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Predikce vývoje pachatele
Prediction of an offender's development

Summary

The ICSP research performed from 2004 to 2007 was designed to gather and analyse expert sources and instruments used both abroad and domestically in predicting criminal recidivism and to propose a screening instrument which will offer a certain degree of accuracy in predicting future criminal behaviour in the sense of individual "failure/success". A working version was developed of an instrument which could be practically applied to predict an offender's recidivism – to predict re-offending. Its effectiveness was tested (in advance) on a research group.

The concluding report contains a broader theoretical approach to the question of the genesis of criminal behaviour; this forms the basis of the predictive considerations. The text presents a survey of risky criminogenic and protective factors (external, individual and variable at family level), which were identified on the basis of empirical research. There then follows a concept (paradigm) of a criminal career in which, as well as outlining and developing the concept, we also describe the key individual dimensions of an offender's criminal career. This is combined with a survey of selected models of criminal behaviour, certain criminological theories and approaches which are specifically influenced by the paradigm of a criminal career, in particular developmental criminology and the theory of a lifelong career. A separate section treats the theme of the offender's personality, again in the light of his development. The subsequent chapters adumbrate an approach to forecasting and predicting the offender's behaviour; they cover the points of departure in assessing an offender (*offender assessment; risk/need assessment*), and the risk of the offender's recidivism (*re-offending*). There is also a survey of the methods and techniques used in assessing an offender. The part that deals with the methodology of predictive studies offers a developmental view of the approach to assessing an offender and records the basic recommendations and limits of the assessment. This is followed by a survey of the variables and instruments employed in predicting behavioural development, static and dynamic risk factors as predictors of behaviour, information on statistical instruments to assess the

offender's re-offending, and a survey of predictors and their predictive "strength". The methodological problems in constructing predictive instruments were also addressed. Since the work deals chiefly with the possibilities of assessing the risk of recidivism by an offender, greater space is devoted to instruments that are found in official records, i.e. mainly on static factors. The last section offers an informative survey of some foreign predictive instruments, while not neglecting their domestic counterparts.

The empirical part describes the actual research process used in formulating an instrument. It offers a survey of individual predictors – selected variables which, according to analyses, are responsible for the recidivism of criminal behaviour. Other sections present the characteristics of the research group; the main factors interpreted were those which relate to the proposed predictive instrument by means of basic statistical measurements (median values, variance etc.). The predictive instrument (set of predictors for future criminal recidivism) was administered (tested) on the research group and analyses were performed that were required to create a working version of the five-layered predictive instrument which operates with so-called statistical data, i.e. with data from an assessed person's past. The prediction formulated thereby is "static" and does not take account of a possible change in the assessed person's behaviour; its goal is not to stipulate the optimal means of treating or selecting the program. To assess the probability of such a change it is necessary to repeat the predictive procedure (analysis), but this time in the form of an assessment of so-called "resocialisation" needs (*need assessment*). The instrument should only be used by informed (trained) employees who are involved in predicting the future development of assessed persons (the prediction of future criminal recidivism) and are familiar with the limits and application of such instruments in general.

The proposed predictive instrument represents the working version and its final form requires further research to test its predictive validity. This requires the creation of a new research group of people who are currently facing criminal prosecution and the formulation of predictive conclusions using the instrument. For at least 5 years after being released from prison, or after receiving something other than a prison sentence, these persons should then be monitored and the accuracy of the predictive conclusions subsequently assessed.

Translated by: Marvel s.r.o.