

## THE INFLUENCE OF THE POPULATION AGE STRUCTURE AND SIZE CATEGORY OF SETTLEMENTS ON THE ELECTORAL PREFERENCES OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTION IN 2006 IN PREŠOV DISTRICT

*Beáta PUSTÁ<sup>1</sup>*

**Abstract:** *In the article we focus on the research of electoral support of the political subjects in the communities of Prešov district. Research was made with the help of statistic data about the elections into the National Council of SR executed on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2006. The aim was to find out the area differences of political decisions of residents in Prešov district and determine geographical aspects, which cause them.*

**Key words:** *Electioneering, political subject, election preferences, grading category, over-productive age.*

### INTRODUCTION

The article is focused on the relation between selected demographic indicators, it means the portion of population in productive age, the size of the settlements, and the level of electoral support of selected political subjects in Prešov district. From all the political parties participated in the election into the NC of SR in 2006 we have chosen for this article those, which have been elected into the parliament: SMER-SD, SDKÚ-DS, SNS, ĽS-HZDS, KDH, SMK. We have achieved the analysis of the issue based on the data gained from the Statistic department of Slovak republic, the Regional administration in Prešov. From the above mentioned sources we achieved also the data about population in Prešov district, exactly the data from the summation of population of houses and flats in 2001. Theoretical part of the article is made by assistance of bibliography. In the article we propose only the primary results of this research.

### AGE AND SIZE STRUCTURE OF POPULATION IN PREŠOV DISTRICT

Election parliamentary were executed on 17<sup>th</sup> June in 2006. The parliament passed the constitutional law regarding the reduction of its election period. Based on this the new election parliamentary were announced. It has happened the second time in the history of Slovak republic and the sixth voluntary and democratic elections after political changes in 1989.

We can select many aspects by the election issue, which effect the voters to vote for particular political parties. Here belong e.g. the size of settlements, age, religious,

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1 **Mgr. Beáta Pustá,**

*Department of Geography and Regional Development, Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences, University of Prešov, ul. 17. novembra 1, 081 16 Prešov,  
e-mail: beata.pusta@gmail.com*

knowledge structure of voters, the structure of voters according to gender, the living standard of population, residence structure etc.

We assess in the article the influence of the portion of population in post-productive age and size categories of settlements on electoral preferences for the most important political subjects in 2006.

By the age structure we can divide the population from the point of view of economic activity into three age categories. The youngest category of population 0-14 years we select as the pre-productive part. Regarding the economic activity is the productive part much more essential. It is specified for men and women from 15 to 62 years. Less importance for the economic activity represents the population in the post-productive age, which is specified achieving into the retirement, it starts after reaching the age limit of 62 years.

Based on the summation of population from 2001 recorded Prešov district 165 059 residents, of whose 51,3% represent women and 48,7% men. The major portion on the economic activity, but also the most quantitative part of the population present the productive part, which means 63,34%. Post-productive part of population presents 17,79% and the pre-productive part has only more portion, of which 18,70% belong to the age structure in Prešov district. This part regarding the effect on the preferences of political parties is irrelevant, because the suffrage has only the citizens of Slovak republic after achieving the age limit 18 years. From these parts we have chosen for the article the post-productive one, exactly we have researched the affect of residents in the retire age on political preferences of political parties in Prešov district.

In case of size structure of the settlements, the determining factor effecting the electoral support of political parties is the amount of population in particular communities.

The major method used in this article is the method of comparative analysis of indicators. With the help of it we have analysed the support of particular parliamentary parties on the level of communities in Prešov district.

### ELECTORAL PREFERENCES

21 political parties took part in the elections into the National Council of Slovak republic during the researching period. Every political party had the same conditions for presentation its electoral programme. These were mainly focused on the reforms in different parts of society. It was registered into the election list 123 533 voters in Prešov. The election took part 54,56%, which means 67 407 voters. From all the amount of submitted votes were 1,28% cancelled.

