

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