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# ***Social Impact of Emigration and Rural-Urban Migration in Central and Eastern Europe***

## **Final Country Report**

**Serbia**

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

CEC	Commission of the European Communities
CRS	Commissariat for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia (CRS)
CSW	Centre for Social Work
DfID	Department of International Development (of the UK)
EC	European Commission
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
EU	European Union
EUR	Official currency of 17 countries in the EU (Euro zone)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HBS	Households Budget Survey
HTAs	Home Town Associations
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LC	Local Community
IPA	Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance
IPARD	EU funds from IPA programs of Rural Development
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standard Measurement Survey
MERD	Ministry of Economy and Regional Development of the Republic of Serbia
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NBS	National Bank of Serbia
NES	National Employment Service - Republic of Serbia
NSHC	National Strategy of Human Capital
NUTS	Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Ph.D.	Doctor of Philosophy
RS	Republic of Serbia
RSD	Republic of Serbia Dinar (national currency)
RSO	Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia
SAA	Stabilisation and Association Agreement
SAP	Stabilisation and Association Process
SFRY	Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USA	United States of America
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
WEF	World Economic Forum

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## **1. Socio-economic and political overview**

From 1945 till 1992 the Republic of Serbia was one of six republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY). The SFRY has developed a specific socialist economic system which had one-party ruling and enabled, to some extent, the development of an open market economy. Yugoslavia was, before the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the only socialist country which had free access to labour markets of Western European countries and its citizens were able to travel to most countries without visas. This environment enabled the country's dynamic economic growth and relative high living standards. Till the nineties emigration from Serbia was of moderate scale. By the mid-1960s migration was more of a political nature, while later it was mainly driven by economic reasons.

### **1.1. Political Development**

During the period 1992-1999 Serbia has gone through several changes of its state-hood status. After disintegration of the SFRY in 1992, two former republics, Serbia and Montenegro formed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY)<sup>1</sup>, then in June 2006, Montenegro became an independent state and Serbia declared its independence on the 5th of June. In February 2008, Serbia's Autonomous Province Kosovo and Metohija declared its independence<sup>2</sup>.

In the last two decades Serbia was under the influence of major social and political developments in two divergent ways. The period 1990-2000 was marked with the regional armed conflicts and serious social and economic turbulences. The international community imposed sanctions on the FRY twice, in the period 1992-95 and in 1998; a year later NATO intervention resulted in a bombing of the country. In this period Serbia received a large number of refugees originating from other former Yugoslav republics; according to refugee registration from the year 1996 523,000 refugees and 72,000 war-affected persons were affected<sup>3</sup>. The second period, from October 2000 till the present time, is a period of recovery. In September 2000, the regime of President Milosevic lost the elections and a new government, led by the Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic, was formed. In October 2005, the EU opened negotiations with Serbia for conclusion of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, while Serbia officially applied for EU membership in 2009. Finally, in March 2012, the EU confirmed Serbia as a Candidate Country.

Among the reforms carried out in recent years, one concerned the territorial organisation of Serbia which was regulated by law in December 2007<sup>4</sup>. In 2009-2010, with the Law on Equal Territorial Development and the Law on Regional Development, the territory was divided into regions and territorial units, these units do not have any administrative power or legal subjectivity, but are defined as "functional territorial units for the purposes of regional planning and policy implementation" (Gov. R. Serbia, 2010a: 49; Map 1, Box 2). Within these regions Serbia is further divided into 29 districts including the City of Belgrade as one district (and Kosovo\*) corresponding to NUTS 3 level<sup>5</sup>. Finally, within these districts, Serbia counts 161<sup>6</sup> Local Communities (municipalities and cities) which are the administrative units of local self-government.

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<sup>1</sup> In 2003 the state changed its name to State Union of Serbia and Montenegro.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1244, Kosovo has been under the interim administration of the United Nations (UNMIK) since 1999. On February 17th, 2008, the Kosovo Assembly declared Kosovo's independence as the Republic of Kosovo, Serbia disputes this act of independence. Further in the text, we refer to Kosovo\*; this designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

<sup>3</sup> Persons with Serbian citizenship, residing in other republics.

<sup>4</sup> According to this law the territorial units are municipalities, cities and autonomous provinces. Nearby Kosovo\* for which Serbia claims sovereignty, Serbia has one autonomous province, Vojvodina (northern part) which has its own assembly and government and enjoys autonomy about certain matters. The area that lies between Vojvodina and Kosovo\* was called Central Serbia before 2009.

<sup>5</sup> For a detailed indication of all NUTS regions, refer to Map 1 and Box 2 in the Annex.

<sup>6</sup> Local Communities from Kosovo\* are not included in this number.

## **1.2. Demographic Developments**

The first preliminary data from the last Census (2011)<sup>7</sup> show the total number of registered residents to be 7,120,666, with an overall population decrease<sup>8</sup> between the two censuses (2002-2011) of 5% (Table 1.1, see also Map 8). Depopulation was more severe in South Serbia than in North Serbia (NUTS 1), 7.6% and 3.4% respectively. The most important population decrease (11.5%) was in the South East Serbia region (NUTS 2). Presently there is a balance of population size between the two NUTS 1 Regions (50.1% in the South and 49.9% in the North), although the territory of the South Region is almost twice the size of the North Region's territory. During the 1990s the total population of Serbia shrank only by slightly more than 1% primarily due to the fact that the negative natural growth (-2.3%) was partly compensated by the inflow of refugees and IDP's which prevented a sharper decline in population size (RSO, 2002 Census).

## **1.3. Economic Development, Poverty and Social Exclusion**

As a consequence of the separation of former republics, imposed UN sanctions, extremely high inflation and the destruction of infrastructure caused by the NATO air strikes in 1999, the economy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was severely damaged. Estimates show that, due to the great fall of economic activities, Serbia lost about EUR 150 billion of potential GDP (EI, 2010)<sup>9</sup>. In the first eight years of transition after 2000, the Serbian government implemented economic reforms that resulted in a 5.4% average annual growth rate of the GDP. The GDP growth was satisfactory but other results (growing deficit in external trade) did not contribute to sustainable economic development. During this period, regional disparities widened in favour of the two largest cities, Belgrade and Novi Sad, which had steady economic growth (Gov. R. Serbia, 2010f). Employment did not follow the upward trend in economic recovery decreasing by 3% till 2006<sup>10</sup>, while unemployment increased in the same period. The economic crisis caused a fall of GDP, a further decrease of employment, that reached the lowest level of 47.1% in 2010 (RSO, LFS 2010) and unemployment growth. In February 2011, registered unemployment rate was 27.8%, this has been the largest registered rate since 2005.

The dramatic events in the nineties had severe consequences on the living standards of the population: high unemployment, a decrease in real wages, the postponement of payments of pensions and social benefits affected the majority of households. According to estimates,<sup>11</sup> 28.8% of the people lived below the existential minimum in 1997 (Miljanovic, 1998: 211) and the urban population was more affected by poverty than the rural one (Table 1.2). Poverty measurements in 2002 and 2007<sup>12</sup> reveal improvements in living standards, as the country progressed in socio-economic development, but also reflect uneven progress between rural and urban areas and regional disparities. In 2002 the poverty incidence was higher in rural areas and the regional distribution of poverty shows that the highest proportion of poor lived in South East Serbia (SES), especially in its southern areas. Data on absolute poverty (2006-2010) however show a decrease in poverty over the next three years from 8.8% to 6.9%. This positive trend was halted in 2010, due to the economic crisis, when poverty rose again and reached 9.2% (RSO, 2011).

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<sup>7</sup> RSO, Census 2011: The First Results, November, 2011, Belgrade; preliminary data give information only on number of residents, at LC levels, without demographic characteristics of the population.

<sup>8</sup> Data are not final due to high under-coverage in three LCs: Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja.

<sup>9</sup> Economics Institute (EI) and FREN, (2010), Post-Crisis Model of Development and Growth 2020, Belgrade

<sup>10</sup> Reduction in employment was mainly caused the downsizing of state-owned enterprises.

<sup>11</sup> Poverty measurements have been differing over the past two decades and are not fully comparable (see Box 1 in the annex).

<sup>12</sup> World Bank methodology, data based on Living Standards Measurement Survey.

## **2. Main emigration and internal migration trends and patterns**

### **2.1. Main emigration trends**

After 88 years of living in a common state with other nations within former Yugoslavia, Serbia re-declared its independence in 2006. Therefore, it is particularly difficult to describe trends, as national data as well as international data refer to different areas in different periods of time. Nevertheless, the characteristics of emigration from Serbia, which have changed over the time, can be featured as follows:

Looking at the decades preceding the period under the study, UN data (Population Division) reveals that around 50,000 persons left Serbia from 1955 to 1960 mainly for political reasons. In the following five years this number increased to 88,000 (Table 1.3). However, from that period on Serbian citizens also left the country with the purpose to work and live abroad, predominantly as temporary workers. It was the first wave of economic emigration, after World War II. Emigration prevailed over immigration and as a result, the net migration rate in the period from 1955 to 1970 was negative (-1% from 1955 to 1960 and even -2% from 1960 to 1979) (Table 1.3. and Table 1.4.). In the 1970s the profiles of migrants were dominated by mostly unskilled or semi-skilled workers, who took short or medium employment and either returned home or were later joined by their families. This migration wave focused on European high-income countries like Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Sweden (Grečić, 2009: 453), with whom Yugoslavia had concluded agreements on labour migration. After the oil crisis in 1973, emigration from Serbia was reduced to a minimum. Between 1975 and 1980 Serbia experienced immigration, the number of immigrants to the country outnumbered emigrants (Table 1.3) leading to a positive migration balance. In the first half of the 1980s, Serbia again had a negative migration rate, but in the second half of the decade, thanks to a stable situation in the country, it was positive again (Table 1.4).

The largest wave of immigration to and emigration from Serbia was caused by the wars of the nineties, first in Croatia, than in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the period from 1991 to 1995. The migration saldo in Serbia was by large positive, owing to the large number of refugees and internally displaced persons who sought refuge in the country. This changed already in 1995 when the net migration balance became negative: Between 1995 and 2000 the net migration rate was -3%. In 1990s patterns of migration changed to involve migration of entire families, mostly those without precise plans for the future and weak links with the home country (Pavičević, 2004: 132).

In the first half of political and economic transition period (2000-2005) the migration rate more than doubled, compared to the previous period, reaching -7% (Table 1.4.). In fact, the number of those who have left Serbia had been declining since 2000. However, as many migrants had already left Serbia during the nineties for a temporary stay abroad (attending universities or in training) and did not have to return back to their home country to seek an immigrant visa, they only changed their status from temporary to permanent resident in the 2000-2005 period, thus contributing to a high negative migration rate for this period<sup>13</sup>. Therefore, the majority of those 339.000 persons counted as net migrants (Table 1.3) had been living abroad since the 1990s.

Preliminary data on the population working/living/studying abroad show important territorial differences at NUTS 1 level; the share of this population group in South Serbia is 5.79%, which is almost double the share in the North Region (2.47%). However, since detailed data are still not available from the 2011 census, in-depth analysis will refer to 2002 census. According to the 2002 census, 414,839 persons from Serbia were registered as „temporarily“ working or living abroad; most of them originated from South Serbia and Belgrade and the

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<sup>13</sup> For example, in 2008 out of the total number of visas issued for permanent residence in the United States, 66% actually concerned an adjustment of the residence status; in 2009 this percentage was 61.4% (see Table 2.11).

majority of those registered abroad left the country during the 1990s (1992-2002) However, the effective number of Serbs working and living abroad is much higher. The 2002 census did not include all those who have gone abroad, especially persons who migrated in the context of family migration to overseas countries. This is confirmed by comparing 2002 census data with data from the receiving countries. According to 2002 census data, around 23,000 persons emigrated to the USA, Canada, and to Australia in the period 1991-2002, but immigration statistics of these countries show that, during this period, immigration from Serbia and Montenegro was about four times higher and amounted to about 98,000 persons (Table 2.10). Similarly, according to data from Eurostat (2011) database, the number of Serbian citizens residing in EU countries, Norway and Switzerland with a regular status in 2009 was at least 597,914 (valid residence permits)<sup>14</sup>. Germany was by far the most relevant destination (with 312,926), followed by Austria (112,287) and Italy (70,587)<sup>15</sup>. Permission to perform remunerated activities for the first time has been mainly obtained from Italy (3,441) in 2009 and Slovenia (1,522 in 2009) (CPESSEC, 2009). Statistics from the immigration countries show that each year a substantial number of Serbian citizens receive citizenship in certain countries (Table 2.9.).

As regards labour migration, the Republic of Serbia has been primarily acting as a country of origin. Comparing the scope of flows of migrants from Serbia arriving for work-related purposes, it is possible to single out *four key destination regions*, listed in the order of priority (Manke, 2010):

- 1) Mobility within the Western Balkan region (prime destination countries being Montenegro and Croatia);
- 2) Employment in Eastern European countries (Russian Federation, Belarus and others);
- 3) (Temporary) labour migration towards the EU;
- 4) Regular and permanent employment migration of Serbian nationals in overseas countries (Canada, US, Australia), mainly for highly-skilled migrants (and migration for the purpose of family reunification).

The first census on refugees and war affected population in Serbia was conducted in 1996 by the UNHCR. According to this data, 617,728 individuals were registered in this category in Serbia. After a while, nearly half of them either obtained citizenship of the Republic of Serbia (143,200) or returned to their countries of origin (144,000) (Bobić, 2010: 103). According to data of the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees, of the 86,155 persons with a formal status of refugees counted in November 2010, 72% came originally from Croatia and 28% from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Rakić, 2011: 11). The reduction in the number of refugees is largely the result of their integration in the Republic of Serbia. At the end of 2010, with 86,155 refugees and 210,148 internally displaced persons, Serbia remained among the top European receiving countries of forced migrants in Europemigrants (Commissariat for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia, 2011).

The return of migrants, who had found some form of temporary protection in other European countries, to Serbia has been carried out largely within the implementation of readmission agreements. The council for readmission is responsible for returnees. The agreement on readmission between the European Union and Serbia has been in force since January 2008. Under this agreement, bilateral implementing protocols have been concluded with the following EU Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia. In 2009 4,377 persons have returned; and 3,979 more in 2010 (EC, 2011: 106). The main sending countries are Germany, Switzerland and Sweden, while the main ethnicities are Roma, Serbs, Bosnians and Albanians. Since May 2009, the

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<sup>14</sup> Eurostat Statistics Database. Available at:

[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search\\_database](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/search_database) (accessed on 29 August 2011).

<sup>15</sup> There are no precise data on the number of migrants from Serbia in the selected EU countries. For example, the Microcensus 2007 (Federal Statistical Office of Germany, 2008) shows that among Serbian citizens in Germany, there were 192,000 individuals with own migration background and 104,000 individuals without own migration background. However, German annual statistics show a different figure (Table 2.12).

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Commissariat for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia has been responsible for activities related to primary admission of returnees at the Readmission Office, located at the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport.

Data on voluntary return migration are not available, still it is clear that the return of (highly qualified) migrants to the country is accompanied by a series of obstacles for their reintegration in Serbia, like the recognition of foreign diploma, shortage of appropriate jobs, inadequate positions upon returning home and the lack of a coherent and synergic strategic framework (Pavlov et al., 2011b). Furthermore, the economic and financial crisis has reduced the potential opportunities for the return of migrants to the country.

The Republic of Serbia has a large Diaspora. There are no precise data on the number of Diaspora members, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Religion as well as Diaspora organisations estimate a number between 3.5 and 4 million people, which means that almost a third of the Serbian population lives outside Serbia. The Diaspora comprises all generations as well as different types of Serbian communities related to different status, as well as Serbs who live as national minorities in the neighbouring countries or as constitutive people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The emigrant population abroad thus includes the following categories:

- 1) the Serbian Diaspora, a broad term incorporating both citizens and former citizens of Serbia, residing not only in the Western Balkan region and also the rest of the world, who are well integrated into the receiving country's society and who have a long-term perspective towards residence abroad;
- 2) Labour migrants from Serbia who went abroad with the pure purpose of employment,
- 3) Refugees of Serbian citizenship residing abroad;
- 4) Serbian students studying in tertiary educational institutions abroad (Manke, 2010: 27).

### **2.2. Main internal migration trends**

Serbia is a country of deep economic, social and geographical differences. Due to these regional differences, the southern territories and central Serbia<sup>16</sup> are much more faced by both external and internal migration.

After World War II, there was significant depopulation of rural settlements and high level of rural-urban migration in Serbia<sup>17</sup>, as well as in other republics of the SFRY. The proportion of the urban population in Serbia increased for about two and half times from 22.5% in 1953 to 56.2% in 2002 (Maksin-Mičić, 2008: 1). This development was a part of an accelerated process of industrialisation of former Yugoslavia during the 1950s and 1960s. Migratory movements were encouraged by industrialisation, which was supported by the creation of new jobs and employment opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled workers in cities, by pursuing urban centric housing policy and organisation of public services, as well as by under-investment of public funding in rural settlements (Petovar, 2003: 12).

Serbia is faced with a distinct polarization of regions with an increasing concentration of population on the one hand and a decrease in population size on the other hand. The areas of population concentration include urban regions in which the highest population increase has been recorded in the peripheral and semi-urban zones. The 2002 census data show that large urban centres (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis, Kragujevac and Subotica) concentrated as much as 46% of the total urban population of the Republic of Serbia. On the other hand, a large number of villages and municipalities in rural, hilly and mountainous regions are faced with decreasing population and an increasing number of small settlements of up to 500 people. These phenomena are recorded not only around large cities, but also around the majority of medium-sized and small towns.

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<sup>16</sup> Corresponds to the areas between Vojvodina and Kosovo\*, i.e. the current regions of Sumadija and West Serbia and South and East Serbia.

<sup>17</sup> For definitions and classification into rural and urban areas, please refer to Box 3A in the Annex.



When observing the urban population growth according to three different types of urban settlements (small towns, medium towns and cities), it can be noticed that in the period 1948-1971 the increase of urban population was mainly due to the growing population of small towns (Spasić-Petrić, 2006: 10). In the following period between 1971 and 1981, the primacy in urban population growth rate was taken over by medium towns, whereas cities increased their population at a slower rate than any of the other two urban settlement types. The growth of urban population in small and medium towns of Serbia was stable and almost equalised in the last two inter-census decades (1981-2002) but of course, there is a big difference in growth rates of population among the urban settlements.

For the period between 1991 and 2002 data displayed in table 2.19 show that the population growth rates were negative with -3.9% in Serbia in total, -2.1% in the cities, and -3.9% in Belgrade due to a combination of negative natural growth and negative migration balance. However, the growth rates in rural settlements were even worse (-8.4 %) for the same reasons<sup>18</sup>. In the period from 2003 to 2009, the total rate of population growth in Serbia remained negative even if the negative trend was less pronounced (-2.2%). During this period opposite trends affected urban areas where the population growth became positive (0.9%; in cities even around 3% - Table 2.20) whereas the population growth rate in rural settlements remained negative (-6.5%) as a result of a further deteriorating natural growth and still intensive rural-urban migration.

### **2.3. Main characteristics of migrants**

Available data does provide some information about the characteristics of emigrants to foreign countries, but there is not data available on characteristics of internal migrants.

According to census 2002 data and data available in two of most important migration countries (Germany and USA), emigrants from the Republic of Serbia are younger and better educated compared to the resident population in the home country and male emigration predominates over female migration. The gender composition of emigrants displays a slight prevalence of the male population. The 2002 census shows that 53% of the Serbian population abroad are male, while a share of male resident population is 48.6%. Similar tendencies are shown in German and American immigration statistics (Table 2.11, 2.13).

As was noted above, emigrants from Serbia are on average younger than the average population in the country whose average age was 41.2 years (in 2009). Data on Serbia's emigrants in Germany and the USA highlight these differences: According to German immigration statistics for 2010 the average age of the registered stock of Serbian migrants was 36.5 years (equally for men and women) years (Table 2.13). Data on entries to Germany for 2010 (Table 2.14) show that migrants average age was 24.2 years (25.9 for men and 21.8 for women). Looking at the age group of Serbia's emigrants to the USA, we can see that the largest share of persons who received legal permanent resident status in 2009, i.e. 38% was in the age group 25-34 (Table 2.11.). Thus, it can be concluded that emigrants from Serbia are mostly young people of working age.

Compared to the resident population in Serbia, emigrants are better educated. According to 2002 census data, 5.5% of the resident population in Serbia had university degree, while 8.8% of all persons registered as working and staying abroad between the two censuses 1991 and 2002 (from a total of 414,839) had university education (including master and PhD degrees) (RSO, 2006a). During the 1990s the percentage of emigrants with only primary school education decreased, and the share of those with secondary school, higher school or tertiary (university) education increased. Migrants with a university education mostly emigrated from the large Serbian cities (Belgrade, Nis and Kragujevac) (RSO, 2006a), 57%

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<sup>18</sup> Data on population movements in the Republic of Serbia over the period 1988-2009 originate from the regular statistical monitoring of the occurrence at the level of the Republic, established in 1988. Therefore, each case of residence change is to be declared through a statement of change of domicile, which contains information on the previous residence, i.e. the new place of residence, except with the first signing in or out in/from the records on change of domicile. Data for migration statistics are drawn from citizens' statements or documents and submitted to the residence records service.

alone from Belgrade. Available data also indicate that the destination countries of migrants differ according to their educational level. While Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, and the USA figure among the top five destination countries in general (followed by Sweden and Italy), according to empirical data, the main destination countries for highly educated persons from Serbia were the United States, followed by Canada, the United Kingdom and Germany (Lapčević-Grečić, 1996; Kutlača, 2010). During the 1990s the fear of military recruitment drove many young people to study abroad. At the end of the 1990s and in the first half of the first decade of this century many young people from Serbia and Montenegro had acquired doctoral degrees at universities in the USA. Between 1997 and 2002, 469 persons from Serbia and Montenegro obtained a Ph.D. degree in the USA (Fiegenger, 2009). What is particularly significant is the fact that, in most cases, those who acquired a Ph.D. degree in the USA, had the opportunity for post-doctoral studies or employment and remained in that country. Over 80% of those who have earned a Ph.D. in 2002 stayed in the USA over the next five years. In fact, after five years, only 12% of those who have got Ph.D. in 2002 left the USA (Finn, 2010).

With regard to marital status, there is a difference between Serbia's emigrants in Germany and those in the USA as the share of married men and married women was much higher in the USA (69%) than it was in Germany in 2009 (Table 2.11), whereby this concerns a bigger share of women than men.

Regarding the ethnic composition of the emigrant population, data from the 2002 census provides some information about the national and ethnic identity for (only) 88.6% of the registered population abroad. A large majority of migrants from Serbia are of Serbian ethnicity (63.7% of total emigrants), followed by Bosniaks (6.5%), Albanians (5.2%), Roma (3.6%), Hungarians (2.6%), Vlachs (2%)<sup>19</sup>, and Romanians (1.5%) (Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, 2004: 243-262). Main destination countries for the ethnic Serbs were Austria, Germany, Switzerland and France; ethnic Albanians rather migrated to Switzerland and Germany, while Bosniaks chose Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Austria. The Hungarian minority migrated to Hungary and Germany, the Vlachs to Austria, Switzerland and Germany. The Roma population from Serbia followed migration routes to Germany and Austria and finally, ethnic Romanians opted for Austria, the USA and Switzerland.

### **3. Nation-wide labour market and social development trends under the influence of emigration**

#### **3.1. Economic and Labour Market Development**

One of the major characteristics of the Serbian labour market during the nineties was high over-employment within the economy. The GDP shrank by 45.6 percentage points in the 1991-2000 period while employment fell by only 14.6 percentage points. The rigid labour legislation practically halted any redundancies to offset the low productivity caused by over-employment; real wages were decreased for four times, while many workers were placed on paid or unpaid leave. Although they were officially registered as employed, many of them did not receive salaries for more than a year. Estimates show that around 712,000 employees could be counted within this category of hidden unemployed (employees, whose marginal contribution is zero), which at that time corresponded to one third of all employees in the state sector (Bajec, Joksimovic, 2000). Such conditions have initiated the flourishing of informal labour markets, where about 60% of the formally employed persons earned an additional income and might have contributed to enhancing migration despite the fact that official unemployment was low. The officially registered unemployment rate in 2000 amounted to 25.6% which represented an increase of 38 percentage points as compared to 1991.

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<sup>19</sup> The Vlachs are an ethnic minority of Serbia, culturally and linguistically related to Romanians.

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At the beginning of 2001 Serbia entered into a transition process and started structural reforms. The economic growth was constant till the current on-going financial and economic crisis; however growth was not accompanied by the effective creation of new jobs, and employment declined while unemployment was constantly on the rise. The privatization process and economic restructuring induced a large number of redundancies, between 2001 and 2005 the unemployment rate increased almost twice from 11.1 to 21.8%, while the employment rate decreased by 10 percentage points (Arandarenko, 2007). Evidence shows that in some local communities the majority of companies were either closed or worked at the minimum scale. Presently, about 2/3 of all enterprises are concentrated in the Vojvodina and the City of Belgrade regions. State and public (socially-owned) enterprises are still the major base for over-employment; a structure of employed persons shows an almost even distribution of employees between the private (52%) and state/public (47%) companies. Self-employment<sup>20</sup> has been increasing; its share in total employment peaked in 2009 with 28.6%, but fell afterwards to 25% in 2011 (RSO, 2008-2011, LFS).

The structure of the industrial sector did not change substantially over the last 20 years, as labour intensive industries still prevail in Serbia. About 90% of all industrial enterprises are in low and mid to low technical sub-sectors, which employ 75% of all employees in the sector. However, the employment structure changed as the share of employment in the industrial sector decreased (from 35.9% in 1990 to 26.9% in 2005), while the share of employment in the service sector increased (from 19.6% to 24.3%) (EI, 2010). An increase in employment was also recorded in the sector of unproductive services (from 19.4% to 29.9%).

The recent economic crisis has deepened the labour markets' imbalances. Employment decreased from 47.1% to 36.2% within one year between 2010 and 2011. Interestingly, rural areas are differently affected, as employment rates were higher than in urban areas in both years, and unemployment rates were lower when compared to the urban areas (Table 3.3). These indicators point to a labour oversupply in urban areas, which might be attributed to the previous large-scale internal out-migration from the rural areas. This phenomenon is further confirmed by a sharp decrease of activity rates in the two most developed regions (Belgrade and Vojvodina) since diminished perspectives for employment moved a portion of the working age population to inactive status. For the working age population (15-64) the overall unemployment rate was 20.1% (LFS, March 2011), while NES data (officially registered unemployment) show a rate at 26.5%. Long-term unemployment<sup>21</sup> is another factor which affects migration, as this has been a constant problem for the Serbian labour market. In October 2010, the average share of long-term unemployment among total unemployment was 71.6%, but the situation was worse in South Serbia than in North Serbia with rates of 72% and 77% in both South Serbia's sub-regions, at NUTS 2 level (Table 3.6).

