

Otvoritev simpozija "Geografija in narodnosti"

Welcoming Address: Prof. Marko Kerševan, Dean of the Faculty of Arts

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear participants to the symposium, dear guests:

I would like to welcome all of you and wish you a pleasant stay in Slovenia on behalf of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ljubljana. Faculty of Arts has been part of the University of Ljubljana ever since its establishment in 1919, i.e. after World War I. Our Faculty of Arts is still of the old, central European type: numerous branches of studies in humanistic and natural sciences are joined here from philosophy, history, history of art, classical and modern languages, archaeology, ethnology (or cultural anthropology), and musicology to pedagogy, sociology, psychology, librarianship, and, geography, of course. There are altogether 17 departments with 25 possible combinations of studies.

In the Faculty of Arts, different studies converge, those which are oriented into the Slovene identity (national language and culture, several history, ethnology and social studies), and those which are oriented outwards – into the world; outstanding among the latter are studies in world languages and languages and cultures of our neighbours. Therefore we like to say – and understand it our task and duty – that the Faculty of Arts is one of the most significant spots where the world, i.e. the world of culture and science, enters Slovenia, as well as the spot where Slovenia enters the world.

For all these reasons, we are, together with the Department of Geography, pleased and proud that we are hosting a symposium like this, Ethnicity and Geography; above all, because we are convinced that Slovenia as a whole, and its capital Ljubljana have a special duty to organize such meetings. Slovenia itself represents the crossroads, the contact area and the meeting point where various languages, cultural, historical and geographic areas meet.

We do know well, from our own history, that contacts and meetings have not always been favourable to us; on the contrary, they were often painful to many individuals and entire groups, ethnic groups as well. Unfortunately, that is exactly what can still be witnessed nowadays in our close vicinity.

Yet, we also know from our history that such contacts can bilaterally or multilaterally be useful and beneficent, or that at least, they can become like that. The mosaic which decorates the wall of this hall was donated to Ljubljana by the Italian city Pordenone three years ago, as a token of friendship among cities in the Alpe-Adria community, and it is a symbolic expression of such a possibility.

Let also the careful, sober, proof supported research and presentation of actual facts and events, – which is a constituent part of scientific symposia – contribute to this!

Before I finish, I would like to wish you, again, a pleasant stay here, in Ljubljana, and a lot of success with this symposium!

Welcoming Address: Prof. Jurij Kunaver, Head of the Department of Geography

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear guests:

It is a pleasure and honour for me to express a cordial welcome to you on behalf of the Department of Geography, and to wish you a pleasant stay in Slovenia, in Ljubljana, and at the Faculty of Arts, in fact, at the Department of Geography, to all participants of the Symposium "Ethnicity and Geography". My special welcome goes to Mr. President, Prof. Noin. I wish you will enjoy being among us, and upon your return home, hold us in fond remembrance. Possibly you will have at least some chance to see our beautiful country which consists of mountains and valleys and is inhabited with joyous and hardworking Slovene people who wish to live in constructive coexistence and friendship with all their neighbours.

On this occasion, I would also like to welcome the guests from the Faculty of Arts, and guests from the Slovene scientific, political and economic spheres, as well as all of you who have come to participate in the opening ceremony of this exhibition and of the symposium. My welcome also goes to all colleagues who come from other institutions as well as to those from our Department of geography.

It is of great pleasure that I can deliver my speech on such an important scientific occasion, when the colleagues who deal with geographic problems of nations and ethnic groups, are going to present their findings and results throughout cartographic presentation. This is an introduction to a three-day symposium, and I wish you a lot of success. Geographers, have been a constituent part of the Faculty of Arts for thirty-two years, while the Department of Geography at the University of Ljubljana was established already in 1921. At the Faculty of Arts, where studies are mainly humanistic and linguistic, we have a specific position because of our special field of interest which represents a link between humans and nature. Due to coordinated de-

