

## **CRIME PREVENTION SYSTEM IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC. INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

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This article presents a system of crime prevention functioning in the realities of the Slovak Republic. The text discusses, inter alia, the essence of preventive measures taken against the phenomena of social maladjustment occurring in Slovakia. All three levels of the system (national, regional, local) are presented and the “National Crime Prevention Strategy 2012-2015” is brought closer (in an outline) and analysed as a way to keep and develop country’s security culture.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Providing public security is one of the oldest public tasks and is inextricably linked with the formation of a public authority<sup>1</sup>. In lawmaking, its implementation, and even in the scientific law literature, the use of those terms at the same time has been adopted, combining them in one term

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<sup>1</sup> J. Widacki, *Ustrój i organizacja Policji w Polsce oraz jej funkcje i zadania w ochronie bezpieczeństwa i porządku*, Instytut Spraw Publicznych, Warszawa-Kraków 1998, p. 17.

“security and public order”. The meaning of these terms are certainly close, and in many cases are difficult to separate and yet ambiguous<sup>2</sup>. Public security is a state of balance, indicated by the acceptance of society, existing constitutional connotations and legal norms democratically enacted. This concept takes the form of a permanent institutional and social balance that is a result of the normal work of entities located within the state administration, local self-government and located in the initiatives to be taken on many levels for the broadly understood social good, which are the guaranties of preservation of citizens’ rights<sup>3</sup>.

As M. Stefanski indicated “(...) heterogeneity is becoming the norm for functioning of correlations of social movements that we see not only in Europe, and the lack of stability directly affects the sense of security in micro-and macrosocial terms<sup>4</sup>. Any initiative taken to ensure public security at all levels of functioning of any modern, democratic state, should meet not only with the general acceptance of society, but also – which is very important, with measurable and systemic support from government institutions and organizations, with the highest national authorities included.

An essential condition for the effective protection of public security is the efficiency of the Government and public administration in all areas of social life<sup>5</sup>. This study presents the general assumptions of the functioning of crime prevention system in the Slovak Republic. The text can be used as material for the work of comparison, analytical and diagnostic research initiatives correlated with the area of security studies<sup>6</sup> and as an example of process of maintaining, recovering and strengthening the security culture<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> D. Podleś, *Bezpieczeństwo publiczne*, [in:] *Bezpieczeństwo wewnętrzne RP w ujęciu systemowym i zadań administracji publicznej*, B. Wiśniewski, S. Zalewski (eds.), WSA, Bielsko-Biała 2006, p. 28.

<sup>3</sup> J. Dworzecki, *Policja w Polsce. Wybrane zagadnienia*, EAS, Kraków 2011, p. 31–32.

<sup>4</sup> M. Stefański, *Prewencyjno-edukacyjne działania Policji w systemie bezpieczeństwa publicznego*, AP Słupsk, Słupsk 2012, p. 15.

<sup>5</sup> R. Szeremietiew, *Strategia narodowego bezpieczeństwa*, Bellona, Warszawa 2000, p. 9.

<sup>6</sup> Area of knowledge – social sciences, field of science – social science, scientific discipline – security science. Source: Rozporządzenie Ministra Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego z dnia 8 sierpnia 2011 r. w sprawie obszarów wiedzy, dziedzin nauki i sztuki oraz dyscyplin naukowych i artystycznych (Dz. U. z 2011 r. Nr 179, poz. 1065); *Funkcje teorii nauk o bezpieczeństwie*, J. Piwowarski (ed.), Wyższa Szkoła Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego i Indywidualnego „Apeiron” w Krakowie, Kraków 2014.

<sup>7</sup> J. Piwowarski, *Three Pillars of Security Culture*, „Kultura Bezpieczeństwa. Nauka - Praktyka - Refleksje”, 2015, no 19, p. 34–44.

THE ESSENCE OF THE CRIME PREVENTION SYSTEM IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Initiatives taken in the Slovak Republic for the prevention of manifestations of social misconduct are not a modern product of the activity of state and local institutions that have in their area of interest all kinds of social pathologies are included. Even before 1990, there have been a number of projects and ventures, which were essentially aimed at prevention of any identified forms of conduct not in conformity with generally accepted standards of social life.

At the highest levels of state authorities were taken the decisions about implementation of various initiatives, in particular of organizational and legislative nature, aimed at implementation of comprehensive and coordinated system of education, including socially expected socializing and resocializing actions, with a view to eliminate the root causes, factors and conditions for not accepted behavior<sup>8</sup>. In this regard, this task is given to the institutions forming the criminal-law system, which the national uniformed formations responsible for security and public order are included as well as other entities included in the law enforcement and the judicial system. Putting the responsibility for activities in the field of social prevention on mentioned entities, not ruled out activity in the other state, self-government or social organizations<sup>9</sup>.

In their actions to some extent correlated with the concept of criminal policy, the focus was primarily put on preventing and reducing recidivism – the return to the crime of people already penalized, the actual strengthening of the institutional and legal protection of children and young people from social pathology in the form, for example, alcoholism or drug addiction. Authorities also devoted a significant numbers of forces and means to protect property. But above all, at a legend of work for social interest, the focus has been made more on the protection of State property, as the leading form of ownership at that time.

By making critical analysis of actions undertaken, or remaining only in the stage of declarations, in the field of the prevention of manifestations of social failure, it should be noted that during the “people’s democracy”

<sup>8</sup> J. Matis, P. Hamaj, M. Martinská, *Sociológia armády: základy sociológie vojny a armády pre príslušníkov Ozbrojených síl Slovenskej republiky*, Akadémia ozbrojených síl generála M. R. Štefánika, Liptovský Mikuláš 2008, p. 27–35.

