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### **EDORA**

(European Development Opportunities  
for Rural Areas)

## Country Profiles Report **CZECH REPUBLIC**

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Central European Forum for Migration and Population Research



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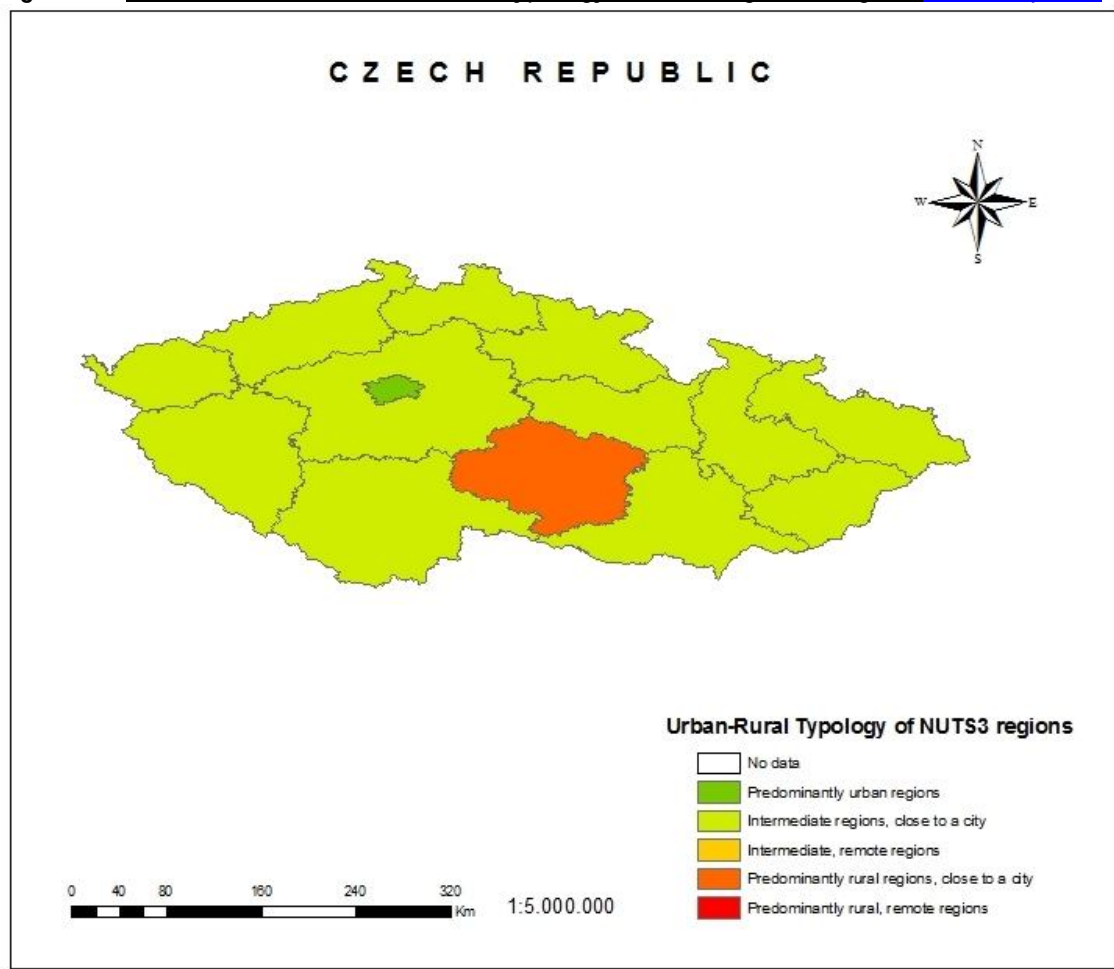
## 1. Introduction

**Guidelines:** please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Key ideas/comments on the resulting DG Regio Typology (reasonable classification?, processes hindered?, degree of internal variation?, etc.)
- Basic comments on the main Drivers, Opportunities and Constraints affecting different typologies of regions in the country
- Basic comments on the implications of the three “Grand Narratives of Change” described by Mark Shucksmith in the rural areas of Czech Republic (ref. document “Narratives of Change Affecting Rural Areas of Europe”)

Most of the Czech Republic is urban area in spite of the fact, that Czech towns are rather small. Typical size of Czech towns is 30-50 thousands. The villages are also very small: Czechia (10 mil. inhabitants) consist of about 6000 municipalities. Generally the north part of the country is more urbanized and industrialized than the southern part. So this map is not quite exact, because predominantly rural region is also Southern Bohemia.

