

III.

Crime Prevention Strategy Czech Republic 2012 to 2015

***„It is better to prevent crimes
than to punish them!”***

Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794),
On Crimes and Punishments



**PREVENTION
PAYS!**

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

CONTENTS

1. Introduction

2. Vision of the Future of the Crime Prevention in the Czech Republic

3. Key Principles, Tasks, and Priorities

3.1 Principles

3.2 Strategic Goals and Priorities

4. Government Agencies and Other Stakeholders Responsible for the Implementation of the Crime Prevention Strategy

Crime Prevention System

4.1 Home Affairs

4.1.1 Ministry of the Interior

4.1.2 Police of the CR

4.2 Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

4.3 Justice

4.3.1 Ministry of Justice

4.3.2 Probation and Mediation Service of the CR

4.3.3 Supreme Office of Prosecution

4.3.4 Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention

4.3.5 Prison Service of the CR

4.4 Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports

4.5 Ministry of Health

4.6. Ministry for Local Development

4.7 Ministry of Defence

4.8. Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

4.8.1 Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination

4.8.2 Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs

4.8.3 The Government Human Rights Commissioner and the Director of the Government Human Rights Section

4.8.3.1 The Czech Government Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Populated Sites

4.9 Regions

4.10 Municipalities

5. Methods and Tools Necessary to Reach the Strategy Objectives

5.1 Regions – Coordination and Support Activities

5.2 Crime Prevention in Towns and Municipalities

5.3 Analyses, Strategies, and Maps of Crime

5.3.1 Analytical Work

- 5.3.2 Crime Maps
- 5.4 Effectiveness of Prevention Measures, Activities, and Projects
- 5.5 Education
- 5.6 Social Prevention
- 5.7 Situational Prevention
- 5.8 Community Crime Prevention as a Comprehensive System of Measures
 - 5.8.1 Usvit - Prevention Programme Targeting Crime and Extremism
- 5.9 Specific Projects
 - 5.9.1 Early Intervention System
 - 5.9.2 National Coordination Mechanism of Search for Missing Children
 - 5.9.3 Prevention of Virtual Communication Related Risks
 - 5.9.4 Special Interrogation Rooms
 - 5.9.5 Prevention of Domestic Violence
 - 5.9.6 Prevention of Human Trafficking
 - 5.9.7 Prevention of Debt as a Potential Cause of Crime
- 5.10 Awareness Rising and Dissemination of Information
 - 5.10.1 www.prevencekriminality.cz
 - 5.10.2 „Prevention for each Family“ Newsletter
- 5.11 Research
- 5.12 international Cooperation
- 5.13 Subsidies in Support of Crime Prevention Activities, Programmes, and Projects

6. Conclusions

III.

CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY

CZECH REPUBLIC

2012 TO 2015

1. INTRODUCTION

In the democratic world, prevention became an integral part of the criminal policy as early as at the beginning of 1980's. Since then, authorities have been trying, more or less successfully, to reach balance between prevention and repression. In the Czech Republic, crime prevention - as a systematic and planned activity formulated by the Government - had been first introduced after 1993.

The first Crime Prevention Strategy was drafted by the Ministry of the Interior in 1996 as a 4-year strategic document. Since then, the Czech governments have adopted and recommended for implementation several more elaborated strategies, the last of which embraced an extensive spectrum of crime prevention activities, measures, and approaches while in 1996 to 2004, the main focus was on new prevention related legislation and authorities (the new Prevention and Mediation Service of the CR, new crime prevention related legislation, etc.).

This current Strategy builds primarily on conclusions and evaluations of the previous crime prevention strategies, on experience gained, international expertise, and crime prevention research. It swears by coordination and cooperation of institutions and stakeholders on all levels of the public administration and the civil society. It is drafted in full respect of international instruments and their recommendations¹.

¹ In the process of formulating and implementing its crime prevention policy, the Government of the CR has always reflected international instruments and recommendations, especially those by the UN. In the text of the Strategy, we formulate a list of departure points for its implementation. These points which are listed below are in line with conclusions reached by the 12th UN Congress on crime prevention and criminal justice (Salvador, April 2010) and correspond with experience and knowledge gained in the field of crime prevention in the Czech Republic in the past 15 years.

- (a) The leading role of the central authorities in the process of establishing and maintaining the institutional framework of crime prevention;
- (b) Integration of crime prevention strategy in the group of key strategies of social and economic development.
- (c) Cooperation between public authorities, the civil society, and the commercial sector;
- (d) Sustainability and responsibility, i.e. long-term and transparent funding of programmes – their design, implementation, and evaluation;
- (e) Knowledge based processes; each crime prevention Strategy should be based on multidisciplinary information on crime related issues, the cause of crime, and best practice;
- (f) Respecting the rule of law and law and order;
- (g) Attention paid to the connection between the local level crime and the cross border organized crime;

The Strategy implements the key objectives of the Programme Declaration of the Government of the Czech Republic („The Government shall pay increased attention to the fight against crime, namely extremism, the drug crime, juvenile crime, and crimes against children and women. It shall coordinate activities of the responsible authorities and facilitate exchange of information on risks and threats“.)

The Crime Prevention Strategy for 2012 to 2015 (hereinafter only the „Strategy“) has laid down the vision of the future of crime prevention in the Czech Republic. Having had the 16 years of practical experience, theoretical research and analysis, piloting of projects, methods and approaches, cooperation with other Government agencies, and constant changes in the perception and thinking of experts and the public, we view such method the best and the most efficient one. To put it simply, the vision formulated in this text is an essence of numerous impact analyses of the precious crime prevention strategies. To develop the vision, the Strategy defines key principles crime prevention should be built on and stipulates key priorities and desired objectives.

The Strategy wishes to impact primarily the general crime, which threatens and bothers the public and has a strong potential to negatively influence the public perception of the public authorities' capacity to fight crime and maintain law and order.

The Strategy addresses neither the economic crime nor the organised crime, even though it tackles the latter (e.g. the programme of assistance to victims of trafficking in humans, corruption, terrorism, organized drug crime, illegal migration, etc.). It is not concerned with specific security issues either, since they are covered by separate strategies or concepts which address, for example, road safety or social work in socially excluded locations.

The Strategy limits itself to activities of Government agencies and other stakeholders represented in the National Crime Prevention Committee (hereinafter only the „National Committee“) and addresses both the general crime as well as phenomena which threaten to increase the risk of delinquency and crime.

There is no doubt that the Ministry of the Interior will always remain the agency responsible for most of the crime prevention related activities and measures and the body in charge of coordinating the national crime prevention policy. Other agencies – members of the National Committee – such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Justice, and, to a certain extent, Ministry of Health will bear responsibility for social affairs, employment policy, education, institutional care for children and the youth, Probation and Mediation Service programmes, etc. Selected Government

(h) Differentiation of strategies for the most relevant groups – males and females, boys and girls, vulnerable citizens, etc.

agencies have been developing their own detailed internal crime prevention strategies or programmes (e.g. the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defence, and Ministry of the Interior).

Definition:

Crime prevention comprises all measures to reduce the incidence of crime, to limit the negative impact of crime on individuals and the public, and to eliminate the fear of crime. Crime prevention activities should affect all possible causes of crime and leave the law enforcement and criminal sanctions aside regardless of their potential preventive impact².

2. Vision of the Future of the Crime Prevention in the Czech Republic

The crime prevention vision concentrates on a long-term, 10-year horizon. A part of the vision will be implemented via this Strategy and the rest will be left for the subsequent Strategies.

Crime prevention is an integral part of all stakeholders' activities. Crime prevention works towards reducing the incidence and seriousness of crime, limiting its causes and impact, and improving the public perception of safety.

The key legal framework of crime prevention is embedded in the Czech law.

On the strategic (national or international level) level, crime prevention is managed by the Government, respectively the Ministry of the Interior. Every four years, the Government adopts a mid-term crime prevention strategy, which determines strategic objectives for the following period, reacts to the current trends, and creates a factual and financial framework for all stakeholders. Responsibility for such mid-term crime prevention strategy rests with the Minister of the Interior.

The Ministry of the Interior bears responsibility for coordination of crime prevention within the group of relevant Government agencies, the Police of the CR, and other stakeholders (both direct coordination or via the National Committee).

The most important stakeholders in the area of crime prevention are municipalities, local Police units, county Police headquarters, and relevant local and county public administration bodies (including the judiciary). Municipalities have competence over their crime prevention activities and act in close cooperation with the civil society, the Police of the CR, and the

² 12th UN Congress on crime prevention and criminal justice, Salvador, Brazil, April 12 to 19, 2010

public administration. To a certain extent, the process is assisted by the commercial and private sector.

Regional administration authorities are responsible for relevant coordination and support activities.

The Ministry of the Interior, the Police of the CR, regional authorities, municipalities, and other relevant public authorities have the necessary human and institutional capacities, funds and legislation to perform crime prevention activities and to implement relevant programmes and projects.

The central authorities provide financial support via a system of subsidies. The system is administered by the Ministry of the Interior, respectively by the National Committee, and each year the Government releases funds which should strike the right balance between what is necessary and what is affordable.

All relevant Government agencies and, potentially, other subjects, shall provide funds and human resources to implement specific programmes or to perform crime prevention related activities; it concerns primarily the Probation and Mediation Service of the CR and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs – social prevention and social and legal protection of children, the Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Coordination of the Drug Enforcement Policy – drugs, and the Ministry of Justice – prisons.

All crime prevention-related activities and projects are evaluated in the light of their impact on crime.

The Czech Republic has been participating actively in international crime prevention related cooperation, primarily under the umbrella of the EU or the UN. The Government of the Czech Republic, respectively the Ministry of the Interior, have been pursuing active cross border cooperation with all neighbouring countries (both bilateral and multilateral).

3. Key Principles, Tasks, and Priorities

3.1 PRINCIPLES

The Strategy will be, in line with the above crime prevention vision, built on the following principles³.

