

*Institute of Geonics, CR AS, Branch Brno
Institute of Geography, Ljubljana*

ABSTRACT

The project deals with problems of marginal rural regions in the period of transformation in Czechia and Slovenia. Following aspects were investigated in seven model regions in both countries: the course of transformation, transformation impacts, related border problems and environmental aspects. Geographic, cartographic, sociologic, historic and remote-sensing methods were used. Opinions of local population as well as local authorities entered to the research. Desperately needed changes in the market, structural demographic development and social progress belong to the most important problems observed. In Czechia, an effective regional politics of the state was elaborated. In Slovenia, the state is not able to provide financial resources, elaboration of local development strategies and utilization of tranquillity and positive environmental conditions are preconditions for rural prosperity. Local people are usually the main richness of marginal regions. The care for them is the main task of local authorities. The regional studies are prepared for publication.

NEW PROSPERITY FOR RURAL REGIONS Final Report

**Antonín Vaishar, Radomír Koutný, Oldřich Mikulík, Vítězslav Nováček, Jana Zapletalová,
Metka Špes, Marjan Ravbar, Mirjam Pozeš,
Jernej Zupančič**

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The course of transformation was investigated based on two main information sources. It is possible to use official data only for orientation because of many reasons. The process of transformation is so rapid that available statistical data reflect many times only the past. Some features are not statistically observed more. Individual statistical data (it means also almost all data about enterprises in rural space) are confidential. Reliability of statistical data decreased from various reasons. That is why field research and interviews with local authorities were used for the mapping of the transformation course as the main information source. From it follows that the information is very topical, reflects very real situation and gives necessary explanations of situation. The disadvantage of this approach is connected with a real character of the information obtained. It is not based on precise statistical values and legal definitions but on personal knowledge of situation. It is necessary to say that mayors and other representatives of rural settlements know the situation very well.

It can be stated that the investigators have collected relatively very complete picture of the course of transformation in model regions which is able to be generalized. On the other side, it can be only the picture of certain stage of the process. We probably obtain different view when repeat the investigation few months only one year later. That is why the investigation will continue.

2. What are the concrete consequences of transformation in the social system of marginal and border regions: employment rate, migration, way and standard of living.

Interviews with local authorities and questionnaires were the main sources of information about transformation consequences. Following the course of transformation also its consequences are developing relatively rapidly. In Czechia, for example, the first model region was investigated before the so-called of Klaus's government, whereas the second and the third

1. SUMMARY

A Objectives proposed and how far they were achieved according to the submitted project description

Following questions were stated in the project:

1. *What is the real course of transformation of the countryside in marginal and border regions: changes in proprietary structure, changes in methods of management, standard of enterprise, new activities.*

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model regions after the „pockets“ what impacted also the opinion of respondents. Other changes can be expected during the Zeman's government.

Also in the case of transformation consequences can be stated that the investigators have collected satisfactory complete picture of certain stage of situation in model regions. The reaction of individual regions is differed according to local sources, geographical position, settlement structure and - at the first place - according to local people, their historical experience, stability in the region etc.

3. What changes in the countryside can be attributed to the location on the state border, what is the present situation in over-border contacts, and the extent of over-border co-operation opportunities utilized.

This point was the main viewpoint of the Slovene team in the whole project. Both the teams used questionnaires to gain data about the opinion of local people. The results enable quite interesting evaluation of situation in the border how it is perceived by common people. It shows forming of national inter-relations in border region and their interference by official propoganda and media.

The researchers are not very satisfied with results of the second part of this point - analysis of real over-border contacts. Much more intensive border contacts were expected in the period of the project formulation. Except of Slovak - Moravian border, there was impossible to find partners for consultation on the other side of the frontier. In many cases, the result of this point is only the statement that there are hardly any over - border contacts between communities, institutions, enterprises.

4. What are the social conditions of successful countryside transformation (or in other words - what were the conditions under which the successful transformation projects have been implemented)

This point follows from generalisation, comparison and utilisation of some good examples. The future of rural regions depends on common economic, legal and political frame. Especially in Czechia, many important instruments of regional politics as well as branch concepts in relation to rural regions are missing.

Nevertheless, a set of principles for successful transformation in marginal rural areas was formulated: evaluation of local sources, creation of „vision“, acquirement of important subjects and local people for the vision and its realisation. We tried to persuade local governments that not money but people is the most important matter for the future.

During interviews with mayors, we had to answer the question of sense of our investigation for individual villages. Finally, we agreed with the opinion that our offer to communities is not to council to the mayors how to manage their villages but to show them the position of their settlement within the region, to equipped them with arguments for negotiations and to published their problems to be generally known.

a) Region Vranov nad Dyjí / Jemnice

Unemployment following the decreasing of job opportunities in agriculture reached 15-20 % (the period of 1992/93). It fluctuates between 7 % (in the season) and 15 % at present. Increasing of unemployment is to be expected in connection with restructuring of industry in

5. Sustainability: what is the practical solution of the dispute between environment and economy: tension or mutual utilisation of potentials

Interviews with representatives of both sides were made. Within the investigation, we observed that the question of mutual utilization of potentials is not yet topical in majority cases. Neither side (economists, ecologists) in rural space is not prepared to consider the aspect. Reasons are: psychological (or even ideological) barrier, lack of sources for programmes and absence of an effective legal frame. A few exceptions without wide importance verify the rule. Usually, the economists come to the contact with ecologists within the administrative process connected with constructions. From it follow tensions.

Consequently, also research results of this point is preliminary negative one: There is hardly any example of cognitive mutual utilization of landscape protection and economic potential.

B Description of main research findings

B1 Czech team

Following general problems of Czech marginal areas were identified:

- *decreasing of labour opportunities in primary and secondary sectors; high unemployment rate*
- *demographic depopulation: emigration, ageing, decreasing of the part of high educated people*
- *insufficient technical infrastructure, especially telecommunications, water management, heating*
- *great part of old houses and flats with low technical equipment and in bad technical state*
- *increase of number of small communities (with less than 200 inhabitants) after 1990; ineffective administration*
- *deepening of marginality; cancellation of regional railways, bus lines, schools and other social facilities etc.*
- *conflicts between protection of nature and prosperity of communities*
- *insufficient exploitation of recreation potential*
- *state border as a barrier not as an impulse for development*

Some advantages can be also found in marginal regions, especially tranquil way of life, relatively good environment, cheap living costs, close contacts of people to nature. It is important to use these points because of stabilisation of settlement in the landscape.

Three model regions in Moravia were investigated:

a) Region Vranov nad Dyjí / Jemnice

Unemployment following the decreasing of job opportunities in agriculture reached 15 - 20 % (the period of 1992/93). It fluctuates between 7 % (in the season) and 15 % at present. Increasing of unemployment is to be expected in connection with restructuring of industry in

surrounding towns. The unemployment is not felt like an impossibility to find any labour. The problem consists in low prices for low qualified labour force which is not far from the social dole. It leads to the establishment of special social group of population which does not look for jobs. Social consequences are apparent.