It is difficult to accurately assess the impacts of (highly skilled) emigration upon the Serbian economy and on the labour market. However, it is rather clear that emigration has contributed to the severe reduction of the number of scientists and engineers in the country, as they left Serbia in large numbers. Between 1990 and 2003, the number of researchers (in the fields of science and engineering) fell by 31 percentage points (from 7,742 to 5,364); the situation has been even worse regarding the research staff employed in the industrial sector, where the number of scientists and engineers decreased by 45 percentage points in the same period (Kutlača, 2010)<sup>22</sup>. The results of an empirical research undertaken in 1996 show that the largest number of scientists and engineers left Serbia in the period between 1990 and 1995<sup>23</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> Individual entrepreneurs and their employees.

<sup>21</sup> Unemployment 12 months or longer

<sup>22</sup> In fact, researchers in almost all scientific fields left Serbia, but since 1990 the largest number has been from the areas of electrical engineering, physics, mathematics, chemistry and medicine.

<sup>23</sup> At the beginning of 1993, 1994 and 1995, the Ministry for Science and Technology of the Republic of Serbia and the Institute of International Politics and Economics carried out three empirical researches in all the institutions comprising the scientific and research system of the Republic of Serbia, in order to establish the number of researchers who had gone abroad, their professional profile, the degrees they held at the time of

Serbia has been a source country for health professionals' mobility since the 1960s. It is estimated that a total of 10,000 Serbian health professionals have moved to work abroad, majority went to Germany and Switzerland in the period 1960-1990. (Jekić, 2011). However, there is continuous oversupply of the medical staff (physicians) and it is estimated that migration has rather contributed to easing the unemployment pressure among them. Likewise, migration of health professionals does not seem to have had a negative impact on the health system as a whole, whereby there might be some impacts as regards some medical specialisations and the regional distribution of doctors, especially concerning nurses (ibid).

Migrants from abroad represent different levels of human or cultural capital in terms of education, skills, knowledge and know-how. However, a large part of migration from Serbia is characterized by so-called brain drain, as emigration of the (highly) educated and skilled workers has caused the huge losses for the Republic of Serbia, which has invested substantial financial and other resources into their education. This situation has been underlined in the latest Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum for 2010-2011 which has ranked Serbia among the top countries most affected by brain drain<sup>24</sup> in the world: Serbia ranks among the four worse-off countries in this respect (WEF, 2010)<sup>25</sup> compared to other countries of the Western Balkans; except Bosnia and Herzegovina it has been the most severely affected.

### *Remittances*

According to World Bank data (World Bank, 2011a), the total amount of remittances in Serbia was, for the 2000-2010 period, US\$ 42,963 million (about EUR 32.063 million<sup>26</sup>); In 2010 Serbia ranked very high (at the 20th place) in terms of the volume of remittances transferred. In 2010 remittances represented 13% of national GDP. The transfer of remittances from abroad represents one of the key pillars of macroeconomic stability. Moreover, this flow also represents an additional income of the population for household's consumption (Petree-Baruah, 2007: 46). Remittances are mostly used for the personal consumption, for covering of the costs of maintaining the property of the family in Serbia, for unproductive investments (dwellings, cars...) and savings in the domestic banking sector or as cash stock ('in the mattresses'). Of course, remittances have also contributed to mitigating the effects of the economic crisis in the Republic of Serbia.

## **3.2. Social security**

According to official data from the National Pension Fund, Serbia has signed Social Insurance Agreements with 26 countries<sup>27</sup> which define eligibility conditions for pensions, health insurance, child allowances and other social benefits. Many of these agreements have been signed at the time of the SFYR; these have either been resumed by Serbia and the contracting states after dissolution of the SFYR or have been replaced by new agreements.

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departure, their age, the country of destination, etc. The number of researchers who left in 1990 was 126, in 1991 – 180, in 1992 – 190, in 1993 – 223 and in 1994 – 918 researchers from those institutions which had answered the questionnaire.

<sup>24</sup> Answers to the question: 'Does your country retain and attract talents?' and 'Are there are many opportunities for talented people within the country?'

<sup>25</sup> The report of the World Economic Forum undertakes a ranking of 139 countries of the world in numerous categories. In the category "brain drain" Serbian ranks on the 136<sup>th</sup> place from 139 countries thus being among the worst affected.

<sup>26</sup> The average parity of the US dollar to the Euro for 2010 was 0.7463.

<sup>27</sup> Bilateral agreements on social insurance have been signed with Austria (1998), Belgium (1956), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2003), Bulgaria (1958), Czech Republic (2002), Croatia (2001), Denmark (1980), Germany (1969), France (1951), Hungary (1958), Italy (1959), FYR of Macedonia (2001), Montenegro (2007), the Netherlands (1980), Norway (1975), Poland (1958), Romania (1977), Slovenia (2010), Sweden (1979), Switzerland (1963) and the UK (1958/1960). Agreements with Greece, Cypress, Russia, Ukraine, New Zealand, Australia and Quebec are underway.

Data from the Serbian Pension Fund show that 114,000 pensioners (7.4% of all pensioners in 2011) received pensions from abroad and it is estimated that about 100,000 of them received pensions below EUR 300 (RSD 30,000) (Pension Insurance Fund, 2011). In 2010 pensioners from Serbia (and Kosovo\*) received the following sums: EUR 111 million from Germany; EUR 80.5 million from Austria and EUR 126.9 million from Switzerland<sup>28</sup>. Serbia provides pension payments to pensioners living in 20 states worldwide<sup>29</sup>. More than half of them (10,078 pensioners) live in Germany, Austria, Hungary and France. These pensions are paid every three months to offset high administrative costs (Pension Insurance Fund, 2010). The fund also provides pensions payments for 24,000 persons who are living in the former republics of the SFRY.

Evidence<sup>30</sup> shows that there is lack of sufficient information about retirement conditions in foreign destination countries which seem to cause lower execution of pension rights. Pension funds from Serbia and Austria have recently organized “open days” events in Vienna and Belgrade in order to provide accurate information to potential beneficiaries; similar event were organized in cooperation with the Croatian Pension Fund in May 2011 in Zagreb.

At present the major problems faced by migrants in terms of social security coverage are related to pensions for refugees originating from other former Yugoslav republics. Administrative procedures for the realisation of rights are rather complicated and necessary documents frequently have been lost or destroyed during the armed conflicts of the nineties. For Croatian refugees the problem of co-validation of service years which have been realised while living on the territories that were under the control of Serbian rule or the UN (from 1991-1995) is still unresolved. The current administrative procedure which requires the presentation of a number of documents which in practice are almost impossible to acquire can be identified as the major problem in this context. The experience of refugees shows that very often they are subject to harassment and discrimination by related public officials from former republics (Group 484, 2011: 24). In November 2010 an agreement with Slovenia was signed in order to facilitate the realization of pension rights of around 8,000 pensioners. But the process is rather slow and presently only 300 cases regarding Slovene pensions have been solved. Furthermore, the Slovene Pension Fund will not provide reimbursement for total due payments for delayed pensions, but will only start payments, effective after the date of the official agreement. Due to this agreement pensioners (who are still alive) will lose more than ten years of pension receipts (Pension Insurance Fund, 2011).

### **3.3. Poverty and Social Exclusion<sup>31</sup>**

Social circumstances during the nineties were rather untypical due to the external factors which negatively influenced the economic environment. At that time the living standard of the majority of households was dramatically decreased due to economic and social collapses. In the year 1997 about one third of the households were living under the existential minimum and 5% were living under extreme poverty (Miljanovic, 1998: 111) (Table 1.2). In this period urban households were more affected by poverty than rural ones<sup>32</sup>, especially in view of extreme poverty. At the beginning of 2001 about 35% of the population were living below the poverty line and 35% were close to that line (EC, 2008). Almost one third of the poor population at the time lived in the southern part of the South and East Serbia region, with a high poverty incidence of 21.2%, followed by residents from the western part of Sumadija

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<sup>28</sup> Data provided by a representative of the Pension Fund, published at <http://www.politika.rs/rubrike/Ekonomija/Strane-penzije-na-poslednjem-mestu-zaposlenja.lt.html> (accessed; on 24.04.2011).

<sup>29</sup> Former republics of the SFRY are not included.

<sup>30</sup> Interview with the assistant minister of the MoLSP, published on the ministry's web site (<http://www.minrzs.gov.rs/cms>), accessed 12.05.2011.

<sup>31</sup> Serbia presently applies a national methodology for poverty measurement which is not in accordance with the EUROSTAT poverty definition. National standards relate to the *absolute poverty line* defined as consumption necessary to satisfy basic food and non-food needs. The consumption is adjusted for the household size and composition, using the OECD equivalent scale (1.0/0.7/0.5).

<sup>32</sup> At that time imposed sanctions caused degradation of a large number of companies which resulted in income losses, which affected mostly urban population.

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and West Serbia region with a poverty incidence of 16.5%. In both regions poverty was remarkably higher in rural than in urban areas with a poverty incidence of 27.2% and 17% respectively (Table 3.7).

The significant economic growth after 2001, followed by the growth in real earnings, pensions, social transfers and other income sources, significantly contributed to the poverty reduction in Serbia (RSO, 2008b). From 2002 to 2008 (absolute) poverty incidence rates decreased from 14.0% to 6.1%, the trend was reversed with the economic crisis, in 2010 rates increased to 9.2% (Tables 3.8). It is especially troublesome to note that child<sup>33</sup> poverty increased from 7.3% to 13.7% between 2008 and 2010; this age group was the most affected by the increase of poverty in the observed period. In 2010, the poverty rate of the older population (65+) was measured (7.9%) below the average poverty rate for the first time (Table 3.8). Estimates show that there are between 50,000-100,000 old people (65+) who do not receive any income or pensions (MoLSP, 2011). Increasing trends in poverty can be observed also for households whose head has no education (14.7%), or only elementary education (12.7%). These households are the most vulnerable ones.

The shortage of labour supply in the agriculture sector became evident in the eighties, and the share of the working age population continue to decrease in rural areas; in 2002 in rural areas 17.5% of population was older than 65 years, while average age of urban population was 39.2 and 41.6 of rural (Cities Conference, 2009). The rural households that are the most affected by poverty are ones with their active members employed only in agricultural activities; 72% of those households were living below the poverty line in 2008. Income from employment outside agriculture contributes greatly to the household's budget and determines the family poverty status (RSO, 2008b). Most vulnerable are elderly farmers who are unable to work anymore. According to the current Law on Social Protection persons who own more than 1ha land are not entitled to social assistance. Although the law allows for the transfer of land ownerships' rights to the state (more concretely: to the Centres for Social Work - CSW), evidence<sup>34</sup> shows that CSWs in rural areas are not in the position to implement this regulation as there are no interested parties to buy or rent a land (Republic Institute for Social Care, 2011)<sup>35</sup>. Consequently, elderly in this situation are deprived of social assistance. A high proportion of refugees and IDP families have settled in rural areas, the majority of these households do not own arable land which they could cultivate and are often excluded from the labour markets, which makes them especially vulnerable to poverty and exclusion

Data for 2007 show differences in the poverty status between autochthonous<sup>36</sup> and migrant population groups (RSO, 2008b) and indicate that the migrant population is better off in this respect as the poverty rate of the total migrant population is 2% lower than the rate of the autochthonous population. In case of ethnic minorities the poverty status is much better for the migrant part of the population than for the resident one; especially for Roma, the difference (10.2 percentage points) is larger than for any other ethnic groups (Table 3.9). These differences are expected as migrants usually move in order to improve their economic situation and might lead to the conclusion that migration contributes to alleviating poverty.

As data about material deprivation are not available at district level (RSO, 2011)<sup>37</sup> only the situation between South Serbia, Belgrade and Vojvodina can be compared (Table 3.10). The highest evidence of material deprivation is found in the rural areas of South Serbia. In these areas disparities related to the possession of the basic household appliances are not so prominent<sup>38</sup>.

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<sup>33</sup> 0-13 years.

<sup>34</sup> Article 'Nerazvijena podrucja' in daily newspaper 'Politika', March, 16<sup>th</sup> 2011. .

<sup>35</sup> Serbia presently applies a national methodology for poverty measurement which is not in accordance with the EUROSTAT poverty definition. National standards relate to the *absolute poverty line* defined as consumption necessary to satisfy basic food and non-food needs. The consumption is adjusted for the household size and composition, using the OECD equivalent scale (1.0/0.7/0.5).

<sup>36</sup> Person who has never left the birth place.

<sup>37</sup> Available data do not correspond to the new classification for statistical units.

<sup>38</sup> Differences are pronounced in the age of appliances.

There are no studies which quantify the inflow of remittances and estimate their impact on the poverty alleviation at the national level. A survey conducted in Sandzak (South Serbia) investigated this issue; the results are presented in the subchapter on ethnic minorities further below.

## **4. Labour market and social development trends in net migration loss / gain regions**

### **4.1. Identification of net migration loss / gain regions**

Depopulation effects on social and economic environments are the most noticeable at the level of Local Communities (LCs). The magnitude of the effect at district and regional levels depends on their development status and their ability to absorb migration flows within its vicinities (Map 2). Data on population flows in underdeveloped LCs show that, even though communities experienced depopulation in 1971-2002 period, the proportion of population living in administrative centres increased in relation to other settlements within the same community (Table 4.1). Such trends threaten the socio-economic survival of depopulated settlements and weaken their demographic capacities. The first to be affected are smaller, less developed LCs, which are geographically further away from developed urban centres, usually with a population below 30,000. A drastic example is the LC Crna Trava<sup>39</sup> located in the Jablancki district (South and East Serbia region), whose population decreased by 90 percentage points during the 1971-2007 period (Box 8).

During the period between 1991 and 2002, out of 161 Local Communities, 75% had population losses; in 20% of them the decrease was above 10% (Penev, 2010). In 57% of the communities the annual population growth rate was -10‰, while in the rest of the LCs the loss of population was even higher (between -10 and -20‰)<sup>40</sup>.

Looking at migration and population developments at NUTS 1 level (North and South Serbia) there is a clear distinction for the period between 1991 and 2002 between the North region on the one side, which registers a net migration gain, and the South region, on the other side, with net migration losses (Map 3). This difference however has been narrowing, since in the last decade a net gain has been minimal in Vojvodina and Belgrade (Table 2.18). The overall population growth (natural growth and migration) between 1991 and 2009 was 0.4% in the North region while it was largely negative (-7.23%) in the South region.

In 2010 the North region has been officially classified as developed region, while the South region has been classified as underdeveloped (for development criteria, see Box 3). Territorial development indicators show a clear advanced position of the North with a more developed economy which is much less developed in the South region (Table 3.15). In the North region the number of companies (per km<sup>2</sup>) and newly constructed housing units is above the national average, with considerable advancement of Belgrade, while both regions of the South have indicators below the national average. Road infrastructure is 10% below the national average in these parts. Average wage disparities are prominent, in South Serbia they are 17% below the average level (RSO, 2010).

The regional employment structure also reflects the regional development status. Employment in agriculture and low/mid technical industries dominates in overall employment in South Serbia, whereas a comparative higher proportion of employees work in the service sector in North Serbia, in particular in Belgrade (Table 3.4). In North Serbia almost one third (30%) of employees received wages above EUR 650 (RSD 65,000) in March 2011, which was twice the average wage in Serbia, while in South Serbia this share was only 17% (Table 3.5). Such conditions have influenced migration of the qualified labour force to centres with better earning opportunities. The qualification structure of employees follows this pattern

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<sup>39</sup> 9,672 inhabitants in 1971.

<sup>40</sup> Except in Crna Trava (located in the Jablancka district of the South and East Serbia region, where it even reached - 34.8%).

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(RSO 2010a, Table 3.1). The majority (32.7%) of the employed labour force in Serbia has secondary education, followed by those holding a university degree (22.9%) (RSO, 2010a). The regional distribution shows that employees in Belgrade have the highest qualifications, while those from the region Sumadija and West Serbia (South Serbia) have the lowest qualification structure (Table 3.1), which confirms a well-known fact that the majority of non-resident Belgrade students remain in the city after graduation.

The South Serbia region has 3.56 million inhabitants (Census, 2011), it is divided into 2 sub-regions at NUTS 2 level:

The **South and East Serbia** region with its 9 districts and 51 Local Communities (LCs) counts a population of 1.66 million (2009); historically, it has been a dominantly underdeveloped area, partially due to its geographical characteristics, mostly mountain areas with very little arable land and a low traffic infrastructure. Region has one university centre and a clinical centre in Nis, which is the third largest town in Serbia.

This region is presently facing an alarming demographic situation:

Preliminary results of the last 2011 census show that the South and East Serbia region had the largest population decrease (of 11.5%) and the largest share of population abroad 6.96%, (national average: 4.13%) compared to 2002 census. Two districts (NUTS 3) - Borska and Zajecarska districts - had the highest national population decrease (15.5% and 14% respectively), followed by another neighboring district; Pirotaska with 13.7% depopulation (RSO, 2011b). The two (neighbouring) districts **Borska** and **Zajecarska**, can be singled out here due to their long history of depopulation which has been acknowledged<sup>41</sup> for the several decades however, constantly neglected by the state officials. Presently these areas are impoverished in all aspects; its human and social capital is too weak and inadequate to reverse a complete devastation of the whole area.

Each of these districts<sup>42</sup> now has four LCs: Bor, Negotin, Kladovo and Majdanpek ( Borska district) and Zajecar, Knjazevac, Sokobanja and Boljevac (Zajecarska district). The area of the two districts spreads on 8% of the republic's territory; the total population of both districts in 2009 (256,887) represented only 3.5% of the total Serbian population and the population density (only 36/km<sup>2</sup>) was less than half of the national average (83/km<sup>2</sup>). The ethnic composition of the population is rather homogenous; the majority are Serbs (81% in Borska district and 90% in Zajecarska district) while the second largest ethnic group are the Vlachs (11% in Borska district and 5% in Zajecarska district). Both districts are located on the state borders (with Romania the Borska district and with Bulgaria the Zajecarska district); for this reason their development suffered from the "hard-line border policy" practiced from 1948 to 1970, when the state did not invest into the areas bordering with the Eastern European countries. The Borska district is located in a Pan-European transport<sup>43</sup> corridor. The landscape in both districts is heterogeneous, largely constituted of hills and mountain areas, while low land constitutes only 6% of the territory. More than half of the territory is classified as agricultural land (which is still 13% below the Serbia's average), mostly suitable for the production of fruits and vegetables and for livestock farming, since 40% of the agricultural land belongs to meadows and pastures. The Borska district has significant reserves of copper, gold, and silver; mining has been present in these parts for the several thousand years. The Zajecarska district has reserves of coal, anthracite and lignite. Both areas have the valuable historic monuments from the Roman periods and areas of the natural beauty reserves (Republic Agency for Territorial Planning, 2010).

In the period from 1971 to 2007<sup>44</sup> the overall population decrease was 22% in the Borska district and 25% in Zajecarska, while in four of the local communities the population decrease

<sup>41</sup> Named as "Timocka white plague", this area has an unofficial name *Timocka krajina*.

<sup>42</sup> Eight LCs from these districts were constituted as one region (Zajecarski) until 1991; in 1992 they were divided into 2 districts.

<sup>43</sup> Corridor VII; 9.5% of the corridor passes through Borska district.

<sup>44</sup> RSO Annual Yearbooks on Local Communities Statistics (1981, 1984, 2010).



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even reached 32 to 38%, mostly affected local community was Knjazevac<sup>45</sup>. Emigration abroad has registered upward trends in both districts, although not of the same degree (Map 4). The Borska district is the most affected by emigration abroad as the average share of persons working/living abroad came to 16% in 2002, which was three times the national average; in some of the local communities within the district (Kladovo and Negotin) this share even exceeded 30% (RSO, 2010a). In the Zajecarska district the share of emigrants was lower (4%) and closer to the republic average (of 5.20%)<sup>46</sup>. It is evident that these parts of the country did not attract in-migration, as both districts have a higher share of autochthonous population than the average (62.5% in the Borska district and 55% in the Zajecarska district).

The demographic characteristics of the population in the two districts have been negatively affected by depopulation as indicators point to an above the average population ageing: In 2009 in both districts the ageing index<sup>47</sup> was 60-80% above the national average (of 108.6) (Stojanovic, 2005; see also Map 5)<sup>48</sup>, while the average age was also higher than the national 41.2 average age (45.8 and 42.9 years respectively). The share of the old age population (65+) is also higher than the national average of 16.5% (18.2% in the Borska district and 23.4% in the Zajecarska district) which has negative effects on the labour market's potentials. Accordingly the proportion of the fertile female population in the total population is also below the national average and natural growth rates are highly negative as the result of such situation<sup>49</sup>. It seems that over time only the most vulnerable population groups did not migrate: old persons, the unqualified and poor, as the neglect of the relevant authorities to intervene in due time accelerated out-migration of the active population, the remaining human capacities are not capable to bring a revitalisation in these areas. Some of the negative effects of depopulation and the disappearance of smaller settlements could not be reversed by in-migration; this refers in particular to the loss of the cultural heritage specific to this geographic area, as a product of the multi-cultural mix of different ethnic groups.

During more prosperous times the economy of the area relied largely on mining and related processing industries and the majority of income was generated by the industrial sector (in 1984 it was 37.8% above the republic average). In the same year GDP/per capita in both districts<sup>50</sup> was 116.2% of the national average, while it had decreased to 67.5% of the average until 2009. Major economic force in Borska district was a state mine which produced the high quality copper ore however, at the beginning of nineties, due to the sanctions imposed on Serbia and interruption of the trade, the mines practically ceased with the production. Presently they are largely indebted and the government is looking for the ways to re-start the production. The economy in Zajecarska district relied mostly on the processing industry located in the local community of Zajecar (textile, glass, food), which also collapsed due to the loss of markets in the nineties. Nowadays, the specific profile of the existing companies attracts little investment; in 2009, out of all investments in the Borska district only 16% were put in the new capacities; in Zajecarska this share was 24%, while the national average was 55%. In the same year only 0.8% out of all national economic investments were placed in these two districts. According to the development classification undertaken in 2010 by the Ministry of Economy, the economic and social development of the eight local communities of the two districts remains below the national average.<sup>51</sup> Four communities ranged between 80 and 100% of the national development average, three were classified as underdeveloped<sup>52</sup> and one (Knjazevac) was classified as devastated<sup>53</sup>. The local

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<sup>45</sup> With a population loss of 38.8 percentage point of population. In the 1953 Census this local community counted 60,000 inhabitants; preliminary data of the 2011 Census indicates 32,763 inhabitants.

<sup>46</sup> In the highly depopulated local community of Knjazevac it was only 1.9%

<sup>47</sup> Ageing index = (60+)/(-15).

<sup>48</sup> In the Zajecarska district it was 178.5 and 127.5 in the Borska district.

<sup>49</sup> National average: 23.1% (21.4% in Borska district and 19.5% in Zajecarska district). Natural growth rate: national average of -4.6/1,000 (for Borska district -9.7 and -12.2 for Zajecarska district).

<sup>50</sup> At the time it was Zajecarska district.

<sup>51</sup> According to official criteria for development classification (2010).

<sup>52</sup> 80-60% of the republic average.

<sup>53</sup> <60% of the republic average.

communities Bor and Zajecar, which are districts' administrative centres, have not been developed sufficiently to be in a position to absorb the labour force from the neighbouring communities. Although these areas have good perspectives for development of tourism, this sectors had never been utilised until recently; presently the major obstacle for their advancement is their low human capital.

**The Sumadija and West Serbia** region with 2.01 million inhabitants in 2011<sup>54</sup> and with 8 districts has 52 LC's. It has two university centres (Kragujevac and Novi Pazar) and a clinical centre in the town of Kragujevac, the fourth largest town in the country. By the official classification 16 local communities (31%) were classified as underdeveloped in 2010, ten out of these were classified as devastated communities. In the period between 2002 and 2011 the population decreased by 5.8%; only one district (Raska) had a population increase, owing to the natural growth, mostly in the LC of Novi Pazar. The share of population living abroad reaches 4.9%, which is close to the national average (4.13%), however, several LCs have a very high proportion of population abroad: Svilajnac-28.7%, Cuprija-17.1%, Tutin-13.5%, Sjenica-9.7% and Novi Pazar-9.5%. In the 1991-2009 period this region lost 145,000 inhabitants<sup>55</sup>. In two districts the decrease was around 10%. Between 1991 and 2002 a net population gain was realised in districts surrounding the "Corridor 10 route, around larger urban areas and within the Moravicka district situated on the border with Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H), this gain being primarily the result of refugees' arrival Net losses in this region were realised mainly in the Zlatiborska and Raska districts, in the local communities located on the border with B&H, which are mainly populated by the Bosnian ethnic minority. Four LCs from these districts had net migration losses of above 10‰ (two with losses above 15‰) and all of these four communities have been classified as devastated. Emigration abroad in the 1991-2002 period was less intensive than in other regions (Map 4), however in the period 2002-2011 in two underdeveloped districts of Zlatiborska and Raska, the share of persons who emigrated abroad in some communities<sup>56</sup> was above the national average (5%) being in a range between 10-15%. The ageing of population is characteristic of this region; except in only one district (Raska), where the average population age is at a rather low level (30 years)<sup>57</sup>

Following developments under Section 4.2 and 4.3 will concentrate on the Borska and Zajecarska districts of the South and East region, as these areas have been the most affected by out-migration, depopulation and socio-economic decline in the past two decades.

#### **4.2. Labour market development in net migration loss / gain regions**

A major downsizing in employment occurred during the nineties, when the production of the industrial sector was at the minimum level and the generated income was more than halved between 1990 and 2007 (RARIS, 2010); In the two largest local communities of the Borska and Zajecarska districts employment had decreased by 63%. In 1981 the number of employees per inhabitant was 8% higher in both districts than the national average, while in 2009 it was 18% lower in Borska and 22% lower in Zajecarska (RSO, 1984 and RSO 2011). The industrial and economic downfall of both districts has certainly been a major cause for out-migration in the region which has itself triggered a vicious cycle of depopulation, ageing and further decline on the labour market. During the same period the size of the working age population (15-64 years) dropped by about one third (27.4%) while the proportion of this population group in 2009 was lower than the national average (67.7%)<sup>58</sup> (RSO, 1984 and 2011). Also the active population significantly dropped in the same period, both being below

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<sup>54</sup> Preliminary results census 2011.

<sup>55</sup> Which corresponds to a reduction in population by 6.6%.

<sup>56</sup> In LC Varvarin 15%, in prijeopolje 12% in Novi Pazar 9.5% in Tutin 13.4% (RSO, Census 2011).

<sup>57</sup> In particular in the local communities of Tutin and Novi Pazar (RSO. 2010a).

<sup>58</sup> By 2 percentage points in the Borska district and by 4.3 percentage points in the Zajecarska district.

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Serbian average of 53.7%<sup>59</sup>. Registered unemployment is close to the national average however, long-term unemployment rates are lower<sup>60</sup>.

