

## **Abstract**

The diploma thesis is devoted to the social group of highly qualified migrants from third countries living and working in Prague. It deals with what social ties played a role in their migration process, what relationships they established after their arrival in the Czech Republic, and how these contacts helped them face possible problems associated with their relocation.

To understand the structure of these social ties, the work uses theory of migration networks, which helps explain how different social ties help reduce the risks and costs associated with migration and how possible migration flows are maintained over time. This theory is complemented by the theory of social ties related to migration according to the work of Granovetter (1973), who is distinguishing between strong and weak social ties of migrating individuals.

As part of the practical part of the research, 8 interviews were conducted with highly qualified foreigners in Prague, which were subsequently subjected to a thematic analysis.

The research pointed out that migration networks occupy important positions in the lives of groups of highly qualified migrants living in Prague, when these networks significantly facilitate the process of migration itself and help them either completely eliminate or better solve problems arising from the Czech immigration system.

The role of weak social ties emerged as essential, where relocation agencies and their workers, and other contacts established or mediated on the basis of employment, played an important role. If highly skilled workers did not have access to these types of networks, they substituted them with relationships based on strong social ties, which also greatly aided the migration process.

As part of the research, several problems faced by this social group when moving to the Czech Republic were also identified. These mainly included the language barrier and the resulting obstacles in establishing new friendships or various complications in interacting with the Czech immigration system.