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Hungarians in the multi-ethnic Vojvodina

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- **National proportions**
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- **Plans and prospects**
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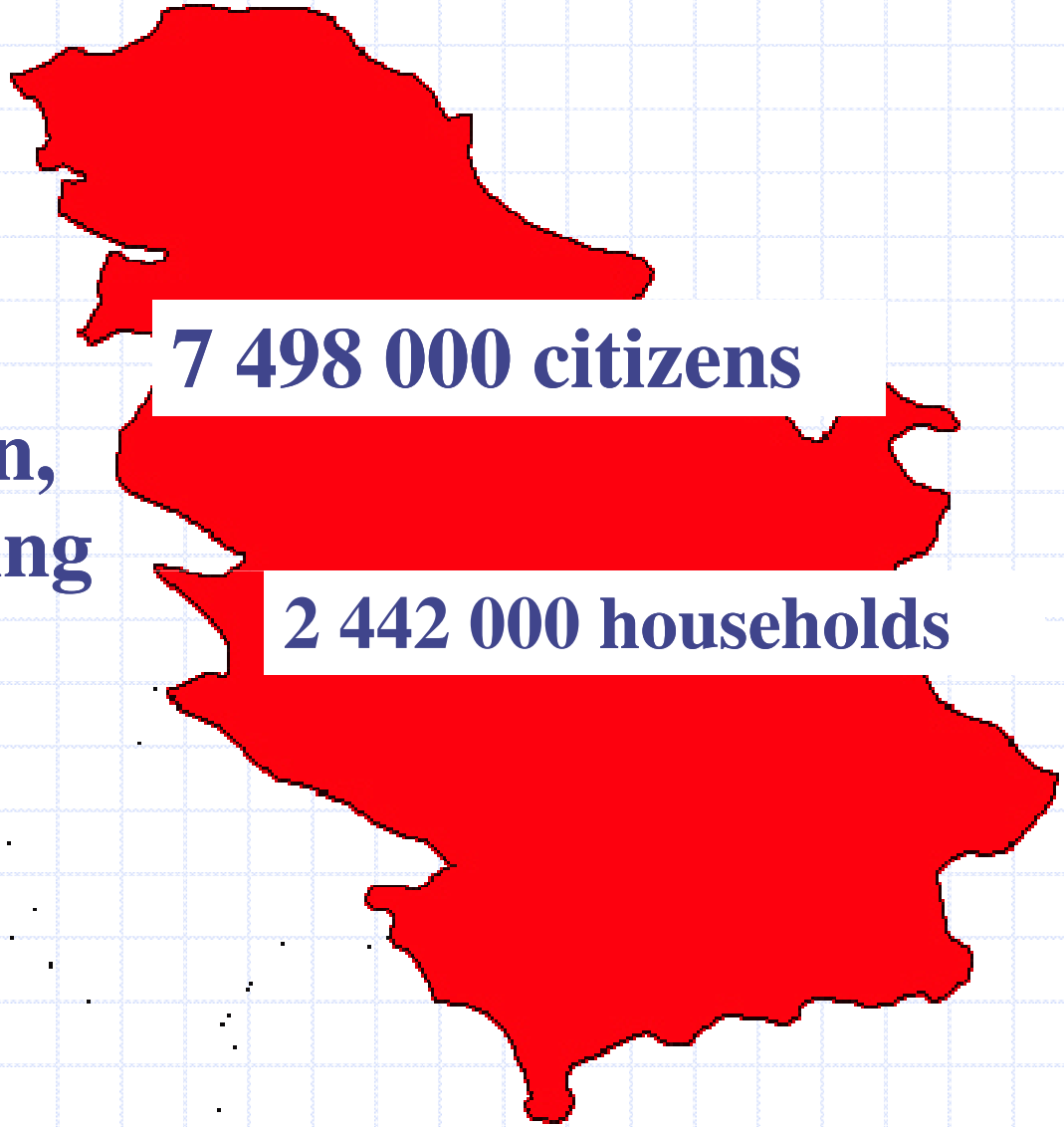
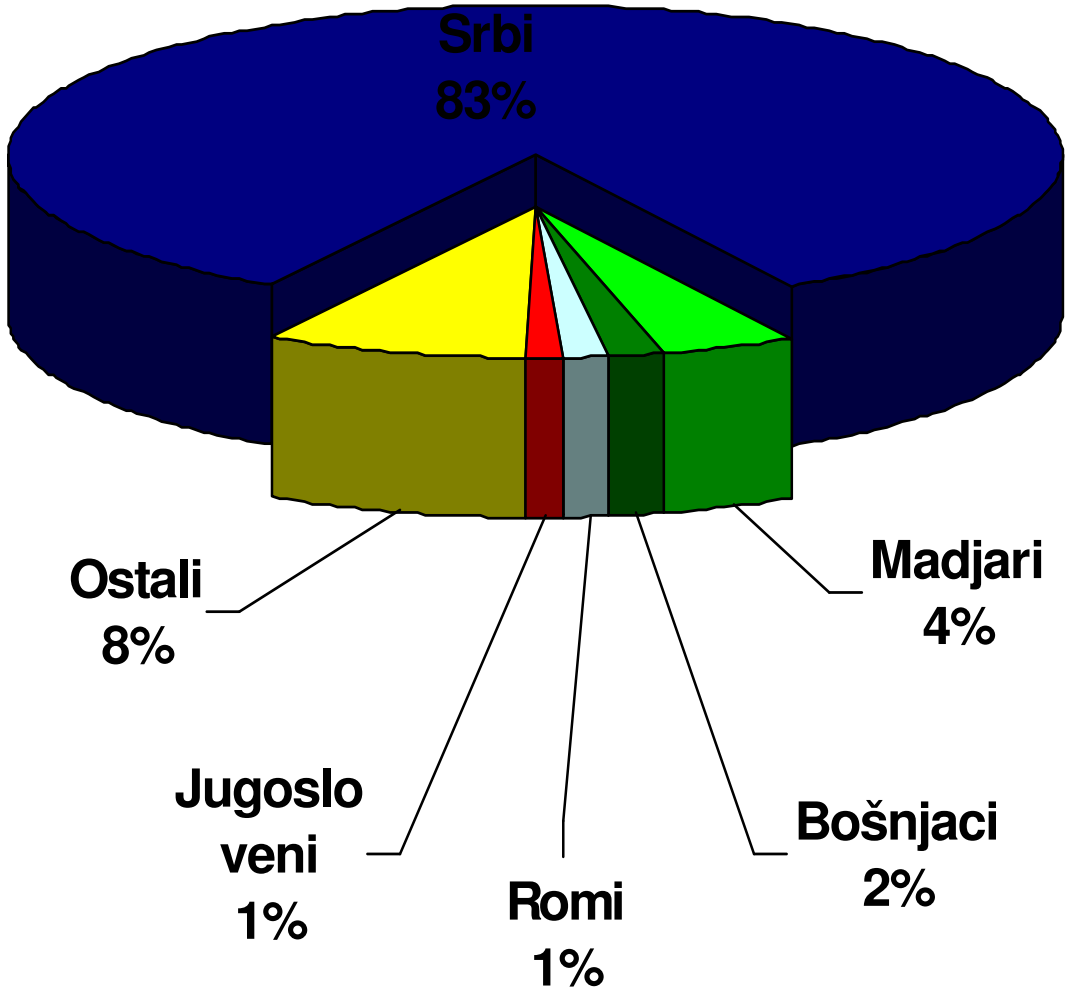
Source:
The Scientific Association for Hungarology Research (Subotica, Serbia)
www.mtt.org.rs

