



MINISTERSTVO VNITRA
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY

Situation Report on Internal Security and Public Order in the Czech Republic in 2017

(as compared to 2016)

Prague, 2018

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Situation Report on Internal Security and Public Order in the Czech Republic is an informative document of the Ministry of the Interior (Moi). Its purpose is primarily to provide an overview of the situation in the field of internal security and public order, give an overview of the development, structure, and dynamics of crime, its perpetrators and victims; to inform about the identified damages, seized assets and proceeds from crime; to inform about the activities of the executive and legislative branches in the field of security policy; and to identify risks and areas that warrant the concentrated attention of competent government authorities.

The report was drafted with the help of input provided by government authorities and other competent bodies.

The report analyses recorded crime in the Czech Republic (CR) in 2017 as compared to 2016 (the annual change is indicated in brackets; the same format is used with regards to other data). The statistical data were taken from official statistics¹ and information systems of the Police of the Czech Republic (PCR).

¹ The term **cleared offences** indicates those offences that were cleared within the same calendar year that criminal proceedings were initiated (thus indicating the number of cleared offenses within the larger number of recorded offences). The term **additionally cleared offences** indicates those offences that were cleared in the calendar year following that during which criminal proceedings were initiated.

The number of **total cleared offences** indicates the sum of cleared offences (within the given calendar year) and additionally cleared offences.

The term **clearance rate** (given in %) indicates the number of cleared offences divided by the number of recorded offences during a given period (thus always being lower or equal to 100 %).

The term **prosecuted person**, in accordance with the statistical terminology of the PCR, indicates a person who has been notified of an allegation under Sec. 160/1 of the Criminal Code or a person who has been notified of a suspicion under Sec. 179 (a) of the Criminal Code, or a person who has committed an otherwise criminal offence and whose criminal prosecution is inadmissible under Sec. 11 of the Criminal Code (minors, insane, diplomats etc.).

2. EVOLUTION OF CRIME AND SECURITY THREATS

According to the PCR, the internal security situation remained stable in 2017. As in previous years, there were no serious disruptions to public order. Nevertheless, the PCR had to tackle a number of challenging tasks, such as those related to cybercrime.

Considering the evolution of crime, 2017 has seen a decline in recorded offences, with the lowest number in the last 15 years at least. Quantitatively, the number of offences dropped by 7.3 % as compared to 2016. The number of cleared offences also dropped.

The value of criminal assets seized (under the Criminal Code) by the PCR in 2017 was approx. CZK 5.4 billion.

As regards road traffic safety, the number of accidents rose by 5 % in. 502 people were killed in traffic accidents, which accounts for a drop of almost 8 % and constitutes the lowest number of road traffic deaths since 1961, i.e. since the time that the Traffic Police Service has had continuous road traffic accident statistics.

The PCR reacted to the widespread use of social networks – as of 21 June 2017 it uses Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter to communicate with the public and to showcase and support activities and campaigns aimed at crime prevention.

The growing digitalisation of the public and private domains carries with it an increased risk and greater intensity of cyberattacks. In 2017, attempts at infiltrating the communications and internet networks of government authorities as well as those of private entities were recorded. There was an upsurge in the dissemination of malicious ransomware, which results in data

encryption and/or computer malfunction. There was also a higher number of cybercrimes (fraudulent behaviour, moral offences, etc.). It is likely that this trend will continue in the future, also in the form of cyberespionage and attempts at influencing or manipulating public media.

Data from the Alien Information System shows a significant rise in 2017 in the number of final administrative expulsion decisions issued to foreign nationals working while not in possession of a residence permit or a work permit (for the first time in this report, this reason surpassed that of decisions issued due to so-called illegal migration). 3 111 foreign nationals were issued final administrative expulsion decisions due to illegal labour (i.e. 60.8 % of the total number of 5 119 foreign nationals issued a final administrative expulsion decision), which accounts for an annual increase by 1 648 persons (i.e. + 112.6 %).

The Mol has been actively tackling the security aspects of foreign labour since the beginning of 2017, especially in the context of declining security in industrial zones in the Královéhradecký and Plzeňský regions. These areas have seen an increase in illegal activity, particularly in misdemeanours committed by foreign nationals (against public order, civic coexistence, and property), conflicts in civic coexistence with local inhabitants, and misdemeanours relating to road traffic safety, prostitution, and drugs. A number of measures were implemented in these areas, including a massive deployment of police patrols in the second half of 2017, resulting in a significant improvement of security and public order.

2.1 BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT OFFENCES AND MISDEMEANOURS

Total offences	202 303	(-15 859, -7.3 %)
Cleared offences	94 890	(-6 788, -6.7 %)
Clearance rate	46.9 %	(+0.3 %)
Additionally cleared offences	13 030	(-1 409, -9.8 %)
Total cleared offences	107 920	(-8 197, -7.1 %)
Prosecuted persons	87 168	(-6 211, -6.7 %)
Amount of damages incurred	CZK 20.3 billion	(CZK -4.5 billion, -18.2 %)

Amount of assets seized	CZK 29.1 billion	(CZK -12.4 million, -30 %)
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A statistical comparison of recorded offences shows that criminality has been declining since 2011, the only exception being 2013. In 2017, **202 303 offences** were recorded, which is 15 859 offences, or **7,3 % fewer** than in 2016. Of these, 94 890 (-6 788, -6.7 %) were cleared. The clearance rate rose slightly to 46.9 % (+0.3 %). The number of additionally cleared offences dropped to 13 030 (-1 409, -9.8 %). The number of prosecuted persons dropped to 87 168 (-6 211, -6.7 %). Damages incurred by crime dropped by approx. CZK 4.5 billion to approx. CZK 20.3 billion. The value of assets seized at the crime scene (these are not proceeds from crime as per the Criminal Procedure Code) was CZK 29.1 million, accounting for a drop of approx. CZK 12.4 million.

An **increase** was recorded with regards to vice crime (2 363, +122, +5.4 %), murders (146, +10, +7.4 %), and to some extent military and anti-constitutional offences (+4).

The most significant **drops** were recorded with regards to simple thefts (66 101, -5 123, -7.2 %), burglaries (24 127, -4 093, -14.5 %), and remaining offences (25 829, -3 404, -11.6 %).

As of 31 December 2017, the value of proceeds from crime seized by the PCR amounted to CZK 5.4 billion.

2.1.1 Crime by Territory

In 2017, as in previous years, **the capital city of Prague had the highest share of crime, accounting for 25.1 % (-0.8 %) of crime nationwide.** It was followed by the Moravskoslezský region, with a 12.2 % (0 %) share, and the Středočeský region, with a 10.1 % (0 %) share. Other regions with significant crime rates were the Jihomoravský region with a 9.9 % (0%) share, the Ústecký region with a 8.7 % (+0.3 %) share, and the Olomoucký region with a 5.1 % (-0.2 %) share. Other regions accounted for less than 5 % of crime nationwide. **The Karlovarský region had the lowest share of nationwide crime – 2.5 % (+0.2 %),** along with the Vysočina region – 2.7 % (0 %), and the Pardubický region – 2.9 % (+0.2 %).

Evolution of Basic Offences in the CR – Summary

(Note: *rec.* = number of recorded offences, *clr.* = number of cleared offences.)

General crime – rec. 150 167 (-10 447), clr. 58 215 (-2 091), i.e. 38.8 % (+1.2 %)

- Violent crime - rec. 13 672 (-561), clr. 9 783 (-367), i.e. 71.7 % (+0.3 %)
 - Murders - rec. 146 (+10), clr. 138 (+11), i.e. 94.5 % (+1.1 %)
- Vice crime - rec. 2 363 (+122), clr. 1 607 (+55), i.e. 68 % (-1.2 %)
- Property Crime - rec. 108 497 (-9 585), clr. 27 765 (-1 253), i.e. 25.6 % (+1 %)
 - Burglaries - rec. 24 127 (-4 093), clr. 5 714 (-600), i.e. 23.7 % (+1.3 %)
 - Simple thefts - rec. 66 101 (-5 123), clr. 17 078 (-473), clr. 25.8 % (+1.2 %)
- Other Crime - rec. 25 635 (-423), clr. 19 060 (-526), clr. 74.4 % (-0.8 %).

Economic Crime - rec. 26 294 (-2 012), clr. 14 238 (-1 367), clr. 54.2 % (-1 %).

Remaining Crime - rec. 25 829 (-3 404), clr. 22 435 (-3 328), clr. 86.9 % (-1.3 %).

An increase in criminality was recorded in the Karlovarský region, this by 100 offences, amounting to a total of 5 084 (+2 %) offences, and the Plzeňský region, by 48 offences, amounting to a total of 9 727 (+0.5 %) offences. The greatest quantitative drop was recorded in Prague (-5 706, -10.1 %), the Moravskoslezský region (-1 747, -6.6 %) and the Středočeský region (-1 700, -7.7 %).

The Karlovarský region had the highest clearance rate (68.5 %, +0.7 %), followed by the Jihočeský region (66.8 %, +4.1 %), the Pardubický region (64.8 %, +0.9 %), the Královéhradecký region (64.4 %, +1.6 %), the Ústecký region (63 % +0.7 %), the Zlínský region (62.5 %, +1.3 %) and the Vysočina region (61.2 %, -0.3 %). The clearance rate in other regions remained under 60 % in 2017.

2.1.2 Perpetrators

In 2017, the number of prosecuted or investigated persons dropped to 87 169 (-6 211, -6.7 %). Of these, 82.5 % were men and 17 % were women older than 18 years. The number of minor perpetrators rose as compared to 2016 to 1 723 (+126, +7.9 %) and the number of child perpetrators dropped to 2 418 (-40, -1.6 %). Minors accounted for 2 % of the total number of prosecuted or investigated persons, whilst children accounted for 2.8 %.

In 2017, the courts issued lawful sentences to 55 069 people (in 2016 it was 61 399 people).

Custodial imprisonment sentences were issued mostly for one year – to 4 916 persons (59.1 %) and for one to five years – to 3 281 persons (35.1 %). Sentences from five to fifteen years were issued to 462 persons (5.6 %), exceptional sentences from fifteen to twenty-five years were issued to 20 persons (0.2 %).

Of the total number of sentenced persons, 2 927 were identified by the courts as repeat offenders. Most repeat offenders were sentenced for crimes against property – 1 571 persons.

Of the total number of sentenced persons, 5 030 were foreigners, accounting for 9.1 % of all those sentenced in 2016. Nationals of Slovakia – 1 641 (31.6 % of all sentenced foreigners), followed by nationals of Ukraine – 1 075 (21.4 %), and Romania – 411 (8.2 %).

1 225 minors were sentenced, most often for property crimes.

For the most part, minors were issued imprisonment sentences with a trial suspension – 748 persons; and community service sentences – 225 persons. Custodial imprisonment sentences were issued to 62 persons in 2016. Punishment was refrained from in the case of 178 minors.

The declining trend in the number of persons prosecuted within shortened preliminary proceedings continued. Shortened preliminary proceedings are gradually losing their appeal as preliminary proceedings are beginning to be more widespread. In practice, more thorough consideration is given to the fulfilment of conditions required for shortened preliminary proceedings, even with regard to the time that has passed since the offence was committed or

criminal proceedings initiated. Deviations in the form of conditional suspension of criminal proceedings are more frequent than conditional postponement of submissions for a petition for punishment under shortened preliminary proceedings. Deviations continue to stagnate. The use of a newly established instrument of agreement upon guilt and punishment remains limited.

Crimes Committed by Foreigners

In 2017, foreign nationals committed 8 044 (-46, 0.6 %) offences. Of the total number of 87 168 prosecuted persons, 7 708 (+156, +2.1 %) were foreigners, accounting for 8.8 %.

Crimes Committed by Officers and Civilian Employees of Security Forces

In 2017, the GIBS, within the scope of its competencies, recorded illegal activities with regards to 451 (+33) persons, of which 1 (-1) concerned a legal person.

Criminal proceedings were initiated or a notice of suspicion was delivered within the framework of preliminary proceedings with regards to 251 (+4) persons:

- 135 (+23) officers and 13 (+1) civilian employees of the PCR;
- 30 (0) officers and 6 (+2) civilian employees of the Prison Service of the CR;
- 22 (+16) officers and 0 (-2) civilian employees of the Customs Administration of the CR;
- 45 (-36) civilians, including 1 (0) legal person.

No proposals (0) to initiate criminal proceedings against a member of the GIBS were filed. With regards to the abovementioned persons, the GIBS recorded 373 (+1) offences, of which 203 (+33) were committed by officers of the PCR, 38 (-6) by officers of the Prison Service, 34 (+24) by officers of the Customs Administration, 19 (+4) by civilian employees of the PCR, 7 (0) by civilian employees of the Prison Service, 0 (-4) by civilian employees of the Customs Administration, and 72 (-48) by civilians.

In 2017, the GIBS filed for the prosecution of 190 (-5) perpetrators and submitted a report on the results of shortened preliminary proceedings for

19 (+1) perpetrators. This concerned 116 (+24) officers of the PCR, 25 (-4) officers of the Prison Service, 5 (-1) officers of the Customs Administration, 13 (+8) civilian employees of the PCR, 4 (0) civilian employees of the Prison Service, 0 (-2) civilian employees of the Customs Administration, and 46 (-29) civilians.

In 2017, the GIBS initiated criminal proceedings or delivered a notice of suspicion for 26 (+13) perpetrators who committed 56 (+37) offences relating to corruption.

As regards domestic violence, the GIBS initiated criminal proceedings for 2 (-4) perpetrators who committed 4 (-6) offences.

In the case of offences marked by undue physical or psychological violence, brutality, inhumane treatment, humiliation, and torture while on duty, the GIBS initiated criminal proceedings or delivered a notice of suspicion within the framework of shortened preliminary proceedings for 21 (+1) perpetrators. These perpetrators committed a total of 28 (-4) crimes, of which the most widespread was abuse of power – 14 (-6).

Courts issued lawful sentences to 64 officers of the PCR, which was 57 fewer than in 2016 (121). Most sentences were issued for abuse of power under Sec. 329 of the new Criminal Code – 30 sentenced officers and for causing danger under the influence of addictive substances under Sec. 274 of the new Criminal Code – 5 sentenced officers.

INTERNAL AUDIT OF THE PCR

In 2017, 2 237 (-185) complaints were filed concerning the activities of units, officers, and employees of the PCR. 2 305 (-76) complaints were resolved in accordance with the administrative procedure (of which 1 992 were received in 2017). Of these, 117 (+14) were assessed as justified, i.e. 5.1 % (+0.8 %), and 226 (+40) as partly justified, i.e. 9.8 % (+2 %). The most common reason for justified complaints was inappropriate activity and behaviour, and maladministration by officers. The main cause for justified complaints remained the same – negligence and insubordination, misinterpretation of the law.

The Internal Audit Department of the Police Presidium received information about 4 946 (+253) extraordinary incidents within units of the

PCR from the Operational Centre of the Police Presidium. As regards suicides, 11 (+2) cases of suicidal behaviour were recorded, of which 2 (0) cases were attempted suicide. A service weapon was used in the case of 1 (-5) suicide.

Another category counts persons who are carrying out service activities for the PCR and who, as a result of their activities, find themselves outside the reach of the PCR, so that the PCR, unaware of the whereabouts of these persons, cannot complete the activities that the persons in question were responsible for. There were 12 (-4) such cases (runaways).

Police officers recorded 34 (+3) cases of attempted corruption, with the total sums being offered amounting to CZK 204 000, EUR 900, and USD 400; in 4 (-2) cases the sums were not specified or services in kind were offered.

494 (-69) audits were carried out at all management levels. Following these, other remedial measures were adopted in 69 (-20) cases, disciplinary measures in 26 (-17) cases, personnel measures in 5 (+1) cases, systemic measures in 8 (-7) cases, and other consequences followed in 2 (+2) cases. Counseling was given in 61 (-16) cases. The most frequent finding was a breach of regulations with no damages incurred.

Crimes Committed by Officers of the Armed Forces of the CR

In terms of order and security, the situation within the ranks of the AF CR remained stable in 2017. The Military Police investigated 437 cases of suspected unlawful activity (-72, -14 %). It investigated 171 suspected offences (+12, +7 %) and 152 misdemeanours. Furthermore, it investigated 842 road traffic misdemeanours, of which 644 were committed by officers and employees of the Ministry of Defence. Among investigated offences, those related to property and financial crime (64, 14%) prevailed over military ones (2, 0.5 %).

Out of 119 closed investigations of suspected offences, the Military Police cleared 71 %. Criminal proceedings were initiated in 51 cases. 22 persons were handed over to the public prosecutor with a proposal for a charge, 17 persons following shortened preliminary proceedings, 12 persons with a proposal to

conditionally suspend criminal proceedings, and 1 person with a proposal to suspend criminal proceedings. 7 persons were handed over to the commander for disciplinary measures.

In 2017, 55 projects were implemented by military units within the Ministry of Defence's "Crime Prevention Programme", focusing on primary prevention, where attention was directed at specified groups of personnel with a higher occurrence of risky behaviour and at specific forms of primary prevention in the field of crime prevention, including fighting extremism. In this field, the Military Police gave 13 lectures to an audience of 924.

In the area of preventing risky behaviour, the Military Police carried out 733 preventive checks, of which 159 focused on drug abuse and 522 on alcohol abuse. 2 212 persons were checked, of which 19 were found to be under the influence of alcohol and 3 under the influence drugs.

In 2017, 31 officers of the Armed Forces were sentenced. Most for causing danger under the influence of addictive substances under Sec. 274 of the new Criminal Code – 13 officers.

Crimes Committed in Prisons by Persons in Custody, Under Imprisonment, and Under Detention

In 2017, under **Sec. 158 (3) of the Criminal Code, 902 investigations were initiated** for suspicion of committing a crime in prison, **against 1 098 prisoners.** Of these, 776 perpetrators were identified, whilst 324 perpetrators were not (criminal proceedings were carried out against an unknown perpetrator).

There has been a continuous and significant increase in the number of investigated cases since 2014:

- In 2014, **240** investigations were initiated against 283 imprisoned persons,
- In 2015, **411** investigations were initiated against 458 imprisoned persons,
- In 2016, **623** investigations were initiated against 756 imprisoned persons,
- In 2017, **902** investigations were initiated against 1098 imprisoned persons.

In 902 of the investigated cases, criminal proceedings were initiated with regards to **1 272 offences.**

Lawful sentences were issued to 32 persons for offences committed in 2017. In total, i.e. including for offences committed in previous years, **at least 100 prisoners** were lawfully sentenced in 2017.

Activities of the Probation and Mediation Service

PMS offices recorded 27 719 new cases (including those concerning minors) in 2017. This accounted for a **slight drop** in comparison to the total number of new cases recorded in 2016, **by 6.9 %.**

Within **preliminary and court proceedings**, the PMS recorded **9 401 cases (i.e. 33.9 % of its total agenda in 2017).**

Of the total number of new recorded cases in preliminary and court proceedings, the PMS was charged with carrying out supervision as a replacement for custody in 562 cases and supervising the conditions of the probation period of a conditionally suspended criminal prosecution in 210 cases.

Apart from the abovementioned mediations within preliminary and court proceedings, the PMS also carried out **34 mediations** between victims and sentenced perpetrators (in the course of the sentence).

Between 1 January and 31 December 2017, **608 direct mediations were carried out between victims and perpetrators** from the perpetrator's point of view. In 2017, PMS officials drafted 4 722 opinions on the possibility of issuing a community service sentence or the conversion of another alternative sentence into a community service sentence.

In the same period, PMS officials also carried out **541 preliminary investigations** on the possibility of issuing a house arrest sentence or the conversion of another alternative sentence into a house arrest sentence (including the possibility of a conditional release from prison into house arrest). In 2017, PMS officials drafted 4 128 reports on cooperation or non-cooperation of perpetrators, where they assessed the perpetrators' involvement in preliminary proceedings and their attitude to the committed

offences and recommended appropriate measures.

Within **executive proceedings**, the PMS recorded **18 318 new cases (i.e. 66.1 % of its total agenda in 2017)**. Most new cases recorded in this period concerned ensuring the implementation of community service sentences, where the PMS was responsible for 7 699 new cases (7 414 concerning adults, 285 concerning minors). This accounted for a drop by 1 139 cases as compared to 2016.

175 house arrest sentences were issued in 2017, and there were 3 cases of conditional release from prison into house arrest.

In 2017, the PMS was charged with ensuring the implementation of 59 sentences ordering a ban from entering a sports or other public event (accounting for a slight drop as compared to 2016 – 73 cases).

PROJECT “FRAGILE CHANCE II”

A key activity of the project has been running since January 2017 – the Conditional Release Committee. 291 sentenced persons from 18 prisons in the CR have joined the project. The project contributes to extending the Conditional Release Committee’s best practices by introducing two new functions stemming from the principles of restorative justice – Victim Impact Training and Developing Restorative Practice.

In the second half of 2017, pilot runs of the Victim Impact Training programme were run at 3 facilities. Beginning January 2018, the programme will be run in 7 prisons. It is designed for perpetrators serving prison sentences and has not yet been implemented in the CR in this form. It was inspired by best practices abroad, where similar programmes have been introduced and received positive feedback.

FURTHER TRAINING OF PMS STAFF

As of 30 April 2017, all activities pertaining to the “Further Training of PMS Staff” project, which was

extended twice, have been completed. Between January and April 2017, during the second extension period of the project, 13 training sessions aimed at preventing crises and their resolution, two remaining runs of the “Motivational Interviews” training module and the “Mediation – Follow-Up” training module were completed.

SARPO – COMPREHENSIVE RISK AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

Further training in the area of risk management took place in 2017. It focused on basic concepts and factors influencing the the recourse to crime. The training was also aimed at fine-tuning practical skills when assessing risks and needs of perpetrators and drawing up plans to reduce the risk of repeat offences.

In the course of 2017, the implementation of changes to SARPO II took place based on findings of the internal pilot project and requirements linked to the development of probation practice, particularly as regards alterations to methodological standards at the beginning of 2017. The SARPO working group modified the risks and needs of perpetrators assessment system (the instrument as a whole as well as its components), particularly with the aim of ensuring the standardisation of procedures and definitions used in the assessment, so as to maintain a high level of objectivity of outputs. It continued in the development of a user-friendly design of the instrument as such, reflecting the needs of the PMS staff.

Measures

** In 2017, the ICSP continued its research concerning **sentenced perpetrators of serious violent crimes and their criminal history**. The main aim of the project, which is due to be completed in 2019, is to gain new forensic findings about the criminal history of sentenced perpetrators of serious violent crimes in the CR, to be used in predicting criminal recidivism, sanction policy, and treatment.*

2.1.3 Crimes Committed by Children and Minors

Youth crime increased slightly as compared to 2016 (3 088 offences, +29, +1 %). In 2017, minors committed 1 062 offences (-10, -1.0 %), children committed 2.140 offences (+29, +1.4 %).

Most offences committed by minors fell into the property crime category (1 216 offences, +67, +5.8 %), mostly burglaries (191, +24, +14.4 %), thefts (170, -2, -1.2 %), and damaging another's property (145, +40, 38.1 %). Violent crime (576 offences, -17, -2.9 %) was mostly intentional harm (192 offences, -22, -10.3 %), thefts (167, -4, -2.3 %), and blackmail (97, +16, +19.8 %). As regards economic crime (133, +26, +24.3 %), except for unauthorised possession of a means of payment (80 offences, +13, +19.4 %), which is more related to property crime, the most numerous offences were damage to and abuse of a data carrying medium (19, +2, +11.8 %) and fraud (12, +7, +140 %). As regards vice crime, there was an increase to 355 offences as compared to the previous year (+19, +5.7 %), with sexual abuse being prevalent (222, +14, +6.7 %), followed by other moral offences (72, +20, +38.5 %), and rape (34, -9, 20.9 %).

Statistically, the number of crimes committed by minors remains stable in the short-term, with a slight increase as compared to 2016. There was an increase in the abuse of addictive substances, both in terms of users and distributors, among minors. Abuse of marihuana and methamphetamine are prevalent. So-called soft drugs are gaining ground among minors, who commit offences in order to procure them – mostly thefts, burglaries, and fraud.

Youngsters remain **very active in cyberspace**. This is due to their high level of trust in the online environment and a low awareness of the associated risks. Youngsters often send nude pictures of themselves (sexting), virtually attack unpopular peers (cyberbullying), set-up social network profiles at the average age of 9 years (although Facebook can only be used as of 13 years), communicate openly with strangers (becoming easy victims of blackmail) etc. A prevailing nationwide problem is the growing number of criminal offences committed via social media, which is related to the lifestyle of the given age group and their excessive openness,

trust, and sharing of information with strangers without considering the consequences.

Measures

** In 2017, the ICSP continued its research of the **causes and conditions of initial criminal recidivism of minor perpetrators**. Based on studies of personal, social, educational, criminal and other characteristics of sentenced minors, the research team is attempting to find the reasons for recidivism by minors, i.e. how could minors be stopped from taking on a criminal career from the first instance of criminal justice. The research is dueto be completed in 2019.*

Activities of the Probation and Mediation Service

In 2017, the PMS recorded **2 214 cases concerning minors**, i.e. 8 % of all cases. This accounts for a drop by 10.7 % as compared to the number of new cases in 2016.

Within preliminary and court proceedings, the PMS tasked primarily with mediating conflicts between minor perpetrators and victims (90 % of cases in preliminary and court proceedings).

Within executive proceedings, the PMS was tasked with ensuring the implementation of community service sentences (285 cases) and supervision by the probation officer imposed as part of a conditionally suspended imprisonment sentence (189 cases) or as a separate measure imposed on a child under 15 years (222 cases).

According to the PMS, the most important tool when working with minor delinquents is the development of youth teams and expanding the range of re-socialisation programmes. Currently, team coordinators are active in 10 districts within the "On the Right Track II" project (as opposed to 4 districts in the first instalment of the project). A programme aimed at employing minor perpetrators has been added to the activities of youth teams in four court districts.

The PMS is actively involved in the Ministry of Justice's accreditation procedure designed for probation programmes for minor offenders. In 2017, 8 such programmes were granted accreditation; however, only 7 will be implemented.

Activities of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports

A basic prevention programme is implemented in schools and other educational establishments that includes activities aimed at primary prevention of risky behaviour. The programme is run by a school prevention methodologist in cooperation with educators, educational establishments, NGOs, and other relevant entities.

In 2017, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports carried out the following complex measures with the aim of minimising the occurrence of risky behaviour in schools and educational establishments and ensuring a safe environment in these institutions.

As of 1 September 2017, Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-School, Primary, Secondary, Higher Vocational and Other Education (the Education Act) was supplemented by Sec. 22 (a) and (b) regulating the rights and obligations of educators. Sec. 31 of the Education Act was expanded to include procedures following serious breaches of the obligations stipulated by law. The new regulations seek to react to specific situations of violence and bullying in schools. They thus aim to ensure not only better protection of students from physical and psychological attacks, but also improve the safety of educators.

The Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports updated Annexes 7, 10, and 11 to the Methodological Recommendations for Primary Prevention of Risky Behaviour in Children and Students in Schools and Educational Establishments, Ref. No. 21291/2010-28, which focus on cyberbullying and other forms of cybernetic aggression, vandalism, and truancy.

In 2017, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports announced a grant programme for the implementation of activities in the area of primary

prevention of risky behaviour, for which it allocated CZK 20 million out of its budget. Within this grant programme, projects focusing on long-term primary prevention of risky behaviour in children and minors were supported. Beneficiaries included schools, educational establishments, and NGOs working with children and minors.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports announced a new grant programme for 2017 aimed at schools and educational establishments – “A Safe Environment in Czech Schools”. Within this grant programme, CZK 10 551 911 were allocated. The aim of the programme was to support activities that would lead to the minimisation of bullying and violent behaviour in schools and the establishment and development of a safe environment in them. The primary activities thus included the deepening of expert knowledge and practical skills with regards to the topic, particularly through support of supervision and casuistic seminars and providing educational and methodological tools for educators, working with teams of educators and their group supervision and providing training for educators and other school employees.

In 2017, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, through regional offices of the National Institute for Further Education, provided targeted training for educators, school principals and school prevention methodologists in the field of recognition and minimisation of risks associated with bullying and violent behaviour in schools.

In 2017, the inter-ministerial working group for primary prevention, composed of representatives of relevant ministries (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the Office of the Government), began to meet with the aim of coordinating and streamlining prevention activities in the educational environment.

2.1.4 Victims of Crime

Statistical data on the number of crime victims are not available for 2017.²

Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on Victims of Crime, improved the status of crime victims and introduced the confidant – a natural person aged over 18. Simultaneously, the Criminal Procedure Code was amended, thus deepening the rights of victims. The institute of a guardian, assigned to child victims free of charge, is particularly beneficial.

In 2017, the Act on Victims of Crime was amended (by Act No. 56/2017 Coll.). The amendment widened the circle of particularly vulnerable victims to include aged persons, victims of terrorist attacks, and victims of offences that involved pressure, violence or the threat of violence, offences marked by hate and offences committed in favour of an organised criminal group. The amendment also widened the scope of information that is provided to victims and clarified the interpretation of the law with regards to giving victims, during the first contact, only that information which they need most at the given moment. Another novelty is the right to legal assistance provided by a guardian free of charge to all particularly vulnerable victims, i.e. not only child victims.

Special interrogation rooms, of which there are currently 68, are used to interrogate all particularly vulnerable victims, and are therefore no longer limited to interrogating child victims.

Measures

** In 2017, the Office of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police Presidium of the*

² In February 2016, the operator of the official crime statistics system (ESSK) of the PCR made changes to the way crime victims were recorded. The former system was primarily targeted at monitoring offences and perpetrators. Victims of crime were not registered at all; only values/objects of attack were. The former values/objects were replaced in February 2016 with actual persons. This change led to an incompatibility between the two sets of data.

Victims of crime, as per Act No. 45/2013 Coll., are not yet recorded by official crime statistics of the PCR. The new version of PCR's official crime statistics (as of 2018) will monitor both values/objects as well as persons as victims of crime, including particularly vulnerable victims. This will lead to a clearer and more accurate reporting and show the exact number of victims of a particular offence.

CR implemented a project called "Police Work with Particularly Vulnerable Victims". The outputs of the project are an instructional video and methodology.

The Crisis Intervention System ensures that every regional office of the PCR provides continuous urgent psychological assistance to police officers and victims of emergencies (including victims of crime) immediately after traumatising incidents. In 2017, police psychologists and trained crisis interventionists from the PCR were called to 997 incidents. They made 3 043 contacts, providing support to 2 745 people, thus confirming a growing trend from previous years. Almost twice as often as in previous years, assistance was given to groups of juveniles that were victims of offences or other emergencies.

The Crisis Intervention Group within the Chief Psychologist's Unit at the Personnel Department of the Police Presidium is the point of coordination for providing support to victims of emergencies with a large number of victims, and also operates two non-stop support telephone lines (an anonymous one for police officers, which is also, based on an agreement, available to officers and employees of the Fire Rescue Service, the Prison Service, the Customs Administration, the GIBS, and the Armed Forces, and a support line for crisis intervention). The Crisis Intervention Group is also developing cooperation with the 112 help-line, from where suicide-related calls are redirected to the crisis intervention support line. This support line, which has been in operation continuously for 15 years, recorded 1 515 crisis contacts in 2017.

Since 2016, pursuant to Order of the Police President No. 231/2016, on Psychological Services, every regional police directorate of the PCR has a system of mutual psychological support aimed at improving psychological resistance of police officers and preventing the development of psychological issues.

Research on Crime Victims Focused on Experiences of the Czech Population with Select Types of Crime over a Given Period

The research is conducted by the ICSP. The primary objective is to determine the degree of victimisation stemming from monitored offences

and to obtain a complementary source of information about the extent of criminality in the CR, including latent criminality. The secondary objective is to obtain more information about experienced victimisation (e.g. detailed circumstances of victimisation, reporting or reasons for not reporting the incident to the police, evaluation of rendered services, impacts of victimisation...), as well as other opinions and attitudes of the population to issues related to crime (fear for personal safety, evaluation of the level of care for victims in the CR, etc.).

In autumn 2017, a questionnaire survey was conducted on a representative sample of the Czech population (sex, age, education, size of place of residence, region) aged over 15. Face-to-face data collection for the ICSP was carried out by an external agency that won a tender. 3 328 respondents participated in the survey.

The part of the survey which focused on victimisation sought to establish whether the respondents (and, depending on the offence, other members of the household) had become victims of any of the monitored offences in the last three years during which previous questionnaires took place. Apart from commonly observed offences, the questionnaire also included questions mapping victimisation online (online shopping fraud and fraudulent emails). Prevalence among the population was mapped for the past year.

The research results show that 34 % of respondents have been victims of one monitored offences in the last three years (excepting offences online). 11 % of the respondents have become victims of more than one crime.

Owners of holiday homes faced the highest risk of victimisation. Thefts were reported as the most frequent offence against persons.

As regards internet offences, 16 % of respondents who have shopped online during the past three years have become victims of online shopping fraud (4 % of them repeatedly). More than half of those using emails (88 %) have received unsolicited emails in the last year (45 % of them repeatedly). It is pleasing, nevertheless, that fraudulent emails were ineffective for most respondents, as 93 % of them left them without a response.

The research also shows that some offences remain latent. Respondents were more inclined to report offences against property; a very small portion of violent offences were reported to the police.

The detailed research results are currently being processed and will be published as a comprehensive report sometime in 2019, when the research project ends.

Measures

** On 7 December 2017, the MoI, in cooperation with Regional Police Directorate in Prague, organised a nationwide seminar titled "How to read and understand expert court judgements on psychology and psychiatry". This was the fourth such expert seminar. The organisation of these seminars is important for sharing experiences and strengthening cooperation between PCR specialists working with youngsters and other relevant experts (child protection authorities, NGOs, court experts, public prosecutors, etc.). The seminar in question was attended by 60 officers from most regional police directorates, employees of child protection authorities in Prague city districts, prevention managers, employees of social departments of regional authorities, employees of intervention centres, public prosecutors, and others.*

** Act No. 59/2017 Coll., on the Use of Funds from Proprietary Criminal Sanctions Imposed during Criminal Proceedings and on the Amendment of Some Acts, was published. The act came into effect on 1 January 2018. Its main objective is to eliminate the undesirable situation where persons damaged by an offence and entitled to compensation (of damages material and immaterial, or of unjust enrichment by the perpetrator to their detriment) based on criminal or civil proceedings are not able to gain satisfaction of these claims due to the perpetrator's insufficient funds, even though the assets that could be used for this purpose have been seized and secured in the course of criminal proceedings. The new legislation improves the victims' status with regards to satisfaction of their property claims, as it allows the use of assets that have been seized based on material sanctions imposed during criminal proceedings to satisfy their material claims. Funds obtained from material sanctions imposed during criminal*

proceedings thus no longer constitute a revenue of the state budget, but are concentrated on a specialised bank account of the Ministry of Justice and consequently redistributed among the victims as per their claims. The act is based on the concept that funds will be differentiated according to specific criminal proceedings from which they originate in order to be attributable to the damaged party whose rights to compensation arise as a result of the criminal offence in relation to which the criminal proceedings imposed a material sanction. Satisfaction of a claim from the specialised bank account of the Ministry of Justice can also be requested by a person entitled to child support owed by a perpetrator convicted for neglected child support.

Activities of the Probation and Mediation Service

In 2017, PMS officials initiated cooperation and provided assistance and consultation to slightly fewer than 6 579 victims of crime. There was a slight increase in the number of crime victims as compared to 2016, by just under 2 %. In 90.5 % of cases the victim was an adult, in 4.5 % of cases it

was a child or a minor, in 5.5 % of cases the victim was an elderly person aged over 65.

In 2017, **approximately 1 100 indemnity agreements were mediated** within the framework of cooperation with victims of crime, and victims and perpetrators agreed on a settlement in **710 mediations**.

PROJECT “WHY ME? II”

In 2017, activities of the “Why Me? II” project continued. Consultations were provided to victims at all 55 consultation centres. Multidisciplinary team meetings were held in 17 communities with the purpose of strengthening inter-ministerial cooperation at the regional level. In addition to providing consultation and assistance to victims of crime, the project aims at improving the systemic level of professional assistance, whereby training activities will increase the qualifications of consultants. The project also provides training for social workers and social services employees, who may also provide assistance to victims. Thanks to this training, these people will be able to provide relevant assistance to those among their clients that have become victims of crime.

2.1.5 Searches for Persons and Items

2.1.5.1 Searches for Persons

In 2017, 41 (-5) wanted perpetrators were detained in the CR as a result of **targeted searches**. A further 11 (-8) perpetrators were detained abroad as a result of cooperation with foreign police forces.

Measures

** A website for the most wanted persons in Europe – EU MOST WANTED – was launched in cooperation with ENFAST (European Network of Fugitive Active Search Teams) and EUROPOL. Currently, 2 wanted persons in the CR (one suspected of murder and another of arms trafficking) are posted on the web. A media campaign was run in order to increase the visibility of the website in every EU Member State, including the CR.*

** One of the main priorities for 2018 is to develop direct international police cooperation both within ENFAST and outside of the EU. This is*

in accordance with the conclusions of the INTERPOL conference held at the end of 2017 in Jamaica, where the need for active cooperation during searches was highlighted.

In 2017, 17 086 (-858) searches for wanted persons were launched via the PATROS information system, of which 14 188 (-422) have been recalled.

A further 3 068 (-203) searches for missing persons were launched via PATROS, of which 3 015 persons were found. 1 117 (-14) searches for missing children were launched. A further 3 989 (+193) searches were launched for children under imposed institutional or protective care and preventive educational care.

30 (+14) searches were launched for children in danger via the national coordination mechanism for missing children. One child remains missing to date.

7 (-2) searches for unidentified persons were launched in 2017. 3 searches remain active, with

a person reported as missing in 2011 and 2016 still unidentified.

6 searches for unidentified persons were recalled. Furthermore, 54 (+10) searches for unidentified corpses were launched, of which 24 remain active. 30 (0) searches have been recalled. The identification of homeless persons (especially in Prague and Brno), the identification of those prone to suicide and foreigners residing illegally in the CR remain problematic.

Searches for Motor Vehicles

The number of one-track and two-track motor vehicle thefts dropped in 2017. This trend is reflected in fewer searches for motor vehicles. 4 952 (-1 025) searches for two-track motor vehicles and 494 (-3) searches for one-track motor vehicles were launched in 2017. There were also fewer searches for registration plates in 2017 – 4 822 (-856).

As regards motor vehicle thefts, CR's joining of SIS and of INVEX, which efficiently prevents the registration of stolen vehicles and the sale of stolen spare parts, had a positive effect

Measures

** As of January 2009, the information system of the Ministry of the Environment AUTOVRKY has been successfully implemented. The system informs the Search Department of the Police Presidium of the CR of the occurrence of a stolen vehicle submitted for ecological disposal to an authorised facility anywhere in the CR. In 2017, there were 28 successful seizures.*

** The PCR streamlined its activities in the field of motor vehicle searches in several ways. First of all, the PATRMV information system now enables the uploading of photographs – bearing marks of stolen vehicles – and contains a new functionality (hot track) contributing to greater flexibility in launching searches for stolen vehicles. Data exchange agreements concluded between the PCR, the Czech Insurers' Bureau and the Ministry of the Environment are an important tool in fighting vehicle thefts.*

2.1.5.2 Searches for Cultural Heritage Objects

In 2017, there were 409 (+6) cases of stolen antique and art objects. There were no significant

cases of stolen artistic and historical objects, possibly committed by an organised criminal group. Private property was the most common target of thefts – in 343 (+6) cases. These were followed by thefts in the open, where there was the same number of cases as in 2016 – 18. As in previous years, perpetrators were interested primarily in paintings, coins, watches and statues, which constitute more than half of all stolen art objects.

Verification and revision of records in the PSEUD information system (evidence of artworks), which currently contains 19 323 entries of stolen and found artworks, continued. The system is used by the PCR, but also by the Ministry of Culture and the General Directorate of Customs. The public may also view a limited version of the system.

In 2017, the National Heritage Institute managed to find and identify 3 cultural assets, of which 2 came from criminal activity targeting sacred objects and 1 from criminal activity targeting castle property belonging to a municipality. Of those, 2 cultural assets were found in the CR and 1 cultural good was illegally exported from the CR to Germany. 7 cultural assets were returned to the CR in 2017: 2 from Germany, 1 from Austria, and 4 from Poland.

Cultural heritage commodities were established in 2017 as a stable part of the agenda of the CA. This is in line with the worldwide trend where law enforcement authorities are starting to pay more attention to cultural heritage trafficking.

One weakness of cultural heritage commodities is their infrequent appearance in international trade and a low rate of detection within customs proceedings and control checks. This was reflected during the international operation "Athena", carried out in November 2017, which ended without seizures. Some information about the cultural assets trade can be obtained in connection with criminal investigations of CITES commodities.

Measures

** The Ministry of Culture continued implementing the Integrated Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage programme. Subprogram A, aimed at securing facilities containing state-, region-, municipal- or church-owned movable cultural heritage objects allocated*

CZK 8 231 000 within 31 grants for the purchase and modernisation of electronic security systems, electric fire alarms, closed circuit TV systems, and other communication systems and mechanical barriers. In some cases, a combination of multiple systems in one facility was used, which contributed to strengthening the protection of movable cultural heritage objects.

* The Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the National Heritage Institute, continues to monitor the illegal export and transport of Czech cultural assets abroad.

