

One place – many worlds: geographical variability in life strategies in Slovak society

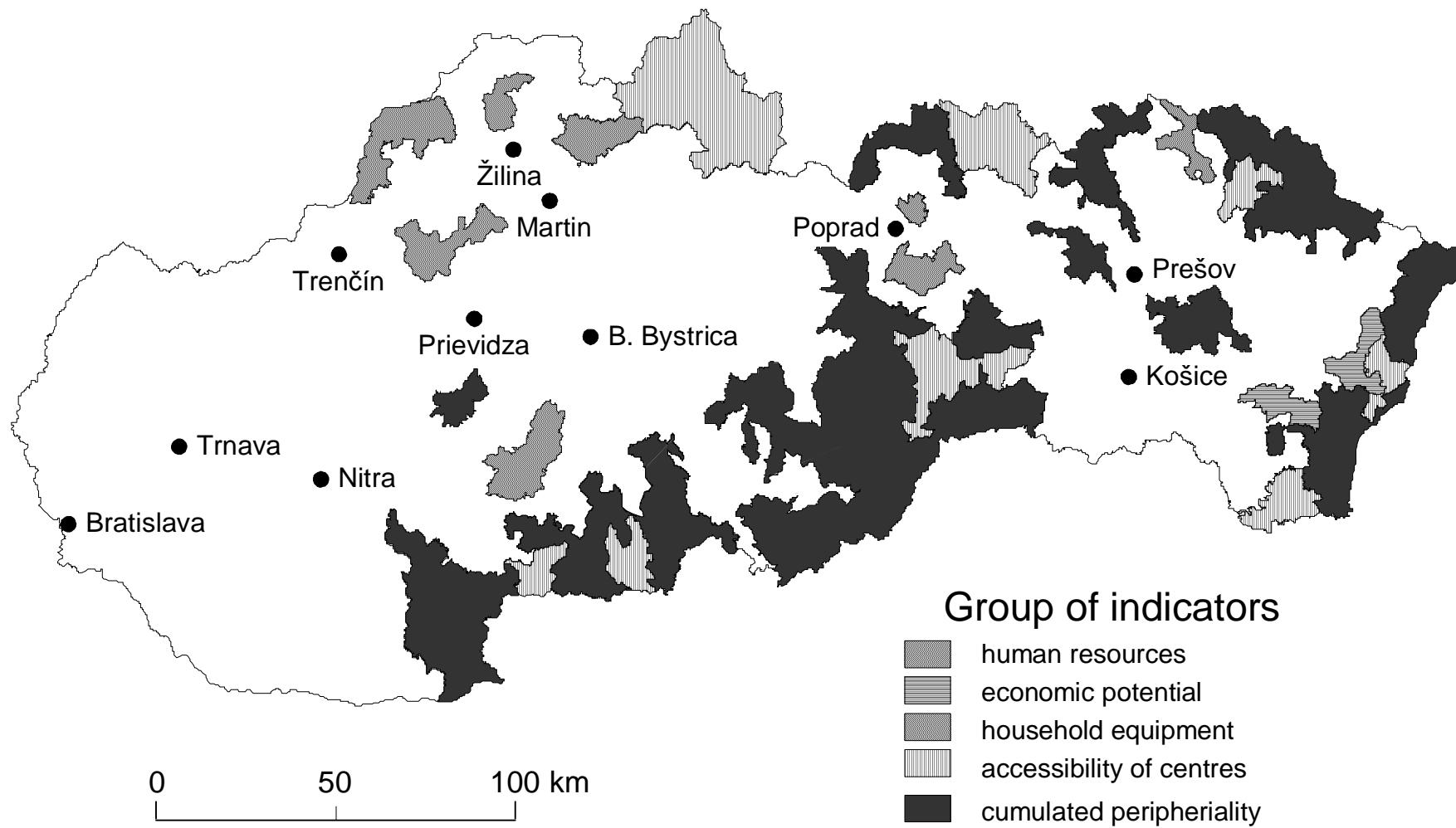
Principal challenges of the research project

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Post-socialism, neo-liberal policy and their consequences

- livelihood strategies/strategies of survival in post-socialism
- variability of mechanisms to sustain livelihoods in context of job loss, changing labour market, neo-liberal and social policy, globalization impacts...
- formal employment = only 1 of the practices to sustain livelihood (Smith 2002, Stenning 2003)
- 4 types of household assets to sustain livelihoods (Burawoy et al. 2000): inheritance assets, skill assets, social assets, citizenship assets
- spatial viewpoint

Peripheral regions of Slovakia



Challenges

- How has post-socialist development changed vertical/horizontal structure of Slovak society?
- How much has recent neo-liberal and social policy influenced livelihood strategies of households?
- What is the role of space/place in variability of household strategies?

Project objectives

- creation of a theoretical and methodological research basis
- summation of databasis on vertical and horizontal societal differentiation in Slovakia
- identification of spatial typology of regions/places (creation of a model of spatial differentiation)
- realization & evaluation of a pilot questionnaire survey
- a questionnaire survey in representative population
- in-depth evaluations and interviews, revealing variation of strategies in surveyed places/regions

Methodology

- quantitative statistical analysis (creation of a statistical model → typology of various environments)
- qualitative approach (questionnaire, interviews – local representatives/households)
- ethnographic research, collecting photographic material

Duration of the project

- June 2008 – December 2010
- pivotal field research:
 - May/June 2009
 - May/June 2010
- students of Geography



Outputs

- symposium/workshop
- project web-page:
<http://www.humannageografia.sk/projekt1/>
- mono-thematic exhibition in the Slovak National Museum, Bratislava



Mojtín, April 2009



Slatinské Lazy, May 2007

Košecké Podhradie, April 2009



Thank you for attention!