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COEFFICIENT OF FACILITIES AS A WAY TO MEASURE STANDARD OF PUBLIC SERVICES**Jiri Dusek**

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This contribution deals with an analysis of change of municipality facilities in the South Bohemian Region in the Czech Republic. The main objective of the contribution is to assess the importance of geographic location in the South Bohemian Region and to assess its impact on municipality facilities of individual towns, municipalities and the whole South Bohemian Region using an originally created database of towns and municipalities in the South Bohemian Region after the year 2001.

Considering the current economic situation of the state, it is more than clear that the dependence of towns and municipalities on tax income will only increase and at the same time there will be a further drop in investment activity which will lead to a slowdown in improvements of civil and technical facilities in the region or even to their deterioration. One of the possible solutions would be e.g. better intermunicipal cooperation within local action groups, microregions which would then have a positive effect on development in the region.

Key words: South Bohemian Region, coefficient of facilities, public services, individual indicator.

КОЕФІЦІЄНТ МУНІЦИПАЛЬНИХ ФІНАНСІВ ЯК СПОСІБ ВИЗНАЧЕННЯ СТАНДАРТА СОЦІАЛЬНИХ ПОСЛУГ**Юрій Душек**

Вища школа європейських та регіональних досліджень

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У статті проводиться аналіз зміни муніципальних коштів в Південній Богемії Чеської Республіки. Основна мета статті – оцінити важливість географічного положення Південної Богемії та її вплив на муніципальні кошти окремих міст, муніципалітетів і всієї Південної Богемії з використанням створеної бази даних міст і муніципалітетів на Півдні краю після 2001 року.

Враховуючи поточну економічну ситуацію в державі, зрозуміло, що залежність міст і муніципалітетів від коштів з податку на прибуток буде тільки зростати. В той же час відбувається подальше зниження інвестиційної активності, яке призведе до уповільнення поліпшення цивільних та технічних засобів в регіоні або навіть до їх погіршення. Одним з можливих рішень, яке запропоновано у статті, може бути міжмуніципальне співробітництво в рамках місцевих ініціативних груп, мікрорайонів, яке буде мати позитивний вплив на розвиток регіону.

Ключові слова: Південно-Чеський край, коефіцієнт засобів, соціальні послуги, індивідуальний індикатор.

PROBLEM STATEMENT. Aim of the regional policy (in the context of regional policy of the EU) is to reduce disparities among regions and to ensure their well-balanced development. According of the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, the aim is to create equal chances and opportunities for making the best of their demographic, economic and environmental potential. Well-balanced development cannot be caused by the market only, but also some administrative precautions have to be appointed [1]. The regional policy in the Czech Republic was activated at a time of significant increase in regional disparities at the end of 90's.

The objectives of regional politics are based on identification of main regional problems and on state economic policy. The objectives are specified for shorter time periods so that it is possible to check their fulfilment and assess the effectiveness of the tools used. An example of a specific objective can be the reduction of significant interregional differences within individual regions in employment, average income, gross domestic product (per capita) etc. An example of partial objectives is support of business activity in a region, improvements in infrastructure, improvements in ecological situation etc [2].

Objectives for regional policies usually serve as a basis for the definition of tools for regional policies. A

traditional example of basic state regional policy are investments in the area of technical facilities in regions. Tools for regional policy usually focus on the attraction of capital and business activities into a region, stimulation of internal development resources, additional settlement or stabilisation of population in a region [3].

EXPERIMENTAL PART AND RESULTS OBTAINED. In the Czech Republic, support of regional development was first regulated by law in Law No. 248/2000 Coll. on the support of regional development. Both in the area of content and legislative form, the passing of this law creates a framework for the Czech regional policy. Basically, up until the year 2000 regional policy was based only on several government resolutions. The Czech Republic has thus joined a group of developed countries in which this area of public administration is regulated by law. Obviously, the law was of paramount importance for the execution of regional policy by relevant regional public administration authorities and at the same time created a legal framework for obtaining financial help from EU structural funds. With the passing of this law, the Czech Republic has significantly come closer to legislative framework for regional policy usual in the EU. Since the year 2000, the Czech regional policy has thus been focusing also

on development of business activity and human resources, research and technological development, development of the tourist industry, improvement in regional infrastructure, development of civil facilities, development of social and health services, as well as on provisions related to environmental protection [4].

The development of a region as a long-term process of sustainable improvement depends on a well managed treatment of socioeconomic phenomena occurring in the region. The main features influencing the possibilities of regional development in the sense of active effort towards improvements listed above are economic indicators (budget possibilities and property base), human resources (representatives and employees in a region, citizens and entrepreneurs able to act as initiators and implementers of developmental activities), as well as a developmental “vision”, i.e. a formulation of a desirable state and objectives as a part of development policy. All this, together with a wider environment influencing the conditions of development, such as geographical location and accessibility of a region, town or municipality to communication systems, as well as local technical facilities [5].

