

Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for 2016 to 2020



**PREVENTION
PAYS!**

**MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

„There is clear evidence that well-planned crime prevention strategies not only prevent crime and victimization, but also promote community safety and contribute to the sustainable development of 2 E/CN.15/2002/4. countries. Effective, responsible crime prevention enhances the quality of life of all citizens. It has long-term benefits in terms of reducing the costs associated with the formal criminal justice system, as well as other social costs that result from crime.“

(Crime Prevention Directive, UN Economic and Social Council Resolution No. 2002/13)



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I. Introduction

The crime prevention policy has had a long tradition in the democratic Czech Republic. It has been one of the key national priorities ever since the very beginning of the existence of the Czech Republic, i.e. since 1993, when the Czech authorities began to systematically shape crime prevention as an integral part of the Government policy.

The first Crime Prevention Strategy was adopted in the Czech Republic in 1996 and since then, the Czech Republic has been implementing and developing the crime prevention system at the national as well as local level and developing relevant procedures and practices of the public administration bodies and the local self-governing bodies in the context of the preventive approach to solving and addressing various types of violations of law (crimes and misdemeanours) and risks of crime, implementation of solutions to complex security situation at locations at risk, and assistance to victims and treatment of perpetrators. We keep strengthening cooperation and coordination among partners and stakeholders in crime prevention. Moreover, we keep developing international cooperation and using scientific knowledge and research output. This current Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for 2016 to 2020 (hereinafter the „Strategy“) derives from and builds on the above.

The Strategy strives to implement priorities stipulated by the Czech Government Policy Statement, which includes, among others, the “emphasis on preventive programs, close communication with the local self-governing bodies and a balance between individual elements of prevention and repression in order to effectively eliminate causes of social conflicts”, „a comprehensive approach to tensions at the socially sensitive areas”, „efforts to reach high standards of protection of human rights”, „efforts to minimize the risk of recidivism after release from prison”, „increased and stronger protection of victims of crime”, „increased financial literacy”, „an uncompromising fight against usury”, and „development of the civil society and support for NGOs”. As regards crime, the Government declared that „the focus on prevention is considered more beneficial, especially in the area of the juvenile delinquency. In the overall decreasing trend in crime, but in the light of differing security situation in different regions of the country, the Government considers it important to focus its prevention activities to complex programs, especially in the high risk regions”. The Government goals include the „involvement of volunteers in the broader spectrum of activities in maintaining safety and order.”

The Strategy builds on more general strategic documents issued by the Government of the Czech Republic which relate to the Government policies both in general and in respect of safety. It concerns primarily the Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development, the Security Strategy of the Czech Republic, the Strategy of Internal Security and Protection of the Population of the Czech Republic, and others. The Strategy also fits in the broader complex of the national penal and social policies.

Objectives and tasks formulated by this Strategy are further based on knowledge and experience gained from the annual evaluation of the already implemented prevention activities and tasks, deriving mainly from the Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015. It drew inspiration from findings of all members of the National Crime Prevention Committee and other partners and stakeholders, especially the regional

authorities and local self-governing bodies as well as non-governmental organizations. Finally, the Strategy reflects on extensive experience gained through international cooperation, whether through participation at various international forums targeting crime prevention or through bilateral relations. We also drew on results of research focused on crime prevention and the penal policy.

The Strategy does not address the areas which are closely related to crime prevention, but are governed by separate Government strategies and concepts or are embedded in this Strategy only marginally. This concerns, for example, the Concept of Fight Against Extremism (for individual years), the Czech Republic's Strategy to Fight Terrorism (since 2013), the Strategy to Fight the Organized Crime for 2015 to 2017, the Government Policy for Combating Corruption for 2015 to 2017, the Strategy for the Development of Czech Prisons until 2015, the National Drug Enforcement Strategy for 2010 to 2018, the Health 2020 - National Strategy to Promote Health and Disease Prevention, the National Action Plan on Child Injury Prevention, the Action Plan for Prevention of Domestic and Gender-based Violence for 2015 to 2018 (following the National Action Plan for Prevention of Domestic Violence for 2011 to 2014), National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2012 to 2015), the Social Inclusion Strategy for 2014 to 2020, the Strategy for Combating Social Exclusion for 2011 to 2015, the Strategy of Roma Integration up to 2020, the Strategy for Minority Policing, the Concept of Prevention and Approach to Homelessness in the Czech Republic up to 2020, the National Strategy for Protection of Children's Rights, the National Strategy for Primary Prevention of risk Behaviour of Children and the Youth for 2013 to 2018, the National Road Safety Strategy up to 2020, the National Cyber Security Strategy for 2015 to 2020, and many more instruments. Most of these above issues are coordinated with crime prevention, primarily through the work of the National Crime Prevention Committee.

As regards individual types of crime, the Strategy focuses primarily on general crimes, i.e. crimes that threaten and offend the public the most and often shape their perception of safety in their surroundings as well as their view on crime as a social phenomenon. Such crimes also have a significant impact on people's perception of activities of individual stakeholders involved in fighting crime (especially the Police of the CR and the Municipal Police forces, which are the most visible agents), even though the general crime hardly ever causes extreme damages. The Strategy therefore does not focus on specific forms of the particularly serious crime, such as terrorism, the organized crime, the economic crime, the drug-related crime, etc., which require specific approach and are often targeted by separate documents (see above).

Similarly, the Strategy avoids specific aspects relating to foreigners¹⁾ and their integration, illegal migration, etc. Foreigners as perpetrators of crime are, from the viewpoint of prevention, targeted by standard measures based on the Strategy, both in terms of prevention of various types of crime or foreigners as perpetrators or victims of crime. The specific programme for protection of foreigners as victims of human trafficking is the only exception to this rule. Changes in migration flows and the recent massive waves of migration may result in more foreigners residing in the Czech Republic or a significant increase in the number of

¹⁾ Foreigners are targeted, among others, by the Strategy of Integration of Foreigners, the current Procedure for the implementation of the updated Strategy of Integration of Foreigners – Living Together - in 2015, and the Government Policy for Integration of Foreigners.



illegal migrants and may force us to respond to new challenges and threats (for details, see Chapter VII).

Besides the outline of the current situation, the Strategy also defines the key objectives we shall focus on within a specific period of time. These objectives are defined at the global, strategic, and specific levels. The pending follow-up Action Plan for Crime Prevention in 2016 to 2020 will focus on determining the specific tasks that shall be met in this field. The implementation of objectives and tasks will be, as it was common in previous Strategies, evaluated on an annual basis. Evaluations allow us to respond flexibly to the changing security situation and trends in crime and to update objectives and goals regularly.

The process of implementation of the Strategy shall also be adequately financed, both by the individual Government ministries carrying out their ministerial strategies to respond to challenges under their responsibility as well as by the Crime Prevention System itself. The Government Resolution adopting the Strategy obliges the respective ministries to do so.





II. Global Objectives, Strategic Goals and Fundamental Principles of the Crime Prevention Policy in the Czech Republic for the years 2016 to 2020

1. GLOBAL OBJECTIVE:

The Czech Republic ranks among modern democratic countries promoting preventive approach to public safety and law and order, supported by appropriate systemic, organizational and financial means and measures.

Prevention of crime entails all measures to mitigate crime as well as its negative impact on individuals and the society, including fear of crime. Prevention of crime strives to tackle diverse crime motifs. Regardless of their potentially positive impact, law enforcement and penal sanctions remain secondary in the context of crime prevention²⁾.

It is a proven fact that good crime prevention strategies manage to both prevent crime and victimisation as well as promote safety and contribute to sustainable development of the society. A good strategy improves quality of life and delivers long term advantages in the form of decreasing costs of enforcement of criminal justice and reduced overall expenses commonly incurred by crime³⁾.

The Czech Republic has a well-developed and stable crime prevention system⁴⁾ in full compliance with recommendations of international bodies active in the field of crime prevention⁵⁾. There are numerous stakeholders – public administration bodies, regional as well as local self-governing bodies, NGOs and others. Crime prevention is most commonly planned in the form of a Crime Prevention Strategy approved by the Government for periods of four to five years. In the current Strategy, the Czech Republic declares, as its global objective, its intent to sustain and strengthen this system in the upcoming periods and to promote safety and law and order by developing preventive measures, all the above in line with the principles common in a modern democratic state.

The developed system of crime prevention and its advanced planning have contributed, among others, to the Czech Republic's reputation of a country with a long-term decreasing crime rate. The Czech Republic is capable of proactively reacting to the new trends in crime which are tackled by the law enforcement at relatively early stages. In the period of 2011 (one year before the adoption of the Crime Prevention Strategy for 2012 to 2015) to 2014, the Police of the CR detected a decreasing trend of the incidence of crime. In 2011, the total number of detected crimes was 317,177 while in 2014, the number dropped to 288,660 crimes, a decrease by 28,517 crimes, i.e. by 9 %. We have been monitoring a decreasing trend in crime, with some occasional ups and downs, ever since the turn of the century. In 2013, we had marked a steep increase, however, with the crime rate growing by 6.8 per cent (22,276 more crimes than in 2012). This increase was most probably due to the Presidential amnesty

²⁾ 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Salvador, Brazil, 12th to 19th April 2010.

³⁾ Guidelines for Crime Prevention, UN Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, No. 2002/13.

⁴⁾ For detailed description, see below in a dedicated text on the system of crime prevention in the Czech Republic.

⁵⁾ The UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN).



which caught the relevant institutions rather unprepared. The decreasing trend has continued in the first half of 2015, when the Police detected 15,6 per cent less crime than the year before, a steep decrease by 24 093 crimes.

The property crime, which regularly accounts for the most wide spread type of crime (about 60 per cent of all crimes), has been on the decrease as well. In 2011 to 2014, the Police detected 30 064 less property crimes, i.e. a steep decrease by almost 15 %. The only exception was, again, the year 2013, when the crime rate rose overall, with property crime increasing by 7,4 %. In comparison to that, in the first half of 2015, the Police marked a significant decrease of property crime by 23,2 %.

Parallel to the long term decreasing trend in the overall incidence of crime as well as the incidence of property crime, we have, however, monitored selected isolated negative and worrying phenomena in the development of crime, which require our increased attention and which this Strategy also reacts to. It primarily concerns crimes committed in the virtual environment (also referred to as information crime or cybercrime) which are most often committed by perpetrators of fraud, phishing, abuse of identity, trafficking in stolen property via internet auctions, sexual abuse, dissemination of child pornography, stalking, racketeering, dissemination of extremist content, or violations of intellectual property rights. These crimes have displayed a gradual increase by at least one third every year. At the same time, we assume that these crimes are extremely latent (hidden); it may be that there is up to 90 per cent latency in this context.

In 2011 to 2014, the incidence of drug crime rose by 46 %, when compared to 2010, it was even more - 76 %⁶⁾. The illicit production and possession of hallucinogenic and psychotropic substances were the most frequent types of the drug crime. These particular types of drug crime show the same increasing tendency as the overall drug crime⁷⁾.

As to perpetrators, we have marked an increasing trend of recidivism. While in 2000, repeat offenders represented 30 % of all perpetrators of crime, in 2011, it was 48,5 % and, in 2014, the percentage rose to 53,3 %. The highest number of repeat offenses are among perpetrators of property crime - 65 % - and car theft - as many as 80 %. In some regions, such as Moravia and Silesia, repeat offenders mark over half of perpetrators (61,2 % of all perpetrators there are repeat offenders).

The number of child and juvenile offenders, however, keeps decreasing over time. On the other hand, we have marked an increasing brutality of child and juvenile crimes. Most offenders in this age group come from socially excluded locations or institutional care facilities. Often times, they commit crime under the influence of alcohol or hallucinogenic and psychotropic substances.

2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

This Strategy builds on the previous years' achievements and the good practice. It wishes to use the experience and knowledge gathered (from activities of stakeholders involved in

⁶⁾ The significant growth is mainly due to the increased efforts of the Czech Police in actively searching for the drug crime.

⁷⁾ R. V. Clarke, J. E. Eck (2010): Analysis of crime in 60 steps, page 27.



crime prevention, international resources, scientific research, etc.) to further develop crime prevention in the Czech Republic, to strengthen cooperation, competence and capacity of the stakeholders concerned, to improve assistance provided to victims of crime, to increase efficiency of preventive measures adopted and to respond to new threats and trends in the field of public safety and law and order.

Czech Republic:

1. ***Keeps developing the existing system of crime prevention and continues strengthening cooperation, competence and capacity of the relevant stakeholders, expanding the scope for action of volunteers to ensure safety and public order while enhancing its international cooperation and scientific knowledge.***
2. ***Provides assistance and counselling to victims of crime with a special focus on groups of particularly vulnerable victims while continuing to expand and improve its activities in this field.***
3. ***Focuses, in respect of offenders, on the increasing incidence of crimes committed by repeat offenders, keeps increasing efficiency of offender re-socialization programmes and prevention of child and juvenile delinquency.***
4. ***Adopts a comprehensive approach to detection and investigation of crime at locations, where its increased incidence is due to deep deprivation and numerous problems (typically socially excluded locations).***
5. ***Reacts to new threats and trends in the field of security and public order and applies new and efficient approach to prevention.***

There are many **criminological theories** analysing causes of crime in order to design proper prevention strategies. Environmental criminology claims that causes of crime are situational. The so-called theory of routine activities (Lawrence Cohen, Marcus Felson) builds on a notion that a predatory act (crime) is committed when a likely offender and a suitable target/victim happen to be at the same time and at the same place in the absence of an effective protector. The outcome of this theory is a crime triangle, the three peaks of which represent the offender, the place and the target/ victim. The original „inner“ triangle is complemented with an „outer“ triangle of control elements – a victim protector, a person supervising the offender and an administrator of the place (if we translate this theory into the terminology of the Strategy, protectors are represented by various entities involved in crime prevention activities of which are developed by this Strategy). These are central elements that need to be addressed both in the planning phase of specific preventive projects and measures as well as in the phase of strategic planning. (Fig. 1)

Furthermore, strategic objectives **derive from priorities** adopted for this purpose by the **National Crime Prevention Committee**. They focus of the key pillars (sides of the triangle) of crime prevention while endorsing the fact that crime is an ever changing and developing phenomenon, to which we must respond.

These strategic tasks and related objectives are in line with the **current international crime prevention priorities**. The XIII. **UN Congress on crime prevention and criminal justi-**



Source: R. V. Clarke, J. E. Eck (2010): Crime analysis in 60 steps

ce which took place in Doha (Qatar) in 12th to 19th April 2015 adopted the Doha Declaration stipulating, among others, the following priorities (selected in respect of the objectives of this Strategy):

- To adopt effective measures for protection and provision of support for and assistance to victims and witnesses of all crimes;
- To strengthen the development and use of tools and methods aimed at increasing the quality of statistical information in order to enhance the effectiveness of crime prevention at the national, regional and international levels;
- To eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, religious intolerance, xenophobia and gender-related discrimination by, inter alia, raising awareness and developing educational programmes;
- To create a safe, positive and secure learning environment at schools by protecting children from all forms of violence, harassment, bullying, and sexual abuse;
- To take measures to ensure the contribution of the civil society, the private sector and the media to the development and implementation of crime prevention policies designed to promote public trust in the criminal justice;
- To explore the potential for the use of traditional and new information and communication technologies in the development of policies and programmes to strengthen crime prevention and criminal justice;
- To promote measures to make the public, especially victims, report crimes; to implement and further develop measures to protect witnesses and informants, etc.

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) has also prepared new prevention measures. The draft promotes the following priorities:

- Prevention projects based on local/regional security audits,
- Close cooperation of the central Government, self-governing bodies, and NGOs,
- CCTVs and efficient security management in towns/at public space,
- Enhanced crime prevention related research,
- Intense cooperation with European institutions active in the field of crime prevention (Victims Support Europe, EFUS, EUROPOL, CEPOL, Frontex, Beccaria...),
- Cooperation and support of central and local authorities active in crime prevention (self-governing bodies – members of city councils, independent experts, field workers, etc.),
- Expert conferences on efficient approaches to crime prevention – topics to cover the current EU/member state priorities.
- In the following chapters, the strategic objectives are further developed into more specific tasks.

