

## THE DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY IN THE MICRO-REGION "STRÁŽE"

**Zuzana DOLNÁ<sup>1</sup>**

**Abstract:** *The paper provides a current view of the demographic situation of the Roma community in the Stráže micro-region. In more detail, it deals with the population numbers of the Roma and their age structure.*

**Key words:** *Roma, Roma Minority, Stráže Micro-region, Demographic structure,*

### INTRODUCTION

The Stráže micro-region is situated to the north-west of Prešov and takes up an area of about 180,65 square kilometers. It consist of 22 villages, including the town of Veľký Šariš. Due to the fact that in the time of our research the micro-region was formed by 18 villages, this article was aimed only on them exclusively. The aim of this paper is the characterization of the demographic structure of the Roma in this area. The demographic analysis provides more current and exact data about the Roma inhabitants in the respective villages of the region. The whole micro-region has got 18 474 inhabitants, of which 1 654 a Roma, which is 8,95%. The Roma inhabit five villages of this region (Kapušany, Malý Slivník, Spišská Poruba, Terňa and Veľký Šariš).

### METHODOLOGY AND INPUT DATA

The input data is taken from statistical census yearbooks from the years 1991 and 2001, from information acquired from the Statistical Office, from registry offices and local councils. The main concern was the number of Roma inhabitants in the years 1991, 2001, 2007 and the comparison of this number in the years 1991, 2001. Further on, the research deals with the age and gender structure of the Roma in comparison with the majority inhabitants. The natural migration of the Roma inhabitants has been characterized by means of the Vitality index (Iv) for the period of 1997-2007.

### ROMA POPULATION IN THE STRÁŽE MICRO-REGION

In the 1991 census, 496 inhabitants claimed Roma nationality, which, with respect to the overall population of 16 378, presented 3%. In 2001 the number rose to 501, i.e. 3% of the overall population. This information is not relevant, as in censuses, the Roma tend to claim Slovak nationality. In 2007, according to the internal data of the local councils, the region inhabited 1 654 Roma. The highest rate of Roma inhabitants in 2007 was in Malý Slivník, where the Roma present 72,8% of the overall population of the village. In the near

---

**1 Mgr. Zuzana Dolná,**

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

future, the Roma may become a majority in the village of Šarišská Poruba, with its current 40,0%. The lowest number of Roma inhabitants is in Kapušany (2,7%).

**Tab. 1:** *The population numbers of the Stráže micro-region in the years 1991, 2001 and 2007*

Micro-region Stráže	1991	2001	2007
Majority population	15882	17018	16820
Roma minority	496	501	1654
together	16378	17519	18474

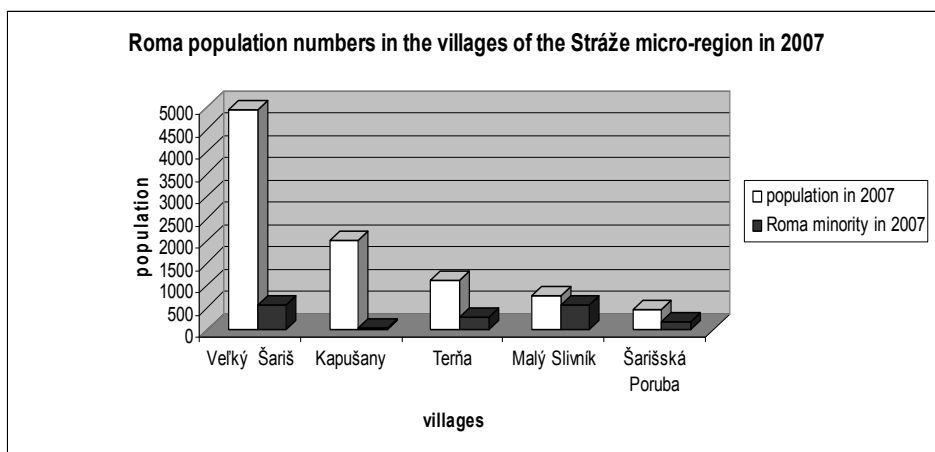
Source: The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, original research)

