

Abstract

The bachelor thesis „Czechs from Zelov and their contemporary life in the Czech republic“ makes an attempt to show the process of changes in life and identity of people participating in the return migration from Zelov in Poland (in Polish Zelów) and their descendants. It deals with return migration after the Second World War and next changes in collective identity. Czechs in Zelov built their identity on the connection of religious and language-and-ethnic awareness. They came to Zelov in 1803 from Silesia, where they were from 1740s as religious emigrants. The thesis also includes this history of the migration and life in Zelov.

Then the thesis presents outcomes of field research, which took place from October 2011 – to February 2012. The research supposes that the descendants are now interested in their history and traditions of Zelov. The example of interest is citizens association Exulant. The research is consisted of interviews and questionnaires from nine protestants parishes in the Czech republic. They show that these people declare they are not interested in Zelov. On the other hand, observations and pastor's point of view indicate that the life of them is influenced by Zelov in many directions. The thesis shows that the situation was influenced by the communist regime, the environment of borderlands and the neighbouring society. It was also changed after the Velvet Revolution.