

ABSTRACT

The thesis focuses on the phenomenon of databases from the normative viewpoint; it examines them with respect to the legal issues, main stress being placed on the protection granted to databases by the intellectual property law and on their incorporation in the legal system of the Czech Republic. The merit of the thesis can be seen in elaborating on decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union regarding the harmonised regulations and in drawing a comparison to the provisions of the directive on legal protection of databases (or rather the Copyright Act) and analysing the impact of the decisions. The thesis is organised into eleven chapters, Chapter Two providing a brief introduction into the topic of databases, Chapter Three looking into the international-law aspect of databases. The core of the thesis lies in Chapters Four to Chapter Eight which give an insight into the European law, its secondary sources followed by a discourse on the directive on the legal protection of databases, regarding the copyright element and *sui generis* right as well as a criticism of the directive resulting in it being reviewed by the Commission. Chapter Nine pays attention to alternative means of database protection. The final chapters evaluate the current state in the field of database protection and suggest possible suitable solutions *de lege ferenda*.