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Sustainable Rural Systems
Smart answers for a smiling future

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Conceptualizing Post-Socialist Change In Croatian Countryside And Its Role In Disscusing Possible Rural Futures

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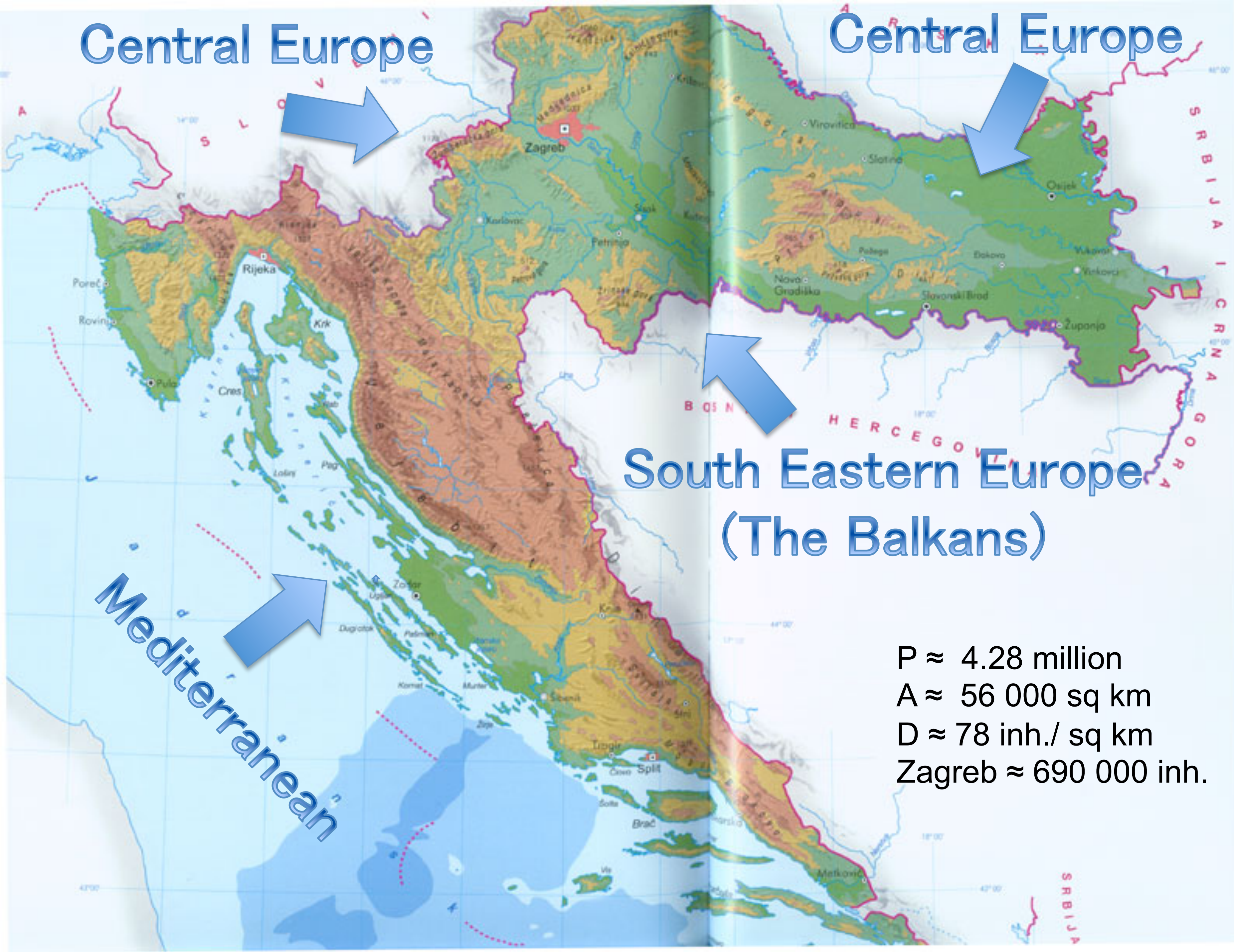

Central Europe
Central Europe
South Eastern Europe
(The Balkans)
Mediterranean
P ≈ 4.28 million
A ≈ 56 000 sq km
D ≈ 78 inh./ sq km
Zagreb ≈ 690 000 inh.
Zagreb
Rijeka
Osijek
Split
Karlovac
Sisak
Petrinja
Virovitica
Slatina
Vukovar
Vinkovci
Slavonski Brod
Županja
Požega
Nova Gradiška
Đakovo
Poreč
Rovinj
Pula
Cres
Krk
Rab
Pag
Lošinj
Zadar
Šibenik
Trogir
Brač
Metković