**Tab. 1:** *Electoral preferences of the parliamentary parties in 2006 in Prešov district*

Prešov district	Amount of valid votes altogether	Valid votes (amount/portion %)					
		SMER-SD	SDKÚ-DS	ES-HZDS	SNS	SMK	KDH
		19 164	15 066	4 693	8 078	338	10 605
	66 489	28,82%	22,65%	7,05%	12,14%	0,50%	15,95%

Source: The Statistic department of SR, the Regional administration in Prešov

In the table 1 we can see that the electoral preferences according to the results into the National Council in 2006 showed the major advance of political party SMER-SD before the second major political subject, it means SDKÚ-DS. Winning party reached in Prešov district the voters' support 28,82%, by which it made sure of 6,17% advance before party SDKÚ-DS, which support was 22,65%. The third most successful political party of mentioned elections, party KDH reached 15,95% of the voters' support in Prešov district. The forth most successful political party SNS reached the support of 12,14%. The support of 7,05% recorded ĽS-HZDS and the less successful political subject, party SMK, reached only the support of 0,50%. This fact is not so surprising in Prešov district, concerning that the party SMK has the major political support especially in the south parts of Slovakia.

### POPULATION IN THE POST-PRODUCTIVE AGE AND ELECTORAL REFERENCES

In the next part of the article we have focused on the portion of population in the post-productive age in the settlements of Prešov district. The lowest portion of this part of population has the village of Malý Slivník, it means 8,24%, otherwise, the highest one is the village of Klenov with 33,33%. Based on these facts we have produced three categories of settlements:

- first category: the settlements with the low portion of population in the post-productive age up to 15%
- second category: the settlements with the middle portion of population in the post-productive age from 15% to 20%
- third category: the settlements with the highest portion of population in the post-productive age over 20%

**Tab. 2:** *Division of settlements in Prešov district according to the portion of population in the post-productive age*

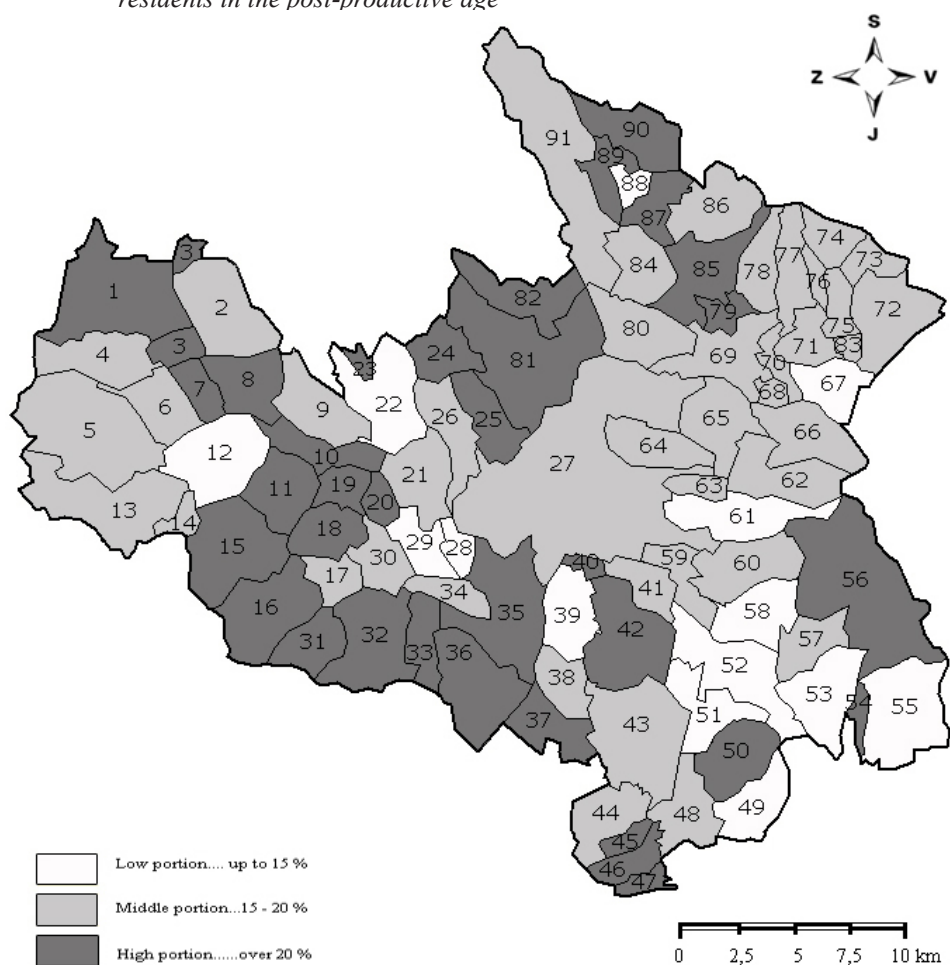
Portion of population in the post-productive age	Settlements
Up to 15%	Abranovce, Bzenov, Červenica, Chminianske Jakubovany, Kendice, Malý Slivník, Mirkovce, Rokycany, Ruská Nová Ves, Svinia, Šarišská Poruba, Tuhrina, Varhaňovce, Žehra
15 – 20%	Bardejov, Čelovce, Demjata, Drienov, Drienovská Nová Ves, Dulová Ves, Fintice, Fričovce, Hermanovce, Chmeľov, Chmeľovec, Chminianska Nová Ves, Janov, Kapušany, Kojatice, Kokošovce, Kvačany, Lada, Lemešany, Lesíček, Lipníky, Ľubotice, Nemcovce, Okružná, Ovčie, Podhorany, Podhradík, Proč, Pušovce, Šarišská Trstená, Šarišské Bohdanovce, Šindliar, Široké, Teriakovce, Terňa, Trnkov, Vítaz, Vyšná Šebastová, Záborské, Záhradné, Župčany, Prešov
Over 20%	Bertotovce, Brestov, Bretejovce, Brežany, Fulianka, Geraltov, Gregorovce, Haniska, Hendrichovce, Hrabkov, Chmiňany, Janovík, Klenov, Križovany, Lažany, Ličartovce, Lipovce, Lúčina, Ľubotice, Malý Šariš, Medzany, Miklušovce, Mošurov, Ondrašovce, Petrovany, Radatice, Sedlice, Seniakovce, Suchá Dolina, Štefanovce, Tulčík, Veľký Slivník, Veľký Šariš, Zlatá Baňa, Žipov

