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SKOPJE REGION IN THE FOCUS OF INTERNAL MIGRATION

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ABSTRACT

According to the area that it occupies, the Skopje region is the smallest, but the most populated region in the Republic of Macedonia. Almost a third of the population of the country lives on only 7% of its territory. The population growth is due to the natural increase and immigration in the region. About 35% of the total internal migration movements in the country took place only towards the Skopje region and within the region in the period 2005-2015. This intensive immigration has certain specificities.

Most evident is the direction of movement of the migrants from other regions to certain parts of the Skopje region, more precisely to a place where someone from their previous area of residence had already moved, or an area that is spatially closer to them.

Most attractive immigration location are the city municipalities. 60% of all immigrants to the Skopje region have moved only in four municipalities of the city of Skopje. The reasons for moving are different, although for the most part they are economic, but also people move for education, marriage, etc. However, it is very likely that when a change in the social status occurs, there is a need to change the place of residence. Also, the need for migration is closely related to the life cycle and the age of the individual.

The scope and dynamics of internal migration have far-reaching consequences on all segments of society, economy, population and the environment, and they directly influence their sustainable development. Therefore, monitoring the situation of migration is a reliable indicator of the way of action in the creation of population and economic development strategy and spatial planning.

Keywords: migrations, internal migrations, Skopje region, city of Skopje.

INTRODUCTION

The overall development of the Republic of Macedonia in the second half of the twentieth century was marked by the intense socio-economic changes that accompanied by increased mobility of the population, its spatial conversion and movement towards the more attractive parts of the country, which offered more favourable living and working conditions. In this respect, when it comes to immigration attractiveness Skopje, with its dominant position, stands out as the capital of the country and with its immediate surroundings, that is, the Skopje region. With all the benefits and advantages compared to other regions, Skopje was and still is the most desirable destination for immigration by the large part of the population in the country. This is also confirmed by the size of the migration wave that was directed towards this region and which, in response to the natural increase, contributed to a dramatic increase in the

population number in a relatively short period of time. For a period of five and a half decades, more precisely from 1961 to 2015, the population number in the region has grown more than twice, with the greatest increase from 1961 to 1981, a period that coincides with the intense industrialization and urbanization in the region and the encouraging development of other economic and non-economic activities.

In the period from 1994 to 2002, there was a positive population change of 6%, and from 2002 to 2015, the population grew by 7.4%, which is three times more than the increase of the population on a national level. Population growth, as we mentioned earlier, is a result of the natural increase and the population mechanical influx. Namely due to the high concentration of reproductive population, the Skopje region stands out with the highest values of the crude birth rate (13.20‰) and participation of 72% in the total realized population natural increase (Madjevikj et al., 2016).

The demographic processes that took place resulted in the fact that the Skopje region ranks first in terms of the number of inhabitants, that is, it is the most populated region in the Republic of Macedonia. According to the estimates for the population in 2015, 620,913 inhabitants lived in this region or almost 30% of the total population in the country. The population density is 342 Inh/km^2 that is 4 times higher than the average population density in the Republic of Macedonia, or almost ten times more than the population density in the least populated, Vardar region.

Only the city of Skopje absorbs over 80% of the total population in the region or ¼ of the population in the country. The functional structure of the capital, which defines it as an administrative, economic and cultural center in the state, expressed through improved infrastructure characteristics, economic entities, education, culture and entertainment, compared to the rest of the regions, was quite sufficient to be considered as a strong factor that led to an increase in the attractiveness of the region.

Futhermore, factors that contribute to the abovementioned are also the improvement of housing and communal services and benefits, the increase in the number and quality of the housing fund, urban infrastructure equipment, etc. They all contributed to the region's strong position as the most attractive destination for migration. At the same time, it must be emphasized that the displacement of the population to the municipalities of the Skopje region was the reason for a number of negative consequences in the country. Primarily, this caused an economic and demographic polarization in the country, abandonment of the agricultural land, functional land conversion, depopulation and deagrarization of rural settlements, as well as spatial units, etc. On the other hand, it is more than clear that the Skopje region, and especially the urban area of the city, has far more than the optimal population. This is manifested by the pollution and endangerment of the components of the environment, traffic jams and the difficult functioning of the city.

