

Abstract

This diploma thesis aims at Czech legislation related to conservation of caves both in terms of its link to the protection of caves as subterranean spaces and parts of the natural environment and of its relation to other fields of expertise, including legal studies (e.g., mining law) and other disciplines (e.g., geology, carsology). First, our attention is paid to definition of the term „cave“ and to links of the term to natural sciences. Further, we analyse the development of legal conservation of caves and approaches to caves as a subject of legislation *per se*. The example of Slovenia – being a prominent speleological country with recognized legislation in terms of its quality and detail – is used in order to compare Czech approaches to cave conservation.

Concerning the practical issues, we present an example of conservation effort devoted to one single cave in Czechia, which enables to describe functioning of legal conservation tools, including the themes where these tools overlap. We also present and discuss the only one Czech case-law dealing with the legal aspect of caves.