The objective of this contribution is an analysis of changes in civil facilities in individual towns and municipalities of the South Bohemian Region. The analyses were carried out using a so-called coefficient of civil facilities which is a synthetic indicator based on data provided by the Czech Statistical Office characterizing the level of civil facilities in individual

municipalities. The coefficient is calculated as a sum of values (0 = no, 1 = yes) indicating the existence of a primary school, a health facility, a water main, a sewer with a water treatment plant and a gas connection in a given municipality. Counted as primary schools are facilities of primary education (so-called nine-year schools); counted as a health facility are separate doctor’s surgeries or detached workplaces, hospitals, specialised medical institutions or other medical facilities. Counted as a sewerage connected to a water treatment plant is piping which leads sewage away from individual buildings and into a water treatment plant. A water main is water piping which distributes water from a public water pipeline. A municipality is connected to gas when it is connected to a gas pipeline which supplies gas from a central source. Compared were data as of 31 December 2001 and 31 December 2011; more up-to-date data are not available.

The biggest change in the coefficient of facilities is recorded in towns and municipalities with a distance shorter than 10 km from the seat of a municipality with extended competence ($\Delta +0.26$), as well as in towns and municipalities with a distance longer than 20 km ($\Delta +0.20$) and in towns and municipalities with a distance between 10-19.9 km ($\Delta +0.185$) from the seat of a municipality with extended competence. The biggest changes in the level of facilities take place in the vicinity of administrative centres of municipalities with extended competence; changes in other parts around municipalities with extended competence can be considered as balanced.

Table 1 – Average change in individual indicators in the coefficient of facilities in towns and municipalities of the South Bohemian Region in relation to distance from a municipality with extended competence

Data	up to 10 km	10-19.9 km	more than 20 km
change in primary schools	0.104072	0.108014	0.095652
change in health facilities	-0.013575	-0.024390	0.017391
change in water mains	0.000000	0.013937	0.000000
change in sewerage	0.108597	0.013937	0.026087
change in gas connection	0.072398	0.073171	0.078261
Total	0.262443	0.184669	0.200000

Source: own calculations

Table 2 – Average change in the coefficient of facilities in towns and municipalities of the South Bohemian Region in relation to the number inhabitants in a town/municipality

Number of inhabitants	up to 199	200–499	500–999	1000–1999	2000–4999	5000–9999	10000–19999	20000–49999	50000–99999	Total average
Total	0.067	0.279	0.550	0.286	0.097	0	0	0	0	0.215

Source: own calculations

If we compare the change in the coefficient of facilities and its relation to the number of inhabitants, it is obvious that in most municipalities there will be no change in facilities. The most significant changes take place in municipalities with the size of between 500-

999 inhabitants; changes here are almost 50% bigger than e.g. in municipalities with the size of between 200-499 or 1000-1999 inhabitants.

With the use of the coefficient of facilities, it is possible to precisely define “problem areas” of a region in terms of infrastructure and to categorize towns and municipalities of the South Bohemian Region. If we compare the change in selected indicators with a significant impact on the development of civil and technical facilities, it is clear that there are tremendous differences between individual regions.

The biggest changes in facilities took place in the region of the following municipalities with extended competence: Vimperk ($\Delta CF +0.57$), Týn nad Vltavou ($\Delta CF +0.50$) and Český Krumlov ($\Delta CF +0.45$). It is hard to believe, though, that in the region of the Tábor municipality with extended competence there has been almost no change in the last 7 years ($\Delta CF 0.000000$), even though the starting level of facilities was at a more or less the same level as in other regions. Almost identical is the situation in the Milevsko region ($\Delta CF +0,04$).

CONCLUSIONS. Considering the current economic situation of the state, it is more than clear that the dependence of towns and municipalities on tax income will only increase and at the same time there will be a further drop in investment activity which will lead to a slowdown in improvements of civil and technical facilities in the region or even to their deterioration. One of the possible solutions would be e.g. better intermunicipal cooperation within local action groups, microregions etc. which would then have a positive effect on development in the region.

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КОЭФФИЦИЕНТ МУНИЦИПАЛЬНЫХ ФИНАНСОВ КАК СПОСОБ ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЯ СТАНДАРТА СОЦИАЛЬНЫХ УСЛУГ

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В статье проводится анализ изменения муниципальных средств в Южной Богемии Чешской Республики. Основная цель статьи – оценить важность географического положения Южной Богемии и ее влияние на муниципальные средства отдельных городов, муниципалитетов и всей Южной Богемии с использованием первоначально созданной базы данных городов и муниципалитетов на юге края после 2001 года.

Учитывая текущую экономическую ситуацию в государстве, понятно, что зависимость городов и муниципалитетов от средств налога на прибыль будет только расти. В то же время будет происходить дальнейшее снижение инвестиционной активности, которая приведет к замедлению улучшения гражданских и технических средств в области. Одним из возможных решений, которое предложено в статье, может быть межмуниципальное сотрудничество в рамках местных инициативных групп, микрорайонов, которое затем будет иметь позитивное влияние на развитие региона.

Ключевые слова: Юго-Чешский край, коэффициент средств, социальные услуги, индивидуальный индикатор.

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