

## **Abstract**

The purpose of this work is to introduce the concept of Alternative Dispute Resolution as a full alternative to civil judicial proceedings. Emphasis is placed on the utilization of the alternative procedures in the Czech legal environment and on contemporary Czech legislation as well as its possible future development.

The thesis was elaborated using primarily domestic professional literature, while a significant portion of the resources was represented by legal enactments including the relevant legislative history. This thesis only deals with foreign approaches to Alternative Dispute Resolution marginally, which is reflected in the choice of resources – foreign resources have been used to a very limited extent.

Following the initial overview of the topic and the introduction of the author's relationship to the concept of Alternative Dispute Resolution, this thesis presents the theoretical classification of these methods and collectively enumerates the legal regulations pertaining thereto. This is followed by an elaboration on the most frequently used forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution, namely mediation at first and arbitration second. For each of the named forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution, the thesis describes the differentiating characteristics of each method, the process of the actual proceeding, and any special regulations that pertain to the method as well as certain possibilities of its future development.

In conclusion, the author summarizes her opinion that Alternative Dispute Resolution methods are beneficial and should be applied more frequently in practice, as well as dealing with the question of how the desirable state may be attained and the related possible changes in legislation she considers potentially beneficial. The author sees the primary benefit of Alternative Dispute Resolution in the acceleration of the process of exercising, and eventually enforcing rights. She believes an increase in the use of these methods would also alleviate the burden on public courts and points out last, but not least, that any amicable resolution is better for the parties than an authoritative decision following a lengthy procedure in court.