



Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention Publications 2016

Studies



Criminal Thinking Styles: Inventory PICTS-cz

Blatníková, Š., Faridová, P., Vranka, M.

The publication provides information and a summary of findings on the concept of criminal thinking and the criminal lifestyle, acquainting the reader with techniques designed for its mapping and measurement. Attention is focused on the psycho-diagnostic tool – Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS) developed by Glenn D. Walters, which is a widely accepted tool for detecting the incidence and intensity of crime-supporting cognitive patterns in the adult criminal, or respectively prison population. The empirical part of this monograph focuses on the adaptation of the aforementioned Inventory to Czech conditions (PICTS-cz). The normative sample that underwent standardisation consisted of 586 convicted men serving prison sentences. PICTS-cz showed satisfactory basic psychometric parameter values comparable with the results of studies carried out on the standardisation sample of the method's author. Reliability tests and indicative proof of the inventory's validity suggest its possible use as an effective tool in the diagnostic practice of prison psychologists and forensic expert witnesses – psychologists.



Serving a Term of Imprisonment – A Criminological Analysis

Marešová, A., Biedermanová, E., Rozum, J., Tamchyna, M., Zhřivalová, P.

This monograph summarises the findings of the research project "Analysis of Structural Changes, Trends and Development Characteristics of Prison Population" that took place in 2012-2015. Taking into account sanctions policy implemented in the Czech Republic after 1990, the book analyses and describes the causes of the current large number of prisoners and changes in the development trends of the prison population, as well as presenting some new information on imprisonment in Czech prisons. Based on conducted analyses, the publication presents a concrete proposal for a reduction in the number of prisoners in the future. A comparison of the prison population in the Czech Republic to neighbouring countries (Slovakia, Hungary and Austria) then illustrates the situation in the area of imprisonment in Central Europe. The annex provides insight into the so-called "second life" of convicted offenders, and a historical excursion of imprisonment.



Dangerousness and Violence in Prisons

Blatníková, Š.

This monograph offers selected results of research by the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) primarily aimed at mapping ways of assessing the dangerousness of prisoners in Czech prisons, and measures to prevent violence in the prison environment. The main objective was to obtain new criminological findings about prisoners identified as problematic or dangerous, about violence among prison inmates and measures implemented in response to violent incidents. The author explains basic terms, theoretical concepts and practical aspects regarding the identification and management of dangerous prisoners and violence in the prison environment. She clearly and critically summarises how current legislation tackles these issues, with her main attention focused on the internal regulations of the Czech Prison Service, though not forgetting how these are reflected in the new concept of the prison system and current legislative proposals. The book also contains empirical data on identified dangerous prisoners and violent incidents in Czech prisons.



Regional Crime and its Impact on the Quality of Life

Holas, J., Háková, L., Krulichová, E., Scheinost, M.

The publication presents the results of research aimed at verifying the validity of certain foreign criminological theories regarding the links between the type of environment (neighbourhood), victimisation and fear of crime. The questionnaire survey conducted in eight model localities representing different types of regions and levels of urbanisation in the Czech Republic focused on three basic socio-psychological characteristics of these locations – the degree of social disorganisation, level of informal control and nature of neighbourhood relations. The focus of the study was an examination of the feeling of safety and fear of crime based on the aforementioned physical and social characteristics of the location, victimisation, rate of recorded crime and individual factors, such as the feeling of satisfaction (contentment) or interpersonal relations. It was shown that the fear of crime is determined by factors other than simply the urban form of the neighbourhood or rate of crime. In contrast, the level of unemployment or share of households receiving welfare benefits does not affect the fear of crime in any palpable way.



Analysis of Crime Trends in the Czech Republic in 2015

Diblíková, S., Cejp, M., Martinková, M., Smejkal, V., Štefunková, M., Zeman, P.

