

# **Criminological aspects of crimes committed by legal entities**

## **Abstract**

The subject of this work is problematic of criminological aspects of crimes committed by legal entities, and the individual definition of a legal entity as a criminal offender.

The institute of criminal liability of legal entities is relatively young, provided that the research in this field began in the second half of the 20th century. In the nowadays the research of criminal liability of legal entities is still actual topic, namely because it is massive, often concealed, sophisticated and dangerous phenomenon. The importance of research of this criminal activity grows in line with globalization of world economy and the growing importance held by the legal entities in society. The outputs of the researched issue can thus enable an adequate response to the crimes of legal entities and help create effective prevention programs.

This work is divided into four parts. The introductory first part explains the terms “criminology” and “crime” in general, introduces the terminological and methodological apparatus of crime investigation, explains the concept of legal entity - the perpetrator of the crime.

The second part deals with the history of criminal liability of legal entities in the world and the change in the understanding of crime. It explains the concepts of white-collar crime and corporate crime. This part also contains a theoretical approach to the study of the phenomenon of crime committed by legal entities and an explanation of causes of its occurrence.

The third part discusses in more detail the introduction of the institute of criminal liability of legal persons into the Czech legal system, including the development of this regulation. Furthermore, the basic principles and mechanisms of this legislation are explained. The conclusion of the third part is devoted to the issue of compliance programs as mechanisms for corporate crime prevention.

The last part is devoted to statistical data analysis. Within it, available data from the Czech Republic are processed and interpreted (specifically, these are data obtained from law enforcement authorities). With regard to the format of the obtained inputs and their limited usability, their criticism and a proposal for the improvement of this area are presented. It

also includes several cases of specific convicted legal entities, including the first such in the Czech Republic.

The aim of this work is to give a historical and current overview of the criminological aspects of crime committed by legal entities, to outline the causes of corporate crime, to describe possible mechanisms of prevention. Another goal is to propose improvements to the monitored statistical data for future study of this issue with the aim of more effective use of acquired knowledge at the legislative and application level of criminal law in order to effectively respond to cases of its occurrence and its prevention.