



IMPACT OF DISPARITIES IN SETTLEMENT AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT ON CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

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Summary

The paper is focused on the selected problems of the cultural landscape in the attractive hinterland of Bratislava, in the region under the slopes of the Little Carpathian Mountains. The principal turn in the migration balance of the largest cities is one of the most typical traits of the change that has manifested in the spatial movement of population after 1990. Bratislava, with the concentration of almost all basic human activities in the area, has become much lower in density due to intensive migration. This change is due to suburbanisation and deconcentration of the regional population. The building of large concentrations of new residential areas in the hinterland, is in many cases, in contradiction with values of traditional cultural landscape. The quoted example would be adjust to historical vineyards.

Keywords

cultural landscape • costs, region • building

1. Introduction

Types and structures of cultural landscape are among the key factors of the Central European cultural identity, combining the natural and the cultural components into one. There remain relatively few intact or whole natural landscapes in Central or Western Europe. The prevailing regions are covered by cultural landscapes in various degrees of recreation, conservation and functionality. Even with numerous ecological, aesthetic, and economic assets, cultural landscapes in Central Europe are still underestimated. Landscapes are under constant pressure due to economic activities and are continuously fragmented and destroyed. One reason for such an undesirable development, is the lack of awareness in terms of landscape and assets cost. Moreover, cultural landscape is normally less efficiently protected than the natural landscape. The legal, planning and executive processes in this area(s) are prepared and applied on a much higher qualitative level. The awareness in the field of environmental protection is also higher than in the case of the cultural landscape [Podolák et al. 2011].

Individual authors interpret the notion of cultural landscape differently. For a fraction of them, cultural landscape is synonymous to cultural superstructures, cultural heritage projected onto the landscape. The approach, where, the notion of *cultural* is equal to civilized by man, has recreated a denatured landscape. This is quite different as it also includes a disturbed, disharmonic and devastated landscape(s). As Hanušin et al. [2000] assert, cultural landscape is an originally natural landscape, recreated by human activities. Along with natural processes, such as economic and social activities, laws are also applied to the cultural landscape. Humans have created the secondary landscape structure via anthropic effects. Different types of landscape, such as agricultural, urban and industrial landscape are discerned, according to the level of recreation and the prevailing functions.

2. Suburbanization and cultural landscape of the Sub-Little Carpathian Region

Links between population and landscape are of key importance, in the complex process of the development. Humans live, work, relax and pursue many varied activities in the landscape. Humans are capable of accomplishing their own plans on the appearance of cultural landscape, hence they decide about changes and realize them. The number, structure and distribution of population and its relationship to the cultural landscape in a given landscape are also vitally important. An area in Slovakia where the characteristics of cultural landscape can be studied best is the Sub-Little Carpathian Region, part of the hinterland to the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava. The Region consists of three towns (Pezinok, Modra, Svätý Jur), two marginal city parts of Bratislava (Rača, Vajnory) and 19 villages with the total population of about 92,000 (2011). Situated on the foothills of the southern Little Carpathian slopes, in the attractive hinterland of the capital, this setting in many ways has determined the economy and demographic development of the Region.

The vine-growing tradition, as pursued by the population of small towns and villages, on slopes of the Little Carpathians, dates back to the 13th century. During these centuries, the Region became the largest centre of viticulture in Slovakia. The trend survived into the second half of the 20th century, as did the conservation of the traditional assets of the cultural landscape at a relative satisfactory level. Simultaneously, under the general tendency of the population's concentration in cities, daily commuting to Bratislava in the pursue of professional, educational and other activities, including services of supra-regional nature, increased in the 1970s. Daily commuting decreased the rate of emigration from rural areas to cities. In spite of this, the rural population diminished in the 1970s and 1980s.

