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The city–periphery migration and the process of suburbanisation in Czech and Slovak post–communist cities

Introduction

The Czech and Slovak post-communist cities undergo a dynamic transformation since the beginning of the 1990s. Over forty years of their common existence in one socialist state enable us to compare them in larger extent. Former socialist cities, as Sýkora writes, have not been quickly and fully transformed into capitalist one. Their development exhibits many specific features. They now develop in the context of a capitalist society, however, socialism has markedly altered their spatial structures. They are cities in transition. Therefore, their research must focus on studying the processes of change rather than on the sole description of static spatial patterns (L. Sýkora, 2000). One of the cardinal transformation processes than participate in changes of intra-urban structures of post-communist cities is suburbanisation. The process operates in nowadays very dynamically transforming peripheral area of cities, the suburban zone. The comparative analysis as a scientific method based on comparison of two or more objects by use of identical methodological approach has been implemented in the study of the two post-communist cities, Prešov and Olomouc, with the emphasis on migration tendencies in their suburban zones.

Suburban zone

The conception and interpretation of suburban zone varies in literature to a large degree. It is not only because of rather a subjective approach towards the problem, the presence of relativism and postmodern thinking, but also because of the fact that the suburban zone is itself a very complex, changeable and dynamic phenomenon. There exist several notions referring to the area of suburban zone: rural – urban fringe, fringe belt, suburb, suburban zone, urban periphery, urban hinterland. Generally, it is possible to identify several common features of suburban zone (SZ onwards). SZ encloses the compact city. From the morphological-functional point of view it is a heterogeneous area characterised by the interference of urban and rural land use forms. From the social point of view it is the area, where the rural way of life of autochthonous inhabitants is pervaded by the way of life of alochthonous, hence the citylike inhabitants, mostly with higher social status.

Administratively, SZ is generally formed by the areas which administratively are not part of the city. SZ is internally differentiated by the rate of urbanisation that decreases outwards from the city centre, and successively verges into urban shadow.

Suburbanisation

Suburbanisation is one of the main transformation processes that participate in the changes of the spatial organisation of towns, especially their suburban zones. It is the process operating in the industrial and post-industrial phase of urbanisation. Through this process the rate of urbanisation of the areas lying in the suburban zone, spatially separated from the compact town (the core of town agglomeration), is rising. The rise of urbanisation is mainly caused by the development of residential areas q.v. the result of immigration of inhabitants from the inner compact town motivated by the desire for higher quality of living and healthier environment, and is conditioned by the technological progress in transport. Residential suburbanisation is, on one hand, followed by the move of job openings and commercial activities from the centre and inner city into its suburban zone, and on the other hand, it is accompanied by the rise of new activities and their permanencies, i.e. commercial suburbanisation, what can in its advanced phase lead into existence of rival marginal towns competing with the original agglomeration. Eventually, the suburbanisation process may end in the change from a mono-centric urban structure into a polycentric one (R. Matlovič, A. Sedláková, 2004).

Migration tendencies in suburban zone of Prešov and Olomouc

Mäding infers that migration from the core city to outlying areas can be regarded as the quantitatively most significant lasting internal migration phenomenon in post-communist cities. The "motive forces" (pull factors to the urban periphery, push factors out of the central city) are-unlike the economic factors of extensive migration-mainly residence related. The process of residential suburbanisation is characterised by centrifugal migration from the core to the periphery. The growth of the region was a consequence of growth of the city. The city "overflowed" like a basin of water (H. Mäding, 2002). Migrations from central town to suburban zones realized by households with higher social status, is generally a typical feature of suburbanisation. The town is distinguished by the fall of migration increase, gradually changing into migration decrease of its population. On the contrary, the hinterland of a town and the surrounding villages notice the inflow of citylike immigrants who participate in residential suburbanisation in that area. However, the

intensity of migration within the suburban zone is distributed unequally. There is a qualitative and quantitative selection, namely the number of immigrants, their education, origin, and the target area they have selected. Migration tendencies have been accordingly observed in the areas of Prešov and Olomouc. We presume that there are some similar features in migration patterns of the cities, since they have several common attributes, e.g. both cities are the post-communist one, both of them are capitals of regions and districts, they are situated in the eastern part of the country, rather far away from the capital city, their number of population is almost similar as well (Prešov: 91 767, Olomouc 100 752 in 2004). The intra-urban structures of Czech and Slovak cities undergo an intense transformation since the 1990s. However, we also presume that the intensity of migration process concerned with suburbanisation has been more significant in Olomouc and the suburbanisation is also more developed in that city.