**Figure 3.1** DG Reion modified Urban-rural typology of NUT3 regions: [Belgium](#) [Czech Republic](#)



## 2. Demography

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Which are the main demographic processes in the country?
- Which are the features of the “natural growth”? (positive or negative growth, ageing process)
- Which are the features of migration processes? (dimensions, size, directions, prevalence, tradition, consequences on territorial model).
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

The population number in Czech Republic has increased in recent few years. Population growth was driven mainly by positive net migration. The highest net migration in recent years was reached with citizens of Ukraine (2006 – about 30,000 migrants; 2008 – 19,000), Vietnam (2006 – about 6400; 2008 – 13,300, Slovak Republic (2003 – 23,700; 2006 – 6800; 2008 – 7000), Russia and Poland.

Almost all of the time the Czech ~~country~~ **rural areas** was losing population and towns were growing. Situation is stabile only during the last two decades. Some peripheral areas (close to the borders) are depopulated.

Natural decrease of the population was observed in 1994-2005. The natural increase has been registered since 2006 owing to increase of birth rate and death rate decrease.

The structure of the population is favourable due to the high share and growing number of working-age population. According to the lower workforce immigration in 2009 the worsening of demographic structure is expected. The process of ageing of population is at the beginning in the Czech Republic.

**Table 3.1** Demography indicators

DEMOGRAPHY		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI +MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI +MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Census population 2001	% people aged 0 to 14 years	13.42	16.54		16.39		16.31	16.76	16.71
	% people aged 15 to 64 years	70.46	70.03		69.47		70.02	66.62	66.65
	% people aged 64 years and over	16.12	13.43		14.14		13.67	16.53	16.55
	Age dependency rate	22.88	19.19		20.35		19.54	25.10	25.10
DEMOGRAPHY		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI +MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI +MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Population	Population change 2001-2007 (Index pop. 2001=100)	100.59	100.12		99.27		100.10	96.58	96.31
	% pop. 0_14_2007	12.17	14.71		14.43		14.51	16.69	15.97
	% pop. 15_64_2007	72.16	71.09		70.67		71.14	69.76	70.18
	% pop. >64_2007	15.67	14.20		14.90		14.35	13.56	13.85
	Age dependency rate	38.58	40.67		41.50		40.58	44.08	43.17
Education	Natural increase change_01_06	-17.65	-17.65		-17.65		-17.65	-5.99	-6.09
	Net migration change_01_06	214.58	214.58		214.58		214.58	7.09	8.97
	% ISCED 0_2**	11.82	20.35		19.03		19.65	33.63	36.66
	% ISCED 3_4**	65.69	70.97		69.20		70.46	43.29	47.14
	% ISCED 5_6**	22.84	9.08		12.15		10.28	17.04	18.55
	% of farmers with basic or full educational attainment	44.50	46.38		40.40		45.82	35.34	39.55
	Life-Long Learning in Rural Areas	9.15	4.93		7.10		5.38	7.70	8.61

\* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

\*\*% ISCED by groups is calculated for population more 15 years.

### 3. Employment

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Main processes and trends in relation to the labour market (employment/unemployment, disadvantaged groups and territories). Explanatory reasons
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

The employment structure by basic economic sectors has changed dramatically ~~in the Czech Republic~~ over the last decade. In the primary sector (~~agriculture, forestry, fisheries~~), where employment has followed a downward trend since the 1990s, the number of workers has stabilized at 3.6% of total employment. In the secondary sector (~~industry, construction~~), the share of workers in total employment exceeds 40%. The tertiary sector (~~services~~) has enjoyed a long-term employment growth and now accounts for over 56% of total employment. There is a relatively high percentage of self-employed comparing to the rest of EU.

**Table 3.2** Employment indicators (a)

EMPLOYMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables*		1	21	22	31	32			
Employment rate	15_64 years	71.60	65.43		65.90		65.90	66.41	66.43
	Tmale 15_64 y	78.60	74.33		74.70		74.66	73.06	73.12
	Tfemale 15_64 y	64.70	56.34		57.00		56.99	59.73	59.70
	Total 15_24 y	27.60	28.61		28.50		28.53	39.66	39.68
	T 45_64 years	75.50	65.48		65.95		66.23	62.37	62.35
	Total 45_54	92.20	86.34		87.40		86.84	78.30	78.39
	Total 55_64	58.80	44.63		44.50		45.63	46.44	46.30

The share of employment in services and bussiness is systematically increasing (the highest ist in Prague – PU), but still remains lower in comparison to the developed market economies of EU. The lowest shares of employment in services is in Liberec, Zlin, Pardubice, Vysocina.

