

## **Abstract**

The subject matter of this paper is an analysis of the current system of political parties funding in the Czech Republic. The aim of the thesis is to critically assess the current legal regulation and to point out potential shortcomings and possibilities for improvement. At a time when public confidence in political parties is characterized by a systematic and long-term downward trend, it is a recent and widely discussed topic. We may well ask whether the legal regulation of this issue does not provide room for improvement and innovation. The extensive topic is structured into two areas – the question of financial resources and the question of control and transparency. The paper is composed of five chapters. Chapter one deals with the political parties in general and with the law of political parties, especially with constitutional aspects. The second chapter examines the financing of political parties, its basic principles, models and division. In brief, it covers also the development of funding. The subject of the third chapter is a detailed description of the funding of political parties in the Czech Republic. In the fourth chapter the thesis deals with control, transparency and enforcement, at both the general and the specific level, when Czech regulation is subject to scrutiny. Chapter Five is the most extensive and its aim is to assess the findings of the previous chapters. Recommendation and evaluation reports provided by international organizations, as well as a comparison with regulations of different states, have been the main source here. Government and Senate bills that regulate the funding of political parties in the Czech Republic are subjected to analysis and comparison. In the end of the chapter, the author tries to identify measures that could positively affect the current, in many respects inconvenient, state of affairs. The conclusion that follows from the work is that the system of funding of political parties in the Czech Republic suffers from some serious deficiencies. It is possible to identify concrete examples of how these deficiencies manifest themselves, such as, certain tendency to cartelisation of political parties, their centralization and separation from the society. These symptoms result in the loss of confidence in political parties. One solution proposed by this thesis would be to change the structure of political parties funding towards increased funding through membership fees and small donations directly from the electorate. Another measure would be to strengthen the control and transparency of funding of political parties, preferably by simpler tools, rather than through a fundamental change of the whole system. We can conclude that these generally defined objectives can be achieved through a wide range of specific measures. These measures are well known and described, but in most cases they are viable only in the form of legal regulation. The path to adoption or amendment of these laws leads however exclusively through the Parliament which consists of disciplined members of political parties, which appear unlikely to limit themselves.