<sup>9</sup> J. Bubelíni, *Prevenencia kriminality*, Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych, Bratysława 2001, p. 74.

in Czechoslovakia, their effectiveness was low. Above all, do not manage to evenly spread the degree of intensity, EC implemented activities and preventive initiatives, all diagnosed areas of social life, in which the identified disadvantages. Above all, it was not managed to evenly spread the degree of intensity in implemented activities and preventive initiatives in all diagnosed areas of social life where dysfunctions were identified. In addition, many new actions, implemented to the current doctrine of the proceedings, were of strictly repressive nature.

In solving of social problems associated with pathologies did not help the ubiquitous ideologisation of state actions – according to which all actions taken and led by the communist party had to result in instant and spectacular effects, regardless of the costs incurred by society.

The socio-political changes that took place after 1989 made a negative effect on effectiveness of crime control, both in terms of preventive and repressive measures. In this transitional period, particularly prevention was underestimated and was treated “with neglect”, all earlier started actions, campaigns or preventive programs or were discontinued or made unsystematically. No a surprise is the fact, that many of preventive measures implemented after the end of 1980s, did not bring the expected results, and during this period due to the lack of functional controls and coordination of preventive work, we could predict that the issue will continue to be marginalized.

In a period of political, economic and social changes after 1989, the various entities that make up the Slovak law enforcement system, gradually sought to abandon the responsibility for the implementation of operations in the framework of crime prevention<sup>10</sup>, and any amendment to the exist-

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<sup>10</sup> Crime prevention is the prevention and protection against crime. In this term series of deliberate, planned and coordinated actions are included, aimed at neutralizing the causes of crime and the prevention of manifestations of social failure. From a social and pragmatic point of view, crime prevention is a justified action, with clear aim and long-term planned with professional coordination, that contribute to the eradication of sources of incidence of delinquencies. In these activities state institutions, self-government and social organizations are involved, which, by the selection of the appropriate forms and methods and strategy, prevent potential threats to public security and, in addition, have the task of neutralize any manifestations of socially non-accepted behavior and the promotion of citizenship-making conduct and to promote anti-criminal conditions of social existence. When planning projects in the framework of crime prevention, you need to keep in mind that crime is only one of many forms of social pathology. To identify the phenomenon of socio-pathological nature (also re-

ing legislation resulted in the removal of regulations linked to the broader tasks of prevention. For example, from the Law no 40, 24 April 1974 on Korpus Bezpieczeństwa Narodowego [State Security Corps], the regulations in the field of crime prevention of the new formation have not been moved to the new bill regulating the formation of Korpus Policji [Police Corps], Ustawa Rady Narodowej Republiki Słowackiej no 204, 29 April 1991 on Korpus Policji Republiki Słowackiej. Just another legal act defin-

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ferred to as social deviance), is one of the most serious contemporary social problems. They are tightly linked with the social axiological-normative system and minutely react to any change in public life and its consequences. They are tightly coupled with the social axiological system and minutely react to any change in public life and its consequences. The widely understood non-cyclic structures and social functions that are typically preceded by changes in citizenship, parallel occurs the reorientation of the entities-parts of the system (i.e. in terms of moral, social and cultural standards) and their assimilation into the determinants of socio-pathological phenomena. To the identified modern phenomena of social inadequacy are included: deliberate and conscious absence of pupils in compulsory school-attendance (truancy), bullying (i.e. at school, at work, in education and care- correctional facilities), mobbing, alcoholism, drugs and other addictions (i.e. gambling, smoking), domestic violence, aggression, bullying, child abuse and child neglect, vicious and repeated solicitation, stalking, threatening the security of someone (stalking), prostitution, pornography, procuring, trafficking in human beings and trafficking in organs, sexual exploitation of children (including commercial), sexual harassment, vandalism (i.e. illegal graffiti), violence in stadiums (i.e. crime, hooligans), riot, public disorder, collective, group membership of an extremist, religious sects, racism, xenophobia, aggression (cyberbullying), phishing sensitive personal information (phishing, pharming), suicide, euthanasia, corruption, clientelism, other phenomena of socially danger (misdemeanors, a lower form of deliberate violations of applicable law), crime (including the form of dividing it in accordance with the dispositions of the Penal Code on crimes and misdemeanors). A significant part of the pathologies are mutually linked. In further consequence, such conglomerates lead to infringement of the existing regulations (misdemeanors, crimes) or provide the conditions for occurrence and duration of criminal acts. The complementary concept of crime prevention is the issue of criminal repression. Criminal repression fights the socio-pathological states, using for this purpose, legal sanctions and measures that are intended to prevent the preparation and committing an offence. This concept also includes the right to limit the citizens' rights, through the comprehensive system (the police, prosecution, courts) and types of prosecution of perpetrators of criminal offences (public and private). Preventive efforts are designed to create opportunities for law-abiding conduct, especially for people of specific risk groups, which are potential perpetrators of delinquencies. If preventive initiatives fail to provide the prophylactic effect and it comes to break the existing legal norms, the next stage will be repressive activities. Mutual relationship, the complementarity of prevention and repression, combat violence in the interests of society. Source: own work.

ing and specifying the activities of Police Corps, which was Ustawa Rady Narodowej Republiki Słowackiej nr 171 z dn. 6 czerwca 1993 r. o Korpusie Policji, pointed at § 2 pkt 3 the need to take by this dispositional group the prevention actions. A similar situation occurred in the case of new legal acts regulating the activities of the Slovak courts, which also in the initial period of transformation did not include preventive role in the initiatives undertaken by the institutions of national system of justice.

