The contribution will focus on the comparative analysis of the working poor employees’ populations in the Czech Republic and Slovakia using the national income and living conditions surveys (EU-SILC).

We start with the poverty in earned income concept at the individual level, confronting individual employee income with one person household poverty line benchmark. Two main groups of employees are defined according to the number of months spent in the main employment – those with full year participation on the labour market and those with less than 12 months in employment participation. A special attention will be given to the latter group and on balancing of their employee income potential with substitute sources of income covering periods outside of the labour market.

Our analysis then moves to the household level poverty measure based on household disposable equalized income. The number and the share of the working poor employees’ population will be presented together with the demographic, social and economic characteristics of their households. Several factors come at play when one moves from the individual employee income capacity to the household context – pooling of resources with other household members, sharing of income with dependent children and other household members without own income and the economies of scale represented by an implicit or explicit equivalence scale used in the construction of the household poverty measure. The analysis will aim at decomposing these household composition effects and on the main driving forces behind the individual/household poverty transition matrix.