

## **World Cultural and Natural Heritage and its legal regulation**

“World Cultural and Natural Heritage” is a legacy that has been left for us by our ancestors and that is supposed to get sustained and thus protected so it can be passed on our descendents. We speak about a vigorous complex composed of many kinds of legacies that give us a true evidence of the historical development of our mankind.

World Heritage consists of cultural heritage including archaeological, architectural, statuary and pictorial heritage. Natural heritage is considered slightly different. It involves the landscape - either cultural or transformed by humans -, legacy as significant natural resorts and others. Yet, this entire heritage belongs to a single entity – the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

For an efficient sustainable protection of our world heritage, a set of legislative regulations for preferably all of the parts of the world heritage shall be provided. Currently, this need is represented by four international legal documents: Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, European Landscape Convention, Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe and Convention for the Protection of the Archeological Heritage of Europe.

The Czech Republic has ratified all of these agreements and thus implemented them into our legal system, i.e. they are legally binding.

Czech cultural and natural heritage is protected on intranational level by different legal acts and implementary regulations to these acts. The most significant ones are the Monument Preservation Act, the Nature and Landscape Protection Act and the Building Act. The Monument Preservation Act regulates cultural monuments and sights. It defines rights and duties of their owners, also deals with sights and monuments reserves, monuments zones and environmental corridors. In addition, the Act determines legal regulations of archaeological researches and finds. Thus, this Act deals with both, the legal regulations of architectural and archaeological heritage. In many respects, this Act is considered to be obsolete and it needs to be replaced by new legal regulations.

The Nature and Landscape Protection Act is a fundamental act used for the natural preservation of Czech Republic. In term of the monument preservation, it is a significant legal regulation for preservation of landscape as a natural environment of natural and cultural monuments. In the Act, the landscape preservation is divided into general and special part.

It is focused mainly on landscape type, national natural monuments and national parks.

Building Act is significant for the legal regulations of landscape planning. The purpose of landscape planning is functional use and lay-out of the territory, but also a protection and development of natural and cultural values of the territory. It involves urban, architectural and archaeological heritage.

Czech legal regulations on cultural and natural heritage have undergone some insufficiency. Gradually, novelizations of current legal regulations or brand new acts need to be adopted. It is crucial that the Czech Republic meets liabilities resulting from international agreements. The current legal regulations do not always meet these liabilities, for now. Thus, full harmonisation of internal legal regulations shall be realised. It will lead to integrated procedures while preserving cultural and natural heritage as a whole.

**Klíčová slova: Světové dědictví  
World Heritage**