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Seria GEOGRAFIE

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UNIVERSITATEA DIN ORADEA
DEPARTAMENTUL DE GEOGRAFIE, TURISM ȘI AMENAJAREA TERITORIULUI

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AN ASSESSMENT OF SPATIAL SCALE AND THEMATIC FOCUS OF PUBLICATIONS AND DIPLOMA THESIS OF SLOVAKIAN GEOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTES

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Abstract: The article explores the formation of regional identity with regard to scale and topic in works and final thesis of Slovak geography students from selected geographic institutions and departments. Taking into account papers and diploma thesis of students, we tried to discover how the authors perceive and form the image of a region of the theme and spatial scale of their works. If geographers in their publications and articles deal with specific topics of their subject research area - physical geography, settlement systems, composed of urban centres, economic activities in the region, or spatial intra-regional relations, thus they are forming the space material base, indispensable for the development of regional consciousness and identity itself.

Key words: place, scale, thematic focus, geography, self-government regions

* * * * *

INTRODUCTION

The main goal of the paper is to explore and analyse the place perception through publishing outputs of selected geographical institutions in Slovakia. Are geographers through their publications interested in promoting regional identity? If so, then we can state that the region is perceived as a territorial social system. If geographers in their publications and articles deal with specific topics of their subject research area - physical geography, settlement systems, composed of urban centres, economic activities in the region, or spatial intra-regional relations, thus they are forming the space-material base, indispensable for the development of regional consciousness and identity itself.

Based on the above philosophy, it is possible to dispute the conception of geography as an integral trans-disciplinary platform seeking to explain the processes synthesizing space, what ultimately leads to an understanding of the nature and identity of regional units of different taxonomic levels in the context of human activity.

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THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

If geographers in their publications and articles deal with specific topics of their subject research area - physical geography, settlement systems, composed of urban centres, economic activities in the region, or spatial intra-regional relations, thus they are forming the space-material base, indispensable for the development of regional consciousness and identity itself. Taking into account diploma thesis of students, we tried to discover how the authors perceive and form the image of a region of the theme and spatial scale of their works. It follows that the subjective perception of marginality is a key factor in the further development of the region and should not be forgotten in regional planning and development of the territory. Internal understanding of a region by an observer is always more or less distorted compared to the objective perception of reality.

Methodologically and thematically most important research on the geography of Europe in school textbooks elaborated by U. C. Weinbrenner (1998), was limited to 23 names of books (out of a total of 76 books) in six European countries (Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France, Great Britain and Italy). The content and scope on term of Europe in school textbooks has been also analysed in the paper of Jurij Senegačnik (2010, p. 90). He attempted to determine to what extent and with what kind of content European textbooks approach the study of the geography of Europe.

The other foreign literature, we can mention the work by Whitehand, Edmonson (1997, p. 86), Gutiérrez, López-Nieva (2001, p. 59), and Bosman (2009, p. 23), who have dealt with the analysis of publication and citation activities.

In the Czech geographical community there are rather known the works by Bajerski and Siwek (2012, p. 65), Siwek (2010, p. 366), and Matoušek et al. (2011, p. 11). We would like to draw greater attention to the article by Bajerski and Siwek (2012, p. 55) called „*The Bibliometric Analysis of Czech Geography in the Scopus Database*”, where the authors focus on the most frequently cited articles of the Czech geographers in the Scopus database, as well as on mutual citation relations among the institutes of Czech geographic research.

Outlining a list of the solving issues in Slovakia, there must be mentioned a collection of works by Matlovič (2008, p. 18) and Matlovič, Michaeli (2009, p. 17), dealt with the Slovak geographic community in a space-time scheme. First work, focusing on historical and spatial aspects of the Slovak geography, notes the importance of integrating of the Slovak geographic society into the European geographic community. „*Six decades of academic geographical education and research in Prešov*” is the title of an article describing in detail the geographical tradition of education at an academic level in Prešov, and pointing to the specific positions of the Department in the context of other geographic institutions, because it attempts, as stated – to form a distinctive geographic school based on an integrated form of geography.

Demek (1987, p. 154), in his monograph called „*Introduction to Theoretical Geography*”, has defined geography as a science about geographical sphere, i.e. the sphere studied by geographers. Geography has formed a concept of landscape sphere that is understood as one of the planet's geospheres having specific features and differing significantly from the other concentric covers of the Earth.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Primary data for the synthesis of publication activities were taken from CREPA (The Central Register for the Evidence of Publication Activities) database for the years 2007 - 2011, where one can easily search the records about authors by entering required criteria - a phrase, any word, name of the source document, author, password, category of a document, year of publication, ISBN etc. The survey covered six geographic departments, evenly corresponding with certain self-government regions in Slovakia - The Department of Regional Geography, Planning & Environment in Bratislava, Department of Geography and Regional Development in Nitra, Department of Geography, Geology and Landscape Ecology in Banská Bystrica, Department of Geography in Ružomberok, Institute of Geography in Košice, and The Department of Geography and Regional Development in Prešov.

In the initial phase of the research, we have compiled contingency tables that clearly identify statistical correlation of two characters - the theme and the scale of an article.

