

## **Abstract**

Women with small children are considered as one of the risk groups within the labour market. These women still face discrimination when returning to the labour market after finishing the maternity leave, even though there are many social policy and labour market agendas aiming to the higher employment of this social group. This text aims to the new tool of return to the labour market of women finishing the maternity leave –Maternity centre. Maternity centres in the Czech Republic, as an area for meeting of parents and children, were established 20 years ago. Their values and principles of operating have substantially changed during this time. The European processes of integration were among the factors that influenced the values and aims of maternity centres. The first part of this thesis concentrates on the maternity centre as an institution in general. It focuses on the history, values, aims and principles of operating. In the second part of the text a case study of chosen maternity centre (*Klub K2*) was conducted. This case study introduces the programs of *Klub K2* that were created in order to enable women with small children to participate within the labour market. The key aspect of *Klub K2* consists of two dimensions of this institution: it focuses on both the childcare and the “women care” and so it fulfils the conditions for work and family harmonization. This text also aims to the sphere of the clients of *Klub K2*. In this part it examines the issues of women with small children that are associated with the return to the labour market. The findings show the most significant barrier in returning to the labour market for women finishing the maternity leave – lack of flexible job forms.