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THE IMPACT OF DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF EASTERN CROATIA

UTJECAJ DEMOGRAFSKIH PROCESA NA TRANSFORMACIJU ISTOČNE HRVATSKE

ABSTRACT

Position of Eastern Croatia is determined by influences of various economic, political, ethnic and religious factors that occurred throughout the history. Spatial-functional seeing area of Eastern Croatia is located in the major European and regional traffic routes, and in addition in Eastern Croatia there are numerous natural resources. Precisely these listed factors - location convenience of space and abundance of many natural resources, the area of the Eastern Croatia provide a number of preconditions for many economic activities. An important role in the economic development of the Eastern Croatian future lies in exploiting its transportation position. However, despite all the positive predispositions area of Eastern Croatia because of the consequences of the war and war events are still lagging behind in development. In addition to political events, there are also other factors that have led to the present situation the Eastern Croatia. The impact of demographic processes refers to natural movement and migration, density and distribution of the population and to all changes made in the structural characteristics of the population. One of the negative characteristics of this area is depopulation.

The subject of this paper is to show how the demographic processes influenced in the Eastern Croatia and which their features are. The aim of paper is based on processing and scientific analysis of the collected statistical data from the census and other publications to show the ethnic and religious structure of the population of counties and of the entire Eastern Croatian and migration condition.

Keywords: Demographic process, ethnic structure, Eastern Croatia

SAŽETAK

Položaj istočne Hrvatske određen je utjecajima različitih gospodarskih, političkih, etničkih i vjerskih čimbenika koje su se zbivale kroz povijest. Prostorno-funkcionalno gledajući područje istočne Hrvatske nalazi se na području velikih europskih i regionalnih prometnih

pravaca, a osim toga na području istočne Hrvatske nalaze se brojni prirodni resursi. Upravo ovi navedeni čimbenici - lokacijska pogodnost prostora i bogatstvo brojnih prirodnih resursa, području istočne Hrvatske daju niz preduvjeta za brojne gospodarske aktivnosti. Važnu ulogu u gospodarskom razvoju istočne Hrvatske u budućnosti leži upravo u iskorištavanju njegovog prometnog položaja. Međutim, unatoč svim pozitivnim predispozicijama područje istočne Hrvatske zbog posljedica Domovinskog rata i ratnih zbivanja još uvijek zaostaje u razvoju. Osim političkih zbivanja, niz je drugih čimbenika koji su doveli do današnjeg stanja istočne Hrvatske. Utjecaj demogeografskih procesa odnosi se na prirodno kretanje i migracije, gustoću i razmještaj stanovništva te na sve promjene nastale u strukturnim obilježjima stanovništva. Jedna od negativnih karakteristika ovog područja jest depopulacija. Predmet ovog rada je prikazati na koji način su demografski procesi utjecali na prostor istočne Hrvatske i koje su njihove značajke. Cilj rada je na temelju obrade i znanstvene analize prikupljenih statističkih podataka iz popisa stanovništva i drugih publikacija prikazati etničku i vjersku strukturu stanovništva pojedine županije te ukupno cijele istočne Hrvatske i njeno migracijsko stanje.

Ključne riječi: *demogeografski proces, etnička struktura, istočna Hrvatska*

1. Introduction

Eastern Croatia is one of the worst affected Croatian regions by the economic crisis. War except that resulted in considerable demographic changes led to the economic and technological backwardness of Eastern Croatian, closures, as neighbors and distances themselves from the main European economic and transport corridors. Ranked by competitiveness and development report from 2013 all five counties of Eastern Croatia are located at the back of the least competitive counties in Croatia. The current state recorded in the counties of eastern Croatian, shows and warns that they are at high risk of lagging further behind. One way to improve this status is demographic indicators. The area of Eastern Croatia is the Croatian region with a distinct multi-ethnic structure of the population that has been shaped by historical processes and settlement. The structure of the population resulting from natural change, migration, social division of labor, economic development, national, religious and other factors. All these factors need to be taken into account if it is wanted to improve current status. With respect to this paper will show the ethnic and religious structure of the population of counties and of the entire Eastern Croatian and migration condition.

