

Summary

The monograph *Geographical Research of Slovene Istria 2* presents the results of various researches carried out during the pedagogical process in the last decade by the members of the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska. The common denominator of the topics covered in five chapters by different authors is the area of the Slovene Istria, which is a unique field for extensive geographical research. The second common trait is that all the researches were planned and undertaken during either field or indoor research work with the students. Using selected methods, they came up with interesting results with the help of mentors from the Department. In this way, the monograph represents a conceptual continuation of research published in *Geographical Research of Slovene Istria 1* in 2021.

The first chapter encompasses a study of Slovenian coastal vulnerability considering the rising sea level, which is a consequence of global warming. Adapting to climate change as well as the sea level rise represents an inevitable fact and one of the greatest challenges for coastal regions worldwide. This is the reason for the assessment and observation of coastal vulnerability being the topic of numerous studies. The chapter presents the results of the Slovenian coastal vulnerability analysis and mapping, where the predominant abrasive type of coast is exposed to more intense abrasion, while the low-lying coastal areas are exposed to more frequent and extensive flooding. For the assessment, the authors used the Physical Vulnerability Index and GIS to estimate the impact of selected physical indicators on the vulnerability of individual coastal segments. They calculated that 5.7% of the coast could be classified as highly vulnerable and 2.9% as very highly vulnerable.

The second chapter focuses on the settlements of Lucija and Sveti Peter in the municipality of Piran. They were analysed from the point of view of their recent spatial development and represent an example of urban and rural settlements in the Slovene Istria that have been exposed to intensive spatial development in comparison to other areas in Slovenia since the second half of the 20th century. The authors observed the spatial development using aerial photographs from four different years between 1954 and 2020. For the analysis, they focused on the changes in the

boundaries of the built-up areas. The acquired results, the extent of the built-up areas, were compared with the census data on population development from similar periods.

The third chapter anthropologically and geographically studies the path that runs along the former route of the Trieste–Poreč narrow-gauge railroad, which is widely known as *Parenzana* or *Route of Health and Friendship*. The author provides an overview of the railroad history and presents various suggestions that have gradually transformed it into a recreational hiking and biking route that stretches through Italian, Slovene and Croat territories. The author explains the initial excitement of certain individuals who wanted to create a path, the establishment of the Parenzana Museum, as well as various approaches of local tourist associations. In its conclusion, the chapter lists the ideas of various thematic paths linked to Parenzana. They were prepared by the author and her students with the purpose of revitalisation in order to present the path with refreshed content to potential visitors.

The focal point of the fourth chapter is the land use changes in the rural settlements of Dvori, Movraž and Rakitovec in the municipality of Koper. The authors made a bicentennial comparison of the land use changes in the aforementioned settlements. They used the data from the Franciscan Cadaster – which was created for the Primorska region between 1811 and 1869 – and the data of the land use from 2022 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. According to the previously established methods they merged specific land uses into categories that enabled further comparisons. They used semi-structured interviews with selected residents of the studied settlements to support the comparisons. The comparison results showed that land use changed drastically in all three settlements. The areas were mostly overgrown with grass and shrubs, as well as vineyards in Dvori and Movraž, in the early 18th century. The data of current land use shows that the predominant current category is forest that has overgrown the majority of pastures and meadows, whereas the grasslands are now in the areas of former fields.

In the fifth chapter, the authors focused on the rural outskirts of the municipality of Koper again; namely, they studied development opportunities in the settlements of Podpeč, Rakitovec and Zazid. Similarly to other rural settlements in the Slovene Istria and elsewhere in Slovenia, these settlements face the processes of the aging population, daily migrations of the working population to the nearby towns, and relatively

poor infrastructure. The authors conducted a questionnaire-based survey among the residents and structured interviews among the selected individuals. They researched the level of satisfaction with the quality of life, as well as advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area. They were interested in their opinions about the aging of the population, obstacles in the settlement of young people, and their wishes about settlement development by defining the areas the locals see as promising and based upon which they want to build the future development of their communities. The results showed that the residents want to encourage the development of activities that would offer them opportunities for employment or self-employment, and that would contribute to the preservation of the cultural landscape. The opportunities were recognized in the development of “boutique” and active tourism, tourism connected with agriculture, gastronomy and cultural heritage.

The monograph can be used by professional geographers as well as other interested readers who follow present-day processes and events in the Slovene Istria. The selected results can be useful for strategic developers and decision makers in the areas of climate change, spatial development of urban and rural areas, and promoting tourism and other activities on local and regional levels. Since the work presents original findings in various geographic topics it can be a useful tool for geography and other teachers, as well as for the students who study the natural and human characteristics of this unique area.