Serbia (population, not including Kosovo)



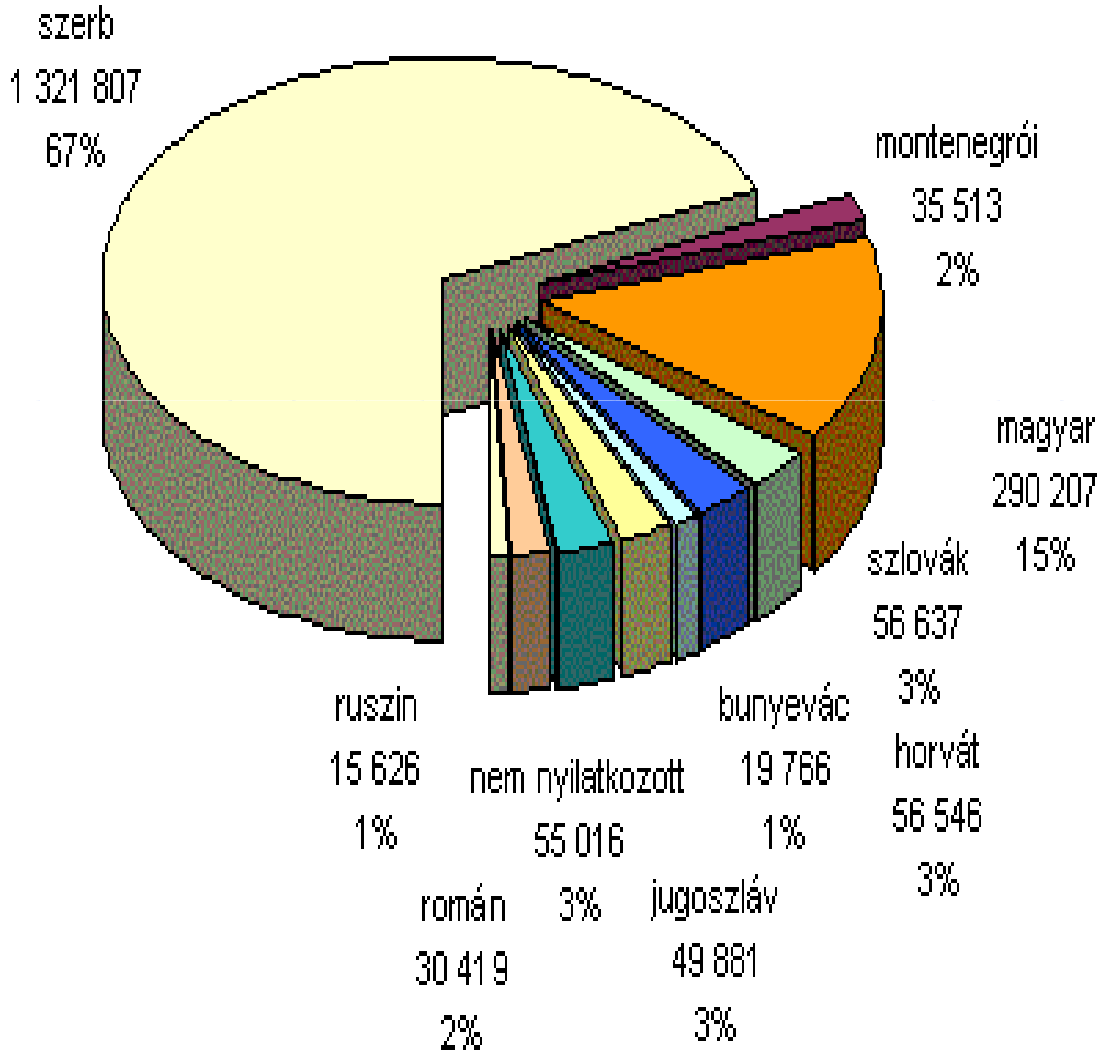
Ethnic distribution in Serbia (not including Kosovo) 2002

Serbs 83%
Other 8%
Hungarians 4%
Bosnians 2%
Yugoslavians (1%)
Romas (Gypsies) 1%



Ethnic distribution of Vojvodina, 2002 (2,013,889 total residents)

