



# **DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY** of the Olomouc Region





This publication is focused on introducing the basic characteristics of the Olomouc Region. The individual topics within the document are structured according to the medium-term priorities of the Development Strategy of the Olomouc Region. This way, the reader can get acquainted with the conditions of the given priorities as well as the challenges that the Olomouc Region aims to solve.

The Development Strategy of the Olomouc Region for the period 2021-2027 is an overarching conceptual document determining the long-term vision, strategic objectives and long-term and medium-term priorities for the development of the Olomouc Region.

## **Vision: A Vital Region with a High Quality of Life.**

**A Green and Resilient Olomouc Region** – Working together with the support of urban and rural areas to achieve a higher environmental quality.

**Entrepreneurial and Competitive Olomouc Region** – Strengthening economic growth through business motivation, innovation and services for entrepreneurs.

**A Talented and Cohesive Region** – Developing quality services and investing in the education and personal development of people in the Region.

The document has been drawn between the years 2019 and 2020. In September 2020, the Strategy was approved by the Regional Council of Representatives of the Olomouc Region.

The meetings of three Expert Working Groups have proven to be crucial in the preparation of the Strategy. In total, two rounds of meetings of Expert Working Groups have taken place. In addition to the Regional Office, the participants included the Statutory City of Olomouc, the RIS3 Manager, the CzechInvest Agency, the Agency for Nature and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic and others. The Strategy has also undergone an environmental impact assessment.

The Strategy includes all the main areas of regional development. Every year in April, an evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy is presented to the Regional Council of Representatives of the Olomouc Region. By the end of the year, a multi-year action plan is drawn up, which includes both planned projects, as well as projects that are only being considered. These documents can be used by municipalities in planning their investments. The individual conclusions and outputs can be found on the official website of the Olomouc Region [www.olkraj.cz](http://www.olkraj.cz) in the section dedicated to regional development.



# REGION CHARACTERISTICS



In the preparation of the publication, several sources have been used, most often the Statistical Yearbook of the Olomouc Region published by the Czech Statistical Office (ČSÚ), which is largely based on data for 2022.

The Olomouc Region occupies an area of 5,272 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 6.7% of the area of the Czech Republic. As of 31 December 2023, over 632,000 inhabitants lived in the Region, i.e. about 5.8% of the population of the Czech Republic. The Olomouc Region is thus comparatively one of the medium-sized regions in the Czech Republic.

In the north, the Olomouc Region shares a 104 km long border with the Republic of Poland. The territory of the Region stretches south and extends to Central Moravia. The Region is naturally divided into a northern mountainous part and a southern flatter part.

Although the two highest Moravian mountain ranges (Hrubý Jeseník and Kralický Sněžník) extend into the Olomouc Region, their highest peaks lie beyond the border of the Olomouc Region. The border with the Moravian-Silesian Region passes near the top of the Praděd Mountain (1492 m above sea level), which is also the highest mountain of the Olomouc Region.

A prominent feature in the southern part of the Region is the Morava River and its tributaries. Near the town called Kojetín, where the Morava River flows out of the Olomouc Region, we can find the Region's lowest point at approximately 190 m above sea level. The Odra River, an important European watercourse, originates in the Olomouc Region. The flow of the Odra River increases predominantly in the Moravian-Silesian Region and

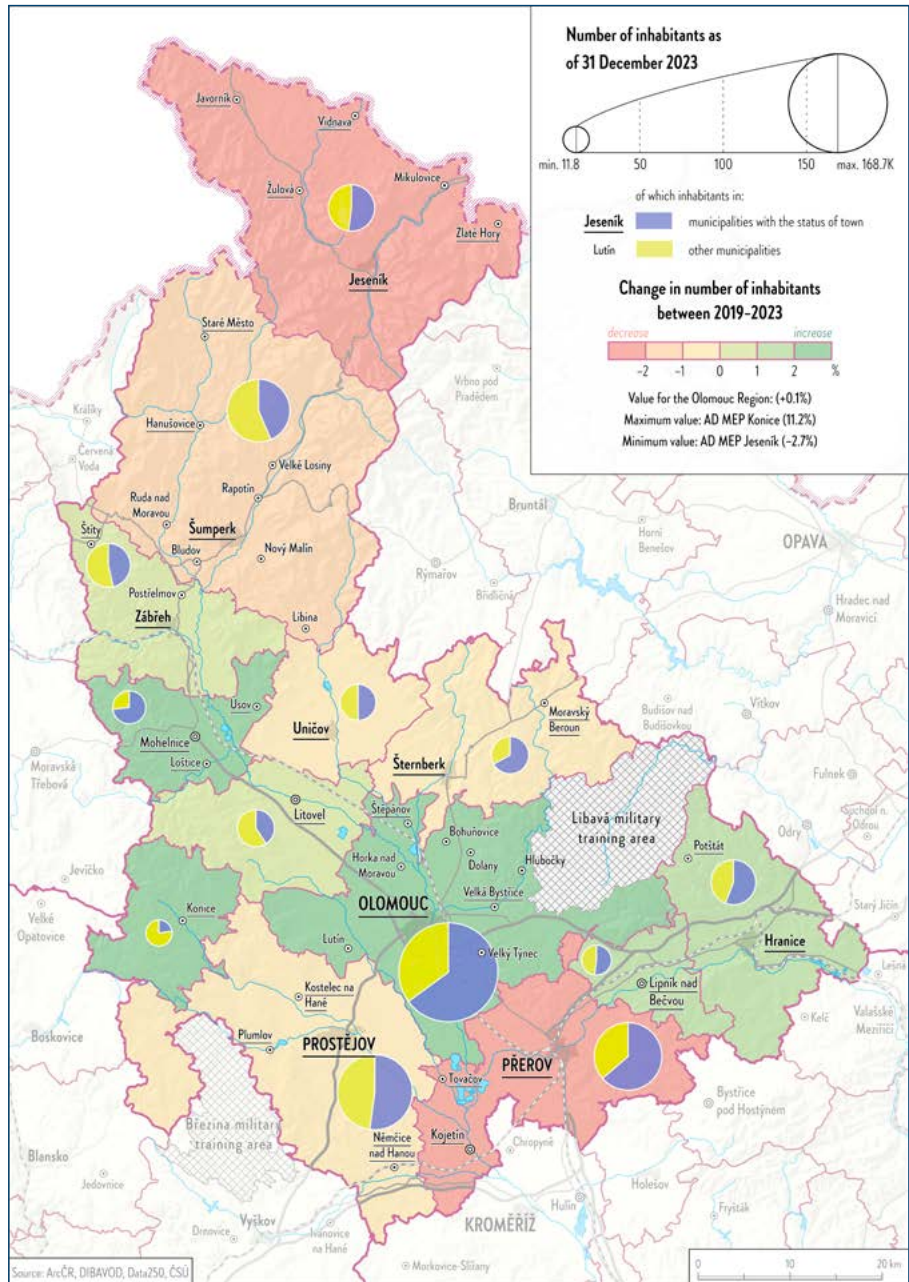
in Poland, and finally flows into the Baltic Sea near Szczecin.

The regional capital is the Statutory city of Olomouc with approximately 100,000 inhabitants. From an administrative point of view, the Region is divided into 13 administrative districts of Municipalities with Extended Powers (MEP), as can be seen on the map.

The population in the Olomouc Region is decreasing. This phenomenon is a consequence of the natural decrease in population – fewer children are born than people die, and of a decrease in population due to people moving away from the Region. In addition, the overall population is also aging, which is a phenomenon that applies to the entire Czech Republic and most of Europe.



# REGION CHARACTERISTICS



The aging of the population is expressed by the so-called *Ageing Index*, which is the number of people aged 65 and over per the number of children under 15 years of age. As of 31 December 2023, the Ageing Index of the Czech Republic stands at about 129. This means that for every 100 children, there have been 129 seniors at the time. The Ageing Index of the Olomouc Region has been measured at a value of about 140. The cartogram shows the situation in the individual Municipalities with Extended Powers (MEP) of the Olomouc Region.

The age composition of the population is shown in the following "age pyramid". According to the data, further ageing of the population can be expected.

The Olomouc Region is quite diverse and offers very different living conditions, which makes it all the more difficult to create one conceptual strategy that aims to develop the entire Olomouc Region and to balance all the regional differences. The Development Strategy of the Olomouc Region sets out seven long-term priorities, we used to document the situation in the Region.

## A. ECONOMY AND INNOVATION

## B. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

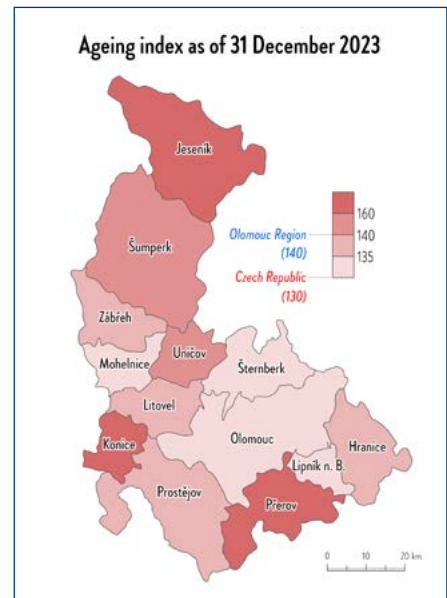
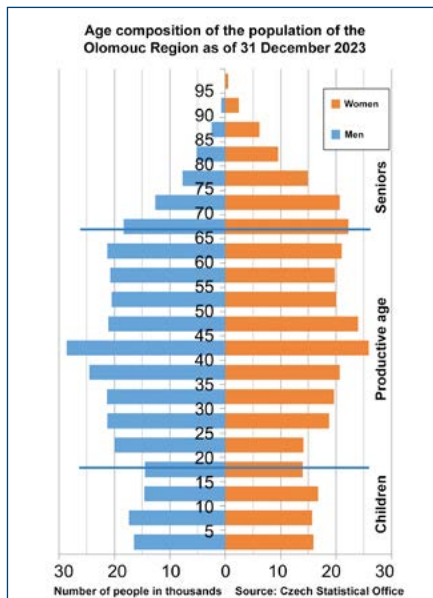
## C. THE ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

