

studied areas, though the deepest and most severe divides were established in capital city – Vilnius. The analysis of the residents' socio-demographic spatial differentiation in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda regions revealed that the suburbanisation processes are not even. They are shaped by many factors and residents' socio-demographic characteristics related to the residents' social status area among most important ones. The most intense city sprawling processes can be observed in the northern parts of all analysed urban systems, though they are the least concentrated and most dispersed in Kaunas. The socio-demographic structure of Klaipeda is the least fragmented and this could be related to the similar characteristics of its urban and natural landscape. The changing residential structure of metropolitan areas, which is mostly related to suburbanisation processes, is best reflected by the change of popularity of centre-right wing political parties, because the most distinctive socio-demographic characteristics are common for their supporters. The results of correlation analysis show that in Vilnius the centre-right parties are the most supported by residents who have higher education, speak Lithuanian as their native language, and have higher status jobs. The correlation analysis did not reveal significant interdependencies between area's socio-demographic features and political preferences of their residents in Kaunas and Klaipeda. Such results raise question concerning adequacy of this method for area based studies (at least in less socially differentiated systems) because previous researches and GIS analysis gave different results.

Though spatially differentiated (segregated) political structure was established in all analysed regions, actual patterns of political fields in Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipeda regions are slightly different. Vilnius and Klaipeda regions have more similarities in their residents' socio-demographic characteristics, thus their territorial resolutions of the voters' political preferences have many common features and are quite expressively differentiated. The popularity of these political parties drops at the edge of analysed regions, where suburban developments are scarce. This is evident even in Kaunas district municipality, where previously centre-right wing parties were strong. It has been observed that the socio-demographic and electoral differentiation in Vilnius and Klaipeda regions also has become even more expressed. This suggests that the social characteristics start to play more important role for political preferences of Lithuanian residents than historical pathways at least in case of centre-right wing parties.

The popularity of centre-right parties in places where these parties were already popular grew alongside with social status of their residents. This territorial differentiation is less expressive in the Kaunas region, but it maintains its structure. These processes show that the socio-spatial polarisation of residents in different parts of the city-region is increasing.

*Special Session: Regional Development at the Crossroads in Post-Socialist Central and Eastern Europe*

#### **(ETHNO)REGIONAL ATTEMPTS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE**

✓ **Nora Baranyai, Hungarian Academy of Sciences Centre For Regional Studies, HUNGARY**

(Ethno)regional movements revived in the 1960s and 1970s in Western Europe, and played significant role in the process of regionalization, territorial and administrative reforms. In developing territorial structures the historical, cultural and ethnic borders were often taken into account, and as a result of decentralization, territorial units with wide autonomy were formed inter alia in the UK, Spain, Italy or Belgium.

Central and Eastern Europe became a part of the Soviet sphere of influence after World War II. Due to the ideology of internationalism, debates on personal or territorial autonomy were unnecessary, and regions with formerly self-governing status were integrated into the general structure of administration. Besides major structural changes (democratization, economic reconstruction, transformation of basic institutions) transitions between 1989 and 1992 initiated other processes as well. In the period of state-socialist internationalism and special nationalisms (Czechoslovakism, Yugoslavism), national, ethnic and regional identities were forcibly dissolved, but in the years of transition several organization, movement appeared again in the region. As a result of this revival new nation states were born (disintegration of socialist federations), while other movements began to struggle for personal and/or territorial autonomy within their own country. Therefore, in the transition period many (ethno)regional movements were established demanding for regional autonomy in Central and Eastern Europe, with the aim of bottom-up shaping territorial-administrative units. The possible accession to EU

propagating Europe of the Regions, the common principles such as subsidiarity and decentralization strengthened and partly developed their efforts. Despite the indirect EU-pressure on states towards regionalization, administrative or (where it was relevant) regional reforms did not take into account the claims of these movements, just in exceptional cases. Since their efforts were inefficient, their goals remained the same: modifying territorial structures, deepening decentralization – reforming the whole state-structure or ensuring territorial autonomy of a certain historical, ethnic/multicultural region.

The aim of the presentation is to summarize the characteristics of Central and Eastern European (ethno)regional movements through an overview of their history, goals and the states' minority and territorial-administrative policies. The analysis includes regional efforts in territories with a numerous minority (Seklerland, South Slovakia) as well as in historical and ethnic/multicultural regions with increasing regional and/or ethnic identity (Istria, Moravia, Upper Silesia, Vojvodina, Zakarpattia). As methods the presentation uses data-analyses (census and electoral databases) and interpretation of relevant laws, documents and programs of (ethno)regional movements.

#### *Urban and Regional Sustainability*

### **REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY IN A MOBILE WORLD: REFLECTIONS FROM NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, CANADA**

**Joshua Barrett, Memorial University of Newfoundland, CANADA**

Travelling for goods, services, and employment isn't new – but it is changing. In the past decade, scholars have observed a 'mobilities turn' where increased levels, new forms, and different patterns of mobility among people, ideas, and knowledge are present. In an increasingly mobile world, regional sustainability is affected in a variety of ways – there is an increase in commuting at long distances within city regions but also within rural and peripheral regions, with new models of development based on mobile workforces. Using the case of the Vale nickel processing facility in Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, this paper will evaluate how mobile workforces affect regional sustainability as well how regional development actors have responded to related opportunities and challenges. Employment-related geographical mobility (ERGM) causes a series of opportunities for communities, such as allowing workers to reside in their permanent place of residence, but also challenges, such as the lack of human capital and social capacity to strengthen these residences. Key themes that will be discussed include a mobile workers' investment of time, financial investments, and emotional attachments to place within his or her permanent place of residence. This research is part of the 7-year Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada project, On the Move Partnership: Employment-Related Geographical Mobility in the Canadian Context.

#### *Urban and Regional Theory, Methodology and Data*

### **IMMIGRATION EFFECT ON HUMAN CAPITAL AND LOCAL MULTIPLIERS IN A TRANS-BORDER REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET**

**Moreno Baruffini, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) Institute for Economic Research (IRE), SWITZERLAND**

In early 2014, Swiss voters narrowly passed a referendum to re-establish quotas for immigrant workers from the European Union, despite widespread concerns that these quotas would threaten Switzerland's importation of skilled labor and compromise the country's ability to participate in EU grant programs requiring compliance with the "free movement" tenet of EU regulations. Nationally, a bare majority of 50.3 percent of voters supported the referendum. The strongest support came from the canton of Ticino, where cross-border commuters from neighboring Italy are perceived to be creating problems with "wage-dumping" and high unemployment for Swiss residents. Although Switzerland has one of the most stable and robust economies in the world, February's vote on immigration reflected significant and geographically-specific concerns with job quality and the job market. Actually, the European continent has seen, in recent years, the progressive elimination of barriers to the mobility of production factors: capital and labour. In particular, labour mobility is the dimension of enlargement, which