

# **Location as a factor of development at the local level (the case of Slovak rural space)**

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# One place – many worlds...

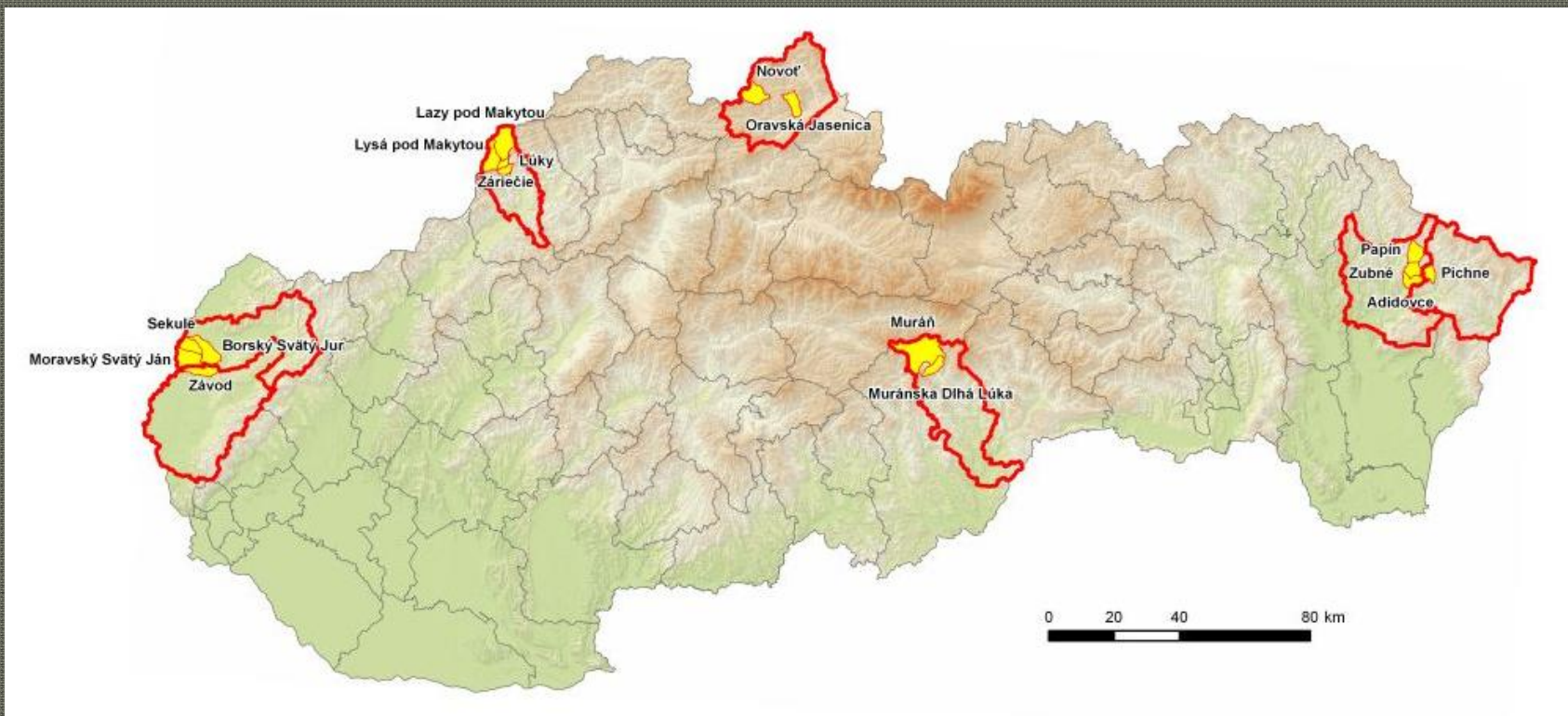
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- livelihood strategies variability in space
- the project was supposed to bring a shift in causal knowledge of connection between spatial and social inequalities in post-socialist society
- focus on rural areas



# Survey: 5 different areas within Slovakia

- variability of economic development
- variability of human capital???





