

Academic spin-off companies in the Czech Republic

My personal interest in understanding the mechanisms and structures of academic society was the reason for choosing the topic. The issue of academic entrepreneurship the author met during my employment at Palacky University. In the course of work related to the preparation of internal documents regulating the Palacky University shareholding in the business of other legal persons, I faced many problems that emanated from a specific college status as legal persons under public law and traits that show business companies in which the partial ownership belongs to a research organisation. Due to the fact that the topic is completely untreated in the Czech literature, I decided to compile my findings on the functioning of academic spin-off companies in the thesis.

The thesis is divided into five content bearing chapters (total work has 10 chapters). The first chapter contains the introduction. The second chapter is divided into three parts and deals with the definition of the concept, types and models of formation of academic spin-off companies. The third chapter describes the historical background and the context of academic spin-off companies' creation in the United States, Europe and the Czech Republic with an emphasis on the interaction between the academic and legal environment. The fourth chapter describes the current Czech legislation of the company law, taking into account the specific characteristics and traits typical for academic spin-off companies. The chapter is divided into six sections which are thematically dedicated to the definition of spin off-companies in the legal environment, its formation and incorporation, registered capital, the share and cancellation and termination of the company.

The fifth chapter deals briefly with issues of corporate governance and the introduction of the principles of the internal organisation of the company. This chapter addresses in particular the question of core competencies of the bodies of academic spin-off companies.

The last chapter is devoted to the conclusion, in which I focus on the summary of some problematic issues and consider potential ways of further research.

Keywords: academic spin-off company – academic entrepreneurship – corporate governance