**Tab. 2:** *Roma population percentage in the respective regions of the Stráže micro-region in the years 1991, 2001 and 2007,*

Village	Population in 1991	Roma minority in 1991		Population in 2001	Roma minority in 2001		Population in 2007	Roma minority in 2007	
		abs.	%		abs.	%		abs.	%
Veľký Šariš	4058	130	3,2	4055	244	6,0	4941	568	11,5
Malý Slivník	481	273	57,0	651	91	14,0	765	557	72,8
Terňa	854	2	0,2	1044	88	8,4	1114	295	26,5
Šariš. Poruba	362	91	25,0	398	31	7,8	451	180	40,0
Kapušany	1859	0	0,0	2068	47	2,3	2010	54	2,7

Source: The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, local councils of the respective villages of the region

**Graph 1:** *Roma population numbers in the villages of the Stráže micro-region in 2007*

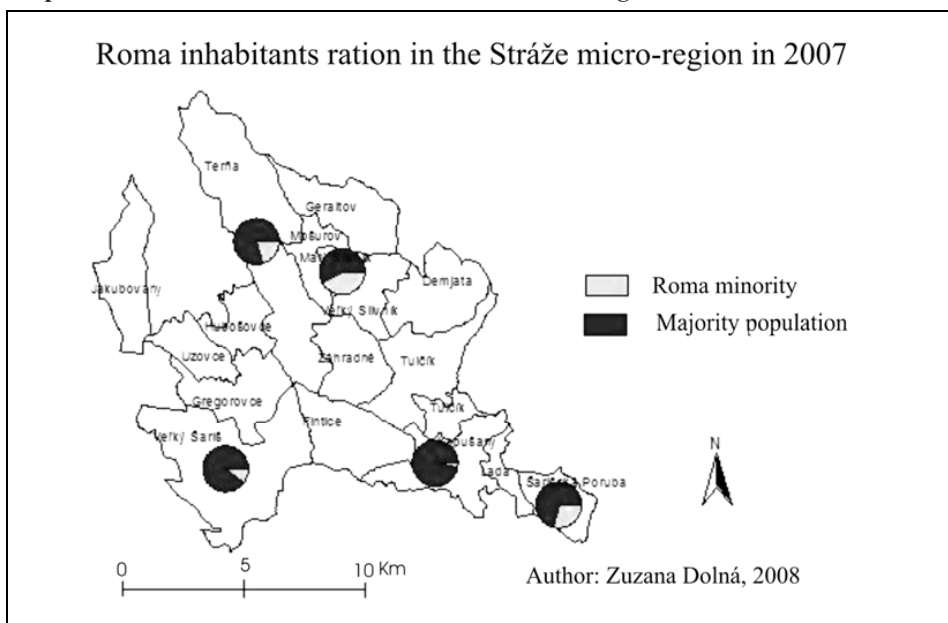


Source: author

An interesting fact to notice is the increase in the number of Roma, meaning an increase in their share in the overall population of the village of Terňa. Whereas in 1991, the share

was just 0,2%, in 2001 it was 8,4%. In 2007 we found out on the basis of the data gained from our own research that the portion of Roma minority was 26,5%. This rapid increase may be attributed to more precise data collected in a field research. The Roma population development of Šarišská Poruba is of a sinusoidal character. Whereas in 1991, it was 25%, in 2001 the number fell to 7,8%.

**Map 1:** Roma inhabitants ration in the Stráže micro-region in 2007



Source: Author

### GENDER STRUCTURE

The overall population of the Stráže region in 2007 was 18 474, of which 50,9% was male and 49,5% female. Roma women make up 53,9% and the majority population females 50,6%. The only exception is the village of Šarišská Poruba, where the ration of Roma is 1:2 in favour of females. The most female Roma live in Malý Slivník, the most male Roma in Veľký Šariš. An interesting fact is that in all villages with Roma population, females outnumber males. One exception is the village of Kapušany.

