



ROPENVIROS

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

“Population and Environment:  
Challenges and Perspectives”  
International Scientific Conference





International Scientific Conference

# “Population and Environment: Challenges and Perspectives”

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# International Scientific Conference

## "Population and Environment: Challenges and Perspectives"

**Book of abstracts**

Belgrade, October 2025.

## SESSION 1: Environmental challenges

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| The Digital Climate Atlas of Serbia: Platform for Climate Services and Adaptation Support – <i>Vladimir Đurđević</i> .....                                                                                           | 16 |
| Adaptation to climate change through spatial planning in Serbia – Opportunities and challenges – <i>Dejan Filipović &amp; Ljubica Duškov</i> .....                                                                   | 17 |
| Measuring and predicting environmental health and climate change indicators in the Republic of Serbia – <i>Milica Maričić, Nikola Drinjak &amp; Marina Ignjatović</i> .....                                          | 18 |
| Spatial distribution and environmental impact of wildfires near major urban centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina – <i>Marko Ivanišević, Maida Zejnić &amp; Dijana Gvozden Sliško</i> .....                              | 20 |
| Environment as a cultural and economic “barrier” of Canada – <i>Mirko Ivanović</i> ...                                                                                                                               | 21 |
| Seasonal variation of particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentrations in Serbia – <i>Gorica Stanojević &amp; Slavica Malinović-Milićević</i> .....                                                                | 22 |
| Analysing the natural disaster vulnerability of Serbian local self-government units using fuzzy logic and the TOPSIS method – <i>Ivan Novković, Slavoljub Dragičević, Petar Vasić &amp; Tijana Jakovljević</i> ..... | 23 |

## SESSION 2: Demographic challenges in 21st century

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Immigration of foreigners in the Republic of Serbia through the prism of statistical data – <i>Gordana Bjelobrk &amp; Olivera Negovanović</i> .....                                                                                            | 26 |
| Demographic challenges in Croatia in the 21st century – <i>Vera Graovac Matassi</i> .....                                                                                                                                                      | 27 |
| Difficulties in border regions: Population dynamics in Central and Eastern Europe – <i>Reka Horeczki, David Nagy &amp; Gabor Lados</i> .....                                                                                                   | 28 |
| Two-piece puzzle: Older population and climate change in Serbia – <i>Jelena Stojilković Ignjatović, Nataša Todorović, Milutin Vračević &amp; Mirjana Devedžić</i> ..                                                                           | 29 |
| Pharmacies in Bulgaria – geographical problems – <i>Neli Veselinova &amp; Veselin Boyadzhiev</i> .....                                                                                                                                         | 30 |
| Methodological Advances in Participatory Processes in Serbia: Enhancing Spatial Planning and Living Environments in Mining Regions – <i>Marijana Pantić, Tamara Maričić, Milena Toković, Dušanka Milosavljević &amp; Milovan Vuković</i> ..... | 31 |
| To Grow, or Not to Grow, That Is the Question! Discursive Framing of Urban Shrinkage and Policy Responses to Shrinking Cities in Europe – <i>Marjan Marjanović</i> .....                                                                       | 33 |

