

Church-state settlement: Financial aspects

Abstract

New draft law on Church-state settlement is presented mainly as an additional burden on the state budget of the Czech Republic. My work evaluates the proposed settlement from the perspective of both actors, besides the state view also the view of the Church is considered. The theoretical part focuses on the status of the Church in the Czech Republic and the historical development of its financing, in its conclusion can be found a summary of the resolution of a property settlement in the Visegrad Group countries. The practical part is divided into two chapters: the first one compares the impacts of the different options of property settlement on the state budget, the second chapter focuses on the investment opportunities of the Church and religious communities. The main objective of the analytical part of my thesis is the evaluation of the return on investments on financial markets that would ensure a permanent source of financing for the Church and religious communities after 2043, which should be the year when all state financing of the Church ends. My analysis shows that the Church cannot get needed revenues in the long run of 60 years so it must find an additional source of income.