The employment structure also changed significantly over the last two decades: in 1984 almost half (46%) of the employees worked in the industrial and mining sector, this proportion was reduced to 29% in 2009 (for Borska district) and to 24% (for Zajecarska district), while the state sector (administration, health care, social and education) absorbed about one quarter of all employed labour force in both districts. The service sectors, tourism, trade and financial services are underdeveloped and employ only 7.2% (Borska) and 7.8% (Zajecarska) of the labour force, three times less than the national average (23.5%)<sup>61</sup>. Average net wages were also below Serbian average in both districts<sup>62</sup> while in several local communities they reached only about half of the national average.

About 81% of the agricultural land is owned by private farms, of rather small size, however (48% of households own only on average 2.9ha). This distribution does not allow a productive farming and the use of the agricultural machines and efficient investment in improvements of production. Moreover, hundreds of years of intensive mining<sup>63</sup> have had negative ecological consequences on the agricultural land since about 15% of agricultural land was not in use in 2007, vineyards and orchards were underutilized, while meadows and pastures were not cultivated. Although the area has advantages for cattle farming the average number of cattle per farm was less than half of the national level (Republic Agency for Territorial Planning, 2010: 58). The low level of agricultural production is the result of an ageing agricultural labour force and the lack of adequate road infrastructure and marketing potentials. Migration, depopulation and ageing have had the greatest impact on the capacities of the agricultural population; its number in absolute terms was reduced by 75 percentage points, between 1981 and 2002<sup>64</sup>. It is apparent now that the agricultural population in some LCs is disappearing, although these LCs are not dominantly urban settlements<sup>65</sup>. The share of the active agricultural population compared to the active population in total has been constantly decreasing (from 52% in 1981, to 18% in 2002 and 10.3% in 2007). Consequently, only 5.5% of the households earned their income only from agriculture in 2009. In 2010 about 15% of the active agricultural population was older than 70 years which is above the republic average (RARIS, 2010 and Republic Agency for Territorial Planning, 2010).

Even though the share of Serbian migrant workers abroad originating from these areas has been high since 1981, evidence shows that these rarely invested in agriculture. Data from 1985 (Mikulic, 1988: 406) reveals that out of those migrants who previously lived in rural areas and returned back to their farms, 77% did not invest any money for agricultural production, while 11.6% invested up to US \$ 6,000. More recent evidence<sup>66</sup> seems to indicate that in Serbian migrants abroad originating from Zajecarska district still spend enormous sums of money for housing construction, although nobody lives in these houses. Such practices reveal the lack of opportunities for investment and failure of local officials to create an investment environment in favour of local development.

Data on population's educational attainment and work qualifications provide an explanation for the employment's structure. Although educational attainment improved between 1991 and 2002 it was still much below the national average in both districts; the proportion of

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<sup>59</sup> The activity rates decreased from 79% (1991) to 51.8% (2002) in Borska and to 48.7% in Zajecarska,

<sup>60</sup> In June 2010 the unemployment rate in Borska district was 13.6% and in Zajecarski 15.8%, while the national average was 14.6%. Long-term unemployment: Borska 56.3%, Zajecarski 48.1%, compared to a national average of 65.7%.

<sup>61</sup> The proportion of self-employed persons also is lower than the national average of 27%, in Borski it is 18% and 24% in the Zajecarski district.

<sup>62</sup> In Borska district wages reached 92.4% of national average, in Zajecarski district 78.2%.

<sup>63</sup> This is mostly present on the territory of two LCs: Bor and Majdanpek.

<sup>64</sup> From 121,107 to 30,384 persons. In the local community of Knjazevac it was reduced from 19,651 to 2,244.

<sup>65</sup> In these twenty years the proportion of agricultural population was reduced from 34% to 10.9% in Borska and from 39% to 10.5% in the Zajecarska district.

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.srpskadijaspora.info/vest.asp?id=12393>, Serbian Internet newspaper, accessed on 11.10.2011.

population with primary or less than primary education reached up to 65% in 2002 (Table 4.2).

There are no studies about the labour market capacities of these areas; still the above mentioned figures point to the lower supply of labour in these two districts most affected by migration and depopulation, especially a low supply of qualified labour force. This might be illustrated by a recent unusual anecdotal situation which occurred in the shipyard “Rayne Danube” in Kladovo, where the company had to employ 90 workers from Romania, to finish contractual obligations (ship’s repairs), since they could not recruit the local workers<sup>67</sup>.

In the recent years these migration loss areas have gained increased attention at national level, mainly as they have been incorporated into cooperation programmes with the bordering countries and their potential for the inclusion in the Danube Corridor programmes have been investigated. The Regional Development Agency adopted two documents<sup>68</sup> in 2010 with the objective of strategic planning for the development of these districts. Both documents have pointed to the demographic problems as being a main obstacle to the future development potential of the districts. According to projections for 2021, the population of the Borska district will further decline by 27% and that of the Zajecarska district by 22% by this date. It seems now that it is already too late to initiate a “demographic recovery” quoted by regional officials as a prerequisite for any future development.

#### **4.3. Poverty and social exclusion in net migration loss / gain regions**

Trends of long-term depopulation of rural areas have the most negative effects in underdeveloped regions. Although poverty has decreased in rural areas since 2002 a slowdown in socio-economic development in these parts brought a rise in the discrepancy between the two types of settlements. In 2002 rural poverty incidence was by 45 percentage points higher than in urban areas while in 2007 it was already 125 percentage points higher (RSO, 2008b). Out-migration has caused serious social exclusion problems for rural households, especially in remote areas; the majority of them now live in underdeveloped areas.

There are no available data on poverty and material deprivation at the level of districts (NUTS 3) in Serbia. Available data for the Eastern<sup>69</sup> part of the South and East Serbia region (in which the Borska and Zajecarska districts are located) show that the share of poor households from this part of the country to poor households in Serbia in general is larger than the share of households of this area to the total number of households in Serbia, which is also the case for the South Serbia region taken as a whole (RSO, 2008b; Table 3.7). In 2002 the poverty incidence for the urban population (12.9%) in the Eastern part of the region South and East Serbia was slightly above the national average (11.2%), while the poverty incidence for the rural population (13.9%) remained below the national average (17.7%). However, the poverty status of the population in the region did not change substantially in the period between 2002 and 2007 when a meaningful reduction of poverty was achieved at national level. Consequently the poverty incidence of the urban population (11.2%) is higher than the national average of 4.3% in 2007, while the incidence for the rural population (9.2%) is close to the national average (9.8%), but above the overall republic average of 6.8%. These trends show that poverty has remained a serious issue in these areas, although the situation has improved in the country as a whole, especially in the rural parts which is a common feature for all rural settlements in Serbia.

Although there are no available data on material deprivation at district’s levels, evidence, mainly from media sources, show that housing conditions in rural areas are very poor, in a number of remote villages there is no running water or sewage, still the inhabitants quote a lack of adequate road network as their main problem, especially during winter, when villages

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<sup>67</sup> See: Article “U Kaldovu radnici iz Rumunije” in the newspaper ‘Blic’, of 21.03.2010.

<sup>68</sup> Regional Development Strategy of Timocka Krajina 2010, Regional Development Agency; Regional territorial Plan of Timocka Krajina.

<sup>69</sup> For research purposes data for South and East Serbia Region were presented for the Eastern and Southern parts of this region separately in 2002 and 2007.

are cut-off from the nearest urban centres. In 2010 both the Borska and Zajecarska districts had the same proportion of households with running water (72%), which was 10% below the national average, and the proportion with sewage system was 39% in Borska and 47% in Zajecarska, also below the national average of 52%. Data on income adequacies disaggregated at the same territorial level (2006) show that population from this area is worse off compared to the republic average, less than one third of households (31.7%) declared that their income is sufficient to satisfy the basic needs, which is below the national average of 40.5%. Lack of financial resources is also a reason why only in 12.3% of households, at least one family member, went on vacation; the average was 23.5% households (IPH, 2007).

Social and health care services that are financed from the central budget are to a certain extent available to the majority of the population in the areas which are in our focus. In almost all LCs the number of inhabitants per physician is above the national average, which is partially the result of the ongoing depopulation, while the number of medical staff remained the same (IPH, 2010). Life expectancy for both genders is close to the national average, although the health of the population especially from the Borska<sup>70</sup> district is endangered by high air pollution and land contamination. Since the district economy has been deteriorating, community budgets proved to be insufficient to fund social services which should by law be provided by the local budgets. In 2010 the budget per capita from both districts was below the national average, 73.7% and 64.9% of the average for the Borska and Zajecarska district respectively. Under such circumstances the provision of day care services, improvements in primary health care and primary schools are not feasible. This primarily affects people living in remote and desolated areas which are difficult to reach due to poor roads as local communities cannot afford funding of mobile teams which could reach all villages, especially during the long winters (Box 8). The network of primary and secondary schools is adequate however, these areas face the problem of reduction of school-age children, so officials are forced to close a number of schools, downgrade<sup>71</sup> the existing ones and reduce number of teaching staff.

## **5. Impact of migration on vulnerable groups**

### **5.1. Women**

There are no research studies on the impacts of migration on the female population in Serbia so no conclusions can be formulated on this subject. Nevertheless, it might be said that women are more likely to be exposed to certain vulnerability: Even though there are no differences in education coverage from elementary to higher education there are differences in postgraduate education, where among Master and PhD degrees holders the women share is about 30%. The latest HBS (2010/2011) data show that women are still behind men regarding employment and activity status (Table 3.3). The difference in activity rates (67% male, 51% female) and employment rates (54.4% male, 39.9% female) are meaningful. The unemployment rates for the female refugee population are higher by 15 percentage points than the national average for female, for IDPs they are higher by 32 and for Roma females by 39 percentage points. The female population is more likely to work as non-paid assisting family member (13.3%) than men (4.7%), especially in the southern regions.

### **5.2. Children**

The vulnerability of the child population is of special concern regarding the potential negative impacts of migration. Negative impacts could be observed in two situations: the first one relates to situations when children are left behind by their parent(s), the second one refers to children who have returned to the country under different circumstances. There are no precise data available about the number of children who left the country with their parents or on the number of children left behind by migrating family members. Available official data

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<sup>70</sup> Bor is the most polluted local community in the republic.

<sup>71</sup> Schools infrastructure was not repaired or modernised due to the lack of funding

show that out of 111 registered families that left the country in 1991, 22.5% left without children (RSO, Census 1991). There are no studies on potential negative impacts of parent's absence on children development in Serbia. However, the following example reveals possible negative effects in such situations. In three local communities in the Pomoravska District<sup>72</sup> about 5,000 children live with their grandparents and see their parents who are working abroad only during the summer vacation. Data from the Centres for Social Work<sup>73</sup> from this district show that juvenile delinquency is on the rise; among registered delinquents there is a high share of children from migrant parent's families. Another behavioural problem relates to the increase of illegal drug use and alcohol abuse. Psychologists from the CSWs pointed out that parents send money to their children, but do not supervise its spending. There are no specific research studies about this phenomenon at the national or regional levels, although it can be expected that such occurrence is not specific to this district only.

Census data of the 2002 reveal that out of the total number of registered returnees from abroad, 47.6% were children of 19 years or younger (Stevanovic, R. in RSO, 2006a). Young adults aged 20-24 represented 11% of the returnees. Both NUTS 2 regions (North and South Serbia) have almost the same proportions of young returnees; estimates (ibid.) are that these children have returned to Serbia for continuation of their education<sup>74</sup>. From the official government documents<sup>75</sup> it is evident that the problems which hamper the continuation of education are common for most children in different segments of families who return or enter the country:

- Lack of documents (IDs, diploma certificates) very often impedes the continuation of the school career or school enrolment. Mostly endangered are IDPs, refugees and forced returnees.
- Language barriers and difficulties with the Cyrillic alphabet have been documented among IDPs, Roma and returnee children born in other countries.
- The number of 'dropout' cases is higher among Roma children, poor children and female children from underdeveloped areas.
- School achievements are lower among the above mentioned groups. A study about children from refugee<sup>76</sup> families (Pavlov, 2008) has revealed that these children have lower school achievements (regarding achieved grades) than domicile children.

A special concern is also the health care and health protection coverage of migrant children in following cases: the immunization coverage is low among IDP and Roma children and lacking documents and parents' awareness often hinder adequate health treatment for the children. The continuation of therapies for returnee children is sometimes difficult due to differences in health protocols.

The divorce of parents, when one parent is in Serbia and the other abroad causes difficulties regarding alimony payments. According to the Ministry of Finance (MoF) about 300 children are currently waiting for the decision on child alimony payments from abroad; on average payments range from EUR 150 to 200<sup>77</sup>. The MoF is responsible for processing the appeals mainly on behalf of the mothers which are living in Serbia; the majority of requests are towards parents living in Germany (135), Switzerland (33) and Austria (30). These procedures are lengthy and very often fathers have changed addresses and are difficult to locate.

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<sup>72</sup> Sumadija and West Serbia region (NUTS 2).

<sup>73</sup> Internet newspaper for Serbian Diaspora, April, 2009, <http://www.srpskadijaspora.info/vest.asp?id=12210>.

<sup>74</sup> In absolute numbers this is not a large population: 14,637 of children up to 19 years and 3,617 persons of the age of 20 to 24 years.

<sup>75</sup> Strategy for Integration of Returnees based on Readmission Agreement, National Strategy for Resolution of Issues of Refugees and IDP's 2011-2014, Strategy of Sustainable Living of IDPs.

<sup>76</sup> Refugees from former Yugoslav republics in Serbia.

<sup>77</sup> <http://forum.burek.com/index.php/topic,70834.0/wap2.html> (Article -interview with the assistant minister; accessed on 08/04/2011).

### **5.3. Elderly**

Census data show that in 2002, that 61.2% of households with persons of 65 or older were single member households. In 2009, the poverty rate for persons older than 65 years was 7.5%, and for those older than 75 years 8.8%. According to the LSMS 2007 (RSO, 2008b) persons older than 65 who do not receive pensions were three times poorer than the general population, which confirms an important role of pensions in decreasing poverty of older people. Most vulnerable are autochthonous households in rural areas with an above average poverty rate of 15.1%. Some estimates show that about 100,000 persons older than 65 are living without pensions (MoLSP, 2011).

A most important consequence of the external migration on elderly population relates to the provision (or its absence) of financial aid and (other forms of) needed care in cases when they cannot provide such care for themselves. Elderly people whose children are living abroad might receive better financial support as their children are in a better economic position to assist them. Namely, under the normative practice, children are hold responsible for the care of their elderly parents if they cannot care for themselves; if older persons apply for social assistance, CSWs<sup>78</sup> are authorized to initiate a court procedure requesting for fulfilment of this obligation by a child (children). Under the newly adopted Law on Social Protection (2011) older people can apply for social assistance (financial benefits) in case the children live abroad without the obligation for CSWs to start up a procedure for resuming the responsibility of their children since it is usually impossible for CSW staff to trace and contact children in other countries. In 2010 out of the total number of elderly who received social assistance, only 8% were categorised as 'persons without family care'. In the same year the total number of elderly beneficiaries increased by 60% as compared to 2005; 48% received care as chronically ill or disabled persons.<sup>79</sup> Anecdotal evidence<sup>80</sup> shows that in most cases children take care of their elder parents by sending financial support

A second impact of migration on elderly relates to demographic trends within the community or larger areas with high proportions of old people and consequently low human capital resources. Such situation is the most obvious in South-East Serbia region which has the highest share of persons working/living abroad and the highest share of old population. A survey conducted in 2006 (IPH, 2007) shows that households from this region were also worse off in income adequacy compared to other regions (Table 3.11). In these areas, local communities are less capable in answering the needs for social protection and inclusion than more developed areas<sup>81</sup>. Inequalities in the provision of social services at the local level for the elderly population is widening in Serbia. In Belgrade and the Vojvodina a number of services for this population are available<sup>82</sup>, while only few communities in South Serbia provide such services. In 2010, only 12% of all local communities had a Day Care Centre for elderly and 25% of them had Clubs for Elderly (Vukovic, 2010; 9).

### **5.4. Post-conflict Refugees and IDPs**

Since 1991 Serbia has received the largest number of refugees and IDPs within Europe. The main arrival of refugees from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia occurred between 1991/92 and 1995/96, due to war and ethnic persecution.

The last refugee registration, which was conducted during 2004/2005, provides a detailed profile of the remaining refugee population in Serbia (Commissariat for Refugees, 2007). Out of the total refugee population a large majority (73.5%) came from Croatia<sup>83</sup> and 97% of them are of Serbian nationality. The age structure shows that the majority (60%) were in age group of 18-59 years, while 26% are above 60 years old. About 3,000 children were born in Serbia.

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<sup>78</sup> Upon the approval of the person who applied for assistance.

<sup>80</sup> TV documentaries, newspaper articles.

<sup>80</sup> TV documentaries, newspaper articles.

<sup>81</sup> See subchapter 3.2.

<sup>82</sup> Home care, clubs for the elderly.

<sup>83</sup> 26.4% came from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the beginning of the influx the dominance of the female population was significant with 67% of female refugees while at present the proportion of women is only slightly higher than the male refugee population. However among the older population (above 60 years old) the proportion of women is 64%. The majority of refugees resided in North Serbia (48.4% in Vojvodina, 28.7% in Belgrade) while 22.7% lived in South Serbia, and 0.2% in Kosovo\* (Map 6) (Commissariat for Refugees, 2007). In the last registration a decrease of the number of refugees located in Belgrade was registered, which is explained by better employment opportunities that motivate refugees to also apply and obtain citizenship (ibid.). Only 19% of the registered refugees in 2005 owned a place of living, and 4.2% were still accommodated in collective centres. Unemployment among the refugee population remained very high (60%); the education structure shows that about 47% have secondary education, 22% elementary education, 20% have not finished elementary education and only 8% have higher education, which is much lower than the national average of educational attainment.

In 1999, due to political unrest, which resulted on the territory of the Serbian Province Kosovo and Metohija, about 200,000 persons left the Province, In June 1999, the UN resolution 1244 was adopted which introduced a temporary UN governance regime in the Province. Until January 2010, 210,000 persons originating from the Province were registered with the IDP status in Serbia. It is estimated that about 18,000-20,000 persons have returned to Kosovo\*. Of the 210,000 IDPs in Serbia 65.3% have settled in South Serbia, 28.3% in Belgrade and 6.36% in Vojvodina. In 2002 the Serbian government issued a decree which regulated the social rights of IDPs and which secured health protection and pension rights acquired in Kosovo\* also for the period before declaration of independence of the province in 2008. This IDP population is faced with somewhat different problems due to the unsettled relation with the present administration in Kosovo\*. Among this population group, the ethnic minority groups of the Roma and the Ashkali are in the most difficult position and their status has remained unsettled during the whole period. This situation is caused mainly by their previous unresolved status during their stay in the province of Kosovo\*.

Serbia has secured admission and assistance for all displaced persons. Some of the refugees found residency with friends and relatives, other secured accommodation by their own means while the government has secured accommodation for the others in Collective Centres. Collective Centres were either an official temporary accommodation – secured by the Commissioner for Refugees or unofficial – when people independently moved in abandoned buildings or were assisted through local initiatives. In 1996 there were 700 of such centres with 70,000 refugees accommodated in them. Over time, the Collective Centres were gradually closed since they did not provide adequate living conditions; at present there are 60 centres (17 are located in Kosovo\*) counting 6,000 persons (1,300 refugees and 4,700 IDPs). Although the mid-nineties were marked as one of the most difficult period for Serbian citizens due to the downfall of the economy and the social sector, the government has provided the same level of social rights to refugees and displaced persons, along with the right to employment which has contributed to easing their integration into society. It is evident that the influx of refugees and IDPs has generated an enormous heavy pressure on social care services during the nineties when capacities of these services were undermined by the bad economic and social situation. The major burden was placed on the Centres for Social Work (CSW) whose main role is to deliver social services at the municipality level. Nonetheless, health care was provided to all refugees, as well as elementary and secondary education for children and social care for vulnerable persons. Estimates show that for these purposes the government has spent about EUR 250 million from its own resources<sup>84</sup>. Estimates from the Commissariat for Refugees<sup>85</sup> show that during the period between 1992 and 2011, the share of annual expenditures on average was 3.5% of the national budget.

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<sup>84</sup> EUR 42 million for housing and social care, EUR 72 million for health care and EUR 150 million for education (See: Commissariat for Refugees, 2009).

<sup>85</sup> Interview with Mr. Cucic, Commissar for Refugees, in the daily newspaper 'Politika', on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.



As IDPs are still facing problems with missing documents, children from IDP families have been authorised to enrol at elementary school without ID documents, however, graduation certificates are issued only upon the submission of the necessary documents. All IDPs and refugees who have a valid ID card are entitled to health insurance. Data show that 16% of Roma IDPs were not covered by health insurance and also 1.6% of other nationalities (Gov. R. Serbia, 2010a). The structure of social benefits' recipients is following: child allowances: 42% of Roma households, financial support (MOP): 18.9% of the Roma households.

### **5.5. Roma**

There are no exact information on the size of Roma population in Serbia<sup>86</sup>. Latest available data from the 2002 Census<sup>87</sup> show that the registered Roma population represented the third largest ethnic group with 108,000 residents officially registered, which was 1.4% of total population (RSO, Census, 2002) (Table 5.1), The latest estimate, based on data of the Council of Europe for Serbia is that there are 600,000 Roma in the country (8.1% of total population) (EC, 2011). Additionally, 38,000 Roma that moved from Kosovo\* hold the IDP status (Gov. R. Serbia, 2010a).

The majority of Roma population lives within ethnically closed settlements; there are 593 identified settlements whose regional distribution is uneven: out of the total number of local communities in Serbia only 12% of them do not have any Roma settlements. Estimates show that 25% of the Roma live in slums; only 61% of Roma households are equipped with adequate water supply and only 32% are connected to a sewage system. 70% do not have regulated legal and communal status (Gov. R. Serbia, 2010a).

Census 2002 data showed that the majority (76%) speaks their mother language (Romani); 37% of children do not speak Serbian, while 46% of pre-school children have limited knowledge of the Serbian language. Internally displaced Roma mostly speak only Albanian (Gov. R. Serbia, 2010). Their educational attainment is very low as 61% did not finish elementary school, 8% finished secondary school (41% national average) and only 0.3% finished high school. Estimates show that within the domicile Roma population, 39% of the persons do not own any ID documents; within the Roma IDP population the percentage is even higher (Gov. R. Serbia, 2010).

As there are also no research studies on migration patterns and effects of migration for the Roma population, it is rather difficult to assess the effective situation regarding Roma migration trends in Serbia. It is reasonable to assume that due to their low educational level and lack of necessary documents the majority of them do not hold permanent jobs in foreign countries. Further, it can be assumed that they usually form the large majority of returning migrants to Serbia as this is suggested by data on the ethnic structure of forced returnees that show that more than 80% of them are Roma (Commissariat for Refugees 2010/11).

When observing internal migration, available survey results indicate that the Roma population migrates less than the average population (RSO, 2008b). Out of the total number of the surveyed Roma only 32% have changed their residence at least once (Table 5.10). Census 2002 data also show that around 12.9% of the total Roma population were recorded as emigrants; 50% of them settled in Germany and 27.1% in Austria (Table 5.5). This is probably under-recorded as the experience gained after the implementation of the Pilot Census on the Roma population in 2009 shows that Roma families were very reluctant to declare any family members working/living abroad; at that time only 1.3% of all registered Roma were recorded as persons living abroad.

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<sup>86</sup> Official data, from the past Censuses as from 1948, show significant variations in the size of recorded Roma population, these variances are mostly attributed to the ethnic mimicry of Roma. The smallest number of Roma population was recorded in the 1961 Census (6,624 persons) which was about seven times lower than in 1953. Several factors influence under-recording of the Roma population: reluctance to declare themselves as Roma, lack of ID documents, failure of Census officials to reach all Roma families, especially those in illegal settlements and refusal of Roma families to give information about their members residing abroad.

<sup>87</sup> Data from the 2011 Census not yet available.

Data from the 2009 Pilot Census also show that out of all registered Roma only 28.6% were economically active while the dependency coefficient was very high (1:2.74 compared with 1:1.2 at the national average)<sup>88</sup>. A high proportion of Roma in Serbia in 2006 faced unemployment rates which were more than twice as high as those of the majority population (51% versus 21%) (UNDP, 2006). Only 25% of the employed had a permanent employment, compared to 77% of the general population; estimates are that between 75-85% of Roma work in grey economy where they can not realize any working rights or benefits (RSO, 2008b). Involvement of Roma in informal labour is associated with low incomes, poor job quality and weak social protection. About 80% of the households receive financial social assistance; only 5.3% receive a pension.

According to the latest 2007 LSMS data, poverty among the Roma was much higher than that of the population in general. Nearly half of the Roma population (49.2%) was poor and 6.4% of them extremely poor<sup>89</sup> (Table 5.3). Poverty among Roma is a multidimensional phenomenon. Non-income dimensions of poverty present aspects of social exclusion such as barriers in access to education, employment or others. Among the Roma refugees and IDPs, children under 16 and young adults (16-24) are most affected by poverty (41% and 45% respectively).

### **5.6. Other vulnerable ethnic and religious communities**

The migration processes of two ethnic communities were particularly influenced by the political and economic events during the period 1991-2002, namely migration of Hungarians and Bosniaks<sup>90</sup>.

The ethnic community of the **Hungarians** is the largest ethnic and religious (Catholic and Reformation church) minority group which constituted 3.9% of the total population in 2002 (Table 5.1). Historically<sup>91</sup>, Hungarians settled in the Vojvodina region, nearby the Hungarian border, where the majority (98%) of this ethnic group currently resides (Census 2002). From 1948 till 2002 their population declined by 32 percentage points; a major decline occurred after 1961, at that time Hungarians represented 24% of Vojvodina's population, while in 2002 they constituted only 14.3%.

During the nineties the political situation became tense regarding nationality issues and along with the deteriorating economic situation it incited a number of citizens of the Hungarian communities to emigrate to other countries, mainly to neighbouring Hungary. Census data 2002 show a decrease of 13.1 percentage points (44,250 persons) in the Hungarian minority population as compared to the previous census (Bozoki, 2006: 111). The change in the ethnic composition of Vojvodina was also caused by a high immigration of refugees of mostly Serbian ethnicity. This has contributed to changing the ethnic population structure in the Vojvodina, as the share of residents with Serbian ethnicity increased from 57.2% to 65.1%, whereas the share of Hungarians decreased from 17.2% to 14.3% (1991-2002).

Official data on registered persons working/living abroad<sup>92</sup> show that 3.7% of Hungarians are recorded as emigrants, which is below the national average (of 5.5%). The first wave of migration occurred 25 years ago, when 34.2% of all Hungarian's migrants went to work abroad (43% settled in Germany), while the second wave came much later in the nineties

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<sup>88</sup> The coefficient shows that 100 active persons provide for 274 inactive persons.

<sup>89</sup> The LSMS included only Roma who were integrated into the general population, which is believed to be better off, while Roma living in Roma settlements, potentially more vulnerable groups, were not covered by this survey.

