

Demographic change of Prague suburbs and its consequences

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In the recent decade, the Czech society has been coming through a revival of demographic development opposed to the shrinkage of population by natural decrease during 1990s. Since the populous cohort born in the 1970s came to the reproductive life period and started to establish a family, increases of both birth and fertility rates have been registered. As the suburban regions offered suitable housing for families, the process was a lot strengthened by a strong immigration of specific age group (young people) to selected places within metropolitan region of Prague.

During the transformation period Prague Urban Region was the epicentre of suburban development in the Czech Republic and suburban municipalities gained thousands of people each year. Small and medium sized municipalities were highly neglected under communism and discriminated in favour of medium sized cities and the capital. By the end of socialism, mostly elderly people with poor socio-economic status lived there as a typical population. This was partially reason and consequence of slowly disappearing of investment to housing stock, transport and technical infrastructure and social services. Selective migration to new residential districts in suburban areas and subsequent high birth rates cause substantial changes in demographic composition of municipalities adjacent to Prague – among them rapid rejuvenation of age structure and changing structure of households.

However, this positive change in demographic landscape generates several problems to local governments. Localities with dynamic or oversized growth have today growing problems with insufficient social infrastructure, especially kindergartens and elementary schools. Therefore, we call attention to proportion of capacity schools to number of school aged children and try to predict the future needs. Impacts of demographic composition changes of suburban population on activation of local social life are also discussed.

Inner-city shrinkage and suburban growth: population dynamics and residential segregation in Łódź metropolitan region under transition (1988-2002)

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Rapid suburbanization on the one hand and inner-city depopulation on the other are viewed as the most remarkable processes that mould social and physical tissue of urban regions in Central and Eastern Europe. The above phenomena not only contribute to spatial development of peri-urban areas and decay of some of central locations but also, by virtue of the inherent population dynamics, to the emergency of new patterns of residential segregation. Unfortunately, in the CEE context realizations on residential segregation, in particular those with deployment of classic indices of segregation, are scarce. Bearing in mind that the indices operationalize the theory of segregation and allow for comparisons between individual cities and periods, their virtual lack in the contemporary scholarly discourse concerning socio-spatial change after socialism significantly undermines any viable assessment of this phenomenon in the CEE states. Therefore, the purpose of this contribution is to trace the effects of suburbanization, inner-city depopulation (shrinkage) and related population change on the process and patterns of residential segregation in Łódź metropolitan region (ŁMR). The first part introduces the study area along with its demographic characteristics – an old industrial region characterized by a conspicuous population shift from the urban core to the periphery. The following section addresses the recent developments in segregation theory and measurement (the number of dimensions, aspatial and spatial indices, etc.). Relying on concrete empirical materials, the penultimate section illustrates global changes and local patterns of residential segregation in ŁMR. Furthermore, acknowledging the internal socio-spatial heterogeneity of the region and the fact that it influences the pace of residential change, the study area was divided into three distinctive zones: inner-city, outer-city and periphery.

Suburbanisation of Ethnic Minorities in Estonia

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Suburbanisation is the most important process of spatial population change in many formerly centrally planned countries in Europe. However, our knowledge on the ethnic differences in city-to-suburbs moves is modest despite high levels of ethnic segregation in the metropolitan areas of the former countries of the Soviet Union. The aim of the current article is to clarify ethnic differences in suburbanisation and the role of immigrant generation, proficiency in Estonian, citizenship and intermarriages in residential suburbanisation in Estonia. We use anonymous individual 2000 census data and employ logistic regression. The results show that ethnic minorities have a considerably lower probability to undertake central city-to-suburban residential changes compared to Estonians. Having an Estonian partner most importantly elevates the probability to leave for suburban areas and to disperse into rural setting.

Keywords: suburbanisation, ethnic minorities, immigrant generation, proficiency in majority language, citizenship, intermarriage, Estonia

Residential Preferences Towards Suburban Living in Post-Socialist Metropolies

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Suburban areas are transforming into modern residential areas in the formerly centrally planned countries. The spatial location of newly built residential areas in suburbs has taken many forms – some are found as integrative parts or logical extensions of already established settlements, others as compact separate developments cut off from the existing settlement structure. The third type comprises those new housing units which are scattered in suburban space. Previous studies point to the different level of sustainability attached to these different settlement types, where it is in general the separated monofunctional new compact or scattered settlements without necessary basic amenities and services which are considered less sustainable, in comparison with those areas which make up integretated parts or logical extensions of the existing settlements.

Lack of research still exists on the main agents in the process – the households, who have moved to the new residential areas: on their motivations behind the moves, as well as contentment with amenities and service provision in their neighbourhoods. This paper aims to fill this gap by analysing motives to choose a particular new suburban residential neighbourhood in Tallinn urban region, and residential satisfaction with neighbourhood qualities there. Particularly interesting findings emanate from the comparison of residents of two types of new housing areas: those which are integrally connected/are located side by side with existing settlements, and those ones which are free-standing within former agricultural fields and/or forests.