## D. HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

## E. SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

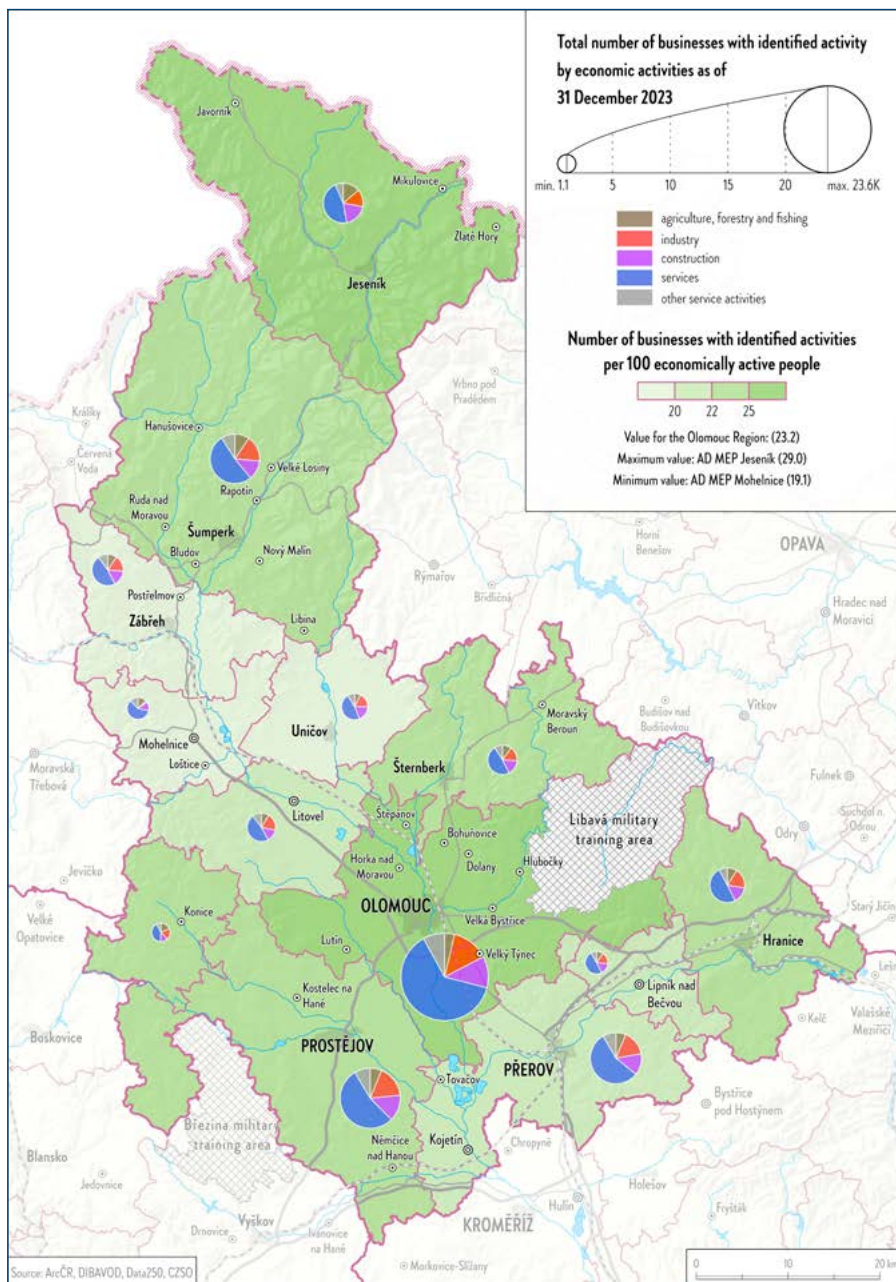
## F. SPORT, CULTURE AND TOURISM

## G. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY



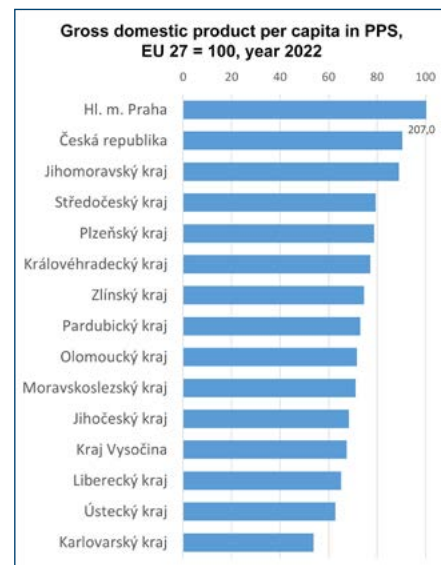


# A. ECONOMY AND INNOVATION



One of the foundations for the development of the Region is a functioning economy. As of 31 December 2023, there were over 73,000 economic subjects with identified economic activity in the Olomouc Region. The number of economic subjects has grown in recent years. In 2022, these economic entities have generated a gross domestic product of approximately CZK 318.8 billion, which represents a value of CZK 503,709 per capita.

For comparison within the European Union, gross domestic product is related to what money can buy in each country (an economic term called purchasing power parity), with the EU average value being 100. The only Region that exceeds this EU average in the Czech Republic is the capital city of Prague. The average for the Czech Republic and the values for the other Regions are below the EU average. In terms of economic performance, the Olomouc Region has the 6th lowest performance among the Regions, with only the regions on the border with Germany (except for the Pilsen Region) and the Vysočina Region performing worse.



Industrial enterprises with more than 100 employees in 2022	Revenues (CZK million)	Average gross monthly wage (in CZK)
Manufacture of electrical equipment	35,326	39 453
Manufacture of metal structures and products	16,936	38 565
Manufacture of food products	16 355	32 640
Manufacture of machinery and equipment	14 668	40 479
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	10 152	35 545
Manufacture of motor vehicles	9 347	34 306
Manufacture of other vehicles and equipment	8 737	44 218

Source: Czech Statistical Office

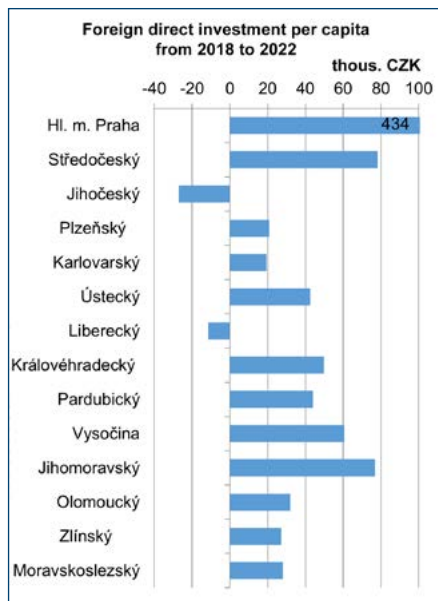
In 2022, there have been 145 active industrial companies with more than 100 employees in the Region. Revenues of these enterprises exceeded CZK 168 billion with more than 45,000 employees actively participating. About two-thirds of the revenue have been obtained from exports. In general, in terms of production volume, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering are the most important sectors. Other important sectors include the manufacture of transport equipment, metalworking, food processing and plastics manufacture. The largest companies in the Region are HELLA AUTOTECHNIK, Miele Technika, Mubea and Sladovny Soufflet.

# A. ECONOMY AND INNOVATION

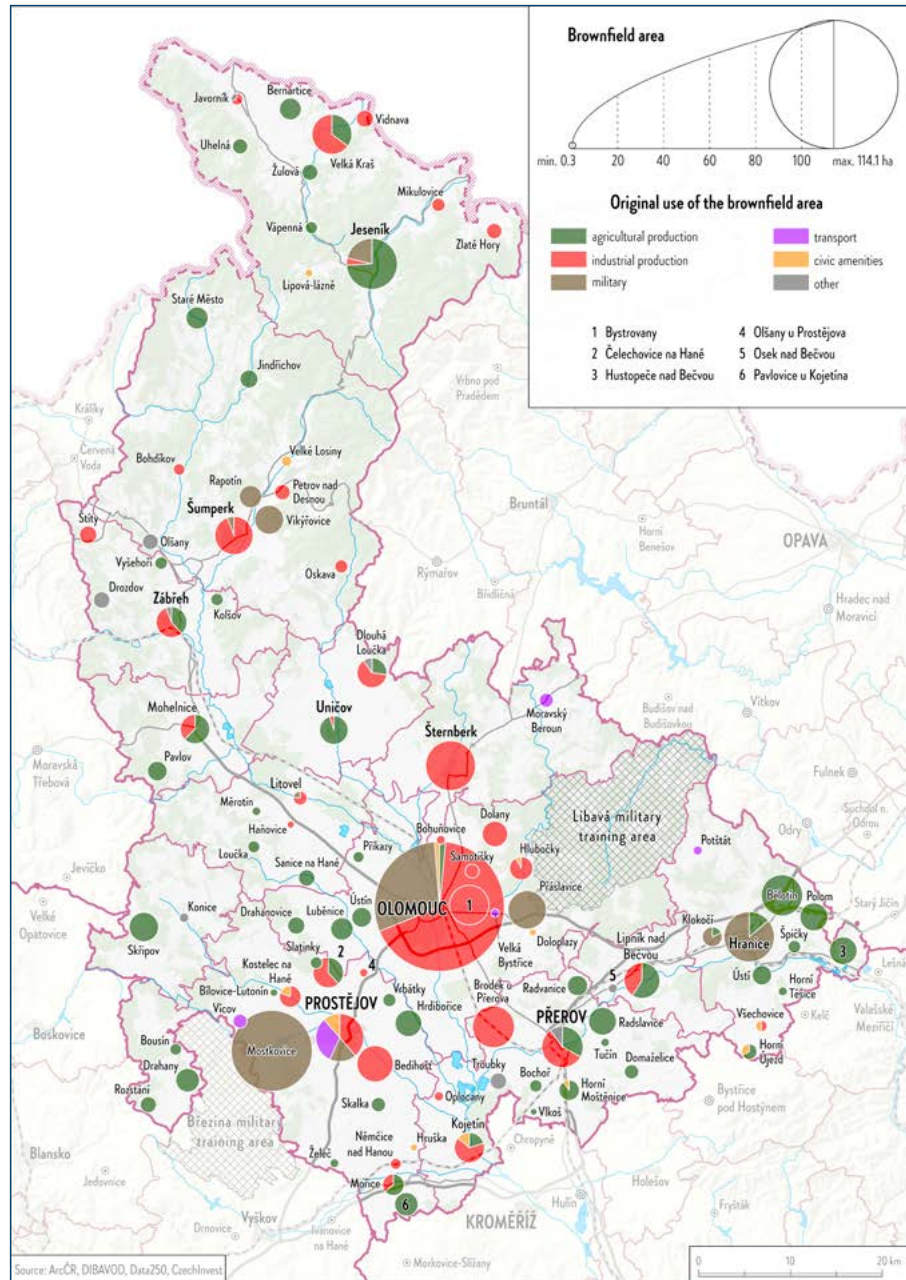
The support of businesses and enterprises is heavily regulated by the European Union. The main instruments intended to support business activities are managed on state level. First and foremost, there is the Ministry of Industry and Trade and its established agencies: the CzechInvest Agency and the Agency for Enterprise and Innovation, focusing on European subsidies. The CzechInvest Agency manages a wide range of activities, focusing on comprehensive support for business activities, technological innovation and investment at regional, national and international level. At the same time, it facilitates state investment incentives.

The Czech National Bank oversees the overall record of financial flows. One of the outputs is the financial balance on investments by foreign countries, the so-called foreign direct investments. This is a long-term balance report of the number of investments that have arrived in the Czech Republic and investment that have been sent abroad from the Czech Republic.

Foreign direct investments have been tracked cumulatively since the founding of the Czech Republic in 1993. The main influx of investments has been recorded at the turn of the millennium. In recent years, a noticeable outflow of investments from the Czech Republic has been recorded in some sectors. This outflow can be either the withdrawal of original foreign investments (transfer of profit, sale to a Czech entity, etc.), or, on the contrary, investments by Czech entities in foreign countries. Most of the investments are directed to businesses located in the capital. The attached graph shows the recent situation in more detail.



New investments are an important area of focus for the Olomouc Region in developing