The key principle of sustainable development is efficient crime prevention. Employment rises and business flourishes with lower incidence of crime and

³ The principles were formulated by the 12th UN Congress on crime prevention and criminal justice, Salvador, Brazil, April 12 to 19, 2010, as recommendations to governments. All these principles are recognized as key elements of the Czech crime prevention practise.

improved perception of safety. Instead of fighting crime, the authorities invest in social and economic development. It is not possible to rely solely on repression or deterrent measures, which are expensive and, from practical and ethical point of view, neither feasible, nor required. **Social prevention programmes should help integrate socially excluded groups of citizens.** There are other social inclusion programmes, such as those in support of victims of crime or other vulnerable individuals. The impact of these programmes and **their costs should be evaluated on a regular basis.** It is necessary **to build on the best practice, experience, and processes proven by practice.**

Crime prevention is not only about enforcement of law and criminal justice. Each policy which has a capacity to influence the quality of life of all of us, but primarily families, children and the youth, will have a certain impact on the prevention of crime. Since there are many factors influencing the rise or decrease of crime, the **coordinated and interagency approach** is a must and the public authorities on all levels have to play an important role in these efforts.

An efficient crime prevention system requires input, such as key entry data, analytical data resulting from high quality analytical work as well as proper planning, implementation, and evaluation. To make sure that we have enough experts as well as high quality prevention plans to respond to the specific Czech prevention needs, **the Government decided to continue in the education and capacity building process on both national and local level.**

A long term and complex effort as crime prevention requires a constant flow of financing. If we do not manage to secure financing for an extended period of time, it may very well happen that we spend money with no real impact. To support the **long term financing, we must implement measures to control the use of money and to evaluate the results and impact of activities covered.**

It comes without saying that well planned crime prevention strategies help reduce crime, increase the public perception of safety, and reduce the number of citizens who fall victims of crime. Only then we manage to improve the life of every individual. Efficient crime prevention resulting in fewer cases and less assistance needed by victims reduces costs and has a long lasting impact.

Crime prevention strategies have to primarily tackle causes of crime and offer social, community, and situational approach. All three approaches belong to the core of crime prevention. These are the three pillars which offer themselves as carriers or both long- and short-term reaction to crime.

Social prevention is definitely an inseparable part of any prevention strategy. Social prevention and its social, economic, health, labour, and education aspects, with special attention paid to children and the youth, promote pro-social behaviour, address key risks and tackle victimisation. Social prevention is designed to limit risk factors which contribute to crime.

Community prevention strives to change living conditions in locations, inhabitants of which are in high risk of perpetrating or falling victim of crime. It helps prevent social deprivation and boost solidarity and togetherness which, often in combination with economic or other social problems, can make life in the community very challenging.

Situational prevention strives to limit opportunities to commit crime, maximize the chances of prosecuting the perpetrator, and reduce profit from crime. The key is to design the public space or houses to limit crime opportunities and to provide assistance to victims. Situational prevention techniques target selected types of crime and come from the notion that perpetrators make rational decisions and evaluate potential risks and benefits of their crime or violation.

The Government will initiate and facilitate activities in the area of social and situational prevention of crime. Local self-governing bodies will be responsible for shaping and tailoring the programmes to respond to the local conditions and problems, since crime is committed in villages, municipalities, and their neighbourhoods and most causes can be solved only on the local level.

The public administration will, on all its levels, create and maintain conditions and policies necessary for the public administration and the civil society to prevent crime. These conditions include, among others, **comprehensive strategies, their implementation, and evaluation.** To implement necessary strategies, we need to **create and support partnership with relevant groups and players in the Czech society and make prevention an integral element of the national efforts to control crime.** The most important policies in this context are those which concern employment, education, health care, housing, and construction of housing. There are many causes of crime, for example social marginalisation and social exclusion, and each requires different experience and expertise. **By all means, participation of municipalities and the civil society, primarily in the process of priority identification, implementation and evaluation of programmes, and identification of resources, is key for the success of any aspect of crime prevention.**

The objectives of the Strategy derive from the evaluation of the Crime Prevention Strategy for 2008 – 2011 as well as from the current needs. They build on the previous activities and concentrate effort on activities and areas which had been evaluated as necessary, insufficient, or missing.

3.2. S T R A T E G I C GOALS AND PRIORITIES

1. **Reduced crime and its seriousness, improved public perception of safety**
2. **Reduced delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.**
3. **An efficient and coordinated crime prevention strategy⁴.**
4. **A complex community approach based on cooperation of the Police of the CR, municipal authorities, and other stakeholders.**

Priorities defined in the Strategy specify and refine the strategic goals and facilitate their efficient implementation:

- **Reduced risk of crime and incidence of crime on the municipal and regional level**, including reduction of risk factors which may trigger violations of law and order;
- **Integration of efficient prevention in the everyday policing activities of the Police of the CR**, especially on the local level;
- **Support of specific national projects** and programmes;
- **Launching of an efficient and permanent system of collection, analysis, dissemination, and exchange of crime prevention related information** among all stakeholders.

⁴ Primarily, relevant institutions responsible for crime prevention, their hierarchy, and relevant legislative provisions, analytical work, support of efficient local level projects, impact analysis of projects, activities, and programmes, positive media coverage of crime prevention policies (an Internet portal, an efficient system of dissemination of information).

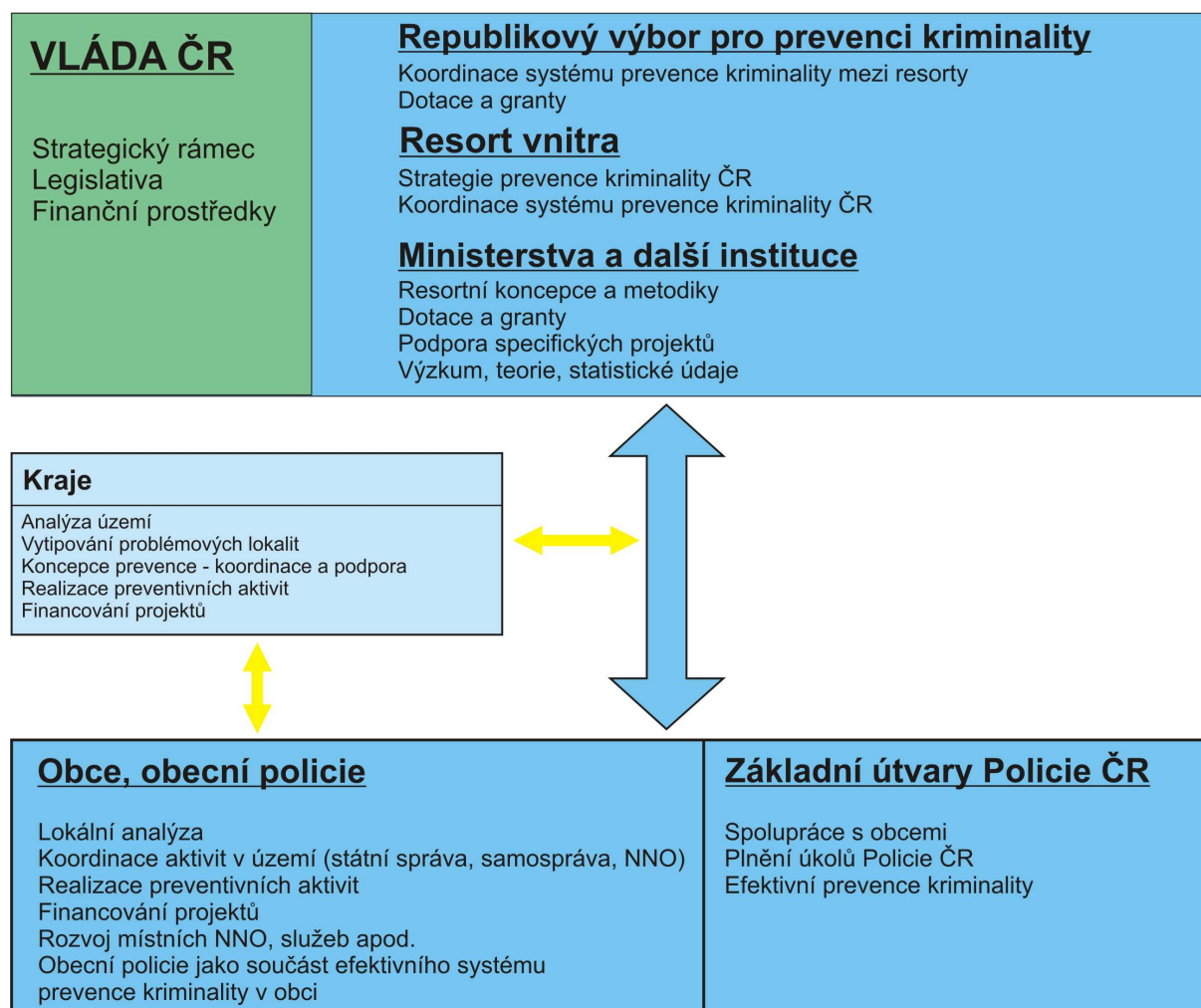
4. Government Agencies and Other Stakeholders Responsible for the Implementation of the Crime Prevention Strategy of the Czech Republic for 2012 to 2015 – Division of Competencies

A successful strategy must be built on an efficient crime prevention system on the central, respectively ministerial, level, which will be coordinated and guided by the National Crime Prevention Committee and supported by regions and municipalities.

The Czech crime prevention system for 2012 to 2015 will have the following three levels:

1. Central and ministerial level – an interagency National Committee as a coordinating body,
2. Regional level – regional authorities,
3. Local level – local and municipal self-governing bodies (in high crime locations).

SYSTÉM PREVENCE KRIMINALITY V ČR



National Crime Prevention Committee

The National Crime Prevention Committee is an interagency body established, under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior, in 1993 by the Government Decree No. 617. It is responsible for the Czech Republic's central prevention policy. The National Committee is chaired by the Minister of the Interior. The First Deputy Minister of the Interior, responsible for public safety and order, acts as its executive vice-chairman. The Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior acts as the National Committee's Secretariat. The members are: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health Care, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Finance, Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs, Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Coordination of the Drug Enforcement Policy, Police Presidium of the CR, Probation and Mediation Service of the CR, Supreme Office of Prosecution, General Headquarters of the Prison Service, Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention, and Union of Judges of the CR.

