

Abstract

This Bachelor's thesis deals with the phenomenon of post-socialist corruption. Corruption is a frequent topic of discussions within society, yet almost always the focus is on the current situation and contemporary scandals. This work tries to apply a more in-depth approach. It examines to what extent corruption in Central Europe is a legacy of the socialist regimes and of the subsequent period of transition. Corruption is not a modern phenomenon, it has been present in Central Europe for centuries. However, it seems that the beginning of socialism represents a turning point, which changed whole structure of the society. This work examines structural characteristics of the former regimes such as: their hierarchical nature, shortage economies and its effects on the emergence of corrupt practices, and the mechanism beyond it. Social norms and clientelist networks created in the former regimes survived even after year 1989. Moreover, the period of transition brought new options for corruption such as: privatisation, legislative and institutional vacuum, and economic recession. An analysis of certain aspects relevant for corruption in the period of socialism and transition could help us better understand contemporary corruption in the countries of Central Europe.