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Russian Cultural Communities within the Czech Republic: Economics, Perceptions and Integration

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Abstract. In today's globalized society, immigration has become an increasingly prevalent issue within Central EU countries, sparking intense debates and discourse across numerous platforms. However, while these issues hold great importance within individual host countries, there is a distinct lack of literature available regarding particular migration flows. The aim of this paper is the quantitative and qualitative study of Russian cultural centers within the Czech Republic. As one of the largest third country national groups within the country, Russian migrants create an important impact on Czech socio-economic spheres. Through an analysis of pre-existing research, statistics, and historic developments, this paper offers an examination of the economic and demographic shifts that have lead to the rise and decline of popular Russian centers within the Czech Republic. The research shows that Russian migrants are primarily wealthy, educated, and intend on staying in the country long term for either education or work. Additionally, the existence of strong cultural communities and negative perceptions by the majority community somewhat delay the process of their integration. By analyzing the growth, demographics, and levels of integration within specific cultural centers, researchers are able to gather a better understanding of Russian migration as a whole.

Keywords: *immigration, Czech Republic, Russia, integration*

Introduction

As a result of complicated migratory trends emerging from the present political atmospheres, the process of international migration has been the subject of increasingly intense political and social debate. Such debates have been particularly strong within Central Europe, resulting in the increasing popularity of conservative parties throughout the region. These trends are connected not only with the Czech territory and population, but with the increasingly polarized views towards migration within our globalized world.

In the recent decade, the Czech Republic has successfully transitioned from an emigration country to a target destination for migrants. As a result of these increased flows, fervent debates are taking place on the political field regarding the opening of Czech borders, the number of accepted migrants, and ways to best achieve integration into Czech society.

Due to the Czech Republic's complicated and turbulent past with Russia, the migration of Russian speaking migrants remains a divided social, economic, and political issue well into the present day. However, despite the common negative perception of Eastern migrants, Russian migration has continued to increase dramatically over the past several years. According to the Czech Statistical Office, there are currently around 35,000 Russian foreigners within the Czech Republic, a number which has been steadily increasing from the 1990s onwards. As the third largest third country national community within the Czech Republic (falling behind only Ukrainians and Vietnamese,) the lifestyles, community demographics, and roll within the labor market all create significant impacts on the greater Czech society.

The aim of this paper is to contribute to the current understanding of migration from Russia to the Czech Republic through an analysis of the shifting social and economic patterns of popular migration centers within the Czech Republic. By looking at these patterns of migration, as well as the push and pull factors which lead to the development of migration centers, a better understanding of the motives, methods, and levels of integration of Russian migrants can be reached. Additionally, this paper provides an overview of the complex historical trends between the two countries and their effects on the policies, trends, and lifestyles that play a role in the changing demographics.

Methodology

A holistic approach was applied during research which compared a wide basis of previous research, statistics, and collected data. In this process of collecting, sorting, and processing data, a number of domestic and foreign sources were used as well as the relevant documentation on immigration law and process.

The quantitative analysis of secondary data comprised a large portion of this research. Finding accurate sources of data on migration is often complicated, convoluted by the legislation of the countries in question. Due to the

necessity of recent and accurate information in order to analyze these issues within the Czech Republic, the primary source of data comes from online statistical sources - The Czech Statistical Office (CZSO), Eurostat and Eurostat Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. Additionally, previous domestic and international publications were used in order to gather information on particular trends - specifically on the more qualitative aspects of migration, including modern lifestyles, and success of integration.

Immigration Policy in the Czech Republic

Since joining the EU in 2004, the Czech Republic's migration policy has been tied to the common policies of all member states. While specific areas of migration are more regulated by EU policies than others (including asylum, external borders, and matters of return), member states maintain a relatively high degree of independence in determining the migration and integration of third country nationals.

The Czech Ministry of the Interior states seven key principles of focus for the country in their "Strategy on Migration Policy of the Czech Republic" (2015). These include: irregular immigration, asylum, the external dimension of immigration, free movement inside of the Schengen area, legal immigration, coordination with common EU immigration policies, and the integration of foreigners. The focus on integration is particularly relevant to third country nationals, and the goal has been met with varying degrees of success.

In entering the Czech Republic, third country nationals may apply through a number of different avenues in order to gain residence within the Czech Republic. Entry through studying or education is a common method of migration for students and young professionals.

