

Developing Europe's Rural Regions
in the Era of Globalization
DERREG

International migration and Rural Europe

Case Study 1: Pomurje region

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SLOVENIA

:

POMURJE REGION



20.000 km² with 2.000.000 inhabitants

Border region

Population: 121,824 (6 %)

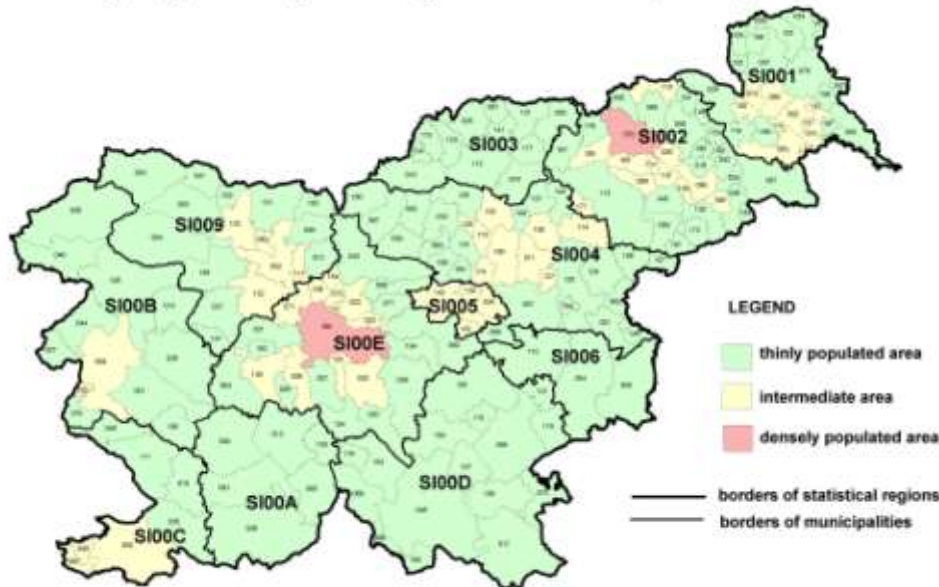
Predominantly rural

High % of protected areas

Traditional outmigration

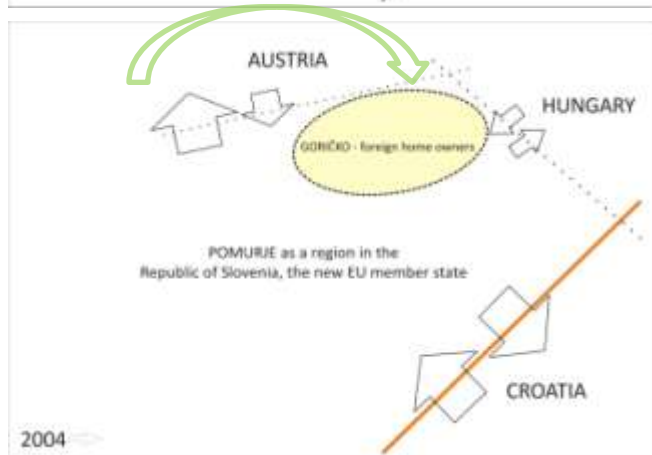
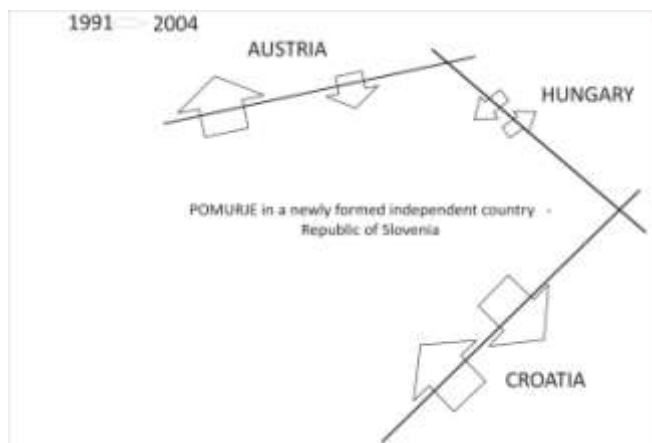
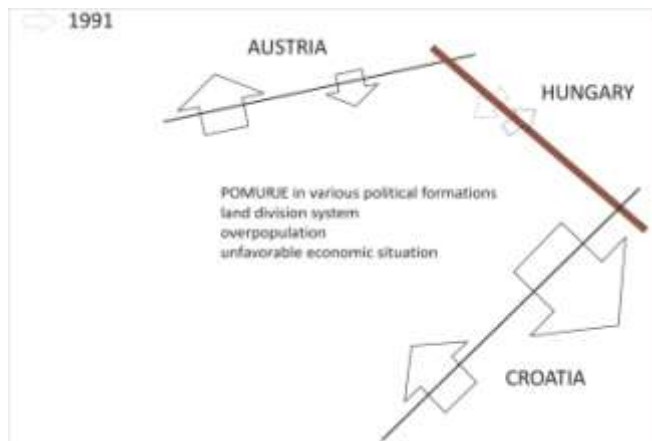
High unemployment rate

