

Social capital influence to the economic and social development of the Czech countryside¹

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Motto

Social capital enables to solve problems of individuals, groups and communities in a less complicated way.

J. KALOUS

Actors and capitals

The term actor means acting one – bearer, initiator of the social activity. The actor can be an individual or a social group as a bearer of social activities. Social actors (personalities of rural life, local organizations, municipalities, larger territorial units or the state and others) act and assert in their “play field” (that is in the space delimited by their social networks) strategies based on the power. The social actors can be considered as owners of capital, in material (physical) and non-material (abstract) sense respectively.

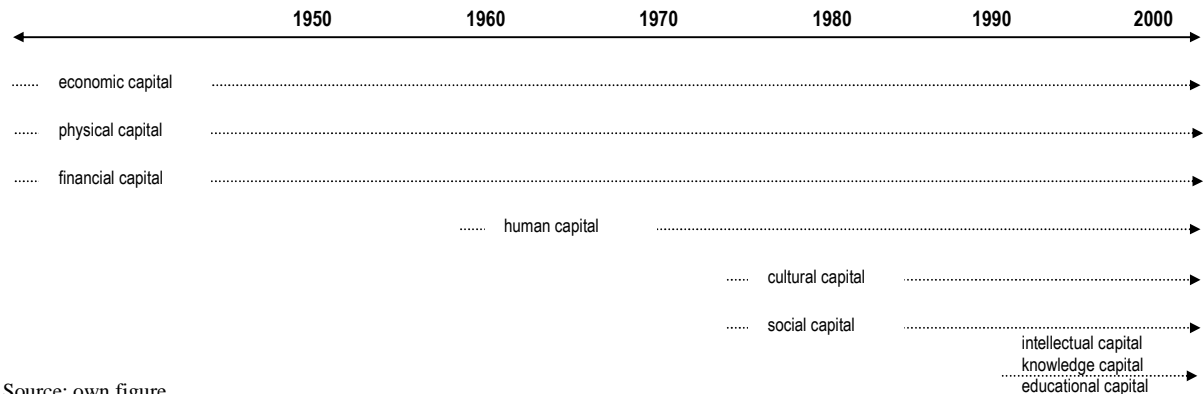
In the theories of classical and neo-classical economy, the capital is being defined as a value that is able to be valorised. This value brings to its owner revenue in form of profit or interest. The capital also forms, with both work and land, three basic means of production, production inputs (SAMUELSON, NORDHAUS 1995).

The term capital passed from initially economic terminology into other branches of science. It passed also into the sociology. The capital in its new non-material forms (human, cultural, social and others) need not to be interchangeable at all or only partially. It is not being consumed or worn-down by utilization, but, on the contrary, strengthened. However, the non-material forms of capital are not separable from its owner and they can cease with his death. The “advantage” of non-material forms of capital (human, cultural, social and others) is that they cannot be alienated. Czech sociologist A. VESELÝ quotes J. COLEMAN, who thinks that the human capital is less tangible and social capital still less tangible compared to physical (fully material and tangible) capital. This is because the social capital exists only in human relations. These reasons are an argument for critics arguing against utilization of attributes to the term capital (VESELÝ 2006).

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This scheme shows chronological sorting of the most used “predicates” of the term capital used by various authors.

Scheme 1 Chronology of usage of various predicates of the term capital



Source: own figure

The capital (in its classical economic conception – physical and financial) is at chronological axis² of the scheme the leftmost and without more exact ranking in time. The meaning of the term in its classical conception is connected with organization of modern society and with expansion of its usage with economic theories since 19th century.

The capital gains an attribute “human” in 1960s, in the time, when the education (and means inserted into it) is being considered as an investment in an analogy with economic capital as BECKER, who is an initiator of the idea of human capital, thinks.

In this time, the term capital begins to be transformed from classical (material) into non-material conception. This transformation continues in 1970s and 1980s when the non-material comprehension of the term capital gradually leaves its original material sense in economic sciences and begins to be used in other sciences as are social sciences. The term capital is embedded e.g. in the theory of reproduction of social classes of P. BOURDIEU, where the cultural and social capital occur next to the economic capital.

