



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

# **Report on Internal Security and Public Order in the Czech Republic in 2014**

(as compared to 2013)

**Prague 2015**



# CONTENTS

<b>1. SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. EVOLUTION OF SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF CRIME AND SECURITY THREATS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 BASIC DATA ON CRIMINAL OFFENCES AND MISDEMEANOURS .....	4
2.1.1 <i>Crime by Territory</i> .....	7
2.1.2 <i>Perpetrators</i> .....	10
2.1.2.1 <i>Youth Crime</i> .....	16
2.1.3 <i>Victims of Crime</i> .....	20
2.1.4 <i>Searches for Persons and Items</i> .....	23
2.1.5 <i>Policing Minorities</i> .....	24
2.1.6 <i>Misdemeanours</i> .....	25
2.1.6.1 <i>Municipal Police</i> .....	26
2.2 TRENDS IN SPECIFIC CATEGORIES OF CRIME, ANALYSIS OF PARTICULAR ISSUES IN THE AREA OF INTERNAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER.....	27
2.2.1 <i>Property Crime</i> .....	27
2.2.2 <i>Economic Crime</i> .....	28
2.2.2.1 <i>Intellectual Property (IPR)</i> .....	33
2.2.2.2 <i>Measures Against Consumer Fraud</i> .....	34
2.2.2.3 <i>Measures to Prevent the Illegal Sale of Alcoholic Beverages</i> .....	34
2.2.2.4 <i>Environmental Crime</i> .....	34
2.2.3 <i>Corruption</i> .....	37
2.2.4 <i>Violent Crime</i> .....	40
2.2.5 <i>Vice Crime</i> .....	41
2.2.6 <i>Illegal Migration</i> .....	42
2.2.7 <i>Organised Crime</i> .....	46
2.2.7.1 <i>Drugs</i> .....	48
2.2.7.2 <i>Trafficking in human beings</i> .....	51
2.2.7.3 <i>Illicit trade in arms, explosives and hazardous chemical and biological substances</i> .....	53
2.2.7.4 <i>Counterfeiting</i> .....	56
2.2.8 <i>Terrorism</i> .....	57
2.2.9 <i>Extremism</i> .....	59
2.2.10 <i>Investigation and documentation of communist crimes</i> .....	60
2.2.11 <i>Cybercrime and cyber security</i> .....	60
2.2.12 <i>Road traffic safety</i> .....	64
2.2.13 <i>Civil Aviation Security</i> .....	65
<b>3. PUBLIC ORDER AND INTERNAL SECURITY POLICY.....</b>	<b>66</b>
3.1 <i>LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES</i> .....	66
3.2 <i>CRIME PREVENTION</i> .....	70
3.3 <i>EUROPEAN UNION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION</i> .....	76
3.4. <i>ACTIVITIES OF THE CZECH MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, POLICE TRAINING, PERSONNEL ISSUES, ECONOMY AND ICT SYSTEMS</i> .....	83
3.4.1. <i>Security research, development and innovations</i> .....	83
3.4.2 <i>Police training</i> .....	86
3.4.3 <i>Human resources and personnel</i> .....	87
3.4.4. <i>Economy and ICT systems</i> .....	87
<b>4. ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTES.....</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>TABLES AND GRAPHICS</b>	

# 1. Summary

The Report on Internal Security and Public Order (hereinafter “Report”) is an informative document submitted by the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) that draws on sources provided by central public administration bodies and other relevant stakeholders.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of the report is mainly to:

- Provide an overview of the development, structure, and dynamics of crime, its perpetrators and victims;
- Inform about the recorded damages and the identified proceeds from crime;
- Inform about the activities of the executive and legislative branches of government in the field of security policy;
- Identify, on the basis of an evaluation of the full spectrum of recorded crime, those risks and areas which require attention of the competent government authorities.<sup>2</sup>

The Report analyses the crime in the Czech Republic in 2014 as compared to 2013 (the annual change is indicated in brackets) and informs about the basic crime indicators in the last decade. Statistical data are based primarily on the data provided by the Police of the Czech Republic.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The present report was elaborated from input provided by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of the Interior (MoI), the Police of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, the Supreme Public Prosecutors’ office, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Culture, the Security Information Service, the National Security Agency, and the Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention.

<sup>2</sup> Specific measures are the focus of more detailed reports and will therefore not be dealt with in this Report, which aims to be of a more synthetic nature.

Measures taken within the scope of competencies of the Czech fire and Rescue Service are assessed primarily in the following documents: “Report on Ensuring the Security of the Czech Republic” (Zpráva o stavu zajištění bezpečnosti ČR) and “Report on the State of Play in Ensuring the Security of the Czech Republic in the Case of Extraordinary Events” (Zpráva o stavu zajištění bezpečnosti ČR v oblasti ochrany před mimořádnými událostmi).

<sup>3</sup> The criminal statistics terminology of the Police of the Czech Republic has a distinct structure and does not always coincide with the terminology of the Criminal Code (e.g. in

*(It is advisable to check and interpret the data from annual reports with the use of specific information stemming from the erudite findings of the academic platform or subjects within its framework.)*

## Internal Security and Public Order

In 2014, no serious breach of internal security and public order occurred in the Czech Republic that would immediately jeopardise the values and principles of a democratic state. In terms of registered crime, a downward trend has been confirmed. **The government responded to the explosion near the Vlachovice-Vrbětice village in Zlínsko on 16 October 2014 by taking emergency measures.** The causes of the explosions are currently under investigation by the Police of the Czech Republic.

## Crime in 2014<sup>4</sup>

A total of **288 660 crimes were detected in the Czech Republic in 2014**. The annual decrease was equal to 36 706 crimes (-1.3%). After 2013, this marks a return to the decreasing crime trend, which has been observed since 2010.

**In this context, the total number of cleared crimes has also decreased**, to 141 336 (-871, -0.6%), where 126 239 offences were cleared up immediately (-2 943, -2.3%) and 15 097 offences were cleared up additionally (+2 072, +15%). **The overall clear-up rate was up, however, reaching 49% (+5.3%).** Recorded damages dropped by 1.2% to CZK 28.69 billion.

**In terms of long-term development, detected crime is stagnating, or rather gradually decreasing. Many crimes are being solved by a simplified procedure** – summary proceedings followed by a simplified procedure before a single judge – culminating in the release of a penal order. This procedure has gradually become the main form of pre-trial proceedings.

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police statistics, theft pursuant to sec. 205 of the Criminal Code is broken down into detailed categories).

<sup>4</sup> The long-term evolution of specific types of crime are documented in the table section of this report.

## Crime Breakdown

In terms of territorial distribution, there was nation-wide decrease of crime. The biggest drop was recorded in Prague (-10 177, -12.4%), the Central Bohemian Region (-6 232, -16.7%), and the Moravian-Silesian Region (-5 620, -13.1%). The smallest drop was recorded in the South Bohemian region (-337, -2.2%).

The drop in detected crimes was recorded for almost all of the basic crime categories (i.e. except for vice and economic crime).

**Violent crime** dropped by 1 740 acts, i.e. -9.3%. A total of 16 949 offences were recorded, of which 70.3% were cleared. The number of murders dropped to 160 acts (-22, -12.1%), the murder clear-up rate dropped to 91.3% (being 94.5% in 2013).

**Indecency (vice)** was one of the few categories to be up, by 96 acts, i.e. 4.6%. A total of 2 205 acts were classified as vice, of which 70.4% were cleared up. The number of rapes rose significantly (+80, +13.6%).

**Property crime** dropped by 35 740 acts, i.e. -17.1%. There was a total of 173 611 acts detected, 23.6% were cleared. There was a decrease in almost all kinds of thefts (pocket thefts, bicycle thefts, or thefts in apartments) as well as burglaries. After 2013, the trend of decreasing car thefts returned (car thefts proper, thefts of things from cars, thefts of car parts).

**Economic crime** also rose slightly in 2014, by 355 acts, i.e. +1.2%. There were a total of 30 731 acts recorded, of which 5.1% were cleared.

In 2014, economic crime accounted for 72.7% of all detected damages (it was 67.4% in 2013 and 70.5% in 2012). The biggest share of damages caused by economic crime – approximately 41% - was attributable to tax evasion, with detected damages totalling CZK 8 572 million.

A significant increase was recorded in 2014 in the number of cases of illegal trade with military equipment (+6, +83%).

## Perpetrators of Crime

A total of 114 611 **individuals** have been prosecuted and investigated for criminal offences<sup>5</sup>, which represents an **annual decline** (-3 071, -2.6%).

<sup>5</sup> The notion of “persons prosecuted and investigated” refers to preparatory proceedings and includes individuals subject to criminal prosecution or simplified preparatory

The number crimes committed by minors under 15 years of age increased to 1 350 (+64). Juvenile offenders have committed a total of 3 367 (-478) crimes. Most of these fell under property crime (1 702 acts), mainly burglaries. As in 2013, **the police reports a higher degree of brutality of young offenders**. Armed assaults and rash actions leading to most serious crimes, are no exception.

The number of prosecuted and investigated repeat offenders decreased to 61 020 (-914, -1.4%). The share of repeat offenders in the total number of prosecuted and investigated persons has increased slightly to 53 % (+0.6%) and reached the highest recorded level (in 2013 it was 52.6 %, in 2012 I was 50 %, in 2000 it was 29.7%). **These data point at the evident inefficiency of the measures of government authorities focusing on eliminating repeated crime.**

A total of 7 385 (-85) **foreign nationals** were prosecuted and investigated. Their share in the total number of criminals stood at 6.4% in 2014 and has remained stable over recent years. **The sharp increase in the number of drug offenders of Vietnamese nationality, a trend that emerged in 2008<sup>6</sup>**, remains however rather exceptional in the overall crime committed by foreigners. Organised criminal groups of Vietnamese origin focus primarily on bulk production and distribution of methamphetamine (“pervitin”) and marijuana in the Czech-German border areas.

## Current Priorities and Measures in the Field of Internal Security

The internal security priorities of the MoI reflect both the long-term and topical risks and threats relating to crime, such as terrorism, organised crime, extremism, corruption, serious economic crime, cybercrime, drug crime, etc. Special attention is given to the seizure of proceeds from crime.

proceedings, and individuals whose criminal prosecution is inadmissible or useless.

<sup>6</sup> A total of 269 Vietnamese (+247, +1122.7% as compared to 2007) were prosecuted for illegal production and handling of narcotics and psychotropic substances and poison (sec. 283 of the Criminal Code).

## **Anti-Terrorist Preparedness**

**The Strategy of the Czech Republic for the Fight Against Terrorism – from 2013 onwards** was adopted by Government Resolution no. 200 of 20 March 2013. It lays down, inter alia, measures aimed at minimising the risks and impacts of potential terrorist attacks on Czech territory. The gathering of intelligence leading to the detection of possible terrorist activities on Czech territory is primarily the focus of the Security Information Service.

## **Fight against Organised Crime**

Organised crime and crimes related to it are currently considered the most serious non-military security threat. The government seeks to pursue a more vigorous policy of targeting organised crime<sup>7</sup> and is implementing various measures (strategic, organisational, legislative, etc.) at the national and international level. The basic strategic framework of the fight against organised crime in the Czech Republic is provided by the **Strategy to Fight Organised Crime for the years 2011 – 2014**, adopted by Government Resolution no. 598 of 10 August 2011.<sup>8</sup>

## **Fight against Extremism: Security Risks of so-called Socially Excluded Localities**

In 2014, the Police of the Czech Republic recorded a total of 291 events directly organised or attended by extremist subjects (+19 events). The basic framework of the fight against extremism is provided by the Report on Extremism and Racist and Xenophobic Manifestations in the Czech Republic in 2014, drawn up by the MoI.

## **Fight against Corruption**

In 2014, anti-corruption policies were implemented on the basis of the Government Strategy on the Fight against Corruption for the years 2013 and 2014, adopted by Government Resolution no. 39 of 16 January 2013.

## **Fight against Serious Economic Crime**

Based on the Order of the Police President no. 118/2014, a special “Kobra” team started operating as of 15 June 2014 with the aim of eliminating tax crimes and preventing tax evasion, taking advantage of existing organisational tax authority and police structures, and within the scope of existing statutory competencies.

## **Confiscating Proceeds from Crime**

The government promotes the seizure and confiscation of proceeds from crime as an efficient means of fighting crime, including organised crime. In 2014, the Police of the Czech Republic seized a total of CZK 7.78 billion (in 2013 it was CZK 8.81 billion) in the course of criminal proceedings.

## **Cybercrime and Cybersecurity**

Improving the level of security in cyberspace is one of the strategic objectives of the EU and a priority of the Czech Government. A new law is in effect as of 1 January 2015 (Act no. 181/2014 Coll., on cybersecurity), which improves the efficiency of responses to cybernetic incidents and speeds up the response to those cybernetic threats that may jeopardise the interests of the Czech Republic. It is the first comprehensive legal framework drawn up in this area.

## **Police of the Czech Republic – Stabilisation and Strengthening of the Direct Policing Performance**

The government intends to advance the internal security of the Czech Republic by, inter alia, stabilizing the situation within the Police of the Czech Republic in terms of both personnel and financing, and by strengthening so-called direct policing performance. The primary task for 2014 was personnel stabilisation of law enforcement authorities through recruitment, training of new recruits, and limiting the departure of experienced professionals.

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<sup>7</sup> In all cases of suspicion of serious economic and financial crime and organized crime (mainly related to tax evasion, corruption, drug crimes, trafficking in human beings, etc.) the accused should have the obligation to prove the origin of their property. Should they fail to do so, this property would be subject to tax.

<sup>8</sup> The Strategy to Fight Organised Crime for the years 2015 – 2017 was adopted by Government Resolution no. 919 of 12 November 2014.

## 2. Evolution of Specific Categories of Crime and Security Threats

The number of recorded crimes in the Czech Republic in 2014 declined by 11.3% compared to the previous year. This was the lowest number in the last 10 years.

The Police of the Czech Republic is trusted by 65 % of the population, making it the highest number since 1993. These findings stem from the Centre for the Research of Public Opinion survey conducted in September 2014. (see [http://cvvm.soc.cas.cz/media/com\\_form2content/documents/c1/a7279/f3/po141029.pdf](http://cvvm.soc.cas.cz/media/com_form2content/documents/c1/a7279/f3/po141029.pdf), in Czech only).

In terms of the evolution of crime, 2014 was marked by a decline in recorded crimes. The number of crimes recorded was the lowest in the last 10 years. The quantitative decline is 11.3% as compared to the previous year. In this context, the number of cleared up crimes has also declined. A number of security measures had

been taken to influence the evolution of the incidence of crime and its resolution.

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On 16 October 2014, one of the warehouses in the ammunition depot near the village Vlachovice-Vrbětice in the Zlín region exploded. Units of the Integrated Rescue System arrived without delay and begun to take action. A special control centre was set up in Vrbětice proper, which coordinated the activities of the police, fire and rescue service, and the army. The last explosion took place on 12 December 2014. The ammunition depot is currently being cleared, and should be ready for ammunition removal in the course of January 2015. The causes of the explosion are still under investigation. The Police of the Czech Republic has launched criminal proceedings in the case.

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### 2.1 Basic Data on Criminal Offences and Misdemeanours

Recorded Criminal Acts:

288 660 (-11.3%, -36 706)

Cleared Criminal Acts:

126 239 (-2.3 %, -2 943)

Subsequently Cleared Acts:

15097 (+2 072, +15.9 %)

Immediate Clear-up Rate:

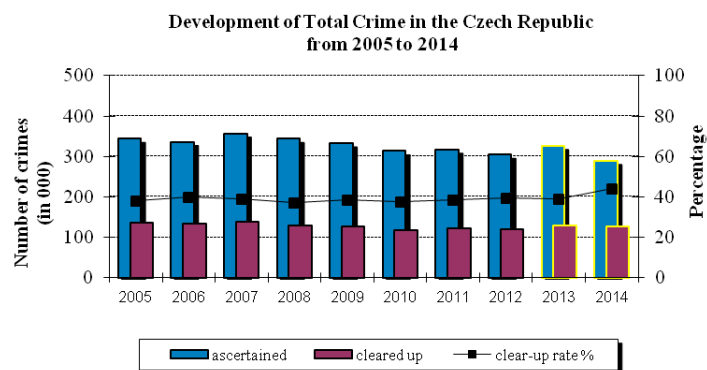
43.7 %, (+4 %)

Total Clear-up Rate:

49 % (+5.3 %)

Amount of Damages Caused:

CZK 28.69 billion (CZK -350 million)



In 2014, a total of **288 660 criminal acts** were recorded, as well as some **796 307 misdemeanours**<sup>9</sup>, of which approximately 60% concerned road safety.

The number of recorded criminal acts declined by 36 706, i.e. 11.3 % as compared to the previous year, thus bringing the overall crime rate to its lowest since 1999. At the same time,

the general trend of declining crime, observed for the last 15 years, has been confirmed.

Although the total crime rate has declined, indecency (vice, +4.6%), remaining crime (+2.6%) and economic crime (+1.2%) have increased. The biggest drop was recorded in burglaries (-21,0%) and ordinary thefts (-17.4%).

The Police of the Czech Republic cleared up a total of 141 336 criminal acts in 2014, of which 15 097 were cleared up subsequently.<sup>10</sup> The clear up rate rose by 5.3% to 49%.

<sup>9</sup> These are only misdemeanours detected by police services looking after public order. Together with traffic police and police for arms and security equipment, and the alien police, the Police of the Czech Republic has dealt with a total of 1 363 000 misdemeanours in 2014.

<sup>10</sup> Crimes recorded in previous years.

In 2014, thefts<sup>11</sup> (as per sec. 205 of the Criminal Code) had the highest share in total crime. Alongside criminal acts of **wilful damage** (sec. 228 of the Criminal Code), **obstruction of an official decision and banishment** (sec. 337 of the Criminal Code) and **failure to pay alimony** (sec. 196 of the Criminal Code), it accounted for approximately 66% of total recorded crime.

The material damage identified dropped by 1.3% to CZK 28.7 billion. The greatest damage was caused by crimes such as tax evasion (8.5 billion), fraud (3.5 billion), and breach of duty while administrating another person's property (1.6 billion). When calculated to damage per criminal act, the highest average damage was attributable to tax evasion (10 million/criminal act).

Seized assets<sup>12</sup> dropped by 24% to CZK 49 million (CZK -15 million).

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While 2013 has seen a rise in recorded crime in all basic categories, the year 2014 was quite the reverse.

**Violent crime** dropped by 1 740 acts, i.e. 9.3%. A total of 16 949 acts were recorded, of which 70.3% were cleared. The number of murders dropped to 160 acts (-22, -12.1%), the clearance rate of this crime dropped to 70.3% (having been 90.7% in 2013).

**Indecency crime (vice)** was one of the few crimes to rise by 96 acts, i.e. 4.6%. Altogether 2 205 indecency crimes were recorded, of which 70.4% were cleared. The number of rapes rose particularly (+80, +13.6%).

**Property crime** dropped by 35 740 acts, i.e. -17.1%. A total of 173 611 crimes were recorded, of which 23.6% were cleared. There was a general drop in almost all kinds of so-called plain thefts (pocket thefts, bicycle thefts) and burglaries. The long-term trend of decreasing auto crime (car thefts, things from cars, car parts) returned after 2013.

**Economic crime** also rose slightly in 2014, by 355 acts, i.e. +1.2%. A total of 30 731 acts were recorded, of which 55.1% were cleared.

In 2014 economic crime accounted for 72.7% of the total identified damages (in 2013 it was 67.4%, in 2012 it was 72.5%). Tax evasion

accounted for the largest portion of economic crime – approximately 41% - with the total damage reaching CZK 8 572 million.

## Selected Measures

### Public Order

In order to prevent disruptions of public order, especially during mass events, **public order units and special public order units** have been established within the regional police directorates. Prior to their deployment, police conflict prevention teams (AKT) work actively with individuals at whom the public order units are to be deployed, seeking to non-violently discourage individuals from unlawful behaviour.

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In several instances, government institutions, politicians, and wealthy individuals have been the recipients of threatening letters contaminated with various lethal chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) substances.<sup>13</sup> The perpetrators consequently demanded the transfer of cash. In reaction to these incidents the competent departments implemented measures aimed at minimising further consequences in similar future cases.

### Integration of Foreigners

One of the means of avoiding unlawful steps with regards to integration of foreigners in the Czech Republic is that all relevant parties are duly informed. The web page [www.cizinci.cz](http://www.cizinci.cz), administered by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in cooperation with the MoI, provides a range of useful information, e.g. about the possibilities of financing projects in the field of supporting foreigner integration, completed projects, informational publications in electronic format, etc. Updated information on the conditions of employment of foreigners in the Czech Republic can be found at [www.portal.mpsv.cz](http://www.portal.mpsv.cz).

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<sup>11</sup> Including burglaries, whose share in total theft accounted for 32%.

<sup>12</sup> So-called "seized assets", whether directly at the crime scene or shortly thereafter.

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<sup>13</sup> For example, on 19 November 2014, the Czech postal service delivered a package to the Ministry of the Interior, with no sender address. The suspect package was given to competent authorities, which found out that it contains a dangerous substance. The Department of Archive Administration and Records Service, in cooperation with the Security Department and other departments, implemented measures aimed at minimizing the consequences in similar future cases.



## Programmes Co-financed by the EU and Other Foreign Aid Partners

In 2014, the Police of the Czech Republic continued the implementation of projects **co-financed by the EU and other Foreign Aid partners**.

In terms of the financial volume, the largest share of projects is traditionally co-financed by the Integrated Operational Programme (EU Structural Funds). Within its scope, the following activities took place:

- Monitoring of finalised projects Contact and Coordination Centres II, aimed at building a national network of such centres;
- Implementation of the project Localisation and Recording Devices, aimed at procuring technologies to be installed onboard police vehicles in order to enhance action readiness and the project Integration of Operations Centres, aimed at increasing the efficiency of operational management and deployment of forces and resources, including interoperability at the regional level;
- Initialising the implementation of the project Modern Technological Equipment and Technology Czech Republic (budget approx. CZK 296 million), aimed at procuring specialised equipment and individual technological units for use by specialised forces of the Police of the Czech Republic;
- Initialising the implementation of the project Increasing Action Readiness of the Police of the Czech Republic during Extraordinary Incidents (budget approx. CZK 1.072 billion), aimed at improving the action readiness of the Police of the Czech Republic during extraordinary incidents and crises involving rescue, evacuation, and monitoring.

All these projects are submitted by individual regional police directorates. **The accumulated value of the first three reaches almost CZK 1.9 billion.**

Within the programme for Swiss-Czech cooperation, in 2014, three projects were finalized and a set of 8 projects of various thematic scopes was continued. The results of these projects will generally lead to positive effects, particularly in the field of prevention and crisis management, the fight against organized crime, economic crime, corruption, terrorism, and extremism. The overall budgeted value of these projects is approximately CZK 249 million.

Within the framework of Norway Grants, 2014 saw the beginning of the implementation of the CZ14 programme for Cooperation within the Schengen Area and the fight against transnational organized crime, including illegal trafficking in human beings and itinerant criminal groups. The programme is comprised of 6 previously defined projects, whose total financial allocation amounts to CZK 166.3 million.

## Internal Monitoring of the Police of the Czech Republic

A total of 544 (-18) inspections were carried out at all management levels. Of the total number of inspections, various corrective measures were adopted in 273 (+24) cases, disciplinary measures were imposed in 52 (+24) cases, etc. Further training was given in 78 (+25) cases. Failing to implement remedial measures was the most common irregularity.

## Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP)

In 2014, the IKSP, as a research branch of the Ministry of Justice, contributed with its research to certain issues that are mentioned in this report.

The IKSP is a research facility of the Ministry of Justice. It focuses on socially scientific criminological research aimed at creating, maintaining, and updating the knowledge base about the status quo and development of criminal policies, crime, and socially pathological phenomena in the Czech Republic. It also provides relevant empiric and theoretical approaches from abroad and contributes to the development of criminology in general.

Research studies, expert articles, and translated expert texts are made available to the public at [www.kriminologie.cz](http://www.kriminologie.cz).

The main users of the IKSP's outputs are various organisations falling under the umbrella of the Ministry of Justice (the ministry itself, judicial bodies, the Prison Service, the Probation and Mediation Service), the MoI, particularly the services of the Police of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education.

In 2014, on the basis of the results of a public tender, the IKSP worked on **two research tasks, supported financially from the Security Research Programme of the Czech republic 2010-2015** (BVII/2 - VS, call issued by the

MoI): “Early Intervention System as a Tool for Limiting Crime” (no. VG20122014077) and “Violent Sexual Crime in the Czech Republic with a Focus on its Current Forms, Augmenting the Efficiency of Identifying and Sanctioning its

Perpetrators and the Possibilities of Protecting the Public from Sexually Motivated Violence” (no. VG20122014084). Both research tasks are being carried out according to plan.

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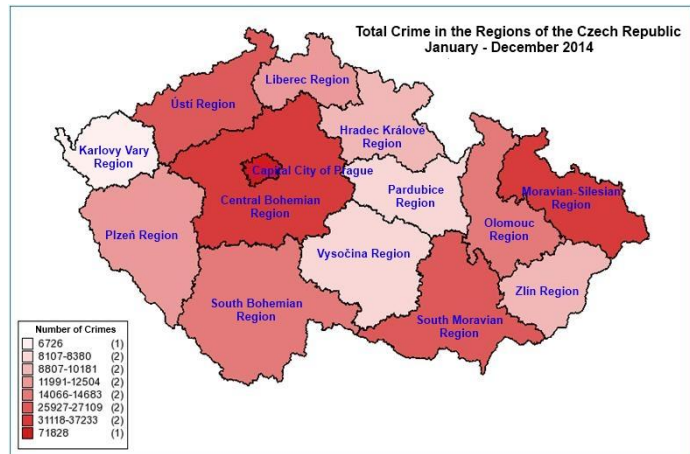
## 2.1.1 Crime by Territory

### Basic data for the Czech Republic as of 2014

Area in km<sup>2</sup>: 78 867

No. of crimes /

10 000 inhabitants: 275 (-11.3)



After converting the total number of crimes to 10 000 inhabitants (i.e. the crime index), it appears that the capital Prague has been most affected by crime in the long term (578 crimes in 2014, 658 in 2013).