The reason for that argument stems from the experience in other spheres of life in both countries such as social, economic, as well as political condition.

The graph of migration balance in Prešov and Olomouc in 1991–2004 indicates that both cities manifest almost similar migration development tendencies (Figure 1). A characteristic feature of both cities is the year 1996 when Prešov and Olomouc noticed the negative number in migration balance. Since that time the migration decrease in both cities has been deepening. In case of Olomouc the migration decrease has been more rapid than in Prešov, but in last two years the city of Prešov has been showing more significant descent. Since 1996 both suburban zones of cities started to become migration profitable at the expense of their central city (Figure 2). The most significant relative increase of migration balance have noticed the suburban communities situated in immediate neighbourhood of the cities. This trend correlates with the index of housing development in those areas. The reason for migration towards the suburban zone is first of all the better quality of dwelling environment. Another reasons include the demand for dwelling in private property which is possible to realize in suburban zone. Some subjective stimuli consequently take significance such as perception of good address (of good repute), the effort to manifest the pertaining to certain social stratum.

Having analysed the migration balance within the regions and districts of both cities in 1996–2004, we have determined the areas of suburban zones and specified the communities with the highest potential for suburbanisation (Figure 4); for the lack of space not all maps

are included). Recent analysis has shown (Table 1, Figure 4) that the suburban zone of Prešov, as well as Olomouc, is spatially differentiated in terms of migration increase of population. Communities that noticed the highest average annual migration increase in Prešov suburban zone include Záborské (20.39‰), Lobotice (14.76‰), Petrovany (10.97‰), Vyšná Šebastová (8.91‰), and Župčany (8.05‰). Rather high migration increase was also identified in Dulová Ves, Haniska, Fintice, Kapušany, Kendice, and Ruská Nová Ves. Other villages noticed either the less significant migration increase or even migration decrease. In the suburban zone of Olomouc there was the highest migration increase in Hlušovice (46.67‰), Tověř (24.41‰), Dolany (21.24‰), Samotišky (20.80‰), Bystrovany (19,67‰) and others (Table 1). Unlike the suburban zone of Prešov, the communities in the Olomouc suburban zone show almost all positive values of migration balance. It is possible to find the process of suburbanisation more developed in that area.

An important factor, when identifying suburbanisation, and evaluating the selective migration and suburbanisation impact in the hinterland, is the origin of immigrants moving towards the suburban zone. By the origin of immigrants we mean the place from which the immigrants moved (their former residence). We have analysed this problem in the suburban zone of Prešov. An important and peculiar feature to suburbanisation is in that case rather high percentage of immigrants coming from the town of Prešov. The greatest share of immigrants from Prešov (over 70 %) shows the community of **Kanaš** and the village of **Vyšná Šebastová**. The other villages with high share of immigrants of Prešov origin (60% – 70%) include **Lobotice, Velký Šariš, Podhradík, and Haniska**. The immigrants of Prešov origin predominate also in the village of **Záborské, Malý Šariš, and Fintice** (50% – 60%). Immigrant coming from other, mostly neighbouring communities and towns dominate in the rest of our observed areas.

Summary

In our contribution we tried to compare the migration processes within the two suburban zones of post-communist cities, Prešov and Olomouc. The comparative analyses has proved our hypothesis that in both cities there could be identified the processes of suburbanisation, however, they are of greater significance in the hinterland of Olomouc. The reason for that lies generally in the Czech and Slovak socio-economic and political situation.

Both towns are distinguished by the fall of migration increase, gradually changing into migration decrease of their population. On the contrary, the hinterlands of towns and the

surrounding villages notice the inflow of citylike immigrants who participate in residential suburbanisation in that areas. The intensity of migration within the suburban zone is distributed unequally. There is a qualitative and quantitative selection, namely the number of immigrants, their education, origin, and the target area they have selected. Our further research is therefore aimed at some specific features of suburbanisation participants in the observed areas.

