#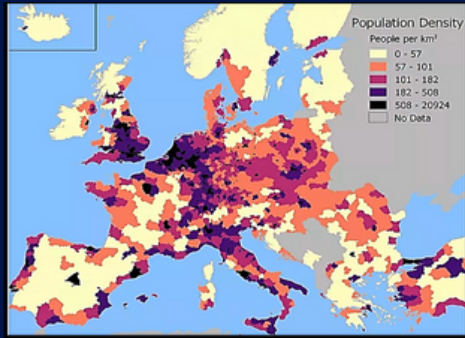 SOCIO - ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF POPULATION EMIGRATION FROM CROATIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND SERBIA - CURRENT SITUATION AND PERSPECTIVES

Authors: **Tado Jurić, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Catholic University of Croatia, E-Mail: tado.juric@unicath.hr**

Faruk Hadžić, Ph.D. Candidate, Lecturer, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, E-Mail: faruk.hadzic@ssst.edu.ba

INTRODUCTION AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN THE EU

- The EU faces a difficult demographic situation caused by falling fertility, ageing of the working-age population and one-way migration from the EU periphery to the EU core.
- The EU is challenging with issues to maintain the working-age population necessary to support the retired population, whilst at the same time, the solutions should avoid social and political tensions. Emigration trends from the EU periphery to the EU core announces serious political issues.
- This trend creates a social perception of injustice within the EU felt in both the poor and the wealthy EU members.
- The Population Density map of Europe, NUTS 3, shows that the EU periphery is especial faced with demographic decline, but also that many inner EU countries have been demographically devastated.
- The pro-natalist policies in most EU member states have not led to a demographic improvement in the expected effect. Since all possibilities for the demographic revitalisation of Europe are either unrealistic or politically unacceptable to all members, we show that "working-from-home economy" or remote work could be a proper demographic answer on facing the EU demographic challenges.
- Namely, this form of the economy would enable the revival of many of Europe's depopulated regions, especially the EU periphery. This demographic measure could 1) slow the brain drain from the EU periphery, 2) repopulate large abandoned areas of the EU periphery and revival suburbs and rural areas 3) offer workers to flee cities with a
- high cost of living or find more space to spread out (people have more children when they have more space).
- The key idea is to allow relocation permits for 2 % of workers from the public sector who want to relocate to the periphery and work remotely.

Population Density
People per km²
- 0 - 57
- 57 - 101
- 101 - 182
- 182 - 508
- 508 - 20924
- No Data

Source: http://aestheticdata.eu/2018/01/27/population-density-in-europe/

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF POPULATION EMIGRATION

	Decrease in number of pupils in primary school (2007- 2020)	Decrease in number of pupils in secondary school (2007- 2020)	Decrease in labor force (2007 - 2020)	Increase / decrese in GDP per capita (2007 - 2020)
Croatia	66.857	31,357	161,372	- 109 $
Bosnia and Herzegovina	98.807	46,467	89,753	1,838 $
Serbia	99.957	38,704	122,965	1,818 $

Source: World Bank Data

CONCLUSIONS

- If for no other reason the EU should not be interested in having depopulated peripheral areas. Namely, there is a causal link between the increased emigration from the EU periphery and increased illegal migration.
- Depopulation of the EU periphery is not just a problem of SEE. It should pay much more attention to the depopulation of its periphery and migration from the periphery to the EU core. The emptying of the EU border areas is a security risk for the whole EU.
- Data for Bosnia and Herzegovina show that in the observed period there was a decrease in the number of pupils in primary schools in total of 98,807, a decrease of 66,857 for Croatia and 99,957 pupils in Serbia.
- The decrease in the number of pupils is also visible in high schools. According to countries, the decrease in the number of pupils in secondary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina was 46,467, in Croatia 31,357 pupils, and in Serbia 38,704.
- The labor force also decreased in all three countries during the observed period from 2007 to 2020. Labor force was reduced by 89,753 workers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, primarily due to the emigration of the population. In Croatia, there was a decrease in the labor force of 161,372 workers, while in Serbia there was 122,965 decrease in labor force.
- The analysis we conducted to calculate the real and potential GDP for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, shows that all three observed countries since 2013 have lower economic growth than potential and are within the potential range, which is partly can also be explained by the reduction of the labor force, as a factor of production.
- Remote work could be a proper demographic answer on facing the EU demographic challenges and reduce the migration flows from EU periphery.