

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the aspects of unconditional imprisonment. Unconditional imprisonment, as a term of criminal law, is the most severe punishment used in the Czech Republic, it is also a universal punishment that can be imposed for any crime. Imprisonment is executed in a prison with security, in a maximum-security prison, or in a special unit of remand prison. The rights and obligations of convicts are governed, in particular, by the Act on Imprisonment and Imprisonment Rules. Various educational programs and leisure activities, as well as the employment of the convicts, are carried out during the execution of the imprisonment. The institute of conditional release is an important instrument for the reduction of the prison population, yet it is underused. The prison problems are especially a high number of prisoners, overcrowded prisons, low financial literacy and high indebtedness of convicts, substance abuse problems, cumulative prison sentences and prisoners' pay-to-stay fees. The number of convicts per 100,000 citizens and recidivism rate are used to assess the effectiveness of unconditional imprisonment. The Czech Republic is one of the countries with a very high number of prisoners in Europe, as well as a high recidivism rate. Decreasing of these two factors can be achieved by reducing prisoners' debts, reducing the number of prisoners with substance abuse problems, increasing prison employment, increasing the use of alternative sanctions, increasing the number of professional staff and prison educators, decriminalizing negligence of mandatory support, educating convicts in fields of work with high employment rates, reducing or eliminating pay-to-stay fees and assisting released convicts with job search. Scandinavian countries could be inspirational for the Czech Republic as they have a very low prison rate. Another inspiration for the Czech Republic could be alternative types of imprisonment, such as weekend imprisonment or regime of semi-liberty used in some countries. Nevertheless, positive steps towards an effective Czech prison system can be seen, especially in the introduction of the open prison in Jirice or a change in prison differentiation.