Abstract

The presented thesis *The causes of insufficient use of EU funds in Slovakia during the 2007-2013 programming period* addresses a system of utilisation of the EU funds in Slovakia which were provided by the European Union’s Cohesion Policy in 2007-2013 programming period. The period is the first Cohesion Policy’s programming period that could be fully benefited by Slovakia, and although Slovakia was economically highly evaluated even with regards to the economic crisis, at the end of the period the exceptional prolongation of the n+2 rule was demanded, and eventually approved. Therefore, the aim of the thesis is to find and explore possible causes of the lack of benefit of the EU funds that lead to obtaining the exception. The first part of the thesis analyses the theory of regional policy which provides multiple possible alternative hypotheses that answers to the research question. These potential answers constitute the chapters in the second part of the thesis: the responsibility of the utilisation on the regional level, the problems in settings and functioning of the bodies on national level, the external factors impact, and finally the rules posed by the EU. All hypotheses are analysed by the process-tracing method tracking the process of using of the funds. The method tests the key moments in each hypothesis which are enriched by the information from personal interviews.