



# Urbanization and Socio-demographic Structure of Croatian Cities

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# Context

- Introduction
- Methodological remarks
- Urbanization – intensity and dynamics (1991-2011)
- Age structure
- Urban regions
- Demographic decline in city core

# Introduction

- Constant and stable demographic growth through the most of 20th century
  - significant social, economic... transformation
  - rural-urban dichotomy through most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Urbanization during the transition period (1990s and early 2000s)
  - modified by wider social and economic factors along with already unfavorable demographic processes
- Urban places entered a new phase of development
- Population decrease and ageing in Croatia after 1991

# Methodological remarks

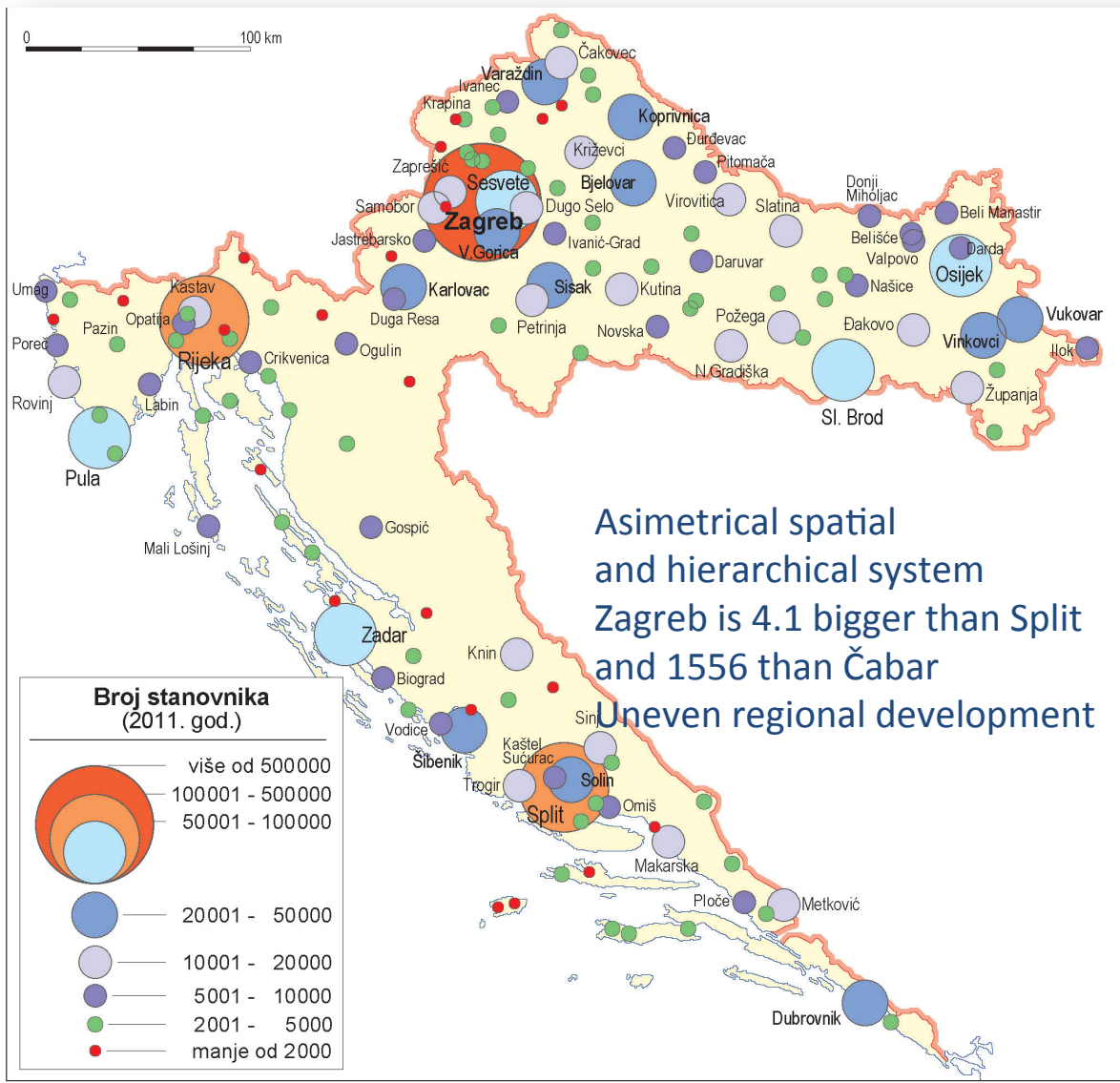
- Main source of analysis are Population censuses 1991, 2001 and 2011
- Definition of a by Državni zavod za statistiku/  
Croatian Bureau of Statistics
- *The Model for the Differentiation of Urban, Rural and Semi-Urban Settlements in the Republic of Croatia*

# Methodological remarks

- Urban settlements are:
  - All settlements that are seats of administrative towns (regardless of the number of inhabitants)
  - All settlements with the population over 10.000
  - Settlements with population of 5.000-9.999 with 25% and more of the population employed in their places of residence, in the secondary and tertiary sector (compared to the total number of employed population of the settlement)
  - Settlements with population of 2.000-4999, with 25% and more of the population employed in their place of residence, in secondary and tertiary sector (compared to the total number of employed population of the settlement), and with the 50% or more non-agricultural households
- 143 of 6606 statistical settlements or 0.02%
- All other settlements, which don't meet criteria, are considered rural and semi-urban
  - Villages, less or more urbanized settlements in rural areas and peri-urban settlements

