

# The Quality of Life in the Czech Rural and Urban Space

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Quality of life is currently a frequent topic among scientists, politicians and the general public; it touches on a wide range of scientific disciplines and is discussed in a variety of contexts. Living a good life is an archetypal human desire dating back to antiquity. The level of quality of life for each of us is not only influenced by our personal desires, happiness and well-being, but also by the external environment in terms of where we live. This makes it possible to talk about quality of life as a spatial phenomenon (or a topic with a geographical dimension) with the potential for studying its spatial differentiation – for example, in relation to urban and rural spaces. The objective of the presented study was to evaluate the relationships between the phenomena/topics “quality of life” and “membership of municipalities of the Czech Republic to rural and urban space” through selected geoinformatic and statistical methods; namely to study the spatial differentiation of quality of life in urban, intermediate and rural space. In the case of the former, the objective evaluation of the quality of life (quality of place for living expressed by a set of objective indicators aggregated into a summary indicator-index) from the study by Murgaš and Klobučník (2016), the author’s own evaluation and the study by data journalists from Czech Radio, sociologist Daniel Prokop, Median agency and Aspen Institute presented in the paper by

Boček and Cibulka (2018) were used. A fuzzy approach was used to define urban, intermediate and rural space according to Pászto et al. (2014, 2016). Within the exploratory non-spatial analysis, in addition to routine tasks (calculation of basic descriptive statistics of location and variability, normality tests or outlier inspection etc.), attention was paid to exploring the relationships between phenomena (quality of life indices and the degree of membership of municipalities to rural and urban space) and to advanced exploration of interrelationships at the level of their sub-indicators. Given the demonstration of the absence of a significant global relationship between the phenomena, it was further proceeded to the study of local relationships. The analysis of spatial autocorrelation carried out indicated a tendency for quality of life data to cluster. The LISA method was used to identify relevant spatial clusters. The existence of a positive spatially weighted correlation of the main phenomena indicated an increase in quality of life with increasing urban space membership. In connection with the behaviour of the spatially weighted correlation, it was also found that the highest absolute values of the correlation coefficient were usually not reached directly in the centres of core areas (i.e. larger cities), but in their surroundings. Logistic regression models were used to identify significant and irreplaceable indicators to describe (explain) the phenomena and their levels (e.g. low, medium, high level of quality of life). It was also possible to demonstrate cases where the indicator of the first phenomenon contributes to the explanation of the second phenomenon – and vice versa

(for all of them, let us mention the demonstrated statistical significance of the indicator of the unavailability of kindergartens from the data on quality of life in describing the intermediate space). A key phase was the construction of a typology of quality of life in relation to rural, intermediate and urban space. This was followed by quantifying the occurrence of quality of life levels across the defined spaces, as well as comparing each variant typology against each other. Based on the results of the presented study, it can be concluded that, in terms of the considered objective evaluation approaches, the obvious prerequisite for high quality of life levels are intermediate spaces – probably due to their characteristic combination of favourable urban and rural characteristics (features).

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