

## **Abstract**

Transformation of Czech society after 1989 caused changes in spatial migration patterns. After strong socialist urbanization and during post-socialist suburbanization, people also began to move from towns to more remote rural areas. The subject of the thesis is the evaluation of the rural area of South Bohemia in terms of changes in its population and migration development in 1992–2017. Firstly, the thesis briefly analyzes the long-term population development of individual municipalities with extended power of South Bohemia in the context of the whole Czechia and then analyzes the types (positional and size) of rural municipalities of South Bohemia when solving their population growth, stagnation or depopulation and reveals the role of natural currency and migration balance in this population development. The main part of the thesis is an analysis of the internal migration of municipalities of South Bohemia in 1992–2017, namely migration flows between rural municipalities (semi-peripheral and peripheral) on the one hand and urban regions, including core towns (important and less important) and surrounding suburban municipalities, on the second hand. The main aim of the thesis is research the counterurbanization of South Bohemia based on the above mentioned migration flows. Especially after 1997, the South Bohemian rural areas showed a positive migration balance with urban regions, more rural semi-periphery than periphery. Counterurbanization and suburbanization coincided around the larger cities in the same time in South Bohemia.

**Key words:** rural depopulation, counterurbanization, suburbanization, migration flows, rural periphery, small rural municipalities, South Bohemia