3. KEY PRINCIPLES OF PREVENTION POLICY

Crime prevention as a prerequisite for sustainable development and growth of our society

As stipulated above in the UN printed matter, effective crime prevention strategies not only help reduce crime and the number of its victims, but also contribute to the overall public safety and sustainable development of individual states. They help improve quality of life and bring long-term benefits in terms of reducing costs associated with the criminal justice system and other social costs resulting from crime and other social pathologies.

Competence and responsibility sharing

In the context of public safety and maintenance of law and order, i.e. in crime prevention, it is obvious that a single entity can neither secure one's own safety nor protect others. Individual stakeholders (ministries and other public authorities, the Police, regional and local self-governing bodies, Municipal Police forces, NGOs, individuals, and legal entities) have their defined scope of activity and responsibilities in the system and enjoy related rights and privileges that are most effective in combination with others. It pays back to join forces thus multiplying capacity.

Furthermore, it comes only natural that the local (e.g. municipal) priorities, including those in the field of safety and public order, do not always coincide with the national security analysis and challenges as perceived by the central authorities. It is therefore necessary and proper for the system that a the person in danger has a stake in the protection of their own safety or that the primary responsibility for the local public prevention policy in a municipality is borne by the municipality itself which may decide to enhance its efforts by establishing a Municipal Police force or by developing and implementing various preventive measures and activities.



Cooperation and a coordinated approach

Implementation of the above principle requires close cooperation and coordination of efforts. Given the fact that causes of criminal behaviour are often multiple, prevention shall provide a multidisciplinary response involving numerous stakeholders, each of which accepts responsibility for prevention of a particular cause of crime.

Data sharing and analysis

Efficient crime prevention builds on verified empirical data and their subsequent expert analysis. In practice, we use the so-called SARA model (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment), i.e. collection, analysis, response and assessment of information. The planned measures (response) must be based on an analysis of the necessary information and their implementation shall be, in order to verify their effectiveness and to decide on their further dissemination or continuation, followed by an evaluation. It is also necessary to provide for high quality planning and management of projects. Furthermore, data available to one stakeholder may be very useful for other institutions and may help solve their problems. For example, data on misdemeanours can be used for the purpose of a Police analysis of crime (and vice versa - crime related data may be useful in the process of planning of preventive measures in the respective community). Therefore it is very important to share such data and establish clear rules for their exchange (while maintaining high level of their protection). It is also necessary to validate data on misdemeanours which are used for crime analyses (currently, the Czech Police are limited to data from the Information System of the Electronic Code of Criminal Procedure – IS ETŘ, which are not verified and remain approximate only).

Differentiation nad complexity of prevention measures

There is no universal prevention measure that would be applicable to all problems. That is why we divide crime prevention to that on the primary, secondary, and tertiary level or speak about social and situational prevention or victimology. These differences are not just dry and pointless theories in expert texts. There is a cause and a typical environment behind every type of crime, misdemeanour or any other unlawful conduct. The causes either surface in one particular case or create a breeding ground for repeat offenses in the given area, by a particular type of perpetrators against particular type of victims. That is why we must select different tools and approaches to prevent various types of crime.

Dissemination of best practice and know-how

It is highly recommended to share examples of good practice, positive experience, and examples of successful solutions to similar issues. There is no point in reinventing the wheel – we can draw on the wide national experience, both on the local, municipal and regional levels, or the Police know-how. Inspiration can be drawn from our bilateral or multilateral international partners or from literature. We should, however, bear in mind that even the best and most successful examples, proven in one location or country, may not necessarily be transferrable elsewhere, no matter how similar the issues may initially seem to be. It is always necessary to analyse and compare individual cases and only subsequently we may assess whether the transferred model can or cannot be employed elsewhere and under different conditions.



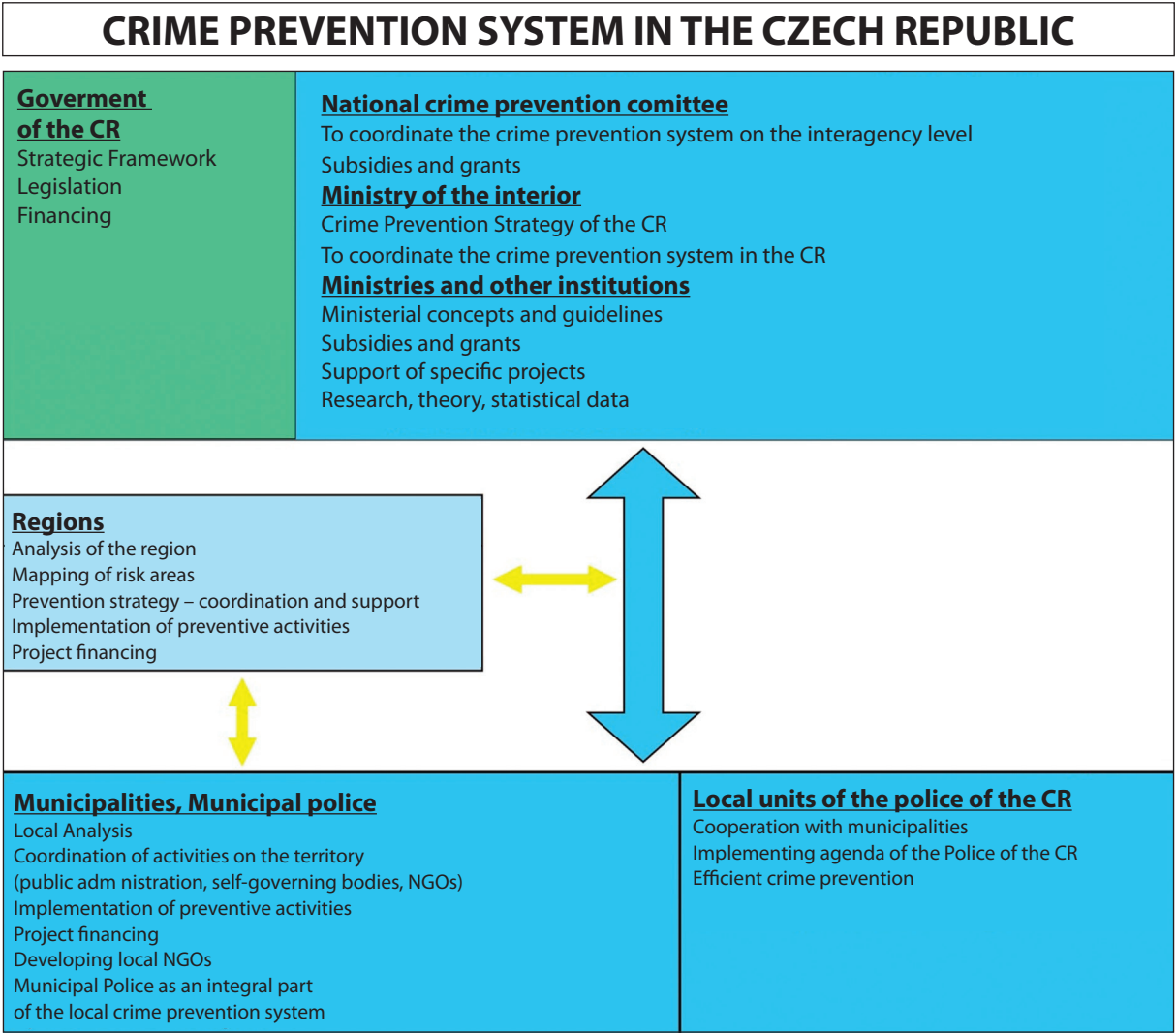
III. Crime Prevention System in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic keeps developing the existing system of crime prevention and continues strengthening cooperation, competence and capacity of the relevant stakeholders, expanding the scope for action of volunteers to ensure safety and public order while enhancing its international cooperation and scientific knowledge.

A successful national prevention policy is based on a well-functioning and efficient system of crime prevention. We are proud to conclude that the Czech Republic’s crime prevention system is stable and successful. As a result of previous Crime Prevention Strategies, it builds on the following three levels:

- 1. **National level** – the Government of the Czech Republic, the National Crime Prevention Committee, ministries and other public bodies,
- 2. **Regional level** - regional authorities,
- 3. **Local level** – municipal and local self-governing bodies.

The crime prevention system/roles of individual stakeholders in the system are well illustrated by the chart below:



1. STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED IN THE CRIME PREVENTION SYSTEM

National Crime Prevention Committee

The **National Crime Prevention Committee** (hereinafter only the “National Committee”) coordinates the crime prevention system on the central level. It is an interagency body established, by the Government Decree No. 617, on 3rd November 1993 under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior. The National Committee initiates, coordinates and provides guidelines in respect to the crime prevention policy. It has its Statutes and Rules of Procedure adopted by the Government of the CR. The National Committee meets about once a month and the agenda of the meetings is based on its plan of activities. The National Committee initiates crime prevention activities, disseminates information, coordinates activities on all levels of the public and Government administration, and approves of subsidies for prevention projects implemented on national, regional, and local level.

The National Committee is chaired by the Minister of the Interior. The First Deputy Minister of the Interior, responsible for the public safety and order, acts as its executive vice-chairman. The Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior acts as the National Committee’s Secretariat. The members are: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health Care, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Finance, Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs, Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Coordination of the Drug Enforcement Policy, Police Presidium of the Czech Republic, Probation and Mediation Service of the Czech Republic, Supreme Office of Prosecution, General Headquarters of the Prison Service, Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention, and Union of Judges of the Czech Republic.

Despite the excellent cooperation and the broad representation of relevant bodies and institutions in the National Committee, its membership still lacks involvement of some key stakeholders which contribute to the overall quality of national prevention policies. This concerns primarily associations of representatives of regional and local self-governing bodies (Association of Regions of the Czech Republic/ Asociace krajů ČR, Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic/ Svaz měst a obcí ČR). Even though the Government of the Czech Republic is represented, representatives of its dedicated body on social inclusion are missing (Agency for Social Inclusion). The above mentioned bodies should be engaged in the National Committee as new members.

Specific Tasks:

- 1.1 To strengthen cooperation of stakeholders and partners in the field of crime prevention under the umbrella of the National Committee. To extend, to this end, the membership of the National Committee and involve new members - representatives of regional and municipal self-governing bodies (potentially also representatives of the Municipal Police forces) and the Agency for Social Inclusion.**

Ministries and subordinated public institutions

Subsequently, **individual ministries and subordinated public institutions** (primarily members of the NC)⁸⁾ build on the national Crime Prevention Strategy and create their own

⁸⁾ The scope of responsibilities of individual ministries and the central public administration bodies are governed by Act No. 2/1969 Coll., on establishing ministries and other central government authorities of the Czech Republic (the Competence Act). Specific activities of the ministries and their subordinate organizations (especially members of the National Committee) in relation to crime prevention are also tackled in the evaluation of the Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015 as well as in the tasks that will implement this Strategy.



dedicated ministerial crime prevention strategies and strategies to prevent criminal conduct. At the same time, they bore responsibility for their implementation. On the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, the Government ministries focus primarily on improving the family policy, education, issues relating to children and the youth, development of social prevention, active employment policy, prevention of addictions, issues pertaining to national and ethnic minorities, socially excluded persons, persons already convicted or suspects of crime awaiting a court decision. In many cases, the Government ministries manage their activities from dedicated grant programs.

Ministries, selected Government advisory bodies and other members of the National Committee also engage in formulating and implementing agency-specific and theme-specific crime prevention projects that fall under their competence. They also provide crime prevention related training of their staff.

The above activities of individual ministries shall continue in the upcoming period. To improve implementation of crime prevention related activities, it is necessary to strengthen skills and capacity of these institutions and their staff (e.g. in the field of vocational training, sharing of best practice, legislation, international cooperation, and science and research) as we explain in the following text.

Specific Tasks:

Ministries and their subordinated public institutions (primarily members of the National Committee) shall:

- 1.2. Reflect on the prevention policy in their competences and include crime prevention accordingly in their own dedicated strategies and policy concepts.***
- 1.3 Have access to adequate subsidies necessary to support crime prevention activities in areas under their competence.***
- 1.4 Implement their own prevention projects and activities based on their competence.***
- 1.5 Keep strengthening their own capacity and competence (education, analytical work, guidelines and methodology, consultations, interagency and international cooperation, etc.) in the field of crime prevention based on their competence.***

Police of the CR

The role of the Police of the CR is embedded in the Act No. 273/2008 Coll., on the Police of the CR, as amended. The key responsibilities of the Police of the CR are: protection of the public, property, and law and order, prevention of crime, tasks stipulated by the Code of Criminal Proceedings and tasks related to the maintenance of public order and security given by law.

In respect of crime prevention, the Police of the Czech Republic focus primarily on primary prevention as well as prevention of social and situational prevention, secondary prevention, prevention of victimization and the system of assistance to victims of crime.

Preventive activities are by large under the responsibility of members of the Police and civilian staff of the press and prevention departments. Appointment of civil servants and





staff as well as their scope of work and duties fall under the competence of the respective regional commanders. Members of selected services of the Police of the CR and units of the Police of the CR with nation-wide responsibilities contribute to preventive activities either physically or provide guidelines and support.

Currently, crime prevention of the Police of the CR is guided primarily by **Strategic Concept of Crime Prevention of the Police of the CR for 2014 to 2016** (adopted after many years of an absolute absence of a dedicated Crime Prevention Strategy of this kind).

The Strategic Concept approaches crime prevention as a cross-cutting principle present in all key areas of policing. There are various Police activities which have a preventive effect but are not formally recognized as such. The Police, as we read in the Strategic Concept, perceive prevention of crime as an exclusive domain and responsibility of dedicated specialized units or departments. On-going preventive activities are often not recognized as prevention and often fail to be accepted as useful for maintaining public safety and the law and order. That's why the Strategic Concept stipulates, as one of its key priorities, promotion of the Police perception of crime prevention as an integral part of the Police work at all levels and within all departments, including the Police management.

In the Police of the CR organisational structure, prevention of crime falls within the scope of dedicated specialized organisational units, names of which had lacked, for many years and both on the regional as well as national level, any uniformity or system. We used to call them preventive information groups, preventive information departments, or a press and prevention department. As of 1st July 2014, the Police of the CR have been using a single term - press and prevention department (on the level of regional headquarters and the Police Presidium of the CR) and press and prevention group (on the local Police level). As it is clear from the titles, crime prevention was merged with the media presentation of the Police and the public relations. Media communication and crime prevention, two very different issues, each of which requires special expertise, skills and professional capacity, are thus concentrated to one single workplace and often in the hands of one single member of the Police. Moreover, professional qualifications necessary to do this job, which will necessarily differ, have not been defined precisely. Entrusting of two totally different agendas in the hands of one single person will necessarily affect quality and quantity of results of both jobs. It should also be noted that in recent years (as of approximately 2010), the downsizing in the Police force has significantly affected the above mentioned preventive information centres and a number of local Police of the Czech Republic's departments (usually on the district level) currently do not have a single member dedicated to crime prevention. Fortunately, the Strategic Concept of the Development of the Police of the Czech Republic in the years 2016 to 2020 (so far debated by the Security Committee and the National Security Council) has already proposed to strengthen human resources necessary to introduce proper conditions for crime prevention on the territorial level by the Police of the CR (including improved Police capacity to combat specific types of crime).

In the recent years, the Police have been providing less guidelines and methodological support to crime prevention specialists pertaining to the Police local units. It partially resulted, within the Police and within the Ministry of the Interior, in the lack of coordination of prevention measures. Police education and training in the field of crime prevention now lacks innovative and comprehensive approach and the Police have no relevant internal crime prevention regulation.



One of the first outputs of the new Strategic Concept was the establishment of a Council for Crime Prevention Methodology of the Czech Police. The Council is responsible for providing methodological guidance to the crime prevention system and for coordination of activities within the Police force. There will be a new position of a crime prevention coordinator established at the Regional Police Directorates to provide for a system based approach. The crime prevention coordinator's responsibilities will be defined by the Strategic Concept.

It was left to the discretion of individual regional Police directorates to provide for crime prevention on the level of local and basic units. Many places and areas in the Czech Republic therefore continue suffering from lack of personnel and crime prevention has thus remained, in selected locations, both understaffed and insufficient.

