

ISSUING OF VERIFIED STATEMENTS FROM PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION SYSTEMS - CZECHPOINT

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Key words

Act on Public Administration Information Systems, Issuing of Verified Statements from Public Administration Information Systems, Czechpoint, e-Government, Available Registers, Authorised Subjects

This article deals with the matter of issuing of verified statements from public administration information systems as an important part of the e-Government. Aforementioned institute was introduced to the Czech law by the Act No. 365/2000 Coll., on Public Administration Information Systems.

Aim of the Article

The aim of the article is to introduce all important innovations included in the above mentioned Act and to provide the basic overview of the issuing of verified statements from public administration information systems. However the defined length of the paper does not allow us to focus on all legal aspects concerning issuing of verified statements from public administration information systems. Therefore aspects such as obligations of authorised subjects, negative legal consequences of breaching of statutory rules or interrelations to another Czech legal regulation had to be missed out.

Disabled people

The changes of the Act on Public Administration Information Systems are not only meant to simplify the communication between the Public Administration and an “ordinary”

citizen but also to make the communication accessible to those who have a various kinds of handicap. According to the aim of the Act any user shall be able to access public internet websites, including sightless and persons missing upper limbs. Therefore the obligation to enable the public administration's and local government's internet websites to be accessible by the disabled persons has been settled by the above mentioned Act. Such concept fulfils one of the essential principles of Good Governance, the principle of Public Administration as a Public Service.

Czechpoint

The availability of issuing of verified statements from public administration information systems as well as the statutory obligation to enable the public administration's and local government's internet websites to be accessible by the disabled persons is closely connected to the governmental project called "Czechpoint". In fact this project initiated all the important changes in the electronic communication in public administration and to a large extent makes the Czech Government to be a real e-Government. The purpose of the project is to create network of contact places, or more precisely the network of Czechpoints, i.e. Czech Handling Verifying Information National Terminal. It is a fundamental contact point, where a citizen will be able to at the only one spot, in a minute:

- collect all data, copies of entries and statements, which are in central public registers and which concern his/her person, possession and rights;
- collect all data, copies of entries and statements, which are in central closed registers and which concern his/her person, possession and rights;
- verify the documents, papers and signatures,
- convert documents into the electronic form, and
- gain information on the course of current proceedings that concern this citizen and are conducted by the State or other Public Authority.

At this moment the first stage of the project Czechpoint which means implementation of issuing of verified statements from the four essential registers, i. e. Companies Register, Trades Register, Land Register and the Penal Register, has been finished. Those four registers mainly represent central public registers; nevertheless central closed register is represented in the Penal Register.

Issuing of Verified Statements from Public Administration Information Systems

As mentioned above the article mainly deals with the matter of issuing of verified statements from public administration information systems. In this part the article names the subjects that are authorised to process the statements, describes the legal changes implemented in relation to those subjects and provides some statistics concerning the number of processed statements. This statistics proof high interest from the wide public to the innovations introduced by the Act on Public Administration Information Systems.

Conclusion

Implementation of above mentioned innovations is not that revolution. As the Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek has said at the International Conference Internet in State Administration and Local Governments on 2nd April 2007: „This is the first step. After the approval of the Act on e-Government, which is prepared now, citizens will be able to have their CZECH POINTS at home on their computers connected to the Internet. Then it will be possible to manage these matters from their homes. But this is not the revolution either. It is the second step. Then there must be the third step taken: permanent metamorphosis of the public administration in the spirit of "on-line philosophy".”

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