# What's the subject of this presentation?

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- one of the Project's goals: differences in life strategies in various regions of Slovakia
- livelihood strategies depend on regional/local conditions and demographic structure ⇒

**DOES LOCATION HAVE ANY IMPACT  
ON HUMAN POTENTIAL IN RURAL  
SPACE?**



# Location, transport networks and development

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- Location and more specifically position in transport networks = principal factor of rural development (Perrels 2004, Seidenglanz – Krejčí 2007, Zubriczký 2002)
- Transport infrastructure and position in transport networks play an important role in shaping rural communities' economic and social prospects (Binek et al. 2009, Džupinová et al. 2008)



# Regional/local economic development – role of human potential (1)

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Labrianidis (2006):

- economic growth in rural space is closely associated with abilities, skills and „entrepreneurial talent“ of the local population
- sparsely populated (peripheral) rural areas with a high proportion of elderly people = a risky territory for a successful business



# Regional/local economic development – role of human potential (2)

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Human capacity as a factor of regional development acts in 2 different ways (Liptáková 2007):

- as a source of labour force (with certain skills, education...)
- as consumers/users of local services and products

⇒ livelihood strategies (labour opportunities, ambition or willingness to run a local firm, etc.)



# Elements of human potential (local level)

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- amount of population (size of a community)
- age of population (various parametres)
- education structure
- natural increase
- migration
- cultural diversity
- etc.

(Acs-Armington 2004, Liptáková 2007,  
Mintálová 2007, Bleha et al. 2009, Koubek  
2010, etc.)



# Regional variability of human capital (in Slovakia)

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Bleha et al. (2009):

- spatial variability of human capital
- role of demographic processes
- regional level

**Role of location (towards regional cores)?**  
**Role of position in transport networks?**



## Factor of location (core – periphery)

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Does human potential polarize in space?

- accessibility of the capital city (BA)
- accessibility of (macro-)regional cores (county centres)
- accessibility of regional centres - towns/cities over 20,000



# Factor of transport network

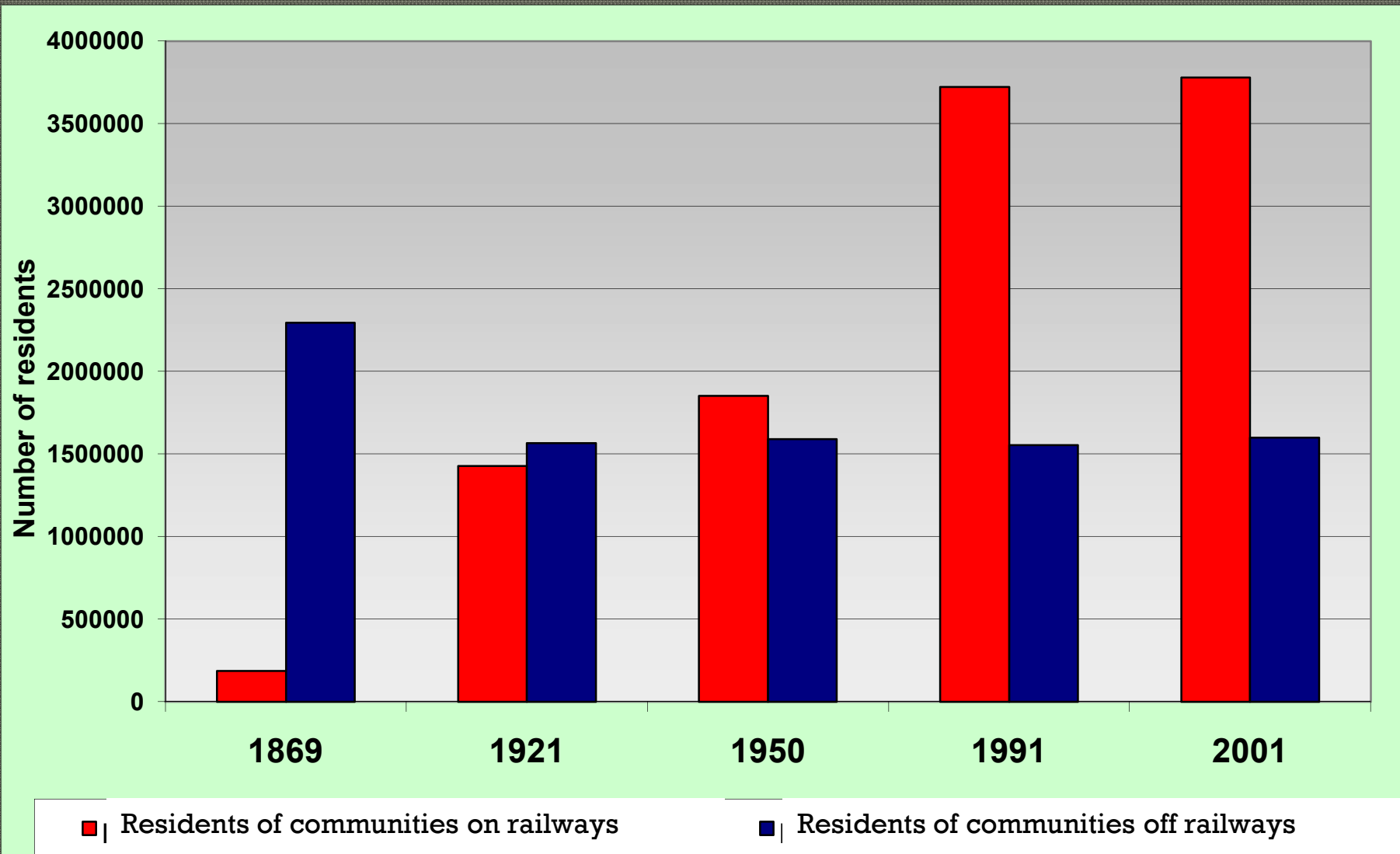
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Does transport infrastructure and its hierarchy affect the human capital?