After 1989 a clear tendency to disregard the existing legislation was detected among citizens<sup>11</sup>. Unfortunately, this condition, although in a slightly smaller size, can be observed to this day. In the first decade of the initiated political changes, citizens of the Slovak Republic in an inadequate way, according to the formal-legal dispositions being in force, saw the issue of theirs' fundamental rights and freedoms. In extreme cases, the democratic system in which the source of power is the will of the majority of citizens, were seen as a prelude to the anarchist behavior, especially by those with a tendency to commit crimes. Apathy and passivity of the society facing violence, manifesting itself inter alia in reluctance to cooperate with the police and other institutions of internal security system, was characteristic for the end of the 20th century.

In addition, other endo- and exogenous factors affected crime rate in Slovakia. These negative factors include inter alia accumulation of social and economic problems, among which the unemployment emerged, inconsistent legislative policy, the opening of borders, economic problems in neighboring countries, and the total lack or low quality control tools and mechanisms, with a view of implementation, by national competent authorities, of initiatives for verification the legality of industrial processes of transformation process taking. On the one hand changes determine the dynamic transformation and the development of the Slovak society and, on the other hand, were the reason for the sharp increase of the level of crime<sup>12</sup>.

At the beginning of 1989 on the territory of the Slovak Republic offences 46 398 were reported, four years of intensive transformation

<sup>11</sup> Š. Kočan, *História a budúcnosť inštitútu vyšetrovania v Slovenskej republike*, [in:] *Vyšetrovanie – história, súčasnosť a budúcnosť*, Zborník z vedeckej konferencie so zaslanými zahraničnými príspevkami konanej dňa 7 septembra 2012, J. Viktoriová, J. Blatnický (eds.), Akademia Korpusu Policji, Bratislava 2012, p. 14–25.

<sup>12</sup> J. Viktoriová, *Právne a etické aspekty vyšetrovania*, [in:] *Vyšetrovanie – história, súčasnosť a budúcnosť*, Zborník z vedeckej konferencie so zaslanými zahraničnými príspevkami

later, crime indicators peaked 146 125 delinquencies. At the same time, crime detection level decreased from 87,8% in 1989 to 36,3% in 1993. A consequence of the rapid growth of crime in Slovakia was a fall of citizens' feeling of security, which led to the radicalization of social expectations, resulting inter alia in a request for stricter state repressive action, through the implementation of "tougher" law and ever more stringent criminal penalties.

After rapid increase of the level of crime and accompanying phenomenon of negative social changes in 1990, the Government of the Slovak Republic has taken action, involving the implementation of the regulations of the Resolution No. 984 of 22 December 1992 concerning crime control programme and implementation of preventive initiatives to improve public security. To stop the growing trend and a gradual reduce the level of crime, is considered one of the basic elements necessary to stabilise the social situation and the further development of the state.

The legal act mentioned above focused on four key areas:

- creation of necessary conditions for prevention of further increase in crime and a more effective fight against this phenomenon
- creation of conditions for improved coordination, consolidation and planning activities aimed at crime combating,
- preparation of a coherent concept of crime prevention and the introduction of its implementation,
- organizing and supporting research on crime, including the search for effective forms of its prevention, striving to give new impetus to the society for the prevention and mobilization of the media, the institutions, bodies and entities to help opinion leaders in prevention initiatives implemented.

Basing on the assumptions included in the above program, Rada Rządu Republiki Słowackiej ds. Prewencji Kryminalnej [The Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Crime Prevention] was set up and given a constitution<sup>13</sup> putting activity of this decision-making body on the area of preventing and combating the occurrence of phenomena of social failure in Slovakia. At the same time the Commission of the Council was

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konanej dnia 7 septembra 2012, J. Viktoriová, J. Blatnický (eds.), Akademia Korpusu Policji, Bratislava 2012, p. 7–13.

<sup>13</sup> Uchwała nr 214 Rządu Republiki Słowackiej z dnia 5 kwietnia 1993 r. o powołaniu Rady Rządu Republiki Słowackiej ds. Prewencji Kryminalnej.



constituted with four expert groups dealing with issues related to drug addiction, money laundering, the prevention of the occurrence of social pathology in children and young people's behaviour and tackling crime by Roma people.

Dynamic development of the crime after 1993, especially in the economic sphere and the financial sector, created the need to define new areas in which immediate preventive action had to be taken, towards the creation of a healthy, democratic and law-abiding state.

The economic transformation of the country, including the proprietary transformation of state property and the democratization of social life, have opened up new opportunities for the development of economic crime and, in particular, such its manifestations as corruption, tax fraud, customs, credit, the penetration of the native and foreign organized criminal groups to legal, national business sector, money laundering and other delinquencies in banking industry.

To meet the situation threatening the internal security, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted on 21 March 1995, Resolution No. 128 implementing the programme for the eradication of corruption, under the name of "clean hands". At the same time, in the place of dissolved Crime Prevention Council, a new authority Rada Rządu Republiki Słowackiej ds. Zwalczenia Działań Antyspołecznych [The Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic of The Fight Against Anti-social Activities] was founded. The concept of operation of the new Council was substantially altered, compared to doctrine implemented in previous years. The concept of operation of the new Council was substantially altered, compared to doctrine implemented in previous years. The Constitution of the Council did not contain regulations pointing its leading role in coordinating the preparation and implementation of the national crime prevention program. The Council's role was limited to inspection initiatives in other state and self-government administration, which, by law, were obliged to correlate activities with issues listed in the "clean hands" programme.

