

*Marešová, Alena et al.*

**Analýza trendů kriminality v roce 2011**

**Criminality in the year 2011**

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**Abstract**

The authors (usually the workers of ICSP) try to concentrate all basic available information on the level of criminality in a given year and with regard to the previous development trends by annually processing contributions to the collection which analyses and comments on the registered crime and related phenomena in CZ in the previous year. Information on the state and development of individual specific areas of crime or phenomena related to the crime is published in the collection in certain cycles (at least five-year ones). Some articles have been and are devoted to organized crime, economic crime, drug crime, crime victims, results of omnibus surveys and research carried out by ICSP etc.

In the introductory article of the collection the head of the authorial team A. Marešová always comments on basic indicators of crime in the previous year and their changes in the last decade, next she provides information about the offenders, categorised according to gender, age, recidivism. The number of registered victims and some data on suicides are described here in general. At the end of the collection there are appendices - tables linked to the introductory contribution that simultaneously complete the graphs in the article with other statistical data, in some cases already since the time of their computer processing - i.e. since 1973-74.

Articles dedicated to organized crime and crime victims and worked out by the same authors have been traditional contributions in recent years. Other papers are usually worked out by different authors – workers of ICSP, but also by external workers or students.

Specifically, M. Cejp deals again with the problem of organized crime in this year analysis of crime trends in the Czech Republic. From expertises, realized by annual questioning of staff of specialized units of the CZ Police since 1993 and recently also customs officials he mentions the results of expert survey number XIX which took place at the beginning of 2012 for the situation in 2011. With regard to the content, the experts expressed

their opinion on the structure and form of organized crime groups' activities where foreigners significantly dominated.

According to expert estimates the most widespread forms of organized crime activities in the Czech Republic in 2011 were drug production and trafficking, car thefts, money laundering, corruption, tax, credit and billing frauds, illegal production and smuggling of alcohol and cigarettes, establishment of fraudulent companies and abuse of computers for committing crime, organized prostitution. Drug production and smuggling was characteristic especially of the Vietnamese. Tax, credit and billing frauds, counterfeiting and trade with counterfeit products, illegal production and smuggling of alcohol and cigarettes, organization of illegal migration also significantly appeared in their case. In case of the Ukrainians, the most common was blackmailing and protection racketeering, human trafficking, violent crime, illegal production and smuggling of cigarettes, in case of the Russians violent crime, money laundering, trade in arms and radioactive material, human trafficking, in case of the Albanians production and smuggling of drugs, violent crime activity. In case of the Bulgarians the most common were credit card frauds, in case of the Chinese falsification of documents, papers, stamps, textiles, footwear, in case of the Slovaks tax, credit and billing frauds and trade in arms and military equipment, in case of the Poles drugs, illegal production and smuggling of alcohol and cigarettes, car thefts, in case of the Romanians credit card frauds, in case of the Nigerians, Serbians and Croatians drugs. In case of other fourteen nationalities that are not numerically much represented, mainly participation in drug crime was reported. An exception were the Armenians and the Georgians, where blackmailing and protection racketeering and violent crime occurred, the Moldavians who concentrated on car thefts and human trafficking for forced labour, the Lithuanians who concentrated on car thefts and the Greeks who directed their attention to illegal production and smuggling of alcohol or cigarettes.

The paper by M. Martinková is (also traditionally) dedicated to the problem of crime victims and is based on non-standard statistical reports of the CZ Police annually requested by ICSP. Two significant events, related to the crime victims in the Czech Republic which took place in 2011, are highlighted there. Firstly, the continuation of preparations for the International victimological research in the countries of the European Union (EU SASU) led by Eurostat is discussed which was originally scheduled for implementation in 2013, next the preparation of a new Czech law on crime victims is discussed. Extensive appendices capturing data on victims recorded by police in 2011 are a part of the paper. (These appendices are rare and data contained therein is not published anywhere else.)

New contributions within the collection on crime are devoted to the results of surveys on development tendencies in the Czech prison system (by E. Biedermanová), results of the omnibus survey on copyright infringement (by J. Holas), results of the omnibus survey on knowledge of the prison population in the Czech Republic (by A. Marešová) and results of survey on punitiveness of Czech citizens over time (by J. Tomášek).

In her contribution E. Biedermanová ponders especially on the direction the Czech prison system should take with the increasing pressure on its budget supposing the number of people kept prisoners is not going to decrease. As a solution she suggests to increase the number of persons not working directly in prison, to increase the number of educators, to improve the accommodation capacity of prisons and keep the spaces reserved for the exercise of extracurricular activities. To focus in terms of education especially on those persons who are firstly in prison and juvenile convicts (related to the provision of high-quality treatment programmes). To ensure real “work” for the prisoners. To help the convicts with the way from prison after serving a custodial sentence (preparation for the independent life "outside", help with the payment of their debts, ensuring personal documents, employment, housing).

One of the ICSP surveys, aimed at finding representative views of the population on certain phenomena associated with crime and carried out by omnibus surveys, targeted at the issue of intellectual property, trademarks and related matters. Its results are included in the contribution by J. Holas. It is a specific area of crime where victims are mostly large corporations and it is difficult to determine both the damage and the offenders. It is no secret that trade with counterfeit products is still blossoming, in the CR especially in marketplaces and on the Internet. The aim of the research, carried out by means of an omnibus survey, was to map the perception of intellectual property protection by Czech citizens, thus potential consumers of illegal goods. 1000 respondents were approached with a short questionnaire where the problems were divided into industrial goods, music, film and software. The respondent was always firstly asked about their position to buy a fake, then also by means of a self-reporting method whether they have ever bought or used a similar product. The results were similar for all product groups: about a third of those surveyed does not have a problem with selling and buying counterfeit products, another third of the population is aware of the harmful effect of such conduct but justifies it with unreasonable prices of original goods; the remaining third condemns such behaviour. A greater part of the respondents has bought such goods, a half of them repeatedly.

The paper by A. Marešová, which is dedicated to how Czech citizens perceive prisons, is also based on the results of an omnibus survey. The survey was carried out in 2011 and 975

valid responses were obtained. The results confirmed the generally known facts: the current sentence is perceived as bad, but good conditions, perhaps too luxurious ones are created for the prisoners. The cost of prisoners is high and the regime in prisons should be primarily tightened up with the aim to discourage prisoners from repeated stay in prison.

The research carried out by ICSP in 1992-2011 shows that in recent years punitiveness of citizens has significantly increased and on the contrary their confidence in alternative punishment has weakened. This finding is commented by J. Tomášek in his paper. It is quite a surprising trend considering that according to crime statistics as well as available victimology studies the Czech Republic certainly does not face an increase in crime, which could cause radical changes in attitudes of this type. An explanation is offered by the expressive-emotive theory, according to which punitive attitudes have a symbolic function and they may be related to more general moods in the society rather than to crime itself or the punishment. At the time which is full of social, economic and other uncertainties, our tolerance for threatening phenomena is decreasing which also applies in relation to criminals.

To process all articles contained in the study, statistical data obtained from the Police Presidium of the CR was maximally used. This basic data is completed with statistical data from the Czech Ministry of Justice, the information and data from the reports of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office, the yearbooks of the Prison Service, the research of ICSP and some other departmental and non-departmental materials which evaluate the state and development of crime and the state and evolution of the number of persons prosecuted, indicted, convicted and imprisoned in a given year.

Taking into consideration the number of unrelated graphs, tables and attachments these are numbered for each paper separately.

Translated by: Aspenna