

Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích
Pedagogická fakulta
Katedra anglického jazyka

Studijní program: B7310 Filologie
Studijní obor: Anglický jazyk a francouzský jazyk
pro administrativu Evropské unie

Strukturální politika Evropské unie

Knihovna JU - PF



3115174559

Vedoucí bakalářské práce:
Mgr. Petr Dvořák

Autor:
Michaela Malá

2006

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice
Pedagogical Faculty
English Department

Study Programme: B7310 Philology

Specialization: English and French Language for the Administration of the
European Union

Structural Policy of the European Union

Supervisor:

Mgr. Petr Dvořák

Author:

Michaela Malá

2006

Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích
Pedagogická fakulta
Katedra anglického jazyka
Akademický rok: 2004/2005

ZADÁNÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

(PROJEKTU, UMĚLECKÉHO DÍLA, UMĚLECKÉHO VÝKONU)

Jméno a příjmení: **Bc. Michaela MALÁ**
Studijní program: **B7310 Filologie**
Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk a francouzský jazyk pro administrativu EU**
Název tématu: **Strukturální politika Evropské Unie (Structural Policy of the European Union).**

Z á s a d y p r o v y p r a c o v á n í :

Hlavním cílem práce bude charakteristika principů strukturální politiky Evropské unie, seznámení s jednotlivými strukturálními fondy a možnostmi jejich využití.

Struktura práce:

- 1.Strukturální a regionální politiky EU
- 2.Strukturální a regionální politika v ČR
- 3.Strukturální fondy
- 4.Závěr
- 5.Použitá literatura

Anotace:

Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích

Pedagogická fakulta

Katedra anglického jazyka

Název práce: **Strukturální politika Evropské unie**

Autor práce: **Michaela Malá**

Vedoucí práce: **Mgr. Petr Dvořák**

Cíl práce:

Téma bylo zvoleno v návaznosti na studovaný program a též pro svoji aktuálnost. Hlavním cílem práce je charakterizovat strukturální politiku Evropské unie. Dílčími cíli je popsat vývoj Evropské unie, tedy její historii, principy a cíle ve vztahu k ekonomickým a sociálním rozdílům v jednotlivých regionech. Dalším dílčím cílem je popsat strukturální politiku, její vznik a vývoj, principy, cíle a metody jejího uplatňování. S tímto cílem je spjata také charakteristika jednotlivých strukturálních fondů a dalších finančních a organizačních instrumentů umožňujících provádění strukturální politiky. Posledním z dílčích cílů je charakterizovat současný stav uplatňování strukturální politiky Evropské unie v České republice.

Annotation:

University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice
Pedagogical Faculty
English Department

Title: **Structural Policy of the European Union**
Author: **Michaela Malá**
Supervisor: **Mgr. Petr Dvořák**

Goal of the Work:

The topic has been chosen for its relevance to the study programme and for its recency. A main goal of the work is to characterize the Structural Policy of the European Union. A partial aim is to describe the evolution of the European Union, i.e. its history, principles and objectives in relation to the economical and social variances among the regions. Another partial aim is a description of the Structural Policy, its beginning and evolution, principles, objectives and methods of its implementation. With this, the characteristic of the Structural Funds and other financial and organizational instruments of the policy implementation is connected. The last of the partial aims is to describe the existent Structural Policy implementation in the Czech Republic

