

Abstract

This paper focuses on the analysis of absorption of EU structural funds by public universities in the Czech Republic in the period of 2007-2013 under the operational programmes Education for Competitiveness OP, Research and Development for Innovation OP, Prague Adaptability OP and Prague Competitiveness OP. Emphasis is put on the differences between Prague and outside Prague public universities, considering that Prague is the only Czech region that exceeds 75% of the average GDP per capita in the EU and the schools based in there have different access to the resources from the Structural Funds than outside Prague schools. The analysis compares the number of projects of Czech public universities, as well as the amount of funds drawn by them. There has been created a value used for comparison by applying the total amount of funds drawn by Prague and outside Prague public universities to students in these two areas. In the last chapter of the work, there are some possible effects of unequal distribution of resources and problems associated with their drawing outlined through a discussion with several experts. Among these impacts and problems are included circumvention of the rules, filled absorptive capacity of outside Prague regions, high cost of sustainability of projects funded via OPRDI and a risk of maintaining the status quo. Also further intensive bureaucracy associated with the administration of projects and the inability to support outside Prague students who are studying in Prague just and are going to return to their home region.