

This thesis focuses on problems with identification of respondent as a gang member from the standpoint of process of operationalisation, which give a selection of adequate indicators, whereas we emphasize the cognitive aspects of survey methodology.

The thesis is separated into two parts: theoretical and empirical. In the first part we particularly pay attention to the basic theories of social deviations as theory of cultures and subcultures, social control or differential association and identification from Chicago school, which we mention in connection with problems of peers, and also to the area of cognitive aspect of survey methodology, precisely to one of four phases of process of asking and answering the question – interpretation of the question. Further, we mention international survey ISRD-2 (International Self-Report Delinquency Study), techniques of data collection, definition of the gang and its operationalisation according to Eurogang group

During the data analysis we try to work with the operationalisation of the gang definition. There are two important moments regarding the membership in the gang: the question of understanding the word “gang” by broader spectrum of respondents in different cultural conditions and the meaning of the word “illegal”, when committing of illegal things is one of the key criteria in identification of the respondent as a member of the gang. At the same time we point out the selected characteristic of the gang, which we consider important, and of course, we make an effort, on the basis of data analysis, to suggest effective solution of operationalisation of gang definition.