The lines of the table represent the region/ regional scale and the territorial range concerned with the article content. Publication outputs by the scale were classified into the following categories:

- local/micro-regional scale – is represented by articles having spatial range from the Cadastre of a municipality up to the administrative border of a statistical district. Under these criteria two subtypes have been allocated: Articles dealing with municipality or micro-region in Slovakia, which are the seats of selected geographical departments, and other municipalities / micro-regions in Slovakia;

- regional scale – includes publications in object area larger than the average area of statistical district (excluding urban districts) up to the range of NUTS II (including). This hierarchical level includes also the two subtypes: articles dealing with meso-regions in Slovakia, which are the seats of selected geographical departments, and other meso-regions in Slovakia;

- national scale – contained all publications dealing with the Slovak Republic. The category included all publications studying the municipalities in Slovakia or certain statistical districts in Slovakia, or NUTS II regions in Slovakia;

The three categories contain the articles with themes touching the area of Slovakia on different hierarchical levels. However, the topic such as Suburbanization of Copenhagen is with regard to the appointed criteria included in the category of transnational/ sub-global scale.

- transnational/ sub-global scale – includes all categories of publications with regional range and scale exceeds the area of Slovakia. Thus, it is irrelevant for our research whether the article is dealing with cross-border cooperation between Slovakia and Poland, or it will describe the tourism in Thailand (both articles by the scale fall below the transnational/ sub-global category). The category is subdivided into three subtypes: articles concerned with Central Europe (V4, Austria, Germany), EU 27/ Europe and extra-European regions;

- global scale - contains articles dealing with the Earth issues such as global environmental problems.

The columns of the contingency table consisted of nine geographical themes generalized in accordance with the criterion of the objective division of sciences by L. Mičian (1982, p. 199).

Themes:

- geography of population and settlement structures – included the analysis of publications concerned with the principles of the development, distribution and structure of population, as well the articles focused on the techniques and methods of the study of spatial structures of population processes and their interaction with other spatial-geographical factors. The category also included articles studying the development, current transformation and prognosis of settlement structures. The titles of analysed articles have often reflected the topic concerned with the position of the settlement system within society, as well as the analysis of new trends of settlement forms and bonds, their hierarchy and regionalization;

- urban geography – includes articles addressing the attributes of a city, as well as the evaluation of complex intra-urban structure of its main components (physiographic, morphological, functional and socio-demographic). Many of the publications were focused on the transformation of urban structures in Central and Eastern Europe after 1989;

- economic geography – the category including publication outputs concerned with partial scientific disciplines of human geography: geography of industry and transport, geography of agriculture and forestry, and geography of tourism;

- political geography – included the contents of theoretical backgrounds of geopolitics and Geo-economy of small states. The chapters were concerned with environmental aspects of geopolitics, internal geopolitics, geographical aspects of international relations, and the issues of state formation. Not least, the category included publications engaged in selected aspects of integration and disintegration processes;

- historical and cultural geography – articles focused on historical-geographical development of Europe from prehistoric times to the early modern period. Publications included

articles dealing with issues of state models, development of political Europe and adjacent regions, the main trends of economic development and society as a whole;

- theory and methodology of geography, education geography – publications cover the epistemological framework of theoretical geography characterizing philosophical-methodological concepts, as well as the basic methodological concepts such as theory, hypothesis, principle, model etc., offering its geographic interpretation;

- physical geography - articles and publications include meta-geographical basis of geography, landscape sphere, lithosphere, pedosphere, troposphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and related fields;

- complex regional geography - themes of the publications are concerned with the research on complex analysis of a region/ territory within individual Geo-spheres;

- other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified.

In case of co-authorship within one department, the given publication is being credited only once for the whole workplace. If the co-authors come from different workplaces (e. g. from the Department of Geography in Ružomberok and the Institute of Geography in Košice), the publication is being recorded in contingency table for both departments.

CONSIDERATION OF PLACE AND THEME IN PUBLICATIONS OF THE SLOVAK GEOGRAPHERS AND STUDENTS' DIPLOMA THESIS OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTIONS IN SLOVAKIA

In the next subchapter we attempt to specify in detail geographical orientation of the selected scientific institutions in Slovakia, and draw attention to the perception of space through the thematic focus of their publications.

Table 1. Publication activity of CREPA database (2007 – 2011) by scale and theme of the staff of the Department of Regional Geography, Planning & Environment in Bratislava
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>		5	13							18
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	1	7	15		1			3		27
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>										0
Other meso-regions in Slovakia	2		2							4
Slovakia	17		40		2	11	1	4	1	76
Central Europe	1		2	5				1		9
EU 28/Europe			1	7	3			4		15
non-European regions				1					1	2
World		1		7	1			4	2	15
Total geographical articles by region	21	13	73	20	7	11	1	16	4	166
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	1	12	28		1			3		45
Regional scale (SVK)	2		2							4
National scale (SVK)	17		40		2	11	1	4	1	76
Transnational/sub-global scale	1		3	12	3			5		24
Global scale		1		8	1			4	3	17
Total geographical articles by scale	21	13	73	20	7	11	1	16	4	166

The Department of Regional Geography in Bratislava started its work at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University on September 1, 1974.

Research base that we used for the comparison of publications from CREPA database (2007 – 2011) consisted of two publications of professors, three associate professors, seven scientists and professionals with PhDs. and eleven internal PhDs. students of the department. Thematically they're dominated publishing units dedicated to economic geography (44.0%), geography of population and settlement structures (12.7%) and political geography (12.0%). In terms of regional range, the publication activity was largely represented by the articles focused on a national scale (45.8%). The second largest category is represented by local studies (27.1% of the total number of publications). In the category of local scale, dominant is the subgroup of articles dealing with other municipalities of Slovakia (60%). The local scale articles oriented at municipality/ micro-region with the seat of the department did not exceed 40% of the total number of publications relating to units of local scale. Third place went to the transnational scale category (14.5%). During the research period 2007 - 2011 only 4 (2.4%) publishing units were analysing the geographic matters at the regional level. Detailed thematic and spatial distribution of publications of the department is presented in (table 1 and figure 1, 2).