The paper elaborates the internal migration towards and within the Skopje region, emphasizing the reasons that cause this scope and direction and the consequences that arise from these migration movements.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCE

"The movements of people whose place of origin and place of immigration are within the borders of the same state are defined as internal migrations" (Kjurciev et al., 2011).

The analyzes do not cover migrations from one settlement to another within the same municipality.

Due to the changes in the administrative-territorial organization of the country, a special attention is given to the migration movements in the period 2005-2015. In the Republic of Macedonia, according to the administrative-territorial organization from 2004, a total number of 84 municipalities are determined, and with the changes in 2013 their number was reduced to 80 municipalities. The reviewing of data by regions, was made according to the NUTS 3 classifications, where eight statistical–planning regions were determined. The paper used the database of the State Statistical Office, by census periods, publications and highlighted series data. Based on the rich statistical material for the analyzed period, and the application of the package Excel, a calculation of the scope of migrations from a spatial aspect was made. The emphasis is placed on the immigration from other regions of the country towards the Skopje region, but also, on the migration movements between municipalities within the region itself.

RESEARCH AREA

The Skopje region occupies the northern part of the Republic of Macedonia, between the Mountains Gradishtanska in the east, the mountain Skopska Crna Gora in the north, Zheden and Suva Gora in the west and the offshoot of a mountain range of Jakupica to the south, covering an area of 1,812 km^2. It is a natural, geographical and economical integrated entity in which the traffic network directly or indirectly connects the settlements and provides gravity towards the common center.

Administratively, the Skopje Planning Region is consisted of 17 municipalities, ten of which belong to Skopje (Aerodrom, Butel, Gazi Baba, Gjorche Petrov, Karposh, Kisela Voda, Saraj, Centar, Chair, Shuto Orizari) and another seven rural municipalities (Arachinovo, Zelenikovo, Ilinden, Petrovec, Sopishte, Studenichani and Chucher Sandevo) with a total of 142 settlements, of which 141 are rural. The municipalities in the territorial scope of the city cover an area of 571 km^2 (Skopje Planning Region Development Program). The city of Skopje occupies the central part of the Skopje region, has a linear shape and a length of 23 km from both sides of the river Vardar (Spatial plan of the city of Skopje).

SCOPE AND DYNAMICS OF INTERNAL MIGRATIONS TOWARDS AND WITHIN THE SKOPJE REGION

In the period from 2005 to 2015, a total of 95,785 citizens was included in the internal migration in the Republic of Macedonia or approximately 8,700 people per year. Of the total internal migration movements, 80.7% were from one municipality to another, and 19.3% were within the municipality, of which 35% were directed towards or within the Skopje region. More precisely, the total number of people included in the internal migrations from the municipalities of all of the regions (including the municipalities in the Skopje region) is 33,925 inhabitants. Out of them, 13,682 or 40.3% were migrants with origin from the municipalities outside the Skopje region, and 59.7% of the migrations were among the municipalities in the region, which indicates to the great dynamics of the inter-municipal movements within the region. The majority of the population migrating to the municipalities of the Skopje region is mainly from the urban municipalities in the country, given the fact that for many years the population has drained to

the cities, that is, certain parts were affected by a rural exodus. Because of this, nowadays the rural environment in Macedonia does not have a large population contingent which would be able to broadcast an important migration wave. More precisely, in the sixties and seventies of the last century, as a result of the economic development of the country was a time of initiation of a large migration mass from the rural areas to the cities and obvious population growth of urban settlements. According to vital statistical method, in this period, the rural areas marked a negative net migration of over 175,000 people (Daskalovski, 1998). In the period 1971-1981, this wave of internal migration was less intense, primarily because most of the rural population had already moved from the villages to the cities. The urban municipalities in Skopje Region are the most attractive for immigration. More than 90% of the total number of migrants and almost 60% of the total number of persons involved in the internal migrations are directed mainly towards the municipalities Aerodrom, Kisela Voda, Centar and Karposh.

