

Abstract (in English):

The theme of this thesis is State social policy on material need in the Czech republic and the United Kingdom. The historical part describes the main trends in state social policies on material need in both countries and their development since 1945 with focus on benefit systems.

The second part describes in comparative perspective benefit systems and recent reforms of means - tested minimum income benefits, support benefits for households on low income like housing benefits and basic conditions their claimants (especially those „out of work“) have to meet. In both countries, governments who started their terms in office in 2010, initiated reforms with intentions to simplify the systems, intensify the work incentives and to reduce the spendings on means- tested benefits. The reader is introduced to basic concepts and main aspects of these reforms and critical views and comments, expressed about their implementation.