

## **Structure and development of criminality in the Czech Republic**

### **Summary:**

The aim of this thesis is to analyze the structure and evolvement of criminality in the Czech Republic. It is mostly focused on the structure of criminality in year 2008 and the evolvement of criminality between the years 1999 and 2008. The thesis can be divided into five main parts.

In the first part the essential terms used in this thesis – criminology and criminality – are defined, as well as the difference between the registered and latent criminality. The registered criminality is the criminality which is recorded in official statistics and therefore serves as a main source of information for this thesis. Latent criminality is defined as the criminality which the law enforcement authorities did not get to know about. The last section of part one focuses on the sources of information on registered criminality in the Czech Republic – the police statistics, the statistics of the Ministry of Justice and the Prison Service.

The second part focuses on the structure and evolvement of criminality. First we analyze the structure of criminality in 2008 based on the types of criminality, offenders and the age of offenders in the single regions established in the Czech Republic in the year 2000. Then we aim on the structure of the specific types of criminality: violent criminality, criminality against morality, property criminality, economic criminality and other and residual criminality. In the next section we describe the evolvement of criminality over the past ten years from different points of view – total criminality, the damages caused by criminality, types of offenders and the evolvement of criminality in single regions of the Czech Republic. The final section is dedicated to evolvement of single types of criminality and their detection rate.

The third part is focused on criminality in one specific district of the Czech Republic. It describes the structure of criminality in the Havlíčkův Brod district in year 2008 and its evolvement over the past ten years.

The fourth part is aimed at the new phenomena in criminality – terrorism, which has been identified as a great threat after the 9/11 events in the U.S. in 2001. The

organized criminality, which, although it certainly is not a new phenomenon, has become a great problem over the past 10 years, not just abroad but also in the Czech Republic. Last but not least there is computer crime. This type of criminality has grown rapidly and with the steady development of new technologies it is expected to develop even further.

The last part compares the criminality in the Czech Republic with abroad. It is focused mainly on the comparison of the total criminality in the Czech Republic with the selected countries of the EU – Sweden, France, the UK, Portugal, Luxembourg and some others. In this part you can also find a more thorough description of criminality in the neighboring countries: Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Poland with added data from Hungary.

Finally it can be said that the evolvement of the total criminality has remained constant in the last ten years and the figures are cca. 350 000 criminal offences per annum. The largest share of the total criminality presents the property criminality; the smallest share is the criminality against morality. The proportion of shares of the single types of criminality has not changed significantly over time.