Table 2. Publication activity of Diploma thesis by scale and theme at the Department of Regional Geography, Planning & Environment in Bratislava
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>		6	2							8
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	1	18	16		2	1	1	15		54
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>			2							2
Other meso-regions in Slovakia			10			2	3	1		16
Slovakia	2		8				3			13
Central Europe	1	1	2					2		6
EU 28/Europe			11	3	2	1	1	5		23
non-European regions	2	1	4	10	2	2	1	4		26
World					1	1				2
Total geographical articles by region	6	26	55	13	7	7	9	27	0	150
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	1	24	18		2	1	1	15		62
Regional scale (SVK)			12			2	3	1		18
National scale (SVK)	2		8				3			13
Transnational/sub-global scale	3	2	17	13	4	3	2	11		55
Global scale					1	1				2
Total geographical articles by scale	6	26	55	13	7	7	9	27	0	150

The methodology of contingency table's construction and the data processing are identical to the previous chapter. Our survey included also 150 diploma thesis of each geographic workplace. The Department of Regional Geography in Bratislava is focusing mostly on thesis dedicated to economic geography, 55 (36.7%), complex regional geography, 27 (18%) and urban geography, 26 (17.3%). In terms of regional range, most theses focus on the local scale (41.3% of

DT). The local scale sub-category centred at other municipalities in Slovakia presented 87.1% of theses. Locally oriented diploma theses on micro-region or municipality with the seat of the department did not exceed 13% of the total number of DT on a local scale. Diploma theses of transnational/ sub-global scale presented the second largest category (36.7% of DT). Theses regionally oriented were ranked third with total of 18 DT (12%), where even 16 (close to 90%) of which were focused on other meso-regions of Slovakia.

To conclude, we can state that local, regional and transnational scale prevail in diploma theses of students, but on the other hand, the publications from CREPA database include mostly studies of national and global scale (see table 2, figure 1, 2).

Table 3. Publication activity of CREPA database (2007 – 2011) by scale and theme of the staff of the Department of Geography and Regional Development in Nitra
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>			31		2	1	6		5	45
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	7		18		1		17	1		44
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	2	1	19			1	2	1		26
Other meso-regions in Slovakia										0
Slovakia	13		18			2	7	4	3	47
Central Europe	1		2							3
EU 28/Europe			1				1	1		3
non-European regions								1		1
World			2				2	2		6
Total geographical articles by region	23	1	91	0	3	4	35	10	8	175
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	7		49		3	1	23	1	5	89
Regional scale (SVK)	2	1	19			1	2	1		26
National scale (SVK)	13		18			2	7	4	3	47
Transnational/sub-global scale	1		3				1	1		7
Global scale			2				2	3		6
Total geographical articles by scale	23	1	91	0	3	4	35	10	8	175

The second analysed geography department in western Slovakia is the Department of Geography and Regional Development, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra. Geography as a subject of study has been lecturing at the department since the establishment of the Pedagogical Institute (1953-1963). Department of Geography itself was founded in 1961. In our research we have processed the publication units of three associate professors, nine assistant professors with PhD, one scientific researcher and five internal PhD students of the department.

The highest share of publications corresponds by content with the economic geography (52% of all publications). The second largest group represents the physical geography (20% of all articles). The third group of articles included the topics related to geography of population settlement structures (13.1% of all articles).

In terms of region range, local scale prevails (50.9% of all publications), while the municipality/ micro-regional sub-group with the seat of the department includes 45 (50.6%) publication units, and other articles on municipalities in Slovakia present 44 (49.4%) publication units. National scale represents the second largest group of publications of the department. In total, 47 (26.9%) publication units belong in this category. The articles of regional scale present the third most numerous category with 26 (14.9%) articles, all of which are focused on meso-regional with the seat of the department, the Nitra self-governing region (see the table 3, figure 1, 2).

Table 4. Publication activity of Diploma thesis by scale and theme at the Department of Geography and Regional Development in Nitra
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	4	1	5				1	1		12
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	4	20	32				1	11		68
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	2		6		5		2			15
Other meso-regions in Slovakia	1	1	15		13		11			41
Slovakia	3		3			1				7
Central Europe			3							3
EU 28/Europe			1			1				2
non-European regions						1		1		2
World										0
Total geographical articles by region	14	22	65	0	18	3	15	13	0	150
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	8	21	37				2	12		80
Regional scale (SVK)	3	1	21		18		13			56
National scale (SVK)	3		3			1				7
Transnational/sub-global scale			4			2		1		7
Global scale										0
Total geographical articles by scale	14	22	65	0	18	3	15	13	0	150

The highest share of diploma theses corresponds by content with the economic geography (43.3% of all DT), second are the themes concerned with the geography of the place (14.7% of DT), and the third largest group represents theses dealing with historical and cultural geography (12.0% of DT). In terms of region, local scale prevails (53.3% of all DT), while the municipality/ micro-regional sub-group with the seat of the department (Nitra District) includes 12 (15.0%) diploma theses, and other themes on municipalities in Slovakia present 68 (85.0%) diploma theses. The second most numerous group of diploma theses includes works of regional scale, 56 (37.3%). 15 (26.8%) out of them are devoted to the meso-region with the seat of the department, the Nitra self-governing region.

