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TURKS IN VOJVODINA (SERBIA), IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20th CENTURY AND ON THE BEGINNING OF THE 21st CENTURY

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Abstract: This paper is about presence of the Turks in the area of Vojvodina, respectively, North Serbia. The main task of the paper was the identification of tendencies concerning number and age structure of the Turks ethnic group. Particular attention was given to the period on the second half of 20th and on the beginning of 21st century. Statistical methods and mathematics proceeding are used to compare different parameters of age structure (eg. median age, the old age index etc.). The results of the study will enhance the knowledge about demographic characteristics of Turks in Vojvodina and therefore might be useful for further research in the field. They are important because the Turks are among the first ethnic groups which are disappearing from this geographic latitude concerning their number and demographic characteristics.

Keywords: *Turks, Vojvodina, age gender structure*

I. INTRODUCTION

There are about twentynine ethnic groups who live in Serbia followed by the official statistics. Comparing them with the other ethnical groups, the Turks are the most numerous, behind the Cincar (MSCG, 2004). The north part of Serbia, respectively, the Province of Vojvodina was settled even by about twenty one ethnic group. It separates in the region as the area so called 'Europe in small'. In comparison with the others, according to the results of the last census, the Turks were the least number of the ethnic groups (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2013). It might be said that it is one of the reasons that almost there are no written tracks about their presence in Vojvodina at the end of the 20th century and

the beginning of the 21st century, except within the numbers gathered during census by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

The Turks are good example for showing that during the history the presence of different ethnic groups left different cultural traces in the area of Vojvodina which can be recognized even today on different ways (Spencer, 1993). In Serbian language spoken by the most inhabitants in the province of Vojvodina have been identified 8000 Turkish words (Tatalović, 2011). Beside that, gastronomic offer of Vojvodina shows that this region has been the area of cultural 'touch' of Orient and West.

The inhabitants of Vojvodina, as the most part of Europe, was faced with a process of depopulation (Eberhardt, 1993; Đurđev, 1998; McDonald et al, 2000; Pinilla et al, 2008; Lukić et al, 2012). This process similarly influenced on all ethnic groups who were settled there. One among the other aims of this work was to establish how the Turks were old. This article also represents the contribution to enrich the knowledge about their existence in the area of Vojvodina.

II. METHODS

The facts shown in this article are the result of numerous consultations with a number of the literature resources. Data taken from different statistical yearbooks or received by internal documentation of Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

Changes concerning the age structure of inhabitants, respectively, comparison of different populations were done by relative numbers, most often by comparing the number of inhabitants within individual structure of age groups towards the total number of inhabitants. Those relative numbers are usually shown by percentage. In order to be easy to survey, some of them were in the form of age pyramids and graphic presentation. The other parameters values of the age structure have been calculated by usage of different mathematical and statistical methods.

The average age of inhabitants is calculated by following formula where:
 \bar{x} - average age of inhabitants, x - old age year ($x = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, 99, 100$), V_x - number of inhabitants old x years.

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum (x + 0,5) \times V_x}{\sum V_x},$$

For calculation of median age is used following formula: L - value of lower limit of median interval, P - total number of inhabitants, $\sum f_i$ - number of inhabitants younger than median interval, n - size of interval, f_{me} - number of inhabitants of median interval.

$$M_e = L + \frac{\left(\frac{P}{2} - \Sigma f_i\right)}{f_{me}} * n$$

The old age index represents the relation between the old inhabitants P_{60+} and young P_{0-19} inhabitants.

$$i = \frac{P_{60+}}{P_{0-19}}$$

Coefficients of old age takes into consideration only the relation between the oldest age groups P_{60+} and total inhabitants P :