Serbian	1,321,807	67%
Hungarian	290,207	15%
Slovak	56,637	3%
Croat	56,546	3%
Yugoslavian	49,881	3%
Romanian	30,419	2%
Bunjevac	19,766	1%
Rusin	15,626	1%
No response	55,016	3%



Conclusion: There is a change in the population!

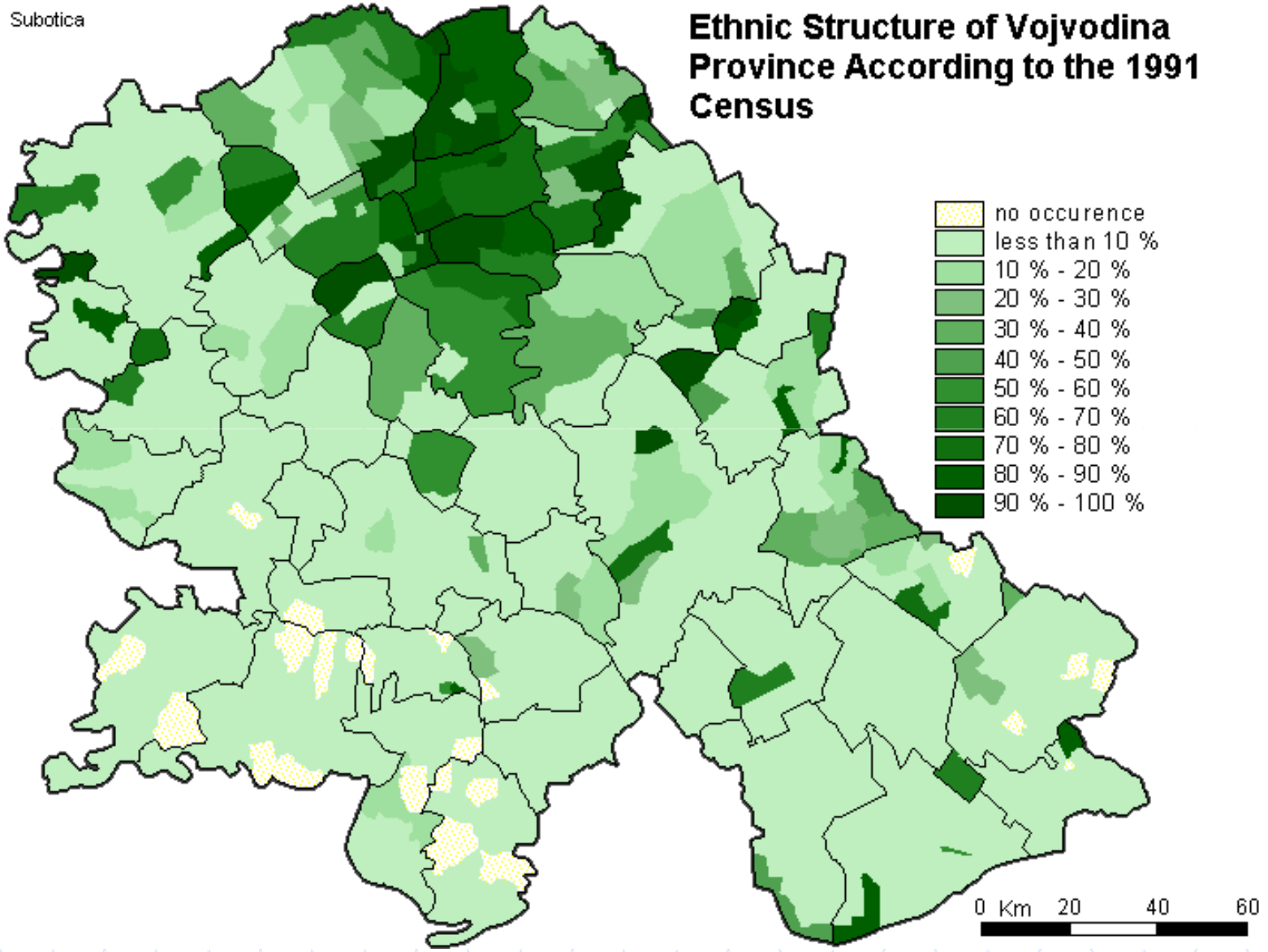
Serbs settle en masse, minorities emigrate

