VOJVODINA
IN FOCUS OF MIGRATION AND IDENTITY CHANGES

WORKSHOP OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CENTRAL EUROPE
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
4TH CONFERENCE OF THE ADRIATIC FORUM
ZADAR, CROATIA, 14-15 SEPTEMBER, 2011

Zoltán, Takács – Eszter, Gábrity
Scientific Association for Hungarology Research, Subotica, SERBIA

DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT TRANSMIG 2009-2012

Project: ***„Integrating (trans)national migrants in transition states (IMIG)”*** TRANSMIG 2009-2012

- joint research project in the framework of the co-operation programme SCOPES, submitted to the SNSF
- Partners: *Department of Geography, University of **Bern**, Switzerland, Geographical Research Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, **Budapest**, Hungary, Centre for Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, **Pécs**, Hungary, Department of Geography, Tourism & Hotel Management, University of **Novi Sad**, Serbia, Scientific Association for Hungarology Research, **Subotica**, Serbia*
- coordinated by Prof. Dr. Doris Wastl-Walter

Summarized first year research results (of a part) of this international project

RESEARCH PROJECT

- The focus of Scientific Association for Hungarology Research of Subotica is on:

The cross-boundary mobilities related to Serbia and Hungary:

1. Youth migrants, commuters with educational purposes (towards Hungary)
2. Commuters between SRB and HU
3. Refugees arriving at Serbia (HR, BiH, KiM)
4. Relevant institution leaders, cross-border relationship of institutions

Where are we?
Czech Republic
Slovakia
Ukraine
Vienna
Bratislava
Austria
Miskolc
Gyor
Budapest
Debrecen
Kecskemét
Slovenia
Szeged
Zagreb
Pécs
Romania
Croatia
Serbia-
Montenegro
Bosnia & Herzegovina

OVERVIEW

- Vojvodina
- Changes (secondary resources, theoretical background, numbers) in Vojvodina:
  - *Migration*
  - *Demographic changes*
  - *New migration models in border region*
  - *Identity variaties*

- Empirical research (fieldwork in 2010, 2011)
- Summarised research results in focus of migration and identity changes, 2011

VOJVODINA

Inhabitans: 2,031,992
21,506 km^2, 45 municipalities

Multiethnic structure:

65% Serbs,
35 % other nations (Hungarians, Croats, Slovaks, Romanians, Ruthenians, etc.)

Immigraton rate: 19.17

The percentage of autochthonus inhabitans is only 50% !)

Source: Census, 2002

CHANGES 1.

- 1st and 2nd flow (1920-1945) *(Gredelj, 2006)*
- 3rd - New Diaspora (1960-)

  temporary labor migrants *(Grečić, 2001)*

  2.5 million Serb migrants around the world (some other estimates: 4 million Serbs *(WB, 2005, Hofer, 2010),*

  21.9% of population of Serbia lives abroad (...)
- 4th group – the virtual generation *(Gredelj, 2006)*
- **5th emigration flow from Vojvodina (1990-)**

