

Abstract

The presented bachelor's thesis deals with the issue of homelessness in Prague. Specifically, it focuses on the functioning of the Czech social system in relation to homeless people and the strategic concepts of proposals for solving the problem of homelessness in the territory of Prague.

Homelessness is a complex social problem that is increasingly pressing in the context of Prague. This is also due to the fact that, to this day, homelessness is not defined in Czech legislation. Some public policy makers believe that the definition is unnecessary, or they refer to gaps in the theoretical anchoring. However, defining homelessness is an important prerequisite for its effective solution.

The main goal of the bachelor's thesis is to find out in what ways public policy instruments solve the problem of homelessness in the capital of the city of Prague and overcome barriers to the functioning of the safety net.

The bachelor thesis first describes homelessness, its definition, causes, typology and possible barriers to reintegration. Furthermore, the work in the empirical part focuses on the secondary analysis of documents with the aim of identifying the available options of this social group from the point of view of valid legislation and strategic plans for solving homelessness - specifically, it concerns the Concept of preventing and solving the problem of homelessness in the Czech Republic until 2020 and the Concept of proposals for solving the problem of homelessness in Prague in the years 2013–2020.

The thesis then illustrates the specific causes of life on the street and barriers to reintegration into mainstream society on a research group of 10 informants. These data were collected using semi-structured in-depth interviews with homeless people. The data was subsequently coded and processed using the method of thematic analysis. The synthesis of these researches found that the most common causes of homelessness are a dysfunctional family, addictions, job loss and debt. Knowing the primary causes is an important prerequisite for building a strong safety net and setting effective public policies. Nevertheless, the causes are only partially articulated in the concepts.

The way in which public policy solves the problem of homelessness in the territory of Prague is primarily a system of transitional housing and social services.