

Assessing and planning the human settlement system in Slovenia: a preliminary report

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motivation

- NEW Strategy of spatial development of Slovenia (2004):
 - Key document for future spatial development
 - Key document for coordinating sectoral politics in space
- our mission: analyze the urban system (cohesiveness, competitiveness)

history

- 1960-ies: polycentric development as a political concept
- spatial equality, egalitariness, cohesiveness
- 1970-ies: constitution of Yugoslavia
- 1970 and onwards: implementation of the concept; strengthening 64 small towns by
 - industrialization
 - new ‚urban style‘ dwellings
 - ‚communal‘ political organization

history



SA
SLAVNA
PRAVIL
A.
A. 2. 191
ODREB
JA. 6-5

ODREB. CENTERS

history and present

- In the 1980-ies efforts to strengthen the regional capitals, which failed
- after 1990: new reforms, new municipalities (212)
- failed attempt at establishing regions

Present

- two levels of governance:
- local level, national level of governance
- and no regional level of governance or planning

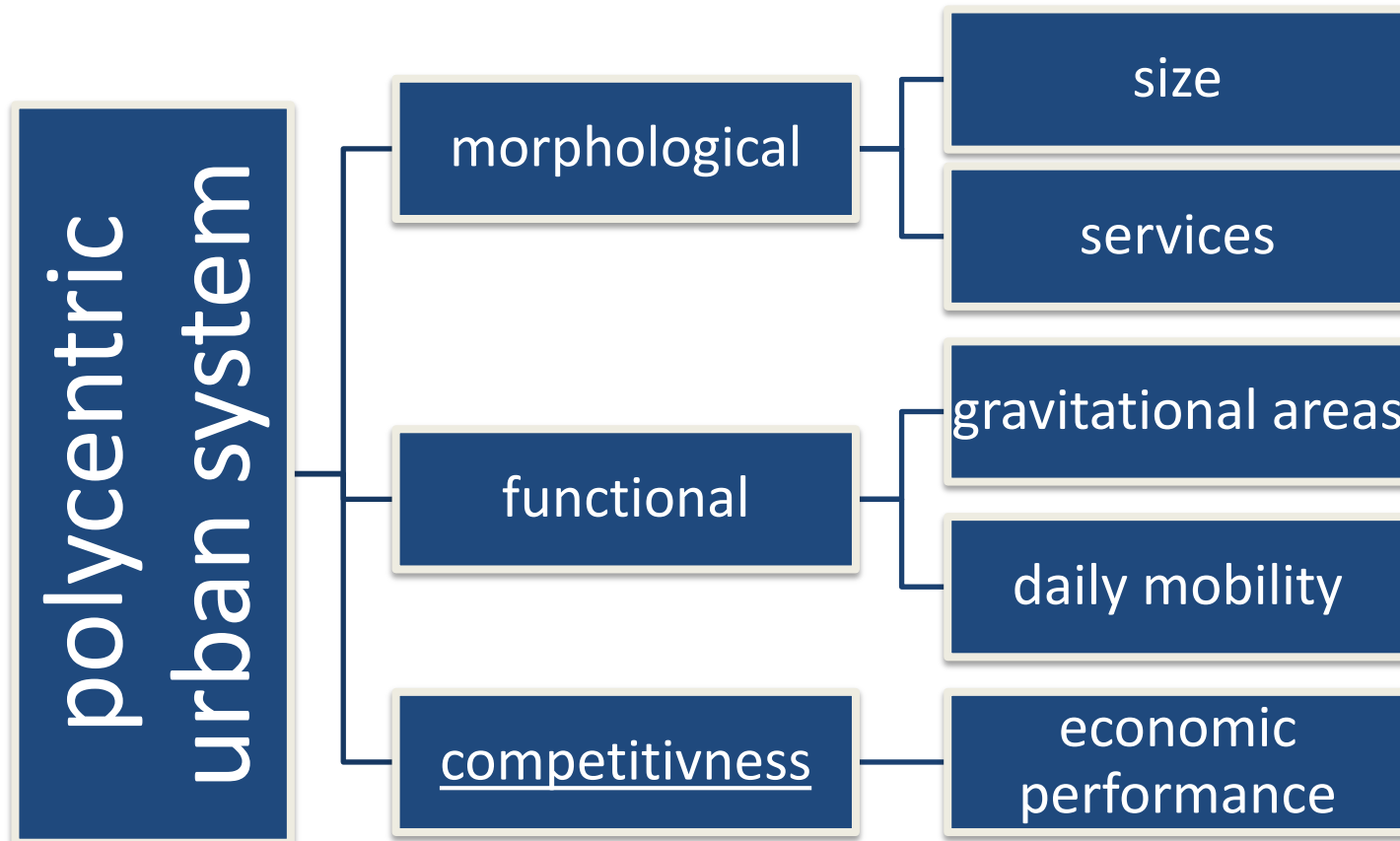
contents

1. brief history of urban development
2. analysis of the settlement system
3. key findings
4. recommendations

analysis

goal: central place system analysis and planning
recommendations

Burger, Meijers 2011



1. morphology

a) town size (centrality)

- **population size, according to previous spatial strategies:**

1. Nacional centre of international importance

population above 100.000

2. National centre

population above 20.000

3. Regional centre

population min. 10.001, max. 20.000

4. Inter-municipal urban centre

population min. 3001, max. 10.000

5. Municipal local centre

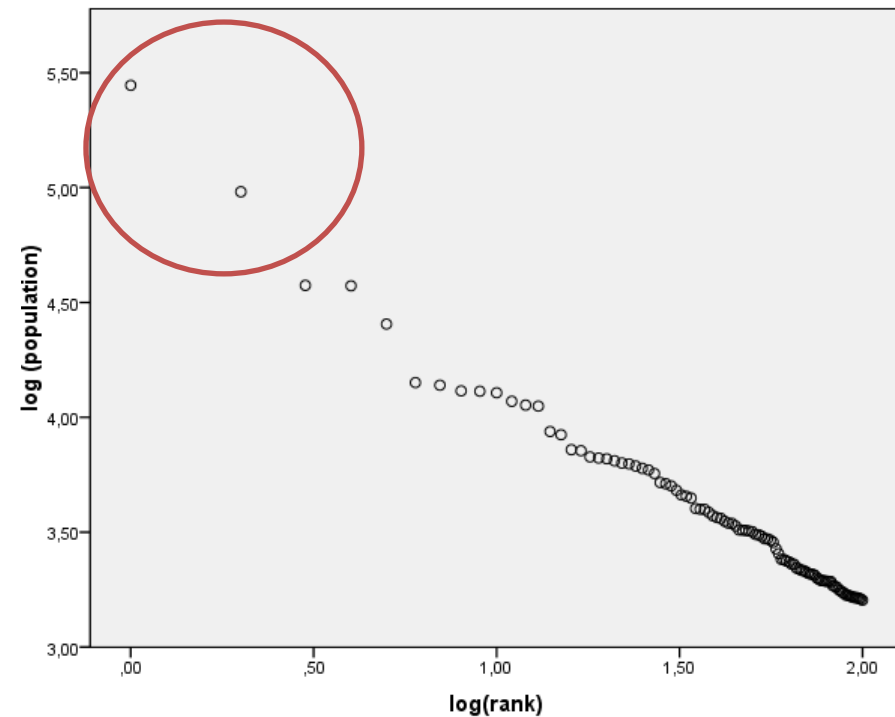
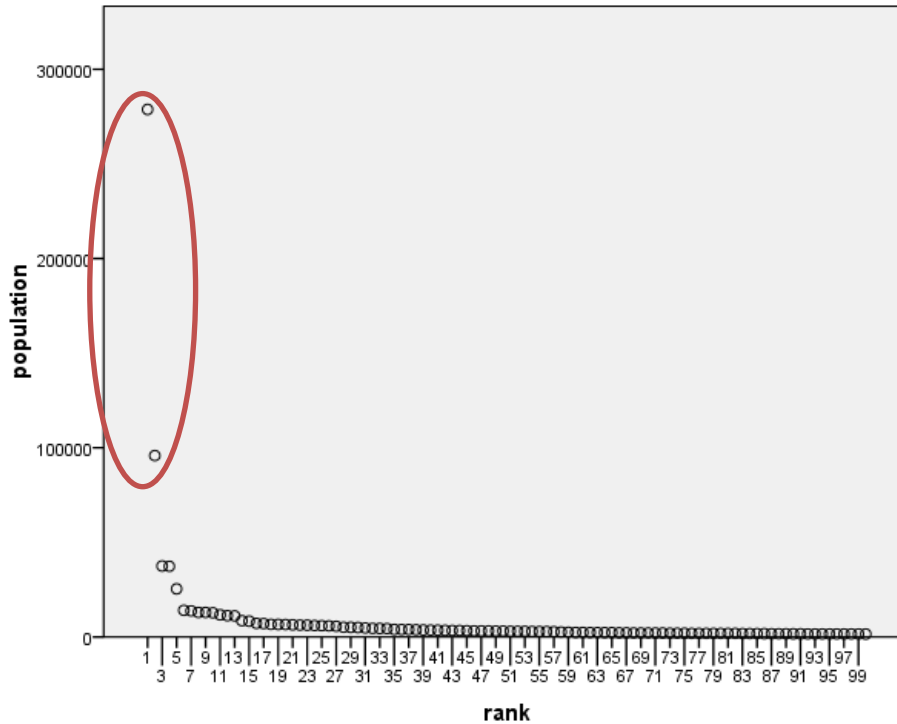
population min. 1501, max. 3000

