Abstrakt

*Regularizations as a Tool of Immigration Policy: The Case of Spain*

Regularisations, which in general mean „forgiveness“ of illegal statute of immigrants, are currently relatively often used by some countries as a tool for dealing with illegal immigration on their territory. In some cases they are also used for suppressing the sector of hidden („black“) economy. Spain is a good example of such a country. Since the 1980’s the Spanish government has implemented six one-off regularisations, often motivated economically. The mass of immigrants that were regularized represents the biggest share on the increase of the whole immigrant population in Spain.

Regularisation as a subject of scientific research has not appeared in the works of European researchers until quite recently. Thus regularisation in European context stands at the beginning of its exploration with an absence of more profound studies. That is the reason why a part of this thesis is dedicated to documented impacts of the largest regularisation programme „Immigration Reform and Control Act“ (*IRCA*) which was realized in 1986 in the United States because that is probably the most analysed regularisation in the world.

The purpose of the thesis is to review and evaluate this tool of immigration policy and also to specify other aspects that are influenced by regularisations. Basic research questions of the study are whether regularisation represents a convenient solution of problems bound with illegal immigration and what kind of advantages and disadvantages it has on various geographical levels.

This study shows that regularisations are not the remedy for illegal immigration because they do not solve causes of the problem, but only eliminate consequences of ineffective immigration policy. Furthermore, only the exceptional use of regularisation programmes is a crucial condition for their efficiency, which is also heavily dependent on chosen complementary measures that are being implemented.

The aim of this diploma thesis is to analyse the Spanish experience with regularisation. This experience is subsequently applied to a discussion of a hypothetical use of regularisation as a solution of problems tied to illegal immigration in the current Czech Republic.