Historical Geographers in Czechia: Themes and Concepts

Peter Svoboda, Martin Křivka, Martin Ouředníček et. al.

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Urban and Regional Laboratory
petosv.petosv@gmail.com, slamak@natur.cuni.cz
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URBÁNNÍ A REGIONÁLNÍ LABORATOŘ
URBAN AND REGIONAL LABORATORY

Disclosure of historical spatial and statistical data in GIS environment

The aim of the project is to make historical and statistical data accessible in a GIS environment. It requires digitization of state, regional and districts borders, as they existed in the period 1921-2011, for the present territory of the Czech Republic and cadastral areas of Prague. Files in shp format will enable statistical and cartographic analyses of historical data using GIS tools. The statistical database will be loaded with the data of all previous population censuses on the district level and on the level of cadastral units in Prague. Historical population trends and the development of the ethnic, linguistic, demographic and social structure of the Czech population between 1921 and 2011 will be presented in the form of specialized maps, historical atlases of the population in Prague and the Czech Republic, and exhibitions and will constitute an important basis for decision–making by state and regional authorities. A further objective is to apply the project results at all levels of the education system and to present the findings in international conferences and scientific publications.

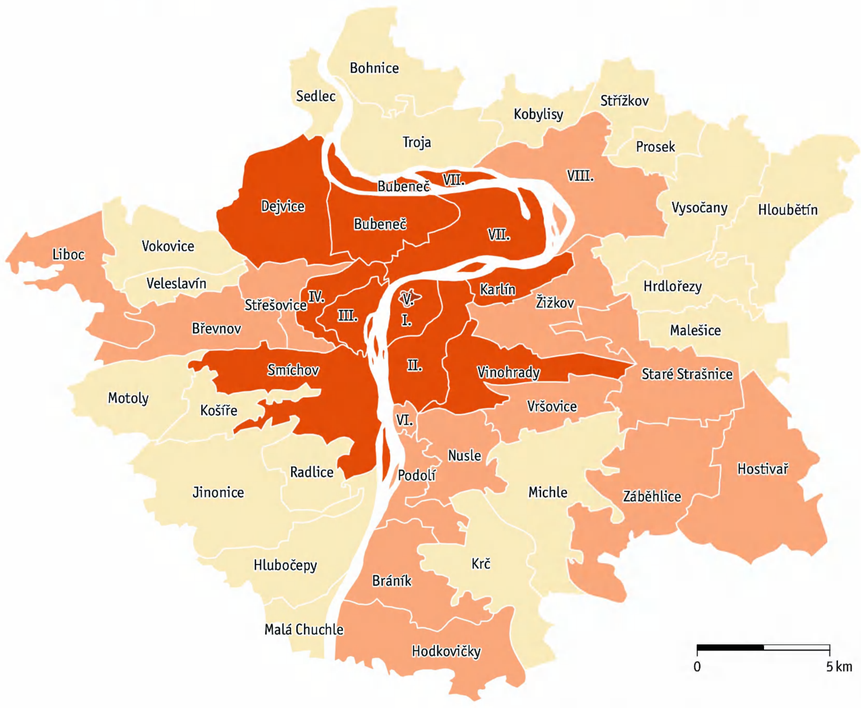
The project provides access to the cultural heritage of historical cartographic and statistical data and scientific texts for a broad community of users, and allows the application of research results in education based on an understanding of national and regional identity and culture. It uses the Geographical Information System (GIS) and internet tools (IMS) to present bilingually (in Czech and English) the historical development of regions in the Czech Republic. This is aimed at a wide target audience of students, experts and national societies, the teaching of Bohemian Studies and the demographic, historical, political and geographical contexts of development of the Czech population from the establishment of Czechoslovakia to the present. It thus contributes to a systematic and efficient use of modern technologies in social sciences in education, both in the Czech Republic and on a global scale, and strengthens the awareness of Czech history within the international community.

HISTORICAL DATA IN GIS

APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

1921 | 1930 | 1946 | 1950 | 1961 | 1970 | 1980 | 1991 | 2001 | 2011

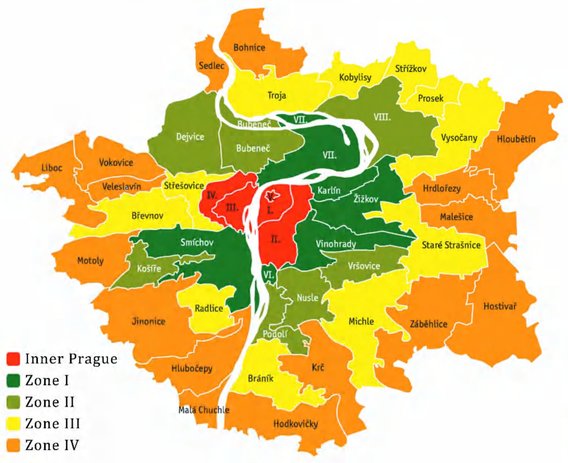
Sample outputs
Maps for publication Socio–Spatial Structure of Industrial Prague (in 1921)



