

## **What factors induce differences in depopulation and ageing in the same geographical conditions -The case of Slovak former mining cities**

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The contribution focuses on evaluating population development in 15 former mining cities in Slovakia (those where mining has declined in the last decades of the socialist period of development or after 1989). In this case, we can expect direct impacts on demographic developments during the last quarter-century. Although most of these cities are located in the lagging southeast regions of the Slovak Republic, and the decline of mining impacts local economies, demographic trajectories are surprisingly differentiated. Of course, all cities are getting older, reflecting a general trend. On the other hand, some cities enjoy population increase by up to one fifth in the last quarter of a century, while others have lost a fifth of the population. There are differences in both natural increase and migration. Some benefit from both, but in many of them, on the contrary, the depopulation is caused by both components. We are trying to identify drivers behind these developments, at first glance, surprising results. When and where does "macro location attractiveness" work? Does the distance from the larger cities matter, potentially reducing the need for long-distance or foreign labour migration? What is the degree of effect of the presence of Roma segregated communities? Are the development trajectories unequivocal, or can we observe instability? What about the influence of the state's regional and sectoral policies and their suitability for former mining cities? What is the nature of intergovernmental relations in the context of mining activities? Is it helpful from a population development point of view?