The population in these municipalities is stimulated by their position within the city, the intensive housing construction and the bank credit offers. The government measures for buying a living space through the project "Buy a house, buy an apartment", where young married couples are offered financial assistance, favorable interest rates and generally favorable repayment terms has an important influence on the immigration process (Apostolovska Toshevska & Gorin, 2016). During the period 2005 - 2016, about 40% of the new built dwellings in the country have been built in the Skopje region. An intensive construction has been noted especially after 2013.

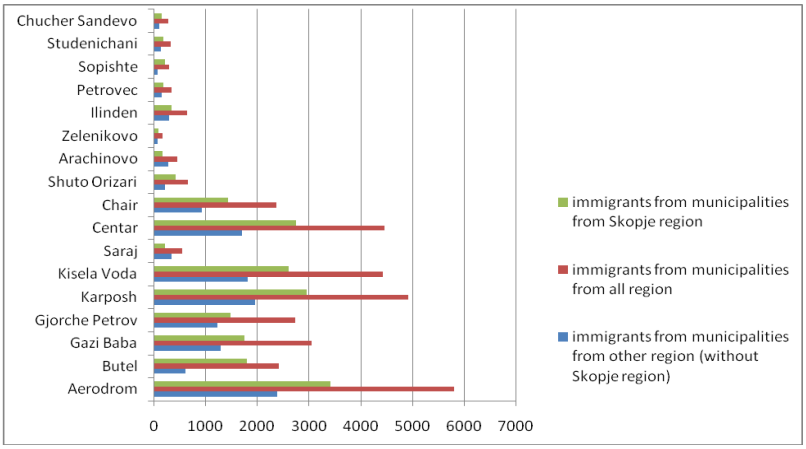


Figure 1: Internal migration towards and within the Skopje region, 2005-2015

The analysis of migrants, according to their place of origin shows that most of the immigrants from 2005 to 2015 are from the Northeast region, while the smallest share of only 8.2% is from the Southeast region. The variation in terms of percentage share is directly connected with the intensive migration movements abroad.

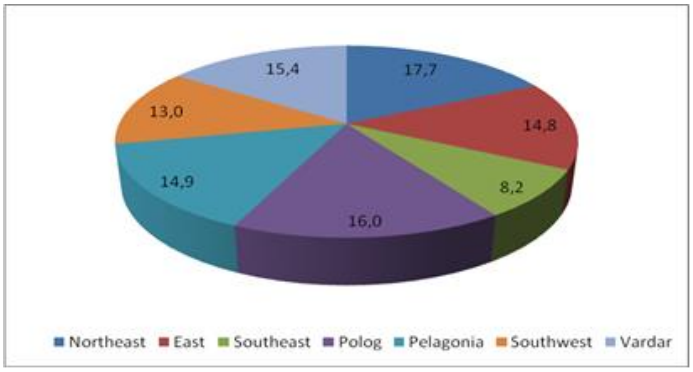


Figure 2: The structure of immigrants in the municipalities of Skopje from the municipalities of other regions 2005-2015 (%)

Of the total number of immigrants in the Northeast region, the majority of the population comes from the municipality of Kumanovo or 47.6%, followed by Lipkovo with 19.8% and Kriva Palanka with 17.3%. This percentage share of immigrants from the Kumanovo municipality is quite expected considering the fact that it has the largest population contingent, mainly due to the mechanical movement of the population from the surrounding towards the city and its surroundings, and on the other hand, due to the extended reproduction pattern of the Albanian population and the contingent of the young working age population that is in search of employment and the limiting opportunities for employment in the Northeast region, is heading towards the Skopje region. The situation in the municipality of Lipkovo where the Albanian population dominates is the same. Out of the total number of immigrants in this region, 18.3% moved to the municipality of Gazi Baba, 11.4% in the municipality Aerodrom and 10.1% in Arachinovo. About 1/3 of the Albanian population from the municipality of Lipkovo settled in the municipalities of Gazi Baba and Chair, and also in the municipality of Arachinovo. It is basically evident that the migration is mainly grouped on a national basis, i.e., the Albanian population settles in municipalities where the Albanian population is dominant, and the Macedonian population in the municipalities where the majority of the population is Macedonian.