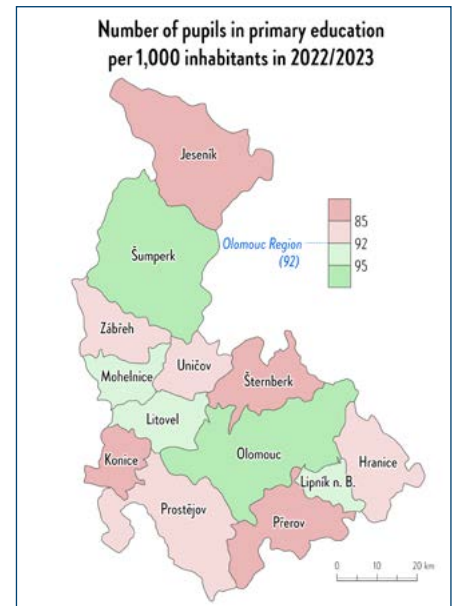
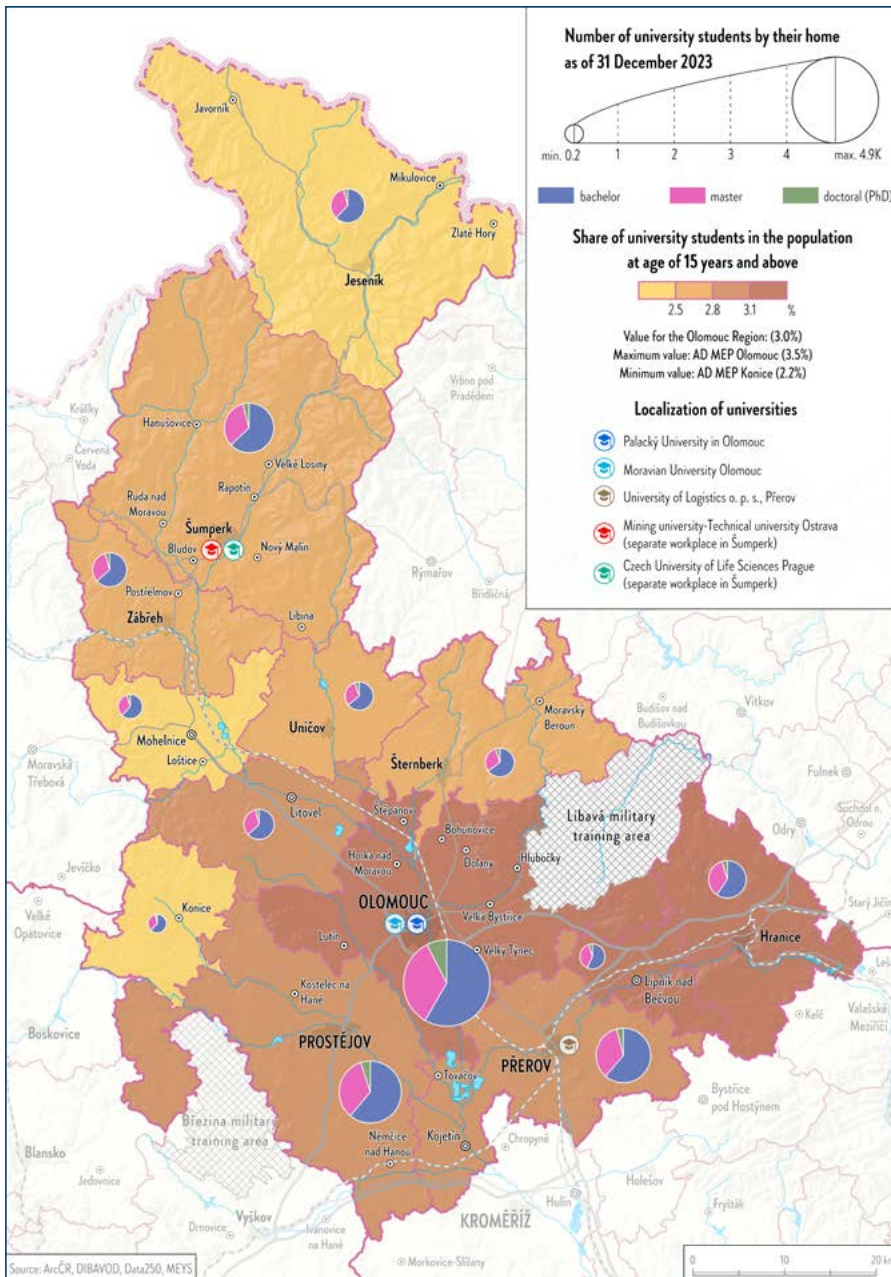
new business activities. For this purpose, the Region cooperates with the CzechInvest Agency, the Employment Office of the Czech Republic, cities, municipalities, employers' associations and other actors. This way, the Region can provide businesses with information about business real estate, support on the labour market, etc.

The Olomouc Region also tries to support innovation. The main activities of the Region in this area are carried out within the Innovation Centre of the Olomouc Region. The Innovation Centre supports research and development and its application in practice. The Innovation Centre establishes partnerships between companies and investors, between the public, private, academic and non-governmental non-profit sectors in areas concerning innovation.

In 2022, there have been 2,288 workers in the field of research in the Olomouc Region. Expenditure within the science and research sector in the Region exceeded CZK 5.8 billion, which amounted to 1.84% of the region's gross domestic product and was the fifth highest value among all the regions. The Region's most important entity in the field of research is the Palacký University Olomouc and its affiliated research centres.



## B. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



other hand, the emptiest school desks are to be found in Konice, Jeseník and Přerov districts.

For secondary school students, commuting is assumed to a certain extent, so there are more significant differences. Secondary schools are concentrated in larger centres and in areas with more developed industry. The cartogram also shows significant commuting from Konice, Litovel and Šternberk districts.

Higher education no longer reflects the situation in the Region, as for university students, commuting or temporary living in the place of study is assumed. The most important university is the Palacký University Olomouc, which is attended by over 20,000 students studying across eight faculties. There are also two private universities in the Region: College of Logistics (about 500 students) and Moravian Business College (about 400 students). Due to the demand

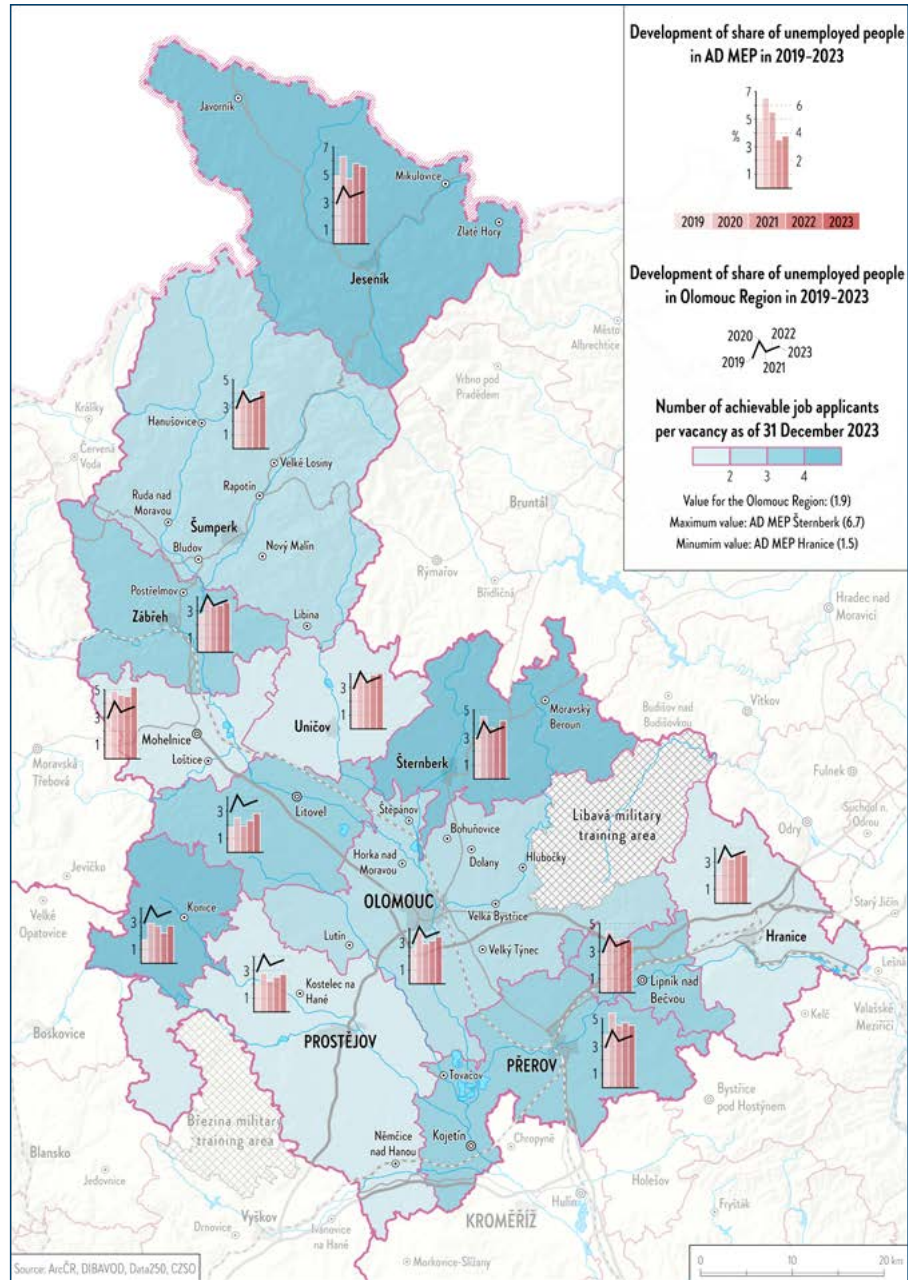
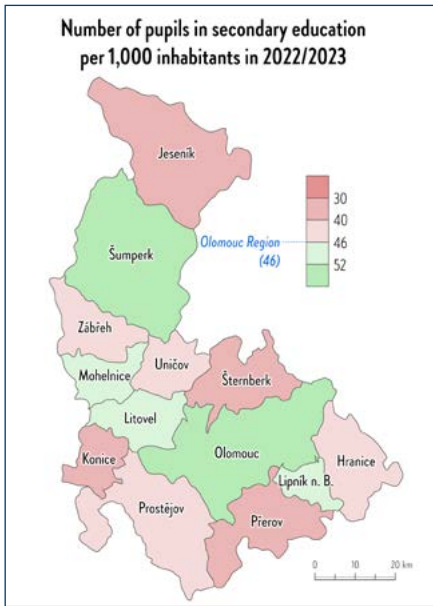
Generally, quality education provides people with better employment opportunities, better orientation skills in an increasingly globalised world and also facilitates the use of modern technologies. Education is thus one of the main priorities of the Development Strategy of the Olomouc Region.

The availability of pre-school and primary education is determined by the norms of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic. The Olomouc Region falls slightly below average in terms of the number of classes or the number of pupils per teacher. For kindergartens and primary education classes, the number of children in schools depends on the number of children in the given district. The largest number of pupils in primary schools can be found in the Olomouc and Šumperk districts. On the





# B. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT



for technical fields of study, which are not available at local universities, branches of the Technical University of Ostrava and the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (about 210 students) have been established in the Education Centre in Šumperk. The Development Strategy of the Olomouc Region expects the adaptation of education in the Region to the changing number of children, the needs of employers, as well as the modernisation of teaching processes.

The labour force in the Olomouc Region had consisted of about 300,000 economically active individuals. The Olomouc Region has long been one of the regions with higher unemployment. Currently, however, unemployment is at a very low level. Unemployment in the Czech Republic is one of the lowest in the EU. Specifically, in 2023 it was 3.7% in the Czech Republic and 3.8% in the Olomouc Region, which was the 6th highest unemployment rate among the regions. Traditionally, the highest unemployment is in Jeseník and Přerov districts.

The average gross monthly wage in the Olomouc Region in 2022 was CZK 36,100, which was the fourth lowest number among the Country's regions. The average wage was about 90% of the average wage in the agriculture sector, about 105% in the industry sector and about average in the sector of services. However, the sector of services encompasses a wide range of labour classifications, from information technology, where wages exceed 130% of the average, to hospitality, where the average wage was lower than 60% of the Region's average.

