3.2 MIGRATION IN CZECHIA 2000–2013

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Migration (changing the municipality of permanent residence) is an important part of inhabitants' mobility shaping Czechia's socio-spatial differentiation. The map sheet's form and content follow up on the map set in the Atlas of Socio-Spatial Differentiation of the Czech Republic (Ouředníček, Temelová, Pospíšilová 2011), specifically on map 9.1 for net migration and maps 9.4 and 9.5 for the assessment of migrants' age structure (Novák, Čermák, Ouředníček 2011). The map sheet focuses on years 2000–2013, which cover two distinctive periods in the evolution of the economy as well as mobility. The evolution of migration until 2008 was considerably influenced by Czechia's increased attractiveness for foreign-born migrants but their influx slowed down significantly during the economic crisis (see Figure 3.2.1). Total migration mobility, though, has changed very little since 2002 and any fluctuations are basically due only to variations in international migration. Gross internal migration between Czech municipalities has been stable during the whole period with numbers around 200–220 thousand migrants.

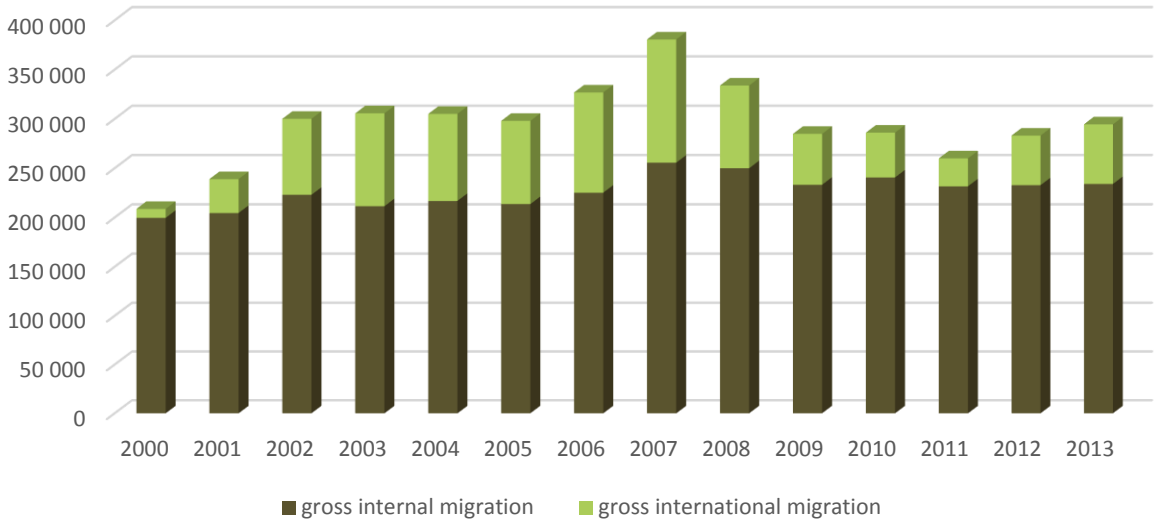

Figure 3.2.1: *The evolution of internal and internationl migration in Czechia in 2000-2013.*
Source: *ČSÚ, 2014*

Therefore, the main purpose of this map sheet is to provide information about the regional differentiation of migration processes on the level of Czechia's municipalities or districts. The map sheet contains two maps assessing the migration balance of municipalities, using both absolute figures and net migration rate, and age structure respectively. These maps draw on Czech Statistical Office's (ČSÚ) continuous records on migration, i.e. reports on migration between municipalities. These contain information on the municipality the person is leaving and the municipality the person is moving into, plus different characteristics of the person, such as age, nationality and marital status (until 2004 it also included education and reasons for migration). The first map shows

the average annual net migration (the number of people moving into the municipality less the number of people moving out) and the net migration rate in a choropleth map (net migration per 1,000 mid-year population in the given municipality). The second map combines data on migrants‘ age structure by municipalities and districts. The choropleth map shows the difference between the average age of people moving in and moving out; this single indicator provides basic information on the change of the age structure in a given municipality. Bar charts depicting age-specific net migration for five-year age groups show the overall change in age structure by district.

Municipalities‘ net migration values shown on the map form distinctive spatial patterns reflecting the post-2000 transformation of the Czech settlement network. These patterns can be simply described as a dynamic growth of metropolitan areas, particularly their suburban parts, and a continuing depopulation of selected peripheral municipalities as well as middle-sized cities (Musil, Müller 2008). The map also clearly displays the growing differences between stagnating or shrinking municipalities in Moravia and population gains of many municipalities in Bohemia. This is even more visible when examined on smaller municipalities outside the metropolitan areas of large Moravian cities.