Obsah

1. Úvod	1
2. Účel a cíle práce	2
3. Metodika	3
4. Teoretická část	4
5. Praktická část	5
6. Závěr	6
7. Seznam literatury	7
8. Přílohy	8
9. Bibliografie	9
10. Příloha 1	10
11. Příloha 2	11
12. Příloha 3	12
13. Příloha 4	13
14. Příloha 5	14
15. Příloha 6	15
16. Příloha 7	16
17. Příloha 8	17
18. Příloha 9	18
19. Příloha 10	19
20. Příloha 11	20
21. Příloha 12	21
22. Příloha 13	22
23. Příloha 14	23
24. Příloha 15	24
25. Příloha 16	25
26. Příloha 17	26
27. Příloha 18	27
28. Příloha 19	28
29. Příloha 20	29
30. Příloha 21	30
31. Příloha 22	31
32. Příloha 23	32
33. Příloha 24	33
34. Příloha 25	34
35. Příloha 26	35
36. Příloha 27	36
37. Příloha 28	37
38. Příloha 29	38
39. Příloha 30	39
40. Příloha 31	40
41. Příloha 32	41
42. Příloha 33	42
43. Příloha 34	43
44. Příloha 35	44
45. Příloha 36	45
46. Příloha 37	46
47. Příloha 38	47
48. Příloha 39	48
49. Příloha 40	49
50. Příloha 41	50
51. Příloha 42	51
52. Příloha 43	52
53. Příloha 44	53
54. Příloha 45	54
55. Příloha 46	55
56. Příloha 47	56
57. Příloha 48	57
58. Příloha 49	58
59. Příloha 50	59
60. Příloha 51	60
61. Příloha 52	61
62. Příloha 53	62
63. Příloha 54	63
64. Příloha 55	64
65. Příloha 56	65
66. Příloha 57	66
67. Příloha 58	67
68. Příloha 59	68
69. Příloha 60	69
70. Příloha 61	70
71. Příloha 62	71
72. Příloha 63	72
73. Příloha 64	73
74. Příloha 65	74
75. Příloha 66	75
76. Příloha 67	76
77. Příloha 68	77
78. Příloha 69	78
79. Příloha 70	79
80. Příloha 71	80
81. Příloha 72	81
82. Příloha 73	82
83. Příloha 74	83
84. Příloha 75	84
85. Příloha 76	85
86. Příloha 77	86
87. Příloha 78	87
88. Příloha 79	88
89. Příloha 80	89
90. Příloha 81	90
91. Příloha 82	91
92. Příloha 83	92
93. Příloha 84	93
94. Příloha 85	94
95. Příloha 86	95
96. Příloha 87	96
97. Příloha 88	97
98. Příloha 89	98
99. Příloha 90	99
100. Příloha 91	100
101. Příloha 92	101
102. Příloha 93	102
103. Příloha 94	103
104. Příloha 95	104
105. Příloha 96	105
106. Příloha 97	106
107. Příloha 98	107
108. Příloha 99	108
109. Příloha 100	109
110. Příloha 101	110
111. Příloha 102	111
112. Příloha 103	112
113. Příloha 104	113
114. Příloha 105	114
115. Příloha 106	115
116. Příloha 107	116
117. Příloha 108	117
118. Příloha 109	118
119. Příloha 110	119
120. Příloha 111	120
121. Příloha 112	121
122. Příloha 113	122
123. Příloha 114	123
124. Příloha 115	124
125. Příloha 116	125
126. Příloha 117	126
127. Příloha 118	127
128. Příloha 119	128
129. Příloha 120	129
130. Příloha 121	130
131. Příloha 122	131
132. Příloha 123	132
133. Příloha 124	133
134. Příloha 125	134
135. Příloha 126	135
136. Příloha 127	136
137. Příloha 128	137
138. Příloha 129	138
139. Příloha 130	139
140. Příloha 131	140
141. Příloha 132	141
142. Příloha 133	142
143. Příloha 134	143
144. Příloha 135	144
145. Příloha 136	145
146. Příloha 137	146
147. Příloha 138	147
148. Příloha 139	148
149. Příloha 140	149
150. Příloha 141	150
151. Příloha 142	151
152. Příloha 143	152
153. Příloha 144	153
154. Příloha 145	154
155. Příloha 146	155
156. Příloha 147	156
157. Příloha 148	157
158. Příloha 149	158
159. Příloha 150	159
160. Příloha 151	160
161. Příloha 152	161
162. Příloha 153	162
163. Příloha 154	163
164. Příloha 155	164
165. Příloha 156	165
166. Příloha 157	166
167. Příloha 158	167
168. Příloha 159	168
169. Příloha 160	169
170. Příloha 161	170
171. Příloha 162	171
172. Příloha 163	172
173. Příloha 164	173
174. Příloha 165	174
175. Příloha 166	175
176. Příloha 167	176
177. Příloha 168	177
178. Příloha 169	178
179. Příloha 170	179
180. Příloha 171	180
181. Příloha 172	181
182. Příloha 173	182
183. Příloha 174	183
184. Příloha 175	184
185. Příloha 176	185
186. Příloha 177	186
187. Příloha 178	187
188. Příloha 179	188
189. Příloha 180	189
190. Příloha 181	190
191. Příloha 182	191
192. Příloha 183	192
193. Příloha 184	193
194. Příloha 185	194
195. Příloha 186	195
196. Příloha 187	196
197. Příloha 188	197
198. Příloha 189	198
199. Příloha 190	199
200. Příloha 191	200
201. Příloha 192	201
202. Příloha 193	202
203. Příloha 194	203
204. Příloha 195	204
205. Příloha 196	205
206. Příloha 197	206
207. Příloha 198	207
208. Příloha 199	208
209. Příloha 200	209
210. Příloha 201	210
211. Příloha 202	211
212. Příloha 203	212
213. Příloha 204	213
214. Příloha 205	214
215. Příloha 206	215
216. Příloha 207	216
217. Příloha 208	217
218. Příloha 209	218
219. Příloha 210	219
220. Příloha 211	220
221. Příloha 212	221
222. Příloha 213	222
223. Příloha 214	223
224. Příloha 215	224
225. Příloha 216	225
226. Příloha 217	226
227. Příloha 218	227
228. Příloha 219	228
229. Příloha 220	229
230. Příloha 221	230
231. Příloha 222	231
232. Příloha 223	232
233. Příloha 224	233
234. Příloha 225	234
235. Příloha 226	235
236. Příloha 227	236
237. Příloha 228	237
238. Příloha 229	238
239. Příloha 230	239
240. Příloha 231	240
241. Příloha 232	241
242. Příloha 233	242
243. Příloha 234	243
244. Příloha 235	244
245. Příloha 236	245
246. Příloha 237	246
247. Příloha 238	247
248. Příloha 239	248
249. Příloha 240	249
250. Příloha 241	250
251. Příloha 242	251
252. Příloha 243	252
253. Příloha 244	253
254. Příloha 245	254
255. Příloha 246	255
256. Příloha 247	256
257. Příloha 248	257
258. Příloha 249	258
259. Příloha 250	259
260. Příloha 251	260
261. Příloha 252	261
262. Příloha 253	262
263. Příloha 254	263
264. Příloha 255	264
265. Příloha 256	265
266. Příloha 257	266
267. Příloha 258	267
268. Příloha 259	268
269. Příloha 260	269
270. Příloha 261	270
271. Příloha 262	271
272. Příloha 263	272
273. Příloha 264	273
274. Příloha 265	274
275. Příloha 266	275
276. Příloha 267	276
277. Příloha 268	277
278. Příloha 269	278
279. Příloha 270	279
280. Příloha 271	280
281. Příloha 272	281
282. Příloha 273	282
283. Příloha 274	283
284. Příloha 275	284
285. Příloha 276	285
286. Příloha 277	286
287. Příloha 278	287
288. Příloha 279	288
289. Příloha 280	289
290. Příloha 281	290
291. Příloha 282	291
292. Příloha 283	292
293. Příloha 284	293
294. Příloha 285	294
295. Příloha 286	295
296. Příloha 287	296
297. Příloha 288	297
298. Příloha 289	298
299. Příloha 290	299
300. Příloha 291	300
301. Příloha 292	301
302. Příloha 293	302
303. Příloha 294	303
304. Příloha 295	304
305. Příloha 296	305
306. Příloha 297	306
307. Příloha 298	307
308. Příloha 299	308
309. Příloha 300	309
310. Příloha 301	310
311. Příloha 302	311
312. Příloha 303	312
313. Příloha 304	313
314. Příloha 305	314
315. Příloha 306	315
316. Příloha 307	316
317. Příloha 308	317
318. Příloha 309	318
319. Příloha 310	319
320. Příloha 311	320
321. Příloha 312	321
322. Příloha 313	322
323. Příloha 314	323
324. Příloha 315	324
325. Příloha 316	325
326. Příloha 317	326
327. Příloha 318	327
328. Příloha 319	328
329. Příloha 320	329
330. Příloha 321	330
331. Příloha 322	331
332. Příloha 323	332
333. Příloha 324	333
334. Příloha 325	334
335. Příloha 326	335
336. Příloha 327	336
337. Příloha 328	337
338. Příloha 329	338
339. Příloha 330	339
340. Příloha 331	340
341. Příloha 332	341
342. Příloha 333	342
343. Příloha 334	343
344. Příloha 335	344
345. Příloha 336	345
346. Příloha 337	346
347. Příloha 338	347
348. Příloha 339	348
349. Příloha 340	349
350. Příloha 341	350
351. Příloha 342	351
352. Příloha 343	352
353. Příloha 344	353
354. Příloha 345	354
355. Příloha 346	355
356. Příloha 347	356
357. Příloha 348	357
358. Příloha 349	358
359. Příloha 350	359
360. Příloha 351	360
361. Příloha 352	361
362. Příloha 353	362
363. Příloha 354	363
364. Příloha 355	364
365. Příloha 356	365
366. Příloha 357	366
367. Příloha 358	367
368. Příloha 359	368
369. Příloha 360	369
370. Příloha 361	370
371. Příloha 362	371
372. Příloha 363	372
373. Příloha 364	373
374. Příloha 365	374
375. Příloha 366	375
376. Příloha 367	376
377. Příloha 368	377
378. Příloha 369	378
379. Příloha 370	379
380. Příloha 371	380
381. Příloha 372	381
382. Příloha 373	382
383. Příloha 374	383
384. Příloha 375	384
385. Příloha 376	385
386. Příloha 377	386
387. Příloha 378	387
388. Příloha 379	388
389. Příloha 380	389
390. Příloha 381	390
391. Příloha 382	391
392. Příloha 383	392
393. Příloha 384	393
394. Příloha 385	394
395. Příloha 386	395
396. Příloha 387	396
397. Příloha 388	397
398. Příloha 389	398
399. Příloha 390	399
400. Příloha 391	400
401. Příloha 392	401
402. Příloha 393	402
403. Příloha 394	403
404. Příloha 395	404
405. Příloha 396	405
406. Příloha 397	406
407. Příloha 398	407
408. Příloha 399	408
409. Příloha 400	409
410. Příloha 401	410
411. Příloha 402	411
412. Příloha 403	412
413. Příloha 404	413
414. Příloha 405	414
415. Příloha 406	415
416. Příloha 407	416
417. Příloha 408	417
418. Příloha 409	418
419. Příloha 410	419
420. Příloha 411	420
421. Příloha 412	421
422. Příloha 413	422
423. Příloha 414	423
424. Příloha 415	424
425. Příloha 416	425
426. Příloha 417	426
427. Příloha 418	427
428. Příloha 419	428
429. Příloha 420	429
430. Příloha 421	430
431. Příloha 422	431
432. Příloha 423	432
433. Příloha 424	433
434. Příloha 425	434
435. Příloha 426	435
436. Příloha 427	436
437. Příloha 428	437
438. Příloha 429	438
439. Příloha 430	439
440. Příloha 431	440
441. Příloha 432	441
442. Příloha 433	442
443. Příloha 434	443
444. Příloha 435	444
445. Příloha 436	445
446. Příloha 437	446
447. Příloha 438	447
448. Příloha 439	448
449. Příloha 440	449
450. Příloha 441	450
451. Příloha 442	451
452. Příloha 443	452
453. Příloha 44	