In the processes of applying for work or the creation of a business within the Czech Republic, third country nationals are able to apply for either a Blue Card or an Employee Card. As stated by the Czech Ministry of the Interior, Blue Cards are a residential status for long-term migrants that intend to be involved in highly skilled jobs (requiring either a university degree or vocational training of more than three years). These cards allow holders to both work and reside within the Czech Republic. Following a period of five years of consecutive employment within the EU while holding a Blue Card, as well as two years of residence within the Czech Republic,

residents are able to apply permanent residence within the Czech Republic.

In 2014, Employee Cards replaced the previous Green Card system. These are a new type of permit allowing for employment of longer than three months for any type of work - including low skilled employment. While the card cannot be used for longer than 2 years, holders may apply to extend its validity.

Push and Pull Factors for Russian Migration

The key to understanding the current international movement of many Russian migrants lies in the economic and social conditions of Russia itself. Similar to Ukrainian populations, which comprise the largest non-EU migratory group within the Czech Republic (CSO, 2017), Russia's migratory population is largely driven by the existence of strong push factors. These include unpredictable levels of unemployment, and, according to 2017 OECD report on the country, below average life expectancy, basic sanitation, water quality, and air quality. However, while 'push' factors explain the desire to leave Russia, their existence alone does not provide the explanation for their destination of choice.

The Czech Republic provides the pull factors necessary to assuage a number of the domestic difficulties that drive Russian migration. Access to education is a primary reason for Russian migration, with student and educational migration becoming increasingly prevalent over the past decade. According to the Czech Statistical Office, the number of Russian students studying in the Czech Republic has increased by ten times since 2005 (going from 542 students to 5,627). Ludmila Kopecka states in her 2013 report that that the greatest pull factor for educational migration to the Czech Republic is the possibility of studying for for free when the student knows the Czech language.

While numbers have increased dramatically over the past several years, educational migration has been taking place in the Czech Republic for several decades. The first Czech-Russian grammar school and the first Slavonic grammar schools were established in Prague, enabling young Russians to study in the capital. Post-secondary education can be found at the Prague International University of Russia, where students are able to study law, finance, management, psychology, design, economics, spa services, and advertising. According to estimates, only a third of students return to their native country following the completion of their studies (Sládek, 2010). The majority of Russian students either stay in the Czech Republic

permanently or resettle further to the West (Sládek, 2010).

In addition to educational opportunities, economic pull factors are, unsurprisingly, a large impetus for emigration to the Czech Republic. The disaster of the 1990s in Russia, coupled with the 2014 downturn, proved the Czech Republic to be a far more stable economic option.

The existence of family, social, and cultural networks as an incentive for migration also cannot be ignored, as they form one of the most important incentives for movement. According to studies done by Drbohlav, Luptak, Janska and Bohuslavová (1999), more than 70% of Russians migrate with their families. As Sonja Haug (2009) states, migration networks "provide a foundation for the dissemination of information, as well as for patronage or assistance". They make migration easier for those involved through the "reducing costs and risks of moving", and ultimately "pave the way for establishing transnational migration networks".

History of Russian Migration

This history between Russia and the Czech Republic is complex, yet vital to the understanding of the modern migrational trends and surrounding social conditions. The migration of Russians to the Czech Republic has been historically common, though not always consistent. Migrational flows varied between 'voluntary' and 'involuntary' depending on decade. In his book "The Russian Diaspora in the Czech Republic" (2010), Sládek discusses these changes in motivations based on the time period.

The first major influx of Russian migration occurred between 1918 and 1948. Due to the political pressure of the war, the vast majority of migrants were forced into the territory - categorizing this wave as one of involuntary migration. The first group of these migrants were Russian military prisoners who were not allowed to return to their homeland following the end of WWI, and thus remained in the Czech territory. The second wave of migrants were primarily refugees of both WWI and the Russian Civil War, while the third group was comprised of the Russian intelligentsia following their expulsion from their home country. The majority of migrants remained in the Czech Republic until after WWII, when forced repatriation and violent deportation to socialist camps took place.

While this period also saw some level of voluntary migration for the purpose of work or gaining greater freedoms, it was much less frequent. Although the Czech

Republic (then Czechoslovakia) sought to increase the number of Russian intelligentsia within the region, the group primarily migrated to the more prosperous regions of France, England, or the United States.

According to Sladek (2010), another wave of Russian migration into Czechoslovakia was recorded between 1948-1989 during the socialist bloc period. The most common type of voluntary migration during this period was for marriage. However, migration for work was primarily ideologically constructed within socialist countries, and thus workers had little choice in their own movement.

Although it is widely assumed that migration following the period of the 1989 Velvet Revolution was solely voluntary, there are many instances in which migration could be considered involuntary. With the impending collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia's socio-economic situation was in dire condition. Rising unemployment, unavailability of medical care, worsening of accessibility and quality of education, and the loss of social security all left few alternatives for Russian migrants during this time (Drbohlav, Lupták, Jánská and Bohuslavová 1999).