$$k_s = \frac{P_{60+}}{P} * 1000$$

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

At the beginning of the 16th century, in the year 1521, the Turks 'on their way' to Vienna was occupied Vojvodina. There are written traces and memories of the descendants of Vojvodina inhabitants about Osman Turks. According to them, they were remembered as a kind people who respected everybody. In contrast to them, the inhabitants did not have good opinion about the Turks Janissary (Popović, 1957; Ivkov, 2006). The Turks stayed in this area after they were defeated under Vienna when the Austrians expelled them (Provincial Secretariat for Local Self-Government and Intermunicipal Cooperation, 2013). Actually, at the end of the Austrian-Turkish war (1683 – 1699), 'Karlovac peace' was made in Sremski Karlovci. Peaceful negotiations were held among Austria, Poland and Venice, on one side and Turkey, on the other side and lasted 72 days. The peace was made in one hut with four entrances to enable the representatives of those four powers to enter simultaneously. Equality of all negotiation parties was also shown by sitting at a round table, without being in the forefront, which had happened for the first time in a diplomacy history of such kind. In 1710 Franciscans built the 'Chapel of peace' on the place where the session was held. It has the shape of the Turkish tent with four entrances. The east door, through which the Turkish emissary was passing, was walled up, later on, as the sign of wish that the Turks should never come back (Horizont, 2013). After the wars with the Turks, in devastated Vojvodina, the government authorities started to settle the inhabitants from Germany and the North Hungary. During this period was also continued the settlement of the Serbs, Croats and Romanians (Provincial Secretariat for Local Self-Government and Intermunicipal Cooperation, 2013). It does not mean that the Turks who live in Vojvodina nowadays, are the descendants of the Turks who ruled in Vojvodina more than mentioned century.

III. 1. The Number of Turks in Vojvodina

The Number of Turks in Vojvodina after the Second World War has been constantly reduced. The most intensive reduction, for $\frac{3}{4}$ (74.9%) was registered in decade between the census 1961 and 1971 (Figure 1). Around the mid-1960's there was a more significant departure of the citizens of the Republic of Serbia aimed at working abroad (Dobrivojević, 2007). According to the methodologies of the 1971, 1981 and 1991 censuses, regardless of their absence, citizens who were temporarily away on account of their work abroad, as well as the members of the family who resided with them abroad, were included in the total population of the Republic of Serbia (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2012). This fact shows that the whole families went, not the individual members, as it was the example the case with the Serbs, the most ethnic group. After that, the number of the Turks has been reducing with smaller intensity. Next decade (1971-1981) brought the reduction for 18.4%. The minimum change concerning inhabitants number was registered between consensus 1981 and 1991 (4.1%). During this decade of the country desintegration, number of Turks was reduced more than $\frac{1}{4}$ (26.7%) . It was a decade of great economical and political crisis (Libal, 1997; Pesic, 2009; Jopp, Diedrichs, 2009; Kuhar, Reiter, 2010). Different structures of inhabitants deserted the country (Raduski, 2007; Manke, 2010; Kupiszewski et al, 2012; Pejcin-Stokić, Grečić, 2012; The Government of the Republic of Serbia, 2013). During the last decade, a number of the Turks in Vojvodina was reduced for 14.6%.

Share of the Turks in total provincial population during the second half of the 20th century was symbolic. After the first observed decade, according to census in 1971, it was 0.012 % . In comparison to this value and according to the results of the last census, 2011, the share was divided into halves 0.006%.

During the whole observed period, men were extremely numerous. The greatest difference was made between men and women during census in 1971 according which was greater share of men (40.6%) against the women (Table 1). Minimum difference was established during the last two censuses (13.8% – 2002; 14.6% – 2011) but even it was great. It is known that naturally were born 107 men towards 100 women and their number should be equal. Most often they were disturbed by wars, but it might not be said for the area of SFRY and three censuses at the second half of the 20th century. The relation of genders discovered that the important part of population was settled here because of business reasons. A survey conducted by Blagojević (2008) confirmed this hypothesis. According to him, the Turks who live on the territory of Serbia proper mostly have their own private firms.

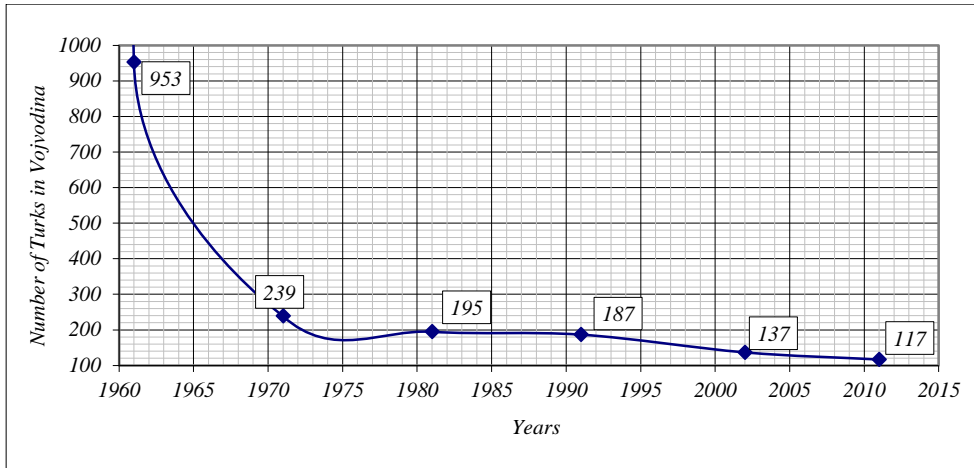


Fig. 1 The number of Turks in Vojvodina, according censuses between 1961-2011, Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003b, 2013, own calculations