The National Committee initiates crime prevention activities, disseminates information, coordinates activities on all levels of the public and government administration, and approves of subsidies for prevention projects implemented on national, regional, and local level. The National Committee is responsible for drafting crime prevention related reports to be submitted to the Government and Parliament of the Czech Republic as well as for international relations, such as the contact between the Czech Republic and the UN Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It also represents the Czech Republic in the EU crime prevention related commissions and bodies.

Pursuant to the national crime prevention strategy, some Government agencies represented in the National Committee create their own agency-specific **crime prevention strategies** which they implement both on the central level and the level of their subordinates in regions and municipalities. The primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention activities of individual ministries focus primarily on improving the family policy, education, social prevention services, tools necessary for the active employment policy, prevention of abuse of alcohol and other substances, national and ethnic minorities, children and the youth, socially excluded individuals and groups, prisoners or persons awaiting a prison sentence. The Ministry of the Interior is the only central public authority which accentuates situational prevention as an integral part of the crime prevention system. Government agencies, Government advisory bodies, and other members of the National Committee draft and implement agency-specific and targeted crime prevention projects in areas, which fall under their responsibility. The everyday practice is therefore more complex and targeted, makes

use of new tools and approach, and has a capacity to influence the process of new legislation drafting. Members of the National Committee cooperate with other agencies and create their own policy of allocating subsidies to support crime prevention and prevention of risk behaviour and, simultaneously, facilitate training and education of prevention experts in the whole country.

4.1 Home Affairs

4.1.1 Ministry of the Interior

The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for functioning and development of the crime prevention system on all levels – national, regional, and local – as well as for the drafting of the national crime prevention strategy. The Ministry of the Interior is in charge of security related analyses and security audits, the output of which is used to propose comprehensive solutions of security problems. The Ministry of the Interior creates specific crime prevention projects, bears responsibility for the crime prevention media coverage, and facilitates international cooperation in the given field. It also provides consultancy services, trains crime prevention managers, and creates guidelines for them.

In the course of implementing the Strategy, the Ministry will focus on the following:

- Reduction of the incidence and seriousness of crime, increasing of the public perception of safety.
- Reduction of delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.
- Efficient and coordinated crime prevention system.
- A comprehensive community approach based on cooperation of the Police of the CR, municipal authorities, and other stakeholders
- Launching of an efficient and permanent system of collection, analysis, dissemination, and exchange of crime prevention related information among all stakeholders.

4.1.2 Police of the CR

The role of the Police of the CR is embedded in the Act No. 273/2008 Coll., on the Police of the CR, as amended. The key responsibilities of the Police of the CR are: protection of the public, property, and law and order, prevention of crime, tasks stipulated by the Code of Criminal Proceedings, and, last but not least, tasks related to the public order and security.

The Police of the CR are also responsible for various security analyses. Apart from the on-going analyses of security situation in regions, the Police of the CR shall newly analyse the policing method which is based on a process of initially identifying selected chronic security problems in each location and their subsequent analysis which should result in a set of measures and recommendations.

To this end, the Police of the CR will perform simple ad hoc analyses to determine proper solutions of particular security problems. Pursuant to these ad hoc analyses, the Police of the CR will adopt necessary measures to solve the problem defined or, if necessary, initiate action by the relevant public authorities in the given location.

Moreover, the Police of the CR will continue cooperating with the municipalities and the Municipal Police corps since all parties have recognized the importance of the regular exchange of views, joint planning of equipment and force deployment, information sharing, sharing of results and output from analyses, coordinated action in solving local security problems, and mutual support and cooperation.

Police prevention managers, who have so far invested their effort primarily in the awareness raising and education activities, will focus by large on supporting everyday policing activities as well as on new tasks deriving from the new security analyses. Dissemination of information, promotion, and awareness rising will remain under the responsibility of the Police spokespersons.

To meet the above objectives, the Police of the CR shall, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, draft a concept of crime prevention as a part of a wider, ministerial, Crime Prevention Strategy of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the CR.

The said concept shall focus primarily on the following: implementation of the above mentioned priorities, including the process of re-focusing of the crime prevention experts on the everyday policing, on-going and ad hoc security analyses followed by proposals for solutions of problems identified or the initiation and implementation of measures, persons in charge of the analytical service, members or staff of the Police of the CR to be trained in the above analytical work, cooperation with municipalities, Municipal Police corps, and other public authorities in gathering relevant security-related information, ways of disseminating security analyses and their presentation to the relevant public authorities, and other relevant topics.

Regional Police crime prevention coordinators will actively participate in the activities of Crime Prevention Working Groups on the regional level (under the umbrella of Regional

Offices). In cooperation with other crime prevention workforce on the regional level, they will formulate guidelines and coordinate crime prevention in their regions.

The Police of the CR shall continue⁵ cooperating with municipalities and their Municipal Police corps. Such cooperation should entail, above all, joint planning of the deployment of forces and equipment and the community policing. Cooperation of these key stakeholders should be based on coordination agreements between relevant self-governing bodies and the Police of the CR concluded in line with the Police Act. Such agreements will define the cooperation in detail and will provide for increased enforceability of binding rules.

From now on, the Police of the CR should, in their crime prevention efforts, concentrate more on the following everyday policing activities which have a significant impact on reduction of incidence of crime and its seriousness:

1. Police patrols;
2. Beat (neighbourhood) policing;
3. Gathering of security related information and their dissemination to the relevant Police units and public bodies;
primarily on the level of local policing units.

Furthermore, the Police shall:

4. Concentrate on continuous analyses of security situation in individual regions;
5. Focus on proposing or organizing prevention (primarily situation prevention) measures to help reduce crime and curb other security problems.

4.2 Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is responsible for social services, welfare, family policy, social insurance (pensions, sickness allowance), employment policy (labour market, activities to support employment locally and internationally), labour law, labour safety, labour health, gender equality, migration and integration of foreigners, subsidies from the European Social Fund ESF), etc.

Areas of responsibility relevant for the implementation of the Strategy:

- Social services (primarily social prevention services), including the national system of subsidies and guidelines for regional authorities.
- Social and legal protection of children, foster care.

⁵ Compare: An analysis of possible ways towards an efficient system of protection of public safety and security on the local level and of the interaction between the Police of the CR and the local self-administration. The Ministry of the Interior, 2011, adopted by the Government Resolution No. 533/2011.

- Employment policy, efficient tools to encourage employment.
- Welfare (public welfare, poverty allowance).

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.

4.3 Justice

4.3.1 Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice is the central public body responsible for courts, offices of Public Prosecution, prisons (Prison Service of the CR), and probation and mediation (Probation and Mediation Service of the CR).

On behalf of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Justice administers complaints on violations of the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and its Protocols as well as the International Covenant on Human and Political Rights. It coordinates the implementation of decisions made by relevant international bodies.

The Ministry of Justice shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.

4.3.2 Probation and Mediation Service of the CR

The Prevention and Mediation Service has been striving to facilitate efficient resolution of crime-related conflicts. Its conflict resolution efforts, together with activities towards efficient and dignified service of alternative punishments, enforcement of measures promoting the interest of the damaged parties, community protection, and crime prevention are very much needed and to the benefit of the entire society.

The Prevention and Mediation Service, a newcomer to the law enforcement policy, combines two important professions – social work and law, primarily criminal law. The Prevention and Mediation Service is a new, multidisciplinary organisation based on a balanced cooperation of the two. The Prevention and Mediation Service acts in line with the principles of restorative justice and it has been paying increased attention to victims of crime, juvenile offenders, and perpetrators of violent crime.

The Prevention and Mediation Service shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.
- Reduction of delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.

4.3.3 Supreme Office of Prosecution

The Supreme Office of Prosecution is responsible for supervising the High Offices of Prosecution, for handling complaints concerning violations of law in criminal matters and in reviews based on own initiative. Moreover, the Supreme Office of Prosecution is in charge of drafting expert positions, which have a form of recommendations and are used to help solve particular application or interpretation problems, the Offices of Prosecution may encounter in both criminal and non-criminal matters.

In criminal proceedings, Offices of Prosecution act as **public prosecution bodies**. In preliminary proceedings, they act as a supervising body. Moreover, they are in charge of **supervising facilities, where the authorities may limit individual's personal freedom** (this concerns primarily detection facilities, prisons, forced treatment facilities, institutional care facilities, etc.) Offices of Prosecution **take part in crime prevention and assistance to victims of crime**.

The Offices of Prosecution shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.
- Reduction of delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.

4.3.4 Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention

The Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention is a multidisciplinary, theoretical, analytical, and research workplace established and managed by the Ministry of Justice.

The Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention is in charge of gathering, compiling, maintaining, and updating information on crime, crime trends, socially pathological behaviour, and criminal policy in the Czech Republic. Moreover, it bears responsibility for the international exchange of relevant empirical and theoretical knowledge and advancement of criminology.

In the course of implementing the Strategy, the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention shall focus primarily on crime prevention related research and dissemination of knowledge and expertise, in most cases with the help and via the National Crime Prevention Committee.

4.3.5. Prison Service of the CR

The Prison Service of the CR is responsible for activities related to the detention and imprisonment as well as for law and order in Court buildings. The Prison Service of the CR manages, maintains, and guards prisons and detention facilities. Moreover, it is responsible for guarding and escorting prisoners or detainees. It performs research in penology and oversees the application of research activities output in practice. Last but not least, the

Prison Service of the CR assumes responsibility for conditions necessary for the employment, education, and re-qualification of prison inmates.

The Prison Service of the CR shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.
- Reduction of delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.

4.4 Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports

The Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports is the central public authority in charge of pre-school facilities, schools, elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges, and universities, of science and education policy, research and development, including international cooperation in the field, of professional decrees, central policy of care for children and the youth, physical education, sports, tourism, and representation of the Czech Republic in sports.

