
SURVEYING AND AREAS OF VILLAGE, LOCAL AND DISTRICT COMMUNITIES

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Abstract

During the reform of small local communities in the Municipality of Maribor, it was found that the content of certain surveyors' databases could be enriched. This paper therefore offers some suggestions: for example, concerning the city as a new official territorial unit in Slovenia; the definition of different types of human settlements; and about the building up of a special archive for storing the results of political reforms concerning local communities in Slovenia.

Keywords: *Geodetic day, Portorož, reform, sources of data, spatial communities, surveying, town, village*

1 INTRODUCTION

In the City Municipality of Maribor, a reform of former local communities (LC) was performed from January 1995 to October 1996 with the participation of experts from the Institute of Urban Planning of Maribor and the author of this paper. Many points of interest for geodetic and other professionals who engage in spatial planning were established and are presented in this paper, which is above all oriented to the applicability of certain geodetic sources of data and opportunities for the extension of the content of these sources.

A reform of local self-management in Slovenia has been taking place since 1993, when the Law on Local Self-Management was adopted. It refers to three types of local self-managed communities: a) regions, b) municipalities, c) village, local and district communities. As the state has carried out reform of the system of municipalities on the basis of the above-mentioned law, the newly formed municipalities are also performing (or will perform) a reform of previous local communities at two levels; however, the establishment of regions as the largest local self-managed communities in Slovenia is still in a preparatory phase.

Village, local and district communities (spatial communities - SCs) comprise three basic interlinked components: social, administrative and spatial. The first refers to everyday human contacts among a group of residents forming a social community. The second means that such a community can carry out certain administrative tasks assigned to it by its superior authorities. The third, the spatial component, refers to the extent of territory inside of which the community resides. If the first two

components are above all analysed by sciences such as sociology, political science, law, history and ethnology, the spatial component is above all and also analysed by sciences such as geography, spatial planning, urban planning and geodesy.

2 GEODETIC SOURCES OF DATA AND THE DEFINITION OF SPATIAL COMMUNITIES

It was shown during professional activities within the reform of LCs in the City Municipality of Maribor that the geodetic service is the one providing the greatest amount of information for such purposes. These data are collected in topographic maps and plans, in the Graphical Review of Public Utilities Devices (GRPUD) and in the Register of Spatial Units (RSU).

2.1 Topographic plans and maps and spatial communities

In addition to spatial traffic and relief connections, natural and artificially created dividing lines, the arrangement and size of human settlements and similar usual components of topographic maps and plans, data on the existence and location of buildings with activities in the tertiary and quarternary sectors (schools, post offices, banks, police stations, pharmacies, churches, restaurants and inns, etc.) are above all useful for the definition of SCs. The above listed buildings and their derivatives are specially marked on topographic maps. This does not apply to the following types of buildings and activities taking place in them: large shops, nursery schools, fire stations, cultural centres, village centres, sports facilities, LC centres, local offices, parish offices, etc. However, the designation of these types of buildings would increase the informative and analytical value of such maps.

2.2 Graphical Review of Public Utilities Devices (GRPUD) and spatial communities

Local public utility networks indicate the infrastructural connections between these buildings and, therefore, the interest connections of their inhabitants. This applies primarily in cases when such networks were built by local communities or local inhabitants through their self-imposed contributions. The GRPUD is, therefore, also useful in defining SCs; it would be even more useful if it contained data on investors in building infrastructural lines. It may be worthwhile to consider data expansion of the GRPUD to include both the latter data along with data on managers of infrastructural lines. This would also be sensible because data on the ownership and management competencies and responsibilities are presently much more important at present than they were in the recent past.

2.3 Spatial units

The RSU and its spatial communities are one of the crucial data sources regarding the territorial aspect of the reform of local self-management. In the case of Maribor, described above, it turned out that not only the territories and boundaries of former LCs, new communal boundaries and the state boundary needed to be taken into account in defining new SCs, but also the territories and boundaries of human settlements, in order to define the boundaries between district communities (city districts), village communities and local communities. In order to check and accurately locate any new boundaries between SCs, the territories and boundaries of

cadastral communes, statistical districts and spatial districts (previously census districts) need to be considered.