Urban/rural typology according to the "Degree of urbanisation", municipalities



Sources: Eurostat, Statistical office of the Republic of Slovenia, Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia





Historically:
 Closed borders
 Overpopulated region
 Problematic landownership



OUTMIGRATION WAVES

Recently:
 Opened borders to EU countries
 Daily work migration
 Arrival of foreigners as permanent
 or occasional settlers

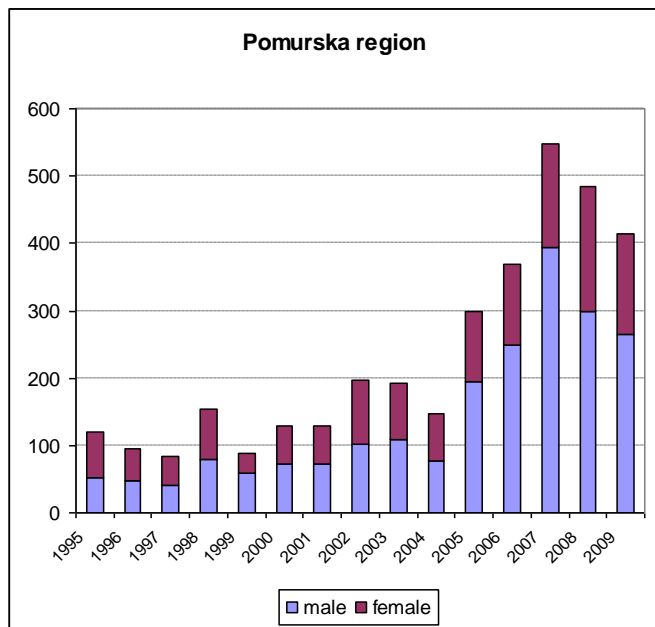
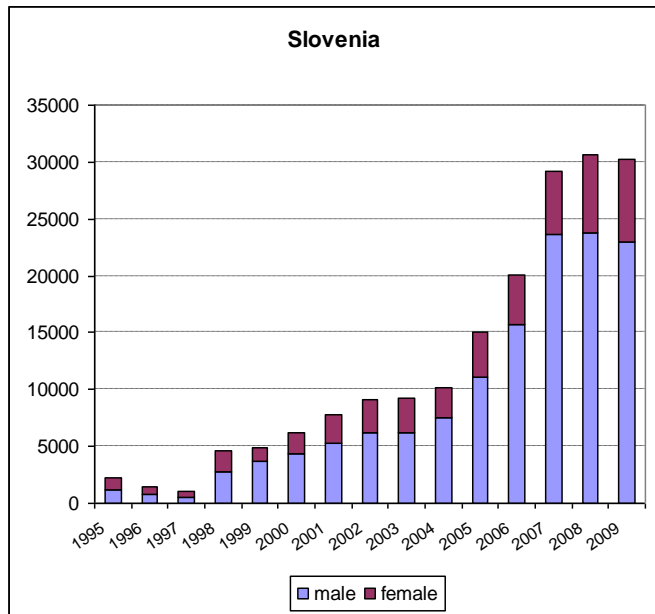