Contents

1	Introduction	9
2	History of the European Union	10
3	Regional Policy	13
	3.1 History of the Regional and Structural Policy	13
	3.2 Principles of the Structural Policy	16
4	Regional Division (NUTS Classification)	18
5	Forms of Help	19
	5.1 National Initiatives	19
	5.2 Community Initiatives	20
	5.3 Innovative Actions and Technical Assistance	22
6	Programming Documents	24
	6.1 Community Support Framework	24
	6.2 Operational Programmes	25
	6.3 Single Programming Document	25
7	Structural Policy Funds and Institutions	26
	7.1 Structural Funds	26
	7.1.1 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	26
	7.1.2 European Social Fund (ESF)	27
	7.1.3 European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)	28
	7.1.4 Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG)	28
	7.2 Cohesion Fund (CF)	28
	7.3 European Investment Bank (EIB)	29
	7.4 Pre-Accession Financial Instruments	29
	7.4.1 Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession (ISPA)	29
	7.4.2 Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD)	30
	7.4.3 PHARE	30

8	EU Regional and Structural Policy in the Czech Republic	31
8.1	National Development Plan	31
8.2	Community Support Framework	32
9	Conclusion	38
10	Summary / Shrnutí	39
11	Information Sources / Zdroje Informací	40
12	Supplement A: Regions in the Czech Republic and Their NUTS Classification	41
13	Supplement B: Demographic Limitation of NUTS	42
14	Supplement C: Financial Support	43

1 Introduction

The Structural Policy of the European Union is an important part of the actual political activities. It is the main instrument for elimination of the regional variances. The variances exist within the EU or within the member states and they rise from the economic, social, demographic, linguistic and other problems in the regions.

The European Union seek to establish the balanced economical and social development throughout the whole Union and to achieve the general sustainable development. The Structural Policy use various financial instruments which allow to support the fulfillment of the main objectives. The support is intended not only for the member states, but is accessible also for the pre-accession countries. The financial means for the member states comes from the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds: European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance. Each of the Funds fulfills the precise objectives. The pre-accession support is implemented through the programmes ISPA, SAPARD and PHARE.

I have chosen the topic of Structural Policy because of its relation to my studying programme and also because of its high importance for our "European" society. The main task of this work is to describe the objectives and principles of the Structural Policy. It is difficult to find the comprehensive information on this topic, especially in a book form. The vast majority of the information sources is available only on the internet because the problem is quite new for our country. The Structural Policy is a very large topic and my work wants to represent it in a brief and comprehensive way.

2 History of the European Union

From its beginning the European Union is perceived as an economic phenomenon influencing events not only in Europe, but worldwide. *"The European Union or the EU is an intergovernmental and supranational union of 25 democratic countries known as member states."* (en.wikipedia.org)

The first integrating efforts appeared in 1951 when the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was founded. This Treaty of Paris was signed by six foundation states: France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. This community originally had a clearly strategic task: coordination and cooperation in the field of important raw materials in the trading of coal, steel and their by-products.

Great Britain refused to participate, it was not able to accept the Community's supranational structure of command. Some of the national competences were given to the ECSC. The Community wanted gradually to abolish duties among the member states and other commercial limitations in the coal and steel market. Then, the free market should have been established. The validity of the Treaty of Paris expired in 2002.

The next integration level was with the Treaties of Rome in 1957; they gave rise to the European Economic Community (EEC) and to the European Atomic Energy Community (Euroatom). The task of the EEC was to harmonize the member states' economic policies and slowly realize the single market. Euroatom was founded to set down the rules for coordination in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy and atomic safety.

The uniform title "European Communities" or "European Union" started to be used for these three Communities. By 1992, the European Union had not existed officially. It had not had the legal capacity and had not been allowed to accept or make legal acts; it had been allowed to do this only through its institutions. The important change was brought about by the Treaty of Maastricht in 1992. As the main institutions the Council of the European Union, the Commission of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice and the European Court of First Instance and the European Court of Auditors were established. The institutions are supplemented by other, more specialized institutions and organizations. The most known institutions are:

Council of the European Union

- = Council of Ministers
- it is the main decision-making institution of the EU
- its members are the ministers from each member state
- it passes laws together with the European Parliament and also negotiates international agreements
- it shares budgetary authority with the Parliament
- it coordinates the policies of the EU member states and eliminates the differences between them

Commission of the European Union

- a supranational body of the Union, having the role of "the government" of the EU
- it has the key role in the decision-making processes
- it has the administrative, executive, legislative and jurisdictional competences
- it submits the EU legal acts proposals to the Council of Ministers and to the European Parliament
- it proposes the EU budget
- it is the "guardian" of EU Treaties observance

European Parliament

- its role is becoming more and more important
- it represents the major political parties operating in the Member States
- it has competences to legislate, together with the Council
- it shares competences in the field of budget with the Council, and influences the expenses of the European Union
- it cooperates with the Commission and amends the Commission's proposals
- it consults competences – EP's stand is required before important decisions are taken

The European Union has been accepting new members from its beginning. Also its competences have been changing. Nowadays, the Community is not only an economic organization but it intervenes in the agricultural, social, foreign and security policy, in the environment, joint defense against illegal immigration, terrorism and many other spheres.

