



Geographical Institute "Jovan Cvijić"
Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts



International Scientific Conference
THE 5TH CONGRESS OF SLAVIC
GEOGRAPHERS AND ETHNOGRAPHERS

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International Scientific Conference

**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

Content

Abstracts	1
Physical-geographical processes and their effects on the population	3
<i>Michael E. Meadows</i> A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE.....	5
<i>Eric Fouache</i> THE INFLUENCE OF PROF. JOVAN CVIJIĆ'S RESEARCH IN GEOMORPHOLOGY IN FRANCE AND THE BALKANS: WHICH LEGACY?.....	6
<i>Alexey Maslakov, Stanislav Ogorodov, Svetlana Badina</i> ARCTIC: RECENT ADVANCES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR RUSSIAN GEOGRAPHERS.....	7–8
<i>Michał Sobala</i> THE PROBLEMS OF RECONSTRUCTING TRADITIONAL LANDSCAPES—THE EXAMPLE OF THE POLISH CARPATHIANS.....	9
<i>Tivadar Gaudenyi</i> LOESS OF SERBIA—FROM PALEOCLIMATE TO WINEYARDS.....	10
<i>Shaohong Wu</i> SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN CHINA.....	11
<i>Nina Nikolova, Simeon Matev, Petko Bozhkov</i> THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE AND WEATHER-RELATED DISASTERS ON AGRICULTURE IN BULGARIA.....	12–13
<i>Goran Trbić</i> CLIMATE TRENDS AND RISKS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.....	14
<i>Nusret Drešković, Snežana Radulović</i> STONE MONUMENT ENSEMBLES AND THE CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT—RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT BASED ON CLIMATE SCENARIOS (STECI HORIZON EUROPE PROJECT).....	15–16
<i>Dragan Burić, Jovan Mihajlović, Vladan Ducić</i> DETECTED AND PROJECTED CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION IN THE TERRITORY OF MONTENEGRO	17
<i>Jovan Mihajlović, Dragan Burić, Miroslav Doderović</i> REVISED THORNTHWAITE CLIMATE CLASSIFICATION FOR MONTENEGRO (1961–2020).....	18
<i>Alexey Maslakov, Mikhail Grishchenk, Alina Grigoryan, Dmitry Zamolodchikov</i> PERMAFROST AND VEGETATION INTERACTION DURING CLIMATE WARMING IN THE ARCTIC: KEY STUDY FROM CHUKOTKA (NORTHEAST RUSSIA).....	19–20
<i>Matej Ogrin, Barbara Lampič, Sašo Stefanovski, Iztok Miklavčič, Domen Svetlin, Tim Gregorčič</i> AN OVERVIEW OF RECENT RESEARCH ON THE LJUBLJANA HEAT ISLAND	21–22
<i>Dragan Burić, Jovan Mihajlović, Ivana Penjišević</i> CHANGES IN THE WATER REGIME OF LAKE SKADAR IN THE PERIOD 1948–2021.....	23
<i>Zvezdelina Marcheva, Simeon Matev, Kalina Radeva, Ilija Tamburadzhiev</i> ASSESSMENT OF SURFACE WATER QUALITY IN HIGHLY URBANIZED AREAS: A CASE STUDY OF THE VLADAYSKA RIVER, SOFIA.....	24–25
<i>Lulu Liu, Rui Yan, Shaohong Wu</i> ASSESSMENT OF FLOOD LOSS IN ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS BASED ON IMPROVED VULNERABILITY CURVES.....	26