ADRIATIC – LITTORAL CROATIA

ADRIATIC – LITTORAL CROATIA

ADRIATIC – LITTORAL CROATIA

LIKA - MOUNTAINOUS CROATIA

PLITVICE LAKES – MOUNTAINOUS CROATIA

SLAVONIA – EASTERN (PANONIAN) CROATIA

SLAVONIA – EASTERN (PANONIAN) CROATIA

The main anticipated result of the CRORURIS study

- A set of alternative future scenarios for Croatian rural areas
  - not “a crystal ball”
  - to encourage informed and evidence-based public debate on rural futures.
  - within the European context

The objectives of the CRORURIS scenario study

- to develop a conceptual framework
  - for understanding recent changes in rural Croatia by identifying current processes, main drivers of change and local responses;
- to develop methodological framework
  - for identifying predominant trends and key uncertainties, differentiating them geographically and projecting them forward using statistical modeling and Delphi method;
- to construct alternative future scenarios
  - and relate them to the context of rural Europe;
- to encourage and support discussion
  - about future of rural areas in academic, decision-making and public discourse.

Examples of well-known and influential future scenarios at the global scale

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC scenarios
- UNEP's Global Environmental Outlook scenarios
- OECD Environmental Outlook
- ESPON spatial scenarios exploring trends and key mechanisms in relation to alternative territorial futures

Scenario studies specifically targeting rural areas in Europe

- EURURALIS project (1.0, 2.0, and 3.0)
  - aims at developing a discussion-oriented tool to support policy makers and stakeholders in discussions about the future of rural areas in the European Union

- SCENAR 2020 and Scenar 2020-II
  - Two sets of 'drivers' –assumed to influence the evolution of agriculture up to 2020.
  - Exogenous drivers – not expected to change substantially due to EU policy decisions
    - population growth, macro-economic growth, consumer preferences, agro-technology, environmental conditions, and world markets
  - Endogenous, or policy-related drivers,
    - EU agricultural policy, enlargement decisions and implementation, World Trade Organisation (WTO) and selected EU bilateral agreements, renewable energy policy, and environmental policy.

Alternative futures for rural England – a social geographic perspective (Lowe and ward, 2009)

- Identifiying predominant contemporary trends affecting rural areas and projected them forward by means of formal modeling.
- A set of three 20-year scenarios for the English countryside
- Started by constructing a rural typology
  - four dimensions: demography, economy, interactions between residential location and wider economy/society, and signs of rural symbolism.

Thinking about the future starts with understanding past and contemporary change

- Three periods in restructuring rural Croatia
  - Socialist – 1945-1990
  - Post-socialist transition – 1991-2013
  - Recent-after joining EU-2013-

Socialist period (1945-1991)