Pict. 1: Map of the EU and the Candidate States(www.greenwichmeantime.com)



The EU member states and the date of their accession:

1951 – France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands

1973 – Great Britain, Ireland, Denmark

1981 – Greece

1986 – Spain, Portugal

1995 – Austria, Finland, Sweden

2004 – Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Slovenia, Malta, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia

The candidate countries are Croatia, Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

Nowadays, the European Union (EU) is *“a union of twenty-five independent states based on the European Communities and founded to enhance political, economic and social co-operation.”* (userpage.chemie.fu-berlin.de)

3 Regional and Structural Policy of the EU

The structural policy arose from affiliation of regional policy with the part of social and agricultural policy. One of the most important objectives of this policy, also called the economic and social cohesion policy, is to eliminate the regional variances. The variances are often caused by economic, linguistic, cultural, historical and other differences. A great deal of attention is given to this sphere; the amount of financial support has been continuously increasing.

European Spatial Development Perspective: *"Spatial development policies are intended to ensure the balanced and sustainable development of the Union territory in accordance with the basic objectives of Community policy: economic and social cohesion, knowledge-based economic competitiveness complying with the principles of sustainable development and the conservation of diverse natural and cultural resources."* (www.europa.eu.int)

3.1 History of the Regional and Structural Policy

It can be outlined in five basic phases in the regional policy history:

1. 1958 – 1973

In 1958, the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) were established. The six foundation states of the Communities were not economically very different from one another. The European Investment Bank granted profitable loans to the weaker countries. The variances strengthened after the accession of Denmark, Ireland and Great Britain in 1973.

2. 1974 – 1985

Because of increasing structural crises, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was established in 1975. In this period, the first supranational projects appeared. The main

support recipients were Italy, Great Britain, Ireland and later, after their accession, Greece, Spain and Portugal.

In 1987, the Single European Act came into force. It formulated the regional policy objectives and decided on its financing from the Structural Funds.

3. 1986 – 1993

Spain and Portugal became members of the EU and the new Integrated Mediterranean Programmes were formed. The regional policy was affiliated with part of the social and agricultural policy in 1988 and the structural policy originated. The five main objectives were formulated for the period of 1989 – 1993:

- Help to the economically weak regions
- Support of the advanced regions with problems in the important industrial branches
- Support of all regions with long-term unemployment of over 25 year olds
- Assistance to young people (under 25 years of age) entering the working process
- Support to the rural areas

In 1993, the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance and the Cohesion Fund was established. The Committee of Regions was established as a consultative agency.

4. 1994 – 1999

The five goals were conserved, a sixth one was formulated (after the accession of Finland and Sweden): to maintain habitation in the arctic areas. In 1994, the document Europe 2000+ was approbated. It deals with the European area development, it is the basic conceptual document for the regional strategies and for the formulation of the national conceptions. The document is not legally binding but is important for the regional development.

5. 2000 – 2006

The present situation is especially characterized by the efforts to use the financial means more effectively. Another very important step was the separation of the financial means for the member states from those for the applicant countries.

The structural policy of the EU is an important part of the European policies and shows solidarity of the member states with high economic potential. The policy is focused on creating comparative conditions of competition among the member states. It is the policy of economic and social cohesion.

“In order to achieve greater solidarity within the EU, the EU developed 1) the European Social Fund (ESF), 2) the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), 3) the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and 4) the Cohesion Fund. The justification for these policies, therefore, was that they were redistributive policies.” (ben.aubg.bg)

The structural funds were established in compliance with the cohesion principles. Their main task is to help the lagging regions to secure a balanced and sustainable growth. The system is supported by the Operational Programmes.

The structural funds should help with establishing the economic and social balance within the EU. This aim was not considered at the EU foundation because the foundation states were on a similar economic level. The EU expansion showed the need to consider the regional variances. The accession of Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Greece showed the strong deviations within the Union. The variances cannot be assigned to the market forces, which would increase that. They would bring serious negative political and social consequences. It was necessary to decide on the appropriate regulation and on convenient instruments.

*“In general terms, the 1999 reform has **increased the concentration** of assistance, but has also moved towards the **simplification** and **decentralisation** of its management. On the other hand, the reform introduces a clearer division of responsibilities and stricter application of the principle of subsidiarity.”* (www.europa.eu.int)

3.2 Principles of the Structural Policy

The main Structural Policy principles are:

1. Principle of Partnership

- its emphasis on the participation of all competent organs at all levels
- its cooperation between the European Commission and corresponding organs at national, regional and local levels (vertical cooperation)
- its cooperation between partners – member states or regions (horizontal cooperation)

2. Principle of Programming

- its emphasis on the integrated and long-term approach to the support of lagging regions
- its elaborations of programming documents to achieve the objectives

3. Principle of Monitoring and Evaluation

- it requires continuous control and evaluation of EU sources usage
- it requires detailed monitoring of the implementation of the project and its incidence

4. Principle of Concentration

- the financial support should be focused on large projects, it should help the implementation of more important projects, the financial means should not be employed in small projects

5. Principle of Additionality

- the European financial means should be only additive, those receiving support should have their own financial interest in the realization of the project and this should help more effective usage of support

6. Principle of Subsidiarity

- the decision-making and the support implementation should take place at the most suitable level

7. Principle of Gender Equality

- one of the main objectives of the EU is also implemented also in other European policies

8. Principle of Solidarity

- the reallocation of the financial means (the advancing countries support of the lagging regions)
- the most disadvantaged regions should be helped to eliminate their handicaps and weaknesses

4 Regional Division (NUTS Classification)

The single nomenclature of the territorial entities is used for various statistical needs. *“NUTS is the geography used as a harmonized base for European statistical purposes. The purpose of the NUTS regional structure is to provide a single uniform breakdown of territorial units for the production of regional statistics for the European Union.”* (www.rss.org.uk)

The abbreviation NUTS comes from french “Nomenclature des unités territoriales statistiques”. This classification is very important for regional comparison and for a region’s assignment to the appropriate objectives.

The European Union is divided into five classification levels. The most important classification units in administering support from the structural funds are NUTS II and NUTS III.

NUTS I

- is a territorial unit represented by the large areas (macroregions) within the state
- it is the largest comparative regional unit; the Czech Republic is regarded as NUTS I
- it usually includes NUTS II

NUTS II

- a territorial unit corresponding with the middle level of the state regional division
- there are 8 NUTS II in the Czech Republic (cohesion regions)
- it also includes NUTS III

NUTS III

- it corresponds with the smallest regional units
- there are 14 NUTS III in the Czech Republic
- it includes NUTS IV

NUTS IV

- is represented by microregions, the districts in the Czech Republic

NUTS V

- are the municipalities

The classification takes account of the institutional organization and division of each state (normative criteria).

5 Forms of Help

There are three forms of help in the programming period 2000 – 2006:

- **Member States' initiatives – three main Objectives**
- **Community Initiatives**
- **Innovative Actions and Technical Assistance**

5.1 National Initiatives

The Structural Funds and other financial instruments help the achievement of general objectives defined in the EU Treaty. These instruments focus on certain areas and contribute to fulfill the Priority Objectives. The Union defines Objectives for every Programming Period and financial support from EU means.

