

**2017-2020: „The mechanisms behind the formation and development of criminal careers”; principal investigator: prof. Irena Rzeplińska”**

The main problem of today's social policy (criminal policy included) is the lack of current knowledge concerning why certain criminals reoffend multiple times, what factors influence embarking on a criminal career (risk factors) and in effect, what measures need to be taken to prevent young people from engaging in criminal activity. Moreover, we aim to explain what social and economic factors facilitate the development of criminal careers or hinder them. The lack of knowledge pertaining to the above mentioned factors results, on the one hand, in the lack of early intervention schemes (that prevent minors from pursuing criminal life) and on the other hand in the inefficiency of rehabilitation schemes which are applied at various stages of a person's criminal career. The main goals in this project: 1) Defining the factors in the young age that determine embarking on a criminal career in reoffenders 2) Defining risk factors that determine the development and consolidation of criminal careers in reoffenders 3) Defining factors that determine various types of criminal careers in reoffenders 4) Sex as a factor that determines the types of criminal careers in male and female reoffenders 5) Defining crime tendencies in Poland in relation to crime tendencies among reoffenders in various age groups ("senior" criminals, currently over 45 years of age and "junior" ones, aged 25-35) 6) Determining the influence of social and economic factors (including free movement of people as a result of the Polish access to the European Union) on types, forms, places and volume of crime by reoffenders. The many years of research into criminal careers of offenders compiled by the Department of Criminology of the Institute of Law Studies Polish Academy of Sciences shows that we should continue this research. The first research task will be to conduct a catamnestic study (i.e. verifying further criminal record) of people who committed a criminal offence (not all offences committed qualified as criminal offences as defined in Act on Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings). ZK INP PAN is in possession of a collection of 2,506 individuals, obtained as a result of previous research conducted into juvenile delinquency by the institute's employees. Throughout the whole period of the task's duration, existing data analysis will be carried out, including mainly subject literature on catamnestic studies, research into recidivism, criminal careers and desistance factors. Anamnestic studies will be conducted on a selected group of 45-50 reoffenders. Selecting from all the reoffenders in the record survey of a group of reoffenders serving the sentence at the time of research. We intend to elaborate research into crime trends of multiple offenders from different age groups in relation to general crime trends in Poland (An analysis of the general criminal trends in Poland will be carried out, based on the available statistical data as well as other existing data. Following the above, the analysis of criminal trends among reoffenders will be conducted, based mainly on the data from KRK, as well as court files and records of criminal cases and finally analysis of risk factors behind the development of criminal careers. The analysis will be supplemented with the analysis of the autobiographical interviews. We aim to look for those factors in adulthood that contributed to the development of criminal careers and their continuation. Throughout the whole period of the task's duration, existing data analysis will be carried out, including mainly subject literature on anamnesis, research into recidivism, criminal careers and desistance factors. Members of the research team will participate in national and international conferences in order to obtain comparative data for the ongoing study, as well as to present the findings from the successive stages of the study (as long as possible) and its final outcomes. The results of the conducted research will be based on the triangulation method. Hence, they will take account of the analyses from all the types of methods and research techniques used and will be the end result of their comparison and data complementation, as well as data elaboration. All the results will be presented in the wider context of historical analyses as well as international data on criminal careers development.