National and transnational scale has a minimum share on the total number of diploma theses (both by 4.7%), while there was no final thesis on global scale (see table 4). Comparing the articles of CREPA with students' diploma theses of the department by scale, we can conclude that local, regional and transnational scale prevails in diploma theses in contrast with national and global scale in the case of publication units of CREPA.

The Department of Geography, Geology and Landscape Ecology in Banská Bystrica was established in 1954 at the Higher Pedagogical School. Since 1995 it has been a part of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Matej Bel University. The highest share of publications is of local/ micro-regional scale (46.3%), where prevails the subcategory of works focused on the micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department (63.4%). To a lesser extent, there were articles concerned with other municipalities in Slovakia (36.6%). In terms of number and share of publications, the second place belongs to national scale with articles focused on Slovakia (34.5% of all publications). Third was the regional scale, together with 16 (9.0%) publications, 6 out of which was of regional character studying an area with the seat of the department (37.5%), and 10 (62.5%) of them were analysing other meso-regions in Slovakia (see table 5, figure 1, 2).

Table 5. Publication activity of CREPA database (2007 – 2011) by scale and theme of the staff of the Department of Geography, Geology and Landscape Ecology in Banská Bystrica
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>			3		1		40	2	6	52
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia			3	1	3		21	2		30
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>			2				4			6
Other meso-regions in Slovakia			2			1	7			10
Slovakia			8	4		12	34		3	61
Central Europe	1		3	1	1					6
EU 28/Europe			1	3			1	1		6
non-European regions				1	1			1		3
World							2	1		3
Total geographical articles by region	1	0	22	10	6	13	109	7	9	177
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)			6	1	4		61	4	6	82
Regional scale (SVK)			4			1	11			16
National scale (SVK)			8	4		12	34		3	61
Transnational/sub-global scale	1		4	5	2		1	2		15
Global scale							2	1		3
Total geographical articles by scale	1	0	22	10	6	13	109	7	9	177

In terms of the character of individual diploma theses in the Department of Geography, Geology and Landscape Ecology in Banská Bystrica, we can state that the dominant theme in contingency table is physical geography (36% of all DT). Well behind to follow the themes of economic geography (16.7% of all DT) and the theory and methodology of geography, and education geography (10% of all DT). The highest share of diploma theses of the department corresponds by range with local/ micro-regional scale (53.3%). In this category, dominant share have the works dealing with other municipalities/ micro-regions in Slovakia (69 DT, 86.3%). To a lesser extent, there were works concerned with the area of the municipality that is the seat of the department – statistical Banská Bystrica district, 11 DT (13.8%). The second place, in terms of the number and share of works dealing with transnational/sub-global scale (19.3% of all diploma theses). 27 (18.0%) works by their context fell under the category of regional scale.

Only 8 (29.6%) of them were in the sub-category studying the region with the seat of the department (the Banská Bystrica self-governing region) and 19 (70.4%) articles were analysing other meso-regions in Slovakia (see graph 6, figure 1, 2).

Table 6. Publication activity of Diploma thesis by scale and theme at the Department of Geography, Geology and Landscape Ecology in Banská Bystrica
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	1	1	2				6	1		11
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	4	7	7		2	11	31	7		69
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	1		2		1		4			8
Other meso-regions in Slovakia	1		1	3	1	1	11	1		19
Slovakia	2		6	2	1	1				12
Central Europe	1		2	1						4
EU 28/Europe			3	3	2	2	2	2		14
non-European regions			2	4	1			3		10
World	1			1	1					3
Total geographical articles by region	11	8	25	14	9	15	54	14	0	150
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	5	8	9		2	11	36	9		80
Regional scale (SVK)	2		3	3	2	1	16			27
National scale (SVK)	2		6	1	1	1				11
Transnational/sub-global scale	1		7	9	3	2	2	5		29
Global scale	1			1	1					3
Total geographical articles by scale	11	8	25	14	9	15	54	14	0	150

Comparing the articles of CREPA with students' diploma theses of the department by scale, we can conclude that local, regional, transnational and global scale prevails in diploma theses in contrast with national scale in the case of publication units of CREPA. The second analysed geography department in Central Slovakia is the Department of Geography, Catholic University in Ružomberok. Most publications of the department are devoted to physical geography what presents 64.2% of all publication units of the department for the period of 2007 – 2011 by CREPA. Significantly lower proportion of articles is concerned with the research in geography of population and settlement structures (14.6% of all publications). Third largest group of research articles (25) has been engaged in the theory and methodology of geography and geography of education (11.1%). In terms of territorial range, the publication units with national (36.7%) and local/ micro-regional scale (35.8%) are rather even spread. On the local level, there prevail publications focusing on other municipalities/ micro-regions in Slovakia (95.1% of all locally oriented articles). Regional and global scale (21 articles, 9.3%) presents the third largest category of publications of the department (see table 7, figure 1, 2).

Diploma theses of the department are mostly focused on physical geography what has been 44.0% of all diploma theses of the department in recent years. The second largest category includes theses concerned with complex regional geography (20.7% of all diploma theses). A third group (21 DT, 14.0%) is mostly represented by diploma theses dealing with the theory and methodology of geography and geography of education.