Source: The Statistic department of SR, the Regional administration in Prešov, author's calculations

Into the produced categories we have gradually added the settlements of Prešov district with the portion of valid votes for particular parliamentary parties.

In the map 1 we can see that the highest amount of settlements of Prešov district belongs to the category of middle portion of population in the post-productive age. It represents 42 settlements, which are concentrated especially into the east and north-east part of the district. The other settlements involved into this category we can scatterly find also in the other parts of district. Settlements included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> category, thus with the high portion of population in the post-productive age are concentrated mainly in the south-west and northern part, with smaller presentation also in the southern part of district. Into this category we have added 35 settlements of examined district. We have integrated 14 settlements into the category with the low portion of population in the post-productive age. Located are mainly in the south-eastern part, but few of them are also in other parts of Prešov district.

**Map 1:** *Age structure of the residents of Prešov district according to the amount of residents in the post-productive age*



1 Lipovce, 2 Hermanovce, 3 Štefanovce, 4 Šindliar, 5 Široké, 6 Fričovce, 7 Hendrichovce, 8 Bertolovce, 9 Chminianska Nová Ves, 10 Chmiňany, 11 Križovany, 12 Chminianske Jakubovany, 13 Viťaz, 14 Ovčie, 15 Hrabkov, 16 Klenov, 17 Kvačany, 18 Žipov, 19 Ondrašovce, 20 Brežany, 21 Kojatice, 22 Svinia, 23 Lažany, 24 Medzany, 25 Malý Šariš, 26 Župčany, 27 Prešov, 28 Bzenov, 29 Rokycany, 30 Bajerov, 31 Miklušovce, 32 Sedlice, 33 Suchá Dolina, 34 Janov, 35 Radatice, 36 Ľubovec, 37 Ličartovce, 38 Drienovská Npva Ves, 39 Kendice, 40 Haniska, 41 Záborské, 42 Petrovany, 43 Drienov, 44 Lemešany, 45 Janovík, 46 Bretejovce, 47 Seniakovce, 48 Šarišské Bohdanovce, 49 Vatrhaňovce, 50 Brestov, 51 Mirkovce, 52 Žehňa, 53 Tuhrina, 54 Lúčina, 55 Červenica, 56, Zlatá Baňa, 57 Lesíček, 58 Abranovce, 59 Dulová Ves, 60 Kokošovce, 61 Ruská Nová Ves, 62 Podhradík, 63 Teriakovce, 64 Ľubotice, 65 Vyšná Šebastová, 66 Okružná, 67 Šarišská Poruba, 68 Trnkov, 69 Kapušany, 70 Lada, 71 Nemcovce, 72 Chmeľov, 73 Pušovce, 74 Proč, 75 Čelovce, 76 Šarišská Poruba, 77 Chmeľovec, 78 Podhorany, 79 Fulianka, 80 Fintice, 81 Veľký Šariš, 82 Gregorovce, 83 Lipníky, 84 Záhradné, 85 Tulčík, 86 Demjata, 87 Veľký Slivník, 88 Malý Slivník, 89 Mošurov, 90 Geraľtov, 91 Terňa