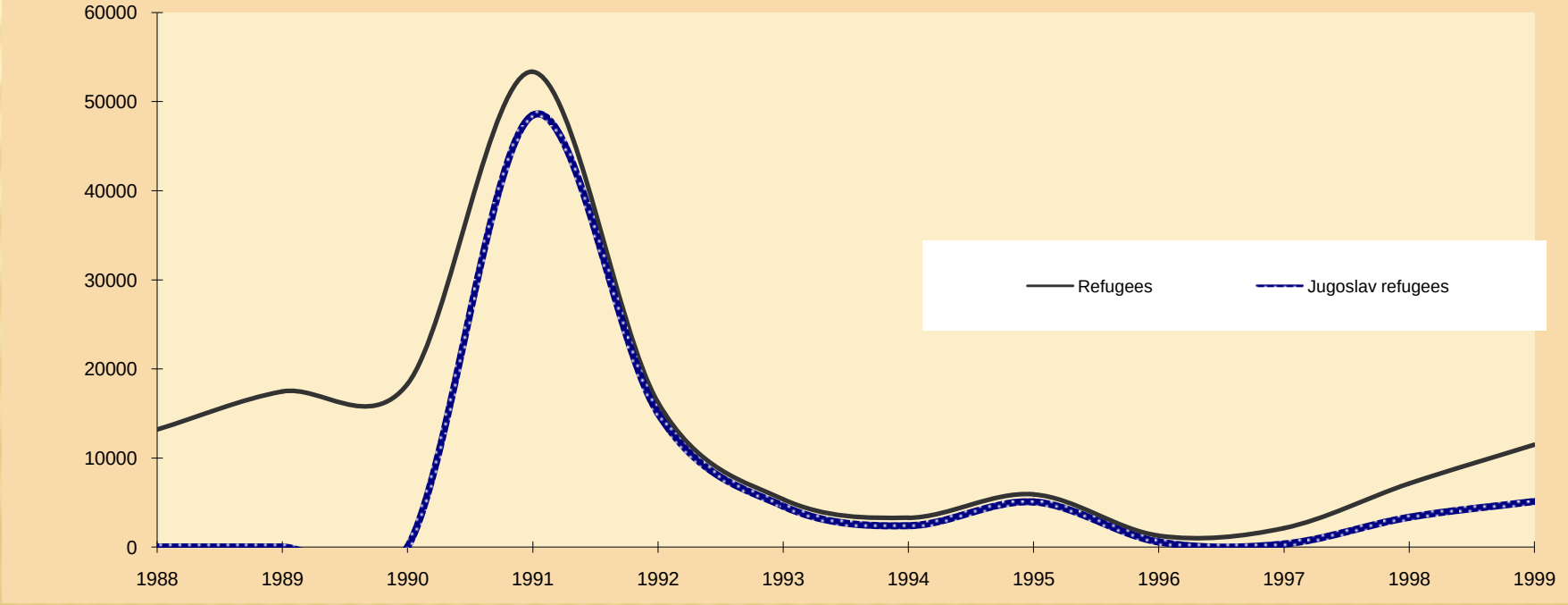
  Vojvodina Hungarian intellectuals, entrepreneurs, students are turning towards Hungary

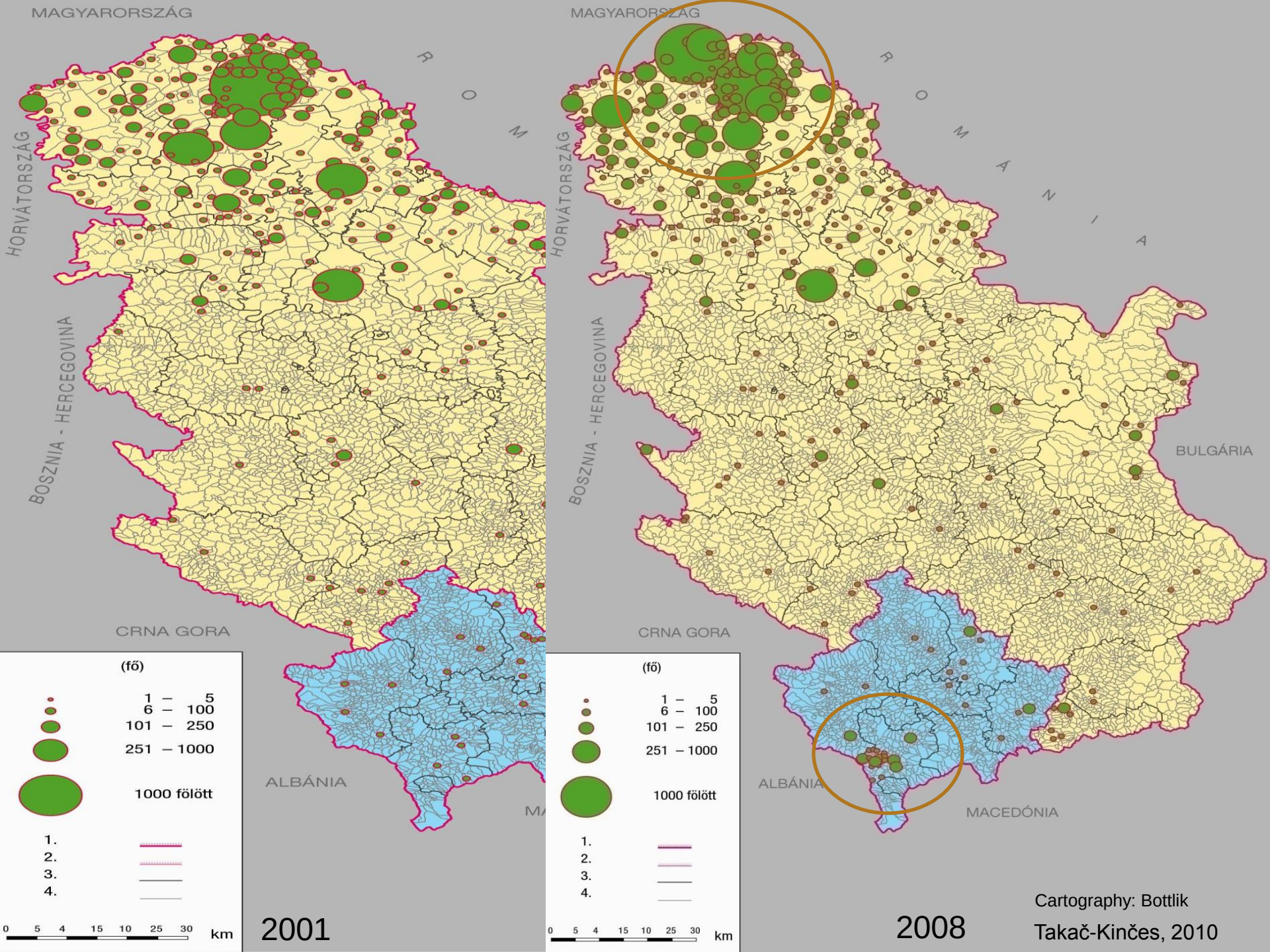
  (Tóth Pál, 1997, Szónoky, 2001, Gábrity Molnár,