Depopulation, ageing and decrease of educated people is general feature in the region but nevertheless, it is differed. Villages with a relatively good transport connection to towns (with railway connection or on main roads with dense bus traffic) have better potential compare to peripheral settlements. The most important for using this potential are free (communal) flats or at least pieces of land prepared for building of flats.

The highest attention of community councils is paid to improving of technical infrastructure. Surprisingly the problem of telecommunications seems to be solved in the quality of the optical cable in the near future. Problems of water supply and sewerage are connected with financial question, question of collaboration of villages and also question of very small villages. It is very expensive to built technical networks to settlements dislocated in the deep valley of the Thaya river.

There is insufficient of flats for living young people in the region. After the death of old owners of houses, the flats are usually inherited by offspring living in towns. They use or sell the flats not for living but for recreation (second living). The advantage is that the new owners keep houses and pieces of land in a good stay. But they live in the rural area only in the season (or on weekends), and are not interested in the problems of the village as a rule. After the finishing of state and co-operative building in the rural areas, young people are not able to find any flat.

There is 19 communities (39 %) with less than 200 inhabitants in the region. Many of them have been separated from bigger communities after 1990. Although many mayors know that it is not possible to administrate the settlement structure with so small communities for a long time, they prefer the independence without any exemption. The problem is, that association of settlements was connected with concentration of financial sources in the central settlement in the past. Now, also the smallest communities have a possibility to manage their very small financial sources for improving their own situation.

The region is one of the most marginal ones in the Czech Republic. Nevertheless, there are also local differences in its marginality. Especially western part (subregions of Starý Petřín, Uherčice, Dešná, Menhartice) is in a very marginal position. There is no railway in this area. Majority of bus lines have been cancelled since 1990. At present, a process of cancellation of rural branches of financial institutions passes. The main problem is that this cancellation process concentrates in the same villages. In the part of the region which is on the territory of the county of Třebíč, the stay of district roads is disastrous. This fact enhances the marginality.

Conflicts between nature protection and prosperity of villages consists in two causes. The first one is landscape (and also monument) protection in a way of museum care. It means protection against man not for man. In fact, financial sources are enough only for protection of a small part of natural and architectonic beauties. All other attractions are protected by means of administrative inhibitions. This is in contradiction with the prosperity of the region. The second problem is the way of thinking of local population. It is possible to protect the nature strongly or to reach high profit in enterprise including tourism or to receive some compromise. It is not possible to have both strong nature protection, quiet and cheap living and high

profit, entrepreneur activities, developed tourism. Communities and their inhabitants have to choose the future way.

The Vranov part of the region has very good recreation and tourism potential: Vranov water reservoir, Bítov castle, Vranov chateau, Dyje valley. But these presuppositions are exploited insufficiently. Besides of landscape protection (e.g. inhibition of water transport on the Vranov water reservoir which obstructs the connection between attractions on the right and left side of the Dyje river), insufficient preparedness the local population is the main problem. The people was employees with special psychology for 40 years. It is not easy for them to serve. Many of them have poor knowledge of language. Present legislation does not motivate for small and middle enterprise. Nevertheless, recreation and tourism stay to be one of possibilities of regional activity.

The hope connected with the border and assistance of Austria was fulfilled only partly. There is only one border crossing in the region. Only the first village (Vratěnin) and the first town (Jemnice) profit from it. It is necessary to take into account that the Austrian part of the border region (Waldviertel) comes under the less developed parts of the country. Insufficient infrastructure and poor preparedness of people on the Moravian side do not enable to use tourism of Austrians for regional benefit.

b) Region Bojkovice / Valašské Klobouky

The region Bojkovice/Valašské Klobouky has not passed through so substantial population change to compare it with the antecedent region. Its population is more stable and has very close relation to the soil, neighbourhood, village. Tradition and folklore is still living there. On the other hand, natural conditions in White Carpathian Mts., Javorníky Mts. and Vizovická vrchovina Highland are hard and unpleasant for agriculture. The protection of eastern border was one of the original motivations for settlement in the region.

The main transformation problem is connected with conversion of weapon industry in the region and surrounded towns. The agriculture profited from so called „associated“ non-agricultural production also in the socialist period. Industrial structure was changed very rapidly. Whereas large enterprises (Vlárské strojířny Slavičín, ZEVETA Bojkovice, MEZ TRIODYN Brumov etc.) are in huge problems, many small and middle-size industrial and handicraft workplaces came up. Some of them are based on former „associated“ production of agricultural co-operative farms and are placed in their former areas, it means not only in towns but also in many villages.

The depression of main enterprises in the region evokes unemployment exceeding 10 % in many communities. Just in this period, problems in labour market are deepening under the pressure of common economic problems. A part of jobs arise in sector of services. Settlement structure of the region is formed by four small towns (Bojkovice, Slavičín, Brumov-Bylnice, Valašské Klobouky), four rural centres (Starý Hrozenkov, Štítná nad Vláriř, Vlachovice, Horní Lideč) and some medium-scale villages. Only 3-4 settlements have less than 200 inhabitants. Also communication system is more effective to compare it with the region Vranov nad Dyjř/Jemnice. It means that the majority of villages forms sufficient local market for basic services and retail.

Other people solve the problem of jobs by a long-distance commuting. It renews the tradition in the region. Building industry, assembly works and driving jobs are practised from Prague to Kazakhstan. The region has been always poor but the people are hard-working. The problem of jobs is often felt like limit of prosperity for marginal villages.

Historic tradition is a base for social life in villages. Many communities pay attention to the development of cultural, sport and hobby activities of people, besides of technical infrastructure. It forms better social and economic milieu. Certain vision about the future their village is more frequent among the local authorities.

The border between Czechia and Slovakia is a new element in the life of the region. There were no ethnic problems between both nations in the border area before. That is why the split of Czechoslovakia was considered for a negative impulse. Although the border regime for local population is quite mild, some disadvantages are observed. Psychological barrier arose just after the split.

Economic problems are connected with division of currencies and systems of social care later. Labour market was limited with the border. People, who commuted to Slovak enterprises in the Váh-valley lost their jobs. Some of them were substituted with opportunities connected with the border (custom officers, border policemen, forwarding agents, servicemen in equipment of border crossings etc.). But it concerns preliminary the villages just on the border crossings which get secondary educated families and improved their social structure by the way.

The life of villages is negatively impacted by massive illegal crossings of people from Asian, Balkan and African countries, namely by activities of gangs organising the crossings. Future fears are connected with the presupposition that Czechia will enter European structures earlier than Slovakia. In such a case, the border will change to the frontier between two different political systems and the marginalisation of the region will be very deep.

Present marginality is connected with the distance from large centres of Moravia and with the new border. But the transport connection of the region is better than in the Middle Thaya region. Two international railroads and roads pass through the region from the West to the East and connect it with distanced centres.