The publication contains basic information obtained from the departmental statistics of the Czech Police and Ministry of Justice on crime in the Czech Republic, and analyses trends up to 2015. It describes the state of crime in the preceding year and changes compared to previous years in terms of the number of recorded offences, their structure and detection. It includes information on known offenders, divided by sex, age and committed offences, and certain information on suicides. An integral part of the study is time series of selected indicators

of crime. The book also presents papers on the state and development of drug crime in the Czech Republic, the basic characteristics of organised crime in the Czech Republic in 2015, the current forms of cybercrime and possibilities of their sanctioning, as well as information not published elsewhere on the number and structure of registered victims of crime. The publication is supplemented by a series of charts and tables including annexes continuing previous analysis of trends in crime.



Probation as an Effective Tool for Reducing Recidivism

Tomášek, J., Diblíková, S., Scheinost, M.

The publication summarises the findings of a research project aimed at analysing available information on the efficacy of probation in relation to criminal recidivism. The authors describe how views on the efficacy of probation have changed during its historical development, and offer a comprehensive overview of existing research and studies on this topic. Special attention is devoted to the desistance paradigm, which can be used to develop a model of effective probation practice. The empirical part of the publication presents the results of a questionnaire survey conducted by the authors in which 114 probation officers took part (67% of the total number of PMS Officers dealing with the supervision of adult offenders). Thematically, the study touched on several areas, including a measure of the efficacy of probation, clients' expectations in association with probation, or factors of recidivism and desistance most commonly encountered by officers in practice, or their opinion on how they can affect these through their own actions.



The Effectiveness of Criminal Policy from the Perspective of Recidivism

Rozum, J., Háková, L., Tomášek, J., Vlach, J.

The authors of the monograph summarise the results of the research project "Verifying the Effectiveness of Criminal Policy in Relation to Development Trends, the Number and Structure of the Prison Population", which was undertaken by the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) in 2015-2016 on the basis of a public contract for the Czech Ministry of the Interior. The publication analyses the main trends in sanctions policy and its consequent impact on the prison population. Based on these results, the authors propose legislative and policy measures to ensure that sanctions policy provides better protection for people against crime, including a reduction in recidivism, while not leading to an excessive increase in the number of prison inmates. A separate part of the book is a chapter, which describes and evaluates the current state of monitoring recidivism at home and abroad, and proposes a new system that can systematically monitor data on recidivism over the long-term. The authors assume that a rational approach to the control of crime, based on a systematic evaluation of its effectiveness, cannot do without this data and its deeper criminological analysis.

Sources



Recording Community Sanctions and Measures and Assessing Attrition. A Methodological Study on Comparative Data in Europe

Heiskanen, M., Aebi, M. F., van der Brugge, W. a Jehle J.-M. (eds.)

The publication is a Czech translation of a study by the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI) titled *"Recording Community Sanctions and Measures and Assessing Attrition - A Methodological Study on Comparative Data in Europe"*. It summarises the results of an extensive international project aimed at developing a methodology for the collection of data on community sanctions and measures, and of cases where a crime does not end in final sentencing of the offender for various reasons ("loss of cases" or "decrease in cases" attrition). The aim of the project was to both improve data collection on probation services and community sanctions and measures, and to develop a measure of the process of attrition that occurs in the criminal justice system in the time between the commission of the offence and punishment of the offender. The basis of the study was selected information on community sanctions, their imposition and enforcement, as well as on the functioning of probation services acquired on the basis of a questionnaire survey of national correspondents from 40 countries.



13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Doha, Qatar, 12 – 19 April 2015)

The publication is a Czech translation of the most important documents prepared in the framework of the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which took place from 12 to 19 April 2015 in the capital of Qatar, Doha. It follows on the translations of documents from previous United Nations Congresses on this subject consistently published in the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention SOURCES series (UN Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice are held every five years). It contains the approved Declaration on the integration of crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda, the Report of the UN Secretary-General on the state of crime and criminal justice worldwide, and documents on the issues of international cooperation in combating transnational organised crime, the prevention of its new forms (cybercrime, trafficking in cultural objects ...), human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The full text of all publications, including the English summary, is freely available on the IKSP website at www.kriminologie.cz in the Publications section.