# Methodological remarks

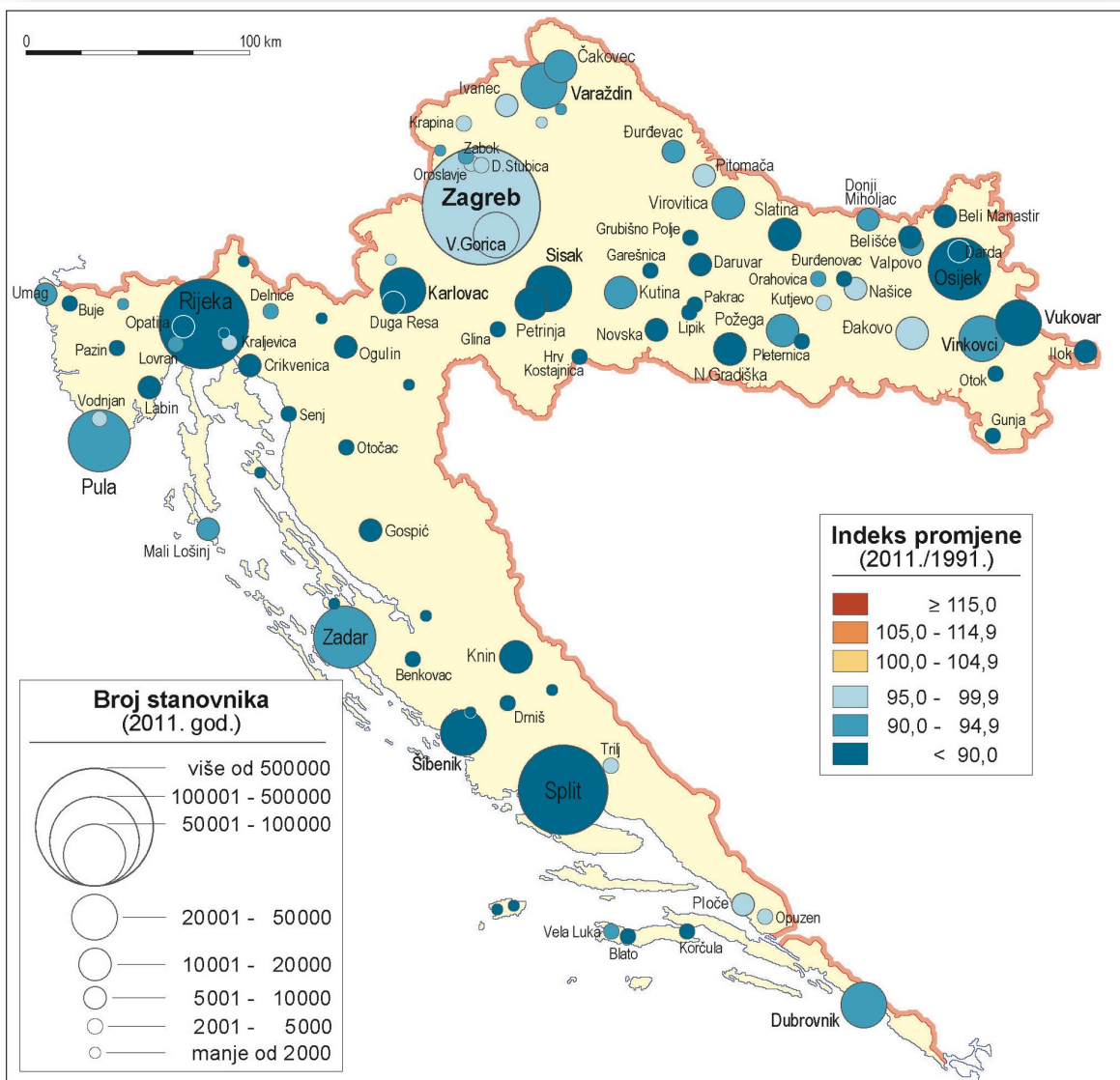
- Levels of analysis
  - Cities and towns
  - City regions – example of Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek
  - Urban core – example of Šibenik



Urban settlement in Croatia by size in 2011

	<b>1991</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>URBAN SETTLEMENTS</b>			
<b>Total</b>	2.521.160	2.416.390	2.357.859
<b>Change 1991=100</b>	100,0	95,8	93,5
<b>Share of total population</b>	52,7	54,5	55,0
<b>OTHER SETTLEMENTS</b>			
<b>Total</b>	2.263.105	2.021.070	1.927.030
<b>Change 1991=100</b>	100,0	89,3	85,1
<b>Share of total population</b>	47,3	45,5	45,0
<b>CROATIA</b>			
<b>Total</b>	4.784.265	4.437.460	4.284.869
<b>Change 1991=100</b>	100,0	92,8	89,6





Decrease in **63.6%** urban settlements (91 of 143)

...