A large part of the territory is under the landscape protection. Protected landscape areas Bílé Karpaty Mts. and Beskydy Mts. together with Slovak Biele Karpaty Mts. form relatively large protected area with important landscape and natural beauties. The area is a subject of interest of many ecological activities. Nevertheless the only community which consciously profits from the landscape protection is Hostětín.

The recreation potential is connected with the natural attributes of the region at the first place. There are conditions for unassuming family recreation with relaxation or cognitive character. Bike-tourism is one of perspective activities. Prices of accommodation and food services are favourable. Massive recreation is impossible not only because of the landscape protection but because of almost missing conditions for water recreation. Natural conditions for winter recreation are quite well, but the infrastructure is not very developed. The region does not belong among noted recreational areas.

e) Region Kunštát

The region represents so called „inner periphery“ of Moravia. Its settlement structure is based on three rural centres Kunštát, Lysice and Olešnice. Neither one of them is able to ensure basic urban services for the whole region. Central relations are quite complicated. Gravitation power of more centres out of the region interbreed in the territory and cut off its outskirts parts. The situation is a result of decreasing importance of the centre of the region -

town of Kunštát from medieval ages till this time. Complicated relief conditions and repulse of a railroad in the last century are the main reasons.

The region has very dispersed settlement structure. Among 38 communities, 5 of them have less than 100 inhabitants, 13 between 100 and 200 inhabitants and 9 between 200 and 300 inhabitants. Such a small settlements depend on decreasing transport possibilities. Territorial and communal management is not easy. Local markets are very limited.

Labour market depends on job opportunities in surrounding centres to the large extent. Some of these centres were inactivated by worsening of mass transport (Adamov, Blansko) and by termination of uranium mining (Dolní Rožínka, Bystřice nad Pernštejnem). Other ones come to the crisis at the present time (Letovice) in connection with common depression. Boskovice with its dispersed job structure is the only of former labour centres which has kept its power. Because the subregion of Lysice and some villages on the main roads are in the sphere of possible commuting to Brno, this regional centre became to be one of important source of labour opportunities for southern part of the region.

It seems to be an advantage that the region lapsed step by step for ages and its population was able to create defensive algorithms. Local industries are turning back to traditional branches. Famous ceramic production in Kunštát, the third largest Moravian dairy factory in Olešnice, handicraft production in Lysice and other villages. Food industry in Olešnice gives an opportunity for local agriculture. It is clear that the renewal of traditional branches is not able to substitute jobs lost in agriculture and big industry. Especially labour opportunities for women are missing. Nevertheless, it seems that the region does not consider the problem of unemployment for important from the viewpoint of social status of its population. Long-term perspectives of living in marginal settlements is more serious consequence of the mentioned disproportions in the labour market. Young people after secondary school or university usually do not come back to their birthplaces but they stay in towns.

Although the settlement structure of the Kunštát region is quite similar to the settlement structure in region Vranov, the population is very different. Local patriotism is typical for Kunštát. It forms conditions for an active social life of small villages. Also people who left the region usually keep contacts. With the fact is connected certain hope for the future. Consequently of suburbanisation trends of Brno and extreme increase of prices for building and living in big cities, some people may cogitate about settling down in the Kunštát region. Really, the building of flats seems to continue in some villages with a good transport position.

The region does not belong to noted recreation areas. Hodonín is the only recreation village. Some attractions for tourism are known: castle of Lysice, grotto of „Riders from Blaník“ and outlook-tower in Rudka, ski area in Hluboké, some swimming-pools, rural memorial reservation Veselka near Kněževy etc. Unfortunately, water recreation is prohibited in both water reservoirs (Křetínka in the region and Vír to the West from it). But nevertheless, landscape beauties of the highland are the main attraction for tourism. Almost all the territory is a part one of four natural parks: Lysicko, Halasovo Kunštátsko, Svratecká hornatina or Valley of Křetínka. The mentioned areas are protected within the district frames. It seems that the region is predestinated as a part of a recreation hinterland of Brno. Already at the present time, an important part of houses in some villages are used for the second living of citizens of Brno.

d) general conclusions for Moravia

The course of transformation is different in individual regions depending on concrete natural, historical and social conditions. But in each of model regions the transformation led to the over-average increase of unemployment. Conditions (legal, economic) for provocation of utilization own (as a rule limited) sources are unfavourable. Certain worsening the situation is expected in connection with general depression in Czechia. Solution is looked for in long-distance commuting. Certain population group are in a bad situation: women (especially with young children), people over 45 years, invalids, people with low qualification. The price of (unqualified) labour decreases under the level when the looking for jobs makes sense. In other words, there is more favourable for some social groups to take social support than to work. Negative social consequences are clear. Another problem is, that the young people loose motivation to settle down in marginal regions. They usually do not come back after graduating of university or secondary school.

Nevertheless demographic degradation (ageing of population, emigration, worsening of social structure) is relatively selective. Only the very small and very marginal villages (with less than 100 - 150 inhabitants) are endangered as a group. In other cases the demographic development depends on geographical position, situation with flats and other factors. Mass emigration was stopped because of finishing the building of flats in towns. On the other side, certain come back of people from towns is observed. It is possible to state that with an exception of very small villages, the population decrease also in marginal regions was stopped or seriously retarded. Structural changes are more important. Young and educated people are usually leaving whereas old people are coming.

Many villages have improved their technical infrastructure in the last years. It concerns telephone connection (digitalisation and cablesation), aqueducts, sewerages. A majority of villages make efforts to solve heating by the way of gasification. There are following problems connected with technical infrastructure: Rural settlements prefer urban solutions as a rule and very rarely take into account nature friendly ways. Energetic concept of the state is unclear which leads to changes of conditions during individual actions. Technical infrastructure is understood as an aspect of social level not as a precondition of prosperity; only after finishing the networks arise the question „what for?“ Also very small settlements use to solve the problem of technical infrastructure individually.

The level and state of a majority of houses in marginal regions are surprisingly good. In conditions of not existed market with flats, private ownership of houses in rural space has obstructed the dwelling situation. The people are connected with their houses for the whole life and they have no possibility and no motivation to move for jobs or for better self-realisation. After the death of original owners, the heirs living in towns usually use the house for their own second living, or sell it for recreation purposes to other urban inhabitants. By such a way, although there are flats enough, they are not at disposal to the people, who need them. It concerns young people, who want to found a family or divorced people, who want to live alone but also the people who potentially may come and settle down. These people usually have lack of financial sources to built new houses. Second dwelling forms an important part of rural houses in marginal regions, especially in recreation areas (Vranov) or in hinterland of big towns (Kunštát); in extreme causes, second dwelling is even dominant. It is considered for positive, because renews the houses and keeps them in a good stay. Rarely cooperate the local authorities with owners to ensure the prosperity of villages. Seasonal character of the second dwelling is the main problem.

