ABSTRACT

The thesis analyzes immigration and integration policy of France at the three different levels (supranational, national and local), while the choice of France was inspired by the fact that this country has among the European ones the longest tradition of receiving immigrants.

The work is based on theoretical and conceptual approaches to international migration as well as on immigration and integration policies. In case of theoretical and conceptual approaches, it was mostly inspired by the concept of Heckmann' four dimensions of the process of social integration (Heckmann and Schnapper, 2003; Bosswick and Heckmann, 2006), by the Entzinger' and Biezeveld' (2003) assessment of integration as the resulting state and especially by Alexander's (2007) classification of policies implemented by local authorities, which allows as one of rare concepts to compare policy-making at the national and local level.

From the methodological point of view, two regions which best suited the preliminary requirements on different share of immigrants in population on each territory and the difference between "city in rural area – metropolis" were chosen: Paris (or more precisely its 14 districts) and seven cities in the region of Basse-Normandie (Caen, Hérouville-Saint-Clair, Cherbourg-Octeville, Flers, Alençon, Argentan and Lisieux). The research was realized between 2007 and 2011 and besides the analysis of secondary data also used the following methods: semi-structured interviews (with experts on international migration, representatives of NGO and of municipalities), participative observation, MIPEX and specific comparison of local integration policies created by the author.

The results at the supranational level have shown that the long-term experience of France with immigration was – due to the existing system of rotating presidency of the EU – reflected in the topics the EU countries dealt with at the European level: under the French presidency, the EU adopted *European Pact on Migration and Asylum*, which stresses the need of uniform approach towards illegal immigrants, exactly as the French immigration policy does.

The description of different types of measures that have been applied by the migration policy in France since the mid-19th century up to the present, revealed how the French policy was changing according to the current economic, political and demographic situation of the country. Moreover, the comparison with available statistical data has shown to what extent all the measures were (in)effective with regard to its declared goals. The experience of France shows that the number of immigrants can be influenced by policy measures only if the country wants to increase the number of immigrants as workers (for example by the well-targeted and well-organized recruitment campaign at the time of economic growth). The measures introduced by the government and targeting the opposite effect, i.e. reducing the number of immigrants, have never worked: the only significant departure of immigrants experienced by France was the departure of Spanish (and other) refugees when the WWII came to its end. So, financial aid paid to the immigrants who voluntary returns to their country of origin or forced expulsions of immigrants with an invalid residency status are – besides their huge financial costs – ineffective.

At the local level, the research has shown that the Town halls in surveyed cities/cities districts apply in the everyday practice a number of tools and measures which correspond with the multicultural model of local integration policy as defined by Alexander (2007). The policy measures of studied cities/districts towards immigrants was significantly influenced by the size of immigrant population, the duration of its presence in the city and its composition (country of origin, type of migration, etc.) and also by the political persuasion of the city leaders. The most striking difference between the policy declared at the national level and the policy implemented in daily practice was discovered in the city of Paris. The research also showed that the left-wing city governments are more kindly to immigrants – even at times of restrictive national laws – that the right-wing city governments. In practice, they don't use all the possibilities, which they could use according to the laws in force. In the region of Basse-Normandie was also found statistically significant correlation between the helpful attitude of city government to the immigrants and the activity of immigrants themselves, expressed by the number of local non-profit organizations founded by immigrants. Historically, it was surprisingly Normandy, who introduced innovative features (such as organized recruitment of labour force from abroad) into the regional migration policy, which subsequently served as an inspiration for the policy measures on national level. From the actual perspective, cities in both regions can find a mutual inspiration in tools they use.

In conclusion the author formulates, for each of the administrative levels, a couple of recommendations for the Czech policy that would hopefully contribute to the current debate and would help to find solutions to the less problematic cohabitation of people from different cultural backgrounds residing on the same territory.

Key words: migration policy; local integration policy; France; Basse-Normandie; Paris