Other highly affected regions are the same as in 2013: Ústecký (314), Moravian-Silesian (305) and Liberecký (285).

Analogically, the lowest levels of crime were recorded in the following regions: Zlínský (150), Vysočina (159) and Pardubický (162).

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All 14 regions have seen a fall in detected crime in 2014. The most significant fall has been registered in Prague (-10 177, -12.4%), followed by Středočeský region (-6 232, -16.7%) and Moravskoslezský region (-5 620, -13.1%). The least significant fall has been registered in Jihočeský region (-337, -2.2%).

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In Prague<sup>14</sup>, a total of 71 828 (-10 177, 12.4%) crimes were detected in 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Prague, as the biggest city in the Czech Republic, and in contrast to other regions, is characterized by entirely specific crime factors. The objective factors include, in particular, a high population density, the nature of the economic structure, an extensive commercial network, a significant

Geographically, Prague accounts for about 0.6% of Czech territory.

Approximately ¼ of all crimes recorded in the Czech Republic is concentrated in this small area each year (24.9% in 2013).

The abovementioned specific crime factors influence all the statistically recorded types of crime. They are most pronounced in the cases of **street property crimes**, where Prague accounted for approximately 30% within the Czech Republic in 2014.

**Repeat offenders** committed 60.8% of all acts that were cleared up. Their share of **burglaries** stood at more than **84%**.

Prague is also the epicentre of **crimes committed by foreigners**. Foreigners accounted for 14.2% of cleared up crimes in Prague, while on the national scale, their share was 6.3%. In 2014 foreigners were charged with 819 economic crimes (19.7%) as well as 312 drug crimes (19.3%), among others.

number of entrepreneurs, intensive construction activity, the size and quality of the infrastructure, the concentration of public administration bodies, the intensity of tourism, the concentration of historical sites and monuments, etc. The subjective factors include the anonymity of perpetrators, high-risk youth groups, a wide range of crime opportunities and the social circumstances of certain communities.

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**The Moravian-Silesian region** has been responsible for the second highest share of total crime in the Czech Republic (12.9% in 2014). In 2014, a total of 37

233 (-5 620, -13.1%) crimes were detected.

Important crime factors in this region are, for example, an unfavourable social structure, i.e. high unemployment<sup>15</sup>, a high proportion of inhabitants with lower education levels and the occurrence of socially excluded communities, as well as an active right-wing extremist scene, a high share of repeat offenders (76.1%), and widespread drug addiction.

In 2014, 7 722 (-874, -10.2%) of the perpetrators in the Moravian-Silesian region were recorded as **unemployed**, which accounts for 50.4% of the total number of prosecuted persons.

**Repeat offenders** represent a long-term serious problem in the region, not only in terms of their high share in the number of cleared up crimes and the number of perpetrators, but also for their knowledge of police work and procedures and the “professionalism” of their crimes. In 2014, repeat offenders accounted for 61.2% (+0.7%) of all prosecuted and investigated individuals, whilst having committed 76.1% (+2.2%) of all cleared up crimes.

**Violent crime** has been a significant feature of the region for several years. In 2014, a total of 2 611 violent crimes have been recorded, which, at 15.4% of the total national figure, is the highest number in the Czech Republic. However, calculated per 10 000 inhabitants, the Moravian-Silesian region comes at 3<sup>rd</sup> place (after the Ústí and Liberec regions). Also, the clear-up rate is rising (currently at 67.8%), helped along by camera systems and good local knowledge of police officers.



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**The Ústí Region** is affected by similar crime factors as those evident in the Moravian-Silesian

region. Security issues arise particularly in socially excluded localities<sup>16</sup> or can be linked to the deteriorating economic situation in the region. As of 2011, **the involvement of members of the significant Vietnamese community in drug crime is more and more marked.**

In 2014, a total of 25 927 (-3 921, -13.1%) crimes have been recorded in the region. A significant increase has been recorded in drug crime (+32.1%), vice crime (+13.3%) and economic crime (+7.4%).

The region is typical for having the **highest index of serious violent crime in the Czech Republic**. In 2014, serious violent crime fell to its lowest rate in recent years (-9.3%), nevertheless accounting for the third highest rate in nationwide (following the Moravian-Silesian region and Prague).

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In terms of clear up rates, the **Karlovy Vary region was again by far the most successful**, with a clear up rate of 68.1% of all detected crimes.

Contrary to 2013, the number of regions showing a clear up rate higher than 50% has increased. In 2014, these regions were: Zlín (57.5%), South Bohemian (57.3%), Hradec Králové (56.4 %), Vysočina (56.4%), Ústí (56.1%), Pardubice (55.4%), Plzeň (54.4%) and Olomouc (53.5%).

**The lowest clear up rate is typical for Prague**, whose particular, big-city crime factors play a deciding role. In 2014 a total of 24.5% of recorded crimes have been cleared up.

## Measures

A large number of preventive activities were undertaken by regional police directorates in 2014. These focused on the priorities and the security situation in the relevant territories or police districts. Selected activities are listed below.

A nationwide campaign on **Czech Radio – Stop Crime** (Český rozhlas – Stop kriminalitě), where 8 audio slots are aimed at preventing crime committed on the elderly. The object is to give those at risk preventive advice and information on how not to become the victim of a crime, via radio broadcasting.

<sup>15</sup> As of 31 December 2014 the unemployment rate in the region was the second highest in the country, and stood at 9.8%. The district of Bruntál had the highest rate in the Czech Republic – 13.5%.

<sup>16</sup> The city of Duchcov became the scene of several anti-Roma marches in the course of 2014.

A nationwide preventive information campaign aimed at the elderly **O2 Czech Republic, a. s. – Don't Be Afraid to Say no** (Neboj se říkat ne). The object is to provide the elderly and their families with advice on how to protect themselves against perpetrators who take advantage of their trust in order to commit crimes in their name, using personal or telephone communication in order to offer illegitimate services under the name of the O2 company.

The preventive informational campaign of the Police of the Czech Republic **Vigilance Pays Off** (Obezřetnost se vyplatí), which is aimed at preventing pickpocketing and has been taking place twice a year since 2011.

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In Prague, prevention focused on solving current problems, such as: crimes committed against the elderly, the threat of attacks in education facilities, high traffic accident rates involving pedestrians, abuse of the emergency number 158 etc. In the course of 2014, **527 talks and lectures** took place in Prague for groups of inhabitants considered to be at risk. Cooperation continued with the Museum of the Police of the Czech Republic in the organisation of preventive activities, e.g. Traffic Education Day (Den dopravní výchovy), Day Without Cars (Den bez aut), Days for the Elderly (Dny pro seniory) etc. The regional police directorate took part in preventive activities aimed at promoting active leisure time for children and minors, and intensified its cooperation with other players in the field of fighting drug addiction.

In the Moravian-Silesian region, the police registered an unprecedented success with the

publication of “Police Stories” (Policejní pohádky). The book was published thanks to the support of the Moravian-Silesian region and contains 16 stories for pre-schoolers and young schoolchildren. Other preventive activities included, for example, screenings of educational films “Drug Addiction, or Drugs First” (Drogová závislost aneb droga až na 1. místě) and “Virtual Courter” (Virtuální nápadník), both in cooperation with the Ostrava University. Police officers in the Moravian-Silesian region further take part in nationwide projects and implement their own projects, such as for example “Safer Ostrava” (Bezpečnější Ostrava), “Safety When You're Old” (Bezpečí ve stáří) and “Prevention for Everyone” (Prevence pro všechny), or “(Un)safe Internet” ((Ne)bezpečný internet).

In the Ústí region, a preventive and informational campaign called “Vigilance Pays Off”, aimed at pickpocketing in supermarkets, took place, as well as a preventive and informational campaign “A Year with Secure Cars”, aimed at better securing cars and alerting citizens and drivers, or the preventive informational campaign “A Car is Not a Safe”, aimed at car burglaries. Other activities focused on prevention of drug abuse and on the elderly as a specifically risk-prone group. Alongside these activities, nationwide activities also took place.

*(For further measures see chapter 2.2.1 Property Crime, 2.2.10 Cybercrime, 2.2.11 Road Safety etc.*

*For details, see pages 30-34 of the tables and graphs section.)*

## 2.1.2 Perpetrators

Number of prosecuted and investigated persons:

114 611 (-3 071, -2.6%)

Of those: men 82% (-1.5%)

women 14,3 % (+0.1%)

Number of convicted persons:

72 823 (-5 153, -6.6%)

**In 2014, a total of 114 611** (-3 071, -2.6%) individuals have been investigated and prosecuted by the Police of the Czech Republic.

The average number of crimes per perpetrators amounted to 1.2 of all cleared up crimes.

The number of women on the overall number of prosecuted and investigated persons is steadily low, though rising slightly as of 2008. In 2014 it reached 14.3% (+0.1%).<sup>17</sup>

Year-on-year, the highest increase was recorded in the number of perpetrators for the following crimes:

- posing a threat while under the influence of drugs, drunkenness (+1 117, +11.3% persons)
- illegal production and possession of psychotropic substances and poisons (+436, +22.4% persons)
- traffic accidents on roads - caused by negligence (+334, 5.3% persons)

**Most perpetrators** were investigated and prosecuted for the following crimes:

- plain thefts (20 014 persons)
- child neglect (12 494 persons)
- posing a threat while under the influence of drugs, drunkenness (10 399 persons)
- obstruction of the course of official decisions (10 152 persons)

The perpetrators of these four types of crime accounted for approx. 46.3% of all investigated and prosecuted persons.

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A total of 143 (-44, -22.8%) persons were investigated and prosecuted for **murder**. A total of 13 133 (-973, -4.9%) persons were prosecuted for violent crime. In this category, the most significant decrease was recorded in the

number of persons committing burglaries (-288, -17.4%) and the highest number of persons were investigated for deliberate bodily harm (4 423).

The Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office confirms that a considerable number of crimes is now processed by means of a simplified procedure, i.e. brief preparatory proceedings, which are followed by a simplified procedure before a single judge and concluded by a court criminal order. The brief preparatory proceedings have gradually become the decisive form of preparatory proceedings.

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The number of children under 15 years of age that have been investigated for crimes otherwise punishable by law has risen as compared to the previous year's historically lowest number. However, the number of investigated and prosecuted minors continues to decrease.

Offices of the **Probation and Mediation Service** (PMS) recorded a total of 31 537 new cases (+5 509, +21%).<sup>18</sup>

The number of cases recorded in the framework of executive proceedings continued to be relatively high – a total of 18 513 cases in contrast to 13 024 cases handled in preparatory proceedings, i.e. the ratio of preparatory proceedings in relation to executive proceedings was 41% to 59%.

Within the framework of preparatory proceedings and court proceedings involving adult perpetrators, the PMS was mostly invited to produce opinions on the possibility of imposing punishments in the form of community services (61% cases), and to mediate in cases of conflict and to prepare the ground for a possible imposed alternative punishment or measure (29% cases).

<sup>18</sup> However, the total number of cases handled by the PMS in 2014 was higher, because this number includes cases that the PMS staff have been working on for several years (mainly suspended sentences with supervision or conditional releases with supervision).

<sup>17</sup> Women are most often prosecuted for theft, credit fraud, child neglect, obstruction of the course of official decisions, fraud, and embezzlement.

Within the framework of executive proceedings concerning adult perpetrators, the PMS was mostly tasked with the agenda relating to the punishment by community service (53% cases) and to ensuring supervisory tasks (34% cases).

### Crime Committed by Repeat Offenders<sup>19</sup>

In 2014, the number of investigated and prosecuted repeat offenders dropped to 61 020 (-914, -1.5%), however, their share in the total number of crime has increased.

The share of repeat offenders in the total number of investigated and prosecuted persons has been on the rise for many years, and has reached its historical maximum in 2014 at 53.2% (52.6% in 2013, 50% in 2012, and 29.7% in 2000).

The number of crimes committed by repeat offenders has also risen. In 2014 repeat offenders committed **83 894 criminal** acts. The share of repeat offenders on cleared up crimes is rising steadily and reached 6.4% in 2014 (59% in 2013, 56.1% in 2012 and 35.6% in 2000). **The inefficiency of measures to prevent and combat repeated crime is blatant.**

### Crime Committed by Foreign Nationals

Although foreign nationals account for approximately 4.5% of the Czech population, in 2014 they committed 8 134 (-391) crimes, i.e. 6.4% (-0.2%) of all cleared up criminal acts.

A total of 7 385 foreigners were investigated or prosecuted, which accounts for 6.4% (+0,1 %) of the total number of investigated and prosecuted persons. As compared to 2013, the number of prosecuted foreigners declined slightly, by 85 individuals.

**Drug crime committed by Vietnamese citizens has been steeply rising since 2008.** For example, in 2014, a total of 269 Vietnamese citizens were prosecuted and investigated for illegal production and other handling of psychotropic substances and poisons as per sec. 283 of the Criminal Code (22 in 2007, 139 in 2011, 194 in 2012, 199 in 2013).

<sup>19</sup> In Czech police statistics, a “repeat offender” is understood to be a perpetrator of a deliberate criminal act who had been sentenced for another deliberate crime in the past. In other related statistics (judicial, penitentiary), the definition differs from that of the Police of the Czech Republic.

**Foreigners have a very high share in the total number of perpetrators of murder** (12.6% in 2014, 11.8% in 2013, 13,9% in 2012).

Foreigners are also most frequent perpetrators of crimes such as violation of trademark rights (77%) or counterfeiting and forgery of public documents (36%).

**Of the total number of sentenced persons in 2014, 4 916 (-150) were foreigners**, which accounts for 6.6%. Most frequently, sentenced foreigners came from Slovakia (1 912, -111), Ukraine (659, -73) and **Vietnam (546, -15).**

*(For details see pages 12-14 of the tables and graphs section.)*

### Crime Committed by Members of Security Forces<sup>20</sup>

In 2014, the General Inspection of Security Forces documented illegal activities in the case of 454 (+64) individuals within its scope of competence<sup>21</sup>, of which no cases (-1) concerned legal persons.

On the basis of statistics-data analysis it is possible to state that **an overall increase of crime falling within the competence of the inspection.** This increase was caused primarily by the **high number of prosecuted civilians, who committed crimes in complicity** with members of security forces, or was otherwise linked to them. In the case of members of security forces, the differences were less marked. The trend from 2013 continued, i.e. a much lower number of police officers have been prosecuted and the number of prosecuted prison officers stopped increasing.

Criminal prosecution was initiated on the basis of a suspicion within the framework of brief preparatory proceedings in the following cases:

<sup>20</sup> Further information can be found in the Report of the General Inspection of Security Forces (GIBS), which was, in accordance with sec. 57 (4) of Act. no. 341/2011 Coll., submitted to the Government of the Czech Republic, the Security Committee of the Chamber of Deputies and the Standing Commission for Inspection of GIBS of the Chamber of Deputies. This report states the results of GIBS in the field of criminal proceedings in 2014.

<sup>21</sup> GIBS deals with crimes committed by the officers and civilians of the Police of the Czech Republic, the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, and the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic. Furthermore, it investigates crimes of civilians committed in complicity with perpetrators from the ranks of the above-mentioned security forces.

- 161 (+8) officers and 9 (-2) civilian employees of the Police of the Czech Republic,
- 32 (-8) officers and 3 (0) employees of the Prison Service of the Czech republic, and
- 10 (-2) officers and no (-1) civilian employees of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic.

No proposals (-1) to initiate criminal proceedings against members of GIBS were filed. GIBS initiated criminal proceedings, filed a proposal for initiating criminal proceedings, or delivered a suspicion within preparatory proceedings in 90 (+50) civilians.

In total, criminal proceedings were initiated, a proposal for the initiation of criminal proceedings was filed, or a suspicion was delivered in the case of 313 (+44) individuals in 2014.

GIBS registered that **a total of 313 (+44) individuals committed a total of 549 (+142) crimes in 2014**, of which 290 (+46) were committed by officers and 23 (+7) by civilian employees of the Police of the Czech Republic, 54 (-2) were committed by officers and 3 (0) by civilian employees of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, 12 (-5) were committed by officers and none (-1) by civilian employees of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, none (-1) were committed by officers of GIBS, 167 (+100) were committed by civilians and none (-2) by legal persons.

Most cases, 253 in total, i.e. 46.1%, concerned other general crimes.

In 2014, GIBS documented the illegal activities of a total of 325 (+10) perpetrators from the ranks of security forces. The largest number of perpetrators, a total of 113 (+31), or approximately 30%, had been serving between 5 – 10 years.

The inspection filed proposals to charge 177 (-19) perpetrators. Of those, 94 (-32) were officers and 3(-4) were civilian employees of the Police of the Czech Republic, 20 (-1) were officers and 1 (-1) were civilian employees of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, none (-1) were civilian employees of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic and 57 (+27) were civilians.

In 2014 the Inspection documented 41 (+9) cases of corruption. Criminal proceedings were initiated within brief preparatory proceedings in the case of 28 (+5) perpetrators, of which 19 (+7) were officers of the Police of the Czech Republic.

The biggest increase was recorded in cases of abuse of official authority – 21 (+4) cases, and fraud – 5 (+5) cases.

As regards household violence, the inspection documented 3 (-6) crimes. Criminal proceedings were initiated in the case of 2 (-4) perpetrators. The biggest fall was recorded in cases of torturing household members.

In cases of crimes concerning torture and other inhumane or cruel treatment of persons, GIBS documented a total of 20 (+17) cases in 2014. Criminal investigations were initiated or suspicions were filed within brief preliminary proceedings in 13 (+10) cases, of which 9 (+6) were officers of the Police of the Czech Republic. The biggest increase was recorded in cases of abuse of official authority – 10 (+7) and torturing and other inhumane and cruel treatment – 3 (+3) cases.

### Crimes Committed by Military Staff in Active Service

Order and security within the ranks of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic was stable 2014. The Military Police investigated 673 (-206, -23.4%) suspicions of unlawful action in the reporting period. It investigated a total of 174 (-129, -42.65) suspicions of crimes and a total of 785 offences, of which 492 (62.7%) related to road traffic.

Property crime is lower in comparison to the previous year, although the developing trend of property crime (88, i.e. 50.6%) prevailing over military crimes (31, i.e. 17.8%) has been confirmed.<sup>22</sup>

Out of 147 closed cases of suspicion of committing a crime, the Military Police cleared up 82%. A total of 56 suspects were handed over to the Police of the Czech Republic or the public prosecutor in order to initiate criminal proceedings.

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Measures taken by Military Police in recent years aiming to improve the security situation within the Ministry of Defence was unequivocally proven to be relevant, and has

<sup>22</sup> The Military Police investigated, inter alia, suspicions of the following: 80 cases of property crime (-157, -66.2%); 25 generally dangerous crimes, of which 12 (-2, -7.41%) crimes of public danger under the influence of addictive substances, 31 (+12, +38.7%) military crimes, 9 (-3, -25%) crimes of disruption of public order, 8 (+0, +0%) life- and health-threatening crimes, 8 (+2, +25%) economic crimes, 3 extremist crimes, etc.

therefore been continued in 2014. It consisted primarily of adopting preventive measures in the realm of property protection.

In 2015, it is necessary to continue increasing the level of cooperation between public prosecutors, the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police of the Czech Republic and its specialised departments, such as the Unit for Special Services, and a wide array of other public administration offices.

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Preventive activities within the scope of the Ministry of Defence take the form of **prevention of socially undesirable phenomena** within the programme for crime and drug prevention. The activities are coordinated by the Ministerial Committee for Prevention.

A total of **70** projects have been carried out within the programme, of which **22** were aimed at drug prevention. The programme covers a wide scope of issues (e.g. extremism, criminal behaviour, financial literacy, interpersonal relations, communication, aggressiveness, psychological integrity and health, unsafe sexual behaviour, family and family background in relation to rearing children and the prevention of undesirable phenomena, sects, radicalism and its manifestations, racial intolerance, terrorism etc.).

The Military Police carried out a total of **973** assessments in the field of crime prevention.

### Crimes Committed by Legal Persons

**The criminal liability of legal persons** has been a part of the Czech legal framework for three years. The concept of criminal liability has changed to include not only physical persons. Within the reporting categories, an upward trend is evident. A total of 219 legal persons were subject to criminal prosecution in 2014 (in 2013 it was a total of 51 and in 2012 only 18).

According to the Supreme Prosecutor's Office, the numbers are likely to continue rising in the near future.

### Measures

The Ministry of Justice has drafted a law proposal to amend Act no. 418/2011 Coll., on the criminal responsibility of legal persons and proceedings against them, as amended. The aim of this proposal is to re-evaluate the scope of crimes for which a legal person may be criminally punishable. The proposal reverses the current approach to this question, proposing that legal persons should not be responsible for a

specific list of crime, but should be responsible for all crimes, with the exception of those specifically mentioned by the law.<sup>23</sup>

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The Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) compiled and published a study titled "Criminal Recidivism through the Prism of Selected Studies of Czech Recidivists Carried Out in the Last Fifty Years".<sup>24</sup> **The results** of the comparative study can be summarised as follows:

- Most of the imprisoned recidivists were, from a criminological perspective, significant recidivists – 70% have previously been prosecuted 6 or more times and more than half have been incarcerated more than 3 times.
- Most recidivists have been sentenced for the first time between 15 and 18 years of age, and the second sentencing occurred most frequently 3 years after the first.
- Recidivists who have been committing crimes in the last 20 years (neo-recidivists) have significantly differed from recidivists who have been incarcerated prior to 1990 (paleo-recidivists).
- Some of the recidivists studied after their release did not have a functional family network, had no place to live, was jobless, and was burdened by high debt. Incarceration was thus not a sufficient deterrent preventing them from committing further crimes. Their crimes, but also the length of their incarceration, were a part of their lifestyle, often complemented by drug and alcohol addiction. There was no reason to believe that their situation would change in the future.

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After two-year negotiations, the final texts of agreements on police cooperation and on extradition of persons sentenced to imprisonment have been concluded with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. They agreements are now ready to be signed.

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<sup>23</sup> This proposal was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 3. 9. 2014, where it is currently being discussed as Doc. no. 304.

<sup>24</sup> The results of research on criminal recidivism carried out in 2009 became the basis for this study. The research was focused on adult recidivists – men under 35 – who were serving imprisonment in Czech prisons at the time, mostly for property and violent crimes.



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In 2014, the Supreme Prosecutor's Office compiled a **special report on the application of Act no. 418/2011 Coll., on the criminal responsibility of legal persons and proceedings against them, as amended**. The aim of the report was to give more comprehensive information on the application of the act in practice, on the frequency of cases where legal persons were prosecuted, and to highlight problems that have arisen during the application of the law in practice.

In comparison to the previous year, the number of **sentenced individuals** in 2014 has dropped to 72 823 (-5 153). The highest number of sentences was issued in the North Moravian court district – 13 763, followed by the South Moravian court district – 11 511 and the North Bohemian court district – 11 484. The lowest number of sentences was issued by courts in the South Bohemian court district – 4 651.

The number of people sentenced for theft dropped by 1 592, while 403 fewer individuals were sentenced for disorderly conduct. An increase by 788 individuals was recorded in the case of bodily harm, and 11 more individuals were sentenced for murder (rising from a total of 121 in 2013 to 132 in 2014). The number of individuals sentenced for robbery has dropped by 282.

The **share of various types of punishment** (including criminal measures for youth) **has remained stable**. Suspended jail sentences were most frequent, having been issued to 50 203 individuals, i.e. 68.9% of the total number of sentences persons. Custodial jail sentences were issued to 9 567 persons, i.e. 13.1%, community service punishments concerned 7 962 persons, i.e. 10.9%, and financial penalties were issued to 2 561 persons, i.e. 3.4%.

**Custodial jail sentences** were issued mostly for the duration of 1 year – to a total of 5 663 persons (59.2% of the total unconditional sentences) and for the duration of 1 to 5 years – to a total of 3 323 persons (34.8%). Sentences lasting 5 to 15 years were issued to 519 persons (5.4%), whilst exceptional punishments (5 to 15 years) were issued to 51 persons and a life sentence was issued to 1 person.

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As of 31 December 2014, a total of 16 458 sentenced and 2 189 charged individuals were

**incarcerated** (in 2013, there were 14 303 sentenced and 2 315 charged individuals).

The activities of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic were aimed primarily at mainstreaming the prevention of repeat crime. Compared to 2013, the year 2014 has seen a rise in:

- the number of persons serving their sentence in specialised penitentiary departments, while the quality of implemented programmes remains constant,
- the number of sentenced persons in the penitentiary exit units and custodial prisons and in the programmes implemented to prepare prisoners for release,
- the number of sentenced persons serving their sentence in drug-free zones within prisons and custodial prisons, and
- the number of sentenced persons placed in

The standardised “3Z Programme” (*Zastav se, Zamysli se, Změň se/ Stop, Think, Change*) has been implemented where possible. The programme focuses on the statistically largest prison population (adult men aged 25 to 40 years, sentenced 2 to 3 times, mostly for property crime). GREPP, a similar standardised programme for working with perpetrators of violent crimes on children (torture, commercial or non-commercial sexual abuse), has also been implemented. The TP 21 JUNIOR programme for young prisoners focused on reducing violent behaviour, while the KEMP programme worked with adults jailed for violent crime. Finally, the PARDON programme targeted prisoners with a problematic driving record.

In the field of fighting drug abuse, new tasks were set out for 2014 by the **Work Plan of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic for the Years 2013 to 2015**, which mirrors the tasks set out in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Anti-Drug Strategy for the Years 2013 to 2015. In 2014, no reduction occurred in the number of facilities providing treatment or in the quality of the services rendered (specialised units, drug-free zones, drug counselling).

The health services continued to provide detoxification and substitution treatments for opiate addiction, as well as a court ordered protective treatment against drug addiction, alcohol addiction, and pathologic gambling. Prisons continued to cooperate with NGOs that provide anti-drug services..

