

The thesis aims at specifying chosen historical aspects of civil society development in border areas of South Bohemia, namely the Šumava Mountains. These specifics are determined mainly by forced disruption of the natural development in the region after the World War II, considering especially the forced evacuation of German minority and the closure of the area due to the origin of so called „iron curtain“, generated by the communist regime. These events caused the disruption of civil society traditions in the region of interest, and the continuity can be restored only partially, being impacted by the current crisis of traditional values in the society. On the other hand, the development after 1989 displays completely new trends focused on tourism, nature conservation, cross-border cooperation as well as other profit-oriented activities. The informal components and traditions of regional civil society based on religion, solidarity, relationship to land and environment still lag behind though the sphere of educational and cultural programs, including shared cross-border cultural and educational and information programs, develops successfully, being supported by communal policy, statutory bodies and public administration. The institutional basis of civil sector activities is broader, mainly due to democratic government and the EU structures and funds.