The relation between the portion of population in the post-productive age and the electoral preferences of examined political parties table 5 below.

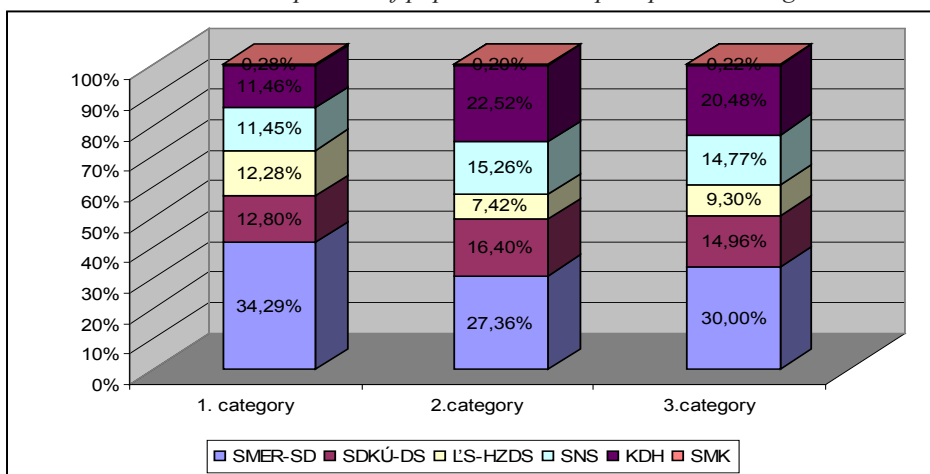
**Tab. 3:** *Portion of valid votes of the parliamentary parties in 2006 in Prešov district in relation to the portion of population in the post-productive age*

Political party	1. category	2.category	3.category
SMER-SD	34,29%	27,36%	30,00%
SDKÚ-DS	12,80%	16,40%	14,96%
ĽS-HZDS	12,28%	7,42%	9,30%
SNS	11,45%	15,26%	14,77%
KDH	11,46%	22,52%	20,48%
SMK	0,28%	0,20%	0,22%

Source: self-made

Preferences of the political parties SMER-SD, ĽS-HZDS and SMK have the decreasing tendency to the second category, thus to the category of middle portion of population in the post-productive age. Consequently, they increased again in the category with the high portion of population in the post-productive age. The opposite situation has recorded the political parties SDKÚ-DS, SNS and KDH, which preferences had the increasing tendency up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> category. In the third category they slowed down. This relation schematically depicts the following graph below.

**Graph 1:** Portion of valid votes of the parliamentary parties in 2006 in Prešov district in relation to the portion of population in the post-productive age



Source: self-made

Political party SMER-SD reached the highest amount of valid votes, 34,29%, in the category with the low portion of population in the post-productive age. On the other hand, the lowest amount, 27,36% of valid votes the party recorded in the second category, thus in the category with the middle portion of population in the post-productive age. Party SDKÚ-DS reached the highest preferences 16,40% in category of middle portion of population in the post-productive age and the lowest portion 12,80% of valid votes in the first category. The highest amount of valid votes 12,28% ĽS-HZDS recorded in category with the low portion of population in the post-productive age. The lowest references, only 7,42% of valid votes reached in the second category. In case of political party SNS, we have recorded the highest preferences, it means 15,26% in the second category, thus the category of middle portion of population in the post-productive age. The lowest preferences, 11,45% the party reached in the first category. Political party KDH reached the highest amount of valid votes, as for 22,52% in the second category, otherwise, the lowest amount, only 11,46% in category of the low portion of population in the post-productive age. The preferences of last parliamentary party SMK are generally very low in all the categories. The highest amount, thus 0,28% of votes the party reached in category with the low portion of population in the post-productive age, on the other hand, the lowest 0,20% reached in the second category.

