

Marešová, Alena – Cejp, Martin – Karban, Michal – Martinková, Milada – Vlach, Jiří

Analýza trendů kriminality v roce 2008

Analysis of Trends in Crime 2008

ISBN 978-80-7338-092-2

Summary

Since 1992 ICSP has published annually a „yearbook on crime“ and in the past decade it has been published as a collective volume. The publication „Crime in 2008“ is devoted as in every year to crime evaluation of the past year and in its tables section looks at the statistical data issued in 17 earlier published publications devoted to the same subject. At the same time it seeks through individual studies to provide a deeper insight into important problems connected to crime and little discussed elsewhere – specifically it deals with the problems of victims, organized crime and also information on geographical aspects of crime committed in 2008 in Prague and on discussing the role of media in evaluating the crime.

In processing all studies contained in the proceedings 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 the Attorney General’s Office reports, from the Prison Service annual reports and from some other departmental and inter-departmental material evaluating the crime state and development and development of a number of accused, prosecuted, convicted and imprisoned offenders in the relevant year. By publishing proceedings we try to concentrate on all basic information on the state of crime in a given year without narrow departmental specialization and in context of a longer time development and of developmental trends.

In this year’s study on crime in 2008 the introductory contribution to the proceedings includes comments as usual from the head of the authorship team (A. Marešová) on the basic indicators on crime in the previous year and their changes in the past decade, it also gives information on offenders, their categorisation according to gender, age and recidivism. Generally there are descriptions of registered crimes numbers and some data on suicides. The introductory contribution is followed up in the concluding chapter by published enclosures – tables containing graphs and other statistical data.

The study devoted to the state and trends of crime is emphasising that at present all areas of society are in movement, including the content of crime (structure of crime). Acts evaluated some time ago as inappropriate infringements of social standards, or faults (for instance many negligent deeds causing minor damage to a person or an institution, violating transport laws, financial matters adherence, debts recovery, dealing with personal conflicts or in dealing with institutions etc.), but also deeds not existing before (for instance abuse of internet, including social network abuse), take a more and more significant part in the structure of crime and significantly influence its size and its developmental trends. A logical result of crime structure changes is a distinct change in the structure of persons who are prosecuted, sentenced, and imprisoned for violating criminal law and who are crime offenders accused, convicted and imprisoned.

From the analysis of structure of prosecuted and investigated persons for registered criminal activity in 2008 it was discovered that out of all police prosecuted and investigated persons most of them have been prosecuted for property crime, and thefts (including burglary). In 2005 and 2006 this group was closely followed by offenders prosecuted for credit fraud – about 13 000 of persons, other offenders under the influence of addictive substances and drunkenness, offenders of culpable negligence and offenders of traffic accidents committed by negligence. A long way behind came offenders of intentional bodily harm and fraud. In 2007 and 2008 the sequence had changed, thefts offenders came top of the list followed by persons convicted of motoring offences especially that of driving a motor vehicle without a driving licence. The number of prosecuted offenders for credit fraud significantly decreased. (In 2008 the entire number of prosecuted offenders by Police of the CR was 122 053 persons).

The crime stagnation in the CR is still true, it includes only final numbers of departmental statistics, not the crime structure and offenders structure. There are distinct changes which make predicting the future rise or fall of crime difficult to predict.

Other contributions in proceedings concentrate more deeply on selected fields of crime.

M. Cejp in his contribution presents some results from the research on organized crime. He concentrates on the basic quantitative data explaining the structure of criminal groups operating on the territory of the CR and on the structure of their criminal and

supportive activities. He mentions statistical data concerning the numbers of prosecuted, accused and convicted offenders for participating in criminal conspiracy according to § 163 a) of the criminal law from the Statistical yearbook of crime of the Ministry of Justice of the CR. Basic analyses are mostly of a qualitative type of investigation : experts mostly formulate their opinions, attitudes and arguments. As long as experts express themselves in numbers or percentages, it mostly is an expression of opinions and general trends , where the numeric data is not possible to understand absolutely but only as an instrument of describing structure and developmental trends.

Thanks to the fact, that expert investigations concerning organized crime have take place annually since 1993 there is a fifteen years time line of most of the data available. Where possible, apart from data from 2008 there are mentioned long-term trends for comparison.

The contribution of M. Martinková is as usual dedicated to crime victims and is based on police statistics data. As we have often presented, police data on persons damaged by criminal activity are collected annually in the same way by the Police of the CR. Though these data include only police registered crime victims they still are an important source of complex information on crime victims on the territory of the whole republic. It is possible to deduce some developmental tendencies in given area on the territory of our state.

There are two other contributions by Mr. Karba, Bc. and Mr. Vlach, M.A. selected to show the situation in the past year. They describe an untraditional perspective on crime in Prague in 2008 – on its geographic aspects and on the role of media when evaluating crime.

A significant part of proceedings comprises tables recording continual development of crime in general and development of individual kinds of crime and also less accessible information acquired by dealing with other tasks of ICSP connected with the evaluation of crime in the CR on a wider scale (for instance statistical data on numbers of imprisoned persons in the world).

Translated by: Marta Holeková