**Project „Fragile Chance“**

In 2014 the PMS, in partnership with the Prison Service of the Czech Republic, continued implementing the project “Fragile Chance”, which was awarded co-financing from the ESF Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme (support to social integration and social services, ref.: CZ.1.04/3.1.00/73.00004). The project responds to the need to prepare convicts that might qualify for a conditional release for a life outside of prison and for their successful reintegration into society. The project takes into account the requirement of society to reintegrate released persons in a safe manner, strengthening the prevention of repeat offences and enabling the victims to obtain information about the planned conditional release of perpetrators and to express their concerns and needs.<sup>25</sup>

### **SARPO – Comprehensive Risk and Needs Analysis**

Further activities took place in 2014 aimed at training PMS employees and assistants in the field of “Working with Risks – Risk and Needs Analysis”. A training team was put together in 2014, with lecturers available in every court district who would provide training according to each district’s needs.<sup>26</sup>

The year 2014 saw the continued implementation of the instrument for risk and needs analysis within the PMS. This included the necessary training of PMS employees and assistants. The aim was to test the electronic version of the instrument (SARPO) in practice. Selected PMS centres participated, and an assessment of the practical experiences of the users of the instrument is currently underway.

### **Drug Testing**

The objective of drug testing is to improve the quality of work with risks, since testing PMS clients for drug use provides key information for

their subsequent analysis by the PMS staff. Drug testing within the PMS is subject to constant monitoring, both in terms of the total number of tests and their results. The test quality is ensured by the continuous training of employees involved in testing. Data for 2014 shows an increase in testing, which is now around 4 500 tests per year. As in previous years, the results justify further testing. Roughly 22.42% of the tests detected the presence of drugs. This concerned 30.28% of clients. The number of clients who had drug testing ordered by the court rose by about 15%.

### **Debt Remediation**

In 2014, the Alliance Against Debt continued its activities within the project “Development of Probation and Resocialisation Programmes – Strengthening the Prevention and Protection of Society against Repeated Offences”. The aims of the alliance were updated at the beginning of the year, setting priorities and introducing alternative programmes for debt remediation.

Working group meetings were held in 2014, where the main topics were the principles of the proposed Institute of Voluntary Settlement and the amendment to the insolvency act. The aims of the alliance for the year 2014 were communicated to political representatives. The Alliance Against Debt also welcomed a new member in 2014 – the company Abydos, ltd. A number of training events took place. A total of 155 PMS employees and assistants were trained at a two-day course focusing on the work of the PMS with indebted clients.

### **Continuous Training for PMS Staff**

In 2014, the first activities within the project titled “System of Further, Specific Training of Probation and Mediation Service Staff”, financed from the Norway Financial Mechanisms, were implemented. The Correctional Service of Norway is a partner of the project, which is aimed at increasing the professionalism of probation and mediation activities – compiling lecturer manuals, providing training, stabilising the internal lecturing team at the Probation and Mediation Service, supervising lecturers – through bilateral cooperation with the Norwegian partner. The first training modules were implemented, and others are being prepared.

*(For further information see chapter 3.2 Crime Prevention.)*

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<sup>25</sup> Within the framework of this project, the system of Commissions for Conditional Release was expanded to include 9 more prisons (Liberec, Stráž pod Ralskem, Rýnovice, Heřmanice, Opava, Karviná, Bělušice, Příbram, Plzeň).

<sup>26</sup> A total of 10 training sessions took place and 116 Probation and Mediation Service employees were trained. The training sessions focused on defining basic terms and theory dealing with criminal offences. Furthermore, they aimed at strengthening the practical abilities of risk assessment of offenders and drafting a plan of risk reduction. The training sessions are followed by day-long casuistic seminars, where the participants talk about concrete case studies.

## 2.1.2.1 Youth Crime

Children – perpetrators of crimes otherwise punishable:

1 369 (+118, +9.4%)

Number of crimes otherwise punishable committed by children:

1 350 (+64, +7.9%)

Minors – perpetrators of crimes:

2 593 (-346, -11.8%)

Number of crimes committed by minors:

3 367 (-478, -12.4%)

There was a slight increase in 2014 as compared to 2013 in crimes committed by children under 15 and a slight decrease in crimes committed by minors. According to police statistics, children under 15 committed a total of 1 350 (+7.9%) acts, whilst the figure for minors stood at 3 367 (-12.4%) acts.

The opinion of the Supreme Prosecutor's Office (voiced in 2011) is that one of the reasons for the low numbers of minors prosecuted and processed by way of brief preparatory proceedings (including children under 15) can be the principle of the **non-disclosure of identity** (and thus the age) of unknown criminal offenders.<sup>27</sup>

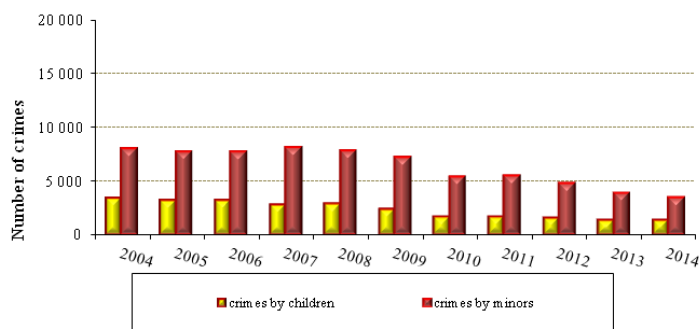
Out of 2 593 minors perpetrators, the Police of the Czech Republic recorded 315 (12.1%) repeat offenders and 360 (13.9%) previously investigated individuals.

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The economic and social situation of a family plays a key role in youth delinquency. Minor and underage delinquents often come from broken, dysfunctional, socially or economically weak families; various factors are often simultaneously at play. Perpetrators often come from specialised facilities where they are under institutional care, mainly because of the insufficient care provided by their parents and utterly unacceptable family circumstances. The population structure has an important factor in youth crime.

<sup>27</sup> For comparison, data from previous years is given below. It should inspire reflection on the reasons for the low numbers of recorded youth crime: in 1996 there were 13 392 youth offenders, i.e. 4.5 times more than in 2013, the average number of youth offenders between 1996 and 2001 was 10 808, i.e. almost 3 times more than in 2013.

Development of Crimes Committed by Children under 15 and Minors in the Czech Republic from 2005 to 2014



The Police of the Czech Republic observes that so-called **socially excluded localities and dormitories** are a big source of concern when it comes to rearing children. Families that find themselves in such environments adopt specific behavioural patterns linked to pathological phenomena and various addictions. In such circumstances, crime and other unlawful activities are not perceived negatively, but as a legitimate means of subsistence. Children from such localities usually have a negative approach to education. The combination of these factors creates a significant crime potential.

Youth crime is often committed under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In many cases the finances obtained through crime are used to purchase alcohol or drugs.<sup>28</sup>

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Most crimes by **young offenders** were filed as property crime (1 702 acts), mainly burglaries of all kinds (689 acts).

**Violent crimes** (565 acts) mainly included intentional bodily harm (225 acts), robberies (167 acts), and extortion.

Sexual abuse (147 acts) and rape (25 acts) were prevalent in **vice crime** (198 acts).

In the field of **economic crime** (134 acts), tax evasion is most prevalent, as well as defaulting on social security and other similar payments (20 acts).

*(For details see pages 16 and 17 of the tables and graphs section.)*

<sup>28</sup> As in previous years, the Czech Republic is among those countries with the highest rate of substance abuse by children, especially alcohol and tobacco. The abuse of drugs is also significant, especially as concerns intravenous abuse, as is promiscuity and prostitution, especially that of homosexuals. This is linked to a higher occurrence of HIV.

## Measures

According to the Crime Prevention Strategy of the Czech Republic for the Years 2012 to 2015, the primary body in charge of overall prevention is the Ministry of Education. Nevertheless, in 2014 as in previous years, the regional police directorates of the Police of the Czech Republic have been active in preventing youth crime. Examples of activities undertaken are listed below:<sup>29</sup>

- Visits to all categories of schools, including special educational facilities and children's homes, by prevention workers and police specialists. The Police of the Czech Republic provides lectures and seminars, with a special focus on secondary prevention (i.e. solving specific problems in schools and their surroundings).
- „Children's Days“
- „Days with the Czech Police“
- „Prevention Days“

A total of **1 593 (-390) youth offenders were recorded in 2014**. Most sentences were issued by courts in the Moravian-Silesian region – 389 (-98), followed by courts in the North Bohemian region – 331 (-37) and courts in the South Moravian region – 271 (-91). Property crime was the prevalent.

In most cases, youth offenders were given suspended jail sentences with a probation period – a total of 976 individuals, community service – a total of 269 individuals. Unconditional criminal measures were imposed on 88 individuals in 2014. In 250 cases the courts decided to refrain from imposing punishment.

As regards **prevention of youth crime**, the MoI submitted on 27 August 2014 for information to the government an “**Assessment of the Situation of Children and Minors Threatened by Crime and Criminally Risky Factors**”. The assessment was compiled following findings by government officials, police officers, and NGOs regarding the deteriorating situation and prospects of children and minors in a number of regions and localities in the Czech Republic. The aim of the document is to highlight selected current criminogenic

factors, socially undesirable phenomena, and social processes that may jeopardise the successful socialisation of children and which may be the cause of increasing crime and a growing number people dependent on the government welfare system. Special attention was paid to the concentration of these risk factors in socially excluded localities, where children grow up without knowing any other way of life than on the fringe of society.

The document is based on the “Sociological Study of Research on Crime and Socially Pathological Phenomena of Children and Minors”, which was compiled from more than 80 supporting documents, relevant research, and studies that have been carried out since 2007. The document did not contain any tasks for members of the government, it is merely a compilation of recommendations for a more efficient system of care for vulnerable children.

In the field of preventing youth crime, the MoI cooperated with other ministries represented in the Interministerial Working Group on Harmonisation and Transformation of Care for Vulnerable Children, operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.<sup>30</sup>

## Activities of the Probation and Mediation Service

**The PMS is actively involved in the accreditation procedure of the Ministry of Justice designed for probation programmes for young offenders.**

In 2014, the Ministry of Justice announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for applications for accreditation within the programme “Development of Probation and Socialisation Programmes for Young Delinquents” for the years 2014 – 2016. A total of 12 programmes were granted accreditation valid from 1 January through 31 December 2016 and 2 programmes were granted accreditation valid from 1 June 2014 until 31 December 2016. The reports on the implementation of these programmes are regularly published on [www.pmsr.cz](http://www.pmsr.cz).

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The PMS takes part in the **grant allocation procedure for probation programmes for**

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<sup>29</sup> Further measures are set out in the Report on the implementation of the tasks arising from the Crime Prevention Strategy of the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015 for the year 2014, which will be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic along with the present report.

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<sup>30</sup> The Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior is in charge of a number of specific projects that are financed by the ministry's regional prevention programme, which supports projects aimed at working with vulnerable youths.

**young offenders.** In 2014 grants were awarded to 9 probation programmes.

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The PMS has responded to the need to expand probation and socialisation programmes for young offenders by putting into practice several projects:

- **„Onto the right path! – Implementation and development of new probation programmes and restorative justice programmes for young offenders – strengthening expert cooperation of institutions”** (financed from the ESF Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme and from the state budget of the Czech Republic). The aim of this project is to develop effective tools to address youth crime, particularly when it comes to crime with violent or aggressive features, to implement restorative programmes reducing the risk of repeated crime, facilitate the social integration of young criminals, and to foster efficient ways to cooperate and coordinate experts and relevant institutions.<sup>31</sup>
- **„Development of probation and socialisation programmes – strengthening prevention and protection of society from repeated crime”.** The successful implementation of an innovative probation programme called “POINT Family” continues. The provider is an organisation called RUBIKON Centrum. This programme is aimed at group and individual work with young offenders in order to strengthen their families in the aftermath of a committed crime. Until the end of 2014, a total of 48 programmes were implemented, serving 200 clients.

In 2014, the PMS continued, within the scope of its practice, to employ a service called Mentor – an alternative way of working with PMS clients through mentoring, using mentors (trained representatives of the Romani community) to provide cooperation with perpetrators sentenced to alternative punishments. The activities of

mentors contributes to increasing the efficiency of the execution of these sentences. The service is provided by RUBIKON Centrum within several projects (in 2014 they were “Mentoring in Ostrava”, supported by the city of Ostrava, “Romani Mentoring 2014” in Děčín, Jablonec nad Nisou, Kolín, within city crime prevention programmes financed by the MoI).

#### **System for Caring for Vulnerable Children**

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports follows in its strategic, methodical, and legislative work the tasks and objectives set out in the **Action Plan for Implementing the National Strategy for Protecting Children’s Rights for the Years 2012 – 2015**, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

In 2014, the Ministry of Education drafted the Proposal for a Strategy for Managing and Developing Institutionalised Care and Preventive Educational Care for the Years 2014 – 2020. The main aims of the conceptual changes are as follows:

- Create a modern, efficient, and affordable system with a focus on quality and professionalism of rendered child care services,
- Strengthen outpatient services especially, with the aim of higher prevention of risky behaviour, and
- Seek to return children to families, if it is in the best interest of the child, through close cooperation with relevant organs and intensive work with the children’s families.

The systemic change consists in the development of preventive aspects in order to gradually curb risky behaviour in children and thus avoid institutional education. Children already placed in institutional care as per court orders should be provided with a multidisciplinary and efficiently coordinated solution to their situation, with the goal of reducing their stay outside the family.

In December 2014, the pilot assessment of the standards of the quality of institutional child care was carried out. The aim of the assessment was to set and improve the quality of care for vulnerable children in these institutions. They define the basic qualitative criteria and indicate the direction of the qualitative development. They will be implemented in practice in 2015.

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<sup>31</sup> Within this project, the methodologies for two new programmes were created, inspired by experience from other countries – the resocialisation programme “Against Violence” aimed at curbing violent behaviour in young offenders and the restorative justice programme “Family Group Conferences”. In 2014 the implementation of both programmes was initiated in pilot regions.

**The issue of risky behaviour is tackled in the following documents of the Ministry of Education:**

- The National Strategy of Primary Prevention of Risky Behaviour in Children for the Years 2013 – 2018,
- The Methodical Recommendation on Primary Prevention of Manifestations of Risky Behaviour in Children and Students in Schools,
- The Ministry of Education Methodical Guideline Addressing Bullying in Schools,
- And other related documents and regulations aimed at preventing risky behaviour.<sup>32</sup>

In 2013, the Ministry of Education issued the **National Strategy for Prevention of Risky Behaviour in Children and Minors Within the Scope of the Competencies of the Ministry of Education for the Years 2013 – 2018**. Throughout 2014, the Ministry of Education implemented the tasks set out in this document.

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Every year the Ministry of Education allocates approximately CZK 20 million from its budget to drug and crime prevention, as well as other forms of risky behaviour. For this purpose, the ministry has issued a new Methodology for Providing Grants from the State Budget for the Implementation of Activities Aimed at Preventing Risky Behaviour for the Years 2013 – 2018. For 2014 the ministry allocated CZK 20 330 000.

In the framework of this grant programme, the ministry supports projects aimed at providing long-term primary prevention of risky behaviour of children and minors, projects evaluating the needs, availability, and efficiency of services, projects aimed at providing expert and verified information and educating the expert as well as the wider public. The recipients of grants were schools, educational facilities, and NGOs working with children and minors.

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The Ministry of Education supports a network of preventive services **within the framework of the system of care for vulnerable children** (support of educational care centres, pedagogical and psychological advisory centres, pedagogical and psychological advisory centres were supported within the Programme for the Implementation of Activities to Prevent Risky Behaviour. The centres were further supported in 2014 via the financial support of prevention methodologists, which received an allocation of approx. CZK 5 million.

The educational care centres and the network of preventive services within the system of care for vulnerable children were strengthened by Act No. č. 333/2012 Coll., which amends Act No. 109/2002 Coll., on the execution of institutional or protective education in educational facilities and on preventively educational care in educational facilities, as amended.

In 2014, the Ministry of Education organised a nationwide expert conference focused on the issue of domestic violence for regional school prevention coordinators, prevention methodologists, and employees of advisory bodies within schools.

*(For further information on the activities of the Ministry of Education see [www.msmt.cz](http://www.msmt.cz).)*

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<sup>32</sup> Primarily the following documents: Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on pre-school, primary, secondary, and vocational and other education, as amended; Act No. 109/2002 Coll., on the execution of institutionalised or protective education in educational establishments, as amended; Act No. 359/1999 Coll., on socially-preventive protection of children, as amended; Act No. 379/2005 Coll., on protective measures against the damage caused by Tobago products, alcohol, and other addictive substances, as amended.

### 2.1.3 Victims of Crime

In 2014, the Police of the Czech Republic recorded a total of 40 612 victims of crime.<sup>33</sup> There was a decrease in comparison with the previous year by a total of 5 604 individuals.

Victims of crime feature in the official crime statistics<sup>34</sup> only alternatively, as targets of attacks alongside other targets of economic crime, etc. **The number of victims cited relates only to selected types of crime** (in particular, violent and vice crime, bodily harm through negligence, corrupting youth morals, etc.; within property crime, the records register victims of pickpocketing, theft and theft associated with sexual intercourse).

Thus, victims of burglaries, car theft, bicycle theft, and various other forms of crime (the “damaged”) remain outside of the official police statistics.

Despite these limitations, criminal statistics continue to be the only statistics available to law enforcement authorities that contains broader data on victims of crime.

This situation should be at least partially remedied by proposed legislative changes related to seizure of assets from crime.<sup>35</sup>

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Crimes committed against defenceless persons, children and the elderly are especially contemptible.

According to police statistics, **children under 15** were the most frequent victims of vice crime (892 victims, +6 victims), most of which fell under the category of sexual abuse (594 victims, -138 victims). In 2014, a total of 242 (-5) cases of production or other handling of child pornography were reported.

**Minors between 15 and 18 years of age** were most frequently the victims of theft (mainly pickpocketing) – 821 (-217) recorded victims – and violent crime (intentional bodily harm and

robberies). In 2014 a total of 186 (-41) minor victims of intentional bodily harm and 119 (-26) minor victims of robberies were recorded.

In 2014, 22 (-1) murders of **elderly** persons aged 61 or more were committed. The elderly are easy and sought after targets especially as regards petty thefts or fraudulent wheedling of cash. Records show 344 (-105) robberies, 272 (+1) cases of intentional bodily harm, and 52 (-11) acts filed as abuse of a person living in a shared household committed on elderly persons aged 61 or more.

*(For further details see pages 18 – 20 of the tables and graphs section.)*

## Measures

### Act on Victims of Crime

In 2013, Act No. 45/2013 Coll., on victims of crime, entered into force. The act brought a strengthening of legal protection of victims within criminal proceedings. Concurrently, the Criminal Code of Procedure was updated, contributing to further strengthening the rights of victims. An especially beneficial institute is that of agent, which is attributed free of charge to child victims.

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In cooperation with the Regional Police Directorate in Prague, the Crime Prevention Department of the MoI organised on 30 April 2014 a nationwide seminar titled “Prevailing Myths in the Field of Sexual Violence on Women and Children”. The lecturers provided insights into the issue of sexual violence from various points of view – doctors – paediatricians, gynaecologists, sexologists, psychologists, court experts, public prosecutors, and other who not only investigate the crimes, but also help their victims. The seminar was attended by 86 participants from most Regional Police Directorates of the Police of the Czech Republic, employees of regional administrations, intervention centres, etc.

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For the purpose of ensuring the implementation of Directive 2011/99/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011, on the European Protection

<sup>33</sup> The notion of “victim”, including its context, shall be legally distinguished from the broader notion of “damaged” as defined in Sec. 43 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

<sup>34</sup> A criminal statistics database system whose primary aim it is to provide statistical information on criminal offences and their perpetrators.

<sup>35</sup> E.g. the proposed amendment of Act No. 279/2003 Sb., on the execution of seizing property and assets in criminal proceedings and on the amendment of some other related acts, should enable the release of assets for the purpose of compensating the rightful claims of the damaged (e.g. by making it unnecessary to prove that the perpetrator tried to hide the assets).

Order, whose aim it is to strengthen transborder protection of victims of crime and their family members from perpetrators of crimes, which can endanger their life, health or dignity, the Ministry of Justice drafted a proposal to amend Act No. 104/2013 Coll., on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters, and other relevant acts.<sup>36</sup>

The Ministry of Justice also drafted a proposal to amend Act No. 279/2003 Coll., on the execution of the seizure of assets in criminal proceedings, which should, inter alia, contribute to a more efficient compensation of those damaged during criminal proceedings.<sup>37</sup>

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In 2014, the Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention (IKSP) presented some of the results of its **victim logical** research, which it undertook in 2013.<sup>38</sup> The research focused on the detection of offences, on repeated and multiple victimisation, and on reporting offences to the police.

The research found that in 2013 approx. **36%** of the respondents have, in the past 12 months, been victims of at least one of the eight offences. Most respondents were victims of **theft of personal items** (without use of violence, 14.5% respondents), less have been victims of **car theft**

(10.4% respondents) a **burglaries in homes** (8.5% respondents).

Almost 15% of respondents have, in the 12 months preceding the interview in 2013, been repeated victims of the same offence – namely **theft of personal items** (without use of violence). Roughly 23% of respondents repeated victims of **burglaries in homes** and some 26% of respondents were repeated victims of **physical assault without attempt at robbery**.

Furthermore, the research showed that some 25% of respondents have not reported the fact that they had been offended to the police, this concerned cases of burglaries in homes. A very small number of victims had not reported **car thefts** (3%) to the police, but 22% had not reported thefts of items from cars.

### Police Psychologists

The system of psychological support to victims of crime and other emergency situations, which was introduced in 2010, continued to be implemented in 2014. Police psychologists and crisis interventionists were deployed, for instance, to provide psychosocial assistance to persons affected by the armed attack on a school in Žďár nad Sázavou or the explosion of an ammunition warehouse in Vrbětice.

### Special Interrogation Rooms

Within the framework of supporting victims of crime, especially women and children, the **MoI supports the building of special interrogation rooms (SIRs)**<sup>39</sup>. In 2014, funds from the Crime Prevention Programme were allocated to regions in order to build a further 11 SIRs.

The **Coordination Group on Interrogation Rooms** continued its activities, grouping together representatives of all the regional police directorates of the Police of the Czech Republic. Due to the necessity of improving the efficiency of using SIRs the previous period was dedicated to exchanging best practices between police specialists working on vice crime targeting youths, but also with other relevant actors, including public prosecutors and court experts. A weeklong specialising course took place, titled “Interrogating Child Witnesses” and in December

<sup>36</sup> This proposal deals with a new form of judicial cooperation, which makes it possible, in cases where one EU MS issues a measure to protect a victim of crime which should prevent any kind of harassment, kidnapping, stalking and other forms of indirect pressure from the perpetrator of the crime, and the victim moves to another EU MS, for the victim to claim a European Protection Order, on the basis of which the EU MS where the victim resides will take the necessary measures to protect the victim within its territory. This proposal was approved by Resolution no. 623 of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 11 February 2015.

<sup>37</sup> This proposal was approved by Resolution no. 624 of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 11 February 2015.

<sup>38</sup> Data for the research was collected in the field at the end of 2013 by an agency from a representative nationwide sample of 3 000 people aged above 15. The research studied the victimisation of respondents in relation to eight offences: car theft, theft of an object from a car, house break-in (including cellars, garages, and other parts of houses), holiday home break-in (including cellars, garages, and other parts of holiday homes), theft of personal items using violence or threat of violence (robbery, including attempts), theft of personal items without using violence, physical assault (from a stranger, without attempt at robbery) and threat of physical violence (from a stranger). This took place during a 12 month period that preceded the research (November 2012 – October 2013). The respondents were representative as concerns age, sex, education, and place of residence. The questions were prepared by the IKSP specifically for this research.

<sup>39</sup> As of 31 December 2014 there are a total of 57 SIRs in the Czech Republic (some of which will be operational in early 2015).



2014 continued as a course at the Police Academy of the Czech Republic in Prague.<sup>40</sup>

### **Probation and Mediation Service (PMS)**

The PMS also contacts victims of crime as part of its work.

In 2014, a total of 13 024 cases (11 270 in 2013) were recorded in the framework of preparatory proceedings and court proceedings. Compared to the overall numbers from previous years, the percentage share of cases decreased by 2%, i.e. from 43% to 41%.

As regards contacts made with victims and mediation between victims and perpetrators, the preliminary records show that numbers have stayed roughly at the level of the previous two years. Victims were contacted in more than 5229 cases in 2012, the year 2013 saw 4 653 persons registered as adult victims whilst 2014 saw adult victims (and a further 2 209 youth victims). Victims from previous years are still being contacted. According to preliminary results, almost 1 000 mediations took place in the adult category in 2014 (a number similar to 2013) and more than 200 in the youth category. These numbers are expected to grow, as some cases are still pending.

### **Project “Why Me?”**

Activities under the Criminal Justice project continued in 2014, particularly by means of a specific project titled “Why Me?”, financed from the ESF (CZ.1.04/3.1.00/73.00001). The methodological handbook was finalised in 2014, consisting of several sections: Methodology of Personal Counselling; Psychological and Psychotherapeutic Support of Children; Accompaniment; Methodology for Organising and Managing Restorative Group Conferences; Telephone and Internet Counselling; Multidisciplinary Teams for Victims and Monitoring Victim Issues. The handbook was disseminated among all victim counsellors for pilot testing. Their remarks and ideas will consequently be incorporated into the handbook.

Since the beginning of the project, counselling was provided to a total of 3 756 victims of crime from the target group (as of 30 November 2014), which accounts for 74% of the total planned number of supported persons

(victims of crime) until the end of the project. Within the framework of the project, strengthening of cooperation between relevant actors at the local level continued, as well as networking and coordination of activities supporting victims. The project involved a number of NGOs operating in various regions as suppliers of services to victims.

### **Training Activities of the PMS**

A number of trainings organised by the PMS for the benefit of government employees and PMS assistants were dedicated to the issue of victims of crime. Apart from providing training on the new Civil Code (8 two-day trainings), 3 one-day seminars were organised focused on the subject of compensating victims of crime. The Department of Compensations of the Ministry of Justice was also involved in these trainings.

*(For further measures see chapter 3.2 Crime Prevention.)*

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<sup>40</sup> Based on requests of police officers – specialists working with child victims of crime – new demonstration tools were created in 2014 based on popular Czech cartoon characters. The methodology for their use is currently being finalised both in printed and digital format.

## 2.1.4 Searches for Persons and Items

In 2014, departments of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service launched 3 822 (-309) **searches for missing persons**. Searches proved successful in 3 705 cases. Of the total number of searches, 4 780 (-255) concerned institution charges, of whom 4 597 have been located.

The **national search mechanism for missing children** launched 16 (-12) searches in 2014 for children showing signs of being in danger. All the children were found.

