The aim of thesis is to evaluate the current practice of assessing the credibility of testimony in criminal proceedings and reflect on its current issues. In particular, it is necessary to resolve the question of the extent to which the competence of an expert-psychologist in assessing process and the establishment of basic criteria according to which the experts proceed.

I have chosen this topic because it’s connecting criminal law and psychology which is important for society and a highly discussed in this time. Assessing the credibility is one of usual requests for expert psychologists from investigative, prosecuting and adjudicating bodies and it is also the most common, but often the most difficult part of psychological expertise.

The thesis is composed of four chapters. The first chapter deals with the history of assessing the credibility. The second chapter describes the psychological expertise in criminal proceedings in our country and consists of four parts dealing with experts, expertise and evidence and evaluation of evidence in criminal procedure. The third chapter looks at assessing the credibility as a problem of professionals and it contains four parts. The first part defines the basis for assessing the credibility, the second part defines fundamental terms. The third part describes verbal and non-verbal criteria of credibility of testimony and the fourth part contains some methods of assessing – psychophysiological methods, Reality monitoring and SVA (CBCA). The fourth chapter assesses the current assessment practice in our country and in some EU member states. This chapter also provides the most fundamental problems in current practice.

This thesis summarizes relevant information of assessing the credibility and points to some questions which must be resolved for well-functioning psychological expertise and for fulfill the purpose of criminal procedure – finding material truth which is a prerequisite for fair judicial decision.