

Trends of depolarization and de-marginalization of space: an example of Euroregion Silva Nortica



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Questions and hypothesis

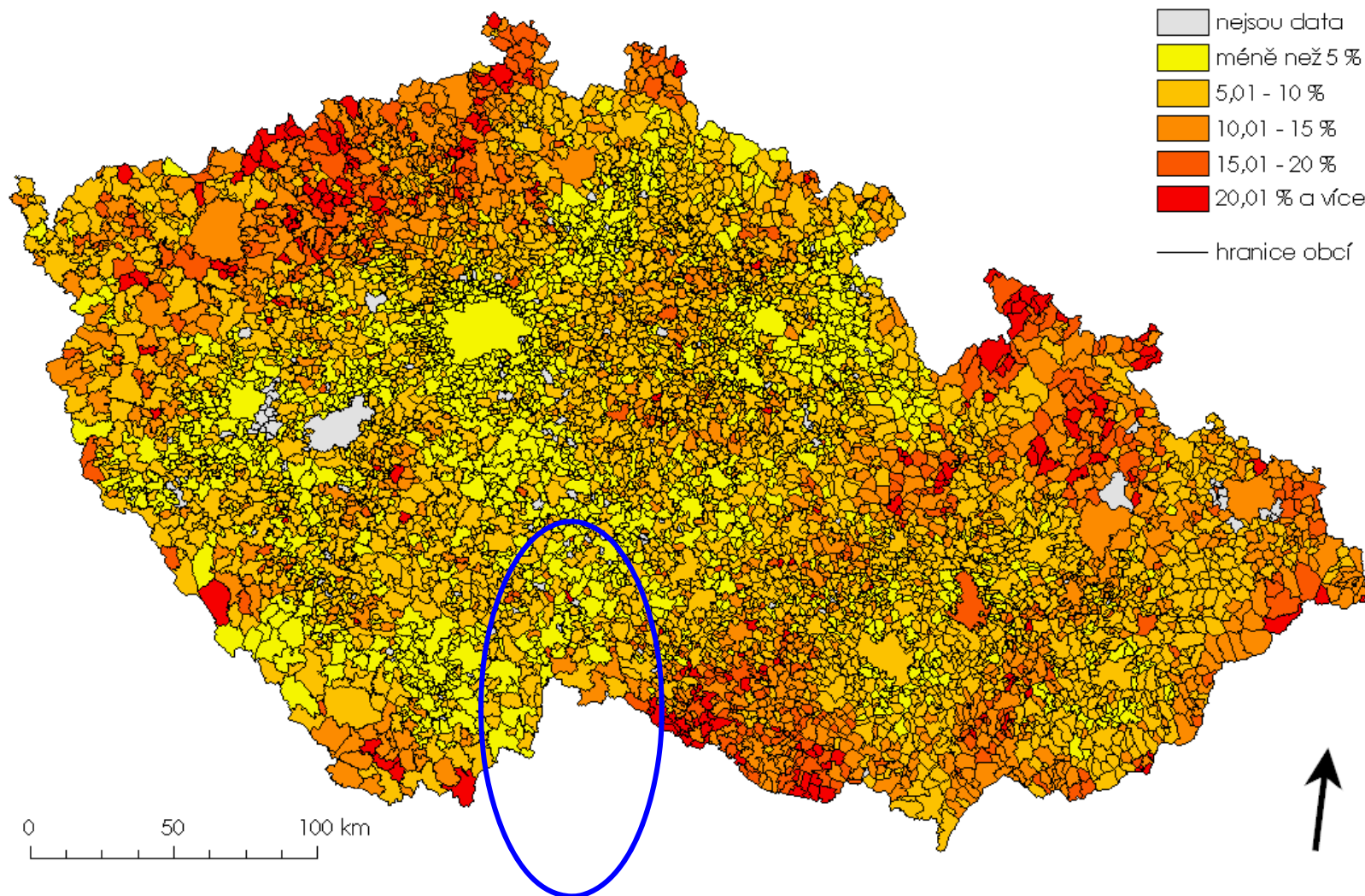
- ▶ Is there any trends of depolarization and de-marginalization?
- ▶ How important is the process of europeization and regionalization (Europe-of-Regions concept) in this issue?
- ▶ The Schengen agreement is a good precondition for the depolarization of the space.
- ▶ The example of Euroregion Silva Nortica shows different development between Austrian and Czech border regions.
- ▶ The process of de-marginalization stabilization of the population is more develop in Austrian part of Silva Nortica.

