

Abstract

This master thesis deals with the risks that arise from the usage of sheltered housing services for people diagnosed with mental illness. People are negatively affected by long term mental illness in several aspects of their lives. Under normal conditions, cohabitation with such individual is thus very difficult without additional help. As a result, his human social network is weakened and the number of his social contacts decreases. The aim of this master thesis is to find out what are the potential risks that are inherent in the use of the social service of sheltered housing and what can be the recommendations for the social service and the users who are potentially at risk of being socially excluded. The thesis is structured as follows. First part of the thesis includes an overview of mental illnesses, the users of sheltered housing can face. Further, the focus is on the reform of the care for the mentally ill and on the current state of the community care in the Czech Republic and the neighbouring states. Next, group sheltered housing for mentally ill people and the resulting risks are described. Second part of the thesis is devoted to own research which was conducted in selected six sheltered houses in the capital city of Prague and in the Moravia-Silesian region. Research was carried out using document analysis methods and semi-structured interviews. During research, several risks were pointed out that could be implemented into internal rules of the organization or for the modification of the concept or for work with the users. Furthermore, general recommendations from expert's estimates were derived regarding the number of specialists, deinstitutionalization, education, interdepartmental cooperation and legislation. Lastly, I mention critical assessment of the research strategy.