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PROBLEMS OF THE POPULATION OF GMINA USTKA LOCATED IN THE COASTAL AREA OF THE BALTIC SEA

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Abstract

The present paper is an attempt to present the most important demographic problems in the area of the south Baltic described on the example of gmina Ustka. The author tried to describe in detail demographic potential of the community and indicate the reasons of population changes. The paper also presents the structures of population according to selected demographic and educational features and changes of natural and migration movements.

Key words: gmina Ustka, population, sex and age structure, natural mobility, migrations

INTRODUCTION

Population of Central Pomerania, including gmina Ustka evolved through migrations. Rapid population growth was the effect of immigration genesis of population characterized by extremely young age structure. Thus, a natural consequence was a high population growth in the post war period. Some unfavorable tendencies in demographic structures appeared in the eighties and became very intense in the period of social and economic transformations. In this context, we should give our attention to results of analysis and demographic research which are necessary elements of social and economic policy. It is a remarkably important problem in relation to local communities where effectiveness of social activities depends considerably on the right relations between spatial arrangement of structures and demographic processes. It is enough to mention that a demographic situation influences the employment policy, access to education and development of the building sector.

In reference to the presented thesis, the present paper analyses the demographic situation in gmina Ustka located in the coastal area of the Southern Baltic. The present paper describes changes of demographic potential against a background of evolving demographic structures. The author connected those facts with changes in natural and migration movements of the population between 1989 and 2002.

Table 1
Tendencies of changes of settlement in gmina Uszka between 1989-2002

Years	Area km ²	Population total	Number of men	Number of women	Density of population	Number of women per 100 men	Dynamics of growth 1989=100%
1989	218	7 109	3 624	3 485	33	96	100.0
1990	218	7 012	3 602	3 410	32	95	98.6
1991	218	7 082	3 627	3 455	33	95	99.6
1992	218	7 187	3 699	3 488	33	94	101.1
1993	218	7 267	3 757	3 510	33	94	102.2
1994	218	7 310	3 762	3 548	34	94	102.8
1995	218	7 394	3 798	3 596	34	95	104.0
1996	218	7 438	3 809	3 629	34	95	104.6
1997	218	7 483	3 834	3 649	34	95	105.3
1998	218	7 428	3 818	3 610	34	96	104.5
1999	218	7 464	3 815	3 649	34	96	105.0
2000	218	7 476	3 805	3 671	34	96	105.2
2001	218	7 516	3 816	3 700	34	97	105.7
2002	218	7 197	3 617	3 580	33	99	101.2

Source: Statistic year-book of the Slupsk Voievodship and tables 1989-1999, WUJS, Slupsk, Statistic year-book of the Pomerania Voievodship 2000-2002, US, Gdańsk, 2003

DEMOGRAPHIC POTENTIAL AND ITS CHANGES

In 2002, the population of gmina Ustka numbered 7 197 people, i.e. was 10.2% of the population of the rural areas of Powiat Słupsk (Tab. 1). The population of the described area had a growth tendency between 1975 and 2001. In 5-year periods: 1975-1980, 1980-1985, 1985-1990, 1990-1995 and 1995-2000 a coefficient of population dynamics ranged from 101% to 105% and only in 2002 showed the slight fall in population growth. Slight different transformations of the demographic situation can be observed in villages located in gmina Ustka.

The settlement system consists of 34 locations including 21 villages, 5 settlements and 5 colonies. The number of inhabitants in particular localities differs considerably and in 2002 ranged from 891 people in Objazda to 3 people in Orzechowo. The average number of inhabitants in the described area was 276 people per single locality. Nineteen units i.e. 55.9 % of the all locations declare a population lower than the average in gmina Ustka. There are over 500 inhabitants in the villages of Objazda and Przewłoka, 100 to 500 inhabitants in 21 villages and less than 100 inhabitants in the remaining 11 locations (Fig. 1). Systematical population growth and increased