How can we understand the depolarization or de-marginalization?

- ▶ Relatively physical-geographically homogenous region but...
- ▶ Construction of polarization through the border as well (geopolitical factor) and marginalization through the development of the society (socioeconomic factor)
- ▶ Generally we can observe often on the regional level increasing polarization in Middle Europe
- ▶ To think, to learn and to cooperate cross-border (Schengen agreement)
- ▶ To find good quality of life (stabilization of the population)

Unemployment rate in Czechia by municipalities (2007)

Podíl nezaměstnaných podle obcí Česka (2007)



The comprehensive value system (sacred/secular)

Sacred values	Secular values
conservation	innovation
solidarity	egoism
sustainability	exploitation
humility	arrogance
intolerance	tolerance
exclusion	inclusion
respect	contempt

Source: Leimgruber 2004

Key importance for the development of marginal regions shows the human decisions based on subjective interests and values.

Model region of Silva Nortica (=Northern Forest)

- ▶ The youngest Euroregion in Czechia (2002) on the Czech-Austrian border

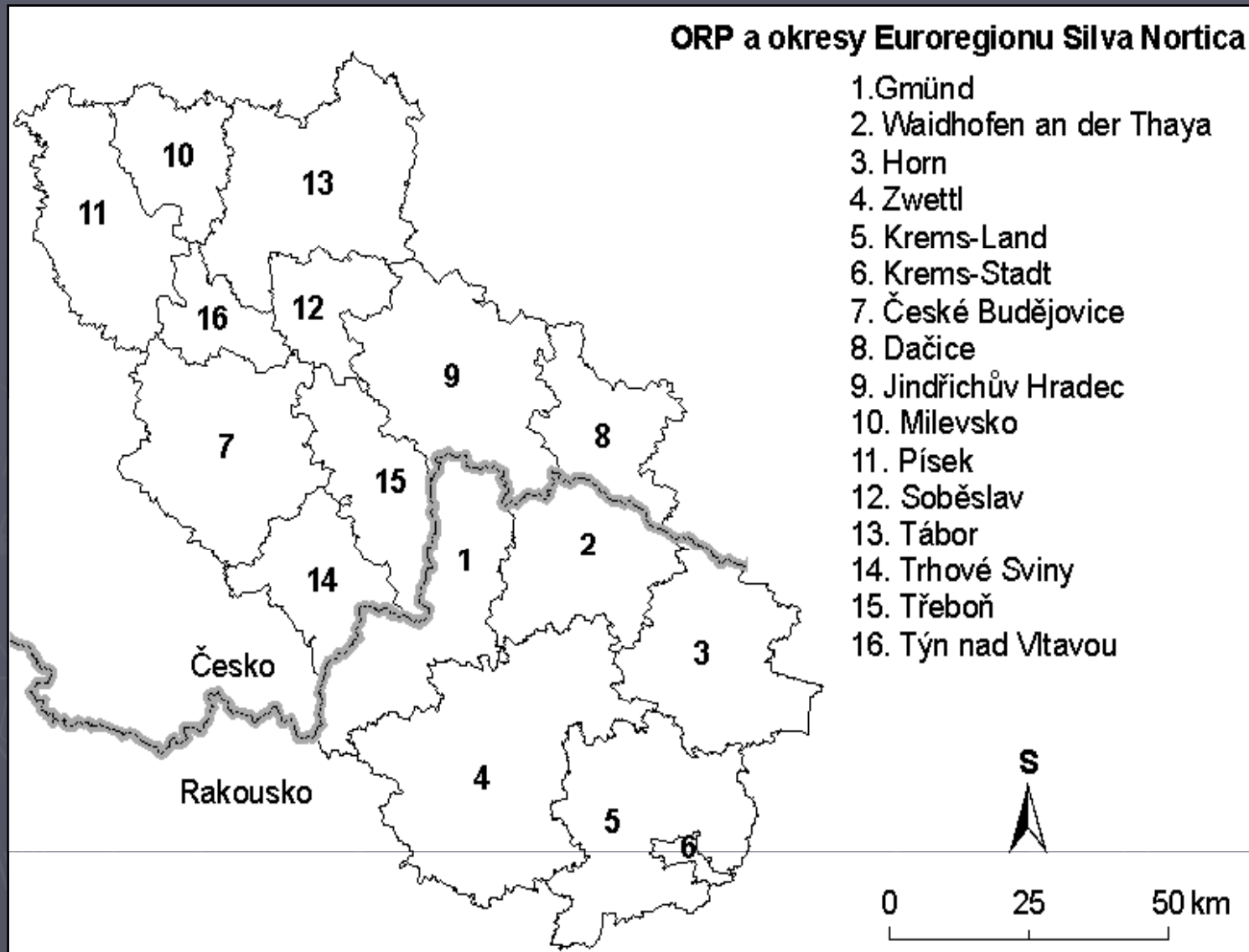


Church of pilgrimage in Dobrá Voda



Natural park Blockheide

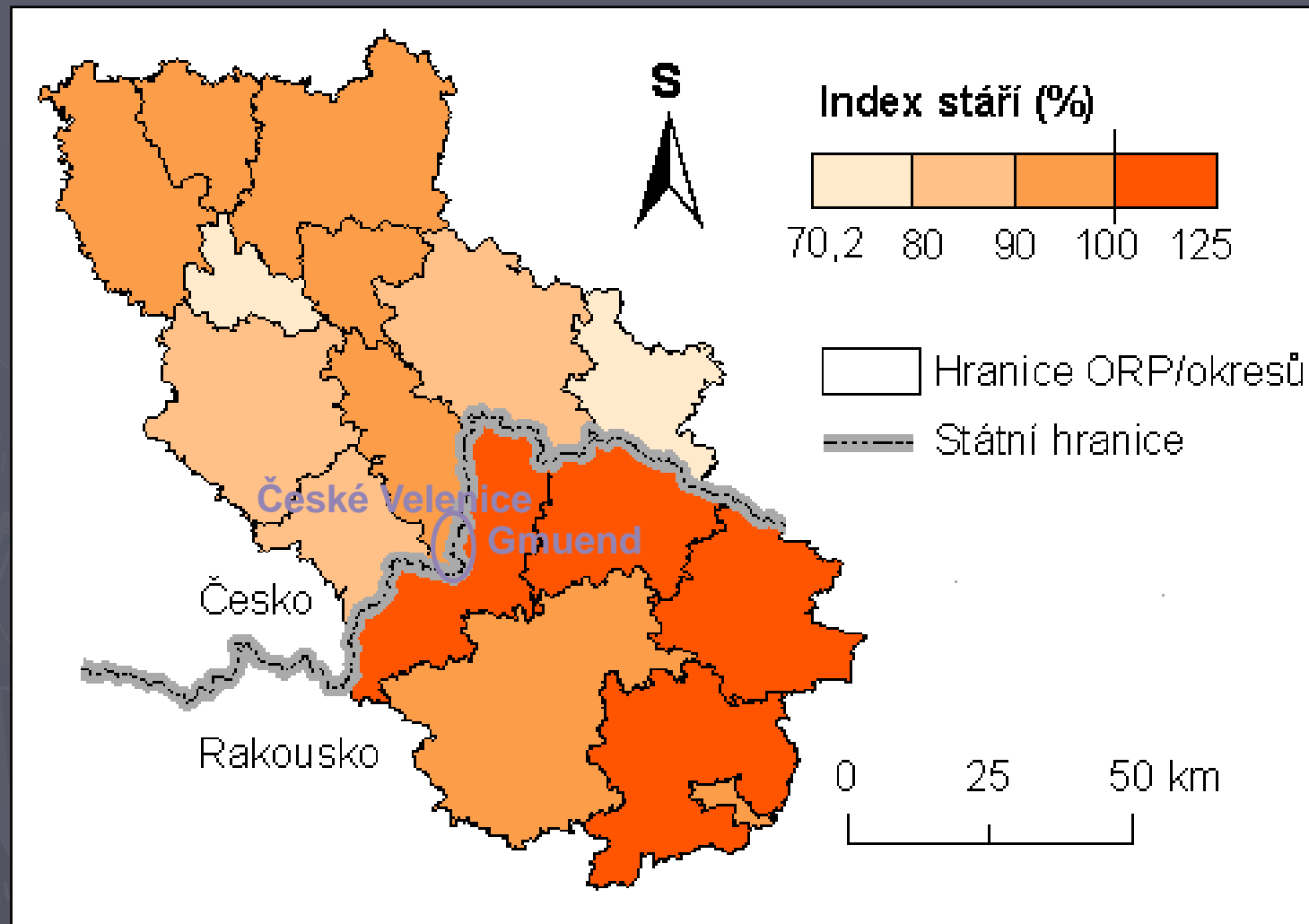
Inner differentiation of Silva Nortica



