

# **Hate Speech on the Internet**

## **Abstract**

The topic of the presented diploma thesis, Hate speech on the Internet represents a computer and internet crime area, the meaning of which is current and which is dynamically developing. In the first part of the work, primarily, basic concepts are introduced, such as computer and internet crime, hate speech, bias crime, extremism or freedom of speech (which is largely connected with hate speech, as they represent an exception to the right to this freedom). The concept of hate speech is also interpreted in the context of human rights and related values, such as equality and freedom. Furthermore, the work clarifies the terms computer and the internet and presents the basic elements and principles of the functioning of the internet and computer networks, maps their development and certain characteristics, including a certain insight into some aspects of their influence of society. The second part of the thesis is devoted to an overview of the legislation of the Czech Republic in relation to hate crimes, especially from the point of view of criminal law. The overview begins with a summary of the constitutional-legal matter, followed by the substantive-legal regulation of criminal law. A brief overview of legislation regulating the dissemination of information on the internet, which is the subject of administrative law, and some instruments on the border of factual actions and policies applied to hate speech are also mentioned. In the third part, attention is paid to the issue of restricting freedom of expression in order to protect against hate speech. Initially, the fundamentals of the protection of freedom of speech and the possibility of its restriction are explained, then an overview of the relevant jurisprudence is presented, firstly of the Constitutional Court and then of the general courts and some other cases, divided according to the subject matter and the method of dissemination, this part ends then with a statistical summary of cases of hate speech. The last, fourth part of the thesis presents an insight into the opinions of the professional public on the sides of hate speech on the internet and discusses certain issues characteristic of this issue. First, legal-philosophical considerations shared within the European legal space are presented, accompanied by a critical evaluation of the concept of verbal hate crime from the point of criminal law perspective, after which the opinions of important representatives of the criminal justice system are presented, followed by a passage dealing with selected aspects of this issue is presented. The work concludes with a reflection on the influence of extremes on human society.

**Keywords: Computer and Internet Crime, Hate Speech on the Internet, Restriction of Freedom of Expression**