The first and most common reason for post-1989 involuntary migration following was political. A number of Russian migrants living in the Czechoslovakian territory stated in the survey created by Drbohlav (2010) that they had to leave Russia due to either political disunity or oppression created by the new nation. Another common reason for involuntary migration was the prevalence of ethnic discrimination within the Soviet Union. It wasn't uncommon for Jewish citizens to be unable to find work, thus forcing them to migrate elsewhere to find jobs.

Like its counterpart, voluntary migration also occurred for a variety of different reasons during the period following the Velvet Revolution. Economic migration was spurred by the economic instability of the 1990s in Russia. Šišková (2001) states that in 1997, 21% of the population of the Russian Federation was below the minimum living standard. As highly educated people lost their positions or became increasingly concerned about the country's financial situation, they chose to invest their capital in a more secure country and left.

Economic migration can be divided into migrants with funds and without funds. Unsurprisingly, migrants without financial support had a harder start. Although they were typically college graduates, difficulties in documentation or finding employment forced many to spend their first few years at low skilled or unskilled professions.

Modern Trends in Russian Migration

Following the accession of the Czech Republic to the EU, migration from Russia has steadily increased. Today, there are over 35 thousand Russian-speaking migrants living within the Czech Republic, while in 2004 this number sat at roughly 14 thousand. This comparatively large increase is partially a result of the economic growth the Czech Republic experienced during this period acting as a major incentive for migration; the GDP grew by approximately 62% between 2004 and 2016 according to World Bank data. Additionally, the new pro-migration policies and political security following EU accession played major factors in the decision to migrate to the country.

The year 2000 was pivotal in migration from Russia, as new visa requirements for citizens of some former soviet states reduced migration flows. However, beginning in 2004, the Czech Republic saw a drastic increase in Russian migrants. This can be viewed as a result of both the Czech Republic joining the EU and the relative economic prosperity of the country at the time. During this period, the surplus of jobs for unskilled employees caused a high annual growth rate and resulted in an influx of economically motivated migration. This growth in migration reached its peak between 2006 and 2007, when Russian migration rose by almost six thousand migrants in just one year. Following this, the growth rate dropped significantly and began to level out between 2009 and 2014 (CSO, 2016). While migration continued to increase during this time, the economic crisis had a noticeable impact on the rate at which Russian migrants entered the country due to both the economic and social insecurity of the time.

Today, rates following the economic crisis are just beginning to pick up to their pre-2009 levels - although they are nowhere near the massive influx seen in the 2007 period (CSO, 2016). Out of the 35 thousand Russian migrants within the Czech Republic, nearly 34 thousand have held a residence permit for over twelve months and 20 thousand have obtained a permanent residence within the country (CSO, 2016). This seems to indicate that as Russian migrants enter the Czech Republic, they intend to stay permanently, rather than partake in seasonal or 'circular' migration.

Centers for Russian Migration within the Czech Republic

Today, the majority of Russian speaking migrants are located in either the Prague region, the Central Bohemian Region, or the Northwest region of the Czech

Republic (CSO, 2016). While an increased number of migrant populations are not surprising in the metropolitan regions of Prague and Brno, the Karlovy Vary district in the Northwest represents an usual cultural pattern and provides some insight into the purposes, demographics, and integration of Russian migrants.

Karlovy Vary

Karlovy Vary is a well known spa town located in the Northwest District of the Czech Republic, and is particularly popular among Russian tourists. On almost every street, shop, and restaurant, translations are offered in Cyrillic as Russian acts as one of the most prevalent languages within the area. Russian tourism in the region is so high that the nearby Karlovy Vary International Airport offers flight only to Moscow and St. Petersburg. As a major cultural and economic center for Russians within the Czech Republic, the trends of this region provide insight into larger patterns of Russian movement within the country.

