

## **Abstract**

This thesis is focused on the labor conditions of garment industry in developing countries. The text is structured as a comparative case study that is concerned with the situation in Cambodia and Bangladesh. Case studies of these countries describe domestic garment industry, its general and specific problems and a rate of compliance with labor standards.

The goal of the thesis is to determine whether international organizations have an influence on the improvement of labor conditions in developing countries and compare it with other relevant actors. In this particular case the attention is focused on the International Labor Organization which manages its supportive programs in both countries but in a different manner. A pilot ILO program focused on the private sector has started in Cambodia thirteen years ago while in Bangladesh ILO had managed to run traditional program focused on the public sector until the Rana Plaza tragedy. Moreover, in the case of Bangladesh is a characterization of change after the tragedy.

The thesis examines innovative ILO program that focuses on the monitoring of the garment factories, its functioning and outcomes. It also examines the role of ILO and its orientation by a theory of institutional change: whether it is possible to restore efficacy of one of the oldest international organizations in a way that it is able to respond to problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century globalized world.