

QUALITY OF LIFE

Domains and indicators



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Multidimensionality

- the complexity of human life is created by virtually an infinite number of different dimensions, which may overlap and there are different types of linkages between them
- Massam (2002) – QOL can be distributed on a set of components or dimensions - if they are appropriately combined, we obtain the total value or QOL score

Multidimensionality

- therefore - the concept of multidimensionality of the QOL - the need to compensate for the impossibility of expressing complete "list" of the components of human life
- advantage and disadvantage at the same time
- van Kamp et al. (2003) – QOL as a "container" concept - different theories and approaches to examine the quality of life can relate to its different aspects

Multidimensionality of QOL – some theoretical and methodological notes

- once again significant terminological inconsistency
- the equivalent terms - dimension, domain, component, aspect etc.
- except for domains of QOL - also various "subdomains" and the like - differentiation is very difficult and ambiguous (domain by one author - as subdomain by other etc.).

Multidimensionality of QOL – some theoretical and methodological notes

- it is appropriate to distinguish between the term „basic dimension“ of QOL (subj. and obj.) and the dimension – rather „domain“ of QOL - a partial component part human life, evaluated by selected types of indicators (which may be evaluated in the two basic dimensions)
- ???

Multidimensionality

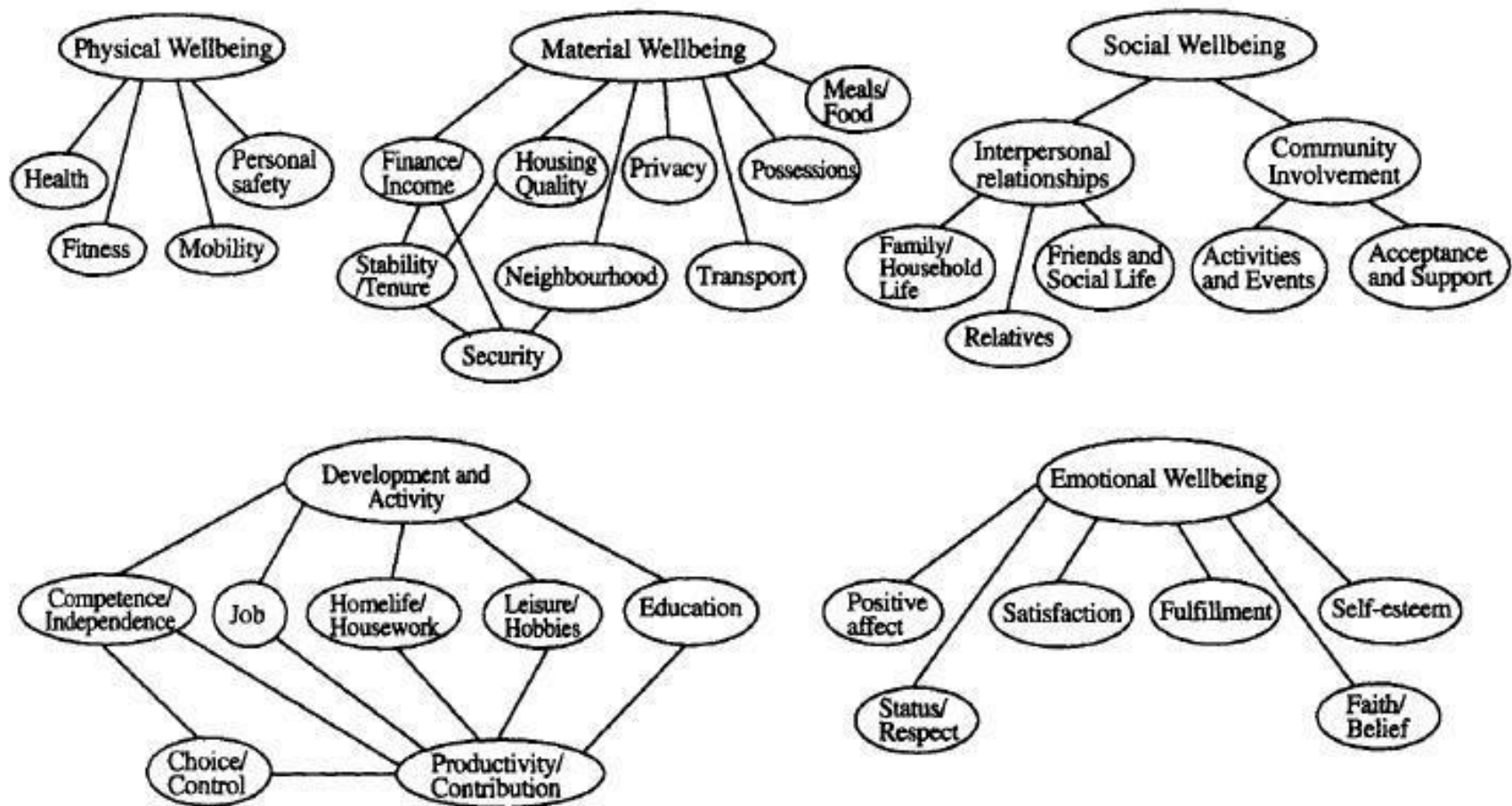
- domains of QOL –
- what is better, more appropriate – to examine the QOL as a whole or just within certain domains?
- if within certain domains – than which that should be?
- which are the most important, which domains of everyday life play a key role due to their impact on its quality?
- how can we identify these domains?