Contemporary theoretical and methodological approaches in geography	27
<i>Slavica Malinović-Miličević, Milan M. Radovanović, Ana Milanović Pešić, Milan Milenković, Boško Milovanović, Gorica Stanojević</i>	
USING MACHINE LEARNING IN STUDYING THE IMPACT OF SOLAR ACTIVITY ON EARTH.....	29
<i>Svetlana G. Maximova, Daria A. Omelchenko, Maxim B. Maximov</i>	
MODELS OF ADAPTATION OF THE POPULATION OF INTRA-CONTINENTAL MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS OF EURASIA TO CLIMATE-INDUCED ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES.....	30–31
<i>Ivan Potić, Nina B. Čurčić, Miroљub Milinčić</i>	
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TERRAIN PASSABILITY MODELS: EVALUATING HIGH-RESOLUTION AND LOW-RESOLUTION GEOSPATIAL DATA FOR UGV NAVIGATION.....	32
<i>Ivica Milevski, Bojana Aleksova, Slavoljub Dragičević</i>	
UAV-BASED GEOSPATIAL MONITORING OF KUKLICA NATURAL MONUMENT (NORTH MACEDONIA) ...	33
<i>Dražen Perica, Kristina Krklec</i>	
MEASUREMENT OF THE INTENSITY OF SURFACE CARBONATE CORROSION PROCESS USING ROCK TABLET METHOD IN NORTHERN VELEBIT NATIONAL PARK AND NORTH DALMATIAN PLAIN (CROATIA).....	34
<i>Milica Peceļ</i>	
SMART-MOBILE-BIOMETEOS, A MOBILE BIOMETEOROLOGICAL STATION DESIGNED FOR THE MICROMETEOROLOGICAL MEASUREMENTS	35–36
<i>Iliа Tamburadzhiev</i>	
REMOTE SENSING DATA ANALYSIS OF DEBRIS FLOWS IN DRAINAGE BASINS IN BULGARIA	37
<i>Teodora Popović, Nina B. Čurčić, Snežana Đurđić, Gorica Stanojević, Marko Raković</i>	
IMPORTANCE OF SPECIES DISTRIBUTION MODELLING IN NATURE CONSERVATION: CASE STUDY OF GLACIAL RELICT THREE-TOED WOODPECKER <i>PICOIDES TRIDACTYLUS</i>	38–39
Environmental protection	41
<i>Dragana Miljanović</i>	
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND GEOGRAPHICAL UNDERSTANDING.....	43
<i>Natallia Hahina, Iryna Shchasnaya, Galina Martsinkevich</i>	
DEVELOPMENT OF LANDSCAPE STUDIES IN BELARUS: TRADITIONS AND MODERNITY.....	44
<i>Katarina Polajnar Horvat, Aleš Smrekar</i>	
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL THOUGHT IN SLOVENIA.....	45–46
<i>Alla Pakina</i>	
FOREST CARBON PROJECTS: ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS.....	47
<i>Dejan Doljak</i>	
PUTTING STRATEGY INTO PRACTICE: TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SOLAR POTENTIAL AND A MORE REALISTIC ENERGY TRANSITION FOR SERBIA.....	48
<i>Aleš Smrekar, Katarina Polajnar Horvat</i>	
IMPLEMENTING PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE IN WETLAND MANAGEMENT: THE SEČOVLJE SALINA NATURE PARK, SLOVENIA.....	49–50
Population geography	51
<i>Vladimir Nikitović</i>	
SOUTH SLAVIC COUNTRIES AT A DEMOGRAPHIC MILESTONE	53

<i>Etienne Piguet</i>	
THE ASYLUM MIGRATION CRISIS IN THE BALKANS AND ON THE ROAD TO EUROPE: UNFOLDING THE DRIVERS COMPLEX.....	54
<i>Boris Kazakov</i>	
REGIONAL ASPECTS OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS IN BULGARIA.....	55
<i>Miroslav Doderović, Ivan Mijanović</i>	
ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE OF MONTENEGRO'S POPULATION.....	56
<i>Sanja Klempić Bogadi</i>	
CROATIA'S MIGRATION LANDSCAPE: AN OVERVIEW.....	57
<i>Paweł Swianiewicz, Veli Kreci</i>	
EXPLAINING VOTERS MOBILIZATION IN LOCAL ELECTIONS IN ETHNICALLY DIVIDED SOCIETY— THE CASE OF NORTH MACEDONIA.....	58–59
<i>Mira Mandić</i>	
SETTLEMENT, SOCIOECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF DEPOPULATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA—CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS.....	60
<i>Marko Filipović, Zlata Vuksanović-Macura</i>	
DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS IN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF POST-SOCIALIST SERBIA.....	61
<i>Marija Ljakoska, Aneta Gacovska-Barandovska, Bijana Apostolovska Toshevska, Mirjanka Madžević, Danica Šantić, Milica Langović</i>	
THE USE OF MATHEMATICAL-STATISTICAL METHODS IN DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ANALYSES OBTAINED THROUGH SURVEY RESEARCH—THE CASE OF MIGRATION MOTIVES AND ATTITUDES OF PMF STUDENTS IN SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA.....	62–63
<i>Saša Milosavljević</i>	
CONTEMPORARY DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES ON THE TERRITORY OF THE TRSTENIK MUNICIPALITY.....	64
Economic development perspectives and their impact on the population.....	65
<i>Darko Vuković</i>	
REGIONAL DYNAMICS OF FINTECH DEVELOPMENT: IMPACT ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND STABILITY IN BRICS.....	67
<i>Luděk Sýkora</i>	
POVERTY, SOCIAL EXCLUSION, AND SEGREGATION IN CZECH CITIES AND REGIONS.....	68
<i>Zlata Vuksanović-Macura, Sónia Alves</i>	
COMPARING HOUSING POLICIES FOR ROMA COMMUNITIES IN SERBIA AND PORTUGAL.....	69
<i>Daria Shatilo</i>	
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESIDENTS' INCOME AND IMMIGRANTS' SETTLEMENT IN LARGE EUROPEAN CAPITALS.....	70
<i>Jovana Todorić, Dejan Doļjak</i>	
CONSUMER MOBILITY IN CENTRAL AND PERIPHERAL CITY NEIGHBOURHOODS.....	71
<i>Linar Imangulov, Sergey Safronov, Maria Savoskul</i>	
POST-SOVIET TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL DAGESTAN UNDER SOCIETY MODERNIZATION AND GLOBALIZATION.....	72–73
<i>Anita Bušljeta Tonković</i>	
MODERNISATION AND (POST-)TRANSITION PROCESSES IN CROATIAN RURAL AREAS: A CREEPING MODERNIZATION THEORY PERSPECTIVE.....	74–75

