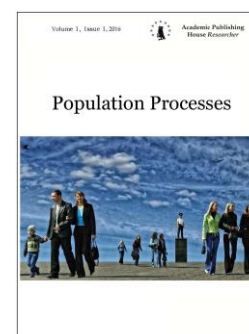


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Regional Inequalities Population of Montenegro with Overview of Regional Indicators

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Abstract

This statement analyzes the current demographic characteristics of the Republic of Montenegro. The key indicators of the demographic situation, such as the indicators of the movement of the population of Montenegro from 1948 to 2011, population growth rate the region and the municipalities of Montenegro from 1966 to 2011, age structure of Montenegrin population, constant variant of population projection by regions of Montenegro, 2010 - 2050 and overview of selected regional indicators have an uncertain future. Demographic indicators are influenced by a number of different factors which can be hard to predict. At the same time the demographic characteristics of the population have highly significant implications for economic and social development of any area in a long term perspective. Demographic characteristics and trends analysis is one of the most important points in understanding the demographic future of certain region and the country as a whole.

Keywords: Montenegro, demography, population, regional aspects.

Introduction

In a global context the regional, social, and demographic trends on the one hand closely follow the patterns in other European countries, demonstrating lots of characteristics in common with such countries, and on the other hand have their own specific features. The common pattern can be seen in the sequence of the demographic transition stages and their determinants. Social and demographic development takes place within the context of the global development patterns, under the influence of the changing system of values. Within the global trends context the problem of manageability of the regional, social and demographic processes gains a particular importance (Vasilyeva, 2013).

The natural reproduction of population trend is predetermined by a higher life expectancy rate (objective ageing of the population) and the decrease of the rate of reproduction (small number of children in a nuclear family). This population reproduction level is an irreversible consequence of the urbanization processes and entrance into the phase of postindustrial development. The irreversible nature of this change is more or less typical for all regions; however, it should not be reduced to a single direction of social and demographic change in the regions.

The social and demographic processes in a region depend, primarily on a certain sum of factors that are significant specifically on the regional level (Vasilyeva, 2013).

So in this place we emphasize on some regional differences in the population of Montenegro with a view on constant variant of population projection by regions of Montenegro, 2010 - 2050 and overview of selected regional indicators. Khusnutdinova et al (2015) relying on research Keyfitz (1981), Hyndman and Booth (2008), Wilson (2013), Kramin et al (2014) and Alho (2014) rightly point out yes demographic characteristics of the territory can be a decisive factor on its socio-economic development. The regional strategy over the next 15-20 years is required to take into account the current demographic characteristics of the territory and the prospects for their change. It is necessary for provide realistic scenarios for the development of the region and for the goals that is possible to achieve according existing and future demographic indicators. The demographic future is inherently uncertain that should be considered in socio-economic decisions, including marketing, financial and other. Such uncertainty exists due to factors such as an incomplete understanding of demographic processes, imperfect demographic data, and unpredictable immigration policy changes (see Berdzenishvili, 2016; Berdzenishvili and Dzamunashvili, 2016; Mitiukov and Korobeinikov, 2016; Rajović, 2015).

Results and their generalizations

In the period from 1948 to 2011 have appeared large disparities in the spatial distribution of population Montenegro. Northern region of the country (32.3% of the territory of Montenegro) recorded an absolute decline of 10.147 persons (13.13%); Northeastern region (20.6% of the territory) decreased by 14.167 (9.76%). With on the other hand the central region (35.6% of the territory) recorded an increase of 20.398 persons (7.79%) and, finally, a coastal region (11.5% of the territory) increased by 13.239 persons (9.82%) (Bakić and Mijanović, 2006; Monstat, 2011). According to Radulović (***) analyzing the demographic trends through the use of population census in Montenegro, following tendencies are apparent: exhausting of the total population growth, a continuous decrease of the population growth, a decrease in the vital index, stagnating tendencies of new marriages and an increasing number of divorces, constant migration of population from rural to urban areas and their concentration in municipal centers, an increasing number of empty settlements, migration from the northern region towards the central and the coastal region, the capital and the coastal municipalities have a positive migration balance, a growing number of citizens abroad (see Rajović and Bulatović, 2015; Rajović and Bulatović, 2015).

