

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The research project entitled "Criminal and criminological determinants of women's crime. Structure, specificity, trends." aims to clarify the following issues:

1. Why do women commit crimes (reasons and motives of crime)?
2. What crimes (in the sense of gravity: the misdemeanors or crimes; what types) are committed by women?
3. How often criminogenic behaviour occurs in women? (determination of number of crimes)
4. What women (age, education level, marital status, personal situation, financial status) commit crimes?
5. In what way crimes are committed by women? (manner of committing)

According to one of the popular views, it is believed that women, due to character traits ascribed to them (meekness, gentleness, modesty, diligence) in general are not capable of aggression; according to another concept, even if the woman crosses legal standards, she does so only in exceptional circumstances, hence only infanticide and murder of "bullying" partner are indicated among women's crimes, which is a definite narrowing of perception of presented phenomenon. Hence, undertaking a study in the project is to enable to resolve certain doubts by indication of real (and not just the stereotypical) trends and creating interesting characteristics of criminogenic activity of women - offenders.

RESEARCH CARRIED OUT IN THE PROJECT

The project provides the following research tasks:

- library queries (in Poland and Western Europe: France, Italy, United Kingdom),
- analysis and substantive development of collected foreign language materials,
- carrying out a research on court records (in the range of type and degree of penalty imposed on women),
- compilation of a monograph concerning criminological aspects of studied issues (with participation of other authors),
- statistical surveys in the Ministry of Justice,
- development of results of statistical research,
- a comprehensive study of materials obtained,
- preparation of a monograph which is the development of the issues studied in a comprehensive approach.

REASONS FOR UNDERTAKING THE RESEARCH SUBJECT

The long-established in society conviction that the woman in her psycho - physical structure manifests gentle temperament and physical weakness and a tendency to protect the weaker, especially children, and that she is not inclined to violence, underlies the adoption and formulation of a plan of this research, the fundamental objective of which will be the verification of the established, though as it seems, not fully correct beliefs concerning the possibility of occurrence and the prevalence of criminogenic behaviours of women. Another argument in favour of taking the research problems is the lack of its current and comprehensive studies (usually the authors confine themselves to the analysis of criminological aspects of women's crime, which does not allow to know the full specifics of her behaviour contrary to the law and constitute usually only their partial picture). Thirdly, all the research and analysis conducted both, in criminal law and in criminology concerning criminality usually refer to offences committed by men (they rarely concern other groups of perpetrators: minors, women or juveniles), hence the observation that the overall trends in criminogenic behaviours are built on the basis of offences committed by men. Differences in ways of reacting to conflict situations (usually rapid and emotional), biological conditions (e.g. lower physical strength, lower resistance to pain), and also lower propensity to violence cause that tendencies that women's crime will show, if only because of the indicated factors, will make it significantly different from male criminogenic behaviours. What is important, the weight of the studies undertaken is also evident in the fact that only understanding and measuring the activity of all groups of perpetrators (and thus also women), allow to create a comprehensive, theoretical - empirical model of crime of specified types of offences (e.g. homicide, fraud, robbery, theft).