### THE SIZE CATEGORY OF SETTLEMENTS AND ELECTORAL PREFERENCES

In the case of size categories of settlements we have examined, whether the amount of residents in the settlements of Prešov district effects on the electoral preferences. 91 settlements come under the Prešov district, in which two are towns. Consequently, we have divided, based on the amount of residents in particular settlements, 4 size categories. The settlement with the highest amount of residents, it means 91 650, is the town of

Prešov. Otherwise, the less of residents has Ondrašovce village, it means 62. To each size category we have added the settlements of Prešov district and the portion of valid votes of particular political parties. Selected size categories are:

1. category: from 1 to 499 residents
2. category: from 500 to 1999 residents
3. category: from 2000 to 4999 residents
4. category: the town of Prešov

**Tab. 4:** *Division of settlements in Prešov district into the size categories*

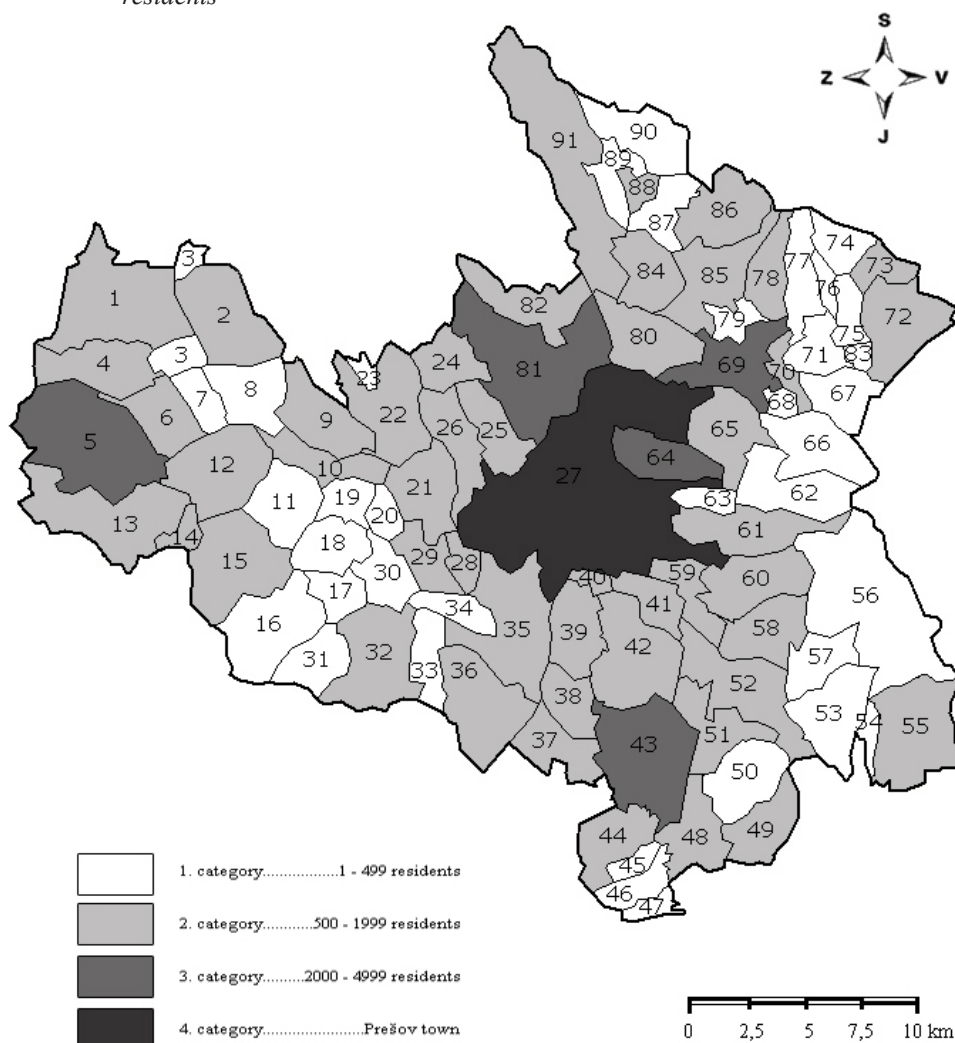
Size category	Settlement
<b>1. category</b>	Bajerov, Bertotovce, Brestov, Bretejovce, Brežany, Čelovce, Fulianka, Geraľtov, Chmeľovec, Janov, Janovík, Klenov, Križovany, Kvačany, Lažany, Lesíček, Lipníky, Lúčina, Mošurov, Nemcovce, Okružná, Ondrašovce, Podhradík, Proč, Seniakovce, Suchá Dolina, Šar. Poruba, Šar. Trstená, Štefanovce, Teriakovce, Trnkov, Tuhrina, Veľký Slivník, Zlatá Baňa, Žipov, Miklušovce, Hendrichovce
<b>2. category</b>	Abranovce, Bzenov, Červenica, Demjata, Drienovská Nová Ves, Dulová Ves, Fintice, Fričovce, Gregorovce, Haniska, Hermanovce, Hrabkov, Chmeľov, Chminianska Nová Ves, Chminianske Jakubovany, Chmiňany, Kendice, Kojatice, Kokošovce, Lada, Lemešany, Ličartovce, Lipovce, Ľubovec, Malý Slivník, Malý Šariš, Medzany, Mirkovce, Ovčie, Petrovany, Podhorany, Pušovce, Radatice, Rokycany, Ruská Nová Ves, Sedlice, Svinia, Šarišské Bohdanovce, Šindliar, Terňa, Tulčík, Varhaňovce, Vítaz, Vyšná Šebastová, Záborské, Záhradné, Žehňa, Župany
<b>3. category</b>	Drienov, Kapušany, Ľubotice, Široké, Veľký Šariš
<b>4. category</b>	Prešov