Table 1 Changes in the number of Turks in Vojvodina 1961-2011

Census	Number of Turks	Males (%)	Females (%)	Share in population of Vojvodina	Index increase (base year 1961)	Chain index
1961	953	63.8	36.2	0.051	100	-
1971	239	70.3	29.7	0.012	25.1	25.1
1981	195	63.1	36.9	0.01	20.5	81.6
1991	187	66.8	33.2	0.009	19.6	95.9
2002	137	56.9	43.1	0.007	14.4	73.3
2011	117	57.3	42.7	0.006	12.3	85.4

Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003b, 2013, own calculations

III. 2. Age structure

With the aim of 'lightening' of strange situation shown by the gender structure, resorted to the forming of age pyramids. The first one was made according to the results of census 1961. It shows how the Turkish ethnic group looked like in Vojvodina before great migration. Pyramide structure from census of 1961 was relatively regular. Obviously there were missing generations born during the Second World War. But it was also the truth that the numerous were generations born during the time between the two world wars. Men, in all age cathegories, were numerous. However, it was visibly that females were born most often within the youngest age cohorts.

The age pyramids of the Turks in Vojvodina, according to the results of census in 2011, or half of the century later, was quite different and has got extremely irregular form. Less children were born during the last twenty years. Women were numerous within the three age cohorts 30 – 44 (Figure 2). The most of the population is in the age when they are working and reproductive capable, but it does not feel in the size of the youngest cohorts.

Observing the age structures within the last six censuses, as they were compared with the rest of those two (1948 and 1953) organized within the time distance of ten years, there were noticed following facts. The share of the youngest age category, represented during the census 2011, was six times less than during the census on 1961, when the youngest structure made almost 1/3 (31.9%). Only in the 1991 census, the youngest age category accounted for ¼ of the Turkish ethnic community (26.7%). Compared with the provincial population, this age category in the Turkish ethnic group had a higher share of only 1961 and 1991 years highlighted (Table 2).

Table 2 Age structure of population of Vojvodina and Turks (in %), according to censuses 1961-2002

Age category of Vojvodina population	Census					
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2002	2011
0-14	26.6	21.2	19.9	19.2	15.9	14.4
15-49	50.2	54.6	51.4	48.5	49.4	46.3
50+	23.1	24.1	28.7	32.3	34.8	39.3
Sum	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
60+	11.9	14.8	15.2	18.7	21.9	23.6

Age category of Turks	Census					
	1961	1971	1981	1991	2002	2011
0-14	31.9	20.9	14.9	26.7	12.4	5.1
15-49	50.1	61.5	55.9	55.6	59.9	55.6
50+	18.0	17.6	29.2	17.6	27.7	39.3
Sum	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
60+	8.9	5.9	12.8	11.2	15.3	16.2

Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003b, 2013, own calculations

During the last fifty years, the share of the oldest inhabitants, respectively, older than 60 years, has been doubled in the Province (+11.7%) and in the case of the Turkish population (+7.3%). However, it was still less (2.4-8.9%) than from the share of older than 60 years which was calculated for each census in Vojvodina. The parameters of age structure will show how much the Turks were younger from the inhabitants of the Province.

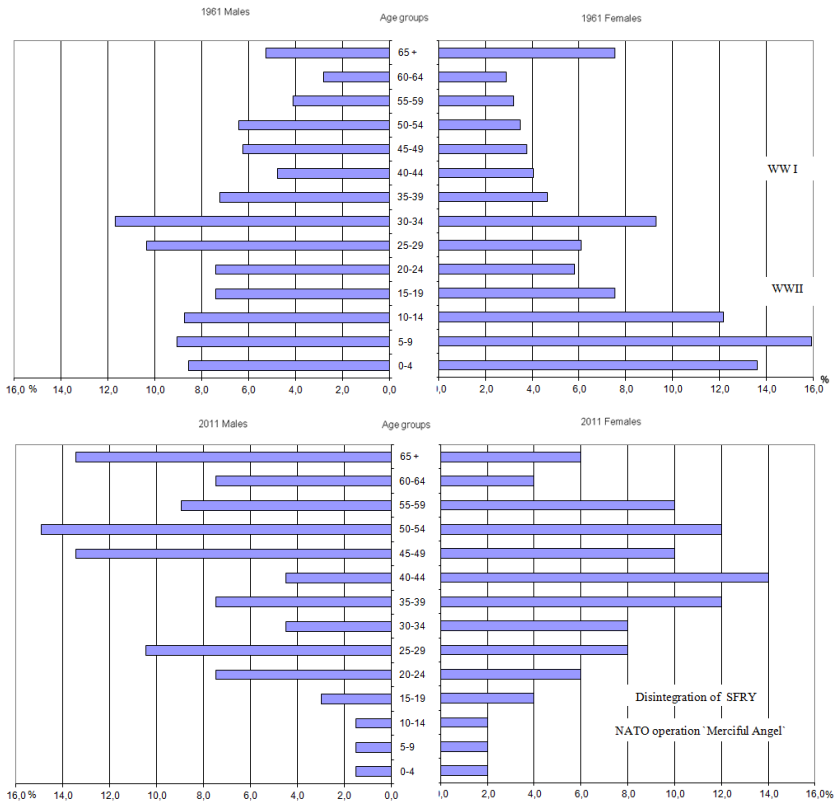


Fig. 2. Age-gender pyramids of Turks in Vojvodina (based on the censuses of population 1961 – 2011, Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2013)

III. 3. Average and median age

The average age of the Turks in Vojvodina has no the unique trend which is in favour of the hypothesis that the structure is changing concerning the people who declared so. Every person must have a possibility to declare him or herself completely independantly and freely, as well as the right not to declare his or her ethnicity. For the children younger than 15, the response was provided by the parents, adopters or caregivers (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2012).

The Turkish ethnic group in Vojvodina had the minimum average age in the middle of the 20th century (29.5 years). Then the value of the average age was enlarged till census of 1981 when it was 37 years. On that occasion the Turks in Vojvodina became older than the provincial average. Mathematical data of census

in 1991 show the value of 32 years which was less than the average age of inhabitants in Vojvodina and values received during the two former censuses. With the next census, the Turkish ethnic groups became older, even in the comparison with the provincial average. So, during the observed period the Turkish average age was between -2.8 years (2011) till 5.7 (1991) in comparison to average age of Vojvodina population. The average age of male part of the Turkish population had the identical relation with the average age, either it was smaller or larger in comparison with the Provincial male average age, but the differences were drastic. Namely, it was between -9.1 (2011) till 3.2 (1991) years. The average age of the Turkish female ethnic group was younger than the Provincial female average age during the whole observation period. Generally observed it was reduced, respectively, became closer to the Provincial female average age, as it was 6.2 at the beginning of the observed period (1961) and at the end (2011) was only 1.0 year. Within the observed period was distinguished the value of average age difference of the Turkish women group and the women from Province for 11.9 years, which was calculated according to data of census in 1991.

According to the level of demographic age determined by Penev (1995, 117-145), the Turks in Vojvodina have been classified, fifty years ago, into the ethnic groups which were on the level of 'Demographic maturation'. According to the census of 1971 and 1991 they belonged to the category of 'Threshold of demographic ageing'. According to census of 1981 they were in the category of 'Threshold of demographic ageing'. According to census 1981 they belonged to the category of 'Demographic ageing'. At the beginning of the 21st century, the Turks in Vojvodina were more and more older. So in the year 2002 they were in the category of 'Deep demographic ageing' and during the last census have been found at the category 'Deepest demographic ageing'. Namely, this category refers to the inhabitants with the average age more than 43 years (Table 3). According to the gender structure, women were younger than men, per all census after the war, from 3.9 years (1961) till 11.4 (1991).

Table 3 The average age and the median age of Turks in Vojvodina, according to censuses 1961-2011

Census		1961	1971	1981	1991	2002	2011
		The average age					
Sum	Population of Vojvodina	32.2	34.4	35.8	37.7	39.8	41.4
	Turks in Vojvodina	29.5	32.6	37.0	32.0	40.4	44.2
Males	Population of Vojvodina	31.2	35.4	34.9	39.0	38.3	37.0

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Females	Turks in Vojvodina	30.9	34.8	39.8	35.8	44.1	46.1
	Population of Vojvodina	33.2	33.3	37.4	36.3	41.3	42.7
	Turks in Vojvodina	27.0	27.5	32.3	24.4	35.6	41.7
The median age							
Sum	Population of Vojvodina	30.0	33.5	34.6	37.4	40.3	40.7
	Turks in Vojvodina	27.8	34.0	33.9	31.7	44.3	45.8
Males	Population of Vojvodina	28.9	32.1	33.2	36.0	38.6	35.4
	Turks in Vojvodina	31.0	39.8	36.5	36.1	46.3	54.2
Females	Population of Vojvodina	31.2	34.8	36.4	38.8	42.0	44.2
	Turks in Vojvodina	20.5	23.3	28.6	24.0	46.3	42.5

Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003b, 2013, own calculations

Calculated values of the average and median ageing are quite appropriate for comparison as well as with the Provincial population and the other ethnic groups settled in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Plavša and Bubalo–Živković (2006, 284) analyzed the average age of Vojvodina inhabitants according to the census results in the year 2002. According to them, younger than the Turks, i.e. had less average ageing value, were Roma (27.2), Goranci (29.7), Albanians (32.5), 'Did not declare' (32.9), 'Regional affiliation'(35.3), Yugoslavs (35.6), Muslims (36.5), Bosniaks (38.4), Montenegrins (38.4) and Serbs (39.4) – totally ten. Fourteen ethnic groups were older than the Turks. On the occasion of census in 2011, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (2013a) published data about the average age which referred to 21 ethnic group. According to him, the same ethnic groups which were younger during census in the year 2002 remained younger even during the census in the year 2011, but the only difference was that the Turks became older than the Slovaks (44.0) in Vojvodina and from the category 'Others' (43.0)- totally twelve.

Median age is a useful and very often used parameter when it compared with an average age. Therefore, extreme values of the five-year age groups don't make influence on the average age (Đurđev, 1996, 41). The values of median age of the Turks in Vojvodina show a great difference from the census in 1961 till census in 1971, according which people got old even for 6.2 years. After that, this

value was 'slowly' reduced until the last census in the 20th century. Compared with the Provincial population, they were younger during the whole twentieth century. Only in the year 1971, the value of the median age, was a half year younger than the provincial median age. According to the data used to calculate the median age of the Turkish ethnic group in the first census 21st century, it has suddenly aged (12.6 years) and become older than the provincial population (for 4 years).

So, according to the last census in the year 2011, the Turkish ethnic group achieved 45.8 years, which made 5.1 year more than the Provincial average. This value exceeded the upper limit of the reproductive period. In comparison to the median ages of some ethnic groups in Vojvodina, it might be said that the Turks (44.3 years) were younger than Croats (45.3 years, according to Kovačević et al, 2010, 74) and from Slovenians (52.5, according to Kovačević et al, 2008, 140), but older than the Yugoslavs (34.7 years, according to Kovačević et al. 2006, 50) and Roma (24.7 years, according to Kovačević et al. 2005, 57). According to the last census in 2002 even 18.0 years in comparison with the census 1961 (Table 3)

III. 4. The old age index

If the old age index is less than 0.40, the population is young. If the value is above this number, then the population indicates aging (Rančić, 1980). If it is over 1.00, old population has overbalanced the number and portion of young population. This indicates the adverse relation on age structure and it has negative consequences on its reproductive and active potential (Živić, Pokos, 2005). The Turkish ethnic group in Vojvodina, according to calculated data, was young during more part of the second half of the 20th century, 1961, 1971 and 1991. The old age index was more than doubled in the 21st century. It could be 'corrected' only by settlement of new and young the Turkish inhabitants. According to the categories given by Penev (1995), the Turks in Vojvodina have been for twenty years in the stadium of 'demographic maturation' (1961– 1971) and then rapidly started getting old. According to census of 1981 and 2002 they were in the category of 'demographic ageing'. Census in the year 1991 has shown changes in population, even there were somehow younger people, respectively, in the category of 'threshold of demographic ageing'. However, according to data of the last census in the year 2011, it was calculated that the old age index of the Turkish ethnic group was 1.90, which classified them, per the same categorization, into the category of the oldest populations or 'the deepest demographic ageing'. In comparison to total inhabitants of the Province, the Turks in Vojvodina were older in 1981 and 2011 according to the 'old age index'.