Pakrac 40.9%

Vukovar 40.7%

Obrovac 40.0%

Lipik 39.4%

Hrvatska Kostajnica

38.9%

Rijeka 21.0%

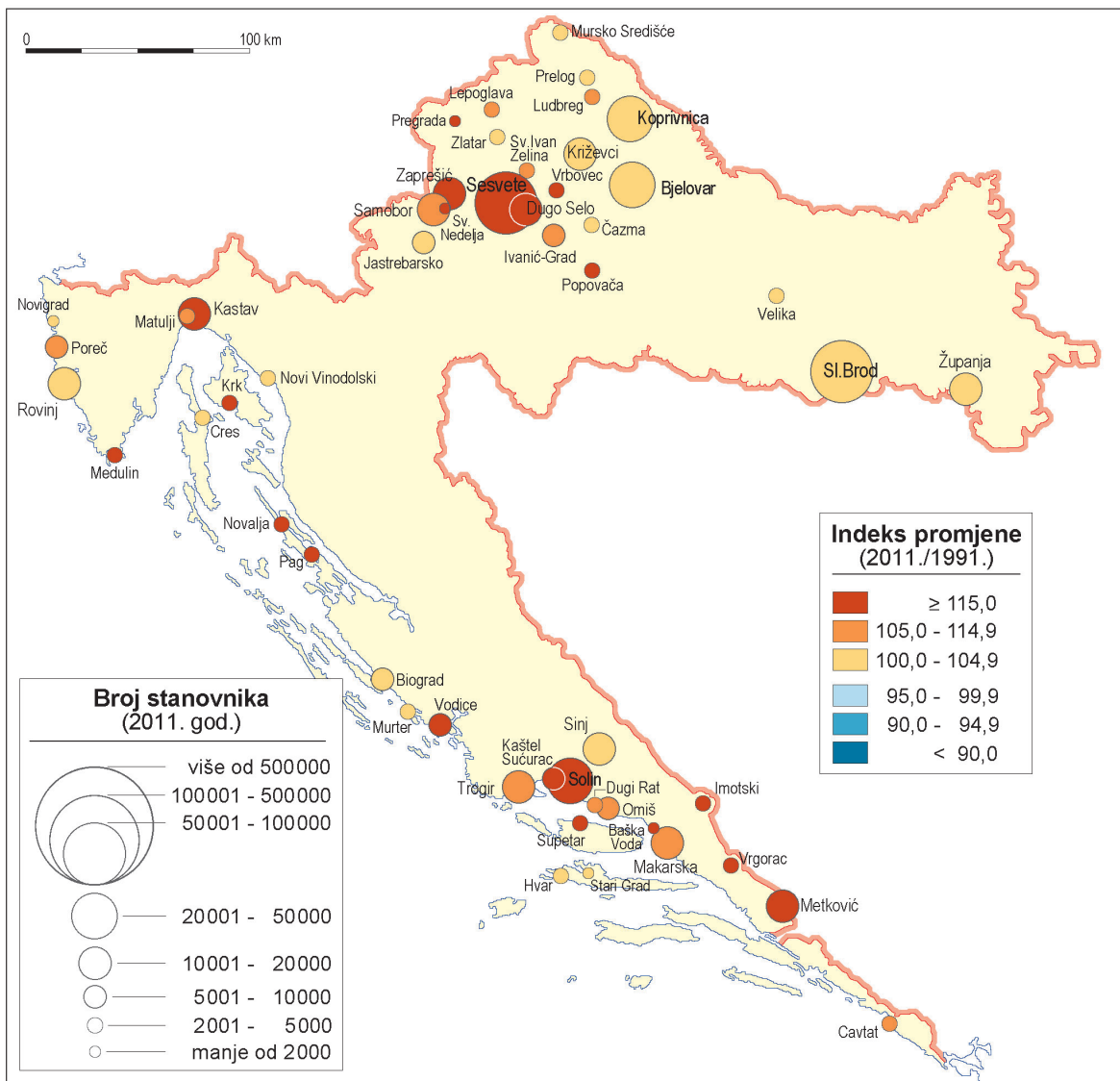
Osijek 19.7%

Split 11.8%

Zagreb 2.6%

...

Biggest lost in former industrial centres, in areas affected by war



Increase in **36.4%** urban settlements (52 of 143)

...