There were 19 435 (-330) searches for **wanted persons**, of which 16 006 (-2 956) were called off.

A total of 44 (+3) perpetrators were apprehended in the framework of **targeted searches** in 2014. A further 8 persons were apprehended abroad thanks to international cooperation.

A total of 61 (-19) entries marked as “body of unknown identity” were entered into the PATROS information system, the identity was later established in 45 cases.

In the category of **motor vehicles and license plates** there was a total of 7 862 searches for license plates and 8 217 searches for motor vehicles.

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In the framework of **international searches in the EU and across the Schengen area**, the Department of International Cooperation of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic dealt with a total of 8 375 (+1 321) positive hits concerning persons and items searched for within the SIS (Schengen Information System), which is a considerable increase as compared to previous years. It can be attributed to the stabilisation after transitioning to SIS II, using its new functions and applying the law on international judicial cooperation.

As regards searches based on the European Arrest Warrant, or the International Arrest

Warrant within the Schengen area, the Police of the Czech Republic dealt with a total of 363 (+114) hits and related requests by co-workers abroad and 246 (+23) hits abroad following requests from the Czech side, i.e. 609 hits in total.

As regards **international searches outside the Schengen area**, 11 (-11) internationally searched persons in the Czech Republic were detained abroad. In the Czech Republic, a total of 9 (-3) internationally searched persons were detained, adding the total up to 20 internationally searched persons that have been detained in 2014.

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The PSEUD information system, tracking artistic objects, contained a total of 20 152 (-665) records of stolen and found artistic objects at the end of 2014. Of this number, 5 records have been called off due to the objects having been returned, and 4 due to the objects having been found. The total number of records entered in the course of 2014 into the system was 316 (-165).

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The National Heritage Institute and detached collaborators of the Ministry of Culture managed to identify 36 pieces of cultural property originating from crime inside sacral buildings, of which 29 were offered by auction houses or antique shops outside the country. A total of 16 pieces were returned to their owners in 2014.

The Ministry of culture used the provision of the Directive of the European Economic Community no. 7/93 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of an EU country and in 2 cases filed a suit via a representing law firm against the holders of cultural objects in Austria, which had been stolen and unlawfully removed from the Czech Republic, for their return.

## 2.1.5 Policing Minorities

The issue of police work with minorities is conceptually tackled in the **Strategy for the Work of the Police of the Czech Republic with Minorities**. The following priorities were set out in this field for the years 2013 and 2014: a) developing systemic measures aiming at improving the quality of police work in this field and b) educating police officers on the issue of minorities.<sup>41</sup>

The development of systemic measures for police work with minorities in 2014 consisted mainly in introducing Standards for the work of liaison officers for minorities and the Methodology for the work of the Police of the Czech Republic in relation to minorities, as well as the implementation of the Methodology for evaluating the work of the Police of the Czech Republic and an overall improvement of the quality of police work in relation to minorities.<sup>42</sup>

The education of police officers on the issues of minorities was implemented mainly through the activities listed below.

A nationwide meeting of liaison officers for minorities and members of their teams took place on 10 – 12 March 2014. The meeting was focused on improving the expertise in issues relating to minorities and integration and eliminating prejudice, as well as sharing best practices.

A total of 16 interactive training sessions were organised in the course of 2014 within the project titled “Efficient Development and Strengthening of Human Resources Competencies” financed from the ESF Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme. The training sessions focused on deepening the multicultural competencies and expertise of participating police officers, eliminating ingrained stereotypes, and strengthening managerial skills of liaison officers

for minorities.<sup>43</sup> A total of more than 200 police officers were trained, including lecturers of the Police of the Czech Republic, who will further develop the elements of experiential learning and incorporate it into the educational system of the Police of the Czech Republic.

Another phase of the accredited educational programme “Course for Liaison Officers and Members of Working Groups I. and II.” took place on 18 – 21 November 2014. Police officers who come into contact with members of various minorities in the course of their work were the target audience. The aim of the course was to improve and internalise knowledge and expertise applicable when facing minorities. In the course of both courses, a total of 80 police officers were trained, including 40 police officers participating in the project “Deployment of Police Specialists in the Field of Policing the Romani Minority in Socially Secluded Localities”, which is implemented in 2014 – 2016.

### Measures Minimising Security Risks in So-Called Secluded Localities

On 15 May 2014, the Minister of the Interior instituted an interministerial Working Group for Tackling Issues Related to Secluded Localities, whose members are deputy ministers of relevant ministries and other government bodies (interior, labour and social affairs, industry and trade, environment, the Government Office etc.), as well as representatives of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic and the Association of Regions. The working group met twice in 2014 (in June and October), and talked about the issues of housing benefits, the purchase of scrap metal, crime prevention, monitoring of dormitories, migration of socially deprived persons, fight against drug addiction, support of industrial zones and brownfields, and the support of minority integration. The results of the first meeting were also forwarded to the government of the Czech Republic.

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<sup>41</sup> The pillar of the system of the Police of the Czech Republic in relation to minorities is formed by so-called **liaison officers for minorities**, which are included in the structure of the police department ensuring public order in all the regions of the Czech Republic. These officers, alongside their teams, monitor, analyse, and assess the situation in their respective regions with regards to minorities and provide contacts between the police, representatives of minorities, and other relevant actors.

<sup>42</sup> All the methodological materials are available on the websites of the Ministry of the Interior and the Police of the Czech Republic.

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<sup>43</sup> To this end, a unique form of training was chosen, so-called experiential learning, thanks to which participants gained first-hand experience of social exclusion and immigration.

## 2.1.6 Misdemeanours

In 2014, the Police Service for Public Order recorded a total of 796 307 (+47 831) misdemeanours as per the Act on Misdemeanours. By far the highest number of misdemeanours concerned road traffic safety as per Sec. 125c of Act No. 361/2000 Coll., on road traffic, specifically 473 234 (+61 276) cases, which accounts for 59.4% of all misdemeanours. The second largest number concerned property offences as per Sec. 50 of the Act on Misdemeanours, a total of 159 522 (-22 434) cases, followed by public order and civic coexistence as per Sec. 47 – 49 of the Act on Misdemeanours, a total of 114 097 (+1 317) cases. Other misdemeanours amounted to 25 402 (+2 669) cases. A total of 24 052 (+5 001) misdemeanours concerned protection against alcoholism and other addictions as per Sec. 30 of the Act on Misdemeanours.

A total of 495 929 (+54 939) were dealt with by way of immediate fines, the total fines having amounted to CZK 148 854 050 (-1 238 900). A total of 175 137 (+8 070) misdemeanours were reported as per Sec. 58 (1) and (3) a) of the Act on Misdemeanours. A total of 110 515 (-12 517) misdemeanours were shelved as per Sec. 58 (3)b) of the Act on Misdemeanours.

In 2014, the Road Traffic Police Service recorded a total of 535 178 (+3 396) misdemeanours committed by drivers of motor vehicles and 23 196 (+3 449) misdemeanours committed by other road users. In total, 508 875 (+18 256) immediate fines were issued to drivers, amounting to a total of CZK 257.4 million (-2.5 million). A whopping 49 319 (+8 156) misdemeanours were reported to administrative bodies.

Similarly to 2013, speeding was the most frequent misdemeanour in 2014, amounting to 209 901 cases, i.e. 37.6% of all recorded misdemeanours. It was followed by misdemeanours relating to vehicles being unfit for road traffic, with a total of 79 382 cases, i.e. 14.2%. Third in line were misdemeanours consisting of incorrect driving, amounting to 67 958 cases, i.e. 12.2%.

In the framework of monitoring safety and flow of traffic by the police in 2014, alcohol ingestion by drives was found in 10 996 (+722) cases and driving under the influence of addictive substances was found in 3 378 (+464) cases.

In the area of **arms and security and defence items**, a total of 1 825 (-1 084) misdemeanours were recorded by the police. Of those, 999 (-658) were subject to immediate fines, amounting to CZK 323 200 (-333 100), while 454 (-319) misdemeanours were reported to administrative authorities and 32 (-22) passed on to law enforcement authorities. Frequent misdemeanours included not reporting the acquisition or transfer of ownership of weapons.

Misdemeanours as per Act No. 326/1999 Coll., on residence of foreign nationals, the Alien Department of the Regional Police Directorates recorded a slight annual increase as compared to 2013.

According to the CIS (Customs Information System) and the ECP (Evidence of Criminal Proceedings) databases, police departments entered a total of 29 582 (+2 144, +7.8%) misdemeanours as per Act No. 326/1999 Coll. in 2014. Immediate fines were issued amounting to CZK 18.2 million (+1.6 million, i.e. +9.6%).

Broken down by nationality, most misdemeanours were committed by nationals of Ukraine (6 242, i.e. 21.1%), Austria (10.9%), Slovakia (10.9%), Poland (8.3%), Russia (5.9%), Vietnam (4.9%), Serbie (4.4%), Germany (4.3%), Romania (2.9%) and Turkey (2.6%). The misdemeanours most frequently concerned breaches of public order.

## Measures

The proposal to amend Act No. 200/1990 Coll., on misdemeanours, as amended, and some other acts, was approved by Government Resolution no. 864 of 27 October 2014. It was consequently submitted to the Parliament of the Czech Republic as a government law proposal.

The main aim of the proposed act is to create an evidence of selected misdemeanours in the Criminal Record and thus punish repeat perpetrators of selected misdemeanours, especially by grading the severity of sanctions currently specified by the Act on Misdemeanours. Furthermore, the proposal suggests that selected misdemeanours defined in other acts also be tracked, so as to allow the assessment of the reliability of specific persons.

### 2.1.6.1 Municipal Police

Within the scope of their competencies and the framework of meeting their citizens' needs, municipalities are entitled to ensure public order also through the establishment of local municipal police bodies (municipal police).

Municipal police is a municipality body. Its main task is to look after public order in accordance with the Act on Municipal Police or other specific regulations.<sup>44</sup>

The municipal police is supervised primarily by the MoI, particularly as regards periodic testing every three years of the professional qualifications of municipal police officers by a specialised ministerial commission. The MoI has other tasks vis-a-vis the municipal police: it withdraws an officer's certificate (enabling it to perform their tasks) in case of a loss of integrity, reliability, or professional or medical ability, it issues fines to municipalities for administrative offences and it may carry out municipal police inspections in accordance with the law.

If a part of the municipal police's activities falls within the scope of delegated powers of the municipality (typically this concerns misdemeanours), it is the Regional Authority that is in charge. As regards criminal liability, the municipal police officers do not come under the scope of competence of the General Inspectorate of Security Forces, hence their possible criminal activities are addressed by way of standard procedures, i.e. investigation by the Police of the Czech Republic. Finally, the municipal police are subject to autonomous inspections by the municipalities' local boards.

*(See also chapter 3.1 Legislative Activities and page 11 of the tables and graphs section.)*

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<sup>44</sup> Two types of municipal police are distinguished: corps established by municipalities and corps established by towns and townships. There is, however, no difference in terms of their respective powers. The municipal police are significantly involved in the maintenance of public order. Their mere presence in towns has a considerable preventive impact on individuals who would otherwise possibly engage in unlawful conduct. That is why the municipal police have similar duties and authority as the Police of the Czech Republic – see Act No. 553/1991 Coll., on Municipal Police, as amended.

## 2.2 Trends in Specific Categories of Crime, Analysis of Particular Issues in the Area of Internal Security and Public Order

### 2.2.1 Property Crime

Crimes recorded:

173 611 (-35 740, -17.0%)

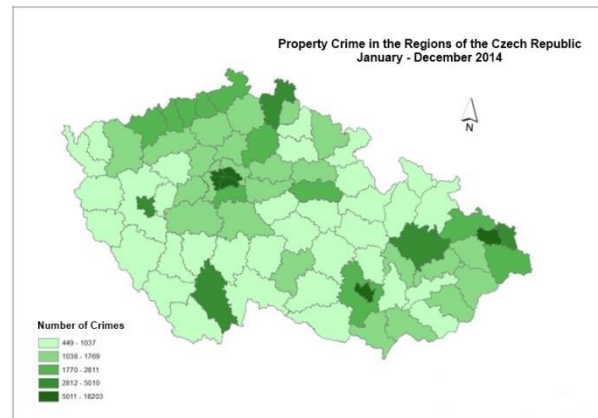
Crimes cleared up:

48 175 (-1 592, -3.1%)

Clear-up rate: 27,7 % (+4%)

Number of prosecuted and investigated persons:

34 624 (-1 760, -4.8%)



In 2014, a total of 173 611 (-35 740, -17%) property crimes were recorded, of which 48 175 (-1 592, -3.1%) were cleared up. The clear-up rate rose significantly, to 27%, reaching its highest level in 10 years.

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The highest number of property crimes per 10 thousand inhabitants was again recorded in Prague (419), followed by the Moravian Silesian region (190) and the Central Bohemian region (143). The lowest number was traditionally recorded in the Zlín region (75).

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Property crime as such has the largest share on total crime committed in the Czech Republic (up to 60%). Burglaries account for almost 1/3 of property crime, despite this type of crime having decreased in the course of 2014.

In 2014, the number of burglaries in apartments dropped to 3 778 (-668, -15%), the number of burglaries in houses dropped to 5 099 (-1 572, -23.5%). The purpose of burglaries remains constant – with jewellery and cash, and sometimes electronics, being the main targets. In the case of burglaries in homes, the perpetrators often took possession of luxury car keys, consequently stealing the vehicles.

\*\*\*

An important part of property crime is targeted at senior citizens. This issue is given a high priority. Crimes against seniors (fraud, theft, burglaries – using deceit) were committed both by Czech and foreign perpetrators in 2014,

including organised family clans from Slovakia, Poland, and other countries.

The aim of the perpetrators is uniform – to obtain cash or property of an equivalent value whilst leaving minimal traces. Generally it can be said that there is an increase in cases where the perpetrators are very sophisticated in their aim at eliminating evidence that could be used to begin criminal proceedings against them.

Based on gathered information, the year 2014 has seen a similar number of recorded cases as the year 2013. However, there are fewer cases in Prague and more cases in regions. It remains questionable whether latent crime has any influence on statistics, where seniors may not report crimes to the police.

\*\*\*

Fraudulent truck transport, which is often disastrous for unsuspecting logistics companies, is an important issue. In 2014 there were 39 (+13) cases of fraudulent truck transport. The perpetrators cooperate closely, the most important ones being nationals of Slovakia.

### Measures

As of 1 April 2014, a software application is available to officers of the Police of the Czech Republic taking part in the SENIOR project, facilitating the collection of data on crimes committed against seniors and communication between specialists.

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As of 1 January 2014 Act No. **255/2012 Coll., on inspection**, came into force. Thorough

inspections should bring an end to the illegal purchase of metals, and thus metal theft as well.

The Ministry of Culture continued implementing the Integrated System for the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage. A total of CZK 10 566 000 were allocated for the protection of facilities storing movable cultural heritage items owned by the state, the regions,

municipalities, and churches. A total of 50 facilities were secured.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the National Heritage Institute, monitors the illegal export and movement of Czech cultural property abroad.

*(See also pages 21 in the tables and graphs section, for further measures see chapter 3.2 Crime Prevention.)*

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## 2.2.2 Economic Crime

Crimes recorded:

30 731 (+355, +1.1%)

Crimes cleared up:

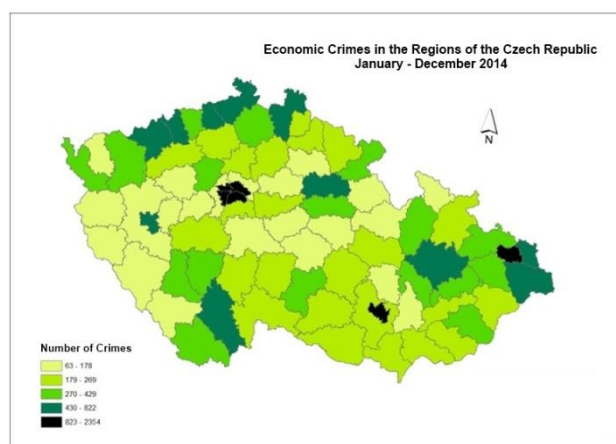
20 220 (+1 647, +8.8%)

Clear up rate: 65,7 % (+4.6%).

Number of prosecuted and investigated persons:

15 488 (+241, +1.6%)

Damages established: CZK 20.85 billion (+6.5%)



In 2014, a total of 30 731 (+355, +1.1%) economic crimes were recorded, of which 20 220 (+1 647, +8.8%) were cleared up. The clear-up rate stood at 65.7%.

Similarly to property crime, economic crime is prevalent in large cities, especially in Prague, where a 24.3% of all economic crimes have been committed in 2014.

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Although economic crime has for a long time represented roughly one tenth of total crime, it has a **decisive share on the total material damages**: 72.7% in 2014, and 67.4% in 2013.

The **total damages** caused by economic crime in 2014 amounted to **CZK 20.85 billion** (+1.26 billion, +6.5%). The largest share on the damages was incurred by **tax evasion** (CZK 8 572 million – 41.1% of total damages caused by economic crime), **fraud** (CZK 3 514 million – 16.9%), and **embezzling** (CZK 2 554 million – 12.3%).

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In terms of quantity, the most common economic crimes, apart from unauthorised holding of a means of payment (7 471 cases), were credit fraud (5 643) and fraud (4 725 cases).

The increase of economic crime is observed most of all as a result of the current economic situation in the Czech Republic, a higher indebtedness of its citizens, and the necessity to procure additional financial means.

### Serious Economic Crime

Economic crime in the Czech Republic is one of the domains where organised crime groups cause billions of CZK of damages, having been active for many years and having ever closer ties with organised crime groups abroad. Specific forms of crime are linked to corruption activities as well as attempts at exerting influence within the government, regional governments, law enforcement and judicial authorities.

**Tax related crimes** are causing the greatest damages – according to estimates by the Unit for Detecting Corruption and Financial Crime of the Police of the Czech Republic, tax evasion accounts for up to CZK hundreds of millions – and is typically very latent, allegedly between 30 and 50%. The most frequent form of committing this crime is through fictitious invoices for various goods, and, more and more frequently, providing advertising services, consulting, and market research, and others, where it is very

difficult to prove that the services have not been rendered.<sup>45</sup>

In 2014, the most serious tax-related crime consisted of VAT evasion when importing mineral oils and carousel fraud with various commodities (usually easily manipulated and valuable – tablets, computer components, but also commodities that are not easy to measure and record, such as scrap metal, concrete scrap etc.) and services.

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**Financial crime** accounted for the second biggest share of damages caused. This crime encompasses a wide range of fraudulent activities with the aim of unauthorised elicitation of financial means or other material gains from government authorities, private legal persons (especially banks and various investment funds), but also from individuals. The field of financial crime includes cases of fraudulent disbursement of government subsidies assigned to specific prevention programmes, support of employment, but also subsidies for removing the elimination of the consequences of natural disasters. Manipulated and overpriced government tenders are a specific branch of financial crime.<sup>46</sup>

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As regards **crimes against the financial interests of the EU**, the Unit for Detecting Corruption and Financial Crime opened 4 new cases in 2014 (as opposed to 10 in 2013) that concerned suspicions of abuse of EU funds. Criminal proceedings were initiated in 3 cases and 22 people were accused. One of the cases concerned a government tender in construction which was being cofinanced by EU funds.

The biggest problem in detecting financial crime is the lack of initiative of providers of subsidies, who would report suspicious cases to the police.

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**The legalisation of proceeds from crime** is still a very serious problem of global significance, which has a destabilising effect on the economy. Electronic transfers are an ever more frequent tool. Abuse of the virtual space,

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<sup>45</sup> One example can be the purchase and import of mineral oil, which is sold via chains of companies in the Czech Republic.

<sup>46</sup> The overpricing of a tender, which otherwise followed all legal procedures, however, cannot be considered a sufficient reason to begin criminal proceedings.

especially through the use of Bitcoins, is one of the new trends also present in the Czech Republic.<sup>47</sup>

In 2014, the proceeds from crime seized by the Police of the Czech Republic amounted to a total of **CZK 7 788 611 000**. Of that, a **CZK 3 599 352 761, i.e. 46.2%, were seized by the Unit for Detecting Corruption and Financial Crime**. Receivables and real estate in the Mostecká uhelná case accounted for the largest share (CZK 1 431 478 250).<sup>48</sup>

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The Ministry of Justice drafted a proposal to amend Act No. 279/2003 Coll., on the seizure of proceeds from crime, which stems from the conclusions of the government approved Analysis on Improving the Efficiency of Managing and Selling Seized Proceeds from Crime.<sup>49</sup>

The main aims of the proposed amendment are as follows:

- Clearly define the management of seized property, increase its efficiency and reduce its financial costs;
- Improve the position of victims of crime in securing their property rights claims in criminal proceedings;
- Extend the capabilities of efficient seizure and confiscation of assets from persons against whom criminal proceedings are being conducted.

For the purpose of reaching these aims, the following changes are proposed:

- Extending the terms of sale of property seized during criminal proceedings;

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<sup>47</sup> Bitcoins are an internet based open source currency, which can be used via a so-called P2P (peer to peer) network. It is a fully decentralised currency, which is designed so as to be fully immune from outside influence, destruction, counterfeit, seizure, and flow control.

<sup>48</sup> Seizure of proceeds from crime is very closely linked to so-called financial investigations, which is beginning to be viewed as one of the new methods used by the police when detecting and investigating cases. This highly specialised method provides important information and proof to law enforcement authorities in ever more causes, but also receives positive responses from the damaged, who have their property returned thanks to the efficient work of the police.

<sup>49</sup> This proposal was approved by resolution no. 624 of the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 11 February 2015 and resolution no. 36 of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic.



- Clearly define the position of the administrator of the property seized during criminal proceedings;
- Enable the management of a stake in a business corporation seized during criminal proceedings;
- Widen the conditions for securing the property claims of the victim during criminal proceedings;
- Allow the seizure of a part of the property of the accused for the purpose of serving as a confiscation;
- Allow the seizure of property of the accused for the purpose of serving as a fine;
- Mandatory forfeiture of proceeds from crime.

### Financial Analysis Unit (FAU)

In 2014, the FAU received a total of 3 192 notifications of suspicious trades, which accounted for another year-on-year increase, by a total of 471 cases. On the basis of these notifications, a total of **680 (+133) criminal complaints were filed to law enforcement authorities.**

In 263 (-15) cases, the FAU seized assets as per Sec. 20 of Act No. 235/2008 Coll., on some measures against the legalisation of proceeds from crime and financing of terrorism; the total amount of seized assets was CZK 2 182 million (-CZK822 million). As in previous years, the volume of tax related crimes was significant – the FAU forwarded a total of 1491 (+329) cases of suspicion of breaching tax regulations to the Financial Directorate.

The number of notifications of suspicious trades continued to grow, especially as regards fraud in the field of indirect taxes (VAT).

In recent years, a considerable percentage of predicative crime is constituted by **internet fraud**, especially fraudulent adverts or electronic shops and phishing attacks (committed abroad and in the Czech Republic). A novel phenomenon is that of luring bank details on the basis of fraudulent communication via social networks. Fraud consisting of the delivery of highly believable notifications of changes of bank accounts of business partners (suppliers) have also been recorded.

Furthermore, notifications of suspicious trades have been recorded that concerned the extraction of high amounts of financial means from foreign companies (very often Russian ones), where the Czech Republic served as a

transit country for the transfer of financial means to further, “safe” destinations as regards money laundering (e.g. Cyprus).

In 2014, suspicious trades via virtual currencies continued, such as investments of proceeds from crime into Bitcoins.

### Financial Directorate General (FDG)

In 2014, the FDG continued in performing inspections, especially in the field of fuels and cheap textiles imported from China. Apart from other commodities of interest in the field of VAT evasion (fuels, mobile phones, gold, non-ferrous metals, scrap, etc.) there is an alarming increase in commodities of general consumption – cigarettes, groceries, toilet paper.

In the field of fighting tax evasion, the FDG contributes to drafting legislative measures. Most importantly this concerns the **electronic evidence of sales**, which should considerably reduce VAT evasion in the area of retailing and services. An efficient tool for timely detection of chain VAT fraud can be seen in the proposed obligation of VAT payers to report received and paid taxables. Both of these instruments should come into force in 2016.

The immediate reduction of tax evasion should be brought about in 2015 through the extensive expansion of the reverse charge procedure to other risky commodities.

### Customs Administration of the Czech Republic

In 2014, the Customs Administration initiated criminal proceedings in 868 cases for suspicion of 903 crimes with a total documented customs and tax evasion amounting to CZK 1 825 million. As opposed to the previous year, there was a significant increase in crimes as per Sec. 283 of the Criminal Code (+113 cases), which is a result of the increased number of inspections conducted by the Customs Administration at the Prague Airport in the field of parcel transport.

In 2014, the Customs Administration established the following:

- **Mineral oils:** 556 (+240) cases of failure to comply with customs legislation. The customs and tax evasion amounted to approx. CZK 312 (+42) million. As compared to the previous year, there was a significant increase in cases, but only a slight increase in the total amount of evasions.

- **Tobacco and tobacco products:** 1171 (+412) cases of failure to comply with customs legislation. The customs and tax evasion amounted to approx. CZK 81 (-377) million.
- **Alcohol and alcoholic products:** 50 1034 (+218) cases of failure to comply with customs legislation. The customs and tax evasion amounted to approx. CZK 30 (+14) million.
- **Spirits:** 1009 (+214) cases of failure to comply with customs legislation. The customs and tax evasion amounted to approx. CZK 23.5 (+7.5) million.

The most common way of breaching regulations in the area of excise duty on alcohol was storage and sale of spirits without proof of taxation. Inspections of the Customs Administration revealed handling of unlabelled alcohol and spirits. The increase of the number of tax evasion cases was caused in part by inspections in high risk companies linked to the “methanol case”.

The situation on the illegal market in tobacco and tobacco products in the Czech Republic in 2014 was most frequently manifested as a breach of regulations in the area of excise duty on tobacco products, i.e. storage, sale, and transport of unlabelled cigarettes and tobacco.<sup>51</sup>

*(See also pages 22 and 23 in the tables and graphs section.)*

## Measures

Based on the order of the police president no. 118/2014, a team called “Kobra” is in operation as of 15 June 2014 in the area of tax evasion, with the specific purpose of increasing the efficiency of cooperation in investigating tax crimes and eliminating tax evasion, using existing organisational structures of tax administrators and police organs within the framework of current laws. In practice, it institutes continuous cooperation between the Unit for Detecting Corruption and Financial Crime, the Financial General Directorate and the Customs General Directorate within one team

<sup>50</sup> Sum of spirits and beer.