The size of a population, living and acting in a particular area and its spatial distribution may greatly influence the functioning and development of the cultural landscape. This can occur in both a positive or negative way. The basic feature of population development in the Region, is its (close) proximity to Bratislava, the largest settlement agglomeration in Slovakia. The extensive phase of the urbanization of

Slovakia peaked (characterized by the mass exodus of rural population to the cities), during 1970s. In the 1980s, the trend reversed. During the second half of the 1990s, the cities began to lose population due to emigration back towards suburban areas. Rural municipalities in the hinterlands of cities, became the most attractive destinations. From this point of view, the municipalities of the Sub-Little Carpathian region are the most attractive in the country, as a whole [Podolák 2006, 2007].

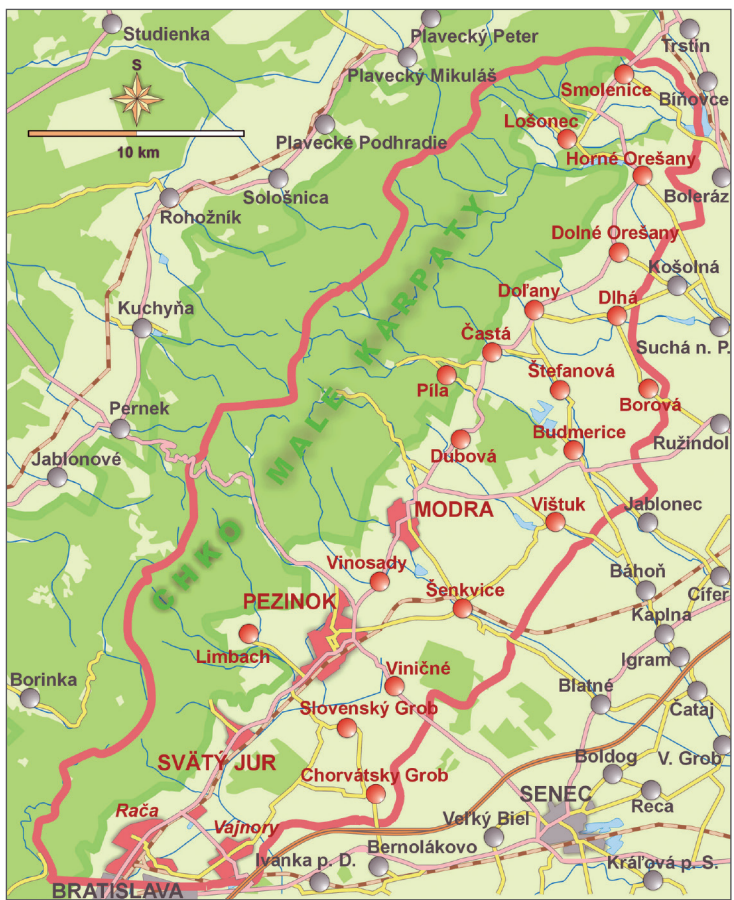


Fig. 1. Sub-Little Carpathian Region in South-Western part of Slovakia

The processes of suburbanization and deconcentration of population, in connection with the increased socio-economical differentiation in society, have become more intensive in the second half of the 1990s and significantly more so in 2000–2002. Beside other trends, this Slovakian transformation in society has resulted, in income differentiation and diversification of the real estate market. This has determined the basic setting for such a development.

Table 1. Population development (1970–2011)

Municipality	Population				
	1970	1980	1991	2001	2011
Budmerice	1 913	1 867	1 892	1 969	2 228
Častá	2 222	2 151	2 009	2 068	2 163
Doľany	1 198	1 086	986	1 011	1 045
Dubová	1 135	1 001	834	860	920
Limbach	955	977	904	1 141	1 730
Modra	7 149	7 679	8 090	8 536	8 795
Pezinok	12 123	17 116	20 515	21 082	21 263
Píla	410	316	248	261	313
Slovenský Grob	2 276	2 247	1 785	1 843	2 192
Svätý Jur	5 286	5 123	4 600	4 614	5 229
Šenkvice	4 238	4 240	3 982	4 230	4 522
Štefanová	423	360	331	338	323
Viničné	1 758	1 645	1 439	1 497	2 079
Vinosady	1 110	1 006	884	969	1 216
Vištuk	1 794	15 262	1 366	1 349	1 338
Rača	17 450	21 918	20 784	20 172	19 814
Vajnory			3 384	3 828	5 130
Chorvátsky Grob	2 080	1 919	1 571	1 587	3 932
Borová	480	426	313	329	391
Dlhá	491	*	401	383	441
Dolné Orešany	1 644	1 430	1 204	1 179	1 263
Horné Orešany	2 160	2 056	1 910	1 811	1 904
Lošonec	738	*	509	517	524
Smolenice	2 656	3 294	3 155	3 234	3 374

