

The thesis deals with the topic of penalties alternative to the imprisonment. Given the fact the theme of alternative punishments is very large, the dissertation specialises mostly in a penalty of community services.

In the thesis the alternative punishment is presented from the point of view of the occupation whose main task is to contribute to the penal justice and to solving penal conflicts. The domain that the Probation and mediation service of the Czech Republic has represented since 2001 stands on the frontier of the social work and the law and brings out the need to define the context of its own use, role, theoretical grounds and last but not least operational procedures, mechanisms and principles of a professional work.

The penalty of community services started to be used in our penal justice in 1996 and it has gone through great changes ever since.

The thesis describes in details the historical evolution of this punishment. First forms of an alternative treatment of offenders, especially the probation was developing late 19th century and in the beginning of the 20th century chiefly in countries of Western and Northern Europe.