

# **Environmental offences committed by legal entities**

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with the Czech criminal law protection of the environment and its development in relation to legal entities. The main importance for this thesis is found in Act No. 418/2011 Coll., on Criminal Liability of Legal Entities and their Prosecution effective since the January 1, 2012, which brought new institute of criminal liability of legal entities into the legal system of the Czech Republic. Although, there had been several changes, imperfections still occur in connection with this institute. Furthermore, this thesis concerns on Act No. 40/2009 Coll., Criminal Code and international and EU regulations related to the environment. The aim of this thesis is to evaluate whether the criminal liability is a suitable and effective tool to protect the environment.

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter provides explanation of concepts essential for the thesis, especially the concept of legal entity in the applicable law and the concept of environment, it also deals with environmental protection and its sources in national, EU and international regulation.

The second chapter focuses on adoption of Act No. 418/2011 Coll., on Criminal Liability of Legal Entities and their Prosecution and the circumstances before the adoption.

The third chapter analyses the relevant provisions of Act No. 418/2011 Coll., on Criminal Liability of Legal Entities and their Prosecution, mainly the scope of the Act, attribution of criminal liability to the legal entities, criminal liable of legal successor and sanctioning of legal entities in connection to sanctions in administrative law.

The fourth chapter describes the development of crimes against the environment in the Czech Republic. This chapter also analyses several selected crimes most frequently committed by legal entities, as evidenced by court decisions.

The conclusion is devoted to the evaluation of the knowledge contained in the text of the thesis.