### SESSION 3: Population dynamics under environmental challenges

|                                                                                                                                                                                              |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Public health impacts and vulnerabilities related to environmental challenges of the 21st century and the need of science policy interface – <i>Elizabet Paunović</i> .....                  | 36 |
| The Myth of Carrying Capacity: How Migration and Innovation Reshape Population-Environment Dynamics – <i>Danica Šantić</i> .....                                                             | 37 |
| Exposure to the noise or pollution: evidence across European countries – <i>Aleksandra Anić &amp; Natalija Mirić</i> .....                                                                   | 38 |
| Expected population fluctuations due to earthquake occurrence in the Valandovo region, N. Macedonia – <i>Ljubcho Jovanov, Katerina Drogreshka &amp; Jasmina Najdovska</i> ..                 | 39 |
| Climate Vulnerability and Anemia: An exploratory Study of Women of Reproductive Age in India Using NFHS-4 and NFHS-5 Data – <i>Sumit Saurav</i> .....                                        | 40 |
| The Importance of Assessing Viral Activity in Winter Excess Mortality – <i>Ivan Marinković</i> .....                                                                                         | 41 |
| Without Pollution or Noise: A Subjective-Environmental Mortality Indicator Across Europe – <i>Natalija Mirić &amp; Aleksandra Anić</i> .....                                                 | 42 |
| Gestational Rainfall Deviations and Anthropometric Outcomes of Young Children in India – <i>Phanidhar Upadhyaya &amp; Kaushalendra Kumar</i> .....                                           | 43 |
| The effect of hot days on birth rates in Serbia – regional aspect – <i>Natalija Mirić</i> .                                                                                                  | 45 |
| The Relationship Between Population Distribution and Agricultural Land Use in Republic of Srpska - <i>Mariana Lukić Tanović, Draško Marinković, Aleksandar Majić, Mitar Krsmanović</i> ..... | 46 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Challenges in implementing circular economy at the local level and environmental impact – <i>Dušica Pešević</i> .....                                                                                                                                                         | 50 |
| Restructuring of the Environmental Performance Index (EPI): A data-driven approach based on the Ivanovic distance – <i>Milica Maričić, Veljko Jeremić &amp; Veljko Uskoković</i> .....                                                                                        | 51 |
| Climate Change – Related Sleep Alterations: An Impact for Society and Global Health – <i>Dragan Hrnčić</i> .....                                                                                                                                                              | 53 |
| Environmental and Public health risks of heavy metal contamination in soil adjacent to illegal and unsanitary municipal landfills in Vojvodina, Serbia – <i>Emina Kričković &amp; Milica Lukić</i> .....                                                                      | 54 |
| Erythematous ultraviolet radiation in Serbia – <i>Slavica Malinović-Milićević &amp; Gorica Stanojević</i> .....                                                                                                                                                               | 55 |
| Environmental Inequality and Urban Health: Air Pollution Assessment in Sarajevo Canton Using Bioindicators – <i>Amra Banda, Sabina Žero, Armin Macanović, Emina Ramić, Amar Karadža, Bakir Krajinović &amp; Amina Balićevac</i> .....                                         | 56 |
| Teachers' attitudes toward the implementation of environmental content in geography education with the aim of fostering environmentally responsible citizens of the 21st century – <i>Mina Marković, Ivana Đorđević &amp; Slavoljub Jovanović</i> .....                       | 58 |
| Continuous, inclusive, and comprehensive education of the population in North Macedonia on earthquake preparedness – <i>Ljubcho Jovanov, Ivana Molerovikj, Monika Andreeska, Katerina Drogreshka &amp; Jasmina Najdovska</i> .....                                            | 60 |
| The Demographic Footprint as a Challenge to Freshwater Ecosystems: A Multi-Stressor Assessment Using the Fish Species <i>Alburnoides bipunctatus</i> – <i>Marija Jakovljević, Marijana Nikolić, Predrag Simović, Irida Lazić, Vladimir Đurđević &amp; Vladica Simić</i> ..... | 61 |
| Potential Impacts of Future Climate Conditions on Protected Areas in the Danube Region of the Republic of Serbia – <i>Tijana Jakovljević &amp; Snežana Đurđić</i> .....                                                                                                       | 63 |
| Depopulation and Land Use Changes in Serbia: Challenges and Perspectives in the 21st Century – <i>Natalija Nikolić &amp; Dajana Bjelajac</i> .....                                                                                                                            | 64 |
| Environment and Demographic Trends – The Mountainous Area of Western Serbia – <i>Ljiljana Mihajlović, Miroljub Milinčić, Danijela Vukočić, Andrijana Mrkaić &amp; Dragan Petrović</i> .....                                                                                   | 65 |
| Legislative support for regulating social impacts of the extractive industry – <i>Tamara Maričić &amp; Marijana Pantić</i> .....                                                                                                                                              | 67 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Functional Transformation of the Settlement Network in the Zone of Surface Coal Exploitation: A Case Study of the Municipality of Gacko (Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina) – <i>Dragica Delić</i> ..... | 68 |
| Vulnerability to temperature-related mortality in Serbia: a review of evidence – <i>Daniela Arsenović, Stevan Savić &amp; Jelena Dunjić</i> .....                                                                 | 69 |
| Population changes in rural settlements within national parks in North Macedonia – <i>Marija Ljakoska &amp; Mirjanka Madjevikj</i> .....                                                                          | 70 |
| Disaster Vulnerability and Its Impact on Child Malnutrition in India: A District-Level Analysis Using NFHS-5 and Climate Risk Data – <i>Neelkamal Alomayan Kalita</i> .....                                       | 71 |
| Classic gentrification in a formerly working-class neighbourhood: Karlín as a forerunner of inner-city migration trends in Prague – <i>Adela Petrović</i> .....                                                   | 72 |
| Migration in response to the declining quality of life in the Kolubara coal basin – <i>Sandra Vukašinović</i> .....                                                                                               | 73 |
| Shifting Perspectives on Marriage and Gender Roles: Qualitative Research Among Urban Serbian Youth – <i>Ankica Šobot &amp; Milena Šećerov</i> .....                                                               | 74 |
| Quality of life as a component of community survivability – evidence from Zlatibor region (Serbia) – <i>Stefan Denda &amp; Jovana Todorić</i> .....                                                               | 75 |
| Quality of Life of Older Persons in Croatian Cities – <i>Sanja Klempić Bogadi &amp; Sonja Podgorelec</i> .....                                                                                                    | 77 |
| Perceptions of Environmental Quality Among Rural Residents in Serbia – <i>Marija Drobnjaković, Milena Panić &amp; Vlasta Kokotović Kanazir</i> .....                                                              | 78 |
| Public-Population Policy Implementation in the N Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania in Terms of Demographic Challenges of Aging and Socio-economic Contexts – <i>Goran Miladinov</i> .....            | 79 |
| Comparative Analysis of Demographic Characteristics of Border Municipalities and Municipalities in the Interior of Serbia – <i>Sladana Popović &amp; Radoslav Ranković</i> .....                                  | 80 |
| Aging of the population in the border area of Serbia with Bulgaria as a factor of uneven regional development – <i>Marko Sedlak, Nemanja Josifov &amp; Vladimir Malinić</i> .....                                 | 81 |
| Transnational families in times of global crisis: the importance of infrastructure availability – <i>Jelena Predojević Despić</i> .....                                                                           | 82 |
| Demographic aftermath five years after the Covid-19 outbreak: Serbian scenario - <i>Petar Vasić</i> .....                                                                                                         | 83 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Reevaluating ethnostatistics in the context of the contemporary demographic challenges in Serbia – <i>Nevena Trnavčević</i> .....                                                     | 84 |
| “Po šumama, gorama i blokovima: Trans-generational Homing Memoryscapes: Rural Pastures and Urban “Blokovi” in the Yugoslav-Serb London Diaspora – <i>Nikola Lero</i> .....            | 85 |
| Are Plans in Serbia Age-friendly? A Comparative Analysis of General Urban Plans in the Context of Population Ageing – <i>Bojana Pjanović, Tijana Tomić &amp; Dejan Đorđević</i> ..... | 86 |
| Spatial Patterns of Population Distribution and Dynamics in Serbia’s Urban System – <i>Teodora Nikolić</i> .....                                                                      | 87 |

