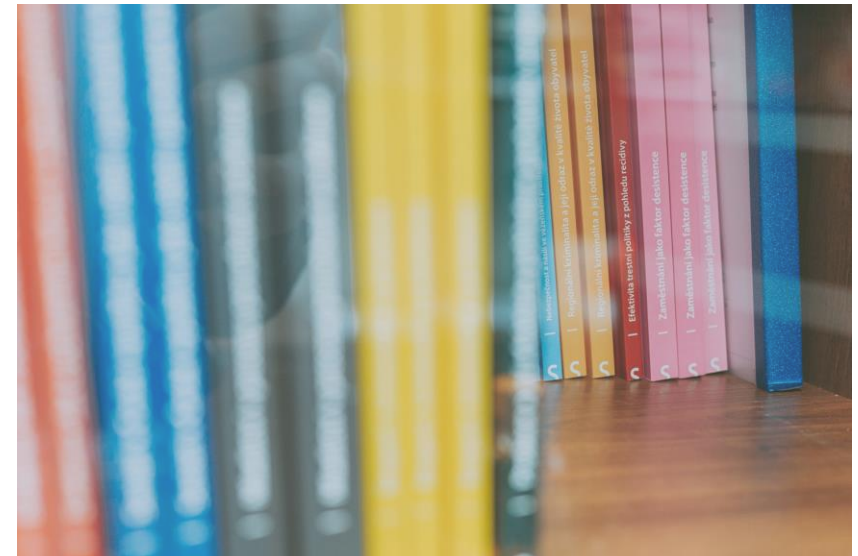


Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) and crime prevention in the Czech Republic



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Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP)

Basic information:

- based in Prague, Czech Republic
- a government research organization, established by the Ministry of Justice of the CR
- despite funding from the budget of the Ministry and other public funds, we have a fairly independent position, being so called "organisational unit of the state", which is not a part of the Ministry or any other government body
- founded in 1960, IKSP is considered the second oldest criminological research institute in Europe
- a total of 24 staff members distributed across Research Section (19 researchers), Economic Division, and Secretariat



Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) – our mission (I.)

- IKSP's primary objective is to contribute to enhancing penal and sanction policies, to improving the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and to formulating legislation for more effective crime prevention and control
- we conduct research and analysis in the field of criminology, penal policy and criminal justice system in a broad sense of the word, that includes the penology, victimology or crime prevention
- we scrutinize the multifaceted aspects and underpinnings of crime and precrime, alongside related sociopathological phenomena, emphasizing the dual strategies of repression and prevention in crime control
- IKSP stands as the only organization in the Czech Republic dedicated to conducting systematical, continuous, and focused criminological research



Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) – our mission (II.)

- our staff are involved in educating law enforcement and prison service personnel (Justice Academy, Police Academy, Prison Service Academy) and contribute to the professional development of aspiring legal, law enforcement, and social service experts on universities and relevant colleges
- IKSP disseminates its research outcomes at national and international level by various means, including peer-reviewed books, articles in professional journals, papers at relevant conferences, media presentations or its website (www.iksp.cz)
- for the foreign or international research organizations and other institutions, the IKSP stands as a preferred collaborator for accessing pertinent research on crime trends and associated issues within the Czech Republic
- IKSP is a member of some international professional organizations (International Society of Criminology, International Association of Penal Law, World Society of Victimology, ISPAC, European Crime Prevention Network) and cooperates with other international and national professional societies and associations (European Society of Criminology, CEP, PRI, Czech Society of Criminology, Czech Sociological Society, Czech National Group of the International Association of Penal Law, etc.)



Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) – research activities

The criminological research conducted by the IKSP is based on medium-term plans, which determine our research focus for several years in advance and are approved by the Ministry of Justice. These plans are based on departmental and national priorities in the field of crime and criminal justice and are consistent with relevant strategic and conceptual documents at the departmental and national level.

The Medium-term plan for 2024-2028 defines the following five thematic areas of research:



**Strategies for
reducing criminal
recidivism and the
prison population**

**Evaluating the
effectiveness of
criminal justice
interventions**

**Victimological
research**

**Continuous
monitoring and
analysis of crime
trends and sanction
policy**

**Public perceptions
of criminal policy,
crime, and crime
prevention**

Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) – research activities

Strategies for reducing criminal recidivism and the prison population

The Czech Republic continues to grapple with significant challenges stemming from high rates of recidivism and a prison population that exceeds the EU average. To shift this paradigm, a series of systemic reforms and initiatives are essential. These should be informed by robust, evidence-based insights into the individual and societal factors that influence the inception, perpetuation, and desistance of criminal behavior. Moreover, it is crucial to investigate and potentially expand the implementation of innovative methods for crime control