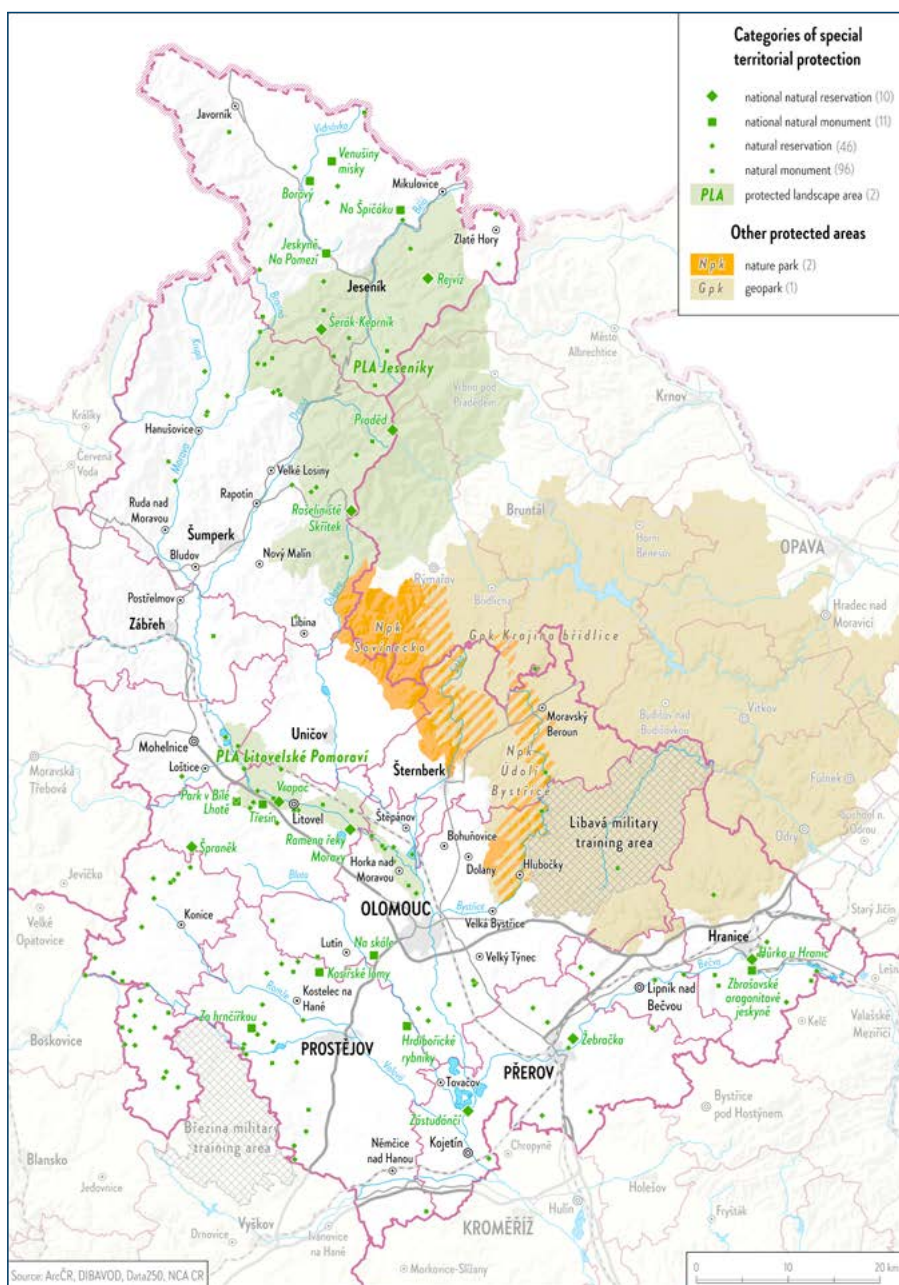
As the attached table shows, the wages are also influenced by the respective work and expertise of the work performed.

Occupation by CZ-ISCO typology in 2022	Share	Median gross wage in CZK
Legislators and executives	4,4%	79 776
Specialists	16,5%	54 467
Technical and professional personnel	15,3%	42 233
Public officials/clerks	8,2%	32 878
Service and sales personnel	15,4%	29 502
Qualified workers in agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,7%	.
Craftsmen and repairmen	18,1%	35 887
Machine and plant operators, assemblers	14,0%	32 691
Support staff and unskilled workers	5,6%	25 525

Source: Czech Statistical Office



# C. THE ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



Beyond nature protection itself, it is also necessary to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This involves comprehensive changes in the approach to the use of natural resources and landscape management. The basis for this approach should be the implementation of so-called Comprehensive Municipal Land Improvements Concept, which should address the issue of water retention in the landscape, prevent soil erosion and significantly reduce the occurrence and impact of natural disasters such as flash floods, droughts, floods or landslides. There are 401 municipalities in the Olomouc Region, of which 197 have implemented the above-mentioned Comprehensive Municipal Land Improvements Concept, while 86 municipalities are still in the implementation phase and 54 municipalities are in the preparation phase.

Forests make up about 35% of the Region's area, with another 12% made up of built-up areas, water bodies and other areas. Most of the Region, almost 53%, is made up of fertile arable land, which is farmed. In 2022, there have been 2,155 farms in the Region, having collectively earned almost CZK 12.5 billion for their production. About 1/3 of the crop production was fodder for livestock production. The "fertile Haná" county is the reason the Olomouc Region regularly achieves one of the highest per hectare yields in the Country. On the other hand, the Olomouc Region has the third highest consumption of mineral fertilisers per hectare.

The Olomouc Region is a region boasting great natural wealth. In the north, there are the Jeseníky Mountains, as well as the Kralický Sněžník massif. In the southern part of the Region, the meanders of the Morava River and floodplain forests can be found, as well as different ponds, water bodies, but also a karst phenomenon and Europe's deepest gorge. A large part of the territory falls under the Protected Landscape Area Program, especially the two protected landscape areas – Jeseníky and Litavelské Pomoraví. As the map shows, there are also 165 other smaller protected natural sites of both European and local importance. The protected areas thus cover about 590 km<sup>2</sup>, i.e. about 11% of the Region's area. Over CZK 5 billion has been spent on different nature protection programs in the Olomouc Region.





## C. THE ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The most common crops in the Region are cereals, having been sown on almost 58% of the Region's arable land area, producing over 636,000 tonnes of crops. However, sugar beet intended for industrial processing has been the most produced crop in terms of volume, with over 728,000 tonnes harvested in the Olomouc Region, the second highest figure after the Central Bohemia Region. Interestingly, sugar beet has been sown on only about 6% of the arable land area. The much-discussed oilseed rape has been sown on less than 14% of the Region's fertile fields.

In terms of the volume of livestock production, the Olomouc Region is an average region in the Czech Republic, lagging only in poultry breeding. Less than 91,000 cattle and 62,000 pigs are bred in the Region. In 2022, 21,500 tonnes of meat and almost 210 million litres of milk have been obtained from the Region's livestock.

As is generally known, human activities have a significant impact on nature, so the Region has made it a priority to limit the negative consequences of these activities. One of the mapped phenomena is air pollution. The situation is worse in the southern part of the Region, partly due to the pollution coming into our territory from the Ostrava Region. The best situation is in the Region's northern mountainous areas, however, on the northern border the pollution coming from Poland is having an impact as well. Air quality has improved significantly in recent years and there are no long-term exceedances of emission limits.

According to the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute, about 73,000 tonnes of major pollutants have been emitted into the air in the Region, with over 71% of emissions produced by local sources with a thermal output of less than 0.2 MW (such as homes). About 14% have been produced by medium to large static sources (heating plants, factories) and the remaining 15% of emissions can be attributed to mobile sources (mainly transport).

In the past years, the Olomouc Region has been providing the so-called "boiler subsidies". As a result, about 75% of boilers in the Region have been replaced, nevertheless, further investments will be needed to reduce emissions.

As can be seen, energy production and heating are key to having clean air. That is why the Olomouc Region is striving to make energy management more efficient. There should also be a reduction of energy usage, e.g. by insulating buildings, but also by increasing the share of energy from renewable buildings. In recent years, the production of energy from renewable sources has become increasingly common.



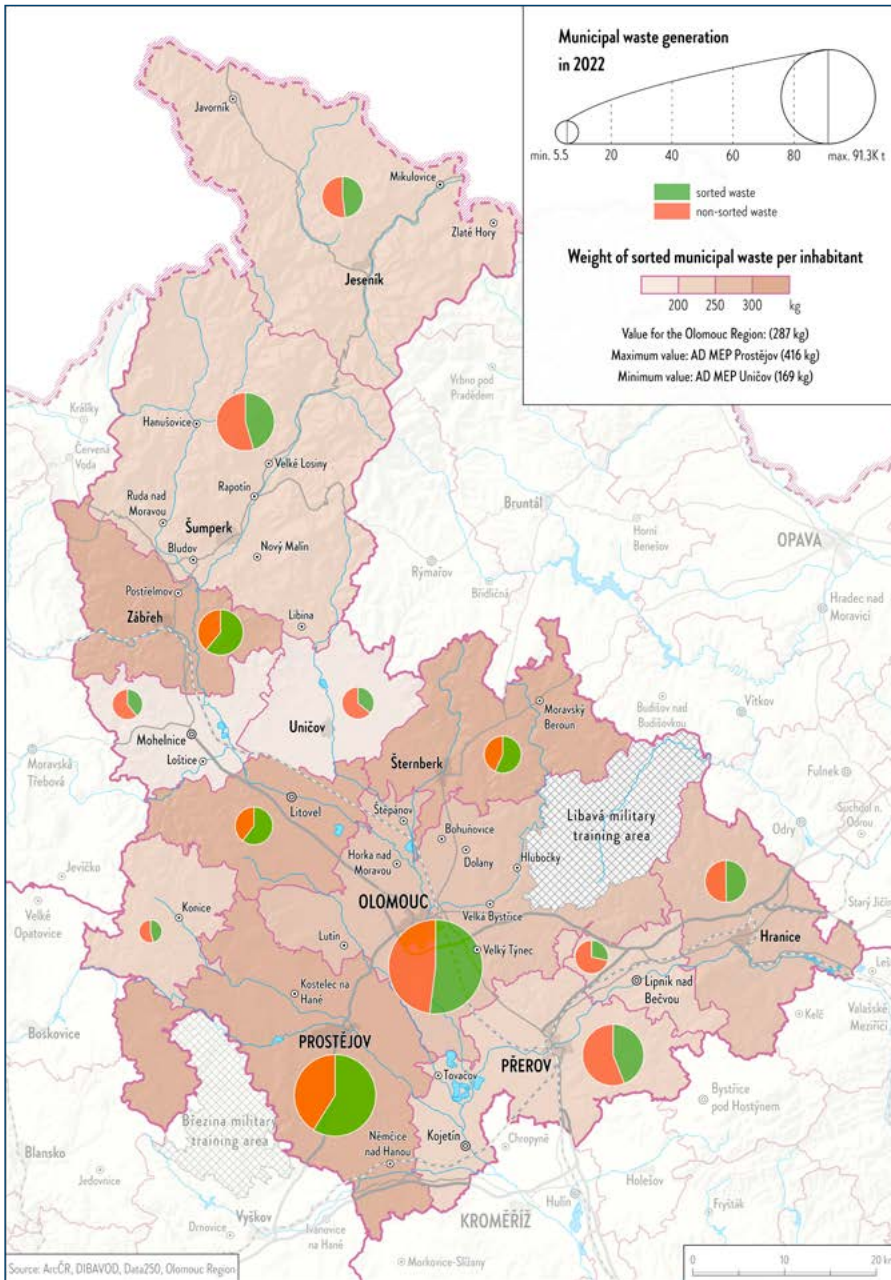
There is only one official meteorological station in the Region, located in the city of Olomouc. In 2023, the highest temperature of 34.3°C has been measured on 15 July. The lowest temperature of -1.3°C has

been measured on 3 December. The average temperature was 9.5°C. In terms of precipitation, 792 mm of rainfall has been measured. Nearly 2,000 hours of sunshine have been measured in 2023.





# C. THE ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



attributed to water supply processes, such as sewage sludge or waste from drinking water treatment.

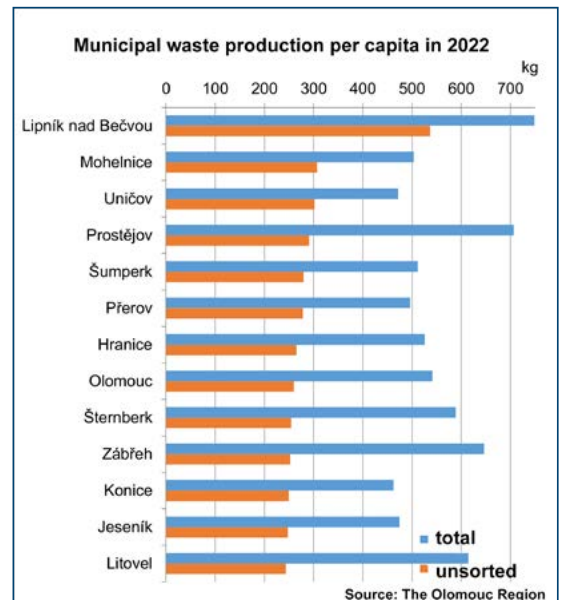
Another important component is municipal waste, i.e. waste produced by residents, small businesses and authorities in different municipalities. A total of 356,457 tonnes of municipal waste has been produced in 2022 in the Olomouc Region, which accounted for 15.5% of the total amount of waste in the Region. Unlike industrial waste, it is difficult to determine exactly how this type of waste should be managed. Municipal waste is considered to be a “property” of the municipalities that have generated it. The Olomouc Region is trying to coordinate the management of this raw material and to find common and more efficient solutions that can be used by several municipalities.

