

ABSTRACT

Unemployment is a subject examined in many fields, e.g. sociology, economics or psychology. However, all these areas for the most part disregard gender implications within the topic. This is why I have attempted in my work to address the issue of unemployment from a gender perspective in greater detail through the activities of the Labor Office, as the central institution dealing with unemployment in the Czech Republic. Specifically, I have examined whether or not there are gender stereotypes in the work of female and male employees of the Labor Office; in particular, whether or not jobs and retraining programs have been offered, or demanded, in a gender-stereotypical manner. Since I conducted interviews for my research shortly after the amendments to the Employment Act and the Labor Code took effect, which fundamentally influenced the activities of female and male employees of the Labor Office, I have obtained significant additional information on the functioning of the new measures in practice. Therefore, my thesis provides an insight not only into gender stereotypes in the work of the Labor Office, but also into the new tools of what is referred to as “active employment policy” (from the point of view of the Labor Office’s employees), including both the envisaged benefits of these tools as well as the problems they have brought. I also briefly comment on the measures previously used by the government in fighting unemployment, such as retraining or consultations, where compared to the past there has been a significant shift in connection with the aforementioned amendments to the Acts from the Labor Office over to the private sector.