2. Eastern Croatian County area and population

In this area there are five Counties: Požega-Slavonia County, Brod-Posavina County, Osijek-Baranja County, Vukovar-Syrmia County and Virovitica-Posravina County. This area, with the rivers Sava, Drava and Danube has always been used, due to a strong type of lowland landscapes, primarily for agricultural purposes, but also for a number of other economic activities thanks represented natural resources. For that reason the potential for the development of the eastern Croatian are forests, land and water. With below average development compared to the rest of Croatian, region East Croatia is predominantly agricultural and processing oriented. However, there is increasing its tourism and traffic significance. Eastern Croatia is one of the worst Croatian regions affected by the economic crisis. Eastern Croatia to the gross domestic product per capita lags behind the national average - The Brod-Posavina and Vukovar-Syrmia County had the lowest value of GDP per capita among all Croatian counties. "Osijek-Baranja County situated in the north-eastern Croatian, covers an area of 4,155 km², and is the fourth largest county in the Republic of

Croatia.” (http://www.tourist-croatia.com/ru_zup/istocna.php) The most important road communications passing through this region. " Exceptionally favorable geographic position on the River Drava and alongside Danube, which is one of the most important European waterways, then natural resources based upon the structure of soil and the climate suitable for agricultural production, thermal waters, preserved environment and the unique Kopacki Rit area are just a part of favorable conditions offered by the Osijek-Baranja County.” (<http://www.tzosbarzup.hr/en/about-the-county/geographic-position/>) Požega-Slavonia County is one of the smaller Counties in Croatia. “Its position detaches it from main roads of Posavina and Podravina. This alone gives the County a certain appeal.” (<http://www.tzps.hr/en/county>) Brod-Posavina County located in the southern part of Pannonian Plain is one of the narrowest and longest counties. “Water, forests and fertile soil, navigable rivers and European road corridors are natural conditions that allow development of economy, transport, trade and culture.” (http://www.bpz.hr/opci_podaci/polozej/default.aspx#.VLOltct0zs0) The County of Virovitica and Podravina is situated in north-western part of Slavonia, south of Drava River with capital in Virovitica. “There are very important traffic corridors- in general - primary – contact Dunav area with middle Adriatic area, secondary - Drava river flow connecting Croatia with its neighbors-to the west and east parts of EU.” (http://www.slatina.hr/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/vt_county_slatina_croatia.pdf) Vukovar-Syrmia County is easternmost Croatian county “occupies an area of 2454 km², of which 150 000 ha are most fertile Croatian arable land and 70 ha of forest.” http://www.tourist-croatia.com/ru_zup/istocna.php) Population all five Counties are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 The area of Eastern Croatian County area and population

County	Area km ²	1991		2001		2011	
		Population	km ²	Population	km ²	Population	km ²
Požega-Slavonia	1823	99334	54,49	85831	47,1	78 031	42,81
Brod-Posavina	2 030	174998	86,20	176765	87,1	158.575	78,12
Osijek-Baranja	4 155	367193	88,37	330506	79,5	305.032	73,41
Vukovar-Syrmia	2 454	231241	94,23	204768	83,4	179.521	73,15
Virovitica-Podravina	2 024	104625	51,7	93389	46,1	84.836	41,92

Source: authors using www.dzs.hr

The population of Eastern Croatian during the war had very high direct and migration war losses. It's one of the reasons unfavorable images of eastern Croatian and significant changes in ethno-demographic figure settlement.

3. Ethnic population structure of the eastern Croatian counties

According to the 2011 Census, in the national structure of the Republic of Croatia there are 90.42 % of Croats, and 4.36 % of Serbs. Besides Serbs, no national minority does not exceed one percent of the population. With regard to above, this work will observe the relation between Croats and Serbs - the largest national minority in Croatia.

This area of Eastern Croatia although before the war inhabited predominantly Croatian population experienced additional Croat ethnic homogenization as shown in the following table.