An important factor limiting the impact of human activity on nature is the sorting and subsequent recycling of waste. In total, 51%, that is 181,377 tons of municipal waste had been sorted in the Olomouc Region. About 20% of municipal waste is biodegradable waste that can be composted and reused. Less than 10% is wastepaper and about 8% is metal waste.

In total, about 563 kg of municipal waste per capita has been produced in the Olomouc Region. After sorting, an average of 277 kg per inhabitant remained. The highest amount of municipal waste was in the Lipník na Bečvou MEP district, almost 750 kg per capita, which coincides with the lowest sorting rate of this specific municipality, with only about 28%. The smallest quantity of waste per capita has been produced by residents of the Konice MEP district.

According to the Regional Database, almost 2.3 million tonnes of waste have been produced in the Olomouc Region in 2022. Of this, about 66% (1.5 million tonnes) was the so-called “construction waste”, such

as residues from demolition or building construction, as well as waste from road and motorway construction. Almost 8% of the waste produced can be





## D. HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

More than 3,200 physicians were available to provide healthcare in the Region in 2022. This means that there have been about 200 inhabitants per doctor in the Olomouc Region in 2022, which is the third best figure among the regions. The average age of physicians exceeds 50 years, which indicates a small proportion of young physicians. As of December 31, 2022, a total of 160 pharmacies could be found in the Region.

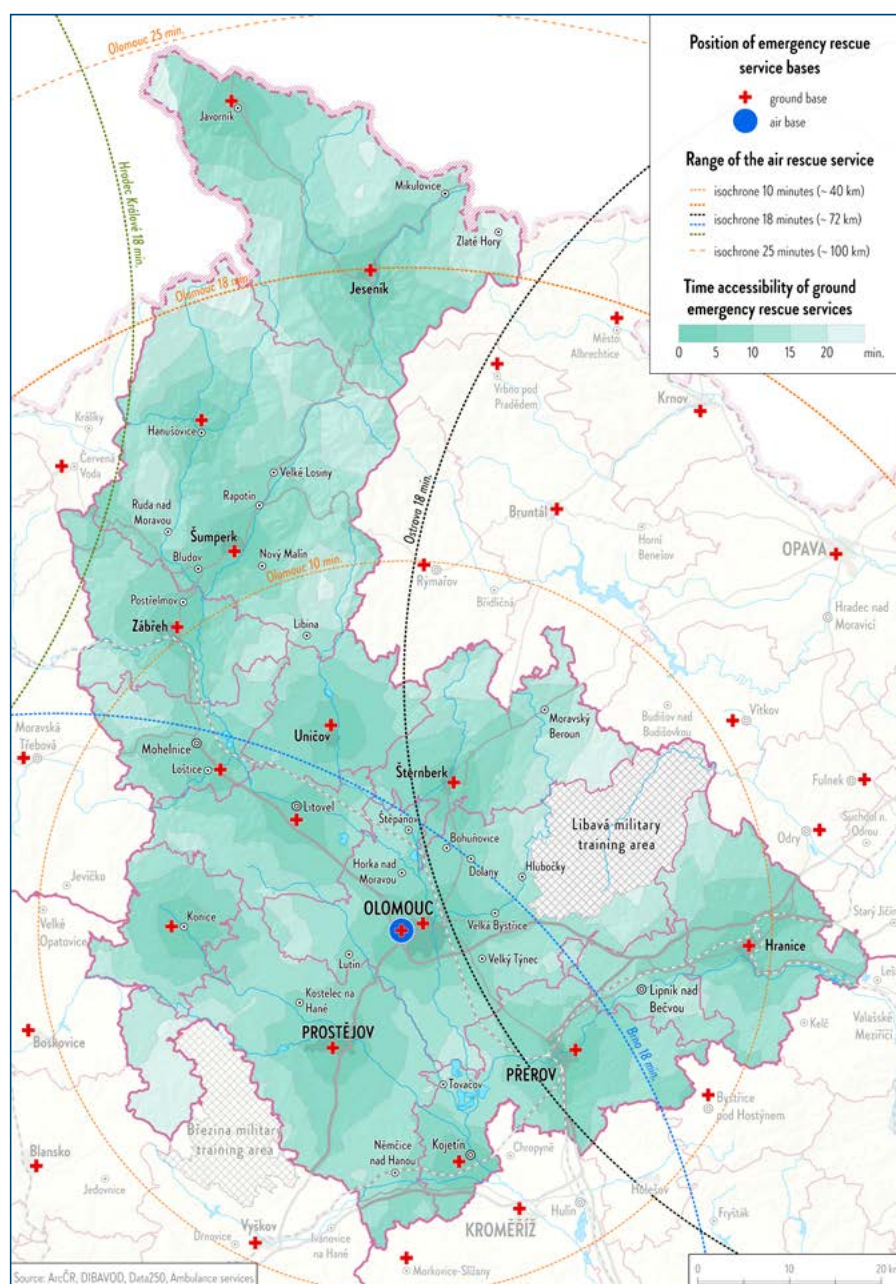
In 2022, over 174,247 new cases of work incapacity have been reported. The average duration of incapacity for work lasted 28.6 days, which is the third longest average in the Czech Republic. On average, there are more than 22 days of incapacity for work per year for every employee in the Region. However, in the records for 2022, there have been cases of duplicate reporting of incapacity for work by physicians and the Regional Hygiene Station – this is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The largest medical facility is the Olomouc University Hospital. It is the sixth largest hospital in the Czech Republic. Olomouc University Hospital is a top medical centre in many fields of contemporary medicine. There are also six smaller hospitals in the Region, and there is also the Olomouc Military Hospital. A total of over 2,881 hospital beds are available to patients.

There are two hospitals providing psychiatric care in the Olomouc Region, namely the Šternberk Psychiatric Hospital and the Marianna Oranžská Psychiatric Hospital in Bílá Voda.

The Medical Emergency Services of the Olomouc Region provide urgent pre-hospital medical care within the Region. The ground medical emergency service is one of the three basic components of the Integrated Rescue System. The organisation is further involved in additional activities, such as the implementation of educational programmes.

From the city of Olomouc, medical emergency air service is provided for the Olomouc and



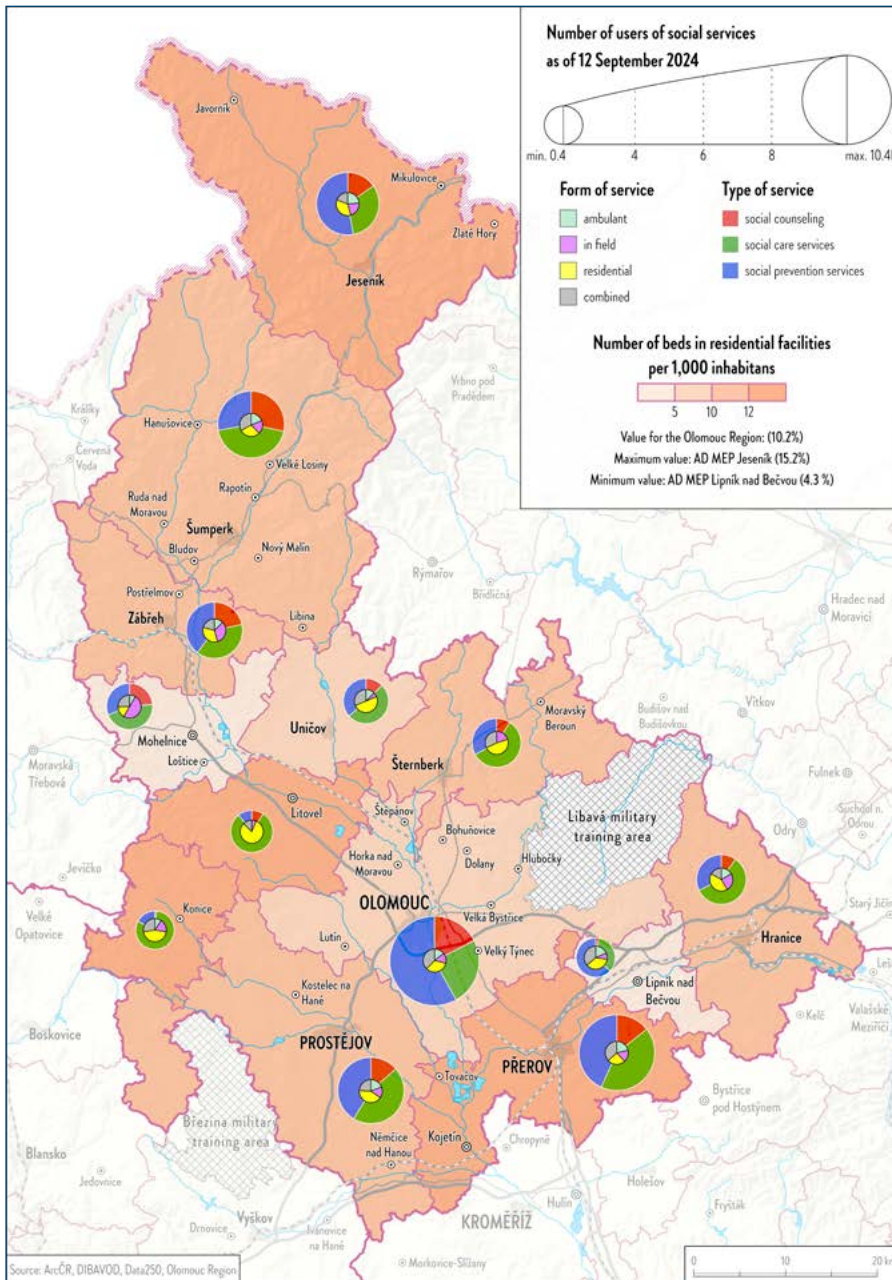
Zlín Regions and part of the Pardubice Region. Conversely, some areas of the Region are covered by medical emergency air service from neighbouring regions.

Region	Physicians, total number	Inhabitants per 1 physician	Newly reported work incapacity cases	Average duration of 1 case of work incapacity (days)	Average length of work incapacity per 1 insured person (days)
Czech Republic	51 988	207	3 457 633	26,3	19,2
Prague	11 052	121	735 541	23,9	13,7
Central Bohemian Region	4 557	313	371 273	24,7	19,6
South Bohemian Region	2 699	241	181 305	27,2	21,3
Pilsen Region	2 815	213	190 266	25,1	20,8
Karlovy Vary Region	1 283	227	62 965	26,8	21,0
Ústí nad Labem Region	3 026	268	224 425	26,1	21,6
Liberec Region	1 888	237	136 033	24,7	22,1
Hradec Králové Region	2 673	207	173 370	24,8	20,4
Pardubice Region	2 165	243	159 167	26,1	21,1
Vysočina Region	2 093	245	138 455	27,8	21,6
South Moravian Region	6 586	184	374 174	26,6	19,0
Olomouc Region	3 259	193	174 247	28,6	22,0
Zlín Region	2 464	235	176 578	29,8	23,3
Moravian-Silesian Region	5 428	219	359 834	31,0	24,0

Source: IHIS and CSSA



## D. HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES



way of understanding the importance of social services is to see how they're being provided.

The costliest of social services facilities are residential facilities, such as homes for the elderly, homes for people with disabilities, shelters and others. Due to obvious reasons, there is a shortage of these in population centres, especially in the city of Olomouc and its surroundings. It also appears that there is insufficient capacity of these facilities in the Lipník nad Bečvou and Mohelnice MEP districts. In this aspect, the situation is also not optimal in the Region's foothills, specifically in the Zábřeh and Uničov MEP districts. Another form of social services that are being provided in the Region are the outpatient services, which are provided in specially designated places, often in various forms of counselling, social activation services for people at risk of social exclusion, low-threshold treatment facilities

Assistance and support for people in an unfavourable social situation is provided by the Region's social services. An unfavourable social situation can be defined as an impossibility or a loss of the ability to secure the basic conditions for a dignified life by one's own means, which in turn creates a risk of social exclusion. This situation may be caused by age, adverse health, a social crisis, living habits or a way of life leading to conflict with society, a socially disadvantaged environment, a threat to rights and interests due to uncaused criminal activity or other serious causes.