After 1990, many villages broken away from former central places. It was a reaction for insensitive combination of settlements in the socialist period, which led to a deep depres-

sion of integrated seats. But nevertheless, present process is a regression from the viewpoint of territorial management. Many communities with less than 200 inhabitants arose. New communities are satisfied with a new situation as a rule, because they are small overlords but overlords on their territory. On the other side, problems will prevail more and more. The local authorities are non-professional. Budgets are very limited. Original presupposition that the inhabitants will be more engaged for their independent village has not been corroborated.

Club activities are one of the most important indicators of successful village. This activities, so frequent in the past, ceased in many cases. The voluntary firemen is the only exception. But in other villages, the local authorities insist on support of various sport, cultural (folklore) and hobby activities. In such a way also social life, enterprise activities and common interest for public matters is usually better. The church makes only traditional activities as a rule, due to lack of priests. The care for youth is a problem. The fact that the people are the main source and richness of rural settlements is not always understood.

Deepening of marginality was observed in all the regions. It is connected with limitation of public transport and cancellation of ineffective equipment in rural settlements: schools, medical centres, post offices, financial institutions, retail and services. Small villages far from main transport routes depend on commuting more and more. Individual transport means are necessary, but some of the old people do not own a car or are not more able to drive. On the other side, the people are not prepared to take a responsibility for transport. Austrian as well as Slovak border form a serious barrier.

B2 Slovene team

The Slovenian-Croatian border is the longest (546 km), yet it is also the 'youngest' of all Slovenian borders. The border was formed over three distinct periods. Its northern part, which runs along the Mura river, was established after the end of World War I with the delineation of new administrative areas. The section running between Razkrižje and Prezid was formed several centuries ago and belongs among old European borders. But this longest section of the Slovenian-Croatian border has always represented an administrative boundary rather than a political one. On both sides of the border a specific cultural landscape has formed, together with a specific mentality, culture, and national composition of the population. Communication between the inhabitants, from both sides of the border, existed here throughout centuries and their dialects display a relatively high degree of similarity. The third portion of the border, between Prezid and the gulf of Piran, was defined only after 1955, when the Free Territory of Trieste was divided between Italy and Yugoslavia, first by the Treaty of London and later by the Treaty of Rome. In Istria, these frequent border changes left traces in the consciousness and national affiliation of its population - to an even greater extent than in the cultural landscape. The Slovenian-Croatian border belongs among borders with average permeability; in comparison with Slovenia's border with Italy on the section between Trieste and Gorizia, it has a relatively modest number of border crossings (35). After their mutual diplomatic recognition, Slovenia and Croatia established control over the border and began carrying out all their duties and activities under state jurisdiction.

In comprehensive field research we examined trans-border relations and connected issues in the following four regions: Spodnje Podravje, Spodnje Posavje, Bela krajina, and Slovenian Istria. Spodnje Podravje is an example of a traditional rural-agricultural area along a potentially significant transit route. Posavje is an example of an important transit region in the hinterland of the larger Zagreb metropolitan area. Bela krajina, also, is an example of an

out-of-the-way rural area, in the immediate vicinity of which war raged for three-years after the disintegration of Yugoslavia. Bela krajina lies along a potentially important tourist-traffic corridor linking Central Europe with the central Adriatic Sea. Slovenian Istria is an example of a urbanised area, based on the high degree of population mobility, where the open Slovenian-Italian border has had many positive effects on regional development.

a) Lower Drava region

Spodnje Podravje is situated in north-eastern sub-Pannonian Slovenia and was chosen as an example of a region with a fairly well-preserved rural appearance with related functions and activities. The social and economic transition reached this region at a stage when its demographic structure was still relatively under-developed because of its belated integration in more intensive processes of deagrarianization. On one hand the region is still characterised by rural overpopulation, an ageing rural population, and an unfavourable structure of land ownership, but on the other hand it also has an unfavourable structure of jobs in non-agricultural professions. After the establishment of the new state border, the region became even more marginal: a number of the economic ties established in the former common state were cut off, along with numerous links in the fields of education, health care, and employment. It has to be stressed that Spodnje Podravje borders Croatia's economically and relatively highly developed Čakovec-Varaždin region, thus, the partial interruption of previous trans-border co-operation hit the region even harder. A particular problem of the area is also the fact that farmers from both neighbouring countries own land on both sides of the border.

b) Sava region

Posavje is a specific border landscape unit characterised by vast expanses of agricultural land along the Sava and Sotla rivers (over 70 %). This is a highly transitive region (longitudinal traffic corridors), an important energy centre (the Krško nuclear power plant), and the tourist and recreational hinterland of the neighbouring Zagreb metropolitan agglomeration (i.e., the Čatežke Toplice spa and tourist complex). Since Posavje has no distinctive regional centre we cannot speak of a homogenous region. The role of an inter-municipal centre is shared by Brežice and Krško. During the first post-war years, Brežice played the role of a regional center with its tertiary and quaternary infrastructure (hospital, grammar school), but later Krško also came to the forefront thanks to its rapid industrial development and the importance of its nuclear power plant. However, stronger regional functions have not been developed because of its relative proximity to other centres and its population and economic weakness but, above all, because of its border position and the long-standing metropolitan influence of Zagreb (within the framework the former common state). Presently, Posavje is beset with numerous difficulties, both in its industrial areas, which are faced with structural and environmental problems along with high unemployment, and in its agricultural areas, which are troubled by declining population figures, poor population mobility, emigration of the young from the area, etc. Posavje is characterised by a mixture of a more or less unfavourable economic (44 % of jobs are in labour-intensive industries) and qualification structure (only 5 % of all persons employed have higher or university education, compared to the national average of 9 %) on one hand, and its satisfactory infrastructure on the other. Due to favourable climatic and soil conditions, the sun-exposed slopes in the northern parts of the Brežice and Krško municipalities are planted with orchards and vineyards. Here are some of

the best-known Slovenian wine-growing districts: the Bizeljsko and Sremsko districts and the sunny slopes of the Gorjanci hills.