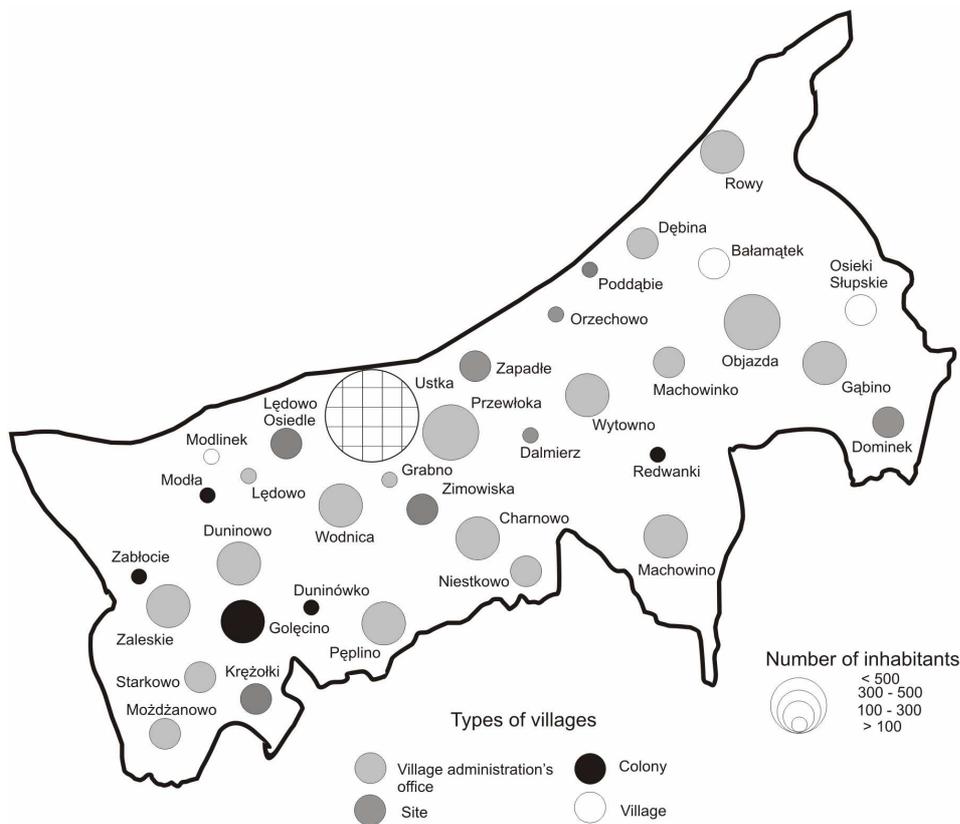


Fig. 1. Settlement structure of gmina Ustka in 2003

concentration of population is observed in the villages situated in the vicinity of Ustka town (Przewłoka, Łędowno, Grabno) and in summer resorts (Rowy and Poddąbie). Decrease of population is observed in villages connected in the past with the state farms. In Objazda the decrease of population was 20.1%, Wytowno 33.4% and Zaleskie 18.7%. Concentration and density of population differs in time and space. In 2002, the average density of population in the described gmina was 33 people/km² while the country average for the rural areas was 51 people/km².

STRUCTURE OF POPULATION ACCORDING TO SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC AND STRUCTURAL FEATURES

Structure of population according to sex and age

According to the research results, the population of gmina Ustka is characterized by a surplus of men over women, in 2002 there were 100 men per 99 women. Considering proportions of sex in different age groups the situation is specific. Men dominate in all age groups, besides the group of 5 to 14 years olds and people over 65 years old. Additional analysis indicates that the basis of the pyramid becomes narrower and the top part of the pyramid gets wide (Fig. 2). It might indicate that the process of ageing