2.1.5.3 Searches for Stolen Objects

In 2017, 96 459 (-10 771) records of stolen objects were entered into the KSU information system. Of these, 16 796 (-750) were cleared. Another 9 310 (-509) records of found objects, 9 266 (-975) records of seized objects, and 11 703 (-2 761) records of objects marked as objects of interest were entered.

Measures

* As of 2015, the PCR has been using an electronic system to evaluate the results of searches for stolen objects. This functionality accurately tracks the number of inspections at various facilities carried out by various police departments, as well as the number of seized items.

* As of 2013, there is a functionality within the KSU information system that enables the recording of specifically defined objects into SIS. In 2016, 258 records were entered; in 2017 it was 3 011 records.

2.1.6 Misdemeanours

In 2017, the **public order police service** recorded 674 828 (-105 405) misdemeanours under Act No. 251/2016 Coll., on Some Misdemeanours. Most of these concerned road traffic safety under Sec. 125 (c) of Act No. 361/2000 Coll., on Road Traffic (including alcohol and road management) – 429 400 (-83 461), accounting for 63.63 % of all misdemeanours. They were followed by misdemeanours against property under Sec. 8 of the Act on Some Misdemeanours, which totalled

2.1.5.4 International Searches

As regards **international searches in the EU and within the Schengen area**, there were 12 877 positive hits for wanted persons and objects within SIS II in 2017, accounting for a 13 % increase as compared to 2016. The reason for this increase is the ever more intensive use of SIS II by partners abroad and the increase in the number of records entered into SIS II in the CR. In 2017, courts in the CR issued 787 European Arrest Warrants that were entered into SIS II, which is 13 % fewer than in 2016.

As regards **international searches outside the Schengen area**, 13 persons internationally wanted in the CR were detained abroad and 7 persons internationally wanted abroad were detained in the CR, making it a total of 20 detained persons.

Searches for Missing Persons, Including Children

On 29–30 May 2017, an international expert meeting dedicated to an **Efficient System of Cross-Border Cooperation when Searching for Missing Persons, Including Children**, was organised in Prague by the Mol in cooperation with AMBER Alert Europe and the PCR. The first day of the meeting, attended by police and other experts from 10 EU countries, focused on presenting good practices from selected EU countries (Bulgaria, Czechia, Poland, Slovakia) and on discussing the current situation and persisting issues. The second day was dedicated to a training programme on the so-called risk factor in missing children. At the close of the meeting, contact persons (SPOC – Single Points of Contact) from participating countries were designated in order to work closely together on cross-border searches.

104 009 (-13 672), and misdemeanours against public order and civic coexistence under Sec. 5 and 7 of the Act on Some Misdemeanours, which totalled 98 026 (-5 788). Other misdemeanours totalled 34 913 (+10 630). Misdemeanours related to being under the influence of alcohol and other drugs under the Act on Road Traffic totalled 15 595 (-2 537).

429 545 (-91 798) misdemeanours were resolved on the spot, with issued fines amounting to CZK

134 951 800 (CZK -28 582 150). 169 211 (+52 405) misdemeanours were reported for consideration under Sec. 73 and 74 of the Act on Some Misdemeanours, of which 73 634 remained after investigation by the police under Sec. 74 (1 and 2). 71 183 (+44 654) misdemeanours were deferred pursuant to Sec. 74 (3) (b) of the Act on Some Misdemeanours, of which 59 205 (+38 810) for reasons of an unidentified perpetrator, i.e. 83.17 % of all deferred misdemeanours.

In 2017, the **traffic police service** recorded 452 475 (-23 415) misdemeanours by motor vehicle drivers and 18 988 (-1 491) misdemeanours by other participants in road traffic. 414 907 (-19 902) misdemeanours by motor vehicle drivers were resolved on the spot, with issued fines amounting to CZK 225.8 million (CZK -6.8 million). 37 568 (-3 513) misdemeanours were reported to the administrative authorities.

As in 2016, the most common misdemeanour committed by drivers of motor vehicles was speeding – amounting to 167 886 cases, i.e. 37.1 % of all misdemeanours. The second most common misdemeanour was incorrect driving – 72 629 cases, i.e. 16.1 %, and the third was use of a motor vehicle that did not meet the necessary technical conditions – 59 635, i.e. 13.2 %.

Apart from the abovementioned misdemeanours against road traffic safety, in 2017, motor vehicle drivers were found to have ingested alcohol in 7 662 (-883) cases and addictive substances in 2 805 (-529) cases.

In the area of **arms and ammunition**, 1 330 (+249) misdemeanours committed by natural persons were recorded in 2017, of which 815 (+254) were resolved on the spot, with fines amounting to CZK 311 700 (CZK +82 800). 439 (+70) misdemeanours were reported to administrative authorities and 15 (-27) were handed over to law enforcement authorities. A further 244 (-7) misdemeanours were committed by legal persons (formerly administrative offences) were recorded during state inspections of arms and ammunition, with fines amounting to CZK 1 260 100 (CZK +568 300).

As regards misdemeanours under Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on Residence of Foreign Nationals, recorded by regional police directorates and the Directorate of the Alien Police Service, there were slightly fewer in 2017. 29 032 (-2 152, -6.9 %) records were entered into the CIS and Record of Criminal Proceedings information system. Fines issued pursuant to the Act on Residence of Foreign Nationals amounted to approximately CZK 15.9 million (CZK -1.2 million).

Broken down by nationality, most misdemeanours were committed by citizens of Ukraine (9 459, i.e. 32.6 %), Austria (11.2 %), Moldova (8.2 %), Poland (6.4 %) and Serbia (6.3 %). Moldovans accounted for the biggest increase (+1 098, i.e. +85.4 %), followed by Ukrainians (+1 097, i.e. +13.1 %).

2.2 THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC TYPES OF CRIME

2.2.1 Property Crime

In the area of property crime, 108 497 (-9 585, -8.1 %) offences were recorded in 2017, and 27 765 (-1 253, -4.3 %) were cleared. The clearance rate rose slightly, to 25.6 % (+1 %). The number of total cleared offences reached 32 846 (-1 953, -5.6 %). The number of burglaries dropped to 24 127 (-4 093, -14.5 %), of which 5 714 (-600, 9.5 %) were cleared. The number of simple thefts also dropped to 66 101 (-5 123, -7.2 %), of which 17 078 (-473, -2.7 %) were cleared. The clearance rate of simple thefts rose to 25.8 % (+1.2 %).

In 2017, the number of burglaries in apartments dropped (2 518, -305, -10.8 %), as well as that of burglaries in houses (2 947, -325, -9.9 %).

Property crime is the most prevalent type of crime in the CR (up to 53.6 % of all crime). Burglaries account for almost a quarter of property crime (22.2 %).

Burglaries in Apartments and Houses

Burglaries in apartments and houses account for most property crime. Perpetrators continue to be most interested in jewellery, then in cash, and finally in electronics and other portable items. Burglaries in apartments and houses are committed in connection with the use of narcotic and psychotropic substances, but also by recidivists with a rich criminal history. Perpetrators are usually Czech nationals, but some are from Slovakia, Poland, Romania, etc. In 2017, nationals of Colombia were registered as having committed burglaries in houses and apartments belonging to Asians. Perpetrators tend to choose their targets based on neighbourhood and outward appearance. Another trend is to choose targets based on information gleaned from social media, where people often carelessly post photos of their property or signal their absence from home. In the context of burglaries, thefts of firearms (both long and short) continue to be a problem, as they thus end up in the hands of unauthorised persons and may be misused to commit further crimes.

Measures

** As part of the fight against burglaries in apartments and houses, a tool designed for specialists of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service was launched in 2016 and actively employed throughout 2017 – a software application enabling faster and more efficient investigation and clearance of serial offences.*

Crimes against the Elderly

Crimes against seniors constitute an important part of property crime. The issue continues to be given a high priority. In 2017, crimes against seniors (fraud, thefts, burglaries by stealth) were committed by Czech nationals, but also by organised criminal groups and family clans from the CR, Slovakia, Poland, and other countries. Based on data collected so far, 2017 saw an increase in recorded offences as compared to 2016. According to data from the AMOS Senior information system, 654 (+52) offences relating to the SENIOR agenda were recorded in 2017. Of these, 547 cases caused damages amounting to CZK 20 590 891. Furthermore, a significant number of offences committed against seniors fell under the GRANDCHILD, OVERPAYMENT, SMALL CHANGE, and CHECK legends.

Measures

** Since 1 April 2014, a software application has been available to PCR specialists working on measures within SENIOR, which enables the gathering of information about these specific crimes and mutual communication and information-sharing between specialists.*

Vehicle Thefts

This area is registering a **long-term downward trend**.

In 2017, **the number of two-track vehicle thefts dropped by 27 % as compared to 2016, which accounts for a 80 % drop in the last ten years**. There were fewer burglaries in cars, as well (10 % fewer as compared to 2016, dropping by 73 % in the last ten years). The number of one-track vehicle thefts rose by 1 vehicle as compared to 2016, accounting for a 45 % drop in the last ten

years. The number of stolen parts rose by 10 % as compared to 2016 and dropped by 35 % in the last ten years.

Most two-track vehicles were stolen in Prague (27 % of all two-track vehicles stolen nationwide), however even here, the number of cases fell by 42 % as compared to 2016. The most frequently stolen vehicles were Škoda.

Measures

** On 12 October 2017, the EU Council issued Implementing Decision no. 2017/1866 on the launch of automated data exchange with regard to vehicle registration data in the Czech Republic, which authorises the CR to exchange information from vehicle registries with EU member states in the Prüm-VRD module pursuant to Art. 12 of EU Council Decision 2008/615/JHA.*

** The Prüm-VRD module of the pan-European EUCARIS interface enables the exchange of data from vehicle registries of EU member states*

pertaining to vehicles, owners, and operators, including fault signals. It is designed to prevent and investigate offences and to deal with other unlawful acts falling within the realm of courts or public prosecutors, but also to maintain public security. The tool can be used not only to investigate vehicle crime (e.g. thefts, insurance fraud), but other crimes where vehicles are used as transport devices (e.g. burglaries, kidnappings) or as instruments of crime, to tail members of an organised criminal group, to pre-empt crime, etc.

** In 2018, the next module of the pan-European EUCARIS interface should be finalised. The VH Info module should enable the control of vehicles prior to their registration in another EU member state and thus facilitate the re-registration of vehicles in EU member states. This module is an important tool for closing the loophole which allows the legalisation of stolen or otherwise defective vehicles.*

2.2.2 Economic Crime

In 2017, 26 294 (-2 012, -7.1 %) offences in the area of economic crime were registered, of which 14 238 (-1 367, -8.8 %) were cleared. As compared to 2016, the clearance rate dropped by 1 %. The number of total cleared offences was 17 117 (-1 874, -9.9 %).

The total damages caused in the area of economic crime in 2017 reached CZK 13 677 billion, dropping by a significant 27.2 % as compared to 2016. The largest share of damages was caused by tax evasion (under Sec. 240 of the Criminal Code) – CZK 3.98 billion, and fraud to legal persons (under Sec. 209 of the Criminal Code) – CZK 3.28 billion.

Judging by quantitative indicators, fraud to legal persons, credit fraud, and insurance fraud continue to be dominant within the wider realm of economic crime, with the exception of unauthorised possession of a means of payment.

Offences related to public procurement, fraudulent behaviour and breach of obligations when managing another's property are frequent offences in the realm of economic crime as investigated by the National Centre against Organised Crime. As in previous years, attention

was focused on securing proceeds from crime. For this reason, the creation of a new department within the MoI intended to manage the sale of secured proceeds was a welcome improvement. As regards new forms of crime, there is a clear shift towards the internet and new methods of communication in the field of information technologies.

Fraud committed in relation to the launch of photovoltaic power plants constituted another important group of economic crimes in 2017. These offences were limited in time, since a petition for prosecution terminated some cases in 2017, whilst other cases are being investigated. It is safe to assume that prosecutions of these offences will come to term 2018.

Measures

** Act No. 204/2017 Coll., was introduced, amending Act No. 256/2004 Coll., on Undertakings on the Capital Market, as amended, as well as some other acts. The act came partially into effect on 13 August 2017, with the remainder coming into effect on 3 January 2018. This act includes an amendment of the Criminal Code, which responds to the requirements of Directive*

2014/57/EU on criminal sanctions for market abuse (the market abuse directive, MAD). Following this directive, **the definition of the offence of misuse of information and position in business interactions has been modified and a new offence introduced** (under Sec. 255a – abuse of position in business interactions).

2.2.2.1 Suspicious Trades

In 2017, the Financial Analysis Unit received 3 524 notifications of suspicious trades. This was 576 more than in 2016. The rapid increase is, inter alia, caused by the extension of the circle of so-called obligated subjects by the amendment of Act No. 253/2008 Coll., on Some Measures against the Legalisation of Proceeds from Crime and Terrorism Financing (AMLZ). The notifications were thoroughly investigated, resulting in 539 criminal complaints. Of these, funds were frozen as proceeds from crime in 377 cases. These numbers correspond more or less to those from the previous period. A total of CZK 2 146 million were secured. As in previous years, the results of many investigations carried out by the FAU in accordance with the AMLZ were forwarded to tax administrators. These amounted to 1 753 notifications of suspected breaches of tax and customs regulations forwarded to the financial and customs administrations. The annual increase by 270 cases proves that tax-related offences continue to be one of the most frequent pre-emptive offences, and testifies to the close cooperation between the FAU and tax administrators. It is logical that relevant information provided by the FAU contributes to the success of tax administrators in collecting taxes.

Other frequent offences in 2017 involved various forms of fraud, including all kinds of simple deception, such as asking for payment in exchange for a false promise to deliver goods, provide services, etc., but also sophisticated insurance, credit, and subsidy fraud that were carried out with a high level of professionalism and organisation. In this context, it can be stated that the phenomenon of 2016, so-called “CEO Frauds”, was often detected in 2017, as well. Other frequent pre-emptive offences were related to bankruptcies and, to a lesser extent, corruption, prostitution, and drug trafficking.

In terms of the techniques and procedures employed by perpetrators in order to legalise proceeds from crime, i.e. in their attempt to create the illusion that their assets have been acquired legally, traditional repeated transfers among bank accounts in the CR and abroad were used, as well as cash deposits and withdrawals and bank accounts opened under fake or stolen identities, and shipping services, tax havens, real estate investments and, increasingly, virtual currencies. In practice, a combination of these techniques was almost always used, depending on the original crime, the level of organisation, the perpetrators’ cunning, etc.

In view of the current situation, the FAU devoted itself intensely to the issue of terrorism financing throughout 2017. In this field, cooperation with all stakeholders was strengthened, both at the national and international level. Furthermore, educational and methodological outreach was provided to obligated persons.

2017 was the first year when the FAU functioned as an independent authority, having replaced the former Financial Analysis Unit of the Ministry of Finance on 1 January 2017. The new unit took on all the lawful powers and tasks of its predecessor and continues to act as a national financial intelligence unit. The abovementioned statistics attest to the fact that the FAU has managed to continue the work without any major difficulties and that it continues to carry out its tasks in the field of combating the legalisation of proceeds from crime, terrorism financing, and the coordination of international sanctions.

2.2.2.2 Gambling

On 1 January 2017, the CA acquired new powers; to exercise state supervision over compliance with obligations laid down by Act No. 186/2016 Sb., on Gambling (hereinafter the “Gambling Act”) and to deal with administrative offences related to gambling, with the exception of gambling on the internet (which falls to the Ministry of Finance). This also includes the power to investigate suspected running of an unauthorised gambling operation under Sec. 252 of the Criminal Code, as well as of the offence of running fraudulent gaming and betting operations under Sec. 213 of the Criminal Code. These powers are exercised by designated customs authorities

(Search Departments of the General Directorate of Customs) under Sec. 12 (2) (d) 1 of the Criminal Procedure Code, albeit they are shared with the PCR (see opinion of the Supreme Public Prosecutor ref. no. 1 SL 742/2016-32 of 15 December 2016).

In 2017, Search Departments of the General Directorate of Customs initiated 28 criminal proceedings for suspected running of an unauthorised gambling operation under Sec. 252 of the Criminal Code. The CA focused on illegal gambling operators that use membership clubs to cover their activities. The main goal was to uncover whole organised groups that stand behind these clubs and *de facto* manage them. This is a highly sophisticated crime, with straw men being placed in management positions in clubs or other echelons of the organisation. In addition, gambling establishments have been sought out whose licences – issued by the Ministry of Finance or the relevant municipality – have expired, as well as new internet cafes where gambling was facilitated without necessary authorisation by the Ministry of Finance. Last but not least, establishments running so-called quiz games (e.g. Kvízomat, Quizard, Slevostroj) have been sought out, since these machines are considered by experts to also be of interest.

In 2017, there were:

- 2 060 checks carried out, of which 310 in lotteries;
- 488 violations detected;
- 879 gaming devices (IVT, VHP, LLS), 66 quiz gaming devices, 11 electromechanical roulettes, and 12 gaming tables seized;
- CZK 2 674 979 secured in cash.

It is expected that, in the coming years, illegal gambling operations will gradually shift into the realm of the internet and incorporate virtual currencies. Gambling software will most likely continue to be modified and new types of games will continue to emerge.

Measures

** As in 2016, in 2017 the PCR continued to take part in the fight against illegal gaming machines (e.g. quiz machines) through activities of the WIN team, which deals with joint criminal proceedings*

with regards to offences of illegal operation of a lottery and similar betting games run using so-called quiz machines. In 2018, cooperation will continue with the CA in this field.

2.2.2.3 Environmental Crime

In 2017, there were no significant changes recorded in relation to environmental crime, its clearance rate or its structure.

Illegal Handling of Protected Species of Fauna and Flora

In 2017, the CA dealt with 182 cases of infringement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and initiated 21 criminal proceedings, of which 12 are still being investigated. The number of seizures of CITES specimens has increased by 20, as compared to 2016. The main factors contributing to this number were a high number of seizures during operation SANDOKAN, as well as the experience of control authorities with substances required by traditional Chinese medicine, particularly extracts and broths from tigers. The abovementioned operation took place in January and February at Václav Havel Airport in Prague. During this extremely demanding operation, 1 235 passengers carrying 2 981 pieces of luggage were checked, and 15 suspected CITES specimens were seized.

Over the last two years, several cases of particularly endangered species of beetles, butterflies, and other invertebrates being sold on the internet – their small size making them an easily tradeable commodity – were investigated. In two closed cases, the identified perpetrators were lawfully sentenced to suspended custody, including forfeiture of assets. In other cases, investigations are ongoing in order to prove the responsibility of specific persons.

In 2016, the European Commission drew up the EU Action Plan against Terrorism Financing, where wildlife trafficking is mentioned as one of the sources of finance for terrorists.

Also in 2016, the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking was adopted, approved by the Environment Council. The plan reaffirms, *inter alia*, the European Commission Recommendation 2007/425/EC of 13 July 2007, which identifies a

set of measures for the enforcement of Council Regulation (EC) 338/97, on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein. The recommendation, issued in 2007, proposed specific measures that the EU Member States were to implement. However, after 10 years, it has been noted that this was not the case, save for a few exceptions, and that the problematic situation has not changed. The Action Plan therefore set a timetable for the fulfilment of commitments and specified the measures. In February 2017, the First Reporting Conference of the European Commission took place, where Member States reported on their progress. The next reporting session is scheduled for June 2018.

As regards current trends, the involvement of the Vietnamese community in trafficking endangered species has been rising significantly. According to the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, in 2014, Vietnamese nationals accounted for 36 % of all persons issued a fine under Act No. 100/2004 Coll., on Trafficking Endangered Species or from whom CITES specimens were seized. In 2015, it was 50 % and in 2016 56 %. Breeders of exotic animals, especially of parrots or snakes, constitute another circle of people often involved in illegal activities in the given area. Inspections carried out by the Czech Environmental Inspectorate in the field of CITES focused on imports and exports via international airports, on national customs authorities and customs postal services, i.e. international trade in endangered species (approx. 80 % of inspections are carried out in cooperation with the CA). Only 20 % of inspections focused on intra-EU trafficking.

Measures

** Relevant Czech authorities – the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, the CA, the PCR – are currently drawing up documents at the expert level for a draft of the National Action Plan for Combating Illegal Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora. The plan will stem from the current situation in the CR and from experiences with enforcing the law and solving cases, and will propose improvements and changes that should contribute to a more efficient fight against this type of crime. No strategic document has as of yet been drafted in this field that addresses the situation conceptually. In 2018, the documents were submitted to the MoI and the Ministry of the*

Environment, which will work on the National Action Plan together before submitting it to the government for approval.

Animal Abuse, Poaching

As regards **animal abuse**, one of the most frequent types of environmental crime, the PCR continues to work with the State Veterinary Administration, bringing consistently good results not only in terms of the clearance rate, but also prevention and cooperation during exceptional veterinary measures, such as those to counter the spread of bird flu and swine fever in 2017.

As regards **poaching**, there have been no significant changes in structure or occurrence. The clearance rate of both types of offences are significantly negatively affected by cases of wildlife poisoning and other forms of illegal killing of endangered animals living in the wild – particularly birds of prey and other predators, such as otters, lynxes, and wolves. One way to increase the clearance rate of these offences as well as to prevent their occurrence, is to implement the results of the EU LIFE Pannon Eagle project, which the CR took an active part in. One of the results of this project was to be the establishment of a so-called DOG UNIT in the CR – dogs specially trained to search for dead predators, poisoned baits and carbofuran.

The Czech Ornithological Society has been documenting the issue of **deliberate poisoning of animals living in the wild** within the Free Wings programme. Since 2006, when the internet database www.karbofuran.cz was launched, at least several hundred endangered animals have been found poisoned, including critically endangered eagles, falcons, and red kites. The number of dead specimens of the critically endangered sea-eagle and golden eagle alone amount to tens, with 2016 holding the record. In 2017, at least two sea-eagle nests with 4 eaglets and one golden eagle were poisoned. The nesting population of the sea-eagle in the CR is about 100, with the golden eagle nesting only exceptionally (despite a long-term project encouraging its return).

Naturally, other wild birds fall victim to poisoning, particularly red kites, ducks, storks, ravens, as well as mammals (otters, pine martens, foxes) and even pets, such as dogs and cats.

Measures

** Certain progress may follow the setting up of an inter-ministerial working group focused on examining cases of wildlife poisoning and other forms of illegal killing of animals living in the wild. This initiative stemmed from the long-term efforts of the Ministry of the Environment for greater cooperation of all relevant stakeholders, including law enforcement authorities, the Ministry of the Environment, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, the State Veterinary Administration, the Czech Ornithological Society, and the Czech-Moravian Hunting Union.*

The aim of the working group is to unify the approach to investigating the abovementioned offences, using the methodology available to all relevant stakeholders, to draft a national strategy, and finally to increase the efficiency of dealing with identified crimes.

Waste

During cross-border checks, Mobile Supervision Units of the CA detected 22 cases of suspected violation of regulations (and 462 266 kg of waste).

In 2017, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate identified recurring problems with the misuse of so-called mobile devices for waste collection for the purpose of reporting the transfer of waste that other persons handling waste needed to dispose of. Waste was usually transferred through a chain of various companies, with the end-company usually being a front that in no way fulfilled its reporting obligations. In this context, some of the waste was found to be fictitious, i.e. reported for accounting purposes. Thus, the existence, transfer, and disposal of non-existent waste was billed. There may have been several reasons for this, including intentional billing of a larger sum than that of the actual waste transferred and disposed of, or – more gravely – hiding the actual handling of waste from state authorities. In 2017, some of these cases have been tackled in cooperation with the PCR, further findings will be passed on to law enforcement authorities in 2018.

As regards cross-border waste transfer, illegal waste transfers from Italy to facilities using waste as fuel continued. In this context, the PCR filed a criminal complaint against a specific company. Other cases of illegal waste transfer were usually

dealt with in cooperation with relevant authorities in the CR and abroad as administrative offences and misdemeanours.

Environmental Protection

THE HARMFUL IMPACT ON POPULATIONS OF PARTICULARLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

Since the adoption of Act No. 418/2011 Coll., on the criminal liability of legal persons and proceedings against them, it is possible as of 1 January 2012 to criminally prosecute legal persons, including for offences against the environment. In addition to the oft-mentioned illegal trade, hunting, poaching, and other types of illegal handling of specimens of particularly endangered species, injurious interference in biotopes and populations of particularly endangered species may also be subject to criminal prosecution.

Certain cases of injurious interference into the natural evolution of water organisms, usually as a result of the activities of legal persons or natural persons doing business, may constitute offences. The most severe cases detected in the past involved the death of several thousand crayfish, a critically endangered species under Act of the Czech National Council No. 114/1992 Coll., on Protection of the Environment, along with several dozens of lobsters (endangered species) due to a biocide leak contaminating waters inhabited by these species. The responsible party was an agricultural entity that incorrectly handled chemicals highly toxic for water organisms.

Cases of unauthorised handling of water in connection with the maintenance or repairs of water works, and the subsequent deaths of endangered species in the affected areas, are often reported as possible offences. A recent example is the death of several dozens of brook lampreys, which is a critically endangered species under Act of the Czech National Council No. 114/1992 Coll., on Protection of the Environment. The responsible party in this case was the flow manager, who manipulated with the water level at an unstable weir. A similar case caused the death of several dozens of European bullheads (endangered species) as a result of the emptying of a fire tank. The responsible party was an entrepreneur wanting to dispose of sediment in

the tank without the required authorisation from nature conservation authorities.

The interference with the natural development of the particularly endangered species of the European bee-eater, where an unknown perpetrator stuffed several dozens of nesting burrows – some already inhabited – with mounting foam at the start of the nesting season in 2017, is particularly alarming. It was only thanks to an early intervention of the Czech Environmental Inspectorate and the Czech Ornithological Society, opening the nesting burrows, that the death of many more adult birds was prevented, although the interference still had serious consequences.

Forest Damage

Possible threats to national security, as well as threats to general health and private property, were manifested in the past year through damage to forests in 3 areas – the development of biotic factors, illegal logging, and damage to forest growth by animals.

As regards violations of Act No. 289/1995 Coll., on Forests and on the Amendment of Some Acts in the form of unauthorised felling of young forest growth, unauthorised thinning of forests and logging beyond the official plan with fictitious claims of bark beetle occurrence were stabilised in the previous year, and there were no extremes recorded. Consistent monitoring of notorious subjects, with whom administrative proceedings were conducted in the past, had a positive effect, as well as proactive searches and prevention by the Forest Protection Department of the Czech Environmental Inspectorate.

The clearance rate for the abovementioned offences continued to be low in 2017. Afforestation of areas that have been logged or thinned presented another challenge.

2.2.2.4 Intellectual Property

There have been no significant changes in the area of intellectual property crime in 2017 as compared to 2016. Criminal activity remained stable in the online realm. According to the PCR, significant trends in intellectual property crime included a more sophisticated modus operandi. Perpetrators increasingly used social media and confidential groups within them, making it harder

to identify them and secure relevant and admissible evidence.

In 2017, the CA secured 347 582 goods whose original value amounted to CZK 238 582 (a lower number than in 2016, but higher in value). These were usually mobile phones and their parts, sports clothing, pharmaceuticals, clothing and personal hygiene items (razors, shampoos, soaps, etc.).

In the domestic market (particularly at stalls) 559 007 goods were secured, valued at CZK 358 728 995 (a higher number than in 2016, but lower in value). These were usually textiles, shoes, watches, drugstore goods, cosmetic products, cosmetic and fashion accessories.

A continuing trend was the import of goods into the EU that did not infringe intellectual property rights, were subjected to the usual customs formalities and then stored in the destination country. Consequently, the goods were transported to covert workshops where they are re-processed (by applying logos or trademark labels).

In the course of the past year, the supply of these goods in the CR has increased on various websites and social media – food items, weight loss products, erection stimulants, vehicle spare parts, electronic equipment, etc. A number of these products constituted a health hazard.

So-called “dropshipping” was a continuing trend. It consists of offering goods on websites that, after being purchased by the customer, are ordered by the seller from a third country and consequently shipped directly to the customer, thus making the seller a mere intermediary (a reseller who does not come into contact with the goods and does not figure on any documents). In this way, large quantities of goods infringing intellectual property rights entered the EU market in the form of non-commercial parcels.

Measures

** In 2017, the Ministry of Industry and Trade continued to run the Inter-ministerial Committee for Combating Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights. The work of the Committee was based on the Operational Programme 2017/2018, which focuses on further deepening cooperation between state authorities and owners of intellectual property rights, on fighting rights*

violations on the internet, and improving prevention, education, and legislation. In accordance with this Programme, the Committee devoted special attention to legislation and to finding specific ways to support the offer of legal digital content on the internet in the CR, as stipulated by the government strategy Digital Czechia 2.0.

In 2017, the Committee also contributed to drafting the Report on the Implementation of Intellectual Property Rights in the CR in 2016. The report, which is drafted annually for the purpose of evaluating the situation regarding intellectual property rights violations in various countries by the US government (301 Special Review), will be finalised in February 2018. The report serves to inform the US administration on the progress in intellectual property rights protection and fighting related crime in the CR during a given period. Its main purpose is to prevent, via a proactive approach, the inclusion of the CR on the Watch List of countries committing massive breaches of intellectual property rights. The CR was omitted from the list in 2016 for the seventh consecutive year.

2.2.2.5 Tax Crime

Tax offences, particularly those that qualified as evasion of taxes, fees, and other mandatory payments with considerable damages amounting to several hundred million Czech Crowns, were among the most serious tax crimes investigated and constituted a priority in the field of fighting crime in the CR.

VAT evasion, particularly in connection with the import and export of goods and services; unjustified tax relief via fictitious invoices and so-called business chains were the most frequent offences. As regards evasion of direct taxes, income tax reductions via accounting manipulations that aimed to reduce the tax base or claim a fictitious right to exemption from tax or a tax rebate were the most common. In terms of excise duties, excise tax cuts related to the export and import of goods and the reduction of excise duties in connection with the sale of fuels, cigarettes, and alcohol were most frequent.

Tax offenders typically create large and structured networks of interconnected persons and companies, which may operatively change their

headquarters and thus evade supervision by tax authorities. There were fewer fraudulent chains causing damages amounting to hundreds of millions of Czech Crowns, but they were being replaced by fraudulent chains causing damages amounting to dozens of millions of Czech Crowns. These chains are more structured, fluid, and thus more complex as a result of involving a large number of companies.

Electronic Sales Records

As of 1 December 2016, Act No. 321/2016 Coll. incorporated proof of property into the Act on Income Taxes (Sec. 38 (x) – 38 (ze)). As of the same date and consequently in 2017, electronic sales records were introduced pursuant to Act No. 112/2016 Coll., with the purpose of reducing revenue cuts (i.e. avoid tax evasion, particularly with regards to income tax), but also regulating the business environment.

Based on its newly acquired competencies (shared with the Financial Administration) in the field of electronic sales records (ESRs) the CA:

- Carried out 9 169 checks;
- Detected 2 715 violations;
- Closed 9 establishments.

General Financial Directorate

As of mid-2017, Act No. 243/2016 Coll., gave financial authorities nationwide powers to carry out searches and controls (particularly to eliminate doubts and for the purpose of tax controls). The application of these powers makes effective use of control capabilities of the Financial Administration and to speedier oversight of tax obligations.

In 2017, the Financial Administration detected a change in the commodities that organisers use as tax evasion vehicles. Tax evasion shifted into the services sector, where it continued to be prevalent with regards to advertising and employment via agencies. In the field of commodities, tax evasion remained frequent in areas where the reverse charge was not applied, i.e. groceries (meat), rapeseed oil, and electronics.

Within the Financial Administration, the COBRA cooperation method remained highly appreciated. This was reflected above all in a

greater efficiency when fighting tax evasion. The common purpose of this cooperation, i.e. the conviction of perpetrators, is being objectively faster, albeit it still takes several years. Unfortunately, the introduction of nationwide powers of the Financial Administration brought to light the lack of personnel at the Prague Regional Police Directorate and at the Prague District Police Directorates, where most cases processed within this framework ended up since most of the investigated tax subjects were headquartered in Prague.

VAT Evasion

As of 1 August 2016, when the competencies of the CA were expanded to include detecting VAT evasion, customs authorities have identified a number of such cases. In 2017, these included so-called carousel fraud, acquisition fraud, fictitious invoicing, fraud with regards to rendering services, and fraud with regards to imports from third countries impacting the customs value and violating customs regulations.

The system of control reports, applied in practice by the Financial Administration in 2016, helped identify connections between people organising VAT evasion, and to a lesser degree income tax and excise duties evasion. Control reports contributed to a speedier (earlier) detection of tax evasion and resulted in reducing the final amount of evaded taxes and damages caused. Analyses show a reduction in tax evasions in the CR and their partial shift to other countries. There was also a clear reduction in the number of unjustifiably claimed deductions and a tactical shift of the perpetrators into the realm of unjustified deduction of VAT.

In response to the introduction of control reports, a new trend has been observed, consisting of declaring marginal business transactions and cross-invoicing fictitious fulfilments between persons obliged to submit control reports. Another trend in the area of VAT evasion included domestic companies becoming so-called “conduit companies” – sending goods purchased in one EU Member State to another EU Member State. Their tax liability thus remained minimal and they did not draw excessive deductions as the movements on their Czech bank accounts remained minimal due to the money being transferred through foreign accounts.

Illegal Market for Mineral Oils

In 2017, the CA detected 254 cases of suspected breach of customs and tax regulations with regards to mineral oils. The customs duties and tax evasions were estimated at CZK 23 million.

The CA recorded no significant changes in the modus operandi with regards to mineral oils in 2017.

The number of detected cases of tax evasion with regards to mineral oils has been gradually decreasing. The reasons for this can be traced to the implementation of effective legislative measures by tax administrators, including the setting of higher deposit limits for registered fuel distributors, which largely eliminated the number of tax evasion cases related to trade in mineral oils in the CR. On the contrary, the CR is now only a transit country for suspicious chain business transactions, through which mineral oils are transported from one EU Member State to another. Large-volume, cyclical supplies of rapeseed oil within a chain of Polish, Czech, and Bulgarian entities are one example. According to available data, the goods are not delivered to Bulgaria, but instead re-loaded in the CR and transported back to Poland. Thus, the VAT management system is being systematically circumvented via carousel deliveries of rapeseed oil for the production of rapeseed oil methyl esters (RMEs) in Poland.

So-called special mineral oils (lubricating, base, and others) are a long-term, Europe-wide problem. They are the object of highly sophisticated international organised crime, which uses fictitious bank transfers between suspicious entities that have no history, capital, etc. Ultimately, these so-called special mineral oils end up illegally at filling stations in various EU Member States without the appropriate taxes having been levied.

As in previous years, illegal transfers of so-called red diesel, which is fraudulently substituted for diesel fuel in the CR, were recorded regionally in 2017. This occurrence has traditionally been associated with the CR's border areas, most often in the north near the border with Germany.

Frauds with liquefied petroleum gases continued to occur. Here, depending on the purpose of the

end-use, excise duty rates were deliberately meddled with.

Illegal Market for Tobacco and Tobacco Products

In 2017, the CA detected 513 cases of suspected breach of customs and tax regulations with regards to tobacco and tobacco products. The customs duties and tax evasions were estimated at CZK 70 million.

2017 brought significant changes to the illegal market in tobacco and tobacco products in the CR.

The illegal import of counterfeit cigarettes from China and Vietnam via shipping containers continued to decline.

Illegal imports of original cigarettes from former Soviet Union countries, aiming to capitalise on the price difference between producer countries and consumer countries, remained steady.

There was a significant drop in the number of cigarette production facilities detected in the CR. This was mainly caused by the fact that the CA shifted its focus to VAT-related offences and away from offences related to excise duties.

In the past, the CR has become favoured by smugglers of tobacco, non-tobacco materials (adhesives, filters, cigarettes and filter paper, tinfoil and aluminium paper, box blanks and others) and machines for the alteration and production of cigarettes. So-called mailbox companies were founded, usually on the basis of power of attorney, with non-existent foreign natural or otherwise untraceable persons fronting as managers. Registry courts verified the establishment and existence of businesses based solely on submitted written documents. These companies engaged in the purchase of tobacco, non-tobacco materials, cigarette manufacturing equipment, or smoking tobacco in EU countries. They then sold these goods to cigarette producers. Detecting the business activities of these companies is very difficult and requires close international cooperation. In view of the considerable risks incurred by trafficking tobacco

and non-tobacco materials, a special working group was created within the Europol EMPACT 2.3 Operational Programme. A representative of the CA is a member of this working group.

Illegal Alcohol and Spirits Market

In 2017, the CA detected 638 cases of suspected breach of customs and tax regulations with regards to alcohol and spirits. The customs duties and tax evasions were estimated at CZK 32.7 million.

The risks in the field of alcohol tax administration following the so-called “methanol affair” have been largely eliminated through the adoption of new legislative measures, particularly the new Act No. 307/2013 Coll., on Compulsory Labelling of Alcohol, as amended. Its purpose was primarily to tighten conditions for alcohol labelling and extend the responsibility of alcohol labelling to alcohol distributors. The conditions for registration, such as reliability, no debts, a security deposit, and the obligation to equip the alcohol labelling area with a camera system have resulted in reducing the number of entities authorised to label alcohol, particularly exempting those that have in the past been evaluated by the CA as risky. Since the methanol affair (in autumn 2012) until the end of 2016, the number of investigated offences in this area has been declining. However, in 2017 (especially in the second half), a higher number of seizures of alcohol, especially contaminated by denaturants, was recorded. At the same time, new insight has been gained into the area of illegal handling of untaxed and unlabelled alcohol.

Since 2012, the risk of the occurrence of an as yet undetected batch of alcohol poisoned with methanol (approx. 2 000 l) or spirits made from it, remains. This in spite of the fact that no case of alcohol poisoning has been detected (two possible cases are currently being investigated). In 2017, there was an increased occurrence of seizures of raw, de-denaturised alcohol, as well as that of the sale of alcoholic beverages in consumer packages produced with it.

2.2.3 Violent Crime

As regards violent crime, 13 672 (-561, -3.9 %) offences were recorded in 2017, of which 9 783 (-367, -3.6 %) were cleared. The clearance rate rose slightly to 71.6 % (+0.3 %), with 11 201 (-505, -4.3 %) cases cleared.

146 (+10, +7.4 %) **murders** were committed in 2017. Of these, 138 (+11, +8.7 %) were cleared. The number of total cleared murders was 148 (+9, +6.5 %).

The motives remained similar to those of previous years. Most murders – 80 – were committed within relationships. These murders were motivated by revenge, hatred, jealousy, or financial and property disputes. The victims were often related to or otherwise close to the perpetrators. Most murders were spontaneous, with the perpetrators attacking with randomly found objects or objects carried on their person (kitchen knives, axes, poles, etc.). In this context, it is worrying that a large number of brutal murders were committed against the elderly. 2017 continued to see a higher number of violent attacks against the elderly, the socially disadvantaged and the homeless.

The number of violent **thefts** dropped slightly in 2017 as compared to 2016. In 2017, 1 564 (-66, -4 %) thefts were committed, of which 1 003 (+10, +1 %) were cleared. The number of total cleared thefts reached 1 141 (-8, -0.7 %). There were 21 (+5, +31.3 %) thefts committed at financial establishments and their branches.

The perpetrators (usually individuals) targeted shops and other businesses (filling stations, supermarkets, gambling parlours and goldsmiths). They usually tried to speak as little as possible, and were nervous and tense. They attempted to surprise, to force the staff to cooperate, and to act quickly and discreetly. Their attempts at obtaining cash through violence was usually fuelled by financial strife or debt.

There was an increase in violent crime perpetrated by foreigners (murders, thefts), related to the import of workers from abroad and the creation of illegal living quarters for foreigners.

Violent crime also included cases of **arson** where the damages exceeded CZK 10 million. In 2017, 28 (-3) cases were investigated, of which 21 (+3) were cleared; 7 (-6) cases are still under investigation. Fires caused by technical issues – 8 (-2) cases cleared to date – contributed significantly to the total number of arsons. The death toll dropped to 87 (-32).

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence was investigated primarily by officers of the Public Order Police Service, who had to be specially trained. The Public Order Police Service Directorate of the Police Presidium of the CR, in cooperation with White Ring of Safety, provided lecturers who trained officers from the Public Order Police Service, who in turn cooperated closely with workers from the Association of Intervention Centres.

In 2017, 1 186 (-50) persons were evicted as a result of committing domestic violence, of which 1 140 (-54) were men and 46 (+4) were women.

Measures

** The MoI is involved in implementing the **Action Plan on the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence for the Years 2015-2018**, approved by Government Resolution No. 126 of 23 February 2015, by fulfilling specific tasks in the area of legislation, police training, assistance to persons at risk of domestic violence, etc.*

** On 1 July 2017, Act No. 250/2016 Coll., on Liability for Misdemeanours and Related Proceedings, entered into force, extending the list of restrictive measures that may be imposed for the commission of a misdemeanour along with an administrative penalty. **It includes a new obligation to undergo an appropriate anger-management programme** lasting at most one year. This obligation may be imposed on perpetrators of domestic violence.*

** In 2017, the Supreme Public Prosecutor organised a series of expert seminars for specialised public prosecutors and police officers on the topic of domestic violence. It has been argued that repeated interrogations of victims of domestic violence should be considered a typical example of secondary victimisation, and that such a procedure by law enforcement authorities*

should be considered unlawful (with regards to Sec. 17 – 22, but particularly Sec. 18 (1) and Sec. 20 (3) of the Act on Victims of Crime). Furthermore, attention was given to the question of the applicability of evidence obtained as an urgent or unrepeatable act under Sec. 158 (a) of

the Criminal Procedure Code in proceedings before the court, in the context of the right of the accused to a contradictory interrogation of a witness and related jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.

