

Commuting to Work and De-Concentration in Metropolitan Areas of Copenhagen, Paris and Prague

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this paper is to compare spatial de-concentration in metropolitan areas of selected European capital cities: Copenhagen, Paris and Prague. The analysis uses data on jobs, population and commuting to work for small-areas (NUTS5 maximum). This allows a rigorous treatment and a fairly direct comparison of patterns and trends between the cities. Key questions asked are what are the differences between the city regions and how these differences in the de-concentration may be explained. Commuting to work indicates the spatial-functional linkages in settlement systems, reflects centralisation and de-concentration of jobs and residences and reveals functional dependency in non-urban areas. The primary comparison between Copenhagen/ Denmark, Paris/France and Prague/The Czech Republic is assessed against the benchmark of Greater London, United Kingdom; and the two 'icons' of American urban form: Los Angeles and New York.

Key Words: commuting, urban structure, peri-urban