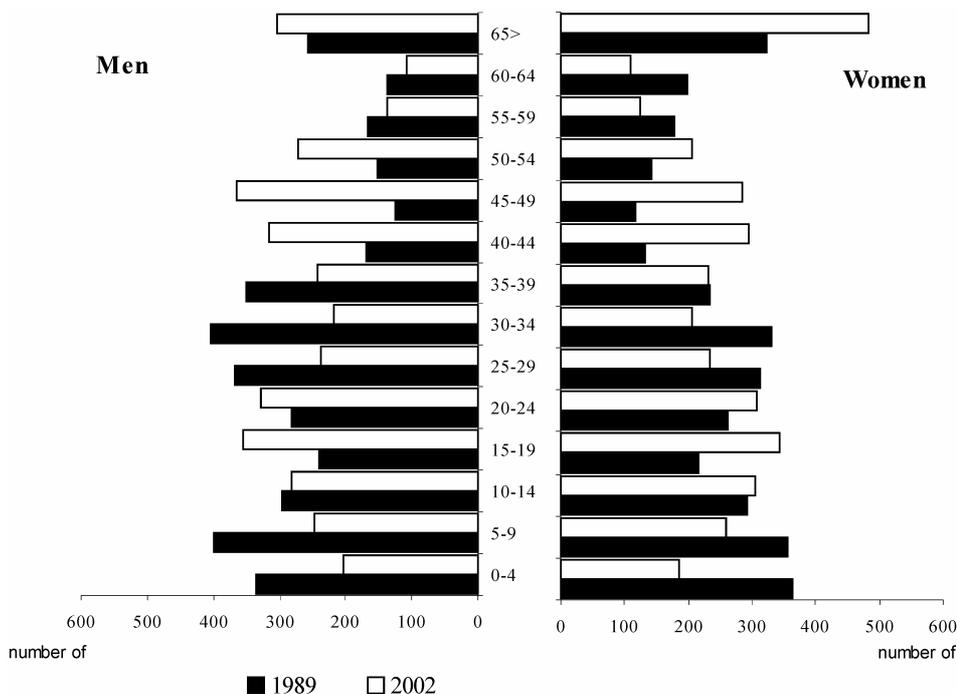


Fig. 2. Changes of population structures according to sex and age in gmina Ustka between 1989 and 2002

of the described population has begun. Between 1989 and 2002 the number of people in the production age increased from 11.1% in 1989 to 12.6% in 2002, and a coefficient of potential support decreased from 7.8% in 1989 to 7.3% in 2002. This kind of situation is characteristic to societies that are getting old because the number of the tax-payers decreases and the number of the retired increases.

Other tendencies of changes concern the number of people in production age. The percentage of people in production age increased from 56.5% in 1989 to 62.0% in 2002. The transformation period concurred with rapid increase of population in production age. According to demographic prognosis this tendency will last till 2010 and in case of gmina Ustka will impede solving problems on the local labor market (Rydz 1997). It is enough to mention that in 2002 the coefficient of unemployment in the community of Ustka was 30.5% while the country average was 18.0%.

In the described period, the number of people in pre-production age decreased considerably. In 1989, a population of this age group was 32.4% and within a period of thirteen years it decreased with 5.8%. This tendency is a result of decreasing natality. In 1989, the natality coefficient was 16.6% while in 2002 it was only 9.9%.

Current transformations of demographic structure of population of gmina Ustka influence considerably constant decrease of a coefficient of economic encumbrance of a population in production age with a non-productive population. The coefficient decreased from 76.8 in 1989 to 63.2 in 2002. The situation is caused by high increase of population in productive age. After meticulous analysis of the results of the National Census from 2002, it appears that 3 000 inhabitants of gmina Ustka are professionally active, the number includes 69.5% of the employed and 30.5% the unemployed. The group of people who are professionally passive constitute 44.4% of the total number of population of 15 years olds and over.

Structure of population according to the level of education

A positive occurrence that has been observed in the recent years is a constant increase of the level of education. From 1988 the percentage of people with vocational level education has increased from 24.0% in 1988 to 27.9% in 2002, secondary level education from 12.9% to 18.8% and university level education from 2.2% to 4.4%. The number of people with elementary level education has been decreasing systematically from 46.2% in 1988 to 36.9% in 2002. Considerably high increase of the level of education concerns women. Women more frequently get at least secondary level education while men stop their education on the vocational level.

