

POPULATION GROUPS

After immediate and extended families, which represent the most significant social units in the settlement, the factors of affiliation with one of the various population groups and the time one moved to the settlement play an important role which lead to marked social differences. Thus the inhabitants of the older part of the settlement are often better situated and achieve a higher standard of living than those in the newer section.

The political events in the region in the last 25 years have been a determining factor in the formation of these subdivisions: economic decline and rural exodus, as well as war and forced displacement.

SEASONAL WORKERS AND ECONOMIC MIGRANTS

The economic decline of Serbia hit the central and southern regions of the country especially hard, bringing in its wake high unemployment which lead to the impoverishment of those areas' inhabitants. Social security was not possible as the government's coffers were empty, and the Roma, as economically disadvantaged persons with a low social status, were the main losers in the crisis.

Today as well, in spite of the gradual upswing in the economy, they cannot make a living in the South. Consequently they migrate towards the affluent cities up north, above all Belgrade. The members of the first generation of settlers \equiv already belonged to this group of economic migrants and others followed.

Not all of them reside the entire year in the settlement because numerous traders, construction workers, beggars, musicians, but also collectors of recyclable waste come to the capital for several months, and through lack of other possibilities, they rent or build a house in a slum. These people are designated as *Leskovaci* by the residents of Gazela.

Leskovac, the name of a south Serbian city with a very high percentage of Roma in the population, is used as a collective term for the seasonal workers' various places of origin. Because the permanent residents see them as being better off – they are reputed to have large houses back in

of the majority society and those of the marginalized minority, because we believe that such encounters lead to the the reduction of prejudices.

Ömer One last comment: I am all for working at such places, but it should....

Leskovac – the *Leskovaci* are reproached for taking up residence and working in Belgrade.

The transformation from being a seasonal worker to being an economic migrant, from being a temporary to a permanent resident of the settlement, usually takes place gradually.



Can Why are you for it?

Ömer I think that it is important, but...