Multidimensionalita kvality života

- **Pacione (2003) – 3 basic ways to identify key domains of the QOL:**
 - **theoretical determination,**
 - **determination by the means of direct contact with the people,**
 - **expert analysis**
- **Andráško (2005) – it is (sometimes) advantageous to combine the ways**

Multidimensionalita kvality života

- Dissart a Deller (2000) - the list of factors related to QOL is virtually limitless
- but the most important are(based on literature review):
 - personality,
 - social support,
 - personal satisfaction in several domains (e.g employment or marital life),
 - personal skills,
 - environmental and economic factors,
 - health,
 - stressful events.



Domains relevant to quality of life. Based on: Andrews & Withey (1976); Baker & Intagliata (1982); Bigelow et al. (1991); Blunden (1988); Borthwick-Duffy et al. (1992); Brown & Bayer (1992); Campbell et al. (1976); Cummins (1992a); Flanagan (1978); Franklin, Simmons, Solovitz, Clemons, & Miller (1986); Heal & Chadsey-Rusch (1985); O'Brien (1987); Parmenter (1988); Schalock et al. (1990); Stark and Goldsbury (1990).

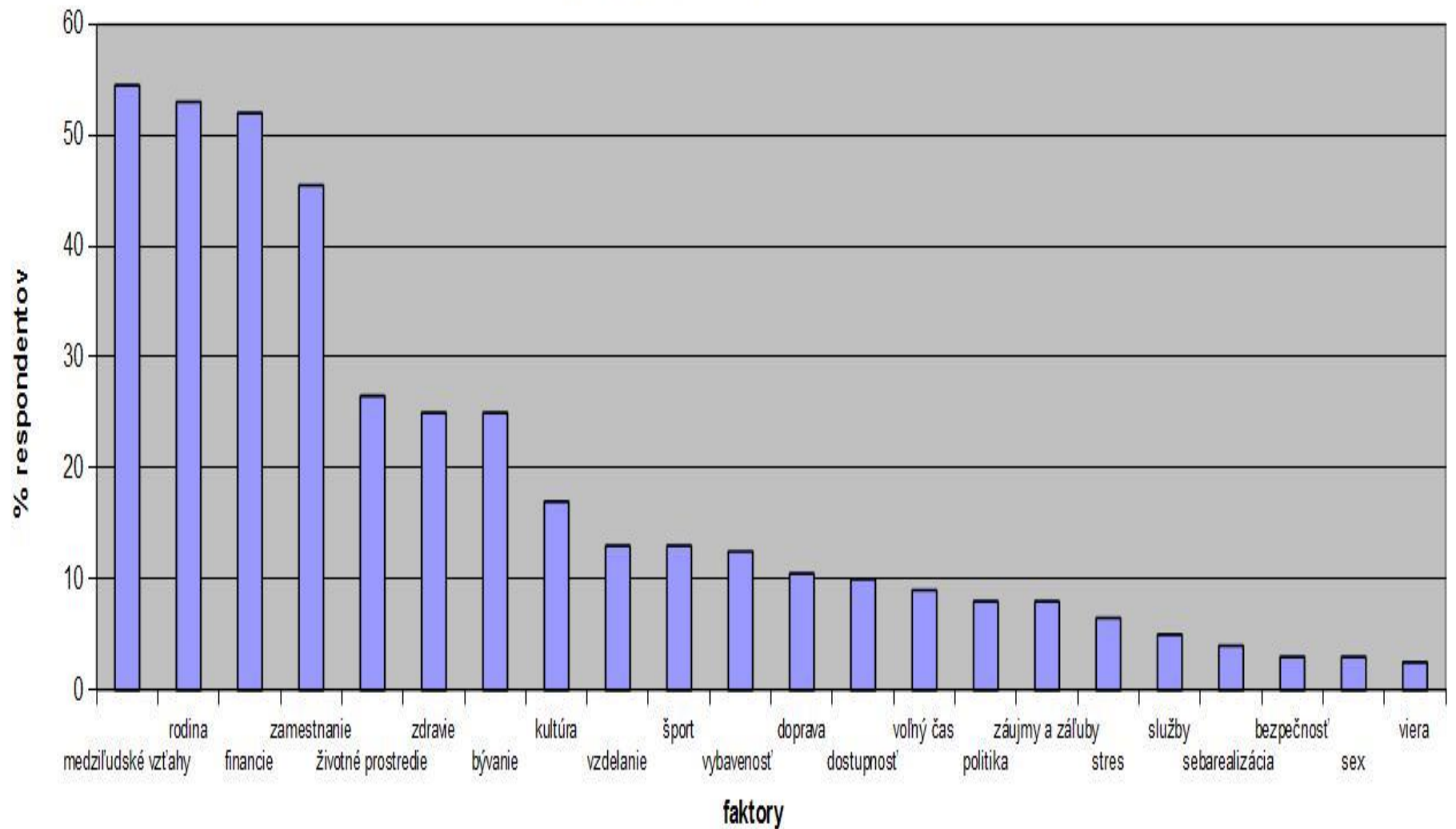
Multidimensionality

- **Bowling (1995) – GB – 2000 respondents – 12 most important domains of life:**
 - relationships with family / relatives,
 - own health,
 - health of someone close / responsible for,
 - finances / housing / standard of living,
 - relationships with other people,
 - availability of work / able to work,
 - social life / leisure activities,
 - conditions at work / job satisfaction,
 - education,
 - religion / spiritual life,
 - environment (pollution, rubbish, noise, cleanliness, safety),
 - others (crime, politics/government, happiness/well-being, unspecified, etc.)

