

Univerzita Karlova
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Studijní program: Regionální a politická geografie



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**METROPOLIZAČNÍ PROCESY V ČESKU A POLSKU: REGIONÁLNĚ –
GEOGRAFICKÁ KOMPARATIVNÍ ANALÝZA**

**METROPOLITANIZATION PROCESSES IN CZECHIA AND POLAND: REGIONAL-
GEOGRAPHIC COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

Disertační práce

Školitel: prof. RNDr. Luděk Sýkora, Ph.D.

Praha, 2024

Prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že jsem závěrečnou práci zpracoval samostatně a že jsem uvedl všechny použité informační zdroje a literaturu. Tato práce ani její podstatná část nebyla předložena k získání jiného nebo stejného akademického titulu.

V Praze, 12. 8. 2024

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Souběžně s touto prací byly vytvořeny tyto texty, z nichž tato disertační práce částečně vychází:

- 1) KEBZA, M. (2024a): The development of polysubcentric network in the context of metropolitanization: Evidence from Poland. *European Planning Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2024.2317342>
- 2) KEBZA, M. (2024b): The four dimensions of metropolitanization: a case study of Masovian and Lublin voivodships. *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/04353684.2024.2388510>
- 3) KEBZA, M. (2023): Metropolitanization and population trends: a case study of two Polish voivodships. *Geografické informácie*, 27, 2, 4–21. <https://doi.org/10.17846/GI.2023.27.2.4-21>

Abstract:

The dissertation offers a new conceptual approach to the phenomenon of metropolitanization, which, in a very general sense, refers to the development of large cities and their surrounding areas. The growth of large cities has a historical background, with many of today's metropolises becoming significant during the Industrial Revolution, where major companies, which later evolved into global corporations, established themselves. However, the settlement system continued to evolve, with urban transformations in post-socialist cities playing a key role, often linked to deindustrialization, commercialization, gentrification, and suburbanization. The latter process has been particularly crucial in transforming the suburban landscape. Since the beginning of post-socialist transformations, a significant amount of new construction has taken place beyond the borders of large cities, often in a completely uncoordinated manner. However, the growth of so-called satellite towns is uneven and influenced by various factors, such as transportation accessibility. Similar factors also condition the development of non-residential suburbanization, leading to uneven growth of suburban municipalities. Under the right conditions, this creates opportunities for the development of a sub-central level within the metropolitan hierarchy. Sub-centres complement the metropolitan core, with which they have a competitive-cooperative relationship. All these phenomena can be summarized as manifestations of metropolitanization and split into dimensions that consider the qualitative or quantitative development of metropolises or entire metropolitan regions. This dissertation analyzes metropolitanization in this context using examples from Czechia and Poland, attempting to compare the processes in both countries. In both states, capital cities are growing, which can also be identified as metropolises based on the evaluation of metropolitan functions. Particularly, the degree of fulfillment of metropolitan functions indicates a specific level of cities that have significant importance beyond the level of regional centres but do not reach the anticipated metropolitan level. In Poland, I identify four regiopoles, and in Czechia, one (Brno). In all metropolitan regions defined around metropolises and regiopoles, active suburbanization is occurring, with the share of metropolitan population relative to the state and the larger area (region or voivodeship) increasing in all cases, as well as the share of suburban population relative to the core within metropolitan regions. However, the extent of these polarizations differs; it is generally greater in Poland, as the small size of Czech municipalities does not provide a strong basis for large contrasts. Additionally, in Czechia, even areas farther from metropolitan cores are being settled. Finally, the dissertation examines the internal differences within metropolitan regions, showing a significant contrast between the monocentric Czech metropolitan regions and the generally more sub-centered Polish regions.