

Prague Metropolitan Region

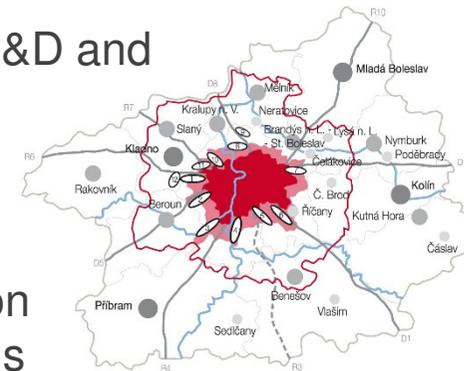
PhDr. Milan Turba, Hon MRTPI
Prague Institute of Planning and Development /
Prague 9 City Council

Prague Metropolitan Region



Characteristic of the region

- Prague metropolitan region consists of two parts – of the capital of Prague (PRG) and surrounding parts of Central Bohemia region (CBR).
- Most dynamic and most productive region of the whole Czech republic (PRG as the core of the region generates 1/4 of national GDP).
- The most populated region (with 2.5 mil inhabitants and 1/2 of all foreigners in CR).
- Highly attractive region for both foreign investors and tourists.
- The core of agglomeration (PRG) is a national centre of R&D and learning and a well known traditional cultural centre.
- The most dense and most used transport network.
- PRG and CBR, especially Prague sub-urban zone, are one living organism with a number of mutual links, common interests, and similar problems. The real major challenge is effective cooperation of both parts of the region.



Prague Metropolitan Region



Main positives

- Prague represents an extraordinary source of job opportunities for its vicinity. There were 122 thousand commuters from CBR to PRG in 2012.
- Benefits for residents of metropolitan region: low unemployment rate, above-average wages, higher household incomes, higher standard of living.
- Metropolitan region is the place for short-time recreation of Prague residents.
- Well-established transport system - Prague Integrated Transport

Main negatives and problems

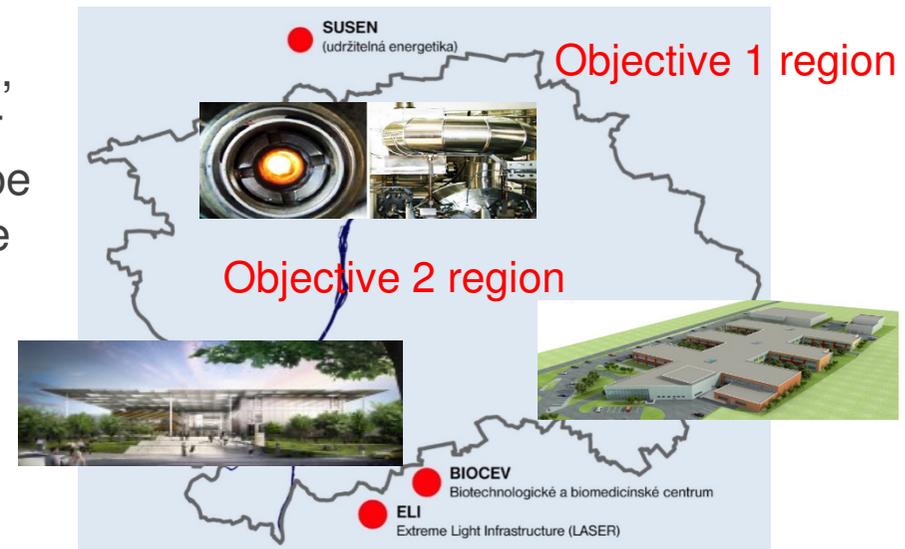
- Fast sub-urbanisation behind the border of PRG, urban sprawl, not sufficiently coordinated projects, increase in the individual car transport.
- Fragmentation of landscape, high losses of arable land of highest quality.
- Drain of young people from PRG, migration of wealthy people from PRG to CBR.
- Some political barriers to the cooperation.

Prague Metropolitan Region



Role of EU funds in the intra-regional cooperation

- Prague metropolitan region consists of two cohesion regions under different Objectives of EU support – CBR Objective 1, PRG Objective 2.
- Such situation substantially complicates the possibility to implement joint projects with support of EU funds.
- E.g. in programming period 2007-2013, financially demanding infrastructure for R&D institutes located in PRG had to be build in CBR closely behind the Prague city border.
- Could the rules of support from EU funds still be modified in such situations?



Prague Metropolitan Region



The main activities supposed to improve urban-rural cooperation

- Establishment of a joint advisory body to interact between PRG and CBR, and if possible a joint work place to prepare and coordinate development goals (focused on transport, technical infrastructure, housing, commercial centres, education, health and leisure).
- Collaboration in preparing strategic and land-use plans.
- Coordinated distribution of major investment which might influence the spatial arrangement and transport requirements of PRG and CBR.
- Collaboration with regional development agencies (existing in CBR and but still missing in PRG).
- Joint preparation of the projects which require funding from state budget or EU funds, etc.
- Joint Integral Territorial Investment project as the first step to future improvement (Memorandum on cooperation signed in June 2013).

Thank you for your attention