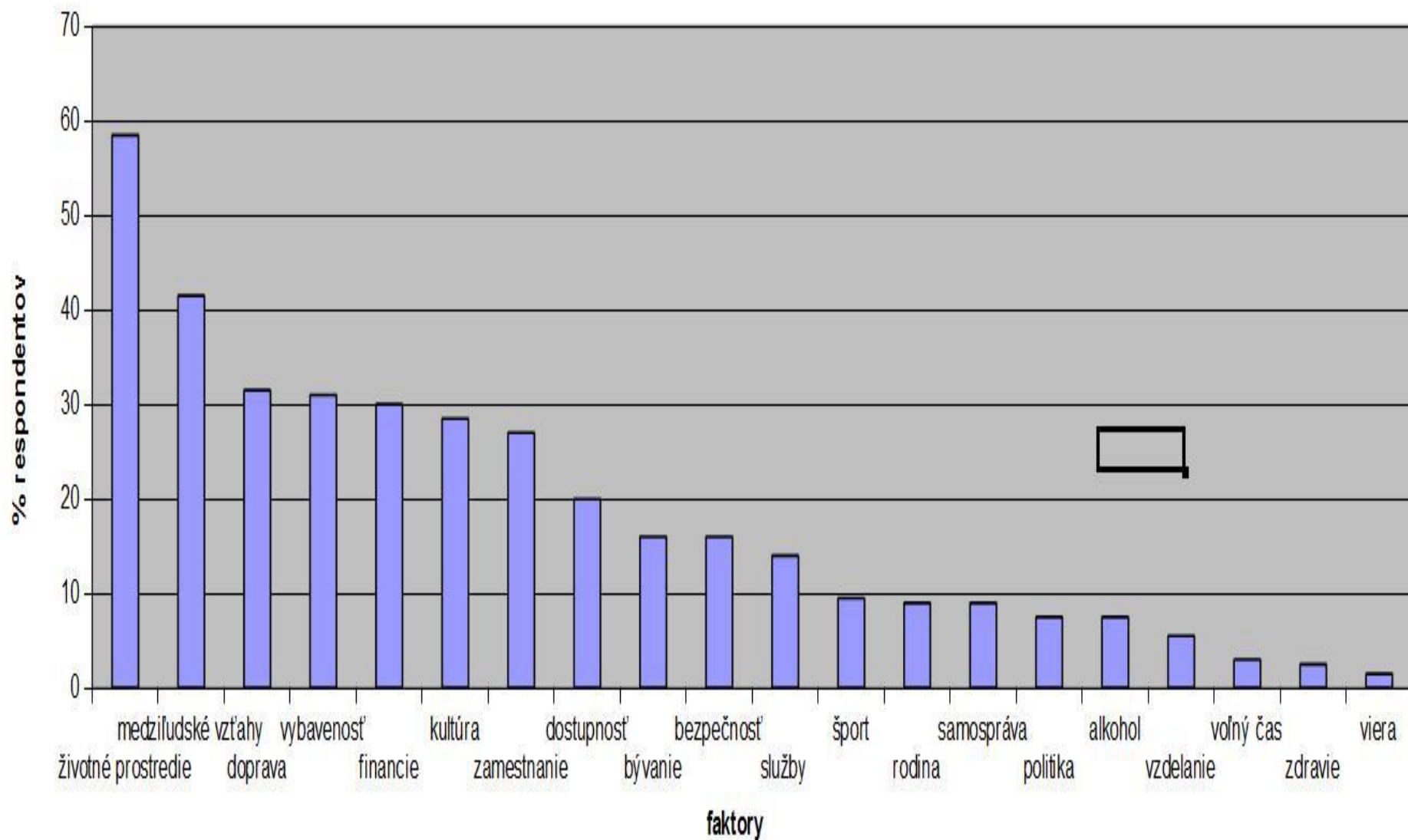
Multidimensionality

- **Andráško (2005):**
- **personal, individual QOL**
- **community QOL (QOL in settlement)**
- **questionnaire survey – 34 Slovak towns and villages**