6. Rural centre

population min. 500, max. 1500

1. morphology

a) town size (centrality)



1. morphology

b) basic functions

Centrality (functions):

- public services
- education
- health
- judiciary system
- + 7 additional functions

Education:

rank 1: Public university

rank 2: Higher schools

rank 3: college

rank 4: secondary school

rank 5: elementary school (full)

*rank 6: elementary school
(partial)*

Health:

rank 1: University clinical centre

rank 2: General hospital

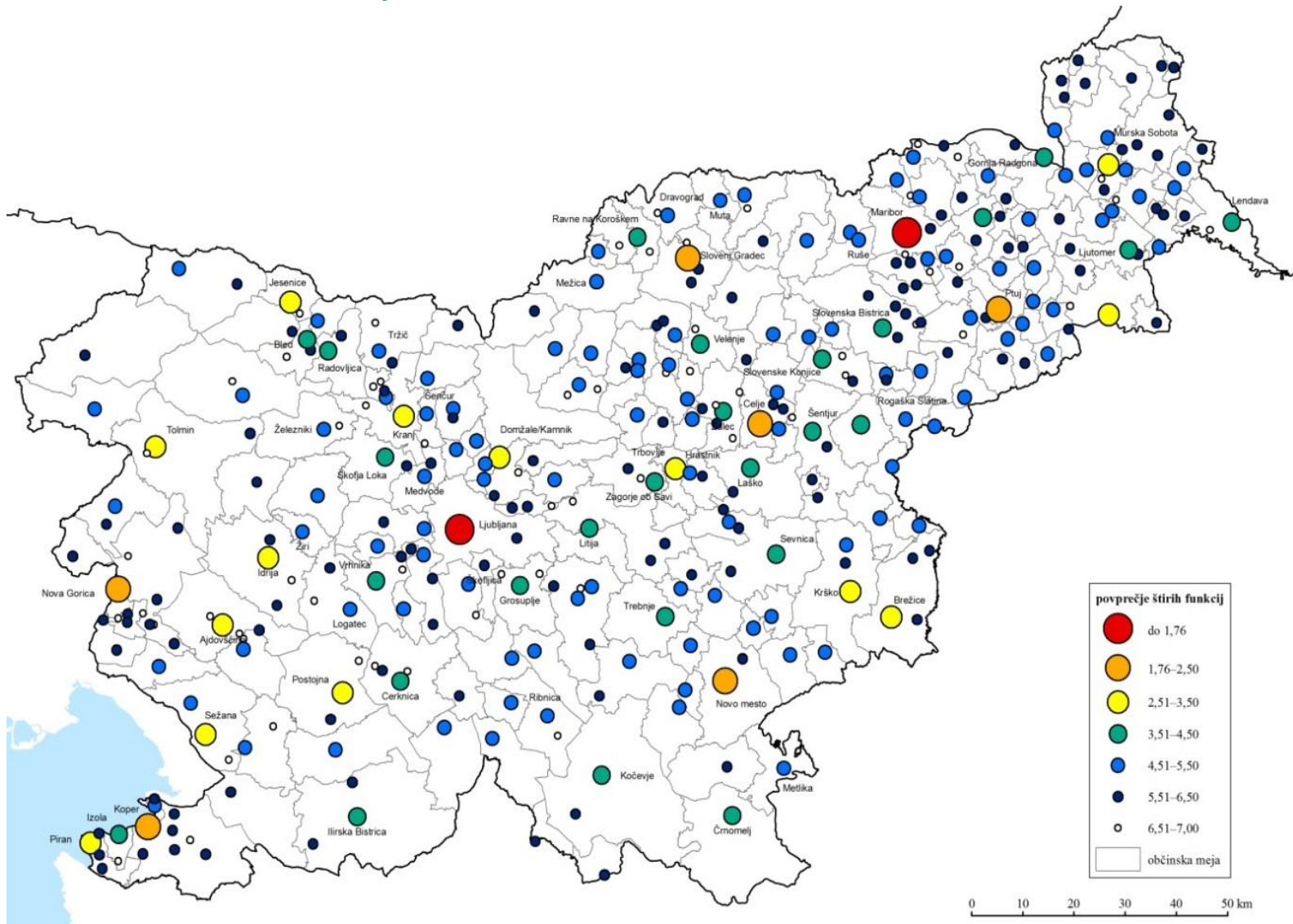
rank 3: Specialized hospital, clinic

rank 4: Health centre

rank 5: health station (branch)