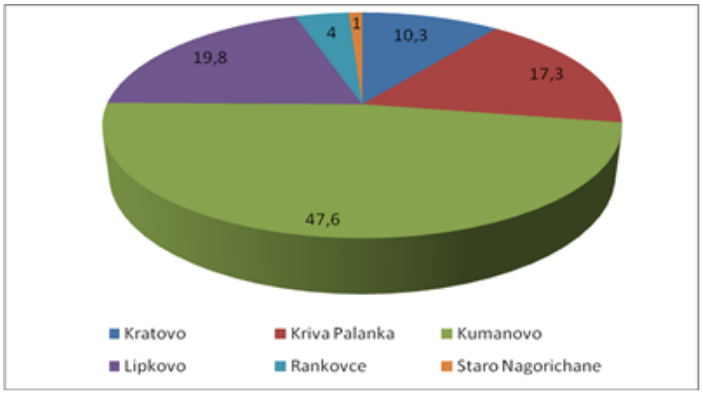


Figure 3: Number of immigrants in the Skopje municipalities from the municipalities of the Northeast Region 2005-2015 (%)

Nearly half of the total number of immigrants from the East region is from the municipalities of Shtip and Kochani where the majority of the population is located, i.e. mainly from the cities with the same name. However, a striking fact is the participation of the smaller municipalities, such as Probishtip, Berovo and Delchevo, which in conditions of intensive migration to foreign countries point to serious problems with the relocation of some areas and the lack of a sufficient population development contingent.

During the period from 1971-1981 to 2002 -2013 these municipalities moved from emigration type 1 and 2 to municipalities of emigration type 4[25]. Actually, the situation in the whole Eastern region is alarming because "its demographic indicators, net migration and population natural increase belong to type E4" (Madjevikj et al., 2016). The municipality of Aerodrom remains the most attractive destination for most migrants from the region. Unlike the immigration from the East region, 1/3 of the immigrants from the Polog region settled in Gjorce Petrov and Karposh, mainly due to the proximity to their place of origin, because these two municipalities are located in the northwestern part of the Skopje region, bordering with the Polog region. A larger percentage also immigrates to the municipalities Centar and Chair. Over 2/3 of the immigrants from the Polog region are from Tetovo (47.4%) and Gostivar (21.5%), urban settlements in Polog which absorb the largest population mass.

Nearly 2/3 of the immigrants from the Vardar region are settled in the municipalities of Aerodrom (21%), Kisela Voda, Karposh and Centar, mainly with the origin from the three major city centers in the region, i.e., Veles, Kavadarci and Negotino.

The number of migrants to the municipalities of the Skopje region would certainly be even bigger if the there were more migrations from Veles (55 km), Kumanovo (40 km) and Tetovo (43 km). However, their relatively small distance to Skopje, the favourable traffic connections and the favourable timetables of transport companies and private transporters contribute to the great volume of daily commuters from these municipalities in the Skopje region. Most of the daily commuters are students and employees.

From the Pelagonia region, 70.8% of the migrants are inhabiting Aerodrom, Karposh, Kisela Voda and Centar, and 72.5% are from the municipalities of Prilep and Bitola. Most of the population of the Southwest immigrates to the same municipalities, also including the municipality of Gjorche Petrov, mainly due to the proximity to the region via the M4 highway, but also because of the more intensive housing construction in the past few years. There are rural municipalities in the Southwest region such as Zajas and Centar Zhupa for which during the entire analyzed period there are no registered migration movements directed towards the municipalities in the Skopje region. These municipalities are characterized by the process of emigration, in which the population emigrates in order to work abroad and many of them are seasonal workers.

