

## **Abstract**

The Diploma thesis focuses on the topic of Socially excluded locality and its perception by municipal politicians. The topic is researched in three specific municipalities within a region and on the approach of local municipal politicians towards the issue of social exclusion, while the close proximity of the municipalities also allows to monitor the diversity of particular municipality's approaches on the issue of social exclusion.

In the thesis the concept of social exclusion is defined and also described historically both in global and European context. The concept of social exclusion is closely related to the topic of socially excluded locality and the adoption of socially vulnerable people by the majority, therefore the second chapter of the thesis is devoted to this topic. Another theme prepared on the basis of the professional literature focuses on description of the specific situation in the Czech Republic, possibilities and scope of national and municipal politicians' activity. In the last chapter the possibilities of support and work with socially excluded citizens are introduced.

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 there are big differences among the municipalities with regard to the operation and support of socially excluded people. Social departments of some municipalities act proactively, others are not. The main difference lies in the self-government approach, on which aims the research part of the thesis. The research part of the thesis provides a description of the attitudes of municipality-government members towards the socially excluded people in three particular municipalities in one region of the Czech Republic. The research within the practical part itself reveals the relationship of local municipal politicians and municipal officials to inclusion and reveals the extent to which local politicians feel responsible for the process of social inclusion in the area where the socially excluded locality exists.

Given the fact that the course of the research has proved that responding municipal politicians perceive the issues of social exclusion largely as an ethnic problem, respectively Roma issue, the thesis is also devoted to the elementary aspects of Roma issues and furthermore demonstrates the problems of social exclusion on the examples of mutual coexistence with the Roma citizens.

The research indicates that municipal politicians understand the issues related to social exclusion in different ways, they realize that they should focus on the solution of the problem, but on the contrary municipal politicians do not have a clear idea how to achieve that. On that basis they either make no effort at all or are without prior planning trying to support socially excluded people in housing or increase the employment of socially excluded individuals in short-term, mostly within the public work incentives. Municipal politicians do not feel responsible for the problems arising from the social welfare system, they rather shift and address the State as the responsible entity. They do not have a good experience in cooperation with NGOs.

The thesis also provides recommendations how to improve the situation in municipalities that incorporate socially excluded localities. Furthermore it proposes to the municipal politicians the need for a demographic analysis and strategic development plan of the municipality, which would provide progress with regard to the integration of socially excluded localities.

**Key words:** social exclusion, social inclusion, socially excluded locality, community work, local politicians, agency for social inclusion