

1ST CZECHO-SLOVAK SYMPOSIUM ON CHALLENGES OF AI FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LAW: "WHAT WE DON'T LET ROBOTS DECIDE?" (PRAHA, 7 MARCH 2025)

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The application of artificial intelligence (AI) in the decision-making of administrative authorities is a topic that is currently being discussed across Europe (Cavallo Perin and Galetta, 2025). This is also the case for the Czech Republic. The National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2030, approved by the Czech government, includes the following vision in relation to public administration: *"AI can make work more efficient and simpler, from automating routine tasks to assisting with more complex decision-making. Its use, therefore, makes sense both in public administration and in public services, where it can improve the quality, accessibility and efficiency of the services provided. The aim is to ensure quality data and a modern digital infrastructure while training employees and ensuring compliance with ethical and security standards. Actions under the strategy include digitisation and automation of public services, training of public administration staff, implementation of ethical and security standards and support for sharing good practice. These measures will lead to faster and more accurate public administration, fairer access to public services, higher quality services and greater citizen trust through the transparent and ethical use of AI."* This strategy is in line with the developments in other countries of Europe. Very recently, an amendment to the Code of Administrative Procedure has been discussed in the Parliament of the Czech Republic. This amendment provides for a new § 15a, which will open the doors for the use of AI in administrative decision-making. It reads as follows: *"If the nature of the matter under consideration, the protection of the rights of the persons concerned or the protection of the public interest does not require that an official person perform an act in the proceedings, the act may be performed automatically without the participation of an official person. The act may not be carried out in this way, in particular if it requires the use of administrative discretion or if it concerns a decision on an appeal."*

All these recent developments led the Department of Administrative Law at the Faculty of Law, Charles University, to organise the 1st Czecho-Slovak Symposium on Challenges for AI in Administrative Law, which was given the under title *What We Don't Let Robots Decide?* The symposium was held at the Faculty of Law, Charles University on 7 March 2025.

The symposium was opened by the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Radim Boháč, who in his speech highlighted the topicality of the issue and appreciated the broad interest of the academic and professional legal community in the symposium. Vít Stehlík, managing partner of the Prague office of the law firm White & Case, which supported the symposium with its financial donation, agreed with the topicality of the issue. He emphasised the importance of AI for the current legal discourse and appreciated that the Faculty of Law is intensively devoted to this topic. Tomáš Rychlý, a judge at the Supreme Administrative Court, highlighted the importance of academic discourse for jurisprudential practice. The symposium introduction was concluded with a short contribution by Professor Jakub Handrlica (Faculty of Law, Charles University), who emphasised that the theme of the symposium is currently resonating in the academic discourse abroad – in Italy, Germany and Spain. However, the topic is not purely scholarly but very practical, as the current legislative proposal clearly reveals. Also, the topic represents a salient opportunity for a meeting of scholars from both the Czech Republic and Slovakia with the aim of discussing very recent developments in administrative law.

The symposium was divided into three panels. The first panel, entitled *Limits to the Use of AI in Public Administration*, was devoted to the limits of AI deployment in administrative law and was divided into theoretical and practical parts. The panel was moderated by Pavlína Hubková (Faculty of Law, Maastricht University). The first presentation, which was dedicated to the topic *What We Don't Let Robots Decide according to Council of Europe*, was made by Professor Jakub Handrlica (Faculty of Law, Charles University) who analysed the currently proposed amendment to the Code of Administrative Procedure in the light of the documents, as recently published by the Council of Europe (Council of Europe, 2024). In this respect, he argues that the recently proposed amendment does not represent an isolated phenomenon. On the contrary, the newly proposed legislation was heavily influenced by both German and Spanish legislation and by the recommendations published by the Council of Europe. In this respect, these recommendations must be considered in case the amendment is adopted. This concerns human control over the deployment of AI in administrative decision-making, and particularly the possibility of a judicial review. Professor Handrlica also stressed that we live in quite turbulent times. The deployment of AI into public administration seems to be inevitable. This underlines the need to identify limits for such deployment. The symposium was continued by Associate Professor Radomír Jakab (Faculty of Law, P. J. Šafárik University of Košice). In his presentation, *Artificial intelligence and administrative discretion*, he classified three stages of AI (weak, strong and super). With respect to the existing recommendations, as made by the Council of Europe, the speaker posed the question of whether more advanced stages of AI would be more appropriate for future deployment in administrative discretion. In his presentation, *Artificial intelligence and the Concept of Good Governance*, Josef Staša (Faculty of Law, Charles University) highlighted the importance of a *translation* between people involved in IT on one hand and lawyers on the other. At the same time, he stressed the public's expectations concerning the deployment of AI in public administration. He also highlighted the importance of transparency and inclusiveness in the use of AI in administrative processes and the possible synergy between AI and the concept of good deeds. The final speech of the theoretical part was the presentation by Associate Professor Zuzana Hamuláková (Faculty of Law, Comenius University Bratislava). In her presentation, *Artificial Intelligence and Administrative Sanctions*, she drew attention to the potential of AI for efficiency, speed and reduction of errors caused by human factors. On the other hand, she also identifies problems that currently persist in this field, in particular, the lack of transparency and understanding of how AI reaches its decisions. In her

speech, she identified specific fields where AI could be currently deployed in the field of administrative criminal law. The cases are limited, and more advanced AI may be used much more broadly in the near future. In the practical part, Jan Strakoš (Ministry of Industry and Trade) presented the *Implementation of the chatbot into the Trade Business Portal*. Following the first panel, legal experts expressed their opinions on the presented ideas. Here, Zdeněk Kučera (Faculty of Law, Charles University), Jana Soukupová (Faculty of Law, Charles University) and Andrea Škopková (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) presented their comments.

