

Abstract

The Diploma thesis focuses on the issues of social exclusion and people threatened by social exclusion phenomenon. In the thesis I address the process of social inclusion, which is related to socially excluded localities based on particular characteristics and local problems. A separate chapter is devoted to the method of community work that is focused on the effective response to the needs of socially excluded people. Furthermore I emphasize the work of the Agency for Social Inclusion, a major instrument of the Government of the Czech Republic, **providing support to municipalities in the process of social integration**. The relationship of the majority towards the socially excluded is also discussed within the thesis.

Many studies consider the municipality and its government to represent the key role in the process of social inclusion of people endangered by social exclusion. However in the reality there are big differences among the municipalities with regard to the operation and support of socially excluded people. Social departments of some municipalities are acting proactively, others are not. The main difference lies in the self-government approach. Therefore I decided to focus my Diploma thesis research on this particular issue.

The aim of the thesis is to describe the attitudes of the members of local self-government in relationship with socially excluded people in three specific municipalities within one region of the Czech Republic. The research in the practical part of the thesis may help to understand the relationship of local politicians and officials towards the process of inclusion and perceive their sense of responsibility in the process at the area that is considered to be the socially excluded locality.

Key words: Social Exclusion, Social Inclusion, Socially Excluded Locality, Community Work, Local Politicians, Agency for Social Inclusion