

Abstract

This thesis studies the spatial distribution, integration and the diasporic nature of the ex-Yugoslav community living in Czechia and Prague. Theoretical concepts used are community studies, transnationalism, segregation, diasporic communities, and integration. Compared to other ethnic minorities in Czechia, ex-Yugoslavs are generally overlooked by research in social science. This immigrant generation is also the first instance of war refugees coming to Czechia in its modern history. The study of ex-Yugoslavs in the Czech society can potentially be useful for the future (research) of migration to Czechia. The first part of the thesis provides statistical data and a brief history of migration from the Balkans. This is followed up with the qualitative part of the thesis, where 13 ex-Yugoslavs are interviewed as a case study. The responses are coded and interpreted along with quotes. Ex-Yugoslavs display a preference for bigger cities, especially for Prague where they concentrate in the city centre, from whence their numbers radially decrease. The ex-Yugoslav community in Prague displays certain diasporic aspects, a “Yugoslav spirit” and a coexistence among nationalities. Many ex-Yugoslavs came here fleeing war and economic troubles. They have been successfully integrated and many have children, friends, and jobs in Czechia. As time went by the need for community support decreased while cohesiveness and active interpersonal relations remain.

keywords: ex-Yugoslavs, diasporic community, community, integration, Prague, Yugoslavia