, Radujevac, Jasenica, i.e. the transfer of the rural population from the

primary sector in other sector activities in most cases has meant changing the type of settlement, i.e. moving into the city centre. Structural changes that took place in Krajina had been a general trend of reducing the number and proportion of active in the primary, and increasing the number and proportion of active in the secondary and tertiary-quaternary sectors, as well as strengthening the differential development of Negotin and other villages, but agriculture still had the role of the most important activity. According to the 2002 census, trade had the greatest significance for the activity of the population of tertiary activities in which 20% of active population performed jobs from service sector which was an indicator of urban processes. Developed division of labour was present in the city centre and the development of the secondary and tertiary-quaternary sectors after the 60's was one of the main factors of urbanization.

The number of residents who are temporarily working abroad is essential for the analysis of population by activities. In Krajina, this phenomenon is particularly pronounced, and in relation to the total population, the number is significant. According to the 1971 census, there are 4,351 persons temporarily working abroad or 9.8% of the total active population. They are from all villages, mostly from Štubik, Radujevac, Miloševo. Whole families are abroad, while usually older family members are in the village, and a major source of revenue is outside the country. This has always been a migrant worker region, and motivation in recent years is strengthened by economic situation in the country. By occupation, most farmers and workers who graduated from high school went abroad. Recently, the number of male and female population going to work abroad has been equal.

Functional Distribution of the Settlement Net

Based on changes in the structure of the population activity, the functional types of settlements are classified and thus it is possible to determine the trends of the economy of Negotinska krajina. Geographical changes in the rural settlements of Krajina are a complex process because changes occur in the structure of the population activity affected by the city centre of Negotin. In determining the spatial and functional relationships and connections, the analysis of the population activity structure is used for parameters, assuming that it is conditioned by the functional capacity of the city centre. This means that the degree of deagrarization of villages in Krajina depends on the number and quality of jobs in Negotin.

Structural changes in the active population of the rural settlements took place in different economic conditions, and their severity was determined by the functional capacity of Negotin as the city centre. During the period of underdevelopment of Negotin, which comprised a period up to the 1960's, the rural settlements belonged to the functional type of agricultural settlements.¹⁶

16 Живковић Љ., Шабих Д., „Нека демографска обележја Неготинске крајине”.

This has been contributed by the moving of rural working-age population and the population of all villages decreased by their employment, but the structure of their activities did not greatly change. Only settlements that had commuting employees with Negotin transformed economically and functionally.

All rural settlements according to the 1921 census, 38 of them as well as the town of Negotin, belonged to the functional type of agricultural settlements. With the gradual development of the industry in the sixties of the 20th century, the city centre was transformed from a service-agricultural settlement into the service-industrial one. In terms of territory, exclusively agrarian settlements were dominant in the centre of which the town of Negotin was and less areas with the initial functional changes (Prahovo, Miloševo). In the period between 1961 and 2002 with the development of Negotin as industrial and commercial centre, the processes of migration were being activated, and by the time commuting of workers became stronger. The employment of the part of working contingent in the activities of the secondary, tertiary and quaternary sector leads to poor functional transformation of the village. Jasenica, Miloševo and Radujevac villages are the closest in its parameters to become the agricultural-service, and Prahovo with the most advanced tertiary and quaternary sectors can be included in a service-agrarian settlement. The most dynamic changes are in settlements that are located close to the city or on the roads (Kobišnica, Radujevac, Jasenica). In the structure of activity, there is the tendency of slight increase in secondary and tertiary sectors, while the primary is still the strongest. Although in this period the number of employees in the city centre has increased more than double (from 3,189 to 6,982 persons), the transformation of villages is not proportional to the development of industrial and other functions in the city (Prahovo should be taken into account because it attracts in its sphere a number of workers). A more functional transformation in Krajina did not occur due to rapid migration of rural population (whether in cities or on temporary work abroad). The tendency of functional changes will continue, and its character will still be determined by accelerated deagrarianization expressed in mild reduction of exclusively agricultural settlements and the increasing number of those belonging to other functional types.¹⁷

The functional organization of rural settlements of Krajina is reduced by depopulation processes, then absolute and relative reduction of the active population, as well as staff reductions. Further restructuring of the working population from the primary to secondary and tertiary activities will refer mainly to the settlements that have so far developed a functional capacity as a suburb (Miloševo), settlements with favourable traffic and geographical position (Prahovo, Radujevac, Kobišnica). Villages which are the smallest and most distant from the municipal centre, and of a purely agricultural character (Crnomasnica, Tamnič, Rečka, Rajac) are in a serious situation for they lose the function of crop and livestock villages because of the number and the ageing of the population. They did not get new functions or enhance old ones, so their revitalization

17 Живковић Љ., „Промене у старосној структурн становништва општинне Неготин“.

from demographic and economic aspects is unrealistic (Smedovac, Rogljevo, Veljkovo). An important factor for future economic development of Negotinska krajina, and thus the faster development of the settlements, is the development of modern infrastructure. Villages outside the main roads are stagnating and declining by population (Bračevac, Brestovac, Popovica, Plavna, Šarkamen). All of them are of the agricultural type and require substantial investments for their survival and future development. Most intensive transformation had the settlements in the field of influence of Negotin as an industrial centre, because it is the centre of gravity on the spatial and functional organization of the region.

