

MONTENEGRINS IN VOJVODINA PROVINCE, SERBIA

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Abstract: This article talks about the origin of Montenegrins in Vojvodina, their identity, development of their number and then about the age – gender structure. It gives the insight how old the Montenegrins population is and if it is in general older than population in Vojvodina. Particular attention was given to the period from the second half of 20th and at the beginning of 21st century. The main task of the paper was the identification of tendencies in the age structure of Montenegrins. Statistical methods and mathematics proceedings are used to compare different parameters of the age structure. The interview was carried with the aim to find out the reply on question where the one third of Montenegrins had disappeared during the last decade. The results of the study will enhance the knowledge about demographic characteristics of Montenegrins in Vojvodina and therefore might be useful for further research in the field.

Key words: Montenegrins, Age-gender structure, Vojvodina, Serbia.

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Introduction

The Republic of Montenegro covers the territory of about two hundred kilometres (airline) on the south from the Province of Vojvodina. It had, under different names (Duklja, Zeta), different forms of its sovereignty since the 10th century of new era. It achieved the independence from the Turks by Berlin congress, 1878 (Krause 2012). From 1918, Montenegro was the part of all three Yugoslavia. After the establishment of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Montenegro was no longer needed, partially because it had no adequate infrastructure, somehow remaining of the periphery of Yugoslavia. After the 2nd World Conflagration, gaining the status of a federal republic in Yugoslavia contributed to the development of so-called Montenegrin identity (Mészáros 2011). After the disintegration of Yugoslavia and loosing Bosnia and Herzegovina, once again the Montenegro acquired an important status for Serbia. In 2006 Montenegro declared its independence from Serbia (Džankić 2010), being a result of a renewed political emancipation at the beginning of the 3rd Millennium (Mészáros 2011).

Different ethnic groups settled the north part of Serbia, Province of Vojvodina. It was distinguished in the region as the area called 'Europe in small'. Living together with those ethnic groups differs through permanent exchange of experience and culture influence. The results of such exchange show the peculiarity of the Province of Vojvodina. The population of Vojvodina, as well as the largest part of Europe were faced with the process of depopulation. This process similarly influenced to all ethnic groups, which were settled there. The aim of this article is to find out how old the Montenegrins are. The paper also represents the contribution to enrich the knowledge about existence of Montenegrins in the area of Vojvodina.

Methods

The facts given in this article were the result of consultation of great number of resources. Data were taken from different statistics of yearbooks, received in the form of internal documentations from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia or calculated by using of different mathematical and statistical methods (for example: average age of the inhabitants, medial age, index age, coefficient of age etc).

Relative numbers did changes concerning the age structure of inhabitants, respectively, comparison of different populations, most often by comparing the

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number of inhabitants within individual structure of age groups towards the total number of inhabitants. Those relative numbers are usually shown by percentage. In order to be easy to survey, some of them were in the form of age pyramids and graphic presentation. The other parameters values of the age structure have been calculated by usage of different mathematical and statistical methods.

The average age of inhabitants is calculated by following formula where: \bar{x} - average age of inhabitants, x - old age year ($x = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots 99, 100$), V_x - number of inhabitants old x years.

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum (x + 0,5) \times V_x}{\sum V_x},$$

For calculation of median age is used following formula: L - value of lower limit of median interval, P - total number of inhabitants, $\sum f_i$ - number of inhabitants younger than median interval, n - size of interval, f_{me} - number of inhabitants of median interval.

$$M_e = L + \frac{\left(\frac{P}{2} - \sum f_i\right)}{f_{me}} * n$$

The old age index represents the relation between the old inhabitants P_{60+} and young P_{0-19} inhabitants.

$$i = \frac{P_{60+}}{P_{0-19}}$$

Coefficients of old age takes into consideration only the relation between the oldest age groups P_{60+} and total inhabitants P :

$$k_s = \frac{P_{60+}}{P} * 1000$$

In the function of being easy to survey, some of them were represented in the graphic form. The results of investigation were explained after consultation of the inhabitants of Kula municipality, during census in the year 2011 when they have declared as Montenegrins. Replies received in the municipality of Kula checked randomly by Montenegrins who live in other municipalities (Vrbas, Lovćenac and Novi Sad). However, in this part of the research is not obtained any new or different opinion. In interview studies, sample size is often justified by interviewing participants until reaching 'data saturation' (Francis *et al* 2010).

Results and Discussion

The Montenegrins in Vojvodina will be represented by giving the facts about: their colonization in the area of Vojvodina, their perception of the origin and action to keep the identity. Movement of their number and

characteristics of the age structure contributes to the study of such ethnic group and at the same time, their demographic indicators.