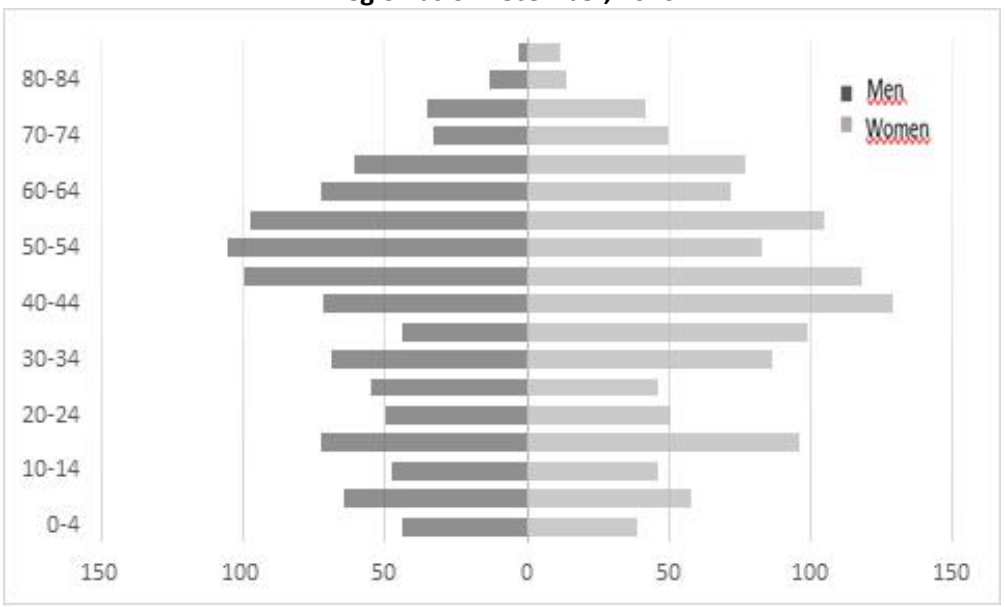
Between 2004 and 2010, the number of Russian migrants in the region increased steadily from 1,198 to 2,571. However, as within the rest of the Czech Republic, the Russian population dwindled following its peak in 2010 during the ensuing financial crisis (CSO, 2016). By 2014, the Russian population had shrunk and in 2016 the numbers dropped to 1,763. Unlike the general Russian population within the Czech Republic, the Karlovy Vary region has continued to see Russians leaving despite the end of the financial crisis and the country's growth in other sectors. What was once the strongest cultural center for Russian speaking migrants has begun to decline. This is in stark contrast to other popular Russian destinations, such as Prague or the Bohemia regions, which either continued to increase or have experienced a negligible decline.

Some of these changes in migrational patterns, as well as the differences in age composition, can be explained by the weaker economic situation within the Karlovy Vary region as a whole. During the 2015 period, the unemployment rate in the Karlovy Vary region was 8.3%. While this is average at an EU level, the Czech Republic is notorious for its low unemployment; in 2015 the average unemployment in the country was 4.5%. Today, the unemployment in Karlovy Vary is the sixth highest of all fourteen regions within the Czech Republic (CZSO, 2017) and 3.9%, and continues to contribute to the diminishing population of the region. Additionally, the Karlovy Vary region has not only the lowest GDP of any Czech region, but also the lowest growth rate (1.8% in 2015). When compared to regions like Prague, which has a GDP growth of 4.6% and unemployment rate of 2.2%, it is not surprising that the

population has been leaving over the past several years.

The effects of these economic changes, as well as the overall economic and labor situation within the Karlovy Vary region, can be seen in both the age distribution of the Russian minority as well as their educational division when compared to larger, more prosperous regions such as Prague.

Figure 1: Age composition of the Russian speaking population in the Karlovy Vary Region as of December, 2016