-Planned settlements (colonies) during Tito's rule: 180,000 Bosnian Serbs and Montenegrins

-During Milosevic, 3/4 of the refugees settled in south-western Backa and Srem: approximately 250,000 (13% of the population of Vojvodina)

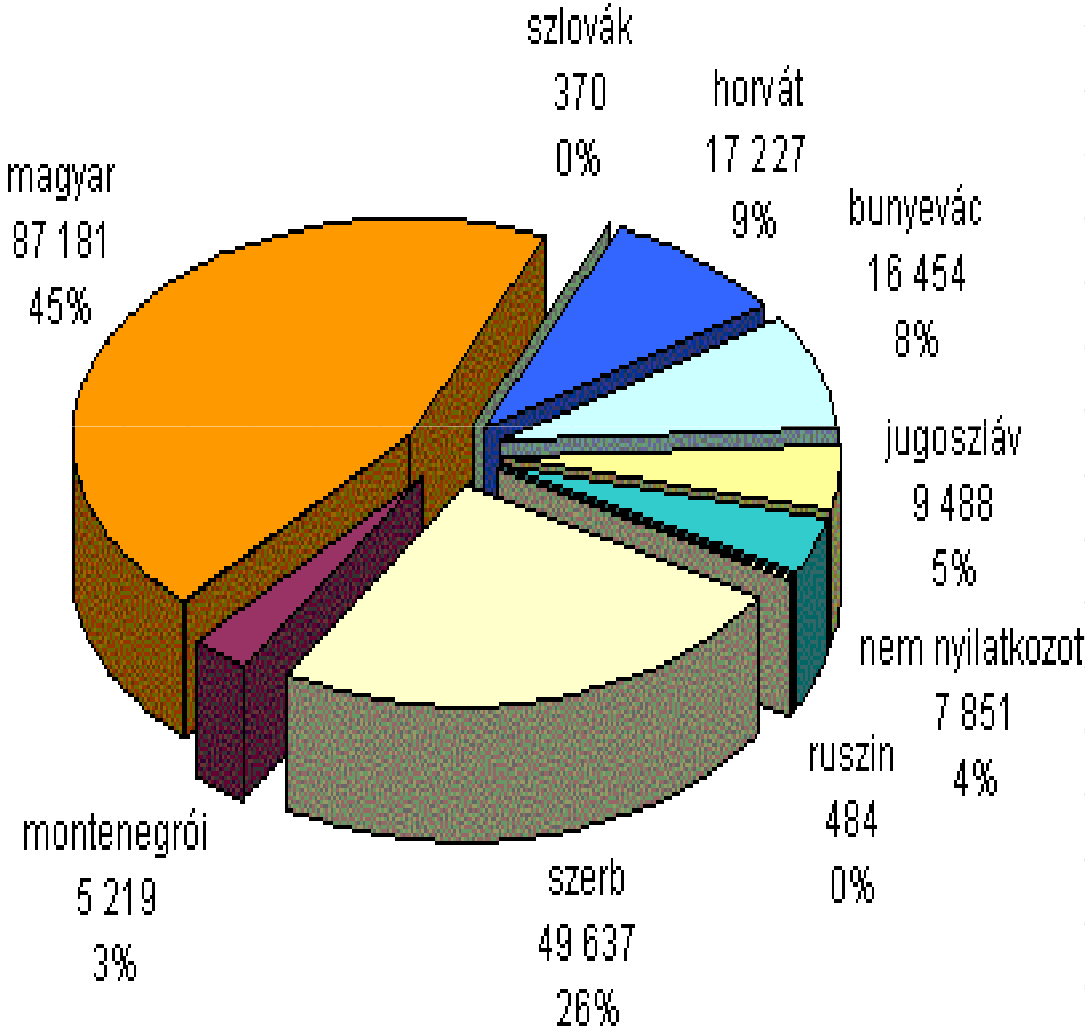
Today, 2/3 of the population of Vojvodina are Serb nationals, of which approximately half are natives (autochthonous), while the other half are settlers with a different mindset (colonist, immigrant or refugee)