velopment in geography, and because of Slovene national needs, human and physical studies in geography are well ballanced. They are impacted by the specific geographic or geopolitic position of Slovenia, as well as by the very specific and diverse natural conditions resulting from contacts and intertwining of geologic, climatic and other influences. As our country is agitated and diverse, so are the people, lively and diverse, living on this small area of Europe. The borders and the vicinity of diverse cultures also contribute this. Slovene geographers try to approach and handle this diversity in the best professional way: we are preparing an extensive monography on Slovenia. A National Atlas is also being prepared. It is specificity of minor nations, that everything should be as well developed as with major nations. In fact, relatively much more work is needed, and greater efforts are required to keep pace with the development in the rest of the world. Geographers here, particularly those from our department, have, by tradition, good relations, with colleagues and professional organizations all over the world; this is particularly true of certain specialized fields, such as of geography of ethnic groups, geography of border areas, rural geography, urban geography, karst geography, tourism and transportation geography, didactics of geography, etc. Last year, we were also admitted to the full membership of the International Geographic Union. The Symposium "Ethnicity and Geography", as well as five other international geographic symposia which were organized here since 1965 by our Department alone or in cooperation with other related institutions, prove that we really wish to be part of the international professional community.

Before I finish, I wish you once again a lot of success at this symposium and a lot of public and media response to it; and my warmest thanks and acknowledgements to the organizers, Prof. Vladimir Klemenčič, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, prof. Anton Gosar, Secretary of the Organizing Committee and the actual and active Chief organizer, and to the Institute of Geography which productively cooperated.

Welcoming Address: Karel Natek, M. A., Vice-President of the Association of the Geographical Societies of Slovenia

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear guests:

The President of the Association of the Geographic Societies of Slovenia, Dr. Andrej Černe, asked me to welcome you cordially in the name of the head staff of our professional association, and to wish you successful work at this symposium.

We are very pleased and happy, that the devoted organizers of this symposium, headed by Dr. Anton Gosar, succeeded in organizing such a respectable assembly of

world-wide famous experts who investigate and study problems of national or ethnic origin, national minorities, borders between countries, etc. We are sure that your contributions will enrich the geographic knowledge of the world, and we hope that they find their way to those politicians who decide about the fates of nations and individuals.

We wish you, dear participants of the Symposium "Ethnicity and Geography", successful work, a pleasant stay in Slovenia and a safe return to your homes, and a lot of nice recollections of our young state and its inhabitants on the Sunny side of the Alps.

Jernej Zupančič: Introduction to the Exhibition

Dear ladies and gentlemen:

At the beginning of the Symposium "Ethnicity and Geography", I would like to present briefly this temporary exhibition which has been staged on the occasion of this symposium. It is meant to expose some topic problems which are investigated and studied by the Slovene ethnic geography.

The exhibition comprises five panels and two showcases.

The first panel shows the development of the international professional cooperation of Slovene geographers, i.e. the publishings of Slovene professional papers and articles in foreign geographic publications. The map shows countries where Slovene geographers published their professional contributions. The first graph shows the increase in number of published works, while the other shows the number of published works by individual branches of geography.

The second panel is meant to present some elements of the geopolitical position of Slovenia. The first map shows changes of the border-line pattern on the territory of the Republic of Slovenia nowadays, lying at an important area of explicitly transit character. Its transit character is also emphasized on the other two maps, the first of which shows border crossings, regions along the borders, and the areas inhabited by national minorities. The second map shows the major European trans-continental ways, which also cross Slovenia.

The third panel presents the basic characteristics of national and ethnic composition of the population of Slovenia. The upper map shows the percentage of the Slovenes, and the lower two show the areas in Slovenia inhabited by the Hungarian and the Italian minorities. The graph shows numerical developments of ethnic groups and minorities in the period from 1953 to 1991.

The fourth panel presents Slovene minorities in the neighbouring countries – in Italy, Austria and Hungary. The maps show the areas of residency, while the graphs

show numerical development for the period, i.e from the beginning of official recordings onwards.

The fifth and the last pannel exposes certain dimensions of the Slovene emigration. The main flows of emigration are shown and the countries of their destination are presented; the attached graph presents the estimated numbers of Slovenes abroad.

In the showcases, the most important articles and publications on the topic of population and ethnicity in particular, written by Slovene geographers, are presented. In the second showcase, the school of the Slovene ethnic geography is presented, i.e. master's and doctor's theses done in this field of geography.