

Summary of the Strategy of prevention of criminal and other antisocial activities in the Slovak Republic for years 2016 - 2020

Prevention of criminal and other antisocial activities (hereinafter referred to as "crime prevention") is the purposeful action of the state, government organizations, churches, civic associations, businesses and educational institutions to raise awareness of the population, which should help to ensure that residents would not become perpetrators or victims of criminal or other antisocial acts.

The Strategy of prevention of criminal and other antisocial activities in the Slovak Republic for years 2016 - 2020 (hereinafter referred to as "Strategy") is the fifth comprehensive document of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the area of prevention of criminal and other antisocial activities. Its aim is to reduce criminal and other antisocial activities.

The strategy is based on Law no. 583/2008 Coll. on the prevention of criminal and other antisocial activities; on the conclusions of the fulfilment of previous strategic documents in the field of crime prevention; on crime analysis; SWOT analysis; used system of crime prevention; preventive practice experience and recommendations of international organizations.

Statistics and analysis

Considering the crime statistics for the years 2012-2015 it can be concluded that there have not been significant qualitative changes in the state of crime, its structure and dynamics. Total crime detected did not increase over the analyzed period. Violent crime is one of the most serious types of crime. The rise of social disparities between different social strata created the conditions for the use of violent crime as a tool for widespread crime. Violation of crime is the least tolerated crime by the public, even though it is relatively rare for citizens to meet. Violation of crime has long been a high latency, especially due to the unwillingness of victims to reveal it. As a reason for reluctance to disclose it, it is possible to mention the fear of the perpetrator, the shame, as well as the fear of the reaction of the closest neighborhood. Property crime as the dominant species was the most frequent crime in the period. Its concomitant phenomenon is the stagnation of acceleration and retardation factors without significant qualitative changes in the social development of the SR

Increasing social disparities between different social strata creates conditions for widespread criminality by individual levels of society, including the area of property criminality. The common feature of individual crimes of property crime is the increase in professionalisation of perpetrators (serial and continuing crimes), which results in recidivism. Economic crime continues to be a specific phenomenon of crime. Unlike property criminality, the motive of which is to obtain illegal property benefit in any way, even violently, economic crime is committed by predominantly sophisticated forms with high latency. Financial fraud, bribery,

clientelism, extortion, falsification of accounting documents, tax evasion, and many other similar crimes required legislative changes. A concomitant sign of the rise in economic crime and organized forms of crime (especially economic and violent) is that "credible citizens" are involved in it, so we can talk about the criminality of so called "white collars".

SWOT analysis as a tool for strategic planning has been used to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the current system of crime prevention in the Slovak Republic. SWOT analysis points to partial progress in systematical realization of crime prevention tasks. However, it reveals weaknesses in the work with media and educational institutions. It suggests that a non-systemic solution to socio-pathological phenomena, inadequate application of selected criminal law institutes, and the apathy of citizens are a major threat to the rise in crime rates and other anti-social activities. Response to threats is the increase in preventive activities directed towards education, science and research as an opportunity to increase the level of crime control.

The system of crime prevention

Primary crime prevention involves primarily raising, educational, leisure time and counseling activities focused mainly on the general public.

Secondary crime prevention deals with risk individuals, groups of individuals who are at increased likelihood of becoming perpetrators or victims of crime (specialized social care), other antisocial activities (e.g. drug and alcohol addiction, truancy, bullying, pathological gambling, vandalism, interethnic conflicts, long-term unemployment) and causes of criminogenic situations.

Tertiary crime prevention is carried out by social rehabilitation of persons disrupted by criminal and other antisocial activities, i. e. influencing persons who have committed crime or other antisocial act, or persons who have become victims of crime or other antisocial act, in order to maintain the achievements of previous interventions and reconstruction of dysfunctional social environment.

Social crime prevention is a general prevention of all manifestations of criminal and other antisocial acts.

Situational crime prevention is specifically aimed at solution of criminality, protection of public order, health, life and property of the objects of prevention.

Prevention of crime victimization is based on the concept of safe behavior, differentiated with respect to various criminal situations and mental preparedness of endangered persons.

Objects of crime prevention

- perpetrators (especially children, youth, recidivists, perpetrators with basic education and socially excluded communities),
- victims (especially children, youth, women, families with manifestations of social pathology, physically disabled, elderly, socially excluded communities, people living alone, foreigners, members of religious, national and ethnic minorities),
- potential perpetrators or victims (risk individuals and groups, children, youth, adults with a high probability that they will commit crimes or other antisocial activities or will become victims of crime)
- criminogenic factors (situations, causes and conditions of committing crime, which should be changed in a way to become the least criminogenic possible).

Subjects of crime prevention

- state administration bodies at all levels,
- regional and local governments,
- public institutions,
- research and expert organizations and institutions,
- courts, prosecution,
- educational institutions,
- non-governmental organizations, civic associations, non-profit organizations and churches.

Their role is to initiate, implement and monitor within their scope of action measures to eliminate the causes and conditions that cause or enable crime and other anti-social activities to prevent, suppress and prevent them. At the same time, within their scope, they provide, in particular, sufficient financial, material and technical means to carry out preventive activities.

Role of crime prevention's subjects at the national level is to coordinate preventive activities at national and general level. Coordinative body of crime prevention at the national level is the Council of the Slovak Government for Crime Prevention (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), which is an advisory, initiative, coordinative and expertise body of the Government of the Slovak Republic in the field of the prevention of criminal and other anti-social activities.