Table 7. Publication activity of CREPA database (2007 – 2011) by scale and theme of the staff of the Department of Geography in Ružomberok
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>						2	2			4
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	11		2		1	1	62			77
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>			4				3			7
Other meso-regions in Slovakia	9		1				4			14
Slovakia	9	1	3			18	48	1	3	83
Central Europe	1		1			3	2			7
EU 28/Europe	2						1			3
non-European regions			2				8			10
World	1		1			1	15	2	1	21
Total geographical articles by region	33	1	14	0	1	25	145	3	4	226
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	11		2		1	3	64			81
Regional scale (SVK)	9		5				7			21
National scale (SVK)	9	1	3			18	49	1	2	83
Transnational/sub-global scale	3		3			3	10		1	20
Global scale	1		1			1	15	2	1	21
Total geographical articles by scale	33	1	14	0	1	25	145	3	4	226

Table 8. Publication activity of Diploma thesis by scale and theme at the Department of Geography in Ružomberok
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>						4	8	5		17
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	12		3			4	20	8		47
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	4					5	13	3		25
Other meso-regions in Slovakia			3			4	14	3		24
Slovakia			7				5			12
Central Europe								2		2
EU 28/Europe			2		1	2	2	7		14
non-European regions								3		3
World						2	4			6
Total geographical articles by region	16	0	15	0	1	21	66	31	0	150
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	12		3			8	28	13		64
Regional scale (SVK)	4		3			9	27	6		49
National scale (SVK)			7				5			12
Transnational/sub-global scale			2		1	2	2	12		19
Global scale						2	4			6
Total geographical articles by scale	16	0	15	0	1	21	66	31	0	150

In relation to region, most theses include scales of local/ micro-regional (42.7%) and regional level (32.7%). Diploma theses on a local level are particularly concerned with other municipalities in Slovakia (73.4% of all locally oriented diploma theses). The smallest category was represented by national (12 DT, 8.0%) and global (6, 4.0%) scale diploma thesis of students of the department (table 8, figure 1, 2).

To conclude the comparison of publication units of the staff of the department by CREPA and student's diploma theses by scale, we can state that local, regional, and transnational scale prevails in a percentage of diploma theses, while the publications of department staff by CREPA is mostly oriented on national and global scale.

There are two departments of geography in eastern Slovakia, in Košice and Prešov. Institute of Geography, respectively, its predecessor, the Department of Geography at the Faculty of Natural Sciences UPJŠ in Košice exists only since 1998.

The survey of publications of the department included two professors, two associate professors, 12 assistant professors and two scientific researchers. We have analysed 192 publishing units, while the structure of publications from content focused mainly on physical geography with 93 articles (48.4% of all articles), economic geography with 54 publishing units (28.1% of all articles) and the geography of population and settlement structures with 20 publications (10.4% of all articles).

Differentiation of articles by the scale of the observed territory has proved that the highest share of papers was of local dimension (46.9% of all articles). An interesting feature of this category is that more than 61.1% of publishing units addressed the issue of the micro - region in Slovakia, which was the seat of the department - in the case of the Institute of Geography in Košice the object area of local scale was considered to be the Košice-okolie District including four urban districts (Košice I - IV).

The second largest category by scale was on the national level representing 25.5% of all articles. The third most numerous publication category (37 articles) of the Institute of Geography was of regional scale, 27 out of them were concerned with themes of meso-region in Slovakia, which was the seat of the department (73%). Under the territory of meso-region we understand the Košice self-governing region, respectively, if studying the complex area, the NUTS II – Eastern Slovakia (see table 9, figure 1, 2).

We have also analysed 150 diploma theses of the Institute of Geography in Košice. The structure of theses of content predominantly focuses on physical geography with 48 works (32.0% of all diploma theses), economic geography with 42 (28.0% of all DT) and the geography of population and settlement structures with 20 works (13.3% of all final theses).

Differentiation of theses by the scale of the observed territory has shown that the highest share of works was of local dimension (52.0% of all DT). An interesting feature of this category is rather even representation of works concerned with the micro-region in Slovakia, which was the seat of the department (districts of Košice I-V, rural areas) and theses focused on other municipalities or micro-regions in Slovakia.

The second largest category by scale was on the regional level, where 20 (64.5%) out of the total 31 diploma theses were focused on the meso-region seating the institute in Košice. The third most numerous category by scale was the transnational/sub-global level representing 13.3% of all diploma theses (see table 10).

Comparing the articles of the staff of the institute by CREPA with student's diploma theses by scale, we can conclude that local, regional, transnational and global scale prevails in diploma theses in contrast with national scale in the case of publication units of CREPA.

The last geographical workplace we have analysed, was the Department of Geography and Regional Development at Prešov University in Prešov. The Department of Geography and Regional Development is a complex research scientific and educational institution that since 1949 prepares teachers of geography as well as geography experts – analysts and territorial managers in geography.

Table 9. Publication activity of CREPA database (2007 – 2011) by scale and theme of the staff of the Institute of Geography in Košice
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	3	1	11		1		33		6	55
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	4	1	14				16			35
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	2		3				22			27
Other meso-regions in Slovakia	3		4				3			10
Slovakia	7	2	16	1	1	2	16	1	3	49
Central Europe	1		5				1			7
EU 28/Europe		1	1				1	3		6
non-European regions				1			1			2
World								1		1
Total geographical articles by region	20	5	54	2	2	2	93	5	9	192
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	7	2	25		1		49		6	90
Regional scale (SVK)	5		7				25			37
National scale (SVK)	7	2	16	1	1	2	16	1	3	49
Transnational/sub-global scale	1	1	6	1			3	3		15
Global scale								1		1
Total geographical articles by scale	20	5	54	2	2	2	93	5	9	192

