

SUMMARY

On November 12 and 13, 2019, the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar organized the 22nd Scientific Conference „Vukovar ‘91 – Twenty-Eight Years Later“. As a result, the conference proceedings titled „Contemporary Migrations in the Republic of Croatia: Causes, Consequences and Current trends“ were created, in which topics such as migrations and their connections to social processes in the world and the Republic of Croatia are discussed.

In the text „Demographic Aspects of Contemporary Croatian Emigration“, author Nenad Pokos notes that Croatia has been in a deep demographic crisis for nearly thirty years, with trends such as general depopulation, natural decline, accelerated population aging etc. In the last few years, the demographic development of the country has been under the growing influence of the negative migration rate. The latest emigration wave began with the global financial crisis in 2008, and was intensified by Croatia entering the European Union in 2013. This wave may have been the most adverse, as it has been ongoing in an environment already marked by lower natality rates, natural decrease, general depopulation, and an accelerated population aging process. The specific numeric scope of the emigration is not clear, as many of the residents no longer report leaving their place of residence as they emigrate, even though they are obliged to do so according to the 2012 Law on Residence and Domicile. This is why foreign statistics are actually more accurate. Still, some countries do not register the number of residents who immigrated from Croatia, but instead look at the number of Croatian residents that moved to said countries. By combining data from Croatian statistics and the data of other countries, a data set can be formed, which shows that between 2011 and 2019, just over 250 thousand residents emigrated from Croatia. This paper also shows data about the regional emigration source of these residents, sorted according to their target country.

Authors Vlado Šakić and Katarina Perić wrote a three-part paper titled „An Overview of Contemporary Migrations and Their Influence on the Modern Croatian Identity“. In the first part, they give a historical overview of the motivational factors and the direction of migrations out of Croatia, both in the global and

European context. In the second part, they take a look at contemporary Croatian migration trends in respect to global and European trends, with special attention given to the Croatian diaspora. In the third part, the authors discuss the factors that can greatly influence the Croatian national, social and cultural identity, with regards to the current migration trends.

The paper „Migrations Started by Wars: Between Social Disaster and Social Development“, authors Andrija Platužić and Ozren Žunec discuss the lack of concepts and methodological and theoretical fundamentals which could provide a basis for policies regarding contemporaneous problem of migrations, a problem whose magnitude, implications and tragical consequences dictate urgent action. There is a paradox that discussions on impact of migrations on societies tend to diverge in utterly positive and utterly negative discourses, which are both based on a same set of data, but differently understood and interpreted. Although it could seem that this is a consequence of the „post-truth“ era, the paper finds that these differences are based in different social functions. Some of them, like economy, are secular or profane activities and there are managed by rational policies, while other, like the biological survival and the continuation of the cultural identity are regarded as sacred. In this latter aspect migrations are considered as a threat and invasion, and in former as welcome workforce that could contribute to the progress of the community.

In the paper „Securitization of Migrations: Social Construct or Real Threat?“, authors Mirko Bilandžić and Danijela Lucić claim that population movement or migration is not a new phenomenon, but it does hold a key position in the security agenda of the 21st century. Migrations have existed as long as humanity itself, and they have been playing a vital role in the shaping of the world as we know it today. Repression, conflict, wars, social dissolutions, political instability, and economic inequality have always been generators of cross-border movements of people, as well as indicators of political, economic and safety conditions in the area of emigration and immigration. Many contemporary countries are a product of social and cultural influences caused by various population movements, and few countries truly represent an idealized image of state-nations. Experts estimate that migrants (both forced and voluntary) today make up around 3.5% of the world population, and if they all lived in one country, they would be the fifth largest country in the

world. Migrations are treated as social, humanitarian, and economic issues. By changing the paradigms of international and national safety in the post-Cold-War period, migrations have also become a safety issue. Their importance in this context ultimately became more obvious than ever after the 9/11 terrorist attack in the USA in 2001. Migrations have even found their way into the sphere of the securitized phenomena: They're seen as an existential threat. It is without question that migrations have an implication on national and international security, but are they really a safety threat, and a securitized one at that? Empirical evidence and data give us a definitive answer: According to data published by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, between 2009 and 2018, the number of persons who were forced to leave their homes grew from 43 to 71 million, 26 million of which were refugees. Estimates by the World Bank say that 1.6 billion people, which is around 20% of the world population, are facing various kinds of insecurity. Migrations are, therefore, a serious challenge to international security in the foreseeable 21st century. By relying first and foremost on the qualitative (secondary) analysis and interpretation of empirical evidence, the securitization of migrations is analyzed from a number of perspectives to prove or disprove the following: a) terrorism can influence migrations, b) migrations can influence terrorism, c) terrorists can be migrants, and d) migrants can be terrorists.

