

**Description for the general public of project:**  
***Electronic Monitoring of Offenders as Evolution of Polish Criminal Justice System***

The main aim of the proposed project is to investigate the actual role of penal sanctions allowing the use of Electronic Monitoring of Offenders (hereinafter EM) in Polish penal system. In Poland, EM was introduced into the penal system in 2007 as an alternative to the traditional punishment of short-term custodial sentences (which in the disciplines of criminal law, penitentiary law, psychology, psychiatry, are the subject of increased criticism, as, among others, posing a basis for the phenomenon of recidivism). EM was supposed to provide a partial solution to the problem of overcrowding in penitentiary institutions by enabling those referred to penitentiary units, with short-term imprisonment sentences, to undergo the punishment in an open environment. In addition, EM was meant to reduce the cost of imprisonment.

A decline in the percentage of people reoffending was supposed to be a measurable result of the introduction of EM. Practically, EM began to operate in 2009, solely within the Warsaw court of appeal, which was in contradiction with the norms of the Constitution of Poland. However, by 31.08.2015 the use of EM significantly increased and covered more than 40,000 persons sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum of one year. Polish legislature decided, however, to change the existing concept of the use of EM and after 1 July 2015 electronic tagging has been used in the context of: the penalty of restriction of liberty, chosen penal measures and in the framework of protective measures. Withdrawal from the traditional model of the alternative to imprisonment is posing questions about the theoretical model of chosen criminal law regulations and about practical consequences of administering measures of this type.

In the course of the proposed project, the author's objective is to examine the nature of EM in the reality of Polish criminal justice system. The assumption of the proposed research is to confront the reasons why EM was introduced to the criminal justice system and the functions it fulfils within the reality of that system. This research should confirm the project's main thesis that in conditions of Polish disciplinary politics, EM has become a means of "risk management" linked to offenders remaining in an open environment. The assumption of the project is to carry out theoretical and practical tests. The scope of theoretical studies will include analysis of statistical material, analysis of materials and publications describing the issue as part of library search queries and obtaining relevant literature. In terms of practical research, it is planned to investigate the impact of EM on criminal justice system in the context of solving the problem of overcrowding and reversion to crime.

In terms of overcrowding, statistical studies will be carried out to demonstrate the effect of sanctions combined with EM on the inmate population. In terms of recidivism and violation of programme conditions, innovative research based on analysis of statistical and court files materials obtained from existing information systems of bodies responsible for supervising the enforcement of EM sanctions will be conducted.

Currently, it is believed in Poland and across the world that EM is a "panacea" for solving the most important problems of criminal justice, i.e. overcrowding in penitentiary institutions, high costs of performing traditional imprisonment and a significant percentage of recidivism. The research will show the real functions of EM in the reality of Polish criminal justice system and give grounds to conducting an evaluation of the system in the future.