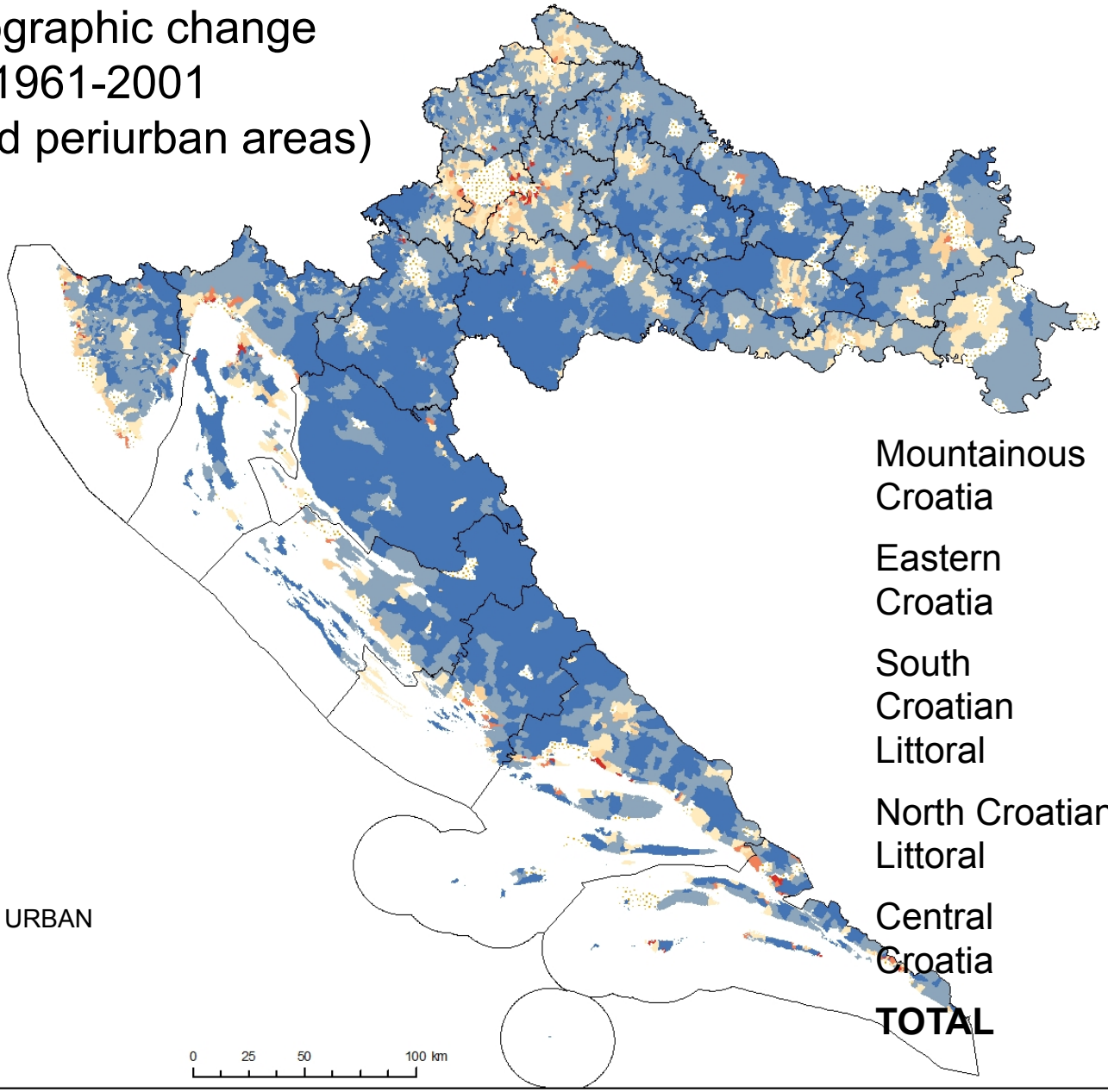
- Urban and industrial-based development of agriculture and rural areas
  - agricultural and industrial *kombinati*
  - discouraging family farming (laws, economy of scale)
- Strong demographic polarization
  - Urban (industry and later tourism) vs. Rural (agriculture)
- Depopulation and demographic ageing
- Nevertheless: agricultural self-sufficiency
  - capable of covering most of the foodstuff needs of the country, thanks to well-developed industrial and service sector

Strong deagrarization: transforming pesant to socialist society

Year	Socio-ecoomic structure of population				Total
	I	II	III	IV	
1953.	67,2	13,0	12,9	6,9	100,0
1991.	15,5	33,6	32,7	18,0	100,0

Year	Number of farmers	Number of farmers – change	
		Total	%
1953.	2.219.716	- 1.810.069	- 81,5
1991.	409.647		

Demographic change 1961-2001 (rural and periurban areas)



	Depopulation (settlements)
Mountainous Croatia	94,6 %
Eastern Croatia	81,7 %
South Croatian Littoral	79,1 %
North Croatian Littoral	75,4 %
Central Croatia	82,3 %
TOTAL	**81,8 %**

