

The main topic of this thesis is the issue of utilising EU Structural Funds in the Czech Republic in establishing equal opportunities for women and men. In particular, it studies the coverage of this issue in selected Operational Programmes of the Czech Republic and the actual status of its enforcement. The theoretic part of the thesis defines the general term of equal opportunities for women and men and related issues. It briefly specifies the principal international and Czech legal documents covering this topic. Following this general overview the paper provides characteristics of EU Structural Funds and subsequently Operational Programmes in the Czech Republic. The empiric part of the thesis is divided into two sections. The first one focuses on the comparison of priorities in selected Operational Programmes during the previous and current programme period in terms of equal opportunities, in particular, on changes related to priorities in the area of equal opportunities. The intention is to obtain information about the content or shifts in the content of the Operational Programmes and their rhetoric. The second part is based on an analysis of semistructured interviews with project administrators. The aim is to map out the general awareness to equal opportunities and to obtain information about their subjective assessment of the respective topic within the selected Operational Programmes and horizontal priorities. Based on the results of both sections of the empiric part the proposals of possible solutions are defined, implementation of which could result in more efficient utilisation of subsidies from the EU for the support of equal opportunities of women and men in the Czech Republic.