Abstract

Globally, around a billion tonnes of food end up as waste annually, which deprives us of natural resources used for their production. The humankind is continuously putting higher pressure on the environment, which results in the current environmental crises – among others the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity and fertile soil. At the same time, a whole third of the population of this planet is facing a lack of food, and even in the Czech Republic, over 6 % of households are living in a state of material deprivation, and more than 9 % of the society is at risk of income poverty. The question of preventing food waste generation and more effective usage of the already produced food should therefore be addressed not only from the environmental perspective, but also the social one, so the surplus food gets to the individuals who need it for their nutrition.

This thesis examines food waste generation in the retail sector through the tool of providing food to food banks. Primarily, it focuses on the obligation to provide food to the food banks imposed from the year 2018 on the sellers of food from the specified size of premises by section 11(2) of the Czech Food Act No 110/1997 Coll. The main question of the thesis is how this method of food waste prevention can be made more efficient, either through the tool of the mandatory providing to the food banks or other approaches. The author builds not only on theoretical sources, but also on semi-structured interviews with the central actors of the system – the representatives of the food sellers and the food banks. At the end, there are formulated recommendations that could potentially facilitate the prevention of food waste, but also the operation of the food bank system.