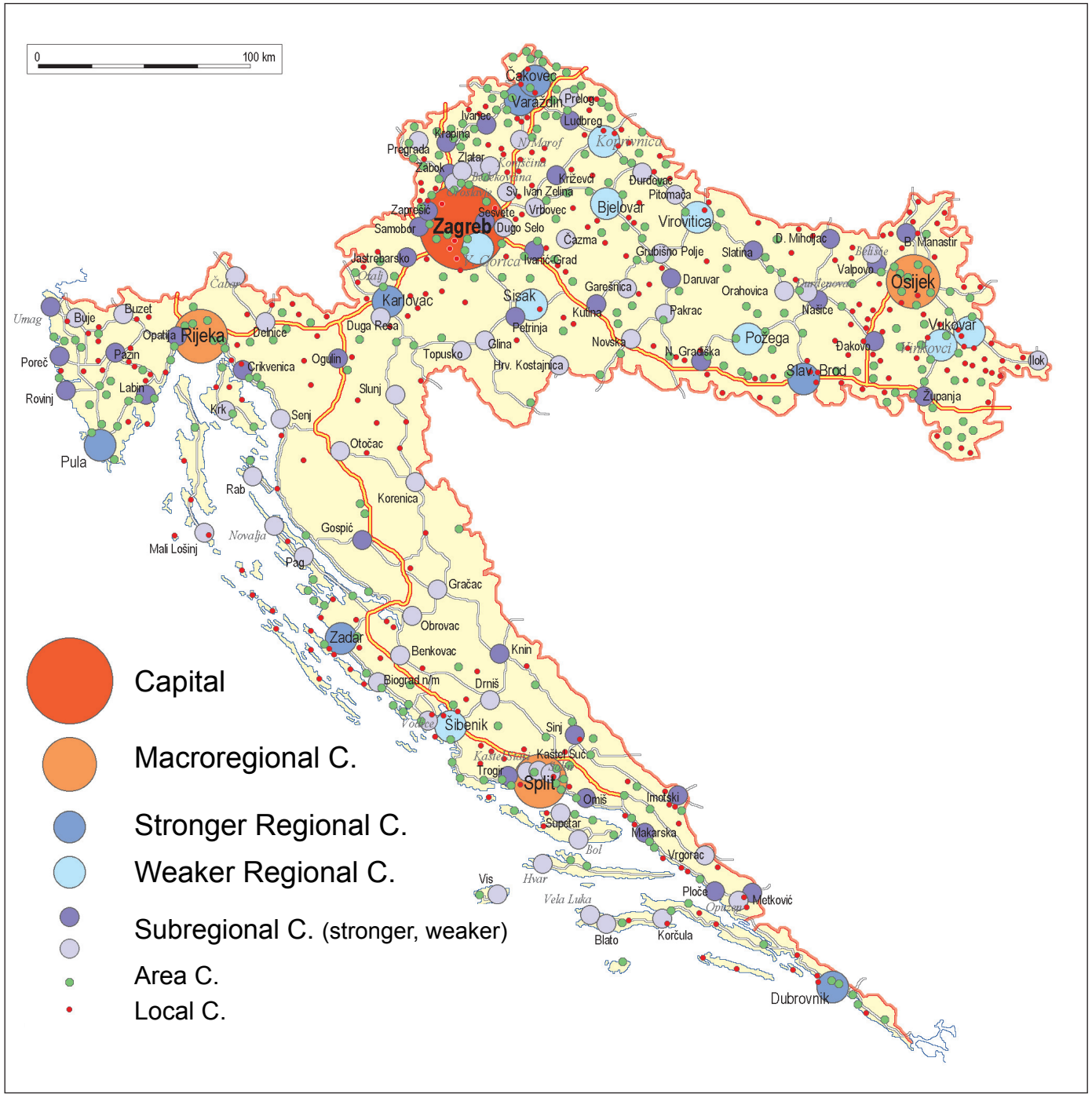
Index

0 - 50
50 - 100
100 - 150
150 - 250
250 - 500
500 -
URBAN

0 25 50 100 km

Lukić, 2009.

Settlement Hierarchy



Post-socialist transition – 1991-2013: exogenous and endogenous influences

- Change from planned to market economy
  - Privatization of national properties
- Liberalization and internationalization of agricultural market and economy
- National agricultural policy – polarization of agriculture
- Homeland War (1991-1995), mostly affecting rural areas
- Economic stagnation and deindustrialization
- Recession (2008-)