Social services help people to maintain and develop their self-sufficiency in caring for themselves. The aim is to enable people and their families to live a normal life and remain part of the local community. One

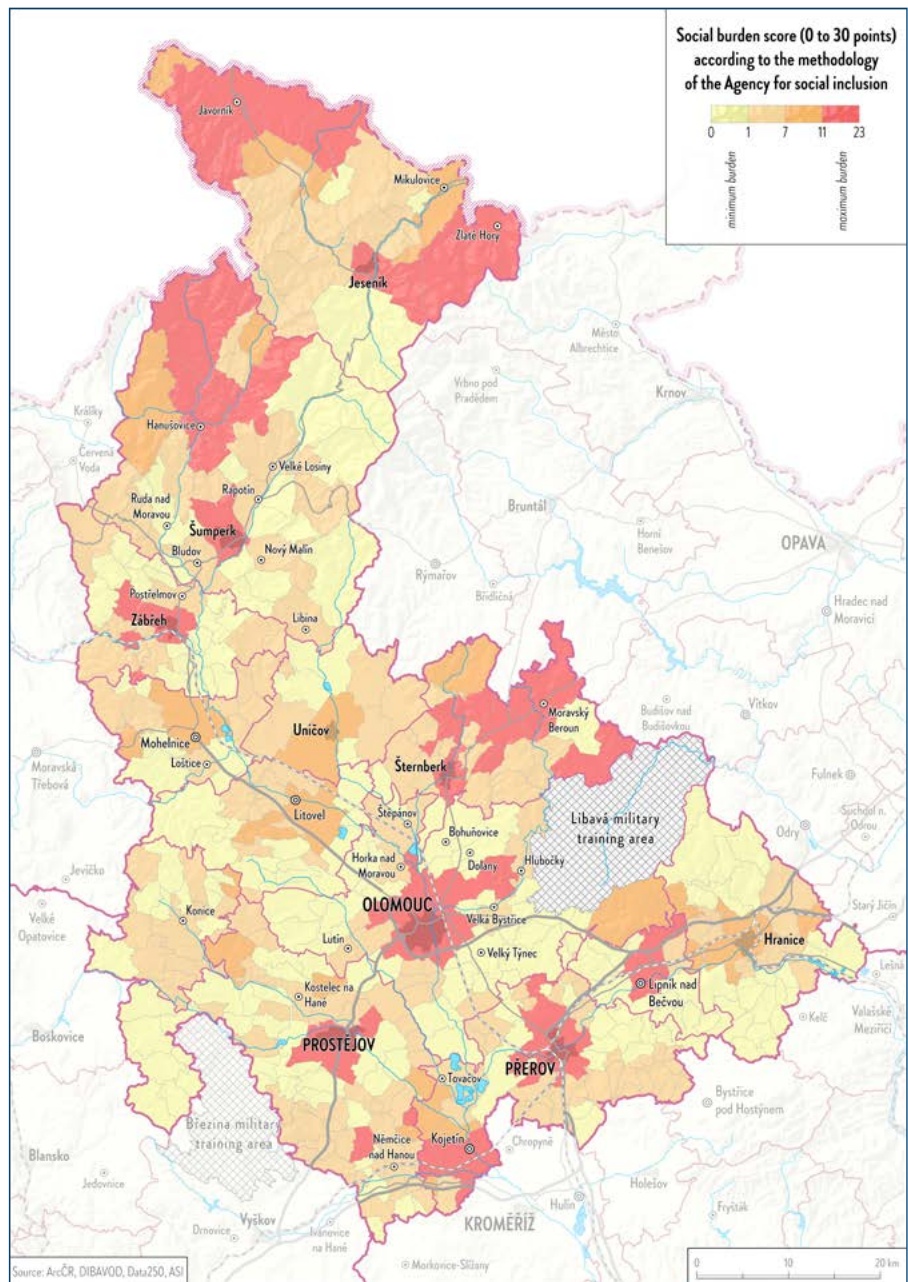




# D. HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES

or contact centres. Recently, the provision of services in the client's environment had become more common. These are usually called on-site or field services, and are largely similar to outpatient services, but also include personal assistance or sign language interpreting. Distance social services are not included in the map; these types of social services are mainly crisis counselling services provided via telephone or internet.

The largest group at risk of social exclusion are the elderly. There are about 180,000 people receiving old-age, widow's or widower's pensions in the Olomouc Region. It is expected that this population group will continue to grow in view of the increasing life expectancy and the increasing population in pre-retirement age. In December 2022, the average old-age pension in the Olomouc Region was



CZK 17,595, which was the second lowest average pension among the regions of the Czech Republic.

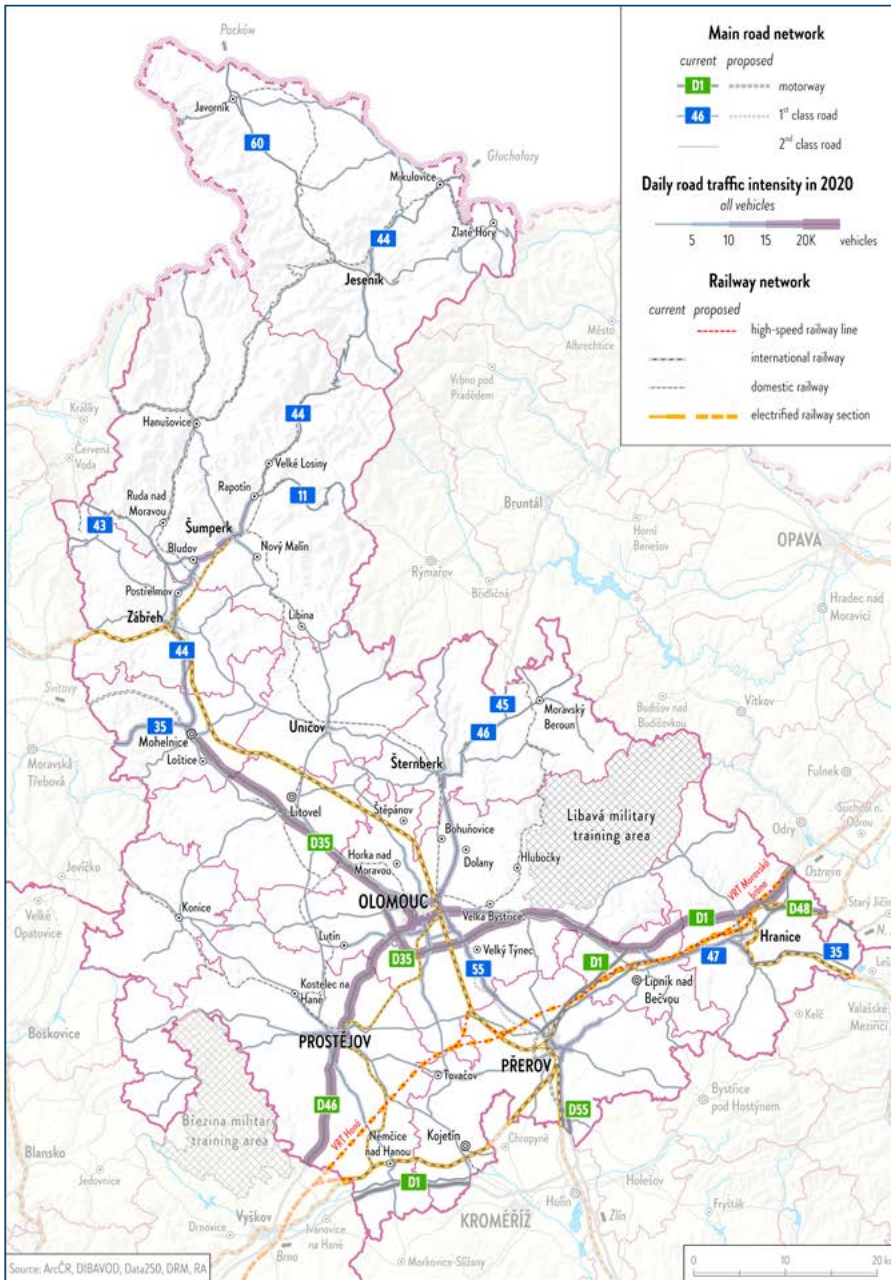
Another group at risk of social exclusion are the disabled. As of 2022, about 23,000 persons with various degrees of disability were registered in the Olomouc Region.

Another example of a group at risk of social exclusion is, for example, the long-term unemployed, women on maternity leave, children without parents, people in debt, as well as migrants or minority ethnic groups, who face a significant risk of social exclusion.





# E. SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



In 2022, the Olomouc Region had a total of 140 km of highways and expressways. There are also 348 km of Class I roads in the Region, which are directly managed by the State. The completion of the missing section of the D1 highway near Přerov is already at a significantly advanced stage, and it is expected that the D1 highway will be completed before the expiration date of the document, i.e. before 2027. The Olomouc Region is also advocating for the implementation of bypasses, especially near large cities (Olomouc, Prostějov, Šumperk). Similarly, one of the priorities is the modernisation of the I/44 road, which is vital for connecting the Region to the Jeseníky Region.

The Olomouc Region alone manages over 3,000 km of Class II and III roads. The Region is responsible for the maintenance of these roads and keeping them in the best possible condition, however, given their long-term poor technical condition and the limited budget of the Region, this is often a very difficult task.

At the end of 2022, 330,664 cars and vans were registered in the Olomouc Region. This means there have been over 52 passenger cars per 100 of the Region's inhabitants, which is the second lowest number among the regions after the Moravian-Silesian Region to the date.

The Olomouc Region plays an important role in providing transport services. Through its contributory organisation, it coordinates commuting connections within the Region. In 2022, the Integrated Transport System of the Olomouc Region included 312 transport lines on which buses, trains and trams covered over 37 million kilometres. In total, over 290 million passengers have used the Integrated Transport System. The Olomouc Region has contributed more than CZK 1.5 billion to the Integrated Transport System budget. The total network and the number of transport lines involved are stabilised, i.e. not prone to change.

Railway transport is a crucial part of the Integrated Transport System of the Olomouc Region, however, its main purpose is a long-distance and freight transport. The important Prague-Ostrava corridor passes through the Olomouc Region. The Ostrava-Brno corridor, which should also cross the territory of the Region, is also being considered for the future. Regional lines are also of a significant importance.

Another priority area is the development of non-motorised transport, i.e. support for the construction of cycle paths, pedestrian zones, etc. These are intended to serve as an alternative to short-distance and leisure transport. A so-called "cycle-coordinator" has been appointed in the Region, whose task is to link up relevant activities, mainly to complete the backbone network of cycle routes in the Region, but also to link up local projects, support fundraising and joint project preparation.

