SUMMARY

Second home use as a global social phenomenon with an especially long tradition in Europe has deep roots in Croatian society as well. At its core, this dwelling practice refers to the occasional use of a second home solely for the purposes of leisure and recreation. A more intense spread of second home use in Croatia can be tracked from the 1960s onwards and according to the 2011 Census there were almost 250 000 vacation homes in Croatia, which comprised around 11% of the overall national housing stock. Second home use is most often realized in rural spaces that offer certain scenic, recreational or other pleasantries. In that respect, the counterurbanisation pattern is one of the main features of second home use. Seeing as how these spaces are increasingly characterised by the post-productivist paradigm, it is second home use, in this new context, that presents itself as one of the stronger factors in the transformation of rural spaces. If we add to this the fact that in Croatia, the coastal area presents the most attractive location for second homes, it is obvious that the spread of second home use is one of the more important questions when it comes to the spatial development of Croatia.

Keeping in mind the fact that a greater degree of physical density increases social impact, the research, the results of which are presented in this book, focuses on the analysis of the social dynamic in settlements with a larger number of second homes. Specifically, the research was conducted in three locations, that is, three settlements in which an increase in the number of second homes has been noted: Okrug Gornji on the island of Čiovo, Aljmaš on the Danube and Červar-Porat near Poreč. The research was conducted from 2014 to 2017 as part of the installation research program "Second Homes and Social Sustainability of Local Communities in Croatia" (HRZZ-UIP-2013-11-1875), financed by the Croatian Science Foundation. The interdisciplinary research group consisted of researchers from the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar, the Faculty of Architecture in Zagreb and the Catholic University of Croatia.

The book consists of nine chapters in total. After the foreword and an introduction which point out the social relevancy of second home use, the second chapter shows current findings, that is, an overview of the basic theoretical and empirical insights into the mechanisms and impact of the spread of second homes on the transformation of the local community. This is followed by a chapter which analyses the basic features and socio-spatial patterns of the spread of second homes in Croatia.

The fifth chapter covers the topic of basic spatial-economic and demographic characteristics for all three of the settlements, beginning with the change of the number of inhabitants from 1971 to 2001, followed by the natural population change and the structure of the population according to sex and age, migration pattern, economic activity and level of education. The sixth chapter presents a key elements of research methodology through research goals, method and sample design. The following three chapters each show the results of the descriptive analysis of data gathered through surveys carried out on samples of permanent and temporary inhabitants, first for Okrug Gornji, then Červar-Porat and then, finally, Alimaš. The aforementioned three chapters provide short overviews of the second home development in each settlement, as well as analysis of basic features of contemporary second home use. Furthermore, the chapters in question provide an analysis of the ratings of the residential surrounding and developmental aspirations from the perspective of both target groups as well as their participation in planning of local development, and finally, the chapters also ponder local identities, place attachment, local social dynamics and contours of everyday life. The final chapter summarizes the basic insights into the (co)existence of permanent and temporary inhabitants derived from a comparative analysis of research data collected in the three different locations.

Although the presented analysis of the data collected in the three different settlements shows only the bare bones of the state and development of local communities affected by a more intense spread of second homes, the gathered insights clearly suggest that the second home phenomenon is by no means homogenous. However, despite the heterogeneity of the forms of second homes, the interest of temporary residents in local development and in participation in local development decision-making is noticeable in all three locations. If we add to this the fact that in two of the three locations (Okrug Gornji and Červar-Porat) a significant number of temporary residents have, with time, become permanent residents, that is, locals, it is easy to conclude that second home use has some demographic-developmental potential. In Croatia, the strategic turn that would allow the capitalization of second home use to leave the confines of rentier economy is yet to come, and in this process our study is merely a modest contribution to the conversation about new models of local development in places in which the phenomenon is more noticeable.