The unemployment rate had been decreased until 2008 (August) and since then it has increased. In the long term the unemployment rate in Czech Republic is lower than the EU average and even lower than the euro area average. The highest unemployment is in Most (part of the Usti nad Labem Region), Jesenik and Bruntal (northern parts of Olomuc and Moravian-Silesian Regions), the lowest in Prague and around (PU). The high unemployment rate is among persons with basic education, the low one is recorded for university graduates. There is relatively high percentage of long-term unemployed (among general number of unemployed persons) comparing to the EU.

EMPLOYMENT	PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
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Variables*	1	21	22	31	32			
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\* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2, except Employment in principal sector, where some values are replaced.

%Employment in principal sector	%Emp_primary	0.43	4.15		10.43		4.33	7.95	7.98
	%Emp_secondary	18.69	42.75		45.64		41.24	26.72	26.71
	%Emp_tertiary	80.88	53.10		43.94		54.43	65.33	65.31

Unemployment evolution 2002_05	Total > 15 years	69.00	80.33		22.20		75.37	40.44	40.58
	Total 15_24 years	56.25	52.22		20.26		50.22	31.73	32.05
	Total >25 years	72.38	90.34		22.96		84.24	27.50	27.82
	Male > 15 years	77.66	81.16		19.78		76.53	59.23	59.07
	Female > 15 years	62.96	80.91		24.55		75.60	49.25	49.22
Unemployment rate 2007	Total >15	2.40	5.75		4.70		5.44	161.42	162.57
	Total Male >15	2.10	4.56		3.60		4.31	143.45	144.06
	Total Female >15	2.80	7.30		6.10		6.89	129.82	130.08
	Total 15_24	6.60	10.95		11.80		10.70	187.25	188.18
	Total >25	2.20	5.27		3.90		4.95	82.45	82.36
Long term unemployment	% long term unempl. rate_07	36.10	50.80		52.63		49.88	94.75	94.79
	Evolution 2002_07	128.93	103.70		111.81		106.08	94.51	94.50

#### 4. Rural business development

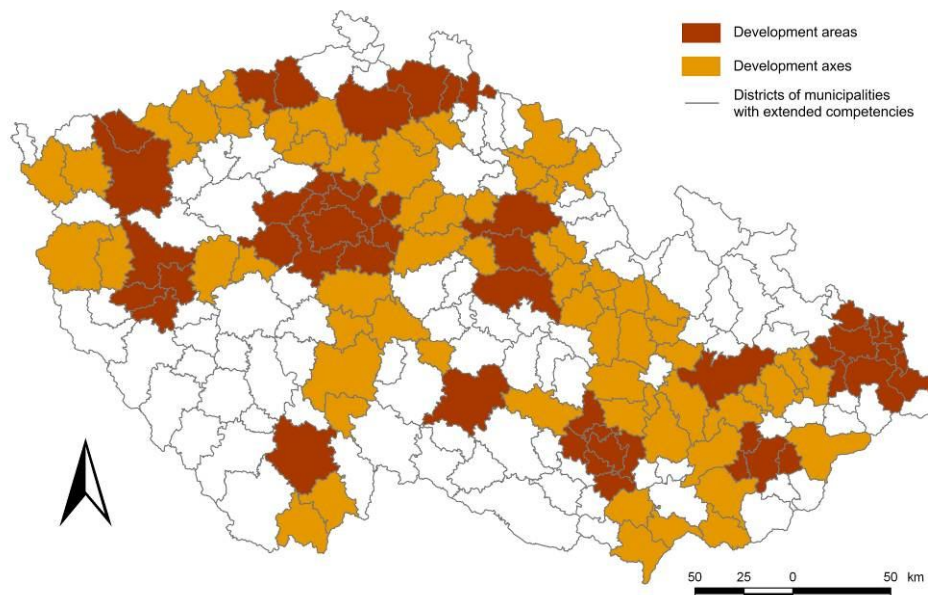
**Guidelines:** please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the features of the rural businesses (size, dominant activities, employment, profitability, innovation, use of IST, etc)?
- Which is the profile of the rural entrepreneur?
- Which are the niches of activity in which rural companies are being created?
- Which are the opportunity sectors for future rural business operation?
- Which are the main constraints that need to be overcome?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in rural business promotion?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Bigger potential of development of small rural business have inhabitants living in the areas and axes of development (see map below). Development areas and axes in particular are defined as territories devoted to concentration of activities of national and international importance, so character and values of other areas may be maintained.

