

Abstract

Development and structure of crime in the Czech Republic

The aim of this thesis is a comparison and presenting the development of crime in the Czech Republic in three different ways. From a short-term point of view, I was comparing the development of crime in the last three years, which was in 2020 affected by pandemic COVID-19. From a long-term perspective, I monitored the development of crime over four equally distant years, focusing on the importance of dividing crime into separate categories. I focused the last comparison on the description of the problems of international comparison and the presentation of three levels of possible international cooperation. The primary source of information was publicly available statistics of the Police of the Czech Republic. Other publicly available statistics were also used, especially during international comparisons.

I divided the thesis into five chapters. The first chapter is theoretical and focuses on the presentation and definition of basic terms which are key to understanding the following text and crime statistics. This chapter also mentions the individual sources in which we can find information about crime and a brief justification of the choice of police statistics as the primary statistical source. The second chapter focuses on short-term crime comparison, which monitors and compares the development of crime between 2018 and 2020. This chapter also presents the effect of the pandemic on crime in 2020, and the comparison of crime and its development within individual territorial regions. The third chapter focuses on the comparison of long-term crime in the Czech Republic, primarily using statistics from 1995, 2003, 2011 and 2019. After a brief general introduction and a graph comparing the development of crime since the establishment of the independent Czech Republic, it follows the chapter by the comparison of individual crime categories within selected years. The fourth chapter thesis focused on international comparisons, which is the most problematic out of all comparisons, gradually presenting three different ways of international comparisons. First, working with Eurostat statistics presents continental comparisons, followed by global comparisons, using UNODC statistics. I focus the last comparison on the comparison of the development of the structure of crime in two countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The last chapter summarizes the findings and predicts the future development of crime using statistics from the first half of the year 2021.

The result of the work is the finding that crime cannot be approached as an isolated uniform phenomenon, and it is necessary to examine it not only within individual categories but also

concerning the specifics of individual times, countries, and social development. Crime comparison is a challenge and will always be burdened by circumstances in which we can never take it as a 100% accurate picture of crime in society.

Key words: crime - development – Czech Republic