

# **Ethnic Segregation in Czech Education: Context and Solutions**

## **Abstract**

The thesis addresses the issue of ethnic segregation of Roma students in the Czech primary education system. It focuses on the historical, legal, economic, and social aspects of this phenomenon and analyses its causes and possible solutions. Through a review of academic literature, an analysis of the legislative framework, and the examination of available data, the study identifies key mechanisms leading to the segregation of Roma students, including residential separation, institutional settings of the education system, and socio-cultural barriers.

On a broader level, the thesis also examines the economic and social impacts of segregated education for Roma students. Segregated schools often face lower expectations for their students, lower-quality teaching resources, and limited opportunities for academic and social development. The research presented in the thesis shows that education in an ethnically homogeneous environment with a high concentration of socially disadvantaged students deepens educational inequalities and restricts further education and career opportunities. Segregated schools are also less attractive to experienced teachers, which further negatively affects the quality of instruction. Additionally, Roma students are placed in educational programs for children with mild intellectual disabilities at a rate approximately ten times higher than the majority population, leading to an artificial "cap" on their educational prospects.

Despite existing legislation that formally prohibits segregation and international pressure for its resolution, significant progress in addressing this issue has not been made in the Czech education system. The thesis identifies major obstacles to desegregation, including inadequate public communication on the issue, low institutional capacity, and the absence of effective monitoring mechanisms. In its conclusion, the thesis also provides brief normative recommendations.