- position on international/regional railways
- position on roads of various hierarchy (motorways/expressways??/1st – 3rd class roads)



# Role of railways in population concentration in Slovakia (1869-2001)





# Focus of the survey

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- Žilina County (later Slovakia)
- local level (communities)
- communities up to 5,000 residents
- accessibility of urban cores with 20,000 and more residents (distance -10 km, 11-20 km, 21-30 km, 31-40 km, 41+ km)
- position in transport networks – combination of railways/roads/hierarchy: categories 1 – 5 (1= best, 5 = worst)



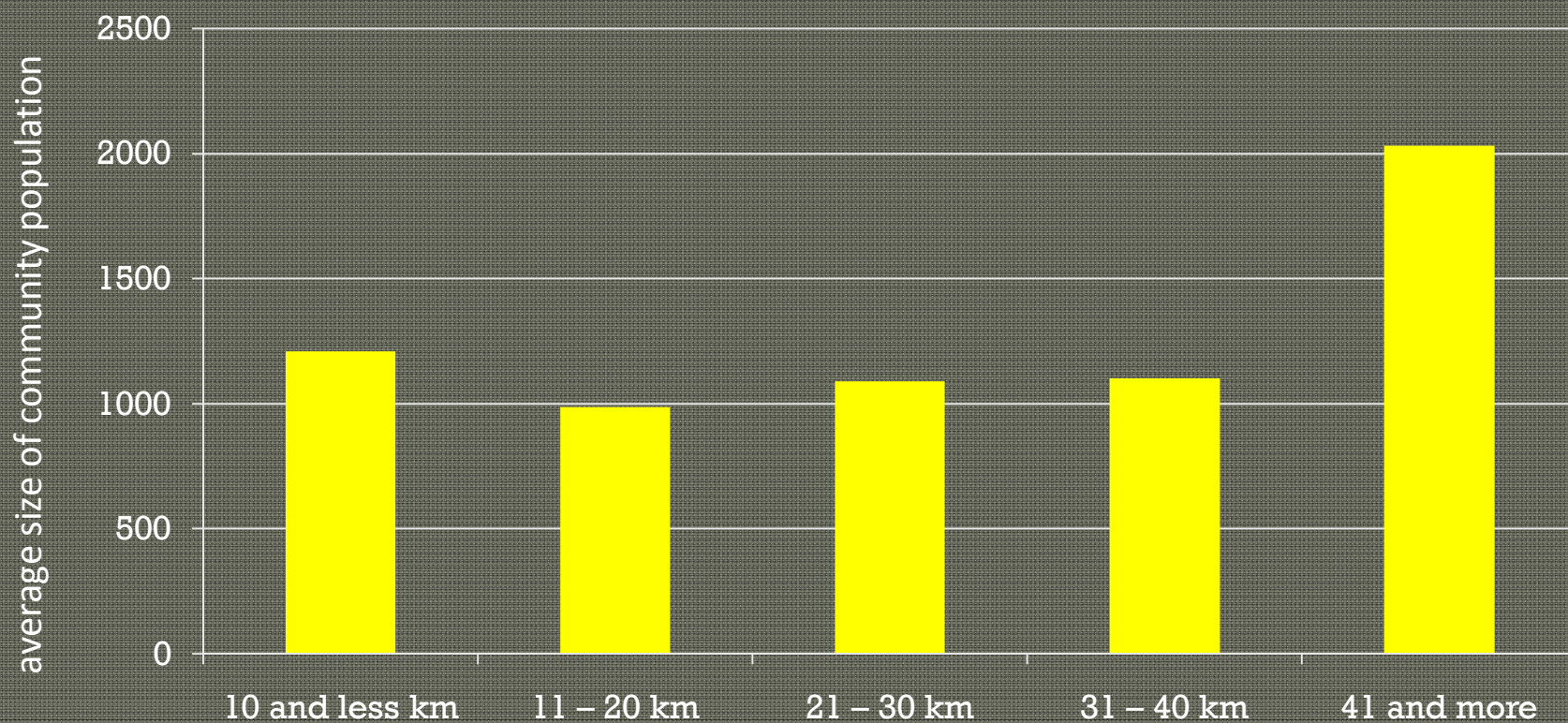