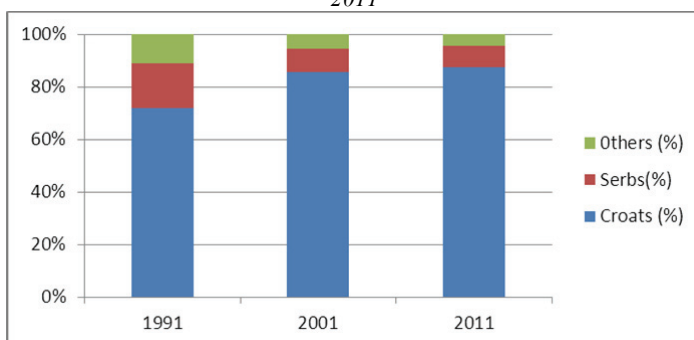
Table 2 Ethnic population structure of the eastern Croatian counties by 1991, 2001, 2011

County	1991		2001		2011	
	Croats	Serbs	Croats	Serbs	Croats	Serbs
Požega-Slavonia	67173	22572	76118	5616	70 529	4 680
Brod-Posavina	141071	19957	166129	5347	150 632	4 124
Osijek-Baranja	262176	56836	277245	28866	262 004	23 657
Vukovar-Syrmia	158128	45491	160277	31644	142 135	27 824
Virovitica-Podravina	75356	21905	83554	6612	77 897	5 144

Source: authors using www.dzs.hr

According to the table 2, in the national structure of the Croatian counties most homogeneous ethnic structure of the population has Brod-Posavina County in all three observed periods. In 1991 there was 80.6 Croats, and Serbs only 3 %, in 2001 there was 94 % Croats, and Serbs again only 3 %, and in 2011 there was 95% Croats, and Serbs only 2.60 %. The most heterogeneous ethnic structure of the population has the Vukovar-Syrmia County. In 1991 there was 68.4 % Croats, and Serbs 19.7%, in 2001 there was 78.3 % Croats, and 15.5 % Serbs, and in 2011 there was 79.17 % Croats and 15.5 % Serbs.

Graph 1 Ethnic population structure of the eastern Croatia (five counties) by 1991, 2001, 2011



Source: authors using www.dzs.hr

According to the graph 1, in the national structure of the Croatian counties in 2011 there are 87.25 % of Croats, and 8.11 % of Serbs. In 2001 there are 85.6 % of Croats and 8.8 % of Serbs and in 1991 there are 72 % of Croats and 17.1 % of Serbs. It is noticeable an decrease of the Serbs after the war.

4. Population structure of the eastern Croatia by religion

Religion is an important, culturally and traditionally characteristic which is other than nationality determined by man's belonging to a community. For the Republic of Croatia can be said that is traditional (Roman) Catholic country. Immediately after the Catholics was Orthodox. According to the 2011 Census, in the national structure of the Republic of Croatia there are 86.28 % of Catholics, and 4.44 % of Orthodox. Besides Catholics and Orthodox Catholic Church, there are 1.47 % Muslims, non-believers and atheists 3.81 %, and those who do not identify themselves 2.17 %. "In the census of 1991, Catholics made up 76.6% and 11.1% Orthodox believers in Croatia." (www.dzs.hr) In 1991 it is introduced the section religion in the census, but by settlements of the then municipality. Today's Counties were

founded in 1992 year. With regard to above, this work will observe the relation between Catholics and Orthodox - the largest religion in Croatia that is shown in the following table in 2001 and 2011.

Table 3 Population structure of the eastern Croatia by religion, by counties in 2001 and 2011

County	2001		2011	
	Catholics	Orthodox	Catholics	Orthodox
Požega-Slavonia	76.625	5.564	70.064	4.852
Brod-Posavina	162.452	6.089	146.093	5.673
Osijek-Baranja	280.037	29.028	258.956	24.974
Vukovar-Symia	160.095	31.564	142.066	27.870
Virovitica-Podravina	82.121	6.590	75.548	5.167

Source: authors using www.dzs.hr

According to the table 3, in the national structure of the Croatian counties most homogeneous ethnic structure of the population by religion has Brod-Posavina County in observed period. In 2001 there was 91.90 % of Catholics and 3.44 % Orthodox, and in 2011 there was 92.13 % of Catholics and 3.58 % of Orthodox. The most heterogeneous ethnic structure of the population by religion has the Vukovar-Symia County. In 2001 there was 78.18 % of Catholics and 15.41 % Orthodox, and in 2011 there was 79.14% of Catholics and 15.52 % of Orthodox.