What is characteristic for the majority of populations in developed countries is the movement of the population from the city to the suburban areas. In the Skopje region, this phenomenon is less present. About 93% of the migrants on the territory of the Skopje region move to urban municipalities, this is certainly contributed by the intensive housing construction and the emphasized contents that are an integral part of the urban living. They are the cause of many changes in the demographic characteristics of the population as socio-economic, religious and

[25] Types of general population movements based on population natural increase and net migration by Friganović, according to a modified Web model E1 - Emigration E2 - Depopulation E4- Disappearing

ethnic affiliation of the population, which further leads to changes in the organization of space and local self-government.

Intending to change these trends of intensive migration to urban municipalities, and also taking into account the possibility of changing the optimal opportunities for settlement in some of the rural municipalities, the process of housing construction and urbanization took place in some of them. The municipalities Ilinden and Sopishte can be emphasized as typical examples. In the Ilinden municipality residential complexes of 1,200 apartments are under construction, while in the municipality of Sopishte, the project "Sunny city", an elite residential neighborhood, is realized under the motto of promoting healthy everyday living outside the city jam.

It should certainly be emphasized that the rural area of the Skopje Basin should be largely preserved as a region for food production, but also as leisure and recreational zone. In this context, the excessive housing construction and usurpation of agricultural land and its functional conversion would have a negative impact on agricultural incomes and the supply on the city markets.

In fact, this is not a solution to the city's relocation and mitigation of the migrant pressure directed towards the urban settlements of the Skopje region. More specific solution would be through optimal distribution of the productive forces, production capacities and investments in propulsive activities, which will influence the organization of settlements, which will be a prerequisite for the re-distribution of the population.

WHY IS THE SKOPJE REGION ATTRACTIVE FOR IMMIGRATION?

The attractiveness of the Skopje region as a settlement location grew alongside the growth of Skopje as the capital city and the development of its administrative, cultural and economic functions.

More precisely, Skopje as the center of the region received a three-dimensional sphere of influence, more precisely as a metropolis of national character, regional significance, including the gravitational spheres of the surrounding cities Tetovo, Kumanovo and Veles and of course, the local significance of the region of the Skopje Basin (Stojmilov & Apostolovska Toshevska, 2016). Hence, the spatial location of Skopje has a strong influence on the three gravitational zones, which has a positive effect on its population, territorial and urban development (Panov, 1976; Stojmilov, 2005; Stojmilov & Apostolovska Toshevska, 2016). At the same time, the settlements in the region, located in the zone of local influence, get functional contents and change their physiognomic shape and influence. In fact, "Urban environments are formed around these cities which together with the parent city form the urban area" (Vresk, 2002).

From an economic point of view, the region is the most developed in the country and accounts for over 40% of the GDP of the Republic of Macedonia. The main carriers of development are the big corporations (with about 50%) and small and medium enterprises. As a result of its location, good connections with the centers of former Yugoslavia, favorable infrastructure etc., Skopje has always been given the most suitable location advantages for development of the industry, which in fact has contributed most to strengthen the economic position of the city and the region. Just to illustrate, in 1966, out of 431 industrial plants in Macedonia, 131 or 30.5% were in the Skopje region. This percentage was 25% in 1986. However, it is a fact that Skopje and the Skopje region have risen and carry the epithet of the first industrial center in the country (Uzunov et al., 1988). All of this has turned the cities into polarizing hot spots.

And besides the efforts to reduce the economic disparities between regions and the use of the location of the industry as a model for the realization of it; data indicate a greater concentration of industrial facilities in the region, many of which are located within the territorial scope of the city. Industrial plants that, due to agglomeration advantages, are located in the cities encourage their rapid development. In cities, a large number of jobs are opened, not only in the industry, but also in other economic branches.

