

RESUME

Gabriel HARRACH

The main demographic characteristics of Hungarians in Slovakia in the 2021 census

According to the 2022 Slovakian census, the drastic decrease in the number of the Hungarian minority continues. However, it is a territorially uneven phenomenon: the rate of decrease has a negative relationship with the local number of Hungarians. Their growth can only be experienced in the impoverished southeastern part of the country, where a significant proportion of those who declare themselves Hungarian are of Gypsy origin. In addition to the natural population decline and assimilation, the reduction of the local proportion of Hungarians is also caused by the mass migration of the Slovak population to the area inhabited by Hungarians. It is also important to note that the fertility rate of Hungarians is lower than that of Slovaks. However, from a demographic point of view, there are huge differences, not between Hungarians and Slovaks, but between Hungarians and Gypsies (and Slovaks and Gypsies). A single less known example: at the age of women who have completed their fertility life cycle (50 years and older), a third of the Roma can have 5 or more live births during their lifetime, while in the case of the other two ethnicities this can only be said about 2–3%.

Patrik TÁTRAI

**Potential methods for quantifying demographic assimilation:
The case of ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia based on the 2021 census**

In addition to natural reproduction and migration, changes in the ethnic populations can be significantly influenced by changes in ethnic identification. However, quantifying the latter is a major methodological challenge. In this paper, therefore, I use different approaches and methods to examine demographic assimilation and its patterns (e.g. direction, types, spatial characteristics) based on the 2021 census and on population registers, and to estimate the extent to which assimilation has contributed to the decline in the number of ethnic Hungarians in Slovakia. The study found that, like in the previous decades, demographic assimilation was the most significant cause of the decline in the number of Hungarians in Slovakia between 2011 and 2021, accounting for at least half of the decrease of Hungarians. The rate of assimilation remained practically unchanged in the period 2011-2021 compared to the previous period. It is also observed that the magnitude of intragenerational assimilation significantly exceeds the volume of intergenerational assimilation. The direction of assimilation, not surprisingly, is in line with the power and prestige relations, favouring Slovaks. In addition, the census recorded a significant number of individuals claiming both Hungarian and Roma identity categories, mainly in Southeast Slovakia.

Lóránt PREGI

The impact of internal migration on changes in the ethnic structure of population in Southern Slovakia

The paper focuses on the assessment of the impact of internal migration of the population, especially the suburbanization on the changes in population structure by ethnicity in Southern Slovakia between 1991 and 2021. Since the 1991 census, the number of people who declared Hungarian nationality has fallen from 567,296 by almost 145,000 to 422,065 in 2021. The significant decline in the share and number of the ethnically Hungarian population is mainly attributed to three population processes – international migration, natural reproduction, and assimilation. The results of the research indicate that internal migration also plays an increasingly important role in the change of the ethnic structure. The graphic and cartographic visualization show the decline of ethnically Hungarian population and the transformation of the Slovak-Hungarian ethnic boundary. The ethnic boundary constantly widened towards the south at the expense of the Hungarian homogeneous area, as a result of which the number of settlements with a Hungarian majority is also decreasing significantly. The proportion of the ethnically Hungarian population is declining, especially in the Bratislava agglomeration and in the settlements of Western Slovakia, where the gain from migration is increasingly significant in this development.