Further authors also use the term social capital (e.g. PUTNAM, COLEMAN). According to various experts, the utilisation of the term social capital has an exponential tendency in scientific works since 1990s. In this epoch, the knowledge society and learning society begin to be formed. This is the basis for creation of next predicates representing the non-material character of the capital, e.g. knowledge, educational and intellectual capital.

² Chronological specification of the term economic capital is only roughly possible. Its general use is connected with the origin of economy. Thereafter, it is possible to embed the beginning of utilization of the term economic capital into the second half of 18th century, in connection with release of the book WEALTH OF NATIONS by a philosopher and economist A. SMITH in 1776 (SAMUELSON, NORDHAUS, 1995).

Social capital

The concept of social capital is currently an often-discussed idea. According to the opinion of A. PORTES, social capital is "...a concept, which becomes one of the most popular exports of sociological theory into everyday language..." (PORTES in SUCKSMITH 2002). The term social capital was evidently used by an American pedagogue and inspector of rural schools L. J. HANIFAN already in 1916. The term has been used later in the 1960s by an American town planner J. JACOBS (rather coincidentally) in connection with local administration, which is functioning thanks to "...people who have forged neighbourhood networks. These networks are a city's irreplaceable social capital..." (JACOBS in BLUNDEN 2003).

In 1970s, the social capital was dealt by an economist G. LOURY and French sociologist P. BOURDIEU, who brought it into scientific discourse. It has become more known thanks to theoretical and empirical elaboration of an American sociologist J. COLEMAN between 1980s and 1990s and of a political scientist R. D. PUTNAM in the beginning of 1990s. The term social capital was introduced into the Czech sociology by I. MOŽNÝ and P. MATĚJŮ in the beginning of 1990s.

One of first and also the most quoted definitions of the social capital has its origin in P. BOURDIEU's work: "the aggregate of the actual or potential resources which are linked to possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition". But in his theory of reproduction of social classes the social capital represents derived form. In analysis of the social structure, the economic and cultural capital and cultural taste and consumption are stressed first of all (SEDLÁČKOVÁ, ŠAFR 2006, modified).

Authors such as J. S. COLEMAN and R. D. PUTNAM are interested in social capital on the level of community³ or locality. J. S. COLEMAN claims that social capital "... is created when the relations among persons change ways that facilitate action ..." (COLEMAN 1990). One of the most famous definitions of social capital is related to work of R. D. PUTNAM on regional administration in Italy, who states that "...social capital means that the features of social organization such as trust, norms and networks can increase the efficiency of society through facilitating co-ordinated actions..." (PUTNAM 1993). In that sense, social capital is closely related to what some people call "civic virtue". The difference is that "social capital" calls attention to the fact that civic virtue is the most powerful when embedded in a network of reciprocal social relations. A society of many

³ Community or also association. Community – social formation characterized by unique internal linkages between members and by specific external position within wider social environment (VELKÝ SOCIOLOGICKÝ SLOVNÍK [GREAT SOCIOLOGICAL DICTIONARY], pgs. 512 - 514).

virtues but isolated individuals is not necessarily rich⁴ in social capital. (PUTNAM 2000). Putnam in his work widens Coleman's attitude related to the family and narrower community to whole nation or to wider regions (SEDLÁČKOVÁ, ŠAFR 2005). This influenced works of experts interested in rural and regional development. COLEMAN and PUTNAM refer the social capital to the community, locality, onto the structure and quality of relations in the social whole (in comparison with BOURDIEU, who refer the social capital to an individual). Social capital consists of the amount of active connections among people as the trust, mutual understanding and shared values and behaviours that bind the members of human networks and communities and make cooperative action possible (COHEN, PRUSAK 2001). EDWARDS and FOLEY states that "...what COLEMAN had in mind were not the norms and values of individuals, but norms and values available as resources for action of these individuals who share particular social context..." (EDWARDS, FOLEY 1998).

According to Putnam, the most important norm increasing the volume of social capital as well as decreasing transaction costs of collective acting is the reciprocity. He divides it into specific reciprocity and generalized reciprocity (LOŠŤÁK 2006).

PUTNAM later extends his concept of social capital (as a positive externality of association of people) by more exact terms – social capital bridging and bonding. These two types are distinguishable on the basis of social networks types. The bonding social capital is close contacts among individuals and we can understand it as strong ties (among family members, close friends and so on).

