

WORKING POOR IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Abstract

Even though poverty is not the death or life question in developed countries it is necessary to pay attention to it. The topic of poverty, social cohesion and social exclusion plays now an increasing role in the EU agenda; working poor started to be explored in 1990s there. Working poor are people poor despite working. Work should serve as a protection of poverty, it should guarantee better living standard to employed people in comparison to those dependent on social protection. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to the issue of working poor, to identify them, to find out the reasons why they are poor and to develop measures to help them not to be poor. This thesis brings a comprehensive view on the working poor in the Czech Republic. The focus is on the poverty rate as well as characteristics of working poor.

Methods for measuring this phenomenon have not been fully developed yet, there is still not a consensus on the most suitable methods. Different methods are introduced, compared and critically evaluated in the first – theoretically oriented – part of the thesis. Combination and modification of existing methods creates a base for methodology used in this thesis.

The core part of the thesis is dedicated to the detailed analysis of working poor in the Czech Republic including determination of working poor's characteristics using both descriptive and regression analysis. This part of the thesis is based on the EU-SILC 2011 data.

Employees defined as population of interest in this thesis consist of more than one third of the whole Czech population living in households, and therefore it is crucial to put the poverty of working population into the framework of poverty of the whole Czech population. This analysis is based on the EU-SILC 2005 to 2013 data. Because poverty level highly depends on the social system measures, the development of the social system during these years is introduced too.

The main added value rests in a contribution to a discussion about the improvement of the methodology for working poor monitoring. The conclusion brings several beneficial findings, which can be used for practical usage of this methodology when preparing social policy measures, especially in the area of employment/unemployment policy or minimum wage. This work can also serve as a scientific ground for further research and development of the methodology of working poor.