



KATEDRA SOCIÁLNÍ GEOGRAFIE
A REGIONÁLNÍHO ROZVOJE
Přírodovědecká fakulta



Diaspora Policies and Social Protection in Czechia

Eva Janská, Kristýna Janurová

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Outlines

- Introduction (project, aims, background)
- Data, Methodology
- **DIASPORA POLICY INFRASTRUCTURE AND KEY POLICIES**
- **DIASPORA POLICIES AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IN CZECHIA**
- Remarks and conclusion

Introduction - basic information

- Limited research in Czechia
- Cca 2,5 mil. Czech people abroad (estimates)
- Key destinations: USA (1,6 mil.); Canada, UK, Germany, Austria, Slovakia
- Reasons for emigration are changing (political, economic, study...)

Data, Methodology

- Secondary research analyses, analysis of law and policy documents, mixed with qualitative method
- Interview with selected experts (Special Envoy for Expatriate Affairs, secretary of Standing Senate Commission, consulate workers)

Diaspora institutional infrastructure

- Consular departments (providing key services)
- Office of the Special Envoy for Expatriate Affairs (at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czechia) – from 1990 and Inter-ministerial Commission for Czechs Living Abroad (from 2017), as an advisory body
- Standing Senate Commission on Compatriots Living Abroad (from 1996), an advisory body to the Senate of the Parliament of Czechia
- Czech centres
- International Coordination Committee of Czechs Living Abroad (in 2003)

Key engagement policies

- Dual citizenship since 2014
- Voting abroad (parliamentary and presidential election)
- Education (language summer courses; teaching abroad)
- Culture (diaspora organisations, festivals, exhibitions, broadcasting...)
- Repatriation and resettlement

DIASPORA POLICIES AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IN CZECHIA

1. Unemployment
2. Health care
3. Pensions
4. Family benefits
5. Guaranteed minimum resources (including homelessness)

DIASPORA – SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Health care

(For nationals abroad possible to maintain to pay health insurance in Czechia)

- Pensions - responsible Czech Social Security Administration

(Paying out of pension benefits to people residing abroad derives from the type of bilateral agreement signed with the respective host country)

- Family benefits

(No special regulations)

Conclusion

- Most social protection is provided in Czechia
- State involvement is primarily in cultural and educational field
- Consulates and embassies do not extend basic assistance, such as help in need