

Crime prevention policy	
<b>EU- priority</b>	Organised Property Crime
<b>Country</b>	Czech Republic
<b>Year</b>	2018

## 1. Overview of the field

### Definition of the crime

Definition of organized crime from the Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime for the years 2015 – 2017:

Act No. 40/2009 Coll. (Criminal Code) defines “an organised criminal group” as “a community of persons with an internal organisational structure and a division of functions and activities, which focuses on the systematic perpetration of intentional crimes” (Sec. 129 of the Criminal Code). Furthermore, the law also recognizes the concepts of “participation in an organised criminal group” (Sec. 361 of the Criminal Code) and “perpetrator of a crime committed in favour of an organised criminal group” (Sec. 107 of the Criminal Code). Moreover, it is considered an aggravating circumstance when the perpetrator commits the offense “as an organiser, as a member of an organised group, or as a member an organisation” (Sec. 42 of the Criminal Code). Furthermore, a higher sentence is imposed in the case of many constituent elements of relevant crimes, when the perpetrator committed these crimes as a member of an organised group or a member of an organised group operating in several countries.

Property crime in the Criminal Code (not necessarily in organized form):

Act No. 40/2009 Coll. (Criminal Code) lists following crimes as crimes against property:

- Theft
- Embezzlement
- Unauthorised Use of a Thing of Another
- Unauthorised Interfering with a Right to a House, Apartment or Non-residential Premises
- Fraud
- Insurance Fraud
- Credit Fraud
- Subvention Fraud
- Practise of Unfair Games and Wagers
- Participation
- Negligent Participation
- Money Laundering
- Money Laundering out of Negligence
- Usury
- Concealment of Things
- Breach of Duty in Administration of Property of Another
- Negligent Breach of Duty in Administration of Property of Another
- Damnification of Creditors
- Favouring Creditors

- Causing Bankruptcy
- Breach of Duty in Insolvency Proceedings
- Machinations in Insolvency Proceedings
- Breach of Duty to Make a True Declaration of Property
- Damage to a Thing of Another
- Misuse of Property
- Unauthorised Access to Computer Systems and Information Media
- Obtaining and Possession of Access Device and Computer System Passwords and other such Data
- Damage to Computer Systems and Information Media Records and Interference with Computer Equipment out of Negligence

### Assessment of trends and developments

Domestic burglaries account for majority of property crime. As in previous years, in 2017 offenders usually targeted jewelry, cash money, electronic devices and other small objects. Burglaries in apartments and family houses were committed by perpetrators as a result of using narcotic and psychotropic substances as well as by re-offending perpetrators. Perpetrators are of Czech nationality as well as foreigners such as Slovaks, Romanians etc. In 2017, cases of burglaries in apartments and family houses of citizens of Asian countries committed by Colombia nationals were recorded. Perpetrators pick objects of their interest on the basis of their location and physical appearance and also on the basis of information from social networks where people share photographs and information on their absence at home. The trend of weapons thefts also continues.

An important part of property crime is targeted at senior citizens. The issue of crime against seniors continued to be given a high priority. Crimes against seniors (fraud, theft, burglaries – using deceit) were committed by individual Czech citizens as well as organized criminal groups – family clans from the CR, Slovakia, Poland, and other countries. As compared to 2016, an increase in cases of crimes against seniors was recorded in 2017. Many crimes continue to be perpetrated under the legend GRANDCHILD, OVERPAYMENT, BANKNOTES CHANGE or CONTROL.

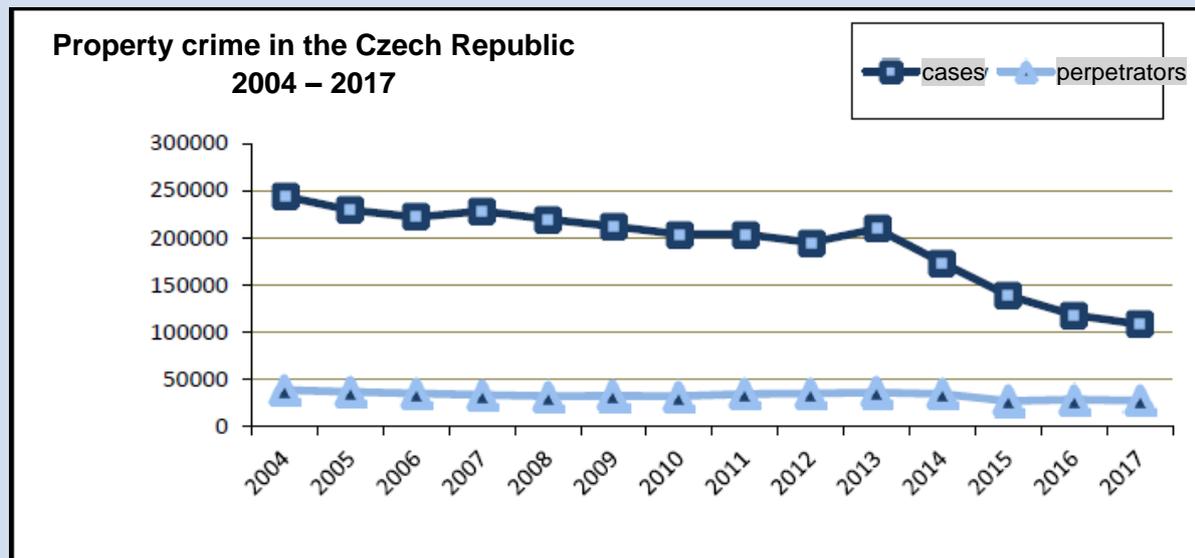
As regards vehicle theft, trends from previous years continue. Vehicle thefts in the CR are constantly declining.