COMPLEX MIGRATION FLOWS

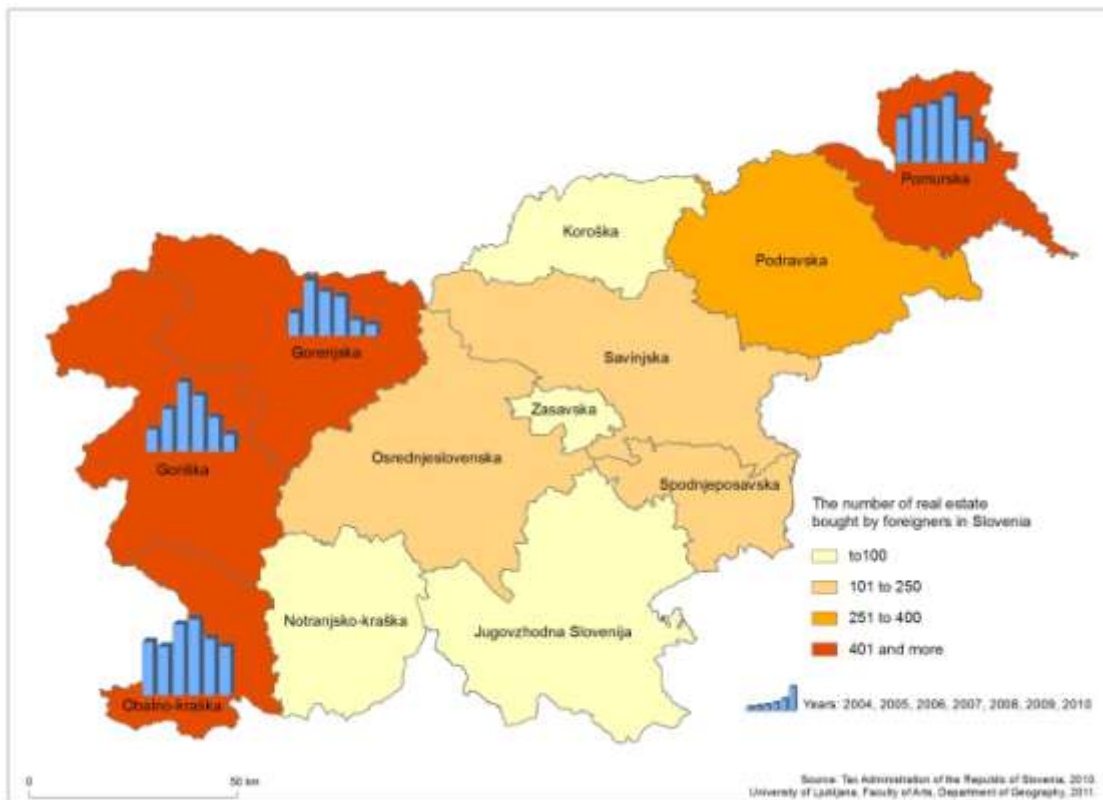
Future:
 Reopening of the border to Croatia –
 “old-new” migration flows?
 The growing importance of globalization
 effects



INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANTS TO SLOVENIA AND POMURJE: 1995 to 2009.