The masculinity index in 2007 reached its peak in Kapušany (1077), its low in Šarišská Poruba (607). The masculinity index for the whole micro-region Roma population in 2007 is 852, whereas the fertility index is 1173. The highest fertility index in 2007 was recorded in Šarišská Poruba (1647).

**Tab. 3:** *Stráže Micro-region Population in Terms of Gender by Dec. 31. 2007.*

Micro-region Stráže	female	male	together
majority population	8503	8317	16820
Roma minority	893	761	1654
together	9396	9078	18474

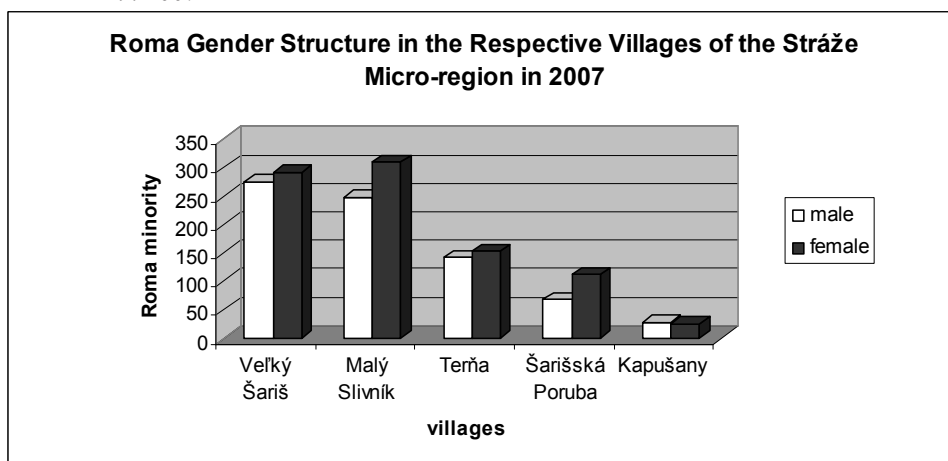
Source: The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, original research

**Tab. 4:** *Roma Gender Structure of the Respective Villages of Stráže Micro-region in 2007.*

Village	male	female	together	I <sub>m</sub>	I <sub>f</sub>
Kapušany	28	26	54	1077	929
Malý Slivník	247	310	557	797	1255
Šariš. Poruba	68	112	180	607	1647
Terňa	142	153	295	928	1077
Veľký Šariš	276	292	568	945	1058

Source: The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, original research