Source: Population Development by Communes (1970–2011), Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Remark: In 1980, Dlhá was the administrative part of Košolná and Lošonec was part of Smolenice.

This fact is obvious, based upon the differentiated demands and possibilities of the various social groups, also in the quality and location of their living place are concerned. Suburbanization brings changes, not only in population distribution or spatial structure of large areas in city hinterlands, but simultaneously, it also brings the changes in social structures and life patterns of populations, in source and destination communes. Moving out to the countryside is often connected with ambitions,

not only to improve housing conditions, but to preserve the benefits both of the urban and rural life as well.

Table 2. Selected characteristics of suburbanization

Municipality	Total population change 2001–2011 (in %)*	Immigration from Bratislava (in %)**	Change in number of new flats 2001–2008 (in % to 2001)
Budmerice	12.3	28.0	9.2
Častá	4.5	29.7	6.0
Doľany	3.3	29.8	8.2
Dubová	6.7	29.7	6.8
Limbach	41.0	54.0	23.4
Modra	3.0	28.5	7.4
Pezinok	0.9	31.0	9.7
Píla	18.1	23.5	13.6
Slovenský Grob	17.3	44.8	10.8
Svätý Jur	12.5	51.5	7.2
Šenkvice	6.7	22.3	6.7
Štefanová	-4.5	12.0	4.5
Viničné	32.6	24.4	23.1
Vinosady	22.6	18.9	12.2
Vištuk	-0.8	33.7	4.0
Rača	1.8		5.0
Vajnory	29.1		21.7
Chorvátsky Grob	85.0	66.6	94.8
Borová	17.2	16.3	13.0
Dlhá	14.1	5.9**	7.6
Dolné Orešany	6.9	10.4**	9.1
Horné Orešany	5.0	10.4**	7.0
Lošonec	1.3	6.9**	8.6
Smolenice	4.2	8.0**	10.6

Remark:

* The number indicates the average total annual population change per population 1.000 in the municipality in 2001–2011.

** The number indicates the percentage of immigrants from Bratislava in total immigrants to the municipality in 2001–2008. In municipalities marked **, migration from Trnava (more intensive than in case of Bratislava) dominates.

The level of total population changes depends on two components:

- A) The natural component of total population increase after 2000 is very low; fewer children were born in the majority of municipalities than the number of deaths.
- B) The migration balance often amounts to multiples of the natural increase values, that mostly influences the total population increase.

The villages that benefit most from migration are Chorvátsky Grob, Limbach, Viničné, Vinosady and Vajnory. These were relative large newly built dwelling quarters. These villages are also characterized by the highest level of the total population increase (Table 2).

3. Consequences of suburbanization for cultural landscape of the Sub-Little Carpathian Region

Suburbanization creates important changes in use of cultural landscape. Farming, vine-growing and related activities are traditional functions of cultural landscape. These are substituted by dwelling and commercial activities on an area of considerable size in the cultural landscape. Along with single-family homes, hypermarkets, shopping centres, industrial zones with warehouses, distribution and lastly production facilities are also constructed. Also, residential suburbanization assumes the form of refurbishment of houses in older zones of municipalities or construction of extensive compact quarters on formerly green areas. These are sometimes isolated from the older communal fabric.