<sup>90</sup> The ethnic status is recorded at the Census on the basis of a personal declaration. It has to be highlighted that between the two censuses (1991 and 2002), the number of undeclared persons has increased for more than ten times (from 9,988 to 107,732). This fact points not only to the unreliable data as regards ethnic groups/ethnicity, but also to the fact that increasing numbers of citizens were unwilling to declare their ethnic affiliation.

<sup>91</sup> The Province of Vojvodina dates back to the 17th century, in 1848 it gained recognition of its autonomy within the Austro-Hungarian Empire (*Serbische Woivodschafft*). In 1918 it was united with the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians.

<sup>92</sup> Census 2002.

(1987-1998) when 45% of all recorded Hungarian emigrants left the country. Later migration was caused by political events and changes both in Serbia and Hungary as 45% of Hungarian emigrants in the past 15 years settled in Hungary (Table 5.6).

The Hungarian ethnic minority has a substantially lower percentage of poverty compared to the national average; especially among the migrant Hungarian population poverty is lower (2.7%) than within the autochthonous population (5.5%) (Table 3.9). Due to the high share of the Hungarian minority group in the population of Local Communities, a well-developed education system with schools teaching Hungarian language is available.

It is expected that the emigration and decrease of the Hungarian ethnic minority in Serbia will have negative effects on the future preservation of their normative rights in the fields of education, employment and representation in governmental bodies<sup>93</sup> (Box 6). A study conducted in 2001 (Nagy, 2006: 445) reveals that to some extent adults who emigrate to Hungary later organise migration of their parents to Hungary as social and elderly care is more advanced there. Another study (Molnar, 2006) shows that there is an increase of the number of students from the Vojvodina moving for studies to Hungary. It could be expected that the decision of the Hungarian Parliament from May 2010 to grant dual citizenship for foreign citizens with Hungarian family background will further increase emigration from Serbia to Hungary.

**Bosniaks** are presently the second largest ethnic community in Serbia; this group was officially registered for the first time under this name in 2002<sup>94</sup>. Historically this population settled in the areas close to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina which have been constantly underdeveloped with unemployment rates above the national average and have a long tradition of labour force emigration. Around 93% of all Bosniaks in Serbia live in four Local Communities of the Raska<sup>95</sup> and Zlatiborska districts (Sumadija and West Serbia Region) (RSO, 2002). Three of these four LCs have been officially classified as devastated communities (for development criteria, see Box 3). Between 1991 and 2002 these areas registered net migration losses, (Census, 2002) while two of the above mentioned communities (Sjenica and Tutin) had net losses of above 15‰ and one (Prijepolje) above 10‰ (see also Map 3).

Observing internal migrations (RSO, 2006a), 35% of the Bosniaks have changed their place of residence at least once; 28.9% within the same region (i.e. between the communities), while only 0.4% have returned from abroad (Table 5.10). War in Bosnia and Herzegovina caused a tense situation for the people living along the border; such conditions in combination with economic motives clearly influenced emigration. At the 2002 Census there were 19.8% Bosniaks registered as migrant workers abroad (or their family members) which was much above the national average of 5% (Table 5.7). The majority (61.6%) left the country in the last ten years before the census. Germany was the main migrating country for 55% of them while smaller numbers migrated to Switzerland, Sweden, Austria and Netherlands. Two research papers (Petrović, 2010: 38 and Plojović, 2010: 76) provide a migrant's profile; it is dominantly a male population (72-76%), of a younger age (55% were aged 25-30 years); the majority of them (56%) hold a secondary education and 66.7% were formerly unemployed. Both studies confirmed that the main reason for emigration was to provide support for family members that remained in Serbia. Data from the studies show that remittances present a significant source for living expenses for family members left in Serbia: 46.5% receive more than EUR 2,000 per year and about 75% of families left behind use parts of the remittances to cover living expenses. The political situation is still a controversial issue in this area but has less influence on migration of Bosniaks than the economic situation

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<sup>93</sup> According to the Law on National Minorities, Local Communities introduce another official language in cases when the ethnic minority constitutes at least 15% of the community population.

<sup>94</sup> In the 1971, 1981 and 1991 censuses Muslims were recorded as a nationality, while at the 2002 census Bosniaks were registered as a new nationality and Muslims as a separate one. The Bosniaks are a South Slavic ethnic group present on the Balkan Peninsular with traditional adherence to Islam.

<sup>95</sup> In 2010, the share of long term unemployment in total unemployment was highest in Raska district - 75.3% (national average 64.15%) (NES).

the recent economic crisis had devastating effects on local communities and migration is the only choice for many of the unemployed.

## **6. Policy responses**

The deterioration of social capital, namely low education levels, inadequate skills, low governance capacity and population ageing has been recognized in a number of official documents as a serious constraint for the realisation of the adopted programs for integrated local development in less developed districts. The latest Law on Regional Development<sup>96</sup> classifies local communities with a depopulation balance larger than 50% (1971 year basis), as extremely underdeveloped communities and identifies these communities as priority areas for future development programs. Two recently adopted Government documents, the Law on Territorial Planning and the Law on Regional Development pay special attention to the future social cohesion policies of underdeveloped regions. Both documents stress the importance of the regional demographic imbalance, which is presently characterized not only by the population size, but also by the quality characteristics of its social capital. The proposed model of polycentric urban development of small and medium cities comprises plans for integrated local development, with focus on the local comparative advantages. As a major weakness, the documents quote uneven infrastructure, centralization in decision making and low local governance capacities. The Law on Territorial Planning has recognized the role of the social capital and importance of adoption of proper indicators for monitoring and evaluation of migration effects; among the quoted priority measures is improvement of the expert's understanding of the migration impacts and improvement of its management. Until 2009, when the Migration Management Strategy was adopted, Serbia did not have a consistent policy towards the development of regions particularly affected by out-migration. The Strategy should provide "the migration management in accordance with sustainable population policy and long-term needs for economic development and trends in the labour market of the Republic of Serbia" in general. Unlike most EU countries, which have established institutions competent in the field of migration, issues of migration fall in the jurisdiction of a large number of ministries in the Republic of Serbia. For this reason, the Government of Serbia established a specialized institution, which combines and analyses the most important information in relation to migration flows, elaborates and evaluates migration policy and manages migration issues at the national level. It is the Coordination Body for the Monitoring and Management of Migration. The coordination body consists of nine ministers from the Government and Serbia's Commissioner for Refugees. Therefore, the institutional framework for the development of the migration policy is determined in accordance with the competencies and responsibilities which ministries and republican authorities hold in the field of migration in accordance with the Law on Ministries<sup>97</sup>, other laws and appropriate normative acts and strategies.

The migration policy of the Republic of Serbia is based on the projections of published data on the future number of population, by sex and age, in the country, for period 2002-2032 (RSO, 2010a), and on the expected process of Serbia's accession to the EU. For the whole projection period, two variants of hypothesis on zero migration have been supposed for the projection periods, being the variant of the zero migration balance, which is analytical and based on the hypothesis on the zero migration balance, by age and sex, during the entire projection period. All other variants include the migration component on the basis of expected migration. When setting the hypothesis on expected migration, one has taken into account that, during the past decade, the largest changes occurred in migration, and that they will be, in the first two decades of this century, under a great influence of previous events and projections in the sense of economic revival of the country and its faster European integration.

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<sup>96</sup> Last amendments, May 2010.

<sup>97</sup> Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, no. 16/11.

### **6.1. Encouragement of circular migration**

One of the main directions of migration policy of the Republic of Serbia is a further slowing of migration flows, with the launch of the programme of professionals' circulation, which shall enable professionals, teachers and scientists to spend some time abroad in leading companies and universities and then to return to Serbia. This approach to migration flows is in accordance with EU Directive 2009/50/EC which establishes the conditions for employment of highly skilled labour from third countries in the EU Member States through the institute of an EU Blue Card. However, successful circular migration depends on the free choice of migrants to migrate and return, rather than to violate these rights. For those who want to return, the Government of the Republic of Serbia must provide the possibility to create employment at home and to have support programmes to increase return.

In order to promote legal migration and to prevent irregular migration and trafficking, the IOM has launched the regional project "Capacity Building, Information and Awareness Raising towards Orderly Migration in the Western Balkans", which was funded by the European Commission AENEAS 2006 Programme and other institutions from Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Liechtenstein and which ended in January 2010. The goal of the project was to enhance the dissemination of accurate and reliable information to potential migrants to support the regular migration procedures and minimize risks for exploitation and abuses (IOM, 2008c: 1). In order to achieve this goal, Migrant Service Centres (MSCs) were established and launched in countries of the Western Balkans in June 2008, in cooperation with national partners, in the case of Serbia in cooperation with the National Employment Service (NES). The MSCs daily receive potential migrants (clients) and provide them with individualized assistance and group counselling sessions on the reality and risks of irregular migration, as well as possibilities and procedures for decent work opportunities in the country and/or for legal emigration. In the period from June 2008 until December 2009, the MSC in Belgrade received 1,749 clients (IOM, 2010: 3). The MSCs can be considered as operating satisfactory. In 2010, the MSCs were transferred to the National Employment Service of Serbia.

Circular migration takes many forms, but Serbia is trying to implement some of them, in particularly those which relate to skilled migrants and scientists. One overall goal of the Strategy of Scientific and Technological Development of Serbia for 2010-2015 is to increase the number of scientists in Serbia. This strategy is being implemented through projects that are realized with financial resources acquired through arrangement with the European Investment Bank; one of these projects supports the return of Serbia's scientists from the Diaspora. It includes following activities: motivating the researchers from the Diaspora for scientific research in Serbia; forming a network of Serbian scientists from the Diaspora; short sojourn of eminent Serbian scientists from the Diaspora in Serbia (including lectures, etc. in scientific and research institutions); attracting scientists from abroad to commence start-up enterprises, and other initiatives contributing to cooperation and creativity. For this purpose, in 2009, the Ministry of Science and Technological Development has taken the initiative to create a database of Serbian researchers in Diaspora. So far, almost 700 scientists have been registered.

Special measures have been planned by the Ministry of Sciences and Technological Development<sup>98</sup> to stimulate the inclusion of Serbia's scientists from the Diaspora in national projects, through tendering conditions and procedures for the project cycle 2011-2014. Approximately 250 of Serbia's researcher from the Diaspora have applied and will work jointly with colleagues from scientific institutions in Serbia (Gov. R. Serbia, 2011).<sup>99</sup> Another supporting measure aiming to mitigate the problems related to the brain-drain is the state

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<sup>98</sup> Now: Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic Serbia.

<sup>99</sup> Act on Selection, Evaluation and Funding of Program of Basic Research in the field of Technological Development, Program of Research of Co-funding of Integrated and Interdisciplinary Research and the Program of Providing and Maintaining Scientific Research Equipment and Scientific Research Facilities for the Research Cycle for the time period 2011-2014.

funding of non-commercial apartment construction for young scientists, supported by the Ministry of Education and Sciences and Provincial Secretariats. So far, houses have been built in Nis, Belgrade and Novi Sad.

## **6.2. Encouragement of return migration and support of integration of returnees**

Return has always been a natural and voluntary phenomenon in migration, however, there are also involuntary forms of return, and both can have mixed impacts on the economy of the home country, depending on the policy environment in the origin and destination countries. The policy challenge is how to create a win-win-win policy model, in which migrants, the country of origin and the countries of destination will all benefit.

In 2009 the Government has adopted three documents which address migration issues:

- (1) the Strategy for Management of Migration;
- (2) the Strategy for Reintegration of Returnees based on Readmission Agreement and
- (3) the Strategy for Fighting Illegal Migrations in Serbia 2009-2014.

All three documents cover main issues related to return migration and the (re)-integration of returnees. The *Strategy for Management of Migration* names priority goals concerning the protection of Serbian citizens abroad and comprises an active policy for reintegration of return migrants back in the society<sup>100</sup>. To some extent the documents relate to internal migration as well. For the purpose of future planning of migration, the Republic Statistical Office will conduct annual research on internal and external migration, starting from 2012, based on data from the 2011 Census. Further, the Government has been strengthening the relations with the Diaspora in order to reinforce its potentials in investment and knowledge transfers. Since 2001, investments from the Diaspora in SMEs accumulated to US\$ 500 million and secured employment of 20,000 persons. In 2007 investments from the Diaspora were slightly above 11% of all FDI. In 2010, the Government prepared an Investment Information booklet for the Diaspora with the intention of better presentation of current investment potentials.

A survey with 100 returnees (88% involuntary) from the Novi Pazar community, which has been identified as community with a high number of returnees, showed that, although this community has received donor's<sup>101</sup> funding for programmes targeting the reintegration of returnees, these programmes implemented by local NGO's do not reach many of them (Petrovic, 2010). According to the survey only 34% of the returnees have been registered at the local office of the Employment Service, while 12% have applied to attend self-employment programmes; 16% have been temporarily employed, while 20% are employed. Out of the total number of returnees who have registered, 55% have received financial assistance (one-time payment<sup>102</sup>) for returnees. Although a majority of 95% of those employed (65%) in the emigration country were engaged as physical workers, 88% of them stressed their intention to re-emigrate

The Agreement on the Readmission of illegal emigrants with the EU has been effective since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. In October of the same year a Council for integration of returnees was established. In February 2009, the Government has adopted a *Strategy for the Reintegration of Returnees based on the Readmission Agreement* and an Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy. The strategy document authorised the Refugee Commissariat to organise primary admission of returnees and to coordinate their reintegration with the local authorities. The Commissariat is also responsible for installing a database on number and profiles of returnees and for data analysis and presentation. At the local level existing Refugee Offices have been transformed in Migration Councils. Four

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<sup>100</sup> The inclusion of the Diaspora in stimulating the economic development of the Republic of Serbia (through productive investment or the transfer of knowledge and skills) is not an easy task and requires considerable efforts within a long timeframe in order to restore the confidence in the political and economic institutions of the Republic of Serbia, after experiences in the 1990s.

<sup>101</sup> Mostly bilateral donors.

<sup>102</sup> One time payments cover intermediate needs, housing costs, purchase of wardrobe or similar expenses.

former collective centres have been adapted and transformed for the temporary admission of urgent cases (Belgrade, Bela Palanka, Zajecar, Sabac). Currently the Commissariat has accurate data only on the readmission of forced returnees, not on those illegal migrants that have returned voluntarily, since these are returned with the official documentation from the sending country. Estimates are that about 10,000 migrants have returned, while other estimates are that so far about 40,000 have returned (Commissariat for Refugees, 2010/11), but the exact number of future returnees is not known. The Commissariat has printed an information booklet (in several languages) with necessary information for returnees.

At the Belgrade Airport the Commissariat has opened an office for the admission of forced returns in 2006. Since 2006 till July 2010, 3,495 persons were recorded; the majority (66%) came from Germany. The data on nationality are not available for all of them; the existing registers show that 71% of forced returnees were Roma. In the first three months of 2011 this office has registered admission of 383 persons, 158 of them were of minor age, and most returned from Germany (159). Roma population was dominant (79%), while 12.5% were of Serbian nationality.

In order to ease school enrolment the administrative procedures for the validation of foreign diplomas are to some extent simplified for school children; however the costs for the official translation of diplomas have to be borne by individuals alone.

### **6.3. Reintegration of IDPs and refugees (including forced returnees)**

In March 2011, the Government has adopted a National Strategy for Resolving the Issues of Refugee and IDP Populations, prior to this document a Strategy for IDPs' Sustainable Living and Safe Return to Kosovo\* was adopted in 2010 (Gov. R. Serbia, 2010d). Both documents are very comprehensive and in a very concise and precise way they have outlined the main challenges related to the most important issues of these populations. In both documents two main objectives are defined as priority for both populations:

1. Insurance of safe return to the place of original residence, and
2. Insurance of sustainable living and reintegration.

It has to be noted that these documents, unlike other strategic documents which deal with migration, are based on reliable data and conclusions from research studies and analysis. At the same time a number of government bodies and institutions have been directly or indirectly involved in the process of refugee and IDP reintegration and consequently a broad consensus has been reached upon the major goals and plans for the resolution of the problems. All related laws (labour, health care, social protection, education, etc.) and development programmes have incorporated the refugee and IDP population among vulnerable groups and as such their position and reintegration has been addressed and resolved in the best possible way under the contemporary economic environment. With the strong support of international organisations and established national bodies major problems and issues have tackled with good governance and efficiency. Presently, out of the total number of refugees about 250,000 have received Serbian citizenship, while 86,000 still have a refugee status (75% from Croatia, 25% from Bosnia and Herzegovina). Although the Serbian government has opened talks with the Croatian and the B&H government certain problems remain unresolved. Refugees from Croatia are still in the difficult position in exercising their pension rights. Croatia applies legal provisions which claim that a person is no more eligible to a pension if he/she is/was responsible for the suspension of its payment. This applies to all (former) Croatian residents who left the country after 1991, or who were living on the territories under UN protection. Estimate show that about 40,000 persons have been affected (Group 484, 2011). Problems also arise for the recognition of working periods for persons who were employed on the territories which were not under the authority of the Croatian government in the period between 1991 and 1995. Property rights are another unresolved issue which still do not have a valid resolution. As regards refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina all their previously acquired rights have been recognized and honoured,

which has influenced a successful return, although procedures for retirement rights are complicated and lengthy.

As regards IDPs, the state has accepted to reimburse payment of pension contributions to IDPs employed in the public companies in Kosovo\* during 1991-2003. A special department has been established at the Pension Fund to cover all related issues. Since 2003 the state has been providing wages for IDPs and persons residing in Kosovo\*, who were employed in the state administration or public companies until June 1999, and for those who have not found new employment or became eligible for pensions in the meantime (or have been receiving unemployment benefits) which concerns around 23,000 persons. A main issue is the unsolved question of property rights for agricultural land and houses. In 2000 the UNHCR registered that 27,000 houses and 5,900 apartments were destroyed or damaged. More than one million of arable land units have been taken from their owners, an estimated value of US\$ 50 billion (around EUR 45 billion) (Gov. R. Serbia, 2010c). Due to the current unresolved political status of Kosovo\* the property rights are not resolved in a proper manner, so the majority of owners have not received any response from the legal institutions. This situation has negative consequences on the material status of IDPs and on their potential to resolve housing or other important issues.

In the period from 1992 to 2010 the government and local communities have secured 7,844 housing solutions for 30,400 persons (refugees and IDPs), with large support of international donors<sup>103</sup>. For this purposes the LCs have donated land, free communal infrastructure and exemption of other licence<sup>104</sup> payments. About one hundred LCs have adopted Action Plans for the improvement of Refugee's and IDP's status, with financial support of the Commissariat for Refugees. In 2010, the Government built 35 houses and 150 apartments for returnees to Kosovo\*, partly funded from IPA funds, and currently 38 apartments in Strpce and Kosovska Kamenica are under construction. The state has plans to build another 48 apartments and 45 houses this year in the communities with a Serbian majority population. The total investment in K&M for 2011 for communal infrastructure construction will reach EUR 4.5 million. A number of donors have been actively involved in various forms of assistance in dealing with the issues related to refugees and IDPs. ECHO and UNHCR have been the leading agencies and have provided crucial humanitarian assistance over the past 10 years. In the second half of 2004 UN-HABITAT launched a major new housing and social integration programme for thousands of war refugees and other vulnerable people in Serbia with the financial support from the Italian Government. All actions related to refugees and IDPs in collective centres are coordinated by the Commissariat for Refugees and IDPs. With regard to 'de-institutionalization' of social care projects/initiatives/programs such as "Raising Standards and Self-Reliance" and "Social Innovations Fund" above quoted projects were funded by DfID and Norway.

#### **6.4. Development of net migration loss/gain regions**

According to the Law on Ministries, the Ministry of Economy and Regional Development is responsible for employment in the country and abroad and issues related to migration, as well as for regional development. However, the former Ministry for Diaspora (now the Ministry of Religion and Diaspora) established 16 Centres for the Diaspora within the Regional Chambers of Commerce in Serbia. This Ministry and the Chambers collect and exchange information and initiate projects and programme activities of economic cooperation with the Diaspora. Thanks to the Centres for the Diaspora, the Ministry is well informed on problems of establishment of companies and business cooperation with companies in Serbia.

The Diaspora involvement in fostering the economic (local) development of Serbia (through productive investments, transfer knowledge and skills) is a complex process. First of all, it requires considerable efforts to build trust in the political and economic institutions of the

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<sup>103</sup> Construction of houses, purchase of houses in rural areas, donation of construction material, etc.

<sup>104</sup> Relates to free connection to municipal electricity, water and sewage supply, without payment of fees.



Republic of Serbia. The Ministry for the Diaspora of the Republic of Serbia issued the first edition of a specific multimedia catalogue in September 2010. This catalogue titled "the possibility of investment in the municipalities of Serbia", points out offers of specific locations and investment opportunities in Serbia. The project is the result of cooperation between the Ministry for Diaspora, local governments, the Serbian Chamber of Commerce and the Centres of the Diaspora in the Regional Chambers of Commerce.

One of the problems that hamper efficient local development and management of problems related to migration at local level is the insufficient level of professionalism and the lack of capacities of Local Communities. It happens too often that individual administration officials put themselves above the system and use political actions and other (illegal) means to block good initiatives and businesses of members of the Serbian Diaspora. Moreover, the complicated procedures for the issuing of permits, bureaucratic difficulties, corruption and self-will of decision makers have made the economy and economic development at local level suffer badly for long time periods. Thus, it is not random a recent statement given by the Ministry of Religion and Diaspora states that the new policy regarding the Serbian Diaspora has been initiated in order to restore the confidence of investors in Serbia's institutions. This goal is to be achieved through the economic system reform, establishment of conditions for free market competition, tax policy reform, simplification of bureaucratic procedures, the struggle against corruption and stimulating measures and incentives, also at local level.

Therefore, although there is no lack of national strategies<sup>105</sup> on migration related issues, the problem seems to be that the strategies are poorly coordinated and undermine the overall policy coherence in the field of migration. One of the conclusions is that the current institutional structure clearly lacks coordination and institutional competencies and responsibilities are occasionally overlapping. Since 2000 the Republic of Serbia, as a potential candidate country for EU membership, has been able to use financial pre-accession instruments for implementing political, economic, social and institutional reforms within the framework of Stabilization and Association Process. Since 2007 the European Commission replaced the previous pre-accession funds (PHARE, ISPA and SAPARD) with instruments of pre-accession assistance (IPA). The IPA regulation defines the size and the type of the assistance for the support to the candidate countries and to potentially candidate countries for the period 2007-2013. As a potential candidate country, Serbia has not been able to use assistance for very important components: regional development, human resources development and rural development.

### **6.5. Support to vulnerable groups related to migration**

Serbia is presently not entitled to financial assistance from Structural Funds, but for IPA I and II components. From 2007 to 2010 about 45% of IPA assistance for Component I was directed to the socio-economic sub component (Table 5.12). The resources have been used for improvements in the area of social inclusion and poverty reduction. In 2010, the government has established eight territorial groups with a mandate to coordinate the assistance at the horizontal and vertical levels in processes of planning and implementation of foreign assistance. These groups also directly coordinate with LCs and civil society organizations in the formulation of programmes and the coordination of funds.

The total assistance in 2010 was EUR 1,217 million (in comparison with 2008 - EUR 380.27 millions and 2007 – EUR 550.6 million). The funds for human capacity strengthening (EUR 83.25 millions) covered following sectors: education (29.54), health care (24.15), social protection (20.6) labour and employment (7.94). Although there are no detailed projects lists for the social sector, the government report (Gov. R. Serbia, 2011) quotes that the assistance was used for social inclusion of vulnerable groups: migrants, refugees, Roma, etc. The support for the civil society was EUR 14 million, EUR 1.4 million were marked for

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<sup>105</sup> There are about 40 national strategies on different issues as well as on refugees, IDPs, returnees, human trafficking, border management, illegal migration.

capacity strengthening, while remaining EUR 12.6 million were realized through grants for projects in social inclusion area, poverty reduction and for improving status of vulnerable groups. Dominant donors were the EU, GB, Sweden, Austria and Switzerland.

### **6.6. Best practice examples of policy responses**

There are several projects that the Serbian government and its agencies have started to implement. Two shall be mentioned here as good practice examples:

The first concerns the Migrant Service Centre (MSC) established by the IOM with financial support of the EU. The MSC has a regional and European importance and therefore deserves special attention. As already mentioned, the MSC has produced positive results. A detailed statistical report covering a sample period from June 2008 to February 2009 was prepared for the IOM by the University of Groningen.

The second good practice example concerns the partnership with scientists and researchers from the Serbian Diaspora through joint projects initiated by the Ministry of Science and Technological Development. Through this Serbia increases the human capital and enquires knowledge and expertise through experts and professionals who eventually will return. The programme for circular migration (and return) of scientists is being implemented through short- or longer-term study visits which will ensure necessary resources for those scientists who wish to continue a part or their whole career in Serbia. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic Serbia has published the results of the competition for funding research projects for the period 2011-2014. In addition to researchers from Serbia, the research projects will engage 1,024 scientists from abroad, among who will be 250 from the Serbian Diaspora (Gov. R. Serbia, 2011). A great number of Serbia's scientists work at prestigious universities and scientific institutes worldwide, in particularly in the USA, Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom. Partnership relations with these researchers and institutions shall be of mutual benefit for both Serbia, for the scientists involved and for the foreign institution in which they work.

## **7. Key challenges and policy suggestions**

### **7.1. Key challenges of the social impact of emigration and internal migration**

The most important challenges faced by the Republic of Serbia, in terms of the social impacts of emigration, are as following:

- How to improve data and analysis of migration patterns? There is no competent national data as well as international data reference source to different areas in different time periods. Besides, there is a lack of links between migration data, analysis and evidence-based policy making in terms of social impacts of emigration on economic and social aspects in Serbia. The question is: Who is the official source of information on data related to the size and distribution of Diasporas, as well as on their networks and associations, trade flows, FDI and remittances?
- Needs of vulnerable population groups: Roma, refugees, IDP's and returnees, have been recognized in a number of official documents (Strategy documents, plans) however there is still no coherent solution for their full social inclusion. The major challenge is implementation of inclusion policies at the local levels, especially in underdeveloped regions.
- The challenge is to provide such a clear, consistent and sustainable migration policy, which could be articulated at all levels. The migration policy is now articulated at all levels - national, regional and local, however it is not coordinated within the all government bodies (ministries, agencies, etc.).
- Which policy measures and instruments can encourage circular migration and enforce its terms? What conditions and measures could be conducted to provide permanent, sustainable return of migrants to Serbia, or sustainable and productive cooperation with Diaspora? Many young people have left Serbia and are living in other countries, building

their families there. One of the reasons for the depopulation in the country is emigration. Besides, every day the youth want to leave Serbia for the better future. On the other hand, population ageing in Serbia already puts pressure on the social security system arising from the growing number of pensioners and decreasing number of the working age population. The Republic of Serbia, as a predominantly sending and transit country is also increasingly a receiving country for labour migrants. It is a country with large emigrant stocks, but also with high unemployment levels. However, Serbia has not made the employment of nationals abroad a development strategy, despite a considerable inflow of remittances, knowledge transfer and close ties with the Diasporas.

