

Serbia's school with respect to these attributes at the end of the current section. However, we feel that there is a minimum level of communication that must be guaranteed each school - the existence of at least one quality phone connection. For this reason we have placed this parameter among our basic indicators of school infrastructure.

Out of all of the schools in our database 3,517 gave an answer to this question. Of these, 1,091 (31.0%) have no phone connection of any kind, 1,421 (40.4%) have a single connection with pulse dialing, 386 (11%) have more than one such connection, 390 (11.1%) have a single phone connection with tone dialing, 207 (5.9%) have more than one such connection and, finally, only 22 schools (0.6%) said they had an ISDN connection.

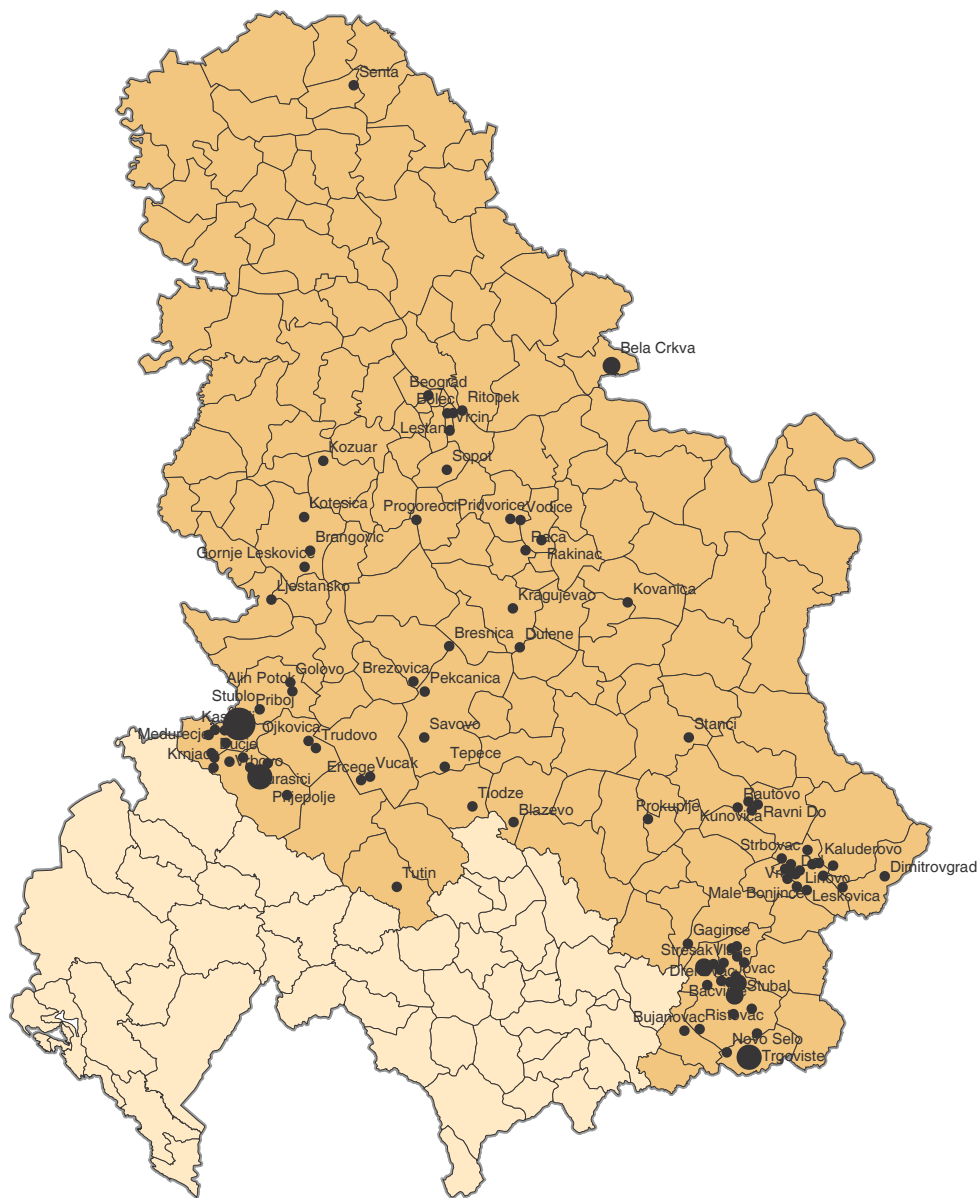
Therefore, our proposed criterion for the minimal level of communication (one phone line) is met by 69% of Serbia's schools. This is an average over the whole country. Map 4 gives the percentage of schools in a given municipality that have telephone connections.

Small schools

We now proceed to look at the spatial distribution of key indicators related to school size. As we have seen in previous sections, the demographic trends in Serbia are such that many small schools are getting smaller still. At some point their total enrollment goes to zero. This need not automatically signal the permanent closing of such schools - that follows if the schools in question are not working for several consecutive years.

Serbia currently has 106 schools that aren't working. All but one of these schools are primary satellite schools. One is a secondary school. The distribution of satellite schools that were not working in the 2001/2002 school year is shown in Map 5.

Schools with zero enrollment are just the top of the iceberg - not a problem in itself but the indicators of a true problem. In this case the problem is the existence, and increasing number of extremely small satellite schools. The problem is caused by the systematic downward demographic trend, a trend further exacerbated by the ten years of economic and political crisis that Serbia has only recently put a stop to.



Map 5:
 Distribution of schools currently not working (2001/2002 school year).
 Larger circles denote higher concentrations of such schools.



Map 6:
 Distribution of schools with total enrollment less than or equal 10 students. Larger circles denote higher concentrations of such schools (2001/2002 school year).