FACTORS OF CHANGES INFLUENCING THE POPULATION OF RURAL AREAS

The author of the present paper used a method by Webb (1963) to describe changes of settlement in gmina Ustka. It allows to define real growth or loss with based on two indicators – migration balance and increase of the population. In 1989, gmina

Ustka represented depopulation type H, characterized by predominance of negative migration balance over positive increase of the population. In 2002, the described gmina transformed into type C that is characterized by positive migration balance over positive increase of the population. The increase in population in the gmina is caused by migration and not by natality growth.

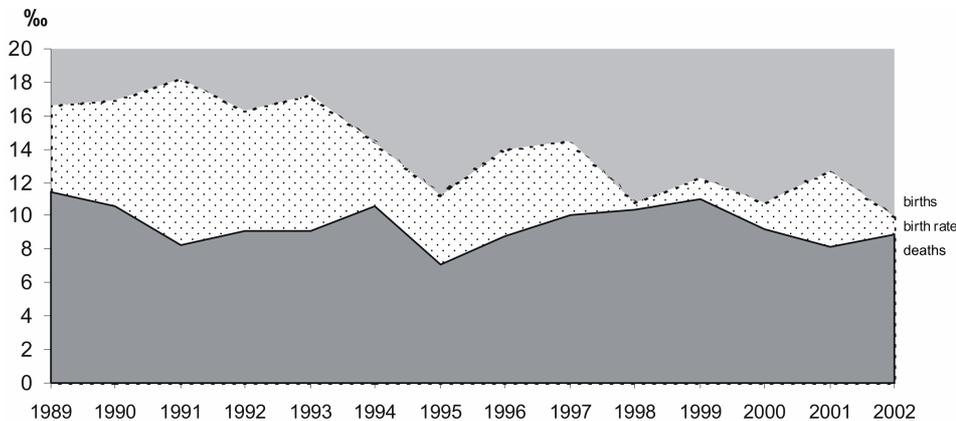


Fig. 3. Changes of natural movements of population of the community of Ustka between 1989-2002

The records show that the number of natality decreases, the number of deaths increases and in effect the birth-rate decreased from 5.2‰ in 1989 to 1.0‰ in 2002 (Fig. 3). According to the research results the decreasing number of birth is not a result of demographic factors (the number of women in reproductive age and their fertility) but is influenced by non-demographic social and economic conditions such as the difficult situation on the labor market, housing problems, career and insufficient pro-family policy of the State.

Another, crucial element influencing changes of settlement is migration. Size and directions of migrations are determined by the level of development and social and economic situation of a particular region (Sobczak 1992). After meticulous analysis of the statistic data, it appears that migration mobility of the population in gmina Ustka evolved considerably in the process of social and economic transformations. Considering migration processes in gmina Ustka between 1989 and 2002, it appears that their pace was decelerated by different factors (Tab. 2). The decreasing tendencies appeared after 1990 when migration ranged on the level of 306 people, while in 2002 it reached the number of 245 people, i.e. 80.1% of the result from the year 1990.

The migration balance in the described period was influenced by variable frequency and intensity of migration. Initially, the balance was negative, i.e. more people left gmina than came in. However, gmina became a very attractive place of residence and got a status of a summer resort area. Numerous inhabitants of Ustka move to districts of Przewłoka and Lędowo and inhabitants of Słupsk move to Objazda,

Table 2
Changes of migration mobility of the population in gmina Ustka between 1989-2002

Years	INFLOW				OUTFLOW				Migration balance
	Total	From urban areas	From rural areas	Foreign	Total	To urban areas	To rural areas	Abroad	
1989	121	57	64	-	205	118	87	-	-84
1990	121	60	61	-	254	185	69	-	-133
1991	181	121	60	-	181	139	40	2	0
1992	151	87	64	-	145	105	40	-	6
1993	156	113	43	-	136	100	36	-	20
1994	134	84	46	4	133	101	32	-	1
1995	158	81	66	11	123	85	35	3	35
1996	143	82	51	10	129	87	38	4	14
1997	149	100	47	2	143	101	41	1	6
1998	122	101	20	1	151	106	44	1	-29
1999	154	100	52	2	125	76	49	-	29
2000	110	*	*	1	109	*	*	-	1
2001	97	*	*	-	111	*	*	-	-14
2002	132	*	*	2	113	*	*	-	19

* no data available

Source: Statistic year-book of the Slupsk Voievodship and tables 1989-1999, WUS, Slupsk, Statistic year-book of the Pomerania Voievodship 2000-2002, US, Gdańsk, 2003

Grabno or Charnowo. Only between 1996 and 2000, the Department of Architecture of Powiat Słupsk granted 160 building permits.

