

Abstract:

Regional policy is one of the most important activities of the European Union. The fundamentals of the regional policy can be found already in the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community from 1957, in whose preamble states commit themselves to reinforce the unity of their national economies and to ensure their harmonious development by reducing differences between individual regions. Above all, the regional policy attempts to equate differences among different developed regions through financial assistance, which they obtain both from national funds as well as supra-national funds. To key goals of the Regional policy belongs the reduction of differences in average incomes, unemployment, regional development and related satisfaction of public needs.

On 1st February 1995, the Agreement on the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union became valid, and this was a fundamental impulse for the development of regional policy in relation with the possible drawing of financial means from supra-national sources. For this purpose, there was established the Ministry of Regional Development, which became the central coordinator for the use of means from the European Union. In the framework of the new program period, its position was reinforced. Thus, since 2004, the Czech Republic began to use means from structural funds and cohesion funds.

The goal of this dissertation work is to provide a complete picture about the organization, functioning and sphere of action of the Cohesion Regions and Regional Councils of Cohesion Regions, according to the Act No. 248/2000 Coll., on support of regional development. As well, an analysis of the obtaining of financial means, their redistribution and management of these financial means from the position of the Regional Council of Cohesion Regions during the program period 2007 - 2013. Since currently this program period is at its end, the dissertation work includes as well the processing of the new program period 2014 - 2020. In the presented dissertation work, there are included as well changes, which this program period brings, and the influence of this program period on the functioning of the Cohesion Regions for the future

The issue, which emerges in relation to the functioning and especially financing of Cohesion Regions, is the budgetary responsibility of Cohesion Regions and related consequences. This dissertation work attempts to find answers to questions, whether it is possible to apply the budgetary responsibility directly on Cohesion Regions and under which conditions. As a support element for the delimitation of the work, there will be applied the

method of investigation and of data collection and case-law generated by national courts as well as case-law of the European courts.

Within the processing of the dissertation work, the analysis of the following legal norms will be performed: Act No. 563/1991 Coll., on accounting, Act No. 320/2001 Coll., on financial control, Act No. 420/2004 Coll., on review of management of territorial autonomous entities and voluntary unions of municipalities and Act No. 243/2000 Coll., on budgetary assignation of tax, including the government proposal of the Act on budgetary responsibility, which so far has not been approved in the legislation process.

Another important field covered by this dissertation work is the analysis of a concretely selected Cohesion Region within the Czech Republic, including the comparison of the regional policy of the Czech Republic with selected EU member states. Sequentially, there will be performed a comparison of the functioning and arrangement of regional policies of these two selected EU member states with the regional policy of the Czech Republic. Within the framework of the dissertation work, the author will set hypotheses arising from the domain of regional policy, which will be addressed based on a performed investigation and which will be either rejected or confirmed.