

**REGIONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS OF THE CITY OF TUZLA**

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*Regional centers are the most important carriers and drivers of development, and the basis for future prosperity of both the region individually and the country as a whole. Tuzla, as a regional center of the first order in the area of Northeast Bosnia, had, and still has, the most important role in the development of this region, which from the 1960s to the 1980s became the main center of mining, industry and education. Because of that, at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, over 40,000 daily migrants from all parts of the regional territory gravitated towards Tuzla. In the period after the last war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tuzla, like other lower-ranking regional centers in Northeast Bosnia, was characterized by polarized and unfavourable development that was administratively and politically limited to the entities, cantons and districts. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Tuzla changed significantly in the functional sense under the influence of long-term changed political, administrative and economic circumstances, and the changes are most visible through the growth of business and tertiary and quaternary functions and declining production functions that were the basis of Tuzla's functional structure.*

*The paper presents and analyzes the most important features of modern functions of the city of Tuzla (labor, economic and important public functions) through total employment/unemployment and labor force, and employment by sectors of activity (industrial, trade, tourism, transport, agriculture, education, health and cultural) as well as through the structure of business entities in the city of Tuzla in the first decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

**Key words:** *regional center, employment, business entities, job function, economic and public functions, City of Tuzla.*