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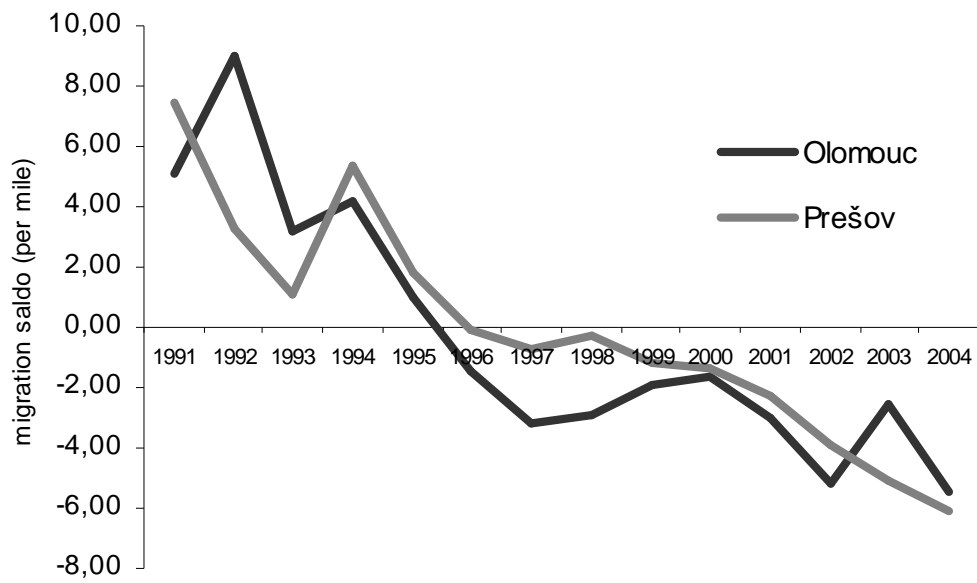
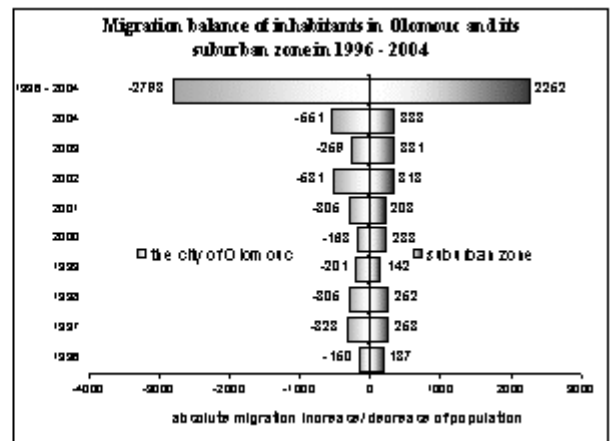
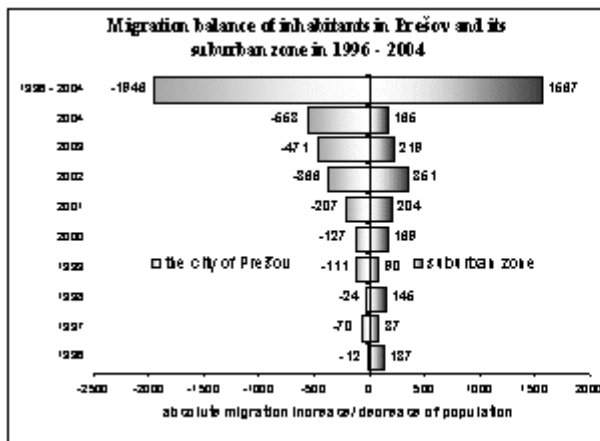


Figure 1. Development of migration balance in Prešov and Olomouc in 1991–2004

Source: Statistical Office of SR, Statistical Office of CR.



A – Prešov, B – Olomouc.

Figure 2. Migration balance of inhabitants in selected cities and their suburban zones in 1996–2004

Source: ŠÚ SR, ČSÚ ČR.

Table 1. Migration balance in suburban communities of Prešov and Olomouc in 1996 – 2004

Migration balance 1996–2004 (%)			
suburban zone of Olomouc		suburban zone of Prešov	
Bohuňovice	8,71	-0,43	Bzenov
Bukovany	15,34	8,41	Dulová Ves
Bystročice	10,40	6,32	Fintice
Bystrovany	19,67	7,09	Haniska
Dolany	21,24	-0,04	Janovce
Hlubočky	-1,92	4,93	Kapušany
Hlušovice	46,67	5,95	Kendice
Hněvotín	16,69	14,76	Ľubotice
Horka nad Moravou	8,46	0,00	Malý Šariš
Kožušany-Tážaly	6,20	10,97	Petrovany
Křelov-Břuchotín	17,93	8,66	Podhradík
Mrskles y	14,72	-4,49	Radatice
Samotišky	20,80	3,21	Rokycany
Štarnov	5,18	5,36	Ruská Nová Ves
Štěpánov	2,71	-0,88	Teriakovce
Tověň	24,41	2,48	Velký Šariš
Ústín	9,74	8,91	Vyšná Šebastová
Velká Bystřice	4,05	20,39	Záborské
Velký Týnec	8,60	8,05	Župčany
Olomouc	-3,04	-2,34	Prešov

Source: ŠÚ SR, ČSÚ ČR.