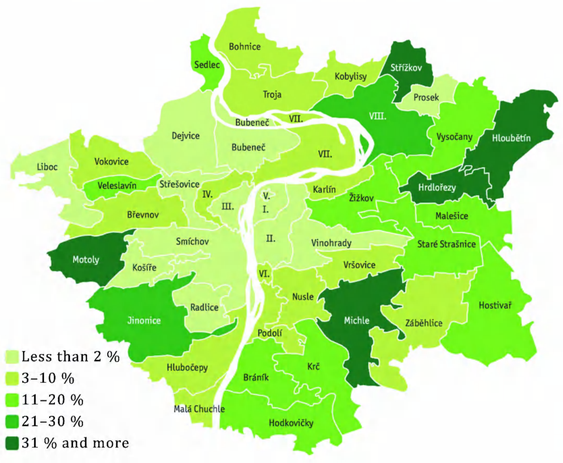
Socio-economic status of great Prague by Julia Moschelesová

very strong | strong | poor | very poor

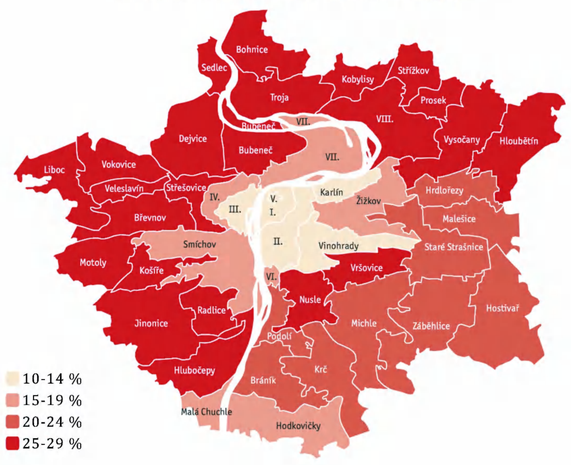
The division of Prague into the zones by Boháč



Proportion of emergency houses in Prague cadastres in 1930



Proportion of children in category 0–14 years old in Prague in 1930 (without domestic servants and troops)



Partial research objectives:

01 Creating a specialized methodology for the creation and use of spatial data

Two methods will include procedures and usage of spatial (geographic) data of borders of the state, regions, counties, districts and cadastral units in Prague, related to historical population censuses held between 1921 and 2011.

02 Digitizing spatial data

The aim is to rescue damaged, incomplete or difficult to obtain maps of administrative divisions in the Czech Republic and Prague from 1921 to 2011 and to make these spatial data accessible to the general public in digital form in a GIS environment.

03 Creating databases of georeferenced data

The aim is to rescue damaged or incomplete data and make available statistical data from censuses held between 1921 and 2011 (which are usually difficult to access).

04 Creating large-format specialized maps

Following the previous two objectives, large scale maps will be created using GIS technology on several geographic levels for the Czech Republic and Prague. The maps will be available to a broad range of users with full use of GIS tools. The maps will be used to document the regional differentiation of identities by using the largest and most comprehensive sources of population statistics.

05 Exploiting project results in practice

Documents will be processed into a form suitable for various levels of education, in order to apply the results in high school and university education and for use in research and administration. The aim is to use the project results to complement existing textbooks, curricula and school materials.

06 Presenting project results

The aim is to make all the project results available to a wide range of users in Czech and English

Research team
Team leader:
Doc. RNDr. Martin Ouředníček, Ph.D.
Researchers:
Doc. RNDr. Hana Kühnlová, CSc.
RNDr. Jakub Novák, Ph.D.
RNDr. Jana Temelová, Ph.D.
RNDr. Lucie Kupková, Ph.D.
RNDr. Pavlína Netrdová, Ph.D.
RNDr. Petra Špačková, Ph.D.
PhDr. et. Mgr. Eva Novotná
Mgr. Lucie Pospíšilová
Mgr. Jana Jíchová
Mgr. Martin Šimon
Mgr. Nina Dvořáková
Bc. Ivana Přidalová
Bc. Martin Křivka
Garants:
Prof. PhDr. Eva Semotanová, DrSc.
Prof. PhDr. Jiří Musil, CSc.

Contact
Mgr. Peter Svoboda
Coordinator of the project
Albertov 6, Praha 2, 128 43
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 221 951 972
E-mail: petosv.petosv@gmail.com

Project information
http://www.urrlab.cz/?naki

Timetable of the partial research objectives realization

	2012												2013												2014												2015											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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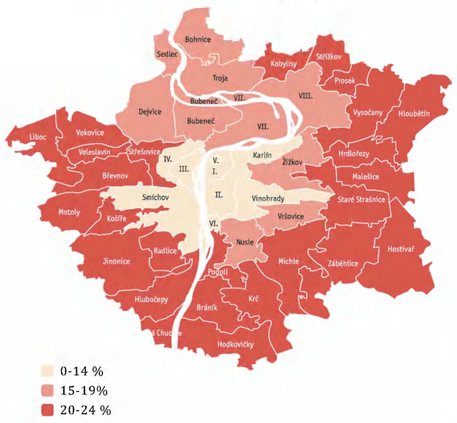
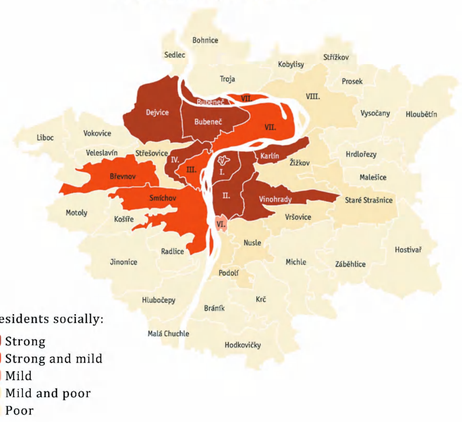
Proportion of children in category 0–14 years old in Prague in 1921 (just girls)



Socioeconomic status of greater Prague by Jiří Král



Share of residents born in Prague (%)

31 - 35 | 36 - 40 | 41 - 50 | 51 - 58

Das Buch der Chroniken und Geschichten, Nürnberg 1493, s. 12-13, © Národní knihovna ČR, sign. 52 A 13.