

***Criminological aspects of delinquency of juvenile and
criminality of teenage offenders in the Slovak Republic***

by

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I would begin by saying that I am glad to participate in this international conference and I would express conviction, that its results will be beneficial also in conditions of the Slovak Republic.

Interest in practical solution of problems that are related to criminality and its prevention can be seen in Slovakia recently. It appears from the state and structure of criminality and from reality that criminality is one of the most severe social-pathologic phenomenon of Slovakia. Criminality prevention must react to its state; it must go from concrete conditions and react to its causalities.

Important attributes which must be protected by every society are internal order and security. It is not sufficient to be aware of that. What is extremely important is to convince existing society with one's own achievements of ability of all interested to build a well-ordered society in which unlawfulness will be replaced by lawfulness and where lives, health, possession, rights and liberty of citizens will be protected. In real life this especially refers to security and protection against criminality of all kinds, criminals and offenders of minor criminality, producers and distributors of drugs, persons that endanger moral education of juveniles and infringers of public order.

Slovak Republic government also considers criminality prevention as a basis of criminal policy of the state. In the present it prepares basic controlling document "Strategy of criminality prevention and other antisocial activities in the Slovak Republic" which will be valid until 2010. The government has also an object to crown legislation process of historically the first criminality prevention law in 2008 where ministries and other concerned statutory undertakers participate under sponsorship of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The government in its program declaration also declared that it will pay attention to social prevention as expression of solicitude for the most vulnerable groups of citizens and especially children and youth, elderly people, battered and abused women. Important is that the government declared financial support of prevention programs and that they will endeavour so that criminality prevention would be all-society affair [1].

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What is the situation of juvenile delinquency and criminality of teenaged offenders in selected kinds of crimes in Slovakia like?

The structure of criminal activity of young delinquents is created by typical crimes against property, bodily harm, fights, and criminality in transport including drunkenness, disorderliness, statutory rape, parasitism and unauthorized use of foreign motor vehicle. Increasing number of serious juvenile crimes should be considered as a warning signal. Greatest grow in criminality of children in comparison with adult offenders is seen in property criminality, and then it is violent crime. Juvenile delinquency is connected with group crime, alcoholism and nonalcoholic intoxication. Specific for juvenile criminality is vandalism.

Dynamism of whole criminality of the young in 1996-2006 dropped. The number of crime committed by the young decreased from 12 455 crimes in 1996 to 6 654 in 2006 (table 1), what is nearly a half fall of crimes. Mentioned decrease is relative. Development of these offenders portion on criminality detection rate which shows different tendencies shows evidence of it. We can talk about decreasing tendencies also after 1998 from which the rate of the young in crime decreased from 20% to 14% in 2006. Though on the one hand the young participated in more than one quarter of all clarified crimes in Slovakia on the other hand in the present the young participate in clarified crimes less than one sixth.

Development of juvenile delinquency shows different tendencies as development of whole criminality of the young. In 1996-1998 increase of juvenile delinquency was recorded which culminated on 5 000 crimes in 1998 (rise from 4 596 to 5 022 crimes). We can talk about decreasing tendencies from 2000 when number of crimes committed by these persons oscillated about 4 000 crimes and in 2006 decreased on 2 300 crimes what is in comparison with 1996 decrease about one quarter of crimes. Development of the young participation on total criminality in 1996 – 2006 was between 5 – 11 %.

We registered marked decrease in juvenile delinquency in 1996-2006; it was lower up to 55%. Dynamics of the rate of the young on total criminality in 1996-1997 oscillated on the level 17 – 18 %. After 1999 was marked decrease of the young criminality state seen also on decreasing rate of the young on total criminality, which in the present does not exceed 10%.