The Council shall set up expert groups at national level to coordinate and address the tasks assigned to them. Preventive measures and activities addressed by expert groups are coordinated by the relevant central government bodies in cooperation with national, regional

and local stakeholders, in particular within the state administration, self-government, non-profit and entrepreneurial sectors and scientific and educational institutions. The implementation of the critical tasks of crime prevention is provided by central state administration bodies, in particular: the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic; the Ministry of Economy of the SR; the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic.

Financial security of crime prevention

Implementation of crime prevention is extensive and multidimensional and it requires a multidisciplinary approach in its financial security too. As the primary source of financial means for the implementation of crime prevention at national, regional and local level serve the financial means of corresponding bodies of crime prevention at these levels. Implementation of preventive measures confirmed the need to build a stable system of financing the crime prevention not only from the state budget, but also from the budgets of local governments and the European Union.

Foreign recommendations, cooperation with international organizations

In compliance with the European Union, UNO and other international organizations Slovak Republic carries out activities in the fields of fulfilment of obligations, participation and support of the activities of international organizations, transfer and sharing of best practices and effective practices in crime prevention in order to reduce crime, as well as the development of bilateral cooperation.

In line with the Internal Security Strategy of the European Union adopted by the Justice and Home Affairs Council and endorsed by the European Council in 2010, "crime prevention means addressing the root causes, not just crimes and their consequences." This strategy highlights the necessary cooperation between law enforcement authorities and border guards, judicial authorities and other services, In the sectors of health, social affairs and civil protection. For this reason, a broad approach has been applied to security policy, particularly in the field of crime prevention, involving not only law enforcement agencies but also institutions and experts at national, regional and local level.

Besides the EUCPN, Slovak Republic also cooperates with the Council of Europe and the UN Commission for the Prevention of Crime and Criminal Justice (UN CCPCJ). These activities include the preparation of international conventions and documents that each Member State implements and the Commission regularly evaluates its implementation. The country's main

commitment to the UN is to develop crime prevention strategies not only at national but also at international level.

PRIORITIES

1. **reducing the rate of the criminal and other antisocial activities** (in particular: serious and organized crimes, drug trafficking, cybercrime, trafficking in human beings, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, economic and property crime, corruption, arms trafficking and cross-border crime, violence against women);
2. **increasing the safety of cities and villages** (integration of crime prevention into the concepts of the development of regions and municipalities; improving the quality of social relations, increasing the sense of security of residents and visitors);
3. **crime prevention in risk groups** (children and youth at risk of social pathological phenomena; family, elderly, socially excluded communities, i. e. unemployed, homeless, physically disabled, persons released from prison; first-time offenders of crimes, recidivists; LGBT);
4. **help towards the victims of crimes** (advisory and help towards the victims; particularly vulnerable groups – children, youth, women, elderly, minorities, victims of trafficking in human beings, victims of domestic violence);
5. **responding to new trends and threats in the field of security and public order** (criminality in the virtual environment, material and non-material types of dependencies, netolism (dependence on new information technologies), urban safety, high indebtedness of the population as well as the problem of financial literacy).

By defining the five basic priorities the Strategy accepts the needs and interests of citizens and the international commitments of the Slovak Republic in dealing with criminality. By defining the basic directions of prevention activities, it is the basis for the elaboration of relevant conceptual documents at the level of selected central government bodies, at regional and local level, in co-operation with socio-economic partners.

OBJECTIVES

1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Creating an effective and reliable system of crime prevention and other anti-social activities in the Slovak Republic, which is open and flexible so as to address the

causes and conditions that make it possible to commit criminality with the intention of preventing, suppressing and preventing it.

The global general objective is achieved by:

- adopted legislative and non-legislative measures of effective crime prevention (e. g. amendment of the Crime Prevention Act, especially the continuation of long-term financial mechanisms to implement proposed activities or to innovate them);
- institutional security at the level of the government, ministries and other central state administration bodies, local government authorities and local authorities to implement the international, European and national policy of crime prevention and other anti-social activities,
- establishing a system of analytical, evaluation, monitoring and control mechanisms to systematically assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the measures taken and to make them more effective by developing the strategy on its own terms,
- involving all stakeholders, including civil society, in the processes related to the adoption, implementation and monitoring of tools and practices developed to effectively prevent crime and other anti-social activities,
- raising awareness of the prevention of crime and other anti-social activities among Slovak population.

2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To complete a comprehensive and coordinated inter-ministerial system of crime prevention by state authorities and local authorities in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, churches, educational and scientific institutions and the business sector.
- Activate self-governmental authorities to protect citizens' safety, public order and crime prevention in counties and reduce the extent and severity of criminal and other anti-social activities in municipalities (in particular the inclusion of crime prevention in regional and municipal program documents, e. g. through separate crime prevention programs and public order or as part of the programs of economic and social development of cities / municipalities).
- Promote and use the activities of non-governmental organizations, religious organizations in those areas where state and local authorities cannot provide preventive activities.
- Use electronic and print media at national, regional and local level (television, radio, internet, press) as important means of crime prevention.

- Create multi-source financing of crime prevention (subsidies of central state administration bodies, local government, as well as possible partnerships between self-government bodies, non-governmental organizations and the business sector in support of preventive activities).

- To fulfill international obligations in the area of crime prevention.

- Create overall evaluation, monitoring and control mechanisms for the effectiveness and efficiency of the tasks (activities) carried out.

The complete version of the Strategy of prevention of criminal and other antisocial activities in the Slovak Republic for years 2016 – 2020 is available in Slovak language on <http://www.minv.sk/?zakladne-dokumenty-rvpk> (document called *Stratégia prevencie kriminality a inej protispoločenskej činnosti v Slovenskej republike na roky 2016 - 2020*).