2.2.4 Vice Crime

In 2017, 2 363 (+122, +5.4 %) vice offences were committed, of which 1 607 (+55, +3.5 %) were cleared. The number of total cleared offences reached 1 846 (+50, +2.8 %). The clearance rate dropped to 68 % (-1.3 %). Sexual abuse was most frequent – 669 (+50, +8.1 %) offences, followed by rape – 598 (-51, -7.9 %), other vice offences – 489 (+129, +35.8 %) and other sexual deviations – 278 (-64, -18.7 %).

Vice crime increased slightly as compared to 2016. There has been a noticeable increase in the

number of vice offences committed on social media, where it was relatively common to send nude photos or to undress in front of a webcam for the purpose of acquaintance or obtaining (most often financial) benefits. In view of the abovementioned increase, there has also been a rise in the amount of data secured on electronic equipment. In 2017, in cooperation with Europol, several preventative videos illustrating vice crime and warning against it were created and disseminated.

2.2.5 Corruption

The occurrence of corruption in the CR continues to be considered an important and lasting problem. Just as in 2016, in 2017 so-called high corruption was linked to public procurement, specifically construction contracts and the purchase of medical equipment. In the area of public administration, corruption and organised crime linked to it was prevalent in influencing external service contracts for state authorities. External consulting was also associated with obtaining EU subsidies, which was the cause of an artificial increase in project costs. It has become common practice to hire a private enterprise to organise training of civil servants by other civil servants.

The interconnection of representatives of municipalities with the business environment, politicisation, and lobbying constitute other corruption risks with regards to public administration. Corruption is also influencing the judiciary, sports, and healthcare (the purchase of equipment and services), although it is very latent in these areas.

Government Anti-Corruption Policy

The government's anti-corruption policy is the responsibility of the Minister for Human Rights, equal opportunities, and legislation, who also chairs the Government Council for the Coordination of the Fight against Corruption (Government Council), a government advisory body. Following the appointment of a new government on 13 December 2017 the Minister of Justice was tasked with coordinating the fight against corruption at the governmental level. Within the Government Council, 6 working committees have been set up: conceptual, for efficient management of state property, for transparent state administration, for conflicts of interest, for whistleblowing, and for lobbying.

The government discussed the Background for the Creation of a Strategic Anti-Corruption Document of the CR for the Period Following 2017, which represents the analytical basis for a future anti-corruption strategy. The government also approved the updated Internal Ministerial Anti-Corruption Framework Programme, which stemmed from the monitoring and recommendations of some ministries. The government also took note of the Analysis of the

Contribution of Gaming to Possible Risks of Corruption in Public Administration and Proposed Measures.

Furthermore, a draft of the Act on Lobbying and the Action Plan to Combat Corruption in 2018 were submitted to the government.

It has not been possible to finalise the legislative process regarding some laws that are important to combating corruption; e.g. the new Act on Public Prosecutors, an amendment of the Act on the Supreme Audit Office (i.e. an amendment to the Constitution), and the Act on the Protection of Whistle-Blowers. A detailed assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan to Combat Corruption in 2017 will be submitted to the government by the end of March 2018.

International Cooperation

The **Open Governance Partnership** (OGP) is an international initiative of the US administration promoting openness, transparency, and the fight against corruption. The aim is to promote fiscal transparency, raise civic engagement, fight corruption, and transform institutions to become more open, efficient, and accountable through specific government commitments. The on-going self-assessment report of the CR's OGP Action Plan 2016–2018 was approved by the government on 11 October 2017. Most commitments are being implemented continuously (i.e. the implementation of the Act on Civil Service or the publication of data sets). As regards the commitment to support volunteering, further steps and measures will depend on the conclusions of comparative analyses and on the forthcoming Strategy for the Development of Volunteering in the CR. The overall assessment of the CR's OGP Action Plan 2016–2018 will be included in the Final Self-Assessment Report, due in 2018.

The main aim of the **Group of States against Corruption** (GRECO) is to monitor the implementation of the Council of Europe's individual anti-corruption measures, in particular the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and its Civil Law Convention on Corruption. In 2017, the CR submitted its progress report for the Third Round of GRECO Evaluations, which will be discussed by GRECO in the following year. Some obligations are still pending from the

Fourth Round of GRECO Evaluations concerning preventing corruption with regards to Members of Parliament, judges, and public prosecutors, particularly in the area of legislation. In November 2017, an international conference was organised by the Ministry of Justice, which marked a significant shift towards the fulfilment of GRECO standards. At the conference, the Minister of Justice signed an Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption.

Financial Support of Anti-Corruption Projects

Every year, the MoI announces the "Prevention of Corruption" grant programme, which supports projects of NGOs engaged in providing free legal anti-corruption advice to the public, informing the public about the nature, risks, and manifestations of corruption, and strengthening public rejection of corruption. In 2017, 7 NGOs were granted a total of CZK 3.5 million.

Pursuant to the number and quality of submitted projects, there was a need to increase the total funds in 2018 to CZK 4 million. 7 NGOs asked for support in 2018.

Measures

** Since 2015, the government anti-corruption policy has been implemented on the basis of the Government Strategy to Combat Corruption 2015–2017 and yearly Action Plans to Combat Corruption. The government anti-corruption policy in the area of public administration has 4 priority areas:*

1. An efficient and independent executive branch;
2. Transparency and open access to information;
3. Economic management of state property;
4. Development of civil society.

** In 2017, Act No. 150/2017 Coll., on Foreign Service, and on the Amendment of Some Acts (Act on Foreign Service) was adopted. In addition, Act No. 14/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 159/2006 Coll., on Conflict of Interests, as amended, was adopted and entered into force on 1 September 2017, introducing a Central Registry of Notifications at the Ministry of Justice.*

** Pursuant to Act No. 340/2015 Coll., on Special Conditions for the Effectiveness of Certain Contracts, their Publication, and on the Contracts Register (Act on the Contracts Register), the MoI*

became the administrator of the Contracts Register information system. The Action Plan to Combat Corruption 2016 tasked the MoI with creating a Contracts Register for the purpose of publishing contracts under Sec. 2 (1) of the Act on the Contracts Register. The register significantly improved the transparency of the handling of public finances by the state administration. All state and public institutions, local authorities, state-owned enterprises, legal entities where the state or a local authority holds majority ownership are obliged, as of 1 July 2016, to publish concluded contracts that exceed CZK 50 000 without VAT in the register. As of 1 July 2017, publication in the register is a condition for the effectiveness of these contracts. A free tool has thus been made available to taxpayers for the control of all government spending above CZK 50 000. The system has been active since 1 July 2016, with 213 245 contracts having been published in 2016 and 760 152 in 2017.

* The government approved the signing of the Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption (Strasbourg, 15 May 2003) by Government Resolution No. 594 of 21 August 2017. The Additional Protocol was signed on 9 November 2017. Its aim is to **complement the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption**, in which the contracting parties undertake to criminalise active and passive corruption of officials, foreign and international officials, members of national and supranational parliaments and national or

international judges by criminalising corruption also in relation to arbitration proceedings and jurors.

* The Ministry of Justice drafted a proposal to amend Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, as amended, and some other acts, which is currently undergoing approval. One of the aims of the amendment is to fulfil international and European obligations, e.g. article 23 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (No. 75/2013 Coll., on International Agreements), which demands that the contracting parties, inter alia, **criminalise the promise, offer, or procurement of an unjustified advantage with the aim of inducing false witness evidence or interfering with witness evidence or the submission of evidence in the course of proceedings in connection with the commission of criminal offences**. At present, these acts are punishable only when they are committed while organising or encouraging the offence of giving false witness evidence and false expert opinion under Sec. 346 of the Criminal Code. The criminal liability of the organiser or encourager is derived on the basis of the principle of accessory participation from the liability of the main perpetrator, i.e. the witness or expert, who must at least attempt to commit the offence. If the main perpetrator does not make an attempt, the act committed by the organiser or encourager cannot be punished. It is for this reason that a special offence punishing such acts separately is being introduced.

2.2.6 Illegal Migration

The overall situation remained stable. A certain fluctuation could be observed during the so-called migration crisis in 2015, when the CR was more extensively used to transit to other European countries, however due to the overall drop in the migration flow into the EU and measures adopted at the national level the situation again returned to levels predating the crisis. In 2016 and 2017 the CR thus only served, to a limited extent, as a transit point for illegal migration to other EU countries.

In 2017, 4 738 (-523, -9.9 %) illegal migrants were apprehended in the CR. Of these, 4 488 (i.e. 94.7 %) were detected while illegally residing

in the CR and 250 (i.e. 5.3 %) while illegally migrating into the CR across the external Schengen border.

In 2017, 4 488 (-551, -10.9 %) illegal residents were apprehended in the CR. Most were detected in Prague, the Ústecký, and Jihomoravský regions.

As regards the nationality of illegal migrants, those from third countries prevailed (4 359 persons, i.e. 97.1 %) over EU residents. Most were Ukrainian nationals (1 510 persons, i.e. 33.6 %), followed by those of Russia (312 persons, i.e. 7 %), and Vietnam (291, i.e. 6.5 %). The numbers of illegally transiting migrants from Afghanistan and Syria were very low.

In 2017, 250 (+28, +12.6 %) persons migrating illegally across the external Schengen border into the CR were apprehended. Due to Václav Havel Airport being the biggest and busiest in the country, most cases were reported from the Alien Police Inspectorate there (246 persons), with the other airports reporting very low numbers. The prevalent nationality was Albanian (42 persons, i.e. 16.8 %), which also showed the highest annual increase – by 28 persons (i.e. +200 %). These people were mostly apprehended at border checks when they tried to travel using irregular travel documents. They were followed by refugees under the Convention of 1951 (35 persons, i.e. 14 %), who were mostly arriving from the UK without valid visas. The third place belonged to nationals of Russia (21 persons, i.e. 8.4 %).

In 2017, customs officers apprehended 3 illegal migrants in the course of performing their duties.

Measures

** In 2017, two regular sessions (the 41st and 42nd) of the Inter-ministerial Body for Combating the Illegal Employment of Foreigners, which is managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, were held. Information was provided during these meetings on control activities of member institutions and the European Platform for Undeclared Work.*

** The CA took part in an inter-ministerial training programme called SEKTOR POLSKO (“Sector Poland”), which focused on practicing joint procedures among selected security authorities in the event of a reintroduction of state border controls with neighbouring countries within the Schengen Area under Art. 23–31 of the Schengen Borders Code. Such procedures would be implemented at the national borders following a decision by the Czech government on the reintroduction of national border controls in response to a serious threat to national security.*

** In 2017, the PCR dispatched 395 officers (56 more than in 2016) to protect the state borders of countries hit by the migration wave. Czech police officers guarded the borders of Macedonia and Serbia in cooperation with their counterparts from other countries. Their task was to directly guard the borders against illegal crossings and to be deployed within the respective countries for the*

purpose of searching for and detaining illegal migrants, and overseeing public order. Almost 400 police officers thus gained practical experience with tackling illegal migration, which will be useful in the event of an influx of migrants to the CR. The exercise was very successful and will continue in 2018.

** In the course of 2017, 8 Copernicus mobile inspection systems were purchased for the Alien Police Inspectorate at Václav Havel Airport in Prague. These mobile machines will be used to carry out personal checks, including biometric checks in the field, especially at airports where Alien Police Inspectorates are not deployed and in transit areas, or during so-called gate checks at exits from aircrafts.*

** Within the new National Schengen Plan 2014–2020, a project was approved for the purchase of 15 mobile laboratories for checking documents (so-called Schengenbuses, i.e. smaller mobile laboratories enabling the efficient checking of document authenticity and validity in the field). All 15 vehicles were purchased before the end of 2017.*

** Officers from the National Centre against Organised Crime have, in cooperation with EUROPOL, taken part in activities within the EMPACT project focusing on illegal migration/human smuggling. Within the Policy Cycle 2014–2017, National Centre against Organised Crime officers took part in strategic and operative meetings within the Illegal Migration priority, carried out relevant tasks, and helped organise the Joint Action Days – activities addressing illegal migration, smuggling groups, smuggling, and forging documents in connection with illegal migration.*

** Alongside police officers from Germany and Austria, National Centre against Organised Crime officers tackling illegal migration are the founding members of the EUROCONTAINER project (addressing the transport of illegal migrants by all means where the health and lives of migrants are at immediate risk), which is being implemented within the EMPACT project on illegal migration. In the course of carrying out tasks for this project, smuggling groups are identified and information is obtained leading to the initiation of criminal proceedings by police authorities in the affected countries.*

** On 18–20 May 2017, an international conference was held in Prague within the Financing of the Implementation of the EU Policy Cycle 2016–2017 Priorities project. The conference, which was attended by representatives from Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Serbia, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Croatia) focused on Current Trends and Possibilities with Regards to the Efficient Prosecution of Organised Criminal Smuggling Groups. The goal of the conference, focusing on illegal migration/smuggling committed by international organised criminal groups operating in the CR and in other European countries, including source and destination countries, was to respond to the trend in illegal migration where third country migrants travel uncontrolled to European countries along the so-called Balkan route.*

ICSP Research on the Involvement of Organised Crime Groups in Illegal Migration in the CR

In 2016 and 2017, the ICSP dealt with, inter alia, the involvement of organised crime groups in illegal migration to the CR. The conclusions are as follows:

Unlike in the 1990s, the CR no longer lies on the main migration routes. These routes are constant, even though they may change slightly depending on the situation and adopted countermeasures. Refugees from Islamic countries travelling through Central Europe usually journey across Turkey, Greece, the Balkans, and Hungary; for the very small number of those who choose to travel through it, the CR is a transit country.

Migration from North and Sub-Saharan Africa has not yet affected Czech territory.

Significant migration from Ukraine is different: after more than 15 years, the CR is a destination country for labour migrants, who leave their home country mostly for economic, but lately also for security reasons. The problem in relation to Ukrainian labour migrants – apart from the fact that they are sometimes inadequately remunerated by Czech employers without being able to effectively defend themselves – is that they often fall victim to their compatriots. These act as job intermediaries, and exercise almost total control over their victims and benefit from their labour. The migrants are fully dependent on

these middlemen, receiving only a fraction of the salary they would be receiving under normal circumstances, and are forced to buy further goods from them.

According to INTERPOL and the PCR, there were no stable international human smuggling networks organising the transit of migrants in the CR; only singular cases were detected. Nevertheless, the involvement of organised crime groups in illegal migration remains unquestionable – according to EUROPOL reports, more than 90 % of migrants arriving in the EU are assisted, usually by members of criminal networks.

According to the findings of EUROPOL, human smugglers are organised in loosely interconnected networks along the main migration routes, especially in Turkey, Greece, and the home countries of migrants and refugees; their activities may already begin in refugee camps.

The organised transport of illegal migrants detected in the CR usually involved cars, vans, and trucks. Migrants from Asia combined train, bus, and car travel, sometimes walking part of the way.

Special smuggling cells or groups covering the section of the route leading through Czech territory were no longer established as they used to be in the 1990s; the organisers and their accomplices were usually from the same countries as the migrants, and families already settled in the destination countries played a strong supportive role.

Czech citizens were usually hired as drivers or providers of forged documents; Czech drivers worked for the organisers in the CR as well as in other countries. As regards offences related to organising and facilitating the illegal crossing of national borders under Sec. 340 of the Criminal Code, there has been no dramatic rise in the number of persons against whom criminal proceedings were initiated.

For organisers of illegal migration, the current migration wave is a very lucrative business: migrants usually pay for every leg of the journey separately and the total sum is estimated at dozens of thousands of euros.

The use of forged documents and abuse of asylum applications (for the sole purpose of prolonging

one's stay in the CR before continuing to the destination country) have increased, and some cases of intentional marriage have been detected.

Thus, the illegal migration phenomenon has not yet fully materialised in the CR, although this cannot be ruled out in the future.

Readmission Policy

At present, the CR has 16 bilateral readmission agreements, i.e. agreements on the return of persons illegally residing in the country (with Austria, Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Canada, Croatia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Moldova, Vietnam, Switzerland, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kosovo). Apart from these agreements, the CR is also bound by readmission agreements negotiated by the EU; there are 17 such agreements (with Hong Kong, Macao, Sri Lanka, Albania, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Pakistan, Georgia, Turkey, Cape Verde, Armenia, and Azerbaijan). The CR negotiated implementation protocols to some of these agreements, regulating technical details of the readmission procedure.

The Czech government approved a proposal for a readmission agreement with Mongolia, which is ready to be signed, along with a readmission agreement with Uzbekistan. (The signing can take place whenever the other parties are ready.)

In the second half of 2017, the CR submitted draft implementing protocols to EU readmission agreements with Armenia and Macedonia. The CR's priority was to negotiate a readmission protocol to the EU's readmission agreement with Turkey. However, there were no activities on Turkey's part in 2017 (the Czech draft was submitted in 2016).

In the course of 2017, the MoI worked on a sample text of a ministerial return agreement which could be proposed to selected third countries when negotiating visa facilitation/liberalisation, or when negotiating return agreements with countries where a standard readmission agreement would not be realistic. The first proposal of this kind was the draft ministerial return agreement with India, which was submitted in the second half of 2017.

In 2017, the European Commission drafted Standard Operating Procedures and Best Practices on the return of illegal migrants from the EU, which were submitted to some third countries (Bangladesh, Guinea, Ethiopia, and Gambia). The Commission met with Chinese representatives on 1 December 2017 in order to revive negotiations on a readmission agreement. The agreement will be broad, encompassing the fight against illegal migration (China's initiative), but it should also include readmission provisions. The Commission also met with Belarussian representatives on 20 June 2017 – with no progress as yet.

The MoI took part in organising joint readmission committee meetings, which are held regularly with contracting states. In 2017, meetings were held with the following countries: Sri Lanka (19 January, Colombo), Pakistan (28. February and 8 September, Brussels), Georgia (21 March, Tbilisi), Afghanistan (27 March and 21 November, Brussels), Montenegro (29 March, Podgorica), ACP countries – Coton agreement (31 May, Brussels), Bosnia and Herzegovina (29 June, Sarajevo), Azerbaijan (5 July, Baku), Ukraine (22 September, Kyiv), Albania (26 September, Tirana), Serbia (3 October, Brussels), Russia (4 October, Brussels), Moldova (6 October, Brussels), Macedonia (9 October, Skopje), Cape Verde (27 November, Praia), Bangladesh (14 December, Brussels). A representative of the MoI was only present at one meeting with Afghanistan (in March) and the meeting with Bangladesh.

Migration Policy

In 2017, state administration authorities continued to implement the measures set out in the Migration Policy Strategy, adopted by Government Resolution no. 621 of 29 July 2015. The measures concerned the integration of foreigners, illegal migration and return policy, international protection, the external dimension of migration including humanitarian assistance, free movement of persons within the Schengen Area, legal migration, and CR's international commitments. The Coordination Body for the Management of National Border Protection oversees the implementation of the Strategy. This permanent inter-ministerial body, managed by the MoI, meets at the level of ministers and deputy ministers of all relevant ministries. Its expert agenda is managed by the Analytical

Centre for National Border Protection and Migration.

Integration of Foreigners

The MoI is tasked with coordinating policies relating to integration of foreigners in the CR, although individual ministries are responsible for its implementation within the framework of their agendas. In 2017, specific integration measures were implemented, defined by Government Resolution on the Steps to Implement the Updated Strategy on Integration of Foreigners – Mutual Respect 2017. Increased attention was given to integrating the most vulnerable group of foreigners in an already vulnerable position, particularly women, children, and the elderly. Individual integration measures therefore took account of their specific needs.

Regional Centres for the Support of Integration, which are active in 13 of the 14 regions of the CR, are an important instrument for the integration of foreigners. They provide a wide range of services to foreigners as well as the public administration. The centres are predominantly financed by the EU's Asylum and Migration Integration Fund (AMIF). Given that the Strategy requires the continuous development and sustainability of the centres, which cannot be guaranteed by EU funding, the MoI proposed anchoring the centres in law via an amendment to the Act on Residence of Foreigners.

The MoI continued to support projects of individual municipalities and city districts aimed at supporting the integration of foreigners via grants from the state budget. The main objective was to help municipalities create and implement their own integration strategies. In 2017, 15 municipalities and city districts implemented such projects. The number remained the same as in 2016, although some grant recipients have changed. In 2017, the projects were given CZK 13.9 million (CZK 1.3 million more than in 2016). The projects helped, inter alia, to mobilise municipalities to support the integration of foreigners residing on their territory, to address local issues with integration of foreigners and to improve relations between foreigners and the majority population in the given area. They have also proved useful in preventing the potential rise and in mitigating tensions between foreigners and other inhabitants in the area. In September 2017,

the 9th National Conference on the Role of Regional Administrations in the Integration of Foreigners was organised by the Prague 3 district, under the auspices of the Minister of the Interior.

The MoI also introduced the "Integration of Foreigners 2017" grant, through which it financed NGO projects in the given field. It supported 23 projects with CZK 20.06 million.

Following measures from previous years, emphasis was placed on raising awareness of both foreigners and the majority population. For this purpose, several internet pages dealing with integration issues were maintained and updated. At www.cizinci.cz, managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in cooperation with the MoI, current and comprehensive information is available on the integration of foreigners, on the possibility of financing projects supporting the integration of foreigners, including informative publications in several languages. Up-to-date information for foreigners, particularly on issues relating to acquiring a residency permit in the CR, can be found in English on the official internet pages of the MoI www.mvcr.cz/cizinci. In 2017, the Prague Town Hall launched www.metropolevsech.eu, containing some useful information for foreigners living in Prague. Foreigners may also contact the MoI with requests for information on integration via email or telephone.

In 2017, the three-tier system for informing foreigners was updated (distribution of information prior to departure in the country of origin, introduction to conditions for acquiring residency in the CR, one-day adaptation and integration courses for newcomers and socio-cultural orientation courses for foreigners with long-term or permanent residency permits). In 2017, the adaptation and integration courses were translated into more languages (Mongolian, Arabic).

As regards international cooperation, MoI employees took part in the European Integration Network, a working group of the European Commission which continued the activities of the National Contact Points for Integration.

In December 2017, the MoI submitted a proposal to the government on the Steps to Implement the Updated Strategy on Integration of Foreigners –

Mutual Respect 2018, which was approved by Government Resolution no. 10/2018.

On 16 January 2017, the government approved, via Government Resolution No. 36, an amendment to Government Resolution No. 54 of 20 November 2015, on the Government Integration Programme for Persons Granted International Protection in 2016 and the Following Years. The continued aim of the programme is to facilitate the integration process for persons granted international protection in the CR, primarily in the area of learning Czech, entering the labour market, having access to housing, education of children, and retraining. The amendment updated the Government Integration Programme to better respond to the needs of the integration process.

Government Resolution no. 36 of 16 January 2017 stipulates that the minister of the interior shall ensure the function of a general provider of integration services in 2017 and in the following years. This amendment was necessary as a result of the fact that no one bid for the 2017 tender for a general provider of integration services. Therefore, in 2017 the Minister of the Interior secured the function of general provider of integration services through the Refugee Facilities Administration of the MoI, which also provides, inter alia, integration and asylum facilities.

In 2017, the Refugee Facilities Administration, in cooperation with its partners, drafted 104 new individual integration plans for 180 persons under international protection and updated 78 plans drafted in 2016. International protection was granted to 147 persons, most of whom were nationals of Syria, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Iraq.

As per the government resolution, the Integration Assistance Programme for Persons Granted International Protection, who have entered the programme before the end of 2015, will continue until the end of 2018. This concerns 157 persons, most of whom are nationals of Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Syria.

In autumn 2017, the MoI, in cooperation with the ICSP, carried out a survey to find out the attitudes of citizens regarding migration flows in Europe. The survey found that, as regards accepting refugees, Czechs are divided into three comparably large groups – 29 % would provide

refugees with temporary shelter, 31 % would provide help in the country of origin, but would not provide shelter in the receiving country, and the remaining third would be against any kind of help to refugees coming into Europe from conflict-ridden countries. The view that the state should grant shelter in the country of origin and allow refugees to settle in the CR permanently was supported by an absolute minority of those surveyed, approximately 7 %. The ICSP believes that these findings illustrate a certain radicalisation of attitudes and opinions in Czech society.

Internet Registration of Applicants for Residence Permits

Following the decisions of the Supreme Administrative Court No. 7Azs 227/2016 and 10Azs 153/2016, and in connection with the expiration of the contract concluded with the service provider for the VISAPPOINT registration system, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to terminate the VISAPPOINT registration system used for submitting applications for short-term and long-term visas and residency permits as of 31 October 2017.

As of 1 December 2017, the registration takes place via telephone or email at Czech Embassies abroad.

Biometrics in the Visa Process – Visa Information System (VIS)

Following the completion of the almost five-year process of connecting all embassies representing Schengen member states, including the CR, to the VIS, all border crossings at the external Schengen border were also connected to the VIS as of 28 February 2016. All applications for a Schengen visa received by Czech authorities continue to be recorded in the VIS, including biometric data, as well as information about issued visas, reasons for non-issuance, cancellation, or invalidation of visas. The VIS data are used to identify and search an applicant's visa history and to verify the authenticity of an issued visa. Fingerprints serve to identify persons at border crossings even within the Schengen Area.

Smart Borders

The EU has been working on the concept of Smart Borders since 2013. The aim of the project is to

modernise external border management and strengthen internal security of the Schengen Area. An Entry/Exit System, i.e. registration of the entry and exit of third-country nationals to/from the Schengen Area, will also be a part of the project.

In the course of 2017, meetings were held to launch a system that would ensure the simple collection and consequent electronic distribution of data on the entry and exit to and from the Schengen Area by third-country nationals subject to visa requirements based on a unified Schengen visa. This information would be used by EU Member State bodies involved in the visa process and control of persons moving across both the external and internal Schengen borders. The system is expected to start running in 2020.

At the same time, the EU worked on developing the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), which should collect information on visa-free foreigners before their travel and ensure their security screening before departure. In practice, the system is an analogy of the US Electronic System for Travel Authorisation.

Illegal Employment of Foreigners

As per the data in the Alien Information System, there was a significant increase in the number of final administrative expulsion decisions issued for employing foreigners without a residence or work permit. (For the first time surpassing the number of decisions issued for so-called illegal migration.) 3 111 foreigners (60.8 % of the 5 119 persons who were issued a decision) were issued a decision for illegal labour, accounting for an annual increase by 1 648 persons (+112.6 %). Most were nationals of Ukraine (2 605, +1 398, +115.8 %) and Moldova (463, +268, +137.4 %).

In 2017, customs authorities launched 513 inspections and completed 438, detecting regulation violations in 278 cases. Customs officers inspected 1 288 third-country nationals, of which 482 were found to be suspected of illegal labour, of which 120 had no residency permit. Furthermore, customs officials inspected 964 EU nationals to verify compliance with reporting obligations by employers. These were not met for both groups of foreigners in 705 cases.

Inspections by the State Labour Inspectorate focused on detecting and combating illegal labour

of Czech citizens and foreign nationals in accordance with the Annual Inspections Programme. In 2017, the State Labour Inspectorate carried out 9 708 inspections aimed at detecting illegal employment. 2 717 illegally employed persons were apprehended, of which 767 were Czechs, 1 716 were third-country nationals (most often from Ukraine, Moldova, and Vietnam), and 234 were EU nationals (most often from Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania).

In 2017, the State Labour Inspectorate issued 429 fines amounting to CZK 80 701 000 for the misdemeanour of allowing illegal labour. Of those, 226 fines were issued for the misdemeanour of allowing illegal labour of foreigners, amounting to CZK 63 669 000.

Natural persons were issued 3 fines amounting 9 000 CZK for the misdemeanour of illegal labour, of which 1 fine amounting to CZK 5 000 was issued to a foreigner.

Based on inspections completed in 2017, the State Labour Inspectorate issued 64 fines amounting to CZK 34 917 000 for the misdemeanour of allowing illegal labour of foreigners.

No natural persons, foreigners, were issued fines for the misdemeanour of illegal labour in 2017 on the basis of inspections completed in 2017.

Measures

** In 2017, in accordance with the task entrusted to the Minister of the Interior by Government Resolution No. 388 of 22 May 2017 and based on Memorandums of Cooperation between the Mol and the Plzeňský and Královéhradecký regions, a working group was set up to address the issue of security in industrial zones in the Plzeňský and Královéhradecký regions, in connection with the employment of foreigners. The aim of the working group was to exchange information, cooperate on measures and prevention programmes, consult and propose legislative changes in connection with the employment of foreigners, etc.*

Security Aspects of Employing Foreigners

The Mol started tackling the security aspects of employing foreigners at the beginning of 2017, particularly in connection with deteriorating security in **industrial zones in the**

Královéhradecký (Kvasiny, Solnice, Rychnov nad Kněžnou) **and the Plzeňský** (Plzeň, Tachovsko) **regions**. These areas have seen an increase in illegal activity, particularly misdemeanours committed by foreigners (against public order, civic coexistence, and property), conflicts in civic coexistence with local inhabitants, and misdemeanours relating to road traffic safety, prostitution, and drugs. Alongside security issues, areas with a higher number of employed foreigners are also struggling with major infrastructure problems (housing, transport, healthcare, education, waste management, leisure, human resources).

In Kvasiny, which is currently most seriously affected by the high concentration of foreigners – employees – the percentage of foreigners committing offences and misdemeanours is much higher, almost double, than the national average (18 % as opposed to 9.8 % for offences and 25 % as opposed to 12.5 % for misdemeanours recorded by the PCR). However, this corresponds to the higher number of foreigners in this area. **As compared to 2016, there was an increase in the number of offences and misdemeanours in Kvasiny in 2017** (particularly in the area of road traffic safety) and the proportion of foreigners among perpetrators has also grown (this corresponds to the increase in the number of foreigners in the area). **In the Plzeňský region, the situation has been stabilised and the number of offences and misdemeanours is decreasing.**

As a result of a massive deployment of police patrols in the second half of 2017, both regions saw a significant improvement in security and public order, which was confirmed by local authorities.

As regards security, the lack of police officers remains a problem, amplified by the difficulty of enforcing the law against foreigners (in spite of implemented measures), both in the area of misdemeanours and expulsion from the CR.

Due to the scarce housing in industrial zones and their surroundings, it is unfortunately likely that if the numbers of foreign labourers keep rising, public order and security incidents will continue to occur in other areas.

Measures

** Based on Government Resolution No. 162/2017, a number of measures were adopted aiming to restore security and public order in the affected areas. The government also adopted Government Resolution No. 469/2017 on Ensuring Investment Preparedness for Expanding the Strategic Industrial Zone in Solnice-Kvasiny and Improving Public Infrastructure in the Královéhradecký Region.*

** The Mol (including the PCR) was tasked with increasing the number of police officers and establishing a grant programme for Kvasiny (see chapter 3.4.5 Specific Crime Prevention Projects), as well as with implementing the Memorandums of Cooperation with the regions, discussing the proposals of local authorities etc. Everything was implemented, and the Mol took part in stabilising security in the affected areas. Local authorities implemented a number of measures for their own part. Companies employing foreigners also took part. The establishment of a Coordination Centre for Foreigners in Kvasiny was an important measure implemented by the Mol.*

** Based on Memorandums of Cooperation between the Mol and the Královéhradecký and Plzeňský regions, security in the affected areas was regularly monitored.*

** An expert working group was set up to address proposals from the affected regions for improving (not only) security.*

Specific Aspects of Economic Migration

Projects related to economic migration that were initiated in previous years continued to be implemented in 2017. These projects included:

1. **Fast Track**, defining the rules and deadlines for an accelerated transfer of intra-corporate employees of foreign investors (managers and highly qualified workers).
2. **Welcome Package for Investors**, aimed at accelerating the migration process for employees and statutory organs of foreign investors in organisational units or capital linked companies in the CR, which are formally established but need to relocate the know-how of foreign investors into the CR.
3. **Training/Internships**, simplifying the procedure for companies (typically with

manufacturing facilities based abroad) wishing to move their foreign workers to the CR for a limited time period required for training.

4. **Pilot Project: Special Procedures for Highly Qualified Workers from Ukraine**, accelerating the administrative process of issuing work visas or so-called blue cards to highly qualified workers from Ukraine.
5. **Special Treatment of Qualified Workers from Ukraine**, accelerating the administrative process of issuing work cards to medium qualified workers from Ukraine.

The objective of these projects is to simplify the arrival of qualified workers from abroad and

support legal economic migration, as opposed to illegal economic migration. The projects were created and implemented within the inter-ministerial cooperation of the MoI, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

As of 15 August 2017, a new **long-term residency permit for the purpose of investing, the so-called “investor card”**, was introduced. The card entitles its holders to a 2-year residency provided they invest a minimum of CZK 75 million in the CR and create at least 20 new jobs. As of November 2017, the Welcome Package was expanded to include start-ups.

2.2.7 Organised Crime

Many criminal organisations and structures have been operating in the CR for a long time. At present, mainly Balkan, Russian-speaking, and Asian organised criminal groups (OCGs) in the CR are monitored, albeit other criminal structures display a strong ethnic or foreign-language element (Nigerian, Romanian, Bulgarian, etc.). In addition to strong foreign ties (which are typical for the vast majority of foreign-language criminal groups), Russian-speaking, Asian, and Balkan OCGs are characterised by diverse criminal portfolios, where even small criminal units rarely focus on one type of criminal activity. Another common element is a high level of penetration of the state and local administration through corruption, where foreign OCGs cross paths and occasionally cooperate with Czech OCGs.

As regards Balkan OCGs active in the CR, in 2017, the police recorded, monitored, and documented criminal activity in the area of property crime, violent crime, human trafficking and illegal migration, forging documents and currency, drug trafficking, and particularly economic crime involving the legalisation of proceeds from crime. Balkan OCGs are notorious for burglaries in luxury goldsmiths, which are committed by highly organised itinerant groups.

Of all the Balkan OCGs, those from Albania were identified as the biggest threat to CR's internal security in 2017. These groups have, in the past, gained influence over routes through which illegal

goods are smuggled into the CR. Today, these routes are also used for illegal migration.

In 2017, the activities of Russian-speaking OCGs in the CR and other EU member states were monitored. Given that the EU and US sanctions against Russia continued to be in effect in 2017, the effort of Russian-speaking OCGs with direct links to Russia to redirect funds into EU Member States also continued. In 2017, the activities of high-ranking criminal authorities of Russian-speaking OCGs, aimed at gaining control over the activities of Russian-speaking OCGs operating on Czech territory, were documented.

In 2017, Vietnamese OCGs focused on tax crime, drug trafficking (unauthorised production, trade, and distribution of drugs), and legalisation of proceeds from crime. The societal hazards of their activities lie in the fact that they seriously jeopardise the stability of the public budget through long-lasting and massive tax evasions. In addition to the aforementioned types of crime, there was a significant number of offences aimed at obtaining illegal residency, as well as extortion, forced debt recovery, and criminal activities related to the redistribution of influence among the dominant representatives of Vietnamese OCGs in the CR.

Another important area where Vietnamese OCGs were active in the CR in 2017 as well as in previous years was the production and distribution of drugs. This area is traditionally

much more dynamic within the Vietnamese community than tax crime. On the one hand, Vietnamese OCGs use state-of-the-art, often fully automated technologies for the synthetic production of drugs, which increase the yield as well as the level of criminal conspiracy; on the other hand, they simultaneously use cheap and hazardous methods that greatly increase the likelihood of explosions and fires and consequent threats to the public. In connection with the constant pressure to reduce the production costs of methamphetamine, Vietnamese OCGs switch to more readily available and cheaper raw materials. In 2017, there was a shift from purchasing precursors exclusively in Poland to purchasing them directly in Vietnam, where it is easier and much cheaper to procure these chemicals (usually medicines). In addition to the production of synthetic drugs, Vietnamese OCGs and individuals continued to show a glowing interest in the production of marijuana. This was due to the high profitability of producing and selling marijuana.

A significant increase was recorded in 2017 in criminal activities related to the illegal obtention of visas and residency permits for Vietnamese nationals, whose interest in economic migration to the CR and possibly other EU countries is growing.

Measures

** Apart from the usual measures carried out by state authorities in reaction to individual cases and new trends, tasks stemming from strategic documents touching upon organised crime were carried out in 2017. These documents included the Concept of Development of the PCR for 2020, the National Security Audit, and the Strategy to Combat Organised Crime 2015–2017.*

Since the last document mentioned will have reached its term at the end of 2017, the MoI, in close cooperation with other partners (the PCR, the Ministry of Justice, the General Customs Directorate, the General Financial Directorate, the FAU and the Ministry of the Environment) drafted a proposal for a new strategic document for 2018–2023. The document is expected to be approved by the government early in 2018. It will include an evaluation of the previous strategy and a detailed description of the current situation.

Once approved, the document will be made available to the public.

Organised Crime Research

Since 1993, the ICSP has been carrying out an annual expert survey as part of its research of organised crime. Experts from specialised units of the PCR and – since 2012 – the CA are questioned.

These are the outcomes of the 2017 research:

A hierarchical structure is one of the features of organised crime. However, in the CR, structured OCGs were almost never prevalent (with the exception of 2007, when they accounted for 54 %, and 2009, when they accounted for 57 % of all OCGs). In 2017, the ICSP recorded 36 % structured OCGs. Loosely organised OCGs were thus the norm.

Usually, about half of OCG members are collaborators from outside the OCG structure. In 2017, they accounted for one third of all members. They serve a variety of purposes; they are hired to render simple services, to partake in blackmail, organise logistics, participate in the founding of fictitious firms and bank accounts, to create false identities, to recruit third parties and so-called straw men, to provide consultation, legal services, to tunnel EU funds, act as intermediaries, deal with institutions, and maintain contacts abroad.

Women are also present in OCGs operating in the CR. Since 2000, women have been estimated to account for 11 % to 20 % of OCG members, with a drop to 12 % in 2017. There has been a significant shift in their focus. Whilst in the decade following 2000 they were mainly active in human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and facilitating illegal migration, ensuring organisational matters and management, and drug trafficking, more recently they have become to be used as bait in order to get victims to certain places, or to obtain information. They play an important role in creating the impression of legitimacy during fraudulent operations, such as obtaining money with the promise of generous returns. Women are sometimes used as so-called straw men, or accountants that cover up economic and tax crime in companies. They may be active in the statutory bodies of companies practicing corruption, and contribute to tax, credit, and insurance fraud, as well as money

laundering, counterfeiting, and misappropriation of EU funds. Women are increasingly providing financial, legal, notary and customs services, and organise crime on the internet. In some cases, women serve as capos of organised crime, and may manage an entire human trafficking operation; in other cases they are in the middle management, recruiting workers, etc.

The proportion of Czechs and foreigners in OCGs remains the same, in spite of minor fluctuations. In 2017, according to expert estimates, it was 48 % foreigners to 52 % Czechs.

In 2017, the most frequent nationalities represented in OCGs operating in the CR were those of Vietnam, Ukraine, Russia, and Albania. The second most popular nationalities were those of Serbia (on the rise since 2015), Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania. The third were those of Poland (whose numbers have dropped, although they remain 9th overall), China, and Nigeria. The fourth were those of Croatia, Turkey, Armenia (fewer than in 2016), Syria, and Chechnya. There were very few nationals of Bosnia, Iraq, Georgia (fewer than in 2016), Tunisia, Dagestan, Lithuania, Israel, Moldova, Algeria, Thailand, and Macedonia. As compared to 2016 the number of Germans involved in OCGs dropped and there were no Italians involved in OCGs at all.

The most widespread OCG activity in 2017 was the production, smuggling, and distribution of drugs. Activities related to economic crime were also frequent: money laundering, corruption, tax, credit, insurance, and currency fraud. Other popular activities included the illegal production and smuggling of alcohol and cigarettes and credit card fraud. In spite of a certain waning, vehicle theft, organised prostitution and human trafficking remained common. Misappropriation of EU funds was also among the ten most popular activities of OCGs. The founding of fictitious firms, which was very popular in 2016, dropped into the second group in 2017. This group included: abuse of computers for the purpose of criminal activity, crimes against ICTs, forging of documents, customs fraud, and running gambling operations, which increased as compared to 2016.

Experts taking part in the research pointed out some new activities that could gain momentum in the following years. These include fictitious marriages for the purpose of obtaining residency

permits, illegal trade in endangered fauna and wild flora, the illegal production and trafficking of counterfeit goods, and trafficking of pharmaceuticals. Criminal activity related to extremism and linked to the migration crisis may also prove to be a challenge.

Part of the ICSP's expertise is to track the activities of foreign OCGs in the CR. Drug crime was the object of almost twenty foreign OCGs, primarily Vietnamese, Serbian, Nigerian, Turkish, Bulgarian, and more recently also Slovak. Money laundering was the object of Russian, Vietnamese, Polish, Slovak, Ukrainian, and Albanian OCGs. Corruption was typical for Vietnamese, Russian, Turkish, and Slovak OCGs. Tax crimes were typical for Vietnamese, Russian, Polish, Slovak, Bulgarian, and Romanian OCGs, whilst credit fraud was mostly the domain of Russian OCGs. The production and trafficking in cigarettes and alcohol was mainly the object of Vietnamese, Ukrainian, Polish, and Slovak OCGs. Vehicle thefts were typical for Ukrainian, Polish, Slovak, Serbian, and Bulgarian OCGs. Prostitution, pimping, and human trafficking were typical for Albanian, Ukrainian, and Russian OCGs. Customs fraud was the domain of Vietnamese, Chinese, Turkish, and Ukrainian OCGs, whilst founding of fictitious firms was common for Russian OCGs. Credit card fraud was typical for Romanian, Bulgarian, and Albanian OCGs. Nigerian and Russian OCGs were active on the internet. Gambling operations were typical for Vietnamese OCGs. Illegal migration was the domain of Ukrainian, Albanian, and Vietnamese OCGs. Blackmailing and extortion were typical for Russian, Albanian, Ukrainian, and Armenian OCGs. Violent crime in general was the domain of Russian and Ukrainian OCGs. Arms trafficking was the domain of Ukrainian, Russian, Armenian, Albanian, Slovak, and Chechen OCGs. Human trafficking in general was typical for Vietnamese and Ukrainian OCGs, where Ukrainian OCGs focused on illegal employment.

