

# Abstract

The thesis deals with collaboration between higher education institutions and entrepreneurial sector. Based on the experience from abroad it analyses the situation in the Czech Republic. In the beginning, the collaboration is outlined by a short history, theoretical concepts and description of its main forms used in Western Europe. The theoretical part also deals with advantages, obstacles and risks of collaboration.

Building on the theoretical part the two conducted analyses describe the situation in the Czech Republic. The first one, the analysis of collaboration, points out the fact that higher education institutions do not generate favourable environment to collaboration with businesses. In spite of it collaboration occurs quite often. Institutions are motivated by various advantages of which financial incentives are of the greatest importance. A majority of higher education institutions representatives surprisingly believe that the collaboration entails no risks and no setbacks. The analysis also denies two prejudices related to collaboration. Firstly, not only technical higher education institutions collaborate with businesses, and secondly, collaboration does not predominantly take place in an informal form. Nonetheless, the fact that collaboration is usually established by individual academics was proven.

The second analysis deals with environment for collaboration and it points out insufficient support at the central level of policy making. There are many strategic documents that touch collaboration but there is not a single one providing systematic and direct support for these activities. Moreover, the number of strategic documents exceeds the number of programmes directly and practically supporting the collaboration. Finally, there are still forms of collaboration that are not supported at all. Among them there are also such forms of collaboration which should enjoy support as they are mentioned in strategic documents.

Based on the conducted analyses, the last part of the thesis proposes measures that could mitigate the obstacles and setbacks on both the central level as well as the level of higher education institutions.