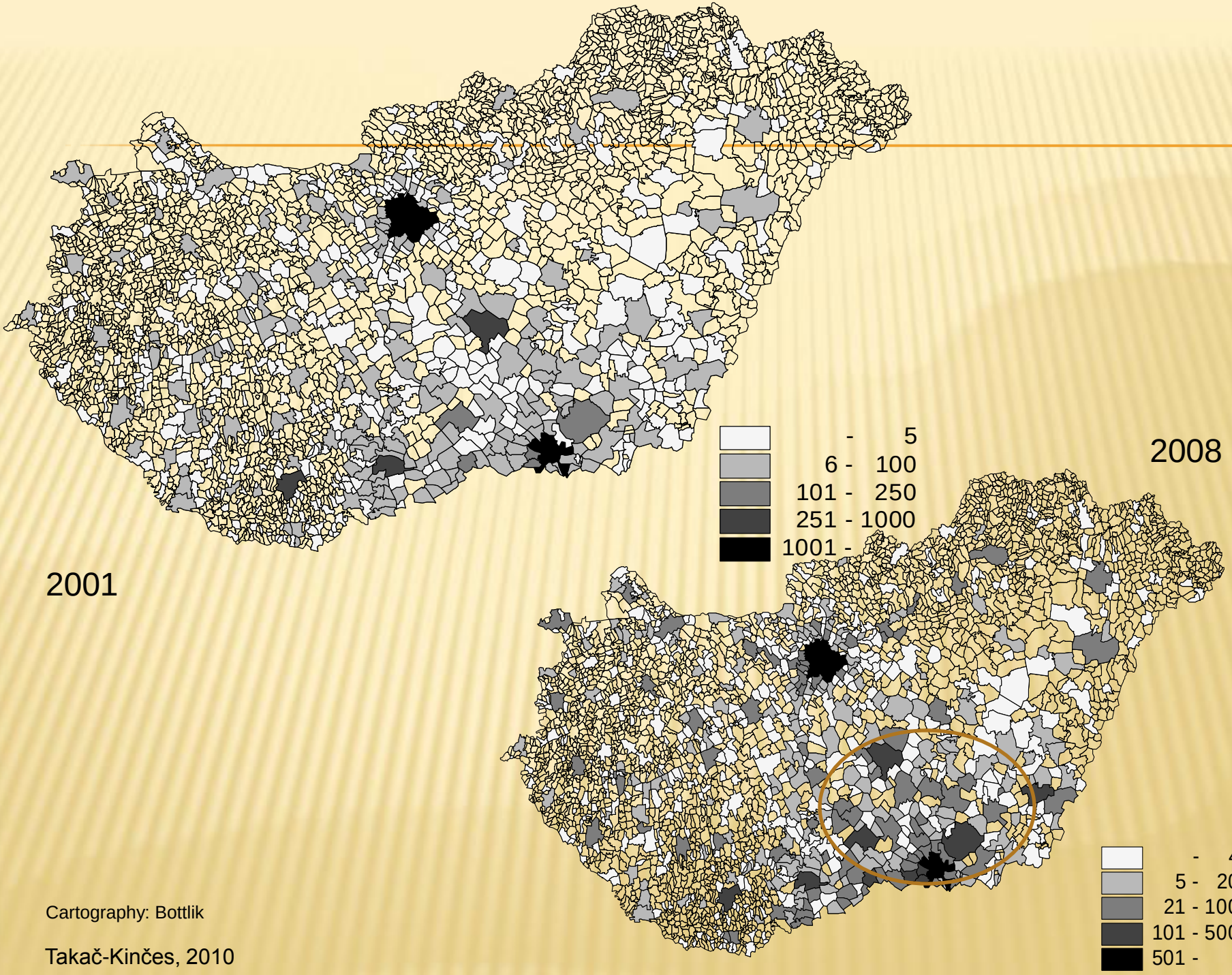
  2001-2008, Nadj, 2006) Brain drain, brain flight (...)

