



CONDITIONALITY AS A DISTINCTION OF "GOOD" CITIZENSHIP

LUCIE TRLIFAJOVÁ,
CHARLES UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF SOCIAL
SCIENCE

Between national and local policy level

Proclaimed goals of the policy measures x implementation in the local context

Case study of North Bohemian (post)industrial municipality

- *Field work 2015-2016 in Litvinov (app 40 interviews, media and public document analysis, secondary analysis of statistical data)*
- *Ongoing media / social media analysis*
- *Parallel case studies in surrounding municipalities*

System of support for low-income / unemployed households

Insurance based *unemployment support* (5-6 month)

Means-tested *social assistance* - guarantee of minimum income
(app 70-100 euro per person)

Separate *housing benefits* (2 types)

Social assistance

Majority of recipients are long-term/recurrently unemployed

Origin.administred by municipalities -> since 2012 under Labour Office (centralized system with local branches)

Low public legitimacy, strong negative image of Roma as main beneficiaries

app. 4,5% households in the CZ

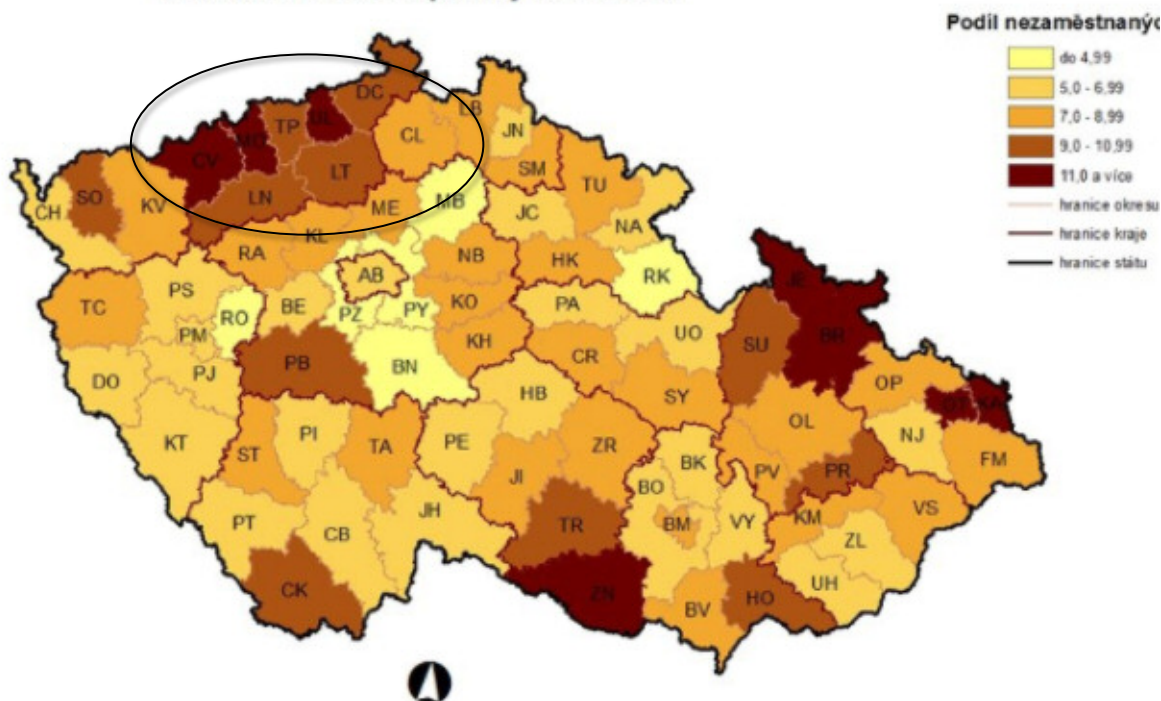
National level

Post-EU accession welfare reforms (2006, 2007, 2009, 2012, 2016, 2017) - tightening conditions of accessibility

- -> savings in social expenditures - *restricting conditions of accessibility, freezing valorization, cancellation of certain type of benefits*
- -> “activation” of welfare recipients - *obligatory public works, (negative) financial incentives, etc*
- paralleled by expansion of restrictive welfare state provision and proactive control of benefit recipients in the *periphery* regions

