Abstract

The concept of social innovation is increasingly becoming a subject of interest particularly due to the challenges associated with the crisis of the welfare state. The high rate of ex-offending is an example of a current challenge and mentoring is a social innovation which seeks to take up this challenge.

The main goal of this thesis is to interrogate the process of social innovation using mentoring of ex-offenders as an example and to explore mentoring and its implementation within the Czech Republic.

The theory of the process of social innovation, as documented in the overseas literature, guided the extensive research conducted in Czech non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide mentoring approach.

The empirical part of this thesis provides a valuable insight into the process of social innovation from NGO perspective. It includes a comprehensive description of developmental stages of the process as well as highlights the limitations that NGOs encounter in implementing mentoring in the Czech Republic.