Cargo and goods transport in thousands of tonnes		
	Car transport	Railway transport
Export of goods to other regions	10 591	860
Import of goods from other regions	9 555	892
Transport of goods within the Region	20 169	269

Source: Czech Statistical Office

	Number of lines	Number of kilometres covered	Share of passengers	Fare revenue excluding VAT in CZK	Reimbursement of provable loss in CZK
Railways	19	6 284 215	18 %	254 640 045	901 821 779
Trams	8	2 287 093	28 %	147 867 155	809 423 893
City buses	66	6 470 986			
Commuter suburban buses	219	22 099 507	54 %	277 222 018	
<b>KIDSOK total</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>37 141 801</b>	<b>292 902 140</b>	<b>679 729 218</b>	<b>1 711 245 672</b>

Source: KIDSOK



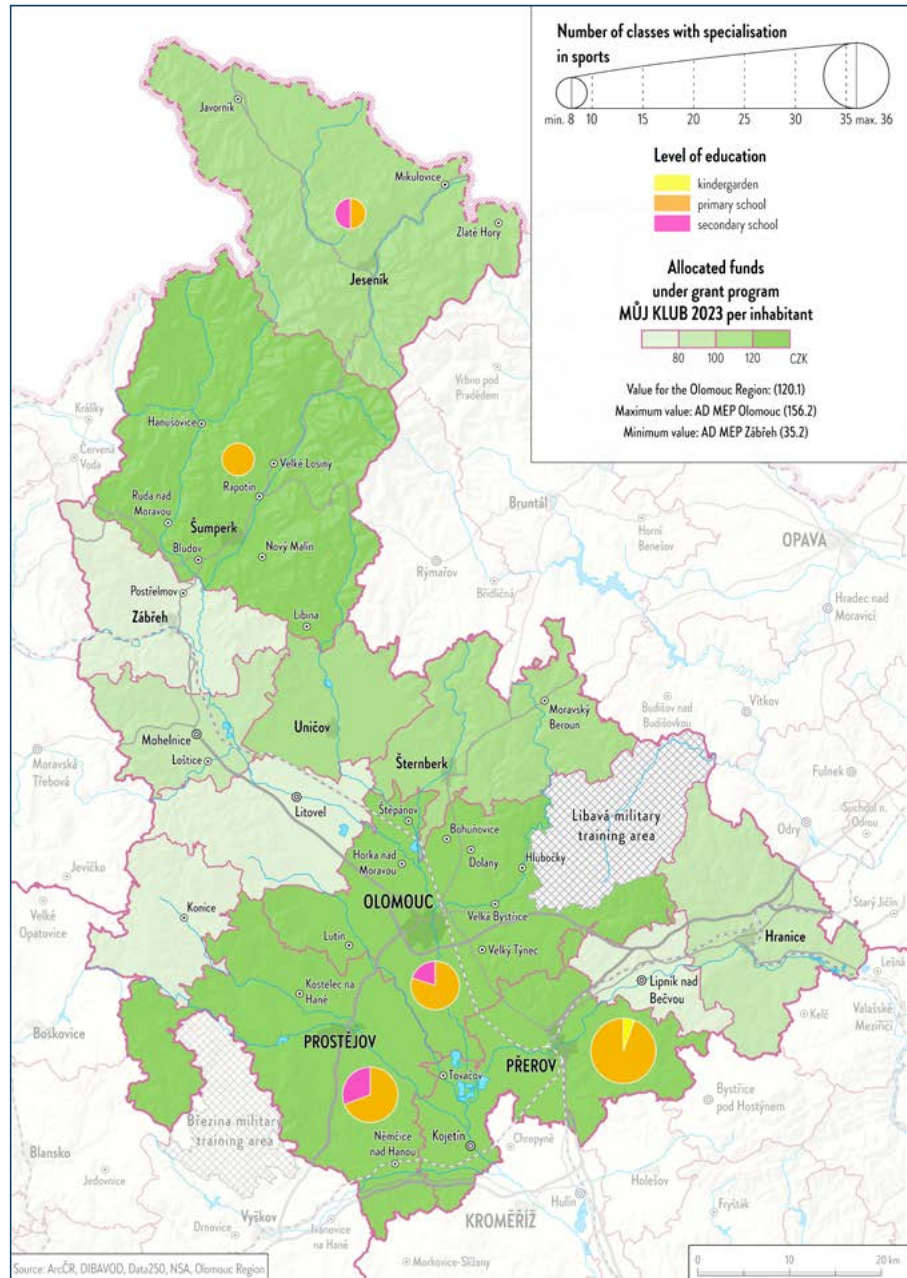
## F. SPORTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM

This priority area includes the so-called leisure activities. These activities are an integral part of our lives, as they increase the attractiveness of the Region and contribute to a better social life for the Region's inhabitants. Finally, these activities also have an economic aspect and thus contribute to the economic development of the Region.

Movement is a natural expression of life; Sport is a coordinated movement that is motivationally focused on achieving set goals. Sport encompasses a large number of activities, from chess to dance to running, equestrianism, motorsport, as well as many team sports.

Sport most often takes a recreational form, be it cycling, swimming or even jumping on a trampoline. Sport can also help people to integrate into society, as various associations are often formed around sport, which bring together like-minded people. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports supports these associations – or clubs – through the “Můj Klub” subsidy programme. The distribution of the Ministry's subsidies thus reflects to some extent the activity of sports clubs. Sport activities are naturally clustered around the Region's district towns. Region's foothill areas and, somewhat surprisingly, the Lipník nad Bečvou municipality are slightly worse off in this aspect.

In addition to supporting sports clubs, the Ministry also supports various sports associations. This usually reflects the importance of the sport in question in the eyes of the Ministry. In 2022, the Football Association of the Czech Republic has received the highest funding of all the sport organizations, amounting to CZK 506 million. The largest First-league football club in the Region is SK Sigma Olomouc. The Czech Ice Hockey Association has received the second highest subsidy (CZK 240 million). HC Olomouc Hockey Club is the Region's biggest hockey club. The Czech Athletic Association has received the third highest subsidy (CZK 174 million). Athletics covers a wide range of mainly individual disciplines, with athletics clubs operating in



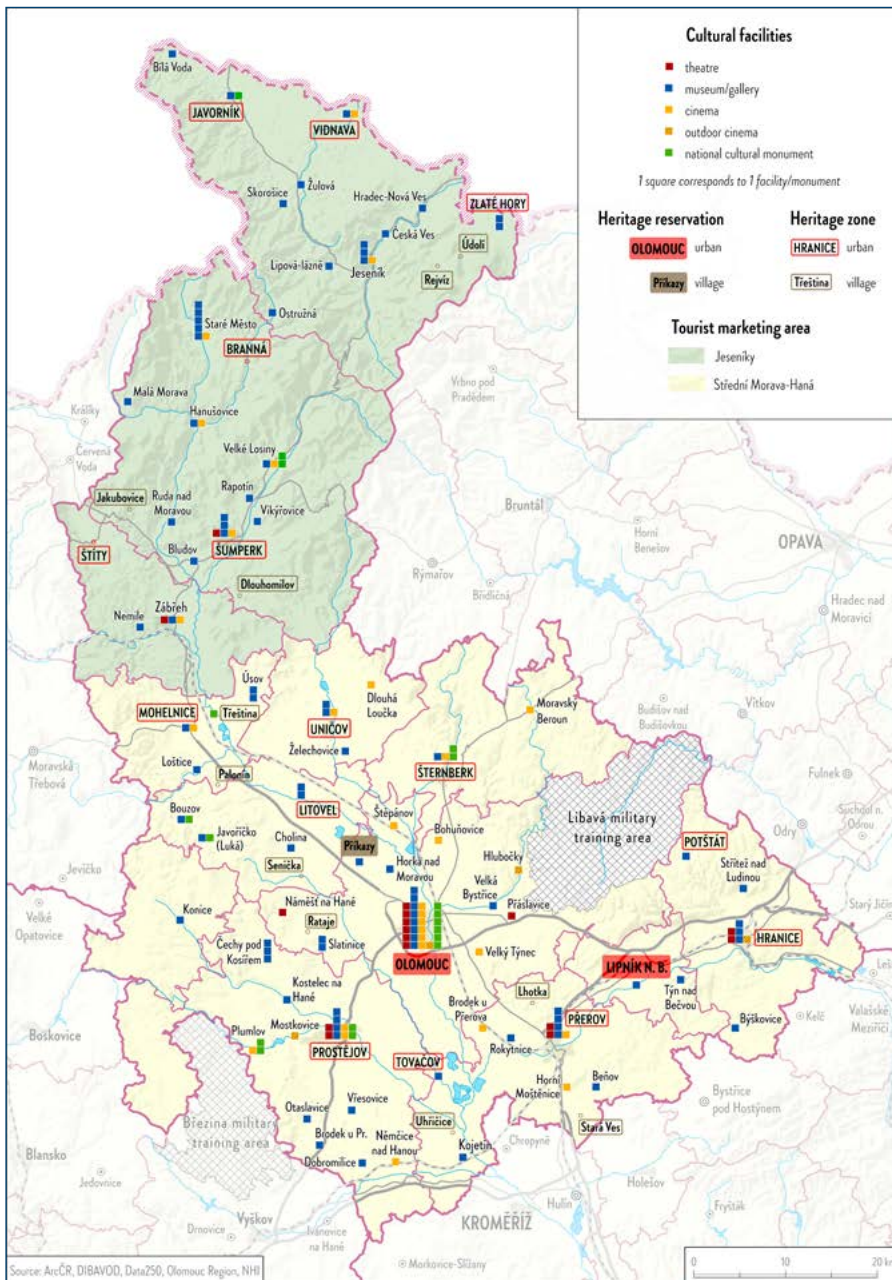
most major cities. More than CZK 100 million has gained also the Czech Tennis Federation (TK Agrofert Prostějov, TK Precheza Přerov), the Czech Volleyball Federation (VK Šantovka Olomouc, UP Olomouc, VK Prostějov, Volejbal

Přerov and TJ Sokol Šternberk), the Czech Floorball Association (FBS Olomouc), the Czech Basketball Federation (BK Olomoucko) and the Ski Association of the Czech Republic.





# F. SPORTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM



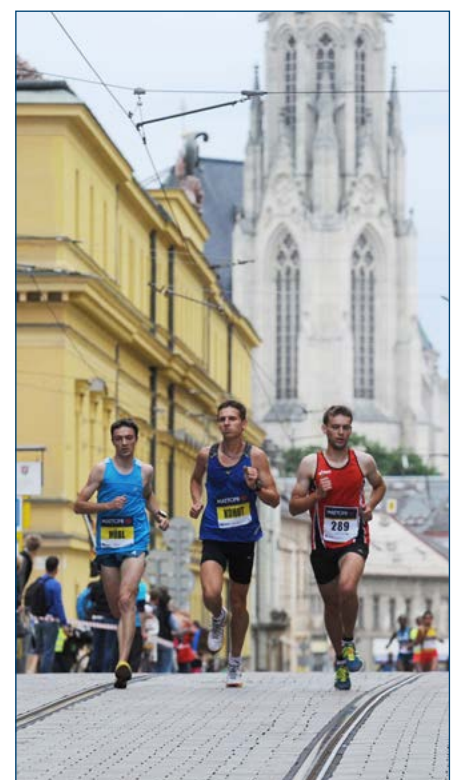
The Region boasts a rich historical heritage with many historical monuments and rich cultural life. In terms of tourism, the most visited place in the Region is the regional capital – the city of Olomouc, which represents the second largest historical heritage reserve in the Czech Republic. The city also offers a rich cultural programme. The map contains an overview of the historical monument reserves, zones and selected historical monuments and cultural facilities in the Olomouc Region.

Tourist attractions in the Region are visited by tourists in large numbers, however, facilities such as the Zoo and the Waterpark are also often used by the Region's residents. The Olomouc Region supports both permanent cultural facilities and one-off cultural events. Important cultural events include the Blues Alive Šumperk festival, Theatre Flora Olomouc, Jesenícké hudební léto, International Folklore Festival C.I.O. in Šumperk, Academia film Olomouc, Šternberské kulturní léto pod hvězdami, Hanácký rok v Bystřici, Zlaté dny ve Zlatých horách, Kolštejn 1938, Ecological Days Festival Olomouc, Fingers Up Festival, Festival Wolkrův Prostějov, Prostějovské hanácké slavnosti and many others.

The development of tourism is one of the priorities of the Olomouc Region. It is one of the few sectors for which the best conditions can be found even in the more remote parts of the Region, especially in the Jeseníky Mountains, with their natural scenery, clean air, geological diversity and rich history.