Table 10. Publication activity of Diploma thesis by scale and theme of the Institute of Geography in Košice
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	7	5	11		1	1	14	1		40
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	2	2	8	1	1	2	21	1		38
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	3		6		2	1	8			20
Other meso-regions in Slovakia	5		5				1			11
Slovakia	3	1	6		3		2			15
Central Europe		1	5		1		2			9
EU 28/Europe				4						4
non-European regions				7						7
World		1	1	3	1					6
Total geographical articles by region	20	10	42	15	9	4	48	2	0	150
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	9	7	20	1	2	3	34	2		78
Regional scale (SVK)	8		10		2	1	10			31
National scale (SVK)	3		6		3		3			15
Transnational/sub-global scale		2	5	11	1		1			20
Global scale		1	1	3	1					6
Total geographical articles by scale	20	10	42	15	9	4	48	2	0	150

Within the department, we have evaluated 278 articles of four professors, two associate professors, six assistant professors, three scientific researchers and twenty internal PhDs students.

Almost a third of the articles thematically belong to the category of physical geography. This category is represented by 89 (32%) publishing units. The second and third largest group of publications appears in the field of economic geography 66 (23.7%) and political geography 33 (11.9%). From the territorial point of view, most publications fall under national (88 articles, 31.7%) and local/ micro-regional scale (87 articles, 31.3%).

In the category of local scale, there are 39 articles (44.8% of all articles) dealing with municipality/ micro-region in Slovakia, which is the seat of the department (Prešov District) and 48 papers (55.2% of all articles) concerned with other municipalities/ micro-regions in Slovakia.

Neither the staff of the Department of Geography and Regional Development in Prešov showed significant interest in addressing the issues of concrete self-governing regions of Slovakia. Regional scale is represented by 34 (12.2%) publication units, while 28 articles (82.4% of regionally oriented articles) are focused on meso-region, which is the seat of the department. Under the territory of meso-region we understand the Prešov self-governing region, respectively, if studying the complex area, the NUTS II – Eastern Slovakia (see table 11, figure 1, 2).

Table 11. Publication activity of CREPA database (2007 – 2011) by scale and theme of the staff of the Department of Geography and Regional Development in Prešov
(Data source: CREPA database)

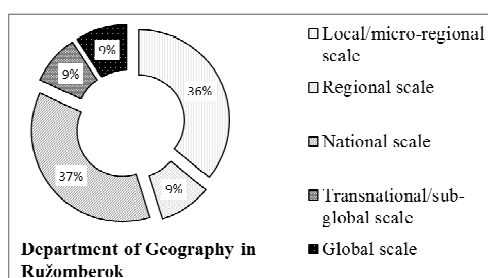
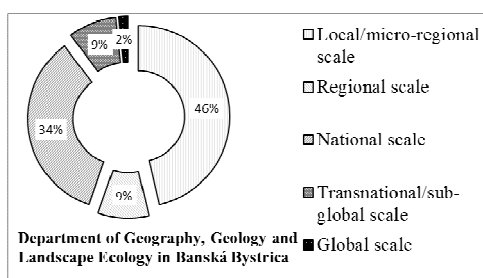
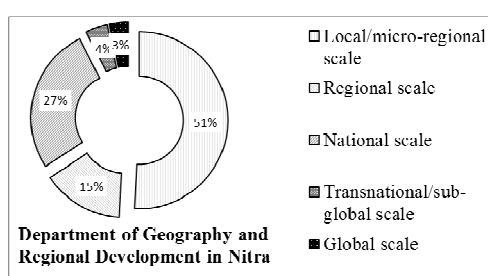
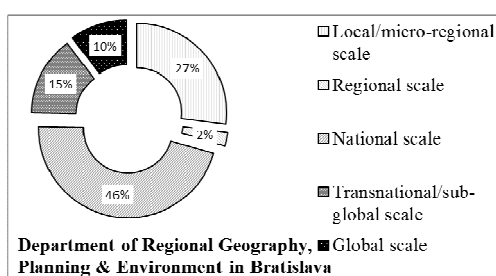
Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	5	12	9	2		2	8		1	39
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	4	4	7	1			32			48
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	6	2	11		2		6	1		28
Other meso-regions in Slovakia		1	2				2	1		6
Slovakia	6	3	24	1	2	17	35			88
Central Europe	3	3	2	5			4			17
EU 28/Europe	2		10	9	1		2	2		26
non-European regions			1	6	4					11
World				9		6				15
Total geographical articles by region	26	25	66	33	9	25	89	4	1	278
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	9	16	17	2		2	40		1	87
Regional scale (SVK)	6	3	13		2		8	2		34
National scale (SVK)	5	3	23	2	2	17	36			88
Transnational/sub-global scale	6	3	13	20	5		5	2		54
Global scale				9		6				15
Total geographical articles by scale	26	25	66	33	9	25	89	4	1	278

Nearly 43% of diploma theses thematically belong to the category of economic geography. This category represents 64 out of total 150 analysed theses. The second and third largest group present diploma works in the field of physical geography with 35 (23.3%) works and political geography with 19 (12.7%) works. In terms of regional range, almost two-thirds of all diploma theses are of local/ micro-regional scale (96 diploma theses, 64%). The category is dominated by

theses concerned with other municipalities/ micro-regions in Slovakia (76 DT, 79.2%). Only 22 locally oriented final theses (22.9%) were focusing on the area of municipal/ micro-region in Slovakia, which was the seat of the department (Prešov District).