Colonization of Montenegrins in Vojvodina

The traces about colonization of Montenegrins on the territory of Vojvodina dated from the time after the First World War, 1918, when the king Alexander I Karađorđević gave a prize by the land in Vojvodina to the volunteers and warriors of the Balkan wars and the First World War. About agrarian reform after the World War I and the arrival of people from Montenegro, there are numerous sources (Kicošev 1994; Lekić 2002; Kršev 2011). The Second World War interrupted this land reform and colonization. At the end of the Second World War, new authority conducted new colonization (Medojević 2010). New colonization was organized under the Law on Agrarian Reform and Colonization (Official Gazette 1945; Gaćeša 2002; Medojević 2010; Bagić 2012). An organized and large-scale immigration took place only after the leaving of Germans. Part of Germans fled or retreat with the German troops. Great number of Germans was killed in ethnic cleansing (Milosavljević 2004; Geiger 2008). According Djuric *et al* (1995), Janjetović (2009) and official statistic, a small number of them continued to live in Vojvodina Region. Users or subjects of Agrarian Reforms were primarily poor farmers who participated in the National Liberation War, the disabled, victims of fascist terror that did not have enough land or did not have any (Medojević 2010).

Montenegrin population participated in the process with 34.393 capita in 6105 families. Montenegrins were able to become a locally relevant minority in those villages where: a) mostly Germans had lived before, b) they contributed to the majority of colonizers (Sarnyai, Pap 2013). Colonization had been made within several larger groups. The first group arrived in Novi Sivač already in November 1945, but the rest of groups have been coming until the end of 1948 (Medojević 2010). Namely, from 1945 till 1948 the Montenegrins settled the colonies in the central part of Bačka. From the Durmitor area arrived 585 families into Bačko Dobro Polje (Radovanović 1979). From Njeguši were colonized 71 family with 354 members in Lovćenac and 4 families with 20 members in Feketić. Beside those, 12 families also colonized Feketić with 55 members of the family from other parts of Montenegro (Otašević 1999). The other parts of Bačka was settled by Montenegrins from counties in that time, such as those from Cetinje, Bar, Danilovgrad, Nikšić, Podgorica, Kolašin *etc.* (Ivkov 2006). Although the main and mass migrations of Montenegrins had happened in the year 1947-48 some of the colonists' 'waves' were registered even later (Nedeljković 2010). Montenegrins have been settling in Serbia for decades. Vojvodina (besides Belgrade) is considered the most desirable

area for immigration. They would adapt to the new environment quickly and easily, taking massive and active roles in social and political processes. Causes of migrations can be distinguished: an economic nature, the cultural, individual emancipation, the political, the emotional (planning a marriage). The most frequent cause for migration to Serbia was enrolment into high schools or universities. Some of the cases of migrations were inspired by the example of friends or relatives (Nedeljković 2008).

In comparison of 'other' ethnic groups which settled Vojvodina, the official statistics relatively lately registered the presence of Montenegrins during the first census after the Second World War. During that time, Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia was formed. It was made by six Socialist Republics (SR Bosnia and Herzegovina, SR Croatia, SR Macedonia, SR Montenegro, SR Slovenia and SR Serbia) and two Socialist Autonomous Provinces (AP Vojvodina and AP Kosovo and Metohija) (Huntington 1996).

Who are the Montenegrins?

The Montenegrins in Vojvodina feel a different identity and behaviour. Spencer (1993) stated that the Montenegrins and Serbs speak the same language and have the same religion, Orthodox religion and they have used Cyrillic writing in the past time. Lim et al (2007) concluded that the Montenegrins self-identify as Serbs. Augustsson (2012) says that many Montenegrins believe that they are an extension of the Serbian nation. Harmon et al (2010) made the mathematical method used by LMB that predicts violence based upon both, the size of groups and what surrounds them. According to this method, the absence of the violence between Serbs and Montenegrins shows the existence of certain mutual elements. Vlahović (1995) states that the Montenegrins have always felt as Serbs and as Montenegrins. If they said they were Montenegrins, it did not mean that they were not Serbs. They felt as Serbs regardless of the issue. Zupančič (2010) said that the Montenegrins living with a constant dilemma of a double identity imposed by the Serbian unitary structure. Weidmann & Duffy Toft (2010) argued that Montenegrins are ethnically similar to Serbs, as they are both predominantly members of the Orthodox Church and speak the same language. Wachtel (2011) identified Serb-Croat language with Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian even with Montenegro language.

Nedeljković (2010) explained complexity of Montenegrins identity and divided it into brotherhood, tribes and folks. Those identities mutually are very often in complex, changeable and multidimensional relations, which make possible very flexible situation for using the Montenegrins identity. There was a centuries communication or identification with the Serb's national identity. One of the variants of such relations was expressed by the belief that the Montenegrins are

the ethnic Serbs who have got their own country very early and developed special national identity. The Montenegrins and Serbs are culturally very similar, so from the second generation of colonists and further on, but very often in the first generation, there is relatively weak resistance to assimilation. In the greatest number of cases, the Montenegrins settled the Serbian cities where they were unable and had no wish or interest to function as a community, but as the assembly of relatively independent individuals who functioned in the situation as the ethnic category or ethnic network. Therefore, they are invisible and methodologically uncatchable. The Montenegrins are relatively small people, respectively small nation. They are very heterogeneous and disintegrated.