In crime prevention, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports assumes responsibility for the following:

Primary prevention of risk behaviour of children and the youth – framework, contents, and coordination of activities under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports.

Drafting of guidelines, concepts, and other material related to the specific primary prevention of risk behaviour.

Drafting of laws and relevant legislative proposals.

Continuous implementation of tasks deriving from Government decrees, strategies, and concepts and their implementation protocols for the given field.

Preparation, information, and administration of subsidies in the field of primary prevention of risk behaviour, performance of continuous supervision and control, performance of subsequent control, evaluation, supervision of subjects subsidized, administration of applications for changes in subsidy drawing.

Cooperation, coordination, and organization of meetings with regional school prevention coordinators, prevention experts and methodologists, and personnel of Centres of Institutional care in charge of the primary prevention of risk behaviour.

The Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.

4.5 Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is the central public authority in charge of health care, protection of public health, medical research and development, medical facilities under direct supervision, hallucinogenic substances, precursors, and adjuvants, detection, protection, and use of natural healing sources, natural spas and sources of natural mineral water, medication, medical equipment necessary for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of patients, medical insurance, medical information system, the use of biocides, and marketing of active biocides and active substances.

In the field of crime prevention, the Ministry of Health, a member of the National Crime Prevention Committee, will act primarily in the area of hallucinogenic and addictive substances and the child care.

The Ministry of Health shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.
- Reduction of delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.

4.6 Ministry for Local Development

The Ministry for Local Development is the central public authority in charge of the regional policy, housing policy, development of housing, rental of housing and commercial space, area planning, construction regulations, expropriation issues, tourism, public auctions, and funeral services.

Apart from the above, the Ministry for Local Development is also responsible for the administration of funds to finance the housing policy and the national regional policy as well as for the interagency cooperation and coordination of other central bodies in the process of implementing the housing policy and the national regional policy. The Ministry for Local Development serves the National Coordination Authority (NOK), which defines the common framework for administration and implementation of subsidies from structural funds and the Cohesion Fund designated to reduce the differences in the development of individual regions of the Czech Republic and to approximate the Czech economy to the EU standards. It represents the Czech Republic in the EU Territorial Agenda, which creates the strategic reference frameworks of the EU territorial development with a link to the national territorial development strategies. The Ministry for Local Development provides information and guidelines to regions, towns, and municipalities and their associations and supervises and manages activities to help integrate regions of the Czech Republic to the European regional structures.

The Ministry for Local Development shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order, primarily through the following:
 - Measures stipulated by the Czech Republic's Housing Strategy up to 2020 (adopted by the Government Decree No. 524 of July 13, 2011)
 - Implementation of the Integrated Operation Programme for 2007 – 2013, Intervention No. 5.2 - „Improved environment in problematic housing estates“

4.7 Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence is the central public authority in charge of Czech Republic's defence, command of the Czech military, administration of military domains, and the Ministry of Defence education facilities.

The Ministry of Defence will bear responsibility for crime prevention activities stipulated in the Order of the Minister of Defence No. 53/2010 and the ministerial „Strategy of prevention of socially undesirable phenomena - 2010 to 2014.“ The Ministry will propose, together with related rules and regulations, a draft of a new Strategy for the following period.

Crime prevention has been and will remain one of the key and long term priorities of the Ministry of Defence human resources management. Each year, the Ministry will define its crime prevention related priorities for the following year to facilitate the efficient use of funds allocated by the Ministry of defence to its „Crime Prevention Programme.“

The crime prevention efforts will concentrate, partly in line with the process of restructuring of the Ministry of Defence organisational structure, on target groups identified to be in higher risk of delinquent behaviour, such as employees of the Ministry of Defence whose professional or service engagement take them far away from their families, professional military personnel deployed to foreign missions (and their families), professional military personnel under 35 years of age, and students of military schools.

The Ministry of Defence shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.

4.8 Office of the Government of the Czech Republic

4.8.1 Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination

The Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination is the permanent advisory and coordination body of the Government of the Czech Republic acting in the field of drug enforcement policy. It was established in keeping with Section 21, Paragraph 2, Act No. 379/2005 Coll., on protection measures against damage caused by the abuse of tobacco, alcohol, and other addictive substances and on the amendment of related instruments. The Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination has been serving a platform for continuous communication and exchange of government agencies, public administration bodies, and other stakeholders active in the field of drug enforcement policy (including NGOs and professional associations and societies). The Council is responsible for submitting to the Government the key drug policy documents, such as the National Drug Enforcement Strategy for the given period or the related Action Plans, as well as draft measures and proposals for drug enforcement activities to be implemented in the Czech Republic. Moreover, the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination shall coordinate and evaluate the implementation of such measures and activities and supervise and control, on all levels, the implementation of tasks defined in the National Strategy and its Action Plans.

The Council may propose central or local drug enforcement programmes for funding. It guarantees the system of quality control of prevention programmes and activities targeted at the reduction of drug addiction, treatment of addicts, and social inclusion of drug users and addicts. Moreover, the Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination assumes responsibility for coordination of the Czech drug enforcement related international and EU efforts and, last but not least, for coordination of collection, analysis, and distribution of information concerning the drug abuse, the impact of drug abuse, and measures implemented to enforce the drug policy.

The Government Council for Drug Policy Coordination shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.
- Reduction of delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.

4.8.2 Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs

The Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs is the permanent advisory and coordination body of the Government of the Czech Republic for the Roma community affairs. The Council has been promoting the Roma integration in the

majority population. It is in charge of coordinating the efforts of government agencies responsible for the implementation of measures and tasks deriving from Government resolutions and legally binding international treaties. It collects, negotiates, and submits to the Government information, relevant documents, and draft proposals as background material for the process of drafting and enforcing the government policy regarding the Roma issues.

The Council of the Government of the Czech Republic for Roma Community Affairs shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.
- Reduction of delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.

4.8.3 The Government Human Rights Commissioner and the Director of the Government Human Rights Section

The Human Rights Commissioner closely cooperates with the public authorities (both public administration and self-administration), NGOs, human rights experts, and experts in the integration of the Roma community.

The Human Rights Commissioner will be responsible for coordinating those elements of the Strategy, which concern human rights and Roma community issues.

4.8.3.1 The Czech Government Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Populated Sites

On behalf of the Czech Government, the Agency assists municipalities in their efforts towards social integration. Its mission is to facilitate cooperation of stakeholders on the local level. It supports interagency approach, multitasking, and cooperation and coordination of the public and on-governmental sector.

The Czech Government Agency for Social Inclusion in Roma Populated Sites will be responsible for implementing those elements of the Strategy, which concern social integration on the local level.

4.9 Regions

Our territorial administrative units, regions, have been implementing their prevention policies independently. Since crime prevention has not been embedded in the law, the engagement of regions has remained voluntary and unenforceable. The Crime Prevention Strategy adopted by the central Government stipulates conditions and rules and provides guidelines,

coordination, and financing. Regions, which get involved in the regional-level prevention, have the opportunity to influence prevention policies in their territory, define regional prevention priorities, determine prevention measures most needed in their region, receive targeted central subsidies for their programmes, and evaluate local and municipal crime prevention programmes.

Regions will be responsible for implementing those elements of the Strategy, which concern primarily:

- Coordination of crime prevention activities.
- Exchange of information between authorities and stakeholders on the local level and the government agencies.
- Drawing of subsidies allocated by the Ministry of the Interior to crime prevention activities.
- Distributing subsidies to support crime prevention activities.

Regions shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.
- Reduction of delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.
- Cooperation in shaping methods of measuring the effectiveness of crime prevention projects.
- Launching of an efficient and permanent system of collection, analysis, dissemination, and exchange of crime prevention related information among all stakeholders.

4.10 Municipalities

Towns and municipalities will be, identically to regions, implementing their crime prevention activities rather independently. Most of the Strategy objectives **will be implemented on their level**. Municipalities will carry the everyday burden of implementing crime prevention projects, activities, and measures.

Towns and municipalities shall focus on the following aspects of the Strategy:

- Reduction of delinquency of target groups defined in the Strategy, or their protection.
- Increased public space safety.
- Reduction of risk factors which contribute to delinquency and violations of law and order.

- Launching of an efficient and permanent system of collection, analysis, dissemination, and exchange of crime prevention related information among all stakeholders.

5. Methods and Tools Necessary to Reach the Strategy Objectives

5.1 Regions – coordination and support activities

Based on annual analyses and in keeping with the admissibility criteria, regions will select municipal projects to be subsidized in their territory. In cooperation with the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior, regions will provide consultancy to towns and municipalities on their crime prevention programmes, collect applications for subsidies, write expert opinions on these proposals, and submit them for approval (or rejection)⁶ by the National Committee. Regions have the power to create their own specific regional crime prevention programmes and apply for their financing from the national targeted subsidies.

It is up to the regions to decide whether they wish to get involved in crime prevention programmes. However, regions which want to join crime prevention activities must meet certain conditions listed below. One of these conditions⁷ is an analysis of crime and crime related phenomena presented in the form of a Regional Crime Prevention Strategy for the period of 2012 to 2015 at least. It is, however, recommended to draft a strategy for 2013 to 2016. Moreover, the region must have a crime prevention manager and a manager of crime prevention working group in place and be able to meet the tasks stipulated in this Strategy, which are necessary for the implementation of crime prevention on both regional and local level.

In the course of implementing their crime prevention measures, regions may operate in line with the Government approved Strategy or their own regional crime prevention Strategy while taking in consideration the results of security analyses, local conditions, and needs. The Ministry of the Interior shall draft uniform requirements for such analyses and strategies and, after negotiating them in the national Committee, disseminate them to regions as binding guidelines. Appendix 2 includes both detailed guidelines for regions which wish to include their municipalities in the local level crime prevention activities and a description of the analytical role of the Ministry of the Interior and the regions.