Territorial distribution of Hungarians in Vojvodina



Ethnic distribution of northern Backa

Hungarian	**87,181**	**45%**
Serb	**49,637**	**26%**
Croat	**17,227**	**9%**
Bunjevac	**16,454**	**8%**
Yugoslav	**9,488**	**5%**
Montenegran	**5,219**	**3%**
Rusin	**484**	**0%**
Slovak	**370**	**0%**
No response	**7,851**	**4%**

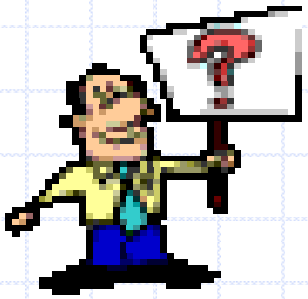


Hungarian population in Vojvodina

1900	**378 634**	**Growing population** **Hungarians are 26% of Vojvodina's population**
1961 (after 60 years)	**449 587** **(+ 70 953)**	**Population starts to decrease** **24% of Vojvodina's population**
2002 (after 40 years)	**290 207** **(- 159 380)**	**Rapid decrease** **14.28% of Vojvodina's population**

Causes of the decrease in Hungarian population (-50,000 during the '90's):

1) Low birth rate
2) Emigration
3) Assimilation



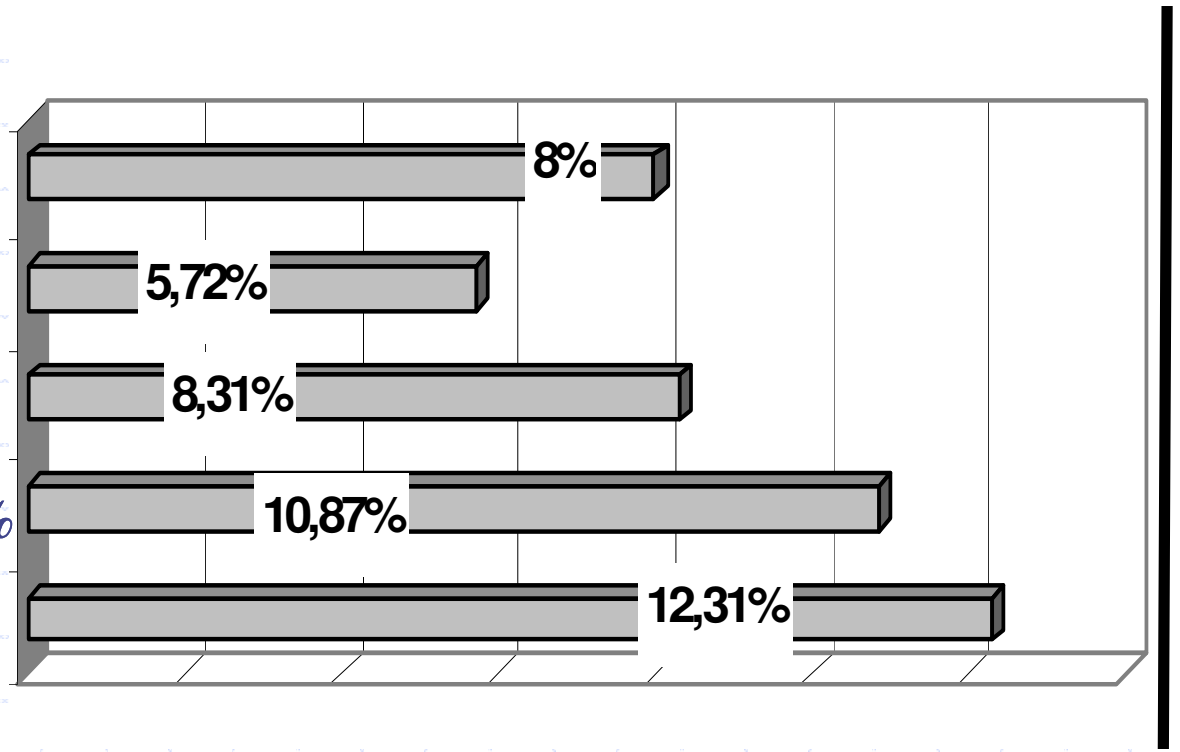
Required:

