

Crime is irremovable part of social life. The decrease in the crime rate, which can be observed in many countries for about 20 years is not well understood. One of the reasons discussed is the development of systems of video surveillance (CCTV - cameras monitoring public and private spaces). The system has developed in many countries and in Poland there is the dynamic development of closed-circuit television (CCTV) since 2000s. One of the most common reason recalled for installing cameras is their preventive function, thus providing public security. Worldwide research on CCTV brings ambiguous results on its crime prevention capacities. Moreover, studies show that the benefits of video surveillance are questionable in the long-term perspective. In Poland little is known about preventive effects of CCTV systems. **The aim of the study is to examine effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of CCTV systems installed in 8 Polish cities** (where the systems are well-developed).

The study diagnoses three problems: (a) assess crime effectiveness of CCTV, (b) assess crime efficiency of CCTV, (c) assess crime sustainability of CCTV (in terms of decreasing crime). In the study police statistical data on number and type of crimes committed in 8 Polish cities with more than 100 cameras, as well as costs of preparing and maintenance of the systems in municipalities responsible for these systems is used to answer three questions:

- Do CCTV systems prevent crimes?
- Do CCTV generate more costs than benefits achieved by crimes prevented?
- Does preventive effects are possible to be maintained in the long-run?

Proposed study is a contribution to surveillance studies and to understanding the role of video surveillance as a crime prevention tool. The study will also provide input to the discussion on global crime decline trend (in Poland observed since about 2000), which has not yet been concluded in the literature. The data repository on the effects of CCTV systems which will be done within the project will allow further panel research and to evaluate the effects in other cities.