

Abstract

The thesis is divided into nine chapters mapping the structure of alternative punishments currently existing in the Czech criminal law. The beginning of the paper covers the groundwork of the thesis, i.e. the explanation of the concept of punishment and its purpose. Immediately afterwards follows the outline of the concept of restorative justice, which represents an ideological foundation for the alternatives to the prison sentence, as it carries significant benefits that stem from the different outlook on the very essence of crime. An important role in advancing the principles of restorative justice is played by Probation and Mediation Service. The chapter details specific tasks of probation officers with regard to probation and mediation as well as changes that took place as the new Criminal Code came into effect. Following chapters are devoted to the history of alternative punishments in the country, starting with the adoption of The General Code on Crime and Punishment by Joseph II and ending with the current Criminal Code, as well as to the influence of international bodies on the development of this branch of criminal law, specifically the United Nations, the Council of Europe and partially the European Union. The last section contains the comparison of the regulation of alternative punishment in Slovak and Czech criminal law, underlining the differences, with some of them potentially serving as a *de lege ferenda* inspiration for the Czech legislation.

The core of the thesis is contained in Chapter Eight, which deals with each type of alternative punishment one by one, specifically they are house arrest, community service, fine including suspended fine, suspended prison sentence (probation) including suspended prison sentence with supervision, noting the major changes in structure and substance that took place as the new Criminal Code came into effect, while presenting possible *de lege ferenda* ideas that deal with certain problematic points of the law.