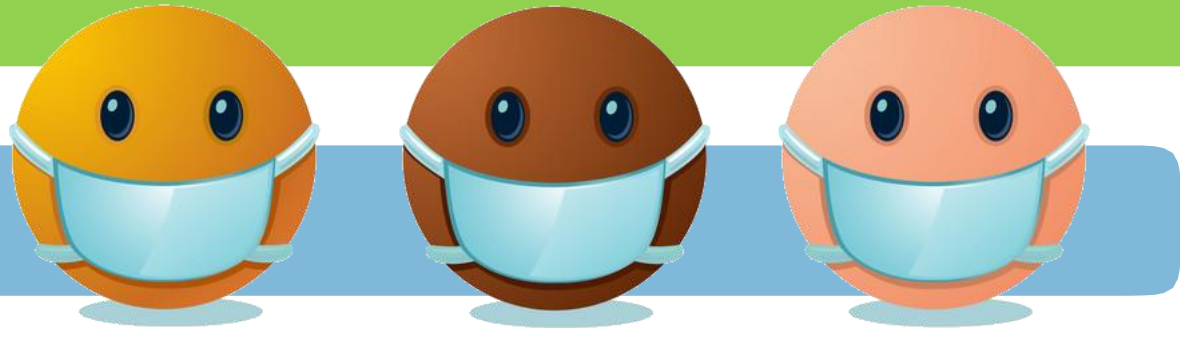# Spatial Patterns of Foreign Population

in Prague and the Central Bohemian Region: The State 10 Years after the Financial Crisis

Aim: The goal of the poster is to describe and analyse how foreigners, whose numbers continue to grow in the Prague metropolitan region, have responded to its dynamic development in the last decade, particularly since the financial crisis affected human mobility and migration flows all around the world in 2008. Specifically, we focus on spatial patterns of foreign population distribution, changes of these patterns over time and differences between important groups of foreigners.

Methods and data: The study uses data from the Foreign Police, which includes basic individual data on all foreign citizens legally residing in Czechia and is available to us in the form of yearly anonymised aggregates (2008; 2013-2017). The dataset is aggregated into six groups according to citizenship for the purposes of this research. We analyse the four largest groups by citizenship individually – Slovaks, Ukrainians, Vietnamese and Russians – and then merged all persons from EU15, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand into a group of "developed countries". A last group consists of all other foreign nationals. The main indicator of spatial concentration used in this work is the location quotient (LQ). To measure geographical (un)evenness of distribution of selected groups we have applied the traditional index of dissimilarity.

Figure 1) Total numbers and shares of foreigners on total population in Prague and the Central Bohemian Region according to zones and types
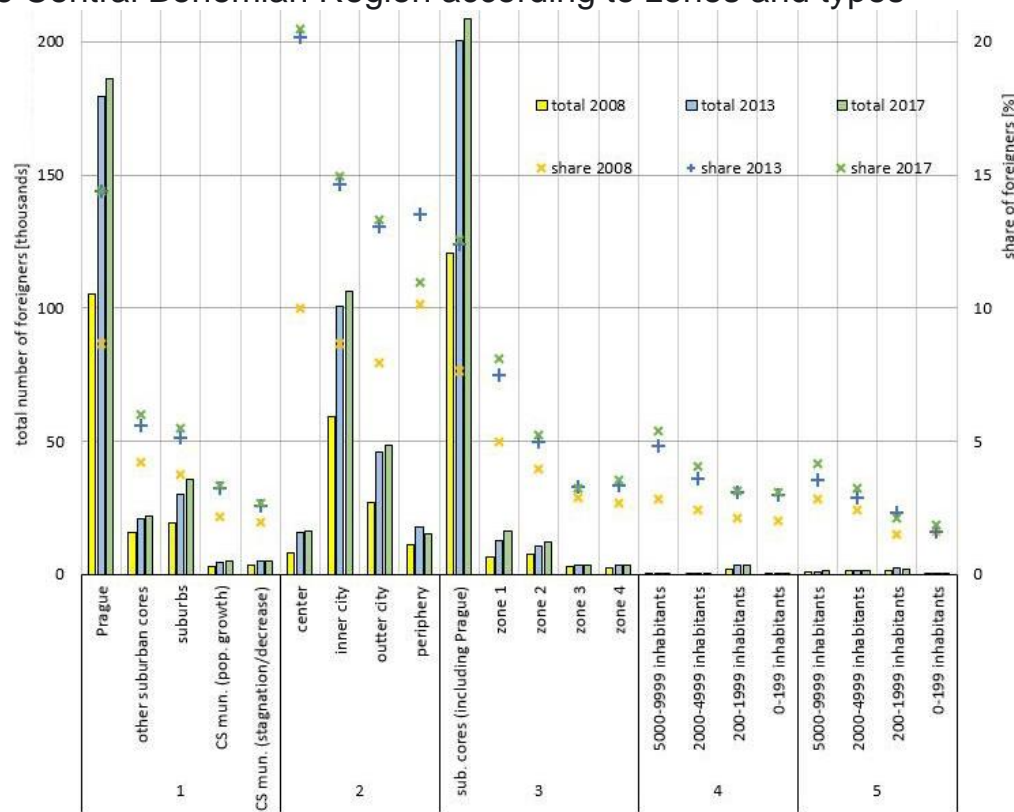