As a result of the amendments made in 1995, in the first place in the classification of the most dangerous phenomena of social failure, included the production, trafficking and drug addiction<sup>14</sup>. Full responsibility in preventing and combating this form of social pathology was given to the

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<sup>14</sup> M. Lisoň, *Drogová kriminalita – možnosti jej kontroly PZ*, Akademia Korpusu Policji, Bratislava 2003, p. 8–15.



newly created Commission For Counteracting Drug Addiction affiliated by Commission of Ministers. Hopes put in Council for The Fight Against Anti-social Activities for more effective prevention and combating of social pathology did not come true. The Council, despite of the existing supervisory, preventative and repressive instruments, failed to revamp the doctrine to deal with the phenomena of social misconduct, adopted in the activities of authorities of the Slovak system of internal security. Practice indicated that the functioning of the Council has serious practical constraints, and the formula of its strategy quickly exhausted, preventing thus the effective implementation of the activities in the area of crime prevention. Practice indicated that the functioning of the Council has serious practical constraints, and the formula of its strategy quickly got exhausted, preventing thus the effective implementation of the activities in the area of crime prevention.

As a result of negative experiences from the period of activity of Council for The Fight Against Anti-social Activities, authorities had returned to the original concept for the social pathology fighting. The Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Crime Prevention has been restored, and its the new constitution defined its initiative coordination and advisory role as the leading state authority in preventing social phenomena related to the behaviour of individuals or social groups not fulfilling the current values of the Slovak culture. The reconstruction of the Council had created the organizational conditions permitting long-term control-recursive activities designed to limit, and consequently reduce the threats to security and public order, which were the source of the dysfunctional social behavior. The fundament for initiatives of the Council is the „Narodowa strategia prewencji kryminalnej” [“National crime prevention strategy”], which, as the document binding all state administration and self-government, is adopted for a period of 3–4 years<sup>15</sup>. The Council is headed by its Chairman – Minister of the Interior, include also representatives of the central state administration, local authorities form towns and municipalities corporation, representatives of the national association of entrepreneurs, representatives of the Slovak association of insurers, the

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<sup>15</sup> See i.e. „Narodowa Strategia Prewencji Kryminalnej na lata 2012-2015”. Source: Uchwała nr 807 Rządu Republiki Słowackiej z dnia 14 grudnia 2011 r. w sprawie projektu strategii prewencji kryminalnej i przeciwdziałania zachowaniom antyspołecznym (Dz. Urz. nr 40458/2011).

persons representing the social organizations and associations, employees of local government bodies, as well as representatives of the selected research institutions. Deputy Chairman is the Minister of Justice. The Executive Unit of the Council is the Secretariat of the Council, which is located in the organizational structures of the Ministry of the Interior.

State administration appoint committees for prevention, which are advisory bodies of administrative complex (voivode, district heads). If necessary, such committees may also be established at the level of cities and municipalities.

In the Slovak Republic operates a three-tier system of crime prevention, which includes<sup>16</sup>:

- national level,
- regional level,
- local level.

#### CRIME PREVENTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

In the framework of the system for crime prevention at national level, the primarily tasks are:

- legislative – the development of legal norms for any matter correlated with the concept of crime prevention, preparation for implementation within the framework of the legislative procedure, acts relating to the prevention and eradication of the phenomena of social failure,
- conceptual, whose principal role is to formulate the rules and draw new areas of environmental impact of preventive policy. The doctrine of preventive activities in conjunction with the penalty policy form criminal policy, as a subsystem of implemented security policy. Unlike penalty policy, which represents a defensive strategy for crime control, and its essential premise focused on socially repressive activities (oriented at delinquencies which already existed), politics in the field of preventive action refers to the future and offensive aspect of crime control, whose essence is to prevent prohibited acts by using the methods and forms of the soft prevention,
- coordination (hierarchisation) and time-synchronized planning prevention national programmes and grass-roots initiatives, concepts and strat-

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<sup>16</sup> Rada Rządu Republiki Słowackiej ds. Prewencji Kryminalnej „Narodowa strategia prewencji kryminalnej w Republice Słowackiej”, Bratysława 2003, Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych, p. 15.

egies to prevent crime, by a special team of experts-coordinators. The tasks arising from the international commitments of the Slovak Republic in the field of crime prevention are also coordinated,

- the financial support of the rational and effective distribution of funds to preventive initiatives which respond to emerging locally and regionally forms of social pathologies that are taken at different levels and by any entities. In particular supported are the actions, campaigns and prevention programmes, showing great flexibility, while preserving its essential assumptions. Actions aspiring to obtain grants must have the same key objectives as the national policy in the field of preventive action,
- guidance, counselling and information in the field of technical support of national crime prevention system services and creating a new outside-system structures for the prevention of various pathologies in other state and social institutions, acting on behalf of a broad public security,
- educational, concerning primarily the implementation of training in crime prevention issues and conduct training for representatives of the areas belonging to the other areas of social life, for example experts from civil defence, fire protection, education, social welfare, health care, etc.

Crime prevention system actors at national level are: the Parliament, the Government, a constitutional advisory bodies and other authorities.

At ministerial level the same activities of crime prevention area are the same as on the governmental level but limited to the real needs and instruments of the particular Office. At that level the separate organizational cells located in the structures of the Ministry deal with the problem.

Range of prevention initiatives also complement the actions, programmes and preventive campaigns organised by other institutions of state administration and local self-governments, which for the purposes of action taken in the form of its specialized agencies or structures and cells.

