

- **Describe briefly the historical circumstances of the creation of this community in your country**

The large Vietnamese community in the Czech Republic is the result of the cooperation of Vietnam and Czechoslovakia, which started in the 1950s. Since the end of the decade, Vietnamese citizens have been educated in Czechoslovakia. After the outbreak of the American war in Vietnam, Vietnamese orphans were admitted in Czechoslovakia.

- **Describe the current status of the community in your country**

The Vietnamese community is currently the third biggest in the Czech Republic (there were over 61 000 Vietnamese legally residing here in 2018). The immigration trend still continues - hundreds of new people come every year to the Czech Republic to study or to start a business and make money. After fulfillment of this goal some return to their homeland, others decide to stay and start a family here. The Vietnamese community is relatively closed and isolated, but it gradually opens to the majority of society, primarily thanks to the second generation.

- **Define cultural specifics of dealing with community members (in general)**

Vietnamese are usually considered cultivated and polite people. They are generally shyer than Europeans. A direct look into the eyes can express arrogance while lowering eyesight expresses respect. We should never raise our voice when communicating with a Vietnamese. A smile is a common facial expression, however, it can be also a sign of nervousness or embarrassment.

- **Define cultural specifics in the provision of health care to community members (with an emphasis on women)**

Vietnamese women may prefer treatment from a female doctor. They are usually shy and have a more intense need for intimacy and privacy. Often they bring their child or other family members as an interpreter to the healthcare facility. During treatment, they often use traditional herbal medicine. Vietnamese women do not show pain, as expressing these emotions can be considered a shame in their community.

- **Determine the migrant language's specificities compared to the host country language**

Vietnamese is the official language of Vietnam and is spoken by an estimated 76 million people worldwide. In the Czech Republic, it has been officially recognized as a minority language, as a result of massive Vietnamese immigration.

Vietnamese has been largely influenced by historical Chinese domination - its vocabulary has borrowings from Chinese, and it formerly used a modified set of Chinese characters. Nowadays, many new words are being borrowed from Western languages, especially English. Vietnamese uses a Latin alphabet with additional diacritics for tones and certain letters. As a tonal language, it uses a series of diacritical marks to indicate tones.

The Vietnamese language has several mutually intelligible regional varieties (three main dialects are North, Central, and South).



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