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## **Shifting Perspectives on Marriage and Gender Roles: Qualitative Research Among Urban Serbian Youth**

Considering the demographic context, marriage remains the dominant form of partnership for creating a family life in Serbia despite the growing influence of modern cohabitation trends. The decision to marry and start a family has been postponed. According to the 2022 Census, approximately 60% of women and almost 40% of men aged 30-34 were unmarried, and almost 40% of young people 20-34 of those who have “become independent” live alone. Based on qualitative research, we analysed young people’s attitudes and perceptions of gender roles and gender relations in heterosexual partnerships in Serbia as relevant factors that can significantly impact community stability and decisions related to parenthood and childbirth. The intention was to see whether there are differences in the perspectives of females and males and whether these perspectives shape their behavior. In 2024, interviews were administered with 25 unmarried men and women under 35 in urban areas. Interviews with the respondents led to an ambiguous interpretation of gender roles, both for men and women, through the prism of traditional and contemporary ones. Females showed a greater interest in these issues, while young males showed an understanding of modern processes and a willingness to accept them with a common desire to overcome gender differences through communication, agreement and mutual respect. The young people observed that respect for gender equality is one of the prerequisites for the quality and survival of a relationship and marital formation, at the same time indicating that the transformation processes of gender roles within the family also imply the support of the broad social community, which is most needed when it comes to the complex relationship between family life and work. Although women’s employment is not only perceived as an additional important source of income, but there is also an understanding among interviewees that housework and childcare are more the responsibility of women. Education on partnership and gender equality would contribute to raising awareness among young women and men bringing them closer together and easing misunderstandings, which would be a positive framework for further decisions that could have positive demographic effects.

**Keywords:** Gender roles, partnership, family formation, young people, Serbia