The tasks of the government as a component of the Slovak system of crime prevention consist inter alia the acceptance for further proceeding of new conceptual solutions for combating crime and preventing various pathologies from spreading, committing crime prevention strategy, as the basic document report summarising the tasks of the state and its entities to improve the public security. The strategy includes possible to achieve key objectives, taking into account the previously specified time horizon for them, priorities and stages and ways of their implementation. In addition at governmental meetings the results of the activities undertaken in

the framework of crime prevention system are discussed and the annual reports of these projects are approved<sup>17</sup>.

#### CRIME PREVENTION SYSTEM AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Crime prevention system located at the regional level is based on the administrative divisions (counties, districts) local or territorial subdivisions. There are regions where institutions of public administration and local authorities are combined and together carry out the tasks arising from the "National crime prevention strategy" for the common good of the people.

Elements of regional prevention system are the relevant government offices, as well as their local agencies designated for the implementation of specific tasks in the field of public safety. The status of regional office also have the central offices but only in the case of providing preventive tasks assigned to a particular region<sup>18</sup>.

Cooperation both on local and regional scale is a sing of present times, because administrative divisions do not present barriers to prevent the spread of social pathology. To effectively counteract all forms of social failure, the widest knowledge of such phenomena is needed, including information about the causes and effects of mechanisms affecting them, and the indications that several phenomena might occur on the given territory, in closer od further future. In addition, experience worked out on the basis of trial and error, on the experience of regions that had suffered from such pathologies and their transfer to another region may be of inestimable help in the effective fight against any manifestations of social failure.

The work of the regional offices to coordinate the fight against the social pathology, oversees a Government Council for Crime Prevention. The head of the office is the regional coordinator. A regional office is located in the structures of provincial offices, and its employees co-create a strategy of preventive action, preventive education and, corresponding to the specificity of the region. Every year the regional office shall draw up a report for the Government Council on the activities in the framework of crime prevention in the region. To the area of interest of regional offices for crime prevention and subjected implementing cells include issues related to the broader crime and other delinquencies and any manifestations

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<sup>17</sup> Ustawa nr 583 z dn. 3 grudnia 2008 r. o prewencji kryminalnej i innych działaniach o charakterze antyspołecznym (Zbiór Ustaw nr 202 z dn. 20.12.2008, p. 5018).

<sup>18</sup> M. Ondicová, S. Uhrín, *Prevenia kriminality*, Aleš Čeněk, s. r. o., Plzeň 2012, p. 43.

of anti-social behaviour that are identified and analyzed, and then fought with the use of the available legal economic and social instruments. At the regional level preliminary analysis of the projects (by local actors) are also carried out, which relate to actions, campaigns and prevention programmes, the proposed – after approval by the Council and by its subsidies for the implementation on the given area. A regional office for crime prevention through its main representative – the regional Coordinator – has substantial oversight over activities undertaken by other offices of local self-governments, operating within the province or region.

#### **THE TASK OF THE CRIME PREVENTION SYSTEM AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

The lowest level of the Slovak crime prevention system, are the population and administrative areas of the cities, municipalities or parts thereof, for example districts, settlements. The competent authorities for the task of combating and prevention of social failure phenomena are all-terrain, government authorities as well as other local facility, set up to carry out the tasks for the security of residents. The composition of prevention system institutions is supplemented by organizational cells of state dispositional groups i.e. Police Corps, branches of social assistance associations or other public-benefit organizations, etc.

The actions implemented in the framework of crime prevention strategies at the local level have their specificity. Noticeable for many years is the higher efficiency prevention efforts at that level, but this efficiency is dependent on many conditions. There should be included, for example, the lack of anonymity of people under prophylactic influence. In smaller gatherings, the legal standards are much more rigorously obeyed than is the case in large urban areas.

In fact, breaking the established and universally accepted order brings consequences that are at its core more dissuasive and deeply felt by all members of the community. A small community is able to generate orders of legal nature, for example in the tone of order-prescriptive, which are a kind of “tailor-made” to the identified phenomena of socially negative provenience.

Actions undertaken in cities and towns have a complex character, and are not only limited to the situational prevention, which is by definition, associated with the specified from a phenomenon occurring in a specific time and place. Preventive action at local level include also social prevention issues and shape the anti-victimization attitudes.

All preventive projects should be carried out at any stage of preventive action, i.e. in the phase of primary prevention, secondary prevention (re-prevention), restorative (tertiary)<sup>19</sup>.

The individual stages of primary, secondary and tertiary preventive actions are implemented in all three areas of prophylactic influence: social, situational, victimizational<sup>20</sup>.

The advantage of the preventive measures taken at the local level is the fact that in participation are interested not only the local self-government

<sup>19</sup> Primary prevention focuses on educational, organization of leisure activities and initiatives, as well as advisory activities targeted to the general public. To inspire people to make efforts to raise the level of security, both in individual, as well as a bit of a broader area – in local communities (closest surroundings). In the framework of primary educational impact, particular attention is paid to children and young people (i.e. in the organisation of spare time and free access to the infrastructure to allowing the practice of any form of physical activity, including sport). The basic institution of this form of prevention is family, school environment and local community. Secondary prevention focuses on people with victimizational characteristics and predispositions and individuals exposed to become the offender. In the area of interest of secondary prevention are also individuals from social risk groups (inter alia under care of state social assistance system, a persons coming from the dysfunctional families), as well as the persons at risk or already experiencing various forms of social pathology (i.e. addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling, victims of physical and psychological abuse, truancy, vandalism, ethnic conflicts, long-term unemployment) and people exposed to other effects of criminogenic phenomena. Recipients of prevention, undertaken in the framework of secondary prevention are both potential victims and potential perpetrators of crimes. Restorative prevention (tertiary) focuses on people who have already experienced the crime, both as victims and as perpetrators. Undertaken actions are designed to prevent the repetition of situation in which a person under preventive impact could again become victims (secondary victimization) or return to crime (prevention of repeat offences). In addition, all initiatives intended to this phase of preventive measures, including multidimensional continued resocialization and reconstruction of the dysfunctional social environment. Prevention is aimed at victims and perpetrators of delinquencies, and its main tenets are based on providing effective social reintegration i.e. in the form of psychiatric assistance, psychological, health, employment, including retraining, social counselling and family, help in obtaining a dwelling, etc.). Source: Own work based on Ustawy nr 583 z dn. 3 grudnia 2008 r. o prewencji kryminalnej i innych działaniach o charakterze antyspołecznym.