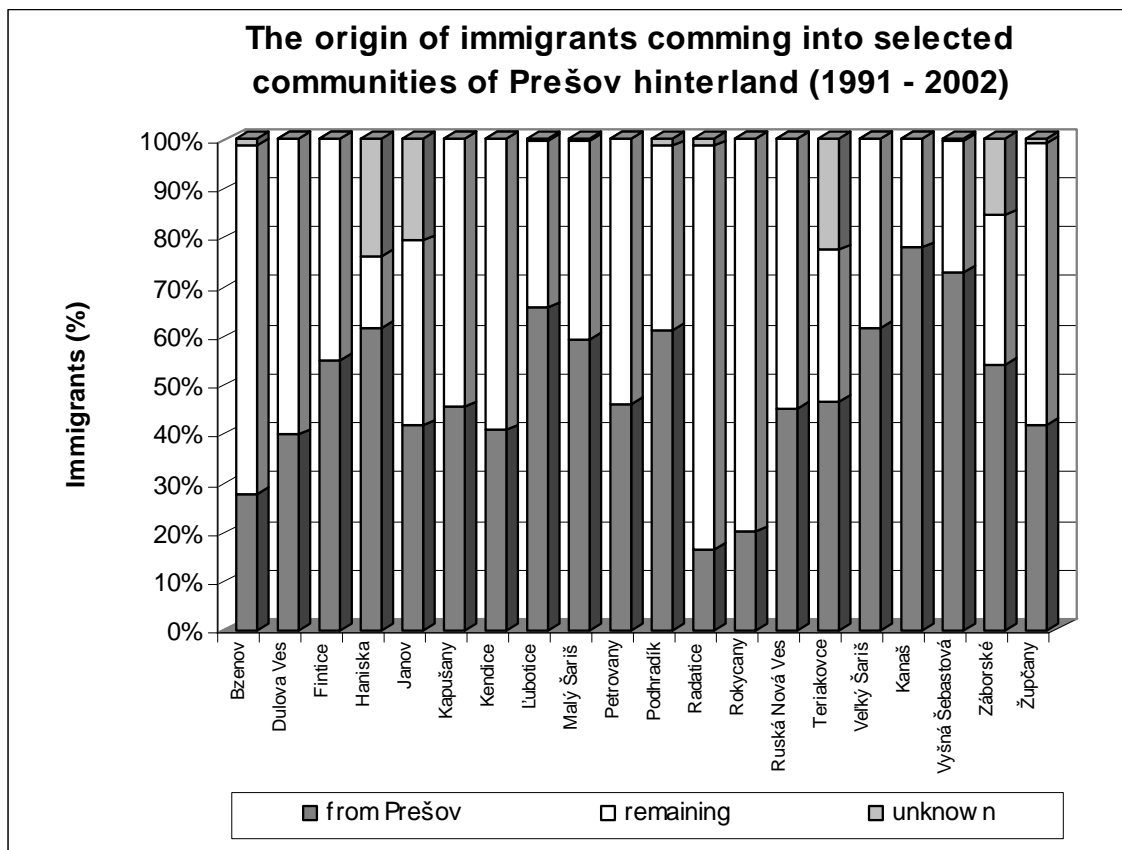
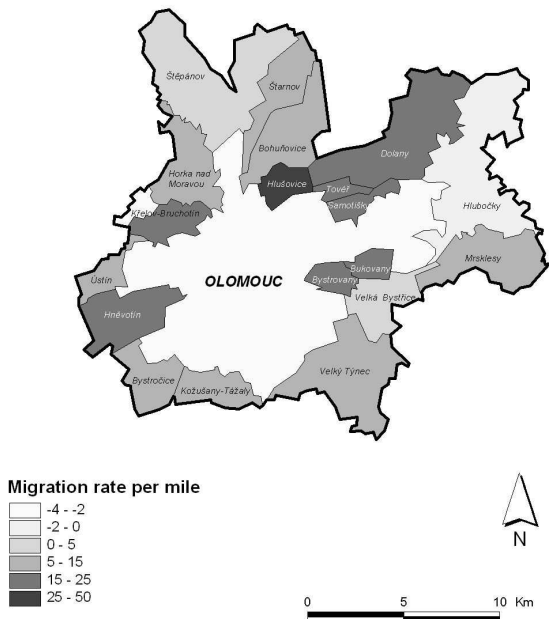