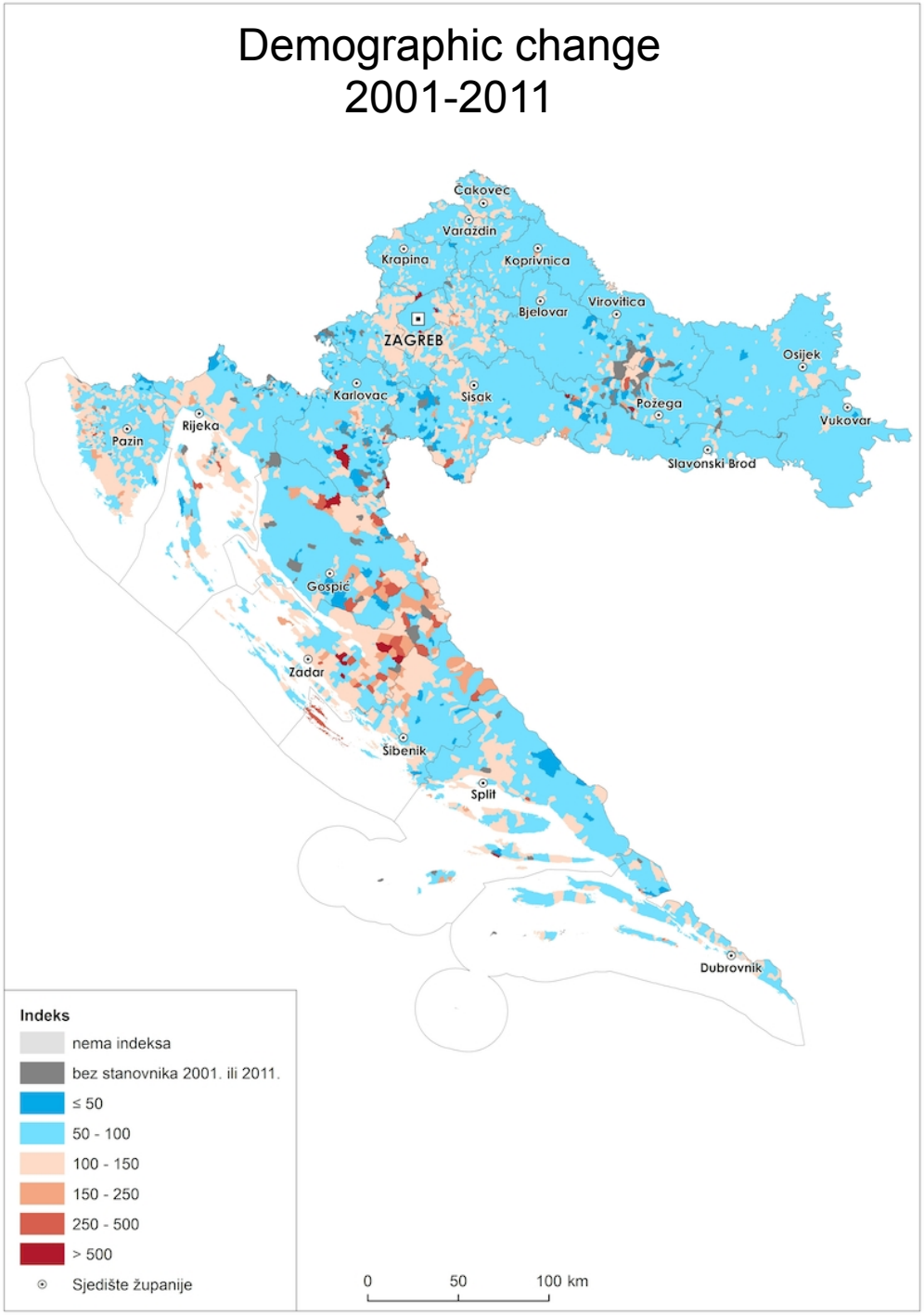
Post-socialist transition – 1991-2013

- The majority (99%) are family farms:
  - mostly small, fragmented, and semi-subsistent
- Almost 90% of the total amount of farms account for just 1/3 of agricultural land
- 1% of farms have more than 70 hectares and account for another third of agricultural land.
- Average age of family farm owner – 59,8
- Share of young family farm owners (35) – 4.5%
- Many family farms are not competitive or economically viable in either the medium or long-term perspective (UNDP, 2013 and Franić and Mikuš, 2013).
- High share of state-owned agricultural land (33%) – almost ¾ unutilized

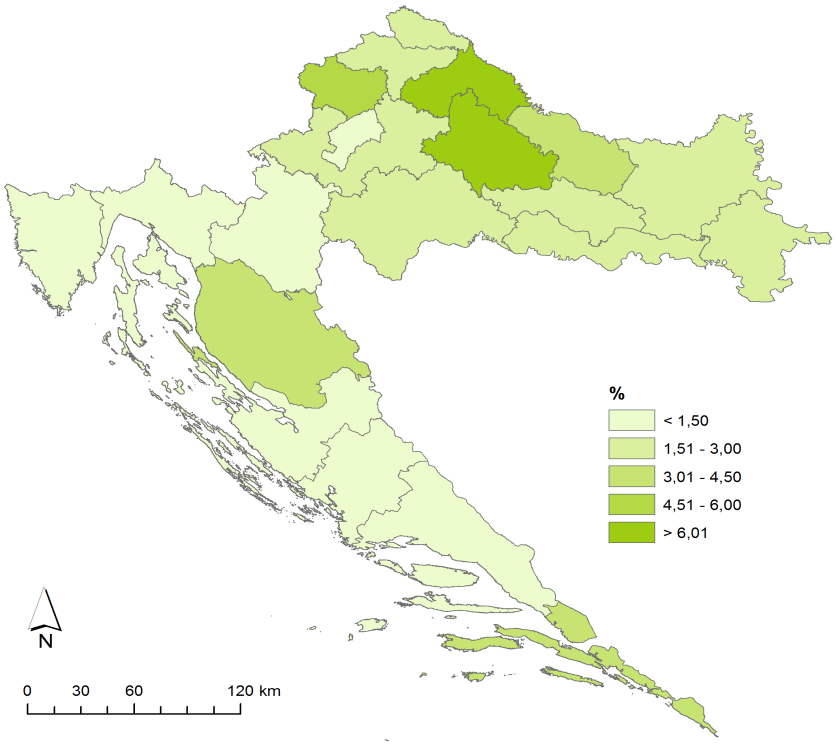
Post-socialist period (1991-2013)

