

## **Abstract**

This thesis examines the possible causes and consequences of the buyout of private regional radiostations by large media houses and the subsequent organisational, programming, regional and financial implications of the creation of radio programming networks. Radiostation divestitures have been occurring since the first decade of the twentieth century, when there were about a hundred stations on the market; now there are only a few units that are not part of a radiostation network or otherwise linked in ownership to large media houses. The changes are examined through casestudies of individual stations sold, which are compared with those that are not part of any network. The paper also outlines why station sales occur and the advantages or disadvantages of having a radiostation fall under a programming network. The thesis points to the weakening of regionalism, centralization of programmes and homogenization of broadcasting. At the same time it maps the history of private regional radio broadcasting in the Czech Republic and describes its current situation.