I<sub>f</sub> – fertility index, I<sub>m</sub> – masculinity index

**Graph 2:** *Roma Gender Structure in the Respective Villages of the Stráže Micro-region in 2007*

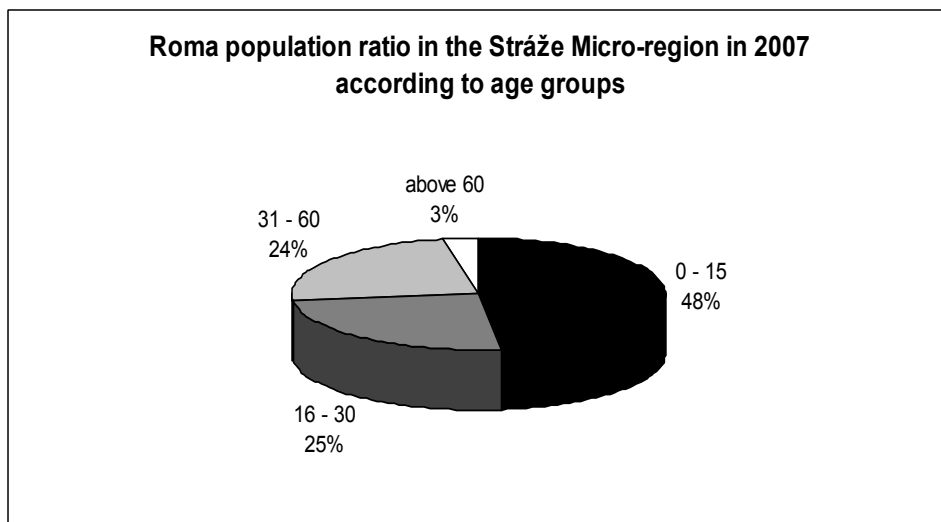
Source: Author

### AGE STRUCTURE

In terms of age structure, the main role is played by children and adolescents, especially up to 15 years of age and adults of 21 – 30 years of age, which indicates a predisposition to a similar, if not even higher rise in population numbers of Roma, as in the past years. This hypothesis is also supported by the fact that the Roma population is sexually active very early. The overall Roma population up to the age of 15 is 784, which is 47,4% of the overall Roma population. The highest number of children up to 5 years of age, according to

the data acquired, is in the village of Malý Slivník. The only exception here is the village of Kapušany, which is caused by a low number of Roma living there. Similarly striking is the number of Roma older than 60, which is just 3,2%. The village of Terňa is an exception here, where the different age groups are rather balanced. The Roma population age index in this region in 2007 is 664, which indicates a very progressive type of population, with a predisposition of further growth.

**Graph 3:** Roma population ratio in the Stráže Micro-region in 2007 according to age groups

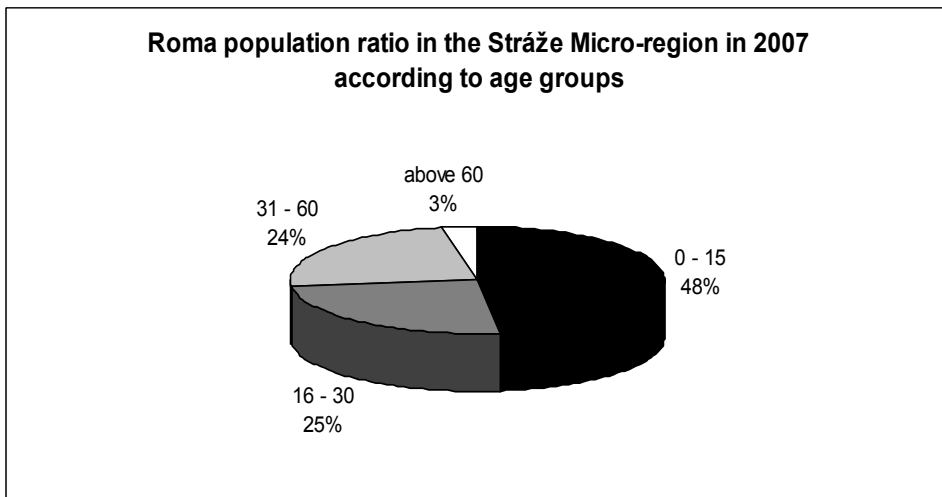


Source: Author

**Tab. 5:** Roma population ratio in the Stráže Micro-region in 2007 according to age groups

Age groups	Roma population						together %
	Šariš. Poruba	Terňa	Malý Slivník	Kapušany	Veľký Šariš	together	
0 - 5	43	48	128	10	101	330	20
6 - 10	42	38	72	8	87	247	15,2
11 - 15	26	28	77	9	67	207	12,5
16 - 20	17	34	64	8	48	171	10
21 - 30	17	45	74	3	110	249	15
31 - 40	16	40	71	10	57	194	11,3
41 - 50	10	36	44	5	59	154	9
51 - 60	9	8	26	0	22	65	4
nad 60	0	26	9	1	17	53	3

Source: The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, original research

