

The purpose of this study is to cover the subject of regional and settlement preferences of the Czech population. The study is not only focused on current situation description but it offers time development overview as well. The study describes evolution of the regional and settlement preferences and life values of the Czech population after year 1989. Method used is the representative questioner research done by the Public Opinion Research Centre of the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Faculty of Science of the Charles University in Prague. The research was supported by Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports No. MSM 0021620831 „Geographical systems and risk processes in context global changes and European integration“ project.

The study evaluates regional and settlement preferences under the ideal circumstances and based on respondents actual settlement situation and regional affiliation. From the results of the study the stratification of the regional and settlement preferences with the respondent age are highlighted. Preferences of metropolitan cities and the Prague's region decreases with the respondent age. Statistically insignificant appears the gender variation and the education level in regional and settlement preferences. The evolution of the regional and settlement preferences seems to be more focused on economical reasons. The controversial status of Prague and the attractive provinces of the south Bohemia and south Moravia are mentioned in the evolution results. The confirmed result is the strong neighbourhood effect around attractive provinces, on the other hand relatively weak in the Northwest region. The most important population stabilization factor is the house ownership, on the contrary the most migration motivated are logger respondents.