Source: self-made

In the map 2 we can observe that the majority of settlements of examined district belongs to the 2<sup>nd</sup> size category, thus in the category of settlements from 500 to 1999 residents. From all the amount of 91 settlements we have added into this category 48 settlements. Into the category with the amount of residents from 1 to 499 belongs 37 settlements. The general part is located into the eastern and south-western part of the district. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> size category are 5 settlements. It means the settlements with the amount from 2000 to 4999 residents. Three of them are located very close to the town of Prešov, thus Veľký Šariš, Kapušany and Ľubotice. There is Drienov settlements in the south part and Široké settlement in the west part, which come under this same size category. Because of too high amount of residents in comparison with other settlements in the district, we have selected the town of Prešov as an individual size category.



**Map 2** Size structure of settlements in Prešov district according to the amount of residents



1 Lipovce, 2 Hermanovce, 3 Štefanovce, 4 Šindliar, 5 Široké, 6 Fričovce, 7 Hendrichovce, 8 Bertolovce, 9 Chminianska Nová Ves, 10 Chmiňany, 11 Križovany, 12 Chminianske Jakubovany, 13 Vítaz, 14 Ovčie, 15 Hrabkov, 16 Klenov, 17 Kvačany, 18 Žipov, 19 Ondrašovce, 20 Brežany, 21 Kojatice, 22 Svinia, 23 Lažany, 24 Medzany, 25 Malý Šariš, 26 Župčany, 27 Prešov, 28 Bzenov, 29 Rokycany, 30 Bajerov, 31 Miklušovce, 32 Sedlice, 33 Suchá Dolina, 34 Janov, 35 Radatice, 36 Ľubovec, 37 Ličartovce, 38 Drienovská Npva Ves, 39 Kendice, 40 Haniska, 41 Záborské, 42 Petrovany, 43 Drienov, 44 Lemešany, 45 Janovík, 46 Bretejovce, 47 Seniakovce, 48 Šarišské Bohdanovce, 49 Vatrhaňovce, 50 Brestov, 51 Mirkovce, 52 Žehňa, 53 Tuhrina, 54 Lúčina, 55 Červenica, 56 Zlatá Baňa, 57 Lesíček, 58 Abranovce, 59 Dulová Ves, 60 Kokošovce, 61 Ruská Nová Ves, 62 Podhradík, 63 Teriakovce, 64 Ľubotice, 65 Vyšná Šebastová, 66 Okružná, 67 Šarišská Poruba, 68 Trnkov, 69 Kapušany, 70 Lada, 71 Nemcovce, 72 Chmeľov, 73 Pušovce, 74 Proč, 75 Čelovce, 76 Šarišská Poruba, 77 Chmeľovec, 78 Podhorany, 79 Fulianka, 80 Fintice, 81 Veľký Šariš, 82 Gregorovce, 83 Lipníky, 84 Záhradné, 85 Tulčík, 86 Demjata, 87 Veľký Slivník, 88 Malý Slivník, 89 Mošurov, 90 Geraľtov, 91 Terňa