Distribution of municipalities after its size in Silva Nortica

Velikostní skupina obcí	Počet obcí	
	Rakouská část ERSN	Česká část ERSN
-199	0	154
200 -499	1	131
500 - 999	27	55
1000 - 1999	57	26
2000 - 4999	19	22
5000 - 9999	5	8
10000 - 19999	1	0
20000 - 49999	1	3
50000 - 99999	0	1
100000+	0	0
Celkem	111	400

Index of age in Silva Nortica (2001)



Source: Smržová 2007

Model area of border cities České Velenice (CZ) and Gmünd (A)

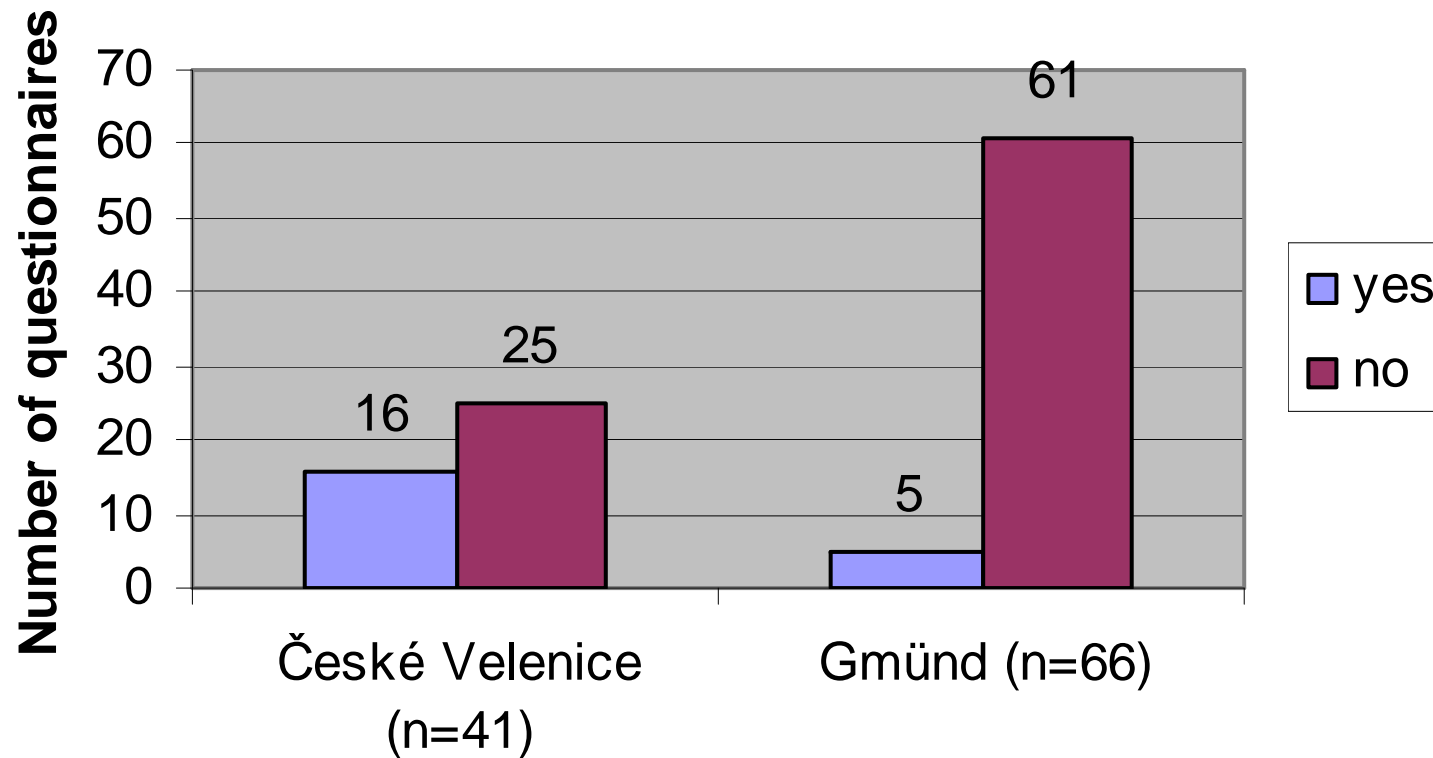
	rozloha km ²	počet obyvatel (2008)	hustota zalidnění (ob./km ²)
České Velenice	12,09	3 512	290,49
Gmünd	25,11	5 627	224,09
ORP Třeboň	538,42	25 331	47,05
okres Gmünd	786,24	38 656	49,17