In PUTNAM's view, the social capital means something as "super glue" keeping the homogeneity, leads to creation of unique reciprocity or inner group loyalty and also mobilize the solidarity. On the contrary, the bridging social capital rather includes more distant contacts, which are characterized by weak ties with ability to cross the "social boundaries" (e.g. relations among business partners, acquaintances and acquaintances of our acquaintances).

PUTNAM compares the social capital to handyman's glue WD 40 that "...stops scrunching, cleans and protects, displaces humidity, releases rusted parts and hooked mechanisms..." Analogically: "...it connects people across social inequalities, helps to disseminate information and creates wider identity and reciprocity. It contributes to common cohesion of the society..." (PUTNAM 2000, str. 22 – 23). M. GRANOVETTER showed already in 1970s the importance of the social contacts network for cohesion of community of neighbours and ability for common acting of local inhabitants. He also calls these ties weak ties and

⁴ It is possible to consider this notion of social capital as the underlying idea for the concept of residential community.

bridging social ties between social groups. Above mentioned typology of weak and strong ties in the society clarifies forming and functioning of the social capital in various surroundings, but Putnam does not provide any tool for measuring of these two dimensions of the social capital (SEDLÁČKOVÁ, ŠAFR 2006).

Thanks to general understanding of local problems and desires to become "points of common interests", THE BUDAPEST DECLARATION ON RURAL AREAS INOVATION 2002 reaffirms the central role of rural actors in the processes of rural development, which makes use of social capital as source of local development in the formation of social networks (KOCMÁNKOVÁ 2003).

This paper deals mainly with social capital as it works on the community level⁵ (as norms, trust, structures). This meaning of social capital is primarily linked to the collection of the actors (VELKÝ SOCIOLOGICKÝ SLOVNÍK [GREAT SOCIOLOGICAL DICTIONARY], p. 1371).

Conception of the Czech rural development in the recent past

Attitudes to the Czech rural space role had changed in the political and historic events in the Czech countries. After the rise of Czechoslovakia in 1918 the rural development was determined by the tragic experience of World War I. Top priority task was to provide the population food-supply of new born republic, which battled with the serious economic and social problems. They were caused not only by war incidents (disrupted economy, war deaths of young men, missing medical and social care about war invalids, burdensome situation of incomplete families etc.), but also by sequential and slow creation of economic and social institutions, which should ensure the functioning of the new European state. Except the difficult political negotiations, heading to its full recognition, there was a need to consolidate the national economy, create working jobs and seek the markets for products sale. At the same time, it was necessary to build national educational conception, develop the science, culture and social life in the widest sense of the word.

Rural space role was perceived under the oppression of war sequences. Agriculture, as one of key economic activities in countryside, had to ensure the livelihood of population, because the lack of foodstuff is in all the political systems one of the most important political arguments and an impulse for the rise of social conflict. Agriculture was the stability element of countryside. The

⁵ Collective recognition of social capital originated from sociology of E.DURKHEIM, where collective recognition is not dependent on individuals and their conditions and where explanation for behaviour and order in society goes beyond individuals (VELKÝ SOCIOLOGICKÝ SLOVNÍK [GREAT SOCIOLOGICAL DICTIONARY], p. 1371).

optimal forms of farmstead were sought and discussed. The three basic models enter in fact – private, state and co-operative ones. By other words – individual farms of private farmers, state agricultural enterprises and co-operatives (of various types, including agricultural enterprises). Seeing that the co-operatives came into being already in the framework of Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy as an economic defence against the second (very serious and oppressive) agrarian crisis, it had almost no negative connotation and was in a great support of farmers as well as rural population. According to political orientation of debating economists and scientists, either the advantages of individual private farming or the assets of common (co-operative) agricultural enterprises were stressed. The key element was seen in the size of agricultural plant, which could provide its viability.

It is evident from these connections, that the economic aspects were determinants. Social life of rural inhabitants was formed by neighbourly relations, church and national feast days, local cultural traditions as well as civil activities. Ethnographers, sociologists, journalists as well as writers were interested in rural population life. Their works were focused on the ethnical elements and conservation of tradition, investigation of social tension causes in poor rural areas, description of rural life. Again, according to their political orientation, they sought the solution and framed the models of rural communes' future.