1. morphological

b) basic functions



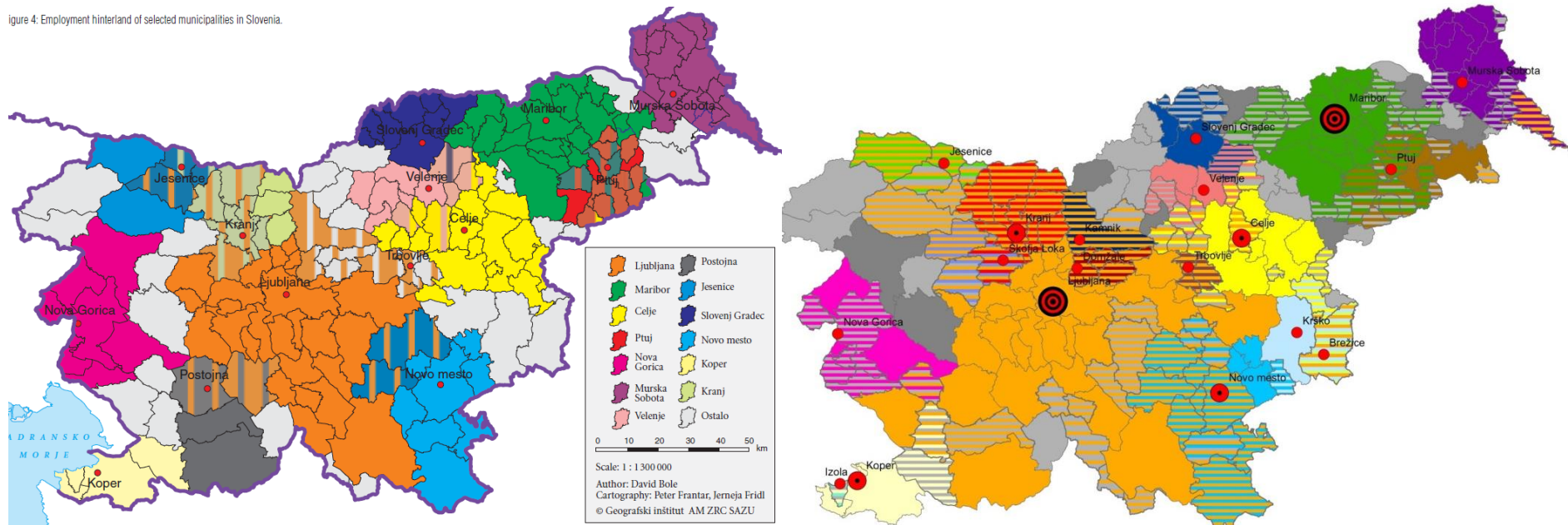
2. functional

a) daily mobility

• 2002