<sup>51</sup> Alongside regular activities of the Customs Administration, several special inspections took place that were coordinated and organised by the Customs General Directorate.

that functions at a central as well a regional level.<sup>52</sup>

In 2014, Kobra initiated activities as per Sec. 158/3 of the Criminal Procedure Code in a total of 12 cases out of 45. In 14 cases, criminal proceedings were initiated against 76 accused. The investigated damages amounted to CZK 15.7 billion, the total damage was stated to be CZK 4.3 billion and a damage of CZK 295 million was prevented.<sup>53</sup>

The Unit for Detecting Corruption and Financial crime also cooperates with the Czech Trade Inspection and the Financial Analysis Unit of the Ministry of Finance in this field.

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According to the Supreme Prosecutor’s Office it is necessary to promote a basic tenet of criminal policy, which is that **crime should not pay**. For this reason, the issue of results in the field of **detecting, seizing, and forfeiting proceeds from crime** became one of the key priorities of the Supreme Prosecutor’s Office.

In the sense of Sec. § 12(g)2) of Act No. 283/1993 Coll., on public prosecution, as amended, the Supreme Public Prosecutor decided to request a **special report on the solution to issues related to detecting, seizing, and forfeiting proceeds from crime**. The main purpose of the report was to assess current practice and support activities of the Public Prosecutor’s Office in seizing proceeds from

<sup>52</sup> Whilst the police and the customs administration are an armed force and have investigative and operative powers, in the field of tax crimes the financial administration can be much more efficient in seizing proceeds from crime. Their mutual cooperation and coordination of procedures during the investigation of cases can bring decisive results not only in terms of speed of detection and elimination of tax crime, but also in terms of the state budget. In terms of punishing the perpetrators, asset forfeiture is as important as incarceration.

<sup>53</sup> In October 2014, Kobra operated in 40 places across the Czech Republic. A total of 6 people were accused of tax evasion. The accused were allegedly supposed to, after a mutual agreement, intending to fictitiously declare delivery of cigarettes and alcohol from the Czech Republic to other EU member states. Nevertheless, these goods were never exported and were allegedly sold in the Czech Republic. For this purpose, the accused allegedly founded several companies which they either controlled or had allies within them. According to the conclusions of Kobra members the total damage caused by tax evasion in this case amounted to CZK 252 796 995. The operation, which lasted for 3 days and took place in the Czech Republic, involved more than 600 Kobra members. The operation was also attended by departments of the Army of the Czech Republic and the Military Police, providing logistics support.

crime, i.e. to encourage a systematic approach of the Public Prosecutor's Office in this field.

The declared goal of the special report has been fulfilled. Key recommendations have been formulated for public prosecutors.

Of the many still remaining deficiencies in the legal framework concerning detecting, seizing, and forfeiting proceeds from crime, the Supreme Prosecutor's Office considers it most important to **establish a functioning central register of bank (and possibly) other accounts** and to **simplify the robust, i.e. complicated legal framework of seizing proceeds from crime in criminal proceedings**. It will continue in **developing informal networks of public prosecutors – specialists in the field of detecting, seizing, and forfeiting proceeds from crime.**<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> The Government Resolution no. 1099/2014 approved the Proposal of legislative amendments, which will enable the institution of a central register of bank accounts, managed by the Czech National Bank. The register should be in operation as of January 2016.

### 2.2.2.1 Intellectual Property (IPR)

In 2014, i.e. for the fifth year in a row, the Czech Republic was not placed on the list of countries that tolerate IPR infringements by the government of the USA. The listings are based on the assessments by the Office of the US Trade Representative (Special 301 Report – Watch List).

The development in the field of IPR has not been exceptional in 2014. A slight increase was recorded with regards to breaching copyrights and associated rights, as well as rights to databases (+5%). The clear-up rate remains high. On the contrary, recorded damages have decreased (36 %).

The slight increase is linked to so-called internet piracy, which includes unauthorised sharing and downloading of copyrighted works, which is popular especially among younger perpetrators.

Finally, the trend of uploading illegal files to data storage sites, enabling the sharing of these files, continued. An important phenomenon is the transfer of IPR crimes into the realm of cyberspace. Unauthorised sharing (via peer-to-peer networks) of music files, audiovisual works or software is on the increase.

This development is mentioned in the government strategy dealing with the internet, called **Digital Czechia 2.0**, which aims primarily to improve the offer of legal digital film and music works and electronic books online.

An increase was also recorded in breaches of trademark rights and other labels (+15%), although the clear-up rate has also increased, but also the damages. The growing trend is linked to the increased number of inspections and the introduction of special short-term activities of the Police of the Czech Republic, in cooperation with the Customs Administration, the Czech Trade Inspection, and other government authorities.

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In 2014, customs authorities seized a total of 1 485 154 products whose sale caused the IPR owners damages of over CZK 1.5 billion. In comparison to 2013, the total number as well as the value of seized goods decreased.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>55</sup> Goods most frequently seized were, similarly to previous years, textiles, footwear, CDs and DVDs. The growing trend of seized chemists' products also continued (shampoos, washing liquids). In the field of customs proceedings, most

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In 2014, the Ministry of Industry and Trade continued to run the Interministerial Committee for Combating Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights. The Operational Programme of the committee for the years 2014 – 2016 aims at enhancing cooperation with IPR rights owners and improving education and prevention in the field of IPR rights protection. As a novelty, mutual information sharing by members of the committee on the activities of the EU in this field has been introduced, with the purpose of their better implementation and assessment within the Czech Republic.

Furthermore, attention was focused on the field of prevention and education, as well as to complying with the interdiction to use deceitful market practices as per Sec. 5 (2) of Act No. 634/1992 Coll., on consumer protection. A number of educational activities for the wider public took place.

The Czech Trade Inspection carried out a higher number of inspections targeting the prohibition of offering, selling, and storing goods or services breaching certain IPR rights, a total of 1994 in 2014. The number of inspections that detected a breach of these regulations and resulted in seizing products rose to 733 (+19.4%). The number of seized goods rose significantly (65 575 pieces, +157%). The largest share of seized goods was constituted by textiles (44 574 pieces) and audio-video works and computer games (10 096 pieces).

According to the Ministry of Culture, amendments to Act No. 64/2014 Coll., on IPR Rights that came into force in 2014 have no impact on internal security and public order in the Czech Republic.

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**The Industrial Property Office** continued in running the **Information System for Enforcing IPR Rights** ([www.dusevniivlastnictvi.cz](http://www.dusevniivlastnictvi.cz)) in 2014 in providing expert opinions and researches on the state of industrial rights which the Police of the Czech Republic enforced during criminal proceedings.

frequently seized goods were mobile phones and their spare parts, toys, including electronic ones, clothing and clothing accessories (ties, hats, handkerchiefs, gloves, scarves, belts and buckles), sports footwear, handbags and purses, watches, medicaments, including steroids and contraception.

It organised a number of expert seminars on the subject of compliance with and enforcement of these rights, which were especially tailored to the

needs of customs authorities and dealt with practical search for information in databases of industrial rights.

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### 2.2.2.2 Measures Against Consumer Fraud

The Czech Trade Inspection carried out a total of 269 (-50) inspections in the area of consumer loans in 2014. Infringements of Act No. 145/2010 Coll., on consumer loans, were found during 142 (-11) inspections.

In 2014, a committee was established in order to clarify the calculation of the annual percentage rate charged on consumer loans and to ensure uniform procedures for compliance with obligations stipulated in Act No. 145/2010 Coll., on consumer loans. Members of the Czech Trade Inspection, as well as other government bodies, took part in the committee. The outcome of the

committee's meeting was a set of exemplary calculations of the annual percentage rate charged on a consumer loan. The examples are available on [www.coi.cz](http://www.coi.cz).

The amendment to Act No. 145/2010 Coll., on consumer loans, has tightened the conditions for offering or mediating consumer loans and expanded the supervisory powers of the Czech Trade Inspection. The situation improved specifically in the field of using paid telephone numbers to provide consumer loans, as only one such case was detected in 2014.

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### 2.2.2.3 Measures to Prevent the Illegal Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

In 2014, the Czech Trade Inspection detected 2 cases of infringement of Sec. 15 (1) of Act No. 307/2013 Coll., on compulsory labelling of spirits. In accordance with Sec. 60(a) of Act No. 455/1991 Coll., on trade, intense inspections were also carried out in 2014 by Trade Offices to check compliance with the obligation to label

spirits as per Act No. 307/2013 Coll., on compulsory labelling of spirits. Trade Offices carried out more than 3 415 inspections and issued 476 sanctions amounting to CZK 715 800. A total of 59 cases of unauthorised trading were detected, and 9 trade licences revoked (as per the Information System of the Trade Register).

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### 2.2.2.4 Environmental Crime

The number of **environmental crimes** showed a more than 7.5% increase in 2014 as compared to 2013. Poaching (39.5%) animal abuse (32%) were the most frequent crimes in this category.

#### Poaching, Illegal Hunting, and Intentional Poisoning of Wild Animals

Poaching and illegal hunting or other forms of killing wild animals is a long-term problem. These crimes saw an increase again in 2014 (+9%). At the same time, owing to the necessity of establishing a caused damage, these crimes are often considered as misdemeanours, even though

the perpetrators act in a very sophisticated manner, often in organised groups and using weapons and forbidden forms of hunting.

Cases of illegal hunting and killing wild animals, including poaching, are only seldom cleared-up by law enforcement authorities. (Not a single case of poisoning wild animals has been solved as of yet, and the situation hasn't improved in 2014.) Sadly, 2014 hasn't brought any new solutions to the problem of lack of finances needed for toxicological analyses, although the issue is a pressing one, since these analyses are the key, according to the Police of the Czech Republic, to initiating successful

criminal proceedings. The Ministry of Environment managed to secure CZK 40 000, which it made available for the purpose of carrying out analyses of wild animals poisoned with carbofuran. The final report, which was submitted in December 2014, included an overview of cases for the period October 2013 – November 2014, and provided an overall review for the reporting period.

The Czech Republic continues to struggle with a problem which is proving difficult to solve in the long-term – the hunting of protected animals for the purpose of their breeding or their sale to breeders in the Czech Republic and abroad and for the purposes of taxidermy. The Police of the Czech Republic and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate investigated a number of such cases in recent years.

### **Illegal Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna**

Trade in endangered species of flora and fauna is covered by the CITES international convention, which is binding for the Czech Republic, EU regulations, and Act No. 100/2004 Coll., on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora (law on trade in endangered species).

Illegal trade in endangered species of flora and fauna has an organised character and is often linked to other forms of crime (tax evasion, document forgery, fraud, public health threats, animal abuse). A big risk is posed by the possibility of import of dangerous diseases through the illegal import of animals or dangerous animals. The detection of these crimes requires a high level of biological knowledge and information exchange is key during investigations, as well as speedy communication and sharing of competencies among various authorities. Apart from expert knowledge and cooperation at the national level, international judicial cooperation is also necessary.

According to the Ministry of Environment, the Czech Republic is among the countries with the highest number of breeders of exotic animals – approx. 18 000 subjects are reported to be dealing with CITES specimens<sup>56</sup> and the Czech Environmental Inspectorate carries out approx. 400 inspections every year.

Recently, serious cases are being investigated in the Czech Republic concerning illegal trade in

rhino horns, tiger bones, and ebony, which display characteristics of international organised crime and are linked to activities of the Vietnamese community. The Czech Republic is currently considered one of the 4 key countries (alongside South Africa, Mozambique, and Vietnam) that participate most significantly in the global illegal trade in rhino horns. Serious cases have been detected thanks mainly to the proactive approach and initiative of a limited number of employees of relevant government authorities. The abovementioned cases are under global scrutiny and the efforts of the Czech Republic in its efforts regarding wildlife crime are highly praised internationally.

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In 2014, the Czech Republic had a total of 108 (+3) cases of breach or the suspicion of breaching regulations regarding the protection of endangered flora and fauna falling under the CITES convention. Most cases (93) were uncovered by the Customs Authority at the Prague Airport.<sup>57</sup>

### **Air Pollution**

Illegal burning of household waste in domestic firing installations is a serious problem, as well as incorrect operation of domestic fossil fuels installations. Act No. 201/2012 Coll., on the protection of air, as amended, already contains several indirect tools to solve the critical situation regarding the management of local firing installations in households. However, the act does not allow the direct inspection of firing installations in households by air protection

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<sup>57</sup> One of the important cases was operation OSSEUS, targeting illegal trade in trophies and CITES specimens in the Czech Republic and Germany. Law enforcement authorities succeeded in significantly curbing the activities of a highly organised Asian criminal group operating in all of Europe. In the course of the operation, the statute of the Prague Airport was confirmed as that of main international hub for the transport of endangered specimens to Asia, which is currently the number one destination for such items. This proves that, sadly, the Czech Republic is among the top countries in the world as concerns illegal trading in the most endangered species of fauna, i.e. rhinos, elephants, and tigers. It is a highly sophisticated form of crime, which is linked to other crimes, e.g. drugs and weapons. Thanks to these cases, the Czech Republic is currently considered a country with a very active approach towards wildlife crime, and is internationally praised for its efforts. The abovementioned cases were detected thanks to very good cooperation between the Customs Administration, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, and the Police of the Czech Republic.

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<sup>56</sup> According to the CITES Register, managed by the Ministry of Environment. In comparison, Hungary reports only 2 500 such subjects, and Portugal 300.

authorities. The Ministry of Environment is therefore proposing amendments to the act, which should, under clearly defined and strict conditions, allow the inspection of these installations in households in certain problematic cases.

## Waste Management

From the point of view of waste management crime, two main fields can be identified:

- Illegal cross border transport of waste: no serious cases were recorded in 2014.
- Illegal handling of waste generated on Czech territory: the Czech Environmental Inspectorate recorded 3 (-2) criminal complaints.
- Illegal handling of waste during collection and purchase of scrap metals: an increasing number of metal thefts and the consequent illegal actions by some collectors when purchasing them.

A relatively new phenomenon is one where certain subjects perform demolitions in former industrial facilities and, having received payment for the rendered service, continue to resell some of the industrial waste (metal). All the other waste incurred by the demolition is left behind without any adequate safety measures preventing their leak into the environment.

A very serious problem, which bears the characteristics of a crime, is the taking over of considerable amounts of waste by companies who consequently do not communicate with inspection authorities. According to the Czech Environmental Inspectorate, it is evident that tens of thousands of tonnes of dangerous waste are being intentionally taken over by companies for prices which cannot guarantee their adequate disposal in accordance with the law. After these companies are fined and their licences revoked, new companies are founded and the process is repeated. The government thus has no control over where these tens of thousands of tonnes of dangerous waste are being dumped. There is a real risk of illegal dangerous waste dumps. Another possibility is that part of this dangerous waste never existed and that the process was part of a tax evasion scheme. The Czech Environmental Inspectorate filed several criminal complaints.

## Forest Protection

According to the Ministry of Environment, the situation regarding forest protection has

reached a significantly more serious level in comparison to previous years.

Cases of **illegal logging** have been recorded, breaching Act No. 289/1995 Coll., on forest, as amended<sup>58</sup>, as well as the anonymous cutting of trees and especially logging carried out as part of the purchase and resale of forests. In the past three years, the trend of illegal logging has gained historic proportions. There are also records of perpetrators issuing threats to Czech Environmental Inspectorate employees.

## Measures

The Ministry of Environment strives to ensure better cooperation of all stakeholders (Police of the Czech Republic, Czech Environmental Inspectorate, State Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture, State Veterinary Administration, NGOs – Czech Moravian Gamekeepers' Union etc.) and better effectiveness in handling detected cases (workshops, training sessions etc.), which are organised, for example, by the Permanent Special CITES Working Group. The Police of the Czech Republic has a methodology for investigating environmental crimes, which is regularly updated and amended.

Every year, the Czech Environmental Inspectorate and the MoI organise an annual educational seminar aimed at investigating illegal trade in endangered species for police officers, customs officers, and inspectors.

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On 1 December 2014 Act No. 229/2014 Coll., amending Act No. 185/2001 Coll., on waste, as amended, came into force. The amendment complemented Sec. 78 (4) b) of the act, giving regional administrations the authority to withdraw licences of establishments buying scrap metal in cases where the management has breached regulations. The aim of the amendment is to limit illegal resale of scrap metals, and thus to limit the theft of metals.

After assessing the level of implementation of the Directive 2008/99/ES of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of the environment through criminal law, the Ministry of Justice started to draft an amendment of the Criminal Code, which should modify the definitions of certain crimes in the field of environmental crime. Specifically, illegal

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<sup>58</sup> The act concerns logging of young trees and logging beyond an assigned quota.

production and handling of radioactive substances should be criminalised, as per Sec. 281 of the Criminal Code, as well as the illegal production and handling of nuclear material as per Sec. 282 of the Criminal Code, and the illegal production and handling of substances damaging the ozone layer as per Sec. 298(a) of the Criminal Code, even if they were committed as a result of gross negligence (until recently, these crimes could only have been committed intentionally). Furthermore, the amendment proposes that the allusion to the scale of environmental crimes be left out of Sec. 298(a) of the Criminal Code, as the directive does not distinguish between various scales of environmental crimes. This amendment was submitted to the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 14 November 2014.

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The Operational Programme Environment is one of the funding programmes allowing the Czech Republic to use EU funds for the purposes of protecting and improving the quality of its environment. It was the second largest operational programme in the Czech Republic between 2007 and 2013.

The programme is aimed at improving the quality of the environment and thus of the citizens. It also contributes to improving the air, water, and soil, it deals with the issue of waste management and industrial pollution, and supports care of landscape and employs renewable resources to build infrastructures for environmental education.

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## 2.2.3 Corruption

In 2014, the Czech Republic held 53<sup>rd</sup> place with a total of 51 points in the global ranking of the perceived level of corruption<sup>59</sup> (set up annually by Transparency International). This is a similar result to that of Slovakia (54<sup>th</sup> place with 50 points) or Georgia (50<sup>th</sup> place with 52 points). The Czech Republic moved up 4 places in comparison to the previous year. Within the EU it ranked among countries with a lower transparency coefficient of the government sector. Of the 31 Western European countries (EU MS + Norway, Switzerland, and Iceland) it ranks 25<sup>th</sup>.

The level of corruption in the Czech Republic is considered by its citizens to be one of the worst in Europe. According to information obtained by Ernst & Young, almost 2/3 of managers in the Czech Republic (63%) are willing to gain or keep a government tender via illegitimate practices.<sup>60</sup>

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In 2014, a total of 122 (-70) cases of bribery were recorded (as per Sec. 331-333 of the Criminal Code), alongside 107 (+61) cases of abuse of power by an official (as per Sec. 329 of the Criminal Code) TZ) and 2 cases (-2) of obstruction official duties (as per Sec. 330 of the Criminal Code).

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According to the Unit for Detecting Organised Crime of the Police of the Czech Republic, 2014 saw further **strengthening of the significance of corruption as one of the most relevant factors contributing to organised crime**. The monitored organised criminal groups systematically sought contacts in government bodies with the aim of infiltrating government decision-making structures. Investigations carried out in 2014 confirmed the rising number of infiltrations of government bodies, including at higher levels.

## Measures

All relevant documents concerning corruption can be found on [www.korupce.cz](http://www.korupce.cz).

In 2014, anti-corruption policies were implemented on the basis of the Government Strategy to Fight Corruption for the Years 2013 to 2014 (Government Resolution no. 39/2013). The government policy to fight corruption is centred around 4 topics:

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<sup>59</sup> The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) ranks countries according to the level of perceived corruption in the public sector, using a scale of 0-100, where 100 indicates a country almost free of corruption. This year's index ranked a 175 countries.

<sup>60</sup> Article "Survey of Corruption: Czech Companies Garner Clientelism" of 14 July 2014, published in the daily E15.cz – the whole article appeared on the website BusinessInfo.cz.



- An efficient and independent legislative branch;
- A transparent and open access to information;
- Efficient management of government funds, and
- The development of civil society.

With the help of strategic materials of the government, a number of successes have been attained in the fight against corruption. Nevertheless, these successes have yet to lead to a change within society and the perception of corruption.

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In 2014, Act No. 234/2014 Coll., on civil service, came into force, thereby fulfilling one of the priority tasks contained in the anti-corruption strategy. The act will be in effect as of 1 January 2015, and will replace Act No. 218/2002 Coll., on the service of government employees in government bodies and on the reimbursement of these employees.<sup>61</sup>

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In October 2014, the transpositional amendment of Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on the free access to information, as amended, was submitted to the government (in accordance with the anti-corruption strategy Action Plan for the year 2015, approved by Government Resolution no. 1057/2014 and the Directive 2013/37/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013, which amends Directive 2003/98/ES on the repeated use of information of the public sector). The proposed changes should lead to a more efficient system of publishing information from the public sector and their repeated use. The Government Strategy to Fight Corruption for the Years 2015 – 2017 also remembers this task, as well as its Action Plan for the year 2015 (see below).<sup>62</sup>

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The Government Strategy on the Fight Against Corruption for the Years 2015 – 2017

<sup>61</sup> The implementing regulations to this law were adopted by Government Regulation no. 302/2014 Coll., on the catalogue of administrative tasks, Government Regulation no. 304/2014 Coll., on the reimbursement of government employees and Government Regulation no. 4/2015, which stipulates the fields of service.

<sup>62</sup> Currently, the proposed amendment is being discussed by the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

and its Action Plan for the year 2015 were approved by Government Resolution no. 1057/2014. The body responsible for coordinating the implementation of these documents is the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. The MoI has a total of 17 tasks within these documents, including, for example, preparing a regulation to make more transparent the financing of political parties, implementing legal regulations relating to the act on civil service, making more transparent the process of creating legal regulations and drafting an analysis on the subject of corruption in sports.

On 21 October 2014, the Government Council for Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption met for the first time. The Council was established on 30 July 2014 by Government Resolution no. 629 and its tasks include, inter alia, assessing the fight against corruption, submitting proposals of anti-corruption measures to the government, or participating in the preparation of the government's anti-corruption strategic documents. The chair of the Council is the minister for human rights, equal opportunities, and legislature, one of the deputy chairs is the minister of the interior. During its first meeting, the Council talked about the abovementioned documents and recommended their approval by the government.

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Within the proposed amendment of the Criminal Code there are several requests relating to the recommendations given to the Czech Republic by GRECO during the third round of mutual evaluations in 2011. The proposal is to allow the prosecution of those who ask for a bribe or accept a bribe in return for exercising influence on a public official, but also of those who are willing to accept the promise of a bribe for such actions.<sup>63</sup>

### Financial Support of Anti-Corruption Projects

Every year, the MoI issues a call for proposals within its **grant programme "Prevention of Corrupt Behaviour"**. The programme serves to support various projects of NGOs that deal systematically with the fight against corruption but also inform the public about the characteristics, risks, and

<sup>63</sup> This proposal was submitted to the Parliament of the Czech Republic on 14 November 2014, where it is currently being discussed.

manifestations of corruption, and strengthen the anti-corruption stances within society, create advisory networks for citizens who have come across corruption and want to take steps to prevent it in the future, etc. For 2014, a total of 7 projects have been approved from 7 NGOs, with a total value of CZK 3.5 million.

## **International Cooperation**

**The Open Government Partnership (OGP)** is an international initiative of the government of the USA supporting openness, transparency, and anti-corruption activities. The aim of the initiative is to obtain specific commitments from participating governments to foster budgetary transparency, increase citizens' participation, fight corruption and opt for more open, effective, and accountable institutions.<sup>64</sup>

The Czech Republic is a member of the **Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO)** of the Council of Europe. The main aim of this group is to monitor the implementation of specific anti-corruption instruments of the Council of Europe, especially the Council of Europe's Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and its Civil Law Convention on Corruption. In 2013, GRECO approved the evaluation report in which it again reprimands the Czech Republic for inadequate legislation in the field of transparency of financing of political parties and political campaigns.

*(See also page 24 in the tables and graphs section.)*

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<sup>64</sup> The accession to the OGP was decided by Government Resolution no. 691 of 14 September 2011.

## 2.2.4 Violent Crime

Crimes recorded:

16 949 (-1 740, -9.3%)

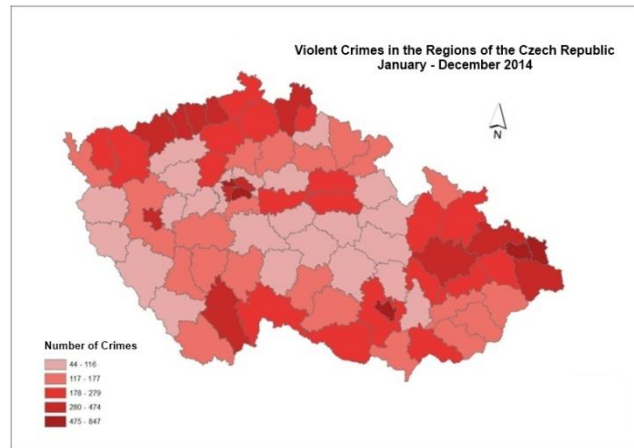
Crimes cleared up:

11 912 (-937, -6.6%)

Clear-up rate: 70.3%

Number of prosecuted and investigated persons:

12 196 (-937, -7.13%)



As compared to 2013, violent crime dropped by 9.3% in 2014. A total of 16 949 (-1 740) violent crimes were recorded.

In terms of territorial distribution, and after recalculation of violent crime per 10 000 inhabitants, the most burdened regions in 2014 were Ústecký and Liberecký (both with 23 cases per 10 000 inhabitants), followed by Moravia-Silesia (21 cases) and Karlovarský (20 cases). On the contrary, the inhabitants of Pardubický (10 cases), Vysočina a Zlínský (both 11 cases) were least hit by violent crime.

The clear-up rate has reached its highest in the last 10 years, with a total of 70.3% recorded violent crimes having been cleared up.

A total of 160 (-22, -12.1%) **murders** were committed, of which 91.3% were cleared up. The number of contract murders fell dramatically (6 in 2013, 1 in 2014). A similar trend is observed with regards to murders motivated by personal relationships (103 in 2013, 78 in 2014). On the contrary, the number of robbery murders increased (11 in 2013, 15 in 2014).