CHANGES 1.

- The most numerous (autochthon) minority group: Vojvodina Hungarians (14.6%) with **declining demographic capacities** *(Gábrity Molnár, 2003, 2006, 2008, Penev, 2007).*
- 1988-1999: **155,105 refugees in Hungary** *(Tóth Pál, 2001)*




MAGYARORSZÁG
HORVÁTORSZÁG
ROMÁNIA
BOSZNIA - HERCEGOVINA
CRNA GORA
ALBÁNIA
BULGÁRIA
MACEDÓNIA
(fő)
1 – 5
6 – 100
101 – 250
251 – 1000
1000 fölött
1.
2.
3.
4.
0 5 4 15 10 25 30 km
2001
2008
Cartography: Bottlik
Takač-Kinčes, 2010


- 5
6 - 100
101 - 250
251 - 1000
1001 -
2001
2008
- 4
5 - 20
21 - 100
101 - 500
501 -
Cartography: Bottlik
Takač-Kinčes, 2010

CHANGES 2.

- Vojvodina: stage of immigration and emigration from ’90s *(Marinić-Bugarin, 2006).*
- **9.2% of population of Vojvodina are refugees** *(Đurđev, 1995, Penev, 2006)*
- Positive migration saldo of the region: +144.404 *(1991-2002, Census, 2002)*

CHANGES 2.