	obyvatelstvo 2008				index stáří
	celkem	0-14	15-64	65+	
České Velenice	3 512	517	2 536	459	88,78
Gmünd	5 627	716	3 592	1 319	184,22

	Obyv. 15 let+	Z toho VŠ vzdělání	VŠ %
České Velenice	2 870	97	3,38
Gmünd	4 958	196	3,95
ORP Třeboň	21 162	1268	5,99
okres Gmünd	16 238	732	4,51

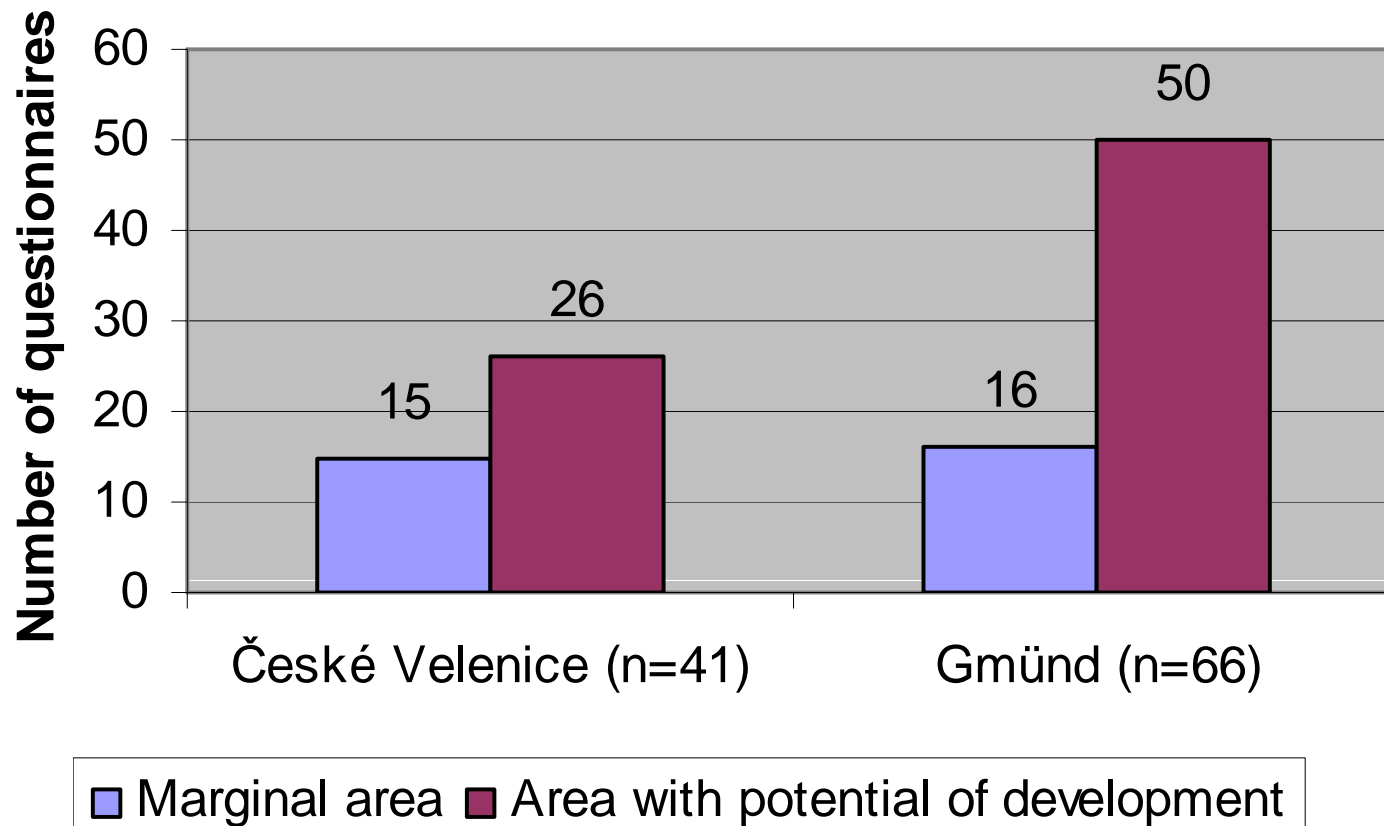
Questionnaire survey České Velenice (CZ, n=41) and Gmünd (A, n=66)