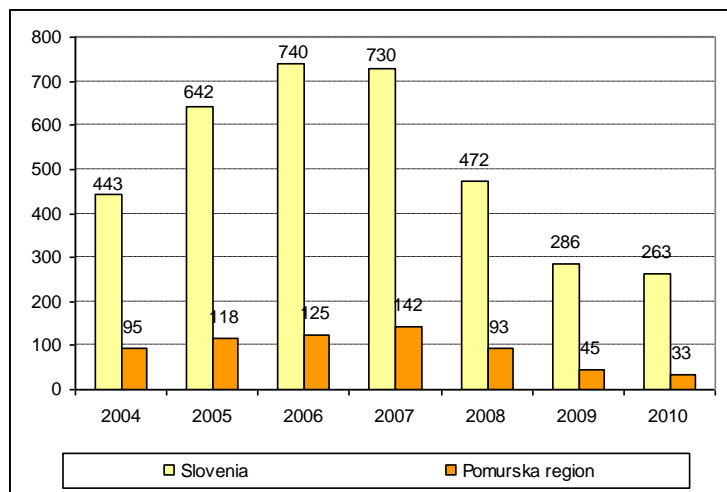


TOTAL NUMBER OF FOREIGN HOME OWNERS IN SLOVENIA



REAL ESTATE PURCHASE BY FOREIGNERS

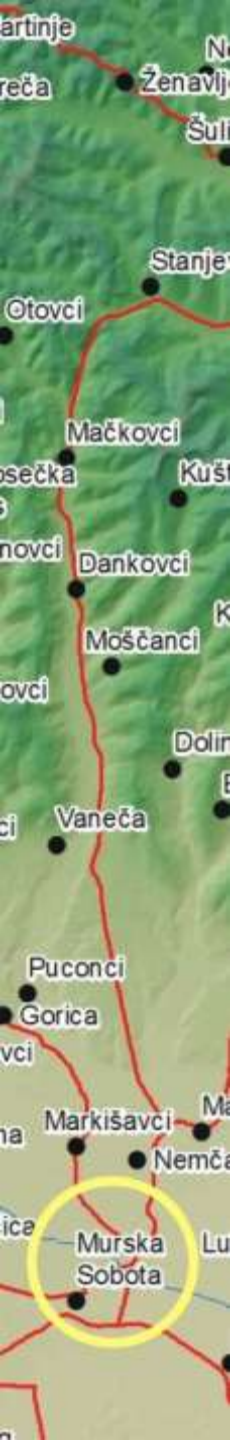
Purchases of real estate in Slovenia and Pomurje region done by foreign citizens (2004 – 2010).



Source: Tax Administration of the RS, 2010.

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2004 - 2010	Structure (%)
Austria	29	30	25	29	24	10	11	158	24,3
Belgium	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0,5
Bulgaria	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0,5
Other non EU	1	1	2	1	2	0	0	7	1,1
Finland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0,2
France	2	1	0	1	1	6	4	15	2,3
Ireland	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	6	0,9
Italy	2	14	7	19	8	2	3	55	8,4
Hungary	0	0	0	2	1	3	0	6	0,9
Germany	9	19	7	10	13	7	6	71	10,9
Holland	3	0	1	1	1	1	2	9	1,4
Poland	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4	0,6
Romania	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0,2
Spain	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0,3
Sweden	2	1	0	2	0	2	0	7	1,1
Great Britain	44	50	80	72	40	11	6	303	46,5
All together	95	118	125	142	93	45	33	651	100,0

The number of foreign purchasers in Pomurje region by the country of origin.

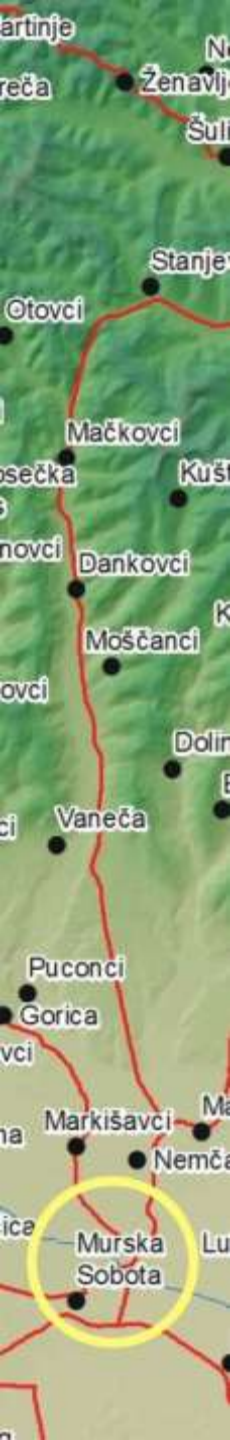


POMURJE AND THE PHENOMENON OF AMENITY MIGRATION



- Prevailing “**rural amenities**”: hedonic, pleasurable, aspects associated with natural and man-made features (agricultural landscapes, historic structures, and cultural traditions)
- Combined by the **globalization effects**- the opening of borders, opportunity to purchase a real estate, relatively cheap property, good accessibility of the region...