- Decrease in utilized agricultural land, increase in fallow land (more than 1 mil ha)
- Since 2001. more than 60.000 diary farms closed down
- In 2013. around 3.500 family farms closed down
- In 2013. food import – 2.7 mlrd US$, export 1.5 mlrd US$
- 2013/2014 – decrease in agricultural production around 10%

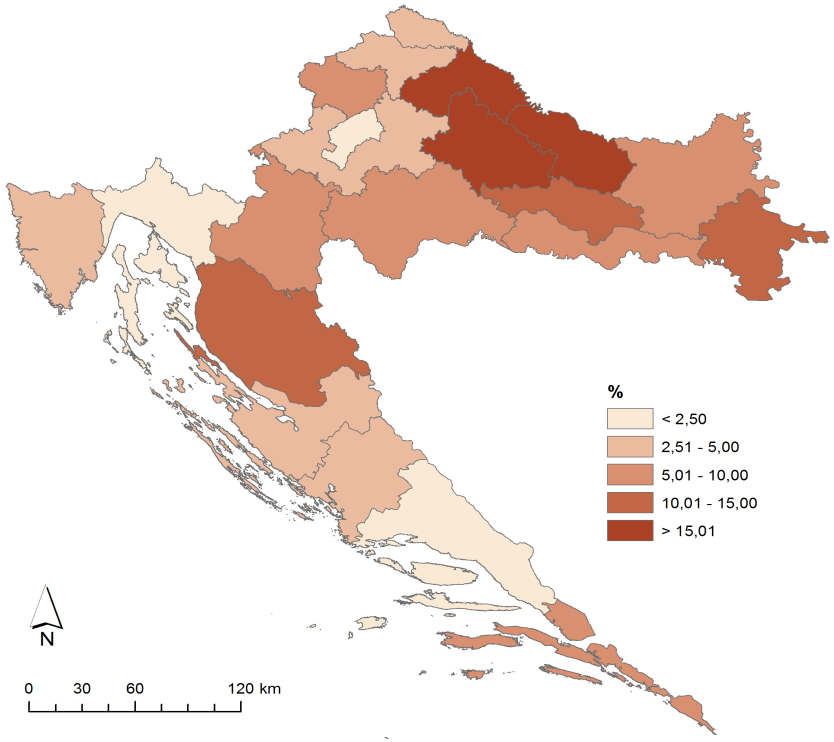
Demographic change 2001-2011



Percentage of persons for whom agriculture is one of two primary sources of income in Croatian counties in 2011



Percentage of employed persons working in the primary sector in Croatian counties in 2011



	Rural demographic patterns	Economic and agricultural market transformations and trends	Environmental and land-use change
Socialist – 1945-1990	- Strong depopulation and ageing - Urban-rural and litoral-hinterland polarization	- Deagarization - Industrialization of agriculture - Self-sufficiency	- Land abandonment due to deagrarization - Agro-technical measures for agricultural land improvement
Post-socialist transition – 1991-2013	- Continuing emigration - Deepening disparities in regional and local development - Suburbanization reach its peak	-Polarization – family farms vs. agri-business -Reagrarization - Decreasing of productivity and economic efficiency - Agricultural trade deficit	- Decrease in utilized agricultural land - Reforestation
After joining EU – 2013-present	?	?	?

