

Abstract

Title: Migration of Czech ice hockey players to North America.

Objectives: The main objective of this diploma thesis is to evaluate the current development of migration of Czech ice hockey players to North American highest competition - NHL since 1990.

The sub-objective of this thesis is to investigate migration factors, then to describe historical developments within migration and to compare with other ice hockey powers. Further analysing the influence of Czech ice hockey players on the performance of teams in North American competitions, as well as introducing leagues themselves.

Methods: This thesis used qualitative research which abnormally consists of a questionnaire survey and precedes quantitative research, which includes deskresearch, a method which is also referred to as secondary data analysis, data are mainly drawn from the outputs of mass media and virtual data for this work. Next method of comparison and correlation analysis. Hereinafter the comparison method and correlation analysis are used.

Results: This study reveals the importance of focusing on the experiences of the migrants themselves as well as on the factors related to migration. They exist not only in professional field, but also in personal life. All this affects the overall adaptation process. The most motivating factor for migration from the players' perspective, is the financial reward, which currently amounts to an average of \$ 2,000,000 for Czech players. Another significant reason for going overseas, according to players, is status of the NHL, the best hockey league in the world. It is equally important for players to acquire new sporting experiences that are associated with new sporting challenges, as well as being a part of the NHL is career goal for many Czech players.

Keywords: NHL, CHL, questionnaire survey, globalization of sport, ice hockey