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**Systematic solution to criminality  
prevention in the Slovak Republic**

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dozwolonego użytku.

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## **SYSTEMATIC SOLUTION TO CRIMINALITY PREVENTION IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

### **Introduction**

Criminality prevention within the Slovak republic is represented by reasoned, systematic, planned and coordinated approach to the source and conditions of criminality itself with the aim to prevent the consequences, as well as their removal. Alternatively, those approaches and methods are meant to influence or eliminate them partly, or their negative implications restrict and, concurrently, support creation of anti-criminological conditions. Criminality prevention is interdependent with the prevention of other sociopathic phenomena.

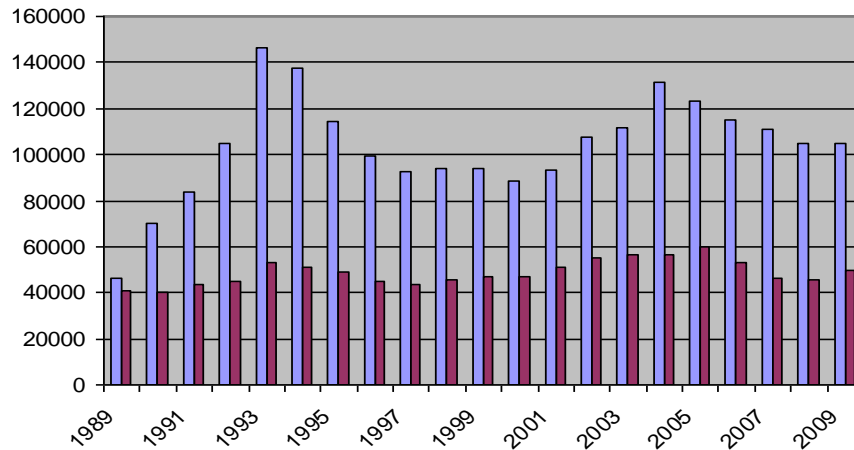
### **1. History of preventive activities in the Slovak Republic**

Criminality prevention is not a brand new idea of the latest period, as it already may be contemplated. Highest governmental authorities approved various groups of criminal offences countermeasures, predominantly of organisational, personal and legislative nature, which purpose was complexly and in coordinated manner apply social, penitentiary and resocialisation means and methods for elimination of reasons and sources of criminality.

Passed countermeasures were aimed at prevention and restriction of recidivism of criminal activity, strengthening of children protection and youth against negative social events, increase of fight against alcoholism and other drugs or toxic substances. Major part of those countermeasures was headed at increase property protection, as most of assets were public before y. 1989 in hands of socialistic state powers.

Social-political changes, after y. 1989 has not brought expected outcomes in form of decrease of criminality level. Prevention importance was neglected, or it was executed in non-systematic level. Realised prevention activities did not delivered on these expectations due to missing working mechanism for regulation and coordination of prevention.

After 1989, the accomplishment of laws was in practice markedly weak, which was declared by unsatisfactory and deformed legal consciousness of citizens. The understanding of personal liberty and human rights was not adequate. Democracy has been often misunderstood with anarchy, especially among the individuals with tendency to commit criminal acts. Levity and citizenship passivity persisted towards criminal acts happened in the society, mainly non-cooperation or lack of it by citizens with the bodies of justice.



Total vs. Clarified criminality

**Chart 1.** Evolution of Total Criminality Recorded in Slovakia

Criminality was affected by accumulated economic, social and political problems, such as unemployment, frontiers opening, neighbouring countries economic crisis, as well as absence or inconsistency in controlling mechanisms during economic transition from planned to market economy.

Lack of legal knowledge and weak legislation in a form of unpremeditated and incomprehensive criminal law policy had direct impact especially on too liberal Act on Criminal Affairs and Code of Criminal Procedure.

From qualitative standpoint, the situation has not materially changed:

- increase in brutality of criminal acts, mostly moral and violence criminality;
- criminality is perpetrated in the public places during daylight, such as murders, burglars, car stealing etc.;
- distinctive is representation of juvenile delinquency is still present, and age limits are being pushed downwards;
- increase in number of delicts connected with violence in family, torturing of children and women, as well as misusing of trust of old people;
- white-collars criminality has outgrown into uncontrolled corruption on national level;
- organised criminality together with increase in cross-border organised crime is more and more dangerous in comparison with traditional criminality;
- drug criminality is on rise. Slovak Republic is not only transit and consumption country of drug dealers, but also they are being planted and produced here often by foreign immigrants, mostly synthetic, there is movement from heroin towards pervitin;
- increase in cybernetic criminality and profile of criminal perpetrators is being changed.

Quantitative category changes in the evolution (Chart 1) relate to urbanisation with unequal economic changes in the social groups, family crisis, with manipulation of children and misusing of women, with alternations in educational and upbringing systems, erosion of traditional family principles and other social changes. Current criminality controls system on all-society level accepts these

influences, but is not effective. Traditional institutions, such as police, attorney general office, judiciary are not alone best weaponry against criminal offenses. Similarly, changes being approved in these institutions as well as revisions of legislation in Slovakia can only contribute to positive conversion in the criminality evolution, however, they are not themselves the decisive tools in the fight against criminality.

## 2. Criminality resolution tools

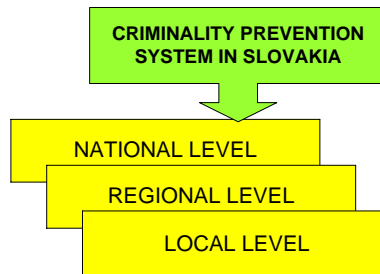
Rigorous turn could be brought in state security policy by orientation on prevention actions. Government of the Slovak Republic established due to this reason the Committee for Criminality Prevention with acknowledged status. This public body established expert groups orientated on money laundering, prevention of social-pathological events among children and youth and Romany criminality prevention.