The close linkage between preventive and information-related campaigns has caused yet another shortcoming in the Police prevention activities - specific prevention projects are primarily in the field of social primary and secondary prevention thus suppressing situational prevention activities. We shall definitely assign more attention to this issue. One of the priorities of the Police prevention work has been and shall remain the road safety (driving under the influence of alcohol and other addictive substances, grievous bodily harm, grievous bodily harm resulting in death). Police prevention activities implemented primarily at the regional level are underfinanced and have contributed to the decreasing quality of the Police crime prevention activities and their capacity. It has also negatively impacted compliance with the key principles of effective prevention - complexity, comprehensiveness, and the long-term character.

The Crime Prevention Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2014-2016 captures relatively precisely all the most important challenges that the Czech Police have faced. On the other hand, it contains only visions, strategic goals, and measures, but fails to deliver on particular tasks, timetables and responsibilities. It fails to introduce a streamlined and comprehensible system of crime prevention throughout the entire Police corps all the way down to the lowest level (to e.g. secure performance of prevention officers at the level of territorial Police units, the former district Police directorates) and their related activities. In some aspects of crime prevention, the concept offers tailor-made solutions (e.g. regional crime prevention groups), but, again, it leaves them on the discretion of Police managers. This has made the Strategy in the first two years of its effectiveness (its vision and objectives) by large a dormant and underimplemented text.

Specific Tasks:

To implement, by the end of 2016, the objectives and visions of the Crime Prevention Policy of the Police of the Czech Republic for 2014 to 2016:

- 1.6 Crime prevention is reflected in all activities and Police of the CR, at all levels and units, including the Police management.***
- 1.7 Prevention of crime in the Police relies heavily on coordination and cooperation, which reflects 1) the practical approach to crime prevention (proactive and problem oriented approach of the units at the bottom of the Police of the Czech Republic organisational structure targeted at eliminating criminal environment), 2) analytical and theoretical approach (forensic collection and data analysis, de-***



signing preventive measures) 3) information and raising awareness campaigns (dissemination of information to the public on risks of crime and possible protection measures, awareness raising of preventive activities and projects already implemented), and 4) an interagency and multidisciplinary coordination approach (collaboration with stakeholders in crime prevention, data and information sharing and sharing of examples of good practice, with a particular focus on collaboration at the municipal or local level).

- 1.8** *The Police Presidium of the Czech Republic, directorates of the Police of the CR, directorates of the Police units with nation-wide responsibilities, and all regional and territorial Police directorates will be assisted by dedicated and professionally trained crime prevention coordinators. At the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic and all regional and territorial Police directorates, this coordinator will be responsible solely and exclusively for crime prevention related issues.*
- 1.9** *The Police Presidium of the Czech Republic (OTP PP CR) will increase the number of dedicated crime prevention staff by at least four systemized service posts. Each Regional Police directorate and all directorates of territorial units will add at least two systemized service posts.*
- 1.10** *The job description of crime prevention coordinators at all levels will be clearly defined after consultation with the Methodological Council of the Czech Police for Crime Prevention.*
- 1.11** *The Police of the CR will adopt and implement a concept of Police of the CR analytical centres, in which they will clearly define the role and purpose of the analysis of crime and their use relevance for the work of prevention officers and other elements in the organisational structure of the Police, for predictive analysis, maps of incidence of crime, etc.*
- 1.12** *Preventive projects of the Police of the CR will focus much more on situational prevention, however, we shall not neglect the currently more nourished primary and secondary prevention of social causes of crime.*
- 1.13** *The Police of the CR will introduce an integrated system of education and training in crime reaching out from the top to bottom of the Police organizational structure.*
- 1.14** *The Police of the CR will provide for stable and timely funding of prevention activities and projects, both from resources held by crime prevention programme and the Ministry of Interior's own agency programme, but, in particular for the needs of regional prevention activities and projects, from own resources of the Police of the Czech Republic (regional directorates). Situation permits, we shall strive to strengthen these resources.*
- 1.15** *The Police of the CR will adopt the Strategy of Crime Prevention of the Police of the CR as of 2017, in which they further develop the scope, structure and preventive activities already developed and implemented on the basis of goals and visions embedded in the Strategy of Crime Prevention of the Police of the CR for 2014 to 2016.*



Regions

Section 1, Subsection 4 of the Act No. 129/2000 Coll., on regions (regional setup), as amended, stipulates that „regions shall be responsible for the overall development of their territories and the needs of their citizens“. In the field of crime prevention, regions, notably through their crime prevention managers, primarily coordinate activities in the field of crime prevention on their territory, facilitate information sharing between ministries and municipalities receiving grants from the Ministry of the Interior for crime prevention or implement their own subsidy schemes.

In their efforts, they draw on the Crime Prevention Strategy adopted by the Czech Government, which lays down conditions and provides for guidelines, coordination and financial support. By joining the regional level crime prevention schemes, regions get a unique opportunity to influence the makeup of preventive policies on their territory, to set regional priorities, determine local need for implementation of preventive measures, obtain Government subsidies for their projects, and evaluate crime prevention programs in municipalities and villages.

Recently, regions have been very active and have assumed a proactive role in the crime prevention system. Their involvement in this system has proven correct and helpful, especially when it concerns their role of a facilitator and coordinator between ministries (particularly the Ministry of the Interior) and municipalities on their territory. It would be very beneficial if the regions in the future played even more active role and implemented their own preventive policy on their territory based on their own security strategies and objectives and drawing on their own policy of subsidies.

In practice, it seems very beneficial to build on coordination and cooperation of the self-governing bodies with the central Government, the Police, judicial authorities (courts, prosecutors) etc. in regions and to create working groups coordinated, in most cases, by the regional bodies. Such working groups bring to one negotiating table professionals and managers, including politicians. Thanks to their capable membership, they can operate efficiently and draw on the professional background of their members. This type of cooperation is not enshrined in the law and therefore relies on the voluntary participation of all stakeholders.

The central Government should strive to further involve regions in the crime prevention system. Regions are associated in the Association of Regions of the Czech Republic and the association should become a member of the National Committee. The same is true for the regional crime prevention managers who should participate in the national evaluation commission for the Crime Prevention Programme for municipalities and regions.

To improve the implementation of preventive measures and activities by regions, it is highly recommended to strengthen skills and capacity of their staff responsible for prevention and create proper environment for their activities (e.g. dedicated training, sharing of best practice examples, funding of preventive activities, legislation, etc.).

Specific Tasks:

Regions shall, based on the recommendations of this Strategy, create conditions for the development of prevention strategy on their territory and, in particular:

- 1.16 Cooperate actively, via association of regions of the Czech Republic, on activities of the national committee for crime prevention.**
- 1.17 Draft regional crime prevention concepts and security analyses on the regional level and determine risks of individual areas for the purpose of planning of prevention measures.**
- 1.18 Provide support to their regional crime prevention managers and provide them with necessary assistance and dedicated training, create crime prevention working groups and coordinate their activities.**
- 1.19 Provide consultations and guidelines, with the help of crime prevention managers, to municipalities on their territory, disseminate information and provide for awareness rising from up to bottom – from the central and regional level down to the local level.**
- 1.20 Participate in the process of evaluating and selecting crime prevention projects on the municipal level under the umbrella of the crime prevention programme. Draft and implement their own prevention programmes and projects under the crime prevention programme.**
- 1.21 Support regional and municipal prevention activities and projects from their own resources (e.g. in the form of subsidies to municipalities, NGOs, etc.).**
- 1.22 Evaluate implementation of already adopted prevention schemes, projects and measures.**

Municipalities

Crime prevention measures are in practice implemented at the level of **municipalities**. Municipalities are responsible for implementing of preventive projects and measures.

Similarly to regions, municipalities hold responsibility for crime prevention on their territory and manage crime prevention activities independently of the central power. Their activities in the field of crime prevention are guided by Section 35, Subsection 2 of Act No. 128/2000 Coll., on municipalities, as amended, under which „municipality shall hold sole and independent responsibility for laying down, while respecting local conditions and local customs, conditions for the development of social care and provisions necessary to satisfy the needs of their citizens. This concerns primarily the needs for proper housing, health care and protection of health, public transportation and roads, information, education, overall cultural development and protection of the public order.“ In line with Section 10 of this Act, municipalities may, in order to protect and maintain the local public order, issue generally binding regulations stipulating binding obligations.

Pursuant to Section 35a of the above Act and according to the Act No. 553/1991 Coll., on Municipal Police, as amended, municipalities may establish the Municipal Police. The **Municipal** Police shall maintain local public order, e.g. contribute to protection and safety of citizens and their property, enforce compliance with the rules of good neighbourly relations and contribute to prevention of crime in the municipality.



It is more and more obvious that the municipal level is the key level at which it is necessary to approach and solve specific problems. For this purpose, it is necessary to secure cooperation and coordination of municipal authorities (including the Municipal Police) with those authorities, which exercise, in the municipality, extended powers of the central power, such as local representatives of the central public authorities and the Police, as well as with NGOs, citizens and businesses. Numerous examples of best practice show that it pays back for the municipality to assume a key role and become an active coordinator of such cooperation. This role is not enshrined in the law, it is voluntary and, unfortunately, it is not commonplace everywhere. Those municipalities which have been active should therefore be highly appreciated⁹⁾.

In the recent years, municipalities have faced a significant change due to crime spreading from large cities (despite the overall decline in the incidence of crime) to smaller towns and municipalities. The socially excluded locations now suffer from phenomena previously known from larger agglomerations only, such as problems associated with low-cost housing, which is available in these locations – poor people often fall prey to indecent business trying to capitalize on poverty and human suffering. Despite the fact that the interim Crime Prevention Strategy had provided for access to funding for prevention projects implemented by smaller towns and municipalities, many of them have not applied for grants provided under the umbrella of the Crime Prevention Programme in particular for the administrative complexity. Their reluctance is also due to the absence of a central database of examples of good practice from which the smaller municipalities that do not have a professional apparatus with required professional competences common in larger cities could draw inspiration for effective prevention programs and solutions to their problems. Moreover, municipalities have not yet reached a point when they would be willing to mutually cooperate in solving problems. However, first examples of agreements on cooperation and joint projects have already appeared (municipalities can therefore better address common problems, they can make more efficient use of limited resources, if they agree on their sharing, etc.).

At the municipal level as well as at national or regional levels, we shall continue strengthening competences and capacity of staff responsible for crime prevention and create an enabling environment for prevention activities at this level (e.g. in the field of life-long education and training, sharing examples of best practice, financing of preventive activities and, if necessary. legislation).

Specific Tasks:

Based on recommendations provided by this strategy, municipalities shall create conditions for the development of crime prevention on their territory and strive:

1.23 To participate actively, via the Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic on activities of the national crime prevention committee.

1.24 To draft municipal policies or crime prevention plans and security analyses at the local level.

⁹⁾ But this may not be enforced by the Strategy, because those, who have been implementing such cooperation already recognize its benefits and are appreciated for their efforts not only by their partners but especially by the citizens.



- 1.25 To facilitate oversight of their municipal crime prevention managers providing them with the necessary facilities and dedicated special training and education, create crime prevention working groups and facilitate and coordinate their activities (with special emphasis on cooperation, exchange of data and information and examples of good practice with the Police on their territory).**
- 1.26 To establish the Municipal Police.**
- 1.27 To process and implement their own dedicated preventive activities, programs or projects under the umbrella of the Crime Prevention Programme.**
- 1.28 To support preventive activities and projects on their territory from their own resources.**
- 1.29 To evaluate the process of implementation of preventive policies as well as preventive measures and projects already implemented.**

Other stakeholders in the crime prevention system

Besides the public entities outlined above, there are other stakeholders having an irreplaceable role in the prevention of crime - entities, both in the role of those who help others within the system as well as those protecting their own safety. Among such entities we count especially the NGOs, volunteers, the academia, businesses, and private persons.

In the following text, we examine primarily their role in the crime prevention system and activities in which they engage, mainly in cooperation with public bodies, in the process of ensuring security and public order in specific locations, helping victims of crime, working with offenders to prevent recidivism, eliminating factors which lead to crime, etc.

Non-governmental organizations (hereinafter the „NGOs“) most often act as implementers of preventive projects (even if the applicant was a municipality or a region, NGOs act as the implementing agent assigned on a basis of a public tender) and service providers to help victims of crime and work with offenders. To this end, they use their own resources as well as public funding (in the form of grants, service contracts, etc.). It is necessary to provide continuous support to these activities from both the central Government and the self-governing bodies, ideally to expand it further (while maintaining high quality services) and create legislative, administrative, organizational and other conditions for the widest possible participation of NGOs in various prevention activities.

The academia, research institutions, etc. also contribute significantly to crime prevention and public safety and order, especially by advocating and employing science, research and innovations i.e. theoretical and empirical knowledge and their transferability into practice in the activities of other stakeholders in the system of crime prevention. Therefore, such cooperation should be strengthened. Science, research and innovation in crime prevention are developed further in the text in a special section.

We have made very positive experience cooperating with volunteers in the field of safety and crime prevention. The Ministry of Interior acts as a coordinator of activities under the umbrella of Act No. 198/2002 Coll., on volunteer services and on the amendment of selec-



ted other Acts (Act on volunteer service), as amended. The scope of the law guides many non-profit organizations accredited by the Ministry of the Interior. With support provided by the Ministry, these NGOs carry out volunteer activities focusing, among others, to crime prevention. Most commonly, volunteers operate in the field of social prevention, primarily targeted at children and the youth of socially disadvantaged background, often living in socially excluded locations. These activities have had a positive impact on prevention of socially undesirable phenomena, including crime itself. Volunteers also help people in difficult social situations, individuals or families at risk of poverty and social exclusion or those, who are poor and live at socially excluded locations. Volunteers also help in shelters and, side by side with field workers, assist the homeless people. Many volunteers offer their helping hand in various charity wardrobes. There is a dedicated volunteer programme, under the umbrella of which volunteers exchange letters with prisoners. Volunteers are also involved in campaigns and projects aimed at promoting tolerance and removal of negative perception of minorities living in the Czech Republic. Other volunteers engage in the field of traffic safety.

The Ministry of the Interior has been, since 2015, supporting a project called „**Safety volunteer**“, which is outside the scope of the Volunteer Service Act. It is aimed at promoting volunteering for municipalities and broader public involvement in maintenance of local public order. There is a grant programme designed for municipalities (e.g. districts of the Municipality of Prague) which supports activities, such as dissemination of information to raise awareness on crime and to support preventive activities, information on road safety and traffic, creating a network of people who will assist the Police, upon request and based on their availability, in search for lost children or missing elderly people, mapping and reporting illegal dumps, car wrecks, damaged or missing traffic signs and the like. The public safety volunteers have no special privileges or powers but they contribute to the development of the civil society, adopt a progressive approach to crime prevention, increase comfort, public safety and promote new, innovative approach to the public safety and order under the umbrella of the current legislation and with respect to the local conditions. The grant programme is relatively easy to administer and is therefore accessible even to small villages, which lack dedicated trained personnel and have no Municipal Police, etc.

We shall continue supporting voluntary activities, whether organized by non-profit voluntary organizations or municipalities, and create conditions for their further development. Such organized and controlled support from the public authorities helps prevent spontaneous emergence of various voluntary self-appointed guardians in the form of „militias“ etc. and their abuse for promotion and dissemination of extremism.

Business entities may be involved in prevention activities in several ways. They can, for example, employ people who, if unemployed, carry higher risk that they would resort to crime in order to raise money (e.g. people living in socially excluded locations, prisoners serving their sentence or individuals just released from prison, etc.). Many private entities - security agencies – offer protection against crime as a service. Private entities may, given their expertise, know-how and skills, contribute to the improvement of preventive measures, typically in the area of situational prevention, not only on a commercial basis. Involvement of professional chambers and associations in the deliberations of the Advisory Board of the Minister of the Interior for situational prevention serves a good example of such participation. This particular type of cooperation shall be also maintained and further developed.