North Bohemia (post) industrial mining area – case of Litvínov municipality

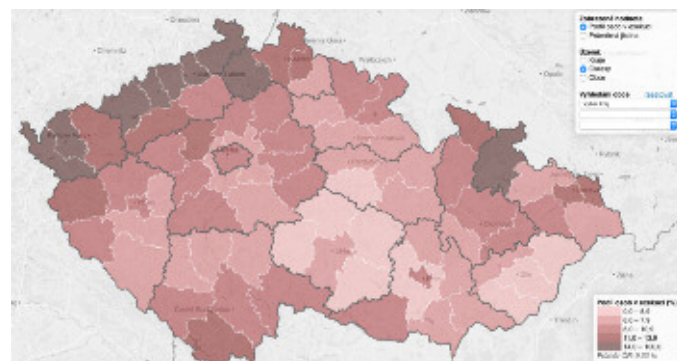
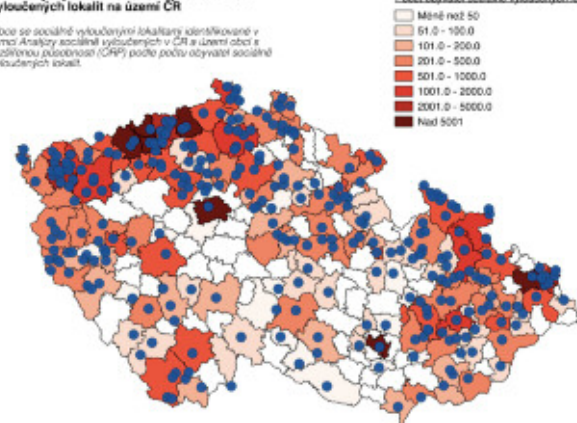
**PODÍL NEZAMĚŠTNANÝCH OSOB NA POČTU OBYVATEL
v okresech České republiky k 31.1.2015**



**Obce s výskytem identifikovaných sociálně
vyloučených lokalit na území ČR**

Obce se sociálně vyloučenými lokalitami identifikované v rámci Analýzy sociálně vyloučených v ČR a území obcí s rozšířenou působností (ORP) podle počtu obyvatel sociálně vyloučených lokalit.

**Obce a výskyt sociálně vyloučených lokalit
Počet obyvatel sociálně vyloučených lokalit na území ORP:**



“Zero tolerance policy”

Introduced in 2008 in reaction to series of anti-Roma riots -> increasingly popular in post-industrial “struggling” regions as the solution to tackling social and ethnic tensions







Centrality of control of benefit recipients / welfare provision

Involvement of municipal police and social department in control of benefit recipients

National legislation	Local implementation
Income-testing	Control and registration of garbage collection
Means-testing	Control of car ownership in front of LO
Possibility of in-kind payment	Targeted control of gambling areas
Size of unit	Joint household controls in <i>Janov</i> , central database

(Pressure on) payment of fees from social assistance

Outcomes

Limited / negative impact on overall social situation

- Increased ethnic tensions
- Physical deterioration of the Janov suburb, internal migration
- Outmigration, increased share of social benefit recipients

X

Positive evaluation by local actors

Increasingly popular as the solution to tackling social and ethnic tensions in other CZ municipalities

Impact on policies on national level

Why are the “zero tolerance” measures so popular?

Discursive framing on different levels

„inadaptable” (*nepřizpůsobiví*) x “decent citizen” (*slušní občané*)

„newcomers”/ „migrants” (*nově příchozí*) x „autochthons” (*starousedlíci*)

> Racialized anxieties merge with the national discourse on the deserving and undeserving poor

> *local policy makers and institutional actors*

> *local media*

> *both non-Roma and Roma and inhabitants of segregated localities*

Recreation of boundaries of belonging through public performances tied to the local administration of social rights (state social policies)

Strong performative dimension

“at least something’s going on...”

> highly visible and symbolic

> impression of control – of population and (public) spaces

- *Benefit provision* serves as contestation of local social order and belonging to the *community of value*
- and demonstration of capacity of *local institutions to execute its power* over the population in the environment of perceived decline and insecurity.

- > Shift from emphasis on efficiency (labour market integration, budget savings, etc) and impact on the recipients to *performative aspect* targeted to general public

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Lucie Trlifajová

lucie.trlifajova@gmail.com

Charles University, Prague, CZ