Objective 1: Development and Structural Changes Support in the Lagging Regions

- regions of NUTS II can be included, their GDP per capita is lower than 75% of the EU average; distant regions and sparsely populated regions can also be included

"Objective 1 also covers specific categories of regions:

- *the seven "most remote regions", whose position is unique within the Union due to their remoteness from the European continent and their modest demographic and economic importance. These regions are the Canary Islands, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Reunion, French Guiana, the Azores and Madeira.*
- *the areas in Sweden and Finland eligible under the former Objective 6 during 1994-99, which specifically assisted regions with a very low population density. The areas concerned are in the regions of North-Central Sweden, Central Norrland and Upper Norrland in Sweden, and North, Central and East Finland.*
- *Northern Ireland receives special Community assistance to promote reconciliation between the communities and the emergence of a stable and peaceful society. First set up as a Community Initiative in 1994-99, the Peace II operational programme (2000-04) is now an integral part of Objective 1 and receives financial assistance worth EUR 500 million." (www.europa.eu.int)*

Objective 2: Support of Regions with Structural Difficulties

- includes four types of regions:

- regions with economic and social changes in the secondary and tertiary sector
- rural regions with lagging development in consequence of insufficient economic diversification
- urban regions with difficulties as a result of the loss of economic activities
- regions dependent upon the fisheries in a period of depression

The population included in this Objective must not exceed 18% of total EU population. Each Member State is limited relating to the number of these habitants.

Objective 3: Support of Adaptability, Policy Innovation and Systems of Education, Training and Employment

- the main intention is to develop all activities related to human resources, especially with support of the European Social Fund. The Member States should be given support in adapting and modernizing their policy and educational system (according to the European Employment Strategy)
- the Objective includes the whole EU area except the regions included in Objective 1

5.2 Community Initiatives

The Community Initiatives are a special instrument of the Structural Policy designed to resolve the specific problems related to the whole EU area. They complement other programmes or help with the programmes implementation. The Initiatives are defined and managed by the European Commission .

The main tasks are:

- cooperation development support
- the so-called bottom-up implementation (down-top method)
- financing of the programmess of Community character

The Present Initiatives are:

▪ **EQUAL**

The discrimination of all forms is one of the most discussed topics. The discrimination has always been a part of our society. It is not only the discrimination of the women in the labour market, but also of the handicapped people, of young or, on the contrary, of the seniors. The people with low level of education also hardly find an employment. The initiative support the projects and efforts to eliminate these unfavourable effects of the modern society. It tries to fulfill the objectives according the EU strategy:

- employability,
- entrepreneurial spirit,
- capacity for change,
- equal opportunities.

▪ **INTERREG III**

The Initiative comprises three strands:

- *“Cross-border cooperation (strand A): promoting integrated regional development between border regions*
- *Transnational cooperation (strand B): contributing to harmonious territorial integration across the European Union and with applicant countries and other neighbouring countries*
- *Inter-regional cooperation (strand C): improving regional development and cohesion policies and techniques through transnational/interregional cooperation”*
(www.ec.europa.eu)

The policy want to help implementation of some of the main objectives of the Union: improving competitiveness and the situation in the labour market, supporting sustainable development and promoting equal opportunities.

▪ URBAN II

“The aim of the Urban II Initiative is to promote innovative strategies for economic and social regeneration in deprived urban areas, at the same time facilitating the identification of good practice and exchanges of experience across the European Union.”
(www.europa.eu)

- Its main goals are fulfilled through the programmes, projects and instruments of national and international character. The efforts must be customized to the individual needs of each territory. The territory can be different from the territory given by the national borders, of course. The programmes support the actions leading to the sustainable development, including high competitiveness, elimination of discriminating obstructions, high employment and other goals.

▪ LEADER+

“The aim of the Leader+ Initiative is to complement the rural development programmes and structural objectives.... It is implemented under three headings:

- *Action 1: integrated rural development strategies, of a pilot nature, covering small-sized rural areas with a strong identity*
- *Action 2: cooperation between rural territories in one or more Member States consisting in pooling know-how and human and financial resources*
- *Action 3: the networking of all rural areas to facilitate exchanges of experiences and know-how. Beneficiaries under Leader+ are required to play an active role.”*
(www.europa.eu)

5.3 Innovative Actions and Technical Assistance

The **Innovative Actions** help preparation of innovative methods and processes to improve the quality of EU support; it consists especially of the studies, pilot projects and experiences exchange.

Technical Assistance finances the preparation, monitoring, evaluating and control necessary for support implementation, it takes the form of:

- studies, including general studies dealing with the Funds activity
- technical Assistance, experience exchange, information about the partners, final recipients and the general public
- installation, operation and mutual computer system connection for management, monitoring and evaluation
- improving methods of evaluation and exchange of information on practical advances in this domain

6 Programming Documents

Economic and Social Cohesion Policy is implemented by means of programming which is based on allocation of the Structural Funds support and long-term developing programmes. Each programme is divided into several Priorities and the Priorities are divided into several Measures. The Priorities and the Measures have their own budgets. The elaboration of the Programming Documents is one of the basic Structural Policy principles.

The first step of preparation is represented by a basic elaboration of Programming Documents. The Documents are interconnected. The details of a higher-level Document are elaborated in other lower-level Documents. The last items of this chains of programmes are the individual projects.

The Member States submit their programming documents to the Commission; these can take the form of:

- multistage system (Objective 1 regions)
 - **Community Support Frameworks**
 - **Operational Programmes**
- simplified system (Objective 2 and 3 regions)
 - **Single Programming Document**

6.1 Community Support Framework

The Community Support Framework and the Operational Programmes describe the socio-economic context of the country and set out development priorities and goals to be achieved. The Operational Programmes also includes the conditions as financing, monitoring, evaluation or control. This is important for the succes.

The Community Support Framework is a document adopted by the European Commission after agreement with Member States. At first, a Member State has to produce the National Development Plan which is a basis for the creation of a Community Support Framework. The Community Support Framework coordinates all EU support. It is developed in Priorities and is implemented through one or more Operational Programmes.

"This document presents the strategy and priorities for action of the funds and the Member State, their specific objectives, the contribution of the funds and the other financial resources." (www.funduszestrukturalne.gov.pl)

The Community Support Framework defines the necessity of ensuring harmony and consistency of the EU strategies with the EU, national and regional policies.

6.2 Operational Programmes

Individual priority axis were transformed into Operational Programmes which are divided into Priorities. The Priorities are divided into Measures.

The Operational Programme is a document approved by the European Commission to implement the Community Support Framework. Its Priorities include long-term measures. It can be financed from one or more financial instruments of the European Investment Bank. The Member State formulates its Operational Programmes according to its needs and difficulties. E.g. the Czech Republic has five Operational Programmes: Infrastructure, Industry and Enterprise, Rural Development and Multifunctional Agriculture, Human Resources Development and Joint Regional Operational Programme.

