Suburbanisation and Urban Sprawl in Post-transformational Europe: a comparative perspective
(postdoc project proposal)

Key words: suburbanisation; urban sprawl; social environment; spatial planning; regional policy

Suburbanisation - and its negative form urban sprawl - is the most intensive spatial process within the European settlement system. Satellite suburbs have important consequences on living environment, economy and society with significant impact on sustainable development of cities, commuting and social ties within newly emerging suburbs. Practical consequences on insufficient technical and social infrastructure (capacities of kindergartens and elementary schools, social services and retail) belong to the priorities of spatial planning and regional policy on national and European level. The project investigates the spatial extent and intensity of suburbanisation in Europe and identifies its effects on sustainable development of landscape and society. The aim is to find a system of indicators to evaluate extent and negative impacts of suburbanisation and to propose instruments to prevent and mitigate its negative consequences. From the geographical point of view, the main territory of interest will be the large cities of post-socialist (post-transformational) Europe.

Interdisciplinary approach combines methods of land use monitoring, land conversion remote sensing, GIS analyses, and changes of physical and social structures. The project therefore enables joint research of geographical departments and research teams across the Geographical Institute of the Faculty of Science. Urban and Regional Laboratory as coordinating team belongs to the top research groups which contribute to international research of metropolitan regions with the specific focus on suburbanisation. The project aims to present the research result to international audience and to produce comparative analyses within the post-socialist urban studies. It would set-up an international cooperation within the field and serve as starting point for application i.e. within the INTERREG Central Europe grant scheme. The practical outcomes of the project will be useful for regional planning and policy within the metropolitan regions of European cities. The research team has sufficient resources on co-financing and plans to incorporate new colleague into the two running projects of Czech Science Foundation and Technology Agency of CR (see below).

Relevant research project held during the last 10 years:

2018–2020 “Contemporary changes of social environment within the Czech suburbs” Czech Science Foundation: project number GA14-00393S. PI: Martin Ouředníček

2018-2020 “Real populations in Prague and Central Bohemia region: daily mobility monitoring and population prognosis” Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (Éta): project number TL01000170. PI: Martin Ouředníček

2014-2016 “Dynamics of social environment and spatial mobility in metropolitan regions of the Czech Republic” Czech Science Foundation: project number GA14-00393S. PI: Martin Ouředníček

2012-2013 ”Prognosis of demographic development and its consequences for the quality of life in dynamically changing municipalities within hinterlands of the Czech cities: application to regional development and administration” Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (Omega): project number TD010049. PI: Martin Ouředníček

2007-2011 ”Suburban development, Suburbanisation and Urban Sprawl in the Czech Republic: Tackling the Negative Impacts on the Environment” Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic: project number SP/4i5/212/07. PI: Martin Ouředníček
References relevant to research topic (last 3 years):


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