Reflexions on emigration from the municipality

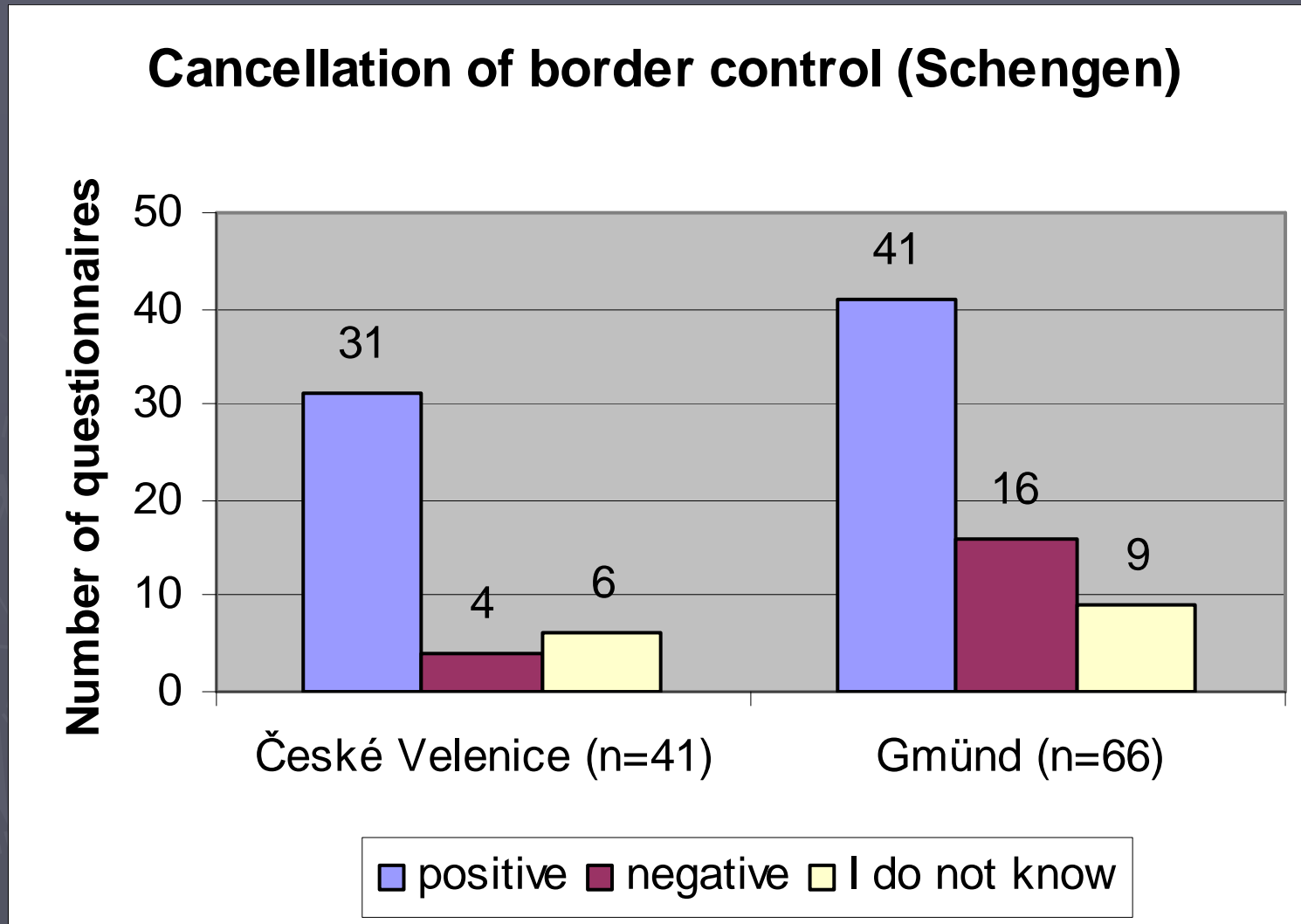


Do you think that your municipality is...?

