

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the cultural and historical potential of the development of peripheral regions of Czechia. The case study covers three model areas – regions of municipalities with an authorised municipal office Horažďovice, Kašperské Hory and Netolice. The aim of the thesis is to accomplish a discursive analysis of the concept of the cultural and historical potential, together with related terms, and to consider feasibility of its embodiment into the context of surrounding regions development in Czechia, to identify cultural and historical potential of selected model areas and to propose possibilities of its usage. The methodology lies in the study of literature and in the research of selected areas. The cultural and historical potential is rated from the identifiable elements and their particular importance. The potential is relative to the area, number of inhabitants and the number of parts of the municipality. The thesis highlights several findings: (i) the coherent definition of the term cultural and historical potential does not exist in scientific literature; (ii) usage of tourism perspectives in the regional development is ahead of focus on local population (regional identity and local cultural life is less frequent); (iii) cultural and historical potential differentiate in the border region and inner country model areas. In reference to the small number of model areas it is impossible to express general conclusion, even about the possible causes of this effect (historical evolution versus impact of other specific aspects).

Key words: cultural and historical potential; regional development; periphery; cultural geography; heritage; regional identity; Czechia