Conceptualizing rural change: place-based approach in rural development

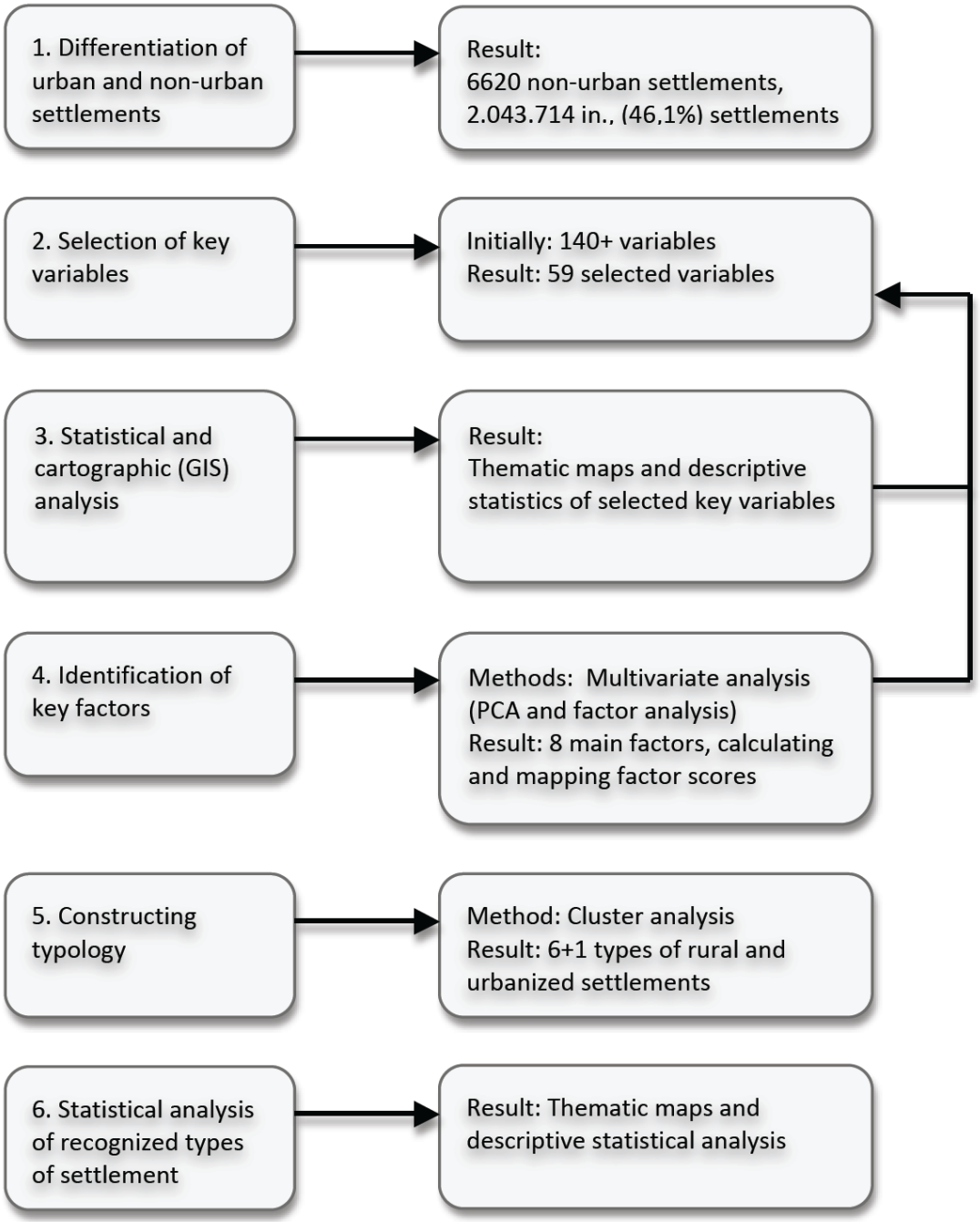
- "…it is intersection of globalization processes and regional contexts and capacities that produces particular impacts in specific regions" (DERREG, 2011)

- Rural is not a single, homogeneous entity. It takes many forms and the challenges that different areas face require intelligent, regionally targeted delivery responses.
  - (Brunori and Rossi, 2006; Halfacree, 2006; Cloke, 2006; OECD, 2006; Rienks, 2008; SCENAR 2020; Woods, 2005)

Conceptualizing rural change: place-based approach in rural development

- Rural areas do not exist in vacuum:
  - they should be viewed in their local and regional contexts, including the relationship between rural and urban areas.
- This also means bridging the gap:
  - between rural and regional development policies, as well as spatial land use and economic development plans and strategies (OECD, 2006).

