

Regional differentiation in perception of immigrants and immigration by students of secondary schools and its determinants

Abstract

This thesis deals with the attitudes of Czech upper-secondary school students to immigrants. The main goal of this thesis is to find out whether there are regional differences in the perception of immigrants by students of the upper-secondary schools in the Czech Republic and to find out which factors can affect the perception of immigrants and their regional differentiation.

Considering the actual situation in the world, the topic of this thesis is very up-to-date. It is necessary to be carefully prepared for the increase of the international migration to ensure smoother integration of migrants in the concerned countries. Much research addresses the international comparison of countries in the perspective of immigrants, but monitoring of intra-national differences is really important and can tell us a lot about where the main causes of the problems are. Based on this opinion, I was studying the relationship of the Czech society with immigrants. As a sample, I opted for students of grammar schools and vocational schools.

As a main theoretical concept, I choose contact hypothesis of Gordon Allport. It is based on the assumption, that to prevent prejudice and conflicts between different groups of people, there is a need for them to interact. Based on the study of contact hypothesis and other literature, I identified factors that could influence the relationship with the immigrants. Afterwards, I verified their significance with questionnaire survey among the upper-secondary school students. Regression analysis confirmed among presented factors, the direct contact with migrants has the greatest positive influence on relationship with. The result undoubtedly confirmed aforementioned contact hypothesis. Critical approach to the media was another strong factor. Parents' education, however, was not confirmed as one of the important factors, although it was one of the strongest based on the literature. The underlying finding was that there exist significant regional differences in the perception of certain attributes of migration and migration groups, while in other cases, regional differences were insignificant.

Keywords: contact hypothesis, prejudice, regional differentiation, immigrants perception, students upper-secondary school