2.2.7.1 Trafficking in Human Beings

There were no significant changes with regards to the modus operandi of trafficking in human beings (THB) in 2017 as compared to 2016. In the CR, THB mainly served the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation, or the purpose of profiting from such activities. Nevertheless, there were

also cases of coercion to crime, including some alarming cases of forced intentional marriages.

Criminal proceedings, operational findings, and international police cooperation in 2017 confirmed the increase of so-called intentional marriages. Women from socially and educationally disadvantaged environments in the CR were specifically sought out and lured abroad under the guise of entering into marriage, for the purpose of THB.

In cases where there was a suspicion of **THB being committed for the purpose of forced labour or other forms of exploitation**, the typical modus operandi was that of previous years. Moldova and Ukraine were the countries of origin of most victims of this type of crime in 2017.

The Inter-ministerial Coordination Group for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings continued its activities in 2017. The group is chaired by the Minister of the Interior, as the person responsible for coordinating activities in the field of THB at the national level.

At the EU level, the **informal group of national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms on trafficking in human beings** met twice in Brussels in 2017. The group discussed the role of the internet and social media in relation to THB, as well as questions relating to prevention, which should not focus solely on potential victims, but also on the perpetrators of THB. The importance of addressing the connection between THB and drug trafficking was stressed. Furthermore, a set of new priorities was presented, listing concrete measures aimed at strengthening ongoing activities in the fight against THB.

In 2017, tasks set out in the **National Strategy to Fight Trafficking in Human Beings 2016–2019** were implemented. For the following period, emphasis was placed on intensifying an offensive and coordinated approach of relevant state administration bodies as regards detection, thorough investigation, and assistance to victims, particularly with regards to THB for the purpose of labour exploitation and trafficking in children.

Measures

** As of 1 April 2017, a PCR liaison officer has been operating at the Czech Embassy in London. In cooperation with the Embassy's Consular Section, the liaison officer provides assistance to*

possible victims of THB within the framework of voluntary returns to the CR, carries out initial questioning of these persons, informs police officers of concrete suspicions, and ensures communication with British counterparts during the consequent criminal investigations.

** In 2017, the MoI continued to implement the **Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings** – see the chapter on Crime Prevention for details.*

** Steps have been completed towards the ratification of the **Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**. The added value of the Convention is above all a clear declaration that THB constitutes a violation of human rights, an interference with human dignity and integrity, and that victims of THB need a higher degree of protection. The Convention covers all forms of THB (national, international, with and without links to organised crime) and introduces a monitoring mechanism for the proper implementation of its provisions (GRETA – Group of Experts on Action against THB). The Convention was signed by the CR on 2 May 2016; it was approved by both Chambers of Parliament, ratified by the President of the CR and entered into force in the CR on 1 July 2017. It was published in the Collection of International Treaties under no. 33/2017.*

** On 21 September 2017, the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs was ratified. It entered into force in the CR on 1 March 2018. The Convention focuses on criminal law issues related to trafficking in human organs, the protection of rights of victims of trafficking in human organs, and the promotion of cooperation at the national and international level. In particular, the Convention calls for criminal sanctions to be imposed on the whole range of activities that are related to trafficking in human organs. Thus, the Convention establishes an obligation for member states to ensure the punishability of the deliberate removal of a human organ from the body of a living or deceased donor, performed without the free, informed, and specific consent of the living or deceased donor; or if the removal from a deceased donor is not permitted by national law; or if the living donor or a third party were offered or given a financial or other comparable benefit in*

exchange for the removal; or if a third party was offered or given a financial or other comparable benefit in exchange for the removal from a deceased donor's body.

2.2.7.2 Illicit Trade in Arms, Explosives, Military and Hazardous Materials

Illicit trade in arms, explosives, military and hazardous materials remained stable. Perpetrators involved in arms trafficking may be divided into two groups. The first group includes illegal arms traders, so-called dealers, who use contacts to obtain illegal arms and consequently distribute them in the criminal environment. The second group includes perpetrators who possess the specific knowledge and technical background that enable them to manufacture, rebuild, or modify weapons or their basic accessories, which are consequently sold on the black market, mostly by persons from the first group. Illegal weapons are often used to commit further offences in the CR and in other countries. However, the main objective of both groups is maximum financial gain, without any deeper political or religious motives.

Degraded and expanded weapons continued to pose a problem. These weapons were mostly imported from Slovakia and their modifications were not in accordance with Czech or EU legislation. They were remodelled in a way so as to retain their original self-loading or self-propelling concept and could therefore easily, through a simple technical procedure, be made fully operational again. However, because of their inappropriate technical modifications, in the CR these weapons are considered to be illegal from the moment of their import, and thus even before they are reactivated.

In June 2017, the Directive (EU) 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons came into force. Throughout its drafting, the CR strongly opposed this Directive and continues to do so. For this reason, in August 2017, the CR brought an action before the European Court of Justice calling for the invalidity of the Directive. Despite the action, the CR has started work on implementing the Directive into

its law, due to the fact that the deadline for implementation is set for 14 September 2018.

Measures

** In 2017, the PCR successfully participated in the international operation CONDUIT, organised by Interpol in cooperation with the US Department of Energy and aimed at detecting illegal transport of radioactive substances via international air traffic. The PCR implemented measures and exercises at Václav Havel Airport in Prague.*

CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION OF THE CR

In 2017, the CA detected 15 violations of regulations on foreign trade in military equipment. This is a considerable number, given that there are 250 holders of licences for the conduct of international trade with military material.

Inspections of trade with products whose possession is regulated by Act No. 228/2005 Coll., on the Control of Trade with Products Whose Possession is Limited in the CR for Security Reasons, yielded 2 violations of the law.

It is reasonable to expect the continued increased risk of illegal exports of military equipment, weapons, and so-called dual-use merchandise to areas affected by armed conflicts, or the indirect export to these countries through other transit destinations (with the CR being both an exporting and a transit country).

Supervision of Weapons and Security Equipment

In 2017, there were 302 990 (+2.683) firearms licence holders registered with the PCR. Altogether they possessed 825 628 (+24 096) registered firearms. The number of firearm licence holders rose again in 2017, as well as the number of registered firearms in their possession. The number of firearms in the B and C categories rose prominently (by several thousand), a smaller increase was registered in the number of firearms in the A category. The causes are not clear, since the reasons for acquiring firearms are not recorded. The number of licence holders for firearms in the B category (for sports purposes) increased the most. Statistical data show that on average one firearm licence holder owns 2.7 firearms, which has not changed since 2016.

In 2017, there were 2 195 (+47) legal persons with firearms licences registered with the PCR.

Altogether they possessed 24 149 (-246) firearms. Furthermore, the PCR registered 614 (+25) natural and 196 (+26) legal persons with the permission to handle security equipment for other than business purposes.

1 154 (-88) state inspections in the area of weapons and ammunition revealed 244 (-7) misdemeanours of natural and legal persons (formerly administrative offences), for which fines were issued amounting to CZK 1 260 100 (CZK +568 300). State inspections in 2017 were carried out regularly at facilities subject to inspections. Physical checks of road and motor vehicles transporting weapons were also carried out.

In 2017, increased attention was paid to supervising professional competence exams of firearm licence applicants, aimed at curbing corruption. 1 118 (-585) professional competence exams were carried out by the Weapons and Security Equipment Service, with 1 006 (-691) supervisions.

Measures

** As of 2018, the Weapons and Security Equipment Service will continue to focus on implementing the newly established obligations for holders of munition licences. On the basis of the forthcoming amendment to the Act on Weapons, which will have to be adopted pursuant to the EU Directive, the Central Register of Weapons will also be amended in 2018.*

2.2.7.3 Counterfeiting

In 2017, the number of forged banknotes and coins dropped (by 22 %) as compared to 2016. A total of 2 850 pieces of forged banknotes and coins were seized in 2017, i.e. 786 fewer than in 2016. The value of forged Czech banknotes was CZK 1 428 million.

2.2.8 Drug Crime

In 2017, the drug crime scene in the CR remained relatively stable. **Marihuana and methamphetamine** continued to be the most widespread illegal substances, **being produced**

The most frequently forged denominations were CZK 1 000, CZK 2 000, and CZK 500. As in previous years, expert investigations of seized specimens showed that most of them were printed on ink printers and were of poor quality. Usually they also featured imitations of protective elements.

On the contrary, foreign currencies – EUR and USD – was forged in an organised manner. It was popular to trade forged foreign currencies on the DarkNet. Counterfeiters are able to anonymously obtain tools for forging currencies, including protective elements, and instructions on how to make them, through anonymous internet businesses.

As regards forging foreign currencies, the Chinese market remained a problem since it offered so-called Chinese holograms, protective strips, or metallic elements needed to forge coins. These products are very dangerous because of their superior quality.

Credit card forgery is usually an organised criminal activity with international links. In the CR, it was mainly the focus of OCGs run from Bulgaria or Romania. It was typical for this activity to be closely linked to skimming, where perpetrators used a sophisticated technique to obtain data from the magnetic strips of payment cards, including PIN codes. In 2017, 83 skimming attacks were registered, of which 15 were linked to unauthorised transactions, and 7 led to the seizure of skimming equipment. The remaining cases would most likely have been successful skimming attacks, were it not that the perpetrators were apprehended before the skimmed data was sent to be misused. As compared to 2016, the number of skimming attacks dropped significantly.

and distributed at a large scale both internationally and nationally.³

³ The illegal drug market in the CR is described in detail in the Annual Report of the National Drug Squad of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the PCR.

The activities of criminal groups, where persons of Vietnamese origin remained prevalent, focused on satisfying the increased demand for methamphetamine and marijuana from abroad, and had a significant influence on the international standing of the CR, in particular with regards to relations with neighbouring countries. OCGs often operated around border areas, where most large-scale methamphetamine laboratories were detected. **The amount of drugs seized by the CA also increased** (in 2017, some 135 kg of marijuana were seized in CR, accounting for a 6 % increase, and 15.5 kg of methamphetamine, accounting for a 342 % increase as compared to 2016). In the past two years, various factors have caused production to shift into other areas in the CR and in some cases into Poland or other European countries (in Scandinavia). The demand for methamphetamine greatly surpasses the supply, which galvanises criminal activity. Significant profits can be made using widely available components and basic chemistry, with minimal costs for “cooks” (persons who produce the drug).

The growing international trade in chemicals, precursors, new synthetic drugs, the use of postal services for drug trafficking, and the abuse of psychoactive medicines and chemicals traded on the internet continued to pose a significant threat.

As regards so-called **cross-border drug tourism**, the most affected regions in the CR were Ústecký and Karlovarský. The CR remains an important source of methamphetamine for neighbouring countries, particularly Germany.

As regards law enforcement, **the number of persons prosecuted for primary drug crime continued to rise**. The greatest concentration of this criminal activity was observed in large cities in central and western Bohemia and in northern Moravia. The share of foreigners in drug crime remained around 10 %. Crime related to illegal drugs was also manifested in other forms, particularly property crime.

Due to the ever increasing production capabilities of some laboratories, **there was an increasing problem with the amount of hazardous dangerous waste** threatening the environment and contaminating groundwaters. The subsequent costs of damage and environmental

remediation were considerable. The contamination of spaces where illegal drug production takes place and the consequent health risk to residents is another negative factor of methamphetamine production.

The abuse of medicines containing pseudoephedrine/ephedrine remained stable. Despite new restrictive measures to limit the sale of these medicines in Poland, in practice the massive illegal import of these substances into the CR continued. There continued to be pharmacies in the CR whose supply of these medicines many times exceeded the usual consumption in the given area. Attempts at efficiently solving the problem resulted in an initiative of the MoI to hold meetings with the National Drug Squad, the State Institute for Drug Control, the Drugs Inspectorate of the Ministry of Health, and pharmaceutical companies. The aim of these meetings was to change the registration of pharmaceuticals containing pseudoephedrine using the Restricted Pharmaceuticals Register, which would limit their issue at 900 mg of pseudoephedrine per person over a specified time period. A procedure has been agreed upon ensuring that the aforementioned regulation becomes effective in the second half of 2018.

As regards chemicals, **there is an enormous demand for acetic anhydride** both internationally and in Central Europe. In 2017, mainly due to voluntary cooperation with relevant businesses and following an intervention of the National Drug Squad, it was possible to prevent the sale of 2.1 tonnes of acetic anhydride which was to be used for the illegal production of more than 1 tonne of heroin.

International cooperation, both direct and facilitated by coordination bodies, continues to be an important part of the fight against drug trafficking. In 2017, cooperation continued with the National Headquarters at Europol, where a customs liaison officer has been stationed as of 1 August 2017. Synergies with EU Policy Cycles and Operational Action Plans of the European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), which address current trends in the area of serious organised crime, were also important. The CR took an active part in implementing the tasks included in several EMPACT priority areas (e.g. synthetic drugs).

New legislation pertaining to misdemeanours significantly influenced the occurrence of drug misdemeanours. These were added to Act No. 167/1998 Coll., on Addictive Substances, where three misdemeanours relating to drugs found their definition in Sec. 39 (20). The procedural agenda of is newly incorporated into Act No. 250/2016 Coll., on the Liability for Misdemeanours and Relevant Proceedings.

The new Act No. 65/2017 Coll., on Protection of Health from the Harmful Effects of Drugs, effective as of 31 May 2017, introduced a ban on smoking in catering establishments (including bars) and significantly touched upon the problem of addictive substances in schools. The act allows the invocation and carrying out of a cursory examination of a child (aged under 18), in the case of a justified suspicion of them being under the influence of an addictive substance, only by officers of the PCR, the Prison Service, or a member of the Municipal Police. According to the interpretation of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, educators (prevention methodologists at schools or other persons designated by the principal) are no longer authorised to call on a student to undergo a cursory examination. Unfortunately, the issue is riddled with interpretational and practical ambiguities.

In 2017, Government Decree No. 46/2017 Coll. amended Government Decree No. 463/2013 Coll., on lists of addictive substances. The amendment introduced synthetic catinones, cannabinoids, and opiates that have no industrial or pharmaceutical use to the list. Currently, another amendment to

the decree is underway, adding another 74 substances, and is expected to come into effect in the second half of 2018.

As regards “new synthetic drugs”, Directive (EU) 2017/2103 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017 amending Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA in order to include new psychoactive substances in the definition of “drug” and repealing Council Decision 2005/387/JHA was adopted.

The joint Czecho-Slovak initiative involving the Czech National Drug Squad and the Ministry of Health and the Slovak National Anti-Drug Unit and the State Institute for Drug Control resulted in a fradt of an opinion on methamphetamine, the availability and consumption of red phosphorus, the availability and consumption of pharmaceuticals with pseudoephedrine or ephedrine and their abuse in the CR and the SR. The opinion was presented at a meeting of the Group of Experts on Drug Precursors of the European Commission. The aim of this initiative was to take steps to tighten the conditions for trade in red phosphorus and specifically designated pharmaceuticals containing pseudoephedrine in the EU.

Activities of the Probation and Mediation Service

In 2017, PMS offices recorded 3 726 cases of drug crime. There was a slight drop compared to the total number of cases recorded by PMS offices in 2016 (3 811). PMS officials carried out at least 6 900 saliva/urine drug tests.

2.2.9 Terrorism

Most terrorist attacks that took place in 2017 were outside of Europe. Nevertheless, some European cities were hit by terrorist attacks (e.g. Barcelona, London, Manchester, Stockholm). The most common type of attack was low-profile (car-ramming, use of cold weapons), although some attacks were committed with explosives. There were no open manifestations of international terrorism in the CR.

The Joint Intelligence Group, active since 2005 within the Government Office, is an important body in the area of exchanging information for the purpose of tackling terrorism.

Since the attack at Zaventem Airport in Brussels, the CR is under the first terrorism threat level. This level indicates that there is no known threat of terrorist activities in the CR, but that a general threat of terrorism does exist.

The gradual defeat of the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and in Syria translates into an increased risk arising from foreign fighters returning to the EU, where they can pose a security threat due to possible radicalisation or preparation of a terrorist attack. There was no massive influx of migrant fighters. The CR should be perceived as a transit country rather than a destination. The PCR

apprehended several persons attempting to transit through Czech territory who were suspected of having formerly been active in a terrorist organisation and trying to enter the EU.

In 2017, the penetration of risky Salafist influences, which may increase the level of radicalisation in society while contributing to extremist ideologies that could be conducive to terrorism, continued in the CR. The main radicalisation topics included islamophobia, anti-Muslim rhetoric, and pro-Israel positions of the government or its representatives, e.g. with regards to the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

The PCR investigated several persons providing financial and logistical support to terrorist groups abroad. Several persons from the CR were involved in the activities of Kurdish armed groups in Iraq and in Syria. Several persons suspected of organising terrorist training, providing healthcare or other material support to terrorists were investigated.

The Security Information Service obtained information about the departure of two Czech nationals to Syria. This was the first time that Czech nationals figured among so-called foreign fighters, thus raising the risks associated with this phenomenon. The total number of departees reached 11. As in previous years, the Security Information Service monitored high-risk foreigners. Some of them took part in spreading Islamism in the EU through personal and virtual contact networks. Some of them, however, took part in spreading Islamist ideologies in the CR. These were mostly Islamists from Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Islamist radicalisation is ongoing concern of the Security Information Service. As regards domestic threats, however, the Czech Muslim community as a whole remained moderate. The Security Information Service monitored a handful of individuals, but their radical tendencies remained proclamative and restricted to a close circle of people. These manifestations were continuously assessed by the Security Information Service.

Islamist radicalisation is often closely linked to Jihadist propaganda disseminated mainly on the internet. The Security Information Service recorded persistent Jihadist propaganda of the so-

called Islamic State, with an emphasis on provoking terrorist attacks against civilians in the West, or at least on supporting such attacks. This, due to the overall situation in the Middle East and North Africa, is a very grave circumstance. In connection with the defeat of the Islamic State and migration flows into the EU, it is reasonable to expect that Jihadist propaganda can often fall on fertile soil. The Security Information Service took great care to identify terrorists or radicals among persons travelling to the CR from countries affected by protracted conflicts with significant Jihadist involvement. The Security Information Service actively cooperated with partners at the national and international levels on this issue, as on others.

European Union

Because of the attacks that took place in Europe, the fight against terrorism continued to be one of the main topics to be addressed within the EU. The European Parliament's **Special Committee on Terrorism** began work in September 2017. Its purpose is to supervise the efficiency of counter-terrorism measures and to analyse past mistakes and failures. The Committee was granted a year-long mandate, which may be extended.

Counter-terrorism measures focused in particular on the **further development of information exchanges**, the interoperability of information systems and databases. There was a consensus on the need to create an integrated European architecture of information systems in the area of justice and home affairs, as well as on the need to support the access of law enforcement authorities to all databases. The need to systematically supply information and to thoroughly use European and international databases, particularly with regards to foreign terrorist fighters, was also addressed. In June 2017, **Council Conclusions on the way forward to improve information exchange and ensure the interoperability of EU information systems** were adopted.

In the course of 2017, counter-terrorism activities focused on **preventing radicalisation**. In July 2017, the European Commission initiated the creation of a **High-Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation**, whose task is to develop EU policy in the area and increase its impact. On 6 December 2017, the **third EU Internet Forum**

conference took place, bringing together the European Commission, EU Member States, EUROPOL, and the main internet companies. The main topic of the conference was the removal of terrorist content from the internet. In September 2017, **the European Commission issued its Communication on Tackling Illegal Content Online**, which provides guidelines to online companies as regards responsibility for removing illegal content on their platforms (e.g. automatic detection, removal, transparency). In this area, **the Internet Referral Unit (IRU)**, which is a part of the European Counter Terrorism Centre at EUROPOL, continued to cooperate with a number of internet service providers.

An important part of the fight against terrorism is **the transfer of passenger name records**. The EU PNR system has been discussed since 2007. The Directive (EU) 2016/681 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the use of passenger name record (PNR) data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime introduced the collection of PNR data. Air carriers will be obliged to transfer data obtained during the booking, purchasing, and check-in process to competent authorities. Discussions pertaining to this instrument have been accompanied by many difficulties relating to the mass processing of personal data and the protection of privacy. The discussions intensified, however, after the series of terrorist attacks in 2015, which mollified the European Parliament. In April 2106, the Directive was finally adopted by the Council and the European Parliament. The date of its implementation was set to May 2018. In the course of 2017, the CR has been preparing for the implementation of the Directive: amending legislation (amendments to the Act on the PCR and the Act on Civil Aviation), establishing a National Unit for the Use of PNR, and building the necessary technical facilities.

Soft Target Protection

On 19 April 2017, the government approved the **Soft Targets Protection Strategy 2017–2020**, which stems from the Counter-Terrorism Package approved in 2016. The aim of the Strategy is to create a functional national soft target protection system, which will ensure a flexible, comprehensive, and timely response to threats of

attacks on soft targets, based on the situation abroad and in the CR.

The **Proposal for the Establishment of Grant Programmes for the Purpose of Improving Soft Target Protection**, approved by the government on 24 July 2017, ties into the Strategy.

Based on tasks set out by the Strategy, a **permanent advisory council of the MoI for soft target protection** was set up. It is composed of representatives of relevant ministries (Interior, Health, Transport, Industry and Trade, Culture, and Education, Youth and Sports), the PCR, the General Directorate of the Fire and Rescue Service, and other relevant bodies (e.g. the Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Jewish Communities, Confederation of Industry, the Football Association, the Olympic Committee, the Union of Towns and Municipalities, the Association of Regions, etc.) as well as academia (the Police Academy, the University of Technology Brno). In 2017, the permanent advisory council held two meetings.

At the international level, the MoI contributed to building a **system of cooperation on soft target protection within the EU**, which was organised by the European Commission. The first meeting, in the form of a practical seminar, was held on 6–7 February 2017 and the first meeting of member states was held on 18 September 2017. The system serves as a means to exchange of best practices in preventative activities, the presentation of analyses of current attacks and the subsequent recommendations, etc.

Furthermore, **two training seminars for police specialists** were organised by the MoI on the topic of soft target protection. In January 2017, a seminar was held that was aimed specifically at **soft target protection in Prague**.

Following the start of the festival season, the MoI addressed security at **sporting, cultural, and social events, including so-called open-air festivals** etc. In connection with that, a **workshop** was organised for soft target protection specialists from regional police directorates and other representatives of the PCR. The aim was, inter alia, to formulate recommendations not only for police officers with regards to these events, but specifically for municipalities and other organisers of these events. The result was a

brochure with recommended safety standards for organisers of sporting, cultural, and social events and a seminar on security during such events. Also, a leaflet with 10 recommendations for soft target hardening was issued.

On 30 May 2017, **the Rapid Reaction Unit carried out an exercise in the Globus Zličín supermarket** focused on capturing an active shooter. The exercise was a good example of mutually beneficial cooperation between a soft target and the PCR.

Furthermore, the MoI focused on **the security of schools and school facilities**. For more, see Chapter 3.4.4, subsection Soft Target Protection.

The section dedicated to the fight against terrorism and soft target protection is regularly updated on the website of the Centre against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats of the MoI. Strategic and informative documents are available for download (see <http://www.mvcr.cz/cthh/clanek/terorismus-web-dokumenty-dokumenty.aspx>). Infographics relating to soft target protection are continuously posted on the Centre against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats's Twitter account @CTHH_MV.

Close **cooperation between Jewish organisations and the MoI** continued. Meetings relating to security during Jewish holidays were held with all relevant stakeholders that signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2015.

Legislation

In February 2017, the amendment to the Criminal Code introducing the criminal prosecution of financing and support of terrorism entered into force. The most important changes included the introduction of a definition of a terrorist group, defining terrorism financing as a separate offence, and amending case-law in sanctioning preparatory and ancillary acts of terrorism, such as leaving the country for purposes of terrorism, recruitment, providing or undergoing training, etc. In April 2017, the amendment to the Victims of Crime Act entered into force, which expanded the category of particularly vulnerable victims to include victims of terrorism.

The Rules of Procedure of the Public Prosecutor's Office were amended, centralising the supervision of lawfulness of pre-trial proceedings for offences

related to terrorism at the Public Prosecutor's Office. This amendment simplified communication between the relevant police authority and supervising public prosecutors.

A draft amendment to the Criminal Code is currently in the legislative process which addresses, inter alia, the requirements of Directive (EU) 2017/541 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism, e.g. by extending sanctions for foreign fighters or introducing cyberterrorism.

In 2017, the CR ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and the Additional Protocol thereto. Both documents were ratified on 21 September 2017 and entered into force in the CR on 1 January 2018. The purpose of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism is to increase the signatory parties' efforts in preventing terrorism and its negative effects on the full enjoyment of human rights. The Convention thus introduces sanctions for certain deliberate acts that could lead to terrorism, such as incitement to terrorism, recruitment and training of terrorists. The purpose of the Additional Protocol is to, in certain aspects, supplement the Convention in order to more effectively prosecute certain acts related to terrorism (criminalising participation in a terrorist group, receiving terrorist training, travelling abroad for the purpose of terrorism, financing, organising, or otherwise facilitating travel for the purpose of terrorism).

In June 2017, the Supreme Prosecutor's Office – in cooperation with both Chief Prosecutor's Offices, the PCR, the MoI, and the Security Information Service – organised an inter-ministerial exercise "Proces 2017", aimed at examining the responses of involved parties to an imminent terrorist attack and their coping strategies following combined terrorist attacks in several locations. The main purpose was to examine the ability, speed, and quality of the response, along with other powers of public prosecutors in relation to terrorist attacks, and furthermore to examine the abilities and responses of relevant pre-trial courts, as well as the overall technical, logistical, cooperative, and procedural preparedness. The evaluation of the

exercise showed an acute need to deal with existing legislative deficiencies.

Fire and Rescue Service of the CR

In 2017, the FRS completed a pilot project whose aim was to involve soft targets in the implementation of measures related to strengthening safety at two shopping malls in Prague (Černý Most and Chodov). Based on an analysis of sources of threats, documents were drafted for both the staff and the visitors of shopping malls, and 19 directives for various crisis situations were modified. These documents were approved and incorporated into the files of security workstations at both shopping malls. A training event for persons designated to ensure the protection of visitors as well as of the shopping centres, held on 23 November 2017, completed the project.

Educating the public in the area of safety and prevention and resolution of extraordinary situations and emergencies is an important instrument of the fight against terrorism.

For this reason, a Report on the Results of a Detailed Analysis of the Current State of Teaching

Security Issues in Schools and Proposals for Further Action, whose purpose is to thoroughly map the state of teaching general safety in schools and to propose optimal solutions for improving this process, and thus to improve the current situation. The document was approved at the 68th meeting of the Committee for Civil Emergency Planning on 7 December 2016 (Resolution No. 420); it was also approved by the National Security Council on 24 January 2017 (Resolution No. 5) and finally by Government Resolution No. 174 of 8 March 2017, which set up an inter-ministerial expert working group tasked with finding the optimal means of integrating security issues into the framework curriculum of primary and secondary schools, including a regular assessment of the outcomes. The group, chaired by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, began its activities in September 2017 with a focus on improving the quality of education of security issues in schools, but also on preparing educators – be it existing or future ones (i.e. students of faculties of education, inter alia) – for the tasks ahead.

2.2.10 Hybrid Threats

Hybrid threats are defined as a broad, complex, adaptable, and integrated combination of conventional and unconventional means, overt and covert activities with elements of coercion and subversion, that are carried out by military, paramilitary, and various civilian actors. They designate methods by which confrontation or conflict is led – in other words, the continuation of war by other than military means.

The purpose of hybrid activities is to use the opponent's weaknesses; use the mask of pursuing legitimate goals; make it impossible to clearly interpret events and discover their interrelatedness; complicate or make impossible the identification of the originator of the threat and obscure their intentions; complicate, destabilise, or paralyse the decision-making process and thus make impossible a timely and effective response from the opponent. A hybrid attacker devises and carries out activities harmful to the vital, strategic, or general security interests of another actor, while attempting to create an

environment where it is impossible (at least formally), or very difficult, to attribute responsibility for these actions.

Hybrid methods themselves are not new. What is new is the scope and manner in which the range of aforementioned instruments is combined and coherently deployed to achieve strategic goals. Moreover, the individual components of a hybrid campaign do not have to be illegal or represent a threat in and of themselves; the threat lies in their sophisticated combination, which at the same time seeks to cover the true purpose of its individual components.

A number of global state and non-state actors are trying to reach their goals through overt and covert activities coordinated within a comprehensive set of instruments of power, notwithstanding any possible collisions with the international rules-based order. The term hybrid threats was coined precisely in this context and incorporates a wide range of threats –

cyberthreats, threats relating to energy supplies, resources, and the industry, terrorism and radicalisation, security aspects of migration, extremism, but also influence of foreign powers and disinformation. These threats are carried out through a combination of classic instruments – diplomatic, information, military, economic, financial, intelligence, and legal.

This is how hybrid threats are described by the National Security Audit, approved by Government Resolution No. 1125/2016. Following the recommendations of the Audit, the **Centre against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats (CTHH)** began its work within the Security Policy and Crime Prevention Department (the Security Policy Department as of 1 January 2018) of the MoI on 1 January 2017. The CTHH is an expert, analytical, strategic, and communications unit, whose work focuses (in particular) on tackling hybrid threats falling within the realm of the MoI (i.e. internal security). The CTHH communicates with the public via its Twitter account (@CTHH_MV), where it posts current information relating to hybrid threats.

During its first year, the CTHH actively used its Twitter account to address current events relating to hybrid threats in both Czech and English, and debunked 20 cases of serious disinformation relating to Czech internal security. However, 90 %

of the CTHH's work remained non-public. The CTHH also responded to dozens of inquiries from citizens, participated in a number of public debates, and provided a number of interviews for foreign and domestic media. In addition, it produced hundreds of internal informative, analytical, and strategic materials. It also contributed to the regular and democratic procedure of elections. Along with experts from the National Cyber and Information Security Agency and from Google and Facebook, the CTHH organised a workshop for representatives of political parties running in the parliamentary and presidential elections focused on cybersecurity. The regular and democratic election process was also overseen by an expert group or election protection, initiated by the CTHH. The CTHH also contributed to organising 4 prestigious international StratCom Summits dedicated to hybrid threats, which were attended by experts from around the world. Furthermore, the CTHH contributed to the work of the Expert Working Group on Hybrid Threats at the Government Office.

In 2018, the CTHH will continue its current work, focusing primarily on implementing the tasks set out by the National Security Audit Action Plan and by the Soft Target Protection Strategy.

2.2.11 Extremism

In 2017, there were no unusual events or phenomena in relation to politically motivated extremist movements. There were 334 extremist events, of which only 99 were organised by right-wing extremists, the remaining 235 were organised fully or in part by entities and persons associated with left-wing extremism.

In 2017, there were **153 extremist offences**. Of those, 102 were cleared. Most offences fell into the “support and promotion of a movement” category (Sec. 403, 404, and 405 of the Criminal Code) – 70 in total.

The PCR **prosecuted 132 persons** in 2017 for extremist offences. Most were prosecuted for offences falling into the “support and promotion of a movement” category (Sec. 403, 404, and 405 of the Criminal Code) – 67 in total.

The right-wing extremist scene manifested itself publicly through activities of the National Democracy and the Workers' Party of Social Justice. Both entities received negligible numbers of votes in the parliamentary elections in October 2017. In connection with the election campaign, no significant public events to mobilise supporters were recorded, unlike in previous years. Workers' Youth, the youth organisation of the Workers' Party of Social Justice, also remained quite moderate in public.

Public speeches of the neo-Nazi movement were recorded only sporadically. Throughout the year, 14 so-called White Power concerts took place, which was a significant increase as compared to the previous year, when there were only 9.

Some militant groups continued to be active. These included the National Militia, the Land

Militia – which came into being after cutting themselves off from the National Militia – and the Czechoslovak Soldiers in Ambush for Peace. Some groups marketed themselves as civil patrols, others endeavoured to take part in public projects – whether pertaining to subsidies or education. These entities shared a more or less common focus in opposing the long-term foreign policy of the CR, in particular its membership in the EU and NATO. They artificially evoked feelings of danger and pointed to the alleged dysfunction of state security forces. The relevance of these entities, however, remained negligible. Some of them have personal ties to and enjoy the support of persons who are currently active in separatist-controlled areas of Eastern Ukraine.

The right-wing extremist scene remained incapable of addressing and mobilising the wider public. Its traditional topics began to be artfully employed by populists and xenophobic entities that cannot be defined strictly as extremist.

As for left-wing extremist movements, the anarchists were most active. They focused mainly on events calling for solidarity with national and foreign partners under criminal proceedings or serving sentences in prison, on events against xenophobia and racism, in support of squatting

and social housing. Several dozen Czech activists also took part in protests against the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July 2017. Three Czechs were apprehended during the riots, of which two were later charged. Some anarchists participated in environmental protection activities.

The radical communist movement saw a slight increase in activity. Among other things, its representatives participated in various events abroad.

The Annual Report on Extremism in the CR 2017 provides more details on the evolution of the extremist scene in the CR.

New trends on the extremist scene have called for a response from security forces, particularly in the area of training and education. Act No. 56/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on Victims of Crime, and some other acts, as per Act No. 77/2015 Coll., and other relevant acts, came into force on 1 April 2017. One of the changes the act introduced was the expansion of the definition of particularly vulnerable victims to include victims of offences committed against members of a nation, race, ethnic group, religion, class, or other group of persons. The Evaluation of the Strategy to Combat Extremism in 2017 provides more details.

2.2.12 Documentation and Investigation of Crimes of Communism

In 2017, at the request of the Veterans Section of the Ministry of Defence and for the purposes of administrative proceedings carried out by the Ministry of Defence under Act No. 262/2011 Coll., on Participants of the Resistance against Communism, individual opinions concerning 406 persons were elaborated, which included individual research from relevant materials managed by the Office for the Documentation and the Investigation of the Crimes of Communism. Between 17 November 2011 and December 2017, the Office elaborated individual opinions for 4 343 persons.

In 2017, 6 (+2) persons were criminally prosecuted by the Office. Motions to file charges were filed against 3 (+2) accused persons.

Measures

** In 2017, the Office organised four itinerant exhibitions: The Longest Night – dedicated to previously unpublished facts from the period of the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968; Over the Lands of Tears and Radiation – mapping the evolution of uranium camps through the 1950s and 1960s; A Star Weighed Down by a Star I and II – documenting Czechoslovak-Israeli relations at the time of unfreedom and the repression of Jews in Czechoslovakia; When Truth Changed to Blood – documenting prison conditions in the 1950s.*

2.2.13 Information Crime and Cybercrime

The PCR defines cybercrime as offences that are committed within the realm of ICTs, including computer networks, where the realm of ICTs can be either the direct object, or an important tool of the crime.

Statistical data show that the number of offences in this area increases every year. In 2017, there were **5 654 offences**, accounting for a mild increase (+310) as compared to 2016 (5 344).

One of the specificities of cybercrime is a high number of victims reporting offences (e.g. fraud) in the entire CR and, given the sophistication of perpetrators and incomplete information, a high complexity associated with finding links among individual cases (continued offences).

The most frequent cybercrime offences are various forms of fraud. In 2017, there 3 140 such offences, which constitutes a drop by 95 as compared to 2016 (3 235). This slight drop can be explained by the ability of the PCR to successfully investigate serial fraud. As regards fraud that is directly linked to fraudulent online sales, the use of virtual currencies was widespread. The bitcoin, in particular, was used to transfer proceeds from fraudulently acquired financial means. Virtual currencies continued to be used for money laundering.

Phishing attacks continued to increase in number (recording access codes for the purpose of unauthorised access to bank accounts and the consequent misappropriation of funds). Perpetrators acquired sensitive data (log-in data, passwords, or payment card information) from the victims.

Hacking held second place as regards the number of offences. In 2017, there were 608 offences, as compared to 534 in 2016. The number of ransomware attacks increased. Ransomware encrypts the data of an infected computer, or else completely disables it along with any connected peripherals (NAS or clouds). The attackers then demand a ransom in exchange for decryption. The urgency of the demand is amplified by a time limit. There were several cases in the CR, affecting mainly corporate entities. In most of these cases, the perpetrators demanded payment in bitcoins. Nevertheless, there have been attempts to exaggerate the severity of these attacks by a

powerful antivirus company, presumably for the purpose of increasing sales.

It is wise to assume that, in the following years, ransomware attacks targeting the so-called internet of things will continue to multiply.

In 2017, there were some DDoS attacks as well as cases of infiltration of government email servers and the critical information infrastructure.

The number of vice offences in cyberspace is continuously on the rise. In 2017, the PCR recorded 561, as compared to 344 in 2016. This was the biggest annual increase in the area of cybercrime. The offences were mostly the following: threatening the upbringing of a child, disseminating pornography, production and other handling of child pornography, abuse of a child for the purpose of producing pornography, participation in a pornographic performance, establishing unauthorised contacts with a child. The perpetrators abused the anonymity of the internet in conjunction with chat services, closed groups, and communication fora, often using the anonymous Tor network for their purposes. It is necessary to stress that child victims often voluntarily provided perpetrators with intimate material, e.g. via social media.

There was an increase in hate crime in 2017 as compared to 2016. 318 hate crimes were recorded as opposed to 265 in 2016. These were committed on social media, communication platforms, discussion fora and news servers. Social media provided an environment for extreme rhetoric where, due to their technological nature, the spread of hate speech was accelerated and amplified. There was an increasing incidence of hoaxes linked to phishing attacks targeting social media users. One positive development was the agreement concluded between Facebook, Google, and Twitter to delete xenophobic and racist hate speech on their platforms within 24 hours.

Identity theft and theft of sensitive data using information technologies, often via social networks, was a recurring phenomenon. Both natural and legal persons fell victim to it. In 2017, there was also a significant number of identity thefts where the perpetrators used the most popular social medium to ask for data from a text

message, which was consequently used to make fraudulent payments.

In the area of fighting cybercrime, the PCR Hotline has been in operation for five years, having been launched on the PCR website on 1 August 2012, serving to report unauthorised content and activities on the internet. In 2017, 2 682 complaints were reported, accounting for a slight drop as compared to 2016. It is important to note that approximately two thirds of the complaints were irrelevant.

As in previous years, crime in the CR continued to decline. It may be assumed that it is shifting into cyberspace. The main reason is that regular activities are also shifting into cyberspace and this is an opportunity taken up by perpetrators, who employ sophisticated methods to commit crimes using information technologies.

A persistent trend with regards to phishing attacks (recording access codes for the purpose of unauthorised access to bank accounts and the consequent misappropriation of funds) was that they were no longer aimed solely at obtaining sensitive data such as access codes, passwords, or payment card data of individual victims, but also targeted government information services – as has been recorded by the eGovernment Supervisory Centre of the MoI.

Within the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the number of social engineering and phishing attacks oscillated between several hundred to one thousand a month. Unsolicited emails (spam) amounted to 30 000 – 80 000 per day, of which 20 000 were infected. None of these infected emails penetrated the internal network.

Measures

** Within the system of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the function of a national correspondent was introduced. This person, inter alia, coordinates the activities of the network of specialised public prosecutors. This network met in November 2017, along with the heads of all Information Crime Units of the PCR and managers of the Cybercrime Section of the National Centre against Organised Crime. It was the first such meeting of its kind, and due to the positive feedback of all participants will take place again.*

** Although the PCR Hotline has been in operation for five years, closer cooperation is*

needed between all relevant stakeholders. For this purpose, the MoI is developing a new initiative called Triangle Security in close cooperation with the National Cyber and Information Security Agency, the MoI (DCeGOV), and the Ministry of Defence (Cyberdefence).

** The Ministry of Industry and Trade took part in the construction of National Cloud Computing – the eGovernment cloud whose Strategic Framework was approved by Government Resolution No. 1050 of 28 November 2016. Representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade are present in every working team: for legislation, for security, for economics, for organisation/processes.*

** The Ministry of Justice prepared a draft act amending Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, as amended, and some other acts, which is currently in the legislative process. The proposed amendments respond, inter alia, to the requirements of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (published under No. 104/2013 Coll.) and propose to explicitly state the possibility of ordering a preliminary retention of data stored in a computer system or on a data carrier for the purposes of criminal proceedings. The proposed amendments also respond to the requirements of Directive (EU) 2017/541 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on combating terrorism, by introducing a special sanction for cyberterrorism.*

** In 2013, when depositing its instrument of ratification, the CR made a reservation under Art. 29 (4) of the Convention on Cybercrime, reserving the right to refuse a request of another state to accelerate the storage of computer data in cases where it could be assumed that it would be impossible, with regards to offences other than those under Art. 2 and 11 of the Convention, to fulfil the conditions of mutual criminal liability at the time of processing the request for mutual assistance concerning a search or a similar procedure, the seizure or similar access to stored data. However, this reservation has proved to be inefficient and counterproductive over time, as testified by the practical experience of law enforcement authorities. Given the interim, non-invasive nature of data retention and the need for speedy operative procedures, it would be desirable to withdraw the reservation and to*

discontinue the request for mutual criminal liability, so as to more effectively serve the purpose of the Convention. The government

approved this approach with Government Resolution No. 595 of 21 August 2017, the Parliament has not yet discussed the proposal.