Kastav 88.5%

Solin 60.7%

Dugo Selo 60.6%

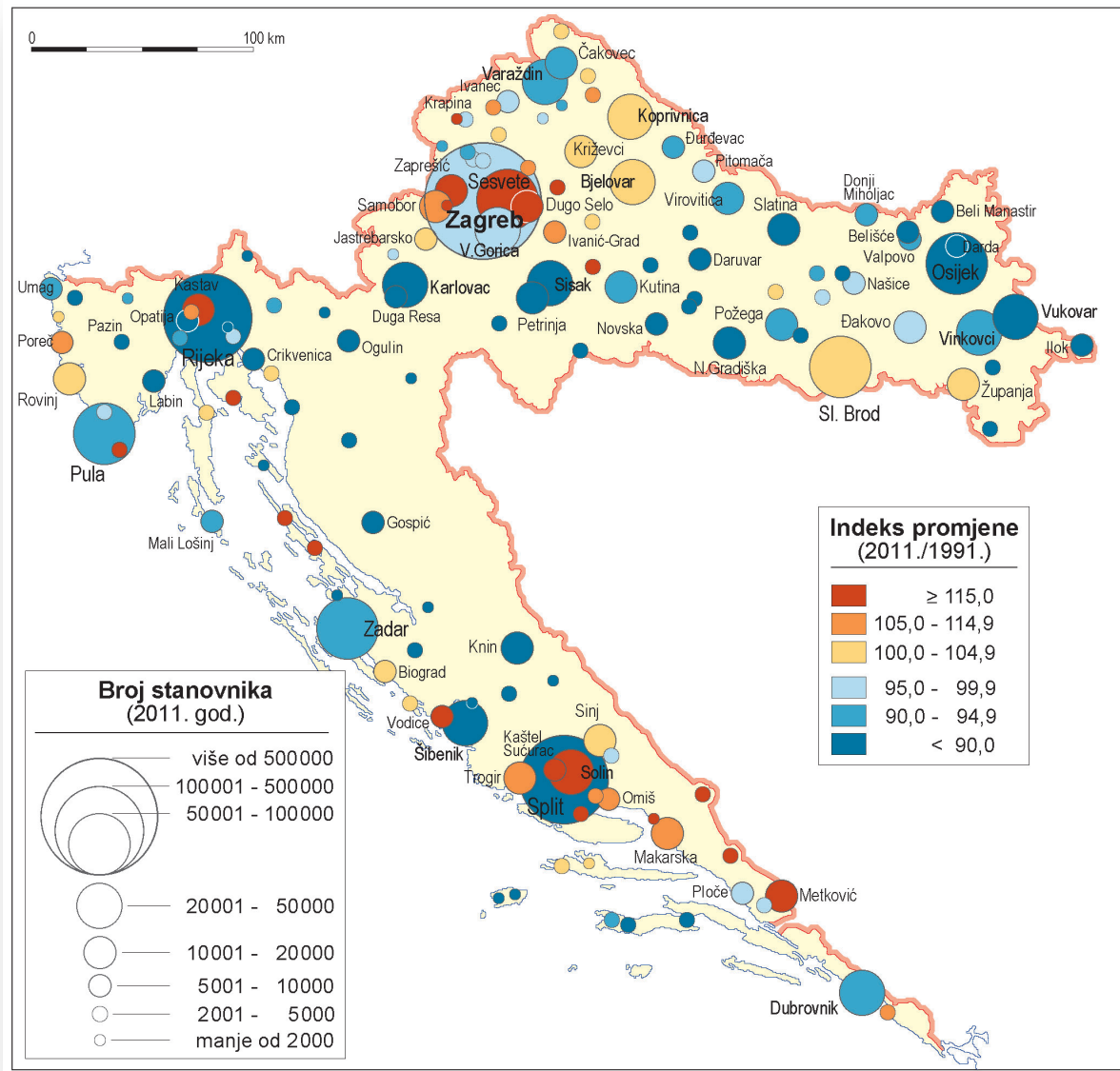
Sesvete 53.1%

Medulin 47.3%

Sveta Nedelja 36.4%

...

Increase in peri-urban zones, coastal towns oriented on tourism, towns with developed industrial and service sector in N Croatia



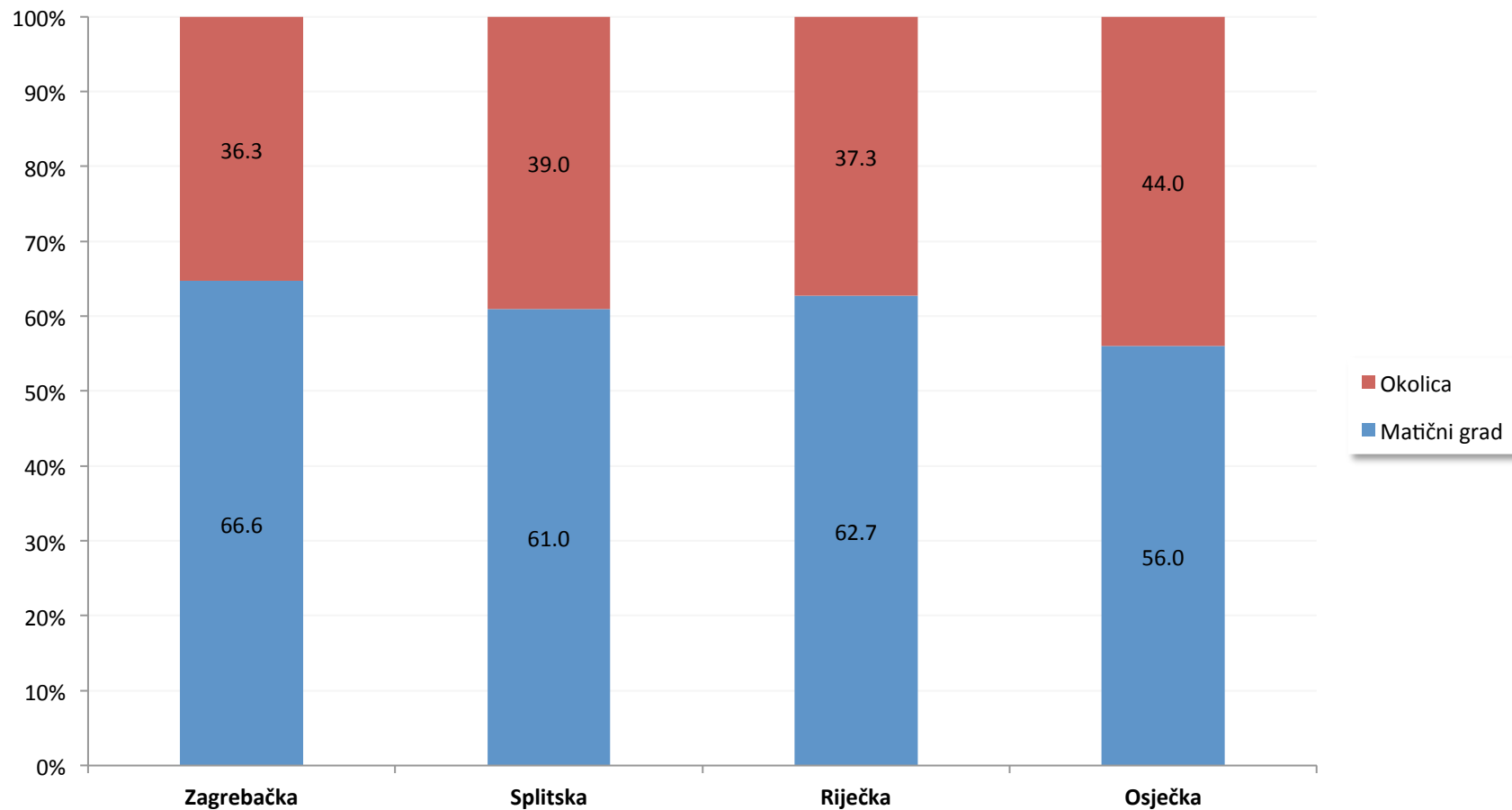
Population change (2011/1991) in urban settlements in Croatia

