

Abstract: Foreigners within Karlovy Vary urban region: spatial distribution and influences on local environment

Due to exceptional migration characteristics of Czechia among CEE countries and entire EU, foreigners are becoming more and more important component of population of our cities. This fact implies the growing importance of foreign population as an agent in process of shaping the lived space. The aim of this diploma thesis is the presence of foreigners within the urban region and broader environs of Karlovy Vary – which currently is a city with one of the highest proportions of foreign population in entire Czechia. Migration characteristics and mobility of population of area are analysed with emphasis on foreigners. Subsequently patterns of spatial distribution of significant groups of foreigners are explained on various levels, based on unique unpublished data from Czech Foreign police office. Then the core section of empirical part is the analysis of influence of foreign inhabitants on the local environment, which stems from detailed field research carried out by the author. The work varies between urban and migration studies and theoretically is roofed by concepts of socio-spatial differentiation and residential mobility. From methodical point of view, the author claims and affiliation to the Chicago school of urban ecology and Prague's Albertov school of social geography. For clear understanding of context is the thesis completed by chapters dealing with development of ethnic diversity of Czechia and characteristics of residential and population structures of Karlovy Vary urban region.