3 CHANGES IN THE BOUNDARIES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN PODRAVJE

The reform of LCs in twelve municipalities in Podravje showed that the territories of former LCs were mainly preserved as the territories of the new LCs. In eight municipalities, LCs were preserved in their previous number and extent, while in three municipalities LCs were transformed into village communities. In this process, one or two LCs were divided into two or three village communities. The City Municipality of Maribor was an exception, since one city district was created, on average, 3,5 former city and suburban local communities. This mainly involved uniting the territories of former LCs, while in two cases the territory of one former LC was made part of the territories of two city districts.

4 CHANGES IN THE BOUNDARIES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND THE REGISTER OF SPATIAL UNITS

Territorial changes of LCs in the City Municipality of Maribor brought certain interesting findings with reference to the content of the RSU (see below).

4.1 The relationships between the boundaries of spatial communities and the boundaries of spatial districts, statistical districts and cadastral communes

There was no need for discord between the boundaries of newly formed SCs and the boundaries of other units listed above, with one exception: the territory of the former city road as a marked spatial and social dividing line. In this case, the boundary between the SCs was determined with regard to this road and not to different courses of the boundary of the relevant cadastral commune and the boundary of the relevant statistical district.

4.2 The relationships between the territories of spatial communities and territories of settlements and cadastral communes

It turned out that in places these three types of units are quite disharmonious; that is, they divide the space in different ways. It follows from figure 1 that to date, the inhabitants of Brezje belonged to Maribor regarding administrative matters, but were connected socially with Dogošë and historically with Zrkovci. This solution was not the best one, as proven by the LCs reform. With the reform this entire area was classified under city districts, and Brezje was united with Dogošë and Zrkovci into one city district. The following finding of the LC reform in the City Municipality of Maribor is worth mention: the boundaries of cadastral communes in many areas (still) play the role of the boundaries of SCs. This is certainly not unusual regarding the historical origin of cadastral communes, but in the Maribor Municipality, which experienced major changes in settlement in its area over the last fifty years, it turned out that about one fifth of newly formed SCs overlapped or almost overlapped with the territories of cadastral communes. This speaks to the stability and layered structure of the content of cadastral communes as spatial units, which - not in spite of their age, but because of it - in places prove to also be the spatial extent of a new SC. Regarding the above, it would be beneficial to study the connections between

SCs and cadastral communes in an interdisciplinary research project and to include the results of such a project in the curricula of the Faculty of Geodesy and Civil Engineering and the Faculty of Social Sciences.