Apart from the activities above, regional crime prevention managers shall coordinate regional crime prevention activities, provide guidelines and consultancy to crime prevention managers in towns and municipalities, and keep them updated with information on the latest

⁶ All programmes are evaluated by an interagency and interdisciplinary expert commission, responsible for the drafting of decisions to be made by National Crime Prevention Committee.

⁷ In the past period, conditions were met by all regions.

development in the crime prevention system. It has been proposed create a new crime prevention element⁸ - an expert, coordination, and strategic platform to help develop regional crime prevention systems. Such platforms should be created under the umbrella of the regional authorities. Regional authorities will establish Crime prevention working groups (initially virtual⁹) to facilitate implementation of tasks defined in this Strategy. Responsibility for the Crime prevention working groups will be borne by the crime prevention managers and their membership will be as follows: the regional drug enforcement coordinator, the regional expert on social prevention, the regional crime prevention coordinator for schools and education facilities, the regional coordinator of Roma affairs, the prevention expert of the Regional Directorate of the Police of the CR, and the regional representative of the Probation and Mediation Service. Should it be necessary, the regional crime prevention manager may propose to extend the membership to include other experts.

The Crime prevention working groups are designed to improve the quality of information exchange, coordination of activities of their members, and allocation of funds (evaluation of municipal projects).

Recommendations for administrative regions:

- Will draft a Regional Crime Prevention Strategy for 2013 – 2016¹⁰. Deadline: November 30, 2012
- Will establish a regional crime prevention manager and create an active crime prevention working group. Deadline: January 2012 – December 2015
- Will draft an annual security analysis which will serve a basis for a risk analysis based on pre-defined criteria. Deadline: continually
- Will provide consultations on local level prevention measures, offer guidelines and support to teams working on future municipal and local crime prevention programmes, and disseminate security and prevention related information to all relevant self-governing bodies in the region. Deadline: continually
- Will draft evaluation reports for crime prevention programmes, respectively local and municipal crime prevention projects. Deadline: annually

⁸ Crime Prevention Centres have been already proposed by the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Drug Enforcement Strategy for 2010 to 2012 (Government Resolution No. 47/2011). Responsibility for their management and activities was assigned to the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, regions, and the Addiction Centre. Evaluation of their pilot operation was planned for mid 2011. Based on the evaluation, centre will extend their activities to comply with the relevant provisions of this Strategy.

⁹ Without any entitlement to office space, wages, operational expense, etc.

¹⁰ A Strategy for 2012 to 2015 is also acceptable (depending on a decision the given region will make independently).

5.2 Crime Prevention in Towns and Municipalities

Towns and municipalities, identically to the regions, implement their prevention programmes independently. Municipalities which decide to join the local level prevention activities, will draft a crime prevention programme for one calendar year. Such programme will be used as a supplement to their application for subsidies from the government budget. Applications for projects to be subsidized shall be submitted to the National Committee. The final selection will be made by the respective region in line with the Ministry of the Interior guidelines (see Appendix 2).

Municipalities which had been included in the local level prevention activities in 2008 to 2011 will be invited to draft their own crime prevention programme for 2012 to 2015 to help streamline their activities, to define priorities and timetable, and to secure resources. Such draft crime prevention programme will be adopted by municipal councils or councils of representatives.

Towns and municipalities implementing their crime prevention programme will establish a crime prevention manager (or a contact person responsible for the programme implementation) and operate a crime prevention commission (working group).

A municipal/local crime prevention programme should include projects targeted at local public security problems and local crime risks. All programmes shall respect priorities and objectives defined by the national Crime Prevention Strategy as well as the annual guidelines for targeted crime prevention subsidies. **The selected local/municipal problems must be approached in a comprehensive manner and the managing authority – town or municipality – has to consider all possible aspects of respective solutions.**

Municipal Police

Municipalities have the right to establish, in order to maintain law and order and to improve public safety, Municipal Police corps, which take direct part in the process of implementing prevention measures (projects). Municipal Police currently operate in about 350 towns and municipalities. Their almost 20 year history has shown that they have won a stable position within the network of crime prevention providers and that they remain a stable and reliable partner on the local level.

251 Municipal Police forces belong to the so called “small forces” (under 15 members). These forces are most often established in smaller municipalities but remain an important and integral part of the crime prevention system and often serve an important executive arm of the system. It is important, however, that Municipal Police forces have the necessary

capacity and capabilities to implement the local crime prevention measures and programmes.

It is recommended to support, while observing the objectives and priorities of the Strategy, activities implemented by the Municipal Police forces with special attention paid to small forces, which obviously contribute to the increased effectiveness of crime prevention in towns and municipalities.

Municipalities and towns are required to conclude or update their coordination agreements with the Police of the CR.

Municipalities and towns wishing to apply for targeted subsidies under the umbrella of the Crime Prevention Programme of the Ministry of the Interior shall:

- Establish a crime prevention manager (small municipalities¹¹ shall have at least a contact person to communicate with the regional authorities and the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior;
- Establish a working group (commission, security committee) to guarantee prevention activities and maintenance of law and order;
- Draft a crime prevention programme for the year for which they wish to apply for subsidies and for the following year. It is recommended that municipalities which had been included in the local level prevention activities in 2008 to 2011 draft their own 4-year crime prevention programme for 2012 to 2015;
- Draft annual crime prevention programmes which contain projects targeted at current security related problems of the given town or municipality.

5.3 Analyses, Strategies, and Maps of Crime

5.3.1 Analytical Work

„The internal security analysis, including crime prevention, has been underestimated and its benefits have not been recognized and utilized. However, crime prevention systems and internal security mechanisms should derive from the analysis of crime and its causes.

To enhance and promote the analytical approach, the Ministry of the Interior and the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic should facilitate general nation-wide crime and security risks analysis to serve, among others, a basis for new strategies and the management of internal security affairs, including crime prevention.

¹¹ Municipality under 5,000 inhabitants.

The Police of the CR should make use of the analytical approach on all levels of management and command. In the field of crime prevention, the Police of the CR should provide analyses to the basic Police units concerning the following:

- Security situation on the local level;
- Ad hoc analyses of selected local problems.

Such analytical service would help organize and target local policing activities and streamline measures to improve local safety (implemented by the Police and other stakeholders). Such activities and measures would be further analysed to provide feedback and to enhance the Police and other stakeholders' activities in the field of crime prevention. This approach would allow for the much needed problem oriented policing on the local level.

Municipalities having responsibilities in the field of local safety should have the capacity to perform, with the help of the Police of the CR, at least basic continuous analyses of the security situation in their area.

The planned Crime Prevention Strategy of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the CR will define details of this enhanced analytical approach to policing.“

It will concern primarily the following:

- Analyses performed by the Ministry of the Interior to map the risk locations and to help create guidelines for the selection of towns and municipalities at risk to be included in the local crime prevention activities,
- Analyses performed by regions to help point out sites and locations at high risk. Such analyses will be subsequently used as background material to help evaluate local level crime prevention projects submitted by towns and municipalities for subsidies. Regions will find them useful in the process of drafting the regional crime prevention programmes,
- Analyses performed by the self-governing bodies with the objective to provide a detailed picture of the local problems which are proposed for solution under the umbrella of the local crime prevention programmes,
- Analyses performed by the Police of the CR on the level of local Police stations, county headquarters, and regional directorates. The analysis will be a part of the regional analyses and serve as background material for the Police own prevention activities,
- Analyses performed to evaluate the effectiveness of measures adopted.

5.3.2 Crime Maps

The new software which will allow for processing of up to date digital crime maps and maps of traffic violations is one of the projects which will significantly contribute the improved planning of prevention measures on all levels and to the enhanced management of the Police of the CR, Municipal Police corps, and other authorities. In the future, we plan to introduce digital maps of violations of public order, property crime, etc. Maps will be posted on the Ministry of the Interior, respective Police, web. In the future, we may consider a system which would allow us to upload detailed security and law and order related information (e.g. socially excluded sites, etc.).

The project will be elaborated in detail in the crime prevention strategy of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the CR.

5.4 Effectiveness of Prevention Measures, Activities, and Projects

The evaluation of the interim strategies showed, that it is highly recommended to introduce a system to measure the effectiveness of crime prevention measures, activities, and projects.

So far, we have been focusing primarily on the evaluation of processes and their effectiveness. We concentrated on the effectiveness and formal correctness of the process of submitting, receiving, evaluating, and supporting the projects. That is why the evaluation report on the Crime Prevention Strategy for 2008 to 2011 concentrated largely on the process effectiveness. This new Strategy will be evaluated differently and the evaluators will concentrate primarily on its impact.

The following Strategy will sum up the knowledge and complement it with an important impact analysis, respectively an evaluation of effectiveness of funds and effort invested.

One of the partial objectives of the Strategy is therefore a new method to measure effectiveness of crime prevention projects (to be completed before the end of 2012).

The methodology should cover the most frequent types of crime prevention programmes, activities, and measures. It should determine both theoretical background of effectiveness measuring as well as, and that is more important, practical tools and guidelines necessary to measure effectiveness of crime prevention programmes, activities, and measures.

5.5 Education

The Ministry of the Interior, in cooperation with the Police Presidium of the CR, shall **identify needs for the new approach to education and training in the field of crime prevention and define competences policemen – crime prevention experts – must receive in dedicated education and training programmes**. Policemen attending the entry level professional service training will receive basic information on crime prevention which they will need in their everyday exercise of duty. Attendees of advanced professional training will, however, receive more information to extend professional competences of Police prevention experts¹².

Regional, municipal, and local crime prevention managers will receive their professional, systematic, and long-term training in **new accredited courses** (combined classroom training and e-learning). New regional, municipal, and local crime prevention managers and, if interested, the Police or Municipal Police prevention experts may attend a **short internship programme** facilitated by the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior to improve their understanding of the central crime prevention policy and the prevention efforts of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the CR, to get more information on analytical work and guidelines, and to learn about the best international practice and successful national and international projects. The accredited training will be complemented, in line with the needs defined in practice, by **dedicated seminars** on the most burning and topical issues.

