

# The Main Aims of The Project Religiosity Atlas of Slovakia

RNDr. Stefan POLACIK, CSc

## I. Introduction

With respect to the fact that as early as since 1943 we have no survey in the map form and since 1950 no correct data of the religiosity in Slovakia either, the Religiosity Atlas of Slovakia should become an important starting point in the given sphere for both the expert and wide public.

## II. The main aims and contributions

The main objective of the project is to represent a complete view into the religiosity of the inhabitants of Slovakia and to publish the monography. It will be divided into text, tabular and map sections. In addition to the social-cognitive function it will contain also *scientific contributions*:

- the work will be prominent by its interdisciplinary character. It will unite the activities of historians, geographers, informatics in the field of studying religiosity as the society tabu phenomenon for a long period.
- building up the integrated information system on the base of geographical information system, which will work with the 1991 Slovakia census data (March 1991).
- there is the great chance in Slovakia to constitute or to establish a new geographical discipline - the geography of religiosity.

The contributions of the Religiosity Atlas of Slovakia can be specified also in the three next levels:

- *cultural-society* - it means the removal of the information vacuum in the sphere of religiosity when the views on the spiritual life in Slovakia have been hitherto absented.
- from the aspect of participating churches there will be a guarantee of a huge *ecumenical* contribution
- the project can be positive evaluated from the *education point*. The published results can be used during the educational process of geography, history and religiosity.

## III. The content structure

There is a historical evaluation of the individual churches entrance to the territory of Slovakia. This text section will be the result of the cooperation of external solvers - guarantors and Church sections. An independent chapter is reserved for each participating Church. In the compact monography will be divided each chapter into 3 parts:

**a. The text section: (the text part characterizing the key points of the existence of the Churches in Slovakia, the list of the most significant buildings belonging to the Churches and their description, the list of the outstanding personalities of the Churches and their characteristics).**

**b. The tabular section** will contain the surveys of the number of inhabitants and their religion competence.

**c. The map section** will contain the maps of communities based on the ecclesiastical administrative organization principles or on the administrative division principles used in Slovakia, respectively. The maps made on the base of the cadasters of communities will be presented in the scale 1 : 500 000 and 1 : 200 000. The Religiosity Atlas of Slovakia will contain the following maps:

- maps of the administrative organization of individual religions and churches
- maps of permanently living population confessing to the individual Churches, calculated to 1000 of the permanently living
- maps presenting the religiosity from the point of view of age structure, sex, national structure, social or economic structure, respectively.

The text section - **geographical analysis** - will present the regional religiosity differences of the population.

The goals and content of the project formulated in this abstract and in the detailed project are supported by:

The General Episcopal Office of the Slovak Evangelical A. C. in the CSFR, the Episcopal Conference of Slovakia, the Greek-Catholic Bishopric, The Office of Eparchial Council of the Orthodox Church, The Central Union of Jewish Religious Societies in the Slovak Republic, the Episcopal Office of Calvinist Church in Slovakia, the Council of the Baptist Union of Slovakia.

The project is supported by the Slovak Statistical Office and by some important foundations in abroad.

#### **IV. The Implementation team**

The implementation team includes the next Sections:

Archaeological, Roman - Catholic Church, Greek - Catholic Church, Jewish Religious Communities in the Slovak Republic, Evangelical A. C. Church, Orthodox Church, Calvinist Church, The Baptist Union of Slovakia and Statistical.