

## **Abstract**

This diploma thesis deals with the issue of protection of victims of crime. In the first chapter, by using the findings from the field of victimology, it describes victim as a phenomenon and also the process of victimisation while focusing on its causes and the negative impact it may have on victims. The author also summarizes the recent findings regarding the victims' needs. Lastly, some of the most common misconceptions about victims and their impact on the perception of victims are explained.

The second chapter addresses the victim from the viewpoint of the law. Firstly, it examines the role which the EU plays in enhancing the standing of victims in the criminal procedure and also outside of it. Secondly, it examines the Act on victims of crime adopted in the Czech Republic. The Act on victims of crime and the particular rights of victims which are provided for in the Act are analysed in the second chapter with the use of the current findings in the field of victimology. The author also explains the main critiques of the Act such as the counter-productive wording of the right to receive information or a threat of corroding the criminal procedure as a whole. On the other hand, the benefits of the Act are also pointed out, such as reducing the threat of a secondary victimisation of victims, which can be proved by the fact that an increasing number of victims show an interest in their legal rights and contact agencies that help them use these rights.

Different instruments that serve to protect victims from imminent danger are summarized in the third chapter. This thesis analyses four of them in detail, these are preliminary measures according to the Code of Criminal Procedure, short-term protection according to the Police of the Czech Republic Act, anonymous witness and special protection of the witness. In case of these instruments the author provides information about the commencement of the protection, conditions which need to be met in order to provide such protection, means which can be then used, authorizations and restrictions related to these measures, and also if possible information about how these are used in practice. Where appropriate the author also refers to the issues connected with the current legislation regarding these instruments.

The last chapter of this thesis is dedicated to the European protection order and analysis of its legal basis at the European level as well as the reasons for introducing this instrument. Consequently, more attention is paid to the implementation of the European protection order into the legal system of the Czech Republic. Sanctions for breaching the European order in the Czech legal system are criticised for being ineffective and insufficient, therefore

restricting the positive impact which European protection order may have. The author also outlines the possible causes for the so far rare use of this instrument in practice and identifies the potential benefits if the use of the Order would be more common.