### Recent overview of statistics and research

108.497 (-9.585, -8,1 %) cases of property crime were recorded in 2017. Of these, 27.765 (-1.253, -4,3 %) were cleared. The total clear-up rate rose slightly to 25,6 % (+1 %). A total of 32.846 (-1.953, -5,6 %) crimes were cleared. The number of recorded burglaries fell to 24.127 (-4.093, -14,5 %), of these 5.714 (-600, -9,5 %) cases were cleared, as well as the number of recorded plain thefts, which amounted to 66.101 (-5.123, -7,2 %) cases, of these 17.078 (-473, -2,7 %) cases were cleared. The clear-up rate of plain thefts rose to 25,8 % (+1,2 %).

The number of recorded burglaries in apartments fell (2.518 cases, -305, -10,8%), as well as burglaries in family houses (2.947 cases, -325, -9,9%). 654 (+52) cases of crimes against seniors were recorded. As compared to 2016, vehicle theft fell by 27 % in 2017, in last ten years by 80% (excluding motorcycles that rose by one stolen motorcycle while in last ten years fell by 45%). Thefts from cars fell by 10 %, in last ten years by 73 %. Vehicle components thefts rose by 10 %, in last ten years fell by 35%.

Most vehicle theft occurred in Prague (27 %), however, as compared to 2016, vehicle theft in Prague fell by 42%.



## 2. Crime strategy and coordination

The Crime Prevention Strategy in the Czech Republic for 2016 to 2020 defines the strategic objective: “Czech Republic reacts to new threats and trends in the field of security and public order and applies new and efficient approach to prevention.” As part of this objective, it defines specific objectives in the area of new approaches to fighting property crime:

- To promote and implement projects aimed at combating crime in the virtual environment, in particular targeting dissemination of information about existing risks and possibilities of protection against them, including technical measures, and providing assistance and support to victims of crime on the Internet.
- To reflect on the demographic trends and continue targeting prevention activities and providing assistance to the target group of seniors.
- To monitor and implement new approaches and technologies in the situational prevention, particularly with regard to the property crime.

### Role of prevention in the crime strategy on state/regional/local level

For role of prevention of property crime in the national crime strategy see 2. - Objectives of the crime strategy. Regions and cities create their own regional and municipal security strategies. There is no analysis available about the role of prevention of organized property crime through regional and municipal crime prevention strategies.

### Implementation of the policy (which level is responsible for the implementation and how is the implementation coordinated?)

Crime Prevention Strategy is implemented with the help of specific, measurable, and evaluable tasks that is a part of the subsequent Action Plan for Crime Prevention for the period of 2016 to 2020. The implementation of the Strategy is monitored and evaluated on an annual basis by the Government and updated where appropriate. The Minister of the Interior submits the Action Plan, after the preparatory period and its approval by the National Committee, to the Government.

#### Stakeholders (working groups, specialised agencies, partners, etc)

Advisory Board for Situational Crime Prevention of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic

#### Participation in European/ international networks, working groups, etc.

EUCPN working group on domestic burglary focus day

### 3. Good practices

#### Overview of recent good practices, prevention programs, etc.

##### **Safe Location - Secure Housing and Safe Country**

Safe Location serves as good examples of projects under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. These projects aim primarily at prevention of property crime. They strive to promote safety standards in the new buildings and to make safety a strong element in the process of revitalization of old residential areas.

##### **Safe Country**

In 2012, there was a new project introduced under the scope of the Safe Locality project. It was a joint prevention project called „Safe Country“. The project promotes the use of mechanical systems of protection of property and strives to improve public awareness and encourage do it yourself activity. Thanks to the project, people learn how to properly and effectively secure their homes, houses, and property and identify what makes one’s home and property really safe. The project introduces the right mix of precautions and safety features one can rely on in life. Administrators of the Safe Area and Safe Country projects prepared, as the main project output: „Guidelines for determining the level of safety of buildings and business premises against burglary in line with European standards“, „Catalogue of recommended products for protection of individuals and property“, and „Safe housing manual.“

##### **Forensic identification marking of bicycles**

There is one novelty in situational prevention - a new protection system designed for (among others) bicycles, wheelchairs, and the like using so called forensic identification marks. The system has been operable the Czech Republic since 2013, when the Ministry of the Interior quickly responded to municipalities and villages asking for this system of property protection and facilitated the „Forensic identification marking of bicycles“ project. This system is very useful for municipalities, Municipal Police forces, and the Police of the

CR since it helps disseminate information on every marked bicycle stolen immediately to all Municipal Police forces and the Police of the CR cooperating with the national REFIZ registry. With REFIZ, it is now much easier to find the stolen bicycle anywhere on the territory of the Czech Republic (REFIZ keep a description and a picture of every marked bicycle). Marking can be used on any other property, such as benches and other municipal street furniture.

**The No More Ransom Project**

The National Center Against Organized Crime takes part in the international project No More Ransom.