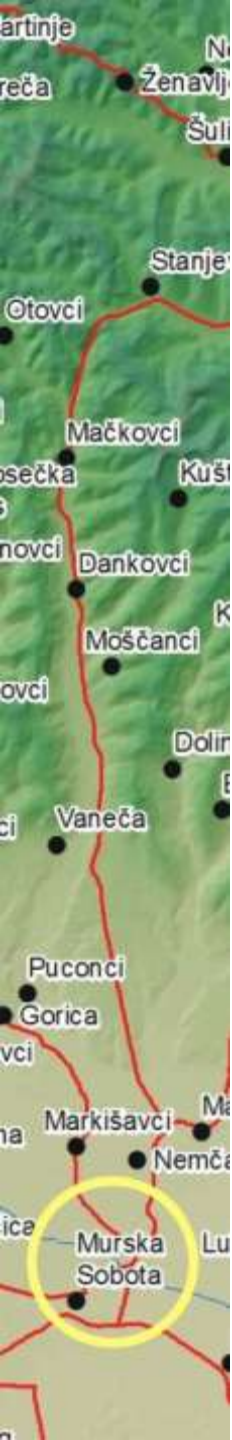


INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN HOME OWNERS



- 13 foreign home owners
- November 2009 - March 2010
- age and gender structure: 28 – 65 years old; 5 F
- nationality: 9 British, 2 Germans, 2 US citizens
- mostly still active; 3 retirees
- 4 families, 6 couples
- permanent stay (8) versus occasional stay – second home owners (5)
- the prevailing type of the areas they are coming from is “rural”; 5 respondents are coming from urban areas
- 5 came to live in region (or to purchase the second home) in the period 2001 – 2005, 2 in 2006 and 6 from 2007 on





MAIN RESULTS

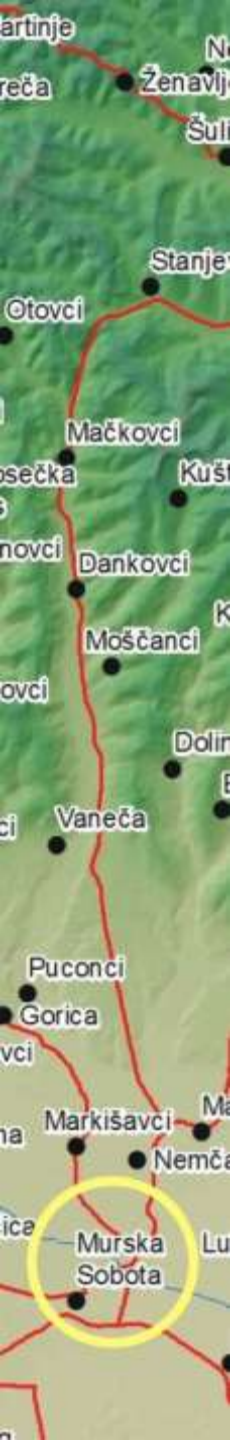


Questions related to: **personal background, motives to come to the region, the purchase of a real estate, social networks in the region; future plans**

MOTIVES

- preserved natural environment, cultural richness, friendly local population (opened to foreigners), slow and peaceful life
- good transport connections, low prices of housing, low costs of living

“Beside the prices of old houses, the accessibility is the mayor factor to move here. From Goričko hilly area you can reach three countries (Austria, Hungary and Croatia) in a very short time. To reach the neighbourhood country you need less time than from home to the first city in Britain.” (interview No.6)