Another understanding declares that the Montenegrins are not Serbs. Accordingly appeared the idea which resulted by forming the independent Montenegro. Roberts (2007) writes Montenegrins themselves are aware of another tradition that rejects the idea that Orthodox Montenegrins are Serbs and instead claims that they constitute a separate ethnic group of mixed Slavic – Albanian – Vlach origins, emphasizing the importance of Montenegro's divergent history. Augustsson (2012) noticed that a separate Montenegrin Orthodox Church began to be created shortly before Montenegro became an independent state in 2006. At the same time started the initiative about forming of Montenegro's language (Sarnyai, Pap 2013). The division of languages within the former Yugoslavia is now often based more on political considerations rather than linguistic considerations. It seems logical that since Montenegro is now an independent state, some Montenegrins would want to think that they have their own Montenegrin language (Augustsson 2012). Zupančič (2010) and Mészáros (2011) consider that with an open Europe is possible the anticipation of economic pressures on Montenegro and that this might have a strong influence on the identity of the Montenegrin people.

In accordance with the Law on Official Use of Languages and Scripts, in Serbia, in the territory of the local government, traditionally inhabited by national minorities, their language and script can be in equal official use (Official Gazette 2010). In December of 2010, Montenegrin became an official language in the Lovćenac village (in Vojvodina Province, Serbia). Sarnyai and Pap (2013) said that Montenegrin language is valid and administration of Mali Idoš municipality can be carried out in this language. The goals of association of Montenegrin in Serbia, 'Krstaš' (with Lovćenac and Feketić as its center): a) the struggle for the complete equity of the ethnic community of Montenegrins with the other communities living in Vojvodina and Serbia, b) having the historical, religious, cultural and other distinctive features recognized and accepted. In spite of its short time in existence, the or-

ganization has been able to involve most of Montenegrins in its area of functioning (Serbia, Vojvodina) and to provide identity-maintaining programs and events to them. From these, the struggle for education of Montenegrin language and culture as an optional subject is highlighted. The Montenegrin Party appeared in the 2008 (general provincial and pre-schedule national) elections. Identity conflicts manifest themselves within the community, appearing primarily in party preference.

Augustsson (2012) concludes that the existence of a clan system amongst the Montenegrins and the lack of one amongst the Serbs is probably the only real difference between the Serbs and the Montenegrins. In essence, the Montenegrins are Serbs who moved from Montenegro. Montenegro is a regional entity, which is in the physical-geographical sense, composed of limestone mountains of the Dinaric system. Just like in the other regional units of Serbia (Šumadija, Mačva, Negotinska Krajina etc.) or of the Balkans (Lika, Hercegovina, Semberija), Montenegro has always been inhabited by Serbs. The population of each regional entity in Serbia has its own peculiarities in folk customs, traditions, folklore, etc. None of them has ever proclaimed a new nation, independent territory or something similar. Thus, the idea of a distinct people is probably geopolitically motivated and designed far away from Montenegro.

The Number of Montenegrins in Vojvodina

Number of Montenegrins in Vojvodina was increasing with different intensity until disintegration of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The greatest intensity was between the years 1971 and 1981. In that period the number of Montenegrins in Vojvodina was increased for

16.2%. After census in the year 1991, number of Montenegrins decreased for one-fifth (20.8%) (Figure 1). From the census 2002 until census 2011 number of Montenegrins decreased for more than one third (37.7%). This decade will be remembered, as it was constituted independent Montenegro, 2006 (Darnanović 2007). If it is compared the greatest number of Montenegrins registered in Vojvodina (1991) with the number when they were registered as minimum (2011), it may be said that the size of this ethnic group was divided into halves for only twenty years. There are three assumptions by which could be explained such trend. First one, because of that started this investigation, had the aim to find out characteristics of the age structure, respectively, if a bad age structure could reduce the Montenegrins ethnic group so much. According to the second one, their moving out from Serbia influenced the reduction of number of the Montenegrins ethnic group. According the third assumption, people who declared as Montenegrins in the last census did not declare such in the census 2011. Coming generation from intermarriages, for example Serbs – Montenegrins, as they live in Serbia decided after independence of Montenegro to declare as Serbs or to declare as 'other', 'did not declare', 'regional affiliation' or 'unknown'. Hereinafter attention will be paid to the first assumption.

