

## Preliminary abstract

### **Theme: International Migration and Migrant Population**

#### ***Title: Hungarian pensioners abroad***

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International elderly migration is a new and accelerating migratory phenomenon of the last decades. From life-course perspective later life migration is a subtype of the human spatial movement besides the migration of children, students and active earners. The emigration of pensioners is a dominant part of international elderly migration in developed countries. International dispersal of pensioners has rarely been analysed by demographers and migration researchers except for studies in United Kingdom, United States of America, Australia and Germany. Hungary will join to the group of country mentioned above, provide data for comparison in the international arena. The study makes clear that the demographic, social and spatial processes in parallel with the relatively new types of migration contribute to exploration of the emigration of the country`s retirement population.

The perspective of the research is unique. We analyse the process of international elderly emigration related to Hungary from the point of view of sending country based on the data also come from the country of origin. The source of macro data is the Statistical Department of Hungarian State Pension Fund as one of the official statistical bodies. The register contains data on state pensions drawn in foreign country as well as the personal characteristics of beneficiaries. Times series are available 1998 onwards, give particular possibility to make statements on the process and the stock of expatriate pensioners in comparison with their counterparts of Hungary and around of the World. As the main method, the standard mathematical-statistical time series analysis will be combined with GIS application. Moreover, the broader understanding of the development of the phenomenon and patterns of Hungarian pensioners abroad requires attention not only the recent time but also the migration history of the second half of the XXth century.

The preliminary results reflect that the process has been growing since 1998 and the numbers exceeded that of 15 thousand people in 2002. The Hungarian pensioners abroad represent a particular mass of elderly emigrants. It must be noted, that that this group of people is only one slice of the totality of later life emigrant population with Hungarian background. Hungarian pension is paid to the persons who left the county after having spent 10 or more years in legal work. The research deals with the macro level causes and consequences of this emerging process and one of the ambitions of the contribution is to formulate hypotheses on the types of Hungarian expatriate pensioners for the further research. However, the core research question is as follows: Are there any demographic, spatial and historical peculiarities of international dispersal of pensioners related to Hungary going in parallel with European and global processes? The main aim of the research is to answer the questions mentioned above in which the demographic, geographic and historical point of view will be combined with one another.