

## **ABSTRACT**

The main topic of the master thesis is the relationship between life satisfaction and the GDP indicator. Factors that influence life satisfaction are the subject of my research. The master thesis is based on two scientific studies that deal with the relationship between life satisfaction and the GDP indicator. The conclusions of these two studies contradict each other. The first study was published in 1974 by Richard Easterlin. According to Easterlin's paradox, the people's happiness in a given country does not increase with increasing GDP in the long run. When people reach a certain level of wealth and material well-being, their subjective happiness and overall life satisfaction do not grow anymore. The second scientific study was published in 2008 by Stevenson and Wolfers. The authors concluded that there is a positive correlation between life satisfaction and increasing GDP per capita in many countries. This master's thesis aimed to find out what could be the reason behind this contradiction. Moreover, the master's thesis aimed to identify factors influencing life satisfaction. In the empirical part of the work, I used qualitative research methods. Based on the methodologies used in the two studies, I created two types of questionnaires. In total, I conducted fifty semi-structured interviews. With the first half of the interviewees, I used the first type of questionnaire, and with the second half of the interviewees, I used the second type of questionnaire. In the theoretical part, I concluded that a possible explanation for the fact that the authors came to different conclusions in their studies could be the ambiguity of the concepts of happiness and life satisfaction. Another possible reason for the discrepancy between these two studies could be that Richard Easterlin's work did not consider the unequal distribution of wealth in society. Moreover, the way the question about life satisfaction was asked was changed many times during the data collection, which might bias the results. Based on the empirical part of my research, I concluded that respondents rate their life satisfaction very positively in both types of questionnaires. The results show that respondents think primarily about family and financial situation factors when asked about life satisfaction. Respondents also often mentioned factors of health, interpersonal relationships, and friends. The research shows that financial situation plays a vital role in life satisfaction.

**Keywords:** life satisfaction, GDP, happiness, income, quality of life, financial situation, Easterlin's paradox, factors