

Regional differentiation in perception of immigrants and immigration by students of secondary schools and its determinants

Abstract

This thesis deals with the relationship of Czech high school students with immigrants. The main goal of this work is to find out whether there are regional differences in the perception of immigrants by students of the secondary schools in the Czech Republic and to find out which factors can affect the perception of immigrants and their regional differentiation.

Considering the actual situation in the world, the topic of this thesis is very up-to-date. It is necessary to be carefully prepared for the growth of the international migration to ensure smoother integration of migrants in the concerned countries. Many researches are addressing the international comparison of countries in the perspective of immigrants, but monitoring of national differences is really important and can tell us a lot about where the main causes of the problems are. Based on this opinion, I was studying the relationship of Czech society with immigrants. As a sample, I used students of high schools and vocational schools.

As a main theoretical concept I choose contact hypothesis by Gordon Allport. Hypothesis is based on the assumption, that to prevent prejudice and conflicts between different groups of people, there is a need for them to interact. Based on the study of contact hypothesis and other literature, I identified factors that could influence the relationship with the immigrants. Afterwards, I verified their significance with questionnaire survey among the high school students. Regression analysis confirmed, that among presented factors, the greatest positive influence on relationship with migrants has the direct contact with them. The result undoubtedly confirmed aforementioned contact hypothesis. Another strong factors was critical approach to the media. Education, however, was not confirmed as one of the important factors, although it was one of the strongest based on the literature. The underlying finding was that there exists significant regional differences in perception of certain attributes of migration and migrational groups, meanwhile in other cases regional differences were insignificant.

Keywords: contact hypothesis, prejudice, regional differentiation, relation to immigrants, students high schools