Segregation and integration in Czech cities:
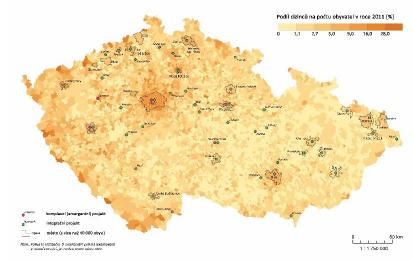## interaction between migrants and majority at the local level

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Immigrant spatial concentrations

- **increasing number** and **diversity** of **immigrants** in Czech cities and towns

- **development** of **immigrant spatial concentrations**
  - mostly low proportion and small number of immigrants – however, also places of segregation
  - inner diversification of the immigrant populations
  - evolving places - indefinite characteristics of immigrant spatial concentrations

Emerging immigrant and ethnic places

- **diverse situations** of **immigrant residential concentrations**:

  - **foreign labor residential concentrations** in the vicinity of manufacturing plants (Pardubice, Mladá Boleslav, Benešov nad Černou)

  - **ethnic economy related localities** with dense ethnic networks and institutions (Praha-Libuš)

  - **tourism oriented places** with diverse groups of lifestyle and economic immigrants (Karlovy Vary)

Driving forces behind demographic trends in Visegrad countries, Prague, 10.-11. September 2015

Foreign labor residential concentrations

- localities of **simple** and **cheap accommodation** for foreign manual workers in manufacturing industry (automotive, electroctronics, etc.)

- **unstable** and dynamically **changing places**: immigrant fluctuation, changes in size and diversity of immigrant population

- **variety** of **situations**:
  - some places are **rather integrated** into urban structures
  - some have (temporarily) **vanished**
  - others persist and are **endangered** by **segregation**

The development of the localities: competition state and foreign direct investments
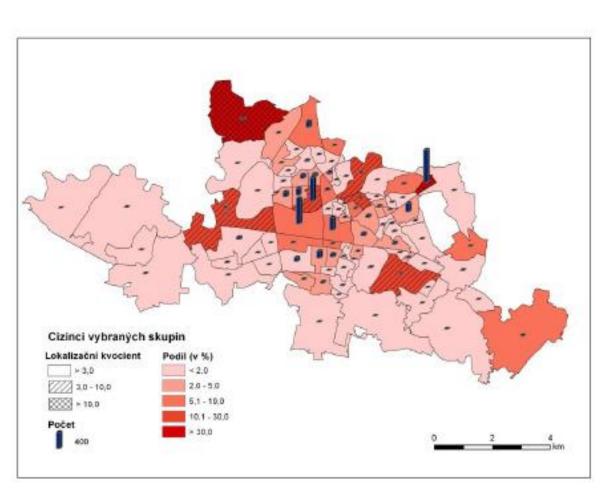
- **characteristics of competition state**

  - **increased marketization** 'in order **to make economic activities** located within the national territory… **more competitive** in international and transnational terms,' and

  - a **diminishing capacity** (in the wake of welfare retrenchment) **to support communal bonds**, which in turn leads to society's fragmentation (Cerny 1997)

- competition with spaces in different states by **creating advantageous conditions for capital** so as to secure its flow (Jessop 2002)

  - need to **import particular migrant labor** in order to sustain capital accumulation (Peck 1992, Miles 1986)
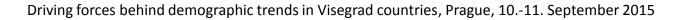
Hůrka in Pardubice

- located **on the edge of Pardubice**, separated from the residential development

- **segregated locality**; administrative spatial unit „Hůrka" has 794 inhabitants, 97 % foreigners

Cizinci vybraných skupin

Lokalizační kvocient

- \> 3,0
- 3,0 - 10,0
- \> 10,0

Počet

400

Podíl (v %)

- < 2,0
- 2,0 - 5,0
- 5,1 - 10,0
- 10,1 - 30,0
- \> 30,0

0   2   4 km

Hůrka in Pardubice

- **previously military barracks**; double/triple rooms, shared facilities

- around **600 foreign manual workers**, mostly temporary, **from Central and Eastern Europe** (Rumania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Poland)

The role of electronics producer Foxconn

- **Foxconn**
  - electornics production (a plant also in Kutná Hora)
  - lean production (just-in-time, etc.), production fluctuations, high levels of flexibility
  - main clients – HP, Cisco
- temporary **work agencies** in Foxconn CZ (Andrijasevic, Sacchetto 2014)
  - two main subcontractors/temp agencies
  - external labour control strategy
  - migrant labour recruiters
- provision of accommodation and control of workers, dormitory labor regime (Smith, Pun 2006)
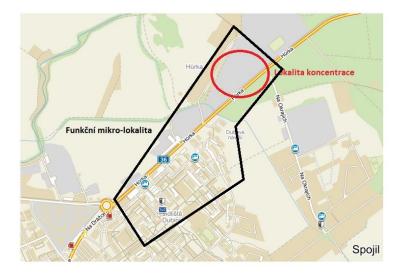
Social and economic position of migrant workers

- **vulnerability of immigrants on labor market**
  - **precarious work** with negative social and economic consequences for the workers and their families (insecure income, limited possibility to become a core employee, etc.)
  - **loss of work** leads to **loss of accommodation**
  - high **turnover of workers - instability**
- **residential segregation**
- **socio-cultural disadvantage** (lack of language knowledge, tension around immigrant local accommodation)
- **lack of social embeddedness** in the locality (split families)

Everyday interaction and cohabitation with immigrants

cvmr

- the adjacent **Dubina housing estate** - the area of everyday mundane interaction and activities of Hůrka inhabitants

- **fleeting contacts** at bus stops, supermarkets, retail shops, restaurants, bars, etc.

Barriers of social interaction

- Identified **barriers** reducing opportunities for social interaction and further worsening segregation
  - By the **inhabitants of Dubina**
    - developed xenophobic and racist discourse towards immigrants
    - foreigners seen as burden -   associated with vandalism, mess, noise, and petty criminality
    - negative perception and lack of knowledge of Hůrka
  - By the **labor immigrants in Hůrka**
    - workload, work instability
    - language barriers
    - occasions of discrimination (also rude and violent comments) by the majority population

Potentials of interaction and cohabitation

- **Processes** and **potentials** encouraging social integration of immigrants

    - **no open conflicts** in everyday interaction

    - occasions of **friendship** with the majority population

    - **immigrants perceive** mutual **contact** rather **positively**, and do not experience systematic discrimination

    - **immigrants** are **not** a **frequent topic** in the locality, they are rather ignored

Conclusions

- **Hůrka is**
  - an **evolving** and **unstable locality**, which existence is related to industrial production
  - a rather **segregated locality**, in comparison to other foreign labor residential concentrations
  - **The local interaction and cohabitation**
    - is mostly characterized by **fleeting** and **unproblematic contact**
    - is limited by **structural barriers** (geographic isolation of Hůrka, mobility and fluctuation of immigrants, socio-cultural and socio-economic disadvantage of immigrants)
    - cannot solve segregation but provides **some new opportunities** for **integration** (everyday banal interaction, occasions of friendships, immigrant positive perception of the majority, no open conflicts)