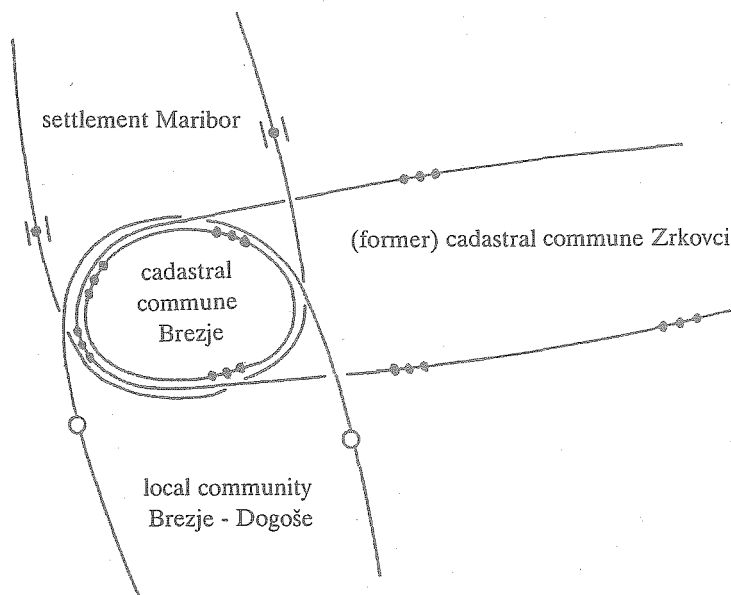


Figure 1

4.3 Spatial unit city

One of the central professional findings within the reform of LCs in the City Municipality of Maribor refers to deficient interdisciplinary definition of the spatial unit city and the consequent absence of this unit from the RSU. In this paper, the term city means the part of space which represents the greatest possible territorial harmonisation of the understanding of the term city in different disciplines (geography, spatial planning, urban planning, geodesy, sociology, economy, etc.). The previously mentioned interdisciplinary definition of the unit city caused the situation in the City Municipality of Maribor which is presented in figure 2.

The incoherence of the views of different professional and political subjects about the territory which is supposed to belong to Maribor speaks at least of the absence of common criteria for its definition. This results in a deficient definition of the City of Maribor, which has several negative consequences. It is impossible to unambiguously establish the number of its inhabitants, including all other per capita data (e.g., GDP and other economic and social indicators). This leads to a deficiency in comparison of such data between cities. In Maribor, problems also appear in determining the tariff for local bus fares and the price of telephone impulses at the outskirts of the city. There are also numerous doubts as to where and how much the city boundary of Maribor should be extended due to spreading of development. The same also applies to problems in determining the territory to be analysed in the

conceptual design of urban planning for the City of Maribor. Additionally, taking into account that the Law on Local Self-Management has introduced the distinction between municipalities and city municipalities and village, local and district communities, a sufficient number of reasons have probably been listed for a (re)definition of the spatial unit city and its actual introduction into the RSU.

When the spatial unit city is included into the RSU, the question of how to define and delimit its territory appears. The approach and results of defining city districts in the City Municipality of Maribor (and naturally, also in other Slovenian city municipalities) and other already prepared professional bases for spatial planning can be of great help in this. An accurate methodology should still be prepared, and the Surveying and Mapping Authority of Slovenia may be an initiator for this markedly interdisciplinary task. I believe that the unit city should, in principle, consist of selected settlements which surround a mother city settlement. It would be less suitable or even unsuitable to design the city by extending the territory of the mother settlement, because in so doing a part of the suburban territory would be taken away. This would be problematic, especially in the case of historic settlements with relatively original spatial development and marked local character of the inhabitants. In addition, by changing the boundaries of settlements, difficulties could be caused to the statistical service and the comparability of data for settlements for different periods would be reduced.