MAIN RESULTS

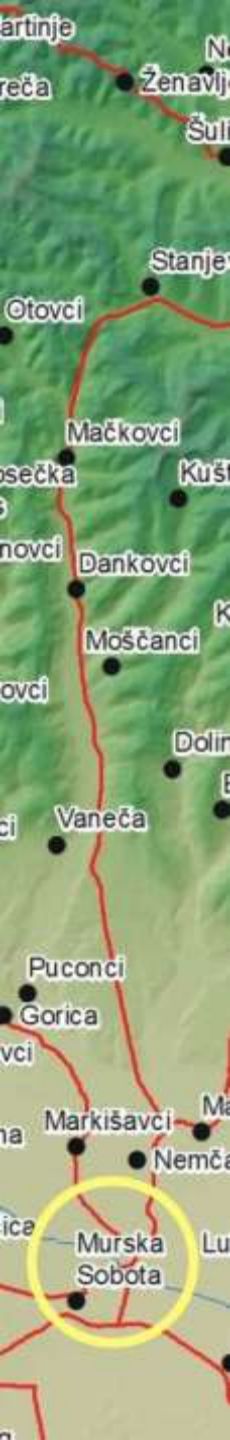
ADDITIONAL FACTORS

- newspaper adds and information on the internet
- very important role of a British citizen – starts to advertise the idyllic countryside (2004-2005) and buys dilapidated houses

PROBLEMS UPON ARRIVAL

- paper work, poor knowledge of English among the local population and the officials
- reports to local police

“The paper work is most problematic. Slovenia is just not aware to be a part of the EU and I have to report at the local police station every 2 weeks while I am in the area.” (interview No. 6)



MAIN RESULTS



INCLUSION IN SOCIAL NETWORK

- adapted to local habits,
- preserving the tradition (house renovation, etc.)
- friendship with local population as well as with other foreigners

FUTURE PLANS

- permanent stay in the region versus selling the property

“We have found friends in the area fast and they helped us to acclimatize well in the area; now we visit each other in our homes or we meet at the local bar”. (interview No. 5)

“I am satisfied to live here because I was always looking to live in a region like this but at the moment I can not afford to maintain the house any longer...The costs of living in Slovenia are very high, much higher to when I first arrived here few years ago... I have already sold the house and I am going back to England. Still my intention is to return and live here permanently...maybe in Maribor...” (interview No. 4)



GOOD PRACTICES?...

FORMAL LEVEL

NATIONAL LEVEL

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, FAMILY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRES

REGIONAL LEVEL

3 Social work Centre Murska Sobota

4 Administrative unit Murska Sobota

MUNICIPAL LEVEL

1 Institute for adult education of Murska Sobota

2 Primary school Fokovci

Topics of activities

Language support

Cultural exchange between locals
and migrants

Civic engagement

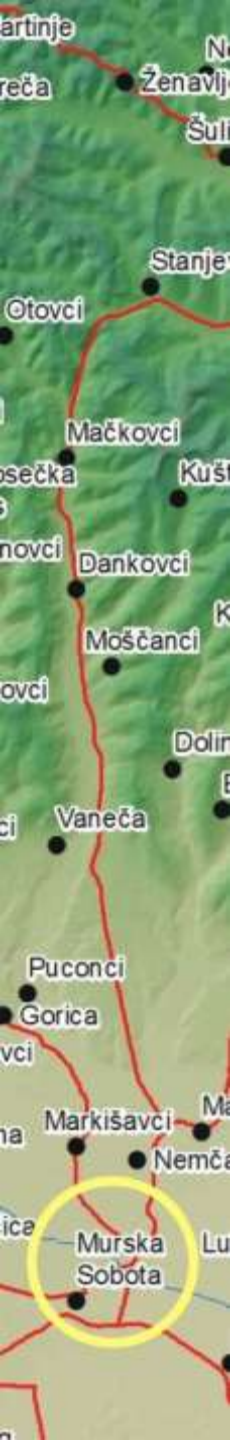
Children and youth encouragement

INFORMAL LEVEL

Civic engagement and voluntary participation

Bar "Na Kujkli" 5

Kriket sport Club Motvarjevci 6



SOME FINAL REMARKS...



- The research revealed a moment in migration processes in Pomurje; in 2011 things are already different – the migrants are selling their property, there are only few new ones coming here...
- The globalization effects seem to be even stronger and more present than ever... (i.e. global economic crisis).
- The future trends are hard to be predicted but we gained the new knowledge on a certain type of the migrations which the area as well as Slovenia has not experienced before.