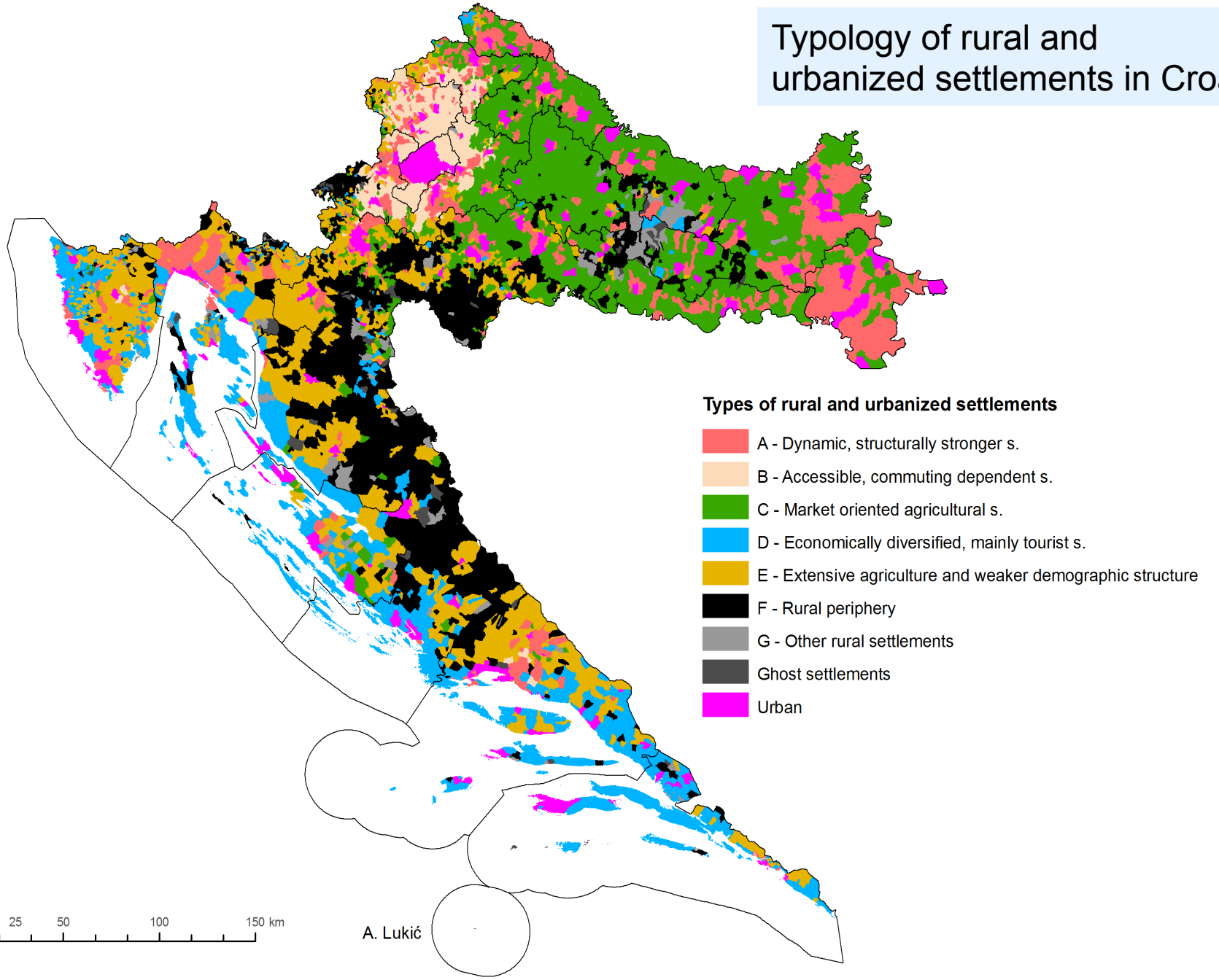
Territorializing rural – typological approach



KEY VARIABLES

- topographic characteristics
- size, distribution, and population structure,
- demographic dynamics
- employment and commuting
- socio-economic struc.
- importance and structure of agriculture
- land use;
- functions and shape of housing
- household equipment,
- settlement centrality
- accessibility to settlements of higher centrality.

Typology of rural and urbanized settlements in Croatia



CRORURIS overview

Phase 1:
Recognizing key drivers of change

- Rural demographic patterns
- Economic and agricultural market transformations and trends
- Environmental and land-use change.

Phase 2:
Recognizing rural diversity

- Typological approach – cluster analysis
- Judgment on degree of influence of change_drivers to type of rural area
- Modelling and DELPHI

Phase 3:

Constructing alternative future scenarios

- Simulations of the model
- Developing scenario storylines
- Elaboration in the Croatian and EU cntext
  - Comparison with conceptual framework and similar studies

Expected outomes

- To encourage and support discussion about future of rural areas in academic, decision-making and public discourse

  - Creating web based GIS discussion tool “Rural Change in Croatia”
  - Preparing and publishing “The Atlas of Rural Change in Croatia”
  - Organizing workshop “What is the future of Rural Areas in Croatia?”
  - Preparing policy recommendations

Thank you for your attention!

CRORURIS 2030
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Rural Croatia

- Around 90% of the total area, 46% of the population
- Small settlement size and very dispersed structure
  - 36,6 % of all settlements have less than 100 inhabitants
- Unfavourable demographic, economic and social characteristics of the Croatian countryside at the beginning of 21st century
  - Between 1961 and 2001, the population of more than 80 % of all rural settlements was reduced, with half of them shrinking by at least 50%
  - 23,3 % of people older than 60
  - Natural change rate -3,8 ‰
  - 54,2 % of people with no or only elementary education
  - 70,2 % settlements have no services (expect possibly small village shop)
  - Share of agricultural population -11 % (5,5% in total population)