

Abstract

The thesis presents theoretical approaches to the issue of national minorities and seeks to include two specific cases – Slovakia and Hungary – into this theoretical spectrum. Slovak and Hungarian minorities in Hungary and Slovakia respective are characterized at the same time. Territorial delimitation is obvious, time delimitation is primarily based in the first decade of the new millennium, ending in 2010. Theoretical part of the thesis is divided into two parts – first dealing with national and ethnic minorities (various classifications, terminology and characteristics), second with possible approaches of states to their national minorities (discussed are all conceivable approaches from the least favorable to the friendliest one). The practical part is divided into two main chapters, namely by surveyed countries – Slovakia and Hungary. Both of these chapters deal with national minorities in a given country, with the characteristics of these minorities and their legal status. Analysis of legal statuses of these minorities is based on international treaties, constitutions and laws of both countries. While Slovakia provides its minorities only with individual rights, Hungary introduced quite unusual system of personal cultural and schooling autonomy. The conclusion attempts to find the most suitable theoretical and the most probable solutions for the minorities in given countries.