

SUMMARY

This rigorous thesis aims to characterise selected aspects of the legal arrangement of cooperatives. In the first section the work focuses on the valid legal arrangement in the Czech Republic. It deals briefly with the history of cooperatives and the development of the legislation concerning cooperatives. The thesis subsequently focuses in more detail on the individual circuits of the legal arrangement of cooperatives, namely the establishment and launch of a cooperative, the statutes of the cooperative, its statutory bodies, assets and the investment of members in the cooperative, and also focuses in further detail on issues in connection with membership of the cooperative, in particular the establishment and dissolution of the cooperative.

The next section of the work deals with the legal arrangement of cooperatives "de lege ferenda", in particular with the conception and evaluation of the newly proposed legal arrangement for cooperatives contained in the recodification of Czech civil and commercial law which is in preparation. The work also focuses on the connection of co-operatives to the social economy, an explanation of this term and the institute of the social enterprise.

The last section of the work concentrates on the European Cooperative Society (*Societas Cooperativa Europaea*). The thesis deals with the development of the philosophy of anchoring this type of legal entity, which ensues from the principles of the cooperative society and is intended to simplify the securing of cross-border business or other activities. The work also characterises the fundamental characteristics of the legal arrangement in EC Council Directive no. 1435/2003 dated 22 July 2003, on the status of the European Cooperative Society and the connected legal prescriptions issued by the EU, and the accompanying Czech law. The work describes the fundamental principles by which the European Cooperative Society is governed, thus in particular the relationship between the regulations within EC Council Directive no. 1435/2003, the regulations within the statutes of the European Cooperative Society and the regulations of the national legal arrangements of cooperatives within the state of the seat of the European Cooperative Society.

The thesis also deals in further detail with the establishment and launch of SCE, membership of SCE, the statutes and bodies of SCE, explaining the unknown difference between the One-tier system and Two-tier system of management within the Czech legal order. The work also analyses investment in SCE, cases of cancellation and transformation of SCE and the principle of engagement of SCE employees.