

Description of the main research directions investigated by the institute

Research in the field of theory of law and legal philosophy

Research activities in the field of legal theory and legal philosophy focused on analytical legal philosophy, issues of Islamic law, legal history and the history of ideas in general.

Research in the field of analytical philosophy focused on general issues such as human rights, democracy or the rule of law, in cooperation with experts from other fields, either from within the Institute or with some of the law faculties in the Czech Republic. In more detail, analytical philosophy offered a conceptual analysis as a tool which could be used to solve some current problems, whether legal (e.g. Hohfeldian analysis of rights as a tool for a more accurate analysis of human rights) or philosophical (e.g. philosophical foundations of human rights or democracy, elaboration of concept of collective rights). In the field of Islamic law, research have focused on the study of classical Islamic law, however it gradually started moving to the study of the influence of classical Islamic law on the positive law of Islamic countries. Due to the fact that positive Islamic law mostly regulates personal status rights, research focused mainly on family law (such as the institute of mahr, which is similar to dowry), and later on practical issues of its use by Muslims in Europe. In the field of legal history or history of ideas, research focused on the development of the concept of the rule of law and human rights, as well as on specific problems associated with the development of modern Czech and Czechoslovak law.

Research in the field of jurisprudence, constitutional law and political science

Research in the field of jurisprudence, constitutional law and political science is primarily conveyed by the Centre for Law and Public Affairs (CeLAPA), which is a research unit established as a platform for multidisciplinary interaction between academic communities in Europe and the Czech academic community in 2016. Its research focuses on the field of jurisprudence, constitutional law, political science and sociology, more specifically on topics that are relevant in the European context and at the same time effectively develop the level of knowledge at the national level both in academic circles and in public space.

In the evaluated period, several grant projects supported by the Czech Science Foundation, which dealt with issues of constitutional justice, minority rights, punishment and issues of aging and discrimination were carried out. Members of these research teams published with prestigious publishers such as Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford: Hart Publishing or Routledge. They have also published a number of texts in top European academic journals. Several publications were also published locally by the Academia Publishing. The members of the research unit also participated in a number of projects funded by the AV21 Strategy, examining in particular the role and function of law in the context of cultural and social transformations, globalization, populism and the role of religion as well as on the presence of new technologies in society and their influence on law making. The activities also included the organization of a number of workshops and conferences, both in the Czech Republic and in other European countries, some organized by CeLAPA itself and some in cooperation with partners from European universities and

research institutions. These international events have also helped to set up a functioning research network spanning a number of EU countries and have launched a number of publications and other projects.

Research in the field of legal language and legal informatics

The Centre for Legal Language Research (CLLR) was established with the aim of concentrating research activities in the field of law, legal informatics and legal linguistics. The creation of legal information systems has a long tradition at the Institute and the Institute is at the forefront of digitization of law, as it is the only workplace in the Czech Republic that is able not only to create such systems, but also to ensure their wide application. In the period under evaluation, the team continued working on *Legal Electronic Dictionary*, which is a long-term project, the work consisted primarily of supplementing the dictionary with additional corpora and entries from various legal disciplines. The Faculty of Informatics of Masaryk University in Brno and the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen participated in the implementation of the project. The program has been made available for teaching to the departments of legal theory at the faculties of law in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic and is provided to its users free of charge.

In 2019, the team began working on the creation of the *AcademicLex* platform, which uses the programmes and databases which had been developed by the Institute over a period of over 30 years. The aim is to combine the classic legal information database with doctrinal texts and analytical tools for the needs of research, legislation and teaching of law at universities. Special programs have been created that handle links between textbooks and regulations, case law, explanatory memoranda, links from factual registers, etc. Testing of programs for the purpose of teaching takes place at the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague and the Faculty of Law of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen.

CLLR also creates corpora of valid law, case law and doctrine, the aim of which is to create a special set of legal corpora as a subset of the Czech National Corpus in cooperation with the Institute of the Czech National Corpus of the Faculty of Philosophy.

Research in the field of private law

Research in the field of private law in the period under evaluation focused on the issues of private law from several different perspectives. General issues of civil law and theory in historical and philosophical contexts were examined. In addition, a research trajectory has been set, which focuses on specialized areas of private law, such as addressing corporate law, sports law, private international law, medical law, legal aspects of personal data protection from a data analysis perspective, legal nature of biometric data and legal and ethical aspects of artificial intelligence. A platform called the *Karel Čapek Centre for the Study of Values in Science and Technology*, which is characterized by a high degree of interdisciplinarity was established and is carried out in cooperation with other research institutions of the Academy of Sciences and Charles University. Its goal is to address specific issues of artificial intelligence and robotics ethics.

Research in the field of medical law and bioethics

Research in the field of medical law and bioethics is thematically developed primarily within the research unit *Cabinet of Medical Law and Bioethics*, which was established to deepen knowledge and increase the level of scientific research in these fields and mediate cooperation between leading experts in medical law and bioethics, in particular in the form of regular meetings, workshops and discussion forums.