The government of the Slovak Republic in y. 2008 passed Act on Criminality Prevention and in total there has been approved three strategies. First in 1999 for three years period and the fourth is concurrently being prepared. Its roots are programme declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic, wherein criminality prevention is placed as a corner stone of the criminal and penal policy of the state.

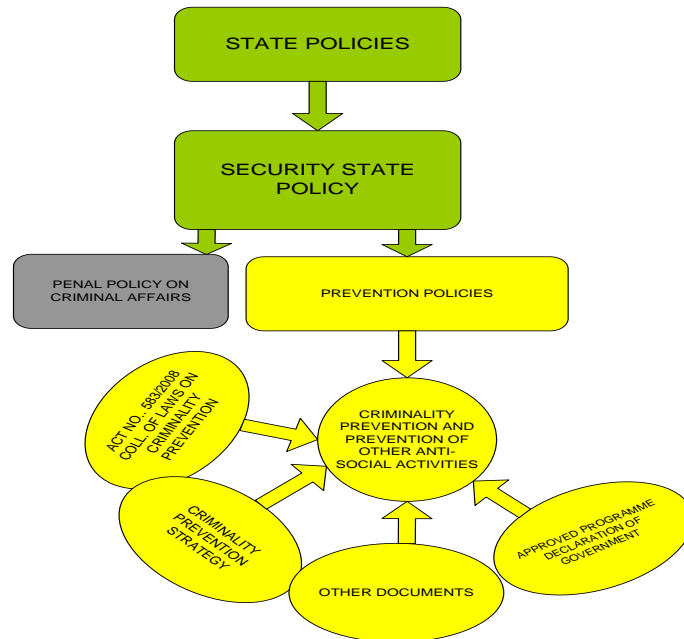
Sudden change in categories of criminal offences after y. 1993, especially in economic and financial criminal acts, required new definitions of criminal policies, in order to fight for democratic state working based on rule of law, balance of powers and human freedoms. Economy transformation and democratization processes have opened greater space for qualitatively new criminal phenomena such as corruption, tax, customs and credit, infiltration of organised domestic and foreign groups in the public structures, legalisation of dirty money.

In Slovakia three level system of criminality prevention is being built (Chart 2):

- national level
- regional level
- local level

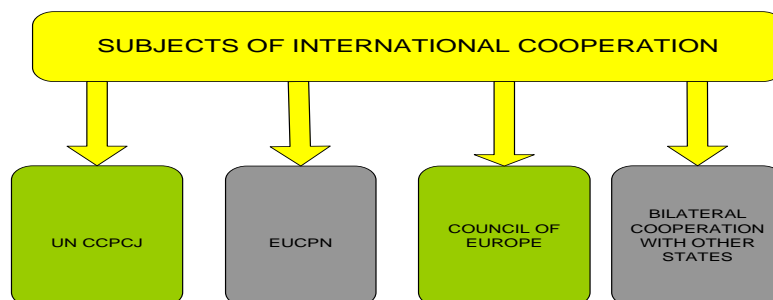


**Chart 2.** Three Level Hierarchy of Criminality Prevention



**Chart 3.** Structure of Criminology Prevention Policy in the Slovak Republic

Countrywide system of criminality prevention is interconnected with foreign institutions. International subjects of cooperation in those policies with Slovak Republic are UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UN CCPCJ) and European Union Criminality Prevention Network (EUCPN), Council of Europe and as indicated J. Dworzecki – bilateral cooperation, example of which is the cooperation with Poland<sup>1</sup> (Chart 4).



**Chart 4.** Subjects of International Cooperation

<sup>1</sup> J. Dworzecki: *Internal security problems. Community policing strategy and its activities in Police in Republic of Poland W: Prevensia kriminality na miestnej a regionalnej úrovni*, Žilinská univerzita v Žiline 2009

On countrywide level criminality prevention is solved in the following areas:

- legislative – acts and public notices on criminality prevention;
- conceptual – formulation of principles and methods by think-tanks;
- economic – criminality prevention & controls projects subsidies;
- coordination – national and international programmes and strategies;
- execution – advisory, further education, field research.

Most of effective criminal prevention activities are organised on local and regional level.

### **Conclusion**

All things considered, in the latest decade, criminality prevention activities in Slovakia have improved in frequency and quality. Assuming further qualitative movements, most of these activities shall be executed on local and regional, based on central national strategy. The emphasis is to be put on the professionalization of criminality prevention coordinators and flexibility in the implementation of approved EU norms on national level.

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**Streszczenie:**

*Artykuł przedstawia ewolucję systemu prewencji kryminalnej w Republice Słowacji. Autorzy zaprezentowali charakterystykę podejmowanych aktualnie w tym kraju działań, mających na celu ograniczenie zdarzeń o przestępczym charakterze. Wskazano na główne nurty współczesnej przestępczości występującej u naszych południowych sąsiadów.*

**SŁOWA KLUCZE:** przestępczość, prewencja kryminalna, działalność prewencyjna słowackiej policji

**Summary:**

*The article concentrates on concise recapitulation of conditions of criminality prevention evolution in the Slovak republic. It states approvals of several legal acts and ways of institutional solution. In the second part of it, the author characterises current state of criminality prevention and perspectives of its applications.*

**KEYWORDS:** criminality, criminality resolution tools, criminality prevention, prevention policies