

Abstract

This thesis is a case study focusing on field social workers in marginalized Roma communities in Slovakia, their work and target group. The aim of the thesis is to identify mechanisms to combat generational poverty among Roma in Slovakia. The research question is: "What tools do field social workers use to combat poverty among Roma from marginalized Roma communities (MRC) in Slovakia and what tools do they use with a similar target group abroad?"

The qualitative research was carried out in the form of structured in-depth interviews with six fieldworkers working with Roma from the MRC in different regions of Slovakia. Three social workers were employed under non-profit organizations, three under a national project. Hypothesis 1: State support in the fight against poverty is insufficient, therefore the third sector helps to fight poverty. Hypothesis 2: Non-profit organisations have their own mechanisms that they use when working with clients to help them move out of generational poverty. Hypothesis 3: Roma are unable to integrate into mainstream society due to living in generational poverty, which is the same in different excluded communities around the world.

The research was preceded by a theoretical part describing national projects and projects of non-profit organisations targeting people in generational poverty anywhere in the world. From these organisations and projects, three were selected whose clientele showed the greatest similarity to Roma from marginalised Roma communities (MRC) in Slovakia. Comparative analysis, specifically Bereday's comparative model, was used as the research analysis method.

The research shows that mechanisms exist to combat generational poverty in Slovakia. The studied NGOs represent projects targeting the fight against generational poverty among Roma from the MRC. The state is also trying to do so through national projects with the support of the European Union. The NGOs and the national project have their own methods and techniques that they use to combat poverty among Roma from the MRC. Selected projects from around the world have different methods than those in Slovakia, but they are also applicable to Roma from the MRC in Slovakia. Hypothesis 1 could not be confirmed because although the state support in the fight against poverty is insufficient, the research did not confirm that the non-profit sector substitutes the role of the state, because the state has national projects aimed at alleviating poverty among Roma from the MRC. Hypothesis 2 was

confirmed, non-profit organizations have their own methods and techniques to help Roma from the MRC to get out of generational poverty. Hypothesis 3 was also confirmed, according to the respondents' statements, Roma from the MRC exhibit behavioural patterns similar to those of people in generational poverty anywhere in the world. The thesis presents an interesting picture of the reality of field social work among Roma in the MRC in Slovakia and also suggestions on what new methods and projects could be added to it.