

TITLE OF PROJECTED PRESENTATION:

Territorial Context of Social Capital in the Czech Republic

SUBJECT AREA:

Social capital and public policies, community development, urban policies

STRUCTURE OF PROJECTED PRESENTATION:

- Introduction of the research questions and research project
- Relation between social capital and sociodemographic characteristics in the Czech Republic
- Relation between social capital and its dimensions (networks, trust, participation) and territorial context in the Czech Republic
- Relation between social capital and its dimensions and the municipality size in the Czech Republic.
- Conclusions and discussion

MAIN HYPOTHESIS/HYPOTHESES

- In the Czech Republic we presume the similar relations of social capital and sociodemographic variables as in the old western democratic countries. Social capital on individual level depends on the level of education, economic situation and age. People with higher education, higher economic status and older people have higher level of social capital.
- The territorial differentiation of the social capital is expected. The regions in poor situation concerning socio-demographic and economic indicators will have lower level of social capital.
- Also the differentiation according to the municipality size is anticipated. The larger municipality is the lower level of social capital is expected.

SUMMARIZED METHODOLOGY:

The analysis is based on individual data from representative survey of the Czech population. The survey was conducted as a part of large research project *Social capital as a factor influencing regional disparities and regional development (2007-2011)*. The goal of this project is to introduce and discuss social capital as one of the key factors of the unequal regional development. The Czech Republic is divided

into 14 self-governmental regions (level of NUTS 3) that are connected into 8 NUTS 2 Cohesion Regions for purpose of the EU structural funds financing. The quota sample of the size 1018 individual respondents has been interviewed in April 2008. The data is representative for 8 units of NUTS 2. The main aim of the project is to analyze mutual relation between the level of the social capital and perspectives of the development of regions and localities and to propose politics and procedures for utilization of the social capital for purpose of fostering regional development. For these reasons the quantitative analysis of data attempts to build a measure of social capital that allows comparison of the regions. The measure is build as an index based on the indicators of the four dimensions of social capital.

PROBABLE CONCLUSIONS:

The social capital is significantly correlated with the life status; the higher level of living means the higher level of social capital. Also the relation between education and social capital is significant. Very young people (15-19 and 20-29) with the highest level of social capital differ from old people (60+) with the lowest level of social capital.

The level of social capital in the Czech Republic is not very differentiated in territorial aspect of NUTS 2 regions. Unfortunately we were not able to collect data representative for smaller territorial units. These NUTS 2 regions seem to be too homogeneous to display some meaningful variation. We found only one significant difference between the two regions - Northwest with lowest and Southwest with highest level of social capital.

Social capital depends on the size of municipality measured in number of inhabitants. The larger the municipality is the lower the level of social capital. There is very significant difference between small municipalities (0-1000 inhabitants) and towns with more than 50 000 inhabitants.

To summarize, we did not have enough detailed data to find regional differences in the social capital on the level of 14 self-governmental regions. However we can distinguish two regions of NUTS 2 in the context of the Czech Republic that significantly differs in the measure of social capital. The Northwest region with the lowest index of social capital can be defined by poor socioeconomic situation and large resettlement of inhabitants after the Second World War. Further, the small municipalities in the Czech Republic have the highest index of social capital. It means that countryside has the potential source for local development in the form of social capital.

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