Table 1. Trends in the population of Montenegro from 1948 to 2011¹

Geo-space	Year census						
	1948	1961	1971	1981	1991	2003	2011
Northern region	77.305 (20.49%)	93.652 (19.84%)	92.536 (17.47%)	83.775 (14.33%)	75.394 (12.25%)	67.244 (10.84%)	67.158 (10.74%)
Northeastern region	101.319 (26.86%)	124.336 (26.34%)	137.509 (25.96%)	145.193 (24.84%)	143.198 (23.28%)	127.635 (20.58%)	128.031 (20.47%)
Central region	128.759 (34.13%)	170.449 (36.12%)	202.708 (38.27%)	239.571 (41%)	261.756 (42.55%)	279.419 (45.1%)	282.154 (45.12%)
Coastal region	69.806 (18.50%)	83.499 (17.69%)	96.851 (18.28%)	115.771 (19.81%)	134.687 (21.89%)	145.847 (23.51%)	147.923 (23.65%)
Montenegro	377.189	471.894	529.604	584.310	615.035	620.145	625.266

Source: Bakić and Mijanović, 2006; Monstat, 2011.

Rate of natural increase have tended steady decline during the second half of the twentieth century, from 15.5% in the period 1966 to 1970 fell by 5.5% to 2004 to 2011 fluctuated around 2%. Identical processes were in Montenegrin regions (Table 2). Conceivably least favorable ratio of

¹ According to the new regional models, Montenegro is divided into three regions: northern, central and coastal.

mortality and birth rates has municipalities of northern mountainous region of Montenegro (according to the latest data of the average the rate of natural increase of -7.4). Much more are favorable situation in the northeastern and central part of the country and by far the cheapest in the coastal region (Bakić and Mijanović, 2006; Monstat, 2012).

Table 2. Rates of natural increase regions and municipalities of Montenegro from 1966 to 2011

	1966 - 1970	1976 - 1980	2000 - 2004	2011
Northern region	13.4	8.1	-1.2	-7.4
Šavnik	10.7	3.3	-5.3	-8.7
Mojkovac	21.6	14.5	4.0	-3.1
Žabljak	11.5	7.5	-2.7	-8.4
Plužine	12.2	6.5	-2.3	-10.8
Kolašin	11.8	8.7	-1.6	-6.0
Pljevlja	13.0	8.3	0.7	-7.6
Northeastern region	25.2	17.8	6.5	1.5
Andrijevica	-	-	-0.9	-5.5
Bijelo Polje	22.9	17.6	5.9	2.0
Rožaje	32.8	26.2	14.4	9.6
Berane	21.1	13.8	7.6	0.9
Plav	23.1	13.6	5.7	0.6
Central region	11.5	9.6	2.5	1.0
Podgorica	15.9	15.4	8.4	6.2
Nikšić	15.7	11.6	4.2	0.7
Danilovgrad	4.6	4.8	-0.6	-1.2
Cetinje	10.1	6.8	-1.8	-1.4
Coastal region	8.2	8.7	2.5	2.0
Bar	9.5	7.8	3.8	2.8
Budva	1.6	13.1	5.8	5.8
Ulcinj	15.6	9.3	3.3	1.5
Kotor	6.5	4.9	-0.2	1.2
Tivat	8.6	9.6	1.4	1.1
Herceg Novi	7.9	8.0	1.3	-0.3
Montenegro	15.5	10.5	5.5	2.2

Source: Bakić and Mijanović, 2006; Monstat, 2012.

These statistical data show that the movement of the population of Montenegro in the last decades are characterized by: low population growth (compared to growth from the previous period), expressed fall in the number of inhabitants in the northern and northeastern region, extreme demographic erosion in recent decades, the smaller urban areas of northern and northeastern part of the country, intense population growth in Podgorica and the coastal region. So Montenegro in the period from 1948 to 2011 demographic transformed from countries with a high birth rate, with harmonized deployment in space, in a country with low birth rates, low and uneven population growth, high rates of internal migration and all the unfavorable spatial distribution of population (Šarović, 2011). Uncertainty in demographic future has a long-term effects and one of the most important steps in overcoming this uncertainty is a comprehensive analysis of the current demographic situation, the forces constraining or enabling certain demographic processes of society (Khusnutdinova et al, 2015).

Radulović (***) extraordinary concludes in the rural areas of Montenegro, due to uncontrolled development and the lack of adequate policy for these areas, the dynamics of living have been sluggish for decades. Villages have long been deteriorating. The liveliest inhabitants continually migrate and seek other places to fulfill their ambitions, make their living and start families. A higher standard of living has not been possible in rural settlements due to certain geostrategic, historical and other conditions. In this way, the rural areas were not valued; resources

have been abandoned and become dead capital. The migration of the young persons, which is still happening, has caused a continuous degradation of these areas. It has also caused the urban areas to lose their rich surroundings. All these factors have further complicated the development process and caused a distinct disproportion in economic, demographic, cultural development etc. Both, everyday life and economic productivity have been disrupted in rural areas, making life there unviable for many.

