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ANALYSYS OF MIGRATION PHENOMENON IN SERBIA



Demographic tendencies

- **Demographic development under exceptional economic, social, political and historic circumstances:**
 - **national (total societal crisis, disintegration of former Yugoslavia, civil and ethnic wars);**
 - **international (UN sanctions and isolation, NATO military intervention, political and economic pressures).**



Main demographic processes

I. Considerably speeded up processes:

- a) aging of population,**
- b) de-agrarization,**
- c) homogenisation of ethnic structure,**
- d) emigration from the country**

II. Slowed down processes:

- a) urbanisation**
- b) depopulation**

III. New processes:

- a) mass forced migrations**



Depopulation

- **Serbia had 7,498.001 inhabitants (Census, 2002)**
- **Comparing to census of 1991 population of Serbia has been reduced by 79,000 (1.0%).**
- **In mid-2006, Serbia had 7,412,000 inhabitants, which is by 167,000 less than 15 years ago (1991), and by 92,000 less than five years ago.**



Depopulation

- ***Values of population growth indicators (1991-2006)***
 - **Index of population growth (1991=100) = 97.8**
 - **Annual population growth rate (per thousand)= -1.5**



Natural population growth rate

- **It was positive in Serbia until the beginning of the 1990s, while since 1992 it has constantly been negative;**
- **Negative natural population change achieved a record level of – 30.278 (–4,0‰) in 2000;**
- **Negative natural population growth in 2006 amounted to –31.887 or - 4.3‰**







FERTILITY

- **Stagnant or decreasing trends of fertility for more than three decades since 2000;**
- **Slow increase has been recorded between 2000 and 2003 (from 72,222 in 1999 to 79,025 in 2003);**
- **Since 2004 decrease of fertility again:
Total fertility rate was reduced to 1.44 children by woman in 2006 (the lowest since the end of the Second World War)**

MORTALITY

- **Increase of annual number of deaths is a long-term tendency in Serbia:**
- **1991 = 89,100**
- **2001 = 99,000**
- **2006 = 102,900, (being an increase of over 15% comparing to 1991).**
- **Mortality rate under the age of 1 year =**
1991 = 14,6; 2001 = 10,6; 2006 = 7,4



CONCLUSION:

- **Negative natural increase is caused primarily by drop of fertility;**
- **Fertility does not provide generation replacement;**
- **In next five decades Serbia will most likely be a typical zone of negative natural population growth.**





Migration flows in Serbia

- **Very intensive migration flows are the basic characteristics of demographic changes at the end of 20th and the beginning of 21st century.**
- **Their volume is comparable with the migrations unfolding during the Word War II.**
- **Their importance for demographic development of Serbia is very high.**



Statistics

- **It is rather difficult to follow migration phenomena due to the lack of flexible and reliable migration statistics both on national and international level, as well as to the speed of changes in this matter.**



Population growth and migration

- **During the entire second half of the 20th century, population growth of Serbia was a result of natural increase, whereas the numerical importance of migration rate for that growth was nearly eight times lower.**
- **Thus, in overall increase of population of 1.9 million, in the period 1948-2002, 1.7 million is due to natural increase.**



Average migration rate

- **The average annual net migration was the highest in the period 1971-1981 (12,900), and the lowest in the period 1981-1991 (7,787).**
- **In the period 1991-2002, migration had a positive effect on total population dynamics:**

Without net immigration, total population would have been reduced by 172 thousand people. Larger number of immigrants than the number of emigrants (93 thousand) slowed down the decrease of total population (79 thousand).



Economic migrations

- **The 1971 census: 204 thousand persons from Serbia were registered to be on, as it was then called, temporary work or stay abroad.**
- **The largest part (175 thousand or 86%) were workers employed with foreign employer, while number of persons who stayed abroad as family members was several times less (29 thousand or 14%).**

Dynamics of economic migrations

Census year	Serbia	
	Population Abroad	Share in total Population
	Number of persons	%
1971	203981	2.8
1981	269012	3.5
1991	273817	3.5
2002	414839	5.3



Dynamics of economic migrations

- **There are not reliable data on emigration from the country in the period after 2002.**
- **Available data from other sources, and data of receiving countries shows that the trend of leaving the country persisted.**



Destinations

• Country	1981	1991	2002
• Total	269012	273817	414839
• Germany	99686	67229	102799
• Austria	62820	67060	87844
• Switzerland	25402	37441	65751
• France	33559	22357	27040
• Italy	3064	5409	20428
• USA	7352	7136	16240
• Sweden	12351	9929	14049
• Canada	3679	6268	10908
• Australia	6173	5065	7490
• Others and			
• Unknown	14926	45923	62290
•			



Destination-Italy

- **Italy is outstanding in the group of countries with the most intensive increase of number of immigrants: in the period 1991-2002 was multiplied by nearly four times.**
- **Italy is on the fifth place by number of emigrants from Serbia.**
- **It is on the fourth place by number of emigrants staying abroad for less than 10 year**
- **Average stay in Italy was 12.9 years.**



Forced Migration: Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons


- **First wave of refugees started in 1991 due to the separation of Slovenia and Croatia and the war in Croatia: 45,580, 72.3 % of which from Croatia and 16.3% from Bosnia and Herzegovina.**
- **A new wave of more than a hundred thousands of new refugees in 1992, 79.1% of which from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 19.6% from Croatia.**



Refugees

- **New mass refugee wave of 29,655 people during 1993;**
- **537,973 people had refugees status in 1996;**
- **By the end of the 2007 there were 97,672 refugees (only 18.6% of refugees in 1996).**





Refugees and demographic situation

- **The total population, including refugees, in Serbia decreased for 83, 436 people or for 2.6% between 1991 and 2002, although 379,135 new settlers resided at that same time making 5.1% of the total population.**
- **Refugee and IDPs population making almost 4% of its total population by the end of 2007**





Internally displaced persons

- **Internal displacement is a wide-spread phenomenon in Europe affecting around 3 million people in 13 countries.**
- **2001: 201,641 IDPs from Kosovo and Metohija in Serbia**
- **2002: 206,700**
- **2007: 206,504**



Policies of integration

- **In opposition to generally accepted free will of emigrants to chose between integration and reintegration or leaving the country of immigration, there are different policies and practices of international, national and local communities and authorities in regard to this very sensitive question.**
- **So it is for refugees and Internally displaced peoples.**