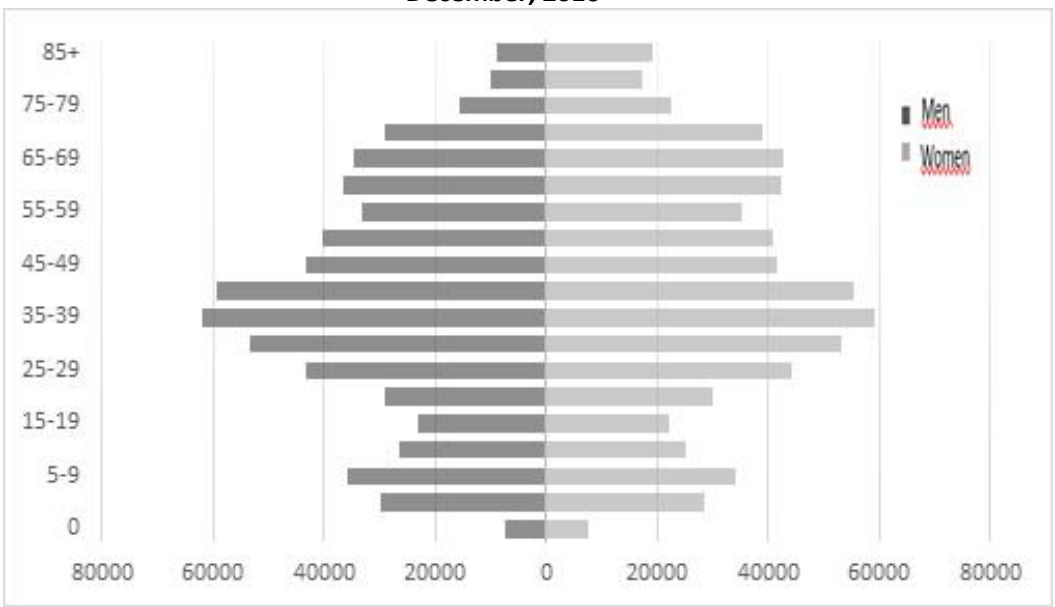


(source: Own graphic based on data by ČSÚ, 2017)

Figures 1 and 2 show the age composition in the Karlovy Vary Region as of December 31, 2016. The age pyramid of the Russians in the Karlovy Vary Region is characterized by the prevalence of 40-44 year old women and 50-54 year old men.

Prague, however, shows a lower age distribution: the majority of both men and women are between the ages of 35 and 39. This difference between the Prague and the Karlovy Vary regions is due in part to the greater opportunities that the capital offers. These economic opportunities act as pull factors for young professionals seeking to start a career. Additionally, Prague provides options for higher education, which acts as a major incentives for young Russians seeking high skilled professions. Karlovy Vary's workforce is aging, and without matching (or at least comparable) economic opportunities, it lacks the necessary pull factors to bring in new workers.

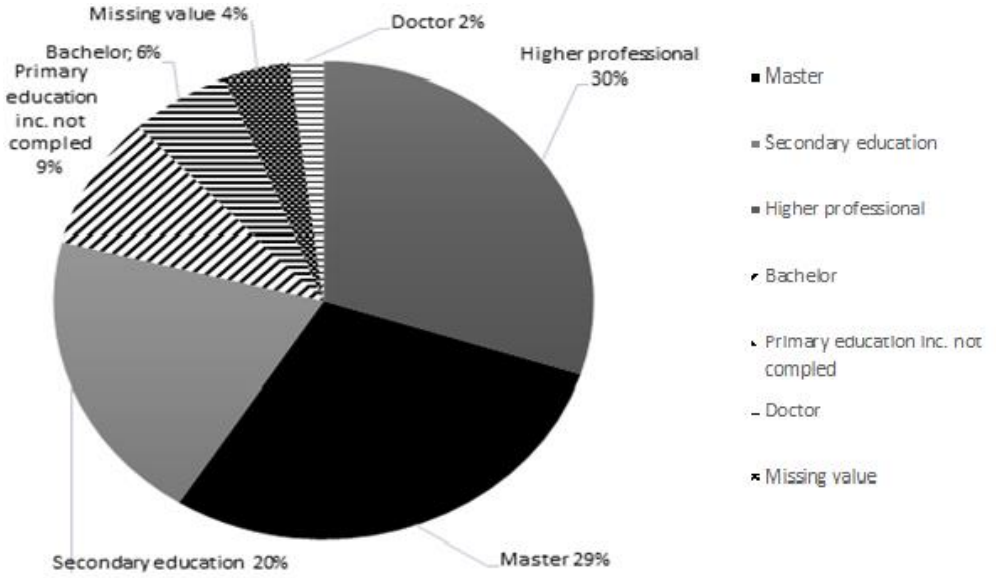
Figure 2: Age composition of the Russian speaking population of Prague as of December, 2016



(source: Own graphic based on data by ČSÚ, 2017)

In addition to the age composition, the educational division of Karlovy Vary provides an important insight into the economic structure of the diaspora. Within Europe, an agreement between the skill set of a third country national and their placement in the workforce is often perceived as a good indicator of the integration into the labor market (Eurostat 2011). Although some Russians are hired as a cheap labor force, a shockingly large proportion of Russian migrants within the Czech Republic occupy positions requiring higher education. Due to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs' transition to a new information system, data is only available up to 2011. The 2010-2011 period was the beginning of the economic crisis, as well as the peak of Russian population in Karlovy Vary over the past decade. Thus, the educational composition shown in Figure 3 does not reflect the subsequent decline in population, however it can be assumed that a number of these educated Russians have since moved to either Prague or other regions of the Czech Republic with better employment opportunities.

