

Current Issues of Legal Regulation of Audiovisual Media Services

Abstract

The dissertation thesis deals with the issue of legal regulation of audiovisual media services in the Czech Republic, with regard to challenges typically facing the legal regulation that concurrently should be addressed, as well as with regard to effects that such legal regulation itself has on audiovisual media services. The topic is looked at from an administrative law perspective.

Following a historical-legal excursus and an excursus about means of receiving television broadcasts and other technological aspects, the dissertation thesis primarily addresses the current regulation. It contains a definition of the concept of audiovisual media services, including distinction between television broadcasting (linear services) and audiovisual media services on demand (non-linear services) and comparison thereof with video-sharing platform services. The thesis deals with administrative authorisation to provide audiovisual media services (with emphasis on concession principle), with the Czech television and the broadcast system in the Czech Republic, with financing of audiovisual media services, with obligations on audiovisual media services providers and with responsibility for the content of audiovisual media services.

The author critically considers the legal regulation of audiovisual media services in the Czech Republic and sees it in the context of variability of audiovisual media market, technological, technical and social developments in the field and requirements of European Union law. The author focuses on the issue whether the rules of administrative law concerning audiovisual media services are capable of affecting the development and the situation in the market of such services in the Czech Republic. The author deals with the issue whether it is currently justified to treat television broadcasters and on-demand audiovisual media services providers differently. The author also deals with (legal) ways to influence the content of audiovisual media services and intervene in it and with the matter of who is responsible for the content of these services. Finally, the author analyses whether Czech (administrative) legal regulation responds to the developments in the audiovisual media services market or is lagging behind and reflects on the future of legal regulation of audiovisual media services.

The dissertation thesis is intended not only to the professional public, but also to readers from lay people. In particular, it could be appreciated by representatives of the legislation, for whom it may be an inspirational source of reflection *de lege ferenda*.