Figure 2) Changes in Ukrainian population between 2008 and 2017 in Prague and the Central Bohemian Region (2017).
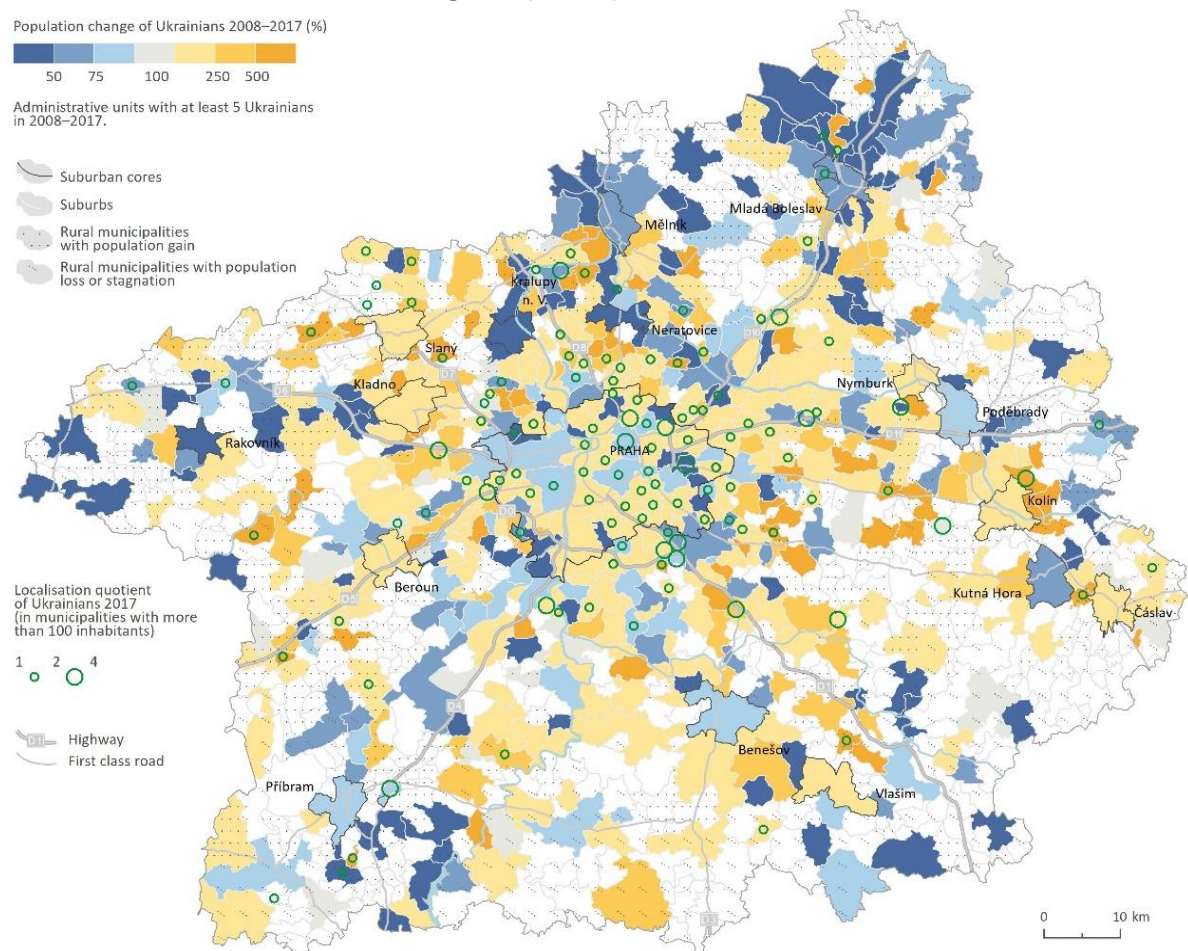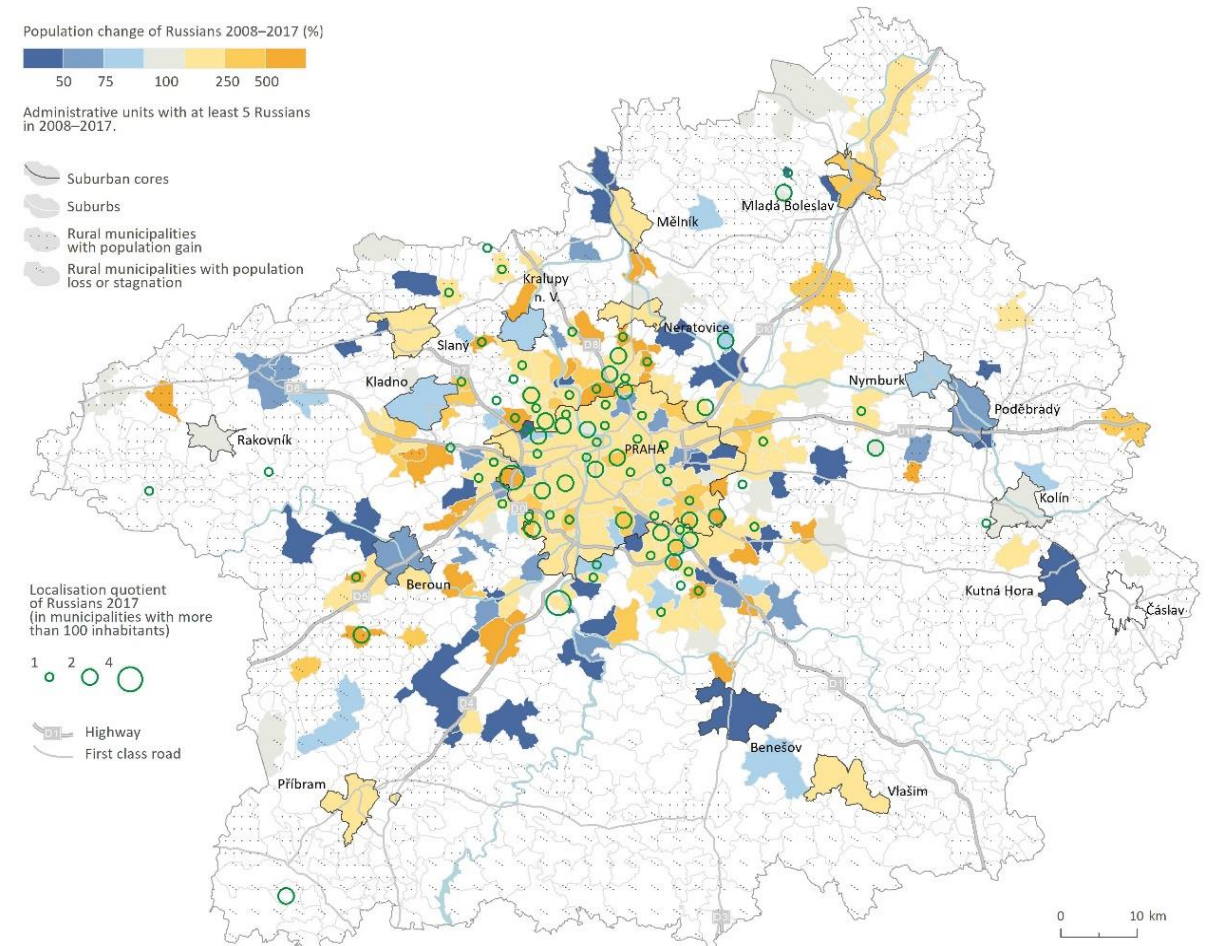