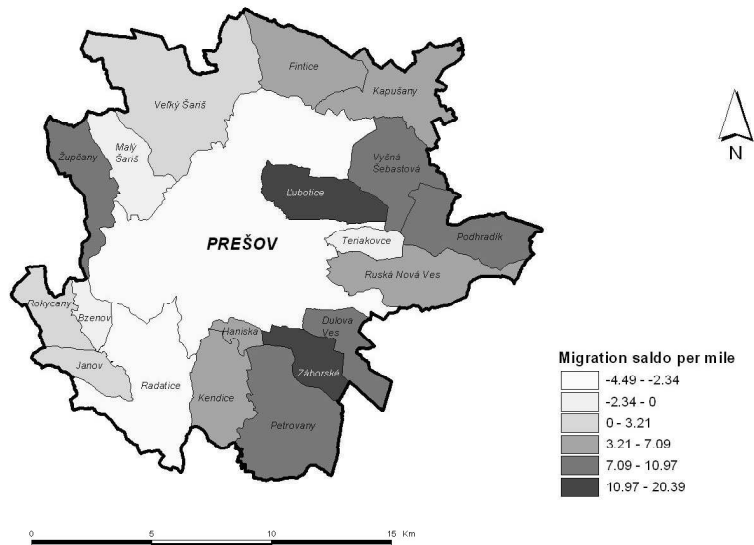
Figure 3. The origin of immigrants coming into selected communities of Prešov hinterland (1991–2002)

Source: Own field research in communities

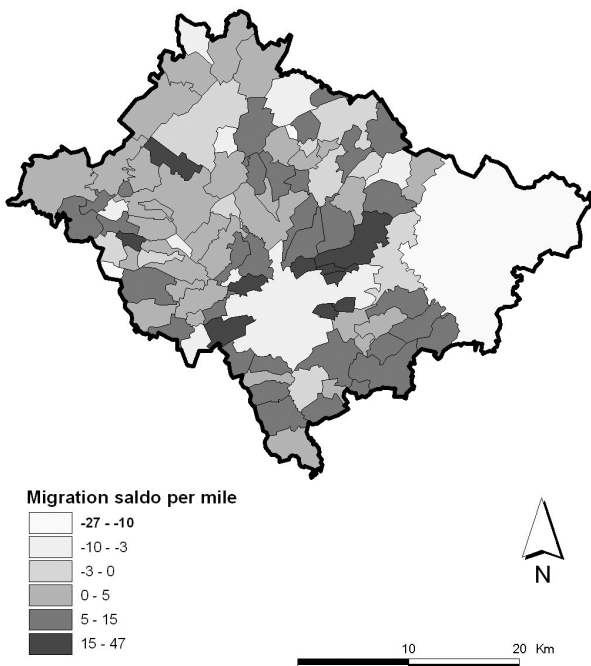
Migration rate in the suburban zone of Olomouc in 1996 - 2004



Migration rate in the suburban zone of Prešov in 1996 - 2004



Migration rate in the Olomouc District in 1996 - 2004



Migration rate in the Prešov District in 1996 - 2004

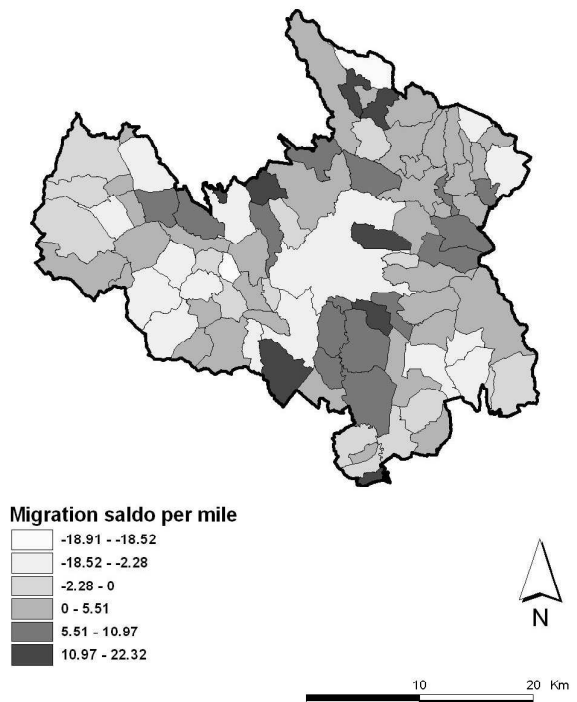


Figure 4. Migration rates in Prešov and Olomouc and its suburban zones in 1996–2004

Author: Alena Sedláková, data source: ŠÚ SR, ČSÚ ČR

