

Polarization of settlements.
Patterns of Social and Ethnic
Spatial Segregation in Hungary

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Demographic changes in different types of settlements between 1980-2008

(edited Koós B.)

	Population change (%)			Natural decrease or increase (%)		Migration difference (%)	
	1990-1980	2001-1990	2001-2008	2001-1990	2001-2008	2001-1990	2001-2008
Centre of conurbation area	100,1	93,1	96,8	-39,2	-25,8	-29,6	-28,3
Periphery of conurbation area	100,5	111,4	109,3	-21,0	-12,4	134,9	99,8
Conurbation area	100,2	97,5	100,2	-34,8	-22,1	10,0	7,0
0-499 inhabitants	81,7	92,2	92,6	-80,3	-59,4	2,4	-28,0
500-999 inhabitants	88,0	96,7	95,4	-63,5	-48,6	30,3	-7,6
1000-1999 inhabitants	91,9	100,1	97,9	-43,3	-37,4	43,9	1,1
2000-4999 inhabitants	93,8	102,0	97,4	-37,6	-32,0	57,4	6,6
5000-9999 inhabitants	96,6	100,8	97,0	-30,8	-34,1	38,7	1,1
More than 10000 inhabitants	98,0	97,9	96,0	-21,0	-25,5	-0,4	-21,1
Outside of conurbation area	93,8	99,1	96,5	-37,1	-34,1	27,8	-7,3
Hungary	96,9	98,3	98,3	-35,9	-28,1	18,9	-0,2

Demographic turn in the 1990s

- The population of Hungarian towns (centre of conurbation area) decreased. The rate decrease was the fastest in Budapest.
- The population of villages increased, mostly in the conurbation area –middle or higher classes escape from the cities (suburbanization).
- In the non-conurbation area the population of villages is stagnated, but *this is a result of two contradicting, but at the same time strong tendencies.*

Polarization of settlements in non conurbation areas

- There are primarily small villages, where until the 1990s highly selective out-migration was a typical tendency, caused by the objectives of centralized redistribution settlement policy.
- Owing to this selective out-migration the society of the villages went through a twofold transformation.
 1. There are villages in which the population has been *aging* and further decreasing.
 2. There are villages that are becoming *ghettoized* with a young, poorly educated , mainly Roma population and the fast expansion of the number of residents.

Aging villages with decreasing population

- These villages is characterized by further, decades-long strong population decrease. The smallest villages lost almost half of their inhabitants.
- There are only elderly inhabitants dwelt, (35-40% of the inhabitants over 60 years) and in this way these villages were endangered by desolation.
- A part of the aging settlements, especially in West Hungary, transformed into resort village. Foreigners buy here houses, that is why the value of real estate has risen.

Changes in the character of ethnically segregated communities (Wilson, 1999 Wacquant, 2009))

From Institutional (Communal) ghetto

('60-ies)

- Segregation basic on race
- The society of the ghetto mirrored of the majority (middle class live there)
- Institutions (schools, shops etc)
- Formal or informal job possibilities
- Social status: lower class

To Jobless ghetto (Hyperghetto) ('80-ies)

- Segregation basic on race and **class**
- Out migration of nonpoor white and others – homogenous society
- Movement in to the neighbourhood
- Disappearance of work places
- Lack of opportunities and social control
- Collapse of public institutions
- Social status: **underclass**

Demographic and ethnic changes in the ghettoized villages in the 90-ies

- The number of resident population increased, opposed to tendencies of the former decades and also in contrast with the national tendencies
 - pushed out of towns, primarily Budapest (gentrification)
 - poor people escaping into these villages
 - unable to move away from the small villages
- The rate of population under the age of 14 is higher (24-25%) than the national average (16,6%), and the average of non- conurbation settlements (18,1).
 - Control of fertility radically changed.
- The rate of Roma population is higher (15-18%) than the national average (2,2%), and average of non- conurbation settlements (3,2). More and more villages are becoming ethnic ghettos.

Disappearance of work

- The employment rate is lower than the national average. Employed people work in the institutions that serve the life of the villages (local council, social services, school, kindergarten etc.)
- Long-term unemployment implies that by now the third generation is without regular work.
- People have informal, irregular, seasonal jobs and get social benefits.
- The highest rate of unemployment is coupled with the lowest level of qualifications, it means the majority completed only primary school.

New pattern of local segregation – *the regional, jobless ghetto*

We can speak about regional, jobless ghetto, if

- Resident population increases
- Rate of population under the age of 14 is higher than the national tendencies
- Ethnic concentration is intensified
- Labour has disappeared
- A contiguous territorial unit comes into being

The conurbation area (grey), the aging (yellow) and the ghettoized villages (red)