Characteristics of border area

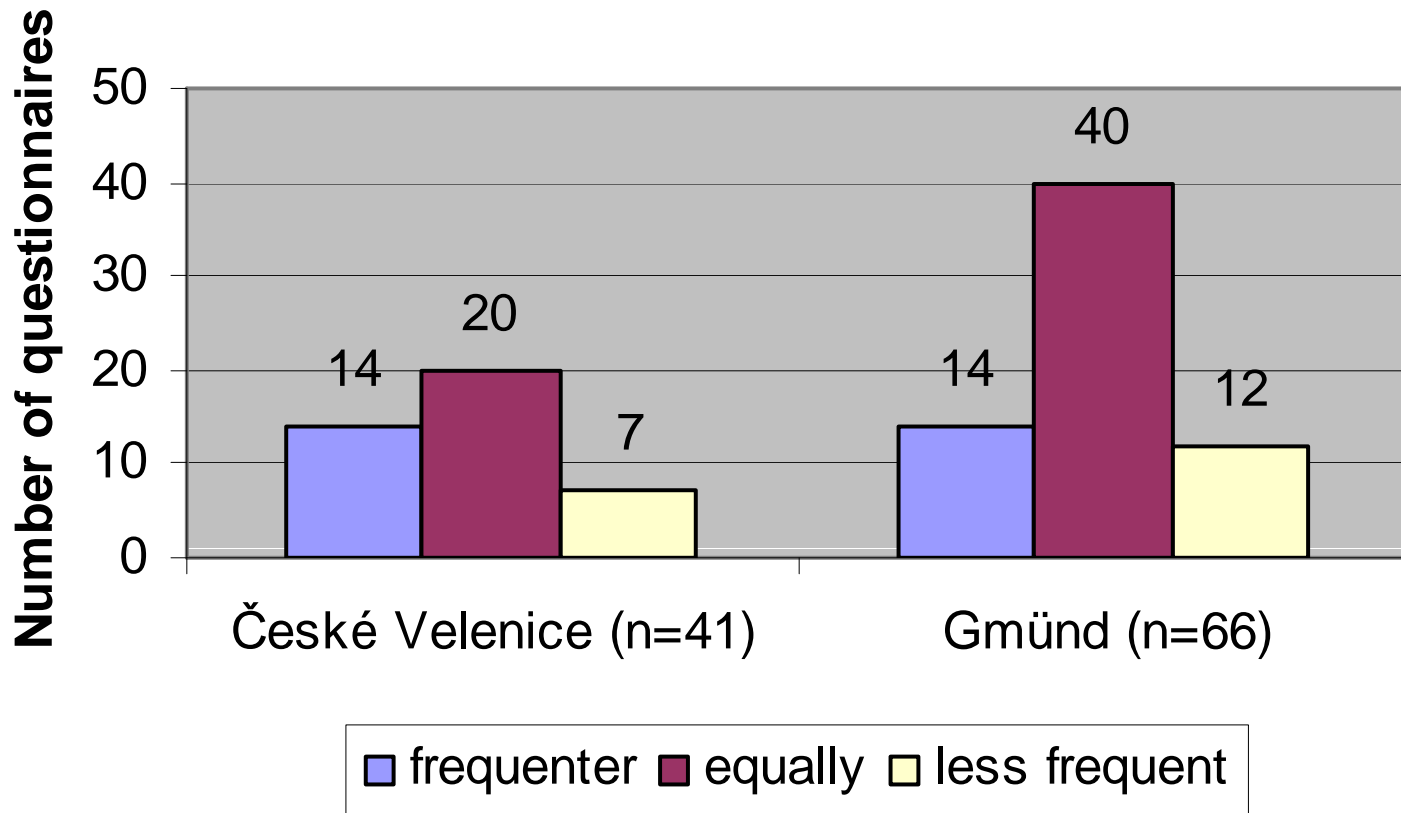


Do you think that the cancellation of border control (Schengen agreement) was positive/negative?