Historical events, connected with the WW II and post-war collectivisation of agriculture, fundamentally affected the development of Czechoslovak agriculture and rural areas. Existing economic and social relations were forcibly interrupted. An incidence is evident until present. However, the events need to be contextualized in broader connections. Competitive strength required the restructuralization of production models in socialistic as well as capitalistic countries. In the West-European countries the process of intensive farming concentration and specialization caused absorbing of small farms by bigger and more effectively managed enterprises. State-aided social programmes were offering farmers reskilling and other job possibilities for them (part-time jobs, jobs in tertiary sphere, development of additional activities in rural areas etc.) were also sought. Forcible collectivisation in the socialistic countries trended to farm concentration and specialization too. Results of collectivized agriculture can be evaluated positively as well as negatively. However, the processes, which were induced and formed by the free market competition in capitalistic agriculture, were the results of centralized state management with all its strong and weak points in socialistic agriculture.

The concentration of capital investments, some steps of planned economy, staffing programmes of social care, covenanted sales of agricultural products and others can be sorted among the pluses. Minuses were manifested in the rigid centralized managerial sphere, absence of inner competition, growth of corruption and nepotism in the decision making processes, endowment of non-effective production and enterprises, over-sizing of social programmes, interruption of logical connection between work effort and work remuneration as well as the work results and the possibilities of work careers⁶. The accomplishment was the low competitive advantage and gradual backwardness of productive enterprises, with which all socialistic economies battled.

We cannot deny that the agriculture and rural areas got the relatively prosperous period (even if contingent on the indebtedness of future). Rural population had found the warranted and relatively well paid source of living. Rural households invested to the repairs as well as new houses and flats building-up; quality of housing stock increased also by growing interest about cottages (second housing of town inhabitants). Bad function or missing services were substituted by neighbourly and relational help. Cultural and social life in the villages were stigmatized by the socialistic ideology, however, a certain space in private life and keeping of traditional neighbourly common life existed. There were no significant signs of dissident movement in rural areas. The suitable social conditions were not in the non-anonymous environment of villages. Rural population with the more or less traditional life approach had accepted the relatively good economic life conditions. Notwithstanding the disaffection, the appearing thinking about economic system untenability did not find the wider acceptance in countryside.

After 1989, rural areas were confronted with the hard conditions of market economy, including the competition in the labour market. The richly supported social care programmes of agricultural enterprises were not economically sustainable. This came to light in the worsening of life conditions of rural population, especially in the areas, where the agriculture created the main source of living and in the villages with insufficient civic amenities (eventually entirely missing).

After twenty-years experience of post-socialistic rural development we can state, that the most considerable feature is differentiation. Competition disposes worse prosperous farms as well as non-agricultural enterprises in countryside. Some social groups fell to the hard life situation, caused by the lack of suitable jobs for rural population with specific social-demographical characteristics (higher age,

⁶ For more details: Majerová, V.: Sociologický pohled na změny v československém zemědělství po r. 1989. Sociologie venkova a zemědělství 1/1992, pgs, 32 – 33.

worse health state, lower qualification, narrow professional specialisation, more difficult adaptability, low willingness for reskilling, etc.).

New working places creation without more long-term economic prosperity is non-effective. However, in the period of continuing world crisis, it is not possible to warrant the economic return of investment in the diversified rural space.

After EU enlargement in the East direction, the conception of rural development comes to the quite other dimensions. The process of massive EU widening evoked, except the economic cost of balancing differences between old and new member, also very important tasks: the urgency to create such European coexistence conditions, which would eliminate the distrust elements among the particular governments, originating from their rivalry from past (above all during both WW I. and WW II.). The equal access to all European rights and values should be warranted, as well as the remedy of weaker member state discrimination and opening of coequal neighbours dialogue. It stands to reason that all these preconditions follow on the social context.

Economic indicators express certain size of material development of rural communes. Social indicators reflect the ethical and moral disposition of society. The humanisation level of rural life is not related only to people. The environmentally friendly economy with land and all living organisms also belong there. Viability of rural areas depends on the well-balanced development of all its elements (material and social) and its sustainability. Among the highest values it does not pertain only the economic profit but the quality of human relations, expressed by social cohesion, social stability and maintenance of cultural identity of rural localities above all.