- The challenge is to reduce regional disparities between the rural and urban areas. Key challenges in the domain of regional development are how to solve the lack of infrastructural disparities and outdated administrative capacity at regional and local levels and the lack of appropriate development projects and weak inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI). Regional disparities in the Republic of Serbia are among the highest in Europe. The challenge is to attract FDI through the economic system reform, establishment of conditions for free market competition, tax policy reform, simplification of bureaucratic procedures, struggle against corruption and stimulating measures and incentives.

## **7.2. Policy Suggestions**

During the 1990s, Serbia had an inconsistent set of policies in terms of internal and external migration, not taking much care of professionals and young people. Serbia has been faced with all forms of migration. After 2000, joining the European Union became a strategic orientation for the Republic of Serbia, which entails the acceptance of the adopted European values and standards in the entire range of areas. A strategically, legally and institutionally arranged domain of migration is of exceptional importance for the fulfilment of the necessary conditions for joining the EU. In order to mitigate the negative impacts of migration, the Serbian governmental authorities have introduced new policies and undertook a series of measures at national, regional and local levels. These are contained in the strategies listed in the list of references.

In order to reduce the rate of emigration, internal migration mitigation, and incentives for returning workers from abroad, especially highly educated and professionals, as well as to maintain the current level of immigration, the government of Serbia should effectively implement the adopted strategies and the policies and undertake a series of measures to achieve the set goals.

Concerning to the improvement of data gathering and the quality of data and analysis of migration trends, it is necessary to be taken the measures by government for the establishment of special institution for the continuous monitoring and data collection in the field. The institution should be financed through state budget.

The government should create an environment, through different policies, that encourage and support contributions by migrant Diasporas to development. The main role of Diasporas for Serbian policies is a partnership, covering many types of joint actions (support existing Diasporas initiatives, develop collaboration between home and host countries, contract alliances at local levels with regions and municipalities, collaborate with private actors, banks, public enterprises, chambers of commerce and business services.

At national levels government should: (a) synchronize the admission policy for universities with the needs of the Serbian economy (less enrolled and better learning outcomes); (b) matching supply and demand of labour, including measures of active labour market policy, reduce unemployment, encourage internal mobility of labour; information sharing and counselling; target groups – unemployed and returnees.

At the regional and local level authorities should: (a) stimulate equal regional development, by credit and fiscal policy; achieving a more balanced regional development has already been announced as a priority objective in the Republic of Serbia; the implementation of such

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policy has been very slow; (b) synchronize the push-pull factors of internal migration; (c) strengthen the regional chambers of commerce and offices for cooperation with the Diaspora; in accordance with regional and local development plans, authorities should initiate specific return programs of professionals from abroad by 2020.

Concerning the social inclusion of vulnerable population:

- Ensure the inclusion of vulnerable populations groups and returnees from abroad in the labour market by tailoring special ALMP for local level needs.
- Use and share best evidence practice from national and regional sources.
- Apply pre and post impact evaluation for all new policy measures and respond adequately to necessary improvements
- Involve civil society and stakeholders as equal partners

It is of special importance to foster the dialogue and cooperation with governments of the destination countries for Serbian labour migrants in order to ensure their fair treatment and protection of rights. The continuation of negotiations and conclusion of agreements on social security with the countries of interest for Serbian workers abroad is also of importance.

Key recommendations are: (a) continuing consultations and policy dialogue between Diasporas and other stakeholders in the field of migration and development; (b) creating a space for the Diasporas to contribute to policy dialogue at the national, regional and international levels.

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## ANNEX

**Table 1.1:**  
**Demographic trends, Census 2011, Preliminary results**

Nuts		Population			Population abroad	
		Absolute number	Index 2002=100	Share in total (%)	Absolute number	Share in total (%)
	Rep. Serbia	7,120,666	95.0	100	294,045	4.13
1	Serbia North	3,556,010	98.6	49.94	87,750	2.47
2	City of Belgrade	1,639,121	104.0	23.02	41,719	2.54
2	Vojvodina Province	1,916,889	94.3	26.92	46,031	2.40
	City of Novi Sad	335,701	112.2	4.71	5,394	1.61
1	Serbia South	3,564,656	91.6	50.06	206,295	5.79
2	Sumadija & West Serb. Region	2,013,388	94.2	28.28	98,274	4.88
	City of Kragujevac	188,809	100.9	2.65	4,405	2.33
	LC Novi Pazar	109,327	107.9	1.54	8,831	8.08
2	South & East Serbia Region	1,551,268	88.5	21.79	108,021	6.96
3	Borska district	123,848	84.5	1.7	21,044	17.0
3	Zajecarska district	118,295	86.0	1.6	5,242	4.4
3	Pirotska district	92,227	87.3	1.3	1,248	1.4
	City of Nis	272,818	102.9	3.83	5,393	1.98

Source: RSO, 2011b.

**Table 1.2:**  
**Poverty indicators, 1997**

	% of people living below the Poverty line			Total poverty rate
	Extreme*	Existential minimum**	substandard***150% of consumer basket	
South Serbia & Belgrade	3.2	30.5	30.9	64.6
Vojvodina	5.7	18.5	36.3	60.5
Kosovo and Metohija	13.1	40.3	25.2	78.6
Serbia	5.0	28.8	31.5	65.3
Urban	6.5	30.9	30.0	67.4
Rural	1.7	24.7	32.6	57.8

Source: Mijanovic, 1998: 211.

\*Family income: below 50% of the consumer basket;

\*\* family income between 50 and 99% of the consumer basket;

\*\*\*150% of consumer basket.

**Table 1.3:  
Net number of migrants (both genders), Serbia: 1950-2010**

Period	Number (thousands)	Period	Number (thousands)
1950-1955	35	1980-1985	- 10
1955-1960	- 50	1985-1990	27
1960-1965	- 88	1990-1995	451
1965-1970	- 90	1995-2000	- 148
1970-1975	- 21	2000-2005	- 339
1975-1980	8	2005-2010	0

Note: The net number of migrants is the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants. It is expressed as thousands.

Source: United Nations, Population Division, [http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-data/DB01\\_Period\\_Indicators/WPP2010\\_DB1\\_F19\\_NET\\_NUMBER\\_OF\\_MIGRANTS.XLS](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-data/DB01_Period_Indicators/WPP2010_DB1_F19_NET_NUMBER_OF_MIGRANTS.XLS) (Updated: 28 June 2011). Date of extraction: 18. 07. 2011.

**Table 1.4:  
Net migration rate (per 1,000 persons), Serbia: 1950-2010**

Period	Net migration rate	Period	Net migration rate
1950-1955	1	1980-1985	- 0
1955-1960	- 1	1985-1990	1
1960-1965	- 2	1990-1995	9
1965-1970	- 2	1995-2000	- 3
1970-1975	- 0	2000-2005	- 7
1975-1980	0	2005-2010	0

Note: The number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants during a period, divided by the person-years lived by the population of the receiving country during that period. It is expressed as net number of migrants per 1,000 persons.

Source: United Nations, Population Division, [http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/DB01\\_Period\\_Indicators/WPP2010\\_DB1\\_F18\\_NET\\_MIGRATION\\_RATE.XLS](http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/DB01_Period_Indicators/WPP2010_DB1_F18_NET_MIGRATION_RATE.XLS) (Updated: 28 June 2011). Date of extraction: 18. 07. 2011.

**Table 1.5:  
Components of population dynamics - Serbia, 1981-2002 (by period)**

Period	Population		Increase / Decrease	Population natural growth	Live births	Deaths	Net migration (3-4)	Immigrated population ***	«Emigrated» population (7-8)
	Beginning of the period	End of the period							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>Serbia</b>									
1981-1991*	7460229	7548978	88749	149738	975022	825285	-60989	145091	206080
1991-2002**	7576837	7498001	-78836	-171672	896648	1068320	92836	413602	320766
<b>Central Serbia</b>									
1981-1991*	5491048	5582611	91563	141466	721955	580489	-49903	124189	174092
1991-2002**	5606642	5466009	-140633	-89065	666492	755557	-51568	240923	292491
<b>Vojvodina</b>									
1981-1991*	1969181	1966367	-2814	8271	253068	244796	-11085	61641	72726
1991-2002**	1970195	2031992	61797	-82607	230156	312763	144404	213195	68791

\* Country's population

\*\* Total population: definition used in the Census 2002.

\*\*\* Without immigrated population unknown by place immigrated from.

Source: Penev, 2005: 212.

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**Table 2.1:  
Stock of workers abroad: labour migration, 2002\***

<b>Country</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Number</b>
Germany	102,799	Canada	10,908
Austria	87,844	Australia	7,490
Switzerland	65,751	Netherlands	6,280
France	27,040	Hungary	5,343
Italy	20,428	Russian Federation	5,178
USA	16,240	United Kingdom	4,153
Sweden	14,049	Total	414,839

\*Citizens of the Republic of Serbia working abroad for a foreign employer or working independently (including family) – data from the 2002 Census.

Sources: Kupiszewski et al., 2009: 143.

**Table 2.2:  
Emigration from Serbia by periods between the censuses  
1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2002**

	<b>The Republic of Serbia</b>		<b>South Serbia &amp; Belgrade</b>		<b>Vojvodina</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>%</b>
Total	414,839	100.0	344,151	100.0	70,688	100.0
1991-2002	212,972	51.3	178,503	51.9	34,469	48.7
2002	20,027	4.8	16,353	4.8	3,674	5.2
2001	11,438	2.8	9,599	2.8	1,839	2.6
2000	22,030	5.3	18,582	5.4	3,448	4.9
1999	21,895	5.3	18,621	5.4	3,274	4.6
1998	14,254	3.4	12,175	3.5	2,079	2.9
1997	16,998	4.1	14,343	4.2	2,655	3.8
1996	14,180	3.4	11,936	3.5	2,244	3.2
1995	14,088	3.4	11,832	3.4	2,256	3.2
1994	15,869	3.8	13,395	3.9	2,474	3.5
1993	13,818	3.3	11,432	3.3	2,386	3.4
1992	36,437	8.8	30,721	8.9	5,716	8.1
1991	11,938	2.9	9,514	2.8	2,424	3.4
1981-1990	77,542	18.7	65,975	19.2	11,567	16.4
1971-1980	57,074	13.8	45,226	13.1	11,848	16.8
1961-1970	14,137	3.4	10,052	2.9	4,085	5.8
1960 and earlier	336	0.1	269	0.1	67	0.1
Unknown	52,778	12.7	44,126	12.8	8,652	12.2

Source: Bubalo-Živković et al., 2010.

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**Table 2.3:  
Destination countries of emigrants from Serbia, 1991-2002/1**

Year of departure	Total	Austria	Italy	Hungary	Germany	Russia	Great Britain
		%					
Total	414,839	21.2	4.9	1.3	24.8	1.2	1.0
1991-2002	212,972	17.8	7.7	2.2	22.3	2.1	1.4
2002	20,027	15.4	11.2	1.5	18.7	4.6	1.7
2001	11,438	15.3	9.8	1.8	21.0	2.3	1.7
2000	22,030	12.6	10.8	2.1	22.5	2.1	1.9
1999	21,895	11.6	8.9	3.0	23.6	2.0	2.0
1998	14,254	13.9	8.2	1.9	21.4	2.4	1.5
1997	16,998	16.1	8.0	1.8	22.2	2.7	1.0
1996	14,180	16.7	8.1	2.0	21.5	2.6	1.0
1995	14,088	16.8	8.6	2.0	21.7	2.9	1.0
1994	15,869	19.0	6.9	3.0	23.1	1.9	1.0
1993	13,818	18.3	4.9	3.5	24.4	1.4	1.2
1992	36,437	25.7	4.6	2.2	23.2	0.8	1.4
1991	11,938	28.6	3.4	2.3	22.9	0.6	1.6
1990 and earlier	201,867	24.7	2.0	0.3	27.4	0.3	0.5

Source: Bubalo-Živković et al., 2010.

**Table 2.4:  
Destination countries of emigrants from Serbia, 1991-2002/2**

Year of departure	Total	France	The Netherlands	Switzerland	Sweden	Canada	USA	Australia	Other countries and unknown
		In %							
Total	414,839	6.5	1.5	15.8	3.4	2.6	3.9	1.8	10.0
1991-2002	212,972	4.3	1.9	14.7	3.1	3.9	5.2	1.8	11.4
2002	20,027	4.8	1.5	10.0	3.0	3.1	5.8	1.5	17.3
2001	11,438	4.6	1.7	12.9	2.5	3.4	5.9	1.6	15.6
2000	22,030	5.1	2.8	10.9	2.4	3.1	6.2	1.9	15.6
1999	21,895	4.1	3.2	11.5	2.3	4.0	7.6	1.8	14.5
1998	14,254	4.7	2.4	14.1	2.7	3.9	6.8	2.1	13.9
1997	16,998	4.5	1.3	16.3	2.6	4.3	5.2	2.3	11.7
1996	14,180	4.1	1.3	16.7	2.6	5.6	5.1	2.1	10.6
1995	14,088	3.9	1.5	16.7	2.5	6.5	4.3	2.7	8.9
1994	15,869	4.0	2.0	16.8	2.8	5.6	4.2	1.6	8.2
1993	13,818	4.0	2.1	14.3	4.6	5.9	4.1	1.7	9.5
1992	36,437	4.1	1.3	18.4	4.3	2.2	3.5	1.5	6.8
1991	11,938	4.5	1.4	18.0	3.9	2.1	3.4	1.6	5.7
1990 and earlier	201,867	8.8	1.2	17.0	3.7	1.3	2.6	1.8	8.4

Source: Bubalo-Živković et al., 2010.



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**Table 2.5:  
Flows of citizens of Serbia and Montenegro by country of destination: Immigration  
data, 2000-2005**

Receiving country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Austria	6,354	6,222	8,754	9,342	11,375	11,609
France	1,205	1,437	1,568	1,733	2,018	1,994
Germany	33,015	28,349	26,420	22,751	21,691	17,514
Hungary	1,777	1,028	437	709	1,586	1,096
Italy	5,296	6,020	8,192	...	6,260	3,369
Slovenia	660	880	1,221	1,499	2,371	3,324
Sweden	2,951	2,368	2,123	1,778	1,809	2,143
Switzerland	6,691	7,546	7,656	6,312	5,678	4,898

Source: Kupiszewski et al., 2009: 138-139.

**Table 2.6:  
Flows of citizens of Serbia and Montenegro by country of destination: Immigration  
data, 2000-2005**

Receiving country	Serbia & Montenegro			Serbia			Montenegro		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Austria	7,423	6,396	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
France	1,792	1,781	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Germany	11,299	...	...	3,745	10,630	...	160	643	...
Hungary	1,120	...	...	...	3,902	...	...	4	...
Italy	3,864	5,716	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Slovenia	...	...	...	4,447	6,368	...	0	83	...
Sweden	3,975	3,781	...	215	1,895	...	14	114	...
Switzerland	4,752	...	...	...	5,398	..	...	...	...

Source: Kupiszewski et al., 2009: 138-139.

**Table 2.7:  
Selected countries of the EU and Switzerland: stock of Serbian-Montenegrin  
population (by country of birth), 2000-2008 (in thousands)**

Receiving country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Austria	...	165.7	170.0	175.2	181.5	187.5	188.5	188.2	188.3
Belgium	21.5	20.9	23.2	25.8	27.6	29.8	31.8	34.2	...
Denmark	12.5	12.5	12.4	12.3	11.9	11.7	11.5	11.5	11.2
Finland	4.2	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.5	5.8
France (a)	...	...	...	...	...	...	65.5	...	...
Germany (b)	662.5	627.5	591.5	568.2	125.8	297.0	282.1	236.5	209.5
Hungary	35.1	33.4	30.3	30.7	29.9	29.6	28.6	28.5	...
Luxembourg	...	6.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Netherlands	53.9	55.9	56.2	55.5	54.5	53.7	53.0	52.8	52.7
Sweden	72.0	73.3	74.4	75.1	74.6	74.0	73.7	73.9	73.3
Switzerland (c)	158.1	...	...	...	...	...	190.8	187.4	180.0

(a) Serbia only.

(b) Refers to the stock of foreign population by nationality since no data on the stock of foreign population by country of birth. Stock of foreign citizens in Germany recorded in the population register. Includes asylum seekers living in private households. Excludes foreign-born persons of German origin (*Aussiedler*). Decrease in 2004 is due to cross checking of residence register and control alien register. Reference date: 31 December.

(c) Data for 2006 (to 2008) refer only to Serbia instead Serbia and Montenegro. This data refer to the stock of foreign population by nationality since no data on the stock of foreign population by country of birth. Stock of all those with residence or settlement permits (permits B and C respectively). Holders of an L – permit are also included if their stay in the country is longer than 12 months. Does not include seasonal or cross-border workers.

Source: OECD, 2010, International Migration Outlook. SOPEMI 2010, OECD, Paris.

**Table 2.8:**

**Selected countries of the EU and Switzerland: acquisition of nationality – the former Yugoslavia, 1990-1999**

Receiving country	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Austria	2,641	3,221	4,337	5,791	5,623	4,538	3,133	3,671	4,151	6,745
Belgium	...	211	386	353	417	416	...	438	499	756
Denmark	130	128	78	138	806	413	629	291	695	709
France	1,405	1,367	1,400	1,652	2,278	1,499	1,722	1,549	1,536	1,628
Germany	2,082	2,832	2,326	5,241	4,374	3,623	2,967	2,244	2,721	536
Hungary	222	12	153	272	852	1,132	1,999	1,610	1,082	1,135
Netherlands	240	520	1,060	2,090	1,880	1,700	2,240	2,830	6,670	7,990
Norway	111	149	201	274	659	754	554	520	560	1,176
Sweden	1,152	2,832	3,969	10,940	6,352	3,550	2,416	6,052	8,991	4,000
Switzerland	552	607	936	1,454	1,821	2,491	2,783	2,956	3,311	2,365

Sources: OECD, 2000 and 2003, Trends in International Migration. SOPEMI, Annual Report, Paris: OECD.

**Table 2.9:**

**Selected countries of the EU and Switzerland: acquisition of nationality by country of former nationality (Serbia and Montenegro)**

Receiving country	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Austria (a)	...	...	...	...	...	...	534	4,213	2,582
Belgium	145	239	403	317	756	769	768	22	749
Czech Republic	12	35	16	14	42	26	31	28	25
Denmark	917	355	784	239	835	324	594	165	196
Finland	4	14	41	32	338	346	248	232	324
France	2,358	1,880	1,902	2,129	...	2,737	...	...	3,375
Germany (a)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,267
Hungary	...	...	...	...	...	949	357	759	757
Luxembourg	1	...	...	...	...	2	55	67	105
Norway	1,322	1,199	614	310	303	852	1,107	1,130	244
Poland	18	25	19	11	12	36	29	47	12
Switzerland (a)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,721	10,441	10,252

(a) Serbia only. (b) Refers to the former Yugoslavia.

Source: OECD, 2010, International Migration Outlook. SOPEMI 2010, OECD, Paris.

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**Table 2.10:  
Persons from Serbia and Montenegro Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident Status  
during Fiscal Years 1991-2009 in Overseas Countries – Australia, Canada and the  
United States**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Australia</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>United States</b>	<b>Total</b>
1991-1992	*2,521	3,178	2,604	8,303
1992-1993	*4,210	5,969	2,664	12,843
1993-1994	*4,854	3,922	3,435	12,211
1994-1995	*6,665	2,987	2,907	12,559
1995-1996	3,049	1,831	3,605	8,485
1996-1997	2,097	1,384	2,793	6,274
1997-1998	1,550	1,172	2,408	5,130
1998-1999	2,912	1,492	1,897	6,301
1999-2000	2,356	4,745	2,774	9,875
2000-2001	2,343	2,803	6,240	11,386
2001-2002	2,082	1,623	10,401	14,106
2002-2003	1,633	941	3,008	5,582
2003-2004	931	708	3,330	4,969
2004-2005	671	272	5,202	6,145
2005-2006	509	126	5,891	6,526
2006-2007	572	49	3,586	4,207
2007-2008	515	59	3,255	3,829
2008-2009	470	16	3,166	3,652
1991-2009 period	39,940	33,277	69,166	142,383

\* Residents to the former SFRY

Sources: Settler Arrivals 1991/92 to 2006/09. States and Territories, Canberra, Commonwealth of Australia, 2009; Facts and Figures. Immigration Overview. Permanent Temporary Residents, Canada, 2009; 2004 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2005; 2009 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2009.

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**Table 2.11:**

**Persons Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident Status in the U.S.A. during Fiscal Years  
2008 and 2009, by Region/Country of Birth and Selected Characteristics/Countries:  
Serbia and Montenegro**

Characteristics	2008			2009		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>	3,255	1,646	1,609	3,166	1,557	1,609
New arrivals	1,107	488	619	1,223	523	700
Adjustments of status	2,148	1,158	990	1,943	1,034	909
<b>Age</b>						
Under 18 years	340	159	181	303	159	144
18 to 24 years	440	186	254	457	191	266
25 to 34 years	1,060	574	486	1,196	645	551
35 to 44 years	597	342	255	488	251	237
45 to 54 years	341	171	170	269	128	141
55 to 64 years	273	124	149	270	106	164
65 years and over	204	90	114	183	77	106
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Marital status</b>						
Single	907	550	357	766	470	296
Married	2,135	1,039	1,096	2,193	1,045	1,148
Other	182	37	145	192	35	157
Unknown	31	20	11	15	7	8
<b>Occupation</b>						
Management, professional, and related occupations	433	286	147	359	214	145
Service occupations	203	139	64	192	130	62
Sale and office occupations	63	23	40	83	26	57
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	11	8	3	16	D	D
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupation	49	49	-	48	D	D
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	109	97	12	80	D	D
Military	-	-	-	-	-	-
No occupation/ not working outside home	1,160	424	736	1,121	412	709
Homemakers	279	5	274	277	5	272
Students or children	516	245	271	451	226	225
Retirees	43	14	29	41	21	20
Unemployed	322	160	162	352	160	192
Unknown	1,227	620	607	1,267	642	625
<b>Broad class of admission</b>						
Family-sponsored preferences	115	68	47	132	66	66
Employment-based preferences	432	224	208	255	126	129
Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens	1,416	609	807	1,782	790	992
Diversity	302	167	135	297	161	136
Refugees and asylum seekers	969	566	403	684	405	279
Other	21	12	9	16	9	7

Data withheld to limit disclosure; Represents zero/

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2009, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, Washington, D.C.: Department of Homeland Security.

**Table 2.12:**  
**Foreign population in Germany – from Serbia and Montenegro, 2006-2010**  
**(on 31<sup>st</sup> December)**

	Kosovo* (1)	Montenegro (1)	Serbia (with and without Kosovo*) (1)	Former State Serbia and Montenegro (1) (2)
2004	-	-	-	125,765
2005	-	-	-	297,004
2006	-	982	33,774	282,067
2007	-	2,632	91,525	236,451
2008	32,183	6,380	136,152	177,330
2009	84,043	10,201	164,942	122,897
2010	108,797	12,930	179,048	93,013

(1) Before 2004 the citizenship of Serbia and Montenegro was identical with the former Yugoslavian; since August 2006 the citizenship of the successor states Serbia and Montenegro is demonstrated and since 1 May 2008 the citizenship of Kosovo\* is proven separately.

(2) Territory of the former Yugoslavia: 31.12. 2004 = 974,612; 31.12.2005 = 963,001.

Source: Statistisches Bundesamt, 2011: 26-39.

**Table 2.13:**  
**Foreign population in Germany in 2010 – from Serbia, by age (in %)**

	Total	Men	Women
<b>Age</b>			
Under 10	9.2	9.3	9.1
10 – 15	7.2	7.2	7.2
15 – 20	7.9	7.9	7.9
20 – 25	7.4	7.4	7.4
25 – 35	17.8	17.7	17.9
35 – 45	17.5	18.5	16.4
45 – 55	10.1	10.1	10.1
55 – 65	14.3	12.9	15.8
65 – 75	6.8	7.3	6.3
75 and more	1.8	1.7	1.9
Number	179,048	90,944	88,104
Average age	36.5	36.4	36.6

Source: Statistisches Bundesamt: Bevölkerung und Erwerbstätigkeit, 2011: 38-39.

**Table 2.14:**  
**Immigration from Serbia to Germany in 2010 / by age**

	Total	%	Men	%	Women	%
Under 10	3,278	26.4	1,699	23.7	1,579	30.1
10 – 20	1,648	13.3	814	11.3	834	15.9
20 – 25	1,347	10.8	729	10.2	618	11.8
25 – 35	3,000	24.1	1,819	25.3	1,181	22.5
35 – 45	1,748	14.1	1,140	15.9	608	11.6
45 – 55	993	8.0	723	10.0	270	5.1
55 and more	414	3.3	257	3.6	157	3.0
Total	12,428	100.0	7,181	100.0	5,247	100.0
Average age	24.2		25.9		21.8	

Source: Statistisches Bundesamt: Bevölkerung und Erwerbstätigkeit, 2011: 108-109.

Table 2.15:

Foreign population in Germany in 2010 - by states (*Länder*), from Serbia

State	Number	%
Baden-Württemberg	38,727	21.6
Bavaria	31,175	17.4
Berlin	7,740	4.3
Hamburg	5,181	2.9
Hesse	14,242	8.0
Lower Saxony	15,809	8.8
North Rhine-Westphalia	52,499	29.3
Rhineland Palatinate	5,621	3.1
Other	8,054	4.6
Total	179,048	100.0

Source: Statistisches Bundesamt: Bevölkerung und Erwerbstätigkeit, 2011: 66-67.

Table 2.16:

Refugees in Serbia, 1996-2010

Year	Refugees and war affected persons	Total population	Share of refugees and war affected persons (in %)
1996	617,728	9,778,991	6.3
2002	379,135	7,498,001	5.1
2005	139,195	7,440,769	1.9
2007	97,700	7,397,651	1.3
2010	86,155	7,306,677	1.2

Note: (1) in 1996 Serbia included the territory of Kosovo and Metohija

Sources: Bobic, 2010: 103; Rakic, 2011: 11; RSO, available at:

<http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/Public/PageView.aspx?pKey=164>, Date of extraction: 18. 07. 2011.

Table 2.17:

Distribution of population in the Republic of Serbia according to the type of rural regions, 2002 and 2007 (in %)

Type	OECD methodology*				A modified methodology	
	EU 15		Serbia		Serbia	
	1980	2000	2002	2007	2002	2007
PU*	45.2	45.4	21.1	21.8	21.02	21.83
SR	32.3	32.7	-	-	71.01	64.49
PR	22.6	22	78.9	78.2	7.97	13.68

\*OECD methodology is based on population density and is implemented through a two-step procedure (OECD, Creating rural indicators for shaping territorial policy, Paris, 1994). First, the local territory units (municipalities, LAU1/2) are identified as rural if their population density under 150 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. Then, regions (NUTS 3 and NUTS 2) are classified into one of three categories:

(1) Predominantly rural (PR), if more than 50% of the population of the region live in rural communities (with less than 150 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>);

(2) A significant rural-mixed (SR), if 15% - 50% of population of the region live in rural communities;

(3) Predominantly urban (PU), if less than 15% of the population of the region live in rural communities.

