

## **Models of public family support by cash benefits.**

Comparative study of models in the Czech Republic, Finland and United Kingdom

This thesis is a comparative study of different models of welfare available for the family unit in the Czech Republic, Finland and in the United Kingdom. It considers many different aspects, and in the first two chapters looks at what characterizes a family, the social structures that influenced the formation of the family unit, and existing European principles which formed the basis upon which family assistance was modeled. These principles are divided into solidarity, citizenship, corporate, and liberal. The ensuing chapters discuss family politics within the individual states. Chapters are divided into parts such as historic, present and organization of public family policy.

Public welfare in the Czech Republic focuses on low-income households and distributing income assistance from public funds. In Finland family welfare is focused mainly on ensuring the healthy development of children, which is made possible through financial assistance, family leave and programs offering help for families. In Great Britain, public policy is geared towards relief for the poor, which occurs through targeted financial support for the family unit.

The practical section of the thesis provides the empirical data, including specific benefits provided by each state. Family support by cash benefits consists of maternity allowances, parental allowances and benefits for raising children. The main benefits in Finland consist of parental allowances and child-care allowances which help parents with raising child under the age of seven and support employment. Interesting example of family benefit is Child maintenance allowance. The Czech Republic provides benefits such as parental allowance in the same period. In Great Britain, benefits such as universal Child Benefit and Tax Credits are the main component of family support by cash benefits.