Rural life activities and their share on the social capital creation

Creation of social capital in rural areas is influenced by many factors. Among very important preconditions of rural inhabitants association and mutual relations among generations belongs the material background of communes. However, the high endowment need not guarantee the social functioning yet. If we will result from hypotheses, that “Tangible conditions in municipality influence its social activity (in the sense of direct linear dependence)” and “social activity can be supposed as important component of social capital within its collective conception”⁷, must be decided, which measurable variables can be used for their testing (confirmation or refutation).

⁷ Basis of this idea was introduced as contribution at Autumn Schol of Rural Sociology in Mercuria Ciuc in Romania in 2004 and in Doctoral Conference Thing Together 2004 in Prague in the Czech Republic (KOCMANKOVÁ 2004).

If the research project is not framed explicitly to investigation of social capital building in rural areas, is needed to use the accessible relevant data. Then the selected variables are transformed, logically controlled, and, if necessary, put in categories according to their values.

In our contribution, the data from the investigation of rural communes are worked. The data were collected in 2003 by Sociological laboratory (Department of Humanities of FEM CULS in Prague), together with the agency STEM, during work on a field sociological research on rural municipalities⁸. Research was performed in two stages. The first stage was testing typology⁹ of rural municipalities (PERLÍN 2003), and the second stages concentrated on research concerned with life in rural municipalities. Both stages were using the quantitative approach of sociologically empirical research where data was gathered by questionnaires (in the first stage) and by interviews (in the second stage). Interviews (in the presence of an inquirer) and questionnaires had to be standardized, because of running a quantitative research. Mayors and inhabitants of rural municipalities were the main respondents to the research¹⁰. The reason for choosing this source of data is that a better selection of variables for research on social capital in the level of collectivity can be made.

Examined municipalities were selected according to probability sets with emphasis on size of municipality compared to size of region, taken from Thesaurus of Municipalities, 1999. We distributed 2000 questionnaires and received 1135 replies (more than 50 %) and used them for research and analysis. For the purpose of this paper I have selected and analysed, from an enormous quantity of data and with the help of statistical programme SPSS, variables of communities within municipalities, activities of communities measured by number of actions for public, revenues from annual budgets of municipalities in 2002, and investments in the last five years.

Social activity within municipalities

First tested indicator of social activity within municipalities was connected with the sense of togetherness in municipalities (it means number of associations operating in a municipality). One to four associations can be found in 80 % of all municipalities and around five to eight associations in 17 % of all municipalities. The remaining 3 % of all municipalities do not possess any associations.

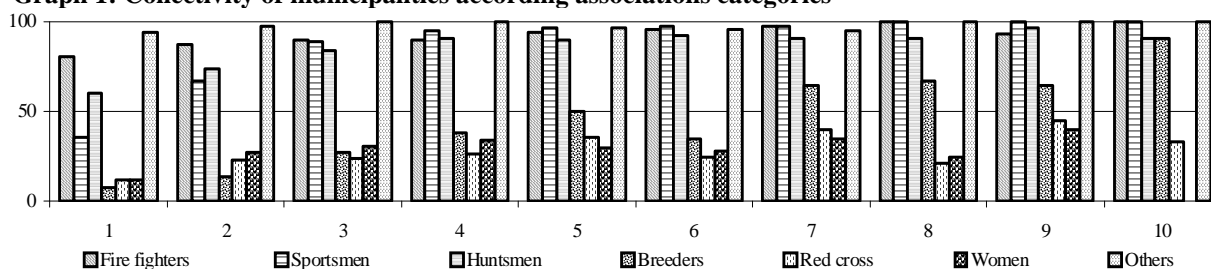
⁸ Regional and social development of rural areas in the Czech Republic, research plan MSM 411100011.

⁹ Based on the premise of "non-existence of one rural community as whole" R. Perlin structures according historical, social, economic and geographical criteria rural settlement of the Czech Republic into six specific types: 1. sub-urban zone, 2. rural areas in rich agricultural regions, 3. (rich) north Sudets, 4. (south) poor Sudets, 5. inner periphery a 6. Moravian-Silesian borderland.

¹⁰ A definition based on the number of inhabitants within municipality is being still used in the Czech Republic for determination of rural areas. Only those municipalities that have less than 2 000 inhabitants are considered rural. From the methodology describing rural areas arising from available data, the Czech Republic is asserting those approaches, which are recommended by OECD and EUROSTAT because of with the ongoing process of admission into EU.