- 617.000 refugees arrived to Serbia

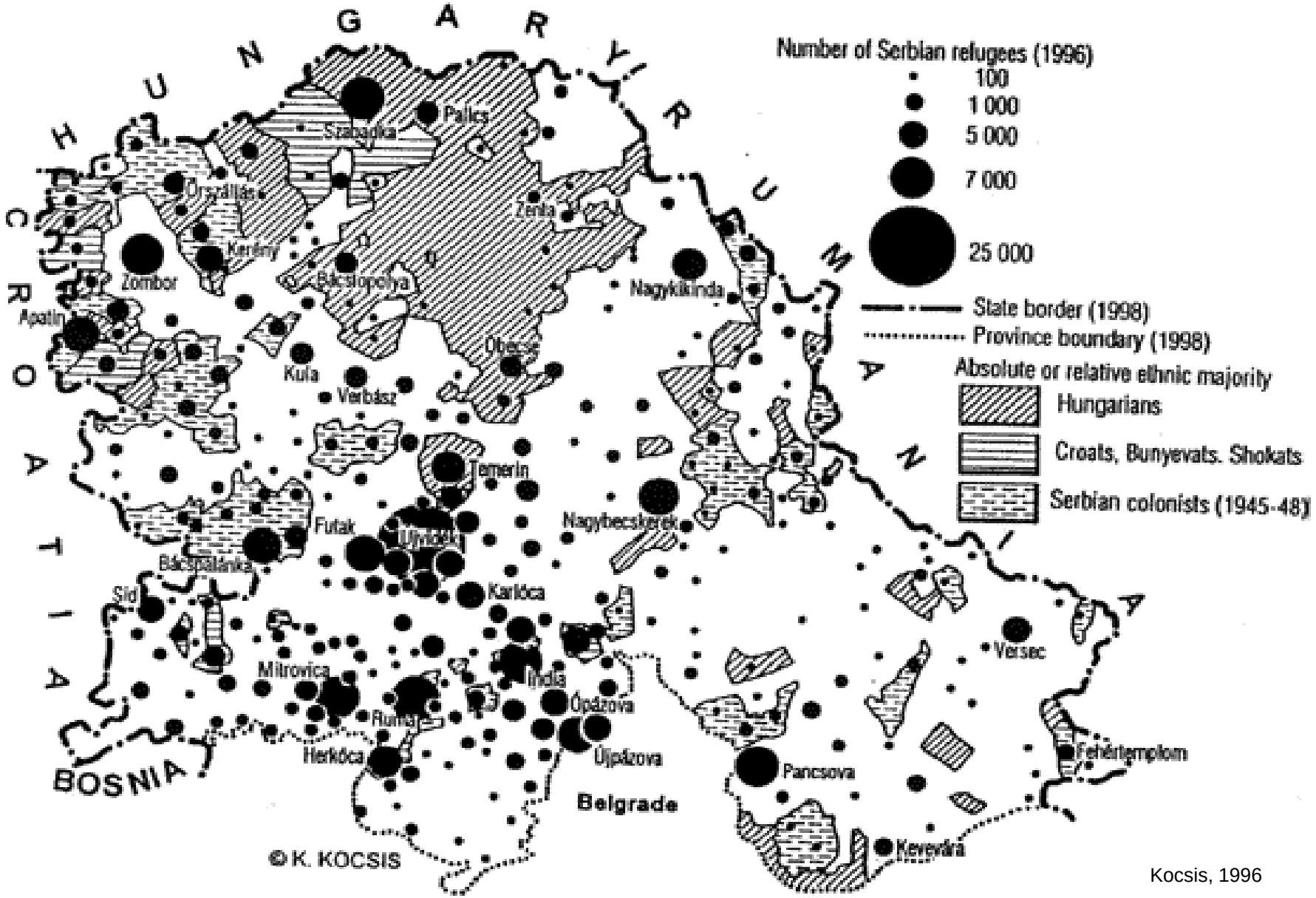
  42% (257,729) arrived to Vojvodina *(Popis izb. 1996)*,

  territorially unbalanced setteling: some municialities with more than 20% of population of these municipalities (Šid, Inđija... Temerin) *(Kicošev, 2006),*
- Today the number of refugees in SRB is about 97,000 (...)

- Number of Serb inhabitans: 1991: 57.1%, 2002: 65%
- Changes: ethnographic, cultural, ownership of properties, etc. ... Process of homogenisation

MAP D. "Serbian refugees in Vojvodina (1996)"

Source: Census of Refugees and other War-affected Persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
UNHCR - UN High Commissioner for Refugees - Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade, 1996



Kocsis, 1996

FIELDWORK IN 2010-2011 1/2

Interviews with:

A. *youth migrants with educational purposes from Serbia to Hungary (18 subjects) and commuters between SRB and HU (14 subjects)*
B. *Serb refugees (19 subjects)*

- ***Age:*** 24-80
- ***Language of interviews:*** Hungarian or Serbian
- ***Date of interviews:*** 2010 and 2011

FIELDWORK IN 2010-2011 2/2

Spatial distribution of the subjects:

- ***Commuters:*** *from Bečej, Mol, Ada, Senta, Kanjiža, Subotica, Palić*

to Szeged, Orosháza, Hódmezővasárhely, Pécs, Budapest

- ***Refugees:*** *from HR, BiH and KiM to Vojvodina*

(3 types of communities, e.g. Subotica, Kanjiža, kikinda)

