Abstract

The thesis deals with the topic of Third Age Universities in the context of the active aging concept. In the theoretical part the topic is set in the problem of an aging population and social aspects of retirement. In short, U3V history in the world and in the Czech Republic is introduced. The concept of active aging is defined differently, so for the purposes of research chosen definition consisting of three fundamental aspects - the active lifestyle, inclusion and material security. Qualitative research through interviews with U3V students at Charles University in Prague explores how these aspects are implemented from the perspective of the students. Active lifestyle for seniors is supported by the expansion of knowledge, supporting programs and physical activity. In school, students make new friendships, which often go outside courses. In both of these aspects for seniors is particularly important ‘quality’ of the options, i.e. the level of provided knowledge and intelligence and interests of new friends. Seniors, who study together with younger students, and those who attend separate courses, consider intergenerational encounters beneficial and enriching for both groups. For working seniors Studies at the University of the Third Age is a kind of bonus for their professional knowledge, but doesn’t significantly affect their position in the labor market. Material security studies affects mainly in the form of fees for courses that are at an acceptable level and don’t burden the senior-student budget.