TOP 15 most visited places in 2023	Visitors
Olomouc Zoo	417 034
Losiny Thermal Baths	225 856
Aquapark Olomouc	212 178
Flóra Exhibition Grounds	160 562
State Castle of Bouzov	119 913
Helfštýn Castle	109 670
Fort Science	106 029
Dlouhé stráně Hydro Power Plant	85 803
Museum of Modern Art Olomouc	57 995
Paper Mill at Velké Losiny	50 384
Rejvíz Educational Trail	45 000
Zbrašov Aragonite Caves	44 951
Na pomezí Caves	42 558
Hunting and Forestry Museum in Úsov – Úsov Castle	41 393
Javoříčko Caves	41 385

Source: Olomouc region





# F. SPORTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM

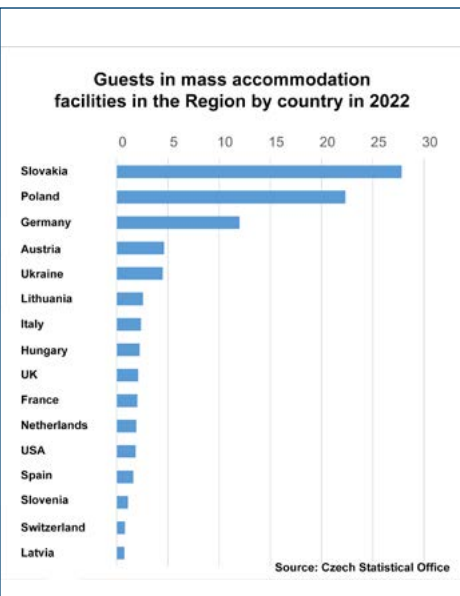
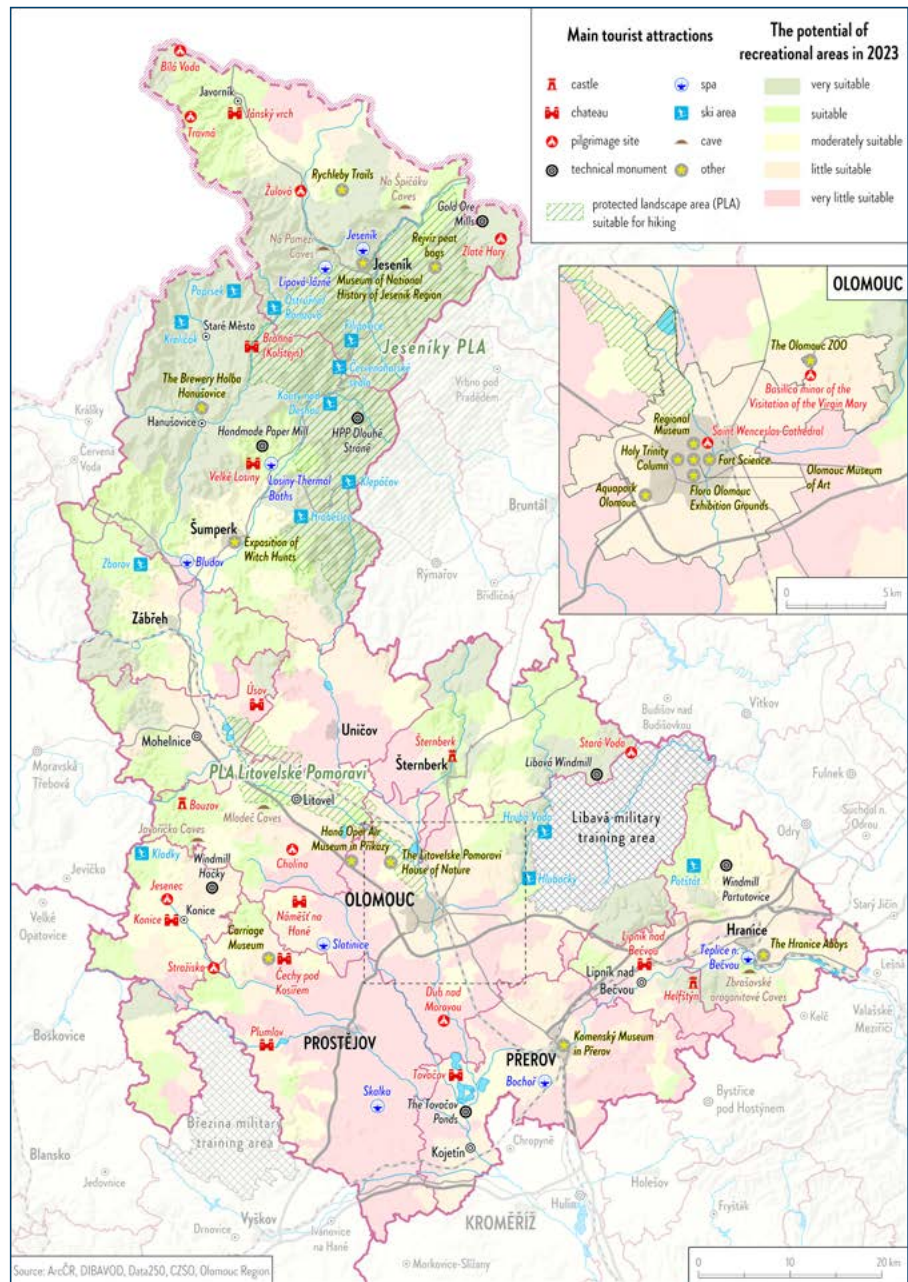
The highest Moravian mountain range, the nearby Rychlebské Mountains or the Kralický Sněžník massif attract tourists going for hiking trips in summer and offer skiing opportunities in winter. The combination of mountains and less rugged foothills offers great opportunities for adrenaline cycling sports, as well as family cycling trips.

Technically inclined tourists can visit the Golden Ore Mills, a handmade paper mill, a hydroelectric power station or even the Museum of Roads.

The towns of Jeseník and the nearby Lipová-lázně have the status of climatic spa towns with unique hydrotherapeutic procedures. In the Region's foothills area, mineral springs can be found, which are used by spa facilities in Velké Losiny and Bludov. In the southern part of the Region, there are also the Teplice nad Bečvou and Slatnice spa towns.

The southern part of the Region is characterised by a much more cultured landscape with a long agricultural tradition. The less rugged landscape is quite suitable for cycling. Tourist can choose between a lot of locally famous historic buildings, and the Region also features some smaller castles, often with an adjacent castle park. A visit to the floodplain forest in Litovelské Pomoraví is also an interesting experience.

In most cases, the Region's larger towns have a historic centre; however, the city of Olomouc is unique in this aspect. Many tourist attractions can be found in Olomouc, including the only regional monument listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site – the Holy Trinity Column. The city also offers other interesting tourist attraction, such as the Zoo or the city's parks, which often host various exhibitions and social events. The development of congress tourism is also supported by the Region. Easy transport accessibility to the city of Olomouc and the town



of Přerov can be considered an advantage considering tourism development. The beauty of the Jeseníky Mountains makes them a popular location for film production. In 2022, over 720 thousand tourists have found accommodation across different mass accommodation facilities in the Olomouc Region. Most of them were visitors from the Czech Republic, who stayed here for an average of 3.2 nights. Foreign tourists numbered over 100 thousand and on

average stayed for 2.4 nights. The longer stays by domestic tourists can be attributed to, for example, the developed spa industry. Among foreign tourists, the Region was mostly visited by tourists from Slovakia, Poland, Germany and Russia.

Tourist area	Mass accommodation facilities			Guests		Nights spent	
	Facilities	Rooms	Beds	Total	Non-residents	Total	Non-residents
Jeseníky	334	5 860	16 471	362 826	23 799	1 327 028	56 609
Central Moravia	211	4 667	11 040	360 016	81 104	964 469	195 186
Olomouc Region	545	10 527	27 511	722 842	104 903	2 291 497	251 795

Source: Czech Statistical Office



## G. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY



The last priority area of the Development Strategy of the Olomouc Region focuses on territorial administration and management, its improvement and greater transparency. The basic administration of the Region's territory is managed by municipalities. In 2022, 401 municipalities were to be found in the Olomouc Region. The municipalities are responsible for managing local roads, public areas, common water and sewage systems, municipal schools and kindergartens, population registration systems, etc.

Certain activities are provided for several municipalities at the same time – these are the so-called Administrative Districts of Municipalities with a Designated Municipal Authority. These activities include, for example,

nature and landscape protection, electoral affairs and crisis management. An important link within the public administration system is represented by the Municipalities with Extended Powers (MEP), which provide state-selected unified activities for citizens, such as the issuing of ID cards and driving licences or passports, vehicle registration management, trade registers management and much more. There are 205 administrative districts of Municipalities with Extended Powers (MEP) in the Czech Republic, 13 of them in the Olomouc Region.

The Olomouc Region is one of the 14 regions of the Czech Republic, with the capital city of Prague also being considered a region. The main tasks of the Region include the

administration, i.e. management of Class II and III roads, the establishment and administration of secondary schools, the organisation of the social services network, the administration of health facilities, including ground medical services and other activities. The Region also supervises certain activities of municipalities and acts as an appeal body, e.g. against decisions of local Building Authorities or Nature Conservation Authorities.

At the same time, the Region is the smallest regional territorial unit as per the rules established by the EU, called NUTS 3. The superior units are called the NUTS 2 regions, which are formed by areas with a population of 1 to 3 million. The NUTS 2 metric is used by the EU to compare statistical data, but also for planning and allocating subsidies. The Olomouc Region and the Zlín Region form a NUTS 2 region called Central Moravia. NUTS 1 and NUTS 0 regions comprise the whole of the Czech Republic.

To facilitate the implementation of certain activities, the Region's municipalities are grouped into voluntary Associations of municipalities, called Micro-regions. Some Micro-regions serve an entirely special purpose (e.g. a common water supply system), others are more general and address various problems that are difficult for individual municipalities to deal with on their own. In 2023, there have been over 50 registered Micro-regions in the Region, of which 36 were active.

Since 2023, municipalities in the Region have been able to establish so-called Associations of municipalities. An Association of municipalities differs from a Micro-region in that municipalities can officially transfer their responsibilities to it, including the resources delegated to them by the State. This allows easier sharing of services between smaller municipalities.

The type of cooperation that has been introduced in dealing with these issues, following the EU model, is called the Local Action Groups (LAG). These groups form associations not only of municipalities, but also of entrepreneurs and non-profit organisations from a given area. Local Action Groups are supposed to deal with a wider range of issues than Micro-regions, but on the other hand they are not solely an administrative unit under the laws of the Czech Republic. Local Action Groups are also intended primarily for the Region's rural areas and cannot involve municipalities with more than 25,000 inhabitants. The activities of Local Action Groups are supported by EU funds.



## G. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY



bodies' decision-making process. In smaller municipalities, it is usually sufficient for active residents to meet up with the mayor, but for larger municipalities, Micro-regions or entire regions, it's not so simple. Strategic documents can be drawn up, in which the local government shows what priorities it wants to emphasise in the future. Citizens have the opportunity to comment on these priorities or to make their own suggestions. The Development Strategy of the Olomouc Region is just such a document. Of the larger towns in the region, only the town of Litovel does not have a similar strategy. For smaller municipalities similar strategies are not needed or are very simplified. In many cases, the existence of such a strategy is a condition for obtaining subsidies.

Map 18: Local Action Groups in the Olomouc Region

Another unit that has been formed in order to address the needs of the Region's territory in a broader context with the support of EU funds is the Olomouc Agglomeration. Unlike the Local Action Groups, the aim of the Olomouc Agglomeration is to address issues from the perspective of municipalities. The topics addressed thus focus on the competitiveness of the Region, public transport, linking businesses and schools, social services and the environment.



An important part of public administration is its openness to the public. This can be done in various ways through which the public is informed about how the public administration bodies make their decisions (e.g. public meetings of councils, publication of important documents on the official notice board).

Another way is to take in account the citizens' suggestions within the public administration

Map 19: Map of the Olomouc Agglomeration

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**ArcČR** – Map base distributed by ARCDATA PRAHA, s.r.o.

**ASI** – Agency for Social Inclusion

**CHMI** – Czech Hydrometeorological Institute

**CSSA** – Czech Social Security Administration

**ČSÚ/CZSO** – Czech Statistical Office

**IHIS** – Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic

**MRD** – Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic

**MEYS** – Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

**NCA CR** – Agency for the Protection of Nature and Landscape of the Czech Republic

**NIH** – National Heritage Institute

**The Olomouc Region** – The Region's own Regional Database and Surveys of the Olomouc Region

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