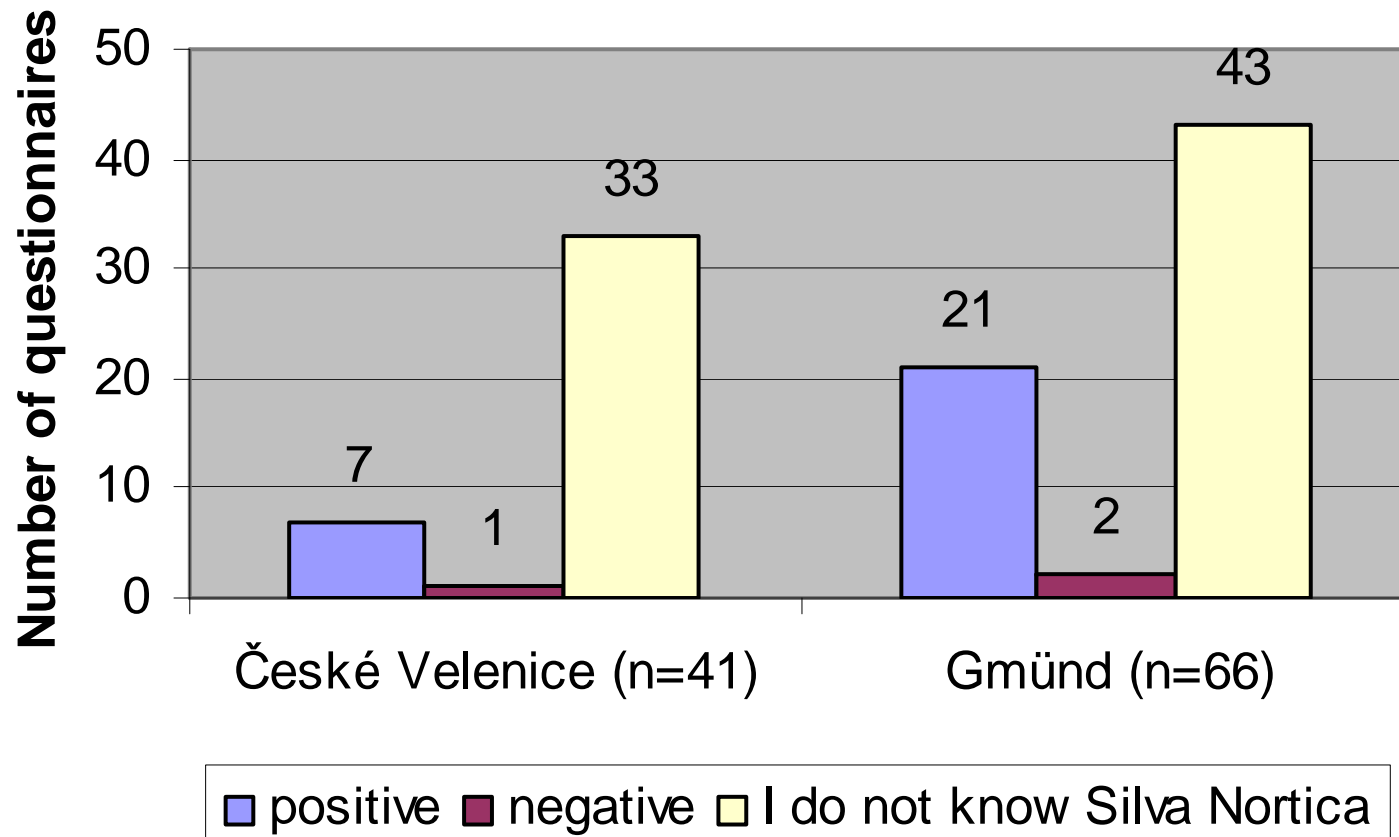
Do you visit the neighbouring country frequently after Schengen (2007)?

Visit of neighbouring country after Schengen (2007)



Do you think that the establishment of Euroregion Silva Nortica was positive for your region/municipality?

Establishment of Euroregion Silva Nortica



Conclusions

- ▶ The Schengen agreement is a good precondition for the depolarization of the space but for this model area is still too early.
- ▶ The Euroregion Silva Nortica shows different development between Austrian and Czech border regions.
- ▶ The process of de-marginalization (e.g. stabilization of the population) is more developed in the Austrian part of Silva Nortica.
- ▶ The process of europeization and regionalization (Europe-of-Regions concept) is in Silva Nortica insignificant (low awareness about Silva Nortica).