<sup>20</sup> The area of impact of social prevention are all identified manifestations of illegal activities. These are the initiatives to counter any acts of prohibited, both criminal offences and offences, as well as to prevent the factors catalyzing the occurrence of social failure phenomena. These activities are designed to affect the process of socialization and social integration, and their main aim is to change the unfavourable social and

and government agencies, but also the surrounding entities and private enterprises, as well as the associations of local communities. Obtained effects are felt not only in the form of a decrease of crime rate, which is confirmed by statistics, but also bring other non-measurable benefits changing the attitudes of citizens in regard to his own safety, increase a sense of security at his residence, enhanced cooperation with state institutions, local self-governments, residents in their place of residence or to intensify neighborhood relationships, as well as the evolution of bilateral responsibility (residents and authorities) for the level of security on their own area.

These positive consequences for the socio-psychological nature do not relate only to the period and to the entity, to which the prevention efforts were originally targeted, but in the long term have also wider impact on the whole local society. To obtain the highest efficiency of initiatives to counteract the various pathologies from spreading, local authorities of crime prevention system must create certain conditions, including:

- provide adequate to needs, team of qualified experts with rich experience in the field, as well as issues to be appropriately undertaken i.e. in terms of organizational and methodical preparations for implementation of prevention programmes, coordination of the process, their total assessment and critical analysis,

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economic conditions, which are seen as the most important causes of the incidence of delinquencies. Within the framework of social prevention actions are created, the campaigns and prevention programmes targeted at the general public, including all age groups. Within the framework of social prevention actions are created the campaigns and prevention programmes targeted at the general public, including all age groups. Initiatives are focused on individuals and groups excluded from participation in society, as well as targeted at families, children and young people, persons covered by penitentiary and postpenitentiary care. Situation of prevention is oriented on crime prevention, protection of public order, health, life and property of its operators. In the activities undertaken in the framework of this area, it is understood that the specific types of crime occur at specific intervals, and are accompanied by specific circumstances. Using means of physical and technical protection, action is taken to minimize the criminogenic situations and conditions. In the context of prevention activities the most effective is prevention crime against property. Victimizational prevention is based on the concept of promoting secure behaviour, particularly with regard to the different situations and criminal threats, and her primary motive is to psychically prepare the potential victims of delinquencies. In addition, the initiatives directed both to the individual and social groups are carried out in the form of inter alia legal advice, psychological support and health care, self defense courses and promotion of modern technical means for personal protection. Source: Own work.



- get the support of government authorities and higher local self-government, not only in terms of the implementation of the new legislation, whether the pilot prophylactic proposals, but also prevention programmes in terms of material support (financial, material).

What is very characteristic for crime prevention system implemented at local level is the fact that all the activities are shaped under specific population and take into account its current needs, because they relate to the closest environment, home, school, place of work and rest, and other places where members of the community function, and the merits of this issue is perceived in many countries<sup>21</sup>.

#### THE NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR 2012–2015. THE OUTLINE

The Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the „Narodowa strategija prewencji kryminalnej na lata 2012–2015 [“National crime prevention strategy for 2012–2015”], which in its assumptions refers both to the previously carried out preventive activities, in many cases being a natural continuation, and sets new directions for the development of initiatives aimed at preventing and combating the effects of social failure in the country.

Taking into consideration the dynamism of social life, which is attended by every modern state, with intense changes on many levels, the new strategy was based on the priorities in the field of preventing and combating crime, in order to meet the needs of citizens.

National experience acquired as a result of many years of work in the field of crime prevention, as well as expectations and recommendations of international organizations dealing with crime prevention, new areas with a need to take new initiatives on a preventive character arose.

The priorities are not the only elements of crime prevention strategies, however, are its most important parts and should include issues such as:

- the desire to limit the growth of crime and the presence of other social pathologies, as well as modification of the burden of their quality – the degree of social harm,
- to improve the regional and local state of security,
- the elimination of the phenomena of social failure in high-risk groups (negative phenomena related to particular individual; in social dimension the phenomena of negative associated e.g. with the family),

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<sup>21</sup> R. Svatoš, *Kriminologie*, Aleš Čeněk, s. r. o., Plzeň 2012, p. 86–87.

- combating all manifestations of promoting in media a positive image of antisocial behavior, unlawful or other penalised activities and how to proceed, which both from a legal and a social point of view are generally not accepted by the citizens of the country.

In selected ministries operate specified organizational units responsible for implementation of comprehensive or partial tasks within set priorities of crime prevention system.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs take preventive measures in the area of the project consisting inter alia on initiating and sustaining social dialogue (bilateral, multilateral) on joint prevention of identified pathological phenomena, at all levels of management of the office. This office is responsible for organisation of specialized training for state administration and local self-governments employees and social organizations or public benefit entities, which operate in the national crime prevention system. The Ministry cooperates with other entities from the country and from abroad in the preparation, implementation and verification of the effectiveness of planned, implemented or continued prevention programmes.