The results of the last census show unbalanced distribution of the population in municipalities and regions of Montenegro and discrepancy of economic and demographic focus. Twelve municipalities in Montenegro have decrease in population in 2011 with regards to 2003, not to mention settlements which were left without inhabitants. These are municipalities in the north the northern area in Montenegro and increase in the central and southern part is the result of the migration within the country (Božović and Đurašković, 2014).

Absolutely, the number of inhabitants in Montenegro rose with regards to 2003 for 7762 inhabitants, whereas the population of the northern area has negative growth rate of 7.2%, increase of population in the central part is 5.8% and it is 3.7% by the coast. There are 185,937 inhabitants in Podgorica only, which is almost 30% of total population. We are witnessing therefore, a universal “Podgorization” of Montenegro, both in terms of demographic and migration trends, and cause and effect in terms of investment and overall economic trends (Božović and Đurašković, 2014).

Table 3. Age structure of Montenegrin population (%)

Year	Total	up to 20 years	21-30	31-40	45-59	60 years and more
1961	100	44.5	17.7	12.3	15.1	13.4
1971	100	42.8	14.9	14.2	17.7	11.1
1981	100	37.3	17.8	12.4	21.5	11.0
1991	100	33.6	15.9	15.0	21.9	13.6
2003	100	28.6	15.2	13.4	18.2	16.6
2011	100	26.3	14.3	13.9	20.6	18.3

Source: Monstat, 2012.

According to Despotović et al (2015) in the period from 1961 to 2003 are the average age of the population of Montenegro increased by 8.3 years (from 27.5 to 35.8). In the period 1991 - 2003 intensity of aging increased in 2003. The average age was 35.8. The previous analysis suggests that the aging process in Montenegro was very fast. However, in the early 21st century, the population of Montenegro has still been considered as the group of younger demographic of European populations. In 2003, only five countries had lower average age of the population of Montenegro: Iceland, Ireland, Macedonia, Moldavia and Albania (Demographic changes in Montenegro since the mid-20th century and perspectives to 2050).

Table 4. Average age of the population in municipalities, 2011

Municipalities	Average age of the population		
	Total	Urban	Other
Montenegro	37.2	36.6	38.4
Pluzine	43.7	38.2	47.5
Savnik	42.5	37.9	43.9
Zabljak	41.9	40.5	43.3
Pljevlja	41.8	39	46.6
Cetinje	40.3	39	47.2
Kolasin	40.1	37.6	41.3
Herceg Novi	40	40.1	39.7
Andrijevica	39.9	38.1	40.3
Kotor	39.5	39.8	39.1

Mojkovac	38.4	37.4	39.1
Danilovgrad	38.1	36.6	39.1
Tivat	38	38.3	37.3
Bar	37.9	37.8	37.9
Nikšić	37.8	37.1	40.2
Ulcinj	37.8	36.8	38.8
Budva	36.5	36.5	36.7
Berane	36.4	36.9	36.1
Bijelo Polje	36.1	35.1	37.1
Plav	36	35.6	36.2
Podgorica	35.7	35.3	37.5
Rožaje	31.7	32.2	31.3

Source: [Monstat, 2012](#)

Demographic change consists of different trends, like total population decline, diminishing number of young people, shrinking labour force, ageing society, changing ethnic composition of population and changing household composition. These trends will have negative effects on the labour market and through these negative effects on the labour market have effects on society (see [Coenen and Galjaard, 2009](#); [Rajović and Bulatović, 2016](#); [Rajović and Bulatović, 2016](#)). Across regions, the average age of the population is the largest in the north of Montenegro, apart from Rožaje. There are also significant differences in the relation city population and other settlements. City population is a bit younger, which is a result of migrations, whereas in other settlements of primarily rural type - the population age shows the influence of a range of factors, demographic and economic, which brought to sensitization, rural depopulation (see [Rajović and Bulatović, 2016](#); [Rajović and Bulatović, 2016](#)), deagrarianization and area devastation ([Božović and Đurašković, 2014](#)).

Table 5. Constant variant of population projection by regions of Montenegro, 2010–2050

	Year			
	2020	2030	2040	2050
Northern	174.860	153.500	127.621	98.995
Central region	306.704	310.574	307.882	301.476
Coastal region	156.393	155.042	149.367	141.571
Montenegro	637.957	619.116	584.870	542.042

Source: [Ćorović \(2010\)](#)

It can be stated that Montenegro is an area of complex demographic processes. Zones of population growth and zones of depopulation are clearly pronounced. Difference in population fluctuations for certain Montenegro regions originates more from differences in migration balance than from differences in natural population increase. In the course of last few decades, northern region lost its leading position in population potentials between Montenegro regions. Further demographic development will increase population concentration in some municipalities. On the other hand, in certain mostly mountain and sparsely populated municipalities fast depopulation trend will continue. All projection variants until the middle of this century foresee increase in participation of middle and coastal, and decrease in participation of northern region in total Montenegro population. Apart from that, further increase of urban population participation in the total Montenegro population is expected ([Ćorović, 2010](#)).

