



**SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION FOR
HUNGAROLOGY RESEARCH,
SUBOTICA, SERBIA**



SCOPES SUBOTICA
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Gabrić–Molnar Iren:

**The cross-border communicational
networks and new regional identity**

**Prekogranične komunikacione
mreže i novi regionalni identitet**

TRANSNATIONAL LIFESTYLE

Transnationalism: a social process, in which transmigrants develop and maintain multiple relations – familiar, economic, social, organizational, religious, etc. across two or more societies

(Schiller, Basch and Blanc-Szaton 1992)

What features of transnational lifestyle are present?

Split families

Fluid attachment to countries

Dual-citizenship

**Regular and frequent contact with the
sending country**

**Multiple residents, jobs, properties,
social ties and identities**

Distribution of population in the border area

Naseljenost pograničnih opština, 2009



Research RESULTS

During the last two decades, typical migratory phenomena in the Serbia-Hungary border region:

- 1. The economic migration** elicited by the Serbian regime changed after privatization failure of the economic transformation of spatial structure, mass unemployment, social insecurity
- 2. Frequent cross-border commuting** in the country resulted in the start-up businesses dioecious; taking place in both countries doing business / commerce, small business investment.
- 3. The career migration forms:** young people's education and training for relocation, commuting professionals
- 4. Ethnocentric migration** (the Hungarians living in contact zones, attracting elements of social capital)
- 5. Western Europe for transit migration** ("springboard" - economic / employment and career motives)

By the causes and purposes of migration:

1. Economic migrants, migrant workers
2. Creative class: entrepreneurs, businessmen, international traders (between the continuum of settlers and circulars)
3. Investors and career builders (brain drain, brain gain, brain circulation)
4. Family unification or reunification (marriage as family formation and for instance retirement movement as family reunification)
5. Applicants for citizenship
6. Recreational migrant / tourists

THE BORDER AREA OF MIGRATION



THE CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONAL CIRCULAR MIGRATION

Possible alternatives according to target countries on the basis of the interviews:

- ◉ **From Serbia: going to the „motherland” and staying there (*migration*)**
- ◉ **Moving away from Serbia to Hungary for a shorter or longer period, but occasionally moving back to Vojvodina (*return migration*), or may try to move to a 3rd country (EU or USA)**
- ◉ **Migrating from Serbia to Hungary or a 3rd country (*repeated (serial) migration*) with the possibility of moving back to Serbia**
- ◉ ***Circulation* – Transnational lifestyle**

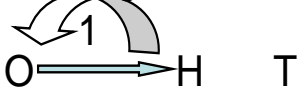
THE ALTERNATIVES OF CIRCULATORY MIGRATION

1 immigration means: migration, return migration, repeated (serial) migration.

Migration



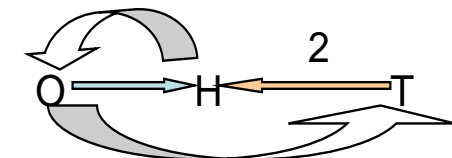
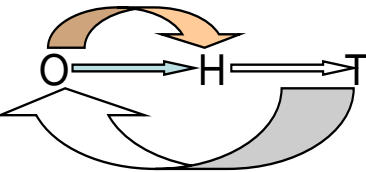
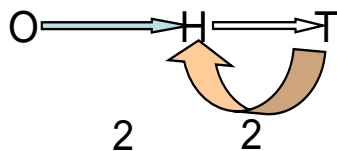
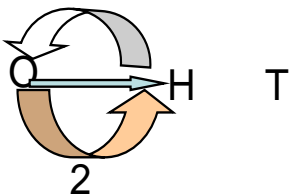
Return migration



Repeated (serial) migrations

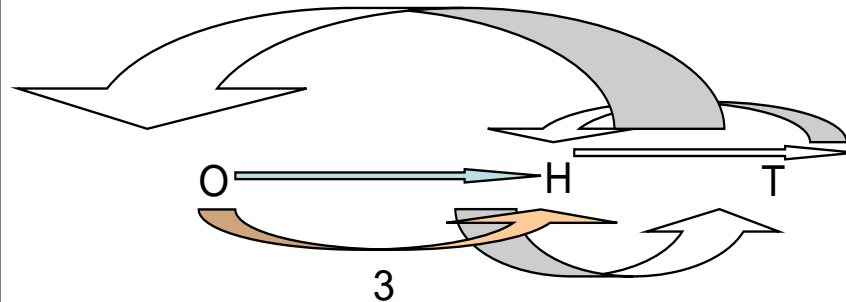
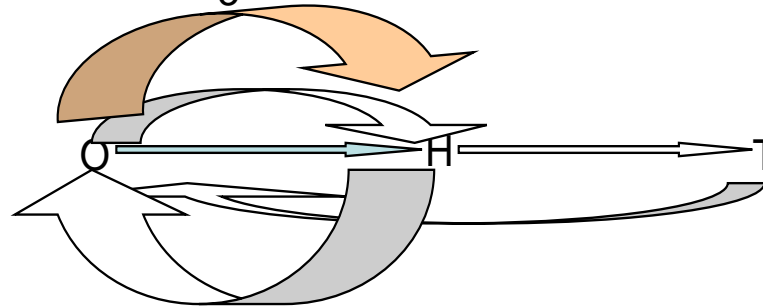