Figure 3: Educational Division of the Russians in the Karlovy Vary Region as of March, 2013



(source: Own graphic based on data by ČSÚ, 2017)

As shown in the above Figure, the vast majority of Russians have obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher, with the largest share of Russians having a Master's degree (29%). According to official CZSO statistics, approximately 9% of the Russian population has either only completed or is in the process of completing primary education. In the school year 2015/2016, there were 526 Russian children in kindergartens, 1,377 Russian children in elementary schools, 1,016 in secondary schools, 43 in conservatories and 95 in higher vocational schools. As young Russians either migrate to Karlovy Vary or are born into primarily educated Russian migrant families, many will go on to postsecondary education and increase the diaspora's share of Bachelor's and Master's education. Despite the prevalence of Bachelor's and Master' holders, Russian migrants have the lowest share of Doctorates among either other migrant groups or the majority group within Karlovy Vary.

As the number of Russian migrants within the Karlovy Vary region has significantly decreased following the collection of data, it can be assumed that these statistics have also changed as educated migrants move elsewhere in the Czech Republic. However, this data does illustrate the predominance of educated Russian migrants seeking skilled labor. These factors play an intrinsic role in their ability to

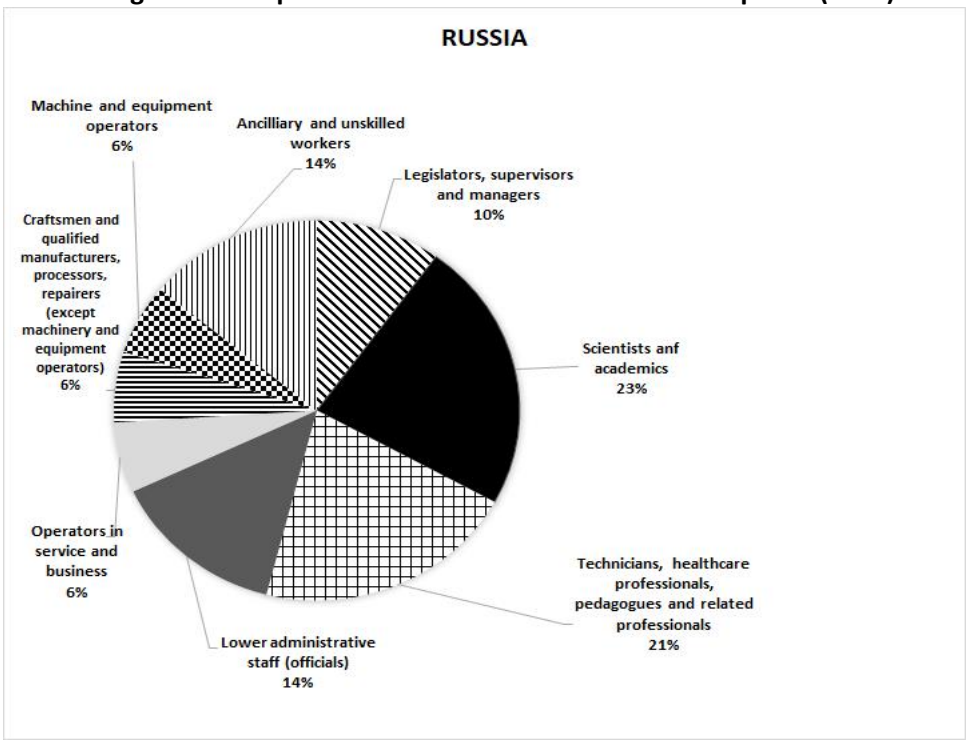
integrate, type of migration, and sector of employment migrants will be pursuing following their migration.

Integration into the Czech Workforce

Russian migrants are able to find employment in a wide variety of sectors within the Czech Republic. As seen in Figure 4, the most prevalent positions according ČSÚ are as scientists or academics. This surprisingly high figure may be due in part to both the high level of education Russian migrants receive before migration, as well as the large prevalence of Russian students studying within the country.

Following academics, the most common professions are as technicians, healthcare providers, and teachers. According to this data from ČSÚ, it seems that educated Russians are migrating to the Czech Republic and subsequently contributing positively to the economic growth within their regions.

