

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis deals with hustling which was a phenomenon of Czechoslovakia in late socialism and it is neglected in Czech and Slovak historiography. The aim of this thesis is to bring a new knowledge, but mainly a new perspective on the environment of the shadow economy and people who were part of it. The research is focused on methods and practices of how this people ran their „secondary business“, and I also try to find their place in Czechoslovak society. The main basis for this research, are interviews which were recorded by using a method of oral history. Beside this, the study is supported also by knowledge and information of literature, archive materials, and daily newspaper.

The study presents new perspectives on the practice of hustlers, their motivation to start with this illegal activity, as well as various views on the term „vekslák“, and how these people perceive this word and his sense in relation to their person. There is also a contribution to the ethics of this research which is specifically related to topic by its very nature.