Evaluating the effectiveness of criminal justice interventions

In the modern and rational penal policy, a cornerstone principle is to endorse only those sanctions, strategies, or rehabilitative programs that can be empirically shown to reduce crime. Research on the effectiveness of currently applied interventions provides invaluable insights. Such research benefits not only the bodies formulating and developing penal policy but also the law enforcement entities directly implementing these strategies. Additionally, it aids various groups engaged in managing the rehabilitation of offenders and the support of crime victims

Victimological research

Victim research has traditionally been regarded as the most reliable way to penetrate the field of latent crime and to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the real impact of crime on the population. Furthermore, victimological research sheds light on critical issues such as victim needs, the effectiveness of victim support systems, the enforcement of victims' rights within the criminal justice process, and the application of restorative justice principles in addressing the aftermath of crime.

Continuous monitoring and analysis of crime trends and sanction policy

Continuous monitoring and examination of crime trends and sanction policy are crucial for gathering actionable insights. While data can be sourced from diverse channels, their utility for penal policy hinges on an analytical process, considering the data's collection methodology, intent, and their accuracy and reliability. This persistent oversight also enables the pinpointing of specific crime patterns or issues, ensuring that research and action are precisely focused where they are most needed

Public perceptions of criminal policy, crime, and crime prevention

It is essential for the criminal justice system that its basic principles are shared not only by those who are directly responsible for its functioning, but also by the public. Investigating societal attitudes towards various sanctions, initiatives, or crime deterrent strategies is crucial, as is examining media portrayals of crime

Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) – research activities

- within the aforementioned thematic areas, the following individual research tasks will be gradually carried out in 2024-2028: Opportunities and limits of probation in the context of desistance; Fine in the criminal sanctions system; The effectiveness of probation and offending behaviour programmes; The criminal justice approach to dangerous offenders with serious mental disorders; Specific aspects of the incarceration of the disadvantaged due to age or illness; Victimization survey and related research on crime victims; Crime and victimisation in socially excluded localities of the Czech Republic; Crime and sanction policy trends; Current forms of cybercrime and its victims; Contemporary approaches to crime prevention in the Czech Republic; Public and media perspectives on sentencing and penal policy; Benefits and risks of working in prisons; Restorative encounters between victims and serious offenders in correctional settings
- IKSP's research focuses on crime prevention area in two ways: (a) generally, almost every research in the field of criminology can be seen as related to the crime prevention, since it aims to the better knowledge about the phenomenon of crime and its perpetrators and victims and doing so it aims to preventing criminal recidivism and the crime in general; (b) and also, some of IKSP's studies are focused specifically on the crime prevention, like for instance the research on the system of working with youth at-risk of crime, on the crime prevention in disadvantaged localities or on public perception of the preventive measures and their outcomes



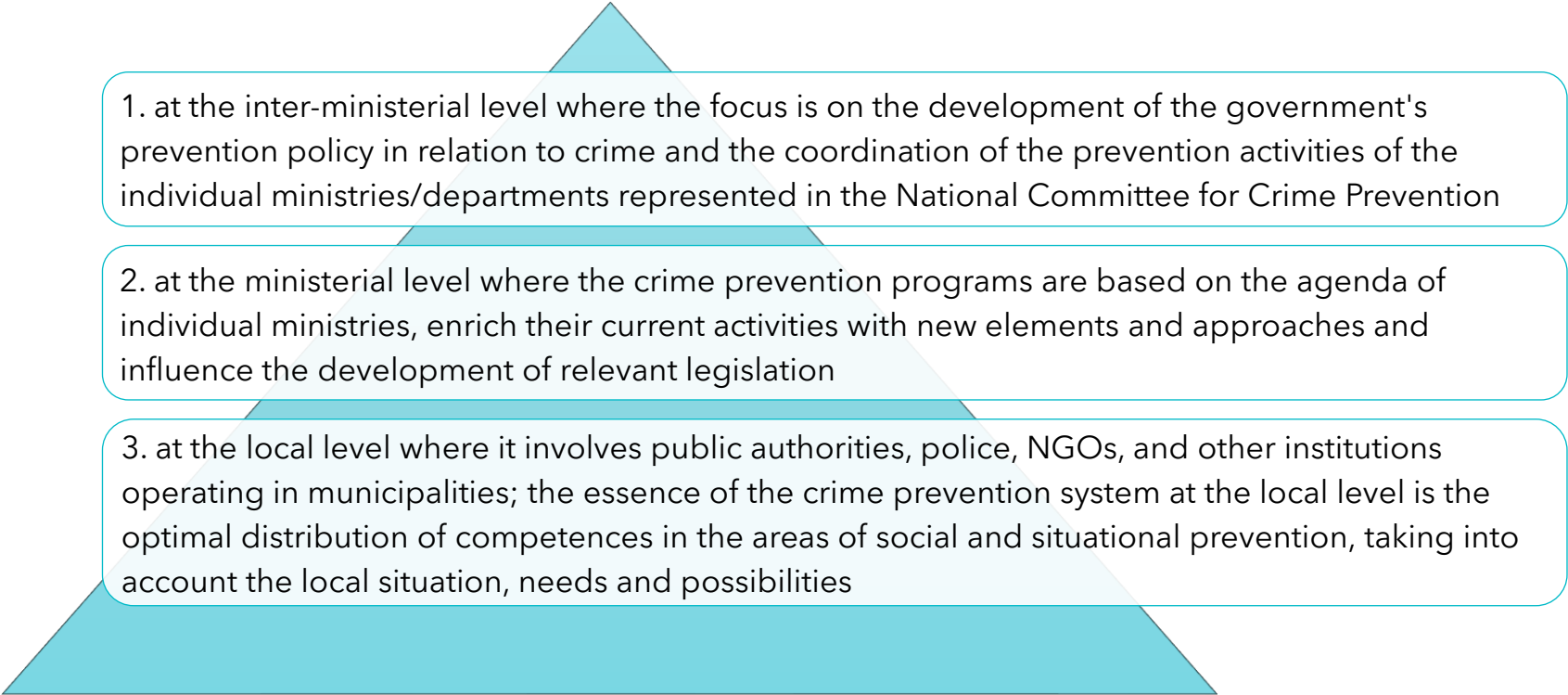
Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) – users of outcomes