2.2.14 Road Traffic Safety

In 2017, the PCR investigated 103 821 (+4 957, +5 %) road traffic accidents, during which 502 (-43, -7.9 %) people were killed, 2 339 (-241, -9.3 %) people were seriously injured, and 24 740 (+239, +1 %) people were lightly injured. The damages incurred were estimated at CZK 6 316.3 million (CZK +512.1 million, +8.8 %).

The number of road traffic deaths was the lowest since 1961, i.e. since the time that the Traffic Police Service has had continuous road traffic statistics.

Wrong driving remains the most frequent cause for road traffic accidents (65.4 % of all road traffic accidents caused by drivers of motor vehicles); these accidents caused 191 deaths. Similarly, speeding is an equally tragic cause of road traffic accidents. Although it only represents 16.1 % of the total number of road traffic accidents, it caused 169 deaths in 2017 (36.7 % of all deaths caused by drivers of motor vehicles).

The PCR recorded 4 251 (-122) alcohol-related accidents in 2017 (4.09 % of all road traffic accidents), which caused 48 deaths (-4, and 9.56 % of the total number of deaths). Motor vehicle drivers were found to be in possession of drugs in 231 accidents (-20), which killed 4 people (-6). In 66 (+7) cases, the drivers were under the combined influence of drugs and alcohol.

In 2017, there were 17 556 (+1 429, +8.9 %) instances (16.9 % of the total number of road traffic accidents) where the culprit drove away. These accidents killed 7 (-3) people.

With Government Resolution No. 160 of 27 February 2017, the government approved the Revised and Updated **National Strategy of Road Traffic Safety 2011 – 2020, in Effect until 2017** (the BESIP Strategy). The revision did not change the strategic goals – to reduce by 2020 the number of deaths and serious injuries by 60 % and 40 % respectively, to correspond with the EU average. Despite the historically lowest number of road traffic deaths in 2017, the goals set out by

the BESIP Strategy for this year (427 deaths) have not been met (there were 502 deaths).

The second main goal set by the BESIP Strategy for 2017 – that the number of serious injuries not exceed 2 439 – was met. There were 2 339 serious injuries as a result of road traffic accidents, which was 100 fewer than predicted.

Pursuant to Government Resolution No. 160 of 27 February 2017, the **Systemic Conditions for the Implementation of the Revised BESIP Strategy** were drafted. The document will be submitted to the government for approval following an extensive and detailed expert discussion.

Two committees of the **Government Council for Road Traffic Safety** were active in 2017 – the **Committee for Traffic Education**, which focused on a more efficient inclusion of traffic education in kindergartens, primary, and secondary schools, and the **Committee for Financing the BESIP Strategy**, which focused on the systemic financing of the BESIP Strategy. The final results and recommendations were incorporated into the Systemic Conditions for the Implementation of the Revised BESIP Strategy.

A report on the implementation of the BESIP Strategy was also submitted to the government.

Measures

*In 2017, further **EUCARIS** modules have been put in place that had a direct impact on road traffic safety:*

- *RESPER, allowing the automatic exchange of information about drivers' licences. Inquiries to the CR were set as of 16 March 2016, municipalities with extended competencies began the automatic exchange of information on 1 June 2017.*
- *ERRU, allowing the automatic exchange of information from national registers of road transport entrepreneurs – about the entrepreneurs, their concessions, their legal*

representatives, their reputation etc. It also functions mutually.

- *CBE, intended for the exchange of information about a vehicle with which a given road traffic offence was committed on the territory of another EU Member State, its owner and operator, was launched on 9 November 2016. Municipalities with extended powers may check vehicles registered in another EU Member State as of 3 August 2017.*
- *eCall, providing immediate information about accidents to operators of the 112 emergency helpline, including the exact location and information about the vehicle. It is very important for the provision of timely and efficient assistance from the integrated rescue service during emergencies, particularly road traffic accidents. The expected benefit of this module is the reduction of deaths and serious injuries caused by road traffic accidents. As of 27 September 2017, emergency call centres in the CR are able to receive and process eCall emergency calls. On 14 December 2017, the link to vehicle registers in EU Member States was introduced. As of 31 March 2018, all new types of M1 (passenger cars) and N1 (trucks and vans with a maximum mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes) vehicles will have to be equipped with a permanently installed eCall on-board system using the 112 emergency helpline. In the next stages, other vehicles will be required to be equipped with the on-board system.*
- *A VH info module is underway, which will allow the automatic exchange of information from vehicle registers in EU Member States for the purpose of checking vehicles and their documents before registration, as well as fault signals (e.g. concerning the technical state of the vehicle). The forthcoming PTI module will allow the automatic exchange of information about the results of technical inspections.*

Prevention and Education in the Area of Road Traffic Safety

In the area of prevention and education, the Ministry of Transport focused on the following activities in 2017, via the Independent BESIP Department: creating a new and modern website ibesip.cz, communicating Ministry of Transport

BESIP activities on social networks – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, providing education for students on children’s traffic playgrounds, organising seminars for traffic educators at children’s traffic playgrounds, organising the Traffic Competition for Young Cyclists in the CR (district, municipal, regional, and national rounds), including a version for children from foster homes and hearing impaired children, creating educational DVDs for traffic education at children’s traffic playgrounds for children attending the 1st year of primary schools, implementing the expert study “Psychological characteristics of pre-school children with a focus on their behaviour in road traffic”, implementing campaigns, outdoor activities, trade fairs, and exhibitions dedicated to the road traffic safety:

- The 50th anniversary of BESIP campaign, focusing on 5 road traffic safety topics – Safe Distance, Distracted Driving, Speeding, Drugs and Alcohol, Passive Safety. Short videos were created, one for each topic, to be presented on social media and on the internet.
- The “Slow Down to go Faster” campaign, created in cooperation with the Road and Highway Police Directorate, included 9 instructional videos aimed at promoting safe and seamless passage through traffic restrictions, disseminated on social media and on the web.
- The “Do We See Each Other?” campaign, aimed at the most vulnerable participants in road traffic – pedestrians, children, the elderly, and cyclists. This campaign included 6 short videos and 6 sponsored messages that were broadcast on national radio stations.
- The “We Like Each Other” campaign (May 2017) run in Moravia and Silesia, emphasising considerate behaviour between road traffic participants, with the support of Radio Čas. The campaign was part of the 4th UN Global Security Week.
- A BESIP exhibition at the “Safely to School” event – intended for schoolchildren and their teachers, families with children, and children’s interest groups.
- The BESIP TEAM project, aimed at promoting road traffic safety in regions, in cooperation with regional BESIP coordinators.

- Promotion of the “Do We See Each Other?” and “You’re Doing It Too” campaigns on CCTV in the waiting rooms of medical facilities.
- Communicating topics related to prevention with a focus on various target groups – children, pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists – on TV Óčko.
- Principles of Safe Motorcycling – enhanced text and images for electronic publication on the ibesip.cz website, including 15 30-second instructional videos.
- Safe Women – an information booklet intended for drivers.
- “The Action New Generation” – a multimedia theatre performance for future and beginner drivers, performed in Zlín and in Prague.

Rail Transport

As regards rail traffic accidents, collisions between trains and motor vehicles at railway crossings continued to be a serious problem, as well as the rising number of collisions between trains and persons illegally entering inaccessible perimeters of railways. Statistics show, however, that the number of collisions on railway crossings in 2017 dropped by 2 %, and the **total number of deaths during these collisions dropped by more than 24 %**. According to statistics of the Railway Inspectorate, a death occurred during every fifth collision of a train with a motor vehicle at a railway crossing. Outside of railway crossings, people died during **collisions of trains with persons, of which there were 258 in 2017**, the

same number as in 2016. Nevertheless, the number of deaths during these incidents rose by 8. From a long-term perspective, 2017 was an average year as regards the number of collisions of trains with persons and the number of subsequent deaths.

There was an increase in the number of public transport accidents, with the highest increase in 2017 pertaining to accidents involving trams, which run in 9 cities in the CR. The number of incidents on tram lines increased by 392 (2017 – 2 759, 2016 – 2 367), which is more than a 16 % increase. **The highest increase was in the number of collisions of trams with persons – by 36 % (2017 – 141, 2016 – 103)**. Along with these, the **number of deaths and injuries on non-ferrovia tracks (trams, trolleybuses, funiculars) and in the metro also increased**, with 38 % more injuries and 100 % more deaths in 2017 than in 2016.

The main cause is pedestrian inattention and underestimation of the danger of moving trams, which – as a result of the physical characteristics of the wheels and tracks – require much greater breaking distances than road vehicles on tyres.

Changes in Legislation

A draft act amending Act No. 56/2000 Coll., on the Conditions for the Operation of Vehicles on Roads, and other similar acts, was approved by government on 22 December 2017 and submitted to the Parliament. The draft proposes amendments to road traffic acts and will have no direct impact on road traffic safety.

2.2.15 Civil Aviation Safety

Preliminary assessments show that 2017 has been the safest year yet as regards civil aviation safety. According to the Dutch Aviation Safety Network, nine air traffic accidents caused 67 deaths in 2017, i.e. the lowest number in recorded history. The Aviation Safety Network has not recorded any deadly accidents of large passenger aircraft in 2017. The Aviation Safety Network does not record accidents of military aircraft or small aircraft with a capacity of up to 14 passengers.

The civil aviation system in the CR is coordinated by the Civil Aviation Office. The Mol, in cooperation with the PCR and intelligence

services, is a part of this system. At the national level, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Civil Aviation Safety, managed by the Ministry of Transport, is the special coordinating body in the given area. Recent developments indicate that it is not just air traffic that can be the target of illegal activities, but also airports – important hubs with border crossings (in the case of international airports) and places with a greater concentration of persons.

Since the terrorist attack at Zaventem Airport in March 2016, the PCR has been more active at international airports. The most important

incident in 2017 (September) was the discovery of suspicious luggage at Terminal 1 Václav Havel Airport in Prague. The terminal was evacuated and the luggage checked by a pyrotechnician.

In 2017, the MoI **analysed the effects of an increased number of PCR officers** operating at international airports in the CR. Following the analysis, the number of PCR officers at Alien Police Inspectorates at five international airports were increased – Václav Havel Airport in Prague, Karlovy Vary Airport, Pardubice Airport, Brno-Tuřany Airport and Ostrava-Mošnov Airport. The number of additional officers was 221, with 200 of them stationed at Alien Police Inspectorates at Václav Havel Airport in Prague.

An important phenomenon related to civil aviation safety was the **development of unmanned aerial devices** (i.e. flying without a pilot on board), which was enabled by the rapid advancement of relevant technologies and significantly cheaper costs. In 2017, the government approved a document that examined this phenomenon from two sides: possible uses for the CR and the risks of abuse of unmanned aerial devices, particularly in the area of intentional crime, planning and execution of terrorist attacks, threatening persons under

protection, disrupting air traffic, etc. The government approved the proposed timetable for measures to be implemented in 2017–2019 aimed at introducing unmanned aerial devices within the Aviation Service of the PCR and creating 4 stations (Prague, Brno, Ostrava, České Budějovice). At the same time, a proposal for limiting the abuse of unmanned aerial devices submitted to the government. The essence of the proposal is to purchase technical means for the detection, disruption, and elimination of unmanned aerial devices.

Aviation Equipment of the PCR

The Aviation Service of the PCR currently has 13 operational helicopters. Of those, 8 are EC 135 and 5 are Bell 412. They serve the purposes of the PCR, the integrated rescue system, and other services contributing to national security.

In 2017, 40 inspections were carried out at the Aviation Service of the PCR, in Brno and in Prague. The inspections focused on verifying the capacities of police aviation equipment (validity of certificates, documentation, maintenance). No deficiencies were found that would impact the capacities of police aviation equipment.

3. POLICY IN THE AREA OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER

3.1 NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Action Plan of the National Security Audit

On 22 May 2017, the Action Plan of the National Security Audit was approved by Government Resolution No. 407. The Action Plan, which is a classified document, specifies the implementation of measures proposed by the National Security Audit. It was drafted by dozens of experts from all relevant state authorities. It proposes measures until 2020 and will be evaluated annually. Some of the measures have already been implemented in 2017.

Policing Minorities

The MoI and the PCR perceive policing minorities as a coherent and important part of police work when ensuring internal security and public order. In particular, the promotion of education and the improvement of conditions for police work involving minorities, which includes persons or groups at risk of social exclusion as well as foreigners, are areas which are given increased attention.

In 2017, the MoI continued its methodological and strategic activities in the area, implementing the goals and priorities stemming from strategic materials (particularly the Strategy for Policing Minorities in the CR 2015–2017) and collecting and analysing relevant information. The main activities included the following:

- On 22–25 May 2017, an instructional workshop was organised for members of working groups comprised of liaison officers for minorities at regional police directorates – the main topics included reasons for the conflict in Syria, inclusion of the Roma, examples of working with and re-socialising convicts, policing in Germany, measures to protect the external EU borders, and others.
- In cooperation with the PCR, a new specialised educational course for PCR officers focusing on intercultural competencies and minority specificities was organised – it included methodological training for PCR lecturers, supervised by an external expert.
- On 29–31 March 2017, liaison officers for minorities met with regional coordinators for Roma affairs and regional crime prevention managers.
- On 18–19 September 2017, representatives of the MoI met with liaison officers for minorities, representatives of the Office of the Government (Government Office Council for Affairs of the Roma Minority) and the Agency for Social Inclusion for the purpose of updating the Strategy for Policing Minorities in the CR.
- On 11–13 April 2017, the work of the MoI was presented at the closing conference of the “Introducing Police Specialists in the Area of Policing the Roma Minority in Socially Excluded Areas”.
- MoI representatives participated at various events organised by liaison officers for minorities at regional police directorates or elsewhere.
- MoI representatives attended trainings, workshops, and conferences abroad focusing on policing minorities, the inclusion of foreigners, presenting the EU-MIDIS II project of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, which is aimed at experiences of immigrants and ethnic minorities in Europe with regards to discrimination, victimisation, and others.

3.2 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

The National Security Council discusses issues related to the overall security of the CR, thus including issues related to public order and internal security.

In 2017, five regular meetings and one extraordinary meeting of the NSC were held. The most important documents and issues related to

public security discussed by the NSC in 2017 included the following:

At its meeting on 24 January 2017, the NSC discussed the Report on the Progress in Implementing Measures to Increase Safety at International Airports in the CR, the Report on the Implementation of Tasks Set by the Evaluation of the BLANÍK 2013 Crisis Management Exercise and the Report on the Results of the Detailed Analysis of the Current State of Education of All Security Subjects in Schools with Recommendations. The NSC was informed of the Report on the Initiation of the Work of the Centre against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats and Foreign Fighters – Report on Activities and Measures in the CR.

At its meeting on 8 March 2017, the NSC took note of the Threats and Risks Affecting the CR's Security in the Medium- and Long-Term (2016–2020/2025). The updated text for 2017 approved the creation of an Expert Working Group of the NSC for Hybrid Threats. In addition, the NSC discussed Unmanned Aerial Devices (Drones), Their Traffic Control and Protection against Their Abuse, the Report on Cybernetic Security in the CR in 2016, and the Proposal for Creating a National Security Office for Increasing Cybersecurity in the CR through Methodological Support and Prevention in State Administration. The NSC also approved the Methodology for a System for Providing Blood Transfusion Products and Blood Derivatives in Emergencies.

At its meeting on 3 May 2017, the NSC discussed the Action Plan of the National Security Audit, the Situation Report on Internal Security and Public Order in the CR in 2016 (as compared to 2015) and the Report on Extremism in the CR in 2016, the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Strategy for Combating Extremism in 2016 and the Strategy for Combating Extremism in 2017. In addition, the NSC approved the Proposal for Creating a Permanent Working Body of the NSC

for Cybersecurity, and dealt with the Strategy for Education in the Area of Population Protection and Crisis Management, as well as the Inter-Ministerial Strategy for the Support of Security Research in the CR 2017–2023, Projected to 2030.

During its **extraordinary meeting on 15 May 2017**, the NSC discussed the Report of the Government Commissioner for Cybersecurity on the World Cyber Attack on 12 May 2017.

At its meeting on 14 June 2017, the NSC discussed the Situation Report on Migration and Integration of Foreigners in the CR in 2016, as well as the Information System for the Support of Searches and the National Unit for Passenger Name Records in the Fight against Terrorism (implementation of the PNR Directive). The NSC also approved Ensuring Security at International Airports with Regular Public Service, Except Václav Havel Airport in Prague, and Expanding the Automatic Biometric Face Detection System at Václav Havel Airport in Prague. At this meeting, the NSC also discussed the Proposal to Increase the Staff of the National Cyber and Information Security Agency. The NSC took note of the Comprehensive Overview of the Protection of Soft Targets in the CR.

At its meeting held on 11 September 2017, the NSC discussed the Assessment of the Exercise on Reintroducing Border Controls at State Borders with Austria, Poland, Slovakia, and Germany Between 2015–2017 and approved the Organisation of the Project “Ensuring Security at International Airports with Regular Public Service, Except Václav Havel Airport in Prague”. The NSC also discussed the Report on the Implementation of Tasks Set Out by the Strategy to Develop the Capabilities of the PCR to Investigate Cybercrime. The NSC was also informed of the Report on Adopted Modifications of the National Security Programme for Civil Aviation Protection against Unlawful Acts in the CR.

3.3 LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Act No. 55/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, as amended, and Act No. 141/1961 Coll., the Criminal Procedure Code, as amended, as well as some other acts, entered into force on 18 March 2017. One of the major changes was **the introduction of a new**

precautionary measure – seizure of some assets – which it will be possible to impose on a perpetrator sentenced for an offence defined by law, through which they obtained or attempted to obtain material gain, and if other findings prove that some of the perpetrator's assets are

proceeds from crime. It will also be possible to impose this precautionary measure in relation to assets which are the joint property of spouses, or have been placed in a trust fund or given to another person, if the legal conditions are met. This amendment extended the applicability of the instrument of declaration of property under Act No. 29/2003 Coll., which it was only possible to use in the case of seizing assets to ensure the completion of a sentence of asset forfeiture, a monetary fine, or securing the claim of the injured party. The instrument can now be used for all purposes when seizing assets belonging to a person whose property is to be secured, or for determining the property of an accused person, if this is necessary for criminal proceedings. The amendment also expanded the possibility of determining the property of an accused person during preliminary proceedings.

Act No. 58/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code, as amended, Act No. 169/1999 Coll., on the Completion of Imprisonment Sentences and on the amendment of some other acts, as amended, as well as some other acts, entered into force on 1 October 2017. On the same day, Decree No. 279/2017 Coll., amending Ministry of Justice Decree No. 345/1999 Coll., which issued the procedure for executing sentences of imprisonment, as amended, entered into force. This amendment of the Criminal Code and of prison regulations **changed the existing system of external differentiation of prisons**, reducing the current four basic types of prisons to two (guarded and unguarded). The purpose of the amendments was to improve the penitentiary treatment of prisoners and security in prisons.

On 1 July 2017, the amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Public Prosecutor's Office came into effect via Decree no. 166/2017 Coll., amending the Ministry of Justice Decree no. 23/1994 Coll. on the Rules of Procedure of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the establishment of branches of some public prosecution offices, and details regarding acts performed by lawyers, as amended. This amendment **limited the mandatory jurisdiction of public prosecutor's offices in insolvency matters, and specified their competencies with regards to terrorist offences**, where it responded to legislative changes.

Criminal Liability of Legal Persons

The significance of Act No. 418/2011 Coll., on the Criminal Liability of Legal Persons and Proceedings against Them, as amended, increased the number of persons subject to criminal proceedings (or charges).

Based on the amendment introduced by Act No. 183/2016 Coll., which came into effect right before the start of 2017, exculpation became possible under Sec. 8 (5) of Act No. 418/2011 Coll., allowing a legal person to be exempted from criminal liability under Sec. 8 (1) – (4) if this person made every effort that could be fairly demanded of them in order to prevent the commitment of offences under Sec. 1. A special report is being drafted by the Supreme Prosecutor's Office relative to this amendment, on the basis of findings collected and evaluated within the entire public prosecution system. The report was first released in 2017, and updated twice since then.

Act on Civil Service

In 2017, five amendments to the Act on Civil Service have been adopted, relating for instance to exemptions from the scope of the Act regarding recruitment. The amendments also took into account the establishment of new institutions (the National Budget Board, the Ethics Committee of the State Institute for Drug Control and the National Cyber and Information Security Agency).

The amendments introduced by Act No. 144/2017 Coll. resolved the situation of existing civil servants who could not be recruited as such because they did not fulfil the prerequisites of education. This amendment allows the concerned civil servants enough time to supplement their education, while not resigning from the effort professionalising the civil service. In addition, the amendments simplify and increase the efficiency of hiring procedures, thereby motivating applicants. They also amend the Act on Civil Service so as to facilitate its implementation in other areas.

Another recent act, Act No. 150/2017 Coll., on Foreign Service, and on the amendment of some acts (the Act on Foreign Service), introduced a complex regulation of the specifics of foreign

service and adapted the text of the Act on Civil Service to be in accordance with it.

By adopting Decree No. 388/2017 Coll., the model for a civil servant card was established. The card certifies that the holder is a civil servant. Cards will be issued by state institutions to civil servants no later than 31 December 2019.

Records of Inhabitants and Their Birth Numbers, Basic Population Register, Travel Documents and Identity Cards

In 2017, Act No. 251/2017 Coll., amending some acts in relation to the adoption of the Act on Electronic Identification, was adopted and will enter into force on 1 July 2018. This act amends, inter alia, Act No. 111/2009 Coll., on Basic Registers, as amended, making it possible to enter an office address in the basic register of inhabitants, both by foreigners and Czech citizens.

Entities authorised to use residence data will thus have access to information not only about Czech citizens, but also foreigners with an office address.

Furthermore, Act No. 195/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 328/1999 Col., on Identity Cards, as amended, and some other acts, was amended in 2017 and will enter into force on 1 July 2018. This act, inter alia, regulates the issuance of all identity cards with electronic chips that it will be possible to issue rapidly, i.e. within 24 hours on working days or within 5 working days. At the same time, the issuance of identity cards without machine readable data and valid for 1 month has been restricted, since these documents are more likely to be forged and altered. These identity cards will no longer be issued pursuant to loss, theft, damage, or destruction of existing identity cards or pursuant to a change of permanent residency, but only for purposes of voting.

As of 1 July 2018, travel documents will also be issued rapidly, i.e. within 24 hours on working days or within 5 working days. Applications for the rapid issuance of passports (or identity cards) will be accepted at any municipal office with extended competencies or at the Mol.

Misdemeanours

On 1 July 2017, Act No. 250/2016 Coll., on Liability for Misdemeanours and Relevant Proceedings, and Act No. 251/2016 Coll., on Some

Misdemeanours, came into effect. The Act on Liability for Misdemeanours and Relevant Proceedings is an important milestone in the reform of administrative sanctioning. The purpose of the act is to unify the conditions of liability for misdemeanours and previous administrative offences into one law. The conditions of liability for legal persons and entrepreneurs for administrative offences were dispersed across some two hundred different laws, where they were inadequately described, and the gaps were filled only by court practice. The act also unified the legal responsibilities of natural persons, legal persons and entrepreneurs, via the introduction of a single misdemeanour incorporating all administrative offences and that of a single procedure.

As opposed to the previous Act No. 200/1990 Coll., on Misdemeanours, the new Act on Liability for Misdemeanours and Relevant Proceedings does not regulate individual misdemeanours. These misdemeanours, previously regulated by a specific section, were moved to individual acts regulating public administration, which state obligations whose negligence is punishable. Misdemeanours pertaining to other areas were included in the Act on Some Misdemeanours – e.g. misdemeanours against public order, property, or civic coexistence.

On 1 July 2017, Act No. 183/2017 Coll., amending some acts related to the adoption of the Act on Liability for Misdemeanours and Relevant Proceedings as well as the act on some misdemeanours, came into force.

Migration

In 2017, two amendments to Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on Residency in the CR, and on the amendment of some acts, as amended, were adopted. The changes were the following:

- Act No. 183/2017 Coll., amending some acts related to the adoption of the Act on Liability for Misdemeanours and Relevant Proceedings as well as the Act on Some Misdemeanours, came into force on 1 July 2017. Changes to the Act on Residence of Foreigners were related to the abolishment of the previous Act No. 200/1990 Coll., on Misdemeanours, and its replacement by a new act.

- Act No. 222/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on Residence of Foreigners in the CR and amending some acts, as amended, and other related acts, came into force on 15 August 2017. The legislative process of adopting the amendment was by no means simple, since there was a veto by the Senate, but the act was adopted in the end. The extensive amendment modifies some related provisions in other acts, e.g. Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum, Act No. 262/2006 Coll., on Labour, Act no. 108/2006 Coll., on Social Services, Act No. 435/2004 Coll., on Employment, and others. The amendment touches upon more than two hundred points. The primary goal was to thoroughly transpose Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers and Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer, into the Czech legal system. The main points referred to in the explanatory note refer to long-term residence permits for the purpose of investing, strengthening security aspects of the migration process, and the temporary residence of family members of EU nationals. The amendment regulates terminology regarding family members, introduces short-term visas for the purpose of seasonal employment, regulates conditions for acquiring residence permits for the purpose of scientific research, and specifies the rules for obtaining an employee card and for obtaining permanent residence permits and some procedures pertaining to the residence of foreigners.

Furthermore, four implementing regulations were adopted in 2017 pertaining to certain provisions of the Act on Residence of Foreigners in the CR. The provisions were the following:

- Government Decree No. 215/2017 Coll., on Exemptions from Visa Obligations, came into effect on 18 July 2017, replacing two previous Government Decrees, No. 272/2004 Coll. and 273/2004 Coll. The purpose of this decree was

to ensure compatibility of national regulations with Sec. 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 of 15 March 2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement. In this context, those activities that will not be considered as gainful for purposes of exemption from the visa requirement were defined.

- Government Decree No. 223/2017 Coll., on certain conditions of issuance and extending the validity of long-term residence permits for the purpose of investing came into effect on 15 August 2017. This decree is directly related to the introduction of a special residence permit, the so-called long-term residence for the purpose of investing in the CR under Sec. 42 of the Act on Residence of Foreigners. With this decree, the government laid down the conditions for issuing the abovementioned permit, when a detailed specification of a significant investment is provided, specified the necessary sum to be invested, and what part of cash investments may be replaced with investing other assets. Apart from that, the government set the maximum number of statutory bodies, their members, and commercial corporation proxies for the purposes of assessing the significant influence on its business and the lowest impact of the foreigner applying for the long-term residence permit for the purpose of investing as a partner of a business corporation in the given corporation. The amendment proposal was drafted by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, which has the necessary information from the field and is also the body that will be responsible for assessing the economic or other significant contribution of the foreigner's stay in the CR.
- Decree No. 224/2017 Coll., amending Decree No. 368/1999 Coll., laying down the requirements and number of photographs required by the Act on Residence of Foreigners, as amended, came into effect on 15 August 2017. The decree took into account some changes made to the Act on Residence of Foreigners, particularly the change of the name of the permanent residence card now

issued to EU nationals, the change of the name of documents issued to nationals of states that are bound by international treaties negotiated with the EU granting them free movement equivalent to that of EU nationals (currently Swiss nationals), or nationals of states that are bound by the Agreement on the European Economic Area (nationals of Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein) and their family members. In addition, requirements for photographs presented by foreigners who are blind or use a head covering for health or religious purposes were specified. In the given case, the requirements were unified with those specified in the act on identity documents, the act on travel documents, and the decree on their implementation.

- Decree No. 322/2017 Coll., on establishing a list of employment branches that include seasonal activities, came into force on 4 October 2017 and is directly related to ensuring the transposition of the Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers. The transposition was ensured by Act No. 222/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on Residence of Foreigners in the CR and amending some acts, as amended, and other related acts. Two special residence statuses were added to the Act on Residence of Foreigners, short-term visas for the purpose of seasonal work and visas for residencies exceeding 90 days for the purpose of seasonal work. The decree was elaborated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs as the responsible body in the area of employing foreigners.

In addition, in the course of 2017, the legislative process related to the new act amending Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on Residence of Foreigners in the CR and amending some acts, as amended, and other related acts, was taking place. The act was proposed mainly for the purpose of transposing Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au

pairing. The amendment introduces the obligation to undergo an adaptation-integration course upon arrival in the CR and institutionally embeds integration at the regional level in the form of the transfer of Centres for the Integration of Foreign Nationals into the government system. Furthermore, it proposes a modification of the statutory power of the government to issue quotas for economic migration. The government decree issued on the basis of a legal mandate will set transparent quantitative quotas that will consequently be broken down into categories corresponding to the quantitative definition of migration needs.

Asylum

Act No. 325/1999 Coll., on Asylum, as amended, was amended in 2017 by Act No. 222/2017 Coll., amending Act no. 326/1999 Coll., on Residence of Foreigners in the CR and amending some acts, as amended, and other related acts. This amendment brought only small changes, mainly addressing practical needs. For example, it introduced explicit obligations for applicants for international protection to state information about their gender and marital status during the administrative procedure. Furthermore, it introduced the possibility of videoconferencing as part of an action against the decision of the Mol in the area of international protection or retention. Also, it specifies provisions relating to the possibility to request assistance during a voluntary return from the CR, particularly for the purpose of speeding up the process and avoiding possible administrative obstacles.

Environmental Protection

Act No. 123/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on Environmental Protection, as amended, came into force on 1 June 2017. The amendment was drafted on the basis of long-term experience with the application of the previous act, as well as on the basis of comments from municipalities and regions. Newly, Sec. 16 includes conditions for the protection of national parks, e.g. the prohibition of using fireworks or place sources of light outside of enclosed edifices in national parks that would stream light above the horizontal plane passing through the centre of the light source. Also, it is now prohibited, apart from in municipal areas with buildings, to operate unmanned aerial devices or model aeroplanes

(i.e. drones) in national parks. A nature conservation authority may grant exceptions, but breaches may be sanctioned as misdemeanours.

Act No. 149/2017 Coll., amending Act No. 477/2001 Coll., on Packaging and on Amending some acts, as amended, came into force on 1 July 2017, with the exception of some of its provisions that came into force on 1 January 2018. The amendment transposes Directive (EU) 2015/720 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Directive 94/62/EC as regards reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags, which has not yet been legislatively regulated in the CR. The purpose of the amendment is to reduce the high rate of

disposal of plastic bags outside areas designated for rubbish disposal, and the consequent environmental pollution. The essence of the measure is that a plastic bag may be provided to customers at points of sale in exchange for a sum corresponding to its retail price. That is, plastic bags should no longer be provided free of charge. This does not apply to very light plastic bags with a wall thickness of under 15 microtons, which are required for hygienic purposes or which help prevent food waste. Providing a plastic bag at the point of sale free of charge constitutes a misdemeanour. This prohibition is effective as of 1 January 2018.

3.4 CRIME PREVENTION

Government Resolution No. 66 of 25 January 2016 approved the Crime Prevention Strategy 2016–2020.

This strategic document is complemented by the Crime Prevention Action Plan for 2017, approved by Government Resolution No. 705 of 27 July 2016.

At least CZK 300 million were allocated from the MoI budget for the purposes of implementing the

Strategy between 2016 and 2020, further resources will be provided by other ministries.

Only a basic overview of the most important activities in the area of crime prevention is provided below. An individual document evaluating the implementation of the Crime Prevention Strategy 2016–2020 and the Crime Prevention Action Plan for 2017 was submitted to the government before the end of May 2017.

3.4.1 Crime Prevention at the International Level

The European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN)

The EUCPN is an international network linking local, national, and European crime prevention policies. Its aim is, in particular, to improve crime prevention, share good practices, and facilitate EU Member States' access to projects already implemented within the EU.

The CR has been a member of the EUCPN since 2004. The National Contact Point is the Crime Prevention Department of the MoI, whose representatives regularly take part in member meetings (twice a year), as well as the European Crime Prevention Award (ECPA) ceremony. The goal of the ECPA is to promote the exchange of good practices within the EU. The EUCPN has been overseeing the award since 2001.

In 2017, **crime prevention** was the central theme of ECPA projects, particularly in the area of preventing and reducing cybercrime in communities (in line with the EU policy priorities in the fight against cybercrime), and committed by OCGs for the purpose of generating large profits. 6 projects were entered for the CR. The winning Czech project was from the Vysočina and Středočeský regions, called “Regions for Safe Internet” (www.kpbi.cz). Under the Estonian Presidency of the EU Council, national projects were presented at the “Best Practices Conference” on 13 and 15 December 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia. Out of 18 European projects, the winner was an Estonian middle school project called “The Cyber Defence Field of Study at Põltsamaa Coeducational Gymnasium”, the runner-up was a Danish project called “The Danes’ Digital Self-Defence”, and the second

runner-up was a Belgian project called “Cybersimple”. What was particularly valuable about the projects were the new approaches, multi-stakeholder cooperation, and efficiency in practice.

The European Forum on Urban Safety (EFUS)

EFUS was founded in 1987 under the auspices of the Council of Europe and is the only European network of local and regional bodies dealing with urban safety. EFUS encourages the sharing of best practices in the area of crime prevention and countering crime in European cities, and supports a vision of approaches that seek to balance prevention, repression, and social cohesion. The EFUS general assembly, comprising all of its members, meets regularly once a year in order to share best practices and deepen existing cooperation. For more information see www.efus.eu.

On 18–19 September 2017, EFUS representatives took part in the historically first **National Prevention day** (www.npd.brno.cz) within the framework of the “Criminality, Crime Prevention, and Society” conference, organised by the city of Brno in cooperation with the Brno municipal police and with financial support from the MoI. The event was inspired by the Deutscher Präventionstag – the German National Prevention Day, which has been held for the past 20 years and in whose organisation EFUS also plays a significant role. For more information see www.praeventionstag.de. The programme included the announcement of the winners of the best crime prevention project at the local level in 2017 competition, entitled “New Threats and New Approaches to Crime Prevention (Cybercrime, Soft Target Protection, Population Ageing, etc.)”.

3.4.2 Crime Prevention at the Inter-Ministerial Level

The Inter-Ministerial Crime Prevention Committee

The Committee, as an inter-ministerial coordination and methodological body established within the MoI pursuant to Government Resolution No. 617 of 3 November 1993, met eight times in 2017.

In the 1st quarter, it focused on situational crime prevention. The project “Safe Country” was introduced within the “Safe Locality” project, along with other activities of the Advisory Forum for Situational Prevention. A preventative technical norm (ČSN 73 4400) was developed in order to address the need to protect schools and school facilities as so-called priority soft targets. In March, the Committee focused primarily on MoI grant programmes and their results and discussed the issue of “Roma and Security”. It took note of the Strategy to Combat Social Exclusion 2016–2020 Action Plan.

In the 2nd quarter, the Committee approved the submission for inter-ministerial comments of the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Crime Prevention Strategy 2016–2020 and its Action Plan. It discussed bullying in schools and educational establishments and was informed

about the system of reporting and collecting data for the purpose of primary prevention of risky behaviour in schools. In May 2017, the Committee focused on implementing the Strategy for Prisons 2025 for 2016, and talked about the current challenges of relevant policies (pilot project “Open Prisons”). The Committee approved the topic of the best crime prevention project at the local level in 2017, and took note of the Strategy for the Development of Probation and Mediation 2025 and the Strategy for Crime Prevention in the PCR 2017–2019.

In the 3rd quarter, the Committee dealt with the adoption of amendments to Act No. 56/2017 Coll., on Victims of Crime, and experiences with their application in practice. The Committee took note of information on activities of the PCR concerning the status of children and their legal guardians in criminal proceedings, and the methodology of working with particularly vulnerable victims in investigation rooms. A methodological guide for curators of children and minors was presented, introducing a typology of situations where children are threatened and the consequent use of tools and methods of social work.

In the 4th quarter, the Committee discussed the current state of implementation of a project called “Systemic Development and Support of Tools for the Social and Legal Protection of Children”. The Committee was informed of the current situation regarding the professional treatment of perpetrators while serving sentences and the relevant protective measures. Development trends in the area of gambling in 2016 were introduced. The Committee took note of preventative activities of law enforcement authorities and the GIBS focused on preventing crimes by officers of armed and security forces of the CR.

Treatment of Convicted Drug Users in Prisons

In 2017, the ICSP continued its research to map and evaluate prison therapy programmes managed by specialised departments for convicts with personality and behavioural disorders caused by drug abuse, and by specialised departments for protective anti-toxicomania treatment. The research studies these programmes, their implementation in Czech prisons, their functioning and effectiveness in terms of possible effects on the level of criminal recidivism of convicted drug users after their release from prison and on the change in their criminogenic attitudes.

Research on the Opinions and Attitudes of the Population Regarding Issues Related to Crime and its Prevention

The research on the opinions and attitudes of the population regarding issues related to crime and its prevention stems from the Crime Prevention Strategy 2016–2020 Action Plan. An opinion poll will be conducted every year for four years.

In 2017, a large opinion poll was conducted, which will be repeated in 2020. In the meantime, smaller omnibus surveys will be conducted. The poll to be carried out in 2020 will compare the responses given during the smaller surveys.

The data obtained from a representative sample of the Czech population will be analysed by the ICSP in a final report and in other documents. The results will be presented at expert fora and will define the methodology of similar researches in the future, as well as their frequency. The results will also serve to define the priorities and tasks to

be included in the Crime Prevention Strategy in the CR following 2020.

Agency for Social Inclusion

The Department for Social Inclusion of the Office of the Government (Agency) **cooperated with 94 municipalities** in so-called **local partnerships**, which connected existing structures, including e.g. the Crime Prevention Committee, working groups, and other relevant platforms.

In 2017, the Agency completed the implementation of the “**Campaign against Racism and Hate Crime**” (Campaign), funded by the EEA and Norway Funds 2009–2014 within the CZ05 – National, Regional, and Local Initiatives for Reducing Inequalities between Groups programme. The project was implemented between March 2014 and April 2017. Its total budget was CZK 31 679 354, of which 20 % was covered by the state budget.

Within the Campaign, **training courses for representatives of local governments and local actors in the Ústecký and Moravskoslezský regions** took place in 2017, focusing on ways of communicating measures in the field of social inclusion, debunking disinformation, practical tools for better communication and media skills when advocating integration measures and communicating sensitive topics to the public. The training courses were provided by Nová ekonomika, an NGO. In total, 10 half-day courses, 3 full-day courses, and 6 two-day courses took place, attended by 242 participants.

Also within the Campaign, **the outcomes of educational activities for the PCR and municipal police in the Ústecký and Moravskoslezský regions** were completed in 2017. These included methodological manuals drafted by In Iustitia, an NGO, on the issue of hate crime, its causes and effective prevention, and the correct and sensitive treatment of victims of hate crime.

The project also included **educational activities for pupils and teachers at primary schools in the Ústecký and Moravskoslezský regions**. These were prepared by ASIS, an NGO, and included a media workshop and school mediation exercises. 10 schools were involved, with 20 school mediators and 81 peer-mediators. The online application Media Workshop – A Space for Everyone, made room for discussions on racism,

homophobia, ageism, etc. through the creation of collages, comic strips, and polls. A dedicated website was created to support the mediators and share good practices: www.mediaceveskole.cz.

Sharing good practices in socially excluded areas was supported through sharing practical experiences with regards to specific topics, including security and crime prevention, via the web page www.dobrepraxe.cz.

The project also involved a nationwide media campaign against racism and hate crime called **Hate Free Culture**, which helped raise awareness

and media coverage of extremism, racism, and hate crime not just among young people, but the general population, mostly through Facebook. The campaign continued to create and promote so-called “Hate Free Zones” – violence- and hate-free spaces – with 291 subjects having registered so far across the CR, of which 71 did so in 2017. These zones, such as cafes, theatres, galleries, universities, embassies, ecclesiastical institutions, etc. declare that every person is welcome without distinction. Registration can be completed at <http://www.hatefree.cz/registrace-mista> via an online form. The website lists all the Hate Free Zones on an interactive map.

3.4.3 Crime Prevention at the Ministry of the Interior

In accordance with the Crime Prevention Strategy, the Mol issued, in December 2016, a call for proposals within the Crime Prevention Grant Programme of the Mol for 2017. 12 regional police directorates of the PCR applied, as well as the PR Department and Crime Prevention Department of the Police Presidium. A total of 41 projects were submitted, of which 25 received funding amounting to a total of CZK 1 153 000.

Special Interrogation Rooms

There is a specialised course called “Interrogating a Child Witness” at the Police Academy of the CR for specialists working with children.

In 2017, a special interrogation room was built at the Police Academy of the CR. The room serves educational purposes and is used for real interrogations when necessary. As of 31 January 2018, there are 68 special interrogation rooms in the CR.

2 465 interrogations were conducted in 2017, of those: 1 498 with children, 104 with victims of domestic violence, 38 with victims of rape, 31 with the elderly, and 10 with disabled persons.

Programme of Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking

In 2017, the Mol continued to implement the “Programme of Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking”, which is intended for victims of human trafficking. The programme offers psychosocial and health assistance, interpreting services, legal and attorney

assistance, housing, employment assistance, legalisation of residence or a dignified return to the country of origin. A key objective is the humanitarian dimension of support and protection of victims of human trafficking. Nevertheless, the programme also serves to acquire relevant information about the criminal environment, which can lead to the detection and prosecution of perpetrators.