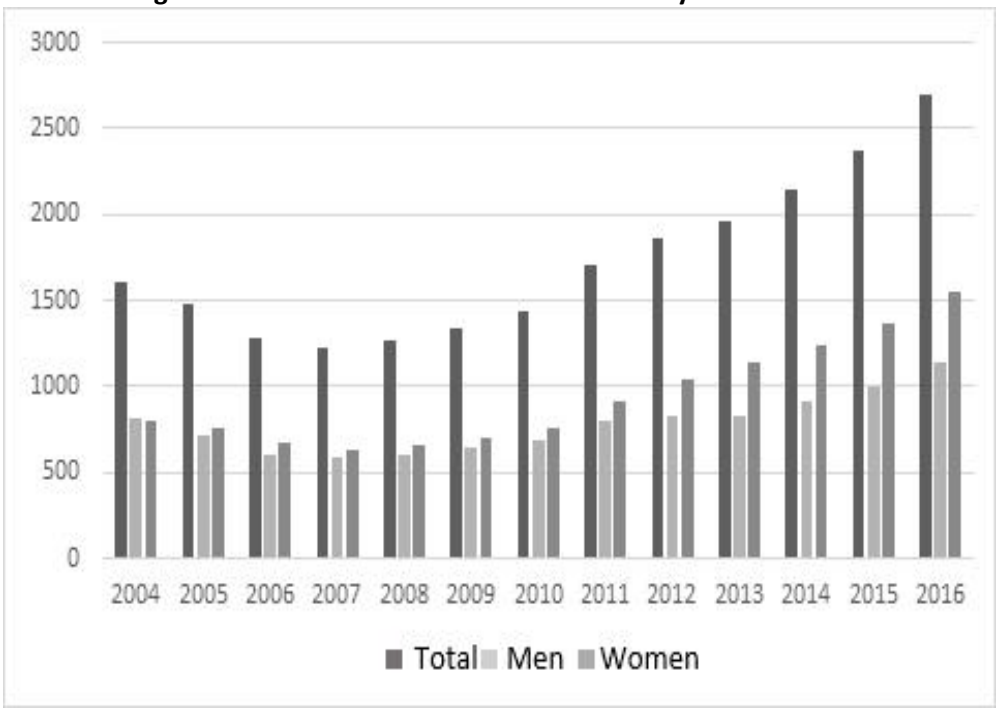
Figure 4: The professions of Russians in the Czech Republic (2016)



(source: Own graphic based on data by ČSÚ, 2016.)

When entering into the Czech workforce, Russian migrants face a number of barriers to integration. According to a 2016 STEM research poll, nationalism and prejudice continue to be a major barrier to entry into the workforce. The continued difficulties with prejudice are perhaps not surprising when taken into the historical context between the two countries. However, they are far from the only difficulty migrants face; language barriers and difficulty with administration all create significant hurdles for migrants to overcome (Drbohlav, 2015). Migrants take a varied approach in finding solutions to these problems. The tactic of becoming a freelancer has become increasingly popular among Russian migrants. Following the population decline in 2010, the number of Russians with valid trade licenses has grown from approximately 1500 to 2700. As previously discussed, a large number of Russian migrants are wealthy, educated entrepreneurs. Some of these migrants seek to start an 'alternative life' within the Czech Republic, while maintaining primary residence in Russia. Others choose to stay, live, and work within the Czech Republic entirely.

Figure 5: Russians with valid trade license in years 2004-2016



(source: Own graphic based on data by ČSÚ, 2016.)

Labor in Karlovy Vary

As of December 2016 there were 55,665 entrepreneurs within Karlovy Vary - of whom only 9% were foreigners. Of these foreigners, 3%, or 185, were Russian businessmen (MPO, 2016).

Despite the diminished numbers of entrepreneurs living within the region, it is evident that there is a large Russian economic influence within the region. This phenomenon is explained through the use of the 'substitute airport' technique by Russian business owners. Sládek (2010) first came up with the "substitute airport" theory, which explains that while Russians own, work, or hold shares in real estate companies within the Czech Republic, they live and spend the majority of their time in Russia. The creation of this "alternative life" within the Czech Republic is appealing to many wealthy Russians.

After 1989, Karlovy Vary began struggling due to a lack of finances. In response, Russian foreigners began arriving and bought the failing spa town's spas and residential buildings through Czech companies. Through these investments, wealthy Russians increased their own representation, entered into privatization, provided for their own second homes, and helped to reconstruct the spa zones (Fiedlerova, 2015). Additionally, during this time the Czech Republic entered the Schengen area. According to Šimon Stiburek, a researcher at the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague, the free movement of goods and services provided easier access to Western markets, further incentivizing Russian migration and entrepreneurship.

The majority of Russians living in this region work within the retail, accommodation, or real estate sectors. Due to the fact that the Russian population owns several of the resort spaces within the district, their predominance in these fields is not surprising.

In Karlovy Vary, workers receive the lowest salaries of anywhere within the Czech Republic. However, the real estate and accommodation sectors - which Russians dominate - are some of the highest paid. Despite being the lowest earning region, Russians within Karlovy Vary actually exceeded the average earnings within the Czech Republic between 2012 and 2015 (CSU, 2017).