Share of Montenegrins in total Province population in the second half of 20th century raised up to 1.8% until 2.2% as it was during the census 1991. According to the last census in the year 2011, it was divided into halves on 1.1%. During the whole period of observation, men were more numerous. The share of men in total population from census to census increased. The biggest difference of number between men and women was registered in the last census where the

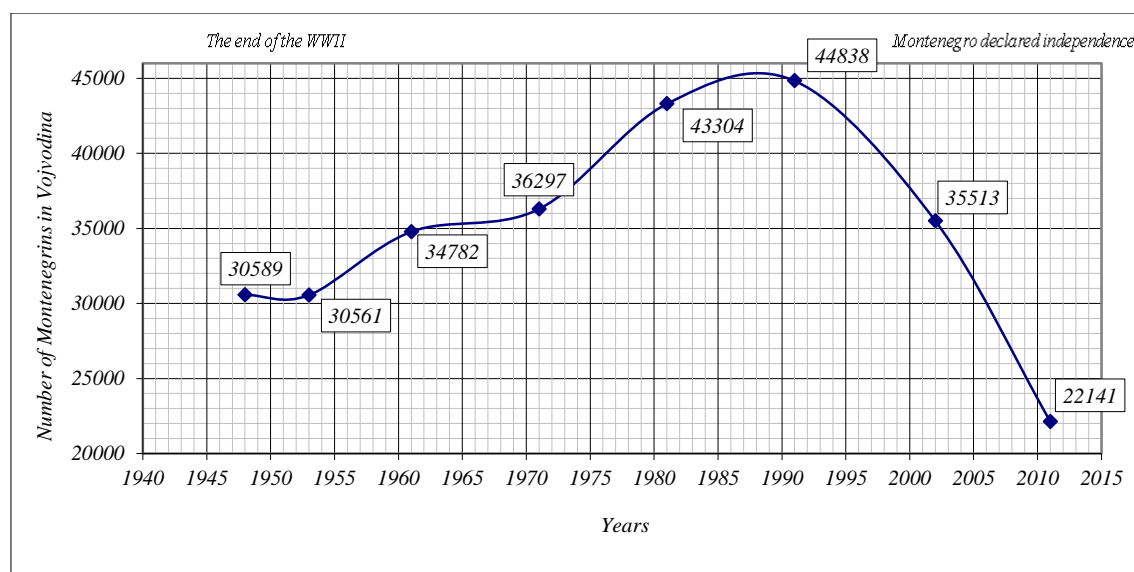


Figure 1. The number of Montenegrins in Vojvodina, according Census between 1948-2011.

Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982,

Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003a, 2013, own calculations

Table 1. Changes in the number of Montenegrins in Vojvodina 1948-2011

Censuses	Number of Montenegrins	Males (%)	Females (%)	Share in population of Vojvodina (%)
1948	30589	No data	No data	1.8
1953	30561	No data	No data	1.8
1961	34782	50.7	49.3	1.9
1971	36297	51.8	48.2	1.9
1981	43304	52.4	47.6	2.1
1991	44838	52.9	47.1	2.2
2002	35513	53.6	46.4	1.7
2011	22141	54.3	45.7	1.1

Source: Kocsis & Kicošev, 2004, Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003b, 2013, own calculations

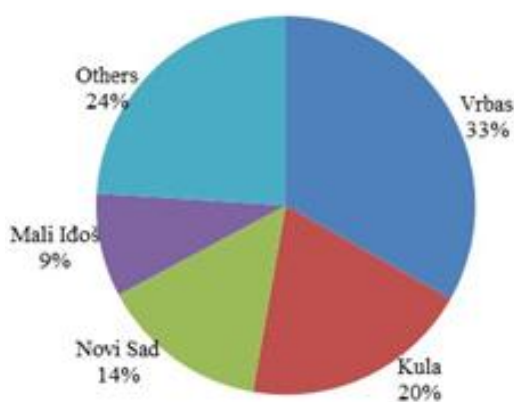


Figure 2. Montenegrins in the municipalities of Vojvodina according to census 2011

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2013.

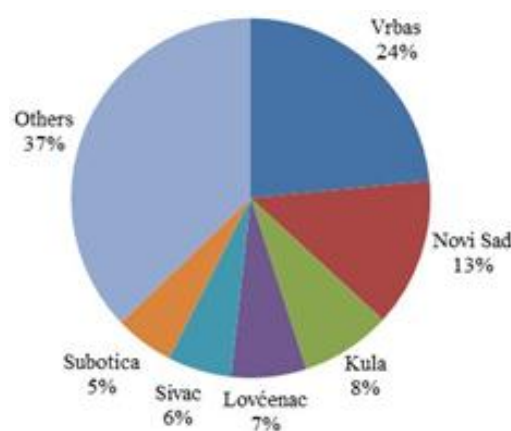


Figure 3. Montenegrins in the settlements of Vojvodina according to census 2011

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2013

share of men was larger for 8.6% than women (Table 1). By this data was confirmed the fact about which Nedeljko (2010) has spoken that the masculinity of Montenegrins was emphasized as a cultural form and social pattern. If during the census someone from the ethnic group of Montenegrins did not declare so, then it is more certain that it was the female person.

Men dominate among the population, which constantly come from Montenegro. There was no fear from the new surrounding; the relative proximity and good contact with the homeland, cultural resemblance with the new surrounding and great number of compatriots with whom to associate, all gave migrants a sense of safety and the feeling that they were not abroad. A great number of male migrants are proud of their origin in one way or another. They express it, and do not melt with the majority completely. They Montenegrin background of a spouse was never a condition for marriage, and there is proportionally small number of inter-Montenegrin marriages (Nedeljković 2008). Usually, girls from Montenegro marry for Serbs. In the absence of large mutual differences (same religion and language), they have assimilated consciously. The second generation of immigrants showed signs of completely melting into the majority.