- IKSP delivers its findings in the area of criminology and penal policy to the relevant government bodies and various other stakeholders, offering strategic recommendations for legislative, organizational, and other relevant measures
- results of our research reach a diverse spectrum of users, primarily within the justice sector, including the Czech Ministry of Justice, judges and public prosecutors, the Prison Service, the Probation and Mediation Service, and the Justice Academy, among others
- key users also include the Ministry of Interior, notably the Czech Police and the Police Academy of the Czech Republic
- multi-sectoral bodies like the National Committee for Crime Prevention further disseminate IKSP's findings to state administrative authorities and regional and municipal local government bodies engaged in the Crime Prevention Strategy
- other government advisory bodies and departments focusing on education and youth, social affairs, or public health, as well as the Czech Parliament and the Czech Government Office, also benefit from our research
- IKSP cooperates with relevant non-governmental organizations in its field of interest
- our comprehensive repository of empirical data and theoretical insights serves not only state agencies and institutions but also enriches academic discourse, supports criminology curricula at universities, social welfare education and teaching in related fields across higher education
- we ensure transparency and public engagement by publishing its research outcomes on its website, granting open access to all interested parties

Crime prevention in the Czech Republic

the role of the National Committee for the Crime Prevention

- in the Czech Republic, the crime prevention is organized on three levels:



1. at the inter-ministerial level where the focus is on the development of the government's prevention policy in relation to crime and the coordination of the prevention activities of the individual ministries/departments represented in the National Committee for Crime Prevention

2. at the ministerial level where the crime prevention programs are based on the agenda of individual ministries, enrich their current activities with new elements and approaches and influence the development of relevant legislation

3. at the local level where it involves public authorities, police, NGOs, and other institutions operating in municipalities; the essence of the crime prevention system at the local level is the optimal distribution of competences in the areas of social and situational prevention, taking into account the local situation, needs and possibilities

Crime prevention in the Czech Republic

the role of the National Committee for the Crime Prevention

- National Committee for Crime Prevention is an inter-ministerial coordinating and methodological body established at the Ministry of the Interior, governed by the Statute and Rules of Procedure approved by the Government of the Czech Republic
- the objective of the Committee is to develop and unify the concept of the preventive policy of the Government of the Czech Republic at the inter-ministerial level, and to methodically assist in its implementation at all levels of public administration
- the Committee also submits the Crime Prevention Strategy for a specified period (currently for 2022-2027) to the Government of the Czech Republic for approval, evaluates annually the objectives and tasks resulting from the Strategy and submits a report on their implementation to the Government
- the Committee approves applications for subsidies under the Crime Prevention Program for local self-government units
- the Committee has currently 28 members, its secretariat is provided by the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior
- the Chairman of the Committee is the Minister of the Interior, and the Executive Vice-Chairman is the Deputy Minister of the Interior, whose responsibility is crime prevention
- the other members of the Committee include the representatives of relevant ministries, police, courts, public prosecutor's offices, prison service, probation service, regional and local municipalities, government office, and IKSP as well