The paper „Staged Solidarity, Censured Knowledge and an Escape to „Modernity“ – Croatian Contribution to World Migration and Militarization Politics (from an Annex of the Anthropology of Vukovar)“, written by author Sanja Špoljar Vržina, is based on insight gained during long periods of researching global migration population, forced migrations in Croatia during and after the Homeland War, and through developing the sub-discipline of the anthropology of Vukovar in the last two decades (2005–2019). The consequences of forced migrations can be explained through a kaleidoscopic approach to long-term national and supra-national politics, with the key characteristic being the commodification of populations and their suffering. Migrant identities are presented as just one of the many goals of identity politics, social justice and (neo)liberal agendas (Špoljar-Vržina, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2003). Until recently, they were also one of the goals of the equalizing projects of global institutions on the macro-level. Finally, the paper further discusses the Croatian attempts to give a humanitarian response to migrants, the

critical stance toward the program of violent humanitarianism, and the defense of the hard-earned sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia.

In the paper „Contemporary (Illegal) Migrations – From a Humanitarian Question to a Safety Challenge“, author Josip Esterajher points to the various aspects of contemporary migrations. In his work, he highlights that contemporary migration is a multi-faceted phenomenon in terms of causes, form, and consequences for migrants themselves, but also for the countries of transit and the final destinations. There are numerous factors causing the contemporary migration – economic, political, socio-cultural, related to history, geography, environment, etc. The increase in migrant numbers globally, alongside the improvement of traffic possibilities worldwide, is encouraging migrants to depart towards the desired destinations, usually the developed countries, creating certain difficulties in transit countries as well.

The reception (and transit) countries may face various forms of social, economic, political and security impact of the migration crisis and the security-related consequences of illegal migration are becoming more prominent. Countries feel the pressure on their external borders and migrants also use the services of international organized crime groups. The fear of possible change of the society's identity (which can be preceded by a labour cost decrease, housing cost increase, insufficient programs for the social integration of migrants, etc.) may cause the emergence of various anti-immigrant groups and political parties and contribute to the increase in violence between the migrants and the local population.

In the paper „Migrations as a Sign of the Times. Pope Francis' Contribution to Solving the Problems of Contemporary Migrations and Migrant Reception“, authors Vladimir Dugalić and Igor Jakobfi start from the fact that the migration crisis has been gripping the world's attention for some years now, especially European countries. In many countries, since the first migrant admissions, there has been a growing feeling of fear of the newcomer migrants. As a result, many borders were closed. In the paper, the contribution of Pope Francis is analyzed, particularly in solving the migrant crisis. His influence on signing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is also studied. In the first part of the paper, his most notable speeches are analyzed, which include two homilies and an Address held at the meeting with migrants at the premises of the diocesan Caritas in Rabat (Morocco) in 2019, as well as his Address

to participants in the International Forum on Migration and Peace in 2018, the Pope's Statement on the Marrakesh Declaration, the closing Address of the Conference on Xenophobia, Racism and Populist Nationalism in the Context of Global Migration (2018), and, finally, two „Iustitia et pax“ statements of the Episcopal Conference of Croatia. In the second part of the paper, 20 principles are analyzed that aim to contribute to the development of a program and the evaluation of pastoral work with migrants. These were developed by the Migrants and Refugees section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development of the Holy See. They were chosen for analysis as they refer to Pope Francis' four basic principles: accept, protect, promote, and integrate. By inviting everyone to move past the narrow political and global interests, Pope Francis approaches this topic as a man of faith, opening up space for new ways of thinking and acting in the context of the migrant crisis. The theologically-moral and socio-psychological dimensions are pushed to the forefront in his speeches, as only in the spirit of solidarity and respecting the dignity of every human being can solutions for the migrant crisis be found.

Dražen Živić and Nikola Šimunić, in their paper „Forced War Migrations in Croatia According to the Return Statistics“, start with the notion that according to the criteria of (un)willingness, regardless of the cause, migrations are usually divided into the forced and voluntary categories. Forced migrations are most commonly the result of political crises and social or war conflicts, although other sudden and „excessive“ situations, such as natural disasters, can drive large groups of people to move from their areas of residence, both in the context of inner and external migrations. In the paper, the authors show the situation with forced migrations caused by Serbian war aggression on Croatia during the 1990, mostly based on statistical sources and scientific research, primarily the Statistics on returnees and remaining return requests, with data up until June 2021. The goal is to quantify and balance the size and structure of forced migrations of contingents in Croatia.