As in the last three years, a high number of murders and attempts at murders has been committed in a brutal manner on seniors, parents, and grandparents. The perpetrators are often repeat offenders and are usually related to their victims. In most cases, the spontaneous motive is the obtaining of cash for the purpose of buying drugs and covering debts or other financial obligations.

The number of **robberies** dropped in comparison to the previous year, to a total of 2 500 (-461, -18.4%) cases, of which 56% were cleared. There is an ongoing trend of street robberies, when the perpetrators target lonely pedestrians, primarily women and the elderly, whom they can outnumber and outperform physically. Youths constitute another target group. A typical “easy target” is often found near

casinos and petrol stations. Since 2011, robberies in jewellery shops have been on the rise. These robberies are usually committed by groups of perpetrators with assigned tasks. Similarly to casinos and petrol stations, the number of people in these establishments is minimal and the shops are not sufficiently secured during opening hours.

The year 2014 saw the appearance of a new trend – sending blackmail via letters contaminated with various CBRN substances to government institutions, politicians or financially opulent companies and individuals. The perpetrators demand the transfer of financial means.

*(See also page 26 in the tables and graphs section.)*

### Measures

The research project titled “Violent Sexual Crime in the Czech Republic with a Focus on its Current Forms, on Increasing its Detection and the Punishment of its Perpetrators and on the Possibilities of Protecting the Public from Sexually Motivated Violence” should be finalised at the end of 2015 (VG20122014084). The project is undertaken by a team of experts from the IKSP. In 2014, the core of the research undertaken at the institute consisted of a thorough analysis of criminal cases dealing with 700 people (perpetrators of rape). Judicial databases show that the most frequent sentence for sexual crimes is incarceration. The imprisonment sentence is most often issued for a period of 1 to 5 years. Protective measures in the form of treatment or secured detention are issued to roughly 40 perpetrators every year.

A public opinion poll showed that Czech the approach of Czechs towards perpetrators of sexual crimes is of a punitive nature.

Nevertheless, this stance is in no way extreme. The outcomes of the analysis were published at the end of 2014 in a comprehensive format (Blatníková, Š., Faridová, P., Zeman, P.: *Násilná sexuální kriminalita – téma pro experty*

*i veřejnost. IKSP: Praha 2014, see also <http://ok.cz/iksp/docs/418.pdf>).*

*(For further measures see chapter 3.2 Crime Prevention.)*

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## 2.2.5 Vice Crime

Crimes recorded:

2 205 (+96, +4.6%)

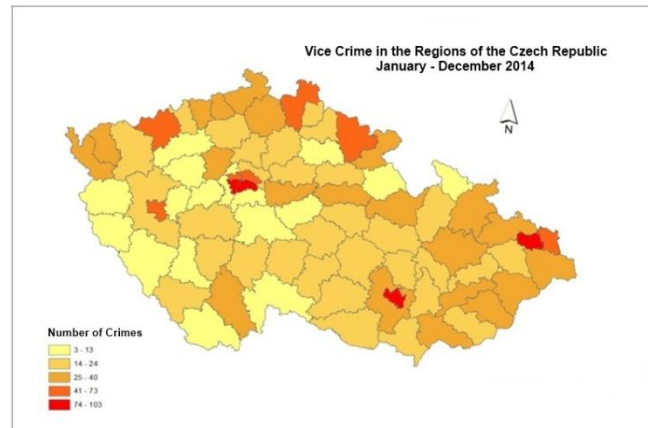
Crimes cleared up:

1 552 (+96, +4.6%)

Clear-up rate: 70.3% (-0.4%)

Number of prosecuted and investigated persons:

1 338 (+3, +0.2 %)



In 2014, a total of 2 205 (+96, +4.6%) vice crimes were recorded,<sup>65</sup> which is the highest number in the last 10 years. A total of 1 552 (+96) crimes were cleared up, i.e. 70.3%. The clear-up rate decreased by 0.4%.

The increase of recorded vice crime was caused mainly by the higher number of **rapes**, which were also the most frequent vice crime (669 cases). The number of **sexual abuse cases**, usually the dominating vice crime, has dropped to 8.6%.

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Vice crime perpetrated by means of modern information and communication technologies (internet – social networks, mobile phones) is still prevalent.<sup>66</sup> The reason is the underestimation of the virtual world of the internet, where any information ceases to be the property of its authors and becomes uncontrollable.

*(See also page 36 in the tables and graphs section.)*

## Measures

To improve the quality of work in the field of detecting and investigating rape and sexual abuse, the Regional Police Directorate in Liberec concluded a contract on cooperation with the hospital in Česká Lípa, where the department of gynaecological will be providing the required level of specialised gynaecological examinations to victims of vice crime – not only in terms of medical service, but also in terms of the approach of the medical staff. The Regional Police Directorate in the Central Bohemian region concluded a similar contract with all medical establishments in the region that have gynaecological departments. A hospital that has expressed interest in this form of cooperation is the Motol Hospital in Prague. Similar contracts have been in existence since 2013 between the Regional Police Department in Prague and the Podolí Hospital in Prague.

*(For further measures see especially chapter 2.2.7.2 Trafficking in Human Beings.)*

<sup>65</sup> As per police statistics, the vice crime category includes mainly those offences that are (or could be) perpetuated with a sexual context. The experts point to a high latency of vice crime. The share of vice crime in total crime is negligible in terms of figures (roughly 0.7%), although the injury caused is immeasurable.

<sup>66</sup> The amendment of the Criminal Code takes this trend into account under Sec. **186 sexual pressure**.

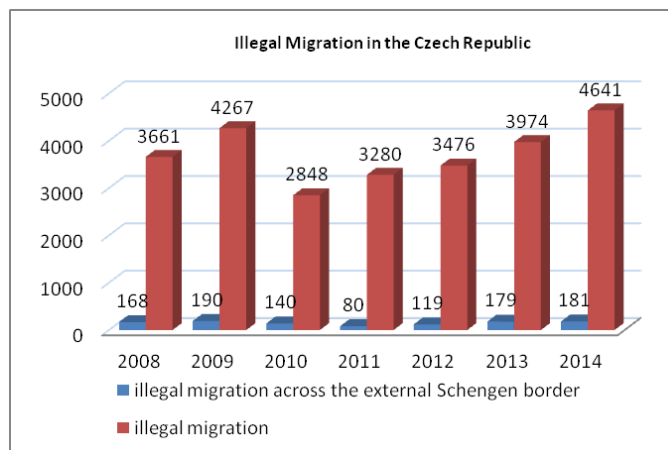
## 2.2.6 Illegal Migration

Total number of persons identified as illegal immigrants in the Czech Republic: 4 822 (+669, +16.1%)

Of which 632 persons (i.e. 13.1%) were identified as repeated illegal immigrants.

A total of 161 persons (i.e. 3.3%) had irregular documents.

A total of 131 persons were found to be facilitating illegal migration.



In 2014, a total of 4 822 (+669, +16.1%) individuals were apprehended during illegal migration<sup>67</sup> within the Czech Republic.<sup>68</sup>

### Illegal Migration across the External Schengen Border

In 2014, 181 persons were reported by way of the “Událost” information system as migrating illegally across the external Schengen border of the Czech Republic. Of that number, 167 were apprehended upon entry into the Czech Republic and 14 persons upon leaving the country. A total of 169 persons were detected at the airport in Prague, 7 persons at the airport in Pardubice, and 5 persons at the airport in Brno.<sup>69</sup>

Out of the abovementioned total number, 49 persons (i.e. 26%) presented an irregular travel document.<sup>70</sup>

### Illegal Residence

In the category of **illegal residence**, a total of 4 641 **foreigners** have been apprehended in 2014.<sup>71</sup> The nationals of Ukraine were the most numerous (1020 persons, i.e. 22.0% of the total number). They were followed by nationals of Kuwait (450 persons), Libya (406 persons), Russia (381 persons), and Vietnam (301 persons).<sup>72</sup>

A total of 114 (i.e. 2.5% of the total number of illegal residents) persons presented an irregular travel document while residing illegally in the Czech Republic. Most often, these were nationals of Ukraine (65 persons) and Syria (12 persons). A total of 122 irregular documents were

<sup>67</sup> As of 2008, two basic categories of illegal migration are monitored in the Czech Republic: **1) Illegal crossing of the external Schengen border of the Czech Republic**, i.e. persons who illegally cross or tried to cross the external Schengen border (airports) in the Czech Republic (foreigners and Czech citizens). **2) Illegal residence**, i.e. foreigners found to be residing illegally in the Czech Republic, including within the transit areas at airports.

<sup>68</sup> A significant drop in illegal immigration in 2010 (see the graph above) is attributed to the economic crisis, which caused an overall drop in migration (legal and illegal) in the Czech Republic in that year.

<sup>69</sup> These were mainly nationals of Russia (54 persons), refugees as per the 1951 convention (20 persons, mainly travelling from the UK without valid visas), Ukraine (15 persons), Afghanistan (10 persons), Ghana and Turkey (both 7 persons). A total of 4 EU citizens have been found crossing the external Schengen border illegally.

<sup>70</sup> Out of a total of 52 irregular travel documents, there were 39 passports and 13 IDs. There were 7 “Pakistani” documents and 7 “Ghanaian” documents, and 6 “Polish” documents.

<sup>71</sup> Of these, 4 493 persons (i.e. 96.6%) were apprehended by Czech law enforcement authorities, mostly during inspections (43%), although 40% presented themselves voluntarily and 17% were apprehended upon leaving the Czech Republic via the external Schengen border (i.e. at an international airport).

<sup>72</sup> As compared to the previous year, a significant change can be observed in cases where foreigners present themselves at the Alien Police or the Asylum and Migration Department of the Police of the Czech Republic with a view to solving their illegal residence situation (1 807 persons, +414 persons, i.e. +29.7%). This increase is significant as of 2012, and is caused mainly by nationals of Libya, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, whose nationals usually reside in the Czech Republic for the purpose of taking spa procedures, and present themselves voluntarily to solve their situation once their tourist visas expire. Many foreigners apply for international protection as asylum seekers after their visas expire. Others present themselves immediately after crossing the borders illegally. A total of 165 foreigners who applied for asylum were found to be staying in the Czech Republic illegally. These were most often nationals of Ukraine (62 persons), Cuba (22 persons), and Syria (24 persons). Searches of information systems found 117 persons to be repeat appliers for international protection in the Czech Republic, with asylum having been previously refused.

found (87 IDs and 35 passports). In most cases, documents from EU countries have been forged, (106), where those from Romania (36), Bulgaria (16), Slovakia (11), and Latvia (10) being most frequent.

The question of irregular documents was one of the most pressing ones in 2014 also from the point of view of the involvement of organised criminal groups.

*(For further information see chapters 2.2.7 Organised Crime and 2.2.8 Terrorism.)*

### **Decisions on Administrative Expulsion**

In 2014, a total of **2 149 foreigners holding a final administrative expulsion decision** were recorded in the CIS information system, which an increase by 129 persons (+6.4%) as compared to the previous year. Traditionally, the most numerous group of foreigners represented in this category were nationals of Ukraine (815 persons; -59 persons, -6.8%). They were followed by nationals of Libya, where a significant increase was recorded (228 persons; +146 persons, +178%) and those of Vietnam (152 persons; -28 persons, -15.6%), Kuwait (143 persons; +37 persons, +34.9%) and Russia (122 persons; +16 persons, +15.1%). In total, these top 5 nationalities constituted almost **70% of all persons issued a final administrative expulsion decision** in 2014. The numbers increased significantly in the cases of nationals of Libya, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. These were usually spa guests who had overstayed their visa. In the case of these people, it was established that they are fully aware of falling into an illegal situation.

### **Decision on the Obligation to Leave the Territory**

In the follow-up to the so-called return directive, the decision on the obligation to leave the territory of the Czech Republic was introduced as a new instrument in 2011. Previously, such persons would be issued a decision of administrative expulsion. A total of **329 decisions on the obligation to leave the territory of the Czech Republic** were issued in 2014. Compared to the previous year, were 137 more decisions, constituting a significant increase by 71.4%.

### **Facilitating Illegal Migration**

In 2014, the Regional Directorates of the Police of the Czech Republic investigated a total

of **131 persons facilitating illegal migration**. Most of them were Czech nationals (80 persons), followed by nationals of Vietnam (22 persons) and Ukraine (11 persons). The most frequent forms of facilitating illegal residence were the procurement of various fake confirmations (50 persons) such as, for example, confirmations of accommodation or permission to work, followed by fraudulent marriage (28 persons) or fraudulent invitations to the country (24 persons).

### **Illegal Migration and Organised Crime**

According to the Unit for Detecting Organised Crime, the Czech Republic remains a transit country within the EU. Although the number of detained migrants and international asylum seekers (refugees from Syria and Ukraine) increased in 2014, most illegal migrants are aiming for Germany, France, the UK, and Scandinavian countries.

It has been confirmed in the course of 2014 that foreign organised crime groups in the Czech Republic are involved in the production and distribution of fake or falsified identification documents, which are intended for the legalisation of illegal immigrants already on the territory of the EU, or are sent to third countries in order to help illegal migrants gain access to the EU.

Abuses of visa and immigration policies continue to pose problems. Criminal activity in this area often adapts to current events and responds to the measures of government authorities. Visas are obtained fraudulently for the purpose of studying, working, business, or family reunification.

Well organised groups involved in the abovementioned criminal activities are usually linked to organisers in other European countries and in the migrants' home countries. These groups provide full service to migrants, with the promise of obtaining a genuine resident status in the Czech Republic or other EU countries. They take charge of recruiting candidates, processing documents at home and abroad, and the obtaining of a fraudulent visa. In the Czech Republic, they provide accommodation, legal services, assistance with administrative procedures, validation and procurement of necessary documents (false or fraudulently obtained) or the transfer to other European countries. This form of illegal migration is dominated primarily by nationals of Vietnam, but also by nationals of Arab countries, Ukraine, and other post-Soviet countries.

(For statistical data see page 27 in the tables and graphs section.)

## Measures

Complete information on the measures in the area of migration can be found in the **Report on the Situation in the Area of Migration and Alien Integration in the Czech Republic in 2014**.

### Readmission Policy

In 2014, the MoI continued negotiating bilateral readmission agreements with Uzbekistan (the negotiations were approved by Government Resolution no. 95/2014) and Mongolia (with Mongolian comments currently being awaited) as well as EU readmission agreements. In 2014 these concerned primarily Belorussia and Tunisia.

Furthermore, the MoI took part in preparing the meetings of joint readmission committees, which take place regularly among all participating states. A MoI representative attended a joint readmission committee in Georgia. The Czech Republic was actively involved in promoting the signature of the implementing protocol to the EU readmission agreement with Georgia. Georgia confirmed its readiness to sign the protocol, and its signature is expected to take place in 2105.

### Migration Policy

**Special migration projects for specific target groups** are considered appropriate instruments for managing migration of third-country nationals into the Czech Republic. These projects are formed and implemented by the MoI in cooperation with other relevant government bodies. The objective of these projects is to speed up the migration procedure for selected groups of foreigners, primarily by way of priority processing of applications for employment or relevant residence permit requests.

The implementation of 4 projects initiated in 2012 and 2013 continued in 2014. These projects are aimed at a) employees transferred within companies and localised employees of foreign investors, b) foreign students with scholarships and c) spa patients.<sup>73</sup> A new project was initiated

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<sup>73</sup> The projects are: 1) *Fast Track*, providing speedy processing of employees transferred within companies and localised employees of foreign investors (group a), 2) *Welcome Package* for investors (for group a), 3) *Speedy*

on 1 September 2014, aimed at simplifying entry and residence of economically important partners. This project targets important investors and business partners from priority third countries. Because of the project's focus, it is managed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, in cooperation with the MoI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Unlike the other projects, this one is focused on foreigners interested in short-term residencies in the Czech Republic.

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The implementation of the "Agreement between the MoI of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on Seconding Liaison Officers for Migration and Documents to Embassies of the Czech Republic", of 13 February 2009, continued in 2014. Further information on the implementation of this agreement will be included in the Report on the Situation in the Area of Migration and Alien Integration in the Czech Republic in 2014.

### VISAPOINT (internet registration of applicants for residence permits)

The VISAPOINT system enables applicants for residence permits to automatically book slots for submitting their applications, without the intervention by the staff of embassies or consulates of the Czech Republic, or of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its implementation was a result of a growing interest in applying for residency permits in the Czech Republic.

The VISAPOINT system helped make the procedure of receiving applications for residence permits by embassies more efficient and eliminated the possibility to influence the order of submission of these applications. The system also largely eliminates the activities of brokers, and any other human factor, which could pose a risk of corruption. The VISAPOINT system has become an integral tool of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, increasing the transparency of the visa process. It is currently used by 30 Czech embassies around the world.<sup>74</sup>

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procedure in granting residence permits to foreigners – students from third countries (for group b), 4) *Speedy* procedure for patients from abroad, who will be given spa or rehabilitation treatment in the Czech Republic (for group c).

<sup>74</sup> Since 2009, the VISAPOINT system has gradually been deployed in Czech embassies in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Egypt, Philippines, Georgia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, Russia, the United Arab

Government Resolution no. 1205/2009 on the suspension of the acceptance of applications for long-term visas at selected embassies – assessment of the situation and further measures, continued to be effective. A limited acceptance of applications for long-term visas is, in accordance with this resolution, implemented via technical settings of the VISAPOINT system in Moldova, Mongolia, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

On 1 January 2014 a new internal interface of the system started running, increasing its flexibility and safety.<sup>75</sup>

### **Integration of Foreigners**

The number of third-country nationals with residence permits in the Czech Republic continued to rise in 2014. The MoI, as coordinator of the integration policy, submitted a document to the government titled “**Steps in Implementing the Updated Strategy on Integration of Foreigners in 2015**”.

The MoI continued to focus on supporting the transfer of responsibility for integration policies to the regional and local levels. In 2014, regional Centres for the Support of Integration of Foreigners provided services to foreigners in 13 regions. A total of 6 projects were implemented with the aim of dampening animosities between foreigners and the majority population and to encourage integration at the local level.<sup>76</sup>

**Information was provided to foreigners using three main communication channels:** telephone, e-mail, and via the official and regularly updated web page [www.mvcr.cz/cizinci](http://www.mvcr.cz/cizinci). Testing took place during day-long adaptation-integration courses for foreigners new to the Czech Republic. Documents helping potential migrants prepare for their journey to the Czech Republic were disseminated, with the aim of spreading

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Emirates, Serbia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, the United Kingdom, and Vietnam.

<sup>75</sup> In the second half of 2014, an increased number of complaints about the VISAPOINT system in Ukraine was registered. The main reasons concerned the closure of the General Consulate in Donetsk and the amendment of the Act on Foreigners, which annulled long-term visas for the purpose of study and employee cards not limited by the Government Resolution cited above. Currently, the Czech embassy in Ukraine does not have the resources to receive and process all the applications it receives.

<sup>76</sup> These projects contribute to the activation of local authorities in solving local problems with integration, as well as to coordinating activities within complex projects at the regional level. A surprisingly high number of local authorities are interested in continuing the projects in 2015. A number of NGO projects were also supported.

awareness and preventing risky behaviour and thereby losing legal residency in the Czech Republic.<sup>77</sup>

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**The Analytical Centre for the Protection of National Borders and for Migration** is a permanent interministerial analytical body, which focuses on monitoring and analysing migration in all its complexity. In 2014, the centre focused on monitoring the situation in Ukraine and in Syria and the resulting migration flows into the EU. A systematic analysis was carried out in 2014 of the efficiency of third-country nationals studying in the Czech Republic, and the outcomes were compiled into a qualitative study.<sup>78</sup>

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Two regular meetings (the 35<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup>) of the Interministerial Body for Combating Illegal Employment of Foreigners were held in 2014. Information was given on the new statute and rules of procedure of the body (Government Resolution no. 787 of 1 October 2014), on the preparation of the European Platform to Improve Cooperation at EU Level in Prevention and Deterrence of Undeclared Work, and on the project Preventing Work Exploitation of EU Citizens Through Prevention, which is specifically aimed at nationals of Bulgaria.

The General Customs Directorate is a permanent member of the body, and its agencies carry out regular inspections in the field of employment of foreigners (since 2004). Where cases of breach of regulations is detected, the customs authorities forward the cases to relevant administrative authorities for the purpose of initiating administrative proceedings and issuing fines.

In 2014, customs authorities carried out a total of 980 (+104) such inspections, with a breach of regulations being detected in 542 (+47) cases. Customs officials inspected a total of 2 125

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<sup>77</sup> The website [www.cizinci.cz](http://www.cizinci.cz), which is managed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, offers a range of useful information, for example on the possibilities of financing projects in the field of supporting integration of foreigners or on current projects. Publications are available for download, etc. The website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs <http://portal.mpsv.cz>, gives information concerning the conditions for employing foreigners in the Czech Republic.

<sup>78</sup> The study is titled Efficiency of Study Stays of Third Country Nationals in the Czech Republic – Assessment and Next Steps.



(-132) third-country nationals, of which 374 (-72) were declared as suspected of illegal work. Furthermore, 3 087 (+1 112) EU citizens were checked. Reporting obligations by employers were not complied with in 2 129 (+544) cases.

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The **State Labour Inspectorate** continued its inspections in 2014 with the purpose of detecting and eliminating illegal work within the framework of the project “**Efficient System of Employment, Inspections, and Eliminating Illegal Employment in the Czech Republic**”, which is financed by the ESF Human Resources and Employment Operational Programme. The State Labour Inspectorate carried out a total of **15 081** inspections in the field of complying with the stipulations of Act No. **435/2004 Coll., on employment, aimed specifically at illegal employment**.

**Illegal employment was detected during 636 inspections.** Out of a total number of 1 847 persons illegally working in the Czech Republic, 1 116 of them were citizens of the Czech Republic. A total of 558 were third-country

nationals and 173 were EU citizens. In comparison to 2013, no increase in the number of illegally employed third-country nationals and EU citizens was recorded. In most cases, illegally employed foreigners were nationals of Ukraine and Vietnam.

In 2014 the State Labour Inspectorate issued a total of **178 fines for enabling illegal employment** in relations to the illegal employment of third-country nationals, amounting to CZK 60 221 000. The offence of performing illegal work was punished by 3 fines to third-country nationals, amounting to a total of CZK 27 000.

The State Labour Inspectorate continued to focus on **inspecting employment agencies** and their clients, carrying out a total of 360 inspections and issuing fines amounting to a total of CZK 2 065 000.

*(For further measures see chapters 3.1 Legislative Activities, 3.3. European Union and International Cooperation, 3.4.4. Information and Communication Systems.)*

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## 2.2.7 Organised Crime

Organised crime and its accompanying phenomena continue to pose one of the biggest security threats to the Czech Republic<sup>79</sup>: it leads to social instability, distortion of the free market, and discredits democratic institutions.

The most important organised criminal groups (OCGs) operating in the Czech Republic are traditionally divided into Russian-speaking, Asian, and local (Czech), although some of the monitored criminal organisations show other (Albanian, Nigerian, Romanian, Bulgarian etc.) ethnic features.

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As in previous years, the international connections of the most important OCGs were observed in 2014. This was especially true for Russian-speaking OCGs, which are de facto an

integral part of a transnational, or at least an internationally active organisation. The Czech Republic continued to be the centre of gravity of the monitored Asian OCGs, although these OCGs use the entire area of Central Europe as well as distant Asian locations for their activities. The most important local OCGs also operated abroad for their criminal machinations, mostly in connection with legalising proceeds from crime.

Overall, in 2014, most OCGs focused purely on economic crime. Illegal production and distribution of drugs, car theft, and copyright infringement were among the most important activities.

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Trends from previous years continued to be prevalent in the Czech Republic in 2014. A recent trend is characterised by the most important monitored Czech OCGs refraining from the direct use of violence towards latent forms of crime which target government authorities.

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<sup>79</sup> This is confirmed, inter alia, by the **Strategy to Fight Organised Crime for the Years 2011–2014**, approved by Government Resolution no. 598 of 10 August 2011, which constitutes the basic framework for the fight against organised crime in the Czech Republic.

Another trend which continued was that of economic crime, which consisted primarily of naming civil service employees who would influence government tenders and allocate funds on the basis of instructions given by a pre-selected group of politicians. Those, in turn, were loyal to OCGs that organised the crimes in question.

Intense activity was recorded in 2014 of OCGs focused on calling and influencing insolvency procedures, when fictitious claims would be filed in order to bring a legal person to bankruptcy, or assets would be bought off from a company already in bankruptcy through fictitious claims. Often, attempts would be made to influence the future insolvency administrators. Cases were recorded of fraudulent taking over of control over functional companies (with no consequent insolvency). The successful attempts of OCGs at influencing insolvency administrators who would later cooperate with them should be considered a very dangerous phenomenon, which testifies to the level of corruption and infiltration of Czech OCGs into the judicial system.

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Russian-speaking OCGs, mostly comprised of people of Caucasian ethnicity, continued to exert their influence in the Czech Republic in 2014. Their activities continued to be monitored.

The Ukrainian-Russian crisis and the consequent sanctions became the foundation for the renewed development of post-Soviet OCGs in the Czech Republic in 2014. The situation changed the way crime was being conducted. From the beginning of 2014, a massive increase in applications for any form of legal residence or citizenship of any EU country has been recorded, via illegitimate practices (fake personal data, forged documents, identity changes etc.). The crisis also resulted in increased cooperation between OCGs from post-Soviet countries with Balkan OCGs, especially in the field of creating new mechanisms for transferring finances from “risky” Eastern countries into the EU.

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Vietnamese OCGs continued dominating Asian OCGs operating in the Czech Republic in 2014. Vietnamese OCGs in the Czech Republic are extremely stable, both in terms of internal organisation and area of operation. The most important activities of Vietnamese OCGs in 2014 included tax evasion and customs evasion for not paying customs for goods imported from

countries outside the EU (especially China). The systematic use of new information and computer technologies contributes to a more sophisticated form of committing these crimes.

Another important activity for 2014 conducted by Vietnamese OCGs in 2014 was the illegal production and distribution of drugs.

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According to the Supreme Prosecutor’s Office, the question of the criminal liability of persons linked to their membership or decision making capacity within elected local governments, came into the forefront. In relation to this subject, an analysis of various documents (court judgements) available to the Supreme Prosecutor’s Office was compiled. The aim of this analysis was to summarize and define the limits of the criminal liability of persons active in elected local bodies, based on real judicial practice and also on a qualified guess of the scope of the crimes.

