

The goal of the dissertation thesis is to describe and analyze the influence of social group mentalities on the processes of post-communist transformation in the Czech Republic after 1989. Mentalities are described through their impact on attitudes, political and economical activities of different social groups (defined by socio-professional status, social class, and age). They are analyzed both in national and international context.

The inquiry into determination of collective action has had its gradual progress in the sociology, so the dissertation outlines different approaches to social groups from this field of view. This outline led to the operationalization of the term "social group mentality". Mentalities can be treated as schemes of perception, thinking and acting, which are typical to a social group and relatively stable in time. Three structural dimensions of mentality were found, in which it is appropriate to make further inquiry – group identity, legitimization of leadership, and goal achievement.

A qualitative survey, conducted in 2003-2004, gave answers about sources of creation of the social group mentalities. Each social group reinterprets common life experience of itself, of other social groups within society, and tries to legitimate its mentality as identical part of the society. Different social groups take active part in processes of legitimization of societal transformation not only from the point of view of their particular social interests, but they re-construct in their thoughts the society as a whole, and their position within the society.

The empirical part was aimed at legitimization of social differences in social group mentalities. Further analyses dealt with area of working orientations, which was extremely important in the first part of the process of post-communist transformation, because it reflected how the economical transformation is accepted or declined within society.