

# **THE DISASTER BEFORE DISASTER**

## **METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH FOR DETECTING VULNERABILITIES AMONG THE MARGINAL SOCIAL GROUPS AND POSSIBLE PREVENTION OF THEIR VICTIMIZATION**

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# Goal and hypothesis

- Hypothesis: disasters do not identically affect individuals among as well as within social groups, i.e. the resilience among and/or within social groups are not equal.
- Goal: to detect the causes of potential vulnerability among marginalized groups
- Relevance: underlying the real and possible opportunity for creating a major vulnerable social strata from the growing population of the unemployment
- Victimization is not only related with the post disaster period, but rather is a state that preceding the worst disaster's cases

# The Marginal group, Vulnerability and the Resilience

- Mutual identification, i.e. equalization, of the scale of “vulnerability” with the percent rate of **the marginal groups** in common population is analytically wrong to a large extent as well as counterproductive when it comes in regards to preventing disastrous effects and preserving resilience capacities of the marginal groups (see slide 9,10,11).
- **Vulnerability** is usually considered as a common characteristic of human beings and biosphere in general, i.e. possibility of being harmed.
- **Vulnerability** as a condition that moves an individual away from the autonomy end of the continuum and toward the protection end.
- **Resilience**, in this case, is understood as the capacity to voluntary act in the interest of enhancing own life conditions.  
(In next 1-2 year)

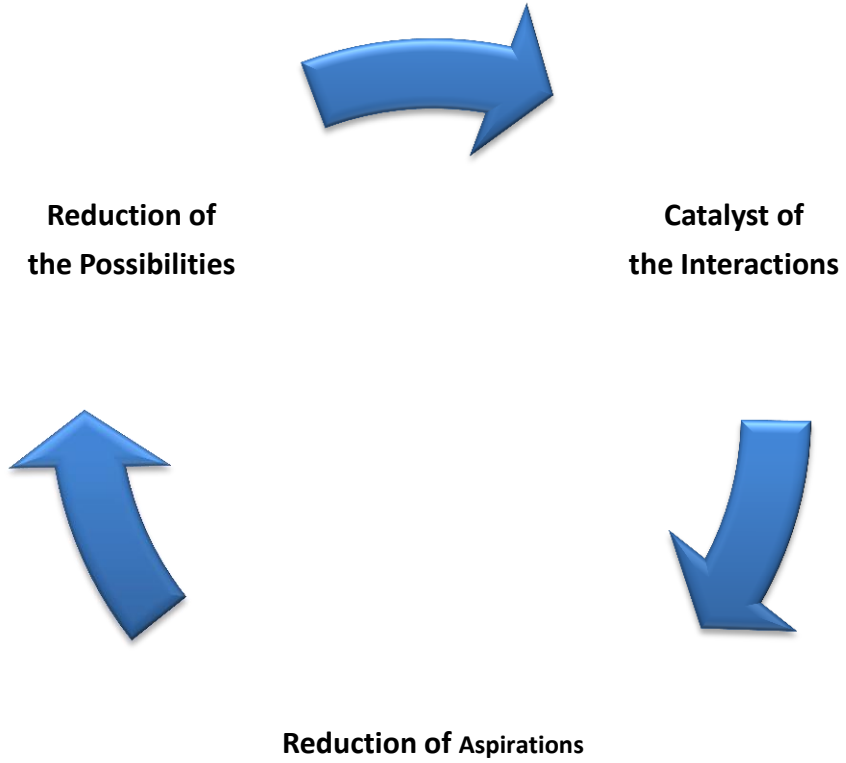
# Detecting vulnerability: e.g. Social structure of the (non-)resilience in Serbia

- In the national sample (N=2542) total number of individuals who have plans to enhance their life conditions in next one or two years is 50.3% (1108).
- They are representing the people with the *resilience*.
- In contrast, there are 49.7% (1094) individuals (*non-resilient or vulnerable*) without such life plans.
- Retired people without plans **47.7%** (14.7% with the plan),
- **unemployed** without plans **14.7%** (28.6% with the plan),
- the housewives without plans **8.0%** (3.3% with the plan).
- From 1094 people without plan, at least 70.4% of the “desperate,” or non-resilient, actors are coming from the three mentioned social groups

# Detecting Causes of the Vulnerability: e.g. The Phenomenology of the „Desperateness“ among unemployed in Serbia (Mitrović 2013)

Differences: indicators of the vulnerability			Similarities: indicators of the resilience	
Reduction of the Possibilities	Catalyst of the Interaction	Reduction of the Aspirations	Catalyst of the Interaction	Preservation of the basic human anticipation's potential
Life Standard	Potential of the Disappointment	Family Aspiration	The Action potential	The preservation of the Mere (Family) Survival
Reaction (Answer) to the Deprivation		Carriers aspirations		The preservation of the basic working (cohesion) solidarity

# The Vicious Circle between reduction of possibilities and the reduction of the aspiration



## *The Serbian case through Danish perspective*

- “Danish perspective” - mostly motivated with the Løgstrup’s “phenomenological ethics.”
- How actors reasoning about “sovereign (good) life” when someone else life is in our hands.
- The images of the sovereign (good) life have a latent epistemological twist.
- What represents the “real” good and bad is based on the dominant cultural image of the good life rather than on our inner moral compass.
- The main aim of this synthesis of approaches is to enable relevant social agent to better detect causes of vulnerabilities, within the marginal groups. The whole process should be guided by the image of the sovereign life, before, during as well as after the disaster

