Abstract

The master thesis focuses on the role of mayors in community development in selected peripheral micro-regions of Košice region. These micro-regions represent two types of peripheral areas which were defined by the differences in quality of social and human capital in the region. These types were identified by analysis of the literature. The main objective of this thesis was to assess whether there is a relationship between these types of peripherals and the quality of human and social capital of citizens, but especially of mayors in the specific peripheral micro-regions. This objective was fulfilled both by the analysis of available secondary sources of information and also by investigation in peripheral municipalities. This investigation was especially concerned on identifying the level of cooperation of mayors with other development actors and also their engagement to solve the main problems of municipalities.

**Keywords:** social capital, human capital, peripheral areas, Košice region, regional development, cooperation, relationships and contacts, actors of regional development