

## **Report from English Miniconference**

At the 11 of April I and my colleagues were attending Miniconference that covered these topics:

**Specific aspects of illegal downloading**

**The concept of whistleblowing in Czech legal system**

**Legalization of prostitution: the state as pimp**

All of them were really interesting and the presenters did a very good job not only in preparing these presentations but they also proved that their presentation skills are on very high level.

First topic, **Specific aspects of illegal downloading** was prepared by Monika Marčíková, Barbora Palínková and Filip Dus. They focused their work on problem of illegal downloading software, movies, music etc. This problem is also closely linked to problem of Intellectual property. First of all they described some key term for this topic and then they continued with comparing Czech and Great Britain system of regulation, they also spoke about the ways of illegal distribution. First term was Warez – origin of this word is probably in word “wares” or “software” point of this is removing protection of software and then mostly distributing through Internet forums. Second important term is Torrent. It is different system of distribution files especially larger, so this more popular way to share files in those days. I am happy that I had opportunity to make a little interview with one of creator of this presentation, Monika Marčíková, I asked her few questions:

- 1) How much time did you spend with working on your presentation?
- 2) Were you satisfied with the choice of topic?
- 3) Was there something that you wanted to mention something but you were not able to do it because of time limit?

- 1) Well, we did not spend a lot of time gathering information because we chose topic that is not unknown to us. My role was to make presentation and said something about distribution of illegal files.
- 2) Yes, this topic is interesting not only for me but also for my colleagues. I have also some knowledge about this topic. In the end I was satisfied with work of all of us. I think that we did a good job.
- 3) No, I do not think so. I had a little trouble with terms “warez” and “torrent” because my idea of these term was not correct. We also changed questions which we asked audience because in the end we were not satisfied with it. But as I said before, we did a good job.

In the end I would like to say that this presentation explains for me a lot in this topic that is very topical and also discussed in international community.

-Vít Baťa-

## **Whistleblowing**

This presentation was held last week on 11th of April 2013 in Law Faculty of Masaryk University in Brno by our colleagues Čadek, Losert and Košumberský.

First of all they explained the expressions "whistle blower" and "whistleblowing". What it means, where we can meet whistle blowers, why they are even "blowing the whistle" and what problem is connected to this behaviour. Secondly they were talking about whistleblowing in our legal system. It means, that they pointed out how whistleblowing it's anchored in our legal system, how whistle blowers are protected in Czech legal system and what is done for better protection of these people, because it's often good to do, but the consequences are mostly very bad for whistle blower himself. I found this presentation very educating, because everyone knows about this is done, and whoever is whistleblowing

It's always seen as the bad person, even when he does not that with the very best intentions and is never protected. It is good to know that there is some protection going to be implemented for these people so they will not be punished for pointing on mistakes of their superiors.

I asked Vít Baťa about his opinion about this presentation: In my point of view this problem is not enough fixed in Czech legal system and I think that House of Deputies and Senate should do more to improve protection of whistle blowers.

-Pavel Jonas-

## **Legalization of prostitution: the state as pimp**

Speakers: Matula, Vrátný, Žák

This miniconference brought up an current topic of legalization of prostitution in Czech Republic legal system. The point of legalization of prostitution is that the state can solve ongoing situation – currently, many of prostitutes do their „business“ illegally and they can be criminalised for such behaviour. Legalization of prostitution could help them live in accordance with law, without need to work in brothels. It can also stop tax evasion in this sector and make more money for exchequer.

Q: What do you think about legalization of prostitution? Would be such a controversial novel accepted by society?

Pavel Jonas: I don't see any problem here. There is nothing unethical about stating something that exists hundreds of years. Prostitution was part of every human culture, prostitutes appear in every country of the world.

Q: But some people find prostitution unethical and perverted.

Pavel Jonas: That's possible. Some people also disagree with registered partnership being legal and more similar things. There is no doubt that this topic is quite controversial. But law is partly about tolerance and it shouldn't ban behaviour that does no harm to others.

Q: If prostitution becomes legal, do you think there will be more prostitutes?

Vít Baťa: No, not actually. The numbers in statistics might rise, because there would be more „professional“ prostitutes. Currently, we have no record about how much prostitutes do then job illegally.

Conclusion:

Although the term „legalization of prostitution“ might sound strange, it becomes more and more current and discussed in past few years. Some more liberal countries, like Netherlands, already successfully applied this novel in their legal system without any major negative consequences. In my opinion, there is more „pros than cons“. I find nothing wrong about the act of legalization of prostitution, except that it's a bit unusual for our legal system and it might be difficult to draw a convenient amendment. -Tomáš Tesner-