

The aim of this paper is to analyze the actual problems of the Czech penitentiary system and to find its weak points. It also tries to propose the convenient solutions. The extend is reduced to the Czech prison system and pre-trial or other forms of detention are excluded.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters. The first one deals with the finance related issues, which can be marked as the most significant problem. As in the other parts of the world, Czech prisons are beyond the usual sphere of interest of the politicians and therefore face a long-term funds shortage. I am afraid it is not going to change soon. The prison service of the Czech Republic, which keeps our prisons, has to be more efficient in spending money. Privatization or appropriate outsourcing policy is a good example how to achieve it.

The second chapter describes overcrowding in the prison facilities. It is considered to be a very actual topic. The law guarantees 4 square meters per a convict, but we are nowadays facing a huge income of new prisoners and the prison capacities are not sufficient. It causes several problems. Inmates live in inhuman and degrading conditions, overcrowding creates underground prison life and it also impedes social reintegration. Another weak point is that the average capacity of the Czech prisons is 500 people or even higher.

Our penitentiary system struggles with an employment issue. Prison service had to adapt to the new conditions of the labor market after the Velvet revolution. The problem is that the prisons were not adequately rearranged to it. It is worth mentioning, that our legal instruments do not contain enough incentives towards private entrepreneurs to employ prisoners.

40 years of the communism era affected every part of the daily life of our country. It also had a huge impact on the penitentiary system. The fourth chapter deals with several issues which I named demilitarization e.g. grey prison uniform, unreasonable differences between the civil and the armed employees or excessive militarism of the Prison service.

The next chapter analyzes the actual system of the inner and outer differentiation and its weak points. The last two chapters describe the goodwill of the Czech penitentiary system and the penology research.

Even though I consider Czech prison system as modern and well functioning, there is still much to do. The conclusion of this paper contains a short summary.