Abstract and keywords

Legal aspects of crypto-assets

The topic of this thesis is the impact of the current legislation on the crypto-assets market and some selected entities providing related services. The aim of the thesis is to analyse the impact of these regulations, to describe in detail some of the deficits of the current legislation and, occassionaly, to present possible future developments of regulation with an impact on this issue. To this aim, the first chapter first presents the term "crypto-asset" itself and the definitions of crypto-assets currently or in the past used by various authors, including relevant European bodies and institutions. The second chapter analyses the methodology of dividing crypto-assets into relevant subcategories from the perspective of legal theory, with the work focusing mainly on payment-type crypto-assets. The third chapter then explains the impact of the legal regulations currently in force in the Czech Republic on the legal status of crypto-assets, taking into account in particular the statements of the Czech National Bank. Within this chapter, a separate section focuses on the legal regulation of 'mining' activities as a process of verifying transactions within the crypto-asset network and allocating new crypto-asset units. Chapter four looks at the impact of the current legislation on certain aspects of the activities of selected entities providing services to the public in the crypto-asset market. In particular, attention has been focused on persons operating trading platforms for trading crypto-assets (so-called crypto exchanges and exchange offices) and persons issuing their own crypto-assets under the so-called ICO's (initial coin offering). The thesis concludes with a presentation of the possible future development of the European and domestic legal regulation of this sector, in particular taking into account the status of the proposals for the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on markets in crypto-assets and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and Regulation 2022/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a pilot regime for market infrastructures based on distributed ledger technology, the adoption of which seems likely as of the date of finalisation of this thesis.

Keywords: Crypto-Assets; DLT; FinTech;