Graph 2 Population structures by religion of the eastern Croatia (five counties) by 2001 and 2011



Source: authors using www.dzs.hr

According to the graph 2, in the population structure by religion of the Eastern Croatia in 2011 there are 18.74 % of Catholics and 36.04 % Orthodox. In 2001 there are 19.53 % of Catholics and 40.23 % Orthodox. It is possible to notice a decrease in both, Catholics and Orthodox.

5. Migration of population of the eastern Croatia

Migration is one of the elements of the demographic dimension of globalization. "Migration represents the movement of people from one place in the world to another." (Knežević, S. at al. (2014), p. 1) „Immigrated or emigrated population is the population who changed their permanent residence on the territory of the Republic of Croatia (internal migration) or who changed their country of usual residence for a period that is, or is expected to be, of at least one year (international migration).“ (Croatian Bureau of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook 2014)

Next tables and graphs show the migration of population by area of immigration and emigration in five observed counties in 2009, 2011 and 2013.

Table 4 shows immigration of population Croatia and five observed counties.

Table 4 *Immigration of population of the Croatia and Eastern Croatia in 2009, 2011 and 2013*

County	2009		2011		2013	
	From another county	From abroad	From another county	From abroad	From another county	From abroad
Republic of Croatia	27798	8468	28514	8534	29959	10378
Požega-Slavonia	314	61	356	57	381	80
Brod-Posavina	721	336	628	248	603	216
Osijek-Baranja	1199	441	1193	401	1152	395
Vukovar-Syrmia	845	429	726	311	751	325
Virovitica-Podravina	382	135	401	66	391	67

Source: Made by Authors according to Statistical Yearbooks

In Croatia in 2009 immigrated 36.266 people (from another county 27.798 and 8.468 person from abroad) while in five observed counties immigrated 4.863 people (from another county 3.461 and 1.402 person from abroad). Accordingly, in this five counties immigrated 13.41 % of total immigrant population in Croatia (12.45 % from another county and 16.57 % from abroad).

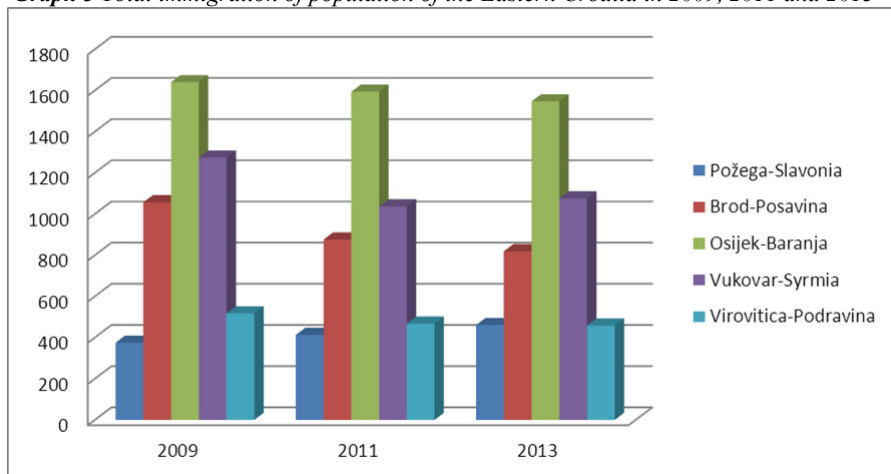
In Croatia in 2011 immigrated 37.048 people (from another county 28.514 and 8.534 person from abroad) while in five observed counties immigrated 4.387 people (from another county 3.304 and 1.083 person from abroad). Accordingly, in this five counties immigrated 11.84 % of total immigrant population in Croatia (11.59 % from another county and 12.69 % from abroad).

In Croatia in 2013 immigrated 40.337 people (from another county 29.959 and 10.378 person from abroad) while in five observed counties immigrated 4.361 people (from another county 3.278 and 1.083 person from abroad). Accordingly, in this five counties immigrated 10.81 % of total immigrant population in Croatia (10.94 % from another county and 10.44 % from abroad).

Data from Table 4 shows that more people immigrate from some counties than from abroad.

Graph 3 shows that most people settled in the Osijek-Baranja County and the least in Požega-Slavonia and Virovitica-Podravina County.

