

## RÉSUMÉ

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA, SEA)**

Environmental Impact Assessment is currently one of the most important legal instruments of environmental protection whose goal is to avoid the irreparable injuries on environment and contribute to the idea of sustainable development. However, this institute is from time to time criticized for its excessive formality and the lack of effectiveness.

The aim of the thesis is to analyse the legislation concerning Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in the Czech Republic, as well as its evolution and international context in order to verify or deny reasons of the criticism. The entire study seeks to emphasize the weak or disputed points and consequently tries to outline possible solutions. It also compares conformity of the positive law with European directives and multilateral agreements.

The content is divided into three chapters excluding the introduction and the conclusion. First chapter may be considered as a research of history and resources relating to environmental assessment. The chapter is composed of two parts. Part One describes the origin of EIA and SEA closely associated with the concept of sustainable development. Second part is focused on enactment of these institutes in international conventions (Aarhus and Espoo conventions including SEA Protocol), European directives (especially SEA Directive No. 2001/42/EC, EIA Directive No. 85/337/EEC and No. 92/43/EEC) and on first references to SEA in Czech law.

Chapter Two is the core of the work. First part explains the object of SEA and compares basic definitions in the Czech current legislation (Act No 100/2001 Sb.) and SEA Directive. Second part analyzes in detail particular phases and institutes of the SEA procedure including SEA documentation and the role of authorized persons. The main purpose of this part is to identify gaps in legislation and to recommend possible solutions *de lege ferenda*. The final section deals with public participation as one of the fundamental elements of the procedure.

Last chapter focuses on the special cases of strategic environmental assessment – in the area of land-use planning and impact assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, the European ecological network of special areas of conservation.

Conclusion reviews the most important reflections resulting from the text, highlights peculiarities and weaknesses of Czech legislation and deals with alleged complaints.