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## EDITOR'S NOTE

This thematic issue of the journal *Družboslovne razprave* brings together selected pieces of evidence about the processes of social differentiation in Slovenia. Different arenas, factors and structures on the one side, and different actors or groups of people on the other side underwent smaller or greater changes, especially during the last decade characterised by a rapid institutional transformation. A variety of impacts over human lives was less clearly conceptualised, modelled and even measured in sociological terms than we preferred.

To overcome this deficiency, we decided to join our efforts, and edit the more interesting findings from our current research in English. An underlying idea of the issue is the following. We know not all people are able to adjust to a new environment quickly. Daily, we experience a situation, where only few are able to mobilise their talents, sources and power to counter new trends. Consequently, old patterns of inequalities and social selection are likely to be continued further. However, they are changing also in their intensity and, at the top, are augmented with new forms of differentiation. The authors in this issue basically try to demonstrate, firstly, where the recent national changes in comparison to the older patterns of social differentiation are essentially new, secondly, how these changes fit to or deviate from similar changes in a wider international context, and, thirdly, which theoretical considerations might serve as appropriate frameworks for an account with the above processes.

Our impression is, the contributions indeed support our previous expectations concerning the emergence of essential changes in recent past. However, the current picture of social differentiation in Slovenia is complex and, in many ways, contradictory. To make the reading of a number of papers easier, we roughly structured the publication into four parts. In part 1, longterm aspects of social life in Slovenia are presented by three papers, addressing key sociological concepts of social mobility and inequality. In part 2, three papers uncover the adjustment of managers and workers to a more open economy. Part 3 consists of four elite studies, dealing with a controversial regime change and its transition to a more inclusive democracy. In part 4, four papers deal with few challenges: three selected welfare topics (housing, youth, and elderly) are augmented with a paper on inequality from the perspective of cognitive science.

The issue contains few traditional sections in addition: book review section, an introductory presentation of the Slovenian Social Science Data Archive, and an interesting case study on the typical problems with establishing a new institution within the system of higher education in Slovenia.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of individuals, who actively supported the initial concept of the issue and its later elaboration. I am indebted to all the authors first, who also were willing to discuss their drafts with their colleagues at a special meeting, held in December 1998, at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana. Here I would like to thank most especially Harry B. G. Ganzeboom, who commented

professionally many of the papers during that preparatory stage from the angle of different generations of stratification research. For moral supporting the project from a distance I am indebted to Sergej Flere, moreover his support resulted in a co-financing of the project by the side of Ministry of Science and Technology. For assisting with the issue's production I am indebted to Urban Vehovar, who worked dedicatedly on several drafts and provided a common form to all papers, and to Polona Kurdija, who patiently transformed my endless ideas on better tables and figures into a proper final form for the press.

Anton Kramberger,  
editor