In 2017, 24 victims of human trafficking were entered into the programme, from Moldova, Ukraine, Nigeria, the Philippines, Vietnam, Slovakia, and CR. 17 cases involved trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, and 7 cases involved trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

For the first time since the creation of the programme, the highest number of victims were Czech nationals (9 persons in total – 4 men and 5 women).

The support of preventative activities is an important part of the programme. In 2017, a campaign aimed at trafficked and exploited persons, or persons at risk of being trafficked and exploited, was run, alongside a campaign aimed at the general public.

Domestic Violence

In 2017, the Mol announced the Prevention of Socially Pathological Phenomena with a Focus on Prevention and Elimination of Domestic Violence through Work with Violent Persons and Persons Needing Anger Management grant programme.

8 projects received funding amounting to CZK 2 million.

Emergency and Assistance Hotlines

In July 2015, the Minister of the Interior approved a proposal for a systemic solution to the sustainability of **European emergency and assistance lines 116 000** (for missing and vulnerable children), **116 111** (helpline for children), and **116 006** (helpline for victims of crime and domestic violence). As part of the approved solution, a grant programme was created for NGOs operating the abovementioned helplines. The annual allocated sum of CZK 2 million is intended to finance telecommunications services and cover the fees of European helpline operators in the CR. The purpose of this programme is to provide free calls for children in emergencies and for parents and relatives missing children or dealing with parental or other family-related problems, as well as victims of crime and domestic violence. Providing free calls to the abovementioned helplines is a service for the Czech public and is in the public

interest. It is a guarantee of the state ensuring the availability of necessary services to its citizens in difficult situations.

In 2017, the 116 111 helpline (for children) received 151 421 calls, 2 827 email queries, and 2 017 chat prompts. In more than 31 000 cases the conversation concerned a specific problem. In 60 cases, another authority was contacted on behalf of the client (a Child Protection Authority, the Medical Emergency Service, the FRS, or the PCR). Of these, the Medical Emergency Service was called in 13 cases where there was a direct threat from an initiated suicide attempt by the client. The 116 000 helpline (for missing and vulnerable children) made 1 800 contacts. These included incoming contacts (received calls, received and sent emails, chats) and outgoing contacts where further intervention was necessary (Child Protection Authority, PCR, education facilities, etc.). The 116 006 helpline (for victims of crime and domestic violence) received 6 405 calls.

3.4.4 The Crime Prevention Programme at the Local Level

The MoI continued its support of preventative activities within the Crime Prevention Programme at the Local Level 2017. The main objectives of the Programme were to strengthen citizens' feeling of safety, eliminate criminal risk phenomena, and protect local communities from crime. The call for proposals within this programme was issued in November 2016.

146 applications were submitted amounting to 292 projects, of which 15 were submitted by 8 regions. The total amount of financial subsidy requirements amounted to CZK 80 928 731.

CZK 54 676 000 were released for the Programme, with maximum CZK 20 000 000 allocated for investment and CZK 34 676 000 allocated for non-investment purposes.

The Crime Prevention Committee agreed with the proposal by the Evaluation Commission to allocate CZK 54 100 000 to the grant.

228 projects received funding (there were 221 in 2016). Only 64 projects did not receive funding (there were 84 in 2016).

The highest allocation, with regards to the overall riskiness of the areas, the number of submitted projects, and their quality, was awarded to the Liberecký, Ústecký, and Moravskoslezský regions, of which Liberecký region received CZK 8 448 000 (having requested CZK 15 333 134), Ústecký region received CZK 7 506 000 (having requested CZK 9 380 000), and Moravskoslezský region received CZK 7 368 000 (having requested CZK 11 853 414).

Investment projects, as in previous years, focused mainly on situational prevention – establishing, expanding, and modernising camera systems, building or renovating sports grounds, and installing lights in risky areas in municipalities.

Non-investment projects were mostly used to finance Crime Prevention Assistants, Concierges – Preventivists, community work with children and minors in the care of the Child Protection Authority (camps, interest groups and sporting activities). Informative and educational projects were numerous, covering areas such as helping victims of crime or educating members of the

municipal police. A number of projects focused on the elderly as victims of crime, on forensic marking of bicycles and compensatory aids, and on preventing cybercrime.

Since the end of 2016 and throughout 2017, intensive work took place on preparing the electronisation of submitting applications so that everything would be ready by the time the call for proposals under the 2018 Programme was issued. The preparations were made in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance (holder and provider of the license) and a contractor.

At the beginning of December 2017, a call for proposals for the 2018 Programme was issued.

Situational Prevention

The purpose of projects and activities aimed at situational prevention is to make it more difficult to commit a crime, increase the risk of perpetrators being caught and prosecuted, and minimise gains from criminal activity. The relevant bodies are the MoI (provides grants for situational prevention projects and discusses technical standards in the area of protection of property and of persons), the PCR (recommends and implements situational prevention measures), municipal police, local governments (implement crime prevention projects at the local level), the association of companies active in the protection of property and of persons, private security firms, insurance agencies, architects, and builders.

Members of the Advisory Board of the Minister of the Interior for Situational Crime Prevention in 2017 organised more than 20 conferences or seminars for the general public at the local or regional level pertaining to situational prevention (e.g. preventive marking of objects, mechanical barriers, camera systems, electronic security, safe homes, etc.).

As for the Advisory Board, it met twice in 2017: during the ELF fair in May and then in a newly-secured elementary school in Neveklov in the Středočeský region.

The MoI continued, in 2017, to support situational prevention projects implemented by municipalities within the Crime Prevention Programme. Most projects focused on building and expanding city camera surveillance systems, their connection from the municipal police to the

PCR, securing city and municipal edifices, and forensic identification of bicycles and compensatory tools. As regards **city camera surveillance systems, 58 municipalities were given funding amounting to CZK 17 791 000.**

In the area of situational prevention, a new system of bicycle protection and compensatory tools, using so-called forensic identification marking, was successfully developed. The system for property protection has been running in the CR since 2013, when the MoI swiftly responded to the interest of municipalities in this system and created a project called **“Forensic Identification Marking of Bicycles”**. The actual forensic identification marking is a special emulsion containing a UV brightener and plastic microdots carrying a specific code. The marked bicycles are also described, photographed, and registered both in local police registers and in the nationwide register. **In 2017, 24 municipalities received financial support amounting to CZK 1 306 000.** At the end of 2017, over 14 000 bicycles and compensatory tools were registered in the local police registers of 38 municipal police offices and in the nationwide register in 55 municipalities.

Soft Target Protection

Making schools and school facilities safe is one of the main security priorities of the MoI.

This is why, in cooperation with the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing, the MoI developed Czech Technical Standard 73 4400 “Crime Prevention – Safety Management During Planning, Building, and Using Schools and School Facilities”, valid and effective as of 1 September 2016.

The standard helps make sense of a large number of technical recommendations, standards, decrees, and laws by referring to all the necessary materials needed by schools in one document. Thereby, it rectifies the frequent absence of a conceptual approach to safety when planning the construction or reconstruction of schools.

Based on close cooperation between the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing and the MoI, the Czech Technical Standard 73 4400 was published on the MoI website. Permission to use the Czech National Standard was granted exceptionally due to the significant role of the

Mol in its creation and in the importance of the standard for crime prevention. It is therefore without prejudice to the fact that Czech National Standards or their parts may not be reproduced and disseminated without the consent of the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing, as per Sec. 5 (8) of Act No. 22/1997 Coll., on Technical Requirements for Products and on amendments to certain acts, as amended.

Some other specific activities:

- The Mol, in cooperation with the Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing and the Association of Technical Security Services Premium Alarm, organised a seminar on the “Application of Technical Norms in the Area of Crime Prevention”. The seminar took place on 5 April 2017 and was attended by 70 crime prevention experts from across the country. Discussed topics included the protection of soft targets, i.e. schools, hospitals, and other public spaces, but also control and security technologies, locking systems, and escape routes.
- The Liberecký, Středočeský, Jihomoravský, and Karlovarský regions, along with regional police directorates and in cooperation with the Mol, the Czech Mechanical Lock Systems Guild and the Association of Safe Schools organised seminars focusing on making schools and school facilities safe.
- The Karlovarský region commissioned a professional audit at all schools established by the region and earmarked funds for ensuring basic safety at schools.
- The Jihočeský region, in cooperation with the regional police directorate, drafted a regional project dedicated to school safety.
- On 25 May 2017, the conference “Safe School” took place, with more than 200 attendees. The conference aimed to raise awareness and inform school representatives, founders of schools, and state and local administration employees (regions, towns, municipalities) about the possibilities of financing, but also about the technical possibilities and conditions when devising a comprehensive safety system at schools, with regard to the maximum protection of pupils, teachers, and visitors not only from attacks of so-called lone shooters, but also from vandalism or thefts.
- The Středočeský region, in cooperation with the regional police directorate, the Mol, the Czech Mechanical Lock Systems Guild and the Association of Safe Schools organised several implementation seminars relating to the new Czech National Standard 73 4400 for about one hundred representatives of schools and educational establishments. Similar seminars were held in Orlová, Olomouc, and Brno.
- The Jihočeský region, in cooperation with the PCR, the regional Medical Emergency Service and the Mol, launched a website for the project “Armed Shooter at School”.
- On 25 October 2017, about 250 educators from primary schools met at Alfa Cinema in Sokolov to discuss soft target protection at schools. The educators were acquainted, with an emphasis on practical experience, with the regional “Armed Shooter at School” project.
- On 15 November 2017, the Mol held the second annual Safe Event conference. The main topic was soft target protection at cultural, sports, and social events.

3.4.5 Specific Crime Prevention Projects

Crime Prevention Assistants

One specific project increasing safety in socially excluded areas, preventing extremism and helping to motivate local governments and citizens to search for positive solutions to problems, is the Crime Prevention Assistants (CPA) project, which has been running since September 2009.

Following a pilot run in 2009, there were already 38 crime prevention assistants in the CR in 2010, serving in 10 municipalities. In 2017 there were 92 crime prevention assistants in 37 municipalities across the country, financially supported from the Mol budget as part of the Crime Prevention Programme – to the tune of CZK 20 928 000. Other assistants were financed from other sources, e.g. labour offices. At the end of 2017,

labour offices financed over 335 crime prevention assistants in 102 municipalities. Some assistants were financed directly by municipalities or by EU funds under the Operational Programme Employment. Thus, approximately 500 crime prevention assistants were active in the CR at the end of 2017.

Concierge – Preventist

This project, which addresses the specific need of municipalities and towns to positively influence the situation in socially excluded areas (albeit it is universally applicable) and which is closely linked to the CPA project, is a preventative project whose pilot ran in 2013.

The objective of the pilot run of the Concierge – Preventist project was to directly address the need for improving security and public order in houses and their immediate surroundings, strengthening personal responsibility of citizens for observing safety standards and social norms, and to introduce a system of measures within the triad crime prevention – safe home – safe area. The project also helps, at least in part, to employ persons in long-term unemployment.

Since 1 July 2013, 17 concierges-preventists were hired with financial support from the MoI within the Crime Prevention Programme. In 2014, 26 concierge positions were created in 12 municipalities across the country; in 2015, there were 23 concierges in 11 municipalities and in 2016, 32 concierge positions were created in 13 municipalities, with support amounting to CZK 1 581 000. **In 2017, 31 concierge positions in 11 municipalities across the country received financial support amounting to CZK 1 502 000 within the Crime Prevention Programme 2017.**

Protection of Property and of Persons Programmes – Safe Area – Safe Country

The **Safe Area** programme aims at integrating safety standards into new construction projects and revitalisation of existing residential areas. The programme helps increase security, improve social cohesion, and positively contribute to cooperation between the public, the police, local governments, and owners of apartment buildings.

Within the Safe Area project, a joint preventative project called **Safe Country** was implemented, which aimed to highlight and support mechanical

barrier systems, raise awareness among the public, and support manufacture. The project also aimed to connect the theoretical and practical aspects of crime prevention, as well as the experiences of the Czech Mechanical Lock Systems Guild as a member of the Situational Prevention Advisory Committee of the MoI and project author. The Crime Prevention Department of the MoI is patron of the project.

In the CR, new European standards were issued: ČSN EN 14383 – crime prevention standards for building construction. These standards were not very well known, which was another reason for the creation and implementation of the Safe Country project – to teach the public to think in a way that would eliminate opportunities for property crime.

One specific output of the project was the joint Advisory Centre at the 9th Prague Fire & Security Days 2017, an instalment of the international fair dedicated to the latest trends in fire and security technologies, systems, and services.

The fair offers an annual show of the latest trends and procedures used in fire protection, mechanical and electronic security systems, camera systems, security and protection systems, smart buildings systems, etc. The fair was held under the auspices of the Minister of the Interior and the Police President. Experts from the MoI and the PCR took part in the fair, providing information and advice at the Advisory Centre pertaining to protection of property and of persons.

Another memorable project output was the third edition of the “Catalogue of Recommended Products for the Protection of Persons and Property”, which constituted one step in bringing about positive change in the attitude of citizens towards their own and shared property and its consequent protection.

Information System for the Social and Legal Protection of Children (IS SPOD)

The concept of a single information system for the social and legal protection of children is enshrined in Act No. 359/1999 Coll., on Social and Legal Protection of Children, as amended.

One of the follow-up activities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs pertaining to the

introduction of the Single Information System for the Social and Legal Protection of children was implemented within a specific project called “Systemic Development and Support of Instruments for the Social and Legal Protection of Children 2016–2020”. Within this project and key activity 2, two monitoring systems will be designed: the Statistical Monitoring System and the Qualitative Monitoring System. These systems will provide statistical data on children requiring social and legal protection, information on the activities of authorities responsible for the social and legal protection of these children, as well as information about the offered services. The proposals for these systems include ways to ensure appropriate electronic correlation of stored data. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will have the first analyses in February 2018.

Training Crime Prevention Personnel on Current Crime Prevention Issues and Risk Phenomena

Formerly, education was mainly aimed at participants of the Project for the Prevention of Crime and Extremism – Dusk (Úsvit). It incorporated preparation, education, and training of crime prevention assistants (public order assistants of the municipal police drawn from people who are in long-term unemployment or have difficulties finding employment and who live in socially excluded areas) and their mentors prior to starting service with the municipal police. The aim of the course is to increase security in socially excluded areas, eliminate criminal risks and prevent attacks motivated by extremism. The course takes the form of an interactive practical training of ways to acquire, motivate, and most of all engage inhabitants of socially excluded areas into the process of increasing security, eliminating criminal risks, and preventing attacks motivated by extremism.

In addition, in 2017 the MoI organised **two meetings of crime prevention managers in towns, municipalities, and regions and PCR preventivists**. The first meeting focused on current tasks related to the Crime Prevention Programme 2017, the second focused on problems related to

project implementation, new ideas, and planned activities.

Grant Programme of the Refugee Facilities Administration

Due to the deteriorating security situation, as well as the deteriorating perception of security in municipalities with facilities administered by the Refugee Facilities Administration, in connection with a possible large migration influx, CZK 20 million were earmarked in 2016 for investment projects within a new programme called **Supporting Security in Municipalities Pursuant to Migration 2017–2019**.

The grant programme was announced on 10 May 2017. The municipalities Bělá pod Bezdězem, Havířov, Jaroměř, Kostelec nad Orlicí, and Zastávka u Brna applied. They are at present preparing the documents necessary to start the investment process.

In the course of 2018, a second call for proposals will be issued.

In 2017, 6 other projects in the 5 affected municipalities received financial support amounting to CZK 11 974 534.

Industrial Zone Grant Programme

On 18 October 2017 the **Supporting Security in Municipalities Pursuant to the Expansion of the Strategic Industrial Zone Solnice-Kvasiny-Rychnov nad Kněžnou for the Year 2018** was launched, based on Government Resolution No. 469/2017. The industrial zone Kvasiny includes three municipalities: Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Solnice, and Kvasiny. Several factors are at the root of security issues in these areas. The rapid development of the local economy brought increased traffic and, in particular, security issues – more offences and misdemeanours, the deterioration of the perception of security among local inhabitants, and the employment of foreigners – mostly from “third countries”.

The programme will help finance camera systems and public lighting with no more than CZK 38 400 000 (from the programme) in 3 affected municipalities. The deadline for applications has been set to 15 January 2018.

3.4.6 Projects of the PCR

In 2017, the PCR reacted nimbly to the current trend of social media use. As of 21 June 2017, it uses Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter to communicate with the public and to showcase and support prevention campaigns.

As regards prevention, PCR departments with nationwide competencies and regional police directorates carried out a number of activities. These were focused mainly on priorities of the PCR and the security situation in the areas for which the regional police directorates were responsible.

The following nationwide prevention activities and projects were implemented in 2017:

Domestic violence and violence against women – Regional police directorates ran projects focusing on domestic violence, where preventivists cooperated closely with the Public Order Police Service and with police psychologists and crisis interventionists working within the system of psychological assistance to victims of crime. The **Movement Helps Tour 2** (Tour Pohyb pomáhá 2) project was organised by the PCR in cooperation with Hanka Kynychová within the preventive campaign of the **Try Saying It** (Zkus to říct) project, focused on issues of domestic violence and violence against women. The Movement Helps Tour 2 took place in Prague, Liberec, Most, Tišnov, Strakonice, Břeclav, and Třinec in 2017.

The Zebra Will Not Look For You! – A prevention project of the PCR that has been taking place twice a year for one week for the past 10 years across the country, always at the beginning of the school year and during its second half. The project is aimed at pedestrians and other participants in road traffic (children and schoolchildren) and its objective is for children to internalise adherence to safety rules when crossing roads and to debunk myths about motorists needing to give way to a pedestrian on a zebra crossing under any circumstances.

Safely to School – The second instalment of the annual educational programme for schoolchildren and the general public focusing on personal safety and other related topics. On 11–14 September 2017, a sporting and cultural education event for schools and educational establishments took place in Prague. The very successful The Zebra

Will Not Look for You! project was part of this event.

I Drive, Therefore I Drink Non-Alcoholic Beer – A project that has been running since 2012 in cooperation with BESIP and the Czech Association of Breweries and Malt-Houses, with the aim of increasing awareness among drivers that non-alcoholic beer is an alternative as regards adhering to safety regulations and the law, and mostly motivating drivers to drink beer responsibly. In 2017, events were held in the context of everyday police work or during planned traffic safety events, such as during Easter and during the summer holidays, also targeting cyclists.

HAD 2017 (Gambling, Alcohol, Children) – inspecting alcohol being served to children – over 2 500 state and local administration officials have checked, between July and September 2017, almost 2 500 clubs and over 9 000 persons. The inspections were announced in advance and detected almost 150 persons under 18 years of age having had alcoholic beverages, of whom over 60 have had to be restrained. This extensive inspection showed that owners of establishments respect the law more than in the two previous years. The inspection followed a series of similar nationwide inspections in 2015 and 2016. The PCR, along with the National Anti-Drug Coordinator, initiated the inspections after massively informing the public about the need to warn owners of establishments to not serve addictive substances illegally to persons under 18. In 2016, the inspections also focused on gambling. They were conducted not only in restaurants and bars, but also in gaming establishments. The results confirmed that, in spite of warnings, owners of establishments did sell alcohol to children or let them gamble. However, this was much less frequent than before.

Do We See Each Other? – A nationwide preventative information campaign aimed at the visibility of participants in road traffic. The campaign is run by the Ministry of Transport and the PCR is taking part, helping to distribute reflexive belts, badges, and laces. The campaign has been running nationwide since October 2017, and will continue in 2017.

Workshops for Educators – The main preventative product of autumn 2017 was a project called **JAKUB – workshop for educators in the CR**. Workshops were held in October and November in 10 regional towns, training educators to identify domestic violence among pupils and showing them how to work with didactical and methodical materials on domestic violence during lessons.

TV Óčko Information Campaign – For the second consecutive year, TV Óčko ran an information campaign aimed at its young viewers. The campaign consisted of 6 entries in the Mixxxer program, taking the form of interviews with experts from the PCR and posting selected topics on the TV Óčko Facebook profile.

3.5 PRISONS

In 2017, the number of prisoners dropped slightly as compared to 2016 (22 178 in 2017, 22 496 in 2016), which is a positive development.

There was a slight increase in the number of inmates as compared to 2016. However if compared to 2015 the rise was quite significant (2017 – 79, 2016 – 73, 2015 – 48).

The capacity of prison facilities remains similar to that of 2012 (2017 – 106 %, 2016 – 108 %, 2013 – 83 %, 2012 – 107 %), with those facilities where inmates carry out prison sentences being the most used (2017 – 93 %, 2016 – 85 %, 2012 – 48 %).

As regards security in prisons, the situation remained stable in 2017. There were no mass prisoner revolts or other disturbances.

The situation in 2017 was marked by the high number of prisoners and insufficient financial resources for the modernisation of guarded buildings, the installation of modern technical security systems, and maintenance of existing property of the Prison Service.

Following an assignment from the Minister of Justice, tasks were set up in 2013 that were to help improve conditions in prisons. In particular, conditions in detention prisons were improved, including improved technical conditions for the accommodation of prisoners and facilities in cells. These tasks continued to be implemented in the course of 2017, particularly as concerns equipping cells with new furniture, but also offering more activities for prisoners. Due to insufficient financial resources, however, construction and technical conditions of accommodation for prisoners continued to deteriorate. This may constitute a security threat in the future. There is a clear absence of accommodation spots (approx.

1 700) with relation to the current number of inmates, as well as an absence of accommodation spots for those subject to security detention. This is related to the insufficient number of employees coming into direct contact with prisoners – approx. 640 expert positions and 165 supervisor positions for a standard state (2 001 supervisors for an optimal state).

In 2017, searches for and presentations of appropriate technical means and security technologies that could be used by the Prison Service in order to strengthen security in organisational units took place. Especially in terms of the risk of unauthorised objects or addictive substances being smuggled into prisons, attention was paid to unmanned aerial devices (drones) and the possibility of testing relevant detection and protection systems.

As part of the planned rearmament of service weapons, a tender for the delivery of 1 500 submachine guns was issued in 2017. Based on the results of the tender, a framework agreement was signed for the delivery of CZ Scorpion EVO 3 A1. In accordance with the first stage of the rearmament, 375 guns were delivered in 2017.

In comparison to 2016, the number of prisoners abusing drugs remained a problem for the Prison Service. In this context, the number of specialist guards with dogs was increased (from 77 to 81), within the framework of the Optimisation of the Scope of Service Cynology in prisons, with the aim of intensifying anti-drug inspections with specially trained dogs.

In 2017, the Prison Service of the CR continued to more frequently test all prisoners for the presence of addictive substances. Following the approved Concept for Prisons by 2025, the Prison

Service of implemented practical tests of selected technical instruments intended for detecting prohibited substances, in cooperation with the PCR and with the participation of representatives of the Faculty of Chemical Technology of the University of Pardubice. On the basis of an evaluation of the testing, a proposal was submitted to purchase a machine (handheld Raman spectrometer) for detecting addictive substances and their precursors. Further possibilities to extend the technical means of detecting prohibited substances are being explored.

Also, a significant increase was recorded in the number of found mobile phones and SIM cards. While in 2016, 460 mobile phones and 234 SIM cards have been found, in 2017, 606 mobile phones and 275 SIM cards have been found. Such a significant increase was mainly the result of higher rates of prisoner employment outside of prisons, but also of more frequent and more thorough inspections carried out by officers of the Prison Service using modern equipment for their detection. The Prison Service is looking into the possibility of using specially trained service dogs to detect mobile phones. Following the completion of the experimental phase of this project, the first trained service dog is currently being tested in practice, confirming that it is able to detect mobile phones in prisons. In 2018, at least 3 more dogs will be trained for this specialisation.

Escapes, Attempts at Escapes, and Preparations of Escapes by Prisoners

In 2017, there were no escapes by prisoners during an escort or from a guarded prison of the Prison Service of the CR.

In 2107, there were three attempts at an escape by a prisoner.

In 2017, there were two cases of a proven preparation of an escape by prisoners.

Treatment Programmes

In the area of health services, detoxification and substitution treatment of opiate addiction continued to be provided, as well as court-ordered anti-drug, anti-alcohol, and anti-gambling outpatient treatment. Intensive cooperation continued between individual prisons and NGOs providing anti-drug services.

Just as in previous years, the standardised programme 3Z was implemented (Zastav se – Stop, Zamysli se – Think, Změň se – Change), targeting the most widespread prison population statistically (men aged 25 – 40 years, sentenced 2 – 3 times mostly for property crime) and the standardized programme GREPP aimed at working with perpetrators sentenced for violent crimes against children (child abuse, commercial sexual exploitation of children and non-commercial sexual exploitation of children). Last but not least, the TP 21 JUNIOR programme was implemented, aiming to reduce violent behaviour, and the KEMP programme, for adults sentenced for violent crimes. The PARDON programme was aimed at convicts struggling with problematic driving. The standardised programmes GREPP and PARDON were launched in more prisons.

Pilots of new programmes were run in selected prisons, focusing on reducing the risk of violence and drug abuse. It is expected that these programmes will be implemented after their evaluation.

3.6 CYBER SECURITY

In terms of cybersecurity, 2017 was another milestone for the CR thanks to the continued building of national cybersecurity capabilities. The establishment of the National Cyber and Information Security Agency (Národní úřad pro kybernetickou a informační bezpečnost, NÚKIB) was a breakthrough. NÚKIB was created by splitting the National Cyber Security Centre, the Information Technologies Department and the

Galileo Public Regulated Service Unit from the National Security Agency as of 1 August 2017. In the course of 2017, NÚKIB was consolidated as the authority responsible for cyber security in the CR via amendment to Act No. 181/2014 Coll., on Cyber Security and on amendments to related acts.

Establishing NÚKIB

As mentioned above, NÚKIB is the new guarantor and national authority in the area of cyber security, being a central body of the state administration, headed by a director appointed by the government. It is divided into three branches: operational and legal, technical, and the National Centre for Cyber Security. The last branch, dealing with cyber security, comprises the Government CERT (GovCERT.CZ), the Department for Cyber and Security Policy, and a PRS unit. GovCERT.CZ provides, inter alia, assistance with technical solutions to cyber security incidents, carries out penetration tests and malware analyses, and ensures sharing of information about incidents and future trends in the area with the IT community and the public. The Department for Cyber and Security Policy focuses mainly on non-technical aspects of cyber security, particularly the formulation and implementation of the Czech cyber security policy, regulating, inspecting, and providing support to information and communication system administrators under the Act on Cyber Security and implementing regulations, and takes care of international cooperation, education and awareness-raising, expert publications and strategic reports and analyses.

In 2017, GovCERT.CZ successfully continued to expand its capacities in order to meet demand, particularly in terms of expertise, but also in terms of providing technical means to successfully accomplish assigned tasks. GovCERT.CZ operates two laboratories. The laboratory studying ISC/SCADA systems was founded in 2015; the forensic laboratory started to be built in 2016. Both laboratories are fully functional and continue to be modernised so as to be able to respond to the latest developments in the given areas. As part of its proactive activities, GovCERT.CZ uses several tools to analyse data containing indicators of a compromised system, from closed and open sources. The most important tool is Botnet Feed, which is being developed by the GovCERT.CZ team for the purpose of collecting and processing data about end-to-end terminals connected to botnets. The data is obtained from secured command and control servers. Microsoft is the originator of the data.

International Cooperation

Many decisions essential for the development of cyber security in the CR are made not just at the national, but also at the international level. NÚKIB therefore tries to actively and efficiently represent the interests of the CR in key international organisations, particularly EU, NATO and OSCE.

In 2017, its work focused on negotiations with EU Member States and institutions, in particular with regards to Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union (NIS Directive), and the new set of legislative and non-legislative acts on cyber security, the so-called cyber-security package, which was introduced by the European Commission in September. The NIS Directive, apart from having had to be transposed into national law, required active participation at meetings of working bodies established by the Directive, namely the Cooperation Group and the CSIRTs Network. In 2017, both bodies focused on sharing information about the transposition of the Directive, with an emphasis on identifying providers of basic services and establishing security notification requirements to be placed on them. Other EU-related activities included cooperation between NÚKIB and the Office of the Government on a digital agenda, e.g. concerning the free flow of data, or preparations for the Digital Summit which was held in September 2017 in Tallinn.

In 2017, the informal working group of the OSCE, established by Decision No. 1039 of the OSCE Permanent Council on the development of confidence-building measures (CBMs) to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs. Participating states discussed in particular proposals for the operationalisation of CBM No. 3, aiming to create a consultation mechanism for cyber incidents and emergencies, and CMB No. 10, dealing with communication channels for the exchange of information; a communications exercise was carried out to test CBM No. 8.

Last but not least, the CR undertook a number of bilateral consultations and meetings. The CR continued cooperation with its strategic partners, i.e. the USA, Israel, and South Korea. In this

context, the second round of strategic consultations between the CR and South Korea took place in Seoul on 12 December 2017. Within the framework of cooperation with the USA, the CR met with leading representatives dealing with cyber issues, for instance within the US Congress, the NSA and the FBI.

Measures

** The protection and security of ICTs that are important for the functioning of the state is an increasingly pressing issue and is beginning to be addressed not only at the national, but also at the international level. In the CR, systems that are important for national security, ensuring basic living needs of the population, and health of the public and of the economy are identified as critical information infrastructure, whilst systems that have an impact on the work of the state administration are identified as important information systems. Following the transposition of the NIS Directive, the scope of these systems was expanded to include those ensuring basic services, since the NIS Directive requires EU Member States to regulate two general categories of entities, namely basic service providers (BSPs) and digital service providers (DSPs). These entities will be subject to security measures and will be obliged to report security incidents capable of disrupting key social and economic activities provided by the systems which they operate. The transposition deadline for introducing national legislation ensuring compliance with the NIS Directive has been set to 9 May 2018. Currently, the CR is one of the first EU Member States to be successfully transposing the NIS Directive into its national legislation.*

** In 2017, intensive cooperation with the University of Defence in Brno, with the Secondary School of Information, Post, and Financial Technology in Brno, as well as with primary schools within the pilot run of the Digital Footprint educational module took place.*

** A new e-learning course for state administration employees was created. The course consists of two teaching modules (A and B). Module A is a basic cyber security course intended for all general users. It focuses on the tenets of safe conduct on the internet and use of ICTs in the wider context of cyber security. It contains a basic and mandatory pensum of knowledge and skills*

that state administration employees should follow both at work and outside of it. Module B is an advanced cyber security course intended for state administration employees holding positions regulated by the Act on Cyber Security. Module A was launched in October 2017, Module B was launched in January 2018.

Cyber Security Exercises

In 2017, as in other years, NÚKIB was actively involved in many cyber security exercises. The Cyber Czech 2016 technical exercise was organised by NÚKIB again in 2017, in cooperation with the Institute of Computer Science of Masaryk University, in three runs. NÚKIB also organised a mobile table-top exercise for national and international partners, which was repeated during the CyberCon Brno 2017 (a two-day conference organised by NÚKIB in Brno). The CR also took an active part in cyber security exercises within the Cyber Coalition 2017, the Crisis Management Exercise 2017, or the international technical exercise Locked Shields 2017. In this last exercise, the CR ranked first among 25 participating states, thus winning the largest international technical exercise organised by NATO CCDCoE in Tallinn, Estonia.

Ministry of the Interior

One of the core objectives of the Mol is to secure the cyber space where ICTs falling under the critical information infrastructure and important information systems are run. The key is to protect information, one of the most valuable assets collected and managed by the CR, against breaches of confidentiality, integrity, or accessibility, throughout its life cycle.

The basic systemic principle for securing the Mol cyber space was the implementation of organisational and technical measures following the amendments to Act No. 104/2017 Coll., and Act No. 205/2017 Coll.

The following organisational **measures** have been implemented:

- Observation of the amended Information Security Management System of the Mol under Act No. 181/2014 Coll., on Cyber Security, as amended.
- Migration of the Information Security Management System of the Mol (ISMS) into a

Shared Information Environment (SIE), and updates as per the Act on Cyber Security, including giving access of the ISMS to all authorised users of the MoI cyber space.

- Verification of the functionality of the ISMS as per ISO 27000-27020 by a supervisory audit.
- Implementation, in accordance with the Digital Market Development Action Plan (managed by the Office of the Government) and the National Cyber Security Strategy 2015–2020 Action Plan (managed by NÚKIB), of an e-learning course providing basic digital hygiene knowledge and skills to state administration employees, in a pilot run.

The eGovernment Monitoring Centre (DCeGOV) was eventually connected to information systems in accordance with a timetable set by law, which also involved the gradual implementation of security rules. In accordance with Task No. UVP 36/2017 from Government Resolution No. 104 of 8 February 2017, employees of the National Cyber Security Centre checked the newly set-up cyber security monitoring processes – Security Operation Centre for Continuous Reliability (SOCCR) – intended to evaluate and address cyber security incidents in the MoI's cyber space. The activity was carried out in April 2017 as part of methodological support.

While securing the critical information infrastructure and important information systems under the Act on Cyber Security, security documentation for critical information infrastructure and important information systems was developed, identifying further organisational, but mostly technical measures that were included in the overall MoI Risk Management Plan. This plan sets out individual projects for securing the MoI's cyber space. Individual measures, both organisational and technical, stemming from the use and protection of cyber space, were immediately incorporated into the critical information infrastructure and important information systems. Global measures defined in the overall MoI Risk Management Plan were, along with the Implementation Plan for Specific Projects not Only in Critical Information Infrastructure and Important Information Systems, submitted to the Cyber Security Management Committee to be approved. The aim was to expand the security of the MoI perimeter.

Customs Administration of the CR

In 2016, a GAP analysis of the preparedness of the CA's information system to comply with the conditions of the Act on Cyber Security was carried out.

In 2017, the following activities were carried out within the CA:

- Administrative and technical preparation for the implementation of individual measures stemming from the GAP analysis.
- Introduction of principles for dealing with warnings sent by GovCERT.CZ and their publication on the CA website; immediate steps were taken in response to prompts.
- The WannaCry Ransomware was not active or detected within the CA in 2017.
- The CA received some extortion emails; users were regularly trained and alerted to this phenomenon and reported individual occurrences to a helpline; when extortion emails were received in bulk, specific technical measures were taken in order to filter these emails at CA gateways.
- DDoS attacks were detected at entry IPS devices and devices used to monitor and protect network devices and servers from DDoS attacks, which the CA is in possession of; the DDoS attacks involved blocking data flows from 10 to 100 Mb per day, i.e. they were standard attacks DDoS attack; no major attacks on the CA were detected.
- Safety documentation was revised, a new Czech Security Policy was issued, followed by the Czech Cyber Security Policy. Implementation policies, regulations, and methodologies were issued continuously, taking into account the provisions of the Act on Cyber Security and recommendations of the ISO/IEC 27001 standards.
- Preparations for an analysis of security monitoring and management of security incidents were initiated. The current or new system is expected to be adapted in the course of 2018. In 2017, no serious security incidents were reported.
- Security measures to protect USB devices by encryption underwent testing and pilot runs.

- Initial organisational changes at the Information Technologies Department were carried out, with the purpose of increasing the number of people dealing with cyber security.
- There has been a fundamental change in the approach to increasing professional and security awareness of employees responsible for information systems, via a large number of expert seminars and training courses.
- Preparations for an analysis of the GDPR have been initiated following the relevant EU Regulation, with implementation planned for 2018.

In 2018, the security measures proposed by the GAP and GDPR analyses will be implemented, as well as security monitoring and management of security incidents; overall the protection of information systems in the CR are improving thanks to the system of Cyber Security and ISMS Management.

Ministry of Industry and Trade

The Ministry of Industry and Trade participates in national cyber security exercises organised by NÚKIB, and cooperates with the authority in implementing the Action Plan of the National Cyber Security Strategy 2015–2020. Cyber security incidents are reported by the cyber security manager to NÚKIB using an official form. The security of Ministry of Industry and Trade networks is reported at regular meetings of the Cyber Security Management Committee.

CYBER SECURITY INCIDENTS IN 2017

By adhering to and improving the rules for managing cyber security events (CSEs) and cyber security incidents (CSIs) and the consequent implementation of measures, the Mol recorded and managed the following in 2017:

Summary of CSEs and CSIs	2016	2017
Cyber Security Events	122	181
Cyber Security Incidents	2	6
Total no. of CSEs and CSIs	124	187

At the same time, regular evaluations of the critical information infrastructure and important information systems at DCeGOV achieved significant efficiency in addressing cyber security events and incidents.

In the course of 2017, GovCERT.CZ received 248 relevant reports of cyber security incidents from Czech and foreign partners. These reports were consequently evaluated in relation to the competencies of GovCERT.CZ and then processed either by GovCERT.CZ or handed over to relevant authorities. Thus, 50 cyber security incidents falling within the competencies of GovCERT.CZ under the Act on Cyber Security, as obtained from reports and own research, were assessed, processed, and resolved in 2017.

In January 2017, there was a report stating that the email accounts of the employees of a state administration body were being locked. An analysis of the incident brought to light new facts, which led to the discovery of a new incident. This second incident was the most serious one that GovCERT.CZ had to tackle in January of that year. The first quarter was also marked by numerous DDoS attacks against state administration systems and critical information infrastructure systems. GovCERT.CZ also dealt with an attack by an unknown attacker. This person created a copy of a website belonging to a government institution and registered it under a similar domain. They then sent out fraudulent emails urging people to access the fake website via an enclosed link. The link contained a malicious file. Incidents involving sending fraudulent emails were frequent in the first and second quarters of 2017.

In the second quarter, there was a massive ransomware attack, an attack on an email account of a high-ranking government employee, and a massive DDoS attack on a public service medium. At the end of the second quarter, a top government institution detected communication between its terminals and botnets. An analysis of the incident detected a typosquatting attack. In this case, the attacker relied on the chance that users mistype the address of a website and thus access a malicious page.

In the third quarter, GovCERT.CZ dealt with a reported data leak from a state administration body. Also in this quarter, occurrences of the Lokitus ransomware were reported. The malware affected part of a system, but had no significant impact since the system was renewed from a back-up. Several DDoS attacks on DNS services were reported, some of which were eliminated.

In October, parliamentary elections were held. Elections in other countries have repeatedly shown that the electoral system is a popular target for hackers aiming to disrupt in any way possible the course of elections. The CR is no exception, and NÚKIB was therefore prepared for various emergencies. The electoral system was audited in 2017, and in cooperation with the Czech Statistics Office, measures were undertaken to increase the security of the entire electoral process. Although there was a DDoS attack on the volby.cz website, which provided the media and the public with information about current election

results, there were no disruptions of the physical process of counting ballots or any manipulation of the election results.

In the last quarter, GovCERT.CZ dealt with extortion emails, requiring recipients to pay bitcoins in order to avoid a DDoS attack. This is an annual trend which is, in many cases, accompanied by a demonstrative attack whose purpose is to render the threats credible.

Current information about incidents is published regularly on the NÚKIB website at www.govcert.cz.

3.7 MUNICIPAL POLICE

Municipalities, which have competencies in their respective territories and which account for local conditions and customs, create conditions in accordance with national legislation to meet the needs of their inhabitants, including protecting public order, for which purpose they may establish municipal (city) police forces. In the CR, there are currently 377 municipal police forces counting 9 000 employees, of which 8 000 are police and 1 000 are other employees.

Municipal police plays a major role in maintaining public order at the local level and has a long-term and irreplaceable role within Czech security forces. Mutual cooperation of municipal police forces and the PCR is standard practice in the CR.

The MoI supervises the activities of municipal police forces, withdraws accreditations from officers (a document authorising them to carry out the work of a municipal police officer) in case of loss of integrity, reliability, or professional and medical fitness, imposes fines for misdemeanours of municipalities, and may inspect municipal police forces, within the scope of competencies of the relevant municipality, as per the Act on Municipalities. If certain activities of the municipal

police (typically misdemeanours) fall within the delegated competencies of the municipality, then the inspections are carried out by the Regional Office. As regards criminal law, any unlawful conduct by municipal police officers is investigated by the PCR.

In 2017, Act No. 553/1991 Coll., on Municipal Police, was amended. The amendment, which entered into force on 1 January 2018, extended the period for examining municipal police officers by an examination committee of the MoI from 3 to 5 years. After successfully passing the fourth examination, the municipal police officer is granted professional fitness indefinitely.

In addition, the statutory age limit for becoming a municipal police officer was reduced, enabling people aged over 18 (instead of over 21) to become municipal police officers as of 1 January 2018. The age limit for obtaining a firearms licence, however, remains unchanged.

The amendment also allows municipalities to conclude public contracts in order to dispatch municipal police officers to sporting, cultural, and social events accessible to the public and with an expected large turnout.

3.8 SECURITY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION

The Security Research and Police Education Department of the MoI (SRPE) is responsible for national security research, development, and innovation (SRI). It fulfils the tasks of a state aid provider in research and development under Act

No. 130/2002 Coll., on Support of Research and Development from Public Funds and on the amendment of some related acts, and in accordance with the Reform of the System of

Research, Development, and Innovation in the CR (Government Resolution No. 287/2008).

Concepts, Strategies, and Legislation

In the first half of 2017, the Inter-Ministerial Strategy for the Support of Security Research in the CR 2017–2023 With a Projection to 2030 was completed. It was approved by National Security Council Resolution No. 24/2017 and by Government Resolution No. 509/2017, and is a basic document governing the provision of state support for practical research, experimental development, and innovation in the area of security.