**Graph 4:** Roma population according to age groups in the Stráže Micro-region in 2007

Source: Author

**NATURAL ROMA MINORITY MIGRATION**

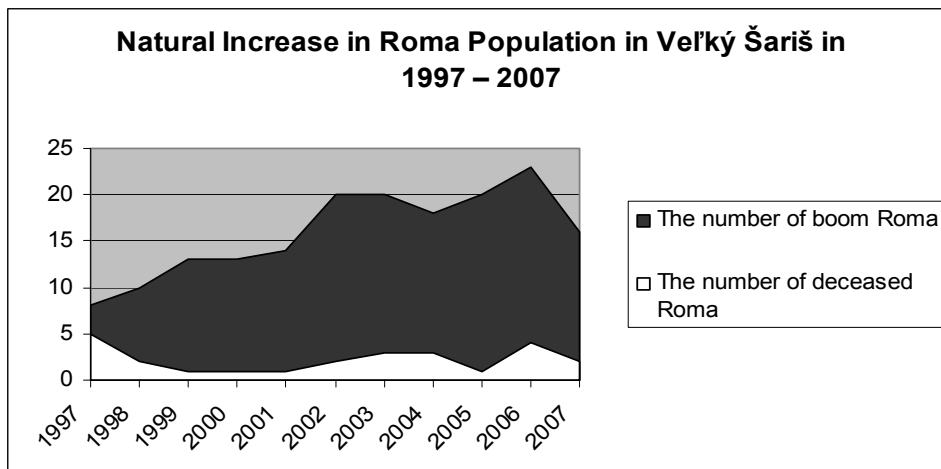
Comparing the natality and mortality, a clear positive difference between the born and deceased is discernable. The highest difference is in Malý Slivník, resulting from a rather high Roma population and its age structure. A similar trend was recorded in Veľký Šariš. The natural increase in Roma population in the micro-region in the period from 1997 to 2007 was characterized by means of the vitality index (Iv) the value of which is 7,2, indicating an increased procreation of the population.

For a graphic presentation of these numbers in 1997 -2007, the Veľký Šariš and Malý Slivník have been chosen, as the highest increase has been recorded here.

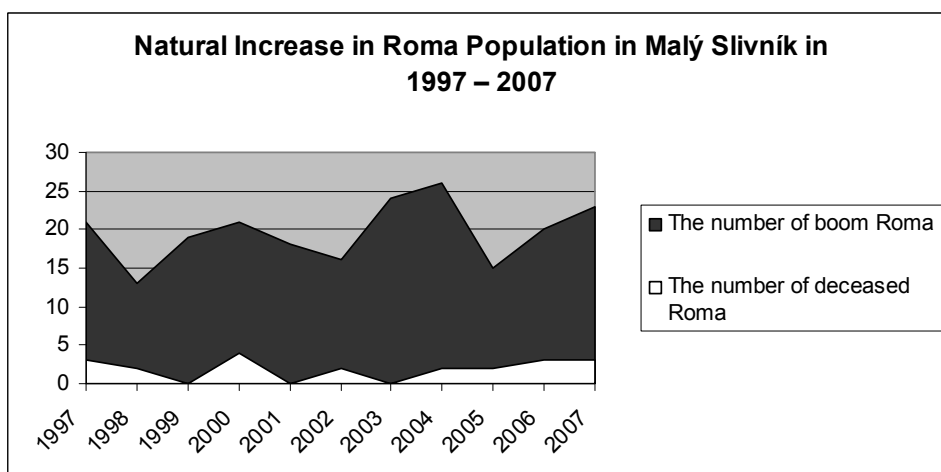
**Tab. 6:** *The numbers of born and deceased Roma in the Stráže Micro-region in 1997-2007*

village	The number of boom Roma in 1997 - 2007	The number of deceased Roma in 1997 - 2007
Šariš. Poruba	68	10
Terňa	89	15
Malý Slivník	226	21
Kapušany	19	2
Veľký Šariš	126	25

Source: local councils of the respective villages of the region, original research

**Graph 5:** *Natural Increase in Roma Population in Veľký Šariš in 1997 – 2007*

Source: Author

**Graph 6:** *Natural Increase in Roma Population in Malý Slivník in 1997 – 2007*

Source: Author

## CONCLUSION

In 1991, the Roma population presented a 3,1% share in the overall population and in 2001, the number declines to 2,9%. By our own research and by cooperation with local councils we have found out, that in December 31, 2007 there were 1654 Romas living in the micro-region Stráže representing 8,7% portion of population. As the Roma population up to the age of 15 presents 47,4%, it may be asserted that the Roma population in the region will rise, due to a positive development in social and economical areas and due to a specific sexual life with no increase in education.

