Abstract

Diploma thesis „The Czech prison system and its ability to meet the public interest" deals with the public interest in the selected area from the perspective of key stakeholders, election programmes, policy statements of governments and (changes in) legislation between 2000-2013. For determination of what is the public interest has been used as a tool a scheme of four dimensions of definition of public interest. First, there is the public interest as defined by experts, which is determined on the basis of content analysis of the journal the České vězeňství published by Prison Service of the Czech Republic. Second, the public interest determined by the preferences of citizens, which are collected from content analysis of articles from Newton Media Search and from reproduced findings of public opinion polls. To analyze the third dimension of public interests, which are generated by functional needs of the community, content analysis of election programmes of the parliamentary parties of the period is used as well as policy statements of the government and also the study of changes in legislation. Fourth, the public interests based on individual interests, are investigated through a case study in one of the Czech prisons, which took place in April - May 2013. The analysis showed common attributes of public interest, which are re-education, isolation and care for employees. Although these attributes are common to all dimensions, each gives them a different priority. Absence of a platform, where all key actors could meet, leads to non-conceptual decisions and to disagreements on the future state and therefore future direction of Czech prison system. Unpopularity of prisoners as a group and figuratively a general tendency to lack of interest in this area leads to the potential for a small group to influence the whole part of this policy. Czech prison system is able to fulfill the isolation function and tries to care about their employees. Where, however, rather fails, is the attribute of re-education.