On the other hand, difficulties on the labor market and housing problems restrained migration outflow of the population of gmina Ustka. The current tendencies are confirmed by detailed analysis concerning migration of people between rural and urban areas. Between 1989 and 1999, we observed a very interesting and peculiar situation. Migration movements took unexpected directions and the number of people migrating from towns to rural districts increased remarkably. After the year 2000, the number of the newcomers from the urban areas to gmina Ustka has been increasing constantly.

A new phenomenon concerning migration issues appeared in the eighties. Foreign migrations started in the eighties, however, between 1991 and 1996 they became extremely intense. What is very interesting is the fact that gmina Ustka became a popular place of residence for the Vietnamese immigrants who thanks to fictional marriages became Polish citizens and established their trade companies here.

The final conclusion of the present paper is that dynamics of development of the population of gmina Ustka was hindered in the period of social and economic transformations. In the described period we could observe unfavorable demographic trends i.e. decreasing natality, increasing death-rate and impeding pace of demographic dynamics. Probably besides demographic factors, the described situation is also influenced by economic conditions. However, it seems probable that tourist attractiveness might interest the potential migrates.

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PROBLEMY LUDNOŚCIOWE W NADBAŁTYCKIEJ STREFIE BRZEGOWEJ NA PRZYKŁADZIE GMINY USTKA

Streszczenie

Społeczeństwo Pomorza Środkowego, w tym również gminy Ustka, kształtowało się głównie w drodze migracji. Szybki wzrost ludności w latach późniejszych wynikał z imigracyjnej genety ludności charakteryzującej się niezwykle młodą strukturą wieku. Naturalną więc konsekwencją był w okresie powojennym stosunkowo wysoki przyrost naturalny. Pewne niekorzystne tendencje w strukturach demograficznych pojawiły się w latach osiemdziesiątych i nasiliły się w okresie trwających przeobrażeń społeczno-gospodarczych. W tym kontekście na szczególną uwagę zasługują analizy i badania demograficzne, których wyniki są niezbędnym elementem polityki społecznej i gospodarczej. Jest to niezwykle istotny problem w odniesieniu do społeczności lokalnych, gdzie efektywność działań społecznych w dużej mierze zależy od poznania prawidłowości w przestrzennym rozmieszczeniu struktur i procesów demograficznych. Wystarczy wspomnieć, że sytuacja demograficzna warunkuje politykę zatrudnienia, możliwości kształcenia czy program budownictwa mieszkaniowego.

W nawiązaniu do ogólnie przedstawionych tez, celem prezentowanego opracowania jest analiza sytuacji demograficznej w gminie Ustka położonej w strefie brzegowej Południowego Bałtyku. W niniejszej publikacji omówiono zmiany w potencjale demograficznym na tle zmieniających się struktur demograficznych, jak również powiązano te fakty ze zmianami w ruchu naturalnym i wędrownym ludności w przekroju lat 1989-2002.

Przeprowadzone badania pozwalają stwierdzić, że w okresie przeobrażeń społeczno-gospodarczych obniżyła się dynamika rozwoju ludności gminy Ustka. Równocześnie zarysowały się niekorzystne trendy demograficzne, tj. spadek rodności, wzrost umieralności oraz osłabienie dynamiki demograficznej. Prawdopodobnie obok czynników demograficznych, istotną rolę w tym przypadku odgrywa sytuacja ekonomiczna ludności. Z uzyskanych materiałów wnioskować należy, że podwyższona atrakcyjność gmin o charakterze turystycznym może stać się czynnikiem przyciągającym potencjalnych migrantów.