Circulation (2 immigration → 4 cases)



3 immigration → 16 cases

For instance: 3



... +14 cases

Circulation:

2 immigration → 4 potential cases

3 immigration → 16 potential cases

4 immigration → 64 potential cases

n (n=1,2,3,...) immigration

In general sense: $2^{2^{(n-1)}}$

H: Hungary; O=Origin country; T: Third country

A DIMENSION OF TRANSNATIONAL LIFESTYLE: FAMILY

IN-BETWEEN-SPACE → negotiating between the adopted and inherited ties, trying to develop social networks and identities that transcend the totalizing concept of nation in order to avoid taking sides between the two countries

- ⊙ Frequent travels home
- ⊙ Contacts with relatives and friends
- ⊙ Maintaining and mixing linguistic and cultural practices

Result:

- Someone who rarely travels home: changing identities, membership of social groups and nation
- Frequent trips home to preserve contacts with relatives and friends and to keep their primary cultural-ethnic identity

NEW SOCIAL NETWORK: BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL

Business partnerships, and new personal relationships:

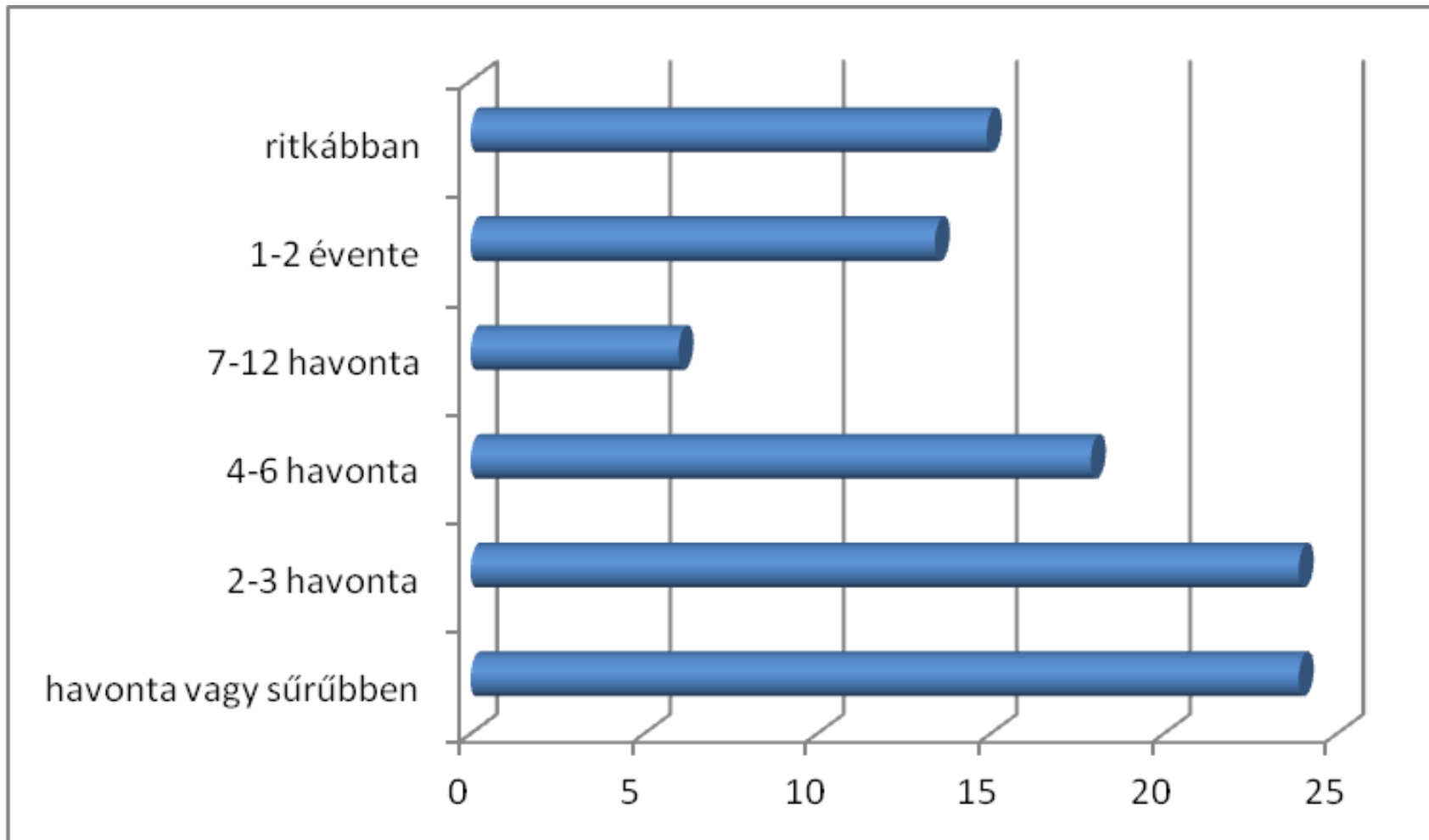
⊙ **Serbian-Hungarian relations:**

- The state and local authorities initiatives
- Business interests

➤ **Hungarian-Hungarian relations:**

- Hungarians from Hungary and Hungarians from Vojvodina: cultural, business and social relationships
- Hungarians who have newly settled formed relationships with Hungarians from Vojvodina who settled in Hungary years ago

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS WITH RELATIVES LIVING IN HUNGARY



Learning migration

The Vojvodina Hungarian students (3000-3500):

50 % Serbian state faculty (Subotica and Novi Sad)

20 % Serbian private faculty (estimate 500-700 students)

30 % Hungarian faculty (estimate 1000-1300 students)

Question: Do you think you will fit in with the Serbian students during their studies in Hungary?

The majority of positive responses: easy, sooner or later, yes.

The most common reasons: the Hungarians in Vojvodina adaptable, courageous, brave, speak the language, have perseverance ...

Those who care about the integration declared brought up a variety of lifestyle habits on the other mentality that they are treated as aliens in the mother country.

THE FUTURE OF CROSS-BORDER LABOR MOBILITY

BREAK POINTS:

- ◉ The trade, construction, transportation, advanced logistics centers
- ◉ Common small and medium-sized enterprises chances (food processing, tourism, services)
- ◉ Educational and cultural network of contacts

The most recent types of migrants along the Serb–Hungarian border areas are as follows:

- 1. Settlers (with double citizenship)**
- 2. Circulars and seasonal migrants**
- 3. Pendulum migrants (from 3 months to 1 year)**
- 4. Students (secondary and third level)**