After the Strategy was approved, implementation began immediately in the second half of 2017. In order to improve the regulation of research and development activities at the Mol, a draft Mol Regulation was prepared to secure funding for security research, experimental development, and innovation from public funds. Work was begun on the creation of a single information resource and, in cooperation with the Technology Agency of the CR, the preparation of a new information system for security research was initiated.

Part of the mission of the Mol as regards security research is to implement and deepen partnerships, both with security forces and state authorities with competencies in the area of security as well as with recipients of support. In 2017, the Mol cooperated with the Office of the Government and other providers in the area of research policy development. Cooperation with the Ministry of Defence was intensive with regards to common interests of security and defence research, as was cooperation with the State Office for Nuclear Safety and the Ministry of Justice, whose research organisations receive institutional support from the Mol. Contacts were deepened with main partners representing the research community (professional associations, the Academy of Sciences, etc.) and a framework for further cooperation was agreed upon, including some specific activities strengthening the community's awareness of security research.

Specialised Support

In 2017, the following specifically supported programmes were implemented:

Security Research in the CR in 2015 – 2020 (BV III/1-VS; Government Resolution No. 593/2013): The programme was implemented through a public tender with CZK 2.2 billion of expected support. Within this programme, 110 projects received support. Based on the findings of the National Security Audit, i.e. the identification of new threats and the related research requirements of security forces and state administration bodies, there was a proposal to extend the programme until 2022 and increase its budget. These measures would accelerate the implementation of research activities, i.e. the announcement of at least one other public tender immediately after the approval of the changes to the programme.

Security Research for State Purposes in 2016 – 2021 (BV III/2-VZ; Government Resolution No. 200/2014): The programme was implemented through public tenders in research and development with a budget of CZK 800 million. Within this programme, 28 projects received support, and another 16 public tenders are underway in order to select the implementers of projects under the programme.

In 2017, the **final evaluation of the programme Security Research for State Purposes for 2010 – 2015** (BV II/1-VZ; Government Resolution No. 49/2009) was implemented in accordance with Government Resolution No. 351/2015 on Basic Groups of Grant Projects for Research, Development, and Innovation. The programme was implemented through tenders, with four identifications of research needs having been carried out during its course. The programme fulfilled the goals in the area of supporting research projects, and a number of projects achieved important results with a high implementation potential. The obtained results are highly usable and are currently being handed over to practitioners for their application in practice.

In accordance with the intent approved within the framework of the Inter-Ministerial Strategy for the Support of Security Research in the CR 2017–2023 With a Projection to 2030, a **new programme – IMPAKT** – is currently being prepared.

Institutional Support

The MoI provided institutional support to 8 research organisations, 5 of which have been established by the MoI, 2 by the State Office for Nuclear Safety, and 1 by the Ministry of Justice. Support was provided on the basis of development programmes of the individual organisations, as approved by the Minister of the Interior. At the turn of 2017 and 2018, an evaluation of the implementation of activities undertaken in 2017 will take place, which will be the basis for further financial support. At the same time, the evaluation of research organisations according to the profiling results of 2016 and the research results achieved at the national level will be carried out.

According to the newly approved Methodology for Evaluating Programmes for the Specialised Support of Research, Development, and Innovation, which introduces a completely new system of institutional support management in the Czech system of supporting research, development, and innovation, the MoI drafted framework rules for the system of providing institutional support as a programme activity.

In connection with the pilot profiling of research organisations carried out in 2016 and the methodology mentioned above, a ministerial Methodology for the Profiling of Research Organisations was drafted. In the next programme period, research organisations will be evaluated according to this methodology.

International Cooperation

Representatives of the MoI attended international conferences and round tables where they presented MoI activities in the area of security research and made important contacts with the research community abroad. During an internship at the Czech Liaison Office for Research, Development, and Innovation (CZELO), a

representative of the MoI attended a meeting of the programme committee of Horizont 2020 – Safe Society, where contacts were made with representatives of the European security community from Estonia, Poland, Belgium, and Slovakia. The week-long internship involved participating at a partner event Horizont 2020 – Europe in a Changing World, where activities of the SRPE in the area of international cooperation were presented.

Attendance at security conferences in Brussels and in Tallinn led to deepening contacts with representatives of liaison offices in Brussels (Austria, Italy, and Spain). The Spanish side offered the possibility to include Czech end-users of security research in an international consortium; as regards Austria and Germany, there were some initial talks about deepening bilateral cooperation.

Another priority in the area of international cooperation was to coordinate the involvement of end-users in research projects relating to security research within EU Framework Programmes. In this context, for example, it was possible to involve one of the PCR units in the international consortium of the ABALONE project, dealing with the development and use of phonetics in criminology. Currently, the MoI is negotiating the possibility to involve the Prague Town Hall in an international project on the protection of public areas.

The presence of Czech Research Diplomats in the USA and in Israel were beneficial for the MoI's international contacts. In 2017, the MoI participated in the Joint Financing Instrument of the Czech Economic Diplomacy, which enabled it to take part in economic diplomacy projects, so-called PROPEDs, implemented in cooperation with participating institutions and businesses (e.g. seminars, research missions, etc.).

3.9 POLICE EDUCATION

As of 1 January 2016, the professional training of police officers falls within the competencies of the Department for Police Education and Service Training, which is thus fully responsible for the qualification and other professional training of police officers.

In this area in 2017, numerous training activities were organised, in direct relation to current crime trends and security policy priorities. The most important of the range of training courses was the basic professional training in a new modular approach, aimed at professionally training new

police officers. A new system of four-stage basic professional training (along with follow-up specialised professional training) was proposed, following the draft of a new Concept for Police Education, which takes into account the disparate levels of education of new police officers and their consequent placement in a specific service position. This is related to the implementation of a 1-month entry course for police officers undergoing basic professional training. Until August 2017, this entry course was provided, as regards accommodation, catering, and training facilities, by an external institution (the Military Academy in Vyškov), with limited capacities and substantial financial expenses. As of 1 September 2017, the entry course has been moved to the Police Academy of the CR in Prague.

Great emphasis was placed on courses focusing on detecting corruption and serious crime, particularly organised crime, securing and seizing proceeds from crime, and fighting their legalisation. In reaction to the increased risk and occurrence of incidents involving active shooters, courses for commanding officers responsible for security measures in the fight against terrorism and extremism, along with issues relating to AMOK – actions against active shooters aimed at tactically managing the elimination of dangerous offenders in schools and public buildings, were prioritised in 2017.

In connection with the requirement to increase the level of motor vehicle drivers and reduce the number of accidents within the integrated rescue system, the implementation of a project aimed at increasing the professionalization of drivers of service vehicles continued in 2017, financed by the Damage Fund and implemented in cooperation with selected accredited safe driving centres across the CR (6 341 police officers were trained in 2017). Pursuant to the requirements of operative units of the PCR in reaction to the current security situation and the emergence of new forms of crime, training programmes focusing on cybercrime, mobile security platforms, and prevention and identification of radicalisation were developed in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.

The Security Research and Police Training Department of the MoI fulfils the role of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, the

Czech School Inspectorate, and the regional administration. At police schools, established by the MoI, it provides the PCR and other security forces quality educational and material support for professional training. In 2017, police schools organised foreign language courses permitting the obtention of a standardised language examination of the MoI levels 1 to 3, courses for leaders in the area of fighting corruption, courses aimed at professionalization, courses for the Alien Police, courses for the protection of classified documents and security and management of ICTs, crisis management courses, courses for conflict resolution with the help of transaction analysis and courses improving pedagogical skills, as well as others.

During the 2016/2017 academic year, the Police College and Secondary Police School of the MoI in Prague launched a secondary school course in the field 68-42-M/01 Security and Law, which is also taught at the Police College and the Secondary Police School of the MoI in Holešov. Secondary education with a graduation degree is a prerequisite for entering the police service. Studying a field of security and law enable graduates to obtain knowledge and skills that are applicable in the day-to-day tasks of the police and other security forces.

At the same time, higher vocational training is provided at police schools, in educational programmes 68-42-N/04 Preliminary Criminal Proceedings, 68-42-N/05 Security and Law, and 68-42-N/05 Traffic Safety. There are 183 students studying in the academic year 2017/2018. Higher vocational training is considered an alternative route to gaining access to a higher pay grade, with the aim of obtaining a high degree of professionalization.

Secondary Education with Graduation in the 68-42-M/01 Security and Law Study Field

Currently, 30 schools are signatories of the agreement on cooperation in the area of secondary education with graduation based on Government Decree No. 211/2010 Coll., on the System in Primary and Secondary Education and Higher Vocational Training. When assessing the background documents for the conclusion of the agreement, academic uniformity of the applicant school is considered, as well as the former successful implementation of the educational

programme with graduation. The aim of this cooperation, in accordance with the organisational rules of the MoI, is to ensure comparable competencies of all graduates having studied the same programme.

The cooperation is based on unifying the methodology of the teachers of specialised programmes and qualified to teach educational programmes 68-42-M/01 Security and Law, unifying the rules for the evaluation of students, and setting a compulsory framework for the graduation exam. The cooperation also involves other activities in the area of sports and professional activities.

The professional guarantor of the aforementioned cooperation is the Police College and the Secondary Police School of the MoI in Holešov.

In 2017, four inspections were carried out in authorised schools in cooperation with the relevant regional inspectorates of the Czech School Inspectorate. They were aimed at determining and evaluating the conditions, course, and results of education provided by secondary schools under Sec. 174 (2) (a) and (b) of Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-school, Primary, and Secondary Education, Higher Vocational Training and Other Education (Education Act), as amended. The inspections also aimed to identify and evaluate the fulfilment of educational programmes and their compliance with regulations and the framework educational programme as per Sec. 174 (2) (c) of the Education Act.

International Cooperation

MEPA (MITTELEUROPÄISCHE POLIZEIAKADEMIE)

In 2017, two expert courses were organised by the MEPA. The 25th Main MEPA Course took place between 3 April and 19 May 2017 and its Czech part took place on 9 – 13 April in Prague. Three PCR officers attended the Main MEPA Course in 2017. A Special MEPA Course took place between 18 September and 13 October 2017. The CR participated in organising Slovak Week on 2–6 October 2017 in Michalovice. Two PCR officers attended the Special MEPA Course.

A further 6 expert MEPA seminars were held in 2017, which were attended by 8 PCR officers:

- Cross-border police cooperation (23–31 March 2017 in Hungary).
- Demographic changes and their impact on crime (10–14 May 2017 in Germany).
- Combating international organised drug crime (19–23 June 2017 in Switzerland).
- Follow-up seminar for graduates of the Main MEPA Course (19–22 September 2017 in Hungary).
- New methods and tools in criminal engineering (17–20 October 2017 in Hungary).
- New forms of crime related to immigration and citizen perceptions of security (13–16 November 2017 in Austria).

MARSHALL CENTER (EUROPEAN CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES)

In the CR, this educational institution operates at the US Embassy in Prague. Education and expert training in several modules focus on issues related to civil security, terrorism, and cooperation between Europe and the USA on these issues. The activities organised by the German-Marshall Center headquartered in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany) in 2017 were the following:

- European Security Seminar – ESS (7–10 January 2017).
- Program on Terrorism and Security Studies – PTSS (23 February–18 March 2017).
- Senior Employees seminar – SES (11–15 September 2017).
- Program on Applied Security Capacities – PASS (27 September–3 December 2017).

Two representatives of the MoI took part in activities organised by the Marshall Center in 2017.

CEPOL (EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING)

In cooperation with Member States and relevant EU agencies, CEPOL organised courses, conferences, webinars, and online activities that were attended by dozens of representatives of the PCR, the MoI, the General Customs Directorate and police schools established by the MoI and the Police Academy in Prague.

An important CEPOL course on the illegal arms trade across the external EU border took place in the CR on 12–15 September 2017. A webinar (88/2017) on access to minorities and their groups took place on 31 July 2017, and another (76/2017) on the strategy to integrate the Roma minority in security forces took place on 23 August 2017.

Recognising the Results of Further Education

The SRPTD ensures “authorisation” as per Act No. 179/2006 Coll., on the Recognition of Results of Further Education and on the amendment of some other acts, as amended, for the following professional qualifications: Warrant Officer (68-008-E), Trainee Detective (68-009-M), Locks Specialist (69-038-H), PC Technician (26-023-H), Software Engineer (18-002-N), Mechanical Obstacles Technician (69-045-H), Supervision Centre Employee (68-003-H), Programmer (18-003-M), Senior Detective (68-002-T), Security Manager in Shops and Services (68-005-T),

Detective for Investigating Incidents (68-007-R), Intelligence Detective (68-010-R), Knowledge Base Manager (72-001-R), Security Consultant (68-012-M), Security Officer (68-006-M), Transport of Cash and Valuables Worker (68-004-H), Security Service Dog Handler (68-001-H), Security Service Dog Handler for Detecting Fire Accelerators (68-016-M), Security Service Dog Handler for Detecting Drugs (68-017-M), Chimney Sweep – Flue Measurement (36-023-H), Chimney Technician – Flue Inspection (36-025-H), Chimney Technician – Installation of Chimneys and Chimney Liners (36-026-H), and Chimney Technician – Inspection of Exhausts (36-024-H).

As of 31 December 2017, there were 223 authorised persons and 376 issued authorisations. The number of examined individuals between 1 January and 31 December 2017 was 10 463, of which 10 172 for the professional qualification Warrant Officer.

3.10 HUMAN RESOURCES AT THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

3.10.1 Ministry of the Interior

As of 31 December 2017, the Mol employed 66 818 people, of which 40 044 were police officers (60%), 9 599 were fire fighters (14%), 14 375 employees (22%) and 2 800 civil servants (4%). In 2016, the Mol employed 67 342 people, meaning that there was an annual drop by 524 people (losing 439 police officers and gaining 73 fire fighters under Act No. 361/2003 Coll., on Service in Security Forces, gaining 94 civil servants under Act No. 234/2014 Coll., on Civil Service, and losing 252 employees under Act No. 262/2006 Coll., on Labour).

In 2017, 1 733 police officers and fire fighters left service (in 2015, it was 1 286). In 2016, 1 421 police officers and fire fighters were admitted into service (in 2015, it was 1 685).

In 2017, the Mol addressed the need to stabilise the security forces and drafted an amendment to Act No. 361/2003 Coll., on Service in Security Forces, as amended. The amendment aims primarily to make a systemic change in the area of reimbursement of overtime service for officers. In addition, it introduces the possibility of obtaining a recruitment allowance, which will contribute to greater competitiveness on the labour market

with regards to desired professions (information technologies, law), as well as reimbursement for service during holidays. It also introduces a trial service period. The amendment entered into force on 1 January 2018, with the exception of Article I (27), which will enter into force on 1 January 2019.

3.10.2 Systemisation of Service Positions within the PCR

In the area of human resources and the systemisation of service positions, the number of systemised service positions within the PCR for 2017 was set by Government Resolution No. 1181 of 19 December 2016 to be 41 858, of which 104 service positions were allocated to fulfilling tasks in the field of police education (88 positions in police schools and 16 positions at the Police Academy). Throughout 2017, this number was increased several times by subsequent government resolutions.

The most important change regarding the systemisation of service positions within the PCR in 2017 was the establishment of 121 positions to protect international airports. These positions were allocated mostly to the Directorate of the

Alien Police Service, which has nationwide competencies.

14 new positions were created for the purpose of protection against unmanned aerial devices (drones), with a view to increasing this number in the course of 2019 and 2020 to a total of 38.

30 new positions were created prior to 1 September 2017 for the purpose of protection against cybercrime, with a view to increasing this number in the course of 2019 and 2020 by a further 73.

In the area of public order and security, 36 positions were created prior to 1 October 2017 for the purpose of deployment in the newly expanded industrial zone in Solenice-Kvasina. The positions were allocated primarily to the Public Order Police Service of the Regional Police Directorate in the Královéhradecký region.

In total, the aforementioned government resolutions increased the number of systemised

service positions within the PCR by a further 201 as compared to Government Resolution No. 1181/2016.

Government Resolution No. 510 of 10 July 2017 increased the number of systemised service positions within the PCR by a further 14, in effect as of 1 January 2018, in connection with the implementation of Directive (EU) 2016/681. This created a new organisational branch of the PCR, the National PCR Unit for Using PNR Data in the Fight against Terrorism and Serious Crime. This unit is expected to have 42 service positions in 2020. Government Resolution No. 544 of 24 September 2017 also expects 2020 to be the year that the PCR Security Service will gain 14 service positions, in connection with the increase in the number of guarded premises. In total, Government Resolution No. 896 of 22 December 2017, on the systemisation within the PCR and the FRS for 2018 approved 42 256 service positions for both services for 2018.

3.11 EXPERT ACTIVITIES

The regulation of expert and interpretation services by an act dating from 1967 has long been inadequate in meeting current needs. For this reason, the Ministry of Justice elaborated a package of three law proposals that should improve expert and interpretation services: the proposal for an Act on Experts, Expert Offices, and Expert Bodies, the proposal for an Act on Court Interpreters and Court Translators, and the proposal for an accompanying amendment act. All three proposals were introduced during the previous parliamentary term, however since the Chamber of Deputies was not able to discuss them, they have been submitted again (Government Bill on Experts, Expert Offices, and Expert Bodies (Parliamentary Press No. 72), Government Bill on Court Interpreters and Court Translators (Parliamentary Press No. 73), and Government Bill on an act amending some acts in relations to the adoption of the act on experts, expert offices, and expert bodies and the act on court interpreters and court translators (Parliamentary Press No. 74)). These proposals introduce clear conditions for being put on the list of experts, interpreters and translators and, in accordance with EU law, establish a legal right to

acquiring an expert or interpreting authority. Furthermore, it proposes the broadening of the scope for reviewing expert opinions and revising their formal and substantive accuracy. It also improves measures aimed at enhancing the supervision of persons providing expert and interpretation services and the related tightening of sanctions.

Expert Activities of the Prague Criminology Institute

In 2017, the Prague Criminology Institute received 9 795 (-1 146, - 11.7%) requests for services, most of which entailed carrying out an expert examination or related criminological activities. The greatest drop concerned requests for expert genetic, ballistic, and phonoscopic examinations. On the other hand, there was an annual increase of requests for photographic examinations and techniques and dactyloscopy.

In 2017, 10 562 (-1 680, -13.7 %) requests were completed. Of these, 596 (-290, -32.7 %) were expert opinions and 2 998 (+37, +1.2 %) were expert statements. In addition, 2 661 (-1 531, -36.5 %) requests were completed that entailed other kinds of expert examinations, and 4 307

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(+178, +4.3 %) requests were completed by performing the desired criminal engineering activities.

The number of delivered and completed requests dropped annually, however this did not decrease the difficulty of the examinations, especially since the number of examined and processed items increased in 2017 as compared to 2016 by 2 623, i.e. 5.3 %.

There were 78 (+1) requests for examinations or interrogations using a lie detector in 2017. In the field of chemistry and physical chemistry, expert outputs documented 59 drug kitchens and 57 drug farms.

Pursuant to requests, criminology experts carried out 68 (-11) outings in 2017, mostly for the purpose of searching crime scenes. Most of these were attended by criminology experts focusing on data analysis and data carrier analysis, chemistry and physical chemistry, electrotechnology and phonoscopy.

In 2017, 25 185 (-738) DNA profiles were added to the national DNA database. As of 31 December 2017, the database contained 237 258 DNA profiles (of which 212 107 are DNA profiles of persons and 20 266 are DNA profiles from traces of unsolved crime scenes, 1 696 elimination samples and 3 189 other profiles – e.g. unidentified corpses, relatives of missing persons). In 2017, the following matches were

found: person x person – 1 588, person x trace – 693, trace x trace – 51.

In the course of 2017, 28 621 (+2 083) dactyloscopic cards were sent for processing and entry into the Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), of which 18 339 for criminal purposes, 1 403 for Interpol and 8 879 obtained in accordance with legislation on the residence of foreigners in the CR. 30 667 dactyloscopic cards were processed and entered into AFIS. Comparing processed dactyloscopic cards with AFIS found 116 matches with fingerprints of dactyloscoped persons and 120 matches with traces from as yet unsolved crimes.

Measures

** The Prague Criminology Institute took part in 14 projects relating to the area of research, development, and innovation (of these, 4 were cooperations with external institutions). Research activities brought the Prague Criminology Institute 75 certified methodologies, of which 24 were certified in 2017. The research team at the Prague Criminology Institute, Charles' University, and TESCAN ORSAY HOLDING obtained the Minister of the Interior's Prize for Exceptional Results in Security Research, Experimental Development, and Innovation for their project called Introducing Ionic Microscopy Techniques to Criminal Engineering and Expert Services of the PCR.*

3.12 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The Mol's competencies are legally defined in the areas of public order and internal security. Its activities in these areas are related to the activities of most entities operating within the Mol.

The areas of internal security and public order touch most notably upon the work of the PCR, the

FRS, and the Refugee Facilities Administration of the Mol.

The table below shows a comparison of the approved budgets of the PCR and the FRS, including total income and expenses of the Mol between 2016 and 2018:

In CZK thousands.

Approved Budget	2016	2017	Difference 2017-2016	2018	Difference 2018-2017
Mol Income	7 273 322	8 119 944	846 622	9 553 497	1 433 553
Mol Expenses	59 078 280	63 347 442	4 269 162	71 882 370	8 534 928
of that: PCR	31 422 966	33 907 656	2 484 690	40 075 142	6 167 486

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FRS	7 807 958	8 705 148	897 190	10 027 453	1 322 305
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Note: Funds for the PCR and the FRS are indicated without the welfare benefits given to officers of security forces; this expenditures category is shown separately within specific indicators of the MoI.

The proposed salaries budget for 2018 takes into account an 8 % increase in salaries of officers, amounting to an added CZK 1 761 234 000 (CZK 1 453 943 000 for PCR officers and CZK 307 291 000 for FRS officers), following the increase of basic tariff salaries for officers by 10 % starting 1 July 2017, and a further 9 %, i.e. CZK 2 155 424 000 (CZK 1 736 309 000 for PCR officers and CZK 419 115 000 for FRS officers) following the increase of basic tariff salaries for officers by 10 % as of 1 November 2017.

The proposed salaries budget for 2018 takes into account a 9 % increase in salaries of civil employees, amounting to an added CZK 278 508 000 (CZK 246 870 000 CZK for PCR civil employees and CZK 31 638 000 for FRS civil employees), following the increase of basic tariff salaries by 10 % starting 1 November 2017.

The increase in the amount of funds intended for salaries of officers in connection with the amendment to Act No. 361/2003 Coll. was also significant. It accounted for an additional CZK 299 136 000 (CZK 226 434 000 for PCR officers and CZK 72 702 000 for FRS officers). The FRS obtained CZK 15 242 000 for officer salaries in connection with an additional 32 positions having been created within the Doksy and Milovice stations, and CZK 7 621 000 in connection with 34 positions having been created within the Bitozeves station.

Further annual expenditures relating to the PCR are linked to centrally managed assets and information and communications technologies, and fall within the expenditures of the MoI – e.g. the General Treasury Administration allocated CZK 605 000 000 to the MoI in 2017 for the management of electronic data boxes.

The General Treasury Administration Allocations

- CZK 33 637 000 for financing the involvement of Czech citizens in EU civil structures and other international governmental organisations, as well as in election observation missions, and for moving back to the MoI or the PCR.

- CZK 53 893 000 to the PCR for strengthening security at international airports (Government Resolution No. 331/2017).
- CZK 145 000 000 to the PCR and the MoI for strengthening internal security.
- CZK 97 254 000 to the PCR for implementing the Strategy on the Operation of Unmanned Aerial Devices and Protection against Their Abuse (Government Resolution No. 332/2017).
- CZK 17 000 000 to the FRS for the purchase of an automobile ladder with a security basket AZ 30 (Act No. 239/2000 Coll.).
- CZK 67 502 000 to the FRS for the purchase of an automobile ladder and two fire-fighting vehicles (Act No. 240/2000 Coll.).
- CZK 9 898 000 to the FRS for a technical assessment of two fire-fighting vehicles (Act No. 240/2000 Coll.).
- CZK 14 952 000 to the PCR and the FRS for removing damages following an emergency in the area of ammunition warehouses in Vrbětice in 2017 (Act No. 239/2000 Coll.).

From Other Chapters of the State Budget

- CZK 60 562 000 to the PCR for maintaining the air rescue service based on an agreement with the Ministry of Health, transferred from the Ministry of Health budget.
- CZK 5 900 000 to the PCR for ensuring logistical support to PCR officers deployed to Iraq, transferred from the Ministry of Defence budget.
- CZK 600 398 000 to the PCR and FRS – increasing tariffs of security forces by 10 % as of 1 July 2017 based on Government Resolution No. 228/2017 and Government Decree No. 126/2017, transferred from the State Debt chapter.
- CZK 25 000 000 to the PCR for the reconstruction and extension of the Highway Department of the PCR in Velký Beranov, transferred from the Ministry of Transport.

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- CZK 66 665 000 to the PCR for projects of regional police directorates within the 19th call of the Operational Programme Protection of the Environment; mostly for thermal insulation of edifices, filling in of holes and other measures that have a demonstrable energy saving effect on edifices (a corresponding increase in income and expenses).
- CZK 5 346 000 for activities of the Administration of State Material Reserves linked to protection of emergency supplies, as carried out by individual units within the FRS based on the Agreement on the Method of Financing Expenditures Related to the Protection of Emergency Supplies, transferred from the Administration of State Material Reserves.
- CZK 20 782 000 to the PCR for implementing energy saving measures in selected PCR buildings, transferred from the Ministry of the Environment.

Approved expenditure budget for 2017	63 347 442
Released from the chapter of the General Treasury Administration	1 243 079
Transferred from other chapters of the state budget	1 697 150
Transferred to other chapters of the state budget	-143 233
As of 31 December 2017	66 144 438

The adjusted budget of the PCR as of 31 December 2017 was CZK 35 829 113 000, i.e. it grew by CZK 1 921 457 000 in the course of 2017.

The adjusted budget of the FRS as of 31 December 2017 was CZK 9 243 265 000, i.e. it grew by CZK 538 117 000 in the course of 2017.

As mentioned above, funds for the PCR and the FRS are indicated without welfare benefits provided to officers of security forces, as this expenditures category is shown separately within specific indicators of the Mol.

A detailed evaluation of the economy of the Mol in 2017 will be the subject of a draft Final State Account of the Mol Chapter and other evaluation documents.

Summary of Mol expenditures in 2017

Summary	In CZK thousands
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3.13 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Based on the development of security documentation and following the subsequent creation of an overall Risk Management Plan, which was submitted to the Committee for Cybersecurity, implementation projects for 2017 were defined, dealing with information systems in the area of critical information infrastructure, important information systems, and others.

The Mol, in accordance with Government Resolution No. 421/2015 on the Strategy to Ensure the Development of Mobile Communications of Security and Rescue Forces in the Next 10 Years, Including Identified Radio Spectrum Requirements, initiated the implementation phase of the resolution.

The strategy was submitted for comment by other ministries and relevant stakeholders. The Ministry of Finance refused to commit to financing the strategy and the Czech Telecommunications Office refused – despite a unanimous request by

the Integrated Rescue System – to allocate the required radio spectrum in the 700 MHz band for the prospective LTE-based data and voice network, because it reserves this network for public mobile operators. Due to ongoing negotiations regarding the strategy at the National Security Council, and with regard to the obsolete nature of the current PEGAS radio communications channel and the Integrated Telecommunications Network of the Mol, the renewal of these networks is being accelerated.

The availability of the PEGAS network signal was expanded by strengthening the infrastructure in several places by installing signal repeaters and by redirecting the antenna systems of some base radio stations, and by completing the transition from PEGAS to a better form of group communications granting users wider opportunities in the area of organising cooperative communications.

In 2017, the **Economic Information System (EKIS) of the MoI**, which provides support in the area of economic, human resources, and other processes not only to the MoI, but also to the PCR and the FRS, underwent further development, making it compliant with Act No. 234/2014 Coll., on Civil Service, for the purposes of the MoI. Also in accordance with this act, the civil service information system underwent development, in cooperation with the National Agency for Communication and Information Technologies.

In 2017, the **functionalities of the Electronic Criminal Proceedings system (ETR) were further developed**, including the connection of the system to maps (crime mapping). Functionalities of the ETR were created for a mobile secure platform (operative use of information sources with the help of mobile devices, meeting safety criteria for access to service or work data), which is used by police officers in the field. In 2017, the PCR provided access to the ETR system to the CA and to GIBS, who also use it.

There was a **massive expansion of the test run of the KONTROLA 2 information system**, via direct communication (using mobile data devices) within a mobile secure platform. Currently, approx. 95 % of queries are conducted through a mobile secure platform and 5 % of queries are conducted via a web application.

There was also a **successful launch of the testing environment for transferring data from search registers for the purposes of municipal police forces** through a secure eGSB interface. By the end of the year, a verification run was carried out in the production environment.

The **Schengen Information System II** underwent the first phase of the SIS II AFIS project, enabling the submission of requests to SIS II by sending fingerprints. In this context, fingerprints from the Patros and CIS systems were transformed according to the standards of SIS II AFIS and re-entered. In connection with ensuring that SIS II is compliant with Act No. 181/2014 Coll., on Cyber Security, a risk analysis project was carried out, recommending measures to eliminate risks and update security documentation. Testing also took place in connection with Croatia joining SIS II, carried out by IT experts and experts from the Department of International Police Cooperation of the Police Presidium. Throughout the year,

there were discussions on the proposal for a new legal framework for SIS II, which brings about entirely new types of records (i.e. travel orders, unknown offenders) as well as new obligations and standards for Member States. The proposal should be adopted in 2018, with a trialogue at the end of 2017. The adoption of the new SIRENE Manual is also important, as it introduces changes in the area of setting up processes related to the implementation of SIS II AFIS, which will be launched at the central and national levels in March 2018. Due to the increased use of SIS II in all aspects – whether the total number of records or queries to the system – projects were prepared to increase the capacities of the national system.

As regards the **Visa Information System (VIS)**, which ensures a coordinated and unified procedure in the area of granting short-term Schengen visas via a central Visa Information System in Strasbourg, the VISA CODE+ project was finalised and successfully launched. The project included expanding the functionality of grouping so as to fully cover the options offered by the central system. In April and June 2017, a nationwide training took place concerning the changes relating to VISA CODE+. VIS is a part of the state critical infrastructure as per Decree No. 317/2014 Coll., on Important Information Systems and their Defining Criteria. In the framework of ensuring the compliance of the national VIS with Act No. 181/2014 Coll. on Cyber Security, a complete revision and update of security documentation was carried out, and the first phase of alterations aimed at removing vulnerabilities was implemented. Projects to increase the stability of the system were implemented, and projects to adjust the interface with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were launched.

In accordance with Directive (EU) 2016/681 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the use of passenger name record (PNR) data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime, preparatory works were begun to launch the PNR Information System. This system processes passenger name records and is a supporting instrument in the fight against serious crime, and should be put into operation in the course of 2018.

At the end of 2017, EU legislation necessary for the creation of an Entry Exit System was approved. In the course of 2017, preparatory work was carried out to define the parameters of the central and national systems, along with the definition of SALs and a unified interface linking the central and national systems. The Entry Exit System is intended to monitor compliance with the length of stay of third-country nationals in the EU (the Schengen area). The system should be put into operation in 2020.

Experts from the PCR attended meetings on the interoperability of European information systems. This project should optimise a number of processes and streamline the work of law enforcement authorities. The European Commission issued a report in May 2017 summarising the proposals for interoperability. Following the adoption of these proposals, it submitted a legislative proposal which would enable the implementation of the proposals, in the form of a project, into the structure of European information systems and into the work of law enforcement authorities.

Basic Registers Administration

In 2017, the Basic Registers Administration expanded its scope of competencies given by Act No. 111/2009 Coll., on Basic Registers, and implemented a whole range of activities aimed at fulfilling its competencies as per Act No. 297/2016 Coll., on Services for Building Trust in Electronic Transactions, Act No. 250/2017 Coll., on Electronic Identification, and Act No. 328/1999 Coll., on National Identification Documents, whose rapid legislative development in recent years addresses, as do the previously mentioned acts, the need for a timely fulfilment of all requirements stemming from Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC (eIDAS).

The Basic Registers Administration launched a test run of the new state administration information system – **the National Point for Identification and Authentication** – which, by verifying a user's identity and linking it to the relevant identifier in the basic population register, ensures on-line services via safe electronic

identification of users at the highest level of credibility. The National Point for Identification and Authentication is being prepared for the purpose of issuing electronic national IDs with chips carrying electronic identity, and was provided in a test run to the State Institute for Drug Control to put into operation further services of Czech eGovernment – providing patients access to electronic recipes as of the end of 2017.

With a detailed analysis of internal processes from the point of view of personal data protection and the right to information, the Basic Registers Administration also focused on implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR).

From the start of operation of basic registers until the end of 2017, public authorities have carried out more than 1.6 billion transactions through them.

The availability of services provided by basic registers was secured at the required level throughout 2017. Short-term outages in some services did not disrupt the guaranteed level of provided services and in most cases were a result of necessary maintenance or of standard activities aimed at testing emergency procedures and recovery plans.

Basic Register of Agendas, Public Authorities, Private Users of Data and Some Rights and Obligations

Act No. 192/2016 Coll., amending Act No. 111/2009 Coll., on Basic Registers, as amended, and some other acts, amended Sec. 3 (d) of Act No. 111/2009 Coll. The amendment changed the name of the Basic Register to “Basic Register of Agendas, Public Authorities, Private Users of Data, and Some Rights and Obligations”.

Within the Basic Registers information system, the Basic Register of Agendas, Public Authorities, Private Users of Data, and Some Rights and Obligations plays a key role. This Basic Register collects current data from legal regulations, which precisely define the scope of access authorisation

to other basic registers. This is important particularly in relation to personal data, which is included in the population register.

Every citizen can thus always check which civil servant and under what authorisation accessed their personal data. Currently, the aforementioned basic register routinely provides information updates on the scope of activities and

on the legally valid scope of authorisation of public authorities to access data of all subjects kept in all basic registers.

The Contracts Register has become an important tool for increasing the transparency of public administration when dealing with financial resources (see chapter on Corruption).

3.14 THE EUROPEAN UNION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Asylum and Migration

Following 2015 and 2016, when the migration crisis in Europe reached its pinnacle, the migratory pressure on EU Member States was somewhat reduced via various measures at the bilateral and EU level. **In 2017, 183 112 persons arrived in the EU** (IOM statistics). However, with regards to the continuing instability at the EU border, another crisis cannot be ruled out. Whilst the number of new illegal migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea into Italy and Greece is lower than in previous years, Spain has recorded an almost two-fold increase.

Particularly thanks to the joint declaration of the EU and Turkey of 18 March 2016, the situation in the East Mediterranean has been stabilised. At the end of 2017, statistics of new arrivals in Greece peaked at 29 716 persons, which is five times fewer than in 2016. The so-called 1:1 scheme is a part of the joint declaration, stating that for every Syrian refugee returned to Turkey after 20 March 2016 another Syrian refugee will be resettled in the EU. By the end of 2017, 1 484 migrants were returned on the basis of the agreement, only 228 of them Syrians, and 11 679 Syrian refugees were resettled in the EU.

The continuing migratory pressure on Italy and the record number of arrivals in 2016 turned the main focus on solving the situation in the central Mediterranean, which materialised with the adoption of the Malta Declaration by members of the European Council. EU measures stemming from this declaration, along with the engagement of Italy and efforts to stabilise the situation, resulted in a reduction in the migratory pressure, which was particularly noticeable in the second half of 2016. During 2017, 118 914 persons landed on Italian shores (IOM statistics), accounting for

an almost 33 % drop in comparison to the same period in 2016. Libya was the point of departure in most cases (90 %).

The number of migrants arriving in Spain along the Western Mediterranean route via African enclaves Ceuta and Melilla rose significantly in 2017 as compared to previous years. Since the beginning of the year until 20 December 2017, 27 253 persons entered Spanish territory (IOM statistics), which was twice more in comparison to the same period in 2016, thus making this the most rapidly growing illegal migration route into the EU. Spain, finding itself under increased pressure, claimed to be able to manage the situation on its own, and did not request support from other Member States or the EU, as was the case of Greece and Italy.

As of 26 September 2017, the deadline for qualifying persons into the relocation mechanism established as a temporary measure by EU Council Decision in September 2015 ended. 32 689 asylum seekers (21 524 from Greece and 10 842 from Italy) were relocated with the help of this mechanism. The resettlement of persons from third countries within the European Voluntary Resettlement Programme continued. By the end of 2017, 18 563 persons were resettled into 21 countries within the two-year European Resettlement Programme.

In 2017, the EU continued in the process of unifying residency legislation and related processes. In the area of **legal labour migration**, the European Commission submitted on 7 June 2016 a **proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment (so-called Blue Card Scheme)**. The proposal was

to be redrafted and then replace the current directive 2009/50/ES. The aim was to increase the EU's ability to attract and retain highly skilled workers from third-countries and thus strengthen its competitiveness. The new directive should replace the current directive 2009/50/ES, which, according to the European Commission, suffers from some weaknesses, such as restrictive conditions for accepting third-country nationals and limited mobility within the EU. This, in combination with many other parallel rules, conditions, and processes for accepting the same category of highly skilled workers in different EU Member States, hinders the attractiveness and use of Blue Cards. Due to the incompatibility of the positions of the Council and the European Parliament on a number of points in the proposal, however, no political guidelines for further negotiations were obtained by the end of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU. Technical negotiations will thus continue under the Bulgarian Presidency.

In 2017, the wide-ranging and complex debate regarding the reform of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) continued, focusing on seven legislative proposals submitted by the European Commission in the spring of 2016 with the purpose of **further harmonising the rules in the area of international protection and resettlement**. This set of proposals for measures stems from a general document of the European Commission – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council towards a reform of the common European Asylum System and enhancing legal avenues to Europe of 6 April 2016 (COM (2016) 197 final/2, 7665/16).

In 2107, a **partial general approach of the Council** was reached (and negotiations thus began with the European Parliament, the so-called triilogue) **regarding the following proposals:**

- **Qualification Directive** (Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted and amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC of

25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents;

- **Reception Directive** (Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection);
- **Union Resettlement Framework Directive** (Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union Resettlement Framework and amending Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council.

The proposal for a **Procedural Directive** (Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU) was debated in the course of 2017 at the level of preparatory bodies of the Council of the EU, i.e. no major progress has been made. The proposal for a **Dublin IV Directive** (Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person) has likewise not seen any major progress in negotiations. The remaining proposals in the legislative package revising the **Common European Asylum System**, i.e. the **Eurodac Directive** (joint EU fingerprint database) and the **Directive Establishing a New EU Asylum Agency (EUAA)** were discussed by the Council in the course of 2016 and then in triilogue in 2017.

Following the Council Conclusions of October 2017, the Council is to reach a consensus in discussing the individual proposals for reform of the CEAS by June 2018.

Schengen Area, Border Protection, and Visa Policy

COORDINATION OF SCHENGEN ISSUES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

In April 2017, the Coordination Authority for the Management and Protection of Czech State Borders and for Migration approved the **Report**

on the Implementation of the National Schengen Plan as of 31 December 2016. This is the third evaluation of the National Schengen Plan 2014, which is the basic strategic document for Schengen cooperation and border protection. The purpose of the plan and the tasks it sets out is to ensure a high standard in all areas of Schengen cooperation, which is verified through regular Schengen evaluations. In 2017, auto-evaluations were carried out in selected areas, with the aim of preparing the CR for Schengen evaluations.

In March 2017, an unannounced Schengen evaluation took place at the internal Czech border with Germany. No deficiencies were identified and the CR did not receive any recommendations based on the report.

Between 1 January and 31 December 2017 the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy of the MoI carried out, in accordance with Sec. 6 (1) of Act No. 191/2016 Coll., on the Protection of State Borders and on amending certain other acts (Border Protection Act), an evaluation of the adherence to security requirements at five international airports. The inspections were carried out at all international airports with at least 5 000 persons checking in for international flights in one calendar year. 19 violations of the State Border Protection Act were detected.

SCHENGEN BORDERS CODE

On 7 April 2017 Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) came into effect. The main purpose of this revision of the Schengen Borders Code is to ensure the **systematic control of persons enjoying the right to free movement under EU law** (i.e. EU citizens and their family members who are not EU citizens) through databases of documents and persons, including the verification of biometric information, with the full use of technical solutions so as to avoid disturbing the flow of movement. The CR systematically checks people crossing all of its border crossings (at international airports) through relevant databases at entry and exit, as required by the revision of the Schengen Borders Code.

In connection with the still unsatisfactory security situation in Europe, affected by the migration crisis and terrorist attacks, some states continued, in 2017, to implement **temporary controls at internal borders**. Germany, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway continued the reintroduction of internal border controls on the basis of Council Recommendation under Article 29 of the Schengen Borders Code (the original Council Recommendation of 12 May 2016 was successively extended three times, most recently on 11 November 2017. After this date, further extension was no longer possible under Article 29 of the Schengen Borders Code. In France, internal border controls were reintroduced in the context of an emergency state declared following the terrorist attacks in November 2015, and lasted until 31 October 2017. Following the end of the state of emergency, France continued to implement internal border controls under Article 25 of the Schengen Borders Code, with reference to the persisting threat of terrorism.

On 27 September 2017, the European Commission presented a revision of the proposal for Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on a Union Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code) in connection to the rules applicable to the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls. The proposed amendment aims to:

- Extend the time constraints of the temporary reintroduction of internal border controls so as to enable Member States to adopt, if necessary, measures required to respond to a serious threat to public order or internal security;
- Introduce better procedural safeguards ensuring that the reintroduction of internal border controls or their extension is based on a proper risk assessment and is implemented upon consultation with Member States affected by these measures.