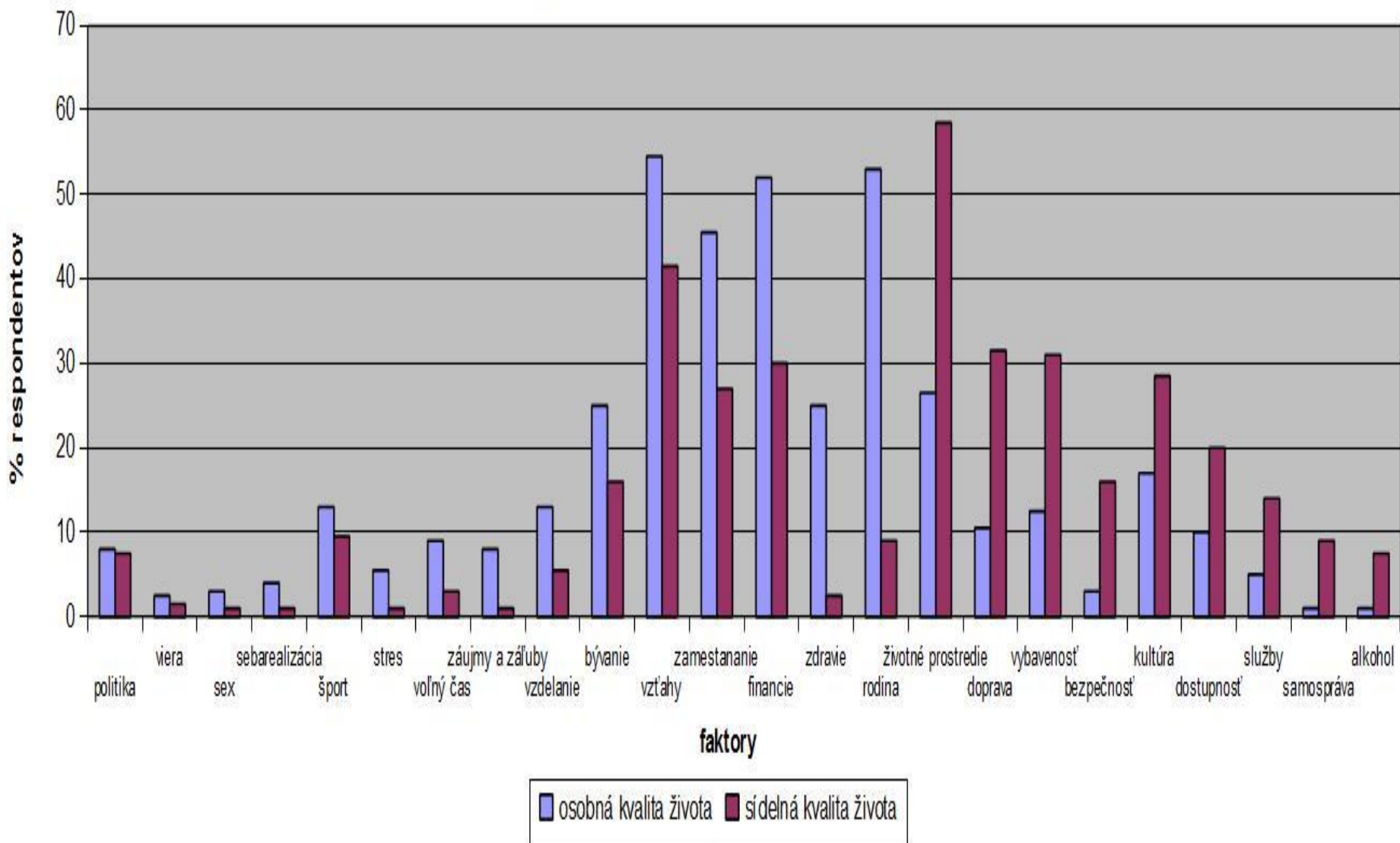
Faktory ovplyvňujúce osobnú kvalitu života



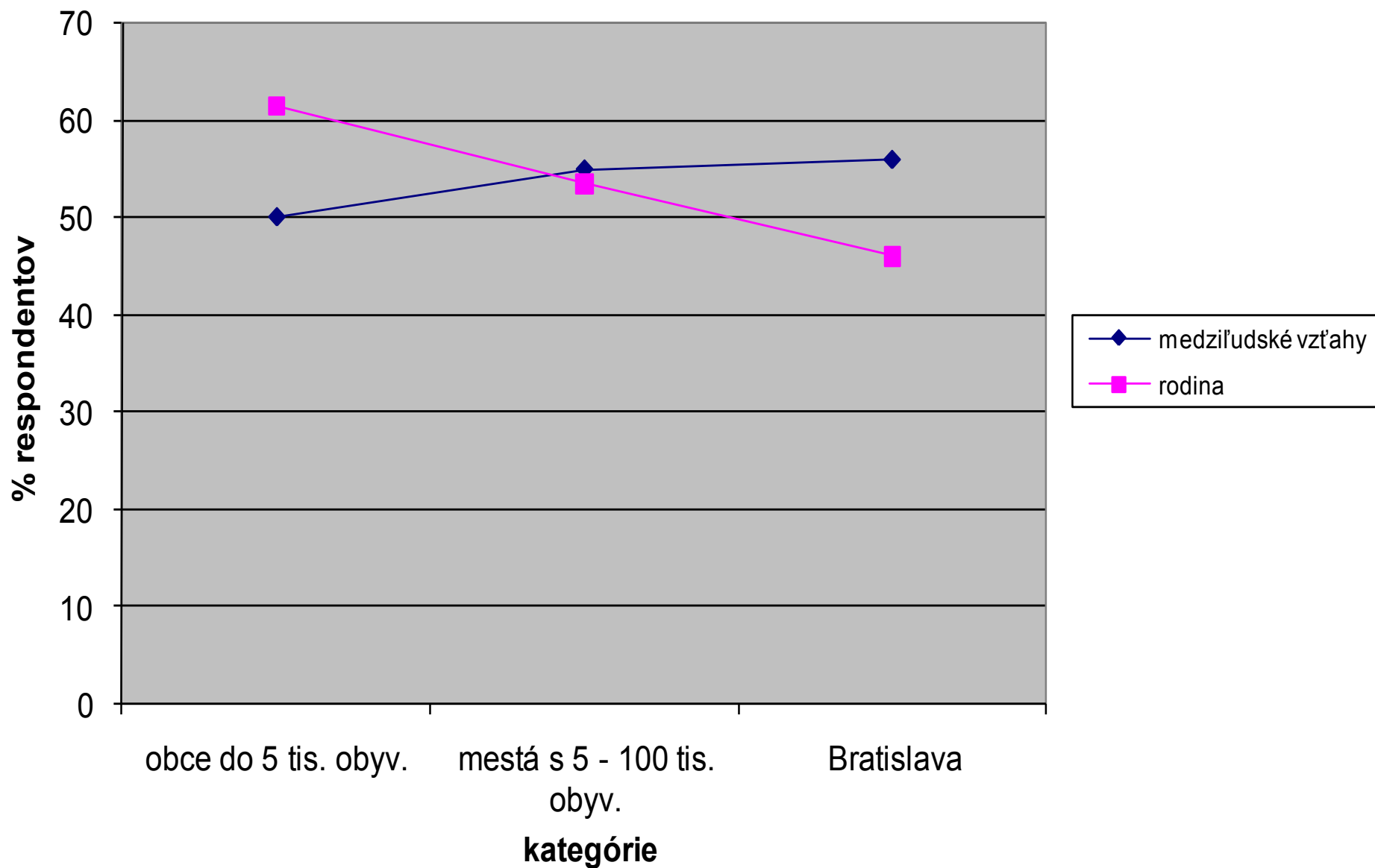
Faktory ovplyvňujúce sídelnú kvalitu života