On that areas, there are bigger perspectives of development of small entities, cooperating with bigger units.

Types of areas according to development potential



**Source:** Kucera Z., Kuldova S., Chromy P., 2008, *Heritage in landscape or landscape of heritage – the case of landscape change management in protected and developed areas in Czechia*, EUROPA XXI, 17, IGSO PAS, PGS, 87–96.



**Table 3.5** Rural business development indicators (a)

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR		Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country		Average EU 27
N° FIRMS BY SECTOR OF OPERATION (1_2 digits)_2006	% Mining and quarrying	0.02	0.07		0.04		0.07	0.30	0.30
	% Manufacturing	11.72	18.62		21.15		18.31	14.08	14.05
	% Electricity, gas and water supply	0.11	0.35		0.17		0.32	0.61	0.63
	%Construction	10.52	18.06		17.95		17.51	9.48	9.46
	%Wholesale and retail trade	21.63	27.15		25.84		26.66	23.02	21.83
	%Hotel and restaurants	4.03	6.57		4.89		6.27	6.52	6.15
	%Transport, storage and communication	5.29	5.50		5.81		5.51	8.69	8.46
	%Real state, renting and business activities	46.67	23.68		24.14		25.36	37.29	39.12
EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR OF OPERATION (1_2 digits)_2006	% Mining and quarrying	0.10	1.46		0.50		1.30	0.58	0.52
	% Manufacturing	14.70	43.91		40.55		41.58	29.18	28.08
	% Electricity, gas and water supply	1.40	1.73		1.26		1.67	1.14	0.89
	%Construction	10.18	11.36		11.46		11.28	9.09	9.14
	%Wholesale and retail trade	23.37	18.26		21.24		18.84	26.14	26.93
	%Hotel and restaurants	6.70	4.14		3.72		4.29	8.27	8.37
	%Transport, storage and communication	14.36	8.51		8.31		8.91	8.65	8.52
	%Real state, renting and business activities	29.18	10.59		12.94		12.09	16.78	17.51
Employment in high and medium technologies manufacturing activities_2004	Employment in high and medium tech manufacturing activities_2004_Media	4.25	10.05		8.64		9.54	6.88	7.42
	Employment in high and medium tech manufacturing activities_2004_%EU 25	61.33	144.30		130.06		137.35	95.89	107.13
%firms with own website		46.00	35.71		34.60		36.36	50.21	50.21

\* Values NUTS 3 have been replaced by values NUTS2.

## 5. Rural-urban relationships

**Guidelines:** please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Are there established or incipient initiatives for cooperation between urban and rural areas?
- Is the “territorial approach” developed? (ie. Territorial Employment Pacts, supra-municipal planning, etc.),
- are there rural-urban partnerships? If so, which are their goals and ways of operation? Where is the power located?
- Which is the importance/extent of suburbanisations processes?
- What are the main demands/uses over rural areas from urban inhabitants? How these are met?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting appropriate rural-urban relations?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Czech rural and urban areas are situated very close each other and urban and rural people are not isolated. Many urban people are owners of second houses in the country (aproximately 15 % families) and visit them regularly, most of rural inhabitants have relatives in the towns and cities.

## **6. Cultural heritage**

**Guidelines:** please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the main cultural resources?
- Which are the main cultural resources of rural regions?
- Is cultural heritage used? If so, in which senses (ie. tourism, other economic activities, identity reference, education, other non profit uses?)
- Which are the main demands upon cultural heritage?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in protecting/promoting sustainability of cultural heritage?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

The main policy document concerning cultural issues is National Cultural Policy.

There is a great wealth of living and preserved traditional rural folk culture, including preserved buildings of folk architecture (but the technical condition of many buildings is often poor). Culture practices, customs, folk music, dances and certain rituals form an integral part of the social life of the community, particularly in the regions of Moravia and West Bohemia. Instead of State-governed groups, new space for civic initiatives has emerged. Folklore Association of the Czech Republic, which associates 382 ensembles, 17 regional units and 13,500 members (2003), is one of the most important organisational structures whose activities focus on rural cultural heritage.

There is a relatively extensive network of collectors of folk culture artefacts (museums, interested persons), though their professional level differs.

Learning about traditional folk culture has not yet been sufficiently included in general education in schools.

