

# **The municipality as an actor in environmental protection from a law perspective**

## **Abstract**

Municipalities in the Czech Republic are entrusted with a number of very important and irreplaceable roles in protecting the environment, both within their independent competence and in activities carried out under delegated competence.

In the first half of the text, the author defines the basic concepts in the form of the term municipality and the term environment. At the same time, in the first part of the thesis, the author analyses the constitutional-legal basis of local self-government units, more precisely municipalities, their characteristic features and the differences between the independent and delegated competence of municipalities. The second part of the thesis is devoted to the already mentioned definition of the environment, environmental law as a distinct and dynamically developing branch of public law, and legal instruments serving to protect the environment, including their division and examples.

In the third part of the thesis, the author focuses on the individual activities carried out by municipalities under delegated competence in the field of air, water, soil, forest, nature and landscape protection or waste management. The fourth part of the thesis contains a list of activities carried out by municipalities in the exercise of their autonomous competences in three different areas related to the environment and its protection. These are the issuance of (environmental) generally binding regulations of municipalities, spatial planning including the issuance of a zoning plan or the functioning of the municipal waste management system and the issue of municipal waste fees.

In the fifth and final part of the thesis, the author describes the activities carried out and implemented in the East Bohemian town of Litomyšl, where the author comes from and also lives. The main content of this part is thus the communication of how this town is committed to improving the environmental condition in its territory. This passage may also inspire other municipalities to introduce similar measures in their towns.

**Key words:** municipality, environment, independent and delegated power