That corresponds to weighted average, which sets 2.98 associations for a municipality, whereas municipalities in categories¹¹ one and two (of this weighted average) do not reach such a level. The other categories are above average and that states that an increasing number of inhabitants is followed by an increasing number of associations within a municipality. In the graph 1 is evident, that associations called “others” count for high values in all association categories. This variable was constructed as a nominal, and almost 33 % of all mayors were able to name other associations, besides the mentioned ones, operating within their municipalities. By re-encoding and transformation of this variable associations were discovered representing this share – 8 % gardeners, 7 % association connected with animals breeding or keeping (fish, bees, etc), almost 6 % sport oriented associations, 15% cultural or social associations and the rest is unknown. It was difficult to observe collectivity because the nominal variable was hard to trace (see Discussion) and therefore analysis is mainly built upon contingency tables.

Graph 1: Collectivity of municipalities according associations categories



Source: own calculations

The other indicator of municipalities’ activities was frequency of public activities held by associations. It was counted as the number of all activities of a particular association in all municipalities and as the number of activities of all associations in relation to size of municipality. Individual associations indicate the number of public activities per year:

Association	Fire fighters	Sportsmen	Huntsmen	Breeders	Red cross	Women	Others
Num of activities	849	605	524	110	105	128	281

Source: own calculations

The frequency of action in the group of sportsmen is the second highest, but on average (7.42) is the highest from all groups (see graph 2). This is caused by high variation range of sportsmen (49), which is, after excluding of extreme values (59, 73, 80, 90, 99), still influencing the average¹². Relative values

¹¹ All graphs have this range of association categories (counted in percentages in individual categories):

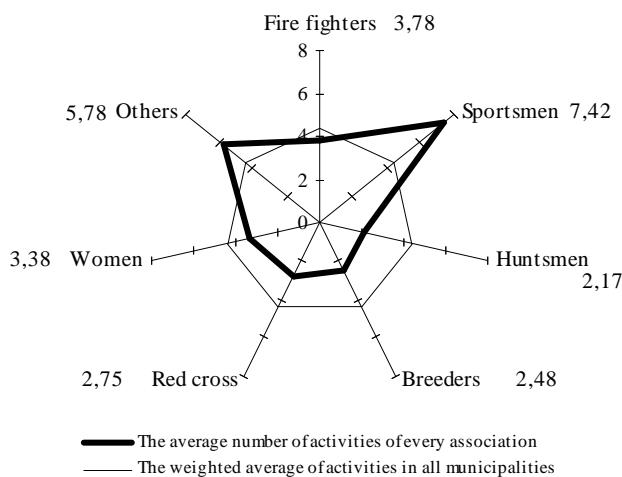
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Notation
1-200	201-400	401-600	601-800	801-1000	1001-1200	1201-1400	1401-1600	1600-1800	1801-2000	range
26.1 %	25.5 %	15.4 %	12.6 %	6.0 %	4.1 %	3.5 %	2.0 %	2.9 %	1.3 %	100 %

Source: own calculations

¹² The Variable sportsmen - was exactly “sportsmen – footballers”. It is not clear whether respondents indicated activities of all sportsmen or only of footballers. That could explain such a high variability of activities and simultaneously high number of sports oriented associations in category “others”. High variation range could be also caused by weekly held football matches (in case that respondent considered football match as public social activity).

