





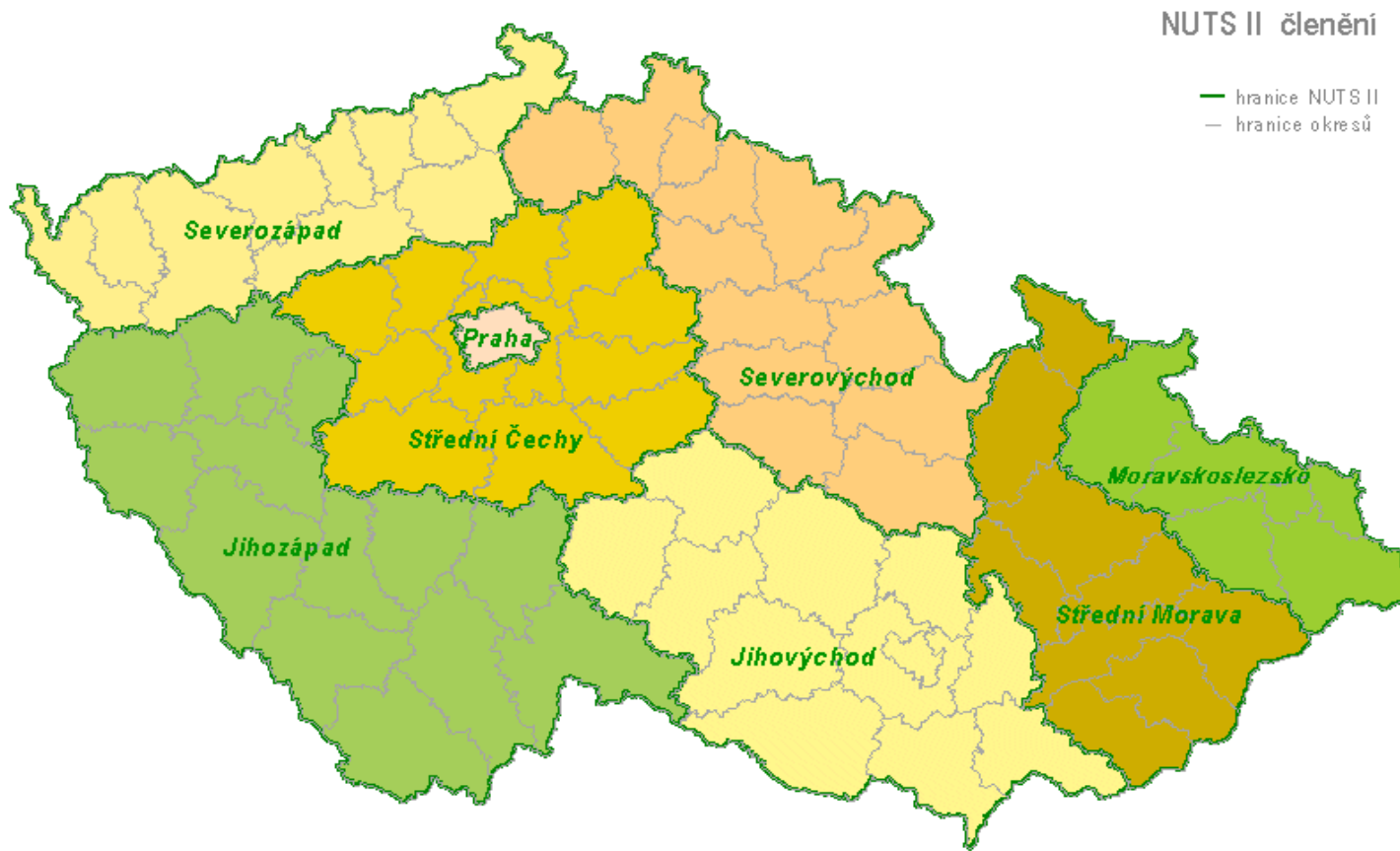




## Regions – NUTS III



## Cohesion Regions - NUTS II



## SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE

### and the Role of Cities

- Fragmented settlement of the CR (high level of scattering of rural settlements pattern)
- Relatively low number of big cities
- Close connection rate
- Process of sub-urbanization (increasing need for public investments, infrastructure, etc.)
- Significant role of small and medium towns
- Fragmentation of territorial and urban development