There are roughly 6 200 municipalities in the Czech Republic, represented by approximately 60 000 elected representatives, who go on to be elected as councillors and mayors. According to the Supreme Prosecutor’s Office, the percentual share of people in elected bodies who are criminally investigated, is minimal. Based on criminal statistics, it is also evident that this subject is most pressing at the lowest levels of local authorities.

## Measures

On 12 November 2014, the government approved the **Strategy to Fight Organised Crime for the Years 2015-2017**.

The main aim of the strategy is to formulate measures for creating adequate long-term conditions for the work of law enforcement authorities in the field of prevention, detection and prosecution of organised crime in the Czech Republic, all based on a detailed analysis of the status quo.

The strategy includes an evaluation of the fulfilment of tasks in the preceding Strategy to Fight Organised Crime for the Years 2011–2014. Almost all tasks set out in this strategy have been accomplished. Significant progress was made in the field of involving officers of the Police of the Czech Republic in relevant EU initiatives, work in joint teams aimed at detecting organised crime, or the efficient exchange of information between tax authorities and the police.

The new strategy responds to the current situation, and on the basis of identified threats, formulates strategic tasks for the coming years. In accordance with current developments, it focuses on those fields where the tools of the Police of the Czech Republic are still not optimised, such as cybercrime, forging and falsifying identification documents and other official documents, and financial and tax crime.

The measures contained in the strategy follow up from other strategic documents, both national and EU, which are directly related to fighting organised crime.

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An important part of the fight against organised transborder crime is the Security Development Aid Programme, managed by the MoI, which provides expert assistance, information exchange, and strengthening of cooperation between Czech police forces and law enforcement authorities in Western Balkan and South Caucasus countries in the field of serious crime. In 2014, a total of 20 projects in 5 Western Balkan countries and 1 South Caucasus country were implemented as part of this programme, with a total investment of CZK 3 579 745.

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## 2.2.7.1 Drugs

Drug crime has been rising in the Czech Republic constantly since 2007 (in 2007 2865 drug offences were committed, whereas in 2014 5607 drug offences were committed) and it has accelerated sharply since 2011.

In 2014 the Czech Police established 5607 drug offences (+474, 9,2 %). 5357 (+558) of these were offences of illicit production and possession of narcotics and psychotropic substances and poisons, 36 (-57) cases of dissemination of drug addiction, 204 (-21) criminal offences of unauthorized cultivation of plants containing a narcotic substance and 10 (-6) were cases of production of substances with anabolic or other hormonal effects.

Drug crime situation reflects the evolution in the number of drug addicts. According to current mean estimates there are more than 45 000 problematic drug users (their number rises gradually), 34 000 of which are addicted to methamphetamine and some 11 000 abuse opioids.

So-called secondary crime is directly linked to drug addictions – i.e. crime committed by drug addicts under the influence of drugs or in order to get access to narcotics. Expert estimates state that troubled users make up at least a third of the perpetrators, mainly involved in property criminal offences.

The involvement of **organized criminal groups of Vietnamese origin in the large-scale production of methamphetamine and cannabis is considered the most progressive trend in drug crime in the country.** This trend has been observed since 2007 (cannabis) and 2009 (methamphetamine).

### Crime related to methamphetamine

The commercialization of methamphetamine production and distribution together with the increasing yield from each production cycle are the most significant trends in methamphetamine production.

Main precursors used for methamphetamine production are drugs containing pseudoephedrine, which are illegally imported to the Czech Republic from foreign countries. Even though Czech and German officials have exercised great pressure, Poland still has not passed a law on regulation of sale of drugs containing pseudoephedrine. Regrettably Slovakia is returning as a source country, because the legislation on the issue is not enforced properly. Another origin of the precursors is Bulgaria, which has become a part of trafficking route from Turkey to Poland and Czech Republic. In the last three years, Vietnamese organized criminal groups have taken control of the production and distribution of methamphetamine, aided by the accessibility of pseudoephedrine precursors. These organized groups boast dynamic production and distribution networks and quickly respond to increased drug demand.

Production and trade in methamphetamine concern the whole country, most notably the areas bordering Germany and Austria driven by demand from clients from these countries. The main problems still constitute Vietnamese marketplaces in the immediate vicinity of the state border.

Waste of illegal methamphetamine production poses a specific problem. The amount of toxic waste has increased in line with higher production output and frequently endangers the

environment and groundwater. The costs of illegal drug waste disposal are rising steadily. Attention has to be paid to the underestimated issue of contamination of drug production facilities and their following costly and complicated decontamination.

### **Industrial production of cannabis**

**The number of detected cultivation facilities has been rising progressively since 2007** as well as the volume of plants and dry matter of marijuana.<sup>124</sup> Part of the „indoor“ production of cannabis is well organized with a considerable involvement of criminal groups of Vietnamese background. Most of the output is destined for the domestic market, though there are high volumes of exports as well, primarily to neighboring countries, but also to Ukraine, Hungary, United Kingdom and the Nordic countries.

Imports of technologies for cultivation are considered one of the criminogenous aspects of the indoor cultivation. These are imported mainly from the Netherlands and the UK. In some cases owners of trading businesses sometimes take part in the cultivation of hemp and the subsequent production and distribution of marijuana.

The Vietnamese criminal groups have gradually moved from cannabis cultivation to the illegal methamphetamine production. Cannabis has become less attractive due to its high initial investment costs and higher risk of detection. In addition, in order to minimize risk of detection, the drug producers shift from industrial large scale production to decentralized network of small scale production facilities. Financial losses arising from a detection of a small production facility are also less grave for the drug investor.

### **Cocaine and heroin**

Cocaine trafficking and distribution on the Czech territory are still in the hands of mainly West African criminal groups, particularly from Nigeria. Given the high economic migration of Nigerians to developed countries, they have established globally interconnected criminal networks. They are involved both in illegal transport and distribution of cocaine in the EU.

Major challenge poses a considerable increase of activities of Western Balkans' criminal groups (Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina). These groups get primarily involved in imports of cocaine from South America to the Czech Republic via Western South European countries. The Czech Republic is

used as one of their favorite „logistical bases“. There have been cases of sales of cocaine to Albanian criminal groups already established in the Czech Republic.

### **New psychoactive substances (designer drugs)<sup>80</sup>**

Data collected by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (hereinafter the „EMCDDA“) show that the quantity of newly emerging drugs on the market has a rising prospect. Most commonly detected drugs are synthetic cannabinoids, which fully corresponds to the quantity of cannabinoids that have been newly prepared for research purposes in recent years. A number of exotic substances causing a series of intoxications appeared in Europe in 2014; these are subject to a thorough assessment by the EMCDDA („risk assessment“). In April 2014, four new psychoactive substances were assessed (25I-NBOMe, AH-7921, MDPV and methoxetamine).

Illegal import of designer drugs into Czech Republic decreased significantly with the adoption of Act No 106/2011 in 2011. This law extended the list of illegal substances by 33 items consisting mostly of designer drugs. In 2014 Czech Customs Administration intercepted the transportation of 2 kilograms of synthetic cannabinoids 5F-PB-22 and 2 kilograms of MDPVPP.

### **Anabolic steroids**

Following the decrease of anabolic drug trade in 2013, year 2014 meant an increase in drug offer, especially in the second half of the year. This trend is mainly caused by Slovak legislation, which does not ban trade with anabolic steroids. Higher participation of former USSR citizens in anabolic drug trade was discovered during the year 2014.

Distributors of anabolic and other hormonal drugs often come from the environment of professional sport or maintain contacts with important Slovak distributors through instant messaging applications. Potential customers are sought after on social networks and contacted by distributors with the offer of nutritional consulting and hormonal drug delivery.

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<sup>80</sup>Illegal import of designer drugs into Czech Republic decreased significantly with the adoption of Act No 106/2011 in 2011. This law extended the list of illegal substances by 33 items consisting mostly of designer drugs/legal highs“.

DHEA substance, known also under the name of „youth hormone“ was the number one in individual imports of illegal hormonal drugs in 2014. Anabolic steroids intended for use in professional were mostly imported from China.

(See data and graphical annex page 28)

## Measures

Anti-drug policy of the Czech Republic is based on four building blocks: primary prevention, medical treatment and social inclusion, risk reduction and drug availability reduction.

**Action plan for the implementation of the National anti-drug strategy for the period of 2013 to 2015** was approved by Government Resolution No 219 of 27 March 2013, which sets out four priorities for the upcoming period:

- Reduction of excessive alcohol consumption and use of cannabis among young people;
- Restrictions on production, distribution and use of methamphetamine;
- Streamlining of anti-drug financing;
- Integration of policy on legal and illegal drugs.

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Since the beginning of 2014, with the Czech Police priority „Effective and complex solving of drug related crime“ an effort to enforce the law in drug related crime can be noted. This priority reflects both territorial and local changes in the matter. Personal capacity of both NPC (National Anti-Drug Police Centre) – 15 officers and SKPV (Service of Criminal Police Investigation) – 135 officers was strengthened in drug related crime, which constitutes a positive trend. The inclusion of both traffic and public order police in solving drug related crime leads to increased number of criminal cases solved and diminishes subjectively perceived drug offer in public spaces.

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In the beginning of 2014 new legislation concerning addictive substances came into effect - Act No 167/1998 on addictive substances as amended by No 273/2013 and Act No 272/2013 on drug precursors. The Act on precursors targets chemical material that may be used in the process of production of illegal substances as „original and additive substances“, listed in the Government Regulation No 458/2013 on the list

of original and additive substances and their yearly limits. The law also specifies other conditions and limitations regarding their sale. This new legislation should have positive effect on limiting the availability of precursors used in the production of methamphetamine.

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Many activities focusing on the drug export from the Czech Republic were prepared in 2014. Systematic approach was directed against the distribution of psychoactive substances in Vietnamese markets along the border with Germany in close cooperation with Customs administration and other police departments (ŘSCP.) Operational presence of police in border regions was increased, focusing on problematic regions and information gathering and evaluation. International cooperation was reinforced with the aim on effective exchange of operational information and joint actions in all countries concerned.

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Cooperation with Austrian and German police forces in criminal investigation formed the core of international cooperation in 2014. Other important long term partners include the US DEA with its office in Vienna, able to support cases of drug trafficking from Latin American countries, as well as the Slovak Police drug unit. Significant progress was achieved in cooperation with the Polish police force, especially in border regions. Great impact on drug investigation was provided by improved collaboration with Western Balkans police units.

Following the increased incidence of new psychoactive substances the National anti-drug police centre (hereinafter the „NPC“) takes an active part in an EMPACT (*European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats*) project in the priority „D –Synthetic drugs“(„to reduce the production and distribution of synthetic drugs in the EU, including new psychoactive substances“) – one of the eight priorities in the fight against organized crime as set out by the EU Council. After a two-year pilot cycle the project was prolonged for another four years; nearly all EU member states will participate.

Main benefits of the project are the creation of an information strategy for the area of new synthetic drugs and drug precursors, influencing the legislation on European level. Furthermore, the assessment and classification of illegal laboratories of synthetic drugs were harmonized

thanks to the single European database system. The establishment of channels of communication and collaboration with the private sector are also important – so-called barrier model. The development of cooperation with China on various levels of involvement should also be mentioned.

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Following a two year negotiation process, the final texts of police cooperation agreement and extradition agreement with the Social Republic of Vietnam were agreed upon. These texts are now prepared for ratification.

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Since 2010, Czech Ministry of the Interior has intensively negotiated the regulation of sale of pseudoephedrine containing medicine with Poland. A Bill regulating such sale was twice debated in the Polish Parliament, but it was never approved. Third attempt on pseudoephedrine regulation started in February 2014 with the

initiative of Polish minister of health. The proposal is now discussed in the government and should be voted by the Parliament in January 2015.

In order to prevent dealing with the same issue in other countries, the Czech Minister of the Interior called for the introduction of regulatory mechanisms in order to prevent free availability of medicines containing pseudoephedrine in all member countries of the Salzburg forum (<http://www.mvcr.cz/salcburske-forum.aspx>).

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The Czech Republic established long term cooperation with Germany in order to tackle illegal activity in border region of both states. In 2014, several meetings of the ministers of the interior of the Czech Republic, Saxony, Bavaria and Germany were held. An agreement on cooperation in public order and security matters was finalized with the ministry of the interior of Saxony in July 2014. Similar agreement is negotiated with Bavaria.

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### 2.2.7.2 Trafficking in human beings

In 2014 the Czech Police detected 20 (+2) cases of suspected criminal offence of **trafficking in human beings**, 16 (-9) individuals were investigated and prosecuted.

According to the ÚOOZ the structure and dynamics of this crime have not changed lately. Trafficking in human beings is a typical example of organized crime with a high latency rate.

The most common forms of exploitation in the context of human trafficking remain sexual and labor exploitation – according to police statistics the former prevails. The cases detected in 2014 confirmed a shift from violent manifestations in favor of trick, dependence or error in order to keep the victims docile and obedient and reach the goal of the perpetrators.

The Czech Republic is considered as source, transit and destination country; its importance as destination country continues to rise. Human trafficking takes place also in the national context, without international elements. The following countries are considered as source: Slovakia, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Nigeria. Czech nationals are usually trafficked to the UK or Germany.

The identified cases suggest that the same models as in previous years are still in use **in trafficking for the purposes of forced labor or other forms of exploitation**. On the pretext of good earnings people are lured to the Czech Republic through advertisements in their home countries. Such activities were carried out by organized groups passing off as legal job agencies or other entities entitled to provide job vacations. These groups offered all the necessary assistance with documentation and administrative work, including transport. Investigations confirmed that after the arrival the trafficked persons were forced to accept subordinate, mostly physically demanding jobs for minimum or no wage. The dependence on the employer was deliberately developed by means of non-payment of wages (so-called „debt dependence“), fear of losing work, abuse of the vulnerable status of workers due to the language barrier, lack of knowledge of local legal system or lack of finance. Virtually all available vulnerabilities of victims are abused.

## Measures

The implementation of the **Support Program for the victims of trafficking in human beings** was carried forward in 2014. The program follows on an UNODC (Nations Office for Drugs and Crime) pilot project. It is designed for the victims of sexual and labor exploitation, to which it offers legal, social and health assistance, accommodation and a dignified return to their home countries. Apart from its humanitarian aspect the program is also meant to provide valuable information on the criminal environment, which may help solve human trafficking related crimes and convict its perpetrators.<sup>81</sup>

In 2014, thanks to an excellent cooperation with other stakeholders, 43 likely victims were included in the program: 39 from Romania, 2 from Bulgaria and one each from Slovakia and Czech Republic. In most cases the issue was trafficking for the purpose of forced labor.

Even though in police statistics sexual exploitation is the most common form of trafficking in human beings, more victims of forced labor or other labor exploitation are placed into the support program. This distinction was evident during the last year as well. This fact leads us to believe that labor exploitation continues to be an important issue even if it is statistically less common than sexual exploitation.

Important component of the support program is prevention, represented mainly by social service. In 2014, 37 searches for human trafficking victims by social workers were financed by the program. Evaluation of the program indicates that the current work methodology and financing are efficient and fulfill its purpose. Financial costs of the program are adequate to the amount of activities held under the program and amount to 1 152 448 CZK. A total of 186 victims have been placed under the program auspices since 2003. 30 voluntary returns took place in 2014 as part of the program's subprogram for voluntary returns. 28 of these returns had their destination abroad and 2 were cases of return to the Czech Republic. In total 93 voluntary returns have been organized

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<sup>81</sup> As inter-ministerial sponsor of the program the Ministry of the Interior is not only in charge of coordination, but also of preventive activities. It effectively collaborates with other ministries (Labor, Education, Foreign Affairs), Czech Police and NGOs. A coordination group meets usually once every two months in order to steer the program.

since 2003, out of those 21 back to the Czech Republic.

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Presided by the minister of the interior, the **Inter-ministerial coordination group for the fight against trafficking in human beings** continued its activities in 2014 and held two meetings.<sup>82</sup>

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On the EU level, the informal group of national correspondents and equivalent mechanisms on trafficking in human beings met twice in Brussels in 2014. It was the first time that NGOs dealing with the issue were also present. The topics discussed included: Eurostat data collection 2010–2012 and its results, EU Directive 2011/36/EU and its application, EU Directive 2009/52/EC and a midterm [report](#) on the EU strategy on eradicating trafficking of human beings 2012-2016.

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Czech Police takes part in the ETUTU THB project, aimed at information sharing on human trafficking with the focus on Nigerian criminal groups. Under the auspices of the project, Action day took place in June 2014 in Prague, Plzen and Brno region, targeting night clubs. A total of 275 persons were identified, out of which 21 were citizens of Nigeria. On the EU level, 673 people were identified (mostly women from North Africa) with 111 of them being potential victims of trafficking in human beings. More than 30 identified persons were linked to the criminal environment.

Another Action day was held under the auspices of the EMPACT THB project in September 2014 (Operation Archimedes) on the EU level. On the territory of the Czech Republic, action was taken in Prague, Brno, Plzen, Ústí nad Labem, Hradec Králové, České Budějovice and Ostrava regions. A total of 177 police officers participated in the Action day. 474 people were identified in 38 night clubs, including 190 aliens. Further cooperation on persons linked with criminal environment continues. Both Action days were held with the support of Europol, which provided operational centers collecting available data, staffed by liaison officers from participating member states

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<sup>82</sup> Its meetings focused on mapping the origin of human trafficking victims, preventive measures against trafficking in human beings for forced labor and the area of prostitution.

*(Further measures see Chapters 3.1. Crime)  
Legislative activities and 3.2. Prevention of*

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### **2.2.7.3 Illicit trade in arms, explosives and hazardous chemical and biological substances**

Since 2010, the number of gun license holders has continued to decrease. In the last five years, the number dropped by 19 593 gun license holders, leading to a total of 292 283 holders in 2014.

However the amount of guns held continues to increase. Gun license holders (e.g. weapons collectors, gamekeepers, shooting competitors) buy other guns. In 2014 a total of 752 384 guns were held by gun license holders. Public persons are also able to hold gun on a gun license (gamekeeper unions, private security services, shooting ranges, municipalities holding guns for municipal police, etc.) These guns can only be entrusted to members or employees holding a gun license. Legal persons held 24 444 guns in 2014.

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In 2014 6 (+5) cases of breach of foreign trade regulations concerning the trade with military material were discovered. There are 203 entities able to export military material abroad.

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According to information of the ÚOOZ, Czech illegal weapons production remains very popular in foreign black markets. These markets are supplied by Czech and foreign entities. In foreign markets, Czech weapons are used to commit crimes of a violent nature and for collection purposes.

Crime related to the implementation of foreign trade in military material without permission or license constitutes a problem. This trade is closely linked to corrupt practices. Legal entities involved in foreign trade in military material try to circumvent the law that forces them to have the appropriate permits and acquire a particular trade license for each weapons transaction from the MPO.

Activities of arms companies on the sale of weapons, ammunition and military vehicles (wheeled and tracked), and spare parts, originating from the stocks of the Army of the Czech Republic were discovered. The resulting military material was traded abroad (including to

embargoed countries) and is used in a number of military conflicts. This material forms a part of legal contracts, which are increased in volume by illegal material. This illegal material is in turn distributed to embargoed end users in third countries.

Operational information on the growing demand of military equipment in the EU countries coming from the embargoed countries was identified. Representatives of embargoed states openly ask for these commodities from arms dealers disclosing the fact that it is an illegal trade and they are therefore willing to offer far a higher price for the goods than in the legal market. Purchased material is transported to a designated target destination declared to be a completely different commodity, which is normally traded between the countries in question. Based on the information available, it can be assumed that this trend will be growing, given the recent developments of the political situation in the embargoed countries.

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There is an ongoing issue of decommissioning of weapons pursuant to Decree No 371/2002 on the procedure to be followed when decommissioning or destroying arms in the context of Act No 119/2002 on arms. On repeated occasions the ÚOOZ has retrieved in the criminal environment weapons previously decommissioned and degraded and subsequently put back to their original functional state. A new phenomenon has been identified: conversion of original automatic weapons into expansive, i.e. gas-driven weapons providing sound effects, which are in turn converted into functional weapons.

In relation to the explosion of a munitions depot in Vrbětice on 16 October 2014, evidence is gathered on inappropriate storage of firearms, ammunition, explosives, security material and military equipment, which facilitates the possibility of uncontrolled illegal handling of these goods.



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Compared to the previous period, the work of the customs authorities strongly reflected the conflict arising in the territory of Ukraine. In relation to this conflict, the customs authorities investigate several cases of exports suspected to be illegal foreign trade in military material.

The customs authorities note shortcomings in current legislation regulating the supervision of trade in military material, which allows for different interpretations of law enforcement authorities.

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In the area of illegal handling of chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear substances (hereinafter „CBRN substances“) and dual-use items the situation remains stable, without considerable changes. Non-compliance with legal regulations and technological procedures when handling sources of ionizing radiation (thus making room for theft or misuse) constitutes the biggest security risk.

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Illegal trade in counterfeit medicinal products and the import of medicines that are not registered in the Czech Republic and are not approved for the European market (or are even forbidden) is growing. Subject to counterfeiting are both original and generic drugs, which in the Czech Republic are sold only on prescription. The origin of these forgeries is in Asian countries. Counterfeit medicines are distributed by various illegal means with the use of smugglers into target European countries including the Czech Republic. These drugs are sold mainly over the Internet through websites, whose web hosting is located in countries where it is very difficult to identify the owner of the website. The illegal trade in counterfeit medicines produces a high rate of profit, which according to international statistics of Interpol and Europol can rise up to 4000%.

## Measures

The Czech Republic regularly announces amnesty for illegal weapons. It's one of the measures that help to reduce the number of illegal weapons held in the Czech Republic. The last amnesty took place from 1 July to 31 December 2014. During the amnesty 5 877 weapons were turned in to the Police. (In the

previous amnesty in 2009, 7 897 weapons were turned in.)

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In November 2014, Act No 266/2014 amending Act No 229/2013 (act on handling of security material) came into force. In December 2014 Decree No 295/2014 on division of security material with the effective date of 1 January 2015, was adopted, replacing the Decree No 407/2013. The reason for its adoption was to ensure compatibility of legislation with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe published as 94/2003 Coll. of international treaties. The Decree responded to the findings of application practice and terminology changes made in the context of technological developments in security material.

Arms Trade Treaty, which the Czech Republic has already signed on 3 June 2013, entered into force by its ratification by fifty countries on 24 December 2014. It is the first international treaty that regulates trade in conventional arms by introducing effective control of foreign trade of weapons included in the UN Register of conventional Arms.

During 2014, work on the draft amendment of Act No 38/1994 on foreign trade in military materials continued in cooperation with the relevant authorities. The aim of the proposed amendment is to refine safety requirements for licensing and inspection of foreign trade with this material.<sup>83</sup>

Until the adoption of common European or global standards for the marking of firearms, the Decree No 335/2004 implementing certain provisions of the law on control of firearms, ammunition and pyrotechnics and treatment of certain pyrotechnic products as amended serves as the standard for the Czech Republic. This Decree introduces a common marking of firearms within CIP member states and more accurate labeling system for weapons to ensure the transparent identification of the various types and categories of weapons.

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The government approved a draft law on the pyrotechnics (1/2015), which is currently being debated in the Chamber of Deputies as material 385.

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<sup>83</sup> The bill was approved by the Government Decree No 69/2015 and is now debated in the Chamber of Deputies as material 408/0.

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In response to the explosion in Vrbětice on 16 October 2014, the MoI prepared Analysis of legislation and competence of public authorities in relation to the disposition of ammunition by civilian subjects, which was approved by government resolution No 33/2015. The government resolution also established a timetable for legislative changes in ammunition handling.<sup>84</sup>

The main conceptual changes in this area will be as follows:

- • removing ammunition from the regime of conventional weapons and ammunition, setting special legislation
- • permission for handling of ammunition (ammunition licenses and ammunition certificates) will be issued separately from the documents permitting the handling of weapons and ammo, the Trade Licensing Act will introduce a new licensed business for handling of ammunition,
- • ammunition licenses and ammunition certificates will be issued by the police, proficiency tests for the applicants for the ammunition pass will be provided by expert interdepartmental commission appointed by the Minister of the Interior,
- • Supervision activities will be conducted by the police, giving the police new authorization (e.g. Removal of ammunition in case of suspicion of bad technical conditions, the possibility of setting bail for serious shortcomings, securing ammunition on the spot at the expense of its holder etc.)
- • in case of doubt whether certain material is deemed ammunition, ammo, explosive or pyrotechnic product, the MoI will decide on the basis of information provided by the MPO, Police, Czech Mining Office and weapons testing facility
- • Storage of ammunition and its security will be thoroughly adjusted - a key part of this matter will be contained in the implementing legislation, which will be based on NATO standards (it will be comprehensive legislation, the relevant military standard is about 400 pages long).

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<sup>84</sup> Amendments to the Act on arms, Act on explosives and Act on fire protection will be submitted to the government by June 30 in cooperation with the MPO and the Czech Mining Office.

## 2.2.7.4 Counterfeiting

The amount of counterfeit money withheld by the police increased in comparison with the previous year. A total of 5 461 pieces of counterfeit banknotes and coins were seized in 2014, compared to 3 130 banknotes and coins seized in 2013, which constitutes an increase of 73% on a year-on-year basis. For all the other monitored currencies the number of counterfeit banknotes increased, whereas the number of counterfeit coins decreased. From a long-term perspective it can be said the downward tendency present in counterfeiting since 2010 has stopped.

As for the local currency, 2381 counterfeit pieces were seized, an increase of 17% (+359) compared to 2012. The counterfeits were mostly produced by means of home or office printers. The quality of counterfeits thus produced was therefore poor and the criminal activity did not show features of organized crime with dedicated professional forging the currency.

A total of 1189 pieces of EUR counterfeits were seized, 46% more (+378) than in 2013. There were 1792 USD counterfeit banknotes seized in the Czech Republic, up by 739% (+1689). As for these two currencies, the printing techniques have shown better quality and skill level of the perpetrators. The EUR and USD counterfeits were not produced in the Czech Republic. In total 59 counterfeit coins were seized in 2014, 53% less (-67) than the previous year. These were mostly EUR coins (49 pieces).