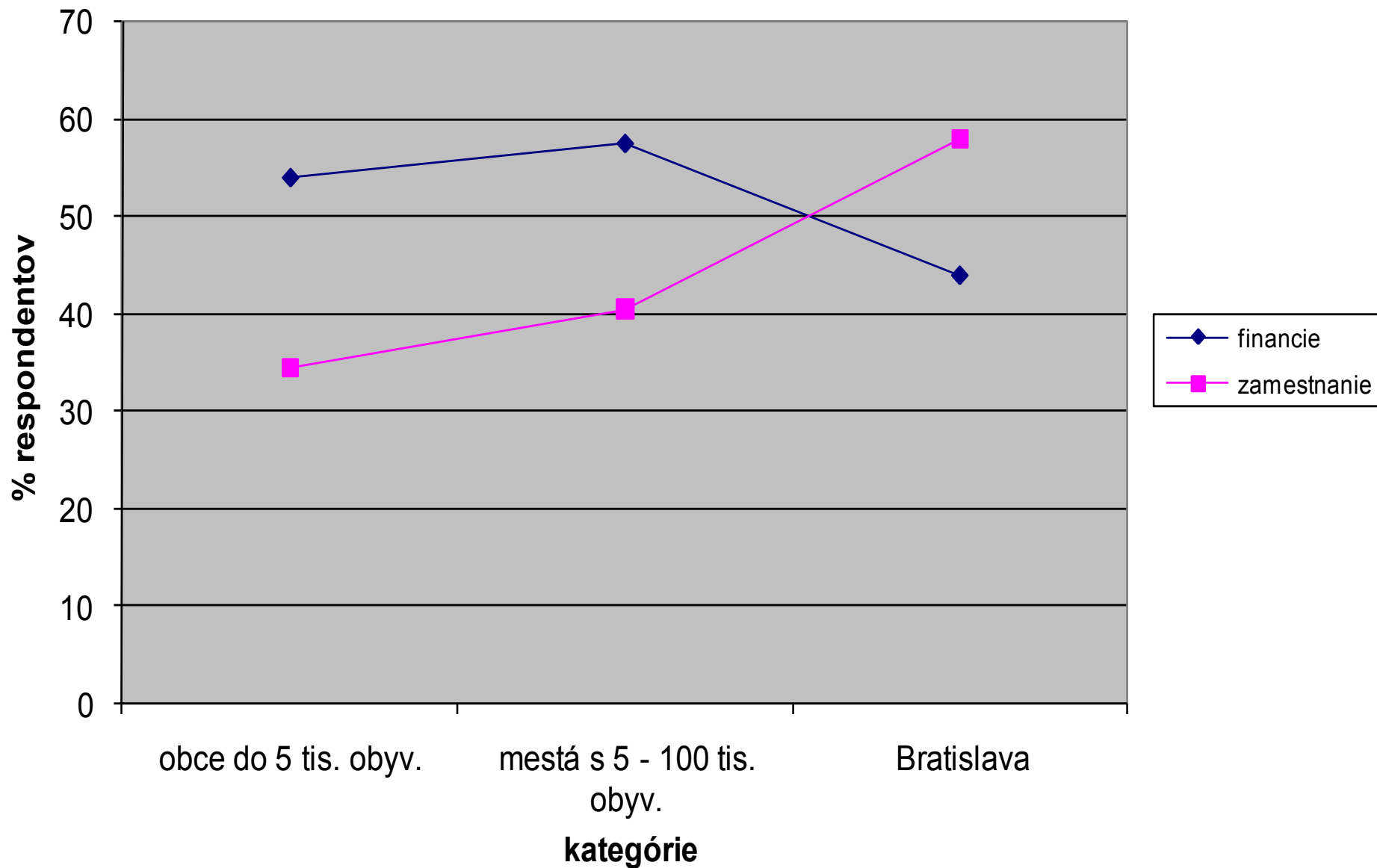
Faktory ovplyvňujúce kvalitu života: porovnanie