<i>Stefan Denda, Vladimir Malinić</i> THE ROLE OF GEOGRAPHY IN TOURISM-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH.....	76–77
<i>Miroslav Doderović, Ivan Mijanović</i> ANALYSIS OF THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN MONTENEGRO—STATUS AND FUTURE TRENDS.....	78
<i>Anna Żemła-Siesicka, Michał Sobala</i> HOW DOES THE TRADITIONAL MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE CHANGE INTO A TOURISMSCAPE? A CASE STUDY OF THE SILESIAN BESKIDS, POLAND.....	79–80
<i>Nikola Naumov</i> LOST IN TRANSITION? HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHIES OF WORLD HERITAGE AND TOURISM IN BULGARIA.....	81
<i>Dunja Demirović Bajrami</i> PRESERVATION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH DIGITAL STORYTELLING.....	82
<i>Željko Bjeljac, Jovana Brankov</i> OLD FOLK SPORTS, GAMES, AND COMPETITIONS IN THE AREA OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA AS AN ELEMENT OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE—A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS	83–84
<i>Jana Sifta</i> EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES (NOT ONLY) FOR THE GEOGRAPHERS.....	85
Spatial planning	87
<i>Katarzyna Pukowiec-Kurda</i> A NEW METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSMENT THE CITY ABUNDANCE IN GREENSPACES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES—TOWARD COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING.....	89
<i>Siegfried Gruber, Daniel-Armin Đumić</i> TOWARDS A NEW MAP OF HOUSEHOLD FORMATION AND CO-RESIDENCE PATTERNS IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE	90–91
<i>Nataša Pichler-Milanović, Andreja Cirman</i> (RE)VALORISING UNDERGROUND BUILT HERITAGE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EAST EUROPE AS CATALYSER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.....	92–93
<i>Marija Drobnjaković, Milena Panić, Vlasta Kokotović Kanazir</i> TRAJECTORY OF INTERRELATION BETWEEN SPATIAL PLANNING AND DECENTRALIZATION IN SERBIA	94–95
<i>Ekaterina Antipova, Liliya Sushkevich, Anton Tsitou</i> SHRINKING CITIES OF BELARUS: DEVELOPMENT FACTORS AND SHIFTS IN THE SPATIAL STRUCTURE.....	96
<i>Marta E. Chmielewska, Elżbieta Żuzańska-Żyśko</i> A BOON OR A BURDEN? THE ROLE OF POST-INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN THE URBAN SPACE OF THE GZM METROPOLIS (POLAND)	97
<i>Jiangbo Gao, Shaodong Qu, Yuan Jiang</i> UNDERSTANDING AND ASSESSING RURAL RESILIENCE BASED ON A SOCIAL-ECOSYSTEM FRAMEWORK: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF CHINESE VILLAGES.....	98
<i>Iaroslav Kuksin</i> RUINS OR FOUNDATION? THE ROLE OF SELF-ORGANIZATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF PERIPHERAL RURAL AREAS OF RUSSIA	99
<i>Jasenka Kranjčević</i> PLANNING OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS IN CROATIA.....	100



