

This thesis deals with regional policy of European Union with the impact on EU structural funds implementation. The process of european integration is followed by increase of regional disparities within member states. The thesis gives the basic survey of regional disparities and EU structural policy principles in general and show the view of economic theory on regional growth. In the second part I show regional disparities within Poland and the Czech Republic and compare the strategies of structural funds implementation in the period 2004 – 2006. At the end I discuss the structural funds effectiveness.