Specific Tasks:

- 1.30 To encourage non-profit sector and its activities in the field of crime prevention, continue developing mutual cooperation between the public sector and non-profit organisations.**
- 1.31 To utilize capacity of scientific institutions and research organizations in the field of theoretical and empirical knowledge of prevention of crime and its transferability to the everyday life, particularly when it concerns new trends.**
- 1.32 To promote involvement of volunteers at all levels of prevention of crime, promotion of safety and protection of public order; such involvement shall be under supervision of the public authorities and their control mechanisms.**
- 1.33 To strengthen cooperation with the businesses, which are open to the idea of offering their capacity and know-how in the field of crime prevention to the public benefit.**

2. SELECTED PREVENTIVE POLICY METHODS AND TOOLS AVAILABLE IN THE PROCESS OF THE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Crime Prevention Programme

The grant Crime Prevention Programme (hereinafter only the „Programme“) is the most visible instrument to promote crime prevention in the Czech Republic, both because of the scope of financial support available (for the period 2012-2015, the Government invested a total of 225 million Czech Crowns) and the impact of the implemented projects. The programme is announced (including the terms thereof) annually by the Ministry of the Interior and is targeted mainly to support specific projects and programs in municipalities and regions as well as specific national projects. The programme always reflects priorities and objectives set by the current Crime Prevention Strategy.

The programme serves as a Government instrument to support and assist crime prevention. It focuses primarily on high risk regions of the Czech Republic, a specific group of victims (e.g. children and the youth, the elderly, victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, etc.) and perpetrators (e.g. special focus on prevention of repeated violations). With this programme, we now have a long-term and stable source of financing of crime prevention available throughout the entire country. The programme has made us flexible and now, we are capable of quickly reacting to urgent security challenges and risks that may occur (e.g. escalation of security situation in the socially excluded locations in the past years).

The terms of the programme provide, particularly at the regional and local levels, for stable and professional performance of preventive activities. In the absence of relevant dedicated legislation, the programme serves as a tool to make the applicants draft security analyses describing security situation on their territory, create local security strategies, and employ qualified personnel to execute the prevention policy (crime prevention managers). Municipalities and villages, which do not apply for subsidies for preventive projects, can at least draw on the good experience and know-how gained in these projects.

Although grants from the Programme are currently (already for several years) available to other municipalities but the large ones and the access to programs is now much easier to administer, smaller municipalities still hesitate whether to join to Programme or not. No-

wadays, in the modern age of electronic communications, applicants keep calling for the possibility of electronic submission of applications and a related database of projects. Such database would also serve as a welcomed platform for good practice sharing amongst municipalities and regions, as such tool is still missing.

It is also necessary to complete the process of drafting guidelines and methodologies for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of prevention measures and projects already implemented under the umbrella of the previous Crime Prevention Strategy and their impact on the security situation. These methodologies should be firmly anchored in the process of preparing and evaluating preventive programs and measures and their implementation shall be enforced rigorously. Based on the quality evaluation of projects and measures, the Ministry of the Interior, as the Programme facilitator and administrator, should subsequently introduce proper guidelines. This concerns, for example, more detailed methodology to individual types of projects and measures that will reflect the knowledge and positive experience gained.

Specific Tasks:

- 1.34 To continue implementing the subsidized Crime Prevention Programme as the key financial instrument to support prevention activities and projects in the country and, if possible, to strengthen its financial framework.**
- 1.35 To convert the existing system of written applications filed by regions and municipalities into an electronic system and create, for this purpose, a new database of projects and a tool for sharing examples of good practice in prevention. Should these new electronic tools prove helpful, to consider their application in respect of other groups of applicants (NGOs, departments in the organisational structure of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic).**
- 1.36 To facilitate access of smaller communities to the prevention projects under the umbrella of the Crime Prevention Programme, should their security situation require so.**
- 1.37 To emphasize the need of evaluating prevention projects supported. Such evaluation should be performed on a basis of well drafted and, if necessary, regularly updated methodologies, Individual projects should be analysed as to their effectiveness and activities. We shall, based on examples of good practice, create more additional guidelines and methodologies and issue recommendations.**

Analytical approach and data sharing

Currently, the world leading approach to effective provision of safety is governed by a three pillar approach, in English commonly referred to as intelligence-led policing¹⁰⁾, problem-oriented policing¹¹⁾, and evidence-based policing¹²⁾. None of these pillars would be valid

¹⁰⁾ This approach is based on the use of information as a basis for decision making of the Police management, Information serve as a basis for preventive policies tackling causes of problems rather than having to exert repression to fight their consequences.

¹¹⁾ This approach targets proper understanding of a particular problem (e.g. crime) with an emphasis on its causes.

¹²⁾ This approach strives to find verified and functional solutions and their subsequent application in practice based on prior processing of empirical data and rigorous evaluation of the activities already implemented. This approach can be used both for solving of specific problems as well as designing security and preventive policies.



without proper analysis, which helps create and critically evaluate data, understand the problems and challenges, and make adequate decisions. The analysis should be a result of efforts to provide the „right information to the right people at the right time“.¹³⁾

Numerous research papers have shown that one of the characteristics of crime is that it tends to concentrate to certain areas and target certain victims. Therefore it happens, that a relatively small territory or a small group of potential targets/victims fall prey to numerous offenses or extensive crime¹⁴⁾, to which we shall react by deploying targeted and more efficient forces and plan preventive measures where they are really needed.

In the analysis of crime we can, provided that we have at our disposal the data, tools and trained analysts to work with them, estimate the future development of crime and perform predictions which subsequently serve us as background material to develop effective prevention strategies. In doing so, we distinguish among three types of predictions: immediate, short-term, and long-term¹⁵⁾.

¹³⁾ S. Chainey: Collection of presentations, 2nd expert workshop on Maps of the future - a modern tool to increase efficiency and quality of public administration in the field of crime prevention based on the analysis and prediction of crime, pages 39-47. Issued for the Ministry of the Interior by: Accendo – Centre for science and research, 2015. Available at: www.prevencekriminality.cz.

¹⁴⁾ E.g. the Institute for criminology and social prevention performed a survey in Příbram in the mid-90s of the 20th century which showed that almost one third of all offenses were committed on a territory of a relatively small area of less than 1 km². Crime concentrated to an area of about 4.5 square kilometres, where 87.3% of all detected offenses were committed (in Večerka, K., Holas, J. : Crime related analysis of locations, Prague, 1995). In Newcatstle (UK) in 2010, 68% of thefts committed against persons, 44% of violent assaults, 25% of thefts from cars concentrated to major crime areas (small hot spots) (S. Chainey: Presentation at an expert workshop on the project called Maps the future, June 2015, the presentation is available at www.prevencekriminality.cz). In connection with the victimization experts often conclude that 4% of the population suffer from 44% of crime. Research in the UK from the end of the last century (Pease, 1998) show that in terms of property crime 10% of respondents reported one case of property crime, while the number of such cases accounted for 32% of total crimes of this type. However, when talking about fourfold and multiple victimization of people who fall prey to the same type of crime, 2% of the respondents fell victims to crime but of the total volume of crime of this type, the number of cases accounted for 41%. When it concerns violent crimes, 5% of respondents fell victims to one crime, and generally these crimes accounted for 25% of total cases. But once we analyse four-times and multiple victimization, 1% of respondents fell victims to crime repeatedly, however, the proportion of cases accounted for the total of 59%. As regards property crime committed against commercial property, 11% of enterprises were targeted by 76% of crimes, 9% of companies were targeted by 92% of threats and extortion and 3% of enterprises fell victim to 81% of violent crime (Wood et al., 1997). All this in: Maps of the future - a modern tool to increase efficiency and quality of public administration in the field of crime prevention based on the analysis and prediction of crime, page 43. Issued for the Ministry of the Interior by: Accendo – Centre for science and research, 2015. Available at: www.prevencekriminality.cz. As regards information from a project implemented by the University College London in 2011 in the city of Manchester, the analysis of live cases revealed that there is a 4% probability of burglary, which, however, rises to 18% if the house had been broken into before. Property which had been broken into twice runs a 33% probability that it will be broken into again. A property which had been broken into three times runs a 44% probability that it will be broken into again. Property which had been broken into five times runs a 50% probability of another burglary. All in: Maps of the future - a modern tool to increase efficiency and quality of public administration in the field of crime prevention based on the analysis and prediction of crime, pages 150 to 151. Issued for the Ministry of the Interior by: Accendo – Centre for science and research, 2015. Available at: www.prevencekriminality.cz.

¹⁵⁾ S. Chainey: Collection of presentations, 2nd expert workshop on Maps of the future - a modern tool to increase efficiency and quality of public administration in the field of crime prevention based on the analysis and prediction of crime, pages 39-47. Issued for the Ministry of the Interior by: Accendo – Centre for science and research, 2015. Available at: www.prevencekriminality.cz.





For the purpose of immediate predictions, we use data on the incidence of crime from the most recent history (e.g. the recent seven days) to predict the immediate development, especially on the given day. For that end, we utilise methods deriving from the theory of repeated victimisation¹⁶⁾, in some cases complemented by an analysis of areas posing high risk¹⁷⁾. To respond, we primarily choose measures of operational nature, mainly deploying Police patrols during the subsequent shift to areas predicted and informing them on vulnerable targets. This type of prediction is very often used for prevention of crimes, such as burglary (to homes, offices, etc.), car theft, breaking into cars, etc. Along with the short-term prediction, they are also frequently and successfully used to prevent pickpocketing and violent assaults.

The short-term predictions derive from data on crimes committed over a longer period of time (recent weeks, even years) and involve other data about the environment in which crime is committed (again, the useful analysis of high risk areas). One of the frequently used methods is the so called hot-spot analysis¹⁸⁾ or heat maps¹⁹⁾. This time, the outcome is not a prediction of a specific offense during the next shift of the Police patrol, but rather the detection of risk areas the likelihood of recurring crime in the near future (or some well-defined period, if we can build on historical experience) is higher. Thanks to the long-term predictions, we can better understand the causes of crime and react, typically, by a long-term focused monitoring by more frequently deployed Police patrols in this area and, in particular, by introducing specific preventive measures to reduce causes of the increased risk of crime in the area.

Finally, long-term predictions operate with data collected over a long period of time, with trends not only in crime, but also other phenomena associated with crime, including, for

¹⁶⁾ In English, there are two different terms to describe repeated victimisation - repeat victimization (victimization the same victim) and a near-repeat victimization (victimization of people close to the victim). These theories are working with the assumption that some future crimes will occur soon and in close vicinity of the current offenses, i.e. that the areas stricken by crime will soon be targeted by more crime and display higher incidence of crime in their close vicinity, too. In: Maps of the future - a modern tool to increase efficiency and quality of public administration in the field of crime prevention based on the analysis and prediction of crime, page 42. Issued for the Ministry of the Interior by: Accendo – Centre for science and research, 2015. Available at: www.prevencekriminality.cz

¹⁷⁾ In English, the term of risk terrain modelling means a set of techniques that strive to identify geographic features that contribute to an increased risk of crime and that generate predictions of the risk of crime, based on the distance between the locations and these elements. In: Maps of the future - a modern tool to increase efficiency and quality of public administration in the field of crime prevention based on the analysis and prediction of crime, page 45. Issued for the Ministry of the Interior by: Accendo – Centre for science and research, 2015. Available at www.prevencekriminality.cz.

¹⁸⁾ Hot spots (places with an increased intensity of the examined phenomenon) represent one form of the analysis of concentration of the phenomena in the given location. From the crime analysis point of view this concerns areas suffering from higher than above the average number (statistically speaking, is a statistically significant area) crimes in the surveyed area, which therefore displays higher risk of crime. In: Maps of the future - a modern tool to increase efficiency and quality of public administration in the field of crime prevention based on the analysis and prediction of crime, page 36. Issued for the Ministry of the Interior by: Accendo – Centre for science and research, 2015. Available at www.prevencekriminality.cz

¹⁹⁾ So called thermal maps are used to visualize areas with high intensity of the given phenomenon. Experts visualize the density of the incidence of the phenomenon in the area where each cell of the resulting matrix is assigned a density value that is displayed on a colour scale. As opposed to this method, the interpretation of results of the hot spot method more objective, because the requirement for designation of the area as a hot spot is a statistical significance of the observed phenomenon in the given region. In: Maps of the future - a modern tool to increase efficiency and quality of public administration in the field of crime prevention based on the analysis and prediction of crime, page 36. Issued for the Ministry of the Interior by: Accendo – Centre for science and research, 2015. Available at www.prevencekriminality.cz





example, social and demographic data. Long-term predictions are designed to predict long-term trends and the expected development in the future and to dictate the strategy of crime prevention and prevention of risks of crime.

The immediate predictions therefore serve mainly the operational activities of the local security forces, i.e. primarily the Police territorial units, the district Police units and local Police units. Short-term predictions impact the above mentioned forces as well as other local and regional stakeholders and partners, especially municipalities and regions that plan and implement specific preventive projects and activities. The long-term predictions are then important for the strategic planning at the local level (municipal and regional security strategies) and at the national level (security strategy and crime prevention at the national level, the level of individual ministries, the Police etc.).

Those, who draft analyses and predictions, use various software tools that are constantly evolving and improving, making the process faster and more user-accessible, because many of their functionalities are not only intended for analysts, but they can also be used by prevention managers, operational officers, and managers. One of the most dynamically developing areas that illustrates well the above development is the use of spatial analysis and maps of crime. Still, analysts and their highly professional approach, their equipment and sufficient qualifications have remained the key prerequisite for high-quality analytical output, even though we have had all these new advanced tools and approaches available to us for some time.

Data are indeed the most important part for any quality analysis. This concerns not only data on crimes and misdemeanours, but also on other phenomena affecting the crime rate in the given place and the given time (demographic data, alcohol and drug abuse, people commuting to and from work and schools, payday, weather, ...) and also the existence of high risk facilities (gaming arcades, shops selling various used merchandise and pawn shops, scrappy yards, restaurants, entertainment venues, banks and ATMs, schools, petrol stations, railway stations and public transport stops, etc.). The data should be as complete and comprehensive as possible and shall also comply with the necessary parameters enabling their processing with the use of analytical tools (e.g. a spatial analysis requires knowledge of the exact location of the crime committed, preferably with its GPS coordinates). Data availability is equally important. This requires that data will be, whenever possible, publicly accessible or, in cases where this is not possible, at least shared, in line with clearly defined rules, by the relevant stakeholders. The above-mentioned requirements for the quality and availability of data and data sharing still show some room for improvement here in the Czech Republic (with some exceptions).

In the past two to three years, we stated introducing in the Czech Republic the aforementioned analytical approach and tools, both at the level of the Police of the Czech Republic as well as municipalities and Municipal Police corps. This process was possible thanks to the significant contributions and funding from the Crime Prevention Programme and projects under the umbrella of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police focused on spatial analyses²⁰⁾. All these activities are currently in the phase of iden-

²⁰⁾ E.g. the project called „Maps of the future - a modern tool to increase efficiency and quality of public administration in the field of crime prevention based on the analysis and prediction of crime“, sponsored by the ESF OP HRE and the public budget, a security research project of the Ministry of the Interior on „Geographical information as a tool to support integrated activities of the national security forces“ and the project called „Application of the geographic information system in policing“ supported by the Norwegian funds for 2009 - 2014.



tifying potential benefits and pilot testing. It is, however, clear, that benefits are high. Therefore, this Strategy should strive to complete various pilot operations and testing and focus on subsequent implementation of approach and practice verified within the Police of the Czech Republic, municipalities and the Municipal Police corps in the Czech Republic.

Specific Tasks:

- 1.38 Preventive measures (including, for example, advance planning of Police patrols) shall always be built on a thorough analysis of the security situation and causes of criminal and high risk behaviour.**
- 1.39 To use all modern analytical tools available in order to draft and implement such analyses.**
- 1.40 To create a pilot project to test the use of mapping tools and other tools available for analysis and prediction of crime in the Czech Republic. Based on the pilot phase, we recommend implementing these tools into the entire structure of the Police of the CR and promoting their use in municipalities and by the Municipal Police.**
- 1.41 To strengthen staff responsible for crime analysis, both quantitatively and qualitatively (training, necessary software and hardware, collaboration with the academia, etc.).**
- 1.42 To improve the quality of data collected in order to allow for their subsequent use in crime prevention.**
- 1.43 To share data with relevant partners and to develop rules for such cooperation, including protection of the shared data (e.g. through coordination agreements, contracts, or through legislation).**

Professional training

An efficient and well-functioning crime prevention system requires professional qualifications in the field of crime prevention from all entities involved in prevention policies and preventive activities. This applies to all levels of the system – the nationwide level as well as the regional and local (municipal) level. It concerns, in a varying degree of detail, dedicated prevention staff (prevention officers of the Police, crime prevention managers at regions, municipalities, and with the Municipal Police) as well as managers and politicians responsible for crime prevention policies.

