

## *Abstract*

There are a few different views on the future economic role of a region in the time of strengthening globalization. The most important question is, to what extent is the region able to affect its position in the economic system on the basis of own resources, and how influential the external factors are. Institutional theories of regional development, which create the theoretical background of this thesis, in particular stress the importance of mobilization of the endogenous potential of regions. One of the most important factors in regard to this potential is without doubt the human capital. In spite of being often mentioned, there is neither common definition of the human capital nor common agreement of what attributes it should include. This question is particularly important in respect of complementing the widespread picture of the human capital connected mostly with the level of education attained with the factors of demographic, social and economic situation of regions. This work attempts to create a complex indicator of the human capital in regard to the original human capital theory. Methodologically, the human capital indicator is inspired by Human Development Index, which is the measurement used to compare the human development level among countries. Consequently, the analysis of regional differentiation of the human capital level in the Czech Republic is worked out in this thesis. In the next chapters, the relationship between human capital and entrepreneurial activity is put into question and social capital spatial distribution is surveyed. According to results, the human capital and entrepreneurial activity are not only significantly interconnected but also spatially concentrated, especially in metropolitan areas. Thus, there is a difference between the human capital regional potential and “traditional” economic potential, where the influence of horizontal geographical position seems to be the most important factor. On the contrary, there is no significant relationship between social capital on the one the hand and human capital and economic activity on the other hand. It is maybe the consequence of its uncertain definition; however, the cultural and historical particularities of the Czech Republic are also important. The importance of this work is particularly in its methodology, especially in connection with the human capital and social capital definition. It seems to be obvious that the problem regions, either the most peripheral areas with low economic potential or structurally affected areas equally regard one important attribute – low level of human and social capital and bare perspectives for their development. The thesis should be regarded as a basic step in the studies of regional aspects of human capital distribution and its wider consequences.