-Create a strategically plan for the preservation of the Hungarian population

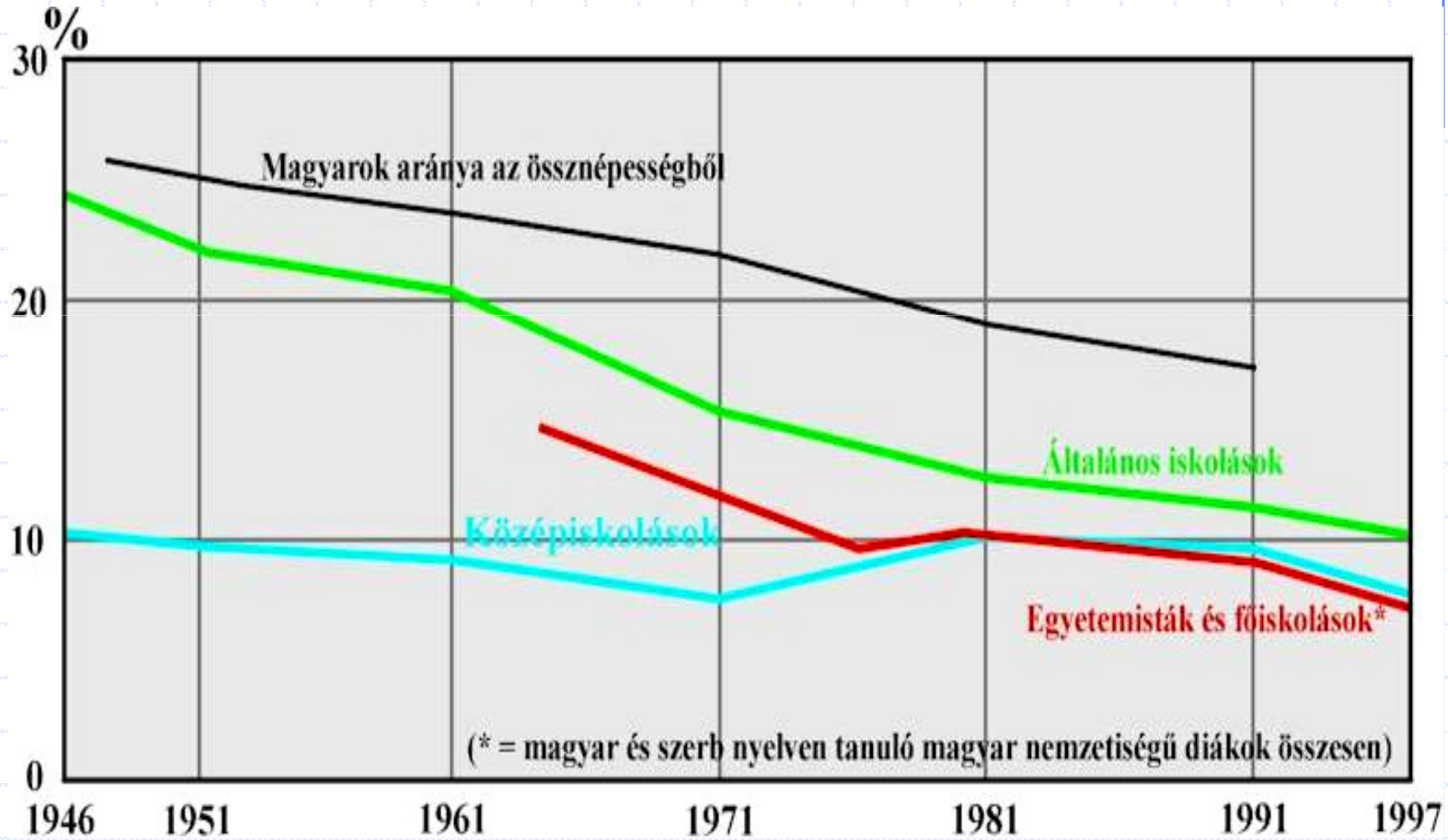
1) Programs promoting staying in one's native land
2) Network of native-language schools
3) Social programs, ventures

Distribution of Hungarian students among all students (Does not even reach the population distribution ratios)

Postgraduate	8%
University	5.72%
College	8.31%
Secondary Education	10.87%
Primary Education	12.31%



Decline in Hungarian population and students in Vojvodina during the second half of the 20th century, as percentage of total population and students (1946-1997)