Historical geography	101
<i>Stefan Denda, Milan Radovanović</i>	
THE UNIFICATION OF SLAVIC GEOGRAPHERS AND ETHNOGRAPHERS— A PIONEERING ENDEAVOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN THE 20TH CENTURY.....	103–104
<i>Stevan M. Stanković</i>	
SERBIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AND JOVAN CVIJIC.....	105
<i>Martin Boltžiar</i>	
HISTORY OF THE SLOVAK GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY	106
<i>Mihail Bryleuski, Aliaksei Yarotau</i>	
MAJOR AXIS OF ACTIVITY OF THE BELARUSIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY: TRADITIONS AND MODERNITY	107–108
<i>Massimiliano Tabusi</i>	
THE ITALIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY AND EUGEO AS HUBS OF GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH AND THOUGH.....	109
<i>Milovan R. Pecelj, Milica Pecelj</i>	
THE STELLAR JOURNEY OF MILUTIN MILANKOVIĆ.....	110–111
<i>Dorđe Božović</i>	
TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES IN LINGUISTIC GEOGRAPHY: A CONTESTED BUT FERTILE FIELD.....	112
 Political geography	 113
<i>Vladimir Kolosov</i>	
FUNCTIONAL ISOMORPHISM OF POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BORDERS IN THE MODERN WORLD.....	115
<i>Valentin Mihaylov</i>	
EPISTEMIC JUSTICE VS. ACADEMIC HEGEMONY: CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS OF THE GLOBAL ORDER OF KNOWLEDGE	116
<i>Jernej Župančič</i>	
SLAVIC WESTERN WING BETWEEN BALTIC AND ADRIATIC: HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL ASPECTS	117
<i>Liubov Shmatkova</i>	
NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF ORTHODOX TERRITORIALITY: INSIGHTS FOR POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.....	118
<i>Goran Kitevski</i>	
(NO) MORE CHANGE: THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AND NORTH MACEDONIA'S EU PERSPECTIVE	119
<i>Svetlana G. Maximova, Daria A. Omelchenko, Oksana E. Noyanzina</i>	
MODELING INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGIOSITY, ETHNIC AND CONFESSIONAL IDENTITY IN THE CONTEXT OF ENSURING SOCIETAL SECURITY IN THE ASIAN BORDERLANDS OF RUSSIA.....	120
 Ethnology	 121
<i>Dragana Radojičić</i>	
ANTHROPOGEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL AND ETHNOLOGICAL SCIENCE IN SERBIA.....	123
<i>Ingrid Slavec Gradišnik</i>	
"ANTHROPOLOGISTS DON'T STUDY VILLAGES; THEY STUDY IN VILLAGES": PLACE AND SPACE IN ETHNOLOGICAL TERMS.....	124

<i>Ivaylo Markov, Desislava Pileva</i> REVITALISING THE COUNTRYSIDE? ETHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON COUNTER-URBANISATION AND RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN BULGARIA.....	125–126
<i>Ljupcho S. Risteski</i> ETHNOGRAPHIC AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CULTURAL TOPOGRAPHY OF A REGION: EXAMPLES FROM MACEDONIAN FOLK CULTURE.....	127
<i>Tamara Lepetić</i> CULTURAL IDENTITY OF CITIES IN BOKA KOTORSKA AS A PLACE OF INTERACTION: INTANGIBLE CULTURE AND CONTEMPORARY SPACE.....	128
Contributed papers.....	129
Physical-geographical processes and their effects on the population.....	131
<i>Johannes Mattes</i> DAS KARSTPHÄNOMEN REVISITED: SERBIAN GEOSCIENTIST JOVAN CVJIĆ AND THE (INTER)NATIONALIZATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGICAL THOUGHT.....	133–138
<i>Mikhail Slipenchuk</i> RUSSIANS IN ANTARCTIDA: A RETROSPECTIVE AND CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME.....	139–152
<i>Jelena Čalić, Ana Mladenović, Marko V. Milošević, Aleksandar S. Petrović, Milovan Milivojević, Rastko Glišić</i> NUNA CAVE—SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT OF THE SOUTHERN MT. MIROČ KARST, EASTERN SERBIA.....	153–162
<i>Svetlana G. Maximova, Daria A. Omelchenko, Daria K. Scheglova</i> SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE ALTAI HIGHLANDS: THE CASE OF THREE RUSSIAN REGIONS.....	163–180
<i>Elena Petrova</i> INVESTIGATION OF NATURAL HAZARD IMPACTS ON TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE.....	181–188
<i>Viktorii A. Iudina, Sergey S. Chernomorets, Inna N. Krylenko, Tatyana A. Vinogradova, Mikhail D. Dokukin, Eduard V. Zaporozhchenko</i> MODELING OF DEBRIS FLOWS: A CASE STUDY OF THE GERKHOZHAN-SU RIVER VALLEY.....	189–204
Environmental protection.....	205
<i>Viktoria R. Bityukova, Natalia A. Koldobskaia</i> FACTORS AFFECTING MOTOR VEHICLE POLLUTION IN CAPITAL CITIES: A CASE STUDY OF MOSCOW.....	207–224
<i>Natalia E. Kosheleva, Liliya A. Bezberday, Nikolay S. Kasimov</i> CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF ROAD DUST AS AN INDICATOR OF THE ECOLOGICAL STATE OF URBAN LANDSCAPES (BY THE EXAMPLE OF THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OKRUG OF MOSCOW).....	225–242
Economic development perspectives and their impact on the population.....	243
<i>Oleg E. Prusikhin</i> DYNAMICS OF MOTORIZATION AND FACTORS OF LOCAL TERRITORIAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE RUSSIAN VEHICLE FLEET: THE CASE STUDY OF THE CITY OF MOSCOW.....	245–252