Strengthening the job function supports population migration from rural areas, building housing and other infrastructure (Vresk, 2002). The so-called Law on Twice the Value of Work in Industry is emphasized in this way (Kartalov, 1996). Even the intention to attract FDI since 2006 was primarily realized in the Skopje region where TIDZ Skopje 1 and 2 operate and strong industrial enterprises such as Johnson Control, FPC Tehnoplast, VanHool, Vitilo etc., are located (Apostolovska Toshevska & Ljakoska, 2017). According data, 13.7% of all the employees in 2014 were employed in Johnson Control (SSORM). Only in the period from 2005 to 2015 an average of 55% of the total investment in fixed assets and in all sectors except agriculture was located in the Skopje region. This percentage is even 25 times higher compared to the Northeast region, which accounts for the smallest share of fixed asset investments. Parallel to this, there were also opportunities to open newly created companies that in the same inter-period represented 30% of the total number of newly created enterprises in the country. In 2014 the highest average monthly net wage paid per employee, compared to the overall average in the Republic of Macedonia, was found in the Skopje Region (18.1%), while the lowest average monthly net wage paid per employee in the same year, compared to the overall average in the Republic of Macedonia, was recorded in the East Region (26.2%) (Apostolovska Toshevska & Ljakoska, 2016).

Except the economic attractiveness of the region and its other content, in the past period, housing opportunities for attracting the population have been created. From 2008 to 2016, 1/3 of the building permits that were issued were in the Skopje region, which is 40% of the total value of all buildings in the country.

This increased the attractiveness of the region for immigration of the population from all parts of the country, experiencing it as a region in which there are more and better alternatives for employment, but also led by the attractiveness of the great city content, including educational, social and cultural segments of life.

But in the region itself, there is a tendency of forcing the migration movements towards the municipalities of Aerodrom, Kisela Voda, Karposh and Centar, with emphasized housing construction, benefits for buying their own home and contents that meeting higher standards of urban living.

Of course, it is an indisputable fact that relocations are connected to other factors and influences, because when a person changes their social status, there is a likelihood that he will change the place of residence in the city (Vresk, 2002) or region, choosing a suitable place to live according to his financial possibilities and personal perceptions of the housing environment. On the other hand, "the probability of resettlement increases by changing the stages in the life cycle" (Vresk, 2002), due to the different responsibilities and needs of the individual and the family.

CONSEQUENCES

The dynamic change in the population in the Skopje region, assisted by the migrations from the other regions, as well as the mobility of the population within the region itself, lead to serious spatial, functional and physiological consequences.

The intense population growth of the region has imposed the need for increased housing construction because of which comes to transformation of agricultural land into construction land and thus the irreversible loss of a significant resource for the survival of current and future generations.

As a result of the socioeconomic development and increase of the territorial scope of the housing zones and free economic zones in the period from 2000 to 2006 a change in the functional use of the land (according to Corine Land Cover) of about 28.58% was recorded, while in the period from 2006 to 2012 a change of 15.84% was recorded. Only in the period from 2002-2012 mainly due to the urbanization process, which contributes to the increase in the area under constructed facilities (from 93.3 km^2 to 109.3 km^2), as well as reduction of agricultural land (708.3 km^2 to 696.1 km^2) (Gorin et al., 2014) and spatial distribution in the lower altitude parts of the Region.

The overwhelming concentration of the housing function on the territory of the City of Skopje, as well as the area of the whole region, reflects the irrational use of the space, as well as the possibility of adequate equipping of the settlements with adequate and optimal liner infrastructure and objects from the superstructures.

The problem with the insufficient number of kindergartens in most of the municipalities in Skopje is real. The pronounced concentration of the population in the urban part of the city causes spatial and organizational imbalances in the region and causes spatial, functional and socio-economic differences and problems.

On the other hand, the great population and economic concentration and polarization of the Skopje region, conditions difficulties in communication between the city and the region and in the city itself, where the time needed to travel from one part of the region to another is increasing, especially when there is no alternative to public transport except for bus transportation. An attempt has been made to solve certain traffic difficulties through the construction of a ring road and by building roundabouts, but the fact remains that the optimal possibilities for settlement of the city and the immediate surroundings are overcome.

Housing construction on the slopes of Vodno contributes to reducing the stability of the terrain, and they are a direct threat to the Vodno forest and its flora and fauna. At the same time, the housing area spreads over quality agricultural land as in the area of Bardovci, Vizbegovo, Zlokukjani, Volkovo, Ilinden, Marino, etc., while some industrial facilities, due to the expansion of the city, are in the immediate proximity of the housing zones.

