

The article focuses on the women lawyers in the First republic, their education and practice. As far as career opportunities are concerned, women had a difficult position in many areas comparing with men. The most visible difference between men and women was in the area of education, especially in the area of law education; law education was also inaccessible to women in our countries longer than in other countries. The struggle of women for access to law faculty was very long, taking into consideration the fact that in the former Austrian- Hungarian monarchy it was possible for women to study philosophy from 1897 and medicine and pharmaceuticals from 1900. Only in 1918, influenced by events of the creation of the independent Czechoslovak state, it was decided to accept women as regular students of the law faculty. But the acceptance of women as students first in Prague faculty and later in law faculties of Masaryk University in Brno, of Comenius University in Bratislava and German university in Prague did not automatically meant that women could after their education start their career as law professionals. It seems to be ridicule for us now but after 1922 when first women graduated law faculty they had to struggle once more in the atmosphere full of polemics and problems to open law professions for themselves, especially the judiciary. In spite of the fact that women had passed the same examinations as men, including sometimes doctor examinations, their access to law professions was very difficult. The main reason for this difficulty laid in the mistrust and ill feelings connected with rivalry and surviving prejudices. The general public, including professional lawyers, accepted the new situation only with difficulty. To conclude it is possible to say that woman lawyer was seen as an exception and rarity in the second decade of the First republic. Some women dedicated themselves to law profession only marginally and for the reasons of prestige.