Because of Posavje's peripheral location, its social and economic "closing" towards Zagreb, weak economic integration and inadequate co-operation within the region, and the lack of specialised distribution areas, its position is deteriorating in comparative terms. When Slovenia was still part of the common Yugoslav state, Posavje was characterised by a high degree of socio-economic integration with Zagreb, which was also reflected in the substantial amount of daily migrants and greater population mobility.

c) White Country region

Bela krajina is a predominantly rural region with two centres: Črnomelj and Metlika. As to the national composition of its population, Bela krajina stands out most strongly from all other regions examined. Apart from constant mixing with the population across the border, there is also a small group of Croatian immigrants and a tiny *Uskok* population, whose ancestors came here when fleeing the Turkish hold. The Turkish empire extended to the immediate vicinity of Bela krajina, its border running only some 30 km away. Non-Slovenes account for more than 10 % of the region's total population. Most of them are Croats, but there are also some Serbs and Bosnians. In the period between 1991 and 1995 the area was in the immediate proximity of the military conflicts in Croatia. Karlovac, a city to the south-east of where the combat line between the Serbs from Krajina and Croats ran during the war, is only 15 km away from Bela krajina. Ethnicity thus marks the life of the entire population.

d) Slovenian Istria

The fourth region examined is Slovenian Istria, which is distinguished from the other three regions only by its climate and cultural landscape, characterised by numerous small cultivated terraces, sea-linked life and economy, distinctive crammed villages and seaside towns, architecture and mentality. This area, which is also very diverse ethnically, underwent great changes after World War II, when the majority of the Italian population emigrated and a lot of people from Slovenia and other parts of ex-Yugoslavia repopulated the region. Slovenian Istria is a fairly urbanised area, with the rapid growth of the city of Koper and its surrounding suburbanised settlements, while the old towns of Izola and Piran are stagnating or even regressing. The hilly countryside in the eastern and southern part of Slovenian Istria is inhabited exclusively by ethnic Slovenes, but faces considerable economic and social problems. In some parts, the cultural landscape is already decaying as people are moving from the old village centre/cores, to new parts of villages that are more attractive, but at the same time have also been designed for other economic activities. The third characteristic of Slovenian Istria is that it is a 'double border' region, since it borders on both Italy and Croatia. The entire region is already strongly urbanised and suburbanised.

e) general conclusions for Slovenia

A common feature of all these regions is the low degree of population mobility, which is also characteristic of Slovenia as a whole. Once people settle down, they are very reluctant to move away. Marriages are therefore the main reason for migrations, but even these movements are mainly restricted to an area with a radius of 20 km. Other reasons for migrations are linked with education, employment, and family matters.

According to their education, the persons involved in a survey carried out within the framework of this research do not differ much among themselves or among particular regions. Since the survey was conducted on a younger mature generation (parents of school-aged children), their education structure is somewhat higher than it would be otherwise. No significant departures were observed with respect to their education or sex.

The persons questioned assessed their mutual relations as fairly good, with no greater conflicts at the moment. However, they are also aware that the present peaceful cohabitation may soon turn into minor or even greater conflicts. The border itself has brought about no new divisions within the population, but many people feel it has had a negative impact, which is also linked with the difficult economic situation, high unemployment, ideological changes, and the war in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Other factors have had a negative effect, primarily those associated with global social processes in Europe. Thus, the border is primarily a psychological barrier, whereas in practice it is manageable and non-problematic.

Comparisons of how Slovenes and Croats perceive the characteristics of one another and their own are particularly interesting. In general, Slovenes appraise their own personality characteristics better than Croats do, but they both place a similar significance on the same properties. In the case of Croats, however, the situation is different: in general, the Slovenes surveyed, see Croats in an essentially negative position than Croats see themselves, and there are also some differences in the emphasis they place on particular qualities.

Croats are better informed regarding the processes going on either side of the border. While they follow Slovenian and Croatian media, from television and radio programs to newspapers and magazines, Slovenes mainly watch and listen only to Slovenian programs and read the Slovenian printed media.

Shopping in Croatia was very attractive until 1993, but then its popularity gradually declined. In many places today, supply is no longer the main reason for over-border contacts, but has given way to other objectives. The survey showed that the border is more or less regularly crossed (up to once a month) by between a fifth and a half of the population - this figure varies according to different areas and even more according to nationality.

The persons questioned see the main future prospects of the development of the four regions studied as follows: in the establishment of free trade zones, in the development of trade and various crafts and business services, and partly also in the revitalisation of agriculture and the development of eco-tourism, but only with the conditions that transportation and social infrastructures are improved.

Research studies carried out to date in the border areas along the Slovenian-Croatian border have called attention to a number of open questions concerning regional development which keep the latter away from Slovenia's average socio-economic and development trends. Analyses have pointed to the need to continue expert research, which would serve as a basis for the creation of a comprehensive information system on a regional level. Such an information system would enable us to envisage spatial integration within particular border areas and, consequently, bring about changes in the socio-economic field, as well as in the ways of living and settlement habits in general.

B3 Comparison and common results

Following preliminary general results were made:

- ◆ *general view of problems of marginal rural regions*

- ◆ *evaluation of geographical and non geographical literature both national and foreign*
- ◆ *general view of seven model regions.*

Investigations in model regions and generalisation for individual countries were based on these preliminary analyses. It shows that a majority problems connected with the economic and social transformation as well as with the new border are quite similar. Also ways of prosperity are seen in a similar mode.

Nevertheless, there are some differences between Czechia and Slovenia. Management of the territory is one of the most significant ones. Slovene territorial administration is based on not many communities with thousands inhabitants at least. On the contrary, Czech administrative structure is divided into more than 6000 often very small communities. Community with less than 100 inhabitants is no exception in Moravian marginal regions. Denial of regional politics by Czech governments till the last time is another big problem of Czech territorial development which demonstrates especially in marginal regions. From this viewpoint, Slovenia is better prepared for solution of problems in marginal regions.

Certain differences were observed in the conditions dealing with the new border and its perception. Moravian border with Slovakia was not impacted by war and animosity between nations and relations among people stay to be very well. On the other side, Moravian border regions were not able to profit from their position. The border became to be strong barrier no shopping activities were realised.

Generally speaking, further research should be based on the following points of departure:

- *within the framework of comprehensive regional planning, special attention should be paid to towns as the focal points of development;*
- *border areas can provide an impetus for fresh development that should not be neglected in regional planning;*
- *analyses of spatially relevant policies are becoming an increasingly significant instrument in mapping out "innovative regional policies."*

The development scenario, while aiming to realise the regional potential, should pursue the following basic goals:

- *to improve job availability and reduce industry's strain on the environment; to carry out deliberate decentralisation in the field of services and provide greater support to enterprises that have headquarters in border areas and that are engaged in activities ranging from "alternative" activities to "soft" tourism;*
- *to evaluate the social, historical and cultural significance of border areas and set high standards for the quality of life;*
- *to improve the infrastructure of public transportation at the local and regional levels;*
- *to prevent the imposition of political standards in decision-making at regional and local levels and to strengthen decentralisation.*

At the political level, a positive attitude towards the neighbouring Croatian areas should be encouraged, with special attention given to joint efforts in solving common problems, especially in the field of environmental protection. The free flow of persons and goods should also be secured.