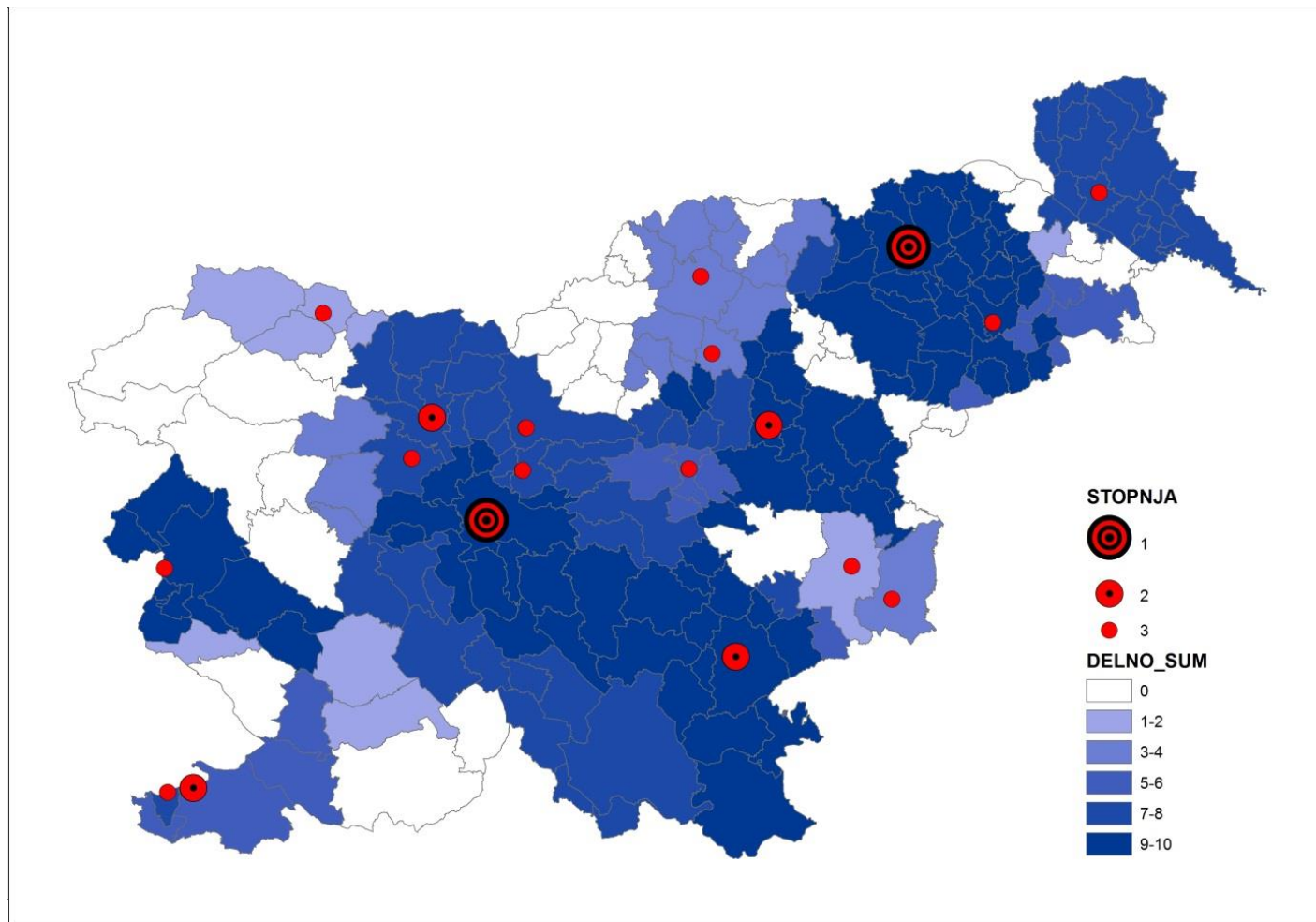
• 2014

Figure 4: Employment hinterland of selected municipalities in Slovenia.

