

Abstract

The text deals with the question of defining what exactly right to information is. As the public debate concerning different institutes of the right to information and transparency goes on intensively and extensively in the Czech republic as well as worldwide, it has become the aim of the author to search for the roots of the right, of both its restrictive and extensive scope and its guiding principles. Such a research should be useful for the interpretation and the application of the relevant law and serve as a guide for the proper understanding of the rights' social and legal importance.

The first part of the text after the introduction describes the term of the right to information, it's evolution in history, philosophical, political and legal basis and contemporary meaning.

The following chapter concerns itself with the material sources of the right, i. e. the reason and meaning of the existence of the right. It explains the rights' commonly recognized width and depth and its liberal and conservative tendencies reaching from the current events into the even more informational based future. The conflict of the right with the other interests of modern society is covered and the different formal sources of the right are listed demonstratively.

The third chapter examines the universally acknowledged principles of the right to information. It is described as a basic human right, and its protection in the important human rights documents of the international law are introduced. Attention is paid to its guiding principle, the principle of publicity and other principles derived from it.

In the last chapter, the findings are briefly confronted with the Czech legal bases of the right, with the aim of finding out to what extent it complies with the international standards and where the eventual deficits of the Czech right to information laws might be.