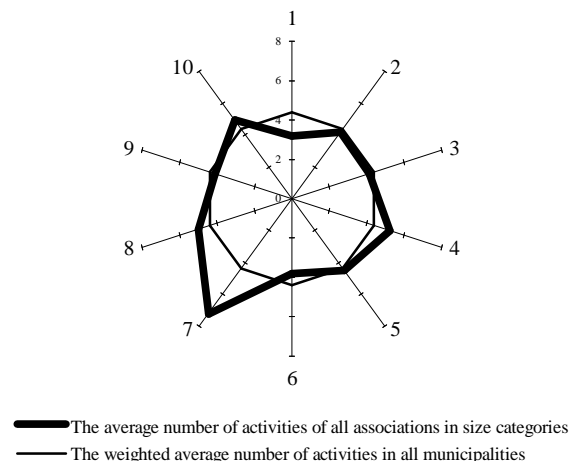
confirm that with growth of association categories, the activity of associations growth as well. If it is counted with absolute values, it would appear as that an increasing number of inhabitants is followed by a decrease in the collectivity of municipalities. But that would lead, together with frequency of public activities, to a false conclusion: nevertheless, the collectivity is higher in smaller municipalities (up to 800 inhabitants). Frequency of activities in these municipalities is, on the contrary, lower (and vice-versa). Relative values, compared to that, prove higher collectivity of municipalities and higher average number of actions of associations in municipalities in the category of 801 inhabitants and higher (see graph num. 1 and 3). Frequency of public activities held by associations is in municipalities with 801 and higher inhabitants (besides municipalities with 1001 – 1200 and 1601 – 1800 inhabitants) (see graph 3) is higher than the average.

Graph 2: The average number of public activities held by associations in all municipalities



Source: own calculations

Graph 3: The average number of activities held by associations in municipalities according number of inhabitants



Source: own calculations

Such tools as average, weighted average and analysis of variance were used for the analysis of activities of association, because variable satisfied conditions of homogeneity variability proved by Leven's test (which in case of collectivity of municipalities was not satisfied and therefore not calculated).

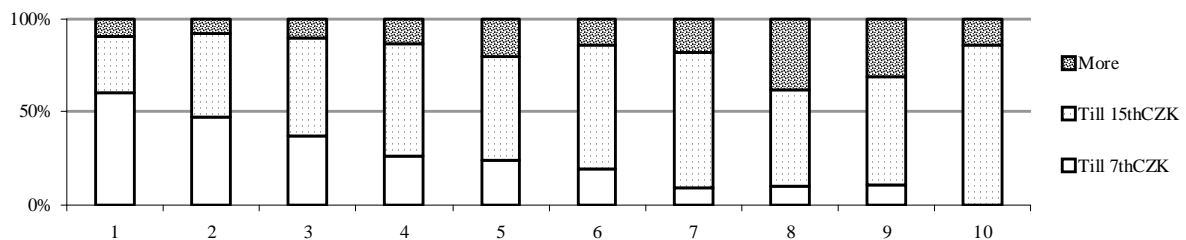
The average frequency of associations' public activities is 4.4 activities per year. Modus sets for first quartile in fire fighters association, huntsmen, Red Cross and women value two, sportsmen and "others" have value four and lowest modus one have breeders. This frequency for tested by the analysis of variance, which proved statistical significance in size of site and frequency of activities held by fire fighters, sportsmen, huntsmen and "others" associations. Test didn't prove statistical significance in size of site and frequency of public activities

held by Red Cross and women's associations. It is probable, that significance could be proved based on a different data sample with sufficient frequency of public activities held by these associations.

Material conditions for the existence and expanse of social activities of municipality

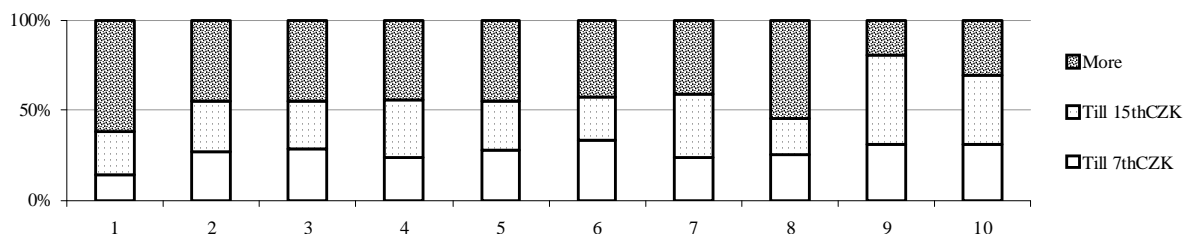
As material conditions of the expanse of social activities of municipalities were selected and analysed from available data, variables as revenues from annual budgets of municipalities¹³ in 2002 and investments in last five years. It was not possible to analyze distribution of revenues to determine the share of municipal budget saturation from external (exogenously) and internal (endogenously) sources. The graphs 4 and 5 inform about the categorized revenues and investments in the association categories of municipalities. As to the revenues concern, around 85 % of municipalities under 600 inhabitants have incomes around 7,000 CZK per capita. Revenues in smaller municipalities are (contrary to bigger municipalities) on a lower level; it means that income per capita grows with size of site. In the sphere of investment activities it is exactly vice versa, where 64 % of municipalities with under 600 inhabitants invested in the last five years more than 15,000 CZK per capita. The most common investment activities were gas pipes installations, building of sewage plants, and drainage instalments.

