

Šutaj, Š. – Regináčová, N. – Heldáková, L. *Current Issues of Research on Nationality Policy and Nationality Relations in Slovakia in the 20th and 21st Centuries.*
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Nationality issues and relationships are long-term subjects of interest in social sciences, with the work of the Slovak Academy of Science and university institutions in Slovakia playing a significant role in their research over a long period of time. This publication presents a practical view on nationality issues and relationships in Slovakia during the 20th and 21st centuries. It has been divided into five main chapters which have been subdivided into subchapters. The content of the publication consists of contributions presented at the international scientific conference which discussed the project, Trends in the Development of Ethnic Relations in Slovakia. The conference focused on comparative research in nationality issues between 2004 and 2020.

The first chapter deals with tendencies in the development of ethnic relations in Slovakia. The first part focuses on the issues of national policy as a subject for science research and general information about the main goals of the project, Trends in the Development of Ethnic Relations in Slovakia. The second part summarises the research carried out on ethnicity in Slovakia. The third part presents the bibliography on ethnic relations – with Slovak political journals being the main source of information. The final part focuses on a demographic exploration of the Roma population in Slovakia. The data comes from the 2011 census; giving information regarding age and gender, family status, education and economic activities.

The second chapter is focused on Slovaks and Hungarians living abroad, and consists of three articles. The first article is about sociolinguistic aspects of those Slovak minorities living abroad; primarily those in Hungary, Croatia, Serbia and Romania. This article gives a comprehensive view of the thematic and methodological framework of two interdisciplinary scientific research projects VEGA SAS, which ran between 2009 and 2016. The second article looks at identity issues of those Slovaks living in Hungary from the second half of 20th Century. The study focuses on cultural life, identity characteristics and changes between 1946 and 1990. The last part is concerned with changes in the national policy of the Hungarian government from 1989.

The third chapter focuses on the legal aspects of the status of national minorities. The chapter is composed of three subchapters. The first part deals with the issue of national minorities and ethnic groups in the case law of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic after accession to the European Union from 2004 to 2016. It describes the course taken and analyses the decisions of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic which directly or indirectly affected the issue of national minorities or ethnic minorities groups. The second article approaches the issue of minorities in the Czech Republic. It provides information around Legal science and minority research both before and after 1989. It provides an overview of the current research tasks the author feels need to be reviewed. The last subchapter focuses on Slovak minorities living in different parts of the Czech Republic. The main interest of the contribution is to document the usage of Slovak language in the Czech Republic.

The fourth chapter offers a historical overview of various aspects of the status of minorities. The first article looks historically at the status of the Jewish population in the Czech Republic throughout the 20th century and up to the present day. It describes the periods of inter-war Czechoslovakia, the Second Republic, the post-war period from 1945 to 1948, the first Communist period from 1948 to 1968, the second from 1969 to 1989 and finally the period after 1989. The second part of the chapter describes the history of the Jewish community in the Slovak Republic, and is divided by the author into four phases.

The last chapter is devoted to the poster part which was presented at the conference. The first poster entitled: Population in numbers, describes the development of the population in the Slovak Republic. It draws attention to factors in the decline or increase in the number of inhabitants in individual historical periods, and shows the importance and necessity of monitoring the cultural-demographic features of the population. The third poster: Institutions and basic documents for the protection of national minorities provides an overview of the rights and conventions that were enacted in the context of national minorities. Basic information on the whole project APVV-15-0475 is described in the last poster entitled: Research of the basic trends in the development of ethnic relations.

The publication is beneficial because it brings new information about the nationality issue of minorities in Slovakia. I would recommend the work to academic and research workers as well as to teachers.

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