

## **Abstract**

This thesis focuses on submunicipal democracy in the Czech Republic and in the European context. Submunicipal democracy and its units form the lowest level of political systems in small and large municipalities. It is a topic that has so far been studied only at the level of individual states and in a very limited way, despite the fact that units are found in many European countries. The paper provides an overview of the types of submunicipal units in Europe with their basic characteristics, and outlines a possible typology according to which submunicipal units in Europe could be categorised. The next part of the thesis deals with the situation in the Czech Republic. The units that represent submunicipal democracy in the Czech Republic are called submunicipal or local councils. These are established by municipal councils in local parts of towns and municipalities. The thesis establishes how submunicipal councils in the Czech Republic are established and how they are set in a historical context. Due to the previous unexplored nature of the topic, a multi-case study of submunicipal councils was carried out to find out how Czech municipalities approach the establishment of submunicipal councils and what position submunicipal councils have in the political system of towns and municipalities. It also explores the relationship between municipal councils, submunicipal councils and the citizens of local districts. Attention was also paid to the cleavage between municipalities and submunicipal councils and the problems associated with the existence of submunicipal units. The research also identified other insights into the functions and benefits of submunicipal units in the Czech Republic.