# Žilina County





# Community size

## Average size of community population (Žilina County)

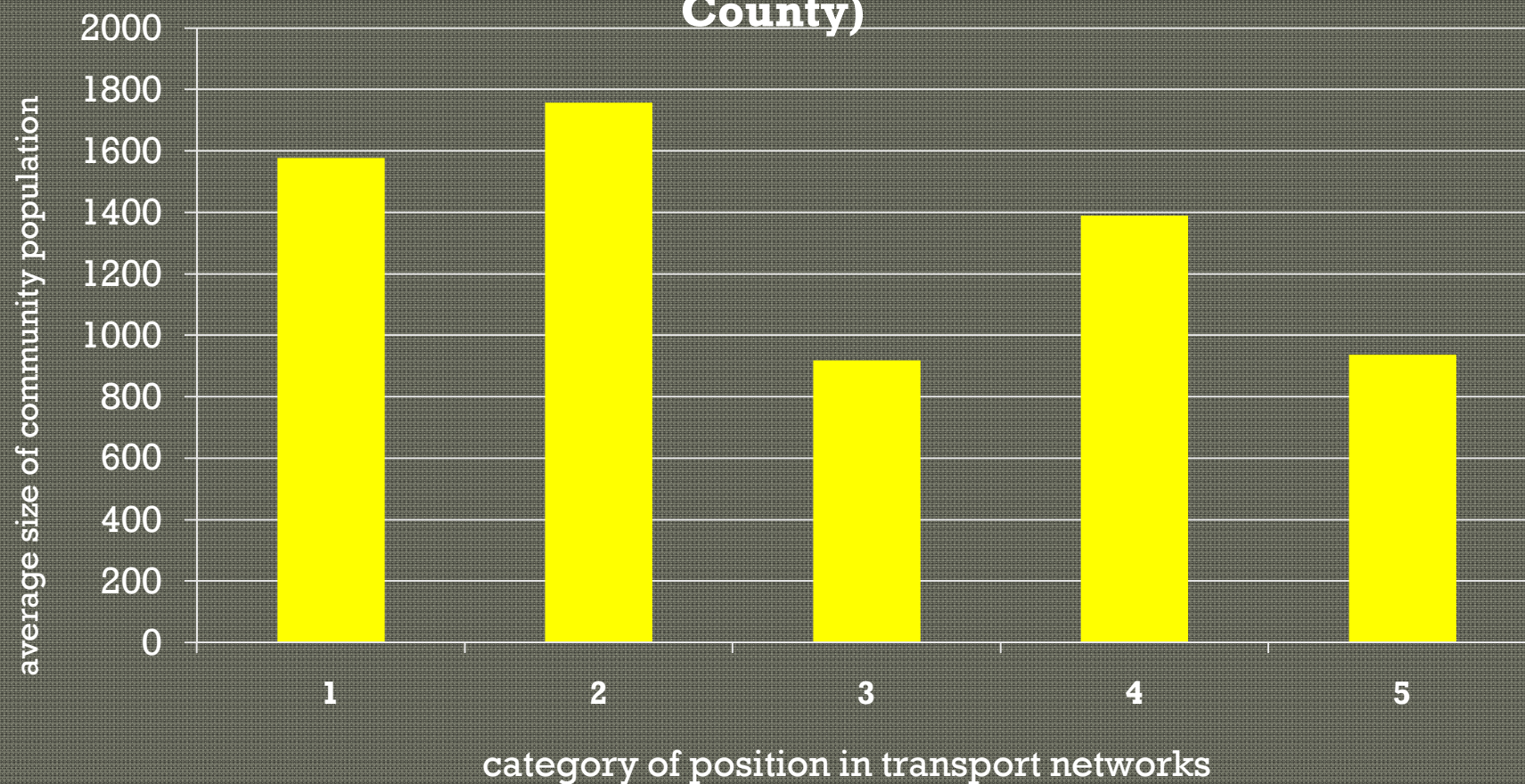


distance to an urban core with 20,000 and more residents



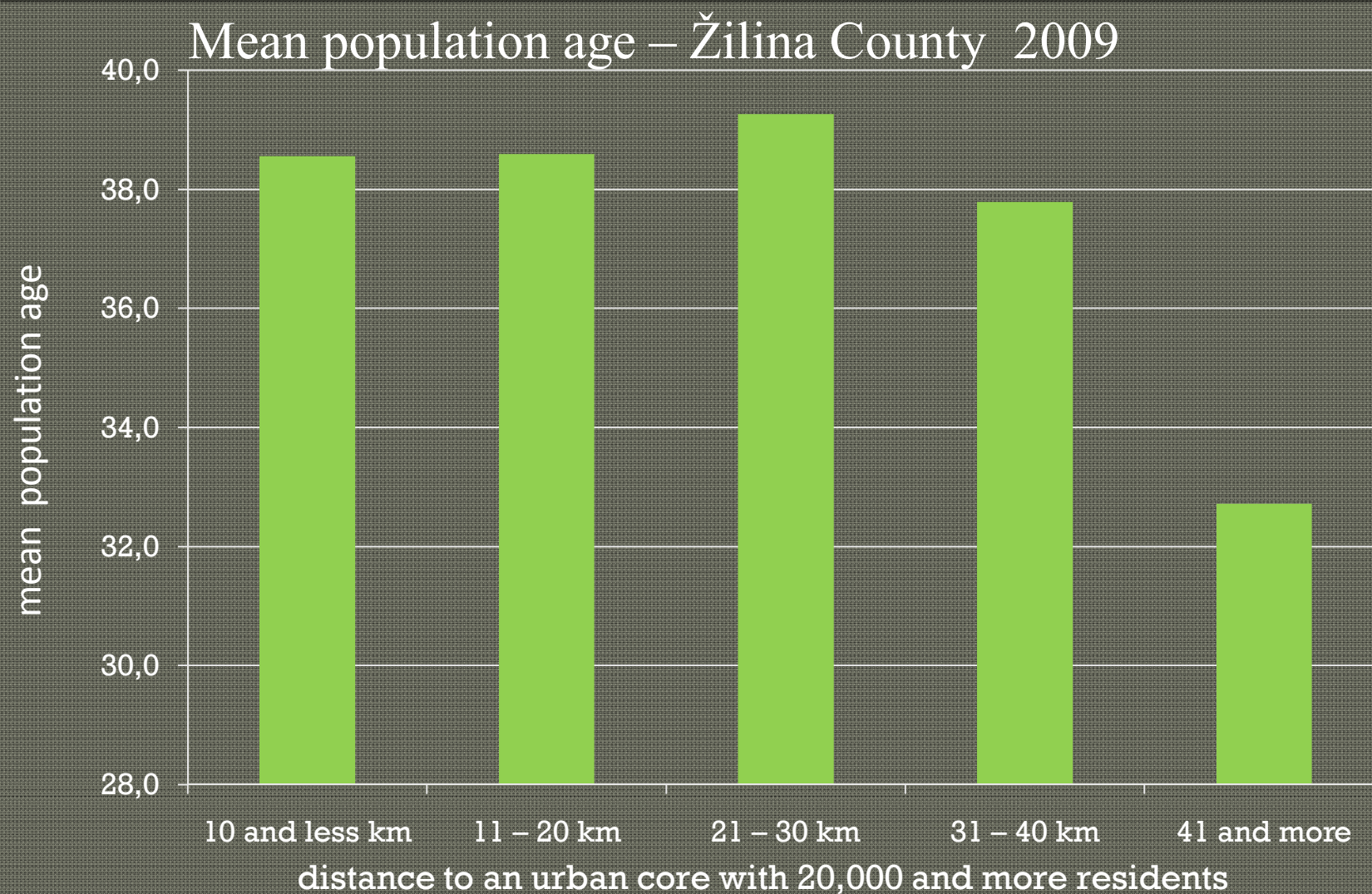
# Community size

**Average size of community population (Žilina County)**



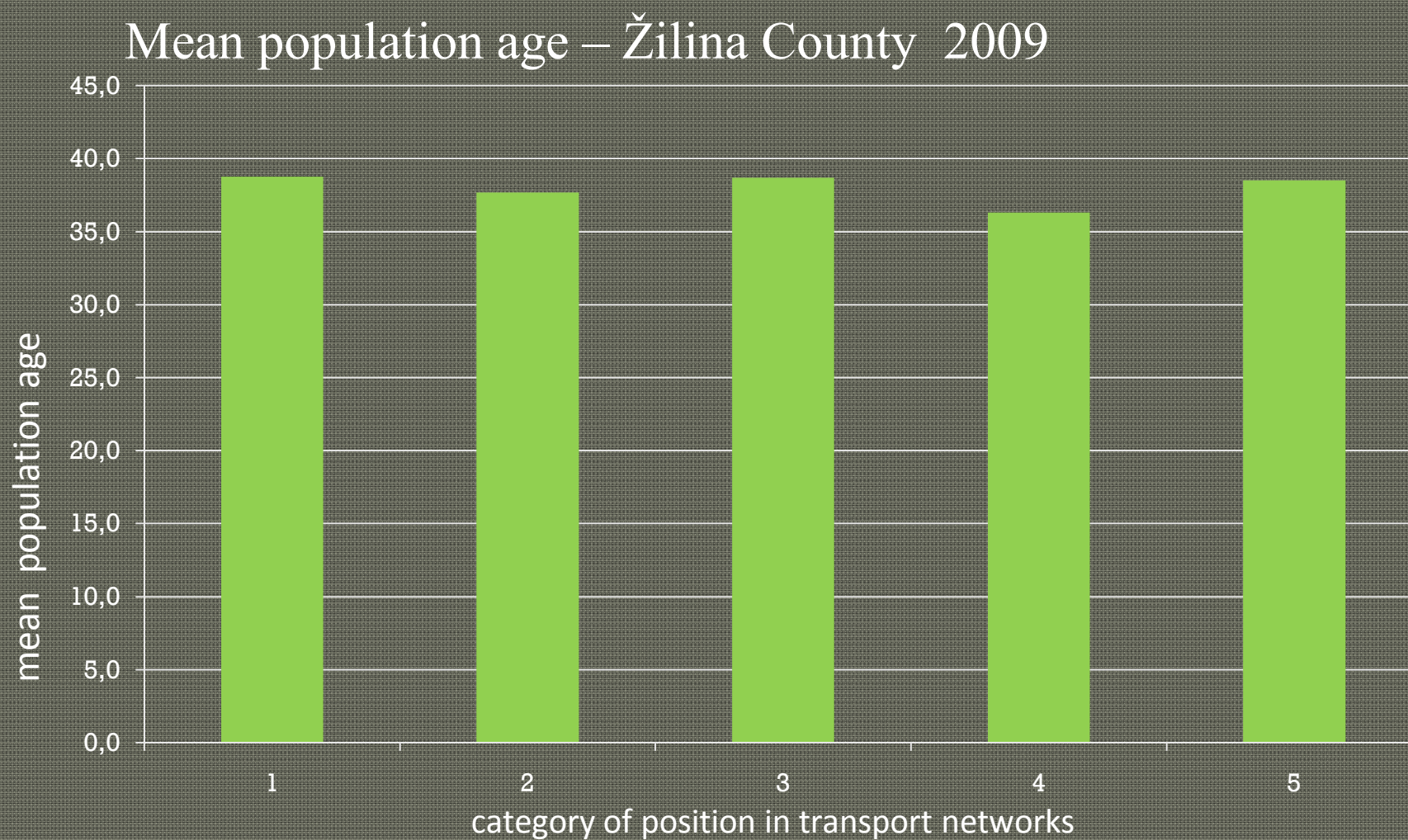