6.3 Single Programming Document

The Single Programming Document is a document submitted by a Member State, especially at EU support realization under Objectives 2 and 3. It can be elaborated also under Objective 1, respectively for total financial support lower than 1 billion EUR. The Single Programming Document represents a simplified system of programming process, inclusive of the Community Support Framework, Operational Programmes strategy and the Programme Complement.

7 Structural Policy Funds and Institutions

7.1 Structural Funds

The Structural Funds are managed by the European Commission and were founded to finance the structural support of the Communities. The support focuses especially on poorer regions in the Member States; it helps encouraging economic and social cohesion within the EU so that the Single Market appeals are fulfilled.

Currently there exist four Structural Funds used by Member States to support their national Programming Documents.

7.1.1 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

ERDF is the largest of the Structural Funds and it is a fundamental instrument for regional policy management. It was already created in 1975. The support is oriented on the infrastructure, employment and especially entrepreneurship and local development projects.

ERDF focus on financing of the activities:

- creating new perspective and sustainable jobs
- development of small and medium-sized enterprises, raising their degree of competitiveness; support in their requests for bank loans demanding, services for management, marketing and research; co-financing of the technology and information transfer between enterprises; co-financing of the innovative measures, development of financing instruments
- research and research capacity support, technological support, information society support
- infrastructure investment including traffic, telecommunications and energetics, infrastructure development in regions with geographic and structural problems
- tourism development and cultural legacy protection in regions which are expected to be able to develop and create new working opportunities
- environment protection and improvement at sustainable development

- equality between men and women in the field of employment
- cross-border, trans-national and inter-regional cooperation
- support of the Community Initiative INTERREG and URBAN
- support of the innovative measures (studies, pilot projects, exchanges of experience) in the field of regional or local development (these being financed exclusively by the ERDF)

"The European Regional Development Fund is used to provide help in the form of grants towards project costs. These grants are set at the minimum level required to allow the project to go ahead. As a general rule, however, the European Union contributes no more than 50 per cent of the eligible cost, although it can be as much as 75 per cent for projects in Objective 1 regions. The rest of the funding, known as 'match funding', comes from other sources such as:

- *regional development agencies*
- *local authorities*
- *Government schemes including the Single Regeneration Budget*
- *other public bodies*
- *the private sector."* (www.gonw.gov.uk)

7.1.2 European Social Fund (ESF)

Its general task is to support the measures against unemployment, human resources development, gender equality in the field of employment and social opportunities, economic and social cohesion development. More specifically:

The fund can be considered as the main instrument of the policy implementing the initiative EQUAL. The goals of the ESF and of the EQUAL are almost the same. The attention is paid to the human resources and relevant problems (e.g. unemployment, discrimination, qualification and education, social exclusion, working environment, labour force mobility, tertiary education, social services).

"The ESF must provide assistance based on the national priorities set out in National Action Plans for employment which are drawn up by Member States. It also needs to take ex-ante evaluations into account." (www.europa.eu)

7.1.3 European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)

The fund is divided into two parts: guidance and guarantee. The Guarantee Section makes about 95% of all fund expenditures and is liable for the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy. The rest of the available funds is used for some Measures under the Objective 2. This part, Guidance Section, is included in the Structural Policy and finances the rural development expenditure.

The fund supports (in the field of the Structural Policy) in particular:

- the creation and development of agricultural holdings to increase their competitiveness, productivity and the quality of their products
- educational programmes for agricultural and forest workers
- adaptability and development of rural areas
- the Community Initiative LEADER

7.1.4 Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG)

The Fund is not a classical fund. Its task is to support the fishery sector, linked manufacturing industry and fisheries marketing. It supports structural measures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the industrial processing and marketing of their products in order to promote the restructuring of the sector by creating favourable conditions for its development and modernization.

The Fund is to *"contribute to a sustainable balance between fisheries resources and their exploitation, to increase the competitiveness of structures and the development of viable enterprises in the sector, to improve the value-added to fisheries and aquaculture products and revitalise areas dependent on them."* (www.europa.eu.int)

7.2 Cohesion Fund (CF)

The Cohesion Fund was founded in 1993 to support certain countries in their preparation for entry into the Economic and Monetary Union. The Fund particularly supports projects

in the sphere of the environment and trans-European infrastructure transport networks. The support is contingent on two factors: GDP (resp. GNP) per capita must not overreach 90% of the EU average and the Member State must realize the economic convergence programme. The Fund is not specifically focused on the regional policy. The support is complementary.

"The Cohesion Fund aims to strengthen the economic and social cohesion of the Community through the balanced financing of projects, technically and financially independent project stages and groups of projects forming a coherent whole."

(www.europa.eu.int)

7.3 European Investment Bank (EIB)

"The European Investment Bank was instituted by the Treaty of Rome and created in 1958 and it is the European Union's financing institution." (www.europa.eu.int)

It contributes to European integration and the economic development of the less-favoured regions. The EIB is an institution with legal capacity. Its task is to contribute to the balanced development of the Common Market in the interest of the European Union. The financial means used to fulfil a task are its own funds or those obtained in the capital market. The supported project has to pursue at least one of the main objectives of the EU.

7.4 Pre-Accession Financial Instruments

7.4.1 Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession (ISPA)

The programmes granted under ISPA focus on the environment and transport. Preferred projects are those fulfilling the objectives of the common interest. The final effects should bring the sustainable development of the transport infrastructure and significant improvement of the environment.

7.4.2 Special Accession Programme for Agriculture & Rural Development (SAPARD)

The Programme supports sustainable and rural development and was created to help the applicant countries of the central and eastern Europe. The support is limited only for the pre-accession period. The objectives correspond with the common agricultural policy.

7.4.3 PHARE

The programme was originally created in 1989 to assist Poland and Hungary, later, the PHARE programme covered all candidate countries and after 2000 also the countries of East Balkan.

“PHARE’s objectives are:

- *strengthening public administration and institutions to function effectively inside the European Union*
- *promoting convergence within the extent of the European Union and the reduction of the need for transition periods*
- *promoting economic and social cohesion.”* (eu.willevolve.com)

8 EU Regional and Structural Policy in the Czech Republic

Great changes in regional policy activities in the Czech Republic happened after 1989. These were connected with the political and economic transformation. The Czech Republic started to prepare for EU entry and large institutional, programming and legislative changes were necessary.

A New Ministry for Regional Development was established, a number of regional development agencies increased and the activities of the Euroregions were activated. The Czech Republic was taking advantage from pre-accession financial instruments of the European Union during the pre-accession period.

The whole Czech Republic is defined as NUTS I. The cohesion regions are NUTS II, they are called *Praha*, *Střední Čechy*, *Severozápad*, *Jihozápad*, *Severovýchod*, *Jihovýchod*, *Střední Morava* and *Moravskoslezsko*. There are also NUTS III regions in the Czech Republic, the regions are named *Praha*, *Středočeský*, *Ústecký*, *Karlovarský*, *Plzeňský*, *Jihočeský*, *Liberecký*, *Královéhradecký*, *Pardubický*, *Vysočina*, *Jihomoravský*, *Olomoucký*, *Zlínský* and *Moravskoslezský region*.

