

# **International cooperation of self-governments**

## **Abstract**

The main objective of this work is to determine the role of the law, especially administrative law, in the partnership cooperation of two selected entities, the city of Jihlava and the Vysočina Region, taking into account the fact that despite the absence of specialized legal regulation of decentralized cooperation in the Czech Republic, this type of cooperation is widely implemented. At the same time, the answer to this question should introduce the topic of international cooperation of local governments, contribute to deepening the discussion about it in the Czech environment, present a relevant insight into the legal status of decentralized cooperation in our country and abroad, and stimulate discussion on its possible optimization.

The work is divided into three parts, the first of which aims to explain to the reader who has not yet encountered the international cooperation of territorial self-governments what this term means, who participates in it, what its content is, and what goals it aims to achieve.

The second part of the work aims to examine the legal aspects of the international collaboration of territorial self-governments. Therefore, it examines the how the legal system in which territorial self-governments operate influences the conclusion and course of cooperation with foreign territorial self-governments. Furthermore, legal instruments applicable for establishing and officially confirming cooperation between municipalities are presented here, and the issue of the binding nature and possible enforceability of the content of this cooperation is also examined.

The third part of the work primarily compares the experiences of politicians from Jihlava and Vysočina, obtained through semi-structured interviews, with the theoretical insights from the previous parts of this work. The goal of this comparison is primarily to determine whether the absence of legal regulation of decentralized cooperation in the Czech environment is a problem for the selected entities.

The answers to the individual questions posed throughout the work are provided through a review of books and articles, publicly available laws, and data from websites, followed by their subsequent comparison. Furthermore, the questions are also answered through semi-structured interviews mentioned above with selected politicians and their comparison with the research results. Given that almost nothing on this topic occurs in Czech legal sources, nearly all sources are foreign - mainly French, American, and Indonesian. Regarding the laws, legal sources from French, Indonesian, European, and Czech law were used as references.

**Keywords: city diplomacy, decentralised cooperation, territorial self-government**