

# 11. Slovakia – Settlement Models and Urbanism

## The Central Place Theory

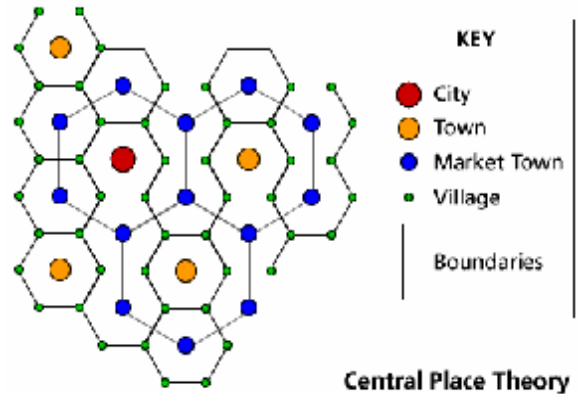
- Ø it explains the territorial and hierarchical segmentation of towns and cities according to the *location* = central settlements (municipalities)
- Ø functional classification of settlements = variety of provided functions
- Ø central cities are settlements that provide central functions like education, services and administration for its *hinterland*
- Ø the size of tributary area is dependent on the importance of the central city

The pattern:

The ..... the municipality,  
the bigger its .....

Find the similarity of central place theory with your place of residence and draw it.

What did the relations among towns result in formerly?



## The Zipf's rule

= classification of municipalities by their number of population

- Ü the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest city has 1/2 of the population in the biggest city in given state
- Ü the 3<sup>th</sup> biggest town has 1/3 of the biggest city people's number
- Ü the 4<sup>th</sup> municipality has 1/4 of the population within the largest town

Draw the pattern:

Do you know any cities/countries which refer to this scheme? Give examples.

## City models

Concentric zones model:

- the principle: .....
- .....

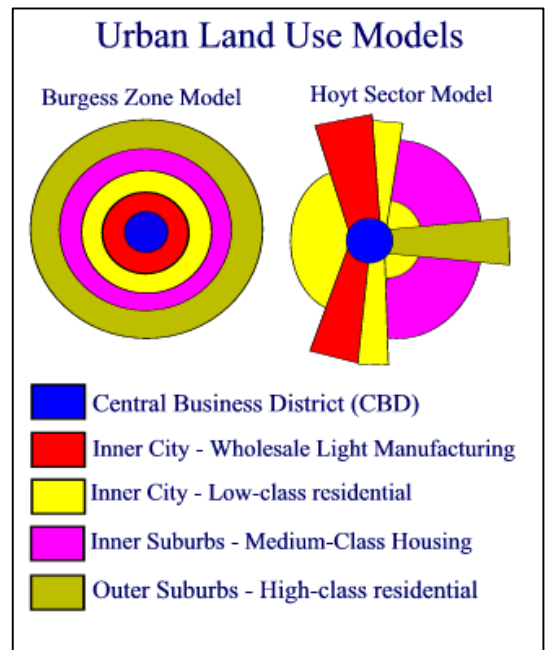
Sector model:

- the principle: .....
- .....

Give an example of each of the urban land use models and describe it.

## Urbanization

It is one of many demographic processes. The movement has begun at the beginning of the civilization and continues until nowadays. Urbanization is considered to be one of the major problems of mankind because it deals with a continuous growth of the urban areas and number of people living there. The urbanization rate in Slovakia is 55%.



**Ground plan types in Slovak towns**

The oldest towns are developed according to their old centres – *squares*. Every square has its own shape known as a *municipal ground plan*. Various ground plans are declared as a „historical town reserve“ (18 together).

The most common ground plan shapes in Slovakia:

*Spindle shape*

.....  
.....  
.....



*Rectangle shape*

.....  
.....  
.....



*Square shape*

.....  
.....  
.....



*Triangular shape*

.....



*Irregular shape*

.....



Naturally, every piece of land has its own usage according to the activities realized there, e.g. historical centre, residential quarter, industrial zones, etc. Urban (territorial/regional) plan proposes every parcel, sometimes even every hectare, to be used in the best way. Such plans represent great help when governing in a municipality. People should know more about it in order to make the life better in a community.

Most of the Slovak towns do have their downtowns which are often of big historical significance. Some of them are listed within the UNESCO’s World Cultural Heritage Sites.

*Write 4 examples of these important historical areas:*

.....

**Keywords**

administrative bodies, urbanization, mankind, square, ground plan, shape, hinterland, function, municipality, historical town reserve, UNESCO, heritage, site, community, fellowship, urban plan, industrial zone, responsibility, governance