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Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts



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THE 5TH CONGRESS OF SLAVIC
GEOGRAPHERS AND ETHNOGRAPHERS

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THE 5TH CONGRESS OF SLAVIC GEOGRAPHERS AND ETHNOGRAPHERS

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Foreword

During 2024, two significant jubilees will be celebrated—100 years since the First Congress of Slavic Geographers and Ethnographers in Prague and the publication of the first volume of the monograph “Geomorphology” by renowned Serbian geographer Jovan Cvijić (1865–1927), one of the Congress initiators. Subsequent Congresses were held in Poland (1927), the Kingdom of Yugoslavia (1930), and the Kingdom of Bulgaria (1936). In order to honour these significant anniversaries, the Geographical Institute “Jovan Cvijić” SASA from Belgrade, with support of the Cultural Centre “Vuk Karadžić” from Loznica, Ministry of Science, Technological Development and Innovation and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia started the initiative to organize the 5th Congress of Slavic Geographers and Ethnographers with the aim of gathering eminent foreign and domestic scientists from the field of geography and related disciplines.

Today, exactly 110 years after the initial idea, 100 years after the first Congress, and 88 years after the last, Serbia proudly hosted the 5th Congress of Slavic Geographers and Ethnographers, which was held in Belgrade from October 23 to 25, 2024. In this way, the Geographical Institute “Jovan Cvijić” SASA wanted to continue the tradition of connecting the Slavic peoples, as well as cooperation with the broader international scientific community in the sphere of contemporary scientific achievements.

In this publication, through 20 articles and 81 abstracts, over 170 eminent scientists from 18 countries represented their views regarding geographical and ethnological issues. Therefore, this publication offers to the readers various interpretations of different topics, including contemporary theoretical and methodological approaches in geography, physical-geographical processes and their effects on the population, environmental protection, population, economical, historical, and political geography, spatial planning, and ethnology.

The Congress organizers would like to thank all the participants who contributed to the creation of this publication through their submissions. Through the works in this publication, the authors present current scientific knowledge, open new geographical and ethnological topics, and encourage future research and collaborations.

With this Congress, as well as the accompanying publication, Jovan Cvijić’s vision is being realized, with the aim of continuing the tradition of organizing these scholarly gatherings in the future.

Editors

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DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS IN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF POST-SOCIALIST SERBIA

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Demographic factors such as age, income, household composition, and population growth profoundly impact housing markets, affecting prices, housing provisions, needs, and types. In post-socialist countries, transition processes, historical heritage, socio-cultural, and political factors additionally influenced demographic trends and trends in housing markets. In these countries, depopulation was one of the significant demographic features. However, modern depopulation trends, characteristic of most developed countries, have not directly impacted trends in the number of apartments but rather on their structural features and spatial distribution. This paper analyzes the relationships between demographic factors and trends in housing developments in Serbia, which are characterized by certain specificities.

According to data from the last four Censuses (1991, 2002, 2011, 2022), in the territory of Serbia, in the period from the beginning of the 1990s, a continuous increase in the number of apartments was recorded, while the number of inhabitants was in constant decline. The differences were in their intensity and relationship with population indicators. Trends in housing developments in Serbia are reflected in the increase in the number of apartments, primarily in urban areas, as well as through qualitative characteristics. Changes in the ownership structure of apartments were particularly highlighted. The outlines of the base of apartments in social ownership from the second half of the 20th century were visible until the mid-1990s, while in the following years, they almost completely disappeared. This led to Serbia becoming one of the countries with the smallest share of apartments in public ownership. Regarding this indicator, regional differences within the country are more pronounced compared to the trend of the total number of apartments. They are exceptionally prominent in parts of Serbia, with a specific demographic picture and zones where the secondary sector of the economy is dominant.

Keywords: housing; demographic factors; home ownership; Censuses; Serbia

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