

## **Abstract**

The diploma thesis “*Compulsory Pre-school Education in the Czech Republic – Success or Failure?*” deals with the pre-school education and educational inequality in the Czech Republic, mainly among children before entering first classes. The aim of the thesis is to describe the change that occurred with the implementation of compulsory pre-school attendance in the Czech Republic. Furthermore the aim of the thesis is to find out whether the amendment to the Act No. 178/2016 Coll. was implemented in accordance with the goals set by legislators, and to determine whether the political program was successful or failed – for this purpose the McConnell's typology of political success is used. In the following part, on the basis of interviews with educational policy actors, there are described the attitudes of various educational policy actors in the selected municipality. The analysis reveals problematic areas and benefits of compulsory pre-school education in the Czech Republic. By assessing five criteria of McConnell's typology, the controversial success of the political program – the Conflicted Program Success – is identified. This thesis reveals the reasons why the political program was not completely successful in its implementation, in order to identify areas for possible future change. Subsequently, it offers possibilities of the direction in which pre-school education in the Czech Republic could move in the following years. The proposals could reduce inequalities among children before entering first classes. Specific possibilities are created on the basis of an analysis of interviews, examples of good foreign practice and secondary data.