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ETNIČNA SESTAVA PREBIVALSTVA IN MEDETNIČNI ODNOSI V VELENJU

ETHNIC STRUCTURE OF POPULATION AND INTERETHNIC RELATIONS IN VELENJE

Velenje is a typical example of a Slovene industrial coal mining town with distinctly mixed ethnic structure, caused mostly by rapid population growth and immigration. The rapid expansion of coal mining and industry in the 1960s and 1970s kept providing new jobs that were taken by immigrants from regions of the former federal state - Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia. The ethnic structure of population was getting more and more diverse. In the beginning workers in coal mining were mostly men, so there were many marriages between immigrants and locals already in the first generation. This caused better integration of immigrants into the new surroundings. The vicinity and intensity of communication in the apartment bloc districts called for coexistence between immigrants belonging to different ethnic groups. Moreover, they were of relatively equal social status, as coal mining and basic industry were strongly favoured in the ideology of socialist system. The latter also supported the ideology of interethnic coexistence, expressed in the slogan "unity and brotherhood". Yet this coexistence was not without frictions. After Slovenia's gaining independence, conflicts between groups increased, mostly due to ethnic polarization in immigrants' original settings, and less so between Slovenes and members of other ethnic groups, although this phenomenon is also noticeable. Manifestations of cultural differences and differences, arising from religion, are also becoming more frequent. The article presents the present ethnic structure of the population of Velenje, and the quality of interethnic relations between individual ethnic groups, based on field research project, carried out in 2004.

Keywords: Slovenia, Velenje, ethnic question, interethnic relations, political geography

Velenje je značilen primer slovenskega industrijsko-rudarskega mesta z izrazito mešano narodno strukturo, ki se je oblikovala v desetletjih nagle prebivalstvene rasti predvsem na račun doseljevanja. Na delovna mesta, ki so se posebno v šestdesetih in sedemdesetih letih ustvarjala ob naglem povečevanju izkopa lignita v premogovniku ter širjenju industrijskih obratov, so prihajali prebivalci predvsem z območij nekdanje skupne države; iz Bosne in Hercegovine, Hrvaške, Makedonije in Srbije. Narodna struktura prebivalstva se je močno popestrila. Na razpoložljiva delovna mesta v premogovništvu so sprva prihajali skoraj izključno moški. Zato je bilo že v prvi generaciji zelo veliko porok med priseljenci in domačinkami. To je omogočilo nekoliko tesnejšo navezanost na novo okolje in med seboj. Bližina in intenzivnost stikov v blokovskem naselju je med priseljenci, ki so pripadali različnim narodnim skupinam, ustvarjala nujno po sožitju. Socialni položaj delavcev se glede na narodno pripadnost ni razlikoval. Takratna socialistična oblast je industrijo in rudarstvo spodbujala kot najpomembnejši element družbenih in gospodarskih sprememb. Prav tako je imela visoko družbeno in politično veljavo ideologija medetničnega sožitja, izražena v sloganu "bratstva in enotnosti". Poleg tega so bili v dokaj enotnem socialnem položaju. Ideologija socialističnega sistema je namreč rudarstvo in bazično industrijo izrazito podpirala; prav tako pa je podpiral ideologijo medetničnega sožitja, izraženo v sloganu »bratstva in enotnosti«. Vendar to sožitje ni bilo brez trenj. Po osamosvojitvi Slovenije so se nasprotja med skupinami močno povečala, v glavnem zaradi etnične polarizacije v izvornih okoljih priseljencev in manj med Slovenci in pripadniki drugih etničnih skupin. A prisoten je tudi ta pojav. Do izraza prihajajo tudi nekatere kulturne razlike ter razlike, ki izhajajo iz verske pripadnosti. Prispevek prikazuje današnjo etnično strukturo prebivalstva mesta Velenje ter raven medetničnih odnosov med posameznimi etničnimi skupinami, ki smo jih ugotovili na podlagi terenske raziskave leta 2004.

Ključne besede: Slovenija, Velenje, narodno vprašanje, medetnični odnosi, politična geografija