- 5. Refugees and asylum seekers**



RELEVANT IDENTITIES IN THE REGION

4 types of identities that influence the construction of identities

- 1. Regional**
- 2. National**
- 3. Minority ethnic**
- 4. European/transnational**

Various forms of migration have generated various formations of identities which is likely to turn into transnationalism within certain groups of people

REGIONAL IDENTITY



Hungarian minority commuters

- Strong attachment to regional identities
- Discrepancy between home country and nationality

Serbian refugees

- Have no sense of regional identity

NATIONAL IDENTITY

The neighboring countries influence the national identities of their inhabitants

Hungarian minority commuters

- The national policy of the Republic of Hungary:
- dual-citizenship → enforcing national identity
- Experiencing „Hungarian-ness” In Hungary

Serbian refugees

- Territorial concentration (colonization)
- Strong attachment to their nationalities as a result of south Slavic wars
- Fear of deprivation

MINORITY ETHNIC IDENTITY

Hungarian minority commuters

- in Hungary constantly reminded of not being a Hungarian („Yugo”)
- neither belonging to Hungary nor to Serbia

Serbian refugees

- shock of multicultural and multiethnic environment → identity crisis
- refusing to learn the minority languages

EUROPEAN/TRANSNATIONAL IDENTITY

Hungarian minority commuters

- Pay attention to its formation as a result of EU and non-EU state - regular traveling

Serbian refugees

- not European, only transnational as a result of leaving their relatives and friends behind in Cro, BiH or KiM

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Serbian-Hungarian border region of insufficient cross-border network of institutional relations, we need to cross-border multi-purpose community spaces, micro-regional human service centers (including capital and labor market opportunities, exploring)
- 2 . The foundations of social inclusion in education (know-how transfer) and in culture, and common knowledge-based regional development plans (source: Serbian, Hungarian and European channels)
3. The community development potential of cross-border expansion of the public sector and civil society, professionals circulation

**LOCAL, CROSS-BORDER RELATIONS
GENERATE A NEW REGIONAL OR SMALL
TERRITORIAL IDENTITIES AMONG THE
POPULATION: „WE SAIL IN THE SAME
SHIP” (CO-DEPENDENCE)**

**- CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CHAMBERS, BUSINESS
CONFERENCES, IPA PROJECTS, FAIRS,
EXHIBITIONS, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
PROGRAMS**

CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENTS

**- INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, TRADE,
COMMON ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



gmolnariren@gmail.com