Source: Gligorijević, Stepić, 2010, available at: [http://www.demobalk.org/conferences/fr/BUDVA\\_10\\_5-2010/S\\_3/Gligorijevic\\_S3.pdf](http://www.demobalk.org/conferences/fr/BUDVA_10_5-2010/S_3/Gligorijevic_S3.pdf), Retrieved at May 10, 2011.

Table 2.18:

Average annual rates of natural and migration components of population dynamics in Serbia, NUTS 3, 2002-2007, (in %)

NUTS 3	Population growth	Natural change	Net migration
Vojvodina			
North, West, South Bačka districts	- 0.18	- 0.4	0.2
North, Mid, South Banat	- 0.81	- 0.6	- 0.2
Srem district	- 0.24	- 0.5	0.2
<b>City of Belgrade</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>- 0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Sumadija and West Serbia districts			
Kolubarski and Mačvanski	- 0.81	- 0.5	- 0.3
Podunavski i Braničevski	- 0.54	- 0.5	- 0.0
Moravički, Šumadijski and Pomoravski	- 0.54	- 0.4	- 0.5
Zlatiborski	- 0.73	- 0.2	- 0.0
Borski and Zaječarski	- 1.43	- 1.4	- 0.2
Raški and Rasinski	- 0.15	- 0.1	0.0
South and East Serbia districts			
Nišavski, Toplički and Pirotski 1.12	- 0.58	- 0.6	- 1.0
Jablanički and Pčinjski	- 1.12	- 0.1	- 1.0

Source: Gligorijević, Stepić, 2010, available at: [http://www.demobalk.org/conferences/fr/BUDVA\\_10\\_5-2010/S\\_3/Gligorijevic\\_S3.pdf](http://www.demobalk.org/conferences/fr/BUDVA_10_5-2010/S_3/Gligorijevic_S3.pdf), Retrieved at May 10, 2011.

Table 2.19:

Components of population dynamics in the Republic of Serbia, 1991-2002

	Population mid-year thousands		Increase / Decrease (000)	Growth rate	Natural increase (000)	Natural increase per 1,000 inhab.	Live births (000)	Live births per 1,000 inhab.	Deaths (000)	Deaths per 1,000 inhab.	Net Migration (000)	Migration rate
	1991	2002										
Large cities	1771.2	1731.1	- 40.0	- 2.1	- 19.7	- 1.0	199.6	10.4	219.2	11.4	- 20.4	- 1.1
Belgrade	1168.4	1119.6	- 48.8	- 3.9	- 18.8	- 1.5	125.9	10.0	144.8	11.5	- 29.9	- 2.4
Niš	175.4	173.7	- 1.7	- 0.9	3.1	1.6	22.8	11.9	19.6	10.2	- 4.8	- 2.5
Kragujevac	147.3	146.4	- 0.9	- 0.6	2.6	1.6	17.3	10.7	14.6	9.1	- 3.6	- 2.2
Novi Sad	179.6	191.4	11.8	5.8	- 0.6	- 0.3	22.6	11.1	23.2	11.4	12.4	6.1
Subotica	100.4	100.0	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 6.0	- 5.4	11.0	10.0	17.0	15.4	5.6	5.1
Small and medium towns	2462.1	2494.8	32.6	1.2	25.6	0.9	321.7	11.8	296.1	10.9	7.0	0.3
Urban population	4233.3	4225.9	- 7.4	- 0.2	5.9	0.1	521.3	11.2	515.4	11.1	- 13.3	- 0.3
Rural population	3589.5	3272.1	- 317.4	- 8.4	- 179.8	- 4.8	374.3	9.9	554.1	14.7	- 137.6	- 3.7
Total population	7822.8	7498.0	- 324.8	- 3.9	- 173.8	- 2.1	895.6	10.6	1069.5	12.7	- 151.0	- 1.8
Central Serbia	5808.9	5466.0	- 342.9	- 5.5	- 90.7	- 1.5	665.7	10.7	756.5	12.2	- 252.2	- 4.1
Vojvodina	2013.9	2032.0	18.1	0.8	- 83.1	- 3.7	229.9	10.3	313.0	14.1	101.2	4.6

Source: Stojanović, Vojković, 2005: 67.

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**Table 2.20:  
Components of population dynamics in the Republic of Serbia, 2003-2009**

	Population mid-year thousands		Increase/Decrease (000)	Growth rate	Natural increase (000)	Natural increase per 1,000 inhab.	Live births (000)	Live births per 1,000 inhab.	Deaths (000)	Deaths per 1000 inhab.	Migration net (000)	Migration rate
	2003	2009										
Large cities	1736.4	1794.7	58.3	3.3	- 3.1	- 1.8	19.4	11.0	22.5	12.7	12.3	7.0
Belgrade	1121.8	1154.8	33.0	2.9	- 2.5	- 2.3	12.1	10.6	14.6	12.9	7.8	6.9
Niš	174.0	179.8	5.8	3.3	- 0.1	- 0.8	2.0	11.4	2.2	12.2	1.0	5.7
Kragujevac	146.3	146.8	0.5	0.4	- 0.07	- 0.5	1.6	10.8	1.7	11.3	0.2	1.2
Novi Sad	194.6	213.9	19.4	9.5	0.1	0.7	2.7	13.0	2.5	12.3	2.9	14.4
Subotica	99.8	99.4	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.5	- 4.7	1.0	10.2	1.5	14.8	0.4	4.0
Small and medium towns	2503.6	2484.3	- 19.3	- 0.8	- 3.6	- 1.4	27.2	10.9	30.8	12.4	0.6	0.2
Urban population	4240.0	4279.0	39.1	0.9	- 6.7	- 1.6	46.6	10.9	53.3	12.5	12.9	3.0
Rural population	3240.6	3041.8	- 198.8	- 6.3	- 24.7	- 7.8	26.0	8.3	50.6	16.1	- 8.1	- 2.6
Total population	7480.6	7320.8	- 159.8	- 2.2	31.4	- 4.2	72.6	9.8	103.9	14.0	4.8	0.6

Source: Demography statistics (CD), Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2011.



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**Table 2.21:**

**Population characteristics 1991-2009**

NUTS		1991-2009 Absolute growth	% growth 1991/2009	% of 15-64 old in total population 2009	Average Age 2007	Ageing index 2007
	<b>Serbia</b>	<b>-274,829</b>	<b>-3.62</b>	67.7	<b>40.9</b>	<b>103.2</b>
1	<b>North, Serbia</b>	13,800	0.4%		-	-
2	<b>Belgrade</b>	<b>77,850</b>	<b>5.01%</b>	<b>69.4</b>	41.0	108.8
2	Vojvodina	-64,050	- 3.15%	68.7	40.4	96.7
3	North, Backi	-9,198	- 4.57%	68.7	40.8	103.8
3	Mid, Banat	-24,617	-11.31%	67.4	41.1	103.7
3	North, Banat	-20,131	-11.58%	68.2	41.2	106.5
3	South, Banat	-18,597	-5.82%	68.4	40.3	93.5
3	West, Backa	-25,579	-11.57%	66.8	41.7	112.8
3	<b>South, Backa</b>	<b>41,643</b>	<b>7.36%</b>	<b>69.4</b>	39.6	98.4
3	Sremski	-7,571	-2.27%	68.5	40.0	90.1
1	<b>South, Serbia</b>	<b>-289,920</b>	<b>-7.23%</b>	-	-	-
2	Sumadija, & W est, S.	-145,001	-6.60%	-	-	-
3	Macvanski	-34,043	-9.87%	68.0	40.5	96.4
3	Kolubarski	-20,140	-10.05%	66.5	42.2	117.6
3	Sumadija	-16,924	-5.52%	68.6	41.2	104.5
3	Pomoravski	-19,892	-8.43%	68.2	42.5	121.1
3	Zlatiborski	-29,139	-8.94%	68.1	40.5	96.3
3	Moravicki	-16,407	-7.08%	67.4	41.9	114.4
3	<b>Raski</b>	<b>19,637</b>	<b>7.03%</b>	66.0	37.4	69.2
3	Rasinski	-28,093	-10.32%	66.2	42.3	118.7
2	South, & East, S.	-144,919	-7.99%	-	-	-
3	Podunavski	-11,652	-5.43%	67.8	40.5	95.5
3	<b>Branicevski</b>	<b>-15,778</b>	<b>-7.68%</b>	<b>63.5</b>	42.3	118.9
3	<b>Borski</b>	<b>-22,957</b>	<b>-14.77%</b>	65.7	41.4	119.6
3	<b>Zajecarski</b>	<b>-29,036</b>	<b>-18.92%</b>	<b>63.4</b>	45.5	169.5
3	Nisavski	-17,410	-4.45%	65.4	42.0	120.6
3	Toplicki	<b>-16,162</b>	<b>-14.60%</b>	<b>63.1</b>	41.9	114.4
3	<b>Pirotski</b>	<b>-22,147</b>	<b>-18.97%</b>	<b>60.8</b>	44.4	152.4
3	Jablanicki	-23,017	-9.20%	65.7	40.9	103.5
3	Pcinjski	13,240	6.16%	66.0	36.3	59.7

Sources: RSO, 2002; Census book and RSO, 2011, Announcement: Population Estimate.

**Table 2.22:  
Underdeveloped regions 2007**

	Regional data			Employment			Unemployment		
	Population	Area km <sup>2</sup>	Rate of depopulation	No.	Rate	Index RS=100	No.	Rate	Index RS=100
Total	821,981	19,803	-7.0	126,560	15.4	56.6	122,853	49.3	84.6
% RS	11.2	22.4	-	6.3	-	-	16.9	-	-
	Economy								
% RS	No. companies	Assets	Capital	Income	Profit	Loss	GDP		
	4.5	1.9	1.9	2.1	1.4	3.2	1.9		

Source: Gov. R. Serbia, 2010a.

**Box 1 - Official Poverty Definition and Measurements**

The official poverty threshold, the **absolute poverty line** is defined as value of subsistence minimum; calculated as the consumption that is necessary to satisfy basic food and non-food needs. OECD equivalence scale applied: 1+0.7+0.5 (children 13<)

The poverty line is defined in two steps:

1. Local costs for minimum food basket which is calculated as: 2,288 Calories multiplied by the cost for one calorie, derived upon the households' food consumption structure (193 food articles). This cost could be used to measure the extent of the extreme poverty.
2. The full poverty line is defined by including expenditures for non food items.

After 2001 poverty measurement was conducted by two different methodologies. The first one used data from Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS) and applied the WB methodology, the LSMS's were conducted in 2002 and 2007 and the data were used as a base for production of Poverty Reduction Strategy document in 2003. In 2004 the government adopted a decision to statistically measure poverty data according to Household Budget Survey (HSB) and to adopt an absolute poverty line as threshold indicator.

**Box 2 Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units for Serbia – to be effective from January, 1<sup>st</sup>. 2011**

**NUTS 1:**

1. **Serbia North** (*Srbija Sever*): constitutes: Belgrade region and Vojvodina Province region
2. **Serbia South** (*Srbija Jug*) constitutes: region of Sumadija and West Serbia, Region of South and East Serbia and Region of Kosovo and Metohija.

**NUTS 2:**

1. Belgrade region
2. Vojvodina region
3. Region Sumadija and West Serbia
4. Region South and East Serbia
5. Region Kosovo and Metohija

**NUTS 3:**

1. Belgrade region – territory of City of Belgrade
- 2 Vojvodina region – Local self governments distributed within the administrative districts: Western Backi district, Southern-Banat district, Southern-Backa district, Northern-Banat district, Northern-Backa district, Middle-Banat district and Srem district.
3. Sumadija and West Serbia region: Local self governments distributed within the following administrative districts: Zlatiborski, Kolubarski, Macvanci, Moravicki, Pomoravski, Rasinski, Raski and Sumadijski.
- 4 South and East Serbia region: Local self governments distributed within the following administrative districts: Borski, Branicevski, Zajecarski, Jablanicki, Nisavski, Pirotski, Podunavski, Pcinjski and Toplicki.
5. Kosovo and Metohija region: Local self governments distributed within the following administrative districts: Kosovski, Kosovsko-mitrovacki, Kosovsko pomoravski, Pecki and Prizrenski.

Level	Smallest population size	Largest population
NUTS 1	3.000.000	7.000.000
NUTS 2	800.000	3.000.000
NUTS 3	150.000	800.000

Source: Directive on NUTS, The Official Gazette 109/09 and 46/10

**Box 3 Development Criteria – Regional Development Law (2009/2010)**

Regions are classified in two groups, regarding degree of development:

1. Developed – with GDP/per capita above the national average;
2. Not sufficiently developed - with GDP/per capita below the national average.

Classification of Local Communities

LC's are ranked in four + two groups:

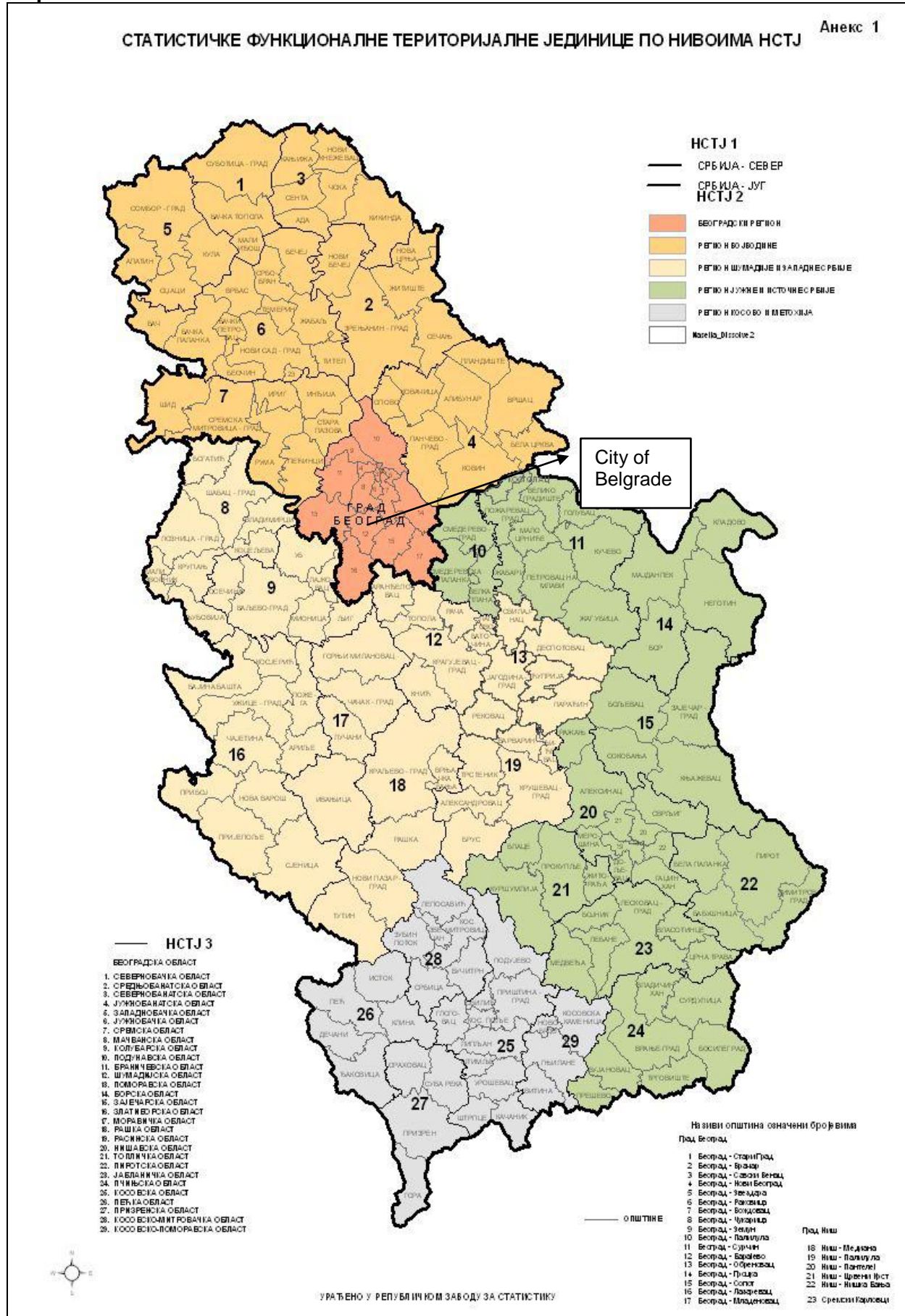
1. Development degree above the national average GDP;
2. LC in the range of 80-100% of national average;
3. LC in the range of 60-80% of national average - **Not sufficiently developed** ;
4. LC below 60% of national average – **Extremely undeveloped** +
5. LC with demographic losses higher than 50% dating from 1971.- **Extremely undeveloped**
6. LC in Kosovo and Metohija

Devastated Areas:

- 1) LC below 50% of the national GDP average

Source: Law on Amendments of Law on Regional Development, May 2010.

Map 1: Statistical Territorial Units of Serbia



Source: RSO

**NUTS 1:**

1. **Serbia North** (*Srbija Sever*): constitutes: Belgrade region and Vojvodina Province region
2. **Serbia South** (*Srbija Jug*) constitutes: Sumadija and West Serbia Region; South and East Serbia Region; Kosovo\*.

**NUTS 2:**

1. **Belgrade region** 
2. **Vojvodina region** 
3. **Region Sumadija and West Serbia** 
4. **Region South and East Serbia** 
5. **Region Kosovo\*** 

**NUTS 3:** Administrative districts

1. **Belgrade** region: territory of City of Belgrade (17 Local Communities)
2. **Vojvodina** region: (1) North-Backa, (2) Mid-Banat (3) North-Banat, (4) South-Banat, (5) West Backa, (6) South-Backa, (7) Srem.
3. **Sumadija and West Serbia** region: (8) Macvanska, (9) Kolubarski, (12) Sumadijska, (13) Pomoravska, (16) Zlatiborska (17) Moravicka, (18) Raska, (19) Rasinska;
4. **South and East Serbia** region: (10) Podunavska, (11) Branicevski, (14) Borska, (15) Zajecarska, (20) Nisavska, (21) Toplicki. (22) Pirotski, (23) Jablanicki, (24) Pcinjski;
5. **Kosovo\***: (25) Kosovska, (26) Pecka, (27) Prizrenska, (28) Kosovsko-mitrovacki, (29) Kosovsko pomoravski

**BOX 3A - Classification of urban and rural areas**

There are several criteria for the classification of settlements into urban one. In Serbia, the Census statistics in the period 1948-2002 used two criteria for differentiation of settlements:

- an administrative criteria: a settlement is proclaimed as urban (town) according to a legislative regulation)
- a demographic-statistical criterion: urban settlements should have at least 2,000 inhabitants and 90% of inhabitants in non agricultural activities, whereby this percentage may be lower with the increase of a settlement's population size, e.g. settlements with 15,000 and more inhabitants are considered as towns if they have at least 30% of inhabitants in non agricultural activities).

Usually, the classification of urban settlement refers to:

- (a) Small towns (population up to 20,000);
- (b) Medium towns (population between 20,000 and 100,000)
- (c) Cities (population over 100,000).

Apart from urban settlement types, the official settlement classification in Serbia also recognises so-called "other settlements". Namely, all settlements that are not classified as urban are put in the residual category of "other settlements", starting from 1981

See for more details: Spasić, Petrić, 2006: 9.

The Republic of Serbia does not have a definition of rural areas according to statistical criteria. According to the amended classification of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, rural areas include all territories except the 24 cities, whose status is defined by the Law on Territorial Organisation of the Republic of Serbia. The lack of a clear definition of rural areas in official statistics hinders precise assessment of rural area's position in various social and economic processes in the Republic of Serbia and of various characteristics of population (Gov. R. Serbia, March 2010)

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**Table 3.1:**

**Structure of employees by education/qualification attainment, March 2011**

	R. Serbia	North		South	
		Belgrade	Vojvodina	Sumadija & West S.	South & East S.
All	100	100	100	100	100
University	22.89%	26.70%	18.52%	11.36%	20.77%
High	7.95%	8.00%	6.50%	4.40%	8.21%
Secondary	32.68%	34.28%	30.09%	15.66%	31.24%
Elementary	4.38%	3.90%	4.04%	2.36%	4.73%
<b>Skills-qualification</b>					
High	5.12%	6.83%	2.78%	2.91%	4.68%
Qualified	14.85%	11.98%	12.28%	9.71%	16.66%
Mid	4.68%	3.99%	3.51%	3.31%	4.94%
Nonqualified	7.45%	4.31%	7.50%	4.94%	8.77%

Source: RSO, 2011, Announcement No. 2004.

**Table 3.2:**

**Educational attainment, by NUTS 2 and urban/rural, October, 2010 (in%)**

Education level	All	Urban	Rural	Regions			
				Belgrade	Vojvodina	Sumadija & West Serbia	South & East Serbia
Without school	5.3	2.9	8.8	2.2	4.6	6.6	7.9
Low	45.8	35.7	60.3	32.3	47.2	49.6	53.0
Middle	39.7	48.0	35.6	47.8	40.2	37.6	33.5
High	9.2	13.4	6.7	17.7	8.0	6.2	5.6

Source: RSO, 2011, Announcement No. 2004

**Table 3.3:**

**Activity structure of working age population (15-64) by activity, gender, region, October 2010, April 2011**

Rates %	All	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	Regions			
						Belgrade	Vojvodina	Sumadija & West Serbia	South & East Serbia
<b>2010</b>									
Activity	58.8	67.2	50.6	57.8	60.4	60.3	55.2	61.2	58.8
Employment	47.1	54.4	38.9	45.3	49.7	50.7	44.0	48.4	45.8
Unemployment	20	19	21.2	21.6	17.7	16	20.4	21	22.1
Inactivity	41.2	32.8	49.4	42.2	39.8	39.7	44.8	38.8	41.2
<b>2011</b>									
Activity	46.5	55.3	38.4	45.4	48.1	44.9	45.4	48.5	47.0
Employment	36.2	43.2	29.8	34.5	38.6	36.5	35.0	37.8	35.3
Unemployment	19.2	22.0	22.5	24.1	19.7	18.9	22.9	22.0	24.8

Source: RSO, 2010 and 2011, LFS.

Table 3.4:

Regional structure of employees by the major sectors in %, March 2011

	All	North		South	
		Belgrade	Vojvodina	Sumadija & West S	East & South S.
<b>All sectors</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Agriculture	21.5	3.6	19.9	31.2	28.8
Mining	1.3	2.0	0.3	1.1	2.2
Manufacturing	17.0	14.0	20.7	18.0	15.0
Construction	5.0	4.2	5.4	4.1	6.4
Trade	13.4	14.8	14.4	12.4	12.2
Traffic	5.5	7.4	5.3	4.9	4.5
Financial services	2.1	4.3	1.5	1.4	1.4
Expert services	2.5	5.3	2.2	1.6	1.0
Information & communic.	2.0	5.4	1.7	1.0	0.2
Administration	2.2	3.7	3.2	0.7	1.4
State admin.	5.5	6.1	4.5	4.8	5.6
Education	6.3	7.9	5.4	5.7	6.5
Health	6.4	8.3	6.4	4.9	6.4
Other sectors	9.3	13.4	9.1	8.2	8.4

Source: RSO, 2011a, Annual Statistical book on LC 2010.

Table 3.5:

Regional participation of number of employees by wage levels, March 2011

Wage range (in RSD)	Serbia Total	North			South		
		Total	Belgrade	Vojvodina	Total	Sumadija & West S.	South & East S.
All	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
No pay	4.50%	4.00%	3.17%	4.98%	5.19%	4.88%	5.56%
< 15 000	2.26%	2.03%	2.00%	2.06%	2.59%	2.12%	3.15%
15 001-20000	3.32%	2.65%	2.25%	3.13%	4.24%	3.43%	5.21%
20 001-25000	8.48%	7.17%	5.79%	8.79%	10.28%	9.97%	10.66%
25 001-35000	16.27%	14.12%	11.21%	17.54%	19.22%	20.75%	17.38%
65 001-85000	10.94%	12.64%	15.36%	9.46%	8.59%	8.12%	9.15%
85 001-110000	6.94%	8.19%	10.34%	5.67%	5.22%	4.18%	6.48%
110 001 >	6.65%	9.02%	11.49%	6.13%	3.39%	2.99%	3.87%

Source: Ibid.

Table 3.6:

Long-term unemployment rates, by NUTS 2, and gender, October, 2010

	All	Urban	Rural	Regions NUTS 2			
				Belgrade	Vojvodina	Sumadija & West Serbia	South & East Serbia
Total	13.8	15.5	11.5	10.7	13.3	14.7	16.0
Male	13.3	15.6	10.5	10.8	12.8	14.8	14.5
Female	14.4	15.3	13.0	10.6	14.1	14.8	18.0
Share of long-term unemployment in total unemployment	71.6	72.4	70.3	67.8	66.8	72.0	77.4

Source: RSO, 2010, LFS.

Table 3.7:

**Regional distribution of poverty 2007 (in%)**

Regions	Households distribution	Distribution of poor	Poverty incidence 2002	Poverty incidence 2007
	100		Total = 14.0	Total = 6.8
Urban	58.5	38.6	11.2	4.3
Rural	41.5	61.4	17.7	9.8
<i>Belgrade Region – NUTS 2</i>	22.3	10.4	10.8	3.1
Urban	18.3	8.4	9.3	3.0
Rural	3.9	1.9	17.2	3.3
<i>Vojvodina Region NUTS 2</i>	28.3	26.3	12.4	6.1
Urban	16.2	8.1	10.7	3.3
Rural	12.1	18.2	14.5	9.9
<i>South Serbia NUTS 1</i>	49.5	63.4	-	8.4
Urban	41.0	20.1	-	6.1
Rural	61.4	41.3	-	10.7
<i>Region Sumadija &amp; West Serbia – NUTS 2</i>				
West Serbia	10.5	13.4	16.5	8.4
Urban	4.2	2.5	15.8	4.0
Rural	6.3	10.9	17.0	11.4
Sumadija	16.8	9.4	13.8	3.7
Urban	8.5	3.2	10.4	2.5
Rural	8.3	6.2	17.1	4.9
<i>Region South and East Serbia - NUTS 2</i>				
East Serbia	8.6	13.2	12.9	10.1
Urban	4.1	6.9	11.8	11.2
Rural	4.6	6.3	13.9	9.1
South Serbia	13.5	27.3	21.2	13.3
Urban	7.2	9.3	14.7	8.5
Rural	6.4	18.0	27.2	18.7

Source: RSO, 2007, The Living Standards Measurement Study.