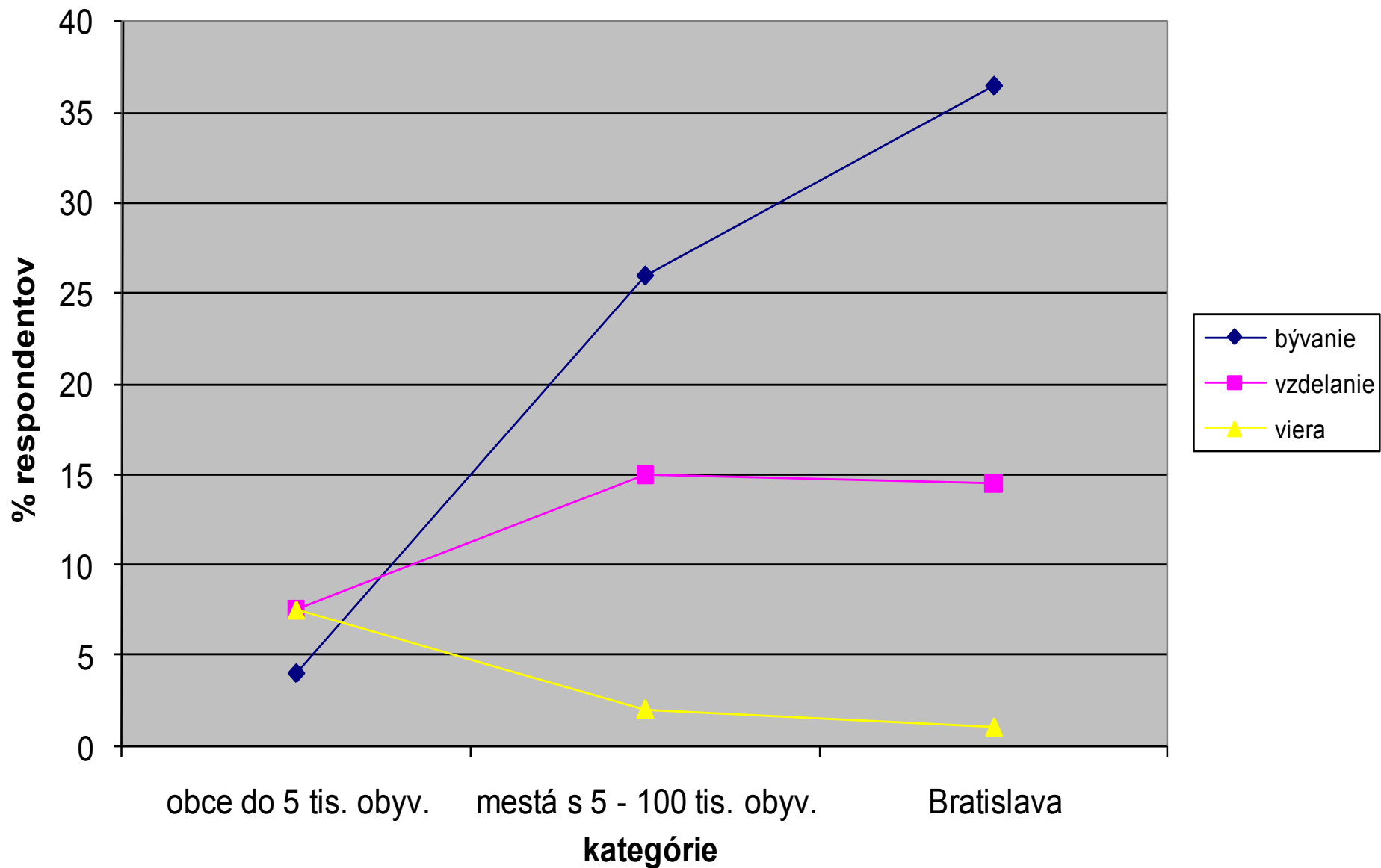
Rozdiely v preferencii vybraných faktorov kvality súkromného života



