

## **Abstract**

### **Psychological Profiling of an Offender**

The purpose of the thesis is to describe and demystify the subject of offender profiling, also called criminal profiling or psychological profiling. Criminal profiling is one of key disciplines of forensic psychology which approximately in the last twenty years became recognized as a helpful investigative tool for resolving difficult criminal cases.

The thesis is structured into four chapters, each one covering different aspect of criminal profiling. First chapter defines criminal profiling, its basic premises, formation and history, different approaches to profiling and possible uses of profiling. Second chapter focuses on practical use of criminal profiling. It covers criteria for using profiling in a particular criminal investigation, includes basic information about perpetrators and victims and shortly touches upon computer databases used in profiling.

Third chapter covers the actual creation of profile of an unknown offender, from different sources suitable for gathering information to uncovering the offender's motivation and finally to the finished psychological profile. It also includes information about perpetrators of arson, rape and murder, as samples of serious offenses where offender profiling is often applied.

Fourth chapter analyses the use of criminal profiling in Czech Republic and brings ideas for improvement, based on comparison with investigation methodology and practice in other European countries. This chapter also demonstrates use of profiling on three successfully solved Czech cases.

I conclude that the criminal profiling is currently largely undeveloped in Czech Republic, although it helped to unravel many criminal cases in the past and is commonly and successfully used in other countries. It is, however, no panacea; it can effectively complement traditional investigative methods, but it does not and should not strive to replace them.