# Age Structure

- Ageing of population since 1991
- Slightly better situation in urban settlements
- 1991
  - Urban 26.6 (0-19); 15.0 (60+)
  - Croatia 26.2 (0-19); 17.7 (60+)
- 2011
  - Urban 20.2 (0-19); 23.8 (60+)
  - Croatia 20.9 (0-19); 24.1 (60+)

# Urban regions

- Urban regions in Croatia have up to 1.000.000 inhabitants
- Most of the population still lives in core cities
- Up to 95% of work places are in core cities
- However, visible decentralization trends are more and more present in large urban regions

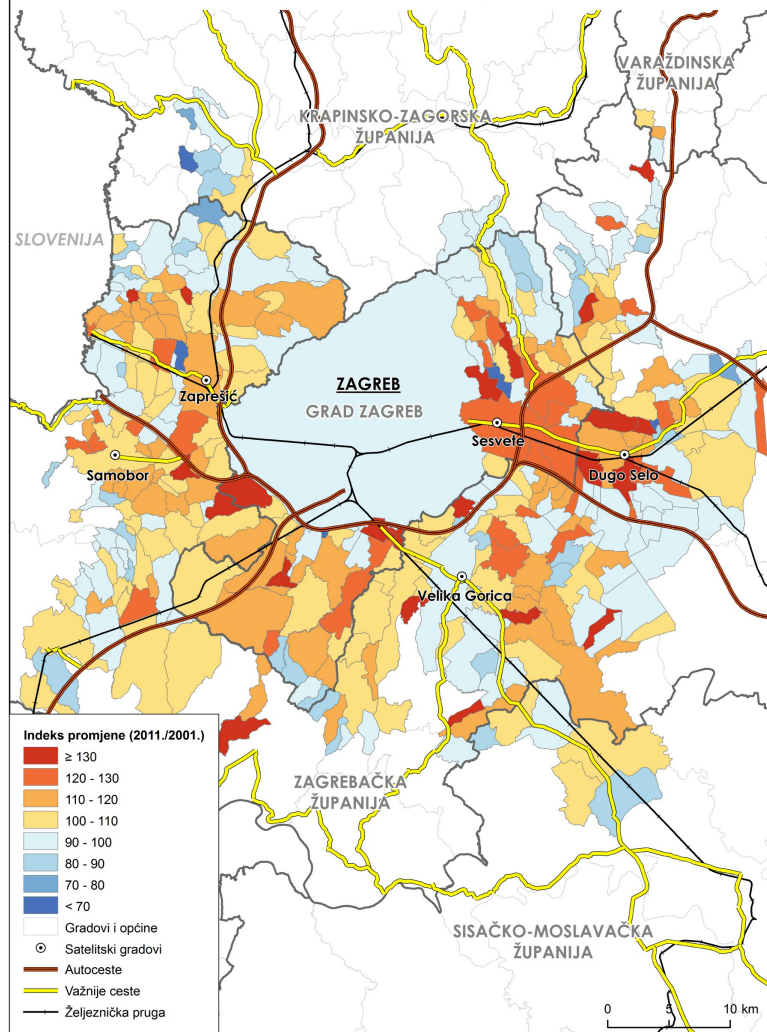


**Share of population living in core and in surroundings in four largest urban regions**

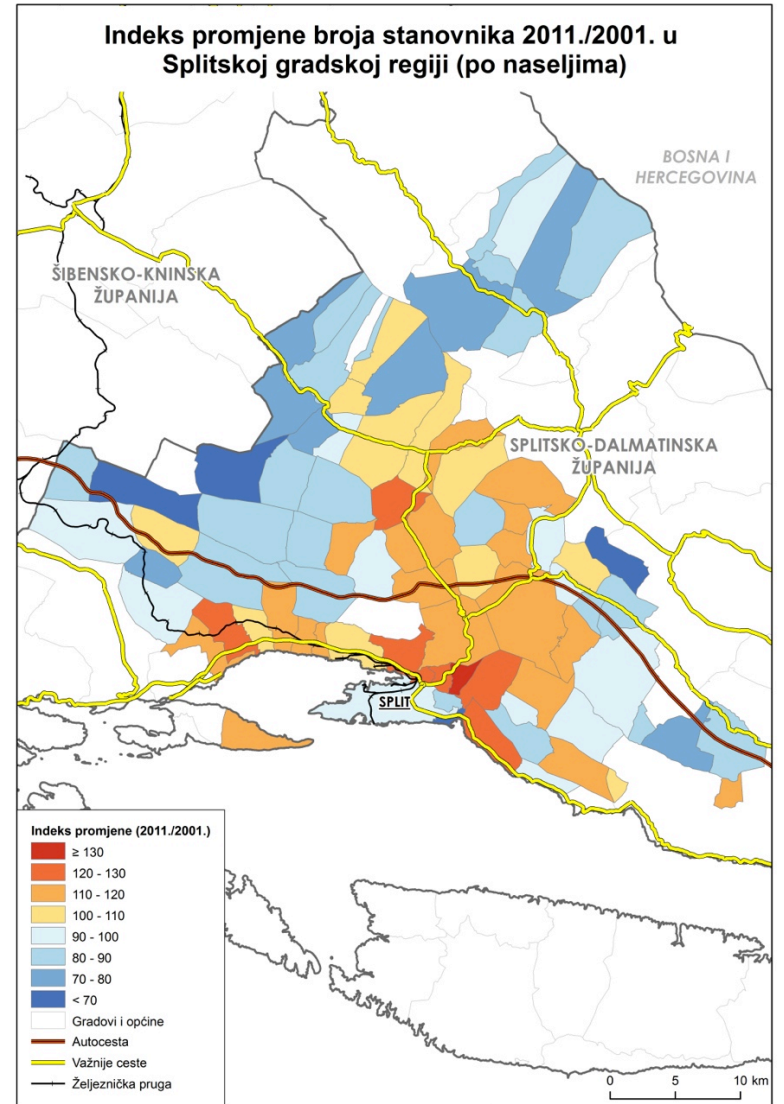