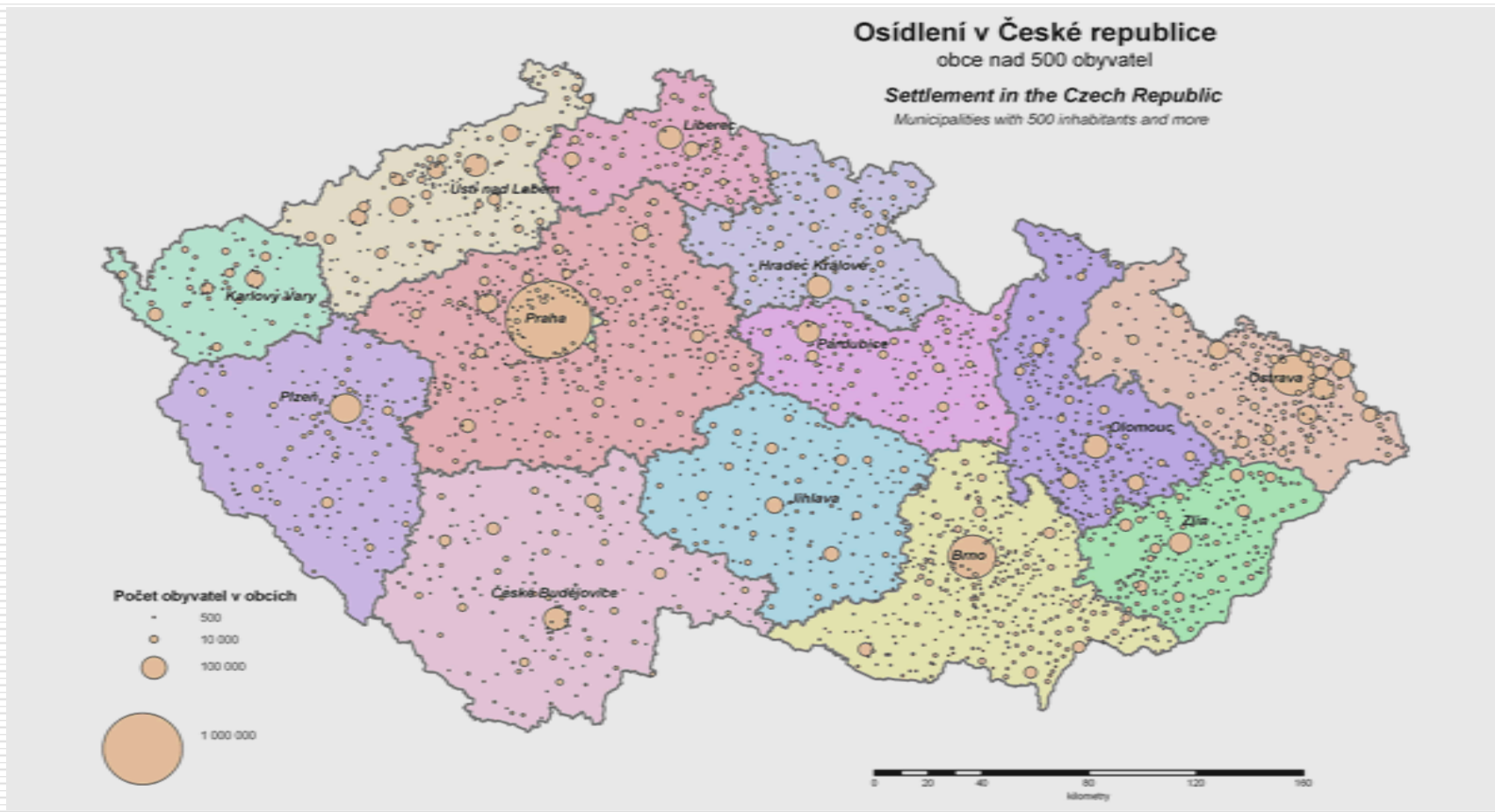
## SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE

### Urbanization and the Role of Cities

- only one city more than 1 million inhabitants  
(capital city of Prague)
- five cities more than 100 thousand inhabitants
- 22 cities more than 50 thousand inhabitants
- 63 cities more than 20 thousand inhabitants

While 5 690 municipalities with less than 4 000 inhabitants.

# SETTLEMENT in the CR– Municipalities with 500 inhabitants and more





## GENERAL OVERVIEW IN TERMS OF POLYCENTRIC DEVELOPMENT

- Based on the Czech settlement, a need for polycentric development is predetermined (incl. territorial administration)
- Territorial differences (disparities) still exist within the Czech Republic
  - monocentric system in Bohemia versus polycentric system in Moravia and Silesia
  - Bohemian and Moravian gradient
  - gravity areas determined by settlement

## GENERAL OVERVIEW IN TERMS OF POLYCENTRIC DEVELOPMENT

- to consider the polycentric development not only between large cities, but also smaller one (hierarchy of settlements)
- Polycentrism is projected at several levels of administration
  - horizontal structure (relations): networks of towns, urban regions and municipalities (developmental strategies, delivering services, transport accessibility)
  - vertical structure: public administration (municipalities with extended powers, with delegated powers and „basic“ municipalities)







## URBAN – RURAL RELATIONS IN THE CZECH REP.

- Overlapping of individual region types
- The small and medium towns play irreplaceable role
- Urban-Rural issues are resolved at „all“ levels
- Basic problem – continuing existence of significant linkages of rural areas to agricultural
- Rural settlement has undergone gradual transformation of their functions





## URBAN – RURAL RELATIONS IN THE CZECH REP.

### Instruments appearing in the relevant programmes and strategies

- Creation of conceptual and development documents,
- Coordination and organizational measures
- Transport and communication networks
- Transport service in the territory
- Information and booking networks
- Marketing and promotion
- Development of urban-rural partnerships



## URBAN – RURAL RELATIONS IN THE CZECH REP.

### Proposals relating to better coordination of urban-rural relations

- Establishment of a vertical structure reflecting hierarchy of strategic documents promoting the implementation of urban-rural relations
- Setting up a systemic framework of the urban- rural issue – a comprehensive approach to territory
- Overcoming fragmentation of programmes financed from public funds and applying the territorial dimension in these programmes
- Promoting research of urban-rural issues





## THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITY 1.1a

### *(URBAN – RURAL RELATIONS)*

- The Mf.RD assumed the responsibility for the implementation of action 1.1a (during the Slovenian Presidency)
- 2008-2010 timeframe
- The objective is to create and promote guidelines and policy measures in order to support the coordination between both urban and territorial development (titled Urban-Rural Relations)
  - “need to elaborate a contribution to support the polycentric development and innovation through the networking of regions and city regions”
- The working group has been established
  - (partners: Austria, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Turkey and representatives of the EC (DG Regio), CEMR, AEER and University of Economics in Prague, and the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the CR)

## CRITICAL ISSUES FOR URBAN-RURAL RELATIONS

### Within 1.1a

- Difference between old and new EU MS in the context of urban-rural issue and its implementation
- Challenge to use best-practices in new EU Member states with regard to specific conditions (confrontation with bad practices as well)
- Stimulation of bottom-up approach
- Binding force versus ways of implementation
- Need to understand the issue as complex topic
- wide scope focus based
- Lack of data at regional and local level

