

od -3,3; (2019.) mehanički deficit od -2.422 osobe, uz negativnu stopu migracijskog salda od -0,6.

To su sve vrlo zabrinjavajući demografski indikatori, koji svjedoče o demografskoj katastrofi u kojoj se nalazi država od oko 4 milijuna (vjerojatno i manje) stanovnika koja se nalazi u kontekstu demografski stare Europe s jedne strane, te demografski vrlo ekspanzivnih država Bliskog istoka, ali i ostatka Azije.

Ti negativni demografski procesi, a posebice iseljavanje stanovništva u bioreprodukтивnom dobu, vrlo snažno demografski osiromašuju periferne LAU jedinice, koje nisu funkcionalno opremljene kao njihova pripadajuća županijska središta. Jasno je da jezgra, u ovom slučaju županijsko središte, ne može opstati bez svoje okolice, odnosno periferije. Bez snaženja prometne povezanosti jezgri i pripadajućih periferija nije moguće nikakvim proaktivnim populacijskim mjerama demografski jačati periferna područja jer ona ostaju funkcionalno odsjećena i, u smislu mogućeg ublažavanja negativnih demografskih procesa, zakinuta. Potrebno je istražiti i utvrditi moguću zonalnost mehaničkog kretanja stanovništva, ali i nekih drugih demografskih obilježja, kako bi se dobila cjelovita slika zonalnosti demografskih obilježja u kontekstu prometne dostupnosti.

Nikola Šimunić

Characteristics of natural change in population of the Republic of Croatia 2013—2019: zoning at LAU level

The paper examines the characteristics of natural population change in the Republic of Croatia (birth rates, mortality, and natural changes) at the level of cities and municipalities, ie LAU units in the period 2013—2019. The focus of the research was on natural population trends (birth rate, mortality) as major determinants of natural depopulation. Peripherality is conceptualized as the travel time from LAU units to the corresponding county centres (in minutes). Namely, the majority of central functions in an individual county are located in county centres, which results in the possibility of measuring the peripherality of each LAU unit. After calculating all the time required to travel from each LAU unit to the corresponding county centre, the LAU units are divided into 4 zones, according to the travel time. Characteristics of natural population movement (2013—2019) were analysed for each zone separately. The author set the main hypothesis (H) that functional peripherality adversely affects fertility and mortality in the sense that fewer children are born in more peripheral settlements, more people die, and overall population movement is generally unfavourable. Statistical-mathematical methods were used in the research in combination with GIS analysis.

Key words: *birth rate, mortality, natural change, transport accessibility, LAU*