# Urban regions

- The most important trends in urban regions
  - Residential suburbanization
  - Residential and employment suburbanization
  - Weaker residential and functional suburbanization in smaller and remote settlements

### Indeks promjene broja stanovnika 2011./2001. u Zagrebačkoj gradskoj regiji (po naseljima)



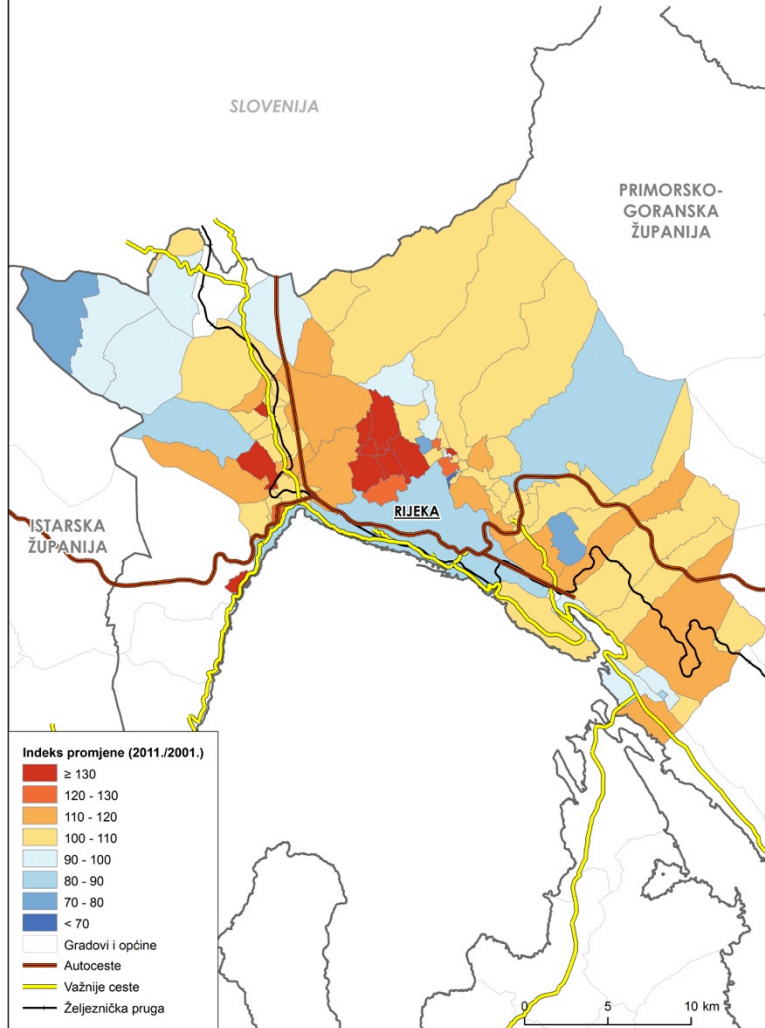
### Indeks promjene broja stanovnika 2011./2001. u Splitskoj gradskoj regiji (po naseljima)



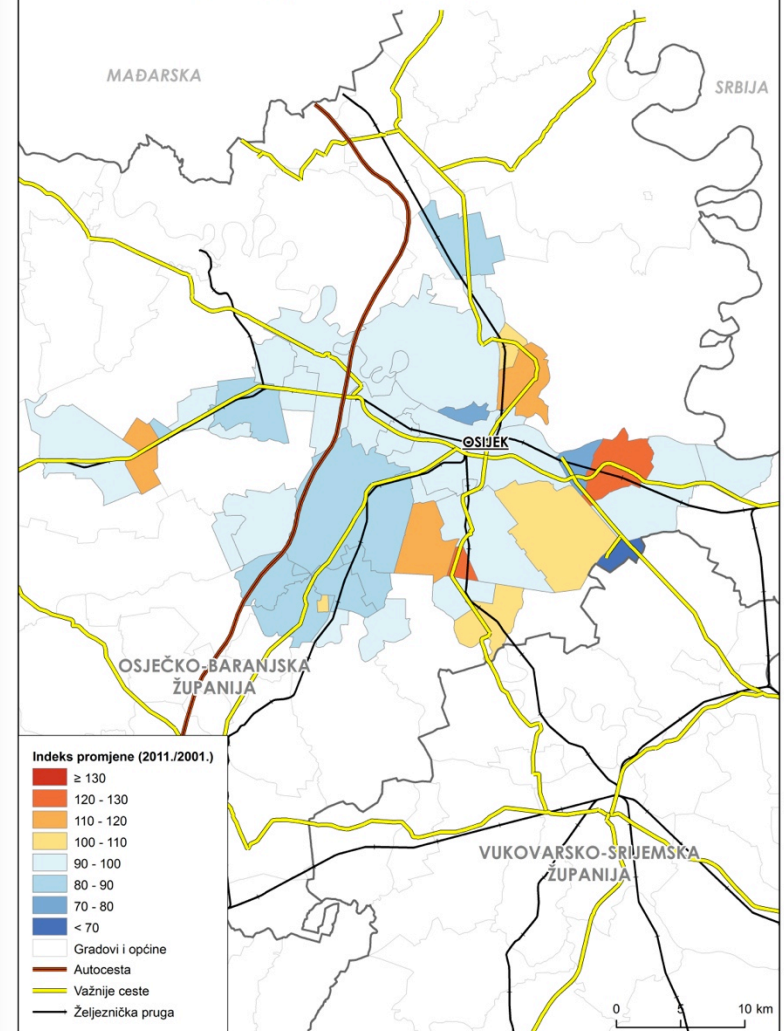
**Population change in Zagreb Urban Region and Split Urban Region (2011/2001)**