The Ministry of Justice cooperates with offices (committees) of United Nations, both in terms of prevention of and the fight against crime and common criminal policy. Having regard to the relevant aspects of the prevention of leveled against specific forms of crime, it provides an appropriate level of training and in-service training of judges and court assessors, and enhances the level of passive and active security in the prisons.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Care and Family within the framework of broader crime prevention, inter alia implements the guidelines of the „Narodowy program pomocy dzieciom” [“National programme of assistance for children”], and also initiates the integration projects targeting Roma minorities. In addition, the authority takes preventive actions aimed at violence in family, including tasks arising from the „Narodowy program zapobiegania przemocy wobec kobiet” [“National programme for the prevention of violence against women”]. The Ministry also implemented a number of projects, with a view to effectively tackle domestic violence, with a particular focus on the protection of women and children rights, who are the most vulnerable to this form of social pathology. Ministry officials organise professional training and vocational advice directed primarily to social workers, who in their daily work have to deal with the different forms of social deviance. In addition, particular offices, initiate, in

support of field social work, projects oriented at prevention of drug consumption and other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as they work to reduce crime involving abuse and bullying on children. In terms of social function, which is a component of the national employment policy, The Ministry of Labour, Social Care and Family implements, using existing instruments, activities in the framework of active labour market policies. These initiatives are aimed at reducing the real level of unemployment, which is one of the potential factors the existence of social failure phenomena in the given area.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports within the framework of the national strategy of prevention, carries out tasks under eg. „Narodowy program edukacji i wychowania w Republice Słowackiej” [“National programme for education and education in the Slovak Republic”]. The focus is primarily put on legal and social awareness, and identifying the appropriate moral attitudes. In addition, this office initiates preventive programmes focused on issues of violence and aggression in the school environment, as well as organizing activities that take place in the school or outside its area, not being a part of the compulsory school programme.

The Ministry of Agriculture implements, as part of crime prevention, inter alia activities from drug policy of the European Union, on the basis of e.g. “European programme for combating drugs addictions and trafficking.” This office harmonises the Community regulations to the current doctrine of national proceedings and legal order. In addition, the Ministry develops, coordinates and analyzes the effectiveness of implemented prevention, which in substance are centered around the issues about drug use. To activities of Ministry of Agriculture, which clearly have the preventive nature, are included all information activities centered around the issues of food safety, the potential epidemic of animal origin and the use of all available means, within the framework of activities aimed at ensuring safety of the forests and the creation of conditions for the proper growth and development.

The Ministry of Environment concentrates its activities on prevention for reduction the actual crime level through more efficient deployment and management of subordinate uniformed formations (eg. nature protection guards) and the improvement ,in national parks and protected landscape areas, information infrastructure system.

The Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications implements on multiple levels of activity system solutions aimed at improving the current state of security, to the underlying statutory area of operations. The Ministry puts a very strong emphasis on the training of their employees, and persons employed in companies cooperating with the State Treasury agencies, whose activities focus on transport and ICT support.

The Ministry of Construction and Regional Development in the sphere of preventive tasks, executes inter alia inspections in residential and commercial facilities, and manufacturing plants, which are the property of the State Treasury, for the proper use of them, in accordance with the applicable laws and other regulations. Regarding to the proceedings in competition for positions in the State Treasury companies, the Ministry uses the best solutions from the area of human resources management and the highest standards of business ethics. In addition, the operation control of Ministry, also apply to the distribution of budgetary resources and targeted grants from external sources, for example EU funding, including financial support assigned on specific projects. Specialized offices of the Ministry, provide explaining actions of any emerging information (even anonymous) concerning irregularities in the management of the property and public funds.

The Ministry of Defence places special emphasis on monitoring activities of subordinate offices, in order to prevent any attempt to use military equipment to other activities (such as terrorism) than those assigned constitutionally and statutorily to the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic. In addition, intensive prevention and educational efforts are directed toward the soldiers and civil corps employees, aimed at preventing drug and criminal offences within the military. The Ministry of Defence participates in the construction of an integrated system for the state security and co-works with crime prevention system authorities at national, regional and local level.

The Ministry of Culture organizes a lot of education initiatives, whose offer is directed to all age groups and social collectivities. In addition, in the process of training of subordinate institutions' employees, the Ministry places special emphasis on discussing issues related to combating and eradicating the phenomena of social failure.

The Ministry of Economy shall monitor the use of state budget funds, by operators, forming a part of mobilisational-defence system of the coun-

try, that inform the public about products and dangerous materials in circulation on the secondary market, as well as any attempt to violate standards of national energy economy and controls the exploitation of natural resources of the Republic.

The Ministry of Health in the framework of the crime prevention system, is working closely with law enforcement and the justice system and the media, as well as actively participates in all preventive initiatives, primarily focused on the protection of children and women against all forms of crime. The Office and its subordinate entities are the leading partners, programmes of action and preventive campaigns, particularly directed against all forms of drug crime. Trainings organized for workers in the health care system focus *inter alia* on the phenomenon of corruption in public, and any of its cases are notified immediately to the competent services.

