

## Abstract

Housing is one of the basic human needs and belongs to the so called social rights. Adequate (comfort and affordably priced) housing for foreigners is moreover and without doubt one of the most important tools for their integration to a host society. As long as an immigrant should be beneficial to the host society it is necessary to support his integration and consequently also his housing.

It was the main aim of my thesis to identify problems that foreigners in the Czech Republic have with their housing. I also wanted to point out to the factors which affect housing conditions of immigrants. I have not only kept to the record of expert texts, documents and laws but I also made a fieldwork among asylum seekers, other foreigners and billet holders at three regions: Central Bohemian, South Moravian and Karlovy Vary Region.

Housing conditions of addressed immigrants are worse when compared to those of domestic population. Minority groups of immigrants mostly make use of rental sector whereas to realty owners belongs only lower percentage of them, that is almost insignificant. Often there is also smaller space for a person. Housing conditions are affected by many factors. The most important of them are individual earnings or the earnings of all the household. Among other factors that affect housing conditions are: education and skills, knowledge in local property market, orientation in the legislation of host society, political and social climate of the society, preferations and decisions of immigrants themselves, family traditions, demographic characteristics (age, health, etc...), position within the framework of family life cycle, cultural differences between newly arrivers and domestic population, length of immigrant's staying in the host society, purpose and type of this staying etc.

When ensuring their housing and also during their life in the Czech Republic respondents battle against many problems. For the most of them the most important problem was low income. Addressed foreigners and asylum seekers also face up to language barrier, xenophobia and discrimination. Czech citizens still have many prejudices against foreigners. Foreigner/assylum seeker also may become a subject of various trickeries. The main reason is an ignorance of czech legislative milieu.

Tho most of the respondents needed a help to ensure their housing and that means not only financial help but also a legal assistance. As I mentioned above, only the well integrated immigrant is beneficial to the host society. Host society should therefore make an effort to help foreigners and assylum seekers who want to settle in the new country.