

Criminological aspects of drug-related crime

Abstract

This master's thesis deals with a number of criminological aspects and issues related to drug-related criminality, in particular with legislation that takes into account the specific impact of selected drugs. In this context the thesis analyzes the drugs' impact on secondary drug-related crime, the death rate and health of their users and additional negative social and economic consequences related to such drugs. Following the evaluation of these harmful effects the thesis proposes potential changes to policy on such drugs and compares it to policies of foreign countries on individual drugs. These changes consist of various proposals including the decriminalization or legalization of certain means of handling of individual drugs. The thesis also examines national legislation currently in force related to selected individual drugs. Its conclusions are reached through a variety of researches and statistical data.

The thesis consists of eight chapters which are preceded by a brief introduction to the selected topic.

The first chapter lays out basic terminology used in this thesis.

The second chapter deals with historical cases of drug policies such as the Chinese policy on opium in 19th and 20th century or the prohibition in the United States between 1920 and 1933. The impact of state's approach to individual drugs on their harmful effect is illustrated on these examples.

The third chapter deals with international aspects of the chosen topic.

Next four chapters deal with selected types of drugs. Each of these four chapters consists of similar subchapters. Each drug type or drug is briefly described at first. Then the evaluation of harmfulness of its usage and national legislation on the selected drug follow. Finally, each chapter is concluded by policies of foreign countries to the selected drug and suggested alternations to the national policy are eventually included. In this manner the thesis deals with certain depressant drugs, namely alcohol and opioids in chapter four, stimulant drugs such as methamphetamine in chapter five, hallucinogens such as LSD and psilocybin in chapter six and finally cannabinoid drugs in chapter seven.

The final chapter deals with constitutional aspects of the selected topic and points out to advisability of usage of the proportionality principle during implementation of policies on drugs. The second subchapter points out to the manner in which certain means of handling of

drugs were decriminalized in Portugal. The thesis is concluded with the summary of its principal ideas.

Keywords

drug-related crime, drug policy, legalization