Figure 6: The average monthly salary in the Czech Republic for an employee (in CZK)

Year	Czech Republic	Karlovy Vary	Russians in Karlovy Vary
2012	25 109	21 274	26 365
2013	25 128	20 991	28 079
2014	25 686	21 938	30 120
2015	26 467	22 750	32 067
2016	27 589	23 096	not available
2017	29 050[2]	23 807	not available

(source: Own proceeding based on data from ČSÚ 2017)

Integration into Czech Society

In Karlovy Vary there is a certain segregation of Russian migrants in the economy, as Russians employ workers of their "own" ethnicity and thus create an "ethnic economy" (Drbohlav, 2011). Additionally, the majority of Russian residents and Russian-owned businesses are concentrated in one location near the center of the city. However, as Drbohlav points out, in Prague these housing and economic concentrations of a single minority group do not exist. This indicates that these social developments may not be in response to the behavior of the majority group, but instead be based on internal desires of the Russians themselves. The status of many Russian migrants in this region as educated, comparatively wealthy, and business owners greatly effects their levels of integration. While less wealthy or non-entrepreneurial migrants may join a mixed-language job, or go to university which would encourage the use of the Czech language as well as social integration, the status of business owners and workers in Karlovy Vary does not necessitate these steps to integration. This, along with the large influx of Russian tourism, has resulted in the partial isolation and lack of integration within the Karlovy Vary district.

Czech Perception of Russian Migrants

As Drbohlav states in his analysis of the Russian community, it is crucial to recognize the history of Russian-Czech relations when evaluating the position of

Russians in Czech society. Due to the Soviet occupation of the Czech Republic up until the late 1980s, the view of Russian migrants are often still viewed negatively by the general public.

According to a survey carried about STEM, there is still a substantial part of the Czech population - approximately 50% - that would have issues with having a Russian neighbor. However, despite this relatively high number, acceptance of Russians within the Czech Republic is currently at an all time high. When asked to what degree having a Russian neighbor would be an issue, approximately 50% of respondents stated that it would be "no problem". In contrast, 33% said that it "would be unpleasant", and 13% stated it "would be difficult". 4% of respondents said that having a Russian neighbor would be "completely unacceptable". While substantial progress is being made, it is still far from enough to erase decades of animosity between the two groups.

Conclusion

Despite the lack of integration, the vast majority of Russian migrants are highly educated, skilled workers who intend on remaining in the Czech Republic rather than returning to their home country. In addition to a large percentage of scientists, academics, and healthcare providers, there is a growing prevalence of entrepreneurs - Russians who obtain a trade license and open up their own businesses here in the Czech Republic. Students also constitute a major demographic in Russian migration, with the number of Russians studying in the Czech Republic increasing by over ten times since 2005.

The existence of an established and ever growing Russian ethnic minority in the Czech Republic has helped to facilitate and encourage increased movement through the provision of information, emotional support, cultural recognition, and economic sustainability. For the Russian migrants within the Czech Republic, this community has been incredibly influential to their integration - or lack thereof. Due to the prevalence of the cultural community within some parts of the Czech Republic (specifically Karlovy Vary and some parts of Prague), integration is not seen as strongly as in more 'diluted' areas.

The two most common regions for Russians to migrate to - Karlovy Vary and Prague - have experienced large economic and social shifts over the past several decades. Following the 1989 Velvet Revolution, Russian foreigners began importing

money to Karlovy Vary, and financed the failing town's spas and residential buildings through Czech companies. This helped to increase the community's economic and social dominance within the region. The majority of Russians living in in the region work within the retail, accommodation, or real estate sectors. Due to the fact that the Russian population owns several of Karlovy Vary's resort spaces, their prevalence in the real estate, retail and accommodation sectors is significant; although Karlovy Vary is the lowest earning district, Russians within the district exceeded the average Czech earnings between 2012 and 2015.

While this paper offers an overview of the immigration process from Russia to the Czech Republic, it is by no means an exhaustive exploration into the dynamics of this immigration community. Instead, it acts as an examination at the most pertinent trends of Russian migration since 2004, as well as a historical outline of this flow throughout the past several decades. Despite the significance of this community within the Czech economic and social structure as a whole, as well as its relevance to international socio-economic trends, very little research has been done on the subject of the economic and social shifts of common migrational centers; this paper contributes to that small pool. Based on the current patterns and available research, and relevant statistical analysis, it seems that the trend of increasing Russian migration is likely to continue into the foreseeable future. However, in order to achieve a full understanding of the many facets of Russian migration, this work concludes that the analysis (or indeed, the creation) of other sources, as well as the facilitation of new studies of both the majority and minority population are necessary

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