In Negotinska krajina, Negotin city is the gravity centre and plays a dominant role, while some rural settlements have a function of micro-developing centres. Some settlements are singled out for specific functions which fail to stop depopulation, but slow it down and partially affect the functional transformation of the environment. Conditionally they can be classified as rural community centres. They have an industrial plant, a medical and veterinary station, pharmacy, buying centres of agricultural products (Jabukovac). The second group includes settlements that have certain facilities to meet the minimum needs of the population (four-year or eight-year elementary school, post office, health centre (the largest number of settlements belongs here). Group of suburbs includes settlements that are directly adjacent to the city (Miloševo), and a group of settlements that are in direct functional connection with the city (Prahovo).¹⁸

Negotin as the town centre affects the economic restructuring of the population of Krajina, as well as the transformation of other rural (particularly suburban) settlements. The importance of it is particularly pronounced at the impact on the local concentration of population and the increasing number of commuters. Although developed as an urban core, the power of its function is not able to slow down the depopulation of rural settlements or to transform them economically. It has functional coupling only with the suburbs. Late activated functions (industrial, commercial, service, etc.) of Negotin have caused a migration of population from rural settlements to the centres of higher level of functional development (Belgrade, larger cities in Serbia, foreign countries).

Conclusion

The main 'bearer' and originator of the areal transformation is the city of Negotin which directs the movements of the population and material goods thus determining itself as a pole of attracting, concentration and growth whereas rural settlements represent the poles of demographic and economical depression. Besides the city, only suburban settlements grow in demographic way which is typical for rural areas. Negotinska Krajina does not have substantially developed functional capacity by which it would keep agricultural

18 Живковић Љ., „Промене у старосној структури становништва општине Неготин“.

population so it migrates towards industrially more developed parts of Serbia. The development of non-agricultural professions and intensive deagrarianization and urbanization lead to social and economical transformation in the region. There, next to the city centre, suburban settlements (Miloševo, Samarinovac, Prahovo) have developed in the rural surrounding. According to the occupation structure of the population living in the region, their typology has been done. It shows that Negotin is a service-industrial settlement and Prahovo is a service-agrarian settlement, whereas all other settlements are agrarian ones. Rural settlements Jasenica, Miloševo and Radujevac are, by their parameters, closest to become agrarian-service settlements. The disfunction in the development between city and village has been determined by researching the development processes through exhibiting areal and functional connections of the examined area. In order to eliminate negative effects in the regional development of Negotinska krajina it is necessary to determine and apply the functional demographic policy and the concept of revitalization of rural area.

Prahovo is singled out for developed industrial function, which has the chemical industry, port for cargo transport, elementary school, health centre and local office. Other settlements have no particularly expressed functional hierarchy, because one part is in the constant interaction with the city (suburbs), and the other part belongs to the homogeneous agricultural areas of non-urbanised and functionally non-transformed villages. However, Dušanovac Kobišnica, Radujevac and Urovića are singled out for the minimum functions, having primary schools, medical and veterinary clinics, post-office, agricultural cooperative, and smaller primary villages gravitate to them. Settlements that are close to Negotin and those with the expressed daily migration of labour¹⁹ have the highest degree of economic and functional transformation. Traffic isolated and insufficiently transformed settlements have no even the minimum functions that would slow down the moving of their population or initiate their economic transformation. Spatial distribution and functional hierarchy of settlements in Krajina show polarization effects with the pronounced city centre and underdeveloped periphery. Negotin will remain demographic, functional and economic development pole, and rural settlements economically, functionally and demographically depopulation spaces.

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19 Живковић Љ., Јовановић С., „Основне одлике антропогеног развоја Неготинске крајине до XX века”, *Демографија*, књига VI, Београд, 2009, стр. 245–260.

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Резиме

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ТЕРИТОРИЈАЛИО-ДЕМОГРАФСКА И ФУНКЦИОНАЛНА ОРГАНИЗАЦИЈА МРЕЖЕ НАСЕЉА НЕГОТИНСКЕ КРАЈИНЕ

Кључне речи: природна обележја, становништво, трансформација насеља, регионални развој, ревитализација

Резултати истраживања презентовани у раду односе се на територијално-демографске и функционалне промене мреже насеља Неготинске крајине, по много чему специфичном простору Србије. Проучавани простор је по свом положају, економском, демографском и просторно-функционалном развоју сложен територијалан систем. Физичко-географска основа не представља лимитирајући фактор унутрашње структуре и функционалне диференцијације Крајине. Њено деловање на развој Крајине као целине је двојако: директно и индиректно. Директно је деловање природне средине (рељефа, климе, воде, биогеографских и педолошких обележја) на локацију града и сеоских насеља и огледа се у могућностима за њихово територијално и функционално ширење. Индиректно деловање се исказује кроз утицаје на размештај становништва, економске ресурсе и њихово вредновање.