In 2001/2002 Serbia had 679 schools (all of them primary schools) with total student enrollment between 1 and 10 (inclusive). Of these 21 are special schools, 1 is a central school, while 657 are satellite schools. Map 6 gives the spatial distribution of schools with a total of ten students or less.

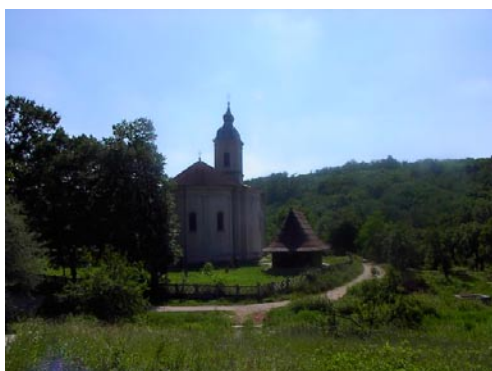
We have already seen in a previous section that satellite schools

are distributed in size according to an exponential function with a characteristic scale of 28 students. Therefore, satellite schools of 10 or less students, although they represent an extreme case, are just part of all small schools. For example, 589 schools have total enrollment between 11 and 20. Map 7 gives the distribution of all satellite schools. From that map we see that they are fairly smoothly distributed through-

Photographs:

Top left:

A church and a picturesque old wooden school (now closed) in the village of Brzohoda near the town of Žabari in the municipality that bears the same name.



Center left:

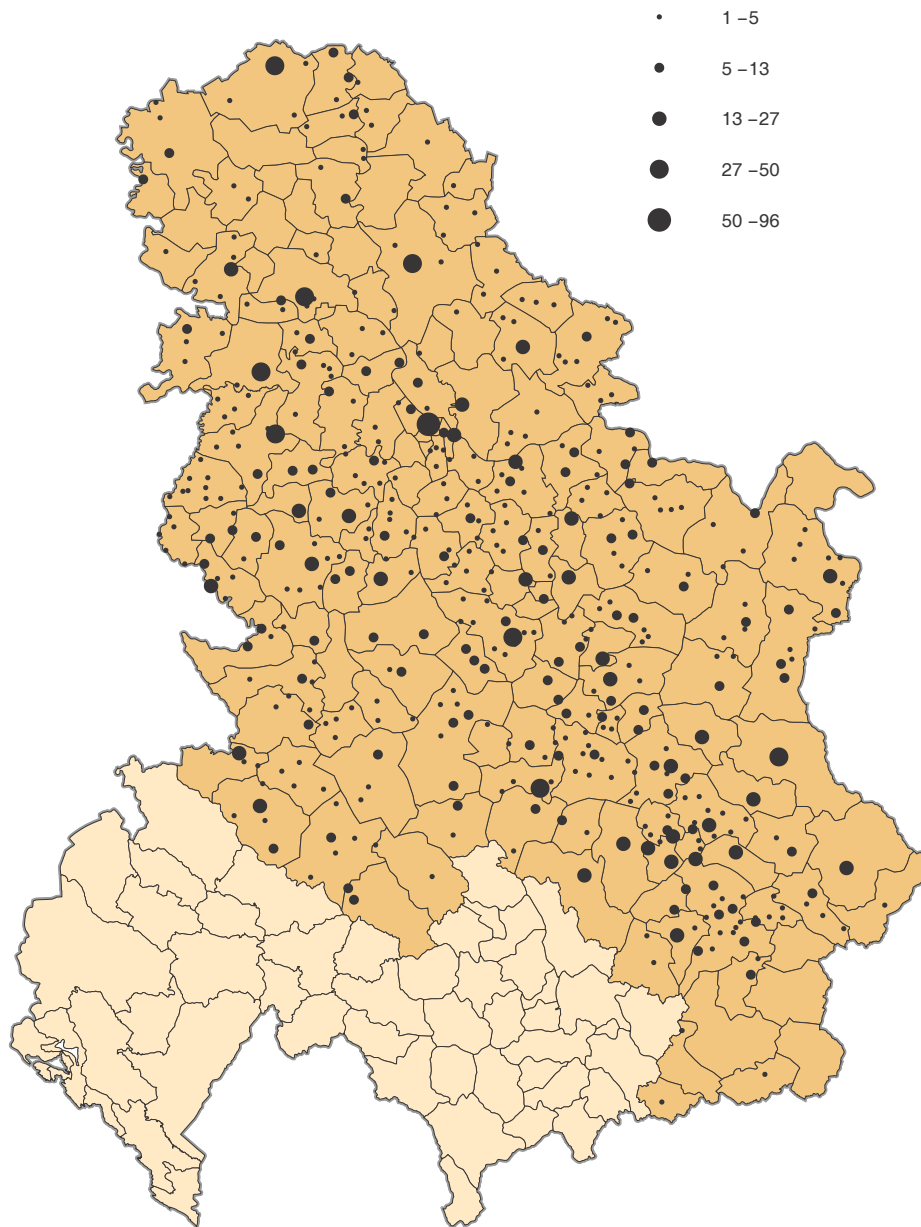
A typical small satellite school in the Sjenica municipality. The school in Stup is administratively linked to the central school "Branko Radičević" in Štavalj. The four year satellite school has a total enrollment of 15 students, its central school is also small with a total of 82 students.



Bottom left:

A school with four students. The school in the small village of Dujke in the Sjenica municipality has only four students (front row), one teacher and one maintenance worker (back row, third and fourth from the left). The school is a four year satellite school attached to the central school "Jovan Jovanović Zmaj" located in the village of Raždeginja. The Raždeginja school has 207 students and is an example of a small central school.





Map 7:
 Distribution of satellite schools. Larger circles denote higher concentrations of such schools (2001/2002 school year).