

## **Abstract**

This master's thesis deals with Local Action Groups (LAGs), based on the EU approach LEADER for local development, in the Czech Republic during the programming period 2014-2020. It focuses on the ability of LAGs to acquire and pass on knowledge and to learn, as well as on their networks. Within this work, the character of acquired knowledge, means of transfer of the knowledge and forms of learning are examined. Furthermore, research focuses on LEADER networks and their internal relations as well as level of communication and trust, in order to determine the efficiency of these networks. Lastly, the institutional thickness of the environment of Czech LAGs is examined that constitutes of non-scientific institutions and technological infrastructure. Cooperation with these two types of institutions leads to creation and implementation of innovations and more effective development of the territory. The theoretical grounding and criteria of this work are based on the Theory of Learning Regions. To obtain the data, a mixed research method was used. A combination of quantitative and qualitative research was carried out in the form of a questionnaire survey, semi-structured interviews and analysis of primary documents.