The data acquired in 2007 from local councils and field research are regarded as more reliable. It may therefore be stated that the data from 1991 to 2001 does not correctly reflect the real numbers of Roma population, as the data was based on information provided by the Roma community itself.

The acquired data indicate an increase in the area of research. An important point here is that the Roma become aware of their social situation and pay more attention to education, to prevent social exclusion.

### References

- BAŠOVSKÝ, O., MLÁDEK, J. (2001): Geografia obyvateľstva a sídel, PvF UK, 1989, s. 58-109
- DUBAYOVÁ, M. (2001): Rómovia v procesoch kultúrnej zmeny, Filozofická fakulta Prešovskej univerzity, Prešov, 183 s.
- FEDIČ, V. (2001): Východoslovenskí rómovia a II. svetová vojna, Redos, Humenné, 2001, s. 65-68
- KANDRÁČOVÁ, V. (2002): Priority geografického výskumu „rómskeho problému“, Stály rozvoj regiónov, ManaCon, Prešov, s. 112-116
- MATLOVIČ, R. (2005): Geografia obyvateľstva Slovenska so zreteľom na rómsku minoritu, FHPV PU, Prešov, s. 231-284
- MICHAELI, E., MATLOVIČ, R., DRAVECKÁ, B., HOFIERKA, J., IVANOVÁ, M. (2008): Kvalita života rómskej komunity v meste Levoča, Plzeň, University of West Bohemia, 129-136
- MICHAELI, E., MATLOVIČ, R., KLAMÁR, R. (2002): Vybrané regionálnogeografické aspekty rómskeho obyvateľstva v prešovskom kraji, Stály rozvoj regiónov, ManaCon, Prešov, s. 85-95
- PEŠÁKOVÁ, J. (2005): Rómska komunita na slovenskom vidieku – jej demografická situácia a aktivity (na príklade obce Malý Slivník), Formovanie európskej občianskej spoločnosti, FFPU, Prešov, s. 278-287

## DEMOGRAFICKÁ SITUÁCIA RÓMSKEJ MINORITY V MIKROREGIÓNE STRÁŽE

### Zhrnutie

Mikroregión Stráže mal v čase výskumu 18 474 obyvateľov z toho 1 654 Rómov. Rómske obyvateľstvo je zastúpené v piatich obciach mikroregiónu a to: Kapušany, Malý Slivník, Šarišská Poruba, Terňa a v meste Veľký Šariš. Pri sčítaní obyvateľstva v roku 1991 sa k rómskej národnosti prihlásilo celkovo 496 obyvateľov, t.j. 3% z celkového vtedajšieho počtu obyvateľov a v roku 2001 to bolo 501 obyvateľov, čo tvorilo tiež 3% z celkového počtu obyvateľov. V roku 2007 sa tu podľa interných materiálov obecných úradov nachádza 1 654 Rómov. Vo vekovej štruktúre najpočetnejšiu skupinu tvoria deti vo veku do 15 rokov - 47,4%. Ďalšiu skupinu predstavuje obyvateľstvo vo veku 21-30 (15%), na základe čoho predpokladáme rovnaký, ak nie vyšší nárast rómskeho obyvateľstva ako v predchádzajúcich rokoch. Index veku obyvateľstva rómskej minority mikroregiónu



v roku 2007 nadobudol hodnotu 664, z čoho vyplýva, že sa jedná o veľmi progresívny typ populácie. Prirodzený prírastok Rómov za obdobie 1997 – 2007 sme charakterizovali pomocou vitálneho indexu ( $I_v$ ), ktorého hodnota je 7,2, čo značí rozšírenú reprodukciu obyvateľstva prirodzeným prírastkom.

**Recenzovali:** Prof. RNDr. Viliam Lauko, CSc.  
RNDr. Alena Lukáčová, PhD.