

Abstract

This Ph.D. thesis discusses the evolution and current situation regarding availability of healthcare for third countries migrants in the Czech Republic.

In terms of methodology, the author has chosen a qualitative approach. The research design is a historical case study. The thesis uses a combination of “desk research” and empirical survey based on 56 in-depth interviews with migrants, healthcare providers and experts who come into contact with migrants during the course of their work.

Based on the approach of historical institutionalism, the author is explaining policy of migrants’ health insurance evolution in Czech Republic since 1993 till today. The author identifies the key events and the roles of particular actors within the observed „sub-system“ of public policy.

From the viewpoint of migrants and healthcare providers, the thesis also presents how the current institutionalised set-up of migrants’ health policy transfers into the real access to healthcare for migrants. It also identifies the main barriers to health care accessibility and the consequences of possible health care unavailability.

Key words: migrants, health care availability, health insurance, historical institutionalism, barriers to health care access