

The dissertation project *Roma on the Czech countryside: Determinants of exclusion, potentials for inclusion* deals with the situation of Roma in Czech rural municipalities. The starting motivation for the author's exploration of this topic has been information about the growing number of segregated localities in rural areas. In the local public discourses within the peripheral areas, this phenomenon has often been explained as the consequence of poverty-driven urban-rural migration. However, as the migration of socially excluded populations into disadvantaged areas stirs a lot of fears and negative emotions that provide a fertile ground for the spread of rumours, the author's preparatory research soon revealed that it is necessary to carefully distinguish between myths and reality.

The author's desire to understand the complex processes behind the emergence of new Roma localities in rural areas required a combination of working methods: The author analysed the national policy and regulatory framework and realized empirical research in five micro-regions in different parts of the Czech Republic. In addition to this, data were gained through the realization of a country-wide survey with two different sets of questionnaires, which targeted rural municipalities with socially excluded localities and urban social departments responsible for these municipalities from the same region (ORP). The author participated in addition to this in a number of research activities in Slovakia, which dealt with the usage of territorial and ethnic data for the evaluation and planning of public policy.

The analysis of explorative research findings from the first research phase allowed to define four areas of research: 1) Data and conceptual clarity, 2) Identification of mechanisms that drive poverty-related migration and housing segregation, 3) Position of socially excluded in relation to the regional labour market, and 4) Usage of spatial and ethnic data for the better targeting of public policies. In each of these areas, the research led to the publication of at least one academic output (2 scientific articles, 2 book chapters, 1 book). While the author chose to present the dissertation as a collection of these scientific results, the dissertation report introduces the reader first to the 'broader picture' by linking the situation of the Czech Roma with the debates of unequal regional development and social exclusion. Using the structure of the defined research areas, this introduction part is followed by the presentation of the research conclusions. In each of the four sub-chapters, the author first presents the conclusions from the desk study and the field research in the selected micro-regions, to be followed by the presentation of the conclusions of the publications included in the appendix. This allows to embed the more specific findings from the publications in the overall research and to relate them to the dissertation project's overall objectives.

The research revealed that the emergence of new socially excluded localities is the result of a variety of factors. While the research documented individual cases of migration of Roma from larger cities to rural municipalities, it also showed that this is not the dominant pattern. More important are processes of segregation that occur within rural areas, such as the segregation of historically integrated rural municipalities and various patterns of migration that unfold within the rural areas. A particular significant phenomenon is 'cyclic migrants', who were described by interview partners as households that are unable to find or maintain stable housing. Linked to the problem of indebtedness and resulting in a high level of fluctuation, this type of migration has a very negative impact on the relationships within the Roma localities and between the localities and their surroundings. The problem of indebtedness is crucial also in relation to the position on the labour market. The dissertation report points also to problematic aspects of the welfare system, which failed to adequately react to the current situation on the labour market for low-skilled work, which is increasingly characterised by the proliferation of precarious work conditions. The last research area builds upon the quest for data and conceptual clarity. Recalling the experiences of Slovakia, where territorial and ethnic data from the Slovak Atlas of Roma

Communities were used to better target public investments to communities with the most urgent needs, the author discusses to what extent such an approach could be used also in the Czech Republic.