The second panel, entitled *AI in the Administrative Proceedings*, was moderated by Tomáš Rychlý (Supreme Administrative Court). The panel was dedicated to both the procedural aspects of using AI in public administration and to the potential that AI can bring to savings in public administration. The panel was opened by Associate Professor Olga Pouperová (Faculty of Law, Palacký University in Olomouc) with her speech on *AI and individual procedural rights*. She emphasised the risks of using AI without humans in administrative decision-making and highlighted the need for strengthened judicial review in these matters. Also, the speaker discussed special requirements for civil servants, such as education and experience in the use of AI. Associate Professor Pouperová also addressed the issues of data protection when AI accesses personal data. While the first presentation of this panel was devoted to the perspective of the individual and his procedural rights, the second presentation addressed the perspective of administrative authorities and the potential of AI for savings and increased efficiency. In her presentation, *AI as a Tool for Optimising Administrative Proceedings*, Eliška Klimentová (Faculty of Law, Charles University) highlighted the potential of AI for the modernisation of public administration. Here, the speaker addressed the importance of chatbots and online assistants in public administration. She also presented various schemes of AI deployment from abroad, such as the Estonian project KrattAI, the Danish project Property Valuation, the French project SyRI (System Risk Indication), the German project Signale, and the French project Tax Fraud Detection. She also addressed the state of AI use in the Czech Republic and spoke about local and national projects. Comments on the second panel were provided by Simona Demková (Leiden Law School, Leiden University) and Associate Professor Miroslav Sedláček (Faculty of Law, Charles University).

The third panel was devoted to the problems of judicial review and liability for damages regarding the deployment of AI in public administration. It was moderated by Lenka Vostrá (Institute of State and Law, Czech Academy of Sciences). The problems of liability for damages with respect to the use of AI in public administration were addressed by Associate Professor Marianna Novotná, Zuzana Adamová, and Associate Professor Michal Maslen (all from the Faculty of Law, University of Trnava). In their presentation, entitled *The Liability of Public Administration for the Deployment of Artificial Intelligence*, they focused their attention on the challenges arising from the general framework for liability of the State for damages occurring from illegal acts from the AI deployment. They discussed the question of how far this general framework may cover issues related to the use of AI and to what extent the rules of the Civil Code may be applicable. The final presentation was delivered by Professor Richard Pomahač (Faculty of Law, Charles University). The title of his presentation was *Artificial Intelligence and Judicial Review*. Professor Pomahač discussed the features of *smart courts* and *judicial cobots*. At the same time, he highlighted the need for training administrative judges in the use and understanding of AI. This is an essential part of any AI deployment in public administration. As courts must efficiently review each use of AI, judges must gain a deep knowledge of how AI works and how it decides. In this respect, Professor Pomahač argued that the deployment of AI in public administration can not be limited purely to an

amendment of the Code of Administrative Procedure. On the contrary, AI represents a grave paradigmatical change in the law and practice of public administration. The third panel was concluded by comments made by Pavlína Hubková (Faculty of Law, Maastricht University) and Tomáš Rychlý (Supreme Administrative Court).

Closing remarks were given by Professor Jakub Handrlíca (Faculty of Law, Charles University) and Associate Professor Radomír Jakab (Faculty of Law, P. J. Šafárik University of Košice).

The symposium was met with keen interest from the legal community. Its Czecho-Slovak character was supported by the fact that the symposium was attended not only by academics from Prague but also from the Law Faculties of Bratislava, Brno, Košice, Olomouc and Trnava. Also, researchers from the Institute of the State and Law at the Czech Academy of Sciences took an active part in the symposium. Also, a number of lawyers from both the private and public spheres attended the symposium. Given this broad interest of the legal community in the issues discussed, written versions of the papers presented - for the rigorous review process - will be published in the journal *AUC Iuridica* in a special section of issue 1/2026. Like other issues of *AUC Iuridica*, this issue will be available in both print and electronic versions with full access to all texts.

The scientific committee of the symposium has called this symposium a *first* in the hope that some of the other law schools will take up the follow-up. The fact that the issue of AI is highly topical was confirmed by the fact that colleagues from the Department of Constitutional and Administrative Law in Košice took the initiative to organise the 2nd symposium. The 2nd Czecho-Slovak Symposium on the Challenges of AI for Administrative Law will be held in the Tokaj Wine Region in eastern Slovakia in autumn 2025. At the same time, the topic of the 3rd symposium has already been announced. It will address challenges arising from the use of AI in transport. It will be organised in cooperation with the Faculty of Law in Prague and the Institute of the State and Law at the Czech Academy of Sciences in 2026.

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