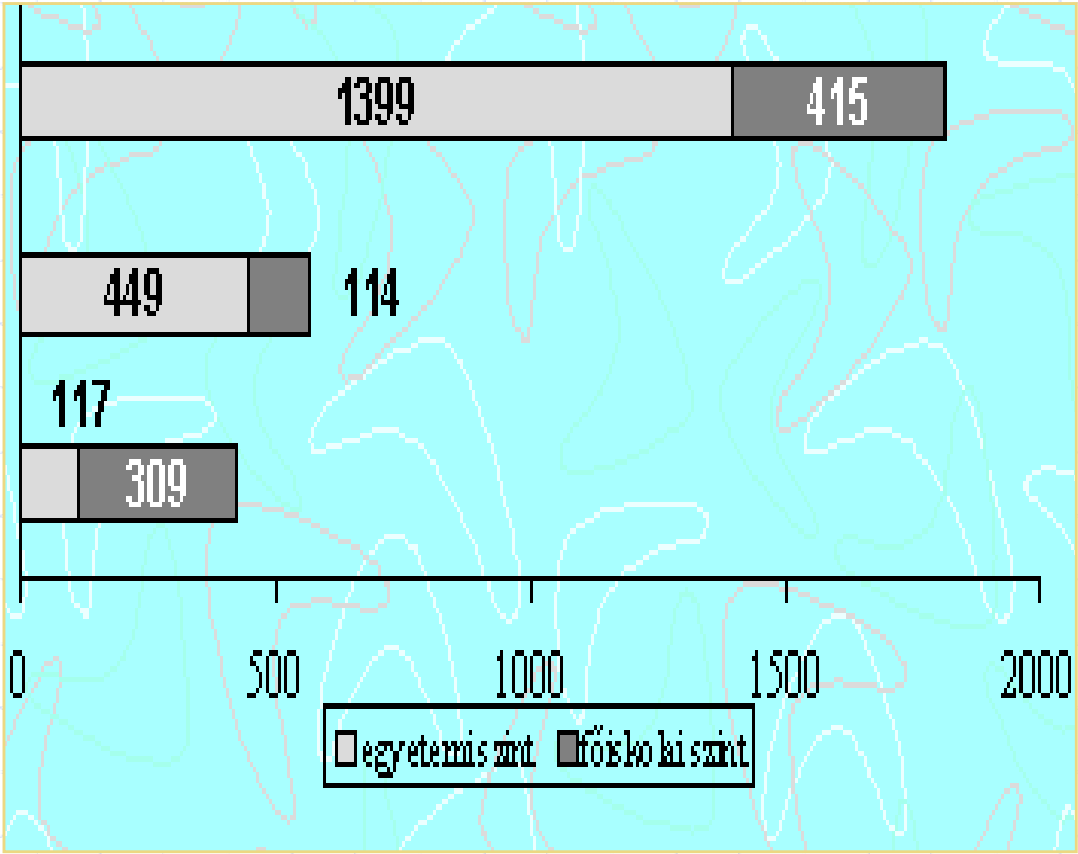


Language of higher education (Hungarian students - 2001)