NEW INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND OTHER RELATED REGULATIONS

On 29 December 2017, **regulations pertaining to the Entry/Exit System (EES) entered into force:**

- Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) to register entry and exit data and refusal of entry data of third-country nationals crossing the external borders of the Member States and determining the conditions for access to the EES for law enforcement purposes, and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and Regulations (EC) No 767/2008 and (EU) No 1077/2011;
- Regulation (EU) 2017/2225 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 as regards the use of the Entry/Exit System.

The purpose of the Entry/Exit System (EES) will be to mitigate delays in border controls and improve the quality of border controls of third-country nationals, ensure the systematic and reliable identification of “overstayers” (persons who exceeded the period of authorised stay in the Schengen area), and strengthen internal security and the fight against terrorism and serious crime. The EES should be put into operation in 2020.

In 2017, the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a **European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)** and amending Regulations (EU) No 515/2014, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2016/794 and (EU) 2016/1624 continued to be discussed. Its adoption by the European Parliament and the Council is expected in the first half of 2018. The main objective of the proposal is to create an automated EU information system recording data of third-country nationals who are not subject to short-term visa requirements in Member States. ETIAS should collect and effectively evaluate information about these persons before their intended journey to the EU, thus contributing to the identification of possible migration, security, and health risks associated with these persons. Third-country nationals who are not subject to short-term visa requirements will thus be required to meet new entry conditions in the form of a travel authorisation, without which entry into the EU will be denied at external borders, save for a few exceptions.

In December 2016, the European Commission presented a proposal for a legislative package on the **revision of the Schengen Information System (SIS II)**, consisting of the regulation for police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, border controls, and the return of illegally staying third-country nationals, which would contribute more efficiently to the fight against terrorism, cross-border crime and illegal migration. The revision concerns, in particular, the addition of new functionalities to the system, such as the extension of the use of biometric information, or the introduction of so-called interrogation controls, which is an intermediate step between covert and special controls and should help combat serious crime and terrorism. An entirely new tool is the use of SIS II for returns, which should help monitor the efficiency and exchange of information in the return process. A trialogue with the European Parliament was launched in November 2017.

In June 2017, the European Commission presented a **proposal to revise the mandate of eu-LISA**. The proposal should enable eu-LISA to better prepare and respond to IT challenges in the area of freedom, security, and justice. The proposed changes concerned, in particular, the extension of the agency’s mandate in relation to new IT systems (e.g. EES and ETIAS), ensuring the required interoperability between EU information systems, improving data quality, and providing support to Member States. Discussions began and a general consensus of the Council on a compromise text was reached during the EE PRES, the trialogue has not been launched in 2017.

Further legislation presented by the European Commission in 2017 (in December) were the draft regulations proposing the long-awaited solution to the **interoperability between EU information systems in the area of migration and internal security**. This new functionality should contribute to greater efficiency when using information resources and thus help to better tackle current challenges in the area of security and illegal migration. This is a topic that has long been accentuated and supported at the political level. The proposals of the European Commission build on the final report of the High Level Expert Group on Information Systems and Interoperability and respond to the Council’s invitation in its Conclusions of 9 June 2017 and 23 June 2017 for

the European Commission to introduce, as soon as possible, a relevant legislative proposal for the purpose of implementing the recommendations presented by the HLEG on Information Systems and Interoperability. Discussions began in December 2017, the triilogue is expected to be launched in the second half of 2018.

VISA POLICY

In the area of common visa policy **discussions on the revision of the so-called Visa Code were concluded**. Because no compromise could be reached with the European Parliament, the original intention of the revision (visa facilitation for the purpose of boosting the EU's economy), the European Commission decided to **withdraw the proposal**, and promised to present a new one in the first quarter of 2018. The new proposal should better reflect recent developments in the area of security and migration and focus more on the link between visa and readmission policies. Along with the Visa Code, the European Commission also withdrew its proposal to introduce so-called travel visas, which did not find support among Member States.

The **possible use of negative visa policy levers with regards to non-cooperating third countries in the area of returns** was a resonant topic. At the EU level, the first common approach document was approved, introducing restrictions on visa policy with regards to Bangladesh. The application of visa restrictions with regards to other third countries was considered for the future. Discussions about visa policy during the EE PRES focused primarily on the **possibilities of modernising the visa process**, particularly as regards digitalisation, both in terms of introducing an electronic visa sticker and making it possible to apply for a Schengen visa online. These possibilities will be discussed further following a detailed analysis, and their implementation will not precede the launch of EES and ETIAS.

In August 2017, a revised regulation laying down a **uniform visa format** entered into force. The new visa sticker should better meet current security requirements while taking better into account the development of the Visa Information System.

Following difficult negotiations, a preliminary agreement was reached in September 2017 on the proposal to amend the regulation laying down

a **uniform residence permit format** for third-country nationals. In November, this legislation was published in the Official Journal of the EU.

As regards **visa liberalisation**, in 2017 **visa requirements for nationals of Ukraine and Georgia were abolished** (only for holders of biometric passports) following an amendment to Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 of 15 March 2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement. Neither Kosovo nor Turkey, which were also mentioned in connection with abolishing visa requirements, have met the set conditions and remain on the list of countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas.

In connection with the newly liberalised third countries, a new form of the **suspensive mechanism** was approved, which allows visa requirements to be renewed for a third country for a transitional period, in case of a significant increase in entry refusals or asylum applications with a low recognition rate, or a substantial increase in serious crimes committed by nationals of a given third country. The quality of cooperation of the given third country with EU Member States in the area of readmissions is also a criterion.

In the course of 2017, the EU launched negotiations with the Balkan states pertaining to agreements on the activities carried out by the **European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX)** on the territory of these states (Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania).

Protection of Personal Data

In April 2016, the European Parliament sanctioned the proposal for a so-called **General Data Protection Regulation** and the related proposal for a **Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data**. These regulations will enter into force in

May 2018, for which reason new legislation was prepared in the CR in the course of 2017.

Data Retention

The Court of Justice of the EU has intervened twice against regulations that allow blanket retention of traffic and location data by telecommunications operators. These data may be used by the police, following permission by a court, to detect and prosecute criminal offences. The EU is currently looking for a solution, with no concrete results as yet. The impossibility of blanket retention of traffic and location data will seriously inhibit the ability of the police to detect and investigate criminal offences.

Salzburg Forum

In 2017, the Salzburg Forum was presided by Hungary and, in the second half of the year, Poland. Ministerial conferences were held in Budapest and Warsaw, producing Joint Ministerial Declarations. Both presidencies organised meetings of police presidents and experts on witness protection and on road traffic safety. Poland organised a meeting of border police chiefs and an expert meeting on secondary migration flows.

Development Cooperation

In 2017, projects within the MoI Security Development Cooperation Programme continued to be implemented. The CZK 7 million budget supported 36 activities, which were implemented by departments within the MoI, the PCR, the FRS, the GIBS, and the Prague Security Studies Institute. Projects were implemented in priority countries in the Balkans, namely in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Serbia, Macedonia, and Montenegro. However, it is worth highlighting strengthened cooperation with Ukraine, where the highest number of projects was implemented – 12. Projects were also implemented in Georgia and in Jordan.

Projects aimed at training Ukrainian police officers with the aim of creating so-called Anti-Conflict Teams continued. Thanks to the work of Czech experts, the chief of the National Police of Ukraine (NPU) adopted a regulation in August 2017 creating Anti-Conflict Teams and establishing them as a mandatory element of security measures. In the area of migration,

Macedonia, Albania, and Montenegro participated in projects aimed at stymying illegal migration and fostering risk-analysis and fingerprinting foreigners. Cooperation in the area of removing and disposing of ammunition from the Una river in Bosnia and Herzegovina also continued, with support from Czech divers from the Department for Specialised Diving Activities and Training of the PCR.

Multilateral Ministerial Meetings

Ministerial meetings at the **two V4 ministerial conferences** in Warsaw and Budapest focused on the migration crisis, reform of the EU asylum system and its possible consequences on public security in the regional and EU context, cooperation on border protection, and strengthening internal cooperation and fighting terrorism, the current decision of the Court of Justice of the EU pertaining to relocations, border protection, and EU information systems.

The Minister of the Interior, personally or via his deputies, attended a number of international conferences, e.g. the Vienna Future Talks, the Interpol Conference “Responsibility for a Safer World” in Prague, or the UN Public Service Forum in Amsterdam.

The Minister of the Interior’s first deputy attended the Council of the EU meeting in Brussels, which was devoted to migration, security, Brexit, external relations, trade policy, global economic issues, economic and social development, and youth. In May 2017, the first deputy was a member of the Prime Minister’s delegation to meet representatives of the government of Moldova. The first deputy minister and his Moldovan counterpart discussed current security issues and mutual cooperation.

Bilateral Ministerial Meetings

The interior minister met with a delegation from the Jewish National Fund – a memorandum was signed during the meeting to allocate funds for the purchase of Tatra trucks, which the CR will provide as a gift to Israel. In June 2017, the interior minister visited Israel, where he met with his counterpart to follow up on their meeting in March 2016, when they had signed an agreement on the cooperation of security forces. Both ministers committed to continue developing this cooperation.

Cooperation with Germany continued with a meeting with the Bavarian interior minister concerning cooperation in the area of internal security. At the subsequent press conference, both interior ministers assessed the course of police exercises and cooperation in both countries. Two delegations from Germany were received in Prague – one from the federal interior ministry, through which the German interior minister himself was invited to Prague, and one headed by the federal justice minister to talk about the so-called “fake news” phenomenon.

In August 2017, the interior minister attended the Czech-Bavarian police exercise in Furth in Wald/Horšovský Týn. In December 2017, the Minister of the Interior’s first deputy attended the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the joint Czech-German police centre in Schwandorf.

Traditionally good cooperation with Slovakia continued. The interior ministers met in May 2017 in Prague to talk about cooperation. In September 2017 an annual meeting of Czech and Slovak governments took place, this time in Lednice na Moravě. Current issues pertaining to cooperation, border protection, the migration crisis, and the fight against terrorism were discussed. In November 2017, the Czech Minister of the Interior visited Slovakia to discuss future bilateral cooperation.

The Minister of the Interior also visited the USA. Talks focused on border protection, migration, cyber security, and potential areas for deepening bilateral cooperation (cyber security, security research and development, etc.). The Minister of the Interior also met with representatives of the Czech expatriate community in Texas, to whom he presented a gift intended to help Czech compatriots affected by Hurricane Harvey.

Throughout the year, a number of meetings with ambassadors accredited in the CR took place. These focused mainly on migration, terrorism, organised crime, drug trafficking and current bilateral relations.

International Agreements

In 2017, agreements on air traffic with Chile, Korea, and Mexico were discussed.

A Memorandum of Understanding on Working Holidays was signed with Australia and similar

agreements are ready to be signed with Japan and Hong Kong.

The MoI commented the proposals for the so-called MODE 4 in free trade agreements, which address issues pertaining to the simplified entry of persons onto the territory of contracting states for the purpose of rendering services. In 2017, these agreements concerned MERCOSUR countries, Japan, Armenia, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Mexico, and Turkey. Provisional implementation was initiated with Canada.

International Police Cooperation

Cooperation with other countries in the area of ensuring internal security and public order is traditionally the subject of **police cooperation agreements**. These contain standard provisions on the scope and forms of cooperation, the bodies responsible for its implementation, the requirements for requesting cooperation, etc.

On 7 June 2017, a **Treaty between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Vietnamese Socialist Republic on Cooperation in Combating Crime** was signed in Hanoi. The treaty was submitted to both chambers of Parliament for approval and subsequently to the President for ratification.

On 23 November 2017, a **Treaty between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Cooperation in Combating Crime** was signed in Astana. The treaty was submitted to both chambers of Parliament for approval and subsequently to the President for ratification.

On 15 June 2017, two implementing arrangements to the agreement on police cooperation with Germany were signed in Prague:

- **Arrangement of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the German Federal Republic** on the implementation of Article 21 of the Treaty between the Czech Republic and the German Federal Republic on Police Cooperation and on the Amendment to the Treaty between the Czech Republic and the German Federal Republic on Amendments to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 20 April

1959 and Simplifying its Implementation of 2 February 2000, of 28 April 2015 (the arrangement entered into force on the day of its signing and was published in the Collection of International Treaties under No. 44/2017);

- **Implementing Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the German Federal Republic** to the Treaty between the Czech Republic and the German Federal Republic on Police Cooperation and on the Amendment to the Treaty between the Czech Republic and the German Federal Republic on Amendments to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 20 April 1959 and Simplifying its Implementation of 2 February 2000, of 28 April 2015, concerning cooperation in the area of administrative offences (the Czech side has already declared having met the national conditions for entering the agreement, the German declaration of the same is pending).

The **Treaty between the Czech Republic and Georgia on Cooperation in Combating Crime** is ready to be signed, having been approved by Government Resolution no. 451 of 18 May 2016.

One of the priorities of international police cooperation is the involvement of the PCR in a project to **train police forces in Iraq**. The project has been in preparation since 2016. The first police officers were dispatched in March 2017 to join the Italian training programme at Camp Dublin in Baghdad. The first rotation took place in September 2017. The project is expected to continue in 2018.

Another important element of international police cooperation is participation in **FRONTEX** activities. The PCR continued to expand its significantly growing national team of the European Border and Coast Guard in 2016 by dispatching 163 (+6) officers in 2017. Most officers were dispatched for two months to so-called hotspots in Greece and Italy and to external EU borders in Bulgaria, Greece, and Hungary. In most cases, the PCR received very positive feedback regarding the work of its officers abroad, with references to their high professionalism and responsibility.

In connection with international police cooperation, it is also necessary to highlight the

PCR's activities in relation to dispatching officers to **peace operations abroad**. There are presently 12 police officers in peace operations abroad (EULEX Kosovo, EUMM Georgia, OSCE Ukraine), which accounts for an increase by 4 officers as compared to 2016.

In the framework of bilateral cooperation, the PCR continued in 2017 to help **protect the national borders of states affected by the migration wave**. Teams of Czech police officers patrolled national borders in Macedonia and Serbia. Officers served in their national uniforms, always in tandem with a local officer. The purpose of these joint patrols was to guard the borders against illegal crossings and to be deployed within the territory of the given states in order to detect and detain illegal migrants, but also to help maintain public order. Czech police officers thus gained hands-on experience with tackling illegal migration, which will be useful in the event of a significant migration influx into the CR. This form of international police cooperation has proved to be very useful and will continue in 2018.

Better access to information, promptness, and significant improvement of international cooperation are all made possible by a good network of **police liaison officers abroad**. Currently, there are 9 police liaison officers stationed at Czech Embassies in the UK, Vietnam, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Germany, Romania, Serbia, and Albania. In 2017, the network of police liaison officers was expanded from six to the current number thanks to the establishment of three liaison offices in new destinations (Germany, Albania, and the UK).

There are currently 3 police officers serving within international organisations and EU agencies, two of whom are stationed at EUROPOL headquarters and one at the Interpol General Secretariat. At the same time, there is support for the expansion of the network of national experts representing the CR in various positions and applying the expert knowledge and experience they acquired while serving the PCR. Currently, 5 national experts are stationed within international organisations (two in FRONTEX, one in EUROPOL, one in Interpol, and one in the European Commission). The PCR also holds one position in the Permanent Representation of the CR to the EU.

The six **joint centres for police and customs cooperation** with neighbouring countries played an important role in international police cooperation. In 2017, a pilot connection of one of the centres to the information system of the International Police Cooperation Department of the Police Presidium of the CR was run within the framework of a project to improve cooperation, efficiency, and management of exchanged information (the project was financed from the Norwegian Funds).

In 2017, the PCR undertook activities related to the preparation and implementation of security **projects co-financed by the EU and other sources of foreign aid**.

In terms of submitted and approved projects, those co-financed by the EU within the ISF and AMIF programmes were the largest. The following projects were approved and implemented within these programmes in 2017:

VISA CODE PLUS

The purpose of this project was to meet the EU's functional requirements – to implement 4 modifications (of the CS-VIS interface, to the method of LoA management, introduce notifications, and check authorisation of queries). The project was implemented successfully between 1 June 2016 and 30 June 2017, with the costs amounting to CZK 11 789 779 (CZK 8 842 334 from ISF and CZK 2 947 445 from the PCR).

FINANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU POLICY CYCLE PRIORITIES FOR 2016 – 2017

This project was implemented between June 2016 and December 2017, whose aim was to strengthen the implementation of the EU Policy Cycle in the CR through increasing the number of experts taking part, intensifying cooperation with relevant police departments of EU Member States and other selected countries, and the subsequent sharing of expertise and best practices at the national level. The project costs were CZK 1 607 568, of which CZK 1 060 258 were used in 2017.

NATIONAL SITUATION CENTRE FOR BORDER PROTECTION

The project has been running since November 2016. Within its framework, a National Situation

Centre for Border Protection will be built as a joint communications centre of the Alien Police Service Directorate and the CA with the purpose of more efficient border control and administration. In 2017, building permit documentation was finalised. In 2018, a public tender will be announced for the reconstruction of the relevant premises and, after that, a procurement procedure will be launched in order to equip the premises with AV technologies, other assets, and the necessary hardware. The project costs as of 8 January 2018 were CZK 1 325 938.

MOBILE ANALYTICAL LABORATORY

This is a project aimed at purchasing mobile equipment – field laboratories used to identify chemical (but also other) substances that could otherwise endanger the health of persons intervening or finding themselves in the vicinity. In the course of 2017, several public tenders were called. The cost of the project is CZK 26 400 000. It is expected to be extended until June 2019.

VIDEOCONFERENCING EQUIPMENT FOR THE CRIMINAL POLICE AND INVESTIGATION SERVICE

This project is aimed at creating a complex communications environment ensuring the interconnection of video and voice communication and the subsequent application of videoconferencing technologies in police work. In line with the objective of the project, which is to support crime victims, the purchase of the videoconferencing facilities will reduce the secondary victimisation of particularly vulnerable victims by limiting their contact with the perpetrators. The cost of the project is CZK 25 900 000.

BUILDING AN INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR COLLECTING, STORING, PROCESSING, AND EXCHANGING PASSENGER NAME RECORDS

The objective of this project is to purchase a specialised information system necessary for meeting the requirements of Directive (EU) 2016/681 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016. The project is expected to be implemented in 2018–2020. The estimated cost is CZK 80 000 000.

SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST CYBERCRIME

The objective of this project is to complement and modernise special instruments (hardware and

software) for a more efficient prevention of cybercrime and the fight against it. Public tender procedures are currently underway, including negotiations on delivering framework contracts for special and high-performance equipment. The funds used in 2017 amounted to CZK 25 369 097. The project is planned to be completed in 2019.

FOREIGNER RETURNS – IMPLEMENTATION OF FORCED RETURNS (AMIF PROGRAMME)

This project is aimed at ensuring an efficient and dignified procedure of forced returns of third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entering or staying in the CR. The project has been running since 1 January 2017. In 2017, CZK 1 824 486 were spent, out of a budget of CZK 12 500 000, and 79 foreigners were returned to their homeland. The project will continue in 2018.

No less important are project activities of the PCR within the **Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme**. In 2017, the remaining 8 projects have been completed (out of 11 in total), whose total cost was CZK 330 million. The Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme was thus successfully completed. The total funds spent in 2017 amounted to CZK 75 781 000.

Within the framework of **Norwegian Funds**, the programme CZ 14 Cooperation within the Schengen Area and the Fight against Cross-Border and Organised Crime, including Illegal Trafficking in Human Beings and Itinerant Criminal Groups and the project Introducing Police Specialists to Work with the Roma Community in Socially Excluded Communities were completed. One project was completed in 2016, and a further 5 were completed in 2017. The programme's budget was CZK 187 000 000.

INTERNATIONAL JUDICIAL COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

Under No. 57/2017 Coll., the act amending Act No. 104/2013 Coll., on International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters, as amended, and amending other related acts, was published and came into effect on 1 May 2017. The amendment incorporated requirements arising for the CR from Article 10 (4) (5) and (6) of Directive 2013/48/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and

in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty and Article 8 (2) (a) of Directive (EU) 2016/343 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings. Most of the requirements in these directives have already been met through existing legal provisions, however, in order to ensure their full implementation, several minor changes had to be made. The most important of these was to enable a so-called double defence during the transfer procedure, i.e. the possibility for the person being transferred to choose a solicitor in the requesting state for the purpose of helping solicitors in the country of origin, but also to grant some rights to arrested and detained persons (e.g. explicitly stating the right to choose a solicitor, to communicate with third parties, etc.).

The Ministry of Justice drafted a legal proposal amending Act No. 104/2013 Coll., on International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters, as amended, and amending other related acts. Since there was no time to discuss the proposal during the previous parliamentary term, it will be re-submitted. The main objective of the proposal is to bring Czech legislation up to par with the Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters and ensure its proper implementation. The directive aims to provide a simple and complete legal framework for judicial cooperation in the area of cross-border acquisition of evidence between EU Member States, and to this end creates a completely new instrument – the European Investigation Order (a single form binding for all Member States, with the exception of Ireland and Denmark).

In the area of European cooperation, it is worthwhile mentioning the adoption of Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO'). This Regulation establishes a new EU institution based in Luxembourg, whose purpose is to investigate and

3. Policy in the Area of Internal Security and Public Order

prosecute crimes damaging the EU's financial interests, as defined in Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2017 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests by means of criminal law, which is the material foundation for the functioning of this new institution. Alongside the organisation, activities, and structure of the institution, which will operate at both a centralised level (a European Supreme Prosecutor and 20 European Prosecutors representing

individual Member States) and a decentralised level (mandated European prosecutors in Member States), the Regulation contains some procedural provisions relating to criminal proceedings which will be directly applicable in cases falling under EPPO's jurisdiction. 20 Member States will be taking part in this enhanced cooperation, including the CR. The European Commission expects the EPPO to become operational by the end of 2020 or in early 2021.

4. ABBREVIATIONS

AFIS – Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (the first phase of SIS II)
AMLZ – amendment of Act No. 253/2008 Coll., on Some Measures against the Legalisation of Proceeds from Crime and Terrorism Financing
CA – Customs Administration of the Czech Republic
CBM – confidence-building measures
CITES - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CR – Czech Republic
CTHH – Centre against Terrorism and Hybrid Threats
DCeGov – eGovernment Monitoring Centre
ECPA – European Crime Prevention Award
EES – Entry/Exit System
EFUS – European Forum on Urban Safety
ETIAS – European Travel Information and Authorisation System
EUCPN – European Crime Prevention Network
FAU – Financial Analysis Unit
FSR – Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic
GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation
GIBS – General Inspectorate of Security Forces
ICSP – Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention
ICT – information and communication technology
ISMS – Security Management System of the MoI
IT – information technology
MoI – Ministry of the Interior
NGO – Non-governmental organisation
NSC – National Security Council
NÚKIB – National Cyber and Information Security Agency
OCG – organised criminal groups
PCR – Police of the Czech Republic
PMS – Probation and Mediation Service
SIS II – Schengen Information System II
SRPE – Security Research and Police Education Department of the MoI
THB – trafficking in human beings
VIS – Visa Information System

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5.1 TOTAL CRIME IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC - EVOLUTION

Year	Recorded*	Cleared Up	Clearance Rate %
1994	372 427	129 540	34.8
1995	375 630	151 842	40.4
1996	394 267	162 929	41.3
1997	403 654	169 177	41.9
1998	425 930	185 093	43.5
1999	426 626	193 354	45.3
2000	391 469	172 245	44.0
2001	358 577	166 827	46.5
2002	372 341	151 492	40.7
2003	357 740	135 581	37.9
2004	351 629	134 444	38.2
2005	344 060	135 281	39.3
2006	336 446	133 695	39.7
2007	357 391	138 852	38.9
2008	343 799	127 906	37.2
2009	332 829	127 604	38.3
2010	313 387	117 685	37.6
2011	317 177	122 238	38.5
2012	304 528	120 168	39.5
2013	325 366	129 182	39.7
2014	288 660	126 239	43.7
2015	247 628	112 141	45.2
2016	218 162	101 678	46.6
2017	202 303	94 890	46.9

Note:

* This indicates the number of deeds defined under criminal law where proceedings are underway, investigation is underway, or have been completed.

5.2 PERPETRATORS

Evolution of the share (in %) of individual categories of perpetrators of crime
on the total number of perpetrators in the CR

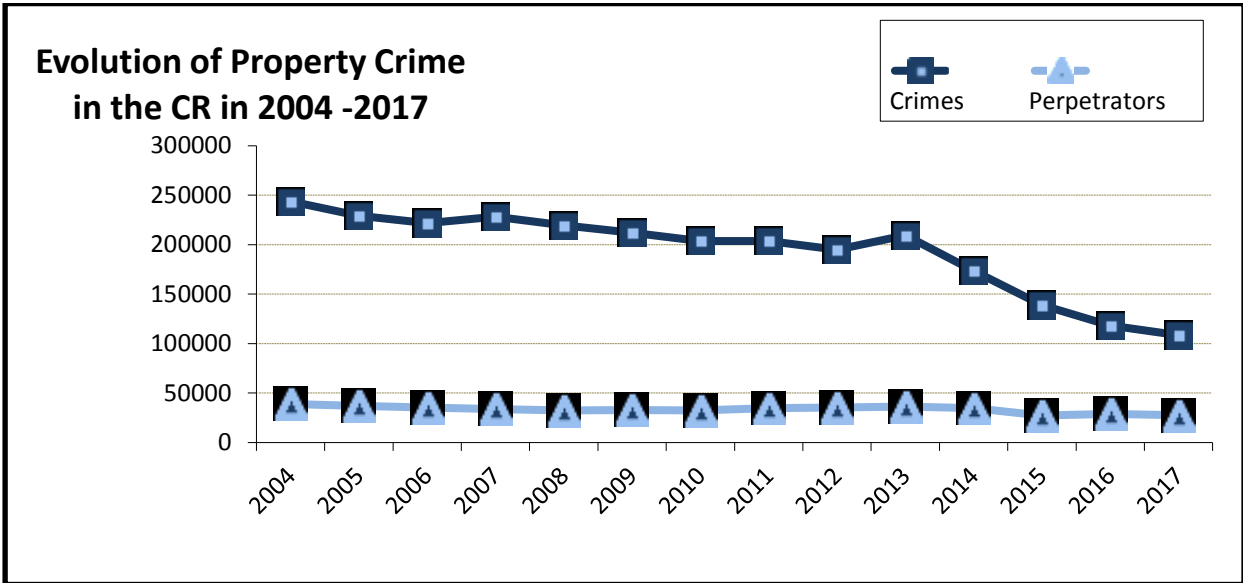
Year	Men	Women	Recidivists	Children	Minors	Foreigners
				under 15	15-18 years	
2004	87.6	12.4	45.2	3.1	5.1	5.9
2005	85.8	14.2	46.0	2.7	4.7	5.8
2006	86.4	13.6	46.2	2.5	4.7	5.9
2007	87.2	12.8	44.5	2.1	4.9	6.4
2008	87.5	12.5	43.7	2.2	4.9	7.0
2009	87.1	12.9	45.9	1.7	4.3	6.8
2010	86.8	13.2	47.5	1.4	3.6	6.6
2011	86.7	13.3	48.5	1.4	3.5	6.5
2012*	86.3	13.7	50.0	1.2	3.1	6.6
2013*	85.8	14.2	52.6	1.1	2.5	6.3
2014*	85.0	14.8	53.2	1.2	2.3	6.4
2015*	84.1	15.6	52.0	1.2	2.1	7.1
2016*	82.9	16.8	46.3	1.7	2.5	8.1
2017*	82.5	17	45.7	1.1	2.3	8.5

* Not including legal persons

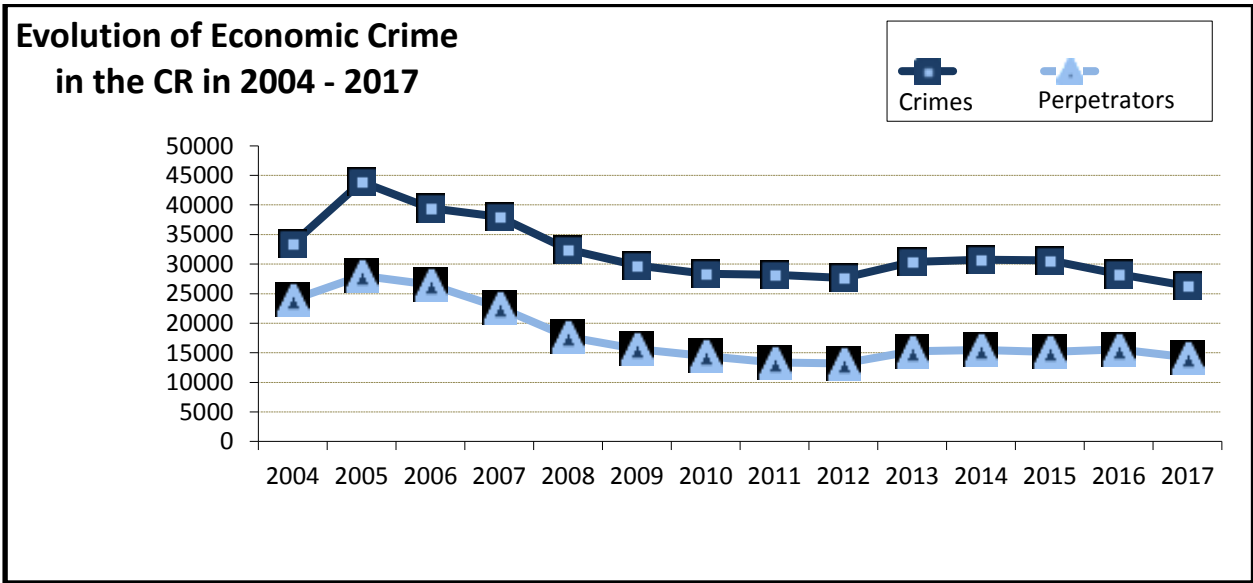
5.3 MISDEMEANOURS RECORDED BY THE POLICE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

PCR Service	Year				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Public Order Police Service					
Total	748 476	796 307	770 053	780 233	674 828
Of that in the area of:					
- Road traffic safety and flow	411 956	473 234	488 794	512 861	429 400
- Property crime (Sec. 50)	181 956	159 522	133 125	117 681	104 009
- Public order (Sec. 47-49)	112 780	114 097	113 395	103 814	98 026
- Alcohol and drug abuse (Sec. 30)	19 501	24 052	25 737	18 132	15 595
Road Traffic Police Service					
- Misdemeanours committed by drivers of motor vehicles	531 782	535 178	506 607	475 890	452 475
- Misdemeanours committed by other participants in road traffic	19 747	23 196	22 114	20 479	18 988
Weapons and Security Equipment Police Service					
- Arms and security equipment	2 909	1 825	989	1 081	1 330
Alien Police Service					
- Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on residency of foreign nationals in the CR	27 438	29 582	27 770	31 184	29 032
Total Misdemeanours	1 330 352	1 386 088	1 327 533	1 308 867	1 176 653

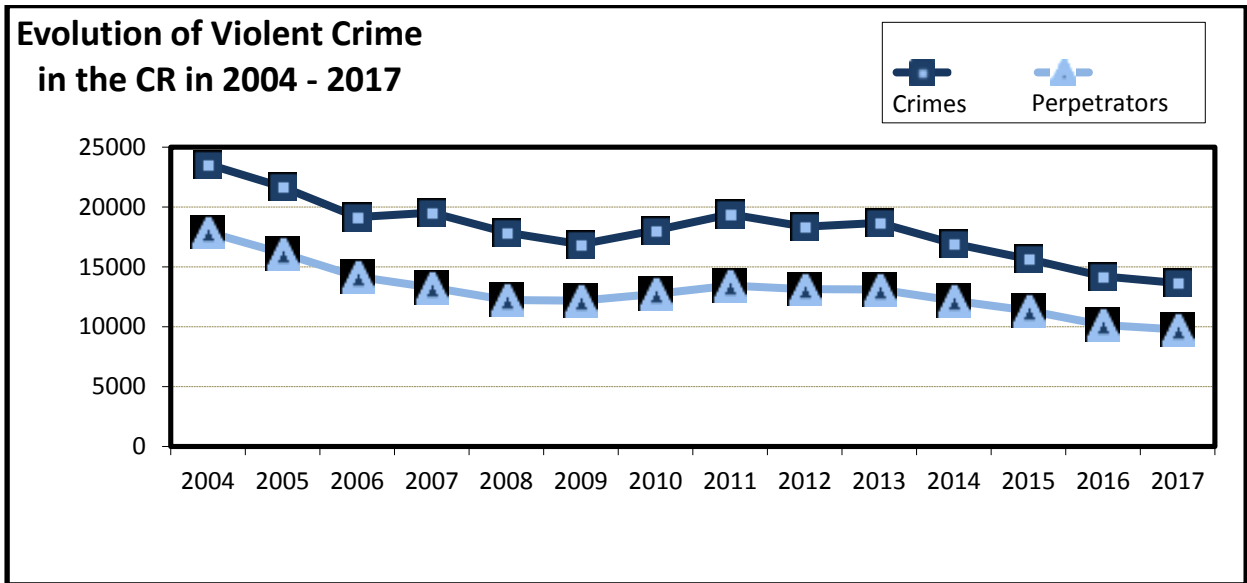
5.4 EVOLUTION OF PROPERTY CRIME



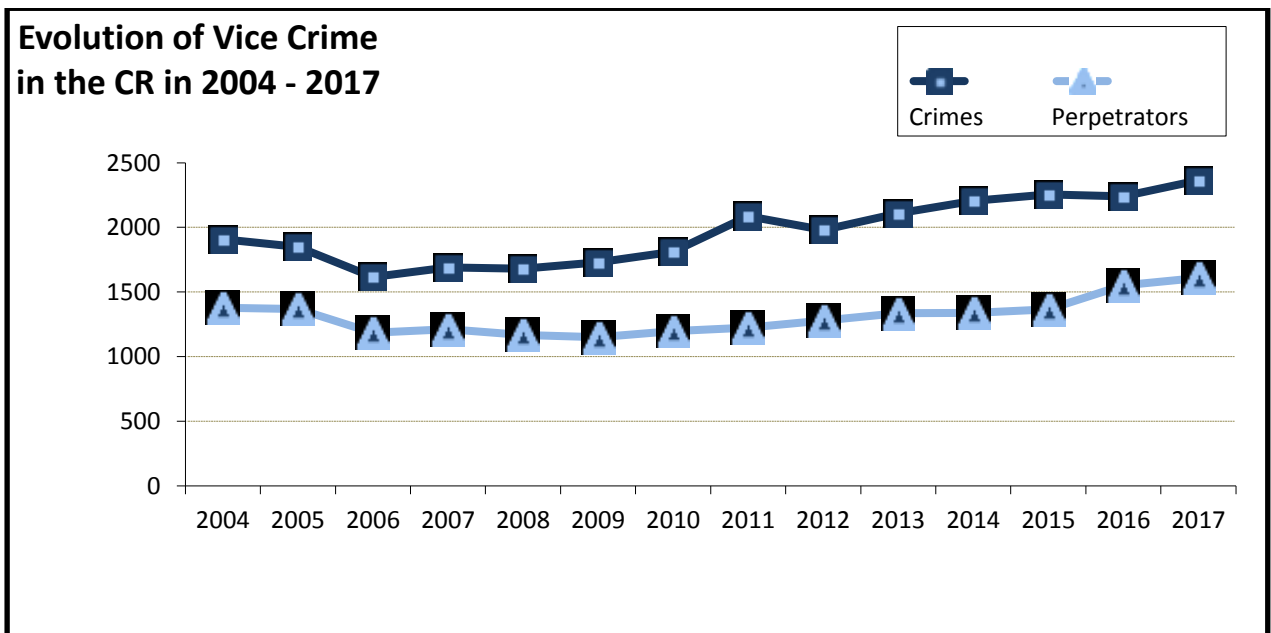
5.5 EVOLUTION OF ECONOMIC CRIME



5.6 EVOLUTION OF VIOLENT CRIME

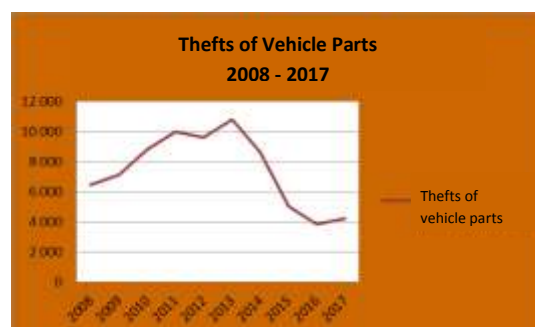
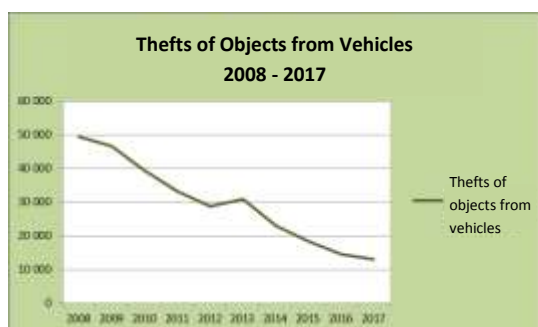
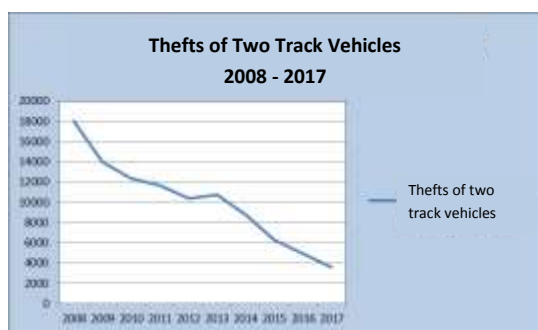


5.7 EVOLUTION OF VICE CRIME



5.8 VEHICLE CRIME

Recorded Thefts	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Two Track Motor Vehicles	18 011	13 954	12 349	11 647	10 403	10 736	8 720	6 292	4 920	3594
One Track Motor Vehicles	782	816	760	746	724	905	741	594	427	428
Objects from Vehicles	49 430	46 613	39 455	33 230	28 751	30 899	22 976	18 457	14 513	13121
Vehicle Parts	6 450	7 099	8 794	9 967	9 577	10 761	8 641	5 036	3 814	4191



Clearance Rate in %	Two Track Vehicles	One Track Vehicles	Objects fr. Vehicles	Vehicle Parts
2007	14 %	26 %	8 %	10 %
2008	15 %	26 %	7 %	9 %
2009	16 %	22 %	8 %	10 %
2010	15 %	17 %	8 %	9 %
2011	17 %	16 %	7 %	10 %
2012	16 %	20 %	8 %	10 %
2013	18 %	21 %	8 %	8 %
2014	19 %	25 %	9 %	10 %
2015	20 %	23 %	9 %	10 %
2016	23 %	24 %	12 %	12 %
2017	29 %	30 %	12 %	9 %

Source: Crime statistics of the PCR

5.9 MUNICIPAL POLICE STATISTICS

Year	2015*	2016**	2017***
Number of Municipal Police Units Nationwide	366	373	376
No. of MP units that provided statistics	363	371	371
No. of MP employees total	9 690	9 800	9 774
No. of MP officers	8 515	8 450	8 431
No. of officers/trainees with secondary education, no graduation	490	213	167
No. of officers/trainees with secondary education and graduation	6 738	6 871	6 872
No. of officers/trainees with university education	1 233	1 290	1 289
Number of Misdemeanours Resolved In Situ	794 407	808 299	644 264
Of which misdemeanours against road traffic safety	586 402	609 707	553 875
Of which speeding	77 825	77 184	55 047
Of which misdemeanours against public order	72 338	64 712	21 912
Of which misdemeanours against property	18 379	13 927	10 543
Number of Suspected Misdemeanours Reported to Relevant Authorities	969 256	954 023	1 023 271
Of which misdemeanours against road traffic safety	407 219	408 439	336 942
Of which speeding	507 229	541 225	513 470
Of which misdemeanours against public order	27 515	27 151	21 846
Of which misdemeanours against property	11 133	9 658	10 427
Total Misdemeanours Resolved	1 763 663	1 762 322	1 667 535
Total Amount of Fines Issued (in CZK)	259 865 872	268 376 175	247 493 556
Financial Costs for MP Activities in the Calendar Year (in CZK)	5 439 683 503	5 711 753 397	5 967 482 790
No. of reasonable suspicions of crimes reported to the PCR	11 520	9 917	8 880
No. of physical attacks on MP officers	325	332	291
No. of cases of use of service weapon	7	7	11
No. of concluded public procurement contracts under Sec. 3 (a) of the Act on Municipal Police	534	608	572
No. of decisions on removal of vehicles	38 652	30 447	27 015
No. of persons transported to detention stations	11 627	11 339	9 895
No. of summoned wanted and missing persons	4 400	3 032	3 094
No. of found stolen vehicles	866	293	204
No. of animals found and trapped	29 421	30 208	26 575
No. of MP offices with 24/7 service	168	166	165
<i>* Data as of 18 March 2016</i>			
<i>** Data as of 17 March 2017</i>			
<i>*** Data as of 5 April 2018</i>			

Situation Report on Internal Security and Public Order in the Czech Republic in 2017
(as Compared to 2016)

Issued by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Crime Prevention Department
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This text has not been proofread.