Graph 3 Total immigration of population of the Eastern Croatia in 2009, 2011 and 2013



Source: Made by Authors according to Statistical Yearbooks

Next table and graph show emigration of population of Croatia and Eastern Croatia.

Table 5 Emigration of population of Croatia and Eastern Croatia in 2009, 2011 and 2013

County	2009		2011		2013	
	Into another county	Into abroad	Into another county	Into abroad	Into another county	Into abroad
Republic of Croatia	27798	9940	28514	12699	29959	15262
Požega-Slavonia	693	303	684	414	639	239
Brod-Posavina	1218	827	1240	325	1413	695
Osijek-Baranja	1587	618	1537	611	1771	983
Vukovar-Syrmia	1480	804	1504	772	1681	1019
Virovitica-Podravina	574	673	565	228	665	236

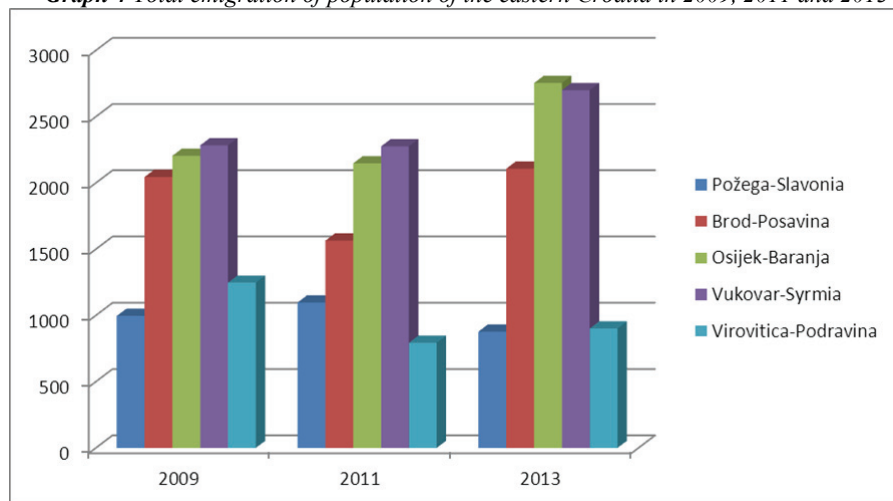
Source: Made by Authors according to Statistical Yearbooks

In Croatia in 2009 emigrated 37.738 people (into another county 27.798 and abroad 9.940 person) while in five observed counties emigrated 8.777 people (into another county 5.552 and abroad 3.225 person). Accordingly, in this five counties emigrated 23.26 % of total emigrant population in Croatia (19.97 % into another county and 32.44 % into abroad).

In Croatia in 2011 emigrated 41.213 people (into another county 28.514 and abroad 12.699 person) while in five observed counties emigrated 7.880 people (into another county 5.530 and abroad 2.350 person). Accordingly, in this five counties emigrated 19.12 % of total emigrant population in Croatia (19.39 % into another county and 18.51 % into abroad).

In Croatia in 2013 emigrated 44.857 people (into another county 29.959 and abroad 15.262 person) while in five observed counties emigrated 9.341 people (into another county 6.169 and abroad 3.172 person). Accordingly, in this five counties emigrated 20.66 % of total emigrant population in Croatia (20.59 % into another county and 20.78 % into abroad).

Graph 4 Total emigration of population of the eastern Croatia in 2009, 2011 and 2013



Source: Made by Authors according to Statistical Yearbooks

Graph 4 shows that most people emigrate from Brod-Posavina, Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Syrmia County.

6. Conclusion

Today's national and religious structure of Eastern Croatia is the consequence of war events. The most homogeneous ethnic structure of the population and structure of the population by religion have Brod-Posavina County and the most heterogeneous is the Vukovar-Syrmia County. Analysis of population migration in the observed years, more precisely 2009, 2011 and 2013, showed a decline of immigrants and increase of emigrants in Brod-Posavina County, Osijek-Baranja County and Vukovar-Syrmia County.

Accordingly, the Counties of Eastern Croatia should become more attractive in order to keep their population. It is not easy because they were significantly affected by the War, but also a major economic crisis in the world.

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