

ABSTRACT IN ENGLISH:

This thesis is focused on the monistic structure of joint-stock companies. The aim of the thesis is to analyse board structures in selected countries, subsequently to identify the features which are typical for a monistic governance structure and, finally, to compare these findings with statutory provisions in the Act on Commercial Corporations. The thesis is divided into seven separate chapters. Chapter One is subdivided into two parts. Part One is an introduction to the topic and attempts to define the term corporate governance. Part Two explains the importance of internal company structure for corporate governance. Chapter Two analyses board structures in Great Britain, the United States, France, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, in the Czech version of *Societas Europaea* and also, for the purpose of comparison, the typical dualistic internal corporate structure known from Germany. The subjects of the analysis are the relevant statutory provisions on the one hand, and the functioning of governance structures in practice on the other hand. Chapter Three identifies features which are typical for monistic company structure, particularly the existence of a single board of directors which performs a strategy-setting function as well as supervision of management. Chapter Four discusses the topic of non-executive and independent directors and chapter Five outlines trends which lead to partial convergence in the field of company structures. Chapter Six is subdivided into two parts. The first part briefly reviews the possibilities of implementation of *de facto* monistic structure of a company before the Act on Commercial Corporations enters into effect, the second part than compares relevant provisions of this act with features of the monistic structure described in previous chapters. The last chapter outlines the prospective impact and problems of adoption of the monistic structure in the Czech Republic.