In the Czech Republic, there is no guaranteed accredited crime prevention training in place to provide individual stakeholders in the crime prevention system and their staff with adequate and sufficient professional training with respect to their role in the system, job title, etc. Since 2015, the Ministry of the Interior has been implementing, under the umbrella of a project called „Efficient development and strengthening of human resources’ competences“, financed by the European Structural Funds, Operational Programme for Human Resources and the central budget, an activity targeted at creating a training course and verifying its content, form and scope. The training shall be designed for specialists in the field

crime prevention, both within the Czech Police²¹⁾ as well as the regional and municipal self-governing bodies. By the end of 2015, this training module will have been evaluated and recommendations made on the final makeup of the training course, in a sufficient detail to reflect the various target groups to be trained. In the following years, we will accredit these courses and introduce them as part of the life-long education of the target groups.

Of course, we shall not forget the on-going life-long education and training in selected areas related to crime prevention and responding to the current needs and priorities and goals deriving from this Strategy.

Specific Tasks:

1.44 To create, in connection with the project called „Efficient development and strengthening of human resources” training courses (ideally accredited) focused on crime prevention; their content and scope shall be adapted to the needs of different target groups.

1.45 Provide on-going training of staff having responsibilities in the field of crime prevention and prevention of social pathologies.

Awareness raising and information campaigns

Rising of awareness of crime prevention belongs to the most frequently used methods of approaching the public, both in the context of primary prevention measures (information targeted at the public at large), secondary prevention (information targeted at vulnerable groups of potential victims or perpetrators) and tertiary prevention (working with offenders or victims).

Information campaigns may relate to the incidence as well as current development of crime in general, risk locations, specific risks and threats to the target group, possibilities and mode of protection against crime and other social pathologies.

Awareness raising and information campaigns shall be implemented by all stakeholders involved in crime prevention, proportionately to their scope of activities and responsibilities.

Countries where citizens receive regular information about the security situation and potential measures to protect themselves and their property provided by the authorities, have experienced increased public confidence in these authorities and greater motivation of the public to cooperate with these authorities (reporting crimes and misdemeanours, pointing out suspicious activity and phenomena, volunteering to help increase public safety, etc.). This leads to an overall reduction in latent (hidden) crime, improved public safety in the area, higher detection rate and more targeted planning of preventive measures.

Unfortunately, the Czech Republic has not opened itself yet to the extent that it would provide its citizens with information on the security situation in their neighbourhood to the extent which

²¹⁾ An expansion of the current specialized course for spokespersons and preventive staff at the Police College and the Police Secondary School in Holesov, classrooms in Brno (in 2015, members of the Czech Police Methodological Council for Crime Prevention performed an evaluation of the course and found it positive and beneficial). Representatives of the Department for penal policy at the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic will propose innovations of the course contents.

is common in some developed countries, where it is commonplace, for example, to publish detailed, but still anonymous, maps of crime or pay visits to residents of areas running an increased risk of specific type of crime (searching for the root causes of crime). The situation, however, keeps improving, particularly on the initiative of municipal self-governing bodies and their subordinated Municipal Police corps. The Police of the CR have remained the least open, primarily due to the binding legislation and provisions guiding protection of personal data as well as volume and type of data involved. The Police of the CR, however, have touched upon this issue at various working meetings with stakeholders inside and outside the Police structure.

The Ministry of the Interior, which manages, through the Minister himself, the National Crime Prevention Committee and whose Department of Security Policy and Crime Prevention acts as the Secretariat of the Committee, has assumed responsibility for the www.prevenckriminality.cz website, which concentrates and disseminates, to the public as well as to experts, news and important events and developments in crime prevention. The website contains general information on crime prevention, important documents, projects and information on successful prevention activities, research activities, and on events related to crime prevention. It also draws the public attention to imminent threats and provides advice and recommendations on how to protect people and their property. The website also circulates an electronic newsletter called „Prevention for every family“, with the help of which, and through municipal and village authorities (which distribute the newsletter), people receive more information on crime prevention in their community. Information and outreach activities have not developed further due to the low involvement of other partners and members of the National Committee and the absence of a clear link to their strategic documents and activities.

The Ministry of the Interior has been presenting, since 2011 and inspired by the European Crime Prevention Award (hereinafter only the „ECPA“), an annual award to the „Best prevention programme of the region, municipality and village“. The award is intended to motivate people as well as to improve media coverage of crime prevention events and to share examples of best practice. Unlike the ECPA, the national award helps us reflect on our own priorities and appreciate those who designed and implemented useful and inspirational projects. Even though the Ministry of the Interior has organized already 4 annual awards, its rules still keep developing and the media coverage is well below the desired scope.

Specific Tasks:

- 1.46 To increase public trust through openness and information sharing (both ways while maintain legal requirements (protection of personal data, volume and type of shared data, etc.).***
- 1.47 To develop the current means of awareness raising and information campaigns, including the use of new information channels, etc.), continue operating the www.prevenckriminality.cz website and the „Prevention to every family“ electronic newsletter, disseminate information on-line on activities and key documents of other members of the national committee.***
- 1.48 To reinforce the importance of the national best prevention project award and open it to other entities; use the award output to share examples of best practice. Set rules for submission of projects and selection of winners.***

Legislation

In 2012 to 2014 we drafted, in collaboration with the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP), an analysis of the need for legislation to guide crime prevention, particularly with regard to the need for a separate legal instrument to guide crime prevention. The data collected, suggestions, opinions and underlying debates resulted in a number of recommendations indicating how this instrument should be like. Primarily, it was recommended to anchor in the Czech law the role of various organizations and stakeholders involved in the crime prevention system, strengthen their cooperation and ensure sustainability and durability of prevention policies, including the aspect of financing of prevention activities. On the other hand, a number of critical voices were heard, which did not dispute the necessity to provide for the above needs, but criticized the idea to approach them from the legislative side.

Given the fact that we failed to reach consensus on this issue, the National Committee closed the debate with a recommendation to proceed by ways of amending the current binding legislation governing the preventive activities and the status of subjects involved in crime prevention. Such amended body of law should help create stable and efficient conditions for crime prevention in the future and incorporate various crime prevention related issues to those Government strategic documents which target the central penal policy.

It is therefore clear that any changes in crime prevention related legislation will always require a wider consensus and we will have to win support of both experts on crime prevention but also experts on legislation. To achieve broader consensus, we should seek stronger involvement of representatives of regions and municipalities in the membership of the National Committee, since their role in these deliberations is key and vital.

Specific Tasks:

1.49 To strengthen, if appropriate and consensus based, the crime prevention system by ways of introducing new legislation in order to create stable and more efficient conditions for successful crime prevention.

International cooperation

In the area of international cooperation in crime prevention, the Czech Republic has focused primarily on membership and cooperation under the umbrella of major international and European bodies concentrating on such cooperation and guiding the direction for preventive policies in the region or world-wide.

In the framework of the United Nations, the Czech Republic is represented in a number of bodies by the Ministry of the Interior (the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the UN Human Rights Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Office on Drugs and Crime, etc.) and is responsible for fulfilling its obligations arising from the adopted international treaties, conventions, and recommendations. The international dimension of crime prevention will focus primarily on the EU. The Ministry of the Interior represents the Czech Republic in the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN), which sets out tasks to Member States through a multi-year strategy designed to strengthen the role of crime prevention and more effective prevention activities across the European Union. The Network announces the annual European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA), which the Czech Republic has been

actively participating at since its accession to the EU. The EUCPN also initiates projects focusing on international cooperation targeting specific and topical issues of crime prevention. The projects draw on financial support in a form of grants from the European Commission.

The Czech Republic has been participating at the activities implemented by the Council of Europe, particularly through the implementation of activities deriving from priorities and documents of the Council of Europe at the national level.

As regards cooperation with non-profit organizations, the European Forum for Urban Safety (EFUS), which was established as a platform for European cities' mayors, is one of the key partners of the Czech Republic. It focuses primarily on building a network of European local self-governing bodies and on sharing information and practical experience of crime reduction.

The Czech Republic has also been working on specific ministerial projects with foreign partners, meeting with foreign experts, and drawing inspiration from examples of best practice and successful legislative amendments.

In the today's globalized world (in the Schengen area, we can speak about a territory without borders) problems spill over and spread from one country to another, problems in one country source from another country and very few things can be solved without due bilateral or multilateral cooperation or without a direct involvement of international organizations. The international response is often financed from international sources.

It is therefore necessary to pay an increased attention to this collaboration, to participate actively in activities of international organizations and to keep developing activities, cooperation, and collaboration. In addition to that, international cooperation has proven itself as a very good source of positive experience and proper solutions.

Specific Tasks:

- 1.50 To continue the active involvement of the Czech Republic in the international co-operation efforts in the field of crime prevention, especially within the structures of the EU (European Network for the Prevention of Crime) and participate in the formulation of preventive policies at the European level.**
- 1.51 To use channels of international cooperation to share positive examples and experience in the field of crime prevention.**
- 1.52 To engage in activities of international non-profit organisations and groups focusing primarily on situational prevention in cities.**
- 1.53 To participate in the development of the European standards in the field of crime prevention.**
- 1.54 To use the EU resources or other international financial mechanisms to implement prevention projects and activities.**
- 1.55 To strengthen bilateral cooperation in issues which fall under the umbrella of crime prevention**

Science, research, innovations

As already repeatedly mentioned in the Strategy, the national, regional and municipal preventive policy shall build both on knowledge and expertise of prevention officers, but also on specific and precise data. Such data are both collected and analysed on a regular day to day basis by stakeholders involved in crime prevention. In many cases, however, the extent of the necessary data and their interpretation are beyond the capacity of such entities. Then we must reach out to scientific and research institutions capacities which are capable of providing us with analyses in support of our decision making efforts in the field of preventive policies.

Most commonly, we use the output of research focusing on monitoring public perception of safety and public attitude to safety and prevention policies, level of confidence in the security forces and the like. Surveys concentrating on victims (helping us understand latency of crime and reasons why some people fall prey to offenders more often than others; collecting data on crime reporting by victims to the competent authorities and reasons for such reporting/failure to report) are a suitable method to supplement the knowledge of the central authorities and the local self-governing bodies in the area of crime and its causes. Experts perform research and surveys also amongst offenders to better understand the causes of their pathological behaviour, striving to collect information necessary to prevent crime. It is important and necessary that such surveys and research were carried out and evaluated on the entire territory of the Czech Republic (but ideally in individual regions or even cities, so that the output is applicable also for the regional and local level) at least once in the period of each Crime Prevention Strategy²²⁾ for they serve an important source for drafting of preventive policies, both with data contained in them as well as an entry necessary to make comparison with results of surveys performed in previous periods and to analyse trends of crime and its causes.

In parallel with the above complex research and surveys, institutions carry out smaller research exercises targeting specific aspects of crime, types of victims of crime, perpetrators, the national policy to fight crime, effectiveness of programmes and projects implemented, etc.

Besides the standard social science research and surveys, crime prevention more and more often draws on technical knowledge, such as information technology, etc. (e.g. in the process of improving various situational prevention measures; the very recent trends include, among others, protection of property by labelling it with synthetic DNA, further development of increasingly more sophisticated analytical and predictive software, tools necessary for efficient management and coordination of relevant subjects for faster and more efficient performance of their activities, etc.). Research is no longer commissioned solely by the public administration, but increasingly by private entities for their own use (a typical example - various tools and measures to protect property and people against crime). These results can also be used in the process of drafting and implementing preventive policies of public bodies.

In the area of research focused on security and crime prevention, we currently have at our disposal various sources of financing, for example, competitive financing under the umbrella of the security research programme of the Ministry of the Interior, funding provi-

²²⁾ Research carried out in this area during the period of the Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015 and their conclusions are described in the Evaluation of the Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015, which is an integral part of this Strategy.

ded by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, Grant Agency of the Czech Republic, the EU funds, financial mechanisms provided by Norway, Switzerland and other countries, etc. Even though this spectrum of resources is relatively broad and often utilized in practice, in individual cases, we unfortunately very often find ourselves in a situation when conditions (material, logistical, administrative, time-related or related to the structure of eligible costs, etc.) stipulated by these mechanisms are not entirely appropriate and flexible enough to serve crime prevention purpose. It is therefore necessary to maintain the option and, ideally, increase the possibilities of financing from individual chapters of the public budget (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice - in particular the Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention - hereinafter referred to as „IKSP“ - and other agencies in line with their competence.

Specific Tasks:

- 1.56 To perform, at least once per the period of implementation of each Strategy, a nation-wide survey on crime prevention and the public perception of safety; such survey should be evaluated nation-wide as well as for each region. We need a regular national survey of victims as well. Surveys should be conducted regularly and collection of entries and final assessment of data should be standardized.***
- 1.57 To conduct research in the field of crime prevention and partial national security policy and national policy to combat crime related surveys.***
- 1.58 To contribute, besides the sociological and scientific research, to the implementation of the latest technologies and trends into everyday operation of stakeholders involved in crime prevention.***
- 1.59 To finance the scientific and research activities both from funds allocated by the Czech Government on specific security research as well as own dedicated resources allocated by the National Committee, under the umbrella of the Crime Prevention Program, to research for which the above funding is not appropriate.***



IV. Assistance to Victims of Crime, Activities Targeted at Children and the Youth

The victim is one of imaginary peaks of the triangle of crime (analysis). The victim is always a part of the offense committed. Each offense results in a kind of damage (regardless of whether it is material or non-material damage) and the damage is caused to an individual or a group of individuals. Some victims (due to their association with a certain group of people or their individual personal features) are either perceived by perpetrators as easier targets or they suffer more than others. Such people fall under the category of **particularly vulnerable victims**.

As mentioned in the section on dedicated to the analysis of crime, numerous studies show that the **crime tends to concentrate to certain areas** and target **certain people/victims**. A relatively small number of targets/victims often falls victim to extensive crime or extensive criminal behaviour (we often hear that 4% of the population falls prey to 44% of crimes; surveys also show that targets/victims who have been repeatedly targeted by perpetrators of crime show much higher probability of repeated victimization). This fact should be used to draft and implement more targeted and efficient preventive activities and projects and provide victim-focused assistance.

Modern democratic states perceive assistance to victims of crime and other violations of law as their key priority in the context of prevention, penal policy, social assistance, health services, and others. They pay an increased attention to the particularly vulnerable victims, including, for example, children, the elderly, physically or mentally disabled, victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual offenses, etc.

The Czech Republic's legislation guiding this area is modern and was adopted under the previous Crime Prevention Strategy. The **Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on victims of crime**, which entered in effect on 1st August 2013, defines victims and particularly vulnerable victims of crime and comprehensively regulates their rights, provision of assistance to victims, rules under which various entities provide assistance to victims, support and assistance available from the public authorities, and dissemination of information to victims of crime. The Act also amended the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code on the status of victims and the damaged party in the criminal proceedings. The adoption of this law was followed by a number of practical measures introduced by the central public authorities to help and empower victims.

In the context of fighting crime and assisting victims, we should concentrate on the important **role of the victim's „protector“**. There are many subjects in the crime prevention system (ministries, other public authorities and local self-governing bodies, NGOs, businesses, and others) which can offer assistance to victims. **Prevention of victimization and assistance to victims** of crime is based on the concept of safe behaviour, differentiated with respect to various crime-prone situations and the mental setting of endangered persons who must be able to face the danger. In practice, this involves group and individual health, psychological and legal counselling, self-defence strategies and awareness of technical means of protection against crime. Those who assist victims use methods of social and situational prevention applied, according to the level of actual threat, at the primary, secondary and tertiary level.



In many cases, activities carried out to assist the target groups, especially in the context of social prevention, prevent individuals both from falling victims of crime – prevention of victimisation – and from committing crime themselves. Even though chapters on victims and perpetrators of crime are separate, some activities and programmes described in one chapter may be used in the other chapter, too (especially when assisting children and the youth). In the following chapter, which focuses on perpetrators, we concentrate more on activities and objectives in working with offenders, their rehabilitation and prevention of repeated violations of law.