<i>Tamara Jajić Glavonjić, Suzana Lović Obradović</i> PROTECTED STATUS AS A DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY: ATTITUDES OF THE LOCAL POPULATION	253–258
<i>Blagoja Markoski, Maja Lazarevska, Svemir Gorin</i> URBAN EXPANSION OF LARGER CITIES IN NORTH MACEDONIA	259–270
Historical geography	271
<i>Gaelle Hallair</i> HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND ETHNOGRAPHY IN EMMANUEL DE MARTONNE'S FIELD NOTEBOOKS: METHODS AND DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES	273–290
<i>Goran Mutabžija</i> GEOPHILOSOPHY OF MODERN: PROLOGOMENA.....	291–302
<i>Željka Šiljković, Dražen Perica</i> INTERTWINING GEOGRAPHY AND ART THROUGH SELECTED LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS.....	303–314
Ethnology	315
<i>Yuri Mazurov</i> THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF RUSSIA AND THE MISSION OF GEOGRAPHY.....	317–330
<i>Marina Martynova</i> THE ISSUE OF TRADITIONAL CULTURE'S LEGACY IN A POST-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY	331–342
<i>Barbora Navrátilová</i> ELEMENTS OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF UKRAINE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY	343–356
<i>Martin Lukáč Kinčoš</i> RETHINKING REGIONS IN SLOVAKIA—AN IDYLL OF TRADITIONAL CULTURE VERSUS INSTITUTIONAL FLUIDITY	357–369
<i>Irena Medar-Tanjga, Neda Živak</i> CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA—IDENTITY CODES OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE	371–386
<i>Oleg D. Krutov, Natalia K. Grelya</i> SPATIAL DIFFERENCES IN THE FORMATION OF LOCAL INITIATIVES FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IN RURAL AREAS AND SMALL TOWNS OF THE KALININGRAD REGION.....	387–402
List of participants	403–406
Reviewers	407



COMPARING HOUSING POLICIES FOR ROMA COMMUNITIES IN SERBIA AND PORTUGAL

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Comparisons are needed to assess the successes and failures of today’s public policies, as well as to promote policy learning. This is particularly important in the case of policies for low-income and disadvantaged groups such as the Roma, Europe’s largest ethnic minority, whose housing conditions starkly contrast with those of the general population wherever they reside. Roma families often live in precarious housing in segregated neighborhoods, and face significant obstacles to accessing essential services.

The European Union (EU) Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion, and participation sets common (horizontal and sectorial) objectives and headline targets to monitor the achievement of these objectives. Within the four sectorial objectives, one objective is to increase the Roma’s access to adequate desegregated housing and essential services, and address segregated settlements, closing the gap with other populations. This is to be done by reducing housing deprivation, cutting overcrowding, and ensuring access to tap water. Correspondingly, the Western Balkan countries endorsed the Roma integration declaration, committing, by the time of their accession, to tangible progress in education, employment, health, housing, civil registration and non-discrimination.

This comparative study investigates the approaches of two European countries: Serbia (an EU candidate) and Portugal (an EU member) in relation to the Roma’s access to adequate housing and essential services. To do so we use the so-called integrated EU strategic framework on Roma equality, inclusion and participation to compare the range of housing programmes that have been formulated across different local settings, trying to assess whether they follow the EU recommendation for Roma inclusion. The research consists of analysis of relevant academic literature, key communication journals and reports. The study will draw out the implications of its findings for urban politics and housing policy.

Keywords: housing policy; EU Roma strategic framework; Roma; Serbia; Portugal

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