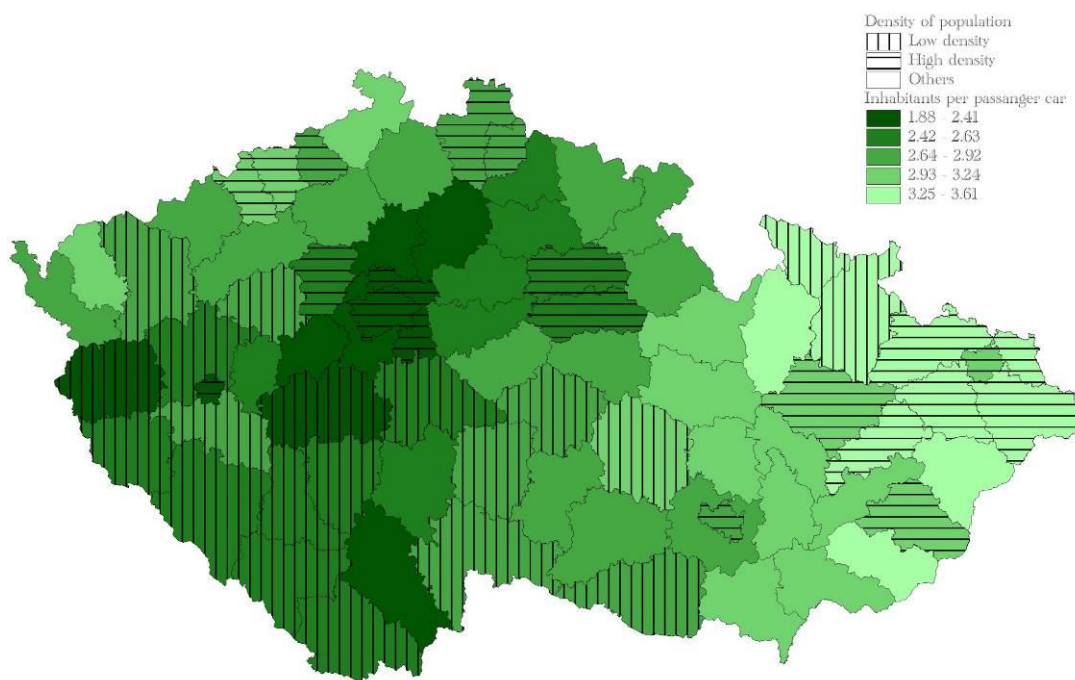
One of the most important elements of cultural heritage are castles and palaces. There are more than 2000 of them in Czech Republic. The use of these monuments is various. They especially serve promotion of cultural heritage and are used for tourism purposes. Museums, hotels, conference facilities are located in these monuments. Cultural, musical and other events take place there, movie scenes are filmed. On the basis of the monuments tourist routes are developed.

## 7. Services of General Interest

**Guidelines:** please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

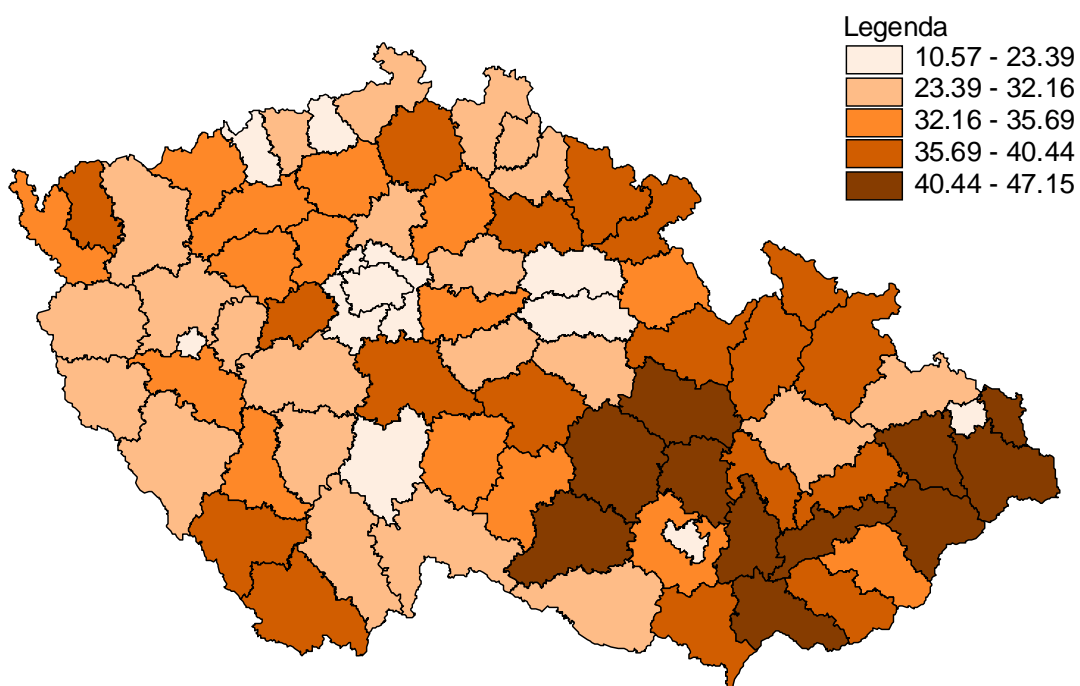
- Which is the general situation of the services of general interest (SGI) in the country?
- Which are the main problems in relation to accessibility and provision to SGI for rural residents and visitors?
- Which are the main forms of provision of services in rural areas? Are there innovative solutions to low accessibility areas?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting accessibility/provision of Services of General Interest, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Accessibility is one of the crucial points connected with the issue of peripheral regions. During the transformation period in Czechia the process of concentration of services, production and other activities became more dynamic and will be further contributing to the increase of the differences between the core and the peripheral regions. The spatial polarization will increase even on the micro-regional level. When there is a lack of job opportunities and absence of basic services in the place of their residence, it is becoming more and more necessary for the inhabitants to commute, and accessibility becomes one of the most important requirements for the life in peripheral regions (Marada, Hudecek 2006). Important elements connected with accessibility to the services of general interests is level of motorization. It indicates areas, where is better accessibility to different elements of infrastructure, and inhabitants do not have to use public transportation (see maps below). Higher level of motorization and lower share of public transport users is observed in Bohemia regions. Opposite situation is observed in Moravia (eastern part of Czechia).