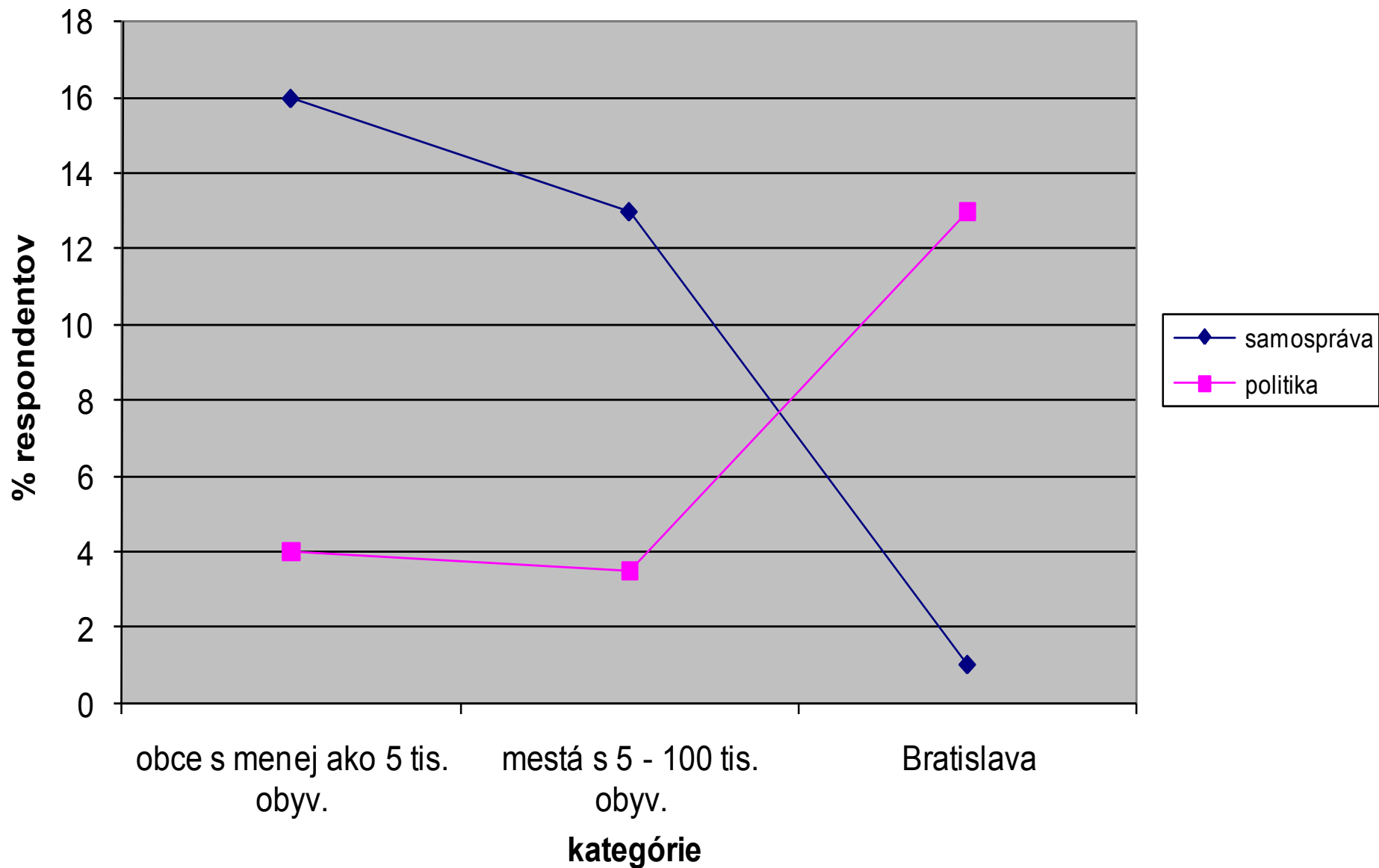
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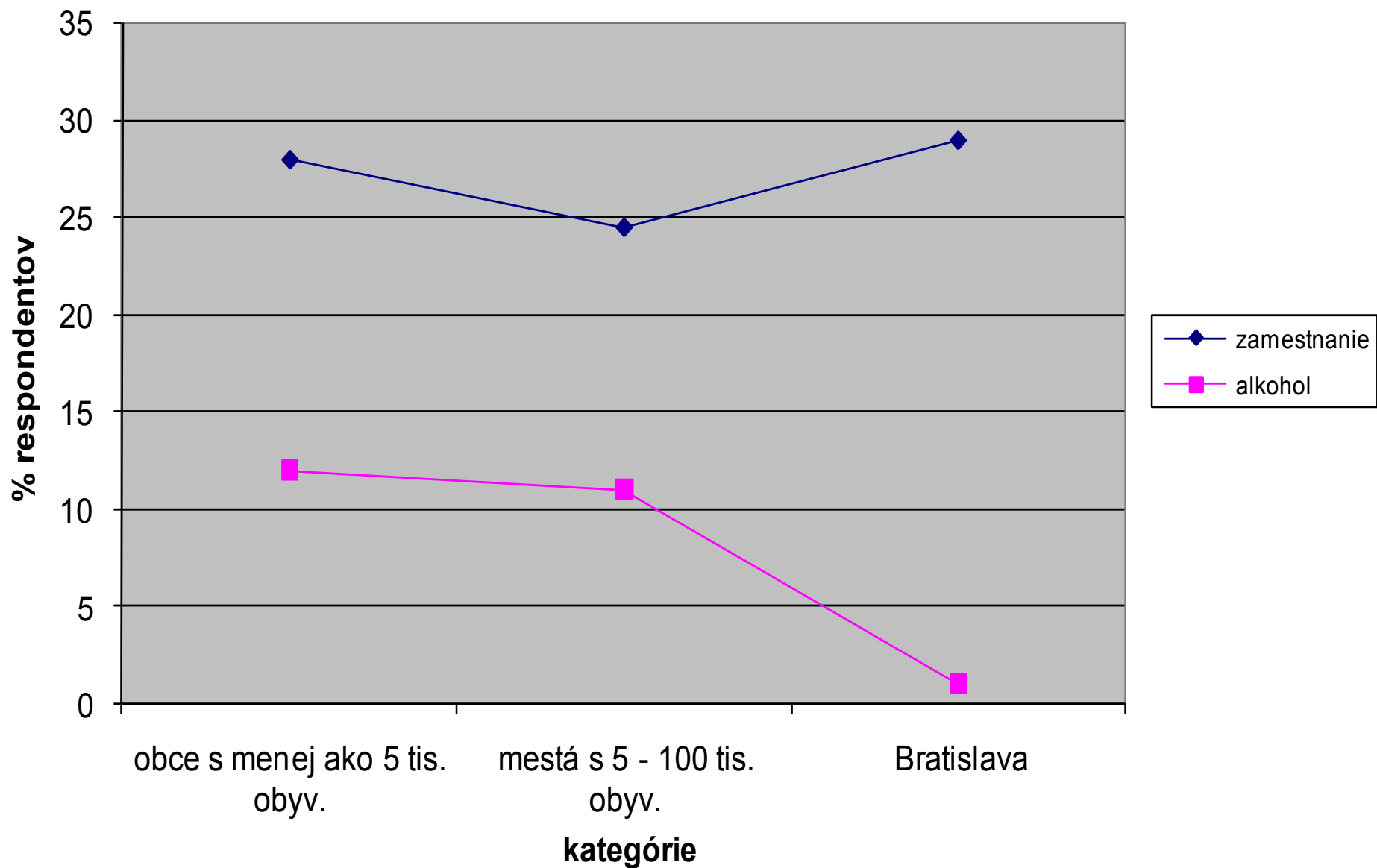
Rozdiely v preferencii vybraných faktorov kvality súkromného života