Tab. 1: Total criminality of the young in the SR in 1996-2006 [2]

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total criminality	99402	92395	93859	94016	88817	93053	107373	111893	131244	123563	115152
Clarified	45116	43642	45658	47067	47107	50818	55212	51683	51635	95204	47481
The young	12455	12349	11871	11145	9724	9528	9854	8759	8101	8158	6654
Juvenile	4596	4987	5022	4859	4159	3937	4131	3755	3149	3349	2364
Teenaged	7859	7362	6849	6286	5565	5591	5723	5004	4952	4819	4290

Violent crime is a part of so called general criminality. It includes mainly violence heading for other person but also against things and psychical violence. Impending actual application of physical violence can be motivated either hostility or it can be so called instrumental vio-

lence serving to other purpose. Between the young it is especially in form of blackmail or chicane which is typical for apprentice youth but they are often also in primary schools.

Structure of the most often cases of delinquency of this type is brigandage. It is typical criminality becoming to so called street and thereby metropolitan criminality of the young. The number of boys is higher than girls. They are mainly offenders from inferior social stratum. Recently the cases of the most severe criminality occurred, bodily harms with death following. The most of murders is emotive. The major are murders which are means to other objective. There is psychopathologic phenomenon, which burden appropriate adaptation surrounding social environment. Reasons of violence between the young are various. They are conditioned socially, culturally, economically, psychologically, physiologically but in some cases also politically.

Violent criminality of the young developed in 1996-2000 by similar way as violent criminality that means it had increasing tendencies. Increase in quantity of criminality of the young from 1 519 in 1996 up to 1 779 in 2001 represented 15% accrual. There was noticeable decrease after 2006 while the young people committed 862 crimes (tab. 2). From the view of development of violent criminality of the young it is needed to see mainly the development of violent delinquency of juveniles. The number of violent delinquencies committed by juveniles in 1996-2001 represents increase about more than 60%. That is regarding to the lowest age category the alarming fact. In 2002-2006 we register decreasing tendencies of the state of violent criminality while decrease from 939 cases to 342 in 2006 (except 2005 – increase to 678 cases) represents 274% decrease. Even though mentioned development in recent years can create optimistic prognoses it is necessary point that rapid increase of violent delinquencies of juveniles was multiple higher than following decrease in the number of violent crimes otherwise punishable.

Tab. 2: Violent criminality of the young in Slovakia in 1996-2006 [2]

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Violent crime	11391	11564	12427	13531	13459	14450	15020	13724	13755	12906	10896
Clarified	9790	10146	11083	12137	12228	13192	12948	10353	9961	9526	7475
The young	1519	1544	1506	1667	1721	1779	1620	1316	1267	1478	862
Juvenils	555	568	683	730	926	939	776	562	532	678	342
Teenaged	964	976	823	937	795	840	844	754	735	800	520

Property criminality of the young

Property criminality is the most frequent part of the total criminality of the young. They are typical form delinquency of children and the young. They are more often in big towns than in villages. With higher age there is possible decrease of criminality of the young. Some property criminality is possible to consider as so called chivalrous delinquencies. The often reason of property criminality of the young is non filled leisure time and with this relating deviation to criminality.

Property criminality is the most common type of criminality and the most frequent group of criminalities committed by the young. Development of the number of registered cases of property criminality of the young (tab. 3) was the same with the development of total criminality of the young. From the table and the graph follows that property criminality of the young showed decreasing tendency. Regarding to the mentioned development of the state of property criminality committed by the young is an interesting fact that the rate of these offenders in clarified property criminality had in 1996-1997 conversion tendency that means it increased up to 50%. After 1998 there is gradual decrease of the rate of the young participation on this criminality up to present 31%.

In examination of reasons and condition of criminality of the young and at planning of preventing precaution is important knowledge that in the last century juveniles and young persons became between the most frequent groups of offenders participating on property criminality committing.

The development of property delinquency of juveniles was different from the development of the property criminality of the young. Between years 1996-1999 was the property delinquency about 3600 cases per year. Marked decrease of property cases otherwise punishable was markedly shown at the beginning of this decade while the present state is about 1600 cases. Juvenile offenders have high rate on property criminality which increased up to 20% level in 1997 what means that every fifth case clarified property crime was committed by persons younger than 15 years.

