

Abstract

The thesis deals with the concept of criminal thinking which has attracted attention mainly of foreign forensic psychologists in the last few years, primarily for its proven relation with antisocial behavior and for the possibility of being influenced by changing the antisocial attitudes and because it also seems to be an effective recidivism predictor. The thesis aims to map the specifics of criminal thinking by using PICTS-cz in violent crime offenders and to deepen the understanding of the concept of criminal thinking in our conditions.

The goal of the theoretical part is to introduce and broadly outline the area of the entire criminal thinking phenomenon which does not have a uniform definition. For a complex understanding of the issue, attention is paid to definition of the most important concepts related to the topic, its relations with sociodemographic characteristics, characteristics of committed crimes and other psychological phenomena, and also the issue of violent crime is introduced.

Research survey is implemented in 138 convicted violent crime offenders. The results present their specific characteristics of criminal thinking which are then compared mainly with foreign samples for a demonstration of their most significant differences. Attention is also paid to the specifics of criminal thinking in relation with the sociodemographic characteristics where a significant negative relation with age and highest education level was confirmed while a relation with marital status was not. Questions about the relation of criminal thinking with employment and characteristics of family coexistence were answered. A significant relation with most of the characteristics of criminal history was confirmed as part of the analysis of criminal thinking specifics. Questions about the relation of criminal thinking with the specifics of currently convicted type of criminal activity and the specifics of substance use were also answered. The results were put into the context of current knowledge while the limits and merits of the thesis, including the suggestions for follow-up criminal thinking research, were discussed.