

# **Legal instruments of energy efficiency**

## **Abstract and key words**

The diploma thesis deals with energy efficiency as a unique source of energy. The subject of this thesis is to specify key legal instruments of energy efficiency, i.e. conceptual, administrative and economical instruments. The diploma thesis is divided into five chapters. In the introductory chapter, being called Energy Policy, there is a brief outline of the background of energy politics on both the international and EU level, including environmental protection. This introductory chapter also ranks the Czech Republic among countries with high energy performance. Energy efficiency is the opportunity to lower its energy performance. The second chapter, Legal Instruments of Energy Efficiency, defines legal instruments of energy efficiency as a part of environmental protection. This chapter is a general one; the instruments are concretized in the following chapters. In addition, this chapter focuses on the principle of sustainable development, as well as issues related to human factor, climate conditions and rebound effect. The third chapter, called Conceptual Instruments, provides further information relating to conceptual strategies of energy efficiency. For the EU conceptions, key directives are mentioned to regulate energy efficiency, namely the directive on energy efficiency and the directive on energy performance of buildings. Some of the main national conceptions listed are the State Energy Policy and the National Action Plan of Energy Efficiency. The object of the fourth chapter is to shortly describe instruments such as Energy Performance Certificate of Buildings, Energy Audit and Energy Labels of the appliances, as the instruments of certification and evaluation of the buildings and appliances based on their energy efficiency, more precisely energy performance. The final chapter, named Economic Instruments, provides an outline of economic instruments in the field of energy efficiency. Besides energy services, also subsidies are mentioned. The attention is also paid to the issue of the return on investments.

**Key words: energy efficiency, energy, savings**