Only Serbian 65%

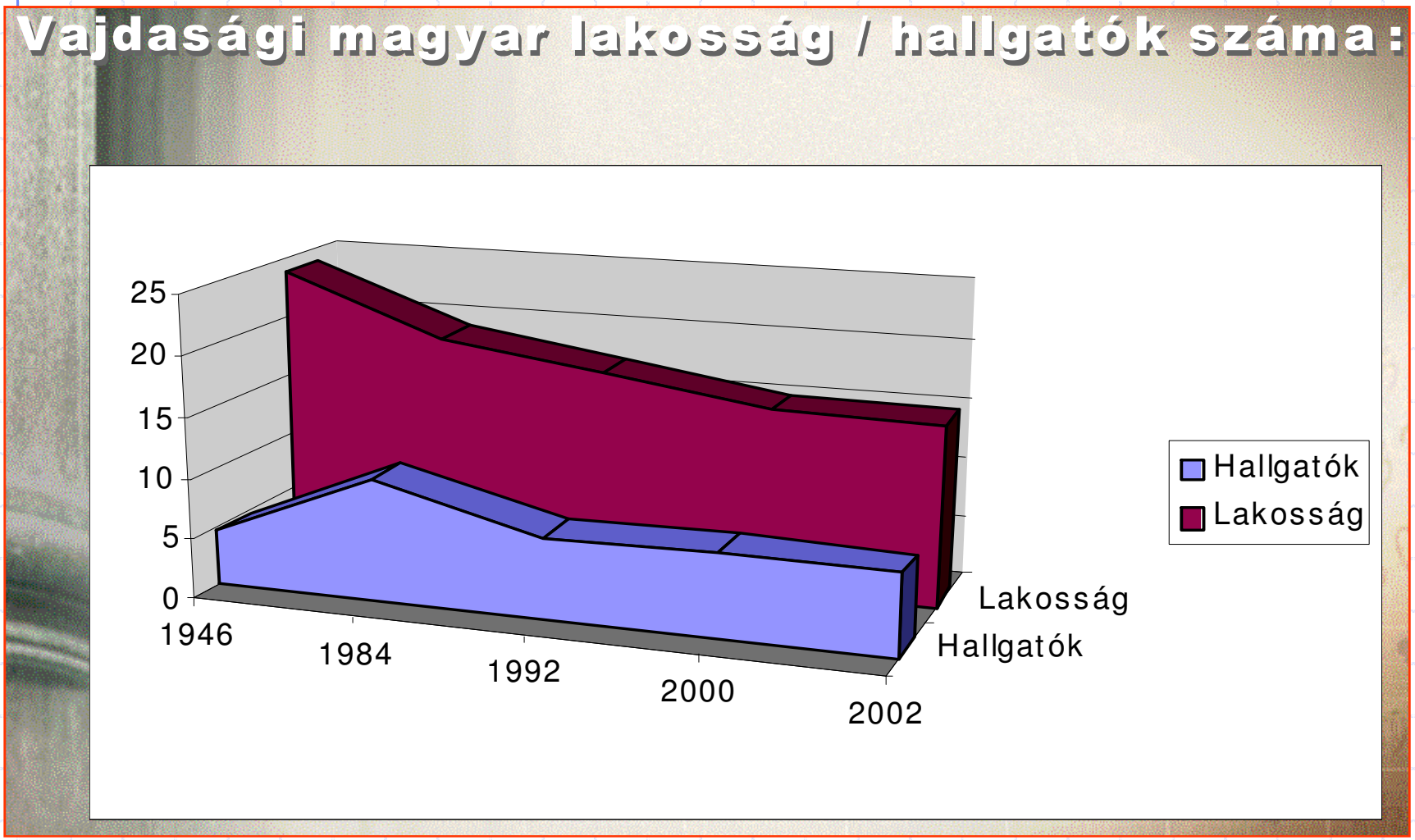
Part-Hungarian 20%

Hungarian-only 15%



Inequity of opportunities in the job market

The decline in minority students in higher education correlates with cultural gap



Our Aspirations:

That ethnic Hungarians take part in education in proportion to their population

The Situation:

Professional training is inadequate and unsatisfactory due to the significant discrepancy between Hungarians' participation in education and their population ratio to the majority ethnicity

To Do:

Hungarian school network, with state support

Alleviate the shortage of educators on all levels

Higher quality and in-demand career paths

Stop the trend of young professionals leaving the area, caused by:

1.) Learning abroad – emigration of the elite ('brain drain')

2.) Working abroad – economic emigration

Approximately 30% of university students in Vojvodina study in Hungary (approximately 1000 of 3500 students)

Only 20% of students who study abroad return to their homeland!

The Hungarian community in Vojvodina surrenders approximately 300 intellectuals with diplomas yearly!

There is no Hungarian-language higher education in Serbia! **The language of study in higher education may be Hungarian (Subotica) if the Serbian Minister of Education grants the dean's special request,** ***but this is not supported financially, and the request must be renewed yearly!***

The alleviation of the Hungarian-language teacher shortage is of utmost importance!

Urgent institutional solutions (not supported by the Serbian Ministry of Education or the Novi Sad University): School of Education at an institution of higher education in Subotica Belgrade refuses to allow the requisite financial set-up; There is no training of educators, businessmen, doctors or jurists in Hungarian!

GOAL:

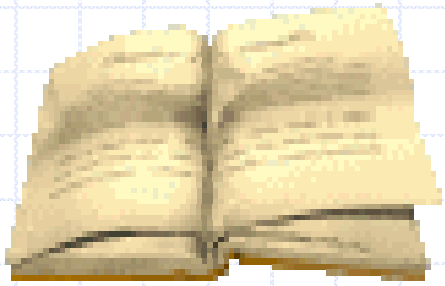
Equal opportunities in education and employment

Regional plan (2004):

Foundation of a multiethnic public university in Subotica

- No support from Belgrade

- Opposed by the University of Novi Sad!



The University of Subotica would serve the higher education needs of a multicultural region of about 500,000 people

- Serbian-, Hungarian-, Croat-, English language

Conclusion:

There has been a regression compared to the 1980's in:

-Hungarian-language public education

-Dissemination of information in Hungarian

-Hungarian-language judicial and civil proceedings

-Multilingual public signage

-Serbian election law does not include any positive discrimination on behalf of minorities at the national level

Progress since 2000:

-Creation of the National Council of Hungarians in Vojvodina

Unresolved:

-Return of seized property to its rightful owner (farmers and churches)

-Wholly native-language education, from kindergarten to university

The minorities want equal opportunities in their own homelands!