But the most complex and huge problem facing the region, and especially the city part, is the pollution of all components of the environment.

The location of the city in the Skopje Basin, the unplanned and irregular facility construction by obstructing the flow of air masses does not allow sufficient airflow of the air masses. Hence, especially in the morning and evening rush hours, the level of MPC of NO_2, CO_2, CO and PM particles has been exceeded for many times, especially in Karposh, Centar and Lisiche as a result of the emissions from traffic, industry and households.

The fact that Skopje is the biggest construction site in the country is a reason more for the huge quantities of dust and unsuitable components in the air, which in combination with humidity and poor air flow, allows an increased number of foggy days. On the other hand, the immigration to the Skopje region and the population displacement of the other regions, are a reason more for the differences in the regional development and the difficulty in improving the economic level growth.

CONCLUSION

The study of internal migration in the Republic of Macedonia, especially those directed towards the Skopje region showed that the spatial mobility of the population is taking place according to its own laws. The functional development of the region as the most attractive for migration in the past period has contributed in the separation of several urban municipalities that attract migrants from all other regions of the country but also from other municipalities in the region. Thereby, a certain degree of cohesion appears.

Most of the migrants in the region come from the Northeast region, which includes the municipality of Kumanovo which is one of the largest municipalities in the country. The immigrations from the other regions are smaller and the smallest are from the Southeast region.

Many factors influence their share of the total number of immigrants: number of population, its biological, especially age structure, socio-economic characteristics, their ability to resettle, the development of the region of their origin, living conditions and more.

Significant are the migrations from other regions in the country, but it is obvious that there is a great mobility of the population in the region, i.e., moving from one municipality to another in the region. There are many factors influencing, including changes in the life cycle.

The consequences of such scope and frequency of internal migratory movements condition large changes in the demographic characteristics of the population (number, gender and age structure, religion, national structure, etc.), functional conversion of agricultural land, degradation of the components of the environment.

The consequences are indirectly seen in the rest of the country through the sub-optimal distribution of production, which would influence the network of settlements and the distribution of the population. At the same time, overcoming the optimal settlement possibilities of the region, especially of the City of Skopje lead to a decrease in the quality of life in terms of the normal functioning of the individual who will be less able to feel the natural pleasure of the lifestyle in the Skopje region.

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СКОПСКИОТ РЕГИОН ВО ФОКУСОТ НА ВНАТРЕШНИТЕ МИГРАЦИИ

Билјана АПОСТОЛОВСКА ТОШЕВСКА, Марија ЉАКОСКА,
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РЕЗИМЕ

Скопскиот регион според површината којашто ја зафаќа е најмалиот, но најнаселениот регион во Република Македонија. На само 7% од територијата на државата, живее скоро третина од нејзиното население. Популациискиот раст се должи на природниот прираст и на доселувањата во регионот. Само кон Скопскиот регион и во рамките на регионот се одвивале околу 35% од вкупните внатрешни миграциски движења во земјата во периодот од 2005-2015 година. Интензивните доселувања имаат одредени специфичности.

Воочливо е поголемо насочување на мигрантите кои се доселуваат од останатите региони кон одредени делови на Скопскиот регион, кадешто веќе има претходно доселени од нивната област, или се просторно поблиски до нив. При тоа, најатрактивни за населување се градските општини, од кои само во четирите општини на град Скопје се слеваат 60% од внатрешните мигранти кон Скопскиот регион. Причините за преселба се различни, иако во најголем дел се од економска природа, образование, брак и слично. Сепак, голема е веројатноста дека при промена на социјалниот статус се појавува потреба од промена на местото на живеење. Исто така, потребата од мигрирање е во тесна поврзаност со животниот циклус и возраста на поединецот.

Обемот и динамиката на внатрешните миграции имаат далекусежни последици врз сите сегменти од општеството, стопанството, популацијата и животната средина при што директно влијаат врз нивниот одржлив развој. Оттаму, следењето на состојбите со миграциите се сигурен показател за начинот на делување во креирање на популациската и економската стратегија за развој и просторното планирање.