During the period under evaluation, research activities in the field of medical law and bioethics focused mainly on legal, ethical and philosophical issues of euthanasia, preconditions for civil liability, especially causality, with a focus on medical disputes, informed consent and non-pecuniary harm in connection with the provision of health care and legal and ethical aspects of the principle of double effect. The members of the Cabinet were also active actively within the programs of the AV21 Strategy, focusing on Contemporary Ethics, Freedom and Responsibility and Ethics of Autonomous Vehicles. A peer-reviewed Journal of Medical Law and Bioethics is also published as part of the Cabinet's activities.

In addition to the activities of the Cabinet, research on the interaction between international law and medical law continued in the department of public law. In the first two years under the evaluation, the special research project focused on the interaction between the ECHR and medical law was implemented which yielded the very first Czech monograph on the issue (actually, one of the first in the European comparison as well).

Research in the field of public law

Research in the field of public law in the period under evaluation focused on legal disciplines traditionally classified as public law, in particular constitutional law, administrative law, European law, public international law and environmental law.

As for the classical fields, in the period under evaluation, a special attention was dedicated to comparative constitutional law and constitutional adjudication. With support from the Czech Science Foundation, a new project on the political role of the Czech Constitutional Court was started in 2017, with the outputs focused on the issues of judicial self-restraint and justiciability issues which had been analysed only to the limited extent in the Czech and Central European context. The project also enabled to launch a closer cooperation in this field with academics from the other countries of the CEE region which have the common constitutional origins, namely Austria, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia (the joint conferences organized in 2017 and 2018).

In the area of EU law, the research dealt in particular with the political, and legal feasibility of the enhanced cooperation in the EU and it was framed within the wider debate on the future of Europe. The joint exchange of ideas between the ambassadors, MEPs and the academics was organized thanks to the research project supported by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2018.

As for the new fields, research on consumer protection law, understood as a part of the wider concept of public economic law, was launched. Moreover, thanks to the project support of the Academy of Sciences (Lumina quaeruntur award of 2019) a

completely new field of law was launched in the Institute - climate law. Research activities in the field of public law have generally been driven by efforts to link knowledge between different disciplines of law, to be more open to interdisciplinary cooperation, even across different scientific disciplines, and to intensify the presentation of scientific knowledge to the public.

The effort to connect individual legal fields, and thus to overcome narrow field approaches, was evident in the selection of specific topics developed in the period under evaluation. Examples of projects include the project funded by the Visegrad funding body, called *Progress in collective redress mechanisms in environmental and consumer mass harm situations*, which accompanied the research of the same procedural institutes in consumer law and environmental law. Examples of topics developed outside project platforms include the role of the individual and the civil society in international law, judicial review of political acts, the international legal liability of international organizations or corporate social responsibility in society and law. Research in the field of public law has also been conducted in the recent period under the AV21 Strategy Framework - Natural Hazards and Diversity of Life and Health of Ecosystems programs, followed by taking part in the new programme Water for Life program.

Research in the field of research, development and innovation law (RLC)

In January 2019, the Research Law Centre (RLC) was established. The aim of the RLC is to create an interdisciplinary platform for addressing the current legal issues in the field of research, development and innovation. Research will take place across the concerned legal fields, in particular administrative law, data protection law, intellectual property law, labour law and corporate law and EU law (in particular, EU state aid law). The purpose of the research shall be to increase legal certainty in the application of legal norms in the field of research, development and innovation, the efficiency of the use of public funds provided to support research projects and to create synergy effects between public research institutions and their founders.

In 2019, the RLC's activities focused on screening topics whose solution seems necessary from the point of view of research institutes and the Academy of Sciences as their founders, not only in the short term but also in the long term. One of the intentions is also to prepare a scientific commentary on the Act on Public Research Institutions, for the implementation of which research work has begun. During the first year of the RLC's existence, a number of expert opinions and statements were prepared for the needs of the Academy of Sciences and Research Institutions (e.g. on the issue of institutional representation of the Czech Republic in the ERIC consortium). Furthermore, an expert seminar was organized on the problems associated with hosting foreign researchers at research institutes of the ASCR, which covered a complex of issues from labour law to visa and residence. The regular colloquium on issues such as open data in science and research, the protection of personal data in science and research and the European directive on copyright in the digital single market also received a great deal of attention from scientists and the professional public.

A working platform called the Centre for Innovations and Cyberlaw Research (CICeRo) has been set up to address issues related to new technologies and innovations, as

well as in relation to existing research on the law of information systems and legal aspects of artificial intelligence and robotics. Research carried out within these platforms is characterized by a high degree of interdisciplinarity and is carried out in cooperation with other departments of the Academy of Sciences, faculties of Charles University, Masaryk University in Brno, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen and Brno University of Technology.

Research in the field of safety and health at work

The Institute established cooperation with the Research Institute of Occupational Safety of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to address the topics of applied research in the field of occupational safety and health. The projects that received the support of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic focused on the possibilities of flexibility of working hours and rest periods, analysis of the possibility of introducing conciliation proceedings before labour inspection bodies were addressed as well. Furthermore, the research activities focused on innovative solutions of a group of needs in the field of optimization of regulations, procedures and measures for safety and health at work, including dissemination measures.