One of the key aims of sparsely inhabited and peripheral areas should be the establishment of equal living conditions in the entire area. This could be attained by:

- ◆ *supporting development that is based on endogenous regional potential. Besides the mobilisation of the population's own forces, this requires that people identify problems by them-*

selves and formulate appropriate development objectives, paths, and measures to achieve particular goals;

- ◆ *adapting the objectives of government development policy to the conditions and needs of more remote regions. With less pressures "from above" and greater flexibility, it is possible to stimulate a region's own development;*
- ◆ *making better use of the available professional and qualification structure of the local population;*
- ◆ *encouraging the further development of innovative activities in the region.*

Following possibilities of future prosperity were identified in marginal regions:

- ◆ *agriculture (private or co-operative): as the main branch rarely because of low competition ability in unsuitable natural conditions*
- ◆ *elaboration of local raw materials (wood), local industry, handicrafts: depends on suitable buildings and areas as a rule, because present general conditions do not support small enterprise*
- ◆ *dwelling function (connected with commuting): optimum transport connection (railroad, main road or foot accessibility) is a pre-condition*
- ◆ *social services (homes for old people, homes for young people using the tranquillity of marginal regions)*
- ◆ *services for tourism and recreation specialised according to the character of the region (intensive recreation, soft recreation, family recreation etc.); agro-tourism could be a prospective branch but hardly as the main activity, usually in connection with other branches; improving of infrastructure is an important pre-condition*
- ◆ *central services (small towns and large rural settlements) depending on microregional markets*
- ◆ *services connected with border crossing: only communities directly with the crossing*
- ◆ *combination of more of the mentioned functions*

There are some important limits of the prosperity in marginal regions. The human factor is the most important. It is necessary to take into account that not all the citizens are interested in prosperity. Especially those who live from a pension prefer often tranquillity and a traditional way of life. Other human limits are: lack of enterprise, unsuitable structure of education and knowledge, employee psychology etc. General milieu for enterprise in Czechia is not good. Total liberalisation was in fact the only step of former governments. But the stay of justice (e.g. exaction of claims, languidity of litigations), system of taxes, level of bank interests and topically low buying power of population very limit enterprise development generally and in marginal regions with worse economic conditions especially. Also landscape protection can be a limit of prosperity in certain cases.

Some presupposition of prosperity algorithms were defined: At first, it is necessary to evaluate own sources (human, natural, social, economic) because only the strategy based on own sources could be stable and long-term successful. Definition of a vision is the substantial step. To do various steps without any general vision leads to superfluous exploitation of sources. Following, it is necessary to persuade people and especially important subjects in the territory into the vision. Having vision, real project and agreement of citizens is usually no problem to gain financial sources. Without any vision and project it is almost impossible.

◆ *general identification of main problems and aspects of rural development in Czechia - Slovenia*

C METHODOLOGY

Following methods were used in the project:

1. **Elaboration of statistical data** to characterise the social system and its development. The data evaluation was based on population census 1991, population balances 1991-1997, data from Labour Offices and data about entrepreneurs among others. Related problems were mentioned above.

2. **Geographical field research.** Field experience is very important to obtain real regional view. All settlements in the model regions were visited and mostly walking passed street by street. Photographic documentation was made. By such a way, many impulses for future excursions were acquired, what is an extra product of the project.

3. **Methods of behavioural geography.** These methods showed to be essential for obtaining relevant results. Standardised interviews with local authorities of all communities were made which was quite challenging in Moravia, where model regions have more than 130 communities. Not only collecting standardised soft data from model regions but also discovery special examples of activities was the aim. These special examples inspired usually our opinion about possible prosperity ways. Questionnaires were another method of behavioural geography. They were distributed by mediation of primary and secondary schools in all the regions. Surprisingly big amount of respondents answered our inquiry: 3937 in Czechia (they covered 5942 households) and 1407 in Slovenia. Besides of it, the method was very cheap and quick. The only disadvantage is that the age group of people who have not school pupils till yet is not represented. The fact has to be taken into account by evaluation of results.

4. **Historical method.** Discovery of past logic of functioning the model region was the main aim of the method. How far it is possible to renew old activities was the question. It showed that hardly any return to the old way of economic and technologic life is possible with exception of some bagatelles. On the other hand, historical continuation of population seems to be one of the most important factor for regional prosperity.

5. **Cartographic methods.** Software, gained within the grant was successfully used for the method. It enables to watch space relations in the territory. The method will be frequently used with next work with the results - documentation and publication.

6. **Remote sensing method.** The said method was used for investigation of land use changes during the time for which aerial photos are at disposal. The method was successfully applied in one of model regions. It is able to document landscapes changes during last 40 years. Aerial photos were used also to obtain a general view about situation of individual villages and towns and mutual positions of individual buildings and functional zones. On the other hand, the relation between the price of photos and the time of elaboration in comparison to results obtained is not very satisfactory. That is why any next attempts in this directory were stopped.

7. **Comparative methods.** The comparison was utilised in more levels: among individual communities, among model regions and on the country level. Identification of various factors and impacts dealing with rural prosperity and also discovery of positive as well as negative examples of human activities was the main contribution of the method.

Following methodological algorithm was applied:

- ◆ *general identification of main problems and aspects of rural development in Czechia / Slovenia*

- ◆ *research of seven model regions in two countries with respect the course of general problems and with utilisation of all mentioned methods*
- ◆ *evaluation, comparison and generalisation of result obtained*
- ◆ *expression of opinion for the future research, rural development and ways of its management*
- ◆ *wide publication and popularisation of results; this step is on the only beginning and exceeds the frame of the grant.*

D IMPORTANCE OF FINDINGS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THEIR NOVELTY

D1 In Geography

Regional research, including investigation of small regions is substantial for geography. In this sense, the project means no novelty but a return back to the substance what is also very important. However, purpose-oriented approach directed to the transformation and border problems is a new aspect evoked by a development of present reality in post-socialist countries. It is possible to say that the results obtained have evoked a scientific discussion about present problem of rural space and modify imaginations about rural space as a homogeneous object.

Real novelty can be seen in methodological level namely in wide utilisation of methods of behavioural geography. In former period, any regional research was based on elaboration of statistical data. Interviews and questionnaires were very limited. It was preconditioned methodologically (paradigm of mathematical or exact geography) and in socialist countries also politically (no analysis of people's opinion was allowed). Utilisation of the mentioned methods is in the very beginning. However, the experience seems to be very hopeful for further development of the approach from the viewpoints of understanding of reality, contacts with the people in the field, independence of researchers on official data sources and their evaluation, and also price of the investigation.

D2 For Society on National Level

The course of economic and social transformation was officially monitored on the base of macro-economical criteria in Czechia. Problems of some big cities and large agglomerations were known because of their lobby power in central institutions. But problems of marginal and border rural regions were generally almost unknown and not interesting for decision makers.

Possible utilisation of obtained results of the project were discussed within interviews with local authorities. We made a conclusion, that wide publication not only in scientific journals but also in common press and other media is very important for society. First steps were made: a publication of a series of papers in regional newspaper ROVNOST about problems of the first model region: Vranov nad Dyjí / Jemnice. The whole process will intensively continue. Three regional publications are to be prepared for publication. Contacts with some departments of regional development in district authorities were connected with this aim. Local sponsors for publication are to be looked for.

Contacts established with local and district authorities within the project evoked direct enter of researchers into practical problems. In our opinion, this fact will be appreciated in next future only.

