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**Kriminalita v roce 2007.**  
**Criminality in 2007**  
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### *Summary*

The publication “Criminality in 2007” is another ICSP publication devoted every year to assessing the state of crime in the previous year and in its tables section looks at the statistical data stated in earlier issued publications devoted to the same theme. At present, it seeks through the individual essays to provide a deeper insight into grave problems with connected with crime and little discussed elsewhere – specifically it deals with the question of victims, organised crime, the territorial distribution of crime.

In processing all the essays contained in the publication maximum use is made of statistical data obtained from the Czech Police Headquarters. These basic data are supplemented by statistical data from the Czech Ministry of Justice, by information and data from reports of the Attorney’s General Office, from the Prison Service annual reports and from certain other departments and extra-departmental materials assessing the state and development of the number of prosecuted, charged, convicted and imprisoned offenders in this or that year. By issuing the publication we are attempting to concentrate all basic available information on the state of crime in the relevant year, and to do so without narrow departmental specialisation and in the context of a longer time development and of developmental trends.

In this year’s study on crime in 2007 the introductory contribution to the publication includes comments as usual from the head of the authorial collective (A. Marešová) on the basic indicators on crime in the previous year and their changes in the last decade; it also gives information on offenders, their categorisation according to gender, age and recidivism. There is a general description of the numbers of recorded victims and some data on suicides. The introductory contribution is followed up in the conclusion to the publication by published annexes – tables which also supplement the graphs stated in the contribution on other statistical data.

The contribution emphasises that at present not only criminal legislation is at fault but also the position of relevant departments to individual criminal and other socially pathological phenomena, which is reflected in their criminalisation, or decriminalisation and subsequently

also in departmental statistics. Opinions continue to alter as to the methods for resolving transport and drug crime, to socially pathological behaviour among juveniles, to breaches of regulations in the economic sphere (tax, credit, commercial, brand protection, breach of copyright etc.), to the criminal liability of legal entities etc. Several times over the last 15 years the border has been increased for damage caused by criminal activity differentiating a certain crime from corresponding infractions; the new criminal code counts on reducing the age border for criminal liability etc. At the same time there has been an almost annual marked change not only in the content but also the methodology of collecting and processing statistical data. A special commentary today belongs to the rise in so-called endangering violations, as yet highly criminalised, but also the decriminalisation of many other violations, the radicalisation of procedures against latent criminality and “only” socially pathological phenomena and also the ongoing belittlement of earlier serious crimes etc.

So, the claims continually repeated on the stagnation of crime in the Czech Republic will certainly see changes in the coming years – even in the case that changes are not markedly projected in the overall number of crimes recorded by the police there will certainly be changes in the proportions of the types of crime and in the composition of offenders.

New phenomena in the structure of crime – chiefly the rise in transport crimes (due to the increased attention paid in ascertaining them), credit fraud, but also ordinary crimes, above all theft etc. certainly has not yet reached its peak zenith as far as the frequency of incidents and ascertainment of their offenders is concerned. Juvenile offenders are also intensifying their criminal activity and sooner or later this must be reflected in the statistics. The current marked decline in the incidence of crime by children and juveniles evidenced by statistics on crime unfortunately can often be doubted – for example the data from Prague and the results of victimological research. Neither is it possible to neglect the fact that every increase in the number of recorded crimes should be assessed as a negative phenomenon – if the detection of crimes rises and the number of recorded crimes increases at the expense of latent crimes etc. – then such an increase can only be welcomed.

Earlier trends in crime, at least as concern the immediate future, were usually expressed by a simple linear extension of the level of crime for the next time sequence (e.g. a decade), or various complex mathematical calculations were applied estimating the future development of phenomena; today especially with regard to the marked qualitative changes in the content of recorded crime this is no longer taken into consideration and a mechanical comparison with the past period only by a comparison of the level of crime expressed by the number of recorded crimes and known prosecuted offenders, by various indices of their

relation to the number of the population etc. provides a misleading idea of the monitored phenomenon. That is, from the curve in the development of crime, as it is processed for the need of various analyses, including an assessment of the state of security in the Czech Republic, it is not possible to deduce a conclusion on whether crime in our country is falling or rising, but only whether in the monitored territory there is a rise or fall in recorded crimes deemed as criminal under the valid criminal code. And a serious description of the state of crime can only be made with reference to the content of the valid criminal code, but also the Rules of Criminal Procedure and departmental regulations defining the methods for recording crime, including other statistical indicators connected with crime, and then only for the period they are valid. The same also applies in relation to the number of known (prosecuted, charged, convicted, but also imprisoned etc.) offenders.

Other contributions in the publication look at selected areas of crime in greater depth.

M. Cejp in his chapter presents part of the research results from research into organised crime. This focuses on basic quantitative data testifying to the structure of criminal groups operating on the territory of the Czech Republic and on the composition of their criminal or also support activities. It states the statistical data on the numbers of prosecuted, charged and convicted for participating in a criminal conspiracy and the quantitative estimates of experts, these being experienced employees from special departments of the Czech Police focusing on the struggle against organised crime.

The contribution by M. Martinková is as usual specially devoted to the victims of crime and proceeds chiefly from the data of police statistics. This time it is enriched by certain data on the relationship between the victim and the offender and apart from data from 2007 also contains data from 2006 which concerns the number of victims in the higher regional administrative units of the Czech Republic as until the last ICSP year-book on crime these data were not included for technical reasons. We add the mentioned data for 2006 so that the time sequence maintained thus far on information about victims recorded by the police is as full as possible for regular users of our processed data.

As we have many times said, we analyse the police data on victims and deal with them so that the data are collected in the long-term every year by the same method used by the Czech Police for the entire Republic. Although they only concern victims of crime recorded by the police they remain a basic source of the aggregate information on victims of crime in our Republic. From them it is possible, with some limitations, to judge certain developmental trends in the relevant area on the territory of our state.

J. Holas maps crime in individual districts of the Republic.

An important part of the publication comprises the annexes – tables charting the continual development of crime generally and the development of individual types and also less accessible information obtained in resolving other ICSP tasks which however are broadly connected to the question of assessing crime in the Czech Republic (e.g. statistical data on the number of imprisoned persons in the world).

Translated by: Marvel s.r.o.