Rural municipalities, in the hinterland of the capital became attractive for new dwellings. The largest city Bratislava and partially the town of Trnava (in the north of the Region) had enough population and financial resources for migration to the cultural landscape of the Sub-Little Carpathian region. The studied municipalities are among those with the highest population increase and with relatively better living conditions. This is in terms of the educational level of the population and the dwelling quality indicators as compared to the rest of the country. An above-average rate of increase of the dwelling population pool (compared to the Slovakian average) with the corresponding impacts on cultural landscape assets, have been observed in the Region. Residential suburbanization contributes to the change of the traditional socio-spatial structure of the settlements. Due to migration, suburban zones increase population with higher income and higher education. The migrating population, who build their residences in suburban zones are, as a rule, well-to-do members of higher social strata looking for a higher living standard and a higher environmental quality with good transport connections to the nearest city. Under the intensive migration, other characteristics of the social structure of population are also changing. The social status of newcomers' households is often in a sharp contrast with that of the native population.

Suburbanization as a very complex process with multiple factors of different nature, has both positive and negative aspects. In the study area, part of the

capital's hinterland with the highest socio-economic level in the country, for which consequences of this process for the cultural landscape assets, fully manifested their impact. Distinct increase of the dwelling quality, satisfaction of thousands of home-buyers and in some cases the improvement of the aesthetic quality of the environment are some of the positives. Also, an important phenomenon seen in the Region, is represented by the activities connected with the development of domestic and international tourism (Sub-Little Carpathian Wine Route is a positive example).

On the other hand, this process is also accompanied by negative phenomena such as the list below. Unfortunately, in Slovakia these are rather unrestrained.

- Deep changes in the use of cultural landscape: areas of farming, forestry and recreation plots have diminished and transformation of the arable land pool is practically irreversible.
- Destruction of the traditional cultural landscape often cause many environmental problems.
- The rapid increase of individual car transport and missing solutions for public transport links, connections and communications; the actual physical vicinity of the city does not corresponded to real time accessibility.
- Missing sufficient communal infrastructure and amenities. This reduces the quality of the dwelling environment.
- Missing power of local administration (territorial plans) over investors, adaptation to interests of investors and lack of public spaces.
- Not fully utilized cultural landscape potential for the residential environment – suburban planning and architecture of many new houses (groups of houses) does not respect the landscape. Negative examples of such use listed below:
 - Extreme individualism – gated communities, separated from the rest of the municipality.
 - Civil disengagement and communal life – reduced social contacts between native population and newcomers.
- Official statistical records of population: many immigrants living in newly built houses in hinterland of Bratislava have kept their former addresses in the capital as permanent domicile.
- Lower tax base: municipalities lose the corresponding taxes in this manner, revenue that could be invested in improvement of the communal infrastructure.

4. Conclusions

The outlined rate of pressure concerning the settlement-population development in the Sub-Little Carpathian region, is striking and unmatched by any other in Slovakia. From this example, municipalities in the hinterland of other Slovak cities, may learn a lesson about the negative and positive effects of suburbanization pressure on cultural landscape assets. Presumably, some of these noted impacts will

sooner (or later) appear in other Slovak regions with varied rates. The distinct factor of any commune's attractiveness is the activity of local self-administration which determines the conditions for migration. Although strategies of developers also play a role. It may contribute to the increased attractiveness of the place (area). The immediate future will reveal, to what extent people are willing to accept the negative effects (transport stress due to under sized transport infrastructure) of their decision to move to the countryside. There are indications of slowing emigration to the hinterland of Bratislava. These may not be so much due to the negative factors of suburbanization as by financial problems, due to the financial crisis (or by high prices) of houses in some localities. So far, it seems that people who've decided to move to the attractive Sub-Little Carpathian hinterland of the capital, accept the positive sides of their decision and tolerate the negative. Perhaps, some problems of the suburbanization pressure in the hinterlands' of Bratislava, will soon be overcome by construction of public spaces within walking distance. There would be items such as pavements, playgrounds, shops, etc. in otherwise hastily built residential compounds. Meanwhile, the permanent consequences of these mass processes on the traditional cultural landscape and the natural landscape, in the hinterland of the capital, will soon be clear as well. Obviously, the natural development and satisfaction of people's ideas of their new dwelling via a progressive transformation of cultural landscape is one thing. Some of today's irreversible decisions over nature in terms of cultural landscape is another.

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