# Table 7 Changing disaster model

Motive	Damaged resilience (YES/NO) and type of the resilience/vulnerability	Regaining sovereign life / Actions toward changing life conditions
Existential ( <i>In order to</i> ) Motive	Detected vulnerabilities Reduction of possibilities Reduction of aspiration	Saving lives
	Resilience preserved The preservation of the basic human anticipation's potential	Preserving resilience capacity by changing domicile: Urban/rural, regional. Changing activities: e.g. start with farming, etc
Preventable ( <i>Because</i> ) Decisions	Detected vulnerabilities  The Potential of the Disappointment	Suppressing miserable life and regaining resilience as well: Re-education, re- building family solidarity
	Resilience preserved  Action potential	Development of self initiative in favour of the "ghost" hunting (primary motive big money) Controlling /Cutting vulnerable jobs opportunities



# The Example of indicator' chart (Mitrović 2013)

Regional distribution of the resilience (plan possessions) among unemployment communities in Serbia  $X^2(478, 3) = 8.936, p = .030,$   
Cramer's V = .137

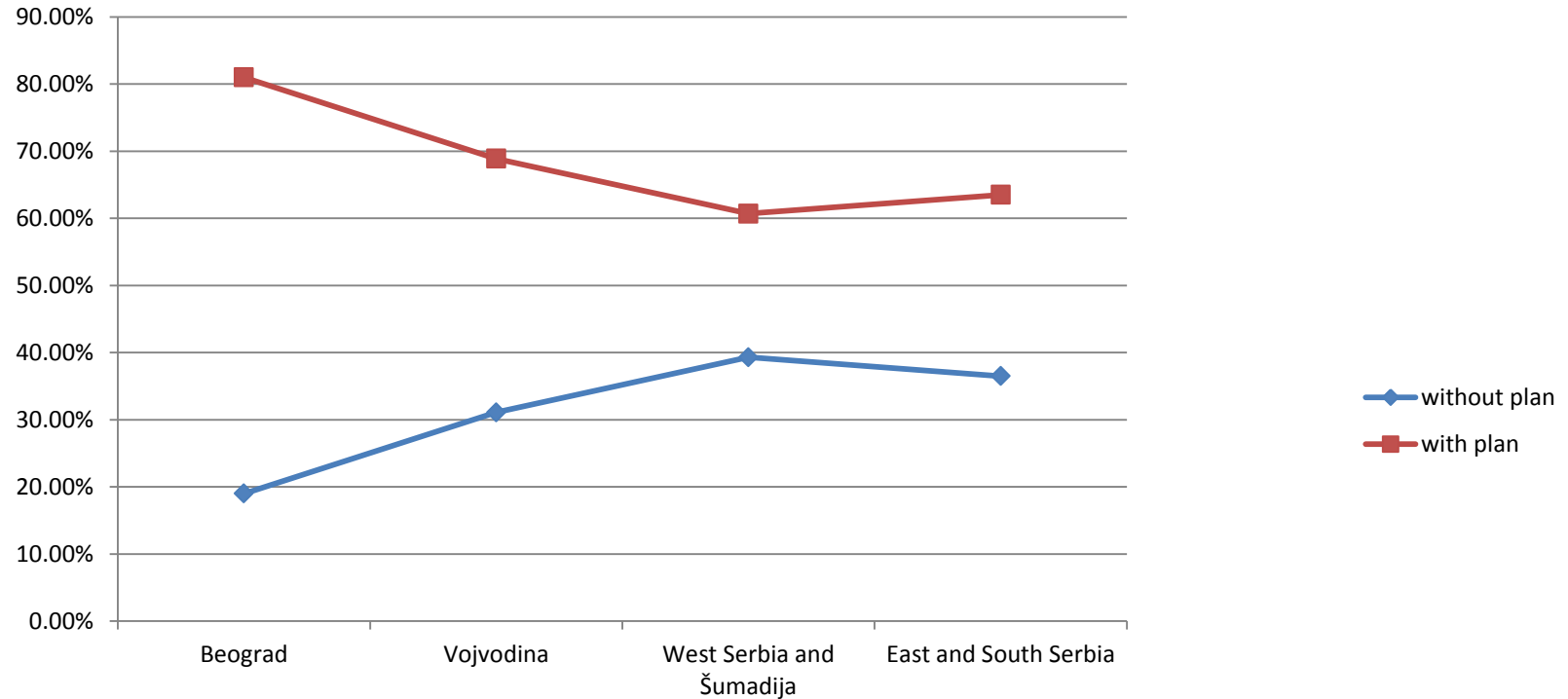


Table 5 Regional distribution of Employment and Unemployment (%) (Mitrović 2013)

Region	Serbia	Beograd	Vojvodina	West Serbia and Šumadija	East and South Serbia
Unemployed rate	24.6	21.6	26.	<b>23.7</b>	26.2
Employed rate	45.3	46.9	43.2	47.3	43.8

Table 6 Regional distribution of long and very long unemployment (%) (Mitrović 2013)

Region	Serbia	Beograd	Vojvodina	West Serbia and Šumadija	East and South Serbia
Long Unemployment	77.5	63.3	78.5	<b>82</b>	79
Very long Unempl.	64.3	44.8	67	<b>72.3</b>	63.3

# Instead of the conclusion: guide lines

- Marking the indicators of the vulnerabilities or in opposite case indicators of the resilience.
- Researchers are compatible to profiling the most vulnerable groups within marginal group (e.g. Serbian profile pg. 18)
- The responsible social agent should create map with relevant profile and array with most vulnerable actors in the national society.
- First step in preventing their victimization.
- Second, resolve a issue of the “eugenically choice.”
- Third, preventing the potentially danger social sentiment which could be expected from such apathetic and *involuntary society* (author’s term), i.e. Sentiment-driven actions induces by paternalistic organised every day life within frame of the new totalitarian ideology-e.g. Para-military organisation of daily activities.