

Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with the issue of the boundaries of freedom of expression on social media, which represent a significant present-day means of communication. As their social importance increases, so do the undesirable effects such as the spread of fake news and hate speech, presenting a challenge to be tackled. In some countries, certain measures to regulate social networks content have already been adapted.

In the first section of the thesis, freedom of expression as a general concept is discussed. Special attention is drawn to its role in a democratic society, while at the same time mentioning its possible limitations. The second part is devoted to social networks as such, namely Facebook and Twitter. First, defining features of digital media in general are described, followed by the policies of individual social networks.

The third part is devoted to the issues of personal rights violations, hate speech, pornography, and disinformation – occurrences that maybe in conflict with freedom of expression. These phenomena are observed in connection with the policies of individual social networks as well as the law of the Czech Republic.

The final part of the bachelor thesis focuses on both internal and external regulation of social networks content. Differences between Facebook and Twitter policies are mentioned and there is a section on the liability of information service providers (ISP). The concluding passage concerns the situation around free speech on social media in the Czech environment and that in Germany, being one step ahead with a law regulating social media already in force.