Training will be offered not only to the Police of the CR and crime prevention managers, but also to the Municipal Police corps.

5.6 Social Prevention

Social prevention targets potential perpetrators, current perpetrators, and victims of crime.

Social prevention projects will strive to reduce delinquent behaviour of individuals or target groups, to change their behaviour and conduct, and to directly influence them. Social prevention will target selected groups of individuals and support activities and projects which

¹² E.g. policemen, members of teams responsible for policing children and the youth, will receive information on the early intervention system, special interrogation rooms, National Mechanism d Search for the Missing Children, on dangers posed to children and the youth by the Internet and the mobile telephony, etc. We propose to make use of the existing education modules and programmes designed by NGO experts or the academia (e.g. the currently piloted e-learning project - designed by the Open Society, an NGO, under its ProPolice programme – on risks the Internet and mobile telephony may pose to children and the youth). It is equally important to educate the Police in the principles of community policing and problem oriented policing.

will have the capacity of reducing or eliminating criminal conduct and delinquency of groups and individuals concerned.

Target groups:

a) **Children and the youth**

- All projects targeted at **children** will be either in line with the principles of the System of Early Intervention, under the umbrella of the Team for children and the youth activities, with the consent of the Team, or based on the local strategy of working with vulnerable children or children at risk. It concerns primarily the following:
 - o Projects targeted at the detection of children at risk of crime;
 - o Projects targeted at assistance to children at risk of crime (with evaluated output);
- Projects targeted at the detection and assistance to **juveniles** at risk of crime.

b) **Families** (at risk of crime committed by its members)

- Projects targeted at specific needs and assistance to families at risk. The condition is that there is at least one child in the family at risk of committing crime or the parents' conduct poses a risk of crime;
- Projects targeted at improving conditions of such families;
- Projects targeted at efficient cooperation of schools and families (for families at risk, see above).

c) **Repeated offenders**¹³ (efficient re-socialization of repeated offenders), such as:

- Projects targeted at psychological, social, and material assistance to individuals released from prisons after having served a prison sentence;
- Re-integration in the society;
- Projects to enhance cooperation of prisons, institutions of social care, and support organizations.

¹³**The number of crimes committed by repeated offenders has kept growing.** In 2008, it was 43, 7 %; in 2009, it was 45, 9 %; in 2010 it was 47, 5 %. In some regions, the number is even higher. In the Moravian and Silesian Region, the percentage of crimes committed by repeated offenders is 65 %. It is equally alarming, that in **2010, 60 % of all successfully investigated crimes were committed by repeated offenders.** Their share of undetected and unreported crime is, for obvious reasons, not known. Perpetrators of crime suffer from many problems which make it very hard for them to integrate in the society. Having an entry in the registry of criminal records can be detrimental should a person who had committed a crime wish to find a decent job. Unemployment results in serious indebtedness, families fall apart, ex prisoners go homeless and have no social and medical insurance. Repeated offending is not only a crime related problem, it also has a judicial, penitentiary (overflowing prisons), social, and economic aspects.

- d) **Victims of crime** (projects targeted at efficient support and assistance as well as prevention of victimization) with special attention paid to children and senior citizens (primarily those who live alone and have limited social interaction);
- Integrated projects designed to detect senior citizens at risk and to offer them continuous support, including information, social interaction, and personal safety.
- e) **Communities** (targeted primarily at small local communities and their increased responsibility for the local affairs – increased awareness, care, information sharing, enhanced cooperation with the Police of the CR, etc.).

Note: Authors of prevention projects in the area of social care will benefit from the list of prevention issues admissible for subsidies from Government agencies represented in the National Committee.

5.7 Situational Prevention – Tools¹⁴

Prevention of crime committed in public space and prevention of property crime

Situational prevention makes crime more difficult, it increases the perpetrator’s risk to be caught and prosecuted, and it reduces proceeds and benefits from crime.

Situational prevention measures are most commonly used to prevent crime committed in the public space (theft, robberies), to prevent property crime¹⁵ (breaking into private apartments, houses, or commercial space, car theft, theft of items from cars), and to create safe zones and safe housing. Situational prevention makes use of **logistical and technical measures** of all kinds, starting with the traditional ones (mechanical means such as locks, bars, foils, fences, safety boxes, etc.), technical means (such as labelling, secure entries, electronic security systems, fire alarms, municipal CCTVs, centralized protection boards), personnel (Police patrols, doormen, security guards), and access control (access rights to information, passwords, keys, etc.). Construction engineers should apply crime prevention rules in the drafting of construction plans for new buildings (e.g. lights, security features, no dark corners, special technical features, improved security control, etc.).

The main **situational prevention stakeholders are** the Ministry of the Interior (the only authority providing subsidies for situational prevention and capable of negotiating and defining technical norms concerning the protection of individuals and their property), the

¹⁴ Efforts to reduce crime and crime opportunities with the help of selected physical, technical, and logistical measures (closer cooperation with the public, CCTVs, city lights, communication technology, etc.).

¹⁵ Offenders most often perpetrate property crime (63 %); the detection rate of property crime is about half of that of other types of crime.

Police of the CR (the authority implementing selected situational prevention measures and operating municipal CCTVs), Municipal Police forces, regional, municipal and local self-governing bodies (implementation of local crime prevention programmes), professional associations of security agencies and other subjects active in the field of protection of individuals and their property, private security agencies, insurance companies, architects, construction engineers, and developers. The Situational Crime Prevention Advisory Committee will remain operable¹⁶ (hereinafter only the “Advisory Committee”).

In the future, operational measures should derive from analyses performed by the Police of the CR and/or municipalities so that prevention measures of this type were applied based on hard data rather than on forecasts of situational causes of crime.

Efficient Policing

One of the key methods of situational prevention is efficient policing, which concerns primarily municipal policing and activities of the Police of the CR. These forces should organize their everyday work so that they:

- react to problems in time;
- efficiently use their capabilities and means (human and material resources) to target real problems and intervene when necessary;
- reduce crime or clearly contribute to its stagnation;
- prevent crime and help detect and prosecute perpetrators;
- contribute to the positive public perception of the Police of the CR.

To reach their goals, the above stakeholders shall use all proven and proactive methods available, such as problem oriented policing, community policing, cooperation with the local self-administration, etc.

Efficient crime prevention will be one of the elements of the Crime Prevention Strategy of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the CR.

¹⁶ The Situational Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (under the umbrella of the Ministry of the Interior) was established in line with the Order of the Minister of the Interior of April 28, 1998. It initiates and coordinates concept reviews and crime prevention related cooperation with stakeholders outside the Ministry of the Interior. It is responsible for negotiating, drafting, and recommending to the Minister of the Interior for approval relevant measures to reduce conditions which contribute to crime or to erect barriers to crime; it is in charge of disseminating information to the public on prevention against crime and for joint crime prevention strategy in the above areas, including communications, media coverage, distribution and dissemination of information, and funding.

5.8 Community Crime Prevention as a Comprehensive System of Measures

Community crime prevention will focus primarily on introducing changes in towns and municipalities or their parts, where the risk of inhabitants perpetrating crime or becoming victims of crime is high for different reasons – deep deprivation, segregation given by remoteness, lack of unity and cooperation in the community, or a combination of other social or economic problems.

Community crime prevention measures will have to be complex and their impact must be practical, visible, and have both short term and long-term impact. To solve specific problems in the community, stakeholders will have to adopt a multidisciplinary and collegial approach in which they will combine support measures (e.g. active employment policy) with prevention, education, and, if necessary, repression.

Usvit, a prevention programme targeting crime and extremism managed by the Ministry of the Interior, serves a good example of a comprehensive community crime prevention programme.

5.8.1 Usvit - Prevention Programme Targeting Crime and Extremism

Usvit, a prevention programme targeting crime and extremism (hereinafter only the „Úsvit Programme“) was launched in 2009. It has been implemented by the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with relevant self-governing bodies, the Police of the CR, Municipal Police corps, local NGOs, and inhabitants of socially excluded areas or sites. **The Programme is designed to enhance public order and to increase safety in socially excluded areas and sites**, to promote non-repressive policing, to eliminate socially unacceptable behaviour, and to prevent attacks and violations committed by extremists. The key principle of the programme is the involvement of the inhabitants of socially excluded areas and sites in the process of improving their living environment.

In 2009, the „Úsvit Programme“ was piloted in Most (the Chanov estate) and, in 2010, it was extended to other socially excluded sites in the municipalities of Most, Litvínov, Děčín, Obrnice, Trmice, Kladno, Ostrava, Karviná, Havířov, and Orlová.

The „Úsvit Programme“ has combined the proven and successful prevention measures such as: crime prevention assistant (Municipal Police assistant for the public safety – a long-term unemployed or a difficult to employ inhabitant of the given socially excluded site), a Roma mentor (a special worker assisting convicted perpetrators to serve their community service as alternative punishment and to prevent their failure to perform as required which would result in a prison sentence), prevention of debt, financial literacy education, education and training of members of the Municipal Police forces and the Police

of the CR who police the socially excluded sites and areas or ethnically diverse locations, and technical measures to enhance safety of inhabitants of socially excluded areas and sites, such as CCTV systems, security doors, bars, etc. mounted in the shared housing space.

The “**Crime Prevention Assistant**” project, which is a part of the Úsvit Programme, was launched to help reduce crime and misdemeanour (violations of law in general) in socially excluded areas and sites, enforce law, prevent conflicts among neighbours, combat petty and latent crime, which has shown to be a very hard job in all socially excluded areas and sites, and change the negative majority perception of the socially excluded people. The Assistant is employed by the respective self-governing body as a member of the Municipal Police staff (in keeping with Act No. 553/1991 Coll, on Municipal Police, as amended). The Assistant is neither a policeman nor a candidate and bears responsibility for tasks, which are not stipulated in the Act No. 553/1991 Coll, on Municipal Police as reserved exclusively to policemen or candidates. The Assistant should have a profound knowledge of the socially excluded area or site and be aware of relations in the given community.