In the paper „Youth Attitudes of the Vukovar-Syrmia County About Current Social Issues and Their Migration Aspirations“, written by Mateo Žanić, Geran-Marko Miletić and Ivana Bendra, the authors point out that, during the Homeland War, the Vukovar-Syrmia County was the scene of many important, even key battles. This has left a long line of negative war consequences, from human casualties and persecution to infrastructure destruction. In the post-war period, the

County could not even begin to work on the often-announced development and rebuilding, which led to many local inhabitants who took part in the research not showing much optimism about the County's future. According to research conducted in 2009, they were most worried about the issue of „caring for the young and their future“. This paper presents the findings of research done in February and March 2019, which students of the third and fourth grade of high school (17-18 years of age) from the Vukovar-Syrmia County took part in, and which researched their attitudes toward the current condition of the County. In the first part of the paper, the results of the research are given, showing how young people perceive certain issues within the County, as well as how they feel about some government institutions. They discuss the results that show how many of the respondents would like to continue living in the County after high school, how many would like to move to other parts of Croatia, as well as to what degree they feel attached to their current place of residence. In the paper, the authors also talk about whether there is a connection between the place of residence and the gender of the respondents, along with giving answers to some of the previously posed questions.

Authors Caroline Hornstein Tomić and Marina Perić Kaselj, in their paper „Migrations of Highly-Educated and Professional Personnel – Triple Win? Experiences of Younger Member States After Joining the EU“ start with the fact that every new member of the European Union subscribes to the four freedoms set out in the Treaty of Rome: free movement of goods, services, capital and persons. Mobility for labor and educational purposes, a great benefit of Union membership in principal, however is seen in an increasingly critical light when it goes primarily one way. The mobility patterns particularly of young and high-skilled EU citizens from member states in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (CESEE) to Western and Northern European destinations are an example in place. High-skilled migration and mobility can thus be considered a rather ambivalent consequence of EU accession. The contribution seeks to contribute to an informed debate by highlighting both losses and potential wins of high-skilled migration for young EU member states like Croatia. It refers to qualitative research conducted for case studies on remigration to selected countries in CESEE.

Rebeka Mesarić Žabčić, in her text „Return Migrations as a Development Trigger in the Međimurje County“, claims that an analysis of literature on return

migrations shows that, in the last 15 years, these migrations have become more than ever the subject of interest and research. Even though they are a key part of the migration process, return migrations are still somewhat overlooked when it comes to research interest. There are many reasons why reliable statistical data on return migrations is lacking. Most of the migratory countries today only keep track of migrants leaving the countries. Another part of the issue is related to statistical data about return migrants stemming from a different approach, compared to return migrations, as well as unbalanced categorizations of returning migrants in migrant politics and country statistics. These interrelated parameters make the tracking of this kind of data difficult, and comparing the data on an international level (OECD 2008; Kuschminder, 2013) is also complicated by this. This paper focuses on voluntary return migration to the Međimurje County in Croatia. In the absence of more reliable statistical data about return migrations in Croatia, this paper does not provide a concrete number of returned migrants in the country. The research was conducted in the Međimurje County with persons who at a certain point in their lives decided to return to their home country, having spent a significant amount of time abroad. By analyzing interviews and a number of life stories of these persons, the goal is to find out the results of them returning to their homeland.

Krešimir Peračković, Matea Milak and Geran-Marko Miletić wrote the text „Life in Aljmaš 20 Years Later: Population Attitudes on the Outlook of Local Development“. In Aljmaš, a community belonging to the Erdut Municipality in the Osijek-Baranja County in Croatia, according to the Census of 2011, there were 605 inhabitants, even though a much smaller number than that has a permanent residence there. During the Greater-Serbian Aggression, starting with 1st August 1991, Aljmaš was almost completely destroyed, and non-Serbian inhabitants were forcefully displaced, which we will forever remember with images in our collective memories, such as that of the exodus of Aljmaš residents on a large barge. Today, this settlement does not have any significant economic activities and is facing issues that are common for rural and peripheral areas of Croatia, namely, unemployment and depopulation. Considering these adverse factors, this paper, which is based on empirical research, discusses how Aljmaš inhabitants rate their own quality of life and the outlooks of local development. In the last part of the paper, the authors also show the grades given by the residents on

how much of the development in Aljmaš is done by the State, the County, the Municipality and the local committee.

By dealing with various topics ranging from war casualties, over forced migrations, to economic and political aspects of contemporary migrations, the papers contained in these proceedings have shown why migrations hold such an important place in the understanding of the migration process in the world of today. These proceedings have therefore achieved the goals set by the organizers of the Vukovar '91 conference in that they have approached the topic of migration through an interdisciplinary approach, thereby finding certain relationships between the causes and the consequences of migrations.

Translated by: Anamarija Miličević