

The purpose of this thesis is to present therapeutic community treatment of personality disorders. Although in the Czech Republic this model represents a new therapeutic approach to the serious personality psychopathology, its principles were formulated already some 60 years ago by the British psychiatrist Maxwell Jones and are being developed in dozens communities all over the world. The first section of this work summarizes present knowledge in the field of personality disorders. The stress is laid on introducing the different psychological theories of personality disorders which are most often applied in the therapeutic practise. It is claimed that these different approaches do neither contradict nor deny each other. Hence it is useful to understand their contributions complementary. Then there are highlighted some of the specific problems related to the psychotherapy of personality disorders as well as to its empirical research.

The concept of therapeutic community represents the subject in the next section of the work. Basic characteristics of this concept, which are different in many aspects comparing to traditional medical model, are being introduced: in democratic therapeutic communities both clients and staff participate in community's management; clients take an active part in their therapy as well as in the therapy of fellow clients; holding the responsibility for one's decisions is being stressed. Next chapters discuss the important mental processes and changes, which are supported by this structural frame. Other topics cover most common critical objections to methods used in therapeutic communities. The chapter on research of therapeutic communities makes the link to the last section of the work, which presents the empirical study provided in "Kaleidoskop" – the first therapeutic community for persons with personality disorders in the Czech Republic.