CURRENT MODELS OF MIGRATION BETWEEN SRB AND HU

1) *Temporary foreign employment (labor migration)*
2) *Entrepreneurs, businessmen*
3) *The economic migration of the unemployment*
4) *Daily or weekly cross border commuters (students, smugglers, other employees)*

SERBIAN REFUGEES IN VOJVODINA

- Their settlement was planned by the state
- Not mobile since they received flats/houses, jobs (mainly state employees in hospitals, schools, institutions of local governments)
- Satisfied with their current position: percieve Vojvodina as a developed region
- Not willing to return to their previous homes

RELEVANT IDENTITIES IN THE REGION

- Secondary sources and empirical research
- 4 types of identities that influence the construction of identities of the 2 groups under investigation
  1. Regional
  2. National
  3. Minority ethnic
  4. European/transnational

REGIONAL IDENTITY

„Collective self-image, the interpretation of political and economic organization of a group of people on a particular territory in the frame of emotional attachment and community structure” *(Lošonc 2006)*

Hungarian minority commuters	Serbian refugees
-Strong attachment to regional identities -Discrepancy between home country and nationality	- Have no sense of regional identity

NATIONAL IDENTITY

The neighboring countries influence the national identities of their inhabitants

Hungarian minority commuters	Serbian refugees
-The national policy of the Republic of Hungary: dual-citizenship → enforcing national identity -Experiencing „Hungarian-ness” In Hungary	-Territorial concentration (colonization) -Strong attachment to their nationalities as a result of south Slavic wars -Fear of deprivation

MINORITY ETHNIC IDENTITY

Hungarian minority commuters	Serbian refugees
--in Hungary constantly reminded of not being a Hungarian („Yugo”) -neither belonging to Hungary nor to Serbia	-shock of multicultural and multiethnic environment → identity crisis -refusing to learn the minority languages

EUROPEAN/TRANSNATIONAL IDENTITY

Hungarian minority commuters	Serbian refugees
-Pay attention to its formation as a result of --EU and non-EU state --regular traveling	-not European, only transnational as a result of leaving their relatives and friends behind in Cro, BiH or KiM

A FORM OF IDENTITY MANIFASTATION: LINGUISTIC IDENTITY 1/3

- One form of identity formation is through langauge, i.e. identities are linguistically performed *(Bustamente-López 2008)*
- the establishment and maintenance of social identities underlie sociolinguistic difference *(Chambers 2003)*
- Signaling membership by the choice of the appropriate linguistic features

A FORM OF IDENTITY MANIFASTATION: LINGUISTIC IDENTITY 2/3

- Speakers construct their identities by careful choice of the appropriate linguistic features that will convey the specific social information that identifies them as part of a particular speech community
- investigation of the interdependence of language and identity is how speakers view language, and how speakers view themselves, particularly in opposition to others

A FORM OF IDENTITY MANIFASTATION: LINGUISTIC IDENTITY 3/3

- What they thought of their language variety?
  - „we invent new words”
  - „our accent is different, it is Vojvodinian”
  - „ traditionally, we are all multilinguals”
  - Mixing Serbian and Hungarian

HOW DID THEY USE THEIR LANGUAGE VARIETY?

Hungarian-Serbian language contact phenomena

- Ráadásul az óra végén nagyon sok nehéz házi feladat-ok-at ad-ott fel.

  Moreover the lesson end very many difficult home work-PL-ACC give-PAST.3SG PFX.

  Standard form: work-ACC give-PAST.3SG PFX.

Code mixing

- „azt mondta kao” (he said like)

Using dialectal features

- *Egy szem cukor sincs az egész házba.* (’There’s no sugar in the house.’)

  house.ILL

  Standard form: house. INE

CONCLUSIONS

- Common for the two groups: influence of the wars, political and social doubtfulness (...)
- The reason behind commuting: geographical proximity, same language, European Union, professional development
- Refugees are satisfied with their life conditions and tend to remain non-mobile in Vojvodina which they percieve as a developed region
- Various forms of migration have generated various formations of identities which is likely to turn into transnationalism within certain groups of people

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Zoltan, TAKAC – Ester, GABRIC

takac.zoltan@gmail.com esztig@gmail.com

Zadar, Croatia, 14-15th of September 2011