There are important and essential Programming Documents in the Czech Republic. These are the National Development Plan, the Operational Programmes and the Single Programming Documents.

8.1 National Development Plan

The National Development Plan is a fundamental document for support exploitation under the Objective 1 and it is based on EU legislation.. It focuses on the economic and social cohesion in all regions except Prague (*Praha Region*). It allows the Czech Republic to get the support from the Structural Funds and from the Cohesion Fund.

The National Development Plan objectives are fulfilled through the Community Support Framework and through the Operational Programmes.

8.2 Community Support Framework (CSF)

The CSF define the priority objectives and areas which should be supported. It is to sustain the all around development in the Czech regions (except the *Praha Region*). The development strategy defined in the CSF for Programming Period 2000-2006 is developed in five **Operational Programmes**:

Infrastructure

- is related with the transport infrastructure development and with the protection and improvement of the environment
- Priorities and Measures:

Priority 1 – Modernization and Development of Transport Infrastructure of Nation-wide Importance

Measure 1.1 - Modernization of Lines of Nationwide Importance and of Important Railway Junctions

Measure 1.2 – Construction and Modernization of Class I Roads

Measure 1.3 – Modernization of Civil Airports of Inter-regional Importance

Measure 1.4 – Construction of Port Infrastructure and Modernization of Waterways

Priority 2 – Reducing the Negative Environmental Impacts of Transport

Measure 2.1 – Implementation of Protective Measures on the Transport Network to Ensure Environmental Protection

Measure 2.2 – Support for Combined Transport

Measure 2.3 – Support for the Introduction of Alternative Fuels

Measure 2.4 – Study and Research Projects addressing the problems connected with the improvement of the environment in terms of transport

Priority 3 – Environmental Infrastructure Improvement

Measure 3.1 – Recovery of Environmental Functions of the Landscape

Measure 3.2 – Water Management Infrastructure Improvement

Measure 3.3 – Air Protection Infrastructure Improvement

Measure 3.4 – Waste Management and Rehabilitation of Old Ecological Burdens

Priority 4 – Technical Assistance

Measure 4.1 – Technical Assistance in Managing, Implementing, Monitoring and Controlling the Operations of the OP Infrastructure

Measure 4.2 – Other Expenditures of the Technical Assistance for OP Infrastructure

Rural Development and Multi-Functional Agriculture

- support of the rural areas development, Czech agriculture adaptation to the EU model, multifunctional agriculture development, forest functions development, water management development
- Priorities and Measures:

Priority 1- Support to Agriculture, Processing of Agricultural Products and to Forestry

Measure 1.1 - Investments in Agricultural Holdings

Measure 1.2 - Improving Processing and Marketing of Agricultural Products

Measure 1.3 - Forestry

Priority 2 - Rural Development, Fisheries and Vocational Training

Measure 2.1 - Promoting the Adaptation and Development of Rural Areas

Measure 2.2 - Vocational Training

Measure 2.3 – Fisheries

Priority 3 - Technical Assistance

Measure 3.1 - Technical Assistance

Industry and Enterprise

- support of the business environment development, industry and industrial services, Czech industrial competitiveness, industrial research and development, energetics effectiveness
- Priorities and Measures:

Priority 1: Business Environment Development

Measure 1.1 – Infrastructure for Industrial Research, Development and Innovation

Measure 1.2 – Development of Business Infrastructure

Measure 1.3 – Infrastructure for the Development of Human Resources in the Industry and Business Services

Measure 1.4 – Development of Information and Consulting Services

Priority 2: Development of Enterprise Competitiveness

Measure 2.1 – Establishing and Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Measure 2.2 – Support of Innovation of Products, Technologies and Services

Measure 2.3 – Reduced Energy Consumption and Higher Use of Renewable Sources of Energy

Priority 3: Technical Assistance

Measure 3.1 – Technical Assistance for the Management and Implementation of the Programme

Measure 3.2 – Other Technical Assistance

Human Resources Development

- support of high and sustainable employment, qualified and flexible labour force, integration of people threatened by social exclusion, equal opportunities for men

and women, long-life education development, adaptability of employers and employees to economical and technical changes

- **Priorities and Measures:**

1. Priority – Active Employment Policy

Measure 1.1- Strengthening the Active Employment Policy for Job Seekers and Job Applicants

Measure 1.2- Public Employment Services Modernisation

2. Priority – Social Integration and Equal Opportunities

Measure 2.1- Integration of Specific Population Groups at Risk of Social Exclusion

Measure 2.2- Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in the Labour Market

Measure 2.3 - Enhancing the Capacity of Social Services Providers

3. Priority – Lifelong Learning Development

Measure 3.1- Enhancing the Quality of Education at Schools and School Facilities and Developing Support Systems for Education

Measure 3.2- Promoting Tertiary Education, Research and Development

Measure 3.3- Further Vocational Training Development

4. Priority – Adaptability and Entrepreneurship

Measure 4.1- Increasing Adaptability of Employers and Employees to Economic and Technological Changes; Promoting Competitiveness

Measure 4.2- Specific Training

5. Priority – Technical Assistance

Measure 5.1 - Promoting the Management, Implementation, Monitoring and Control of HRD OP Operations

Measure 5.2 - Other Eligible Activities

Joint Regional Operational Programme (JROP)

- this is complementary with other Operational Programmes of individual sectors and with the Cohesion Fund, it develops the impact of the Operational Programmes on the local level and is oriented on the common development needs of the regions
- for *Praha region*
- Priorities and Measures:

Priority 1: Regional Support to Enterprise

Measure 1.1 – Support of Business Activities in Selected Areas

Priority 2: Regional Development of Infrastructure

Measure 2.1 – Development of Transport in Regions

Measure 2.2 – Development of Information and Communication Technologies in Regions

Measure 2.3 – Regeneration and Revitalisation of Selected Towns

Priority 3: Human Resource Development in Regions

Measure 3.1 – Infrastructure for Human Resources Development

Measure 3.2 – Support of Social Integration in Regions

Measure 3.3 – Strengthening of the Capacity of Local and Regional Authorities in the Programme Planning Realisation

Priority 4: Development of Tourism

Measure 4.1 – Development of Services for Tourism

Measure 4.2 – Development of the Tourist Infrastructure

Priority 5 – Technical Assistance

Measure 5.1 – Technical Assistance for JROP

Measure 5.2 – Technical Assistance for CSF

The Operational Programmes serve as a guideline for the declaration of the Grant Schemes. The Grant Schemes are documents, in which the conditions for potential support applicants are defined. The Scheme defines the objective which is to be fulfilled (it is

always under some of the Objectives), target groups, the character of final beneficiaries, potential partners in a project, duration of the project, eligible costs, monitoring indicators, possible extend of funding, formal obligations of the project proposal etc. The projects submitted to the provider of the grant are analysed by the special commission. The commission will decide which projects shall receive financial support. The chosen projects are then implemented with the financial support of the provider who retains control.