Analysing the situation in municipalities by only looking at a map is difficult due to a lack of knowledge of the local situation in each municipality. It is better to assess the differentiation of migration processes in the settlement network using a typology of municipalities which takes into account the municipalities’ size as well as their position with regard to their central place (see Table 3.2.1; the method is described in detail in Ouředníček, Špačková, Novák 2013). The table clearly indicates that migration behaviour differs depending on the municipality’s position in the settlement network. Residential suburbanisation has been the dominant process of recent years (see also Map sheet section A 9.1 Housing stock in Czechia). Having gained almost 300,000 inhabitants with a net migration rate of 13.5‰ in the 2000-20013 period, suburbs now account for more than 1,000 municipalities. The net migration rate of the first suburban zone is 45.2‰. Metropolitan areas as a whole, though, grow in a much slower pace, mostly because relatively large cities (Brno, Ostrava) are losing population. Metropolitan regions are experiencing more of an inner redistribution of population (Čermák, Hampl, Müller 2009). Rural areas as a whole are also gaining in population thanks to migration; in this case the relation between the municipality’s size and its population gain is inverted. The biggest gains are recorded in the smallest municipalities located outside of metropolitan regions, while the centres of rural regions are affected by population loss. Therefore, there is the question of whether the use of deurbanization approaches for the current development of settlement networks in Czechia is relevant (Šimon 2014). Clearly visible on the maps, these deconcentration trends are highly selective and will have to be subjected to a deeper analysis of conditionality.

	Total number of (2011)		Average age of those			Net migration	
	municipalities	inhabitants	moving in	moving out	Difference	Total	Net migration rate in ‰
A – Regional centres	13	2 834 322	30.0	32.5	-2.5	49 060	1.2
B – Other cities	117	2 645 299	30.5	30.2	0.3	-111 808	-3.0
Centre places in total (A+B)	***130***	***5 479 621***	***3.2***	***31.3***	***-1.1***	***-62 748***	***-0.8***
C- Suburban zone 1	112	155 340	29.9	29.4	0.5	76 556	45.2
D- Suburban zone 2	241	276 547	30.3	30.3	0.0	73 346	21.3
E- Suburban zone 3	771	1 193 140	30.2	30.1	0.0	140 277	8.6
Suburbs in total (C+D+E)	***1 124***	***1 625 027***	***30.2***	***30.1***	***0.1***	***290 179***	***13.5***
Metropolitan areas (A+B+C+D+E)	***1 254***	***7 104 648***	***30.2***	***31.0***	***-0.8***	***227 431***	***2.3***
F – Middle-sized cities	103	705 687	31.0	29.5	1.5	-13 645	-1.4
G – Small cities	221	684 910	31.5	29.7	1.8	8 665	0.9
H – Large villages	3 201	1 811 656	30.4	29.6	0.9	113 092	4.6
I – Small villages	1 471	182 142	31.4	30.5	0.9	15 720	6.3
Non-metropolitan areas (F+G+H+I)	***4 996***	***3 384 395***	***30.8***	***29.6***	***1.2***	***123 832***	***2.6***
Total	**6 250**	**10 489 043**	**30.4**	**30.6**	**-0.1**	**351 263**	**2.4**

Table 3.2.1: *The evolution of net migration in the Czech Republic by settlement types*
Source: *Own typology (Ouředníček, Špačková, Novák 2013); ČSÚ, 2011*
Note: Net migration for 14 years in total, annual average net migration rate

The second choropleth map shows the differences in the average age of people moving in and out of municipalities. When analysing these indicators, it is again very convenient to apply the typology of municipalities (see Table 3.2.1). People usually move when they are in a certain age corresponding to major life events (small children, moving for education and first job, starting a family, moving to a new home in old age), which means the differences in the average age of migrants are quite small. From the regional point of view, the lowest and highest average age of people moving in is recorded in suburbs and cities respectively, below-average values are in general observed in metropolitan areas, while non-metropolitan areas show above-average values. As far as people moving from a municipality are concerned, the situation is more complex and below-average age values are recorded in all types of municipalities except regional centres. It is interesting to note that the only settlement network category with considerably younger people moving in are the largest Czech cities (regional centres, i.e. regional capitals and Prague). On the contrary, central places of rural areas show quite the opposite. We can assume that this is because these small centres are less attractive for younger inhabitants or because small cities in general are less attractive, with the exception of the elderly who are probably moving into them to be within the reach of social services.

Several types of districts according to their age specific population gains/losses can be identified using the choropleth map. Large cities gain primarily young people, probably

students and younger people moving for economic reasons, and lose the elderly and children. Total net migration of cities depends on the current intensity of suburbanization and urbanization – cities experiencing high intensity, such as Prague, Liberec and Plzeň, gain in population, while cities with low intensity, such as Brno or Ostrava, are affected by large population losses. Prague, for instance, has gained almost 100,000 people during the given period (plus both Prague's rural districts have gained an extra 100,000 people). Moreover, fifteen districts with the largest migration gains include nine districts located in Central Bohemia. Districts located in Bohemia dominate the statistics of districts experiencing population gains, with the exception of a few Moravian districts around Brno (Brno-venkov, Vyškov, Blansko) and the district of Frýdek-Místek. It is also interesting to note the high migration of elderly people to districts around Prague, which is probably caused by the fact that many retirement homes are located outside of the capital.

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