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## **Analýza trendů kriminality v České republice v roce 2014**

### **Analysis of criminality trends in 2014**

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#### ***Summary***

Communication and information networks are the omnipresent phenomenon of the 21st century – and so it may come as no surprise that it also led to the creation of a new type of crime, so-called information crime. In English, this type of crime is often called cybercrime. Each year, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic issues a Report on Internal Security and Public Order in the Czech Republic. In 2014, this report contained a separate chapter on cybercrime: 2.2.11 Cybercrime and cybersecurity. The Police of the Czech Republic characterize cybercrime as criminal activities carried out in the environment of information technologies, including computer networks, and emphasizes that this type of crime is on the rise and there is no reason to expect this trend to stop or slow down. (MV, 2015) In 2014, the police recorded over 4.3 thousand cases of cybercrime, amounting to a 40% increase over the previous year. This is the only type of crime which had such a significant increase in the previous year and where the number of criminal acts recorded by the police is expected to keep rising<sup>1</sup>. This is, in fact, a worldwide phenomenon.<sup>2</sup>

With respect to the above-specified facts, we have reserved a prominent position in the presented publication for a chapter discussing cybercrime.

The subsequent chapters then inform about the current problems and areas related to crime, whereas these are only discussed in department documents briefly, without a wider context and trends. The authors of individual chapters of this publication, with the exception of the chapter on cybercrime (authored by doc. Požár of the Police Academy of the Czech Republic in Prague, an expert in this area), are exclusively employees of the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention. The goal of the publication is to inform a broad range of experts as well as interested persons from the general public about the criminality trends in the Czech Republic in 2014, about the perpetrators and their victims, about the penalties of

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<sup>1</sup> This is the second year that the Police of the Czech Republic (specifically the department of information crime of Bureau of Criminal police and Investigation Service of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic) have operated the so-called Police Hotline, and in 2014 its employees recorded nearly 7 thousand instigations directed into the cyberworld, amounting to a 72% increase compared to 2013.

<sup>2</sup> As of 2013, Europol manages the European Center for Cybernetic Crime.

convicts etc., with the use of the latest available resort data mapping quantitative crime indicators.

The first chapter of the study contains a commentary of the head of the collection of authors (A. Marešová) **on the basic indicators of criminality in the previous year and their changes in the last decade**, also including **information about perpetrators** divided based on gender, age, and recidivism. In general, it describes changes in the number of recorded victims and **certain information about suicides**. This part is followed up on by the annexes at the end of the study – tables with supplementary statistical data for the graphs in the study.

The second chapter is dedicated to **changes of Czech prison services in the last decade**, especially developmental changes of an organizational and conceptual nature and the characteristics of Czech prisoners over the last years.

The third chapter introduces readers to **research focusing on young recidivists**, specifically youths who are “classified by courts as a recidivist”. Findings on young perpetrators and their criminal activities as well as the applied corrective measures are processed based on closed court files. These are supplemented by information about the criminal careers of the examined individuals.

The fourth chapter is in this case the key chapter of the publication, since it maps the part of criminality which still remains a “large blank map” – **cybercrime**. The term cybercrime does not have a generally recognized meaning or definition yet. The last publications define cybercrime using very complex conditions, specifically as “criminal activities which are in some form related to computers, in the sense of their technical and programming equipment (including data), or their components, and/or a large number of computers, either separately or connected into a computer network, either as the subject of interest of this criminal activity (with the exception of activities which consider the items specified above merely as movable assets) or as the environment (objects) in which criminal activities take place, or the tool used to perform criminal activities”. (JIRÁSEK, NOVÁK, & POŽÁR, 2015)

The fifth chapter is dedicated to the area of **crime victims** in the Czech Republic in 2014 and their development trends. It is the most comprehensive document providing general information about victims in the Czech Republic, including information not publicly available

from other sources. It also includes tables containing statistical data about victims based on maximally detailed criteria.

Statistical data obtained from the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic were utilized to the maximal possible extent for the preparation of all chapters in the publication. These basic data are supplemented by statistical data from the resort of the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic, by information and data from the reports of the Public Prosecutor's Office, from the annual reports of the Prison Service and certain other resort as well as non-resort documents evaluating the state and development of criminality, statistics and development of the number of prosecuted, accused, convicted and imprisoned individuals in the past decade, in each case in the form of development sequences. The publication of the study has two primary goals: call attention to the state of crime in a certain period, and concentrate all basic available information about the state of criminality into a single source, without a specific resort specialization and in the context of a longer time horizon.

So, how can one briefly summarize the development of criminality recorded by police in 2014, its structure, regional distribution, dynamics, solution rate, patterns of perpetrators etc.? No significant changes occurred compared to 2013 or other previous years. Not even the oft-discussed rates of cybercrime should come as a surprise in 2014 – the only difference is that it is receiving more attention than before. It seems that our domestic criminal scene is not currently working on anything new. The report of the Public Prosecutor's Office for 2014, and specifically its section dedicated to new phenomena, also only refers to cases of bullying via insolvency proposals and attacks on the accounts of clients made via internet banking. (NSZ, 2015)

However, this definitely does not mean that people should be happy and think that we can expect stagnation and reductions of criminality also in the future – not even in the near future. It is already clear that the year this document will be published, 2015, will be the year when the world will witness an event which will certainly also affect the domestic situation in the Czech Republic – the huge migration wave which is travelling across all of Europe. We will analyze the impacts of this event on the social-pathological phenomena and crime statistics in the Czech Republic next year.

Translated by: Presto