Preferencie vybraných faktorov celkovej kvality života v obci



Preferencie vybraných faktorov celkovej kvality života v obci



Multidimensionality

- differences due the identification of key domains of QOL
- differences in the basic assumptions (theoretical, philosophical ...)
- differences in methods and methodological approaches
- differences in perspective, scientific discipline (branch)

Multidimensionality

- following the identification of key domains - two „extreme“ approaches
- effort to examine QOL as (quasi) whole – trying to include the evaluation of the broadest possible spectrum of life domains (e.g. the so-called aggregate indexes, models)
- QOL research in terms of (relative to) a single domain - eg. housing
- there is a view that such research is insufficient



QUALITY OF LIFE

Meta-concepts

Meta-concepts – related concepts

- QOL - terminology, methodology ... lack of unity, plurality of opinions, approaches
- cause and effect
- meta-concepts – concepts to some extent related to QOL (its parts, equivalents)
- large number of them
- usually also lack exact definition
- classification of terms – nearly impossible, a high degree of correlation

Meta-concepts - examples

- health,
- (urban) liveability, livability,
- well-being,
- (urban) environmental quality,
- sustainability,
- (life) satisfaction,
- happiness,
- quality of place,
- standard of living,
- many others.

Livability

Pacione (1990): livability is not an attribute inherent in the environment but is a behaviour-related function of the interaction of environmental characteristics and person characteristics

Myers (1988): the quality of the shared living environment (in cities)

- livability (liveability)
- especially in relation to conditions of life in a certain place (mostly in urban areas) there is quite often used the term (urban) "livability" (Pacione 1990 a 1993)
- Pacione notices (2003b, p.20) that liveability is a relative rather than absolute term whose precise meaning depends on the place, time and purpose of the assessment, and on the value system of the assessor

Environmental quality

Porteous (1971): a complex issue involving subjective perceptions, attitudes and values which vary among groups and individuals

Health

WHO (1947): state of complete physical, mental and social well-being

Hanušín et al. (2000): the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being - and so not only the absence of disease. Health is the result of a process of interaction of (human) organism and environment

- several authors – the concept of health
- Hancock (2000) – the relationship between the QOL concept and health – they are often confused
- is health the „real“ QOL? (searching for the „holy Grail“ of QOL issue)
- „the healthy man has 1000 wishes, the ill man has only one - to get healthy“
- „healthy but not wealthy“
- environment, living conditions - the impact on human health
- QOL - is the external manifestation


Sustainability (sustainable development)

WCED (World Commission on Environment and Development 1987): sustainable development is development that meets the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs and aspirations

(Andráško 2008 - “QOL can be seen as the degree to which the set of characteristics of one’s life meets the individual needs.”)

Flores et al. (2000, cited in van Kamp 2003): long term livability

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature 1980): development that improves the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems



Camagni et al. (1997): sustainability refers to a dynamic, balanced and adaptive evolutionary process, i.e. a process in which a balanced use and management of the natural environmental basis of economic development is ensured

Shafer et al. (2000): a community's ability to develop and/or maintain a high quality of life in the present in a way that provides for the same in the future

- **sustainability – object of concern is future (development), livability and QOL focus on „here and now“ (van Kamp et al. 2003)**
- **one of possible reasons of confusing the terms – QOL is a term often used by the authorities of decision-making (local authorities, government) as a synonym for sustainable development, especially due to the view that for the public it is more understandable (DETR 2000)**
- **There should be noted that the idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone (now and for all future generations) is the core concept of sustainability (DETR 1999)**

Well-being

Massam (2002): well-being encompasses both objective conditions (e.g. the degree to which physical needs are being met), as well as subjective conditions such as assessments of one's life or specific facets or domains of one's life

Hanušín et al. (2000): State of mind or subjective feeling, arising from the process of satisfying the needs of material and non-material nature

- well-being
- probably the most common equivalent of QOL
- usually refers to the subjective attributes
- Diener and Suh (1997) used the concept of subjective well-being in the meaning of the summary of cognitive and affective responses to the conditions of humans life
- less common is the use of contrast concept of "ill-being"

- one of the first attempts to distinguish meta-concepts
- Campbell et al. (1976) - defined the difference between satisfaction (a more stable character and is based primarily on cognition, learning and assessment) and happiness (feeling of happiness) which represents only a relatively short feeling of haughtiness or joy
- Veenhoven (1991) - question of relativity (of the feeling) of happiness – it represents the "positive part" of individuals QOL assessment. To a great extent happiness depends on the gratification of innate bio-psychological needs... The better these needs are gratified the better we feel and the more satisfied we are with life.

- terms such as well-being, life satisfaction and happiness are largely seen as terms indicating the subjective , individual, internal aspect of QOL and their base is built upon mans internal psychological processes
- terms such as standard of living, quality of environment, livability, sustainability, quality of place are mostly seen as an indication of the objective (maybe even normative) or external dimension of quality of life, mostly relating to the environmental characteristics of people's lives

- **Subjective and objective aspects of quality of life in the individual terms may coincide, e.g. quality of place may be assessed not only by objectively measured characteristics of the place, but also by perception of the local characteristics by residents**
- **Andráško (2007) came to the conclusion, that:**
 - a) albeit slightly, the terminology begins to unify (interdisciplinary research)**
 - b) all the meta-concepts can be included in the common conceptual framework of QOL**



Thanks for your attention!