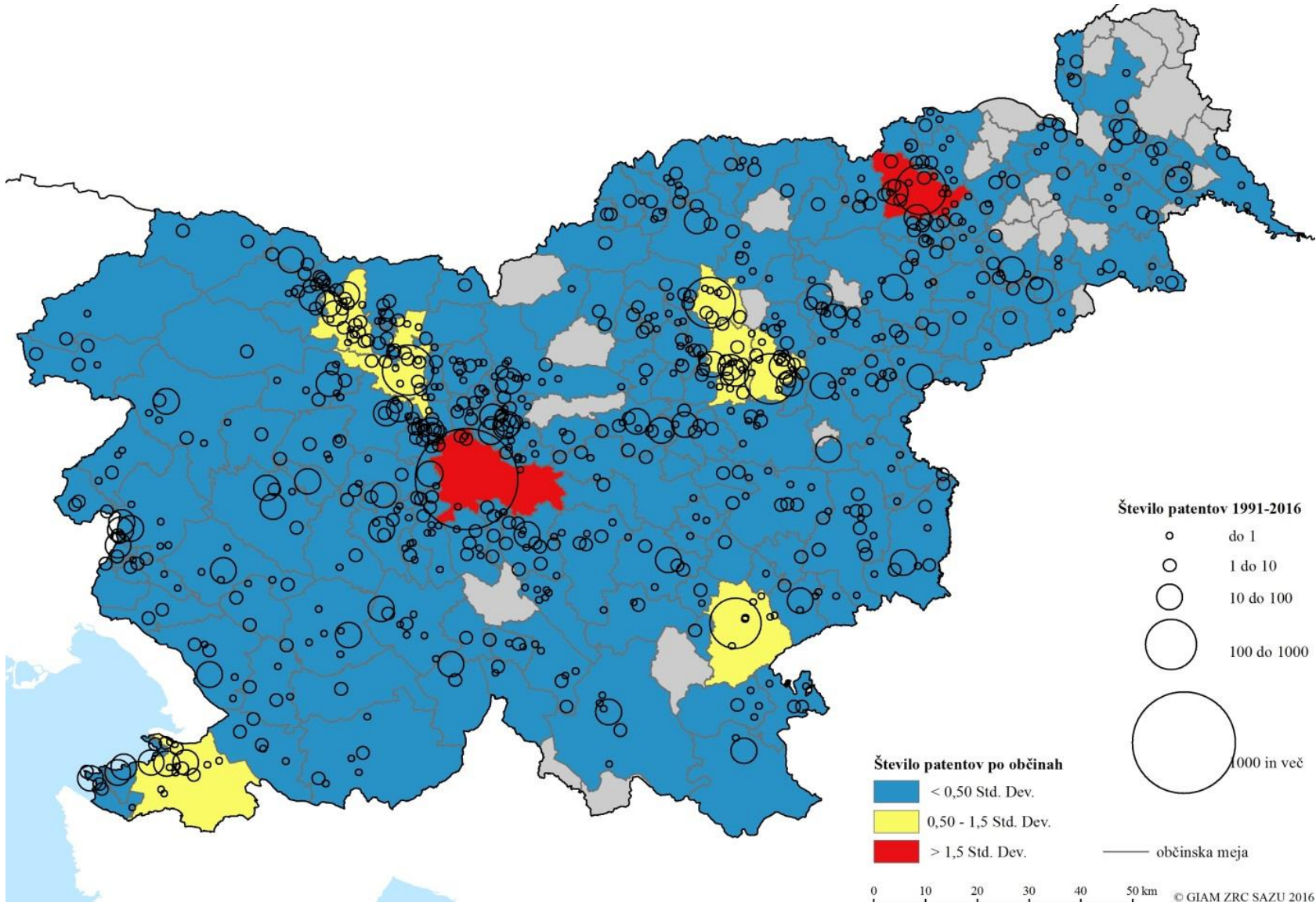


2. functional

b) gravitational areas of services



3. competitiveness



key findings

study goal: central place system analysis and planning recommendations

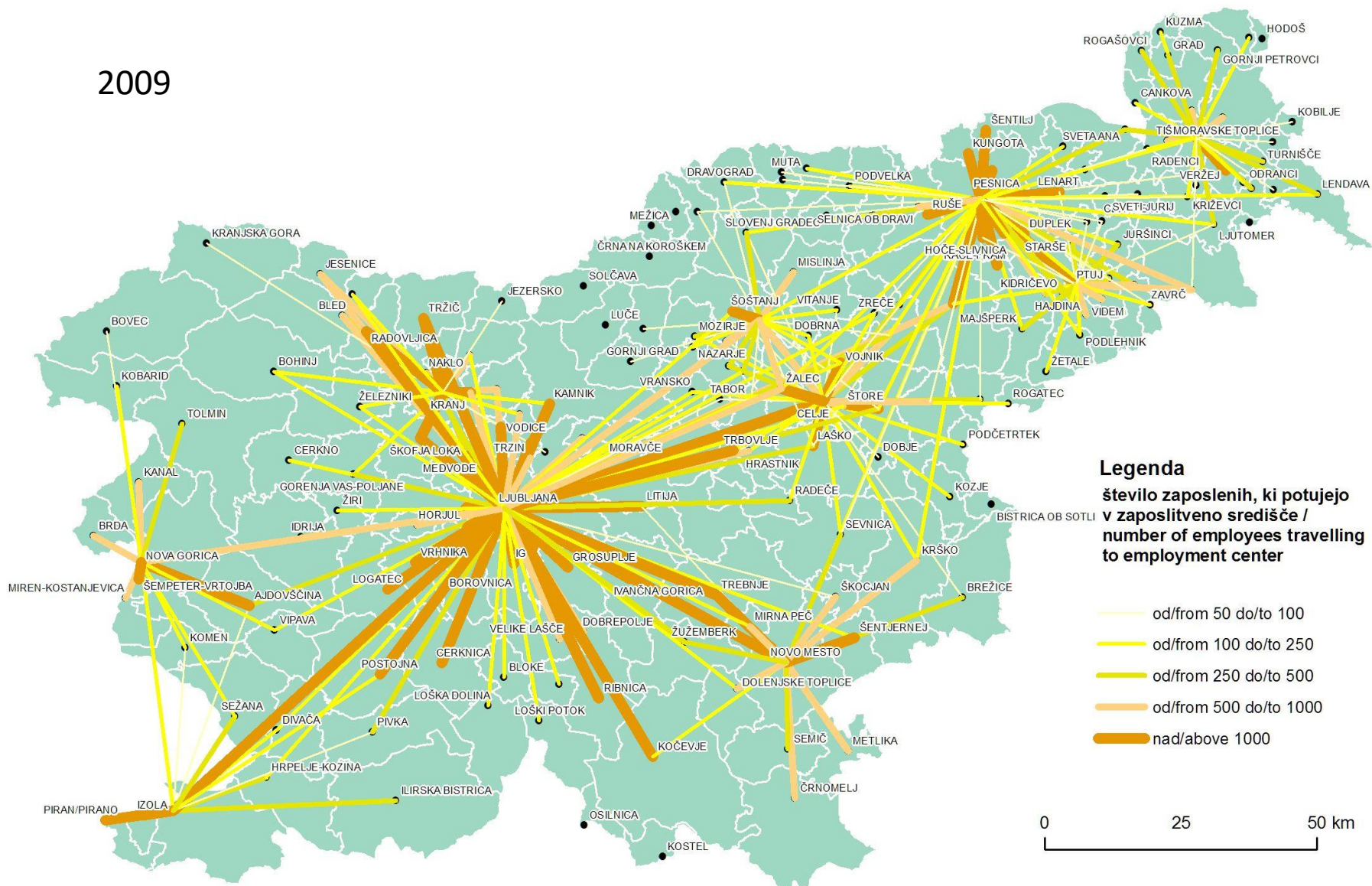
- unbalanced urban system
 - rank/size mismatch (lack of medium sized towns)
 - function mismatch (lower tier towns over-equipped)
 - unbalanced competitiveness (small towns and rural areas outperform medium-sized cities of regional significance)

decentralization

- growing importance of only one city (Ljubljana)

