ABSTRACT

KOVÁRNOVÁ, P. (2015): Regional identity of the inhabitants of the Šumava foothills: comparison of towns Klatovy, Sušice, and Vimperk. Master thesis. Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Prague, pp. 98.

The thesis deals with the regional identity of the inhabitants of the Šumava foothills. The main goal of the thesis is to identify and evaluate the factors forming regional identity in the Šumava foothills which could be considered as a base for discussions on the possibilities of future regional development of this region. The thesis is based on general assumptions of study of territorial identities and border peripheries, which are based on heuristics of literature discussing the process of forming regional identity, polarization of space, and the problematics of the areas of peripheral and border regions. The assessment of differences of regional identity in continuously inhabited, partly relocated, and resettled areas is component objective which is focused on the definition and assessment categories determining the potential formation of regional identity. The object of the research are the three places with extremely complicated historical development, the towns Klatovy, Sušice, and Vimperk. The achievement of this objective is to find different factors forming regional identity between the three towns, differing in process of events, especially in the second half of the 20th century. The aim of the third component objective of the thesis is to analyze the subjective perception of regional identity from the perspective of three generations based on the nine interviews with representatives of inhabitants of three generations of the towns. The research confirmed different trends in the perception of regional identity among towns mentioned above. The greatest differences were, as expected, between Klatovy and Vimperk.

Key words: regional identity, border region, generation, the potential of forming regional identity, continuity x discontinuity