The strategy for 2012–2015, the scope of the tasks carried out in the framework of the social prevention will cover, *inter alia*:

- the transmission to the general public of knowledge through initiatives, including all age and social groups, in the form of publicly available scientific studies, reports, final research articles in widely circulated magazines, as well as via direct broadcast of radio and television, public discussions and lectures, information and materials that promote and advice,
- initiatives to support family, by permission and with the active involvement of it, in the form of *inter alia* lectures and discussions, interviews with parents, pupils and students, family counselling, social support and free access to health care, periodic financial aid,
- a wide range of educational programmes for children and young people, implemented within the framework of the process of teaching and learning, individual and group counseling, organized out-of-school activities, the organisation of sports and leisure activities, courses and training and re-training courses, as well as tv and radio broadcasts of an autodidactic character,
- help those non-resourceful by creating new jobs, the construction of infrastructure and socio-appliances for occupants in severe life situation, implementation of solutions for an alternatively counter the delinquencies, improving quality of legal and socio-legal care for children – espe-

- cially those suffering from crime, an increase in the number of correctional treatment initiatives, addressed to persons taking a jail penalty,
- help those under the post-penitentiary care inter alia in terms of permanent curatorial advice, solvation of important life problems, when searching for place of residence and work,
  - help those from socially marginalised groups (including national and ethnic minorities) in pre-school and school, by nurturing the tradition and development of their own culture, organizing vocational training and help in finding employment, and support in solving housing, counselling and social care, initiating prevention programmes addressed to narrow audience.

Situational prevention activities put focus mainly on, inter alia:

- designing a secured space to achieve the desired objectives (i.e. restrictions on access for intruders to the clearly defined privacy zone, reducing the number of acts of vandalism, a significant reduction in offences, to create an unattractive environment for an intruder, as for example the lack of places to hide, the strengthening of identity and social ties among people, traffic reduction – traffic noise reduction to create a place for leisure activities, to strengthen the sense of responsibility among the people for the common good, decreasing the activity of the Police),
- designing and constructing of safe buildings, with inter alia isolated entry zones insulated with anti-theft doors and windows, modern ventilation systems, permanent security facilities (i.e. bars), CCTV monitoring system<sup>22</sup>,
- designing and constructing of safe, modern car parks (i.e. good localisation, innovative self-service solutions, technical and electronic security systems)<sup>23</sup>,
- bringing more light to the public area (for example, space for pedestrians, bus stops, developing organisational and legal regulations to ob-

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<sup>22</sup> CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) – the essential elements that make up this system includes cameras, monitors, monitory vision control systems, as well as auxiliary equipment. There are several types of observation. These include the identification, diagnosis, detection, crowd control. Depending on the type of observation the relation of the object to screen height is expressed by a different number. J. Dworzecki, *Taktyka i Techniki Interwencji*, GWSP, Gliwice 2010, p. 133.

<sup>23</sup> A. Veľas, *Mestské kamerové monitorovacie systémy ako prostriedok zvyšovania bezpečnosti v obciach a mestách*, [in:] *Zborník z 11. medzinárodnej vedeckej konferencie: Riešenie krízových situácií v špecifickom prostredí*, EDIS, Žilina 2006.

ligate responsible authorities to maintain illumination of the selected space by night),

- the appointment on local level analytic teams for the evaluation of the security in the closest area of buildings (inter alia estimating the risk of delinquencies of theft, destruction of property, the efficiency of building security, such as height and quality of fencing, analysis to identify critical sites allowing criminals to hide, the assessment of fire resistance of building elements and other components of the accompanying infrastructure such as waste baskets),
- keeping public places clean (e.g. identification of places threatened by vandalism and combating this phenomenon, garbage collection, preventing public places from being a place of illegal residence for homeless) and the carrying out of their personal technical supervision (eg. monitoring and control activities organized by officers of the Police Corps, the Police/Municipal Council, etc.),
- continued monitoring of security and public order, for example through patrol-intervention actions carried out by the officers of state and local uniformed services, inter alia in centers of cities, in large shopping centres where homeless people or benefiting from social assistance congregate, as well as persons committing offences, etc, to the care of vulnerable road users with a particular focus on children on their way to and from school, control of the places of beggars' residence, taking out of public use the places where there is a permanent infringement criminogenic sectors.

Initiatives in the area of victimization prevention focus on:

- spreading via the press, television, radio and the Internet, as well as local media and through leaflets, information about potential risks in the area of public security in the particular area and possible ways to prevent this phenomena, including to avoid risks by potential victims,
- organisation of programs, training and security briefings targeted to groups of potential risks (potential victims), especially to children, women, elderly people, people with disabilities,
- identify and publicise the situation, phenomena of criminogenic character as well as the implementation of solutions aimed at preventing such threats,
- starting so-called "hot lines" for citizens allowing the direct contact with the representatives of state administration, local self-governments



in the context of the prevention and control of specific phenomena of social maladjustments or other behaviors that do not fit in the legal and social standards,

- psychological, social support or in the form of legal advice to victims of crime,
- activities in the field of training for persons who according to their professional duties, come into contact with victims of crime,
- professional advice in emergency situations.

## CONCLUSIONS

The actual multidimensional scope of current or potential risks, obligates each state to continually improve their own actions and modifying the organizational and legal nature of the tools used in the prevention, diagnosis and detecting of delinquencies<sup>24</sup>. This situation is the main catalyst for providing a kind of institutional solutions, including systems whose individual components perform tasks in the sphere of widely understood of public security.

In the area of social prevention against social failure phenomena – colloquially known as the pathology – the largest contribution in Slovakia have the initiatives taken within the framework of the “national crime prevention strategy”. They are crucial for reducing crime and optimising the growth of a sense of security of citizens of the Slovak Republic. It should be noted, on the basis of inter alia statistical data showing the decrease of crime rate on the territory of Slovakia, that such holistic action, supported by inter alia reliable legislative work the legislature, already resulted in positive, synergic effects on the wider plane of action for maintaining and enhancing security culture.

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