D2 For Society on International Level

Especially problems of border region are interested on the international level. Bilateral problems Czech-Slovak, Czech-Austrian and Slovene-Croatian form the first level. Knowledge of problems and their perception by local population can be very substantial for management of bilateral border co-operation.

Interest of the European Community in border problems is also important. It is connected not only with present EC border but also with admission of new EC members in the next future.

E DIFFICULTIES AND WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THEM

Perpetual contradiction between very dynamic reality and very limited time of two years for the project solution was the main difficulty. Let us mention that original project presupposed an analysis of seven model regions. The possibility of comparison of model regions was the reason. Although the work was very intensive since the beginning, we were in a time pressure soon. We were able to gain surprisingly big amount of data, knowledge and experience from the field and also from statistical data bases. We had to work very intensively on the elaboration of various data sources but during the labour, the reality was always changed. That is why the level of written reports for individual model regions is different, although the data collected were almost of the same level.

The only solution is to get back to individual model regions after finishing the grant. In connection with preparation of regional publication, it will be necessary to renew the data and knowledge for individual model regions. It will be necessary to concentrate the attention on one region and only after finishing the work to renew the knowledge for another region.

F ASPECTS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

The project will continue within the institutional programme of the Institute of Geonics „Regional evaluation of transformation from environmental viewpoint“. It allows to complete the team with experts in related geographical branches and sociology. Attention is to be paid to following problems:

- ◆ *dynamics of development in individual model regions, development of methodological approach,*
- ◆ *possible investigation in other model regions (e.g. non-marginal rural regions, regions in Moravian-Polish border, regions according to the interest of local authorities)*
- ◆ *looking for ways and methods of transfer the knowledge to decision-makers and widening the substantive aspects; publication of purpose-oriented regional studies.*

3 STUDY TRIPS

There were three working meetings of the group organized:

Brno (Czech Republic), October 1996 with participation of all 9 group members. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss all basic questions connected with elaboration of the project. The time plan for the period 1996-97 was specified, specification of individual regions was explained. Methodology of investigations in individual model regions was discussed. All-round contents of reports from individual regions was suggested.

2. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING THE WHOLE PERIOD OF WORK

A FIELD RESEARCH

Field research was one of the main methodological approaches of the project. Observation, interview and inquiry were the most important steps. Individual group members contributed to the common result as follows:

- ◆ *Antonín Vaishar: field research (observation of settlements, interviews with mayors, distribution and collection of inquiry to and from schools etc.)*
- ◆ *Radomír Koutný: elaboration of statistic data, cartographic analysis of data, archival studies of historical and regional sources*
- ◆ *Oldřich Mikulík: field research, general conclusions*
- ◆ *Vítězslav Nováček: field research - landscape investigation (natural conditions), remote sensing methods (in the case of White Carpathians Mts.)*
- ◆ *Jana Zapletalová: analysis of transport and recreation conditions (based on searching of written materials), elaboration of inquiry*
- ◆ *Požeš Mirjam: observation of border landscape in Slovene Istria and urban areas, interviews with school principals, around 500 questionnaires in the settlements of the border region, collection, analysis and evaluation of statistical data*
- ◆ *Marjan Ravbar: observation of rural landscape and settlements, interviews with majors, principals of primary schools, regional planning offices, around 500 questionnaires in the settlements of the border region in Spodnje Posavje, collection, analysis and evaluation of statistical data*
- ◆ *Metka Špes: observation of rural landscape and settlements, interviews with majors, principals of primary schools, regional planning offices, around 500 questionnaires in the settlements of the border region in Spodnje Podravje, evaluation of environmental vulnerability, collection, analysis and evaluation of statistical data*
- ◆ *Jernej Zupančič: observation of rural landscape and settlements, interviews with majors, principals of primary schools, regional planning offices, around 500 questionnaires in the settlements of the border region in Bela krajina, collection, analysis and evaluation of statistical data, comparison.*

Klagenfurt (Austria), September 23-28th, 1997. Challenged Borderlands Transcending Political and Cultural Boundaries - Slovene team

B STUDY TRIPS

There were three working meetings of the group organised:

Brno (Czech Republic), October 1996 with participation of all 9 group members. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss all basic questions connected with elaboration of the project. The time plan for the period 1996-97 was specified. Specification of individual regions was explained. Methodology of investigation in individual model regions was discussed. All-round contents of reports from individual regions was suggested.

Ljubljana (Slovenia), June 1997 with participation of 8 of group members and two members of the team of the RSS project Nr.854/1996 in addition. The scheme of negotiations was based on the structure of the Interim Report.

Stará Lesná (Slovakia), June 1998: Czech-Slovene-Slovak trilateral seminar on: Changes in Rural Areas. Seven group members took place. Results of the RSS projects as well as final reports were discussed.

D PUBLICATIONS

C CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

Ptuj (Slovenia), October, 1996, A Conference of Slovenian Geographers. Investigation in Spodnje Podravje were presented

Eschwege (Germany), November 1996, Agriculture and rural space of East and Central Europa in transition. Presented paper A.Vaishar: Sozial-ökonomische Transformation des ländlichen Raums der Tschechischen Republik und der Slowakei (co-author P.Mariot - Bratislava). The journey was paid by the Herder Institute, Marburg.

Bizeljsko (Slovenia), November 1996, workshop "Posavje", the basic purpose of which was to determinate the role of this region in the regional development and within this frame, particularly the extent of trans-border co-operation - Slovene team

Graz (Austria), April 1997. Within seminars of the Karl Franzens University, the paper was presented: A.Vaishar: Sozial-ökonomische Transformation des ländlichen Raums der Tschechischen Republik. The journey was paid by the Karl-Franzens-Universität

Prague (Czech Republic), September 1997. Conference of the Charles University on Transformation of Society and Changes of Geographical Milieu in Europe. A paper of R.Koutný-A.Vaishar was red (see publications)

Valtice (Czech Republic), September 1997. 2nd Moravian Geographical Conference CONGEO'97 on Rural Geography and Environment was inspired by the grant. Interim results of the Czech as well as Slovene teams were red.