The project was evaluated positively by the municipalities in which it had been implemented and the Ministry of the Interior therefore decided to launch a 3-year individual project – Crime Prevention Assistant – which received, in March 2011, EU subsidies (from the Operational Programme for Human resources and Employment). Under the umbrella of the project, Municipal Police forces will employ 50 assistants (inhabitants of socially excluded sites) in 10 selected locations in the Moravian and Silesian Region, the Region of Ústí nad Labem, and the Central Bohemian Region. Locations, assistants and their mentors (members of Municipal Police forces) should be selected before the end of 2011. The entry level course for the assistants will take place before the end of 2011 so that all of them can start working on January 1st, 2012 on two year contracts. Under the umbrella of the project, experts will draft guidelines to support the assistants’ work and design an accredited training course. At least 20 per cent of the assistants should keep their job even after the termination of the project.

In the following period, as envisaged by the “Strategy to Reduce Social Exclusion 2011 to 2015”, the key priority will be to enhance cooperation and coordination of the Police activities, especially on the level of local units, county headquarters, and experts of the Unit for the Detection of Organized Crime. We assume closer cooperation with the Office of the Government of the CR, Department for Social Inclusion in Roma Inhabited Locations.

The Úsvit Programme will become a part of a wider international activity, the Good Practice of Community Conflict Management in Central Eastern European Region project,

coordinated by the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with EUCPN. Under the umbrella of this project, the Czech Republic will operate individual modules of the Úsvit Programme, a project proposed by the Regional Directorate of the Moravian and Silesian Region called „Meeting the Public“, and “Education Standards for Crime Prevention Assistants”, a project by the Ministry of the Interior. The project results and output will be publicized in the EUCPN manual and will be circulated as documents recommended by the European Commission and the European Parliament.

5.9 Specific Projects

A specific project is a project which is either systemic or cannot be implemented solely on the local or regional level. It may also be a new project, which has to be first piloted and verified and which does not have proper guidelines yet. The Ministry of the Interior implements such projects in cooperation with other authorities and stakeholders.

5.9.1 Early Intervention System

In its Resolution No. 191 of March 17, 2011, the Government adopted a report headed “Evaluation of the system of care for vulnerable children - Early Intervention System, a national programme”. In keeping with the Resolution, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will implement, in 2011 to 2015, the national Early Intervention System as a project to help **transform and streamline the system of care for vulnerable children**.

Given the importance of the target group – vulnerable children and children at risk together with their families – this specific project has become one of the key priorities of the Strategy and will be supported accordingly.

5.9.2 National Coordination Mechanism of Search for Missing Children

Recommendation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child of June 17, 2011 described this project as one of the most progressive steps of the Czech Republic in the course of implementation of responsibilities deriving from the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. The Ministry of the Interior accepted responsibility for the National Coordination Mechanism of Search for Missing Children which had been developed to enhance the process of searching for missing children and to increase the success rate. The mechanism is based on the involvement of the public in the search and provides psychological support to families of the missing children. The search itself is in the hands of the Police of the CR assisted, if necessary and in larger field operations, by the

Integrated Emergency System. The system does not require any new institutions, it is more about the proper and enhanced utilization of the existing cooperation mechanisms, efficient use of the existing communication channels, and coordination of all stakeholders. Communication with the public is supported extensively by the media (based on a contract with the Ministry of the Interior).

We assume this project will reduce the incidence of crime threatening lives and health of children, help rise public awareness of the problem of missing children and of the need to keep children safe and prevent conduct which may lead to crime against the child. In this sense and to this end, the Ministry of the Interior has extended the circle of cooperating subjects, both public and non-governmental.

5.9.3 Prevention of Virtual Communication Related Risks

An EU research¹⁷ has indicated that the Czech children, together with their peers Estonia, Lithuania, and Sweden, are in the highest danger of exposure to high risk Internet content. Children are not aware of potential risks, such as cyber bullying, child pornography, or extremist movements' pages. Two of three children have already been exposed to such content on the Internet and about 50 percent of parents are not aware of the danger their children may be exposed to. It is necessary to focus on delivering special training and education to experts who will investigate cyber crime but also to include in the entry-level Police training lessons on prevention of high risk content in virtual communication. Prevention should be targeted at children - the most vulnerable element and the most probable victims of cyber crime.

The Ministry of the Interior has joined E-Synergie (2011 – 2014), a project managed by the Palacky University in Olomouc, Department of Teacher Education, which strives to systematically reduce risks posed to children by virtual communication.

5.9.4 Special Interrogation Rooms

Special interrogation rooms are designed for children – victims or witnesses of crime (can also be used to interrogate adult victims or witnesses, primarily in cases of violent or vice crime, such as rape, or for senior citizens and the disabled).

The Ministry of Justice is currently working on a draft bill on victims of crime, which is planned to enter in force in January 2013. To protect the victims from secondary victimization, victims should have the right to ask the authorities, in any phase of the criminal investigation or even before its commencement, to prevent any contact with the person the victim recognized as the perpetrator, the person who is suspected of having committed the crime, or the person under criminal investigation. Most vulnerable victims should have the

¹⁷ EU Kids OnLine II Project

right to ask for no visual contact with the person who is suspected of having committed the crime, or the person under criminal investigation. The above rights may be enforced by other means but a special interrogation room.

New special interrogation rooms to be used by the Police of the CR or serving the needs of the departments of social and legal protection of children (OSPOD) are one of the key priorities of the Strategy.

The objective is to create a fully functional network of special interrogation rooms (with regards to the incidence of crime against children in the given territory and frequency of use of the current special interrogation rooms and depending on access and financing available). An expert group of the Service of the Criminal Police and Investigation will provide expert recommendations for the purposes of installing new special interrogation rooms. Guidelines for the instalment of new special interrogation rooms and for the necessary training of the Police in their use and in special interrogation tactics will also be provided by the Expert coordination group under the Service of the Criminal Police and Investigation and the above expert group.

5.9.5 Prevention of Domestic Violence

In its Resolution No. 262 of May 2011, the Government adopted the National Action Plan of Crime Prevention for 2011 to 2014 (NAP DN). The Plan develops on all important aspects of domestic violence (support and assistance to victims, children as witnesses of domestic violence, expert training and education, handling of the violent perpetrator, legislation, etc.). The Ministry of the Interior is, in cooperation with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, responsible for coordinating the objectives stipulated by the Plan. Other Government agencies shall bear responsibility for aspects in their respective fields.

One of the key priorities of the Ministry of the Interior in prevention of domestic violence is the support of re-socialization and therapeutical programmes designed for violent perpetrators and the implementation of other measures (drafting of manuals and guidelines, expert education, changes in legislation, launching of a probation programme, etc.). The above key priorities fully correspond with the National Action Plan of Crime Prevention objectives. In this respect, the Ministry of the Interior created a long-term project designed to improve policing of violent perpetrators of domestic violence, which should include Police psychologists in the communication with the perpetrator after the act of violence.

5.9.6 Prevention of Human Trafficking

The Ministry of the Interior is going to continue coordinating the specific support Programme designed to support victims of trafficking in human beings (hereinafter only the "Programme"), which will provide direct assistance, support, and protection to individuals at high risk of trafficking, mostly for the purposes of labour or sexual exploitation, in the territory

of the Czech Republic as well as abroad (Czech nationals exploited abroad). The Ministry of the Interior will pay special attention to motivating the victims to cooperate with the law enforcement agencies, to become successfully integrated in the society, and to make full use of their victim rights in the territory of the Czech Republic . Voluntary returns to the country or origin will remain an integral part of the Programme.

The system of Programme funding, however, has proven insufficient and intransparent. To make maximum and most efficient use of the funds available, the system of Programme financing will change in 2012 and services will be, from 2012 on, procured via the public procurement system. This type of financing mechanism has won the full support of the Secretariat of the NGO Council.

The Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council No. 2011/36/EU of April 5, 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA, stipulates that member states shall provide assistance and support to victims of trafficking in human beings. Provisions of the Directive shall be implemented in April 2013 at the latest but most of its standards have already been met by the Programme.

5.9.7 Prevention of Debt as a Potential Cause of Crime

Alliance against Debt is a new body established on May 4, 2011 as an expression of the coordinated approach to the debt related problems. It is an expert platform initiated by the Ministry of the Interior, Probation and Mediation Service of the CR, Association for Probation and Mediation in Justice, and other stakeholders. It is designed to help coordinate and exchange expert views and expertise in the field of excessive debt and to launch an extensive debate on how to eliminate and reduce the risk of debt. Excessive debt often results in social problems and criminal conduct (e.g. Czech prisons are overflowing with inmates, repeated offenders, whose debt makes them commit crime repeatedly; moreover, individuals who had violated the law before, may tend to solve their debt related problems by theft or other criminal conduct).

The Alliance against Debt is currently finalizing, in cooperation with experts from other governmental, public, and non-governmental organizations, the final text of a declaration containing ten key points which should trigger an extensive expert debate in a designated working group. The group will be established by the Probation and Mediation Service of the CR under the umbrella of the programme of Czech-Swiss cooperation currently implemented by the Service („Development of Probation and Mediation Programmes – enhanced prevention and protection of the society against repeated crime“).

The declaration and the ten points should become an integral part of the crime prevention strategy document. The activity will be subject to regular evaluation and review.

5.10 Awareness Rising and Dissemination of Information

The most important prevention tools are education and dissemination of information to the public on the current situation, development, and crime typology in high risk locations (threat posed by different types of crime) as well as on prevention and protection measures and tools. Prevention activities¹⁸ are designed to inform the public and to motivate citizens to proactively protect their safety and property.

