

INTRODUCE OF THE PROJECT

Definition of subregions for distinguishing between them and the solution of social and economic disparities

Reg. No.: TD010029

Program TA CR: **TD - OMEGA**

Period: **01/2012 - 12/2013**

Starting point

The project 'Definition of subregions for distinguishing between them and the solution of social and economic disparities' (for Technology Agency of the Czech Republic; Omega Programme¹) continues with the results of five years' (from 2007 to 2011) research in the area of regional disparities. This research was done within the framework of the project WD-30-07-1 called 'An Innovative Approach to the Solution of Disparities on the Regional Level' (InoReDis) and supported by the Ministry for Regional Development.

One of the key outputs of the whole research project InoReDis was the proposal of the authors' own methodology for the evaluation of municipalities' economic situations. This proposal is based on a factor analysis of indicators used for the description of regional disparities at national and regional levels. The result of the analysis was the definition of basic factors of municipalities' economic development which are of merit and a crucial point of the book 'The Uniqueness of Municipalities in Regions'. See <https://www.lap-publishing.com/catalog/details/store/gb/book/978-3-8473-1124-9/the-uniqueness-of-municipalities-in-regions>.

¹ OMEGA programme will support applied social science research and experimental development. This programme is approved for the period 2012 –2017, and the first call should be announced in spring/summer 2011. In comparison to other programmes its budget is small, with only a little over 2.5 million EUR expected to be allocated in the first year. The main objective of the program is to strengthen research activities in the field of applied social sciences. Application of the results of these activities will increase the competitiveness of the Czech Republic, improve the quality of life of its inhabitants and will balance socio-economic development. The aim of the program is to increase the number of social science R&D applications in use. The first call of the public competition was announced on 20th July 2011. Source: <http://www.tacr.cz/programmes-of-tacr/omega-programme/>.

Annotation of the new project

The project 'Definition of subregions for distinguishing between them and the solution of social and economic disparities' is to define the sub-regional structure of the Czech Republic which will be based on clusters of municipalities. Municipalities will be analyzed in terms of their position in the wider area, particularly with regard to the catchment area for public facilities and economic activities. The result will be a draft typology of municipalities in terms of their dominant function. A methodology will be created for the evaluation of the sub-regions socio-economic level, including relevant indicators.

Objectives of the project

The main objective of the project is to find methodologies for assessing and addressing sub-regional disparities. This will be achieved by 31 December 2013. In connection with this main objective the following milestones (DC) should be achieved:

DC1: Create a typology of municipalities with regard to their position in the wider area (by 31 December 2012);

DC2: Define indicators for the analysis of economic and social problems at the level of subregions (31 December 2012);

DC3: Prepare a methodology for the evaluation of sub-regional disparities (30 June 2013);

DC4: Define the final structure of sub-regional level of the Czech Republic (31 December 2013);

DC5: Propose measures to mitigate sub-regional disparities (31 December 2013) and

DC6: Formulate recommendations for the specification of strategic plans of regional and territorial development for a defined typology of subregional units (31 December 2013).

Contact:

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Key outputs

1st year (2012): The database for the typology of municipalities of the Liberec region with regard to their position in the wider area.

2nd year (2013): The database for the typology of municipalities of the Czech Republic with regard to their position in the wider area.

Source of the data:

- A wide range of input data can be employed to evaluate a municipality's condition. It is crucial to use officially available data due to its easy updates and comparability across the CR. The CSO collects of this data, or it adapts it from other departmental resources. They are called signal indicators; such indicators characterize the area and the settlement structure, population, unemployment, and economic activities.
- The other data, which is obtained by a local survey (particularly availability of water supply, sewerage with wastewater treatment plans, gas pipes, their condition and age, the need of reconstruction and enhancement, transport distance – the availability of civic amenities, ...), is prepared by the project team.

Intended use of the results:

- **Regional level** = practical applications in the field of strategic management of cities, municipalities and other territorial units (for the spatial planning; RIS; the support of the structurally-depressed regions, economically weak regions, rural regions and other regions; ...).
- **Educational level** (knowledge base of theories of regional development).

Glossary of terms

Basic Territorial Unit (Czech acronym) = the municipality.

Disparities are natural and can have a positive, neutral or negative effect on the development of regions.

Functional x Administrative regions: The region is used in various works from different points of view. We talk about so-called **functional regions** arising from the link between the place of residence and the workplace of inhabitants. X Regions can be divided into **administrative regions** and regions for a specific purpose. **Administrative regions** serve for the needs of an organization and public administration performance, i.e. for state institutions and territorial self-governments, where their comparable size is required.

RIS (acronym): Regional Innovation Strategy

Structurally-depressed regions: According to the Act No. 248/2000 Coll. of the Czech Republic on the support of the regional development, the regions are divided into four types: **structurally-depressed regions, economically weak regions, rural regions and other regions.**

From the point of view of the EU regional policy, we divide regions into **NUTS and Euregions**. NUTS (from French 'Nomenclature des unites territoriales statistiques') are parts of a system of the unified structure of territorial units which was introduced by the EU Statistical Office (Eurostat) for the needs of statistical observation and making analyses of a social and economic situation in individual regions and for the purposes of classifying regions of different levels under individual goals with a regional impact of the structural EU policy. These units may include one or more territorial administrative units within a given country. NUTS is divided into:

- NUTS I (Czech Republic);
- NUTS II (larger territorial units, so called regions of cohesion integrity – there are 7 larger territorial units in the CR plus Prague);
- NUTS III (regions, there are 14 regions in the CR);
- NUTS IV – since 1/1 2008 LAU 1 (districts, there are 77 districts in the CR);
- NUTS V – since 1/1 2008 LAU 2 (municipalities, there were 6,249 municipalities in the CR in 2008).

Spatial planning: Spatial planning is a process whose purpose is to find agreement on land use in the broadest sense. The text of the monograph emphasizes that planning is understood as a dialogue.