From total number of Montenegrins in Vojvodina, according to census in 2011, one-third (33.2%) live in the municipality of Vrbas (7353). Those who with Montenegrins settle the municipalities Mali Idoš (1956), Novi Sad (3186) and Kula (4334) make $\frac{3}{4}$ (76.0%) from all Montenegrins in Vojvodina (Figure 2). Looking according to the settlements, the most Montenegrins were registered in Vrbas (5196), Novi Sad (2961), Kula (1805), Lovćenac (1499), Sivac (1276) and Subotica (1176) (Figure 3). However, the share of Montenegrins in total number of population in certain settlement distinguished some settlements such as Lovćenac with 47.4% and even four settlements where the Montenegrins make more than one fifth of total population. Those are Savino Selo (28.7%), Kruščić (24.8%), Bačko Dobro Polje (24.1%) and Vrbas (21.6%) (Figure 4). All settlements are in Bačka.

Age Structure

The age pyramid made according to the results of census 1961 shows relatively correct structure where visibly missing generations who were born during the Second World War are. Noticeable is the reduction of contingent of the youngest two age cohorts.

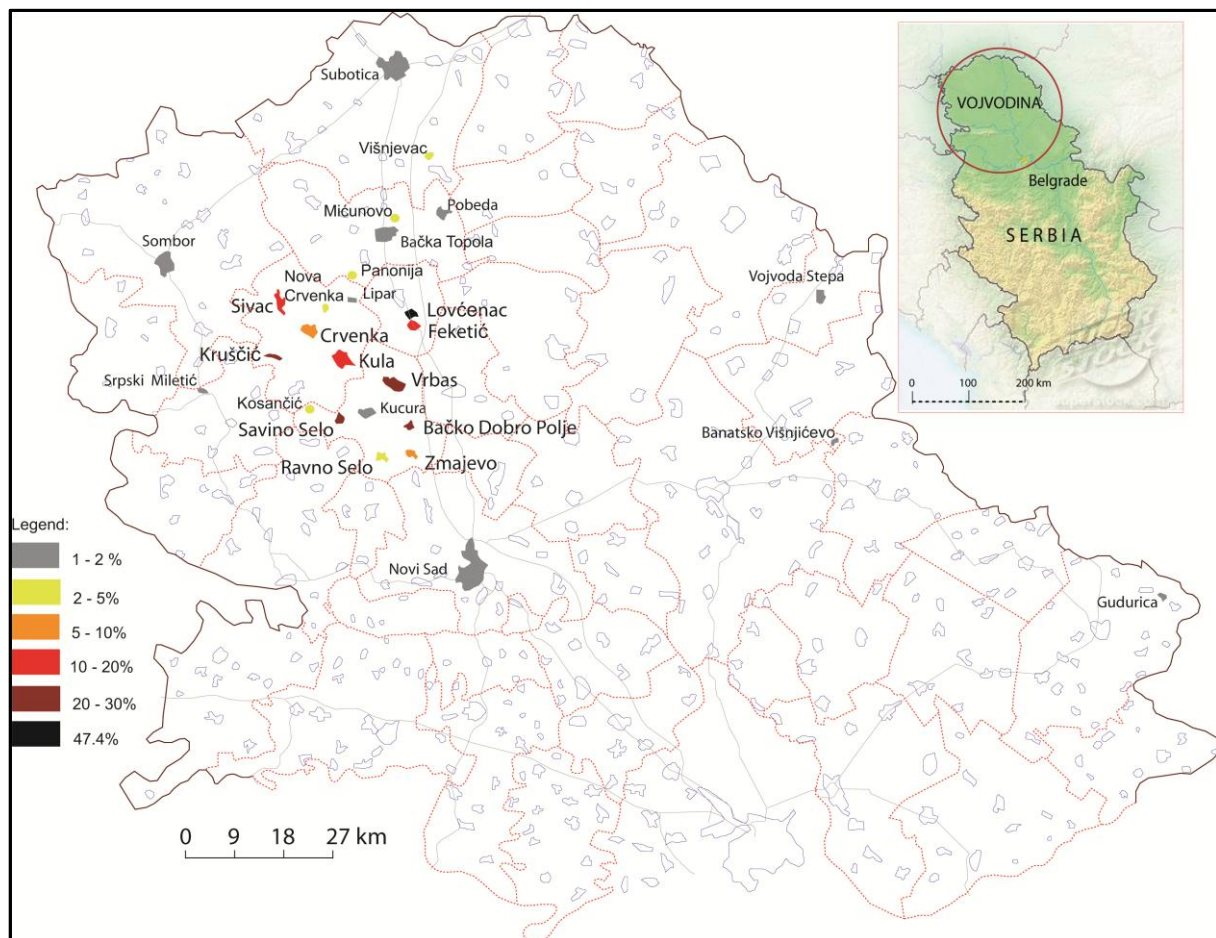


Figure 4 Share of Montenegrins in total number of population, per settlements, According to the census results 2011 (Author: Tamara Lukić).
Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2013

It is also obvious that women were more numerous in all age categories of population older than 45 years (Federal Bureau of Statistics 1970). The age pyramid of Montenegrins in Vojvodina according to the census in 2011, or half century later, has quite different, regressive form. During the last twenty years were born less and less children. One fifth of female population make Montenegrins women older than 65 years. In all age categories, except the category of 65 and more years, were numerous men in comparison to women (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia 2013).