Source: Marada M., Hudecek T., 2006, *Accessibility of peripheral regions: a case of Czechia*, EUROPA XXI, 15, IGSO PAS, PGS, 43–49.

#### Share of commuters using public transport in 2001



Source: Marada M., Hudecek T., 2006, *Accessibility of peripheral regions: a case of Czechia*, EUROPA XXI, 15, IGSO PAS, PGS, 43–49.

**Table 3.7** Services of general interest indicators (a)

SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables*		1	21	22	31	32			
Density of motorways		0.04	0.01		0.01		0.02	0.04	0.04
Density of trunk road		0.33	0.08		0.09		0.10	0.17	0.17
Density of railways		0.21	0.11		0.08		0.11	0.10	0.10
Area (km2)**		495.90	71446.50		7065.50		79007.90	5659749.80	4600910.40
DENSITY	Evolution density 2001_06	0.04	-0.18		-0.69		-0.20	0.93	0.92
	Density of population 2006	2382.76	125.69		72.27		283.09	414.65	446.23
Daily population accessible by car		16780.00	16168.75		19876.00		16477.21	18078.54	19285.23
Time to nearest hospital		NA	NA		NA		NA	22.83	22.83
Time to nearest university		10.76	26.58		72.27		28.71	45.10	45.10
Time to nearest airport		21.76	123.49		110.33		115.28	83.44	83.44
%households with broadband access		53.00	33.583		36.00		35.14	49.07	48.01
% households with internet at home		86.00	78.50		81.00		79.21	81.46	81.20
N° STUDENTS ISCED 0_6	N°students ISCED_0 per 1.000 inhabitants	23.01	28.38		28.55		28.01	29.59	29.46
	N°students ISCED_1 per 1.000 inhabitants	37.56	47.26		47.15		46.56	61.66	60.76
	N°students ISCED_2 per 1.000 inhabitants	41.85	48.24		48.72		47.82	43.22	43.28
	N°students ISCED_3 per 1.000 inhabitants	54.09	46.97		49.87		47.69	48.06	48.03
	N°students ISCED_4 per 1.000 inhabitants	16.81	6.47		8.94		7.38	3.06	3.10
	N°students ISCED_5_6 per 1.000 inhabitants	105.21	21.09		42.92		28.66	37.37	37.23
BEDS IN HOSPITAL PER 100,000 inhabitants*	N° of beds in hospitals per 100.000 inhabitants_05	1071.00	790.18		868.20		815.81	696.91	704.88
	N° of beds in hospitals per 100.000 inhabitants_06	1061.40	777.62		860.50		803.81	1014.67	724.64
	Evolution nbeds 2000_05	NA	NA		NA		NA	91.53	91.94
	Density of hospitals	NA	NA		NA		NA	5.44	5.44
	Hospital beds per head	NA	NA		NA		NA	4.98	4.98
	Doctors per inhabitant	723.00	344.40		365.00		372.91	171.35	171.35

\* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

\*\* The findings of these variables are the sum of values, not the average, as the others.

