

## **Abstract**

### **Regional Family Policy Focused on Families at Risk**

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**Introduction:** Diploma thesis deals with the activities of regional authorities focused on support of families at risk, in context of the process of transformation of the alternative care system for children at risk in the Czech Republic.

**The goals:** The main goal of the thesis is to explore the approach of regional authorities to the issue of families at risk and what forms this approach.

**Methods:** The research was divided into two parts. Firstly the case studies of thirteen regions (except Prague) were elaborated. Based on these studies, 4 regions were chosen, 2 as examples of good practice, other 2 as examples of bad practices. In these four regions, qualitative semi-structured interviews were done. As respondents a councillor and an officer of regional authority office were chosen. 7 interviews were finally made, 2 respondents answered by email.

**Outcomes:** We can find family as a target group in most of regional plans for the development of social services, but it is usually not a priority. The family regional strategy papers were elaborated only in 5 regions, but not all of them are focused also on families at risk. The scale of the support of families at risk in regions depends on political will and political vision of particular political representation. Regional authorities and officers would appreciate more active communication with the Ministry of social affairs. Very interesting finding is about negative assessment of current focus of transformation processes, which prefers (though not intentionally) support of foster care to social work with families at risk.

**Conclusion:** The thesis showed that the support of the family and especially of family at risk is important and very meaningful for welfare of children at risk. The research showed that the alternative care system for children at risk at regional level is still in development, mainly depending on political representation.

**Keywords:** Family policy, social services, regional policy, family at risk, problem family