Klagenfurt (Austria), September, 23-28th, 1997, Challenged Borderlands. Trancending Political and Cultural Boundaries - Slovene team

- Ljubljana (Slovenia), March 26th, 1998, Seminar: *New border region in Slovenia, organized by Slovene Geographic Society - Slovene team*
- Stará Lesná (Slovakia), June 1-5th, 1998, *Czecho - Slovene - Slovak trilateral seminar on: Changes in Rural Areas (see above); results are to be published within the series GEOGRAFIA SLOVENICA*
- Opole (Poland), June 6-7th, 1998, *Small European Regions During Transition Period - Slovene team*
- Prague (Czech Republic): July 1998, *19th Congress of the Czech Geographic Society. Papers Possibilities of Prosperity for Marginal Regions in Moravia and Present Situation in the Kunštát Region in Perception of Local Population were presented.*

Copenhagen (Denmark), August 1998. *Conference on Regionalism and Freedom of Identity. Paper in collaboration of M.Ravbar and J.Zupančič was presented*

D PUBLICATIONS

- KOUTNÝ,R.-VAISHAR,A.: Transformation in marginal regions: an example of the Middle Thaya Region. In: *Transformation of Society and Changes of Geographical Environment in Europe*. Charles University Praha 1998. p.357-367
- PLUT,D.-ŠPES,M.: Slovenian Rural Areas in the Light of Landscape Vulnerability. In: *Rural Geography and Environment*. REGIOGRAPH, Brno 1997, p.100-105
- RAVBAR,M.: Transborder Co-operation in the new Europe and its effects on Regional Development, in *Regional Contact, Journal for regional and the exchange of experience and ideas in the field of European Regionalism*, European Centre for Ethnic, Regional and Sociological Studies, Maribor, 1996, p. 154-168
- RAVBAR,M.: Some Elements of Sociogeographical Transformation of Slovenian Rural Areas at the Turn of the 20th Century. In: *Rural Geography and Environment*. REGIOGRAPH, Brno 1997, p.105-111
- RAVBAR,M.: Coping with new Realities: The Slovenian - Croatian Border, Border Areas in Slovenia Along the Slovenian - Croatian Border in the Light of Transborder Co-operation, in: *Challenged Borderlands. Transcending Political and Cultural Boundaries*, Klagenfurt, (in print)
- RAVBAR,M.: Maribor in njegova vloga pri čezmejnem sodelovanju. In: *Nove smeri Prostorskega razvoja / New directions in regional development*, Proceedings of papers, Maribor, 1996, p. 77-91
- RAVBAR,M.: Za skladnejši regionalni razvoj Posavja. In: *Rast*, Nr. 7-8, Novo Mesto, p.500-508
- ŠPES M.et al., *Ranljivost okolja v Spodnjem Podravju s Prlekijo*, Zbornik 17. zborovanja slovenskih geografov, Ljubljana 1996
- VAISHAR,A.-MARIOT,P.: *Sozial-ökonomische Transformation des ländlichen Raums der Tschechischen Republik und der Slowakei*. Herder Institut Marburg, in print
- VAISHAR,A.-ŠPES,M.-KOUTNÝ,R.-MIKULÍK,O.-NOVÁČEK,V.-POZEŠ,M.-RAVBAR,M.-ZAPLETALOVÁ,J.-ZUPANČIČ,J.: *New Prosperity for Rural Regions*. MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS 5, 1997, No.1, p.18-34

- VAISHAR,A.-KOUTNÝ,R.-MIKULÍK,O.-NOVÁČEK,V.-ZAPLETALOVÁ,J.: The Courses of Transformation in Marginal Rural Regions: The Basin of Middle Dyje River . A Case Study. In: Rural Geography and Environment. REGIOGRAPH, Brno 1997, p.135-143
- VAISHAR,A.-HROUDOVÁ,S.: Opinions of Inhabitants on the Social Situation in the Region of Vranov nad Dyjí-Jemnice (SW Moravia). Moravian Geographical Reports 5, 1997, No.2, p.33-43
- VAISHAR,A.: Lidé na jihozápadní Moravě již dávno srostli s krajinou. Rovnost 8, 1998, Nr.13 (16.1.1998), p.4
- VAISHAR,A.: Šance občanů odlehlých obcí jsou na trhu práce minimální. Rovnost 8, 1998, Nr.37 (13.2.1998), p.4
- VAISHAR,A.: Likvidace tuhých odpadů z domácností čeká na řešení. Rovnost 8, 1998, Nr. 118, p.5
- VAISHAR,A.: Malé obce v evropském kontextu. Státní správa a samospráva 9, 1998, Nr. 22, p.29-30
- VAISHAR,A.-ZAPLETALOVÁ,J.: Jemnice: the Role of a Small Town in the Present Stage of Transformation. Moravian Geographical Reports 6, 1998, No.1, p.32-42
- ZAPLETALOVÁ,J.: The Issue of Traffic Remoteness in South Moravia on the Example of the Middle Dyje Basin. Moravian Geographical Reports 6, 1998, No.1, p.2-13
- ZUPANČIČ J., 1996, Vloga narodnostne sestave prebivalstva v sodobnih socialnogeografskih in političnih procesih, Spodnje Podravje s Prlekijo, Zbornik, Ljubljana

The main publication activity is to be expected in next months and years. Some of the publication are known: Results of the Czech-Slovene-Slovak seminar in Stará Lesná are prepared for publication in GEOGRAFIA SLOVENICA 31. The proceedings will contain 7 scientific papers dealing with the grant. The issue is to be finished till the end of 1998.

Because only the results from the first model region in Moravia (Vranov nad Dyjí / Jemnice) was sufficiently published, a series of articles in MORAVIAN GEOGRAPHICAL REPORTS and other Czech and foreign journals about model regions Bojkovice / Valašské Klobouky and Kunštát is in preparation. At least three regional monographs about individual model regions are planned. The results of the grant are also an inspiration for the 3rd Moravian Geographical Conference CONGEO'99 on Regional Prosperity and Sustainability.

E COMPLETE PROJECT OUTPUT

Complete project output is in four enclosures:

- a) *model region Vranov nad Dyjí / Jemnice (text, interview and observation records, data from questionnaire on the floppy)*
- b) *model region Bojkovice / Valašské Klobouky (text, interview and observation records, data from questionnaire on the floppy)*
- c) *model region Kunštát (text, interview and observation records, data from questionnaire on the floppy)*
- d) *model regions Slovene Istria, Posavja, Spodne Podravje, Bela Krajina (text, data from questionnaire on the floppies)*

RESEARCH SUPPORT SCHEME

FINANCIAL REPORT ON ADDITIONAL COSTS EXPENSES (IN USD)

Originals of all relevant receipts for the period September 1997 - August 1998 see Enclosure 1 (Czech team), Enclosure 2 (Slovenian team)

Number of contract: 347/1996

Grant holder: Antonín Vaishar, Czech Republic

Affiliation: Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Branch Brno

Title of the project: NEW PROSPERITY FOR RURAL REGIONS

Number of participants: 7 (Czech team 5, Slovenian team 4)

Reporting time: September 1996 - August 1998

ITEM	CZECHIA	SLOVENIA	TOTAL
DOMESTIC TRAVEL COSTS	2473	3600	6073
TRAVELLING AND RECEIVING ABROAD	1999	2900	4899
SOFTWARE	1576	4300	5876
QUESTIONNAIRE	864		864
DATA	1061	300	1361
MATERIAL	396		396
BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS	207	400	607
AGRIC. AND HIST. ANALYSES	213		213
TOTAL	8789	11500	20289

TOTAL SPENT FOR THE WHOLE PERIOD:	USD	20289
TOTAL ADDITIONAL COSTS APPROVED BY RSS	USD	25000
TO BE RETURNED TO THE RSS	USD	4711

Brno, August 26, 1998

Signature: