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Croatian demographic challenges:

Demographic decline, emigration, immigration

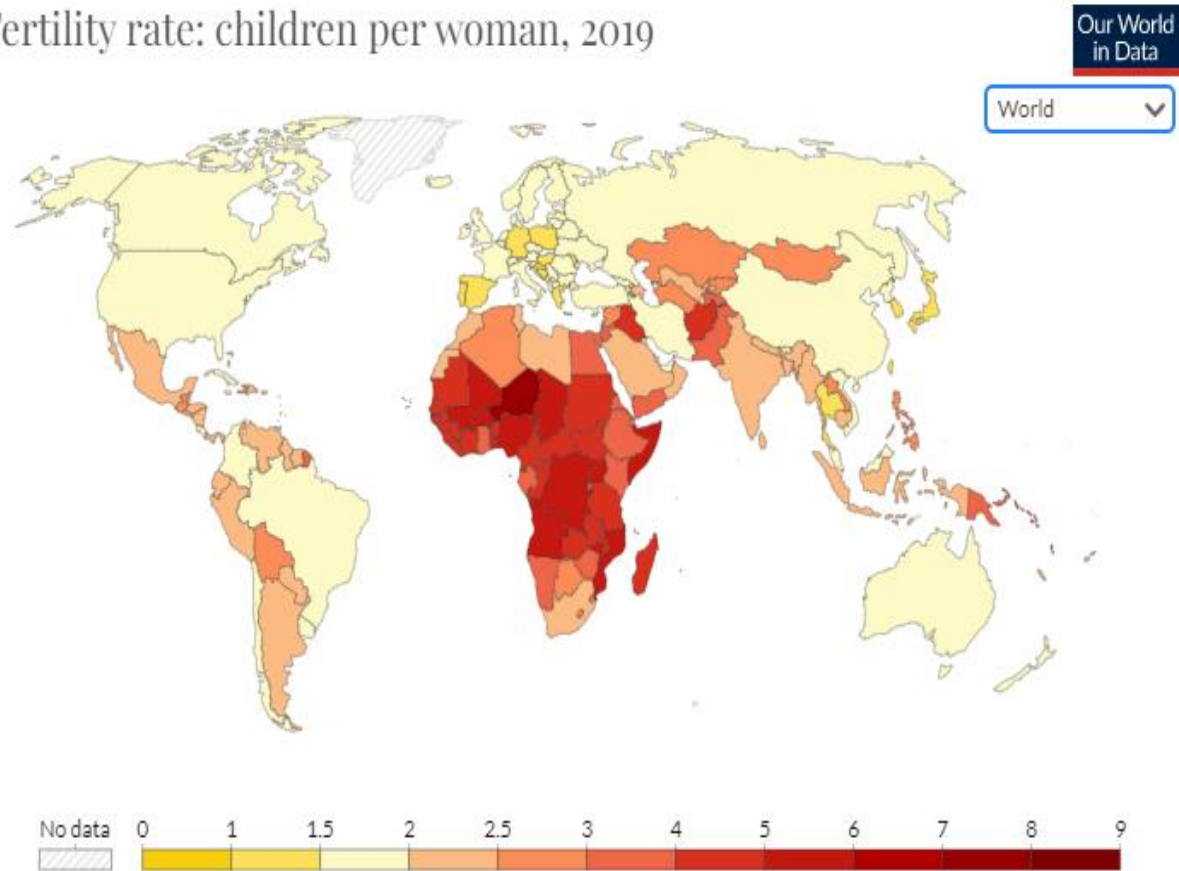
Assoc. Prof. Tado Jurić
Catholic University of Croatia

▶ Trieste, 01.12.2023





Fertility rate: children per woman, 2019



Europe is the continent experiencing the fastest demographic decline.

By 2070, the EU will represent only 4% of humanity.

A difficult demographic situation Europe is facing is being solved only partially, in a way that wealthy EU Member states import young workers from the EU periphery.

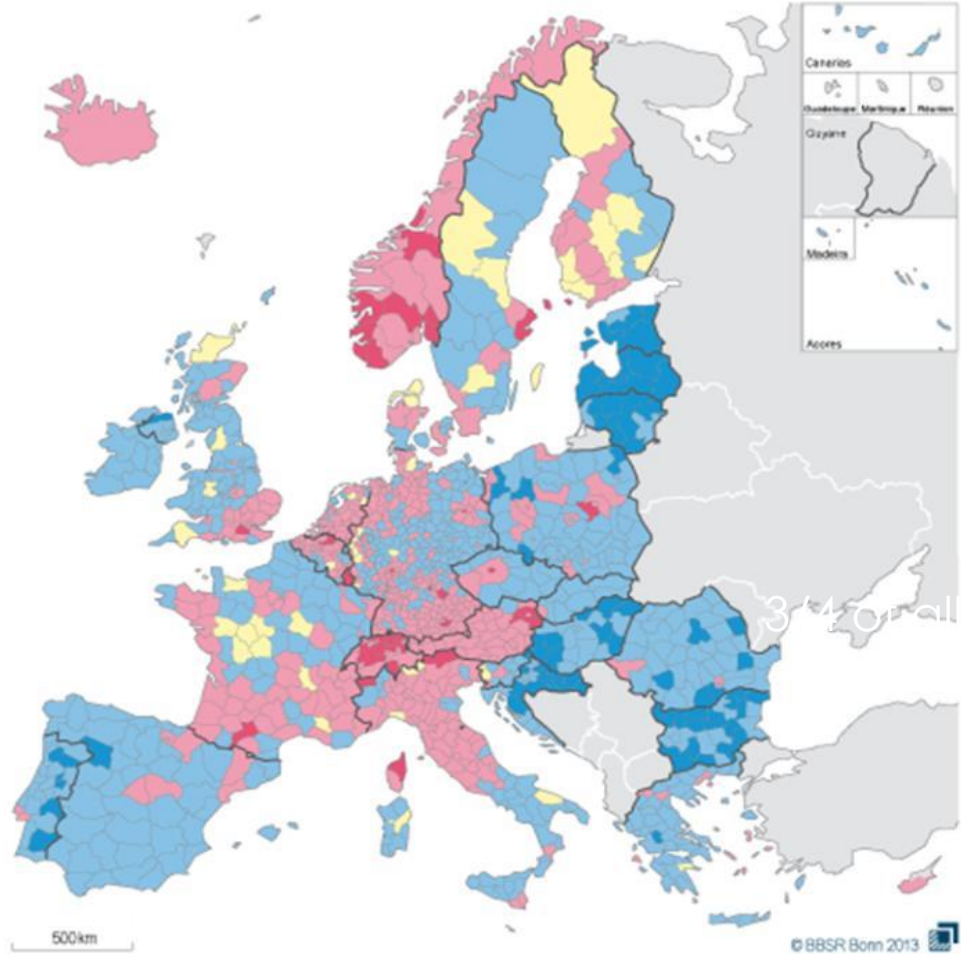
Therefore, the EU is becoming a battlefield of a struggle for the resource – the human.

Source: Gapminder (2017)

Note: The total fertility rate is the number of children that would be born to a woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and give birth to children at the current age-specific fertility rates.

OurWorldInData.org/fertility-rate • CC BY

Growing and shrinking regions in Europe



Shrinkage

- strongly shrinking
- shrinking
- stable
- growing
- strongly growing

Growth

- no data

Indicators considered:

- Population development 2005 - 2010
- Net-migration rate 2007 - 2009 (three-year average)
- Development of persons employed 2007 - 2011
- Unemployment rate 2010
- Development of unemployment rate in percentage points 2007 - 2010
- Purchasing power of households 2012
- Gross domestic product (PPS per inhabitant) 2009
- Development of gross domestic product (PPS per inhabitant) 2006 - 2009

-Today is a quarter of the population of Europe 60 years or older.

This shift in demographics will drastically change the economic, labor market, health care, and social security of Europe.

The workforce of Europe is 40% between the ages of 55 to 65. By 2050 the workforce in the EU will decrease by 48 million, while the elderly population will increase by 58 million.

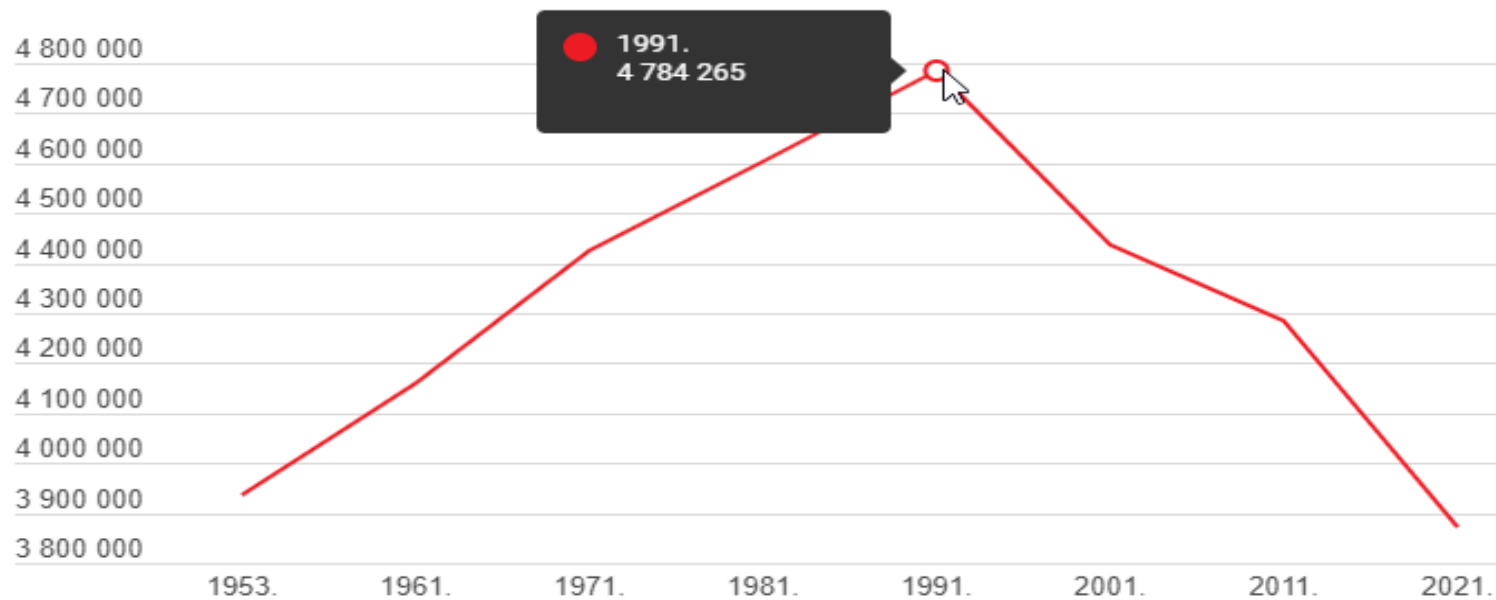
3/4 of all households are childless

Demographic decline

Prema Popisu 2021., Republika Hrvatska ima 3 871 833 stanovnika, od čega 1 865 129 muškaraca (48 2 006 704 žene (51,83%).

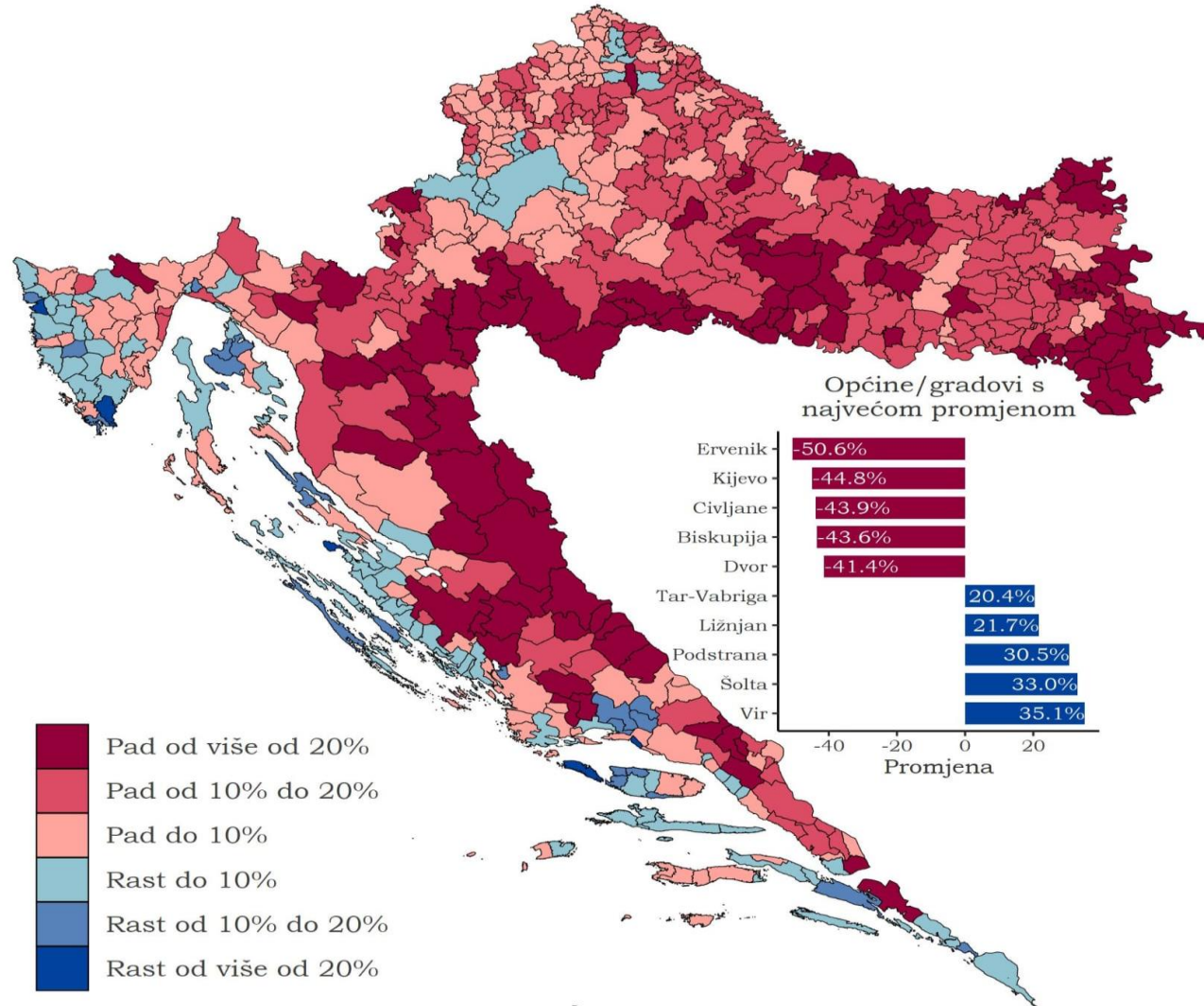
U odnosu na Popis 2011., broj stanovnika smanjio se za 413 056 osoba ili 9,64%.

Stanovništvo prema popisima, 1953. – 2021.



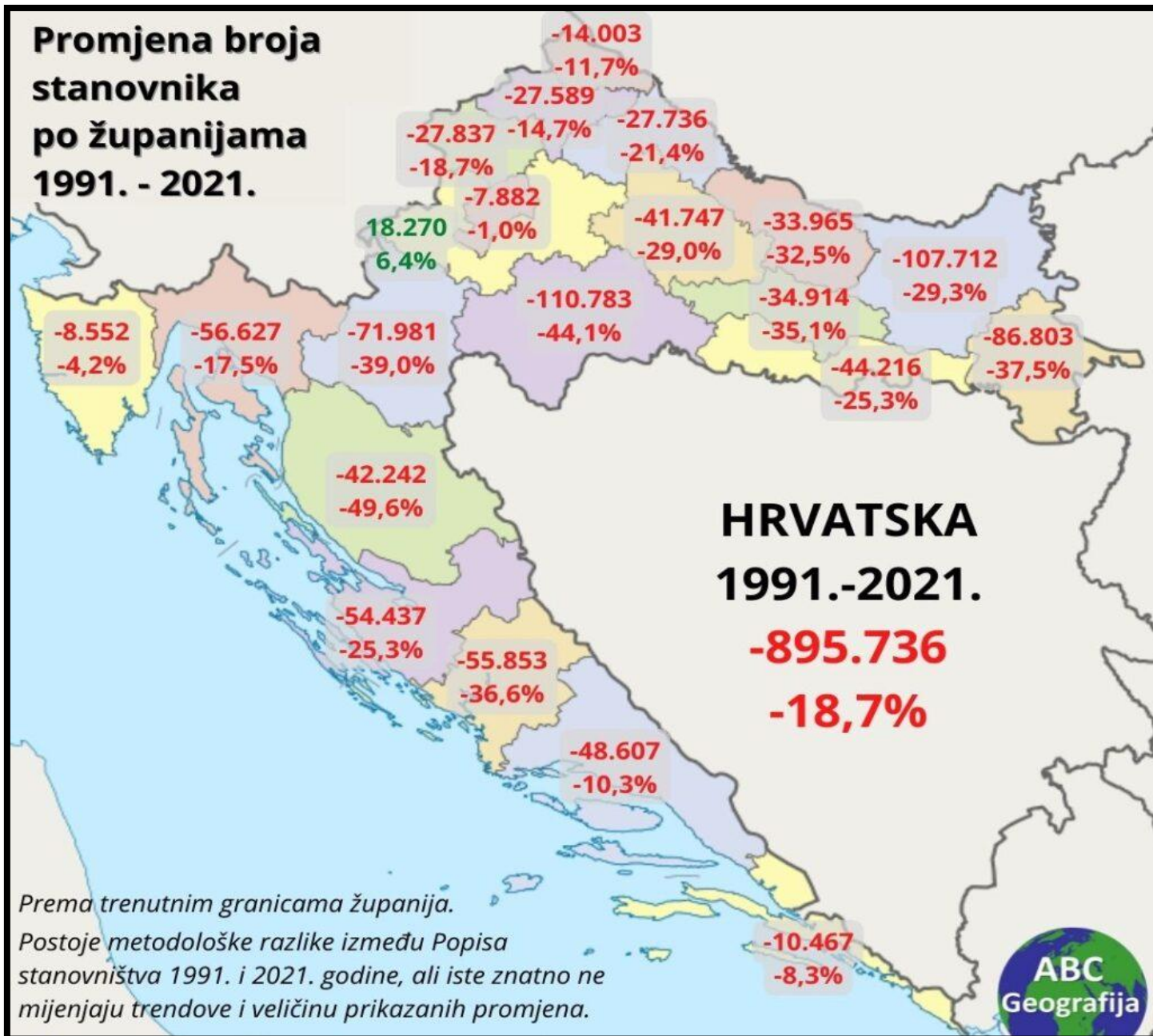
Koliko i gdje nas je manje?

Broj stanovnika u 2020. u odnosu na 2011.



Podaci za 2020. su procjena, dok su za 2011. iz Popisa. Izvor: DZS. Prikaz: Ivan Žilić

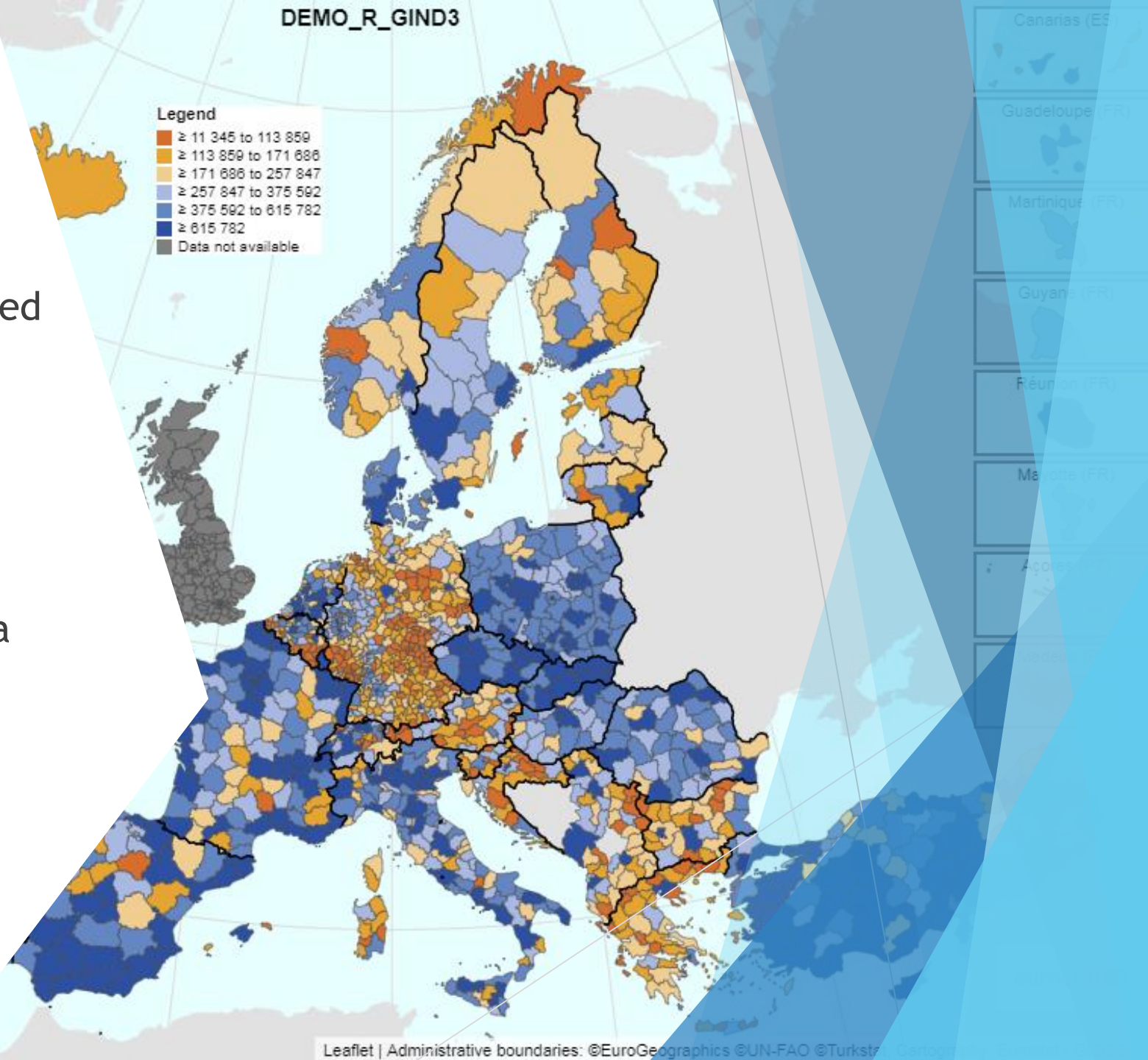
Promjena broja stanovnika po županijama 1991. - 2021.



Prema trenutnim granicama županija.
Postoje metodološke razlike između Popisa stanovništva 1991. i 2021. godine, ali iste znatno ne mijenjaju trendove i veličinu prikazanih promjena.

▶ EMIGRATION

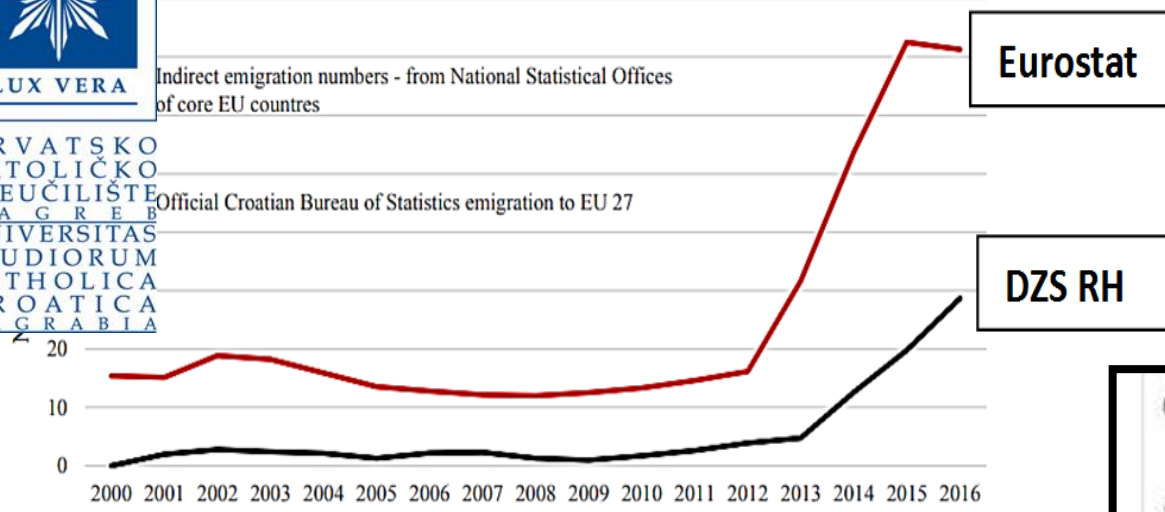
- ▶ Croatia and the SEE area are one of the most demographically endangered areas in the world.
- ▶ Over the past 30 years, almost 8 million people have emigrated from SEE (about 20% of the population in the early 1990s).
- ▶ Within the wider SEE region, Croatia and BiH are particularly affected.



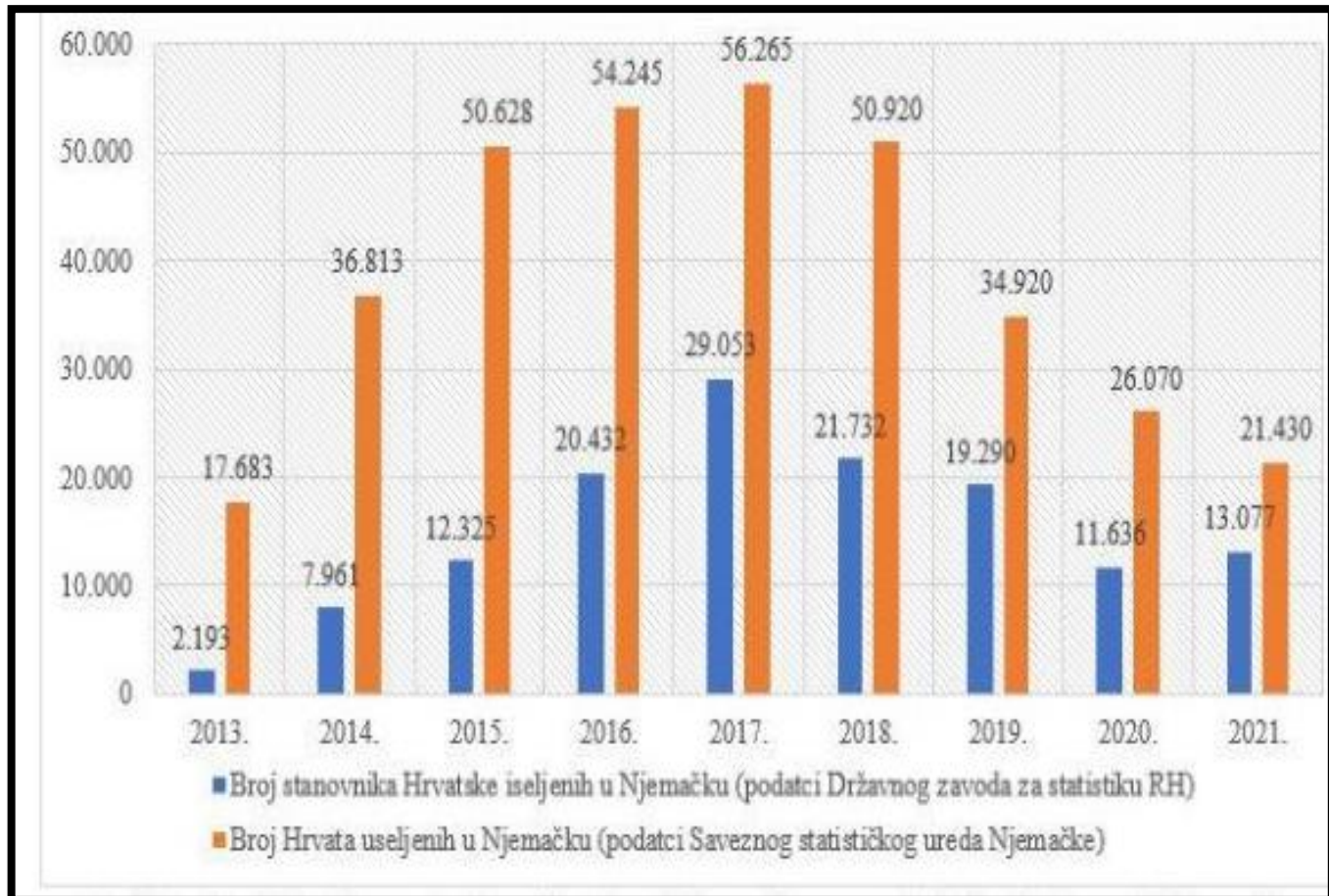
Emigracijski tok iz Hrvatske u EU u odnosu na službeni pokazatelj DZS RH



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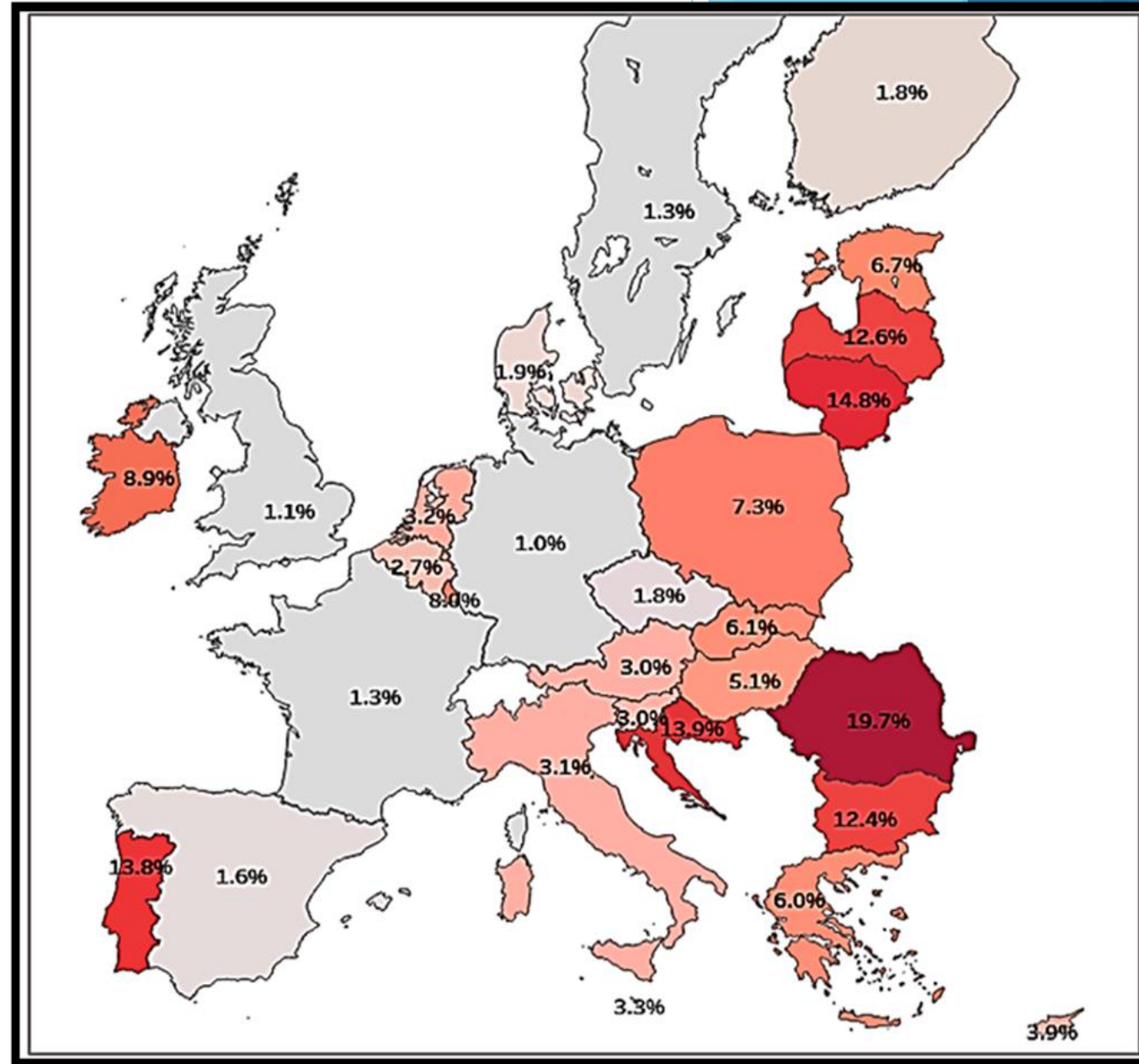


Izvor: Draženović, Kunovac & Pripužić (2018: 10)



▶ Postotak iseljenih radnika u EU

- ▶ Migration is not at all a common phenomenon in the EU, as it is intended to be portrayed, but it is exclusively a phenomenon directed from the periphery to the core.
- ▶ While 1% of workers migrated from Germany or Great Britain, 18% migrated from Croatia.



- ▶ Much of Europe's wealth goes from poor countries to richer ones - not the other way around.
- ▶ For every adult citizen who leaves the country, Croatia loses between 50 and 150 thousand euros (depending on whether it is a qualified or highly qualified worker).
- ▶ Thus, Croatia "gifted" Germany its entire state budget in the form of money for the education of skilled workers - more than 18 billion euros.



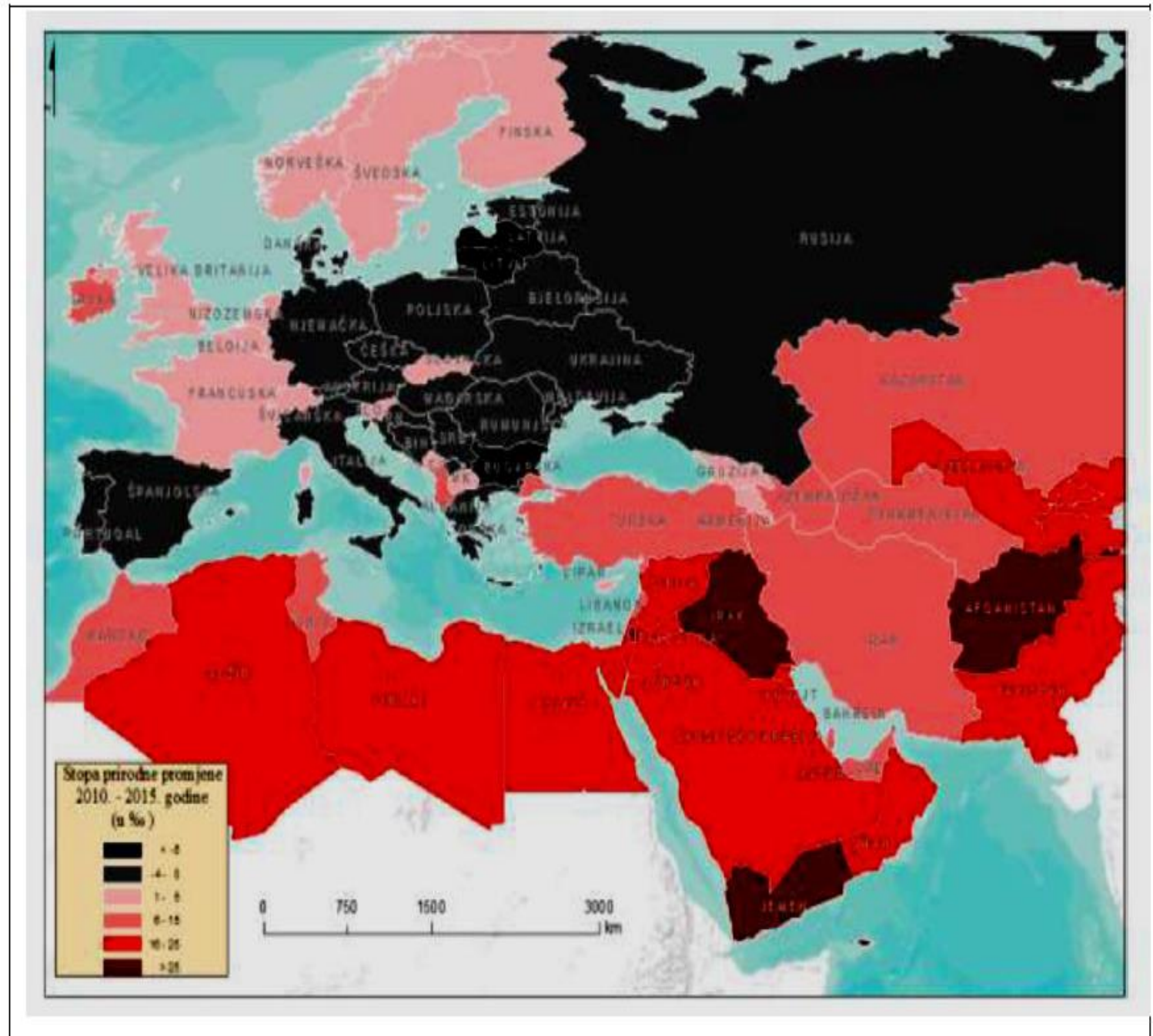
Table 36. Balance of population movement since Croatia's accession to the EU 2013 - 2020

Balance	Remark
84,889 naturally depopulation (* according to Šterc, 141,250 from 2011 to 2021)	(an average 37,000 new born; 51,000 deaths each year) (according to the DZS, CBS)
370,000 emigration	310,000 to Germany
	20,000 to Ireland
	20,000 to Austria
	20,000 to other countries
35,000 returnees (with Croatian citizenship)	total immigrants from abroad = 125,000 (DZS) (one third has Croatian citizenship)
= 454,889 natural and emigration depopulation	

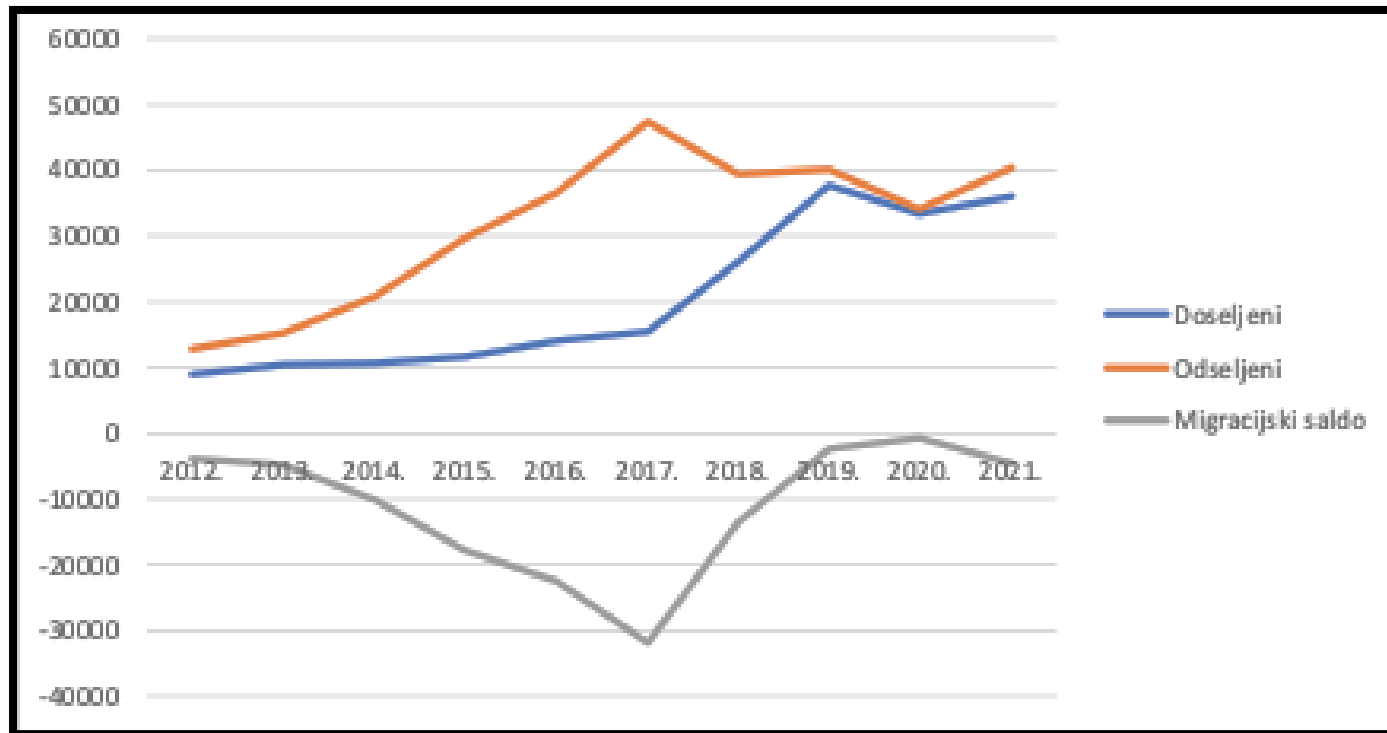
Izvor: Jurić, 2021, Gastarbeiter Millennials

▶ IMMIGRATION

- ▶ Of the 145,000 people who immigrated to Croatia in the past two years, only 1/4 are Croatian citizens, while the rest are foreign citizens.
- ▶ At the same time, over 75% are men.
- ▶ While the annual quotas for foreign workers in Croatia have been abolished.
- ▶ 110,000 work permits issued in 2022 (India, Nepal, Philippines...)
- ▶ Immigrants to Croatia are low-skilled
- ▶ Croatia has become a country of immigrants.

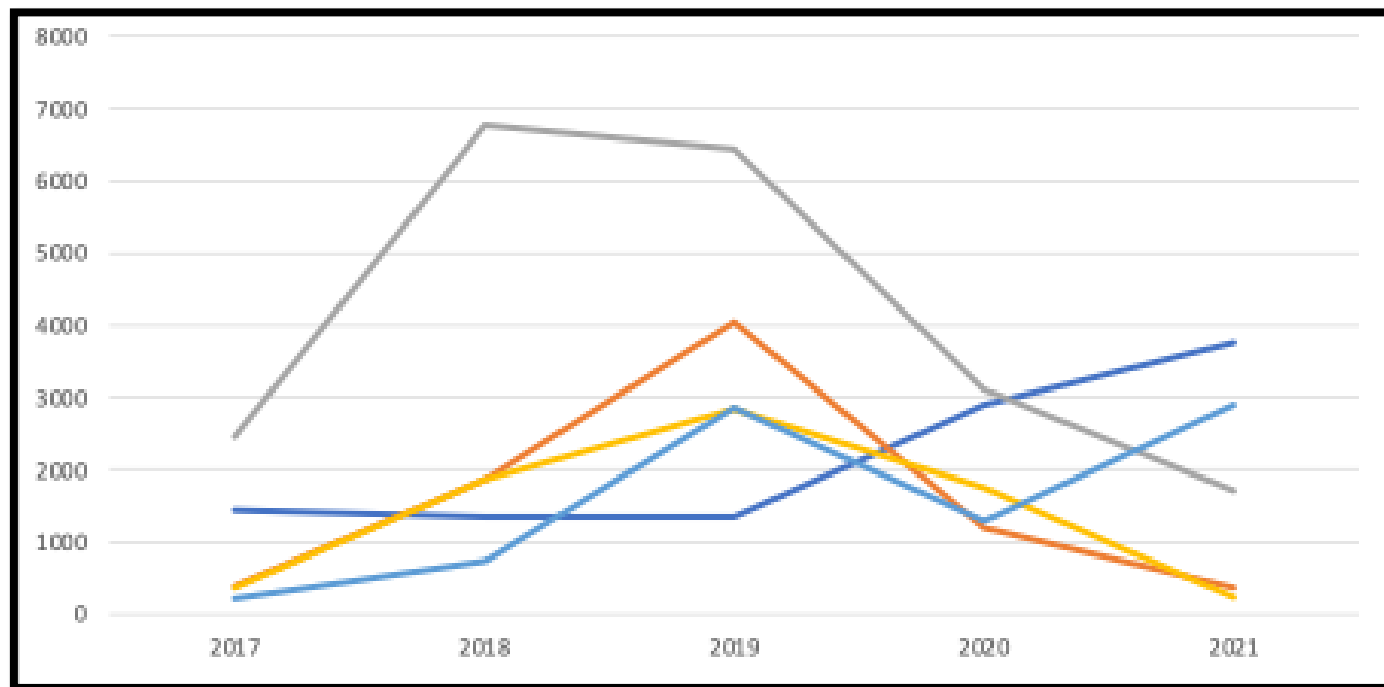


- ▶ **Figure : External migration of the population of the Republic of Croatia and immigration in the past decade (2012 - 2022)**



- ▶ **Source: Tado Jurić (2023). Immigration to Croatia: Big (Migration) Data Approach**

- ▶ **Figure : Immigration of foreign citizens to the Republic of Croatia (2017-2021)**



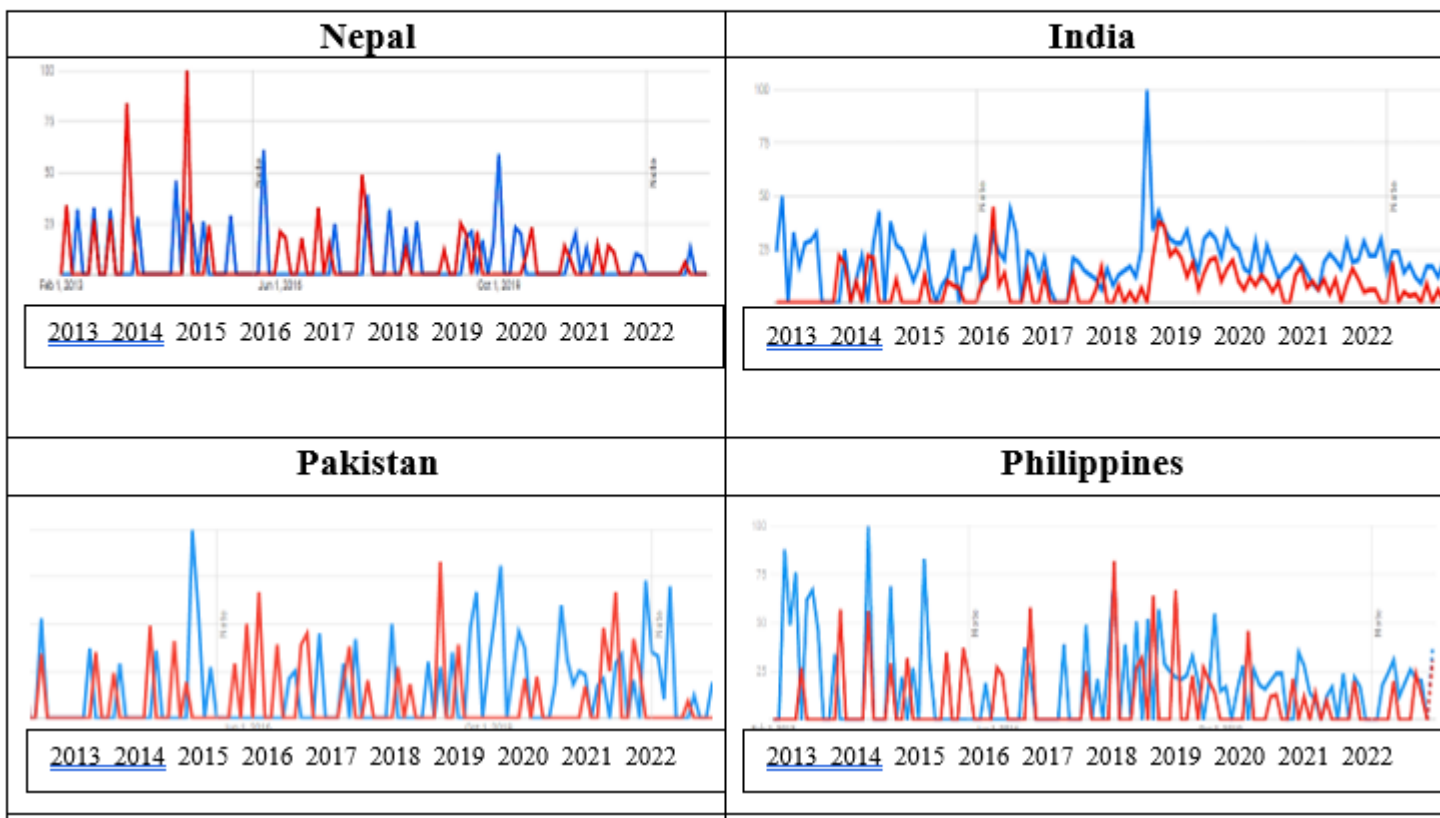
- ▶ **Source: Tado Jurić (2023). Immigration to Croatia: Big (Migration) Data Approach**

Table 2: Difference in records of foreigners who immigrated to Croatia according to official databases 2018-2020

CBS data on immigrated foreigners	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	17,410	27,844	24,954	28 784	Is not available
MUP data (<u>realised annual quota</u>) / CES	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	20,769	49,317	39,385	* (quotas abolished)	101.147 (Data from <u>CES</u>)
Difference	3,359 (= 16,17 %)	21,473 (= 43,54 %)	14,431 (= 36,64 %)	---	---

Sources: Author according to data from: 1) HZZ, <https://www.hzz.hr/statistika/statistika-usluga-test-trzista-rada-i-radne-dozvole/>; 2) MUP, Iskorištenost godišnjih kvota, <https://mup.gov.hr/gradjani-281562/moji-dokumenti-281563/stranci-333/statistika-169019/169019>; 3) DZS, <https://podaci.dzs.hr/2022/hr/29030>

Figure 6: Interest in the terms "Hrvatska + posao" (Croatia + job) in the Croatian language in Nepal, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Kosovo, and North Macedonia from 2013 to 2022



- ▶ **THE FUNCTION OF MIGRATION IS TO SUPPRESS THE PRICE OF LABOR**
- ▶ Croatia follows the same policy that brought guest workers to Germany in the 1960-s. Germany opened up to cheap labor to quell a union revolt for higher wages.
- ▶ The same agenda is implemented today in Croatia. In this way, the emigration of the domicile population continues to be encouraged and space is opened for the so-called “population substitution” (UN term).
- ▶ The biggest culprit for the demographic devastation of Croatia and mass emigration:
 - ▶ - On the one hand, **the lack of workers in Germany**, and on the other hand, **the corruption, clientelism and hypocritical policy** of the Croatian political elites, who see emigration as a means of solving social problems and critics, and obtaining remittances from abroad.
- ▶ Increased emigration reduces the possibility of citizen pressure on political elites because those who leave are the most capable of initiating change and the most motivated for change.

- ▶ Our estimates show that by the middle of the century, 30 percent of foreigners will live in Croatia.
- ▶ Every fourth worker will be a foreigner in order to maintain the functioning of the health and pension system as much as possible and to cover the labor shortage.
- ▶ The absurdity is that Croatia chased his young people out of the country in order to open the so-called “cheap labor force” from Asia and Africa.
- ▶ It is important to emphasize here that such a workforce is the most expensive because, according to recent German studies, the cost of their integration is much higher than the benefits for society.

- ▶ In the last ten years, a third of all immigrants to Germany have a higher education. At the same time, less than one percent of those with higher education immigrated to Croatia.
- ▶ The issues of migration must be politically articulated much more transparently.
- ▶ It is not admissible for the right to turn migrants into scapegoats, but it is also not admissible for the left and the center under the guise of morality to show that migration is exclusively a humanitarian issue or a matter of the human search for happiness.
- ▶ Here, under the guise of morality, the economic issue and the issue of bad management of the country are covered.



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CONCLUSION

Migration produces clear winners and losers.

The winners are the ruling political elites, employers and big capital, and the losers are the people as a collective and the national identity as a whole. At the EU level, the winner is the EU core and the loser is the periphery.

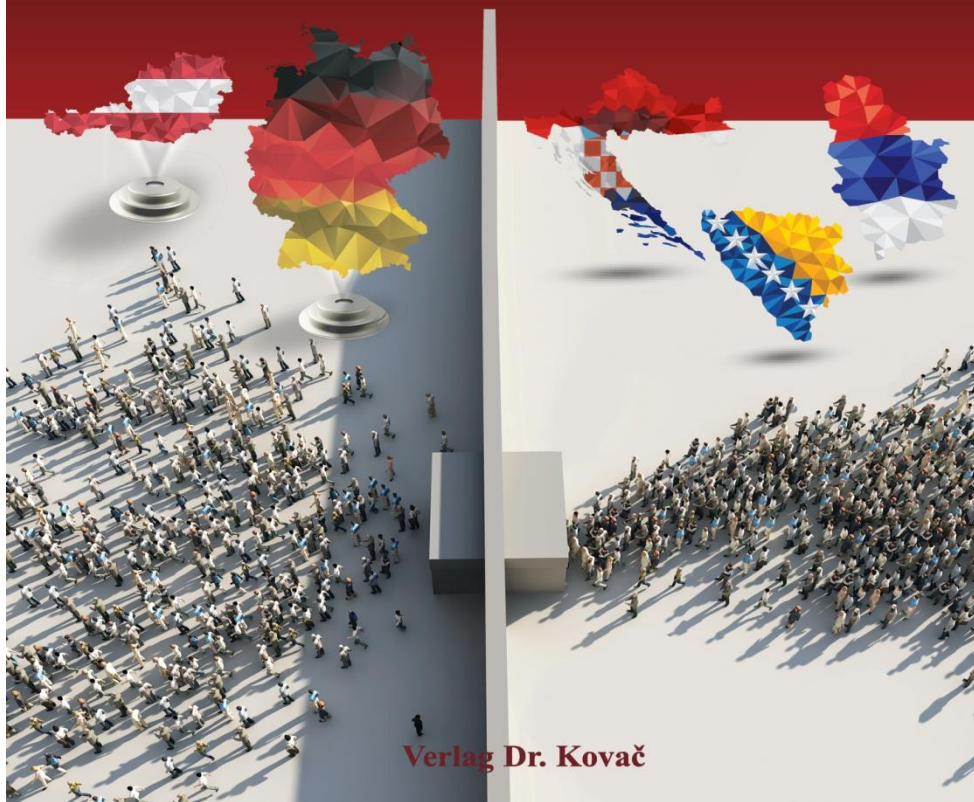
At the EU level, the attitude towards the demographic issue is dealt with hypocritically in such a way that the EU shifts the responsibility to the member states, and they, in turn, to the local government.

Failure to solve the issue of inequality between new and old members and immigration from Africa and Asia as the only demographic solution will lead to a threat to liberal democracy in the EU.

GASTARBEITER MILLENNIALS

Tado Jurić

EXPLORING THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF MIGRATION FROM SOUTHEAST EUROPE TO GERMANY AND AUSTRIA WITH APPROACHES TO CLASSICAL, HISTORICAL AND DIGITAL DEMOGRAPHY



The EU is becoming a battlefield of a struggle for the resource – the human.

A difficult demographic situation Europe is facing is being solved only partially, in a way that wealthy EU Members states import young workers from the EU periphery.

Such a demographic and economic imbalance between the EU-center and the EU-periphery can seriously rock the foundations of liberal democracy in the EU.

The EU has never in its history allocated so much money for various projects, as it does today. However, the welfare of the family is not recognized as a 'target group'.

Each of the EU measures should be both demographic and pronatalist because the solution for the future of Europe can not be only mass immigration from Asia and Africa.



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WHAT IS DO BE DONE?

1.) STRENGTHEN THE RULE OF LAW.

- STRONG DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS WITH ENTRENCHED RULE OF LAW AND LEGAL CERTAINTY POSITIVELY IMPACT INVESTMENTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHICH, IN RETURN, INCENTIVISE PEOPLE TO REMAIN, THOSE WHO LEFT TO RETURN, AND NEW ONES TO COME.
- 2.) REMOTE WORK AS A DEMOGRAPHIC MEASURE OF REVITALIZATION
- 3.) DESIGNING POLICIES AIMED AT INCREASING BIRTH RATES WITHOUT TACKLING BROADER NEGATIVE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS, IN PARTICULAR CORRUPTION, WILL NOT REVERSE DEMOGRAPHIC DECLINE.