Since the lay public as well as experts are hungry for new and more detailed information, the Ministry of the Interior plans to implement the following projects in the near future:

5.10.1 www.prevencekriminality.cz

A new portal designed to improve communication, host a database of crime prevention concepts and successful projects, promote prevention activities, facilitate on-line exchange of information and, last but not least, offer help in problem solving. www.prevencekriminality.cz will be user friendly, pleasant and interactive and will facilitate best practice sharing. It will be easy to update with new links and useful information which will be sent electronically to towns and municipalities, it will make use of the currently available IT (animations, electronic forms of application sheets for subsidies, evaluation and statistical questionnaires, a discussion forum, etc.). In the future we plan to connect the portal to selected social networks (Twitter, Facebook). The portal will be a part of the Ministry of the Interior web and its contents will be managed by the Department of Crime Prevention, Ministry of the Interior of the CR. Related costs (creation, operation) will be covered from the Ministry of the Interior budget, respectively from the budget of the Department of Crime Prevention.

5.10.2 „Prevention for each Family“ Newsletter

The project will replace the Crime Prevention Information Service, a monthly newsletter circulated by the Ministry of the Interior (Department of Crime Prevention) since 1996 in both electronic and paper version. The Information Service newsletter is designed primarily for crime prevention experts while the new newsletter, „Prevention for each Family“ is planned to reach out to as many people as possible. The newsletter will have a modern layout, will be

¹⁸ Prevention activities in this field are targeted at methods and means of protecting property, insurance, information on technical means of security protection, on cooperation in the community and in between the community and the Police. There are recommended models of safe conduct (advice and recommendations primarily for the most vulnerable citizens) as well as information on where to seek legal, psychological, or medical assistance. Victim related research has shown that good technical means of protection and safe conduct have the capacity of reducing the number of victims e.g. through the lower incidence of burglary.

distributed in an electronic form only and will contain current information on crime and crime prevention. It will be sent to municipal and local authorities and further distributed to their inhabitants. It strives to change the public attitude to safety so that citizens themselves accept more responsibility for their own safety as well as for the safety of the place where they live and work. Moreover, the newsletter will bring the public attention to institutions which are responsible for the public order and safety. It should help win the public trust in the Police of the CR, the Municipal Police corps, self-governing institutions, and the public administration as such.

The key contributors will be Police of the CR and Municipal Police prevention experts, crime prevention managers, and the lay public. Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior will be responsible for the layout and the final appearance of the newsletter.

The newsletter will also be presented via the www.prevencekriminality.cz portal and their contents will be closely linked. Related costs will be covered from the Ministry of the Interior, respectively Crime Prevention Department, budget¹⁹.

5.11 Research

The most recent nation-wide public opinion research - focused on the public perception of safety, public order, and security forces - was carried out five years ago²⁰. The second most burning problem the respondents pledged the central as well as local authorities to tackle was safety (the problem number one was unemployment). The research has shown that most people prefer prevention over repression.

The Crime Prevention Strategy for 2008 to 2011 is almost over with, the Police of the CR are currently undergoing a reform, and due to the austerity measures both the central and local budgets have cut down on their security related chapters. The authorities have decided to carry out, in 2012, a new public opinion research. It will illustrate the changing attitude of the public to safety and crime prevention. Its results will very much depend on whether respondents recognize any prevention activities on the central or local level. It will reveal the public opinion and trust in institutions and bodies in charge of the public safety – the Police of the CR, self-governing bodies, Municipal Police corps, the judiciary, etc. Respondents will be selected to give a regional picture (ideally, they should represent individual municipalities) to give the self-governing bodies, regional authorities, Regional Police Directorates, and other

¹⁹ It is hard to estimate the cost of designing and operating the Internet portal and the newsletter, but it is estimated to reach tens of thousands of Czech Crowns.

²⁰ Public Perception of the Police of the CR (STEM/MARK, a.s. 2004); Public opinion of municipal prevention activities (IKSP for the National Committee, 2004); Public perception of crime and prevention (IKSP for the National Committee, 2006).

regional and local authorities an insight in the public opinion. The research output will also be very useful for the central authorities, such as the Ministry of the Interior, the Police Presidium of the CR, and the Probation and Mediation Service of the CR.

In the future, the public opinion research should analyze selected phenomena the understanding of which will help design, plan, and implement tailor made prevention measures which will have the potential to re-draft the security policy to meet the current challenges. All research tasks formulated in Part IV of this Strategy have been debated at meetings of the National Committee and approved for implementation. Targeted research will be carried out by IKSP, a science and research centre under the umbrella of the Ministry of Justice. Research activities will be covered from the IKSP budget or, alternatively, from the crime prevention chapter of the budget administered by the National Committee (the sum shall not exceed CZK 3 million for the entire Strategy period; an example may serve Task No. 62, Part IV. Tasks).

5.12 international Cooperation

The international dimension of crime prevention will focus primarily on the EU. The Ministry of the Interior represents the Czech Republic in the **European Crime Prevention Network** (EUCPN), which was established in line with the Council Decision No. 2009/902/JHA. This network defines member states' tasks in a multiple-year strategy, which focuses primarily on efficient crime prevention throughout the EU. One of the most important activities of the Network is the **European Crime Prevention Award** (ECPA), which facilitates sharing of best practice in prevention in the EU. Canada, the USA, and the UN have similar awards. In line with the ECPA rules, the Ministry of the Interior will nominate one project a year. To make sure the nomination is objective, the Ministry of the Interior will organize an annual two-round national competition.

In 2011, the European Commission launched a three-year project under the umbrella of an EC „Prevention and Combating Organized Crime“ project. The project aims at the transformation of the above Network to a European Crime Prevention Centre. The Centre would collect and analyse crime related information throughout the EU and, based on the exchange of best practice, propose prevention measures and processes. In line with the review planned for 2013, the authorities will decide to either subordinate the Centre to a European institution (such as EUROPOL) or establish it as an independent EU body.

The Ministry of the Interior has been and will continue cooperating on international prevention projects financed by the EU and will keep promoting the national crime prevention system through bilateral cooperation. The two current programmes are the **„Best Practice in**

Handling Community Conflicts“ (Central and Eastern Europe, to end in 2014) and „**Best Practice Catalogue“** focusing on the research of latent juvenile crime and most potent prevention measures.

The UN is the platform for setting the crime prevention strategic priorities (UN Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - CERD, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - CEDAW, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice – CCPCJ). The Czech Republic is represented in all these institutions and delivers regular reports on its activities in the field of improving and strengthening safety and enforcement of relevant international instruments.

The European Forum for Urban Safety²¹ is yet another important partner of the Czech Republic in the field of the **international NGO cooperation**.

5.13 Subsidies in Support of Crime Prevention Activities, Programmes, and Projects

Subsidies will be distributed via an annual Crime Prevention Programme (hereinafter only the „Programme“) of the Ministry of the Interior. The Programme will provide financial support to individual projects, municipal and regional projects, and specific central projects.

The Czech Government has been providing systematic and long-term support to crime prevention projects in municipalities and regions in high risk. It wishes to promote stable and long-term national crime prevention policy on the local level, to create a continuous and efficient system of financing (based on municipal and regional co-financing). In the context of the current crime and violations of public order (local problems with inadapted citizens which threaten to spread beyond the socially excluded locations), the authorities strive to secure flexible flow of financing to municipalities and regions concerned (support of regions and locations in high risk).

Research and long-term studies show that violations of public order and crime concentrate primarily in larger municipalities and cities. We have been witnessing, however, their rise in smaller municipalities and even villages (hundreds of inhabitants). Higher incidence of crime or violations of law and order are usually due to special circumstances or their combination

²¹ EFUS is a European NGO established in 1987 as a platform for European towns' mayors. It wishes to create a network of European local self-administering bodies, exchange of information and experience in the field of reducing crime, and promotion of the role of the in domestic and European politics. It currently associates about 300 local self-administering bodies and it has been focusing its attention primarily on public safety in towns and municipalities. The Czech Republic is represented in EFUS by the municipality of Brno.

(e.g. violations committed by groups of inadapted citizens who had moved to one place, one street, one small village, etc.). It has been harder and harder to predict, which municipality size is most prone to problems. It is extremely hard to intervene in small municipalities or villages which have neither human nor financial resources, not speaking about the necessary know-how. Each municipality, regardless of its size and population, has the right to seek support from the crime prevention system. The application, respectively projects proposed for funding, will be evaluated as to their admissibility.

The Programme will be designed to support projects which respect priorities, tasks, and target groups stipulated in the Strategy. The Programme will be open to all regions and municipalities which may decide to propose a project for a subsidy.

The Ministry of the Interior will draft Rules of financing of crime prevention subsidies²², which will be binding for all applicants. All subsidies will be, as it has been the rule so far, subject of the National Crime Prevention Committee approval.

Financing necessary for the annual implementation of the Programme in 2012 to 2015 will be made available from the national budget as part of the Ministry of the Interior chapter. The aggregated sum for 2012 – 2015 (four years) will be no less than CZK 225 million. The total sum was determined in line with the Program spending in 2008 – 2011 (CZK 250 million) and with regards to the current austerity measures (that is why the proposed budget is 10% less than in the preceding period).

6. Conclusions

The Crime Prevention Strategy for 2012 to 2015 sums up crime prevention activities in the Czech Republic as of 1993. It reflects foreign crime prevention experience and expertise while harmonizing them with the Czech practice. It is a starting point for our future activities in the field, a description of objectives, and an outline of priorities built on pre-defined principles.

The Strategy defines institutions and stakeholders responsible for the implementation of its provisions and objectives. Moreover, the network of cooperating bodies is going to operate under the umbrella of the Government of the CR, respectively the National Crime Prevention Committee.

The Strategy wishes to finish the process of stabilizing and streamlining of crime prevention measures and activities, to establish standard and proven prevention tools and processes, to

²² Rules of providing subsidies from the central budget for activities implemented under the umbrella of the Crime Prevention programme for 2012 (2013,2014,2015)

facilitate funds necessary to perform prevention activities on the regional and local level, and to reach the desired quality of crime prevention in the Czech Republic .

We wish our Strategy resulted in a reduced incidence of crime and limited risk factors, in increased public safety, stable funding of efficient prevention activities and crime prevention projects, and stabilized and efficient crime prevention system, which is common in developed democracies. We have and will invest all our efforts to meet the desired goals.