

Abstract

The goal of this thesis is to point out the weaknesses of the current terminology of euthanasia and get a closer look on the role of the euthanasia in the Czech legal system with the main focus on criminal law. The secondary goal is to evaluate de lege ferenda legislation. To address this issue comparison of Czech and foreign legislation was included.

The analysis leads to conclusion that the term euthanasia needs to be correctly defined to be usable in academic discussion. The definition needs to include differentiation from other conducts that are called euthanasia by the general public even though they cannot be classified as euthanasia by law.

The main conclusion of the thesis is that legislation of euthanasia is not a right way forward in the Czech Republic. Nevertheless the Czech legislation should include criminal act of “killing upon request”. Alternative to euthanasia should be improvement of palliative care and application of the institute of living will in practice.

All future solutions of this controversial issue have to be based on comprehensive and diverse discussion amongst both the public and the legal experts.