

## **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** Following the model of the drug treatment courts in USA, this institute is applied in some European countries as well, which is the direction the Czech justice could proceed. Due to the similarities in the system of care for drug users and demographic situations, this paper compares the approaches to prosecuted ones for drug law offenses in the Czech Republic to Belgium, where drug treatment courts already exist.

**Aims:** The aim of this work is to compare approaches to the prosecuted ones for drug law offenses in the Czech Republic and Belgium, and to propose appropriate solutions or research in this area for the Czech Republic.

**Methods:** The method of analysis is used while studying literature and documents. A method of comparison compares the drug scene, system of an addictological care and drug-related crimes in both countries. Furthermore compares approaches to the prosecuted ones for drug offenses in the Czech Republic and Belgium, especially alternatives and their use in practice.

**Results:** In Belgium, there are significantly more used alternatives in the earlier stages of the criminal proceedings than the courts. The biggest difference, however, is the existence of the project Proefzorg (the level of a criminal prosecution) and drug treatment court (court proceeding) in Belgium, which focus on individual approach to drug users, their referral to appropriate treatment.

**Conclusion:** In order to ensure a more moderate approach to drug crime offenders there is a number of areas to make changes in. Starting with the institute of drug treatment courts, alternative measures, emphasis on treatment, respectively the choice between treatment and punishment, individualized approach, engaging case management to accessibility of addictological care in prison. In an effort to increase the efficiency, however, is absolutely necessary to examine the effectiveness of approaches. Therefore can be recommended a greater emphasis on research examining the effectiveness of the measures used in Czech Republic.

## **KEY WORDS**

Drug courts, Drug-related crimes, Compulsory drug treatment, Probation and mediation service, Belgium, Czech Republic