# Mean population age





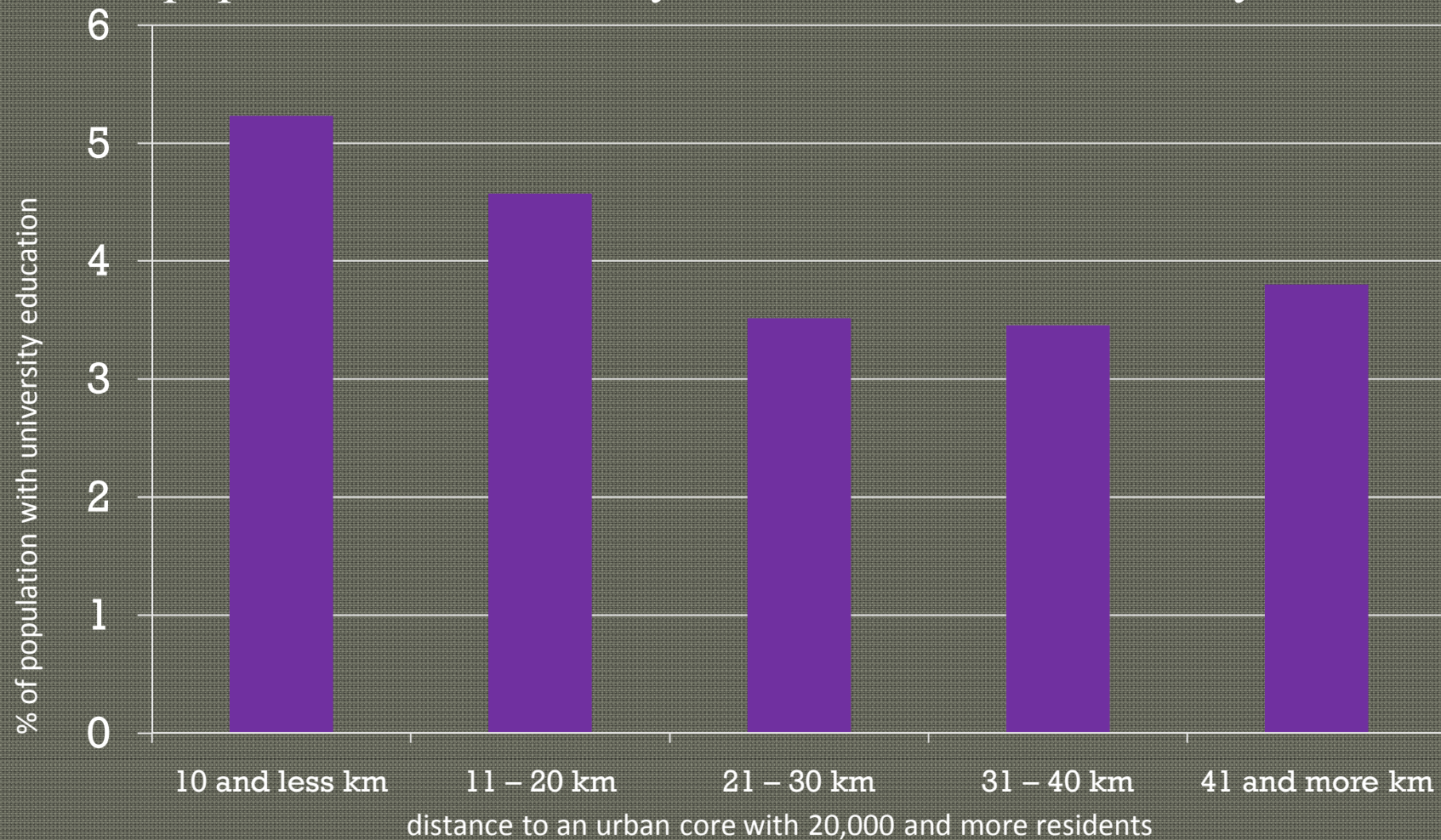
# Mean population age





# Education structure

Share of population with tertiary education – Žilina County 2009





# Education structure

Share of population with tertiary education – Žilina County 2009





# Conclusions or questions?

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Effects of regional specifics settlement structure?

- dispersed settlements, very small communities

Effects of regional demographic specifics?

- depopulation areas, high-natality areas, specific ethnic structure

Effects of suburbanization?



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**Thank you for your attention!**