Considering the age categories in the last six censuses as they were organized within the time distance of ten years in comparison with the last two (1948 and 1953) following facts have been noticed. The share of the youngest age generation has been reduced from decade to decade. From 1961 until 2011 it has been cut into halves (-20.9%), which represents more intensive reduction than it was recorded at the provincial level (-12.2%). In comparison with the Province, the share of the age category 0-14 for total population at the ethnic Montenegrins group from the beginning of the 21st century, respectively, census 2002 was bigger than the share of the same group in total number of Vojvodina population (Table 2).

During the last fifty years, the share of the oldest population, respectively, those older than 60 years was doubled in the province, while the Montenegrins ethnic group was almost tripled. Census in 2011 registered that the share of the oldest population in total ethnic group of Montenegrins in Vojvodina is for the first time larger from the same values calculated for the Province.

Average and Median Age

During the last census, the Montenegrins in Vojvodina were younger than the population of Vojvodina in general. Since the middle of the 20th century till the beginning of 21st century from census to census, the difference in values calculated for average age had been reduced from 4.5 to 1.4 years, as it was during the census in the year 2002. However, according to data from census in 2011 it was calculated that the Montenegrins in Vojvodina were older than the population of Vojvodina for 2.4 years. According to the level of demographic age determined by Penev (1995, 117 - 145) the Montenegrins in Vojvodina had been classified, fifty years ago, into ethnic groups which were on the level of 'Demographic maturation'.

Table 2. Age structure of population of Vojvodina and Montenegrins (in %), According to Censuses 1961-2002

Age category of Vojvodina population	Censuses					
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2002	2011
0-14	26.6	21.2	19.9	19.2	15.9	14.4
15-49	50.2	54.6	51.4	48.5	49.4	46.3
50+	23.1	24.1	28.7	32.3	34.8	39.3
Sum	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
60+	11.9	14.8	15.2	18.7	21.9	23.6
Age category of Montenegrins	Censuses					
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2002	2011
0-14	33.6	24.8	24.1	22.9	16.3	12.7
15-49	51.5	60.5	55.7	50.2	51.4	45.4
50+	14.9	14.7	20.2	26.9	32.3	41.9
Sum	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
60+	8.9	9.2	8.8	13.3	19.7	25.5

Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003b, 2013, own calculations

From the census in 1971 until census of 1991 they were in the category of 'Threshold of demographic ageing'. At the beginning of 21st century they were classified into following category 'Demographic ageing', so according to the last census, skipping the following category, they have been found in the category of 'Deepest demographic ageing'. Actually, this category referred to the population whose average age was higher than 43 years (Table 3). If the gender structure was observed, women were older than men according to all censuses after the War such as 1.2 (2002) to 2.1 (1971) year.

Plavša and Bubalo-Živković (2006) analyzed the average age of Vojvodina population according to the results of census 2002. According to them only Roma (27.2) were younger from the Montenegrins, as well as Goranci (29.7), Albanians (32.5), Undeclared (32.9), Regionally oriented (35.3), Yugoslavs (35.6) and Muslims (36.5) – total seven. Regarding census from 2011, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2013a) published data about the average age, which refer to 21 ethnic groups. According to that, from the Montenegrins ethnic group were older only Bunjevci (48.7), Yugoslavs (50.2), Bulgarians (50.9), Croats (51.0), Vlachs (51.3), Macedonians (51.6), Germans (53.5) and Slovenians (57.8) – total eight.

Median age is a useful and very often used parameter when it compared with an average age. Therefore, extreme values of the five-year age groups don't make influence on the average age (Đurđev 1996). In comparison of median age of some ethnic groups in Vojvodina, it may be said that at the beginning of the 21st

century the Montenegrins (38.6 years) were younger than the Croats (45.3 years, according to Kovačević et al 2010) and the Slovenians (52.5 according to Kovačević et al 2008). However, they were older than the Yugoslavs (34.7 years, according to Kovačević et al 2006) and Roms (24.7 years, according to Kovačević et al 2005). According to the last census, Montenegrins became older for 6.1 year in comparison to the census of 2002 and even 17.4 years in relation to census of 1961 (Table 3).

The Old Age Index

If the old age index is less than 0.40, the population is young. If the value is above this number, then the population indicates aging (Rančić 1980). If it is over 1.00, old population has overbalanced the number and portion of young population. This indicates the adverse relation on age structure and it has negative consequences on its reproductive and active potential (Živić, Pokos 2005). According to calculated data, the Montenegrins ethnic group in Vojvodina was younger until the ninth decade of the 20th century. The old age index of Montenegrins in Vojvodina was over the value of 0.40 only after census 1991 when it was 0.44.

