

## **Abstract**

The European Union aims to reduce interregional disparities through its regional policy. This thesis deals with the effectiveness of EU regional policy and trends of regional disparities according to selected indicators. In the case study the impact of EU regional policy is observed in Ireland, the Czech republic and Bulgaria. Regional disparities are examined at NUTS 2 level. The Williamson curve is tested to explore the association between the level of economic development and level of disparities. In the comparative study the values of indicators are compared to the EU average. In the end, the thesis is focused on evaluation of EU regional policy effectiveness and seven recommendations are proposed to contribute to the improvement of EU regional policy so that goals of Europe 2020 Strategy are achieved.