Table 12. Publication activity of diploma thesis by scale and theme at the Department of Geography and Regional Development in Prešov
(Data source: CREPA database)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	2		10			1	6	3		22
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	9		31	2	3		24	7		76
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	1		9		1	1	3			15
Other meso-regions in Slovakia			4	1			1			6
Slovakia			1	1	1	1				4
Central Europe			2	2						4
EU 28/Europe		1	6	5			1	1		14
non-European regions			1	8						9
World										0
Total geographical articles by region	12	1	64	19	5	3	35	11	0	150
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	11		41	2	3	1	28	10		96
Regional scale (SVK)	1		13	1	1	1	6			23
National scale (SVK)			1	1	1	1				4
Transnational/sub-global scale		1	9	15			1	1		27
Global scale										0
Total geographical articles by scale	12	1	64	19	5	3	35	11	0	150



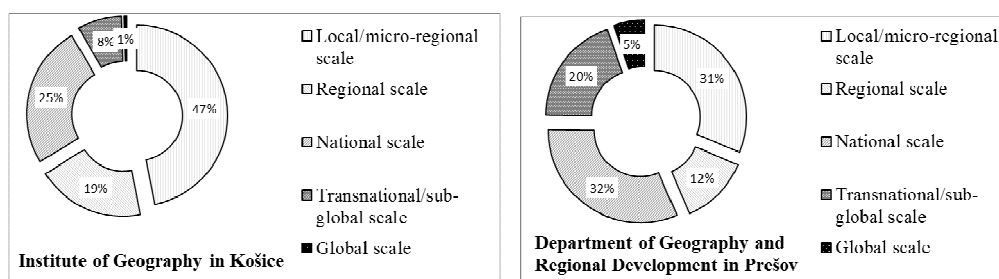


Figure 1. Publication activity by scale of the Slovakian Geographers
(Data Source: CREPA database, 2007 – 2011))

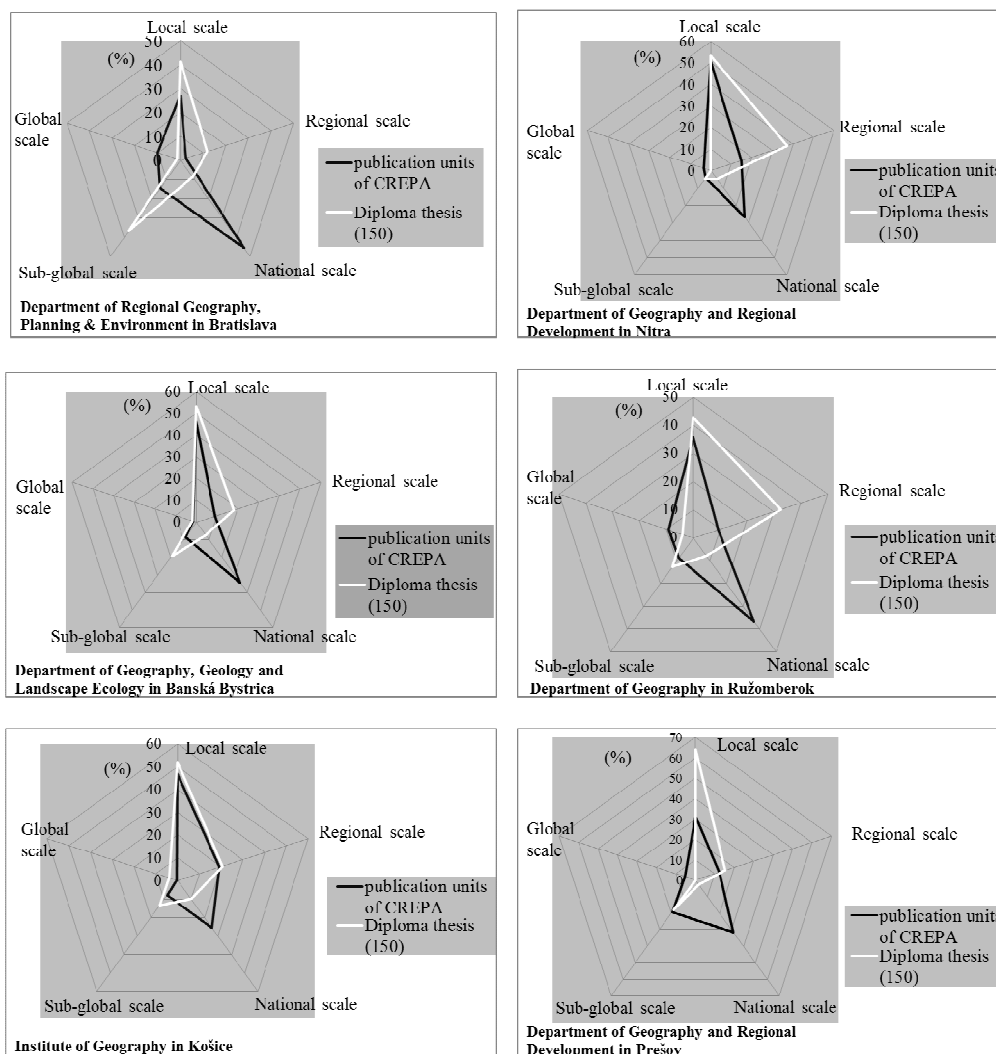


Figure 2. Percentages comparison of Diploma thesis and publication units of CREPA by scale of students and staff of the Slovakian geography departments
(Data Source: CREPA database, 2007 – 2011))

CONCLUSION

Having analysed the publication outputs of selected geographical workplaces in Slovakia, we can conclude that there is rather an insufficient publishing activity in terms of regional scale at the expense of local, micro-regional and national dimension. Lack of interest to publish articles addressing the phenomenon of self-government regions, the process of their institutionalization in relation to different hierarchical levels of management, follow the tendency of the respondents of our survey, who, like the Slovak geographic community, did not show such an intense relationship, a “sense of patriotism” to the region, as to their rural community/ town (local patriotism), or to state (national patriotism).