The old age index of Montenegrins in Serbia, calculated based on data gathered during census 2002 was exactly 1.09 (MSCG 2004). It was 0.28 more than index given according to the results of the same census for the Montenegrins ethnic group which was settled in the territory of Vojvodina (0.81).

Table 3. The Average age and the median age of Montenegrins in Vojvodina, According to Censuses 1961–2011

Census		1961	1971	1981	1991	2002	2011
The Average age							
Sum	Population of Vojvodina	32.2	34.4	35.8	37.7	39.8	41.4
	Montenegrins in Vojvodina	27.7	30.6	32.4	34.9	38.4	43.8
Males	Population of Vojvodina	31.2	35.4	34.9	39.0	38.3	37.0
	Montenegrins in Vojvodina	26.8	29.6	31.6	34.3	37.8	43.1
Females	Population of Vojvodina	33.2	33.3	37.4	36.3	41.3	42.7
	Montenegrins in Vojvodina	28.6	31.7	33.3	35.7	39.0	44.6
The Median age							
Sum	Population of Vojvodina	30.0	33.5	34.6	37.4	40.3	40.7
	Montenegrins in Vojvodina	27.3	27.3	30.6	34.7	38.6	44.7
Males	Population of Vojvodina	28.9	32.1	33.2	36.0	38.6	35.4
	Montenegrins in Vojvodina	26.6	26.8	30.4	34.6	38.3	43.7
Females	Population of Vojvodina	31.2	34.8	36.4	38.8	42.0	44.2
	Montenegrins in Vojvodina	25.2	28.0	30.7	34.9	39.1	45.7

Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003b, 2013, own calculations

Table 4. The Old age index and coefficient of old age of Montenegrins in Vojvodina, according censuses 1961–2002

Census	1961	1971	1981	1991	2002	2011
The Old age index						
Population of Vojvodina	0.36	0.49	0.57	0.73	0.97	1.18
Montenegrins in Vojvodina	0.22	0.26	0.28	0.44	0.81	1.36
The coefficient of old age						
Population of Vojvodina	119.0	147.8	148.2	187.5	218.6	236.4
Montenegrins in Vojvodina	88.6	91.7	87.5	132.6	196.5	255.0

Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003b, 2013, own calculations

However, according to data from census of 2011 it was calculated that the ethnic group of Montenegrins in Vojvodina crossed the critical value (1.36). Therefore, they are younger than the Montenegrins who settled the area more on the south from the rivers Sava and Danube, but they became extremely older only for twenty years. Index has been changed for 0.92, from 0.44 to 1.36 (Table 4).

According to the values given by Penev (1995), thirty years ago the Montenegrins were in the stadium of 'demographic maturation' (1961 – 1981), and after that they quickly started to grow old, changing the categories with each next census, so according to the census 2011 they were found in the category of 'deepest demographic ageing'. According to the ageing index, they became older than the values calculated for the

total population of the Province during the census in the year 2011.

Coefficients of Old Age

Coefficients of old age directly show negative age process in some populations. Age process includes increase of the share of population, which is older than 60 in totals. When that number has passing by 120.0, than the population start to aging in demographic sense (Kicošev, Golubović 2004). According to such definition and calculated data it may be said that the provincial population started to grow old in the seventh decade, while the Montenegrins ethnic group this has happened in the ninety decade of the 20th century (Table 4).

Montenegrins in Vojvodina

The Montenegrins are devoted to their homeland, respectively; they show relatively firm determination to keep certain distance from the majority of population in Serbia (Nedeljković 2012). In order to keep the national identity, the Montenegrins who live in Vojvodina organize traditional reunion where they recollect the old region, sing their Montenegrin songs, dance their famous Montenegrin dancing 'Oro' and serve traditional food specialities. For example, once a year in Bačka Topola is organized 'Montenegrins Evening'; in Bačko Dobro Polje 'Drobnjak Evening'; in Vrbas is organized gathering of some Montenegrin tribes and in Kula 'Beer evening' (Ivkov 2006a). 'Krstaš' cherish Montenegrins culture and identity and fights for the interests of Montenegrins in Serbia (Nedeljković 2012). By the fieldwork investigation it was found the existence of cultural club 'Durmitor' in Kula.

The Montenegrins colonists into the Serbian cities mainly are not united and connected according to the national line; therefore, they do not have direct and defined institutional or normative level of identification. The majority of members of the Montenegrins community, who live in the cities, is not interested or it does not have all elements of 'total model' from Montenegrins identity. The members of this community, who live in villages, are quite clearly politically and culturally determined and they have tendency toward assimilation or at least acceptance of the Serbian model in some essential items (Nedeljković 2012).