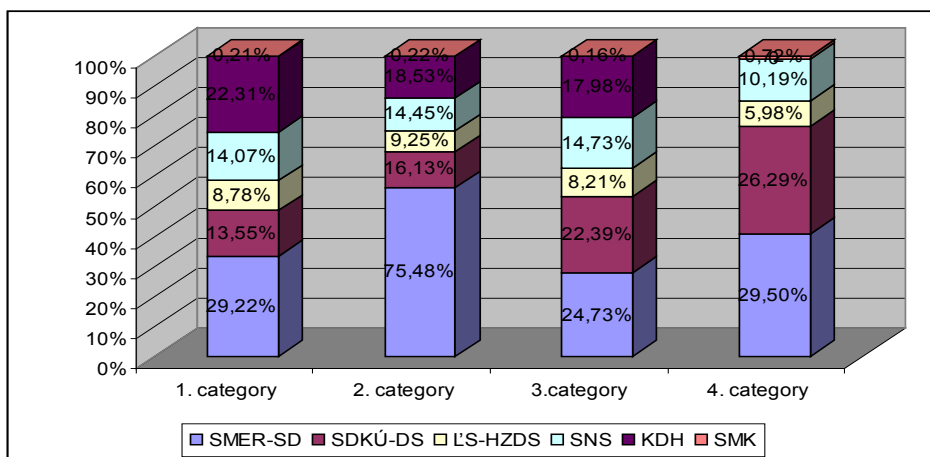


**Tab. 5:** Portion of valid votes for parliamentary parties in 2006 in relation to the size categories of settlements in Prešov district

Size category	SMER-SD	SDKÚ-DS	ĽS-HZDS	SNS	SMK	KDH
1. category	29,22%	13,55%	8,78%	14,07%	0,21%	22,31%
2. category	75,48%	16,13%	9,25%	14,45%	0,22%	18,53%
3. category	24,73%	22,39%	8,21%	14,73%	0,16%	17,98%
4. category	29,50%	26,29%	5,98%	10,19%	0,72%	13,30%

Source: The Statistic department of SR, the Regional administration in Prešov

The dependency of electoral support from increasing amount of residents in the settlements has been confirmed in case of political party SDKÚ-DS. By the parties SMER-SD and SMK we can observe the increasing tendency in the portion of valid votes with rising amount of residents only to the 2<sup>nd</sup> category, so within the settlements to 1999 residents. Furthermore, the preferences of these political parties in the 3<sup>rd</sup> category decrease and this retrogressive feature has again by the 4<sup>th</sup> category, thus in the town of Prešov. Concerning the party SNS we can see the dependency to the 3<sup>rd</sup> category, however in the 4<sup>th</sup> category the preferences slow down. ĽS-HZDS preferences has the rising tendency to the 2<sup>nd</sup> category, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> we have recorded the opposite tendency. The electoral preferences of political party KDH decrease with the rising amount of residents in particular settlements of Prešov district. The highest preferences within the all size categories have the political party SMER-SD. In the following graph we can schematically see the affect of size categories on the electoral preferences of settlements for the electoral preferences of political parties. We have divided each political party into 4 size categories with the portion of valid votes included.

**Graph 2:** Portion of valid votes for parliamentary parties in 2006 in relation to the size categories of settlements in Prešov district

Source: self-made

Political party SMER-SD has the highest electoral support, it means 75,48% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> size category, thus in the group of settlements from 500 to 1999 residents. Otherwise, the smallest support, 24,73% has the party in the 3<sup>rd</sup> size category with the amount of residents from 2000 – 4999. Political party SDKÚ-DS records the results in the 4<sup>th</sup> category, it is 26,29%, at least successful was in the 1<sup>st</sup> category, thus in the group of settlements up to 499 residents. In case of the political party KDH, the standard feature of small settlements regarding the high level of religion has been confirmed. It has resulted into the fact of high portion of support of KDH in the categories of settlements with the smallest amount of residents. Party has reached the least support in the town of Prešov, thus in the 4<sup>th</sup> size category. We can see in the graph that ĽS-HZDS has almost the same support in the whole area of Prešov district, which moves from 8,21% to 9,25%. Except for the 4<sup>th</sup> size category, which support reaches only 5,98%. Preferences for political party SMK are relatively the same in the first three size categories, where achieve the support from 0,16% to 0,22%. Except for the 4<sup>th</sup> category again, where the support is a little bit higher, it means 0,72%. The party SNS is represented also by the similar results in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> category from 14,07% to 14,73%, a smaller support has reached in the 4<sup>th</sup> category, it means 10,19%.

