

The European social security system in a comprehensive book from the Czech point of view

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Abstract

The article presents a review of the recently published book: Iva Chvátalová et al.: Právo sociálního zabezpečení v České republice a Evropské unii, 2nd updated edition, published in Aleš Čeněk, Pilsen, 2018, 304 p., ISBN: 978-80-7380-732-0.

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Review

The presented monography is called “Law of Social Security in the Czech Republic and European Union” (in original: “Právo sociálního zabezpečení v České republice a Evropské unii”) and is written in Czech, with a brief English resumé, which makes it accessible mainly for readers from the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The team of authors was led by Iva Chvátalová, Assistant Professor at the University of Economics and Metropolitan University in Prague, while all the contributors are very experienced in the field of social security both theoretically and practically, as scholars, public administration experts and lawyers.

The book provides comprehensive overview of all the relevant fields of social security legal regulation in the Czech Republic with recent updates. After an introductory chapter devoted to the presentation of three different social security systems and their instruments and an outline of historical development from the very beginning of social protection to our days, we can find a more detailed overview of the social security law and its system, including international public law and law of the European Union.

Individual chapters are covering health, sickness and pensions insurance, social security contributions, state social support and social assistance. One of the chapters is particularly devoted to the European legislation on social policy, on the level of primary law and with main focus on coordination system realized by directly applicable regulations replacing bilateral treaties. The open method of coordination as a political tool is also briefly explained.

Altogether, the book contains ten chapters on 304 pages. It is valuable both for studies and for practical implementation because there are precise references to laws and regulations currently in force. At the end of the book, we find also annexes with illustrative charts and tables depicting social security legislation schemes and interconnecting links between branches and particular laws.

To sum up, the readers are provided by all the relevant description and analysis about the Czech social security system accompanied by general introduction and theoretic basis on one hand and the connection international and European level of social security coordination on the other hand. Despite the high complexity of the issue, the book is still very understandable and easy to read.

The book is primarily tailored for Law and Economics students and social security professionals both from public and corporate sphere. Its practical orientation and understandable style also make this book attractive for other interested readers because social security is one of the legal phenomena that involve the professional and personal life of every human being at a certain point of time and it is in any case important and valuable to get relevant and recent information.