

Abstract

This thesis focuses on problems with identification of respondent as a gang member from the standpoint of process of operationalisation, which give a selection of adequate indicators, in international survey International Self-Report Delinquency Study 2. Its objective is to propose a revision of existing definition of Eurogang for selected European countries and evaluate the possibility of creating one universal definition of a gang across Europe.

The thesis is separated into three parts: theoretical, methodological and empirical. In the first part we particularly pay attention to the basic conceptions of juvenile delinquency. Subsequently, we discuss different types of definitions and the way of their formation. Finally, we mention important definitions of a gang that are often used in many surveys which focus on gangs or delinquent groups in general.

In methodological part of the thesis we present the most important indicators of juvenile delinquency: official statistics and self-report studies. One of them is also the international survey ISRD-2. We concentrate not only on techniques of data collection and definition of the gang and its operationalisation according to Eurogang group, which were used in this survey, but also on basic information about sample for all analyzed countries and limit of the survey itself.

Empirical part is separated into two sections. Existing definition of the gang according to Eurogang group is firstly revised with help of a delinquency indicator we created. Later on, we try to specify it by searching for variables that are in close relation with gang membership. The results of data analysis show that risky friends could be such a variable. For that reason we enlarge our revised definition with a new condition: contact of an individual with these types of friends. At the end we open a discussion about the integration of such condition in the revised definition and also the possibility of finding one united definition of a gang.

Keywords: gang, delinquency of young people, members of the gang, definition of a gang, etc.