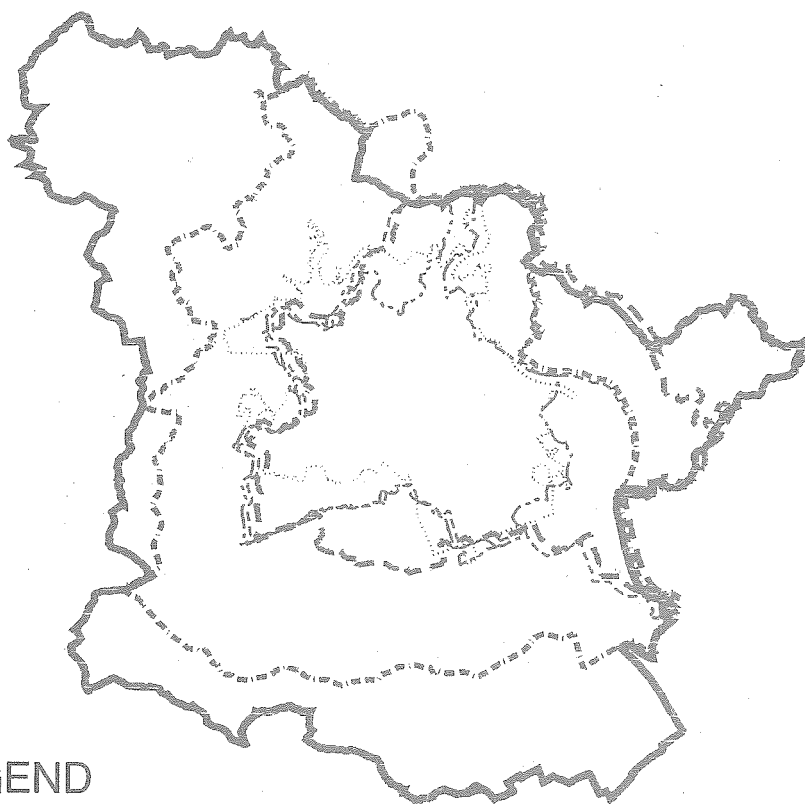
4.4 Types of settlements and the RSU

In the RSU, information on the types of settlements could be introduced for spatial units. For about 6 000 settlements in Slovenia, only the statistical data on whether or not a settlement is a city is presently available. From the viewpoint of spatial planning this data is problematic, since, for example, in the territory of the City Municipality of Maribor, settlements which do not belong even to narrow suburban areas are defined as city settlements. In addition to a true city settlement, i.e., one which would be classified under the spatial unit city, it would also be possible to define suburban settlements, villages, hamlets, tourist villages, mountain villages, etc. This extension of data in the RSU would increase the informative value of the register. Its value should also be assessed in the light of new capacities enabled by GIS technology. Easy linking of the RSU with a series of other territorially defined and geo-coded data (e.g. various types of territories defined in the spatial plans of municipalities and the nation, demographically endangered areas, homogeneous landscape areas, architectural regions, potential market areas of companies, etc.) enables the generation of analytically very useful information which would be of interest to clients from different areas.

4.5 Archives of the results of political and territorial reforms

In the territory of present Slovenia, a series of political/administrative territorial reforms has taken place over the past 100 to 150 years. One has an impression that frequent changing of the boundaries between administrative and community units is a political-historical feature of the society in this area. I myself believe that this special feature will sooner or later produce another political territorial reform. For such cases, high quality archive materials which would include the results of such

WHERE ARE THE BORDERS OF CITY MARIBOR?



LEGEND

- SETTLEMENT MARIBOR BORDER (Register of spatial units, 1995)
- REGULATION DISTRICT BORDER OF SETTLEMENT MARIBOR (physical planners and community Maribor assembly, 1993)
- . - . - . OUTSIDE CITY DISTRICT BORDER (Maribor city City council, 1996)
- - - - - PROPOSED BORDER OF CITY MARIBOR (Dr. Vrišer, 1992)
- CITY SETTLEMENTS OUTSIDE BORDER (Krajevni leksikon Slovenije, 1995)
- CITY MUNICIPALITY MARIBOR BORDER (State assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, 1994)

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Figure 2

reforms in the territory of the present Slovenia for the period of, for example, the past 100 years would be very beneficial. Such a mapping archive, which could be established by the Surveying and Mapping Authority of Slovenia, would, if used thoroughly enough, contribute to quality territorial delimitation results of subsequent reforms. In this manner, the geodetic service would contribute considerably to a feature which Slovenes unfortunately (still) do not have, but very much need: a stable territorial organisation of our society, which is one of the conditions for cost-efficient and stable social development.

5. PROFESSIONALS IN SPATIAL PLANNING - POLITICIANS - CITIZENS

In conclusion, I would like to add a word or two on our experience in the mutual co-operation of spatial planning professionals, local political representatives and citizens in the reform of LCs in the City Municipality of Maribor.

*"If the neighbouring village is our centre, we will be their milking cow."
(citizen of Dobrovoce, April 1996)*

The quote illustrates the context in which spatial professionals are attempting to enforce their views about SCs. Citizens emphasise their empirical criteria, which they believe are superior to the criteria of professionals. On the other hand, local politicians remain silent, co-operate with professionals only partially, do not desire the participation of professionals in crucial activities for defining SCs, do not explain why the professionals' proposals are not taken into account, and so forth. What can professionals do about such a method of social consensus? Above all, it would be beneficial if they took everything from their own work range that is also subject to political decision-making as very changeable, and could adapt to constant changes as efficiently as possible. In spite of their possibly negative experience, or even because of it, they should constantly strive to participate as much as possible in decision-making on social matters.

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