

Abstract

The topic of this diploma thesis is a cultural life in small spa towns, specifically presented on a case study of town Lázně Toušeň. In the theoretical part of the thesis the topic is incorporated into urban sociology and the thesis focuses on questions such as what is the difference between a city and a village, are there any transitional areas and what kind of urbanization processes can occur in the countryside. In the second chapter of the theoretical part the main focus of the thesis lies with spas, their history and cultural specifics. In the empirical part, the case study itself, the thesis looks into the town of Lázně Toušeň and its spa, specifically on the cultural life in the town between the years 1968 - 1989. The study focuses on topics such as what is the difference between cultural and community life in the town during normalization period and present day and how are they influenced by the specifics of Toušeň. The study also covers the topics of daily life in the spa, the organizational and financial side of the cultural events or the role of the “cultural officers”. The research was based on semi structured interviews with contemporary witnesses and was complemented by historical sources and secondary literature. The objective of the thesis is to bring a study of cultural life in a small spa town during the normalization period presented from the point of view of contemporary witnesses as well as from historical sources. The thesis should also be a contribution to the sociology of small towns.