

## **43. Settlements – urban and rural**

Settlements are divided mainly into urban and rural settlements. They vary according to function, size and characteristics.

### **Urban settlements**

= include towns and cities. They represent “organisms” within socio-economic sphere with roads as arteries and residential zones as main organs of a body.

The function is mostly:

- ❑ *administrative* (seat of regional administrative bodies)
- ❑ *economic* (providing jobs)
- ❑ *cultural* (including entertainment)

### Size

Normally, every commune with number of inhabitants more than 2,000 is considered to be urban settlement = a commune with the *status of town*. If a town has more than 100,000 inhabitants, it is a *city*.



### Characteristics

Urban settlements (urban areas) are typical for:

- high buildings, in the largest cities also skyscrapers
- industrial zones, i.e. light industry, sometimes heavy industry
- developed infrastructure, e.g. easy access to motorways, train stations, etc.
- developed services, e.g. hypermarkets, car repairs, banks, insurances, etc.
- green areas and parks

**Give some examples of urban areas!**

### **Rural settlements**

= include communes and villages. Their function is mostly residential only.

### Function

Rural settlements' function is *residential*. People sleep there while work in a nearby town.

### Size

It comprises all the settlements with number of inhabitants up to 2,000. However, there are many communes with higher number of people living there but without status of a town, e.g. Terchová, Smižany, etc.



### Characteristics

Rural settlements (rural areas) are typical for:

- low buildings, no skyscrapers
- no industrial zones
- often poorly developed infrastructure
- few services, basic services only, e.g. grocery, church, local pub
- lot of pastures, grasslands, forests

**Give some examples of rural areas nearby Žilina!**

### **Keywords**

urban/rural settlements' function, town, city, industrial zones, infrastructure, services