

Abstract

The master's thesis, supervised by Professor Jakub Handrlica, provides an in-depth examination of the consular and visa activities of Czech diplomatic missions from the perspective of international administrative law and its implementation within the Czech legal system. It focuses on analyzing the legal frameworks and procedures that Czech diplomatic missions apply when carrying out their consular and visa functions, thoroughly exploring not only their international dimension but also their anchoring and regulation within Czech administrative law and the legal system in general.

The thesis offers a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the consular and visa agenda of Czech diplomatic missions, with an emphasis on the administrative aspects of these activities, drawing on relevant legal regulations and treaties that are part of the Czech legal order. The thesis also provides an analysis of the relationship between domestic regulations and international treaties while considering the specifics of applying Czech administrative law to foreign conditions.

The author describes the legal framework of the process for issuing various types of visas provided by Czech diplomatic missions, including Schengen visas, airport transit visas, and visas and permits for long-term stays. Each type of visa is described in detail, including the legal regulations governing its issuance and the administrative procedures associated with the process. In this context, attention is paid to both domestic and international legal norms that influence decision-making processes at the level of Czech authorities.

Consular services, another major topic of this thesis, encompass a wide range of activities performed by diplomatic missions, particularly in relation to Czech citizens abroad, as well as to foreigners who require such services. The thesis provides a detailed description of the various types of these services, such as issuing travel documents, providing legal assistance, civil registry services, citizenship matters, organizing elections abroad, certification activities, and other specific consular tasks. Special attention is given to the practical procedures that consular officers follow when providing these services, including the legislative framework that regulates these procedures.

The key legal documents that support the aforementioned activities and are analyzed in this thesis from the perspective of practical application to visa and consular services include the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, Act No. 150/2017 Coll., on Foreign Service (Foreign Service Act), and Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on the Residence of Foreign Nationals in the Territory of the Czech Republic Laws (Foreigners Act). The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations provides the basic international legal framework for the exercise of consular functions, establishes the rights and duties of consular officers, and ensures the protection of their activities within the territory of the receiving states. The Foreign Service Act, which is, from the point of view of this subject, the primary domestic regulation, governs the organization and functioning of foreign service, including the specifics of consular and diplomatic services. The Foreigners Act regulates the conditions for the entry, stay, and departure of foreigners to/from the territory of the Czech Republic, which also includes the visa agenda managed by diplomatic missions.

During the creation of this thesis the author thought it important to involve consulting practical aspects of consular and visa services with experts from the field, made possible through collaboration with experienced Czech diplomat Mgr. Radka Calábková. Her experience and insights provided the author with valuable perspectives on the real functioning of these services at Czech diplomatic missions, significantly contributing to the understanding of the researched topic.

The thesis can be used as a basis for further research by experts in administrative law and international relations, as well as by policymakers involved in optimizing the functioning of Czech diplomatic missions and improving the quality of services provided to citizens and foreigners in the areas of consular and visa affairs. The conclusions of this thesis may serve as inspiration for future legislative adjustments and the streamlining of procedures within the Czech foreign service.

Keywords: consular and visa services, international administrative law, Czech diplomatic missions