

## **Abstract**

In the context of current urgent environmental and social problems is waste management policy increasingly moving from plain safe disposal of waste toward integrating systems, where waste is recognized as an important resource and is being incorporated into the material circle again.

This thesis tracks three particular political responses to the challenge of sustainable waste management. It discusses the strategies and applied policy tools in Japan, European union and the Slovak republic. The main focal point for their analysis is the sustainable development paradigm, the pursue of which is evaluated from the sustainability perspective in time and space using the SWOT analysis. This element of the sustainable development is supplemented and reinforced through an identification of the application of the key principles for pursuing the sustainable development.

Apart from the evaluation of the strong and weak point of the particular policies from the viewpoint of sustainable development, the outcome of the thesis will be as well to identify eventual possibilities for a positive inspiration in the European context. Last, but not least, the thesis brings forward basic points of departure to steer the policies in a positive direction, with a special emphasis on the case of Slovak republic.

**Key words:** Sustainable development, waste management, policy strategies, environmental policy tools, circular economy