centralization

2009

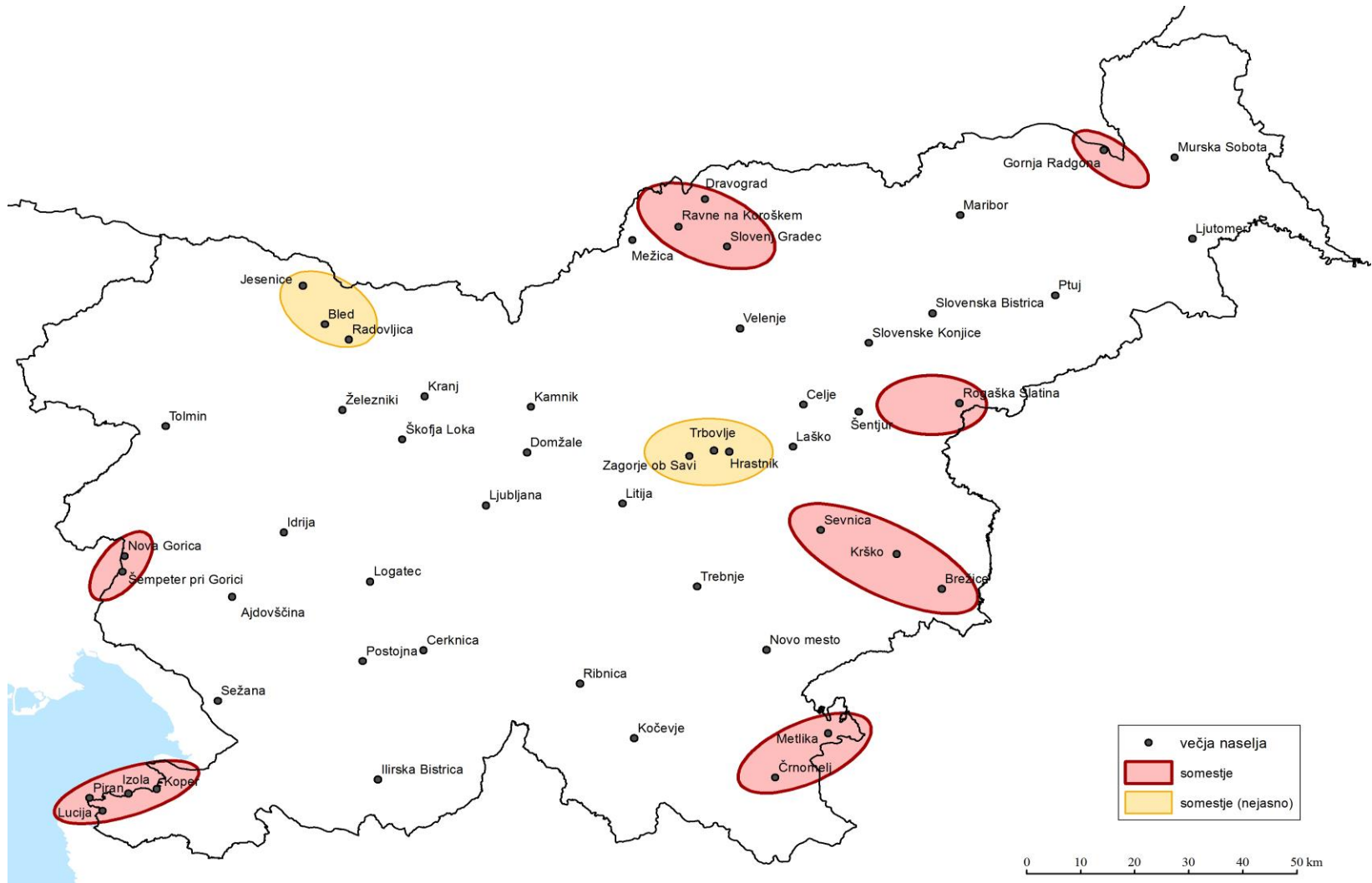


key findings

Consequences of the past „polycentric“ spatial policy:

- local level: **(+)**
 - municipal and inter-municipal towns maintaining or growing importance
- regional level: **–**
 - weak regional capitals
- national level: **+**
 - concentration and centralization in one capital city

recommendations for the future strategy of spatial development



recommendations for the future strategy of spatial development

1. Strengthening the regional level
 - regional level of governance
 - regional planning
 - ‚regional‘ cities or regional ‚twinning‘
 - Improving infrastructure among regional capitals
2. Maintaining good cohesiveness at lower tier towns/rural centres
3. Improving competitiveness at higher tier cities/regional capitals (balanced competitiveness)



thank you!

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