

Main scientific results of the TransMig project (2010-2012)

The scientific results achieved in the framework of the TransMig project, on the one hand, fit to the theories and trends documented in international literature on migration. On the other hand, the teams have revealed certain new or different phenomena that are specific for Hungary, Serbia or East Central European in general. In the case of Hungary, although the research of migration has been mainly focused on the migration of the trans-border Hungarians living in the neighbouring countries, the migration from Vojvodina (or Yugoslavia or Serbia) to Hungary has received relatively scarce scientific attention before. Most studies with a sociological and anthropological approach analysed the forms and peculiarities of migration from Transylvania (Romania) to Hungary. Our project tried to reveal the differences and similarities between the migration of ethnic Hungarians of Vojvodina and other minority communities. Providing detailed research results (on the basis of semi-structured interviews and literature), on this specific, earlier on less researched migrant group is one of the main scientific significances of the TransMig project.

As our research showed, most of the migrants in Hungary originating from Serbia are ethnic Hungarians. About 90% of the migrants that arrived from Serbia's Northern Province, Vojvodina, to Hungary were ethnic Hungarians. The rest of the migrants originated from Belgrade and from Kosovo. This is the most important characteristic and specificity of the migration process and can be compared to the other migrations from the neighbouring countries of Hungary. Since it is mostly ethnic Hungarians who resettle to Hungary, we can consider this phenomenon something between national and international migration.

The migration under study started in the early 1990s; it was primarily triggered by the Yugoslav Wars. In the beginning, this was generally a "traditional", one-way migration. In the last decade, however, Hungary increasingly became a transit country towards Western Europe. The global economy, the higher permeability of the borders and the development of the migrant networks resulted in complex, multiple to-and-fro movements and in a circular migration. People have a home in both countries, commuting regularly across the border, belonging to two or more localities, and they remain open to further movement in the future.

The identified migration processes can be understood in the theoretical framework both of transnationalism and ethnic migration. While the migration processes we investigated take place in a transnational social space, and are triggered at least by economic motifs; the migrants from Vojvodina identify themselves as Hungarian, many of them consider Hungary as their mother country. Although they are separated from the country by national borders and the Schengen Agreement, there is no harsh cultural or language barrier. So one can characterize the migration from Vojvodina to Hungary as ethnic migration, where ethnicity (ethnic identity, language, culture, belonging) functions as social and symbolic capital in the migration process.

Although we state that the migrants identify themselves as Hungarian, after the resettlement takes place, many of them try to differentiate themselves from the majority Hungarian society in numerous cases by highlighting those characteristics which – in their interpretation – they took over from Serbians during their co-existence in Vojvodina, Serbia.

The interviews conducted for this research further confirmed the importance of the memory and nostalgia of migrants' lost home country and the unique multicultural experiences in the former Yugoslavia. The above-mentioned phenomenon materializes in the so-called "Yugoparties" in Budapest. They are organized for a migrant community (Hungarians from Vojvodina), which was an ethnic minority in Yugoslavia. The overwhelming majority of this migrant group is not linked to Serbia even with the slightest loyalty, only to Vojvodina. The Vojvodina Hungarians have not participated in either discourses about Yugonostalgia, or in the typical Yugonostalgic manifestations; and this group has not been the topic of interest for research on Yugonostalgia - before the TransMig project. By researching the phenomenon of Yugonostalgia among ex-Yugoslav Hungarians, the TransMig project adds significant scientific results to the international research on Yugonostalgia.

However, the migrants from Vojvodina do not constitute a homogenous group. On the basis of semi-structured interviews and of statistical data, we identified different groups. These groups differ

according to the time of resettlement, age, gender, purpose of migration and status in social hierarchy. We noticed some common features: the most of our interviewees are highly educated, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of them hold Hungarian citizenship.

We also identified different types of cross-border migration from Vojvodina to Hungary. The basic classification results in two categories (refugees and voluntary migrants), but we can create more categories according to the purpose of migration (war migrants, economic migrants, educational migrants, “family reunifying” migrants). These push and pull factors influenced the decision on migration in the same time but with different intensities.

On the basis of the conducted interviews, we have collected several discourses, narratives about migration, about migrant problems in integration, about justifications and rationalizations of the decision on staying or returning as well as about the attitudes of the host society.

All in all, in the framework of the TransMig project the teams in Hungary managed to provide a basic research data on the social characteristics of a less researched migrant group, the Hungarians from Vojvodina. Although due to the not applicable statistical data, the research could not cover the gathering of exact numbers of the group, but by conducting migrant interviews and relevant literature we managed to get to know and present this less researched group and at the same time place it to the international scientific literature on migration.

With regard to the cross-border processes we identified four main aspects: 1) a new cross-border, regional identity of Hungarian minority commuters between Serbia and Hungary is being formed; 2) models of transnational lifestyles are being explored; 3) Cross-border institutional cooperation and networks are increasing; 4) the cross-border process have an influence on the migrant and commuter language ideologies and identities.

Our research results pinpoint the cross-border co-operational networks of people and institutions. The number of transit migrations has risen during the last years with the purpose of career building, economic advancement and employment. Our results show the appearance of a transnational identity among such migratory or commuting members of population. Professionals and experts of various occupational fields (entrepreneur, engineer, doctor, IT specialist and scientists) prove to migrate most likely as well as higher educational and secondary school students. Re-migration is not frequent in the region which results in a decrease of the highly-educated population in Vojvodina. Cross-border institutional co-operation is generally one-dimensional. In lack of financial support and communication, only a small number of institutional co-operations are manifest and remain successful and prosperous.

Language (as well as their varieties) plays an important role in identity formation. Linguistic variations have a detectable influence on the identification processes of Hungarian minorities in Vojvodina depending on their patterns of migratory movements. The research results show that the perception of languages and dialects plays a crucial role in the (re-)defining processes of identification among Hungarian minority migrants (from Serbia towards Hungary). In addition, regional and border perception among migrant and commuting Hungarians manifests in their relationship towards the language the languages they speak and their perception of dialect differences.

In Temerin, our assumption was that various dimensions of the identity of refugees may point to the difficulties of their social integration. The identity of the refugees has been particularly analysed within the socio-cultural context of Temerin. The data shows that the circumstances of war and exile contributed significantly to strengthening the ethnic identity of refugees and that it is still a very important dimension of their cultural identity. Refugees have, in most cases, a positive experience and feelings of acceptance by their neighbours, friends and other inhabitants of Temerin, which indicates a high degree of their social integration. The research among the high school students showed that the attachment of pupils to their local environment is less than to their feelings of national pride, or, importance of the national identity and expressed ethnic distance toward other ethnic group. Our data also showed that pupils have different perceptions and attitudes towards others and about their own identity if the main identifiers are town, state, region, Europe. However, local patriotism and attachment to place of origine/living, no matter of ethnic background is expressed.