**Table 3.8:**  
**Absolute Poverty Rates 2008-2010**

%	2008	Average = 100	2009	Average = 100	2010	Aver.= 100
<b>Poverty rate</b>	<b>6,1</b>	100	<b>6,9</b>	100	<b>9,2</b>	100
<b>Settlement type</b>						
Urban area	5,0	81.9	4,9	71.0	5,7	61.9
Other area	7,5	123.0	9,6	139.1	13,6	147.8
<b>Regions</b>						
Belgrade	2,9	47.5	3,8	55.1	5,3	57.6
Vojvodina	7,0	114.8	9,3	134.8	12,0	130.4
South Serbia	6,8	111.5	4,9	71.0	6,8	73.9
<b>Household size</b>						
Single	6,6	108.2	5,7	82.6	5,6	60.9
Two members	5,5	90.2	5,6	81.1	5,9	64.1
Three members	5,1	83.4	5,0	72.5	7,0	76.1
Four members	4,7	77.0	4,7	68.1	7,1	77.2
Five	5,2	85.2	5,7	82.6	11,7	127.2
Six	10,0	163.9	14,2	205.8	16,4	178.3
<b>Age</b>						
Children – 13 years	7,3	119.7	9,8	142.2	13,7	148.9
14-18	6,9	113.1	8,4	121.7	9,1	98.9
19-24	5,9	96.7	7,5	108.7	11,5	125.0
25-45	5,0	82	6,4	92.7	8,9	96.7
46-64	5,4	88.5	5,3	76.8	8,0	86.9
65 +	7,5	123	7,5	108.7	7,9	85.9
<b>Household's head education</b>						
Less than elementary	9,0	147.5	14,8	214.5	14,2	154.3
Elementary school	10,5	172.1	9,2	133.3	12,7	138.0
Secondary school	4,8	78.7	3,0	43.5	4,8	52.2
High school	2,7	44.3	1,8	25.1	2,4	26.1
University	1,9	31.1	0,6	8.7	0,8	8.7

Source: RSO, 2011, Announcement 117.

**Table 3.9:**  
**Poverty characteristics of population by ethnic groups and migration type 2007**

Survey sample	Autochthonous Poverty line		Migrant Poverty line	
	Above (in %)	Below (in %)	Above (in %)	Below (in %)
Total	92.6	7.4	94.6	5.4
Serbian pop.	94.1	5.9	95.2	4.8
Hungarian	94.5	5.5	97.3	2.7
Roma	47.2	52.8	58.4	41.6
Other	92.2	7.8	95.6	4.4

Source: RSO, 2011, Announcement 117

Table 3.10:

Availability of durable goods, by household's type, by district, 2009 (in %)

	Rep. Serbia	South Serbia		Belgrade		Vojvodina	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Electric cooker	80.8	93.2	84.1	91.4	80.0	58.1	62.6
Refrigerator	97.2	97.7	94.4	99.0	97.2	98.5	97.6
Washing machine	88.1	92.3	75.8	96.4	88.9	96.4	86.0
Vacuum cleaner	84.2	89.1	70.9	92.7	80.4	90.5	82.6
TV set	97.1	97.6	95.5	98.2	96.1	98.0	97.0
PC	35.6	41.5	18.7	42.7	43.6	47.3	30.4
Internet connection	23.4	27.5	9.6	32.9	23.1	34.1	15.7
Telephone	86.9	91.3	74.6	98.2	85.3	91.1	81.5
Passenger car	45.4	47.0	44.7	36.9	54.6	51.7	46.1

Source: RSO, 2010, HBS 2009.

Table 3.11:

Income Adequacies (survey) - Households Structure by Region, 2006, in %

% of households	Adequacy of the last month income		Lack of money as reason for abstain from health care in case of hypertension	Some of family members went on vacation in last 12 months	Personal perception of material status as 'bad'
	To satisfy the basic needs	To satisfy all needs			
<b>Serbia</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>37.0</b>
<i>Vojvodina</i>	36.3	28.7	13.2	20.9	36.1
<i>Belgrade</i>	55.4	46.2	8.7	43.6	32.8
<i>Sumadija and West Serbia region:</i>					
West Serbia	36.0	20.6	10.4	11.7	34.4
Sumadija	47.8	42.8	19.8	20.8	32.1
<i>South and East Serbia region:</i>					
East Serbia	31.7	28.4	19.5	12.3	41.7
South Serbia	24.9	19.9	17.1	15.1	50.5
Urban	43.5	35.2	11.3	30.4	34.1
Other	36.3	29.5	17.7	13.7	41.1

Source: Institute of Public Health, 2007.

Table 3.12:

Households Income Sources 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2010

	R. Serbia	South Serbia	North Serbia	
			Belgrade	Vojvodina
Average number of family members	2.85	2.99	2.61	2.81
<b>Available resources</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Money Income</b>	<b>94.9</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>96.1</b>
From the regular employment	44.8	40.9	51.7	44.0
Outside regular employment	2.6	1.4	2.5	4.5
Pensions	34.3	32.6	34.9	36.6
Social assistance benefits	2.3	2.8	1.0	2.9
Income from agriculture	2.2	3.4	0.2	2.3
Remittances	1.4	1.5	2.0	0.6
Property income	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.6
Money gains	1.0	0.5	2.1	0.6
Loans	1.4	1.1	1.1	2.2
Other	4.6	7.2	3.3	1.8
<b>Natural receipts</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>
From employment	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3
Natural consumption	5.0	8.2	1.1	3.6

Source: RSO, 2010, HBS.

**Table 3.13:  
Structure of internal migration\* by the settlement type distribution, 2007**

	Total	Settlement		Regions					
		Urban	Rural	Belgrade	Vojvodina	Sumadija & West Serbia		South & East Serbia	
						Sumadija	West	South	East
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Autochthonous	58.7	55.2	63.5	53.9	57.4	62.1	60.4	64.1	61.0
Migrant*	41.3	44.8	36.5	46.1	42.8	37.9	39.6	35.9	39.0
Poverty rate	6.6	4.3	9.8	3.1	6.1	8.4	3.7	10.1	13.3

Source: RSO, 2009, LSM Study 2007; \* Migrant population – persons which changed place of residence at least once

**Table 3.14:  
GDP by regions, 2009**

NUTS 2	GDP (RSD mill.)	% share	GDP/per capita	
			(RSD- 000)	RS = 100
Serbia	2,815,000	100,0	385	100.0
Belgrade region	1,124,565	39.9	690	179.4
Vojvodina region	720,301	25.6	366	95.2
Sumadija & West S.	563,734	20.0	275	71.4
South & East S.	406,400	14.4	243	63.3

Source: RSO, 2011, Preliminary 2009 results for GDP.

**Table 3.15:  
Territorial Development Indicators – NUTS 2 level, 2009**

NUTS 2	Population 2009□	Population density Per 1km2	No. of companies with 10 > employees/ km□□ 2008	No. of new housing units/1000 km2□□ in 2008	% Share of modern asphalted roads in total roads length
Serbia	7,320,807	82.9	0.15	224.3	64.9
Vojvodina (7 administrative districts)	1,968,356	91.5	0.17	365.5	88.7
Belgrade (17 LC)	1,630,582	505.3	1.46	1357.9	83.6
Sumadija & West Serbia (8 adm. Dist.)	2,052,490	77.5	0.11	175.2	58.3
South and East Serbia (9 adm. districts)	1,669,379	63.6	0.07	110.3	60.7
Coefficient of variation	1.16		1.50	1.16	0.21

Source: Gov. R. Serbia, 2010a, Law on Territorial Planning 2010-2020.

**Table 4.1  
Population flows at the level of Local Communities (LCs)**

Local Communities	1971		2002	
	Total Population all settlements	LC Adm. Centre in % population share	Total Population all settlements	LC Adm. Centre in % population share
Bor	52,849	57.0	55,817	70.6
Dimitrovgrad	16,365	33.5	11,748	59.3
Kursumlija	31,672	22.7	21,608	63.1
Majdanpek	26,120	30.9	23,703	42.5
Novi Pazar	64,326	45.0	85,996	63.5
Sjenica	36,622	23.4	27,970	47.1
Crna Trava	9,672	13.2	2,563	22.0

Source: Tosic et al., 2009.

**Table 4.2  
School attainment, population 15 years and older (in %), Census data**

	No school		Less than primary		Primary		Secondary		High / University	
	1991	2002	1991	2002	1991	2002	1991	2002	1991	2002
R Serbia	15.0	5.7	24.4	23.9	30.4	18.3	24.5	41.1	5.7	11.0
Borska		7.9		25.7		29.4		29.7		7.3
Zajecarska		5.5		25.3		34.2		28.2		6.8
Zajecarska (both districts)	16.3		17.0				16.5		3.4	

Source: RSO, Annual Yearbook Local Communities, 1992, 2010, Belgrade.

Table 5.1:

**Ethnic composition, 1991 and 2002 Census data**

Ethnic nationality	1991		2002	
	Number	%	Number	%
TOTAL	7,576,837	100.0	7,498,001	100.0
Serbs	6,062,752	80.0	6,212,838	82.9
Montenegrins	117,763	1.6	69,049	0.9
Yugoslavs	312,600	4.1	80,721	1.1
Albanians	73,207	1.0	61,647	0.8
Bosniaks/Muslims	176,415	2.3	155,590	2.1
Bosniaks	–	–	136,087	1.8
Muslims	176,415	2.3	19,503	0.3
Bulgarians	26,418	0.3	20,497	0.3
Bunians	21,236	0.3	20,012	0.3
Vlachs	15,675	0.2	40,054	0.5
Goranci	–	–	4,581	0.1
Hungarians	337,479	4.5	293,299	3.9
Macedonians	44,034	0.6	25,847	0.3
Germans	4,745	0.1	3,901	0.1
Roma	91,075	1.2	108,193	1.4
Romanians	37,818	0.5	34,576	0.5
Russians	2,429	0.0	2,588	0.0
Ruthenians	17,795	0.2	15,905	0.2
Slovaks	65,363	0.9	59,021	0.8
Unknown	34,326	0.5	75,483	1.0

Source: RSO, 1991 and 2002, Census.

Table 5.2:

**Roma population 15 years and older, according to education status, 2009**

Census	Total	No school	Less than elementary	Elementary	Secondary	High	Unknown
2009	100	20.7	37.1	30.4	7.13	0.28	4.4
2002	100	25.6	36.3	29.0	7.8	0.31	1.0

Source: RSO, 2009, Trial Census on Roma Population, December, 2009.

Table 5.3:

**Poverty Indicators for Roma and general Population, 2007 (%)**

	Extreme poverty rate	Overall poverty rate	Distribution of the poor	Distribution of overall population
Roma	6.4	49.2	19.5	2.6
General population	0.1	5.4	80.5	97.4

Source: European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, 2008,.

Table 5.4:

**Non-Income Poverty Indicators, 2003 (in %)**

	Roma	General population
Very poor	60.5	6.1
Non-income deprivation		
Education poor	61.3	17.9
Employment poor	13.6	3.9
Health poor	9.0	4.6
Housing condition poor	64.1	14.7
Housing and citizen right poor	22.3	5.9
Non-income deprivation (at least one)	80.8	34.0
Non-income deprivation (at least two)	43.8	7.3

Source: European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, 2008

Table 5.5:

**Roma working/living abroad, Census 2002**

Receiving Country	All	Duration								
		< 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Unknown
<b>All</b>	<b>14,865</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>4,363</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>2,986</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>1,890</b>
Germany	7,346	364	2,861	1,490	1,406	1,57	11,3	59	1,22	774
Austria	4,028	198	548	613	905	381	342	202	263	576
Sweden	787	77	211	165	221	7	7	1	6	92
Italy	700	51	1,82	190	133	32	23	1	3	85
Denmark	415	30	101	87	73	32	1,6	9	20	47
Switzerland	392	17	92	86	80	26	1,4	-	3	74
France	275	21	53	57	51	1,6	1,9	1,0	1,4	34
Netherlands	245	6	97	65	44	9	1	-	-	23
Other	677	72	21,8	80	73	14	19	12	4	185

Source: Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, 2004a, Ethnic Mosaic in Serbia.

Table 5.6:

**Hungarian ethnic minority citizens working/living abroad, by duration and by the receiving country, Census 2002**

Receiving country	All	Duration								
		< 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 +	Unknown
<b>All</b>	<b>10,810</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>1799</b>	<b>2391</b>	<b>2473</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>1613</b>	<b>745</b>
Hungary	4,384	201	1,239	1,558	1,049	41	21	8	12	255
Germany	3,697	64	194	304	728	205	304	377	1,268	253
Austria	696	11	52	116	262	36	38	35	85	61
Canada	381	13	88	141	88	13	7	6	14	11
Switzerland	359	8	12	51	1,00	40	38	41	41	28
Sweden	294	6	17	34	68	17	24	23	90	15
Australia	162	1	25	35	44	11	10	13	16	7
USA	146	11	20	33	34	14	10	4	14	6
France	119	4	12	13	8	5	11	8	50	8
Other	572	51	140	106	92	22	26	11	23	101

Source: Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, 2004a, Ethnic Mosaic in Serbia.

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**Table 5.7:**

**Bosniaks ethnic minority citizens working/living abroad Census 2002**

Receiving Country	All	Duration								
		< 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 +	Unknown
<b>ALL</b>	<b>26,998</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>7,636</b>	<b>7,970</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>3,530</b>
Germany	14,883	527	3,948	4,830	2,657	305	247	202	355	1,812
Sweden	1,522	60	252	477	540	2	-	3	-	188
Switzerland	1,454	29	218	330	412	119	65	35	23	223
Austria	1,323	74	289	324	329	53	20	13	18	203
Netherlands	1,255	33	71,3	315	92	-	1	-	-	101
USA	672	20	200	236	125	7	4	3	1	76
France	651	20	1,68	135	112	29	22	32	40	93
Luxemburg	487	1,3	208	119	68	3	1	3	-	72
Denmark	400	25	1,30	120	82	-	-	3	2	38
Belgium	267	1,4	11,4	57	25	3	3	6	2	43
Other	4084	21,2	1,396	1,027	553	123	48	19	25	681

Source: Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, 2004a, Ethnic Mosaic in Serbia.

**Table 5.8:**

**Profile of Young Returnees to Sandzak (part of Sumadija & West Serbia)**

	Gender		Education				Age		
	Male	Female	High	Secondary	Elementary	Less than elementary	15-19	20-25	26-30
%	72	28	5	65	25	5	20	55	25
	Period of emigration			Reasons			Return		
	1990-1998	1999-2001	2002-2009	Economic	Safety	Social	Voluntary	Involuntary	
%	45	13	42	65	30	5	12	88	

Source: Petrović, 2010.

**Table 5.9:**

**Official Data on Force Returnees 2006 – July 2010 (Data from Belgrade airport)**

	2006	2007		2008		2009		July - 2010
Number	1,109	721		568		814		283
	<b>2006 - July 2010</b>							
Nationality*	Roma	Serbian		Muslim		Albanian		Other
2006-06/2010	1,186	294		115		72		n.a.
Country of departure	Germany	Switzerland	Sweden	Belgium	Netherlands	Austria	Denmark	Others
	2,100	563	433	55	67	84	78	115

Source: Commissariat for Refugees, 2010.

\*There are no complete data on nationality.

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**Table 5.10:**

**Internal migration and immigration to Serbia, by the nationality, 1991-2002**

Place of the previous residence	Total	Serbs	Hungarians	Muslims	Bosniaks	Roma	Albanians
Total population	7,498,001,	6,212,838	293,299	19,503	136,087	108,193	61,647
Migrated	6,212,838	2,930,422	94,012	10,230	47,639	35,373	18,041
Within the municipality limits	918,084	782,828	30,750	2,628	25,469	7,066	9,617
From other municipality	1,291,111	1,119,995	54,891	2,130	13,888	18,240	2,926
From other R. S. regions	407,873	329,494	3,404	2,151	4,871	6,933	3,826
From former SFRY republics	762,500	663,341	3,001	3,156	2,477	2,258	1,453
From other countries	30,774	16,521	1,662	95	373	556	87
Unknown	21,883	18,243	206	70	561	320	132
<b>Structure (%)</b>							
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Migrated out of total pop.	45.8	47.2	32.1	52.5	35.0	32.7	29.7
Within the municipality limits	12.2	12.6	10.5	13.5	18.7	6.5	15.6
Other municipality	17.2	18.0	18.7	10.9	10.2	16.9	4.7
Other R.S. regions	5.4	5.3	1.2	11.0	3.6	6.4	6.2
Former SFRY republics	10.2	10.7	1.0	16.2	1.8	2.1	2.4
Other foreign countries	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.1
Unknown	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2

Source: Penev, 2006.

**Table 5.11:**

**Force Returnees registered at the Belgrade Airport June-Dec. 2009**

	Total				Number of families			
	405				43			
Country of departure	Germany	Switzerland	Sweden	Denmark	Austria	Belgium	Slovenia	Slovakia
	162	139	97	3	1	1	1	1
Age	Above 18				Bellow 18			
	291				114			
Nationality	Roma	Serbian	Albanian	Muslim	Hungarian	Bosnian	Other	
	258	87	22	23	1	1	4	
Urgent accommodation	Admission/transit centre Obrenovac (Belgrade)			Admission/transit centre Zajecar			Education Institution	
	6			5			1	

Source: Commissariat for Refugees, 2010.



**Table 5.12:**

**IPA Assistance (EURO million)**

<b>Component</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2008-2010</b>
<i>I Transition &amp; institutional building</i>	179.4	182.6	186.2	548.2
<i>II Cross-border cooperation</i>	11.5	12.2	12.5	36.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>190.9</b>	<b>194.8</b>	<b>198.7</b>	<b>584</b>
<b>Sub-component % share</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2007-2009</b>		<b>2008-2010</b>
Political requests (incl. civil society)	35	20-35		35-45
Socio-economic	44	45-60		35-45
EU standardization	21	20-30		25-35

Source: EAR.2010

**Box 4 - Health Care System**

Serbia health care is based on the principles of social health insurance. Health care for the majority of the population (90%) is secured by the compulsory health insurance (Health Insurance Fund – HIF), while health care for the rest of the population is secured from the Central Budget payment. The private sector provides services mainly in the area of primary health care; this sector is not included in the HIF coverage scheme.

The State's health care network delivers services through 275 health care institutions at three levels of care (271 health care delivery institutions and 23 Public Health Institutes). In geographic terms, every municipality has a Primary Health Care Centre, and there are 40 general hospitals. Four Clinical Centers are located in major cities: Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis and Kragujevac. Overall there are 284 physicians per 100,000 inhabitants and 85 GPs at primary care level in 2010 (IPH, 2011). Regional disparities exist in favor of the less developed regions, where the population coverage by health care workers is above the average, due to ongoing out-migration from these areas. In 2010 there were 544 hospital beds per 100,000 inhabitants, close to the EU average of 529. Average bed occupancy rate in the same year was 69.2% which was lower than the EU average of 77%, while average the hospital stay was 9 days, close to EU average of 8.4 days.

**Box 5 - I Dream in German**

Extracts from the Article produced through the Program for Journalist Excellence, funded by Robert Bosch, ERSTE and BIRN; published in 'NOVOSTI SAMOSTALNI SRPSKI TJEDNIK', No. 517, 13/11/2009. The article investigates the position of young returnees to Serbia, conditions of their departures and their current status:

A group of young returnees in the LC Bujanovac meets regularly and communicate in German language. Their families have migrated to Germany at the beginning of nineties; some of them were born there or have lived there since their early childhood. Nineteen years old Enis has finished elementary school in Germany, but did not continue education after arrival, presently works as manual worker. "I have been crying for days after we returned" recalls Enis, "I am happy only when I think of Germany. I dream in German very often". His family came back voluntarily, but his friend Natalija has different experience: "I was preparing to go to school when police came and told us we have to leave, three hours later we were in the plane for Belgrade. At first I did not realize it will be forever, but after we've arrived in Bujanovac I realized we were not going back" (she was eleven at the time). Natalija is determined to go on, she learned Serbian, finished elementary school with excellent grades, and currently is at the second year of the secondary school. She wants to study medicine; she still talks about Germany as her native country to which she would like to return to... Mr. P. Hudig, psychologist from Sudost-Europa Kultur e.V organization, states that the majority of young Roma have been well integrated in Germany and they perceive Serbia as a foreign country... Forty year old Hasan had to leave with his son Aron his apartment in Berlin and to move with his brother's family of eight members to a poor Roma settlement in Belgrade. Aron has finished six years of elementary school in Berlin, but did not continue education in Belgrade, he does not speak Serbian well. Hasan was advised to translate school documents and Aron has to learn Serbian before enrolling to school. Presently, Aron helps his father selling second hand clothes at the market.... Milan (20 years) is another returnee who had hard time after his return. His brother (16) committed suicide since he was not able to cope with the new situation. Milan says "It is very difficult when you realize that the country you considered yours does not want you any more, while the country you have returned to, also does not want you. We don't belong anywhere". Experts from the NGO sector working with returnees state that depression is high among young people, it takes month and years for them to adapt to a new situation.

Information from the daily newspaper 'Politika' March, 11, 2011: "Police has found a body of a drowned man in Danube in Smederevo; He was identified as SG (31) from Podujevo. His family reported him missing; he did not have Serbian documents, he has been living in Belgium since his early childhood; he was deported seven months ago.'

**Box 6 - Emigration of Hungarian Intellectuals from Vojvodina**

A study (Nagy, I. 2001) analyzed the characteristics of Hungarian intellectuals who have emigrated from Vojvodina during the nineties and explored the reasons beyond their decisions to emigrate. A wide majority (95%) emigrated by the end of 1993, while the remaining left in 1999. The following characteristics mark the surveyed persons: 46% were 32-39 years old, 20% were persons aged 40-47 years; out of the total, 59% had a university degree; 82% have chosen Hungary as their final destination. The main reasons for emigration were: 33% stated that they had problems due to their ethnic background; 19% expressed a desire to move away from war in neighbouring republics or to escape mobilization; some of the respondents were already enlisted and have deserted from the front; preservation of their national identity was a main reason for 14% of the surveyed persons.

It is apparent that established connections with the homeland have eased emigration: 50% had relatives in Hungary; 43% friends; 18% had secured a job prior to emigration; 45% sold their apartments/houses/land in Vojvodina; 60% owned an apartment in Hungary; 65% have received Hungarian citizenship; 25% had a residence permits.

The period of nineties was also characterized by increased transfers of business capital from Vojvodina to Hungary (not only by the Hungarian community) and the establishment of holding companies in Hungary. Business ties appeared to be a good opportunity for some of entrepreneurs to invest their capital in Hungary and benefit from the citizenship status, although some of them still reside in Serbia (Vojvodina); accordingly many of them had registered companies in both countries. In that way they support accommodation and costs of high education for their children in Hungary and also invest in the family wellbeing. A majority from this group have secured emigration of their parents as well. The author of the study assumes that in the future it will be a young generation which studies in Hungary that will remain to live there, due to the better employment prospects.

**Box 7**

**2.1 Normative practice related to migration issues**

Since 2000 a number of laws and normative Acts has been adopted in order to cover all relevant issues related to migration flows (Annex, Box 2). Part of legislative addresses legal issues related to the status of migrants and nationality rights while other normative acts deal with the measures related to change of socio-economic environment in order to improve status of underdeveloped regions. Among the first group of normative several of adopted documents aim to improve citizenship position of Serbian residents living broad. Since 2000 till 2010 three amendments on Amnesty law have been adopted for amnesty of draft evaders from 1990 to 2006. Estimates are that about 5 000 persons living abroad who will benefit from the latest (2010) amendment which affects persons which are draft evaders from 2006 onward. Law on nationality and citizenship allow family members of Serbian citizens to apply for citizenship under four grounds.

List of Major Documents:

1. Law on Foreigners (2008)
2. Law on Borders (2008)
3. Law on Asylum Seekers (2008)
4. Law on Protection of Serbia's Citizens Working Abroad (1998/2009)
5. Law on Diaspora
6. National Strategy for Management of Migration (2009)
7. Strategy on Reintegration of Returnees on Readmission Agreements (2009)
8. National Strategy for Solving the Problems of Refuges and IDPs (2002)
9. Strategy for Fighting Human Trafficking (2008)
10. Official Agreements on Readmissions with the following (16) states: Austria, Belgium, B&H, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Deutschland, France, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland.
11. Official Bilateral Agreements on Social Insurance with the following (21) European states: Austria (1998), Belgium, (1956) B&H (2003), Bulgaria (1958), Czech (2002), Croatia (2001), Denmark (1980), Deutschland (1969), France (1951), Hungary (1958), Italy (1959), FYR Macedonia (2001), Montenegro (2007), Netherlands (1980), Norway (1975), Poland (1958), Romania (1977), Slovenia, Sweden (1979), Switzerland (1963). UK (1958/60).

### **Box 8 - Empty Villages**

The Local Community of Knjazevac (Zajecarska district) is located on the border with Bulgaria. Mountain villages on the border for a long time have suffered from depopulation, in 36 villages there are not more than 15 inhabitants per village, almost all of them are older than 70 years. The youngest inhabitant in the settlement Zaglavak, Jovica V. (70 years) is almost the only support to his neighbors. The communication is simple: when Jovica notices that there is no smoke coming out from someone's chimney, he goes there to check on his neighbors. Often he drives his neighbors with his tractor to visit a physician or when necessary he buys bread and milk for them. A number of persons in this village are older than 80 years; they still work to support their living and if possible, to send some goods to their children who live in the cities. Social workers from the Centre of Social Work, Knjazevac say that their 'day care assistance service' visits these villages, but very often the villagers refuse the assistance because of their pride, and none of them allows the CSW to prosecute their children for the neglect. Demographic experts from this area remind that in 1948 Zaglavak had 10,569 inhabitants while in 2002 their number was reduced to 2,370.

