

Abstract

The diploma thesis "Czech Healthcare Policy after 2010 in the Context of Heger's Reform", deals with the significant institutional change that was implemented in Czech healthcare law during the right-wing government, which claimed its reforms were necessary in order to balance the budget. The aim of this work is to analyze the development of Czech healthcare policy in the period 2010–2013 with respect to the case of Heger's reform. This thesis uses different methods of analyzing the political process, for example methods of institutional analysis, critical discourse analysis, and other methods. The main theoretical basis of this work consists of a social critique of the neoliberal approach to Czech health care policy, and of a study of healthcare systems, their functions and goals, and a study of health policy and its changes. Attention is paid especially to the context of human rights related to health and the international discourse. This thesis identifies the arguments of neoliberal ideology in the policy-making of Czech healthcare policy makers in the process of justifying reforms. It evaluates the legitimacy of reform changes that don't accept the opinion of the public and don't respond to the international discourse, and investigates how the reform introduces new legal terminology which doesn't correspond with the terms used in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Basic Freedoms, concluding that there are obvious connections between the new terminology and the efforts of policy makers to let private interests influence the process vis-a-vis Czech healthcare policy.