The **primary prevention** is designed to reach out to the whole population, adults as well as children. The system of primary prevention includes mainly educational, recreational, and counselling activities aimed at the general public. Special attention is paid to positively influencing life values of especially children and youth. Primary prevention is mainly in the hands of the family and schools, in practice it is often implemented also by the Czech Police and Municipal Police forces in many cities (activities are most commonly delivered at schools).

The Czech Government has adopted a new „**National Strategy for Primary Prevention of risk Behaviour of Children and the Youth for the Period of 2013 to 2018**“. Subsequently, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports adopted Guidelines for granting subsidies from the state budget for implementation of activities in the field of prevention of risk behaviour in the period of 2013 to 2018. The ministry has been announcing annually a selection process for programmes to support activities in the field of prevention of risk behaviour among children and the youth. The ministry also drafted „Standards of specific primary prevention for prevention of all forms of high risk behaviour.“

„**Health 2020 - National Strategy on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention**“ and „**National Action Plan of Child Accident Prevention**“ are two other strategic documents on primary prevention under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. The ministry issues, on an annual basis, a defined set of priorities and supports projects under the grant programs of „Caring for Children and Adolescents“ and „Crime Prevention“, which focus on safe environment and healthy lifestyle of children and adolescents and prevention of various forms of violence. Moreover, they promote safety for children and other vulnerable population groups. In this context, the ministry has been supporting the National Coordination Centre for Injury Prevention, Prevention of Violence Against Children and Promotion of Child Safety at the University Hospital in Motol, Prague. The Ministry has also been supporting projects aimed at risk lifestyle factors - especially smoking and alcohol abuse among pupils of elementary schools and secondary school students.

The **secondary prevention** focuses on specific risk groups, more closely defined by age, type of threat, territory, etc., and on high risk social environment and situations. The **tertiary prevention** provides for re-socialization measures targeting offenders, locations that have already been affected by crime, and victims of crime. With regard to the expert demands of individual activities, these aspects of tertiary prevention are mainly in the hands of employees of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, respectively the Ministry of Justice or the Ministry of the Interior.

The amendment to Act No. 359/1999 Coll., on **social and legal protection of children**, implemented by Act No. 401/2012 Coll., guides, next to the interests and welfare of children,



also provisions on protection of parenthood, family, the right to parental education and care with regard to the wider social environment. This amendment was followed by a number of activities that supported the implementation of the amendment, as, for example, a proposal to optimize management and financing of the system providing care to vulnerable children and families, drafting and pilot testing of quality standards of social and legal protection of children, tools to operate in the system of care for vulnerable children and families and support for the development of services provided to vulnerable children and families. Authorities at the regional level created a minimum framework of a network of services to be provided at the regional level, which includes creation of new types of jobs primarily in services related to the foster care (professional foster care). Several regions piloted so called family conferences.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has been supporting, on a long-term basis, preventative and supportive assistance and support services. Such services are delivered by family matters oriented NGOs supported by the Ministry, partially under the umbrella of several grant programs.

The Interagency Coordination Group to transform the system of care for vulnerable children at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has been considering further development and direction of the process of transforming the system of care for vulnerable children.

The amendment to Act No. 109/2002 Coll., on **institutional care or protective care** at schools and on preventive and educational care at schools (2012, No. 333/2012 Coll.), introduced a number of significant changes in the institutional and preventive care affecting the foster care for children at risk.

The „**National Strategy for Protection of Children’s Rights**” adopted in 2012 and the subsequent „**Action Plan** implementing the National Strategy for Protection of Children’s Rights 2012 to 2015” belong to other important instruments contributing to regulation of childcare in the Czech Republic. For the years 2016 and on, the authorities plan to adopt a new Action Plan, which will also significantly impact crime prevention activities targeted at children.

Moreover, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has been supporting a network of preventive services under the umbrella of the system of care for children at risk. Under the Programme for the implementation of activities in the field of prevention of high risk behaviour under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and in the context of financial support provided to **prevention methodologists**, financial support also goes to, among other things, centres for pedagogical and psychological counselling (pedagogicko- psychologické poradny).

The Ministry of Health also contributes to the problem **solving with regards to children without a family and children at risk** and has supported efforts to open several child centres, main principle of which is multidisciplinary cooperation and involvement of families in caring for the child. The Ministry of Health has established an Interagency **Working Group on Child Injury Prevention**, which created a National Action Plan for Prevention of Child Injury for the years of 2007 to 2017 and has been actively involved in its implementation.

The Probation and Mediation Service under the Ministry of Justice manages and supervises **a system of comprehensive and specialized counselling for victims of crime** with new

restorative approach to treating victims and offenders. The project currently operates in 40 Czech cities delivering free advice to victims of crime provided by about 80 trained Probation and Mediation Service staff.

The Probation and Mediation Service staff provide counselling and consultancy to victims of crime who most often seek information on legal issues, psychological counselling and social assistance.

The Ministry of the Interior has been, on a long term basis, striving to improve the inter-agency system of care for vulnerable children and children at risk. Prior to 2011, the key interagency project had been the „**Early Intervention System**“ (hereinafter the „EIS“) implemented in 2000 to 2010 and aimed at improving cooperation among institutions responsible for care for vulnerable children at the earliest stages of pathological social development of the child, whether in terms of crime, torture, neglect, or abuse of children. The project was managed by the Ministry of the Interior and subsidized under the scope of the Crime Prevention Programme. It was implemented in 38 cities throughout the entire country. By its Resolution No. 191/2011 the Government empowered the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the Minister of the Interior, to implement the Early Intervention System National Project. This Minister of Labour and Social Affairs project, however, has not yet been implemented.

Since 2012, the authorities have been working on the implementation of SPOD IS – an information system of child protection (using compatible elements of the Early Intervention System) as part of the unified information system (JIS) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Practical experience from the work of so called complex teams for the youth established on a similar basis as the Early Intervention System and deriving from a Probation and Mediation Service initiative has produced a number of suggestions and recommendations, which were reflected in Regulation No. 473/2012 Coll., on the implementation of selected provisions of the Act on legal and social protection of children. Annex No. 1 to the Regulation lays down quality standards for social and legal protection in the process of providing social and legal protection. The most relevant standard is the standard No. 7 - Prevention²³⁾. Currently, however, neither the Early Intervention System methodology nor its practical implementation are in progress²⁴⁾.

Information from staff of public administration bodies, the Police and NGOs speaking of the deteriorating situation and low perspective of children and adolescents in many regions and locations of the Czech Republic made the Ministry of the Interior to draft an „**Analysis of the situation of children and the youth at risk of crime and criminally prone phenomena**“²⁵⁾, which was submitted to the Government to take note of (on 27th August 2014). The

²³⁾ For more details, see the Evaluation of the Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015, page 69.

²⁴⁾ For more details, see conclusions of the research project of the Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention called the „Juvenile crime: New features in juvenile delinquency and the application of the Early Intervention System“ in the framework of the Evaluation of the Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015, page 70.

²⁵⁾ For more details on the objective of this text, its key findings and recommendations, see the Evaluation of the Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015, page 71.



text contains a summary of recommendations for a more efficient system of care for children at risk. Recommendations concern e.g. statistical records of juvenile delinquency (especially records of misdemeanours committed by minors as a result of the introduction of a database of misdemeanours kept by the Criminal Register), surveys of victimization and self-reporting survey of offenders, survey of the impact of the family environment on juvenile delinquency, the issue of addictive behaviour, restorative justice, crime against children and the youth, special interrogation rooms and a National Coordination Mechanism of Search for Missing Children.

The Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the Police, has been implementing, in connection with the issue of care for vulnerable children, children as victims of crime or child witnesses, a specific project called „National Coordination Mechanism of Search for Missing Children“, which was developed for the purpose of fast and successful detection of missing children. It counts on the public involvement in the search and provides the much needed psychological support to families of missing children. For this purpose, the Ministry of the Interior has also supported operators of the European assistance and emergency, especially the 116 000 hotline for missing children. The Ministry of the Interior has been cooperating closely with the European platform for missing children – the AMBER Alert Europe.

One of the key Ministry of the Interior projects providing assistance to victims of crime is the one facilitating the „special interrogation rooms“. The main reason for introducing the special interrogation rooms is to prevent secondary victimization of child victims of serious crimes or secondary victimization of other groups of particularly vulnerable victims, as defined by Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on victims of crime. Questioning of victims in a more pleasant environment of the special interrogation rooms allows the Police to establish better contact with the child (and other victims) and thus improve the entire course of the interrogation. The Ministry of the Interior has also been supporting, on an on-going basis, projects that lead to the modernization of the special interrogation rooms and increase their use for victims of crime.

In connection with the implementation of tasks arising from the Strategy and in connection with the entry into force of Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on victims of crime, the Czech Police have been implementing the „**Comprehensive approach of the Police in the area of prevention and elimination of secondary victimization of victims of crime**“, a pilot project. With the help of the project, the Police is introducing a videoconferencing network, a modern type of multimedia communication, which allows for real-time transmission of images, sound and data between two or among more parties. The use of this method of communication in the criminal proceedings can significantly contribute to more streamlined functioning of all the components, i.e. courts, prosecutors, the Prison Service and the Police and, moreover, to the increased protection of victims from secondary victimisation, which is, in many cases, due to the undue approach of the law enforcement bodies. In addition, the use of videoconferencing calls also contributes to the implementation of the basic principles of criminal proceeding, namely the principle of speed and efficiency, together with the principle of efficiency and economy of the criminal proceedings. This also has a prevention impact.

There is a dedicated continuous training of crisis intervention officers of the Police of the Czech Republic to support prevention of secondary victimization. The training is provided





under the umbrella of the **„System of psychological assistance to victims of crime and victims of other emergencies.“**

By its Resolution No. 126 of February 2015, the Government adopted the **„Action Plan for the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence for the years 2015 to 2018“** (hereinafter the „Action Plan“). The implementation of measures set out in the Action Plan should help improve the current level of protection of persons in risk of domestic and gender-based violence (including children living in families with incidence of domestic and gender-based violence), increase efficiency of prevention of such violence, develop training and education of competent professionals in the field of domestic and gender-based violence, and promote a systematic approach to the handling of the violent people. Coordination and evaluation of the implementation of the Action Plan will be entrusted to the hands of the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the Office of the Government.

In support of work dedicated to victims, the Ministry of the Interior has been implementing a specific subsidy titled „Prevention of socially pathological phenomena“ that is capable of responding to the immediate social needs in the given area. It is announced on an annual basis and the targeted Government subsidies are provided to NGOs. Prior to 2012, subsidies targeted „Prevention of domestic violence, with an emphasis on working with violent persons“, i.e. projects focused on systematic work with violent persons/perpetrators of domestic violence. At the end of the period, experts drafted several manuals for violent persons, perpetrators of domestic violence and people who are aggressive in their relationships. Since 2013, subsidies have been targeting „Prevention of domestic violence and crimes committed against seniors“, i.e. one the most vulnerable people in our population, who often lack social contacts, are isolated, ill, dependent on care provided by others, and therefore vulnerable to various forms of violence. Statistical data show that there are such crimes and the incidence of serious crimes committed against seniors in the Czech Republic is currently on the rise.

The Ministry of the Interior has been, since 2014, implementing a project under the umbrella of the European Structural Fund, Operational Programme Human Resources (ESF OP HRE) targeting „Interagency education and training to increase safety of the elderly“, which is focused on a comprehensive approach to senior citizens as victims or witnesses of crime, prevention of their repeated victimization and a specific approach taking into account their physical and mental health. The objective of the project is to prepare and set up a training system for civil servants in prevention and prosecution of crimes against seniors. Furthermore, it shall help improve their skills, streamline services provided and ensure standardisation of approach of the public administration and local self-governing bodies on the entire territory of the Czech Republic towards the target group – the elderly, with a special focus on practical application of the Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on victims of crime.

Victims of trafficking are among the most vulnerable victims of crime. The Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the Police, specialized NGOs and the International Organization for Migration, has been implementing the **„Program of support and protection of victims of trafficking.“** It includes measures that aim to provide victims of trafficking with support and adequate protection based on an individual risk assessment. Under the programme, victims of human trafficking are guaranteed suitable and adequate housing, health care, legal assistance, legal representation, psychological and social support and retraining. The programme also offers safe and free of charge voluntary repatriation of the victims.



In addition to its assistance to victims of human trafficking, the Ministry of the Interior has supported, on an annual basis, regular and extensive **preventive and awareness raising events** on human trafficking. Prevention activities under the scope of the Programme include social counselling for potential victims of trafficking provided through low-threshold counselling centre operated by a dedicated NGOs and field trips made for the purpose of directly contacting potential victims of human trafficking.

To assist crime victims (or potential victims), we also carry activities under the umbrella of the situational prevention. **Safe Location - Secure Housing and Safe Country** serve as good examples of projects under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. These projects aim primarily at prevention of property crime. They strive to promote safety standards in the new buildings and to make safety a strong element in the process of revitalization of old residential areas.

In 2012, there was a new project introduced under the scope of the Safe Locality project. It was a **joint prevention project called „Safe Country“**. The project promotes the use of mechanical systems of protection of property and strives to improve public awareness and encourage do it yourself activity. Thanks to the project, people learn how to properly and effectively secure their homes, houses, and property and identify what makes one's home and property really safe. The project introduces the right mix of precautions and safety features one can rely on in life. Administrators of the Safe Area and Safe Country projects prepared, as the main project output: „Guidelines for determining the level of safety of buildings and business premises against burglary in line with European standards“, „Catalogue of recommended products for protection of individuals and property“, and „Safe housing manual.“

There is one novelty in situational prevention - a new protection system designed for (among others) bicycles, wheelchairs, and the like using so called forensic identification marks. The system has been operable the Czech Republic since 2013, when the Ministry of the Interior quickly responded to municipalities and villages asking for this system of property protection and facilitated the „Forensic identification marking of bicycles“ project. This system is very useful for municipalities, Municipal Police forces, and the Police of the CR since it helps disseminate information on every marked bicycle stolen immediately to all Municipal Police forces and the Police of the CR cooperating with the national REFIZ registry. With REFIZ, it is now much easier to find the stolen bicycle anywhere on the territory of the Czech Republic (REFIZ keep a description and a picture of every marked bicycle). Marking can be used on any other property, such as benches and other municipal street furniture.

Specific Tasks:

- 1.2 To pay attention to the most vulnerable and particularly vulnerable victims in order to assist victims of crime and prevent repeated victimization.**
- 2.2 To sustain the current grant programs, in respect of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, both social and situational, promoting and supporting activities and projects helping and assisting victims of crime and preventing further victimization.**
- 2.3 To implement the Act on victims of crime and its principles into the practice of all stakeholders involved in assistance and support of victims.**

- 2.4 *To continue building a comprehensive system of dedicated and specialized advice and assistance to crime victims, to expand the network of advice and assistance to crime victims in all regions of the country. This activity shall be based on a new restorative approach. Furthermore, we shall promote introduction of multidisciplinary teams.*
- 2.5 *To develop the area of primary prevention, particularly in relation to children and the youth in order to implement the already adopted relevant strategic documents.*
- 2.6 *To encourage development of services targeted at vulnerable children and families, including the minimum network of services for vulnerable families and children at the local level. To support a network of social curators for the youth, especially by providing methodology and education and training.*
- 2.7 *To develop activities of the Interagency Coordination Group to transform the system of care for vulnerable children and to continue efforts to unify the system of care for vulnerable children. To draft a new bill on family support, foster care and protection of children's rights in order to replace the currently fragmented and rather out-dated legislation.*
- 2.8 *To implement the Information System of Social Protection of Children (IS SPOD) as part of a Joint Information System (JIS) of labour and social affairs (while utilising compatible elements of the Early Intervention System).*
- 2.9 *To monitor the implementation of recommendations for a more efficient system of care for children at high risk which derive from the „Analysis of the situation of children and the youth at risk of crime and criminally prone phenomena“.*
- 2.10 *To implement the Action Plan for prevention of domestic and gender-based violence for the years 2015 to 2018. The Police of the Czech Republic shall build a network of experts in prevention, identification and elimination of domestic violence. We shall facilitate nationwide availability of therapeutic interventions for violent persons and continue promoting prevention of domestic violence from existing grant programs under responsibility of various ministries with a special focus on particularly vulnerable groups (e.g. children, women, the elderly) and the aggressive people unable to keep their temper.*
- 2.11 *To continue operating the National Coordination Mechanism for search for missing children and to win more stakeholders to collaborate on this project. To intensify partnership between the National Coordination Mechanism of Search for Missing Children and the AMBER Alert Europe platform thus contributing to the implementation of tasks and principles of the Memorandum to the European Parliament and the European Commission to unify systems of search for missing children at risk.*
- 2.12 *To assume responsibility for the oversight of 116 000, the European emergency line for missing children and their families and to provide funding for non-profit organizations engaged in the European emergency hotlines or helplines – 116 000, 116 111 and 116 006 - in the Czech Republic.*



- 2.13** *To complete the network of special interrogation rooms to be used by the Police of the Czech Republic, support their modernization, including recording technology. To develop new special interrogation rooms' standards so that the rooms can be used for interrogating children as well as other particularly vulnerable victims.*
- 2.14** *To continue implementing the Program of Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking and sustain prevention activities in the field of human trafficking. To design and implement a long-term protection programme to assist foreigners.*
- 2.15** *To promote protection of victims and prevention activities in relation to crimes committed on racial and ethnic grounds, for religious reasons or against individuals with different sexual orientation; to utilise, to this end, the so-called new media and prevention to mitigate hatred, disprove myths, and remove prejudice.*





V. Assisting Perpetrators of Crime

While in 2000, 30% of perpetrators of crime were repeat offenders, in 2011 the percentage rose to 48.5% and in 2014 it was as high as 53.3%. In property crime, repeat offenders commit 65% of crimes, and as regards theft from cars, the percentage is as high as 80% of cases committed by repeat offenders. In certain regions, percentage of repeat offenders ends to be higher, for example, in the Northern Moravian Region, their share is 61.2%.