III. 5. Coefficients of old age

Coefficients of old age directly show negative age process in some populations. Age process includes increase of the share of population, which is older than 60 in total. When that number has passing by 120.0, than the population start to aging in demographic sense (Kicošev, Golubović, 2004, 174). According to this definition and calculated data, it may be said that the provincial population started to become older in the seventh decade, while in the Turkish ethnic group it happened for the first time in the eight decade of the 20th century and then in the 21st century (Table 4).

Table 4 The Old age index and coefficient of old age of Turks in Vojvodina, according censuses 1961-2002

Census	1961	1971	1981	1991	2002	2011
The Old age index						
Population of Vojvodina	0.36	0.49	0.57	0.73	0.97	1.18
Turks in Vojvodina	0.23	0.18	0.64	0.34	0.75	1.90
The coefficient of old age						
Population of Vojvodina	119.0	147.8	148.2	187.5	218.6	236.4
Turks in Vojvodina	89.2	58.6	128.2	112.3	153.3	162.4

Source: Federal Bureau of Statistics, 1970, 1974, 1993, Provincial Bureau of Statistics, 1982, Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2003b, 2013, own calculations

III. 6. Turks in Vojvodina

Hundreds of Turks who settled in Vojvodina symbolically show the presence of this people and ennobled the ethnic structure of Vojvodina. However, the Turks were indirectly more and more present at this area. There is a part of Paneuropean corridor 10 passing through Vojvodina. The monitoring Services eastimated that during holidays, only for one weekend, passed half a million of Turks (Subašić, 2012). Part of them went toward Turkey for holiday while the rest went back to the countries where they were on temporary work (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Sweden etc).

In the year 2008 started the reconstruction of the 'Peace Chapel' where 'Karlovac peace' was signed in 1699. The Fund for capital investments of Vojvodina, Republic of Croatia and the Italian region Pulja (Kostić, 2008; Cvijić, 2010) gave officially the financial support to this project. Some resorts wanted to be anonymous but the information was received that the Turkey donated million euros in order to be opened the fifth sealed up door on the Chapel where the

Turkish negotiator was entering. The guide of the 'Peace Chapel' confirmed the information that all members of Turkey delegation, during their visit, entered through the 'Turkish door' (Cvijić, 2010). The Turkish company, 'Teknotes' is planning to deposit 300 million of euros for building of hydroelectric power plant on Sava, the river which makes the natural south border of the Province of Vojvodina. Memorandum has been signed about it with the municipality of Pećinci. Hydroelectric power plant will be built within the area of Obedska bara (Obed pond), 40 km to the west, far from Belgrade. Hydroelectric power plant will have the power of 98 megawats (Petković, 2013).

From the beginning of the 21st century, the TV stations of Serbia started to broadcast the Turkish series. So far there have been broadcasted about eighty series (Natabanu, 2013). Having into consideration that the inhabitants of Vojvodina may follow the most of those programs through the various cable nets of operators, the Turkish series attracted great attention. It was confirmed by the fact that during the schoolyear 2012/2013 started learning of the Turkish language at the Faculty of Philosophy at Novi Sad University. The classes have been organized together with the Faculty and the Turkish Institute 'Junus Emre' as the faculty course. The course was opened for all interested for it. Through all forms of of teachning and basic lingual techniques of speech, methods for reading, writting, understanding and hearings of everyday speech. As the Serbian and Turkish language have numerous words together, natural closeness of those two cultures made possible mutual understandings. Faculty of Philosophy issued certificates to all successfull attendants (UNS FF, 2013).

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The Turks were the less ethnic group in Vojvodina, concerning the number, so it is understood why there were no more tracks about their existence in the Province of Vojvodina at the end of the 20th and at the beginning of the 21st century. Their ethnic group in the Province of Vojvodina is reduced. The numbers show that there was a partly influence of their moving away. The lack of trends calculated by values of different parameters of the age structure show that the inhabitants, during the census, declared as belonging to the Tuirkish ethnic structure has not been stable, respectively, being true to their declarations. Significant and numerous changes might have influenced to those changes in the political sense at the end of the 20th century and at the beginning of the 21st century. The Turkish ethnic community was extremely old in the 21st century. Not numerous women were younger than men. Average age came to 44.2 year, median age 45.8, and age index 1.9, which was, in any case, more than the Provincial average. However, the linguistic, gastronomic and sociology closeness made those inheritance of the Turkish culture were all present.

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