**Indeks promjene broja stanovnika 2011./2001. u  
Riječkoj gradskoj regiji (po naseljima)**



**Indeks promjene broja stanovnika 2011./2001. u  
Osječkoj gradskoj regiji (po naseljima)**



**Population change in Rijeka Urban Region and Osijek Urban Region (2011/2001)**

# Depopulation of urban cores

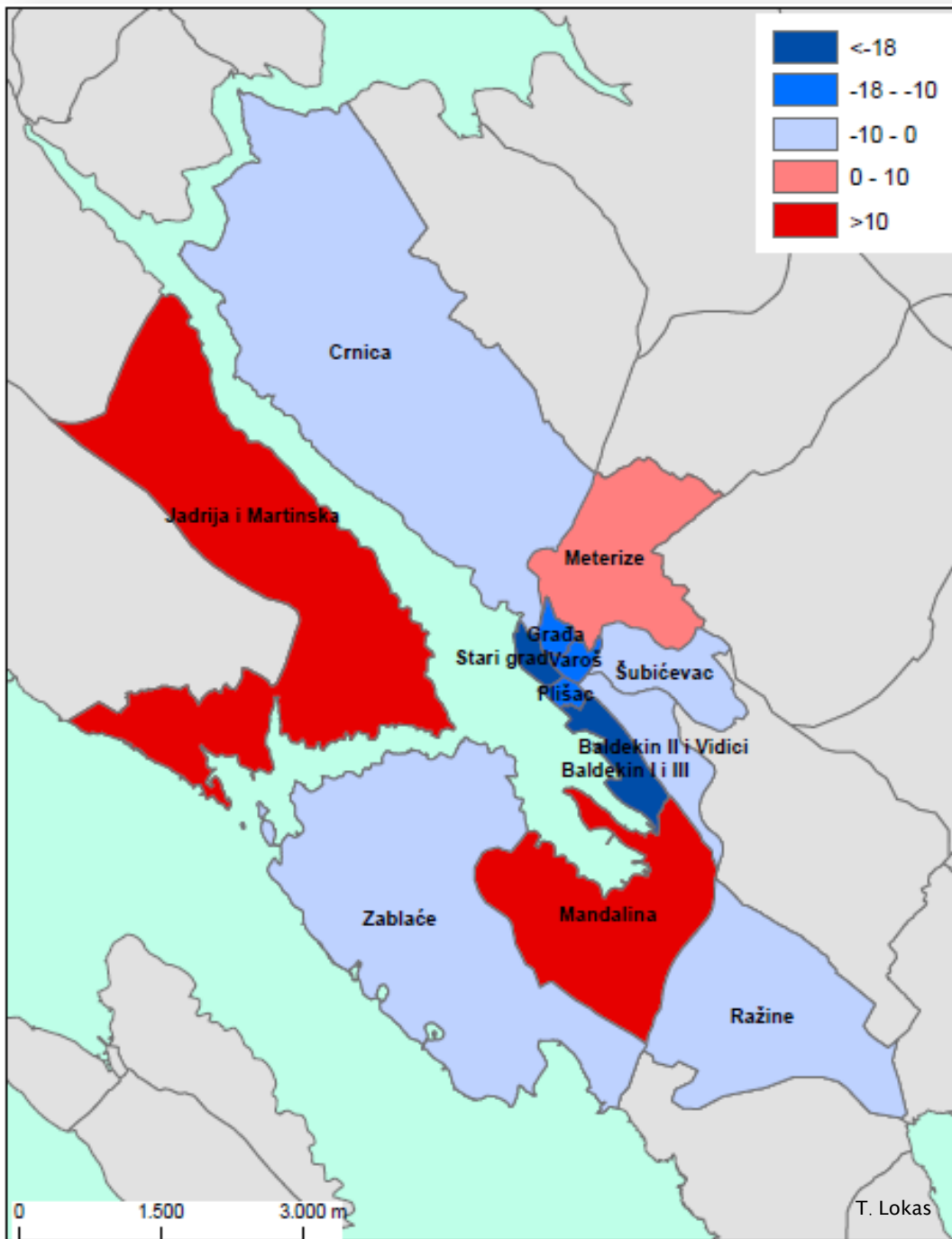
- Professional, institutional and retailing importance of traditional urban core is weakening
- Inadequate traffic accessibility and car-dependence of urban transport system is great disadvantage to city core dwellers