These figures may be perceived in two ways. There is a **positive trend** of overall decrease in the incidence of crime and the number of perpetrators. The number of so-called first-time offenders also keeps decreasing, primarily due to the preventive measures implemented as described in the previous chapter. On the other hand, these figures send us a **negative message** that the established system of working with offenders and the attempts for their re-socialization have been, to a certain degree, a failure. If our efforts to work with offenders were better, the total number of offenses could have fallen more significantly than it actually has.

The causes of recidivism differ from perpetrator to perpetrator, but it is quite obvious that when we assist an offender, either convicted or released from prison, it is not enough to build on the personal features and conditions of the offender. Causes of recidivism often lie outside, i.e. in the external environment in which the offender lives after having been rereleased from prison. Released individuals do not get adequate help, they are often indebted, their family showed their back to them, they lack a roof over their head, have no work, and no chance to provide for their everyday needs. Basically, it is a vicious circle one cannot break away from 'without a helping hand of others. In such situations, there is a much higher risk that sooner or later the individual will commit crime again for crime seems to be the only available source of livelihood and means to satisfy one's needs.

Assistance to offenders (convicted or released from prison) is mainly under responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and its subordinated organizations, namely the Prison Service and the Probation and Mediation Service. Given the number of convicted persons or persons released from prison who are subject to regular monitoring by the Probation and Mediation Service (up to 30%), other subjects must also contribute to such efforts. Social workers, especially social curators, employment offices, but also various non-profit organizations supported from public and private funds play an irreplaceable role in assisting convicted persons or persons released from prison. To integrate persons released from prison into normal independent life, it is necessary to offer comprehensive and follow-up services. To provide such services, we need to involve the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, regions and municipalities, which, in line with the scope of their competences, create necessary conditions for re-integration.

Assistance to convicts **must be based on a careful analysis** of the convict, their living environment and internal and external factors which influence their behaviour and conduct. Based on this analysis, we must identify causes of their pathological behaviour and propose a **complex of mutually related and coordinated activities** to set up the treatment programme and subsequent care. This complex of measures and activities must be defined both for the **period of imprisonment**, but also for the period **after the release from prison** and shall be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

To make the treatment programs and post penitentiary care successful, it is necessary to make sure – prior to their commencement – that the convicted person is willing and even capable to accept and comply with such activities. One of the first actions to be taken shall therefore be the treatment of addictions or other, in particular mental, disabilities that prevent us from efficiently working with the convict and providing for their re-socialization.

At the following levels, we shall **establish a link between policies and measures** in the prison service, crime prevention, social work, social housing, fight against social exclusion, etc.:

- a) The national (strategic) level - the National Crime Prevention Committee and the interagency working groups for the development of strategies in social care serve as platforms for the new concept of the prison system, education, employment, etc. which helps facilitate mutual links and influence different policies and their context.
- b) The local (implementation) level - working groups and action multidisciplinary teams of experts and representatives of individual institutions and organizations (public, self-governing, non-profit, etc.) which approach individual problems in a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and individualized manner. It is necessary to determine who should lead and manage such cooperation and coordination. It can be done by the Probation and Mediation Service (which also operates in prisons), in the case of after penitentiary care, it could be done by municipal departments of social care (social curators).

Fighting against recidivism and supporting measures for the effective re-socialization of offenders

Our foreign counterparts, in their efforts to reduce the risk of recidivism and a relapse into criminal behaviour as well as to promote self-sufficiency of former prisoners after their release from prison, have successfully implemented the idea of so called “**probation homes**”, providing after penitentiary care for persons conditionally released from prison. The care contains consultancy, training and education as well as assistance in their return to the society. Probation homes are residential facilities which provide comprehensive professional social services to individuals conditionally released from prisons. Probation homes must meet the requirement for reasonable restrictions and obligations pursuant to Section 48, Subsection 4 of the Criminal Code. The final task is for the Probation and Mediation Service to operate 16 to 20 probation houses, so that we have at least two of them in each judicial region.

Providing employment and education to prisoners

Due to the **high unemployment rate** among repeat offenders, both prior to them committing crime or while in prison, it is necessary to focus on programs and projects striving to provide jobs to persons serving their sentence in a prison, educate prisoners, create continuous educational programs, help prisoners reach professional qualifications and provide them with other skills which will facilitate their easier return to the society. To fight high indebtedness of prisoners as well as those released from prisons, it is key to find them work.

To increase employment of prisoners, we shall in the future introduce an electronic monitoring system that could help reduce safety risks involved in the employment of persons prisoners outside the prison perimeter.

Dissemination of best practice with respect to programmes and projects targeted at employment of people having a criminal record

Employers are rather reluctant to hire people with a criminal record (sometimes this may constitute a violations of law) and therefore it is necessary to cooperate with relevant institutions (especially the labour offices) and companies that employ people having a criminal record. We need to promote employment of persons having a criminal record as means for their better re-integration and a significant preventive measure.

Prevention of indebtedness

As mentioned above, **indebtedness** poses a huge problem in the social rehabilitation of offenders released from prison (given the high unemployment of prisoners, it will become even worse in the future). The key task in this context therefore is to launch programs and implement measures targeted at elimination of indebtedness and providing of consultancy to tackle indebtedness and debt collection.

The Alliance Against Debts (its founding members include the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Finance, Probation and Mediation Service; there is an active participation of NGOs) strives to prevent and minimize the risk of excessive indebtedness of people in difficult social and economic situation. In connection with the Alliance activities, the authorities drafted a Summary analysis of legislation guiding indebtedness related issues, which points out the current problems and proposes solutions to them.

The Probation and Mediation Service has been training the probation officers and assistants in debt related matter. Training on excessive indebtedness of clients is a part of the compulsory entry-level training of probation officers and, in the following years, some of its elements will be included in the system of life-long education.




Support to evaluations of sanction based policy and preference of alternative punishment

Supporting of activities (including research projects) which analyse the impact and effectiveness of **imprisonment and potential alternative punishment** is one of the priorities of our work with offenders. The efficiency of penal sentences and potential alternative punishment can be increased through projects such as the Electronic Monitoring System and its widespread use.

To secure effectiveness of sanction policy, we shall, above all, concentrate on an **on-going monitoring, analysis and evaluation of the sanction policy** and its application in the field of repression and prevention in relation to the factors that lead to crime. It is necessary to perform a long-term research of the effectiveness of different sanctions and their implementation in the judicial practice. At the same time, we shall analyse, on a long-term basis, the impact of the criminal policy on the number and structure of sentenced offenders and the number of repeat offenders.

Specific Tasks:

- 3.1** *To perceive assistance to offenders as a complex and multidisciplinary system of measures that commences prior to the imprisonment and continues during and after the imprisonment; the only difference is that it intensifies after the release from prison.*

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- 3.2** *To include the work with offenders into the strategic documents across all relevant areas of public administration.*
- 3.3** *To create, at the local level, special and coordinated multidisciplinary action teams, which tend to individual needs of persons released from prison.*
- 3.4** *To simplify and facilitate appropriate and timely exchange of information within the multidisciplinary system of measures to assist perpetrators.*
- 3.5** *To strengthen the position of probation officers at the level of authorities of municipalities with extended powers.*
- 3.6** *To build special probation homes, which will implement counselling programs, training and assistance in facilitating the return of persons released from prison to our society.*
- 3.7** *To support programs and activities to increase employment and education of prisoners, motivate employers to employment of persons released from prison.*
- 3.8** *To continue working under the umbrella of the Alliance Against Debts, to provide debt counselling and increase financial literacy of the target groups of offenders but also the people whom they receive assistance from.*
- 3.9** *To carry continuous monitoring, analyses and evaluation of the sanction policy and its effectiveness in respect of repression as well as prevention of causes of crime and prevention of recidivism.*

VI. Complex Approach to Crime Prevention at High Risk Locations

The most recent findings published in an updated analysis of socially excluded locations in the Czech Republic (GAC s.r.o., May 2015) (hereinafter the „Analysis“) show that in the Czech Republic there are 95 000 to 115 000 inhabitants living in the socially excluded locations. Altogether, the Czech Republic counts, in 297 towns and villages, a total of 606 socially excluded locations²⁶⁾ and approximately 700 housing facilities for the poor.

When compared to 2006, when a similar survey was conducted, the number of socially excluded locations doubled (in 2006, it was 310) and the number of people living there almost doubled (in 2006, the estimated number of inhabitants was 60 000 to 80 000). The number of socially excluded locations increased in all regions, in the Karlovy Vary Region and the Moravian-Silesian Region, however, it more than tripled. Regarding the number of people living in the socially excluded locations, the most dramatic increase was marked again in the Moravian-Silesian Region and also in the Ústí nad Labem Region. In all these regions, figures were above the limit already in 2006.

We have marked interesting changes when compared to 2006 in other areas, too, such as in the size and structure of the socially excluded locations. The average number of people who live in one socially excluded location decreased (from 271 to 188), and social exclusion ceased to be a predominantly urban phenomenon, as socially excluded people have been more often moving (or were moved) to remote areas with insufficient infrastructure. In comparison to 2006, we keep monitoring an increased number of locations where the Roma do not constitute a majority of the population, although such locations are still in minority. In terms of the age structure, we keep monitoring an increased number of senior citizens living socially excluded locations, many of them from the majority population.

We have also identified an **enormous increase in the number of people living in hostels** – housing facilities for the poor. In 2008, the number of people living in a different form of housing, which includes hostels – housing facilities for the poor, was 7,115 adults and 3,912 children (a total of 11,027 persons) who were receiving housing welfare. In December 2014, the number of people living in a different form of housing and receiving housing welfare was 28,600, that is, together with the jointly assessed persons, altogether 47,500 people. Out of that, 27,000 people, including jointly assessed persons, lived in hostels. 7,300 people of the total number of recipients of the housing welfare for housing in other forms of housing cared for a minor child. 2,700 of these people lived in hostels.

²⁶⁾ A socially excluded location or a location in high risk of social exclusion under the umbrella of the Research Analysis of Socially Excluded Locations in the Czech Republic shall be understood a location characterised by a concentration of more than 20 people living in substandard conditions (indicated by the number of recipients of welfare) who inhabit physically or symbolically confined space (indicated by external identification marks). The analysis defines social exclusion in accordance with international standards, for example, Steinert and Pilgram (2003), as a gradual and escalating exclusion from full participation in the social, material and symbolic resources produced, shared and consumed by the society at large to ensure proper living conditions, participation at social life and the decision-making. The numbers of people living in locations are based on estimates made by field investigations.



The proportion of the unemployed in the socially excluded locations is, according to the analysis, in average 80 up to 85 per cent. Approximately 15 to 20 per cent of the socially excluded people are not guaranteed emancipation from socially excluded locations even if they were successful at the labour market. They most often work short-term jobs or jobs for an undefined duration which generate very low earnings. The vast majority of adult residents of socially excluded locations have reached basic education only. The academic success of socially excluded children is very much impacted by their attendance at kindergartens. The earlier they start attending a kindergarten, the better as the influence is growing significantly with the time children spend in preschool facilities.

In smaller towns and remote regions the Analysis shows a **limited offer of social services**. The coverage with social services, especially services of social prevention and social counselling is rather unevenly spread across all regions and municipalities with extended powers.

The above described structure of population of SELs shows that these people, at least a vast majority of them, **face multiple problems rather than single challenges**. They suffer from unemployment, low income, high indebtedness, lack of education, lack of housing and its low quality, addictions (alcohol, drugs, gambling), lack of family support etc. These people often lack even the necessary health care and social services. In many cases, they are also faced with discrimination. These multiple causes falling on one head at once as well as their interdependence make people living in such environment **unable to break away, without external assistance**, from where and how they live.

The inability or the lack of faith in a better life and the lack of alternative legal ways to provide for the everyday needs of families then poses an **increased risk that these individuals will gain the necessary resources illegally**. People who collect scrap metals are verging on criminal conduct when they haul to scrappy yards not only scrap metal, but also all sorts of construction parts, municipal furniture, parts of railway tracks and other metal elements. Such theft, in many cases, cause property damage as well as poses danger to human lives. Besides the theft of metals, the SELs are flooded with property crime and their inhabitants are typically engaged in minor property crime, drug production and distribution (not extensive), less serious violent crime and a large number of offenses of a similar nature.

People living in SELs also often **fall victims of crime**, in many cases organized, such as usury, extortion, and human trafficking. Perpetrators of the organized crime often come from a socially excluded locations or live there.

Such environment is also characterized by higher risk of **radical to extremist behaviour**, racism, xenophobia and related verbal or even physical attacks, demonstrations, riots and the like. Such radicalization is visible with both the majority population and the minority living in the SELs. The security situation in the area often worsens or escalates as a result of a seemingly inconspicuous conflict and this happens even in areas that, in comparison with others, pose much less trouble. This is largely influenced by the mood and attitude of the public at large.

Given the complexity and depth of the problems the socially excluded locations must face, it is necessary to implement a crime prevention approach targeting not only the visible signs of crime but also adopt a comprehensive approach to addressing the causes of these problems and the conditions in which people live here. The proposed measures shall be therefore con-





strued as a complex exercise, with specific short-term and long-term impact. The approach to problem solving shall be multidisciplinary and partnership based, combining measures from multiple areas except for prevention and repression of crime – especially employment, social services, debt counselling, affordable housing, education, health care, addictions, etc.

With regards to the above, the Minister of the Interior established, in May 2014, a working group targeting problems and challenges of socially excluded locations. It is an interagency working group at the level of Deputy Ministers and other participants (e.g. Association of Towns and Municipalities, Association of Regions, etc.), which addresses the above problems and possible solutions at the central level.

The Ministry of the Interior has been, on a long term basis, successfully implementing a comprehensive programme for prevention of crime and extremism (previously called „Dawn/Úsvit „). The main task of the programme is to cooperate with other partners (the Government, Municipal Police corps, the Police of the CR, the non-profit sector, volunteers; special emphasis is placed on the active involvement of inhabitants of the SELs themselves) to improve public safety and order in the SVLs primarily by non-punitive means and the elimination of crime and socially dangerous phenomena in the area. The programme combines proven and successful preventive measures, such as the Crime Prevention Assistant, the Janitor – a prevention agent, a Roma mentor (a social worker helping people execute the alternative sentence of community service pronounced by the court and prevent failure and conversion of the alternative sentence into imprisonment), education and training of Municipal Police officers and staff of the local self-governing bodies and Government agencies operating in the locality, projects of social prevention, support of meaningful pastime activities for children and the youth, establishing or improving of financial literacy and elements of situational prevention (CCTV monitoring systems, photo traps, security doors and grilles protecting the shared areas of apartment houses, protection of objects using synthetic DNA, etc.). Other Government agencies (e.g. the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs through its support of social work and social services, especially social prevention services) also support activities and projects in many SVLs.