Graph 4: Income in CZK per capita according annual budgets of municipalities in 2002



Source: own calculations

Graph 5: Investments in CZK per capita according number of inhabitants in municipalities



Source: own calculations

¹³ Revenues of municipal budget are inherent or received; both of them are capital and current. Current are divided into tax and non-tax. (PŘÍRUČKA ČLENA ZASTUPITELSTVA OBCE, pgs. 35)

Both variables were tested by analysis of variance to find out the tightness of dependency between revenues per capita, number of inhabitants in municipality, frequency of all public activities and investments per capita, number of inhabitants in municipality, and frequency of public activities held by all associations. Tightness of dependency between examined characters as income and investment activities was not proved. Analysis of variance proved to be a statistically significant relation between size of site and income and investment activities.

Discussion

The main objective of our paper was to analyze, whether available data (not constructed for the purpose of empirical research of social capital) could be valuable for thesis dealing with social capital. How to measure social capital (of groups or individuals)? Present sociological science doesn't have "undoubted rules" to assess such measurement.¹⁴

Nevertheless researched material had many variables. For selected hypothesis only those relating closely to the studied topic could to be selected. Nevertheless, number of respondents was huge (1,135). It was not possible to use variables in such statistical analyses and procedures that would reliably set and check my opinions. And that was caused by difference between our objectives and objectives to gather a basic overview about the social life of current rural inhabitants. Variables in secondary data analysis could be added to the questionnaire tool, observing social capital, only in case that they would be more detailed and operational. Then the phenomenon of social capital could be, as possible source of (endogenous) development, described by these variables.

Findings are as follows:

- for indicators of „collectivity“ in municipalities (as the basic indicator of social activity within municipalities) it is necessary to mention all most frequently occurring associations of municipalities, so that “others” would include only less frequently occurring associations,
- frequency of associations activities (indicator of activity within municipality) left as it was constructed,
- revenues and investment activities (indicator of material conditions of social activities within municipalities, existence and expansion of social capital) are quality cardinal figures, but it is necessary to exactly structure several items of municipal budget to ensure findings of exogenous and endogenous

¹⁴ There is no consensus about how to measure social capital yet. There can be found several research tools, which were used by renowned studies to attempt social capital measuring, on the Internet. If the context of these research tools is suitable, it would be inspirational for my own research as well.

- financial sources, as the other necessary variable.
- other variables that could be taken as indicators are:
 - social activities of municipalities* – e.g. attendance in competitions as “the most beautiful municipality”, adherence to local traditions, collective celebrations, cultivation of municipality, partnership with other municipality, etc.,
 - material conditions of social activities within municipalities* – e.g. availability of services, working informational system for inhabitants, sources gained from various grants and programmes for the development of municipality or also existence of significant inhabitant, etc.

Conclusion

The main objective of this paper was to analyze whether variables selected from the sample of available empirical data from 2003, can contain indicators of social capital that is considered to be a potential source for the development of a region. Secondary data analysis focused mainly on propriety and applicability of data for being used as instigating experiences for construction of the questionnaire tool in our research thesis. It is possible to say, that examined variables can be used as basic indicators, but only under conditions of precise elaboration and satisfaction of validity and reliability requirements for measuring of social capital. It is necessary to add further variables in a way to represent sufficient configurability of indicators that are measuring social capital and conditions of material development of a municipality.

There is no consensus in the social sciences about how to measure social capital (collective or individual), because its indicators are not possible to define or quantify. Economic indicators can test sets of hypothesis of S.HUBÍK, because those regard the transformation of community potentials to economic potentials. Our further research will be therefore inspired by the idea of measuring of social capital and we'll be looking for such indicators that would test the strengths of linkages and nets in communities and localities. Those linkages are (probably) necessary for development on the local and regional level, whereas not depending on quality of asserting of exogenous sources from economic or social projects.

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