

Résumé

Euthanasia is and always will be a hot topic of very heated debate among both non specialists and experts. The purpose of my thesis is to provide the reader with information about euthanasia and a list of rules dealing with the issue of euthanasia in selected countries.

The introduction outlines the problems of euthanasia.

The second chapter is devoted to clarifying the content of the notion of euthanasia, which comes from the Greek word for the phrase, "eu" meaning good and "thanatos" meaning death, a "good death", sometimes we can also meet the looser translation of euthanasia as a beautiful death. The content of the notion of euthanasia in the course of history changed. Today we see euthanasia as an act which one person intentionally ends the life of another person's own request with the intent to end her suffering. In the chapter are identified and defined forms of euthanasia, especially active and passive.

The third chapter deals with the European Union's attitude to euthanasia. No law of the European Union explicitly addressed the euthanasia. Health policy in principle falls within the competence of national governments. And every Member State has its own position on the issue of euthanasia. In this chapter, I mention the idea and recommendations of the Council of Europe, though it isn't the European Union institutions. It also analysed the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Pretty vs. United Kingdom* from 2002.

Legislation and practice in the Czech Republic is dedicated to the fourth chapter. In this chapter are presented proposals which were submitted, at the same time there is the relationship between euthanasia and the law and ethical standards. There is also the position of the Czech Medical Chamber. Direct active euthanasia is illegal in the Czech Republic and is a crime, while passive euthanasia is tolerated. At the end of the chapter is mentioned the history of the hospice movement in this country and form of hospice care.

The fifth chapter contains legislation and practice in selected European countries. The first subsection deals with the legal situation and practice in the Benelux countries. Attention is devoted mainly to laws, which permit euthanasia in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The second subsection focuses on France's position on euthanasia, the end of the subsection, the reader is to take up the two bills presented by the French Senate, which

addresses the legal question of euthanasia. The last subchapter is devoted to Swiss legislation and practice, especially on assistance in suicide.

The sixth chapter shows the most frequent arguments for and against the legalization of euthanasia.