The Crime Prevention Assistant is the most successful and most sought-after project under the umbrella of the programme. It has shown positive results and has helped improve the public order and safety in the most troubled locations. It has also positively impacted employment of the long-term and difficult to employ persons, including the Roma. The project aims at reduction of the incidence of crime and misdemeanours committed (violations of law in general) in the SVLs, enforcement of law, prevention of neighbourly disputes, petty and latent violations of law detected investigated by the Police of the CR and Municipal Police forces in socially excluded locations and which are difficult to tackle, and a change of the negative perception of the majority population of people who are socially excluded.

A Crime Prevention Assistant is a Government employee assigned to the Municipal Police under the Act No. 553/1991 Coll., on Municipal Police, as amended (not a Police officer or a trainee). A Crime Prevention Assistant participates in the prevention of crime in the community, contributing to protection and safety of inhabitants and their property, preventing possible infringements of law by their mere presence, especially using their communication skills, acting as a mediator of neighbourly disputes, monitoring compliance with the requirement for clean public space, helping other citizens in socially excluded locations, etc. The



Crime Prevention Assistant's activities are supervised by a specially assigned member of the Municipal Police in the role of mentor with whom the Crime Prevention Assistant closely cooperates. The success of the project also depends on the support provided by the Police of the CR in the respective locations.

The Janitor – prevention agent, which is being implemented from 2013, is yet another project that seeks to respond to the specific needs of municipalities and villages. It aims at positively influencing the situation especially in the socially excluded locations and is closely related to the Crime Prevention Assistant project. The new position of a janitor should help solve the current difficult situation in the administration of community housing, especially in the socially excluded locations. Janitors have helped increase safety and maintain public order in many such localities as they perform a 'controlled self-administration of housing'. Citizens living and residing in socially excluded locations or locations at risk may thus see that they can also live, if they observe clearly defined rules of conduct, in a clean house surrounded by clean environment displaying higher social standard and safety. The project has also helped solve, at least partially, underemployment of the long-term unemployed people. The janitors react to the immediate development, verbally and logistically, provide an immediate response to any defects or breakages, violations of house rules, the rules of civil cohabitation and fire regulations, and remain in regular contact with their mentors and the person authorized by the city housing fund. Their tasks require, among other things, at least a basic knowledge of social and situational prevention, the law, and the public policy and require communication skills and conflict prevention and management skills.

The Police of the CR in the socially excluded locations play an important role of a repressive body detecting and investigating crime as well as a role of a guarantor of rights, protection and respect for human rights. The Czech Police engage in relevant preventive activities to enhance awareness of the law and to educate and inform population of the socially excluded locations (e.g. when to turn to the Police and report violations, when to contact other public bodies, etc.), including information on potential penalties for illegal conduct. The Police of the CR should enter the socially excluded locations as a partner offering the residents assistance and a helping hand, within their statutory competences, to support their efforts to solve their security issues. The Police of the CR can also help by providing information on assistance available from other public authorities or the non-profit sector.

The basic tool of minority policing are the **so called minority liaison officers**. Their main task is to mediate communication between minorities and the Czech Police and to establish cooperation with local Governments. They help create a network of partners with whom they can efficiently and comprehensively address the safety aspects related to minorities. The Police of the CR have been introducing, under an umbrella of a Police of the CR pilot project in place since 2014, dedicated **Police specialists in the field of minority policing in relation to the Roma minority living in socially excluded locations**. The project aims to improving relations between the Police of the CR and the Roma community, particularly in areas characterised by high social tension and conflicts between the Roma and the majority population, to minimize crime and the inter-ethnic conflicts.

Specific Tasks:

4.1 To apply, in addressing the security situation and crime prevention in the high-risk (especially socially excluded) locations, a comprehensive approach based on co-



operation of responsible and reliable partners as well as on a set of measures targeted at particular causes of problems.

- 4.2 To actively involve, in the process of solving problems in the socially excluded locations, the inhabitants of these locations themselves and offer jobs with the bodies responsible for problem solving (the self-Government, the Municipal Police, the Police, etc.).**
- 4.3 To train and educate staff responsible for problem solving in the socially excluded locations in specific minority related issues (notably the Roma) and issues pertaining to the socially excluded locations.**
- 4.4 To continue promoting and developing the work of Crime Prevention Assistants, securing their multi-source of funding (grants from the Ministry of the Interior, support from the European funds, funds provided by the Labour Office, co-financing by the municipality or the village).**
- 4.5 To develop and promote the Janitor - prevention agent project and create the necessary guidelines and training.**
- 4.6 To support, under the umbrella of the Police of the Czech Republic, activities of the minority liaison officers introduce the Police specialists in the field of policing the Roma minority group in the socially excluded locations.**
- 4.7 To concentrate on the fight against usury and illegal gambling in the socially excluded locations as well as activities of scrappy yards and pawnshops to determine the origin of scrap materials and traded goods. Fight against the drug crime in all its forms (production, distribution, sale to the end customer) shall become one of the key priorities.**
- 4.8 To support projects aimed at preventing radicalization, extremism, racism and xenophobia and other forms of intolerance (prevention of so called hate crime).**
- 4.9 To implement thorough inspection activities of subjects providing housing to socially excluded people of people in risk of social exclusion, all the above in close cooperation with all entities empowered to control such housing (the Police, the Fire Brigades, construction authorities, entrepreneurship licensing offices, hygienic stations, employment offices, bodies of social and legal protection of children, the Probation and Mediation Service, etc.).**





VII. New Threats and New Approach to Crime Prevention

The crime, conduct and ends of perpetrators, and potential protection of victims keep changing, evolving, and adapting to new conditions due to the changing society, legal norms, the influence of new technology which keeps continuously and dynamically developing, etc. It is therefore necessary to adapt activities and measures we have in place to prevent potential negative impact of such changes and/or use the new development in our favour (e.g. new technologies applicable in the situational prevention).

Crime in the virtual environment

The shift of criminal activities from the streets to the virtual environment of information and communications technologies has been one of the most visible changes and negative trends in crime in the recent years. The so-called **cyber-crime** has kept **rising sharply** each year (about a one third increase each year). At the same time, this type of crime is characterized by extremely **high latency**, which is estimated to 90%. Cybercrime may be committed against property (fraud, phishing, identity theft, trafficking in stolen items through the Internet auctions) or personal rights (stalking, dangerous threats, cyber bullying), it may take a form of sexual offenses (sexual abuse, distribution of child pornography), extremist manifestations, but also copyright violations. This crime is usually very sophisticated and it is extremely difficult to recognize one has fallen victim of crime. Victims come from virtually all population groups (as to age, education, profession, gender, etc.) and cybercrime often targets legal entities of all sorts (public entities, local self-governing bodies, companies, and NGOs). In these cases, it is necessary to provide timely and practically oriented information about the pending risks and possible protection against them, as well as the adoption of various technical means and measures to protect security from abuse and to disrupt crime targeting the virtual environment and communications running there.

Indebtedness as a significant factor leading to crime

We have marked an increasing incidence of **heavy indebtedness of the population** as a significant factor leading to crime, both in terms of potential victims as well as perpetrators of crime. The element of indebtedness has played a very important role especially in the case of perpetrators of crime - repeat offenders and crime in the socially excluded locations. The preventive projects and debt counselling as well as the increasing financial literacy have proven to be effective tools in crime prevention and prevention of recidivism (removal of one of the most common causes of crime or recidivism) and prevent victimization of potential victims (specifically for crimes such as usury, extortion, oppression, etc.). The **necessary education and training in financial literacy and debt advisory** shall be provided not only to (potential) victims and perpetrators of crime, but also to all civil servants, staff of the local self-governing bodies, NGOs and others, who assist and work with the group of people at risk since they should be able to look at their „clients“ and, in a timely manner, identify threats and provide the necessary assistance or advice.

Population aging

Since the late 90s of the 20th century, population in all developed European countries, including the Czech Republic, has been aging. The Czech Statistical Office has forecasted, up to 2050, a continuing trend of population aging and the associated increase in the average age of the population. From the perspective of crime prevention, this implies an important fact



that **the number of senior citizens who fall into the category of particularly vulnerable victims of crime, will keep increasing.** In the recent years, criminals' attention has been increasingly more focused on the senior citizens attention and we have supported and implemented more projects aimed specifically to protect senior citizens from falling prey to perpetrators of crime. This focus will therefore need to continue.

Safety of soft targets

Particularly in the countries of Western Europe (and other developed democratic countries), the threat of terrorist attacks has recently increased significantly, especially targeting the so-called soft targets, places accessible to the public and characterised by concentration of a larger number of people (e.g. schools, railway stations and means public transportation, historical monuments, religious sites, etc.). Perpetrators of these attacks are either members of organized terrorist groups (currently mostly the Islamists) or act on their own – we commonly refer to them as lone wolves. Their motives vary (they may be, for example, sympathizers of radical groups and their ideas, but also mentally ill or having purely personal motives, e.g. . feud). In addressing the issue of protecting the called soft targets, we can opt for participation in the preventive aspects of providing security of these sites, in particular through the elements of situational prevention.

Crime committed by foreigners and against foreigners

At present, crime committed by foreigners and against foreigners does not pose any major problem in the Czech Republic (although in some types of crime, the involvement of foreign perpetrators and criminal organizations tends to be rather high and the number of foreigners as victims is significant; this concerns e.g. the organized drug crime, counterfeiting, and forgery of official documents, and human trading). However, in the light of the recent **migration waves**, when Europe and especially some of its countries (Germany, France, the Great Britain, the Scandinavian countries, etc.) has faced the influx of hundreds of thousands of foreigners from the impoverished countries of Asia or Africa escaping war or poverty, people with zero support and resources, the situation may change very quickly and we need to be prepared. We may be **facing urban sprawl and emergence of new socially excluded locations and foreigners may fall prey to the organised crime** gangs (recruiting new members but also riding on the misery of these people). A good integration policy is the most important element in the fight against these threats. In the area of crime prevention, we will apply standard means of social and situational prevention, assistance to victims of crime, etc.. Nevertheless, we need to stand ready to provide , however, need to be prepared that will need to provide assistance to the needy to a much greater extent than before and offer our helping hand to groups of foreigners whom we have zero experience with.

New approaches to fighting property crime

The development of science and technology and the constant flow of new technologies has not only given rise of new types of crime and enabled the offenders to commit crime differently to hamper their detection and prosecution, but it has also revealed **new possibilities of protection against crime**, particularly property crime. The **situational prevention** has remained the priority in this area since it builds on our experience that certain types of crime surface at certain times, at certain places and under certain circumstances. Situation prevention strives to, with the help of organizational measures, regime changes, and physical and technical tools, minimize situational conditions leading to crime and, **furthermore, to disseminate information about current threats and potential ways of protection against**



them. We shall be aware of and promote the use of new technologies, provisions, approaches and tools in predicting and preventing property crime and increasing the chances of recovery of stolen property from the perpetrators. Cooperation with partners associated in the Advisory Board of the Minister of the Interior for situational crime prevention can help in the process of identification of these new approaches and technologies and their implementation under the scope of the preventive measures and activities to be performed.

Specific Tasks:

- 5.1** *To promote and implement projects aimed at combating crime in the virtual environment, in particular targeting dissemination of information about existing risks and possibilities of protection against them, including technical measures, and providing assistance and support to victims of crime on the Internet.*
- 5.2** *To promote activities in the field of debt counselling and financial literacy, both towards the target group of vulnerable people as well as staff of public bodies and organizations that assist with such persons.*
- 5.3** *To reflect on the demographic trends and continue targeting prevention activities and providing assistance to the target group of seniors.*
- 5.4** *To continue establishing a system of protection of so called soft targets, which will mainly focus on mutual cooperation among operators of individual elements, the non-Governmental sector and the public administration bodies based on guidelines and methodological support from relevant Government authorities in order to increase the level of protection against severe attacks. The system of crime prevention may contribute in this field with its experience and projects of the situational prevention.*
- 5.5** *To closely monitor the development of migration and its impact on crime in the Czech Republic (from the perspective of the perpetrators as well as victims of crime) and, if necessary, respond with appropriate prevention activities and projects.*
- 5.6** *To monitor and implement new approaches and technologies in the situational prevention, particularly with regard to the property crime.*



VIII. Conclusions

This Strategy derives from current analyses and knowledge as well as from experience and best practice related both to the previous Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015 as well as instruments valid in the periods prior to the 2012 to 2015 Strategy. It concentrates equally on all three peaks of the crime triangle (the perpetrator, the victim, the crime scene) and promotes the key methods of prevention work (primary, secondary, tertiary, social, situational and victim-based prevention). It outlines activities of all stakeholders involved in the system of crime prevention, starting with members of the National Committee and staff of the local and regional self-governing bodies and ending with the non-governmental organizations, scientific and research institutes, and businesses. It draws inspiration from relevant international strategies and builds on foreign positive experience. It applies a proactive, coordinated, and multidisciplinary approach to the problem solving.

Thanks to the above sources, partners, and conditions, **the Strategy for the period of 2016 to 2020 stands a good chance of becoming a successful instrument** of crime prevention and a **proper tool for implementing its goals and priorities** that are, at the strategic level, the following:

1. To develop the crime prevention system, strengthen cooperation, competences and capacity of the relevant stakeholders and partners, provide for more space to involve volunteers in maintaining safety and public order, all the above with the emphasis on international cooperation and scientific approach.
2. To provide assistance and counselling to victims of crime with a special focus on particularly vulnerable groups of victims; to continue expanding and improving such assistance and counselling.
3. To focus on, when assisting perpetrators of crime, the growing problem of criminal recidivism, effective re-socialization of perpetrators, and prevention of juvenile delinquency.
4. To implement a comprehensive approach to the increased incidence of crime in locations where its causes are deep and multifaceted (typically the socially excluded locations).
5. To react adequately to the new threats and trends in the field of security and public order and to implement new and efficient response to the crime prevention.

This Strategy contains a summary of **global, strategic, and specific** objectives based on priorities defined by the National Committee. It will be implemented with the help of specific, measurable, and evaluable tasks that will be a part of the **subsequent Action Plan for Crime Prevention for the period of 2016 to 2020**. The implementation of the Strategy will be monitored and evaluated on an annual basis by the Government and updated where appropriate. Prior to 31st May 2016, the Minister of the Interior will submit the Action Plan, after the preparatory period and its approval by the National Committee, to the Government.

Objectives of the Strategy cannot be met without **sufficient and stable funding** of the crime prevention system and related activities and projects.

The Ministry of the Interior will assign, in the period of 2016 to 2020, **an amount of at least CZK 300 million** to implement this Strategy, primarily to finance the crime prevention system, various crime prevention programs and the Ministry's own activities and projects. **At least 285 million Czech Crowns will be allocated to the interagency Crime Prevention Program** (particularly grants to programs implemented by municipalities and regions, programs to support particularly vulnerable victims of crime, operation of the European crisis and emergency lines - 116 xxx - having a preventive focus, financing of activities related to human trafficking and the long-term protection of foreigners, primarily victims of crime cooperating with the law enforcement bodies in the criminal proceedings). The remaining funds will be used to support activities of individual Government agencies and crime prevention projects (including those of the Police) and activities especially in the field of science, research, and innovation in the crime prevention.

After the approval by the National Committee and in selected well justified cases, Government agencies may increase their dedicated activities and finance them from the funds allocated to the Crime Prevention Program, especially if such activities have an interagency outreach and scope and a significant preventive potential.

Individual Government ministries, especially members of the National Committee, **will allocate**, in line with their scope of activity, funds to support and implement activities and projects in the field of crime prevention at least in the current extent. It is also **recommended that local and regional self-governing bodies allocate their own resources** for crime prevention, which indeed falls within the scope of their responsibilities deriving from the relevant legislation governing their status.

The successful implementation of this Strategy and the subsequent tasks defined in the Action Plan should contribute to further reduction of the incidence of crime and the causes of crime, to improved and streamlined protection of victims, effective assistance to offenders, improved public perception of safety and public confidence in the public administration and the local self-governing bodies, potentially also to minimizing of the negative impact of unexpected development, actions and changes in the area of public safety and public order which may happen and which may not be completely avoided.