On the other hand, we emphasize the growing lack of interest of Slovak geographers to address transnational / sub-global or global scale. As R. Matušek et al. (2011, p. 12) points out in his paper “Challenges for Czech Geography: From the “Black Book” to a Bright Future”, analysing the number of articles in journals such as *Geografia*, *Acta Universitatis Carolinae Geographica* and *Moravian Geographical Reports* for the years 2005 -2010 by region and geographical scale that publications of Czech geographers are losing the relevance of global scale. This negative phenomenon is even more occurring in the Slovak geographic community. The absence of transnational or global scale is clear from the comparison of individual contingency tables of geographic institutions in Slovakia (see figure 3, table 13).

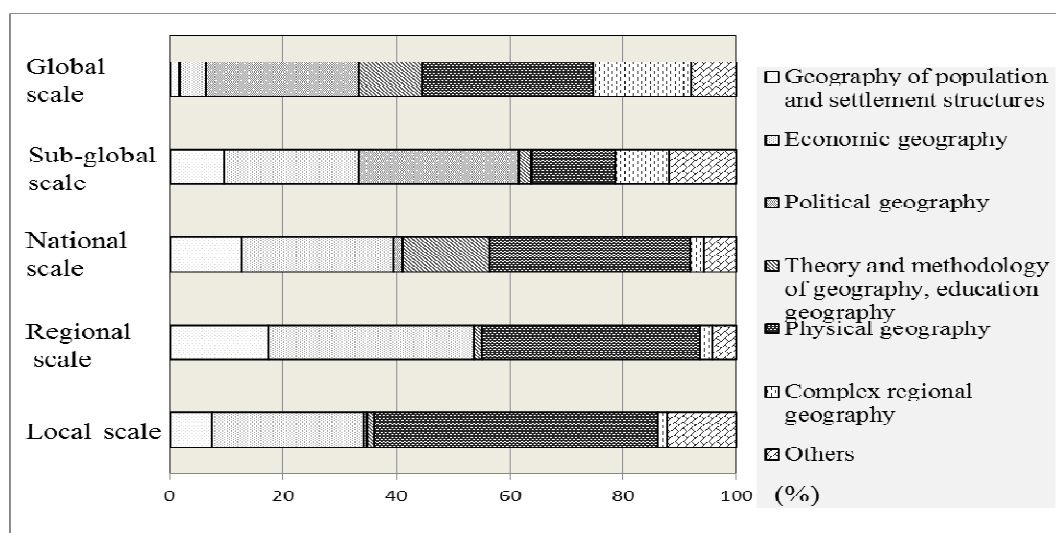


Figure 3. Percentages comparison of overall geography publications activity by scale and theme of the Scholars in Slovakia

(Data Source: CREPA database, 2007 - 2011)

Relevance of the research lies in the positive response (for example through citations), especially from foreign scientific community, and unfortunately to some bright exceptions, locally and nationally presented papers in Slovak geographic journals find response only from “friendly colleagues” from neighbouring workplaces or in the final works of students of geography. Comparing the selected geographic workplaces we assumed that most publication units would analyse the mutual relation of man and nature, what might have been reflected in the number of articles with regional themes. This assumption was not confirmed, since all the studied geographic departments have been affected by positivist philosophical thinking, reflected in a strict separation, respectively a dualism in publishing units focused either on physical geography or human geography. The disadvantage of the analysed themes falling under complex regional geography is the concept applying so called descriptions place scheme based on Hettner’s regional-geographic systematic.

Table 13. Overall publications activity by scale and theme of the Geography staff in Slovakia by CREPA database (2007 - 2011)

(Data source: CREPA database, 2007-2011)

Region/Theme	Geography of population and settlement structures	Urban geography	Economic geography	Political geography	Historical and cultural geography	Theory and methodology of geography, education	Physical geography	Complex regional geography	Other, marginal disciplines, not elsewhere classified	Total geographical articles
<i>Municipality/micro-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	8	18	67	2	4	5	89	2	18	213
Other municipalities/micro-regions in Slovakia	27	12	59	2	6	1	148	6	0	261
<i>Meso-region in Slovakia with the seat of the department</i>	10	3	39	0	2	1	37	2	0	94
Other meso-regions in Slovakia	14	1	11	0	0	1	16	1	0	44
Slovakia	52	6	109	6	5	62	141	10	13	404
Central Europe	8	3	15	11	1	3	7	1	0	49
EU 28/Europe	4	1	14	19	4	0	6	11	0	59
non-European regions	0	0	3	9	5	0	9	2	1	29
World	1	1	3	16	1	7	19	10	3	61
Total geographical articles by region	124	45	320	65	28	80	472	45	35	1214
Local/micro-regional scale (SVK)	35	30	127	3	10	6	237	8	18	474
Regional scale (SVK)	24	4	50	0	2	2	53	3	0	138
National scale (SVK)	51	6	108	7	5	62	143	10	12	404
Transnational/sub-global scale	13	4	32	38	10	3	20	13	2	135
Global scale	1	1	3	17	1	7	19	11	3	63
Total geographical articles by scale	124	45	320	65	28	80	472	45	35	1214

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