

## **ABSTRACT**

This diploma thesis deals with the relationship between immigrants and the immigration authorities in the Czech Republic. The thesis is divided into two parts – theoretical and practical. The first one summarizes the facts about immigration authorities – the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the Foreign Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. It also discusses the causes of migration, the legal aspects and the non-governmental organizations that serves as a mediator between immigrants and the authorities.

The practical part deals with the topic of immigrants and the authorities in the media and literature. It also includes a field research made by a qualitative method of directed interviews with the immigrants, the representatives of non-governmental organizations and the representatives of the immigration authorities. The research is supplemented by an observations at Prague office of the Ministry of the Interior.

The most criticized problems of the Ministry of the Interior is the failure to meet the statutory deadlines during the processing of applications for long-term stay, the behavior of officers and the queues of immigrants associated with a long waiting. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a problem with VISAPPOINT – an internet operation system for ordering to apply for a visa – many foreigners can not log into it. The Foreign Police has already refered a long-term stay agenda to the Ministry of the Interior, so there are no problems from the perspective of foreigners or the media now.

The representatives of the immigration authorities are aware of that biggest problems and expressed a desire to improve them – but that depends on the amount of allocated funds and the development of legislation. So only time will show the development of the ‘immigration issues’ in the Czech Republic.

Key words: authorities, the Czech Republic, Foreign Police, immigrants, migration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, non-governmental organizations.