## 8. Farm structural change

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Which are the main DOC in relation to agriculture?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting agriculture?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Agriculture of Czechia is relatively the closest to the level of farming in West European countries. Thus, for instance, the average yields of wheat in the Czech Republic in the years 2000-2005 were at 4.8 tons, of barley – at 4 tons, while the corresponding figures for the countries of EU-15 were 5.8 and 4.6 tons

Following the changes in the government and the external pressures, the Czech agricultural policy after 1990 has been developing in the stages: 1990 – 1992: Shock therapy, 1993 – 1994: Liberal policy, 1995 – 1997: Restructuring, 1998 – 2003: CAP like policy, 2004 – 2005: CAP (Doucha, Divila 2008)

The position of agriculture in the national economy during the transformation has reflected the general reduction of sources utilised in the sector (except, partly, for the land use) and the large decrease of its production. The share of the primary sector in the GDP has dropped from 7.4% in 1989 to 2.6% in 2004 (Doucha, Divila 2008).

A large number of the released workers were thus absorbed in other sectors of the national economy and did not generate a significant pressure on the rural unemployment. The absorption capacity of the national economy was relatively high in the nineties, smoothing and facilitating the necessary reduction of labour inputs in the Czech agriculture (Doucha, Divila 2008).

Source: Doucha T., Divila E., 2008, Changes in Czech agriculture in the years 1990-2005, [in:] J. Banski, M. Bednarek (eds.), Contemporary changes of agriculture in East-Central Europe, Rural Studies, 15, Warsaw, 73-95.

**Table 3.9** Farm structural change indicators (a)

FARM STRUCTURAL CHANGE		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+ IS+LI+MK +NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables*		1	21	22	31	32	Average country	
% HOLDINGS 2005	< 2 ESU	39.39	52.61		47.16		51.28	33.42
	2 to 100 ESU	51.52	41.44		46.91		42.55	57.02
	>100 ESU	9.09	5.95		5.93		6.17	8.33



**Table 3.9** Farm structural change indicators (b)

FARM STRUCTURAL CHANGE		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+ IS+LI+MK +NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables*		1	21	22	31	32	Average country	Average EU 27
%CHANGING N° HOLDINGS 2000-2005	% Change in number of total holdings 2000-2005	NA	NA		NA		NA	-9.53
	% Change in number of holdings less 2 ESU 2000-2005	NA	NA		NA		NA	-2.22
	% Change in number of holdings 2 to 100 ESU 2000-2005	NA	NA		NA		NA	-13.91
	% Change in number of holdings over 100 ESU 2000-2005	NA	NA		NA		NA	32.21
HOLDERS	% Holders working full time 2005	39.28	39.42		39.09		39.39	35.42
	% Change in Number of Holders working full time 2000 - 2005	NA	NA		NA		NA	-0.01
	Economic Farm Size (RDEU07)	53.40	36.19		41.80		37.82	41.93
	Farmers with OGA (RDEU07)	45.20	43.96		41.00		43.84	37.56
	% holders > 55 years 2007	52.17	45.11		48.98		45.89	50.19
	% holders < 35 years 2007	8.69	10.35		8.82		10.12	6.35
	% change in holders > 55 years 2000 - 2005	NA	NA		NA		NA	5.88
	% change in holders < 35 years 2000 - 2005	NA	NA		NA		NA	-34.01
	% farmers with basic and full education in agriculture attained (RDEU07)	44.50	46.92		NA		46.72	42.29

\* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

## 9. Institutional Capacity

**Guidelines:** please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- characteristics of the governance system (type of administrative system, levels of government, distribution of powers),
- Dominant types of interactions among levels of government (formal/informal, hierarchical/cooperative, open/closed, top-down/bottom-up, etc.)
- Which are the main problems in relation to government and governance?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting better institutional capacity, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

In 1989 in the Czech Republic was re-establishment of self-government of municipalities. All municipalities in the Czech Republic without exception got the chance to decide again about their own matters. Competences of Czech municipalities were enacted by the Act on Municipalities (N° 367/1990). The principal changes introduced by this act were the rights of municipalities to freely manage their property and budget, to approve their land planning conception and to choose their representatives. The same range of competences belongs to all municipalities from the capital city to the smallest rural ones (Perlin 2008). A great problem of the settlement system and of the public administration system of the Czech Republic is its extreme dismemberment which results into a very high number of very small municipalities which are further divided into several settlements. Due to the historical heritage from the time of the communist regime and to their size, small municipalities lack some services, technical infrastructure networks or other investments which are necessary for a sound development of a municipality. The problem of a rural municipality consists in its small population size – it lacks qualified individuals to manage it. The size of a municipality is connected also with the volume of its budget. In addition, smaller municipalities have also other specific problems common to contemporary countryside. In general, it is difficult to ensure their economic autonomy and a good quality of administration. After disintegration of rural municipalities at the beginning of the 1990s, there are in Czechia more than 6520 municipalities.

