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SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

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Rezumat. *Autorul prezintă în această lucrare puncte de vedere controversate privind impactul social al utilizării tehnologiei informaţiei şi comunicaţiilor (TIC), caracterul privat al informaţiei, necesitatea reglementărilor juridice privind circulaţia informaţiei prin Internet, protecţia drepturilor de proprietate intelectuală şi încălcări ale drepturilor, ilegalităţi etc. Concluzia lucrării este necesitatea unei reglementări juridice internaţionale, cel puţin la nivelul tuturor ţărilor participante la Internet, care să ţină seama de caracterul intangibil al informaţiei şi care să difere de legislaţia specifică bunurilor materiale.*

Abstract. *The Author presents in this paper controversies points of view on the social impact of the information and communications technology (ICT): privacy character of information, the necessity of juridical regulations on dissemination of information by Internet, protection of the intellectual property rights, offenders of law, unlawful acts and so on. The conclusion of this paper is the necessity of the juridical, international regulations, at least at the level of all countries that participate in the Internet, that take in view the intangible character of the information and that should be different from the specific juridical regulations for the material goods.*

Key words: information and communications technology, protection of personal data, intellectual property, infringements.

1. Introduction

At the beginning of the third millennium, "Information and Communication Technologies" (ICT) are no more just a technology, but form part of our daily life. ICT now put people around the world in touch with each other to an extent, which was difficult to imagine just a decade ago [1].

School students from Bucharest or Paris can and do correspondence daily about evolution and intellectual liberty with librarians from Kansas or Norway and even professors from South Africa. Large companies consider it quite routine to have a head office in one country, production plants in two or three others, administered from a fifth and a sixth, while customer support is based in three more convenient time zones.

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