# Depopulation of urban cores

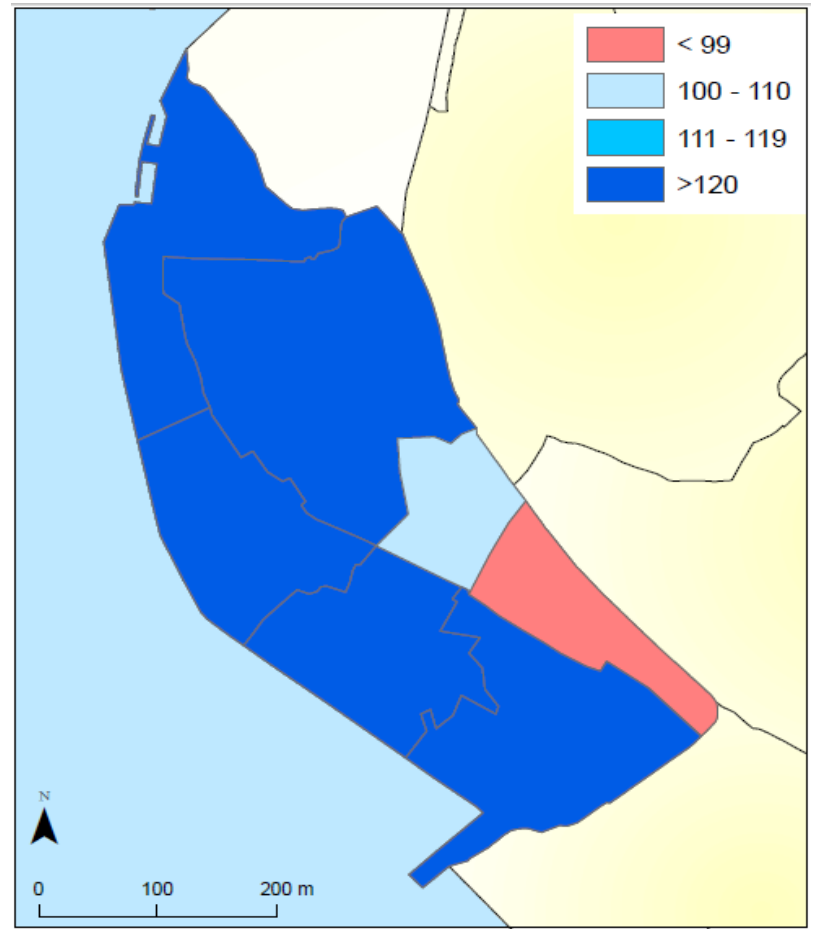
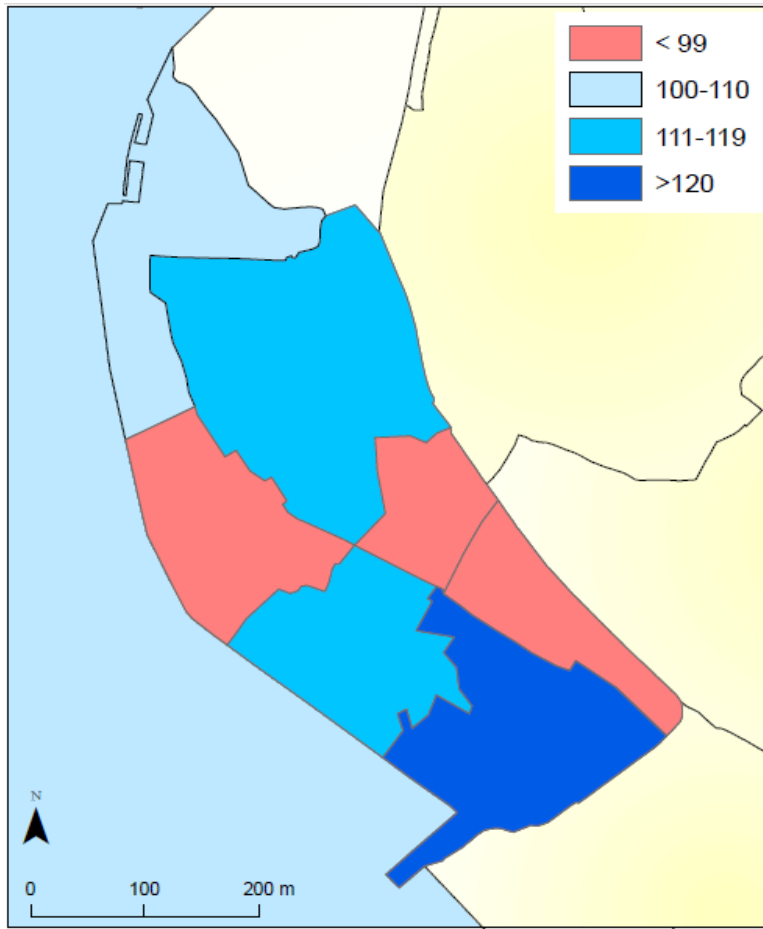
- Living in urban core is more expensive while often of lower infrastructural quality than in other parts of the city
- Inheritance, sentimental reasons, location and possibilities of tourism activities as main reasons for staying in the urban core

# Depopulation of urban core in Šibenik





**Total population change  
(rate) 2001-2011 in Šibenik**



**Ageing index 2001 and in 2011 in Šibenik urban core**

# Conclusion

- For the first time in modern history the total urban population is decreasing
- Capital and three most important macro-regional centers are also losing population
- Urban regions – some of them are the only winners in population dynamic
- Urban cores of most urban settlements are facing depopulation due to numerous reasons

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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