9 Conclusion

The structural policy arose from affiliation of regional policy with a part of social and agricultural policy. One of the most important objectives of this policy, also called the economic and social cohesion policy, is to eliminate the regional variances. The structural policy of the EU is an important part of the European policies and shows solidarity of the member states with high economic potential. The policy is focused on creating comparative conditions of competition among the member states.

The main task of the work was especially to characterize the important policy of the European Union. The work also describes briefly the history of the Union, its basic principles and development. The Structural Policy is parsed in a majority part of the work. The main characteristic and evolution of the Policy, its principles, objectives and systems of support are described. The work represents using of the Structural Funds, Cohesion Fund and other financial instruments of the policy implementation. The last part of the work briefly describe the situation in the Czech Republic.

The information on topic was acquired in the Czech books and textbooks and was translated. Other information was acquired from the internet sources. The work can serve as a comprehensive and brief source of information on the Structural Policy of the European Union for the general public.

10 Summary / Shrnutí

The work was aimed at characteristic and description of the basic principles of the Structural Policy of the European Union. The work is structured in several chapters which describe the individual parts of the problem. The chapters consider the European Union and its history, development and principles, and the Structural Policy – the Structural Funds and implementation instruments of the Policy, the principles of their utilization, their objectives to fulfill. A brief description of the implementation of the Structural Policy in the Czech Republic is also included in the work.

Cílem práce bylo charakterizovat a popsat základní principy strukturální politiky Evropské Unie. Práce je členěna do několika kapitol, z nichž se každá zabývá jednotlivými částmi řešeného tématu. Kapitoly popisují Evropskou unii, její historii, rozvoj a principy, a Strukturální politiku EU – Strukturální fondy a implementační nástroje strukturální politiky, principy jejich použití a cíle, které mají být naplňovány. V práci je také zahrnuta stručná charakteristika uplatňování Strukturální politiky Evropské unie v České Republice.

11 Information Sources / Zdroje informací

1. **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Structural Actions 2000 – 2006, Commentary and Regulations**, Luxembourg, 2002
2. **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Structural Policies and European Territory: Cooperation without Frontiers**, Luxembourg, 2002
3. **EUROPEAN COMMISSION: The Structural Funds in 2001**, Luxembourg, 2004
4. **HAD, M.; URBAN, Z.: Evropská společenství. První pilíř Evropské unie**, Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí České republiky, Praha, 2000
5. **HRABÁNKOVÁ, M.: Strukturální fondy**, Institut výchovy a vzdělávání Ministerstva zemědělství České republiky, Praha, 1999
6. **HRABÁNKOVÁ, M.; VOSEJPKOVÁ, M.: Regionální management**, JČU, České Budějovice, 2002
7. **LUKÁŠ, Z.; NEUMANN, P.: Společná zemědělská politika EU – Regionální a strukturální politika EU**, VŠE - Fakulta mezinárodních vztahů, Praha, 2000
8. **POTLUKA, O. a kolektiv: Průvodce strukturálními fondy Evropské unie**, IREAS – Institut pro strukturální politiku, Praha, 2003
9. **SODOMKA, V.; ŠPOK, R.: Průvodce strukturálními fondy Evropské unie pro neziskový sektor**, Institut pro evropskou politiku EUROPEUM, Praha, 2004
10. **INTERNET:**

ben.augb.bg
en.wikipedia.org
eu.willevolve.com
userpage.chemie.fu-berlin.de
www.equalcr.cz
www.esfcr.cz
www.eu-infoelais.org
www.euractiv.cz
www.europa.eu.int
www.europa-eu-un.org
www.europarl.eu.int
www.euroskop.cz

www.evropska-unie.cz
www.funduszestrukturalne.gov.pl
www.gonw.gov.uk
www.greenwichmeantime.com
www.mmr.cz
www.mpo.cz
www.naseevropa.cz
www.old.mpo.cz
www.operacni-programy.cz
www.rss.org.uk
www.strukturalni-fondy.cz

Supplement A: Regions in the Czech Republic and Their NUTS Classification

Tab. 1: *Geographical Map of the Czech Republic and its Regions*

(Data Source: www.strukturalni-fondy.cz)



Tab. 2: *NUTS Classification of the Regions in the Czech Republic*

NUTS I (1)	NUTS II (8) Cohesion Region	NUTS III (14) Region
Czech Republic	Praha	Praha
	Střední Čechy (Central Bohemia)	Středočeský
	Severozápad	Ústecký
		Karlovarský
	Jihozápad	Plzeňský
		Jihočeský
	Severovýchod	Liberecký
		Královéhradecký
		Pardubický
	Jihovýchod	Vysočina
		Jihomoravský
	Střední Morava (Central Moravia)	Olomoucký
		Zlínský
	Moravskoslezsko	Moravskoslezský

Supplement B: Demographic Limitation of NUTS

Tab. 3: *NUTS Classification in Relation to the Population*

(Data Source: www.europa.eu.int)

Level	Minimum	Maximum
NUTS 1	3 million	7 million
NUTS 2	800 000	3 million
NUTS 3	150 000	800 000

At a more detailed level, there are the districts and municipalities. These are called "Local Administrative Units" (LAU) and are not subject of the NUTS Regulation.

Supplement C: Financial Support

Tab. 4: Structural Funds and Financial Support Possibilities in Relation to the Objectives and Initiatives (Data Source: www.strukturalni-fondy.cz)

	Cíl 1	Podpora mimo regiony Cíle 1	Cíl 2	Cíl 3	Interreg III	Urban II	Leader+	Equal
ERDF	x		x		x	x		
ESF	x		x	x				x
EAGGF	x	x					x	
FIFG	x	x						

Tab. 5: Financial Support for the Czech Republic in the Period 2000 – 2006
(Data Source: www.strukturalni-fondy.cz)

	2004-2006	2004	2005	2006
Cohesion Fund	945,3	316,9	266,1	362,3
Structural Funds	1 584,4	381,5	528,9	674,0
Objective 1 (13 regions)	1 454,3	339,0	485,5	629,8
Objective 2 (Praha)	71,3	23,3	23,8	24,2
Objective 3 (Praha)	58,8	19,2	19,6	20,0
Community Initiatives	100,8	28,6	32,1	40,1
Interreg	68,7	21,0	21,4	26,3
Equal	32,1	7,6	10,7	13,8
Structural Operations as a Whole	2 630,5	727,0	827,1	1 076,3

Tab. 6: Financial Support of the Community Support Framework
(Data Source: www.strukturalni-fondy.cz)

Community Support Framework (Objective 1)	2004-2006	2004	2005	2006
Operační program				
Průmysl a podnikání	260 852 142	60 798 079	87 082 257	112 971 806
Infrastructure	246 360 355	57 420 408	82 244 353	106 695 594
Human Resources Development	318 819 283	74 308 763	106 433 869	138 076 651
Rural Development and Multi-Functional Agriculture	173 901 427	40 532 052	58 054 838	75 314 537
JROP	454 332 571	105 893 505	151 673 302	196 765 764
As a Whole	1 454 265 778	338 952 807	485 488 619	629 824 352