

The study „Crime as one of the socio-pathologies in the city - preventive actions on the local level, social aspects of local security and safety, and the architectural and urban context“ - focuses on the occurrence of crime in the city and ways of crime prevention. Crime has become a standard characteristic of the city life, which has in turn created the need to find ways of how to reduce and prevent it. The goal of this study is to describe the crime phenomenon in general, as well as in the city environment, present crime prevention as a way of handling crime, and to show how a concrete city - Prague - deals with this problem. It discusses how crime prevention is organized and who participates in the preventive actions, what the positive, as well as negative, points of the organizations are, what needs for changes exist, and what is involved with achieving them. The study is an overview of the problem of urban crime, based on theoretical materials, former statistics and analyses, and as well on an interview with a coordinator of crime prevention at the city level in Prague. The aim of the first section is to theoretically introduce the problem of social pathologies, anomies, and deviances - among which crime belongs. The theories present the main features of the negative social phenomena. Further, the study focus is moved to the first researches on crime manifestation in an urban environment (Chicago School). Chicago School was the first school that drew attention not only to the physical conditionality of environment and crime occurrence, but also to offenders who commit crimes. The conclusions of the Chicago School study played an important role in formulating crime prevention methods which are multi-disciplinary, multi-level, and a cooperative approach of solving crime. The next section concentrates on defining crime - its types, actors, and ways to prevent this phenomenon from occurring. It is a necessary theoretical introduction to terminology and concepts which are then used in the remainder of the study. The third section focuses on the physical urban environment's relationship to crime. Specifically how things like architectural and planning conditions can influence the possible occurrence of crime. There are several crucial interpretations of the connection of crime and housing environments which are analyzed in the study and explain possible practices which can be effective in crime prevention in specific city locations. In the long term, however, improvements in planning and urban physical appearances cannot alone reduce crime and guarantee feelings of safety. They can, though, markedly contribute to solving the problem within the multidisciplinary approach. The architectural and planning approach towards crime prevention is very popular and common in the Western societies. Yet, the Czech situation shows, on the contrary, a very reluctant approach. The following section attempts to highlight the importance of crime and crime prevention in local level. There exists a need to give more power to municipalities that can then decide on the effective solutions to their own problems. The final section is dedicated to Prague and the analysis of the current crime situation, including crime prevention, in the metropole. Prague follows the concept of crime prevention introduced in 2000, and this concept remains valid, with a few changes. Theoretically, the concept is appreciated, yet practically the activities and crime prevention organizations can always be improved upon. In particular, communication deficiencies between the responsible authorities limits the effective results. Prague's prevention concept is young, and therefore the situation of the organization being set up in a short period of time can be appreciated. Statistics show a decrease in crime in the past years, which is of course the most obvious proof of effective crime prevention policies. Crime and crime prevention in the city are extremely complex problems which tend to evolve together along with societal progress and technologies. Therefore, constantly improving upon the methods for dealing with these phenomena remains at the forefront of effective policy planning and maintenance. Even with the existence of quality recommendations and conclusions from former research on possible solutions for reducing crime, each location needs to find its own effective way

for facing and dealing with the problem in order to create a safer environment for its inhabitants. Using Prague as an example in this study will show that although crime prevention has already seen great improvements, the problem requires continuous and new comprehensive approaches for achieving success. Following and improving upon the techniques will ensure more secure environments for citizens in the future.