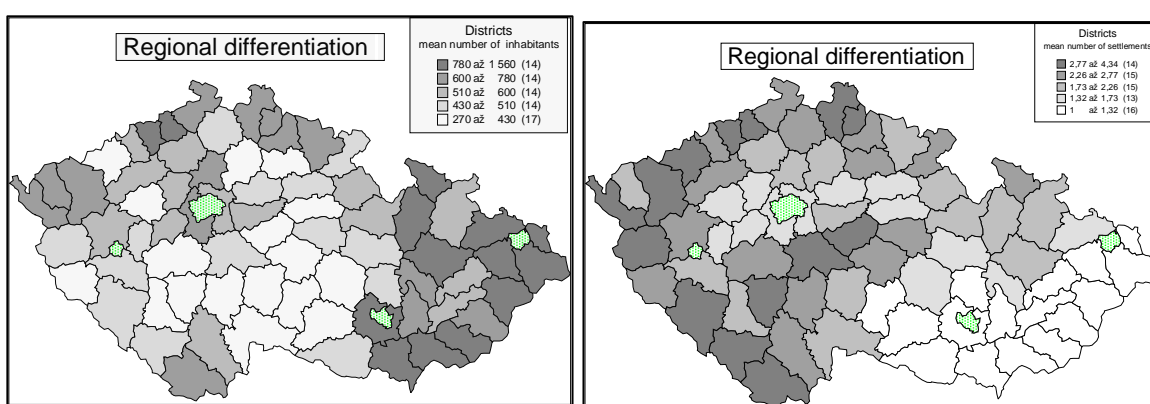
The mean size of rural municipalities of less than 3000 inhabitants as well as the number of local parts in rural areas are documented by cartograms. Both cartograms document above all regional differentiation between Bohemian and Moravia regions (see maps below). While in Bohemia, there are, especially in the southern part of Central Bohemia and in the adjacent districts, very small municipalities, large ones are mostly in the south and southeast of Moravia and in the Sudeten areas of North Bohemia. Especially in territories with relatively small municipalities these small municipalities are dismembered into very small territorial units – settlements. On the contrary, Moravian municipalities mostly consist of one single settlement.

Table 1. Size structure of municipalities in the Czech Republic

Size category	Number of municipalities		Number of inhabitants	
	in total.	percentage	in total	percentage
7-500	3707	59.3	871 011	8.5
7-1000	4983	79.7	1 762 103	17.2
7-2000	5635	90.1	2 665 860	26.1
7-3000	5833	93.3	3 149 010	30.8
Total	6254	100.0	10 230 060	100.0

Source: Perlín R., Šimčíková A., 2008, Criteria of a successful rural municipality, EUROPA XXI, 17, IGSO PAS, PGS, 29–43.

### Mean size of rural municipalities and average number of settlements



Source: Perlín R., Šimčíková A., 2008, Criteria of a successful rural municipality, EUROPA XXI, 17, IGSO PAS, PGS, 29–43.

Mayors of communes are elected by a member of Commune Council, which are elected by commune inhabitants for four year cadence. Relations between different levels of governance systems are hierarchical. Each administrative units has to prepare yearly budget. Because of differences in the size, only 1/3 of the richest units can prepare multiyear budget projects, where they can plan such investments, as roads, water networks and sewage treatment systems.

Table 3.10 Institutional capacity indicators

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32	Average country	
GDP DISPERSION OF GDP_2005	GDP in Mio. Euro 2005	24121	5998.23		4219.9		7165.69	9856.11
	GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2005	35900.6	14526.53		15252.2		16105.08	21110.46
	GDP in euro per inhabitant in percentage of the EU average 2005	91.60	37.04		38.90		41.07	95.48

## 10. Climate change

**Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):**

- Which are the main perceived threats in relation to climate change for population, authorities, interest groups?
- Are there any scientific evidence pointing to climate change? Please describe
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in counteracting the effects of climate change, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Threats are perceived only by part of farmers and fundamental ecologists. Much Czech society is threatened more by economic insufficiency. Many Czechs agree with building of the next nuclear power-station. Investors perceived ecology as barrier for their activities