Figure 3) Changes in Russian population between 2008 and 2017 in Prague and the Central Bohemian Region (2017).

Results: The population of foreigners is distributed unevenly in Prague and Central Bohemia. In time, a concentric pattern persists with a decreasing gradient from the city centre to the periphery of Prague and further from suburbs to rural municipalities. Prague is the biggest attraction for foreigners and their preferences are mostly urban-oriented. This is evidenced by both the highest absolute and relative numbers of their populations especially in the city centre and inner-city zone (highly gentrified areas). The gradient or centripetal character is visible also from the values of dissimilarity index (table 1). On the other hand, some results also indicate a progressive suburbanisation trend for some groups.

The spatial behaviour of foreigners in the area under study differs, as do their various characteristics (figures 2-3). While culturally closer groups, such as Slovaks and Ukrainians (figure 2), are relatively evenly and widely distributed and tend to deconcentrate, Russians (figure 3), Vietnamese and citizens of developed countries still choose relatively specific places and areas to live. For citizens of developed countries, it is mainly the city centre of Prague and a few selected older and wealthy suburbs, for Russians in addition to the traditional locations of the inner city also the areas of new construction within on outskirts of Prague, and for Vietnamese the traditional south-eastern edge of Prague.

Table 1) Index of dissimilarity of foreigners according to citizenship in zones of Prague and municipalities in the Central Bohemian Region (31. 12. 2017).

Zone/type	Slovakia	Ukraine	Russia	Vietnam	Developed	Others
Prague City centre	0.09*	0.16*	0.10*	0.10*	0.01*	0.05*
Inner city	0.07	0.09	0.15	0.21	0.21	0.08
Outer city	0.10	0.14	0.31	0.31	0.14	0.16
Periphery	0.17	0.17	0.42	0.38	0.37	0.25
Suburbs Other suburban cores (cities)	0.30	0.15	0.36	0.19	0.17	0.23
Suburban zone 1	0.19	0.27	0.37	0.64	0.36	0.32
Suburban zone 2	0.26	0.28	0.36	0.48	0.33	0.35
Suburban zone 3	0.24	0.33	0.53	0.56	0.34	0.32
Suburban zone 4	0.26	0.41	0.44	0.37	0.26	0.34
Rural Rural municipalities with population gain	0.35	0.43	0.69	0.67	0.49	0.45
Rural municipalities with population loss or stagnation	0.37	0.40	0.63	0.56	0.41	0.42

The economic crisis in 2008 partially affected the patterns and structure of migration waves to Czechia, especially manual workers, which was reflected in the stagnation of the Ukrainian population and their decline in peripheral areas typical of workers' dormitories. However, in other groups, the crisis did not manifest itself to such an extent as might be expected. A very interesting challenge will be to observe the manifestations of the health crisis associated with COVID-19, which will have a major impact on the economy and migration behaviour.

In: Ouředníček, M. (ed.): Prague and Central Bohemia: Current Population Processes and Socio-Spatial Differentiation. Karolinum, Praha, 2021.

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