

Abstract

The presented work aims to map the trends in the development and professionalization of foundations on the background of the civil society that was formed in the Czech Republic after 1989. It addresses the importance of endowment and appreciation of foundation assets in the long-term perspective and describes the circumstances that led to the creation of the Foundation Investment Fund (NIF). It also tries to follow the legislative and economic conditions for the development of the Czech endowment sector. In this sense the paper aims to bring some contribution to the civil society studies.

Through a case study on The Committee of Good Will – The Olga Havel Foundation the thesis deals with the causes, effects and changes of the foundation's professionalization process. The research uses the means of internal and external document analysis, interviews with the foundation representatives and the method of participating observation.

The effects of the professionalization process have manifested in personnel management changes (eg. recruitment of paid employees, hiring external professionals), project management changes and overall change in the scope of the foundation's activities. The foundation also took necessary steps towards better appreciation of its assets, proper care of its existing donors and effective communication with the public. Nevertheless, there is still potential for further improvement and even higher degree of professionalization.

The last part of the thesis points out the insufficiencies that could be eliminated and suggests solutions to the current issues. The proposed recommendations can serve as an inspiration for other foundations with similar origin circumstances.