The state of property criminality of the young shows decreasing tendencies, while the number of property crimes of the young in 1996-2006 was decreased nearly more than one half. The rate of the young was lower up to the present 40% from 1996 what still means one fifth of all clarified property crimes.

In property criminality of the young as well as at their total criminality it is interesting that the state of property delinquency of juveniles and criminality of the young in comparison with the 90ties of the last century does not show marked differences what should be stimulation for other examination but also stimulation for effective prevention activities aimed mainly at children under 15 years.

Tab. 3: Property criminality of the young in the SR in 1996-2006 [2]

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Property criminality	67772	62411	93130	60275	52923	54022	57543	61034	77098	65306	63077
Clarified	19442	19022	19851	18375	15660	16370	17486	16388	14415	13780	14803
The young	9553	9508	9097	8160	6714	6551	6880	6146	5608	5357	4632
Juvenils	3625	3912	3802	3561	2668	2524	2831	2710	2206	2251	1600
Teenaged	5925	5596	5295	4599	4046	4027	4049	3436	3402	3106	3032

Moral criminality of the young

It is non coherent whole of criminalities from which a part is in criminological dividing called as sexual criminality. Its basis is gratifying of libido by forms which are not tolerated by society. Crime refers to one or more persons. Rape and sexual abuse belong to criminality with high danger for society because they interfere in the field of human dignity but also in healthy course of young people. Sexual abuse in some isolated cases occurs with juveniles, they are predominantly committed by juveniles and children with the age close to juveniles. With girls it is mainly prostitution. In many of these cases it is for property purpose.

Development of moral criminality of the young is quite varying but in spite of this we record in dynamics of its state two culmination points. The first increase we record in 1997 where the number of criminalities committed by the young reached 335 cases. After 1997 we record mild decrease but in 2000 the state of moral criminality of the young again overstepped 300 moral crimes. So the years 1997 and 2000 are the culmination years in the field of criminality increase. Marked decreasing tendencies are seen in recent years, when the number of moral crimes committed by the young decreased fewer than 200 cases. Regarding to low number of moral crimes the more interesting criterion is the rate of young population on this clarified criminality (tab. 4). We determine that in the last decade were the young participating in moral criminality in high rate, while the rate of the young culminated in 1997 on 45% level.

In the next years 1998-2001 we recorded mildly decrease and the rate of juveniles and teen-aged offenders on moral criminality oscillate on about 40%. Marked decrease was there after 2002 when the young participated in moral criminality in 30%. From the mentioned indicator we can claim that young people in the age of 18 have high participation not only on property criminality but also on one of the most serious social kind of criminality as moral criminality is.

From the view of juvenile offenders is alarming the progress of the rate of their participation in this kind of criminality. While in 1996 was the rate of juveniles on moral criminality only 10%, in the present it is 17% what is regarding to the kind of criminality and the group of offenders quite high representation.

Tab. 4: Moral criminality of the young in SR in 1996–2006 [2]

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Moral Criminality	833	769	669	721	783	756	773	835	875	794	798
Clarified	796	731	645	685	750	723	672	653	713	626	589
The Young	333	335	270	271	301	284	235	197	218	217	218
Juveniles	79	111	104	86	119	91	86	73	106	83	101
Teenaged	254	224	166	185	182	193	149	124	112	134	117

Conclusion

The state and aims of solution of criminality prevention in the Slovak Republic are shown in the article. There is an analysis of the state of the selected kinds of delinquencies of juveniles and criminality of the young offenders in the article. Interest of all our society is so that our young generation could grow healthy and with positive attitude to abidance of rules. That is why it is very important to realize the aims we have in Slovakia. I hope today conference will help to fulfill this aim. Thank you for your attention.

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