Table 6. Overview of selected regional indicators

	Continental region	Central region	Coastal region
Population at the last census	250.280	221.066	148.683
Change in population	-7.4%	8.3%	1.9%
Area in km ²	9.369	2.852	1.591
Population density (population per km ²)	26.7	77.5	93.45
Total income (as per annual financial statements) in euro	1.229.272.155	3.766.084.497	1.435.715.988
Total income per capita in euro	4.911.6	17.036.0	9.656.2
Number of employees	44.119	71.424	46.199
Number of unemployed	15.809	10.434	5.783
Unemployment rate	26.37	12.74	12.51
Profit-loss in euro	-25.527.460	101.482.988	-46.505.890

Source: [Fabris and Žugić, 2012](#)

The observed regions have different areas and population density (as we noted in the first part of the text). Information on income is per capita in 2010 correlate to a large extent with the “inflow” and/or “outflow” of population, as well as with the movement of the unemployment rate. The central region is the key business area since almost 60 % of total income is concentrated in this region, although it accounts for 36% of the population. Total income is per capita in the central region amounts to 17.036 Euro, 9,656 Euro in the coastal region, and 5,911 euro in the continental region. The unemployment rate is similar in the central and coastal regions, while it is more than twice higher in the continental region. Information on profit may lead to a wrong conclusion considering that the calculated loss is much higher in the coastal than in the continental region. To wit, losses registered in the coastal region are under a great influence of still evident consequences of the global financial crisis. Numerous companies in the coastal region deal with real estate related activities that are still in deep crisis, so they obtained result is contradictory only at first glance. Taking into account all the aforesaid, we can draw an unambiguous conclusion that there are substantial regional differences in Montenegro which call for policy for reducing regional disparities ([Fabris and Žugić, 2012](#)).

Rightfully concluding Coenen and Galliard (2009) yes what we can learn is that the regions face very similar problems but come up with different solutions depending on different mechanism. Starting point for all projects is however that we have to raise awareness on demographic change and the effect on the labour market to create (new) solutions. International regional cooperation plays an important role to help to achieve this. Through International regional cooperation we learn about solutions tailored to the specific region, but who do from good examples for other regions. We learn about obstacles and changes, and do's and don'ts. The exchange of regional consequences and solutions are an important tool for raising the awareness and the problem perception. All regions are forerunners in some aspects, due to their demonstration projects and can thus inspire the other regions.

Conclusion

Truly, in contrast to numerous unpredictable trends, global ageing of population is highly foreseeable and distinctive trait during the 21st century. This process occurs in a range of settings, both among wealthy nations and within transitioning societies, being caused by intertwined factors - declining fertility and longer life expectancy, latter being ascribed to the achievements of public health, education and economic development ([Pantić et al, 2010](#)).

Our research evidence based on research Drobñjaković et al (2014) indicating that the rural area typology previously presented is based on regional development priorities dividing Montenegro in large territorial units. Regarding the heterogeneity of these rural areas, main guidelines to the regional development can be only general in their nature, but not specific. This is

particularly the case in the northern region of Montenegro that represents natural, demographic and socio-economic mosaic, and as such they need specific priorities and measures for the future development and mitigation of depopulated rural areas. Therefore, rural areas can serve for giving main guidelines on the national level, but in order to implement specific development and demographic measures it is necessary to treat geographically smaller units, so as not to neglect their identity and diversity (see [Rajović and Bulatović, 2015](#); [Rajović and Bulatović, 2015](#); [Rajović and Bulatović, 2016](#)).

Using a research Vujošević et al (2012), we can point on the key factor of distribution of population within the urban system from the largest to the smallest urban centers in Montenegro is the distribution of power, resources and capacities within the local government structure. Podgorica is still the key pointer to unbalanced regional development of Montenegro which, together with coastal region in its relative vicinity, forms the so-called “Montenegrin spatial banana”. Petrić et al (2012) indicate that when analyzing the hierarchy in the country’s urban settlement network, the advancement of macro-regional centers is needed in order to mitigate the acute issues of imbalance, i.e. extremely uneven regional development and weak territorial cohesion. At the same time, a more prudent steering and support of small and medium-sized urban settlement development is essential, with hindsight that until recently they used to be the vital demographic reservoirs of Montenegro (see [Rajović and Bulatović, 2016](#); [Rajović and Bulatović, 2016](#); [Rajović and Bulatović, 2016](#)).

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