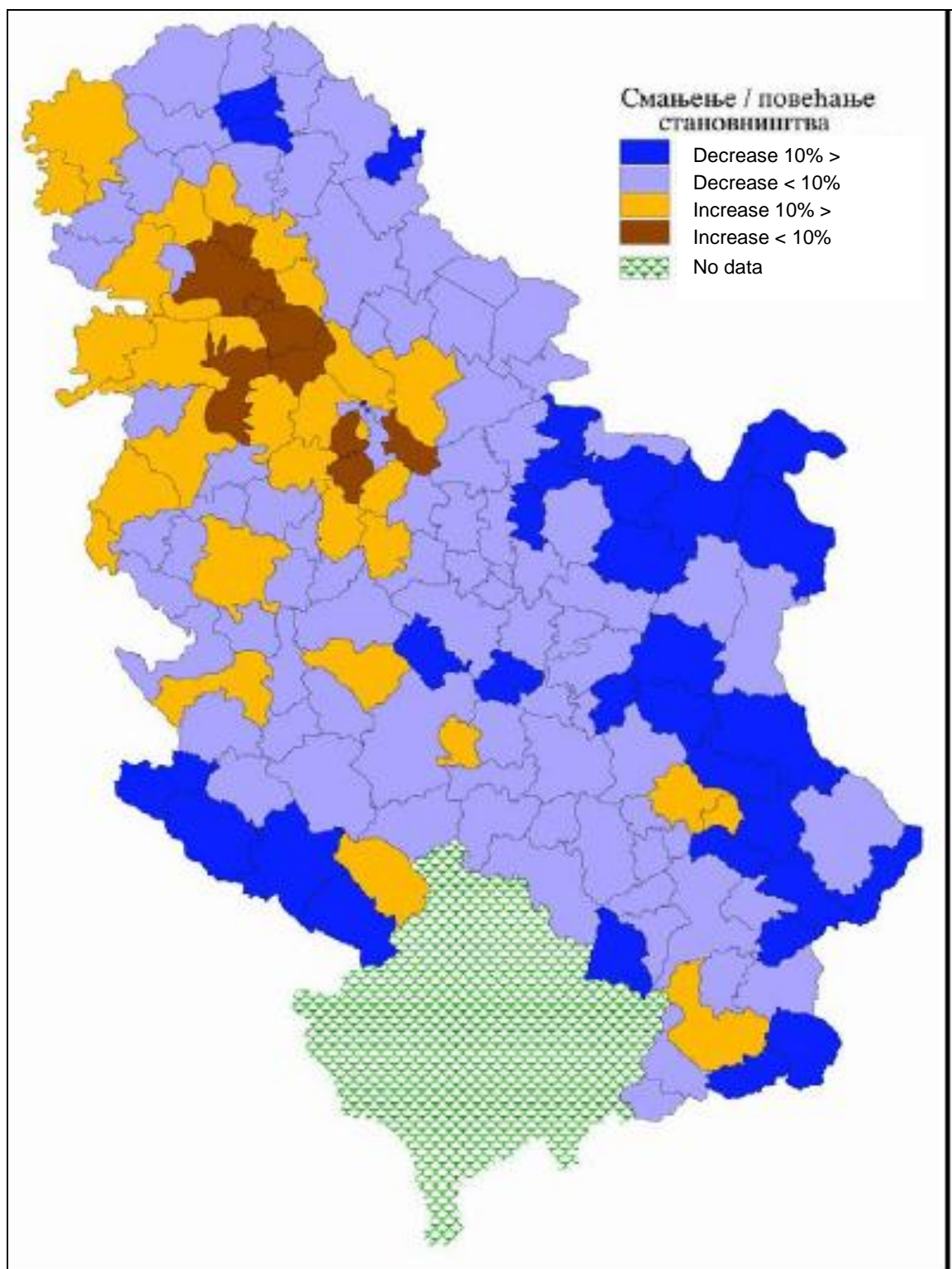
*Source: Todorovic, S., (2010), Article in daily newspaper 'Politika', December, 11<sup>th</sup> 2010*

### **Five children in the first grade in Crna Trava**

The Local Community of Crna Trava faces a demographic catastrophe. The latest data show that only 1,915 inhabitants are living in the 17 settlements. In five primary schools there are only 58 students; this fall only five children were enrolled in the first grade. In a number of villages elementary schools have been closed. In the village Jabukovak there are only 35 inhabitants, all are older than 65 years, many of them are living alone. Winter times are the most difficult for villagers as they cannot reach the nearby shops for a long period. Sometimes during the winter it is impossible to reach a cemetery when someone dies, so people have been buried in front of their homes on several occasions.

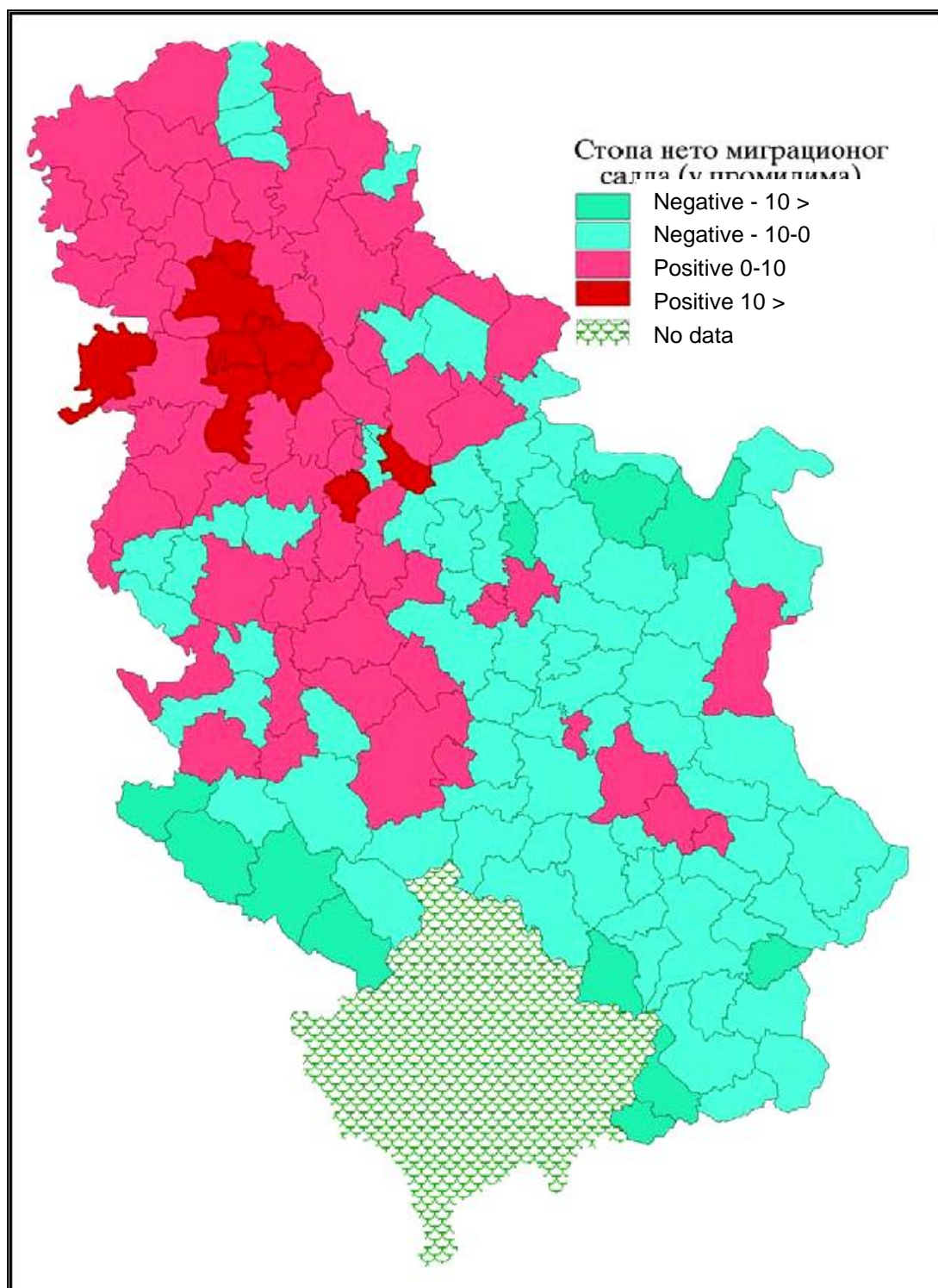
*Source: Momcilovic, M., (2010), Article in daily newspaper 'Politika' December 14th 2010.*

Map 2 Population growth, 1991-2002 by Local Communities



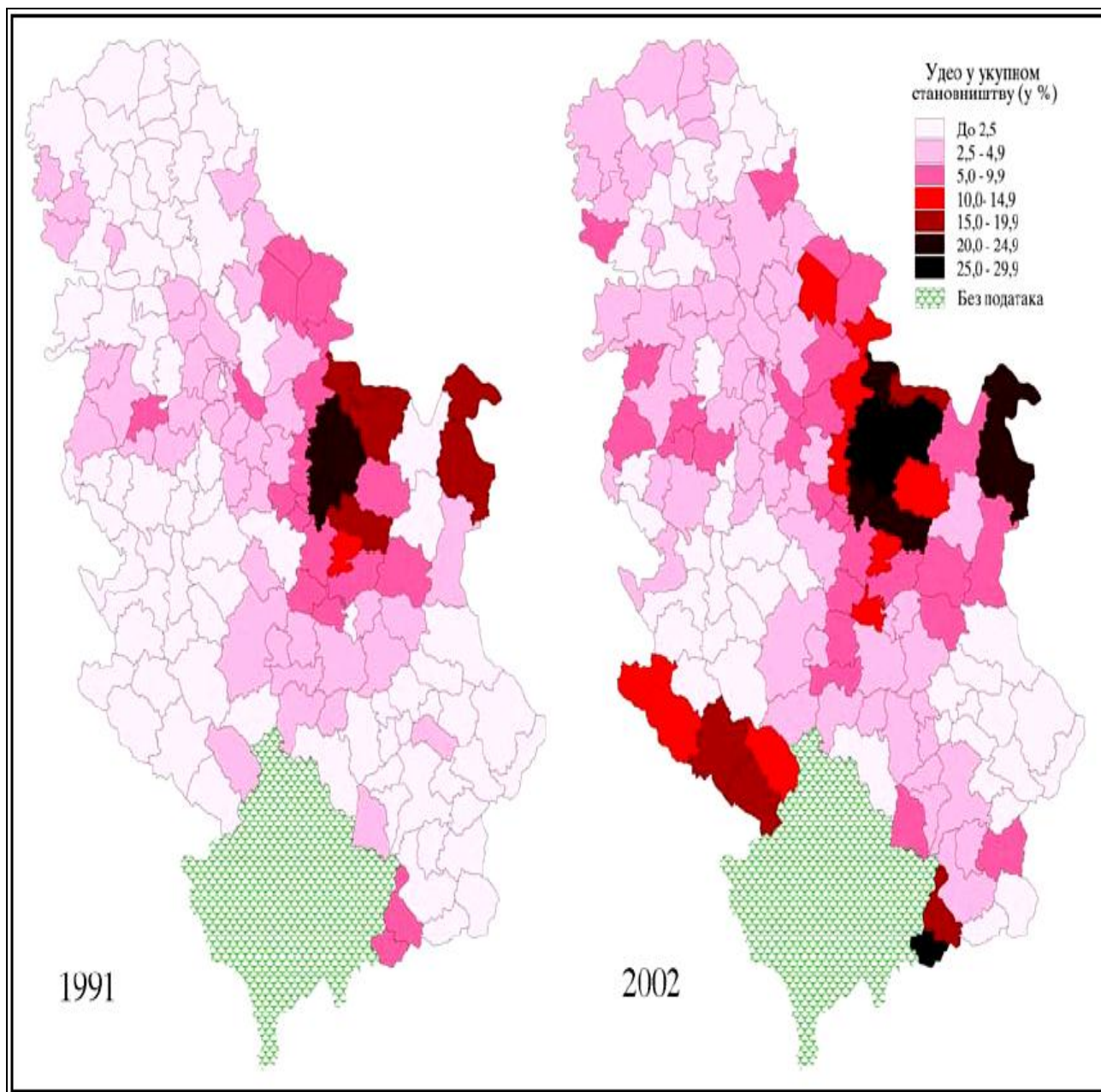
Source: Penev, 2006.

Map 3: Net migration by Local Communities, 1991-2002



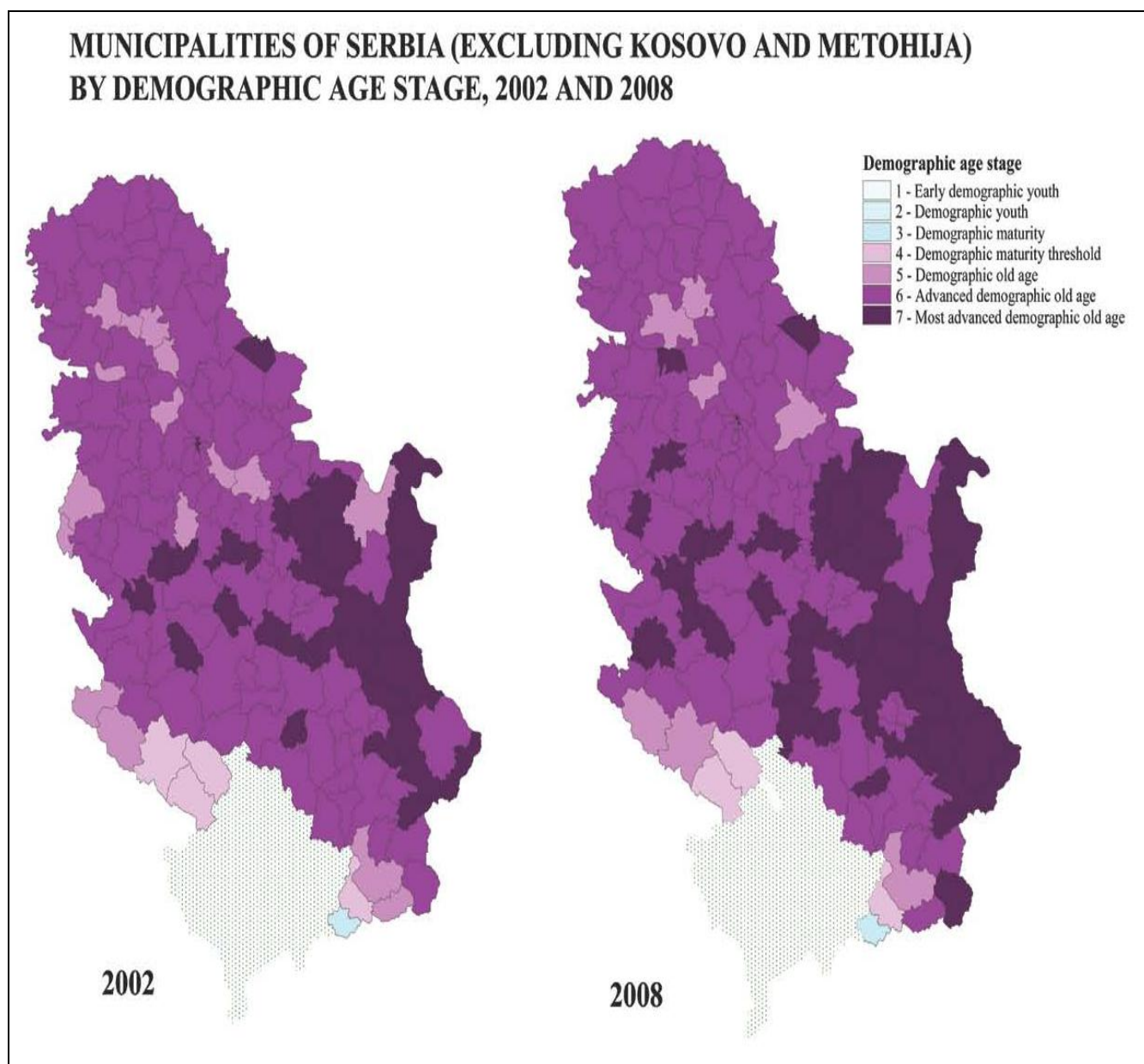
Source: Penev, 2006.

Map 4: Share (%) of citizens working/living abroad in Local Communities' total population 1991 and 2002



Source: Penev, 2006.

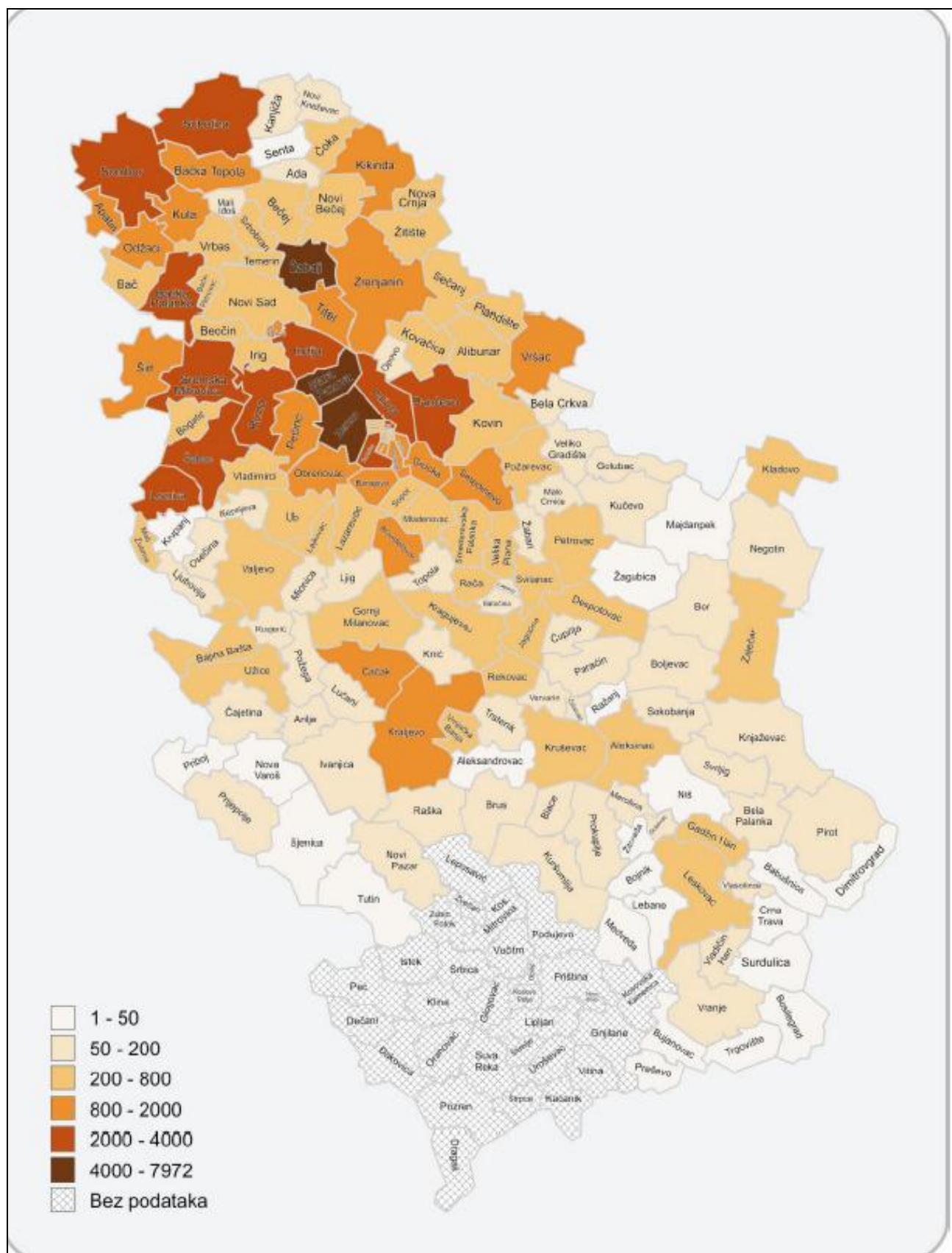
Map 5: Spatial Aspects of Ageing, 2009



Source: Marinkovic, 2010.

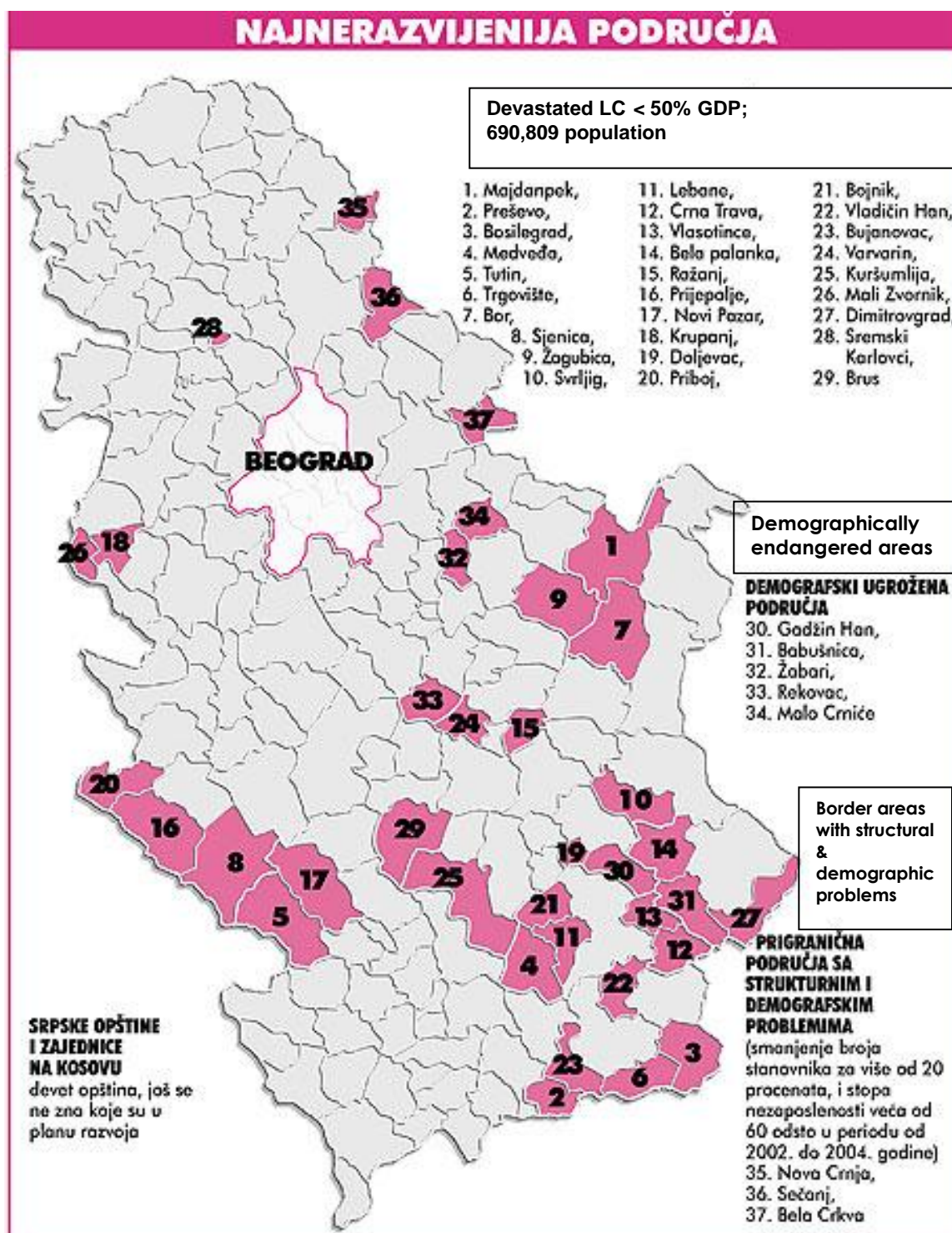


Map 6: Distribution of refugees according to Local Communities in 2005



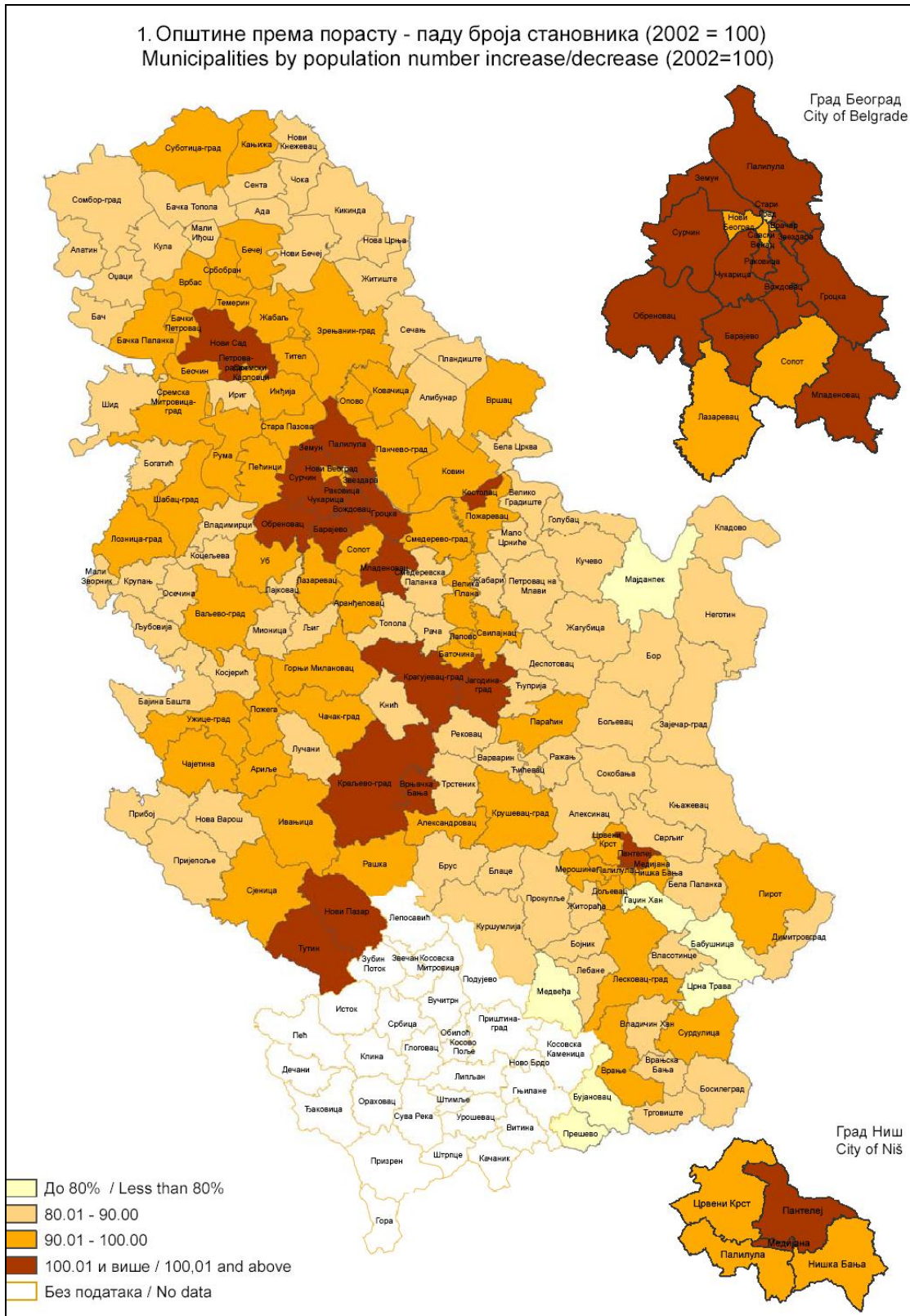
Source: Commissariat for Refugees, 2007.

Map 7: Underdeveloped Local Communities in 2008



Source: Blic online, [www.blic.rs/customfiles/Image](http://www.blic.rs/customfiles/Image), 2008 (accessed on 12.04.2012).

Map 8: Population by Local Communities – Increase/decrease as compared to 2002  
(% indicated = population as compared to 2002)



Source: RSO, 2011b, Census 2011, Preliminary data.