

THE MECHANISMS BEHIND THE FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CRIMINAL CAREERS

The goal of the scientific research (the problem the applicant undertakes to solve, formulated research hypotheses) is the main problem of today's social policy (criminal policy included) is the lack of current knowledge concerning why certain criminals reoffend multiple times, what factors influence embarking on a criminal career (risk factors) and in effect, what measures need to be taken to prevent young people from engaging in criminal activity. Moreover, we aim to explain what social and economic factors facilitate the development of criminal careers or hinder them.

The lack of knowledge pertaining to the above mentioned factors results, on the one hand, in the lack of early intervention schemes (that prevent minors from pursuing criminal life) and on the other hand in the inefficiency of rehabilitation schemes which are applied at various stages of a person's criminal career.

In every society there is a group that can be referred to as "chronic criminals". Different research point to 5-10% of individuals committing criminal offences (Moffitt 2009). The existence of reoffenders poses a serious problem and their activity is a cause for considerable social concern. Hence the importance of thorough and regular study of the group, especially in the context of the constantly changing world. The bigger and more accurate the knowledge about the causes of their persistent criminality, the more efficiently we will be able to react to it and halt it.

In order to be able to identify the motifs of reoffending criminals, it is important to identify the mechanisms and risk factors, which vary slightly from generation to generation. One way to broaden the knowledge relevant to the subject is to carry out longitudinal study, focusing on following the lives of young offenders (catamnesis) as well as the criminal and social past of adult convicts (anamnesis).

General research plan:

- 1) Catamnesis of reoffenders' criminal careers.
- 2) Anamnesis of multiple offenders' criminal careers.
- 3) Research into crime trends of multiple offenders from different age groups in relation to general crime trends in Poland.
- 4) Analysis of risk factors behind the development of criminal careers.
- 5) Typology of criminal careers.
- 6) Analysis of the impact of socio-economic factors on the development of delinquency of multiple offenders.

The research methodology (ways of implementing research, methods, techniques and research tools, methods of analysis and result analysis, appliances and equipment used in research): analysis of literature of the subject, analysis of other existing data, analysis of convictions in National Criminal Record, analysis of criminal cases records, narrative interviews, analysis of penitentiary records, statistical analysis.

Statistical analysis will be conducted by means of special programmes dedicated to this particular purpose (e.g. SPSS), Excel (allowing for simpler calculations and correlations), as well as Lime Survey, a programme for internet research and data analysis that INP PAN possesses.

The results of the conducted research will be based on the triangulation method. Hence, they will take account of the analyses from all the types of methods and research techniques used and will be the end result of their comparison and data complementation, as well as data elaboration. All the results will be presented in the wider context of historical analyses as well as international data on criminal careers development.