## CONCLUSION

In the democratic society the elections manage the legal competition of political parties. By this issue we can select many aspects, which affect the voters when submitting the votes for political subjects. There are, e.g. the size of settlements, age, religious, knowledge structure of voters, structure of voters according to the gender, living standard of population etc. For this article we have chosen age and size structure of population, exactly we have examined how the size of settlements represented by the number of residents and the portion of inhabitants in post-productive age influence the electoral preferences of selected political parties in Prešov district in 2006.

The dependency of electoral support from the amount of residents in the settlements of Prešov district has been confirmed in case of political parties SDKÚ-DS and KDH. SDKÚ-DS has recorded an increasing tendency of electoral support with the rising amount of population in settlements of Prešov district. Opposite dependency has confirmed the political party KDH, thus the electoral preferences decrease with the rising amount of population in particular settlements of Prešov district. In case of the other political parties, this dependency has been partly confirmed.

We have recorded two situations by examining the effect of portion of population in the post-productive age. The first one is related to political parties SMER-SD, ĽS-HZDS and party SMK, for which has got the preferences an decreasing tendency up to the second category, consequently they have increased again. The second situation is related to the parties SDKÚ-DS, SNS and KDH. Their preferences have got the rising tendency up to the middle portion of population in the post-productive age, but in the category with high portion of population have decreased again.

We assume that these outcomes can have a practical meaning for the activity of particular political parties and movements. Results, we have achieved, can help the members of political subjects assess their operation in the settlements of examined area. Based on these results are political parties able to balance their support and also can focus on the increase of their preferences in the settlements with the low electoral base.

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**VPLYV VEKOVEJ ŠTRUKTÚRY OBYVATEĽSTVA A VEĽKOSTNÝCH  
KATEGÓRIÍ OBCÍ NA VOLEBNÉ PREFERENCIE POLITICKÝCH STRÁN  
VO VOĽBÁCH DO NR SR V ROKU 2006 V OKRESE PREŠOV**

*Zhrnutie*

Podiel obyvateľstva v poproduktívnom veku ale aj veľkosť obcí na konkrétnom území predstavujú faktory, ktoré značným spôsobom ovplyvňujú spoločensko-politické dianie.

Pri skúmaní vplyvu podielu obyvateľstva v poproduktívnom veku sme zaregistrovali dve situácie. Prvá sa vzťahuje na politické strany SMER-SD, ĽS-HZDS a stranu SMK, pre ktoré mali preferencie klesajúcu tendenciu po druhú kategóriu, následne v tretej kategórii znova stúpili. Druhá situácia sa vzťahuje na strany SDKÚ-DS, SNS a KDH. Ich preferencie mali rastúcu tendenciu po kategóriu stredného podielu obyvateľstva v poproduktívnom veku, ale v kategórii s vysokým podielom obyvateľstva znova klesli.

Závislosť volebnej podpory od počtu obyvateľov v obciach okresu Prešov sme potvrdili v prípade politických strán SDKÚ-DS a KDH. Strana SDKÚ-DS zaznamenala stúpajúcu tendenciu volebnej podpory so zvyšujúcim sa počtom obyvateľov v obciach skúmaného okresu. Opačnú závislosť potvrdila politická strana KDH.

Výsledky, ku ktorým sme dospeli, môžu pomôcť zástupcom politických strán prehodnotiť svoje pôsobenie v jednotlivých obciach okresu Prešov. Na základe týchto výsledkov môžu politické strany bilancovať svoju podporu na skúmanom území a zároveň sa môžu zamerať na zvýšenie svojich preferencií v obciach s nízkou volebnou základňou.

**Recenzenti:** Prof. RNDr. Robert Ištók, PhD.  
RNDr. Stela Lovacká, PhD.