City

The significance of cities depends on many factors such as the population size, the functions they fulfill, and the scope of their influence. Large cities fulfilling various functions and influencing significant areas are called **metropolises**.

Due to their scope of influence, the following are distinguished:

• global metropolises (in Europe, it's London and Paris; globally, it's New York and Tokyo),

• continental metropolises (in Europe, it's Amsterdam, Barcelona, Brussels, Frankfurt upon Main, Madrid, Milan, Munich, Moscow, Rome, Zurich),

• regional metropolises, which have significant importance within individual countries.

Paris and London are metropolises that exert a tremendous influence on the global economy. They are recognizable worldwide, which is why many organizations, corporations, and institutions have their headquarters and agendas there. Thanks to their fame, they are excellent places for organizing meetings and congresses with political, business, scientific, cultural, and sports character.

A distinguishing feature of metropolises is an extensive transportation network, including an efficient metropolitan communication system with an extensive subway, airports with many intercontinental connections, highways, and railway lines connecting them to other cities.

Analyzing the similarities between Paris and London, we notice that:

• both cities are located on plains, along rivers (Paris on the Seine, London on the Thames),

• they have a similar mild and maritime climate,

• they are the capitals of their respective countries,

• urban agglomerations have very similar populations.

The differences between London and Paris concern the functions these metropolises fulfill. London is the financial capital of the world, where many financially significant business transactions take place. London houses the headquarters of the largest banks, capital and insurance companies, and financial corporations. A characteristic feature of London's center is its tall office buildings made of steel and glass.

Paris, on the other hand, is a global center for science, culture, art, entertainment, and the world capital of fashion. The Sorbonne and the Collège de France are renowned higher education institutions where studying is the dream of many young people from around the world. The Louvre is visited annually by millions of tourists from all continents. When visiting Paris, one should see architectural landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, the Champs-Élysées, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre-Dame Cathedral, and Versailles.