Abstract

Master’s thesis focuses on a role of regional councillors in process of regional development at the case of Karlovy Vary region. The aim of the thesis is to determine how the process of regional development is influenced by the stability of regional elites in terms of their territorial distribution in the region and their time stability in the subsequent regional elections. The thesis is based on theoretical background related to regional development with emphasis of soft factors of development in context of institutional approaches. The important part of the thesis represents analysis of inner differentiation of the model area and explanation of its causes. The original research consists of two parts. The outcome of the first part is an extensive database of candidates elected into regional assemblies of the Czech Republic in periods of 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012; and analysis of changes in membership structure of those regional assemblies. In the second part regional identity, attitudes and motivation of current regional councillors of Karlovy Vary region and their influence on the development of the region were examined by a questionnaire. The research conclusively proved a relatively high stability of regional elites of Karlovy Vary region in time, but a very low stability of their territorial distribution in the region. According to the results of the research these facts have no crucial influence on the regional development, since there was not found any strong correlation between development priorities set by councillors and their place of residence or length of their terms of office.

Key words: regional development, regional government, stability, regional identity, Karlovy Vary region