The results of investigation Lazar (2009) have shown that different ethnic groups perceive differently Province of Vojvodina. The Montenegrins with part of Serbs belong to so-called 'Moderate nation model' according which Vojvodina is a province of the Serbian people and national minorities. In comparison the second part of Serbs belong to 'Extreme national model' so Vojvodina is experienced as a province of the Serbian people. Beside those two models there is one more 'Multiethnic model' where the Ruthenians and Slovaks belong. According to them Vojvodina is a province of different nations and ethnic groups. Proportionally the most ethnic groups such as Yugoslavs, Croats, Romanians, Hungarians belong to 'Civil Model' according which it is a province of the citizens who live on its territory.

Investigation

The Montenegrins have rapidly become old and they reduced their reproductive power, but they are not yet extinct. Therefore, the first supposition is partly correct. The explanation about disappearance of more than the third part of Montenegrins in Vojvodina could be found only in the areas where they were settled in great number. The investigation was conducted on the territory of Kula municipality in November

2013. So, the examinees have been asked for the opinion about reasons for reduced number of the members of the ethnic group of Montenegrins in Vojvodina.

After independence of Montenegro, some of examinees pointed out that essential meaning of the Montenegrins notion. Namely, before independence of Montenegro, for them being the Montenegrin meant the territorial origin, as someone declares, for example, as Herzegovinian, Lika people (Ličanin), Kordun people (Kordunaš), Slavonian etc. Sovereignty of Montenegro brought the notion of Montenegrin the meaning of anti-Serbian character. Some of Montenegrins in Vojvodina are disappointed by political attitudes of the current government in Montenegro. Anti-Serbian policy by the Montenegro authorities contributed to the fact that the people of Montenegro origin do not want to be called so-called 'New Montenegrins' together with Dukljan people, who hated the Serbs.

Some of the examinees stated that they were not able to declare exactly as they have felt, respectively, they had considered that it was necessary to exist the category of 'Serb – Montenegrin'. They have pointed out that such declaration about it is enabled in Montenegro. One of the examinees explained that his close relative who lives in Montenegro declared in that sense. According to that, 'if he feels as the Serb then I cannot be only the Montenegrin'.

One of the examinees remarked that a part of younger female population by their marriage migrated toward Montenegro, by which was partly confirmed the supposition about emigration of Montenegrins from Vojvodina. More of conversationalists stated that they have decided about change of their declaration in the year 2008 when the state of Montenegro recognized the independency of Kosovo. It should be mentioned that it is also the question for declaring of personal attitude of the individuals. Those facts confirm the supposition about change of feelings of belonging to the Montenegrins ethnic group.

The Montenegrins in Vojvodina are those where still exists the strong feeling for tradition and 'epic dignity'. However, there are other reasons that were mostly of different material nature. Some of them still possess immovable properties and relatives on the territory of Montenegro. The other believe that such way of declaring make them easier business at the territory on Serbia as well as in Montenegro. One of them has pointed out following statement. There was a small part of those, who completely support current historical and political behaviour of the state of Montenegro. 'New Montenegrins' speak the Montenegrins language. According to data by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2013a), during census 2011, 1193 inhabitants of Vojvodina have spoken Montenegrins language. If it is assumed that per ethnical question they declared as Montenegrins, it means that, there are only 5.4% of 'new Montenegrins' (in the sense of feeling ethnic independence) in Vojvodina.

Conclusion

After the Second World War, the Montenegrins have been started to settle in the significant number the north part of Serbia, Vojvodina. The analysis of the territory arrangement of Montenegrins in Vojvodina has shown that they were in the greatest number in the cities and middle area of Bačka (part of Vojvodina Province between the rivers Tisa and Danube). Number of Montenegrins was increasing until disintegration of SFRY. After that, it started to reduce. The most intensive fall was noticed according to data of census 2011. The analysis of the age structure of Montenegrins in Vojvodina in the second half of 20th century and during 21st century has shown that they were 'slowly' getting old together with the majority of population in the Province. In comparison with this, the Montenegrins were younger in that period of observation. However, the results received by data analysis of census 2011 show that the Montenegrins in Vojvodina were older than the population in Province. The average age of Montenegrins population in Vojvodina is 43.8 years. Median age is 44.7 years. Ageing index is 1.36 but the age coefficient is 255.0.

Proclamation of Montenegro's independency in the year 2006 opened the question of identity. There are some opinions, which are based on the language characteristics, religion, etc. that the Montenegrins are the Serbs who originate from the territory of Montenegro. However, those understandings according which they make a special ethnic group are also evident. Explanation of established facts was found in communication with population of municipality Kula who has formerly declared as Montenegrins or they are still declaring so. According to them, interior and foreign policy of Montenegro government influenced in the way, that the part of Montenegrins in Vojvodina no more declare so. According to census 2011, the Montenegrins in Vojvodina make two groups of people. One group make those who feel ethnic characteristic in the sense that they speak the Montenegrins language and support the idea of existence of Montenegro's Orthodox Church, according to the government policy of Montenegro. The second one, who make the majority of Montenegrins in Vojvodina are those whose origin is from the territory of Montenegro, so they declare such because of traditional or economic reasons, pointing out that the most adequate name for them would be 'Serb - Montenegrin'.

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