

## **Abstract**

Presented thesis is focused on research and development cooperation between companies from the perspective of the competition law of the European Union. The thesis analyses the evolution of the legislation applicable to on this kind of cooperation in the context of examined axis of laissez-faire – interventionism. The emphasis is put on convergence of the EU legislation for this category of collaboration with the regulations applicable for R&D agreements in the USA.

The aim of presented thesis is to analyse and determine the direction of the European Union competition law regulation of research and development cooperation in the context of abovementioned axis, namely the evolution of block exemptions for this category of agreements. Apart from the coherent description of the applicable set of rules, the analysis aims to foresee the future evolution of these rules. Another aim is to compare the European course of research and development legislation with the same kind of legislation in the USA. That is why presented thesis contains detailed analysis of the legislation applicable to R&D agreements in the USA. This objective was established in order to perform a proper comparison of both antitrust regulations and also for the purpose of analysis of convergence of these regulations.

The last aim is to determine whether these world's biggest regulations of the R&D cooperation mentioned herein before converge or not. This target was set due to very frequent occurrence of transatlantic cooperation between companies in the field of innovation. For these companies it is necessary to know legislation of the European Union and also of the USA. Due to facilitation of this valuable collaboration it would be very helpful if these legislations converge. Because of this fact the author considers this analysis to be very beneficial.

For the achievement of target set out herein before it is necessary to examine historical evolution of legislation regarding R&D collaboration in the European Union. This analysis concerning first and second block exemptions for the category of R&D agreements, their provisions and changes of these provisions is performed in the first chapter. The second chapter is dedicated to detailed analysis of current block exemptions for this category of agreements. In this part particular attention is paid to most problematic provisions and to the biggest changes. Third chapter is devoted to the exploration of the US antitrust regulation of R&D agreements. This examination is carried out namely to confirm the direction of the European Union in terms of this kind of legislation and to compare of both legislations. Attention is paid to the evolution of National Cooperative Research Act and to the changes made within this Act. The last chapter is devoted to the convergence of legislation applicable for R&D cooperation in the EU and the USA. On the basis of examination of these regulations within individual chapters of presented thesis complemented by analysis of occurrence of court decisions

related to R&D agreements and breach of antitrust regulations is concluded whether European and American legislations converge.

In conclusion, an evaluation of achieved goals set out at the beginning of this thesis is made. Part of the conclusion is a short essay explaining which specific findings were obtained and what significance that these findings have for the future direction of the antitrust legislation concerning cooperation in research and development.