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There was a significant decrease in payment card fraud in 2014 regarding the number of skimming devices deployed. The situation report for stated 172 cases of skimming, however in 2014 another 19 cases pertaining to the year 2013 were identified making the total of 191 cases. In these additional cases, either a report from banking institutions came in late or a significant delay between card skimming and illicit transactions was present.

A total of 74 skimming attacks were reported in 2014 to the ÚOOZ. In 34 of these cases a skimming device was attached directly to the ATM by the perpetrators. The rest of the cases were committed using a test card which helps the perpetrators test the functionality of the skimming device. In 2014 the majority of

skimming attacks (47 cases) was not committed in Prague as in 2013 but in Brno.

### Measures

Steady decrease in skimming attacks committed in the Czech Republic can be attributed to various factors. One of them is the preventive measure implemented by financial institutions consisting in geoblocking – disabling the use of the counterfeit credit card in locations without the EMV standard, which requires using a credit card with chip. Other factors in play are the high clearance rate of credit card frauds, severe sanctions imposed on sentenced perpetrators, preventive activities and general awareness of the problem among general public, which helps to discover skimming devices quickly.

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In 2014 new measures were put into place in order to maintain and improve cooperation with the financial sector. ÚOOZ focused on rapid response to skimming attacks on ATMs. Criminal complaints on alleged cases of skimming were accepted alongside with camera recordings of the attacked ATM from the financial institutions. The complaints were analyzed and corresponding cases were merged.

Another important measure consisted in the use of personal contacts with foreign partners that were initiated at an international conference in 2013. Communication and cooperation with foreign entities went through the national Interpol office, national Europol unit and mostly through the Czech Police officer located in Bucharest. These personal contacts substantively reinforced operational information exchange related to international credit card fraud cases.

Technical innovations and new trends in counterfeiting of money and credit cards were closely followed in 2014. Representatives of ÚOOZ participated in international expert forums held by the Europol in The Hague, Odessa and Brussels. ÚOOZ officers also attend the meetings of Security Committee of the Credit Cards Association. All of these measures contribute to swift and adequate response to criminal activity involving counterfeiting.

## 2.2.8 Terrorism

In 2014 there was no incident in the Czech territory that could be classified as a terrorist attack as defined by Czech law (§ 310 or § 311 of Czech Criminal Code). The main risk factor is still the political development in Islamic regions. Several demonstrations linked to the situation in Egypt and Syria were held in the Czech Republic, both supporting and opposing the reformation process. No significant threats to national security were detected during these demonstrations.

A phenomenon considered as a significant security risk in Europe that appeared in 2013 is still present: departures of individuals from Europe and North America to fight in Syria, Iraq, etc. Given its geographic location the Czech Republic was repeatedly used as one of the transit points, so the issue was followed with an increased attention. One individual returning from Syria was detained in 2014 based on a European arrest warrant stating that such person active fought alongside a terrorist group.

Abuse of Czech and other (mostly European) travel documents and ID cards by foreigners with links to terrorist entities abroad is still detected by the Czech Police. The issue of radicalization across Europe and in the whole world remains critical, particularly as regards immigrants from Islamic countries or converts. Radicalization is closely linked with subsequent recruitment for terrorist purposes either abroad or in the country of origin.

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According to the BIS (Security Intelligence Service), efforts continued in 2013 **to promote the Islamic law in the Czech Republic as an alternative to Czech Law**. Because of the tense situation in the Czech Muslim community, these efforts were limited to publishing articles and appeals on the internet. In 2014, only a few cases of support of Islamic ideology were recorded by the BIS. Internet propaganda of the Islamic State was the most dangerous factor observed in connection with the possible radicalization of Czech Muslim community. Official as well as unofficial Muslim bodies made negative statements about the existence of the Islamic State, some of them showing clear disapproval of it.

Czech islamophobic groups were roused by the controversies stemming from the use of Muslim clothing at High Schools and the

behavior of Muslim spa guests in Teplice. Both of these cases gained intensive media coverage. Czech critics of Islam and islamophobic groups became more radicalized and resorted to verbal abuse and activities bordering with virtual as well as real world harassment of Muslims and their supporters. Key part in these activities had the group „Islám v České republice nechceme“ (We don't want Islam in the Czech Republic), which is linked to the Czech Defense League organization. The BIS considered islamophobic activities as a major factor leading to the radicalization of Czech Muslim community.

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The protection of the civil aviation against unlawful acts has been constantly under close watch by security forces in the Czech Republic and the EU.

*(More details in Chapter 2.2.13.)*

## Measures

Responding to the request of Moneyval group (Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism) and its recommendations from the evaluation report, the Ministry of Justice drafted a new definition of terrorist attack crime. The new definition allows for sanctioning of financing terrorist activities of both independent individuals and members of terrorist groups as well as financing of groups that take part in terrorist attacks. Financing of terrorist actions by member of an organized group can lead to higher sanctions imposed.<sup>85</sup>

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The Czech intelligence services (BIS, ÚZSI – Office for Foreign Relations and Information, Military Intelligence) are active in the field of detection of latent and imminent security threats, risks, analysis of security-risk situations; they are actively involved in relevant international networks and organizations and cooperate on a bilateral basis with international partners. In 2014 the BIS focused on uncovering potential terrorist threats on the Czech territory as well as the radicalization process, which together with the existence of the Islamic State constitutes a grave

<sup>85</sup> This draft was presented on 14th November 2014 to the Czech Parliament as a document 358.

risk for the whole Europe. Another topic of interest was the movement of volunteers and returning foreign fighters from the territory of the Islamic State.

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The ÚOOZ closely monitored and assessed threats against American, Israeli or Jewish targets. There was no significant security incident in the reporting period.

The ÚOOZ priorities for 2015 continue to be the monitoring of selected groups in respect of their radicalization tendencies, monitoring and constant evaluation of the extremist scene and conducting an effective fight against these phenomena, as well as preventive action aimed at their elimination or marginalization. Strengthening of international police cooperation and operation of the NKBT is another priority for the NKBT, as well as stepping up the activities of both the Police Expert Group on political and religious extremism and the Working Group of NKBT for the cooperation with intelligence services.

A considerable complication in the fight against terrorism is, from the ÚOOZ perspective, a limited and more difficult (often impossible) access to operational and localization data on telecommunication traffic, be it pursuant to § 71(a) of Act No 273/2008 on the Police of the Czech Republic or pursuant to § 88a(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code. Insufficient access to these data considerably complicates the work not only of the ÚOOZ terrorism/terrorism financing department, but also joint international efforts, in which the Czech Police participates. Partner countries perceive terrorism as a global phenomenon to be fought by all available legal means. Czech Police and Justice Department are of the view that the law enforcement authorities of the Czech Republic do not have access to the

necessary data in the same extent as their colleagues in partner countries.

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There is a specific instrument against terrorism that has been developed over the recent years: primary and secondary school awareness-raising action. The amended Framework Program for Basic Education has broadened the scope of the theme of everyday risks and protection of citizens in extraordinary situations to include also terrorism in 2013. Given the complexity and importance of the issue briefings and training sessions for teachers continued to take place. More than 3500 teachers participated in the program in 2013 and the program continues in 2014.

The training sessions were provided mostly by the National Institute for Further Education, but due to the high demand another courses for both primary and secondary school teachers prepared directly by the HZS ČR were accredited by the Ministry of Education in 2014. These courses help teachers to fulfill all the requirements put forward by the Framework Program in the area of everyday risks and extraordinary situations or terrorism.

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Joint Intelligence Group by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic is the coordinator of information exchange for all the state intelligence and security institution in the area of security threats and terrorism.

*(Further measures see Chapter 3.3. European Union and international cooperation.)*

## 2.2.9 Extremism

There has not been a significant change in the environment in terms of long-term trends in the development of politically motivated extremist organizations in 2014.

The high degree of fragmentation of the extreme right scene is manifested in the continuing decline of public activities, particularly in the context of the strong emergence of anti-immigration subjects and anti-Muslim subjects. This is related to the transformation **extreme right** scene, where the part of the neo-Nazi scene transforms towards neo-fascism with some inspiration by foreign entities. There was a significant decrease in organized concerts and at the same time increase in other events such as lectures, discussions and partially or fully private events. The number of public meetings and demonstrations significantly decreased.

In contrast, the activities of the **extreme left** scene, both in terms of public and non-public speeches and events are on the rise. Radical and militant elements associated with the anarcho-autonomous and environmental scene are on the rise and show great mobilization especially in connection with elections, solidarity campaigns and direct actions against targets that they consider symbols of state, authority, capitalism and oppression. During the year there were a total 9 such major events (attacks) directed against property.

In 2014 there were a total 291 activities directly organized or with the participation of extremist entities (+19 events). While the extreme right scene had a number of recorded events at a similar level as last year (133 actions, +1), more events were organized by the extreme left scene in 2014, a total of 158 (+18).

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The issue of extremism is dealt with in detail in a separate MoI document: Report on Extremism and Manifestations of Racism and Xenophobia on the Territory of the Czech Republic in 2014 (Zpráva o extremismu a projevech rasismu a xenofobie na území České republiky v roce 2014).

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The IKSP organized a research project **Current situation in extremist movements in the Czech Republic** with an emphasis on their potential support by juveniles and the dissemination of extremist ideological content

over the Internet in 2014.<sup>86</sup> The table below contains some selected test groups.

Attitude towards selected social groups:

Evaluation (%)	1+2 (like)	3 (neutral)	4+5 (dislike)
homosexuals	28	48	24
homeless	4	27,5	68,5
Roma (gypsies)	5	19	76
Jews	16	62	21,5
Chinese and Vietnamese	19,5	48,5	32
Arabs	10,5	52	37
Negro	37,5	47,5	15
White immigrants from the East	16,5	60	23

<sup>86</sup> The project was designed within the framework of Security Research Program of the Czech Republic in the years 2010 - 2015 (BV II/2-VS) in area of Protection against crime, antisocial behavior and sociopathy phenomena. The sample comprised 3 300 respondents aged 16-18 years. Questioning focused among other topics on the attitudes of youth towards minorities.

## 2.2.10 Investigation and documentation of communist crimes

The Office for the Documentation and Investigation of the Crimes of Communism (hereinafter the ÚDV) in 2014 continued to review the so-called residual punishments imposed by the courts after 1990 in the context of the law on court rehabilitation.

Cooperation with the War Veterans Department of the Ministry of Defense continued through 2014 on the implementation of Act No 262/2011 on participants in the resistance to communism. A total of 3495 individual files have

been examined by the end of 2014 (compared to 3241 in 2013).

In 2014 the ÚDV initiated criminal prosecution of 4 (+1) individuals in 4 (+2) cases. A total of 217 (+5) individuals have been prosecuted by the end of 2014 in 199 (+5) cases. Criminal proceedings concentrated on the so-called Kulak operation (forceful expulsions of family farms in 1950s) and on the breach of civic rights of the citizens during the period of totalitarian regime.

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## 2.2.11 Cybercrime and cyber security

### Cybercrime

Information crime – crime committed in the ICT environment including computer networks<sup>87</sup> rises. In 2014 the Czech Police recorded 4348 (+40%) relevant cases. The amount of cybercrime offenses is expected to rise in the future.

The most common cybercrimes in 2014 were **copyright infringement, threats and extortion**. Different types of **fraudulent activities** are also on the rise. A total of 2458 (+32%) cases of fraud committed in the ICT environment (mostly internet) were investigated in 2014. Detection of crime consisting in unauthorized data manipulations has been rising as well by 163%. **Phishing attacks**<sup>88</sup> are rising exponentially. Several massive waves of phishing attacks on banks were reported in 2014, these attacks targeted both the user interface on PC and mobile communication devices. The perpetrators of these attacks continue to increase their skills and the amount of targeted accounts. The number of phishing attacks was the highest ever recorded.

Theft of identity is also reported. These are used to discredit physically existing entities or to use their identity as cover up for fraudulent activities. The increase in conversion of financial means to virtual currencies continued throughout 2014. Such currencies are often used for payments for illegal goods transactions, mostly in

the TOR network. Dissemination of prohibited forms of pornography continues to develop in closed communities. These communities continue to use ever more sophisticated ways to vet their members. The perpetrators try to get intimate or even pornographic material (mostly pictures) directly from the children.

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During April 2014, sophisticated virus **attacks against Wi-Fi routers** were reported on the whole territory of the Czech Republic. According to security experts and police investigators, this attack is one of the most dangerous threats present on the Czech internet. Wi-Fi routers are cornerstones of private and public networks and attackers can gain access to all the connected computers through them.

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In January 2014 a man from the region of Most became the first Czech citizen sentenced to prison (for 20 months) for the distribution of illegal copies of Adobe and Microsoft software. This software was offered to potential clients through internet auction houses for very low prices. The transactions were done by electronic payments or by collection on delivery. The perpetrator gained more than 89 000 CZK, but the damage done to the producers of the software was more than 500 000 CZK and had to be paid by the perpetrator in full on court order.<sup>89</sup>

<sup>87</sup> The target of attack is the information technology as such or it is a criminal activity perpetrated by means of information technologies – mostly the misuse of the internet.

<sup>88</sup> Recording of passwords and access codes for online bank accounts, which are later used to drain money from the accounts.

<sup>89</sup> According to the international Business Software Alliance (BSA), which concentrates on the fight against the illegal use of software programs, up to 35% of software with the value of 3,8 billion CZK is used illegally in the Czech

Internet fraudsters started to target seniors as well. First contact is made through auction offers, spam or social network with the offer of various goods and services through inconvenient contracts. Extortion of seniors with the use of internet is becoming widespread. Fraudsters contact seniors through fake identities and develop intense relationship with them with the aim of eliciting money for a fictional cause such as grave illness cure. With the number of seniors with the access to internet on the rise, the number of victims of such frauds also rises rapidly every year.

## Measures

The Czech **Police Hotline** for cybercrime reporting<sup>90</sup> continued to operate in 2014 (it was launched on 1th August 2012). This expert workplace was created under the auspices of the Police Presidium Information Crime Department and a total of 6590 (+72%) inputs concerning cyber space were recorded in 2014.

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Since measures against cybercrime need to be taken on international level, the European **Cybercrime Centre (EC3)** was established under Europol in 2013. This centre is in direct contact with national units dealing with cybercrime on the national level, including the Czech Republic.

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BIS continued to gather information on the activities of a hacker group that carried out several attacks against information systems of a company that provides software solutions for state institutions and important subjects of the Czech economy. These attacks tried to gain access to service accounts for these software solutions and get detailed information about the projects that are prepared for clients of importance.

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Republic. The majority of software offered on internet forums and auction houses consists in illegal copies of such software in various quality levels. The law is not breached only by those that offer such software but also by those who buy and install it.

<sup>90</sup> The hotline consists in online form for cybercrime reporting, which is accessible through the webpage [www.policie.cz](http://www.policie.cz). The citizens can report any form of inappropriate content or illegal activities in the internet network through this simple form.

BIS also informed relevant addresses about the plan of DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks against central banks and other important finance institution that were prepared by various international hacker groups and targeted among other also ČNB (Czech National Bank). Even though ČNB was not among the priority targets of the attack, the information provided by BIS allowed state institutions to accept adequate measures and prevent the possible attack.

## Cybersecurity

The National Security Authority (hereinafter the „NBÚ“) is the overall coordinator for cyber security. A **National Cyber Security Centre** („NCKB“) was established under the auspices of the NBÚ. The Centre's mission is to prepare cybersecurity policies, monitor security threats in cyberspace and support subjects that run ICT infrastructures vital for the state in solving the cybernetic security incidents and prevention activities. The so-called **governmental CERT** (hereinafter „GovCERT.CZ“) is part of the NCKB and its role is to monitor the cyberspace, detect, respond and prevent cyber-attacks. Another part of NCKB is the **Department of theoretical support, education and research** (in Czech „OTPVV“) which focuses on cybersecurity policies, international cooperation, cooperating on the national level with relevant partners and research coordination.

NCKB administrates the register of important information systems and determines critical information infrastructure of the state in accordance with the Act No 181/2014 on cybersecurity. The headquarters of NCKB was officially inaugurated on 13th May 2014 by the Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka and other guests from the Czech security community. The full operational capacity of NCKB should be achieved by the end of 2015.

NKCB continued to solve reported cybercrime incidents. A total of 791 reports (+691, + 691%) were delivered to GovCERT.CZ officers.<sup>91</sup> GovCERT.CZ worked with a total of 85 reported incidents. Most common reported incidents were malware programs<sup>92</sup> and social hacking attempts such as phishing. Up to date

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<sup>91</sup> Different incident reporting was introduced in 2014. Reported cybersecurity incidents as well as cybersecurity incidents solved by the NCKB are reported separately.

<sup>92</sup> Such as viruses, Trojan horses, spyware, etc. Classification from the ENISA documents is used.



information is published by NCKB on its webpage [www.govcert.cz](http://www.govcert.cz).

## Measures

New **Act No 181/2014 on cybersecurity**<sup>93</sup> became effective on 1st January 2015 (hereinafter ZKB from its Czech acronym). This law helps to effectively solve cybersecurity incidents and hastens reaction to cybersecurity threats that could present a danger for Czech national interests. The law defines who has to fulfill its obligations in cybersecurity area, which consist mostly in reporting contact data to NBÚ or national CERT<sup>94</sup> team in order to communicate effectively in the case of cyber attacks, detect and report cybersecurity incidents in a network<sup>95</sup> do a surveillance authority and implement regulations adopted by the NBÚ<sup>96</sup>. Critical information infrastructure and important information systems administrators are obliged to implement security measures.

Other regulations regarding ZKB also became effective, such as Decree No 316/2014 on security measures, cybersecurity incidents, reactive measures and incident reporting in the area of cybersecurity and Decree No 317/2014 on important information systems and criteria to establish them.

With the cooperation of MoI and Fire Department with NBÚ an amendment to a Government Regulation No 432/2010 on criteria to establish elements of critical infrastructure was drafted. This amendment for the first time includes critical infrastructure in the area of

cybersecurity and was published in December 2014.

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Ministry of Justice prepared an amendment to the Penal Code that implemented the directive of European Parliament 2013/40/EU on attacks on information systems and the replacement of framework decision of the Council 2005/222/SVV. This directive aims to harmonize criminal law regulations among the member states by setting a minimal standard of rules defining crimes against information systems and sanctions that follow. Another goal of the directive is improved cooperation between relevant authorities, including police and other law enforcement bodies of member states and specialized institutions and agencies of the EU such as Eurojust, Europol, EC3 and ENISA (European Agency for Network and Information Security).<sup>98</sup>

The Czech Republic complies with all the parts of the directive relevant to the definition of criminal acts. The directive also requests the member states to set a minimal sanction for the attack on information systems. The Czech Penal Code sets a minimal sanction for the attack on information systems on a lower level than the one requested by the directive. The proposed amendment is supposed to fix this issue.<sup>99</sup>

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New National Strategy for Cybersecurity for years 2015 to 2020 was prepared in 2014. This document establishes the principles of cybersecurity of the Czech Republic, challenges and main goals that should be achieved in this area. The strategy was approved on 22th December 2014 by the State Security Council<sup>100</sup>. The strategy is implemented through Action plan that contains concrete goals and deadlines for specific subjects in order to ensure cybersecurity.

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On national level the NCKB cooperated with various subjects responsible for the area of

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<sup>93</sup> This law has been long expected and makes the Czech Republic one of the first countries in the world to have the area of cybersecurity regulated by a special law. The law was created by the NBÚ.

<sup>94</sup> National CERT is a private entity, which serves as a surveillance authority for persons under section 3 a) and b) of ZKB.

<sup>95</sup> The obligation to detect and report cybersecurity incidents falls on persons under section 3 of ZKB with the exception of persons under part a) of such section (electronic communications and network communication providers)

<sup>96</sup> Regulations are legal acts that are related to specific cybersecurity threat. ZKB distinguishes between warnings, reactions and protective measures, each of them employed in a different situation.

<sup>97</sup> Persons responsible under section 3 a) are obliged only to implement reactions and only in a state of cybernetic danger, which means that security of information in information systems or the security and integrity of services and networks of electronic communication is endangered to a great extent and this state could endanger the national interests of the Czech Republic as stated in the law on classified information.

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<sup>98</sup> The directive influences the definitions of articles 182 (interference with delivered messages), section 230 (unauthorized access to computer system or data depository) and section 231 (procurement and possession of access data and password for a computer or other system)

<sup>99</sup> This proposal was submitted to the Czech Parliament on 14th November 2014 and is discussed under as Paper 358.

<sup>100</sup> By the time this report was created the strategy in question was already approved by the government Decree No 105 of 16th February.

cybersecurity. First national cybersecurity drill CYBER CZECH 2014 was organized by the NCKB in October 2014 with the aim of testing communication canals used and improving cooperation in resolving cybersecurity incidents. The drill was organized as a table-top<sup>101</sup> exercise with the participation of representatives of ministries, central state authorities, Czech Police, STÁTNÍ ZASTUPITELSTVÍ, intelligence services and academic institutions. All the relevant experts in the area of cybersecurity were present.

Other activities of NBÚ/NCKB in 2014 focused on finalizing the mapping of **information and communication systems important for the state**. This information was used in the process of preparation of the ZKB and other relevant regulations and helped to establish communication that is necessary in order to define and fulfill obligations given by the ZKB, with the potential subjects of the critical information infrastructure and administrators of important information systems.

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On **international level** Czech Republic joined the NATO *Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence* (CCD COE) in Tallinn, Estonia, whose aim is to increase the defense capacities and improve the collaboration and sharing of information among NATO members and other partners in respect of cyber defense. GovCERT.CZ team was included in the list of *Trusted Introducer organization Trans-European Research and Education Networking Association TI*.

On European level cooperation continued with the European Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA). Czech Republic participates in both formal and informal meetings with the agency. Two representatives of NBÚ are board members of ENISA<sup>102</sup>, responsible for the budget and program priorities. The Czech Republic participates in the meetings on cybersecurity organized by the OSCE, this participation is focused on trust building measures<sup>103</sup>, reinforced international cooperation,

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<sup>101</sup> Table-top exercise is designed to test theoretical abilities of the participants to react as a group to certain critical situation. Great advantage of this exercise is the possibility to test any hypothetical situation without the risk of causing any damage or other unwanted results.

<sup>102</sup> Management Board Member and Alternate Management Board Member.

<sup>103</sup> Also called Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

increased transparency and stability and diminishing threats, misunderstandings and conflicts that could have roots in the use of ICT.

NCKB participated in several international drills in 2014. One of the most important ones were **Cyber Coalition 2014**, which tested the preparedness of NATO member states against cyber attacks, and **Locked Shields 2014** organized by the NATO CCDCOE and focused on technological and legal aspects of resolution of cybernetic attacks.

Bilateral cooperation with partners was also developed in 2014 in the area of cybersecurity. Joint declaration on cooperation in cybersecurity was signed on November 25th 2014 in Jerusalem by the representatives of the Czech Republic and Israel.

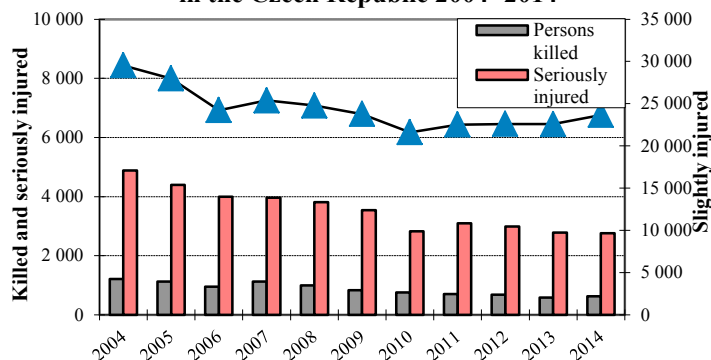
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BIS gathered information on cyber intelligence activities, some of them covering the whole world, focusing on governmental institutes and subjects from specialized research, energetic industry, finance etc.

## 2.2.12 Road traffic safety

Number of road traffic accidents: 85 859  
 (+1 461, +1,73%)  
 Consequences of accidents:  
 Persons killed: 629  
 (+46, +7,89 %)  
 Seriously injured: 2 762  
 (-20, -0,72 %)  
 Lightly injured: 23 655 (+1 078, +4,77 %)

Development in the Outcomes of Road Accidents  
 in the Czech Republic 2004 -2014



A total of 85 859 accidents were investigated by the Czech Police in 2014; 629 persons were killed, 2762 seriously injured, while 23 655 were injured slightly. Total estimated damage equaled CZK 4 933,233 million (-0,1%).

The number of persons killed was the second lowest since 1961<sup>104</sup> in 2014 with each month totaling less than 80 persons killed. The Czech Police recorded 4 637 accidents (-49) caused under the influence of alcohol (i.e. 6% of the total), which killed 63 (+11) persons (10,05% of the total) and injured 2366 (+60).

A total of 260 (+16) drug-positive tests of drivers were reported, whereby 6 (-8) persons were killed and 138 (+24) injured.

Most people lost their lives in accidents ending up by a crash of two vehicles (more than 44% of all persons killed). More than 27% were killed in a crash against a hard obstacle; most tragic were crashes into trees (112 persons killed). It is important to mention accidents involving collision with a pedestrian (almost 16,8% of all killed, 26 persons less than the previous year), although these accidents account for mere 4.1% of all the accidents.

The Czech Police recorded 14 208 cases (+754, + 5,6%) of offenders driving away from the place of accident (16,5% of the total number of accidents). Such accidents claimed 10 lives (-7) and 784 (-31) injured.

### Measures

**BESIP** (Ministry of Transport) is in charge of the implementation of prevention in the field of road traffic safety pursuant to Act No 361/2000 and also establishes goals and evaluates

measures from the **National Strategy for Road Traffic Safety**.

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Ministry of Transport submitted **National Strategy for Road Traffic Safety for years 2011 – 2020** to the government (government Decree No 599/2011).

Following preventive activities were carried out by the Ministry of Transport in 2014:

- Continuous evaluation of National Strategy for Road Traffic Safety (government Decree No 347/2011)
- Systematic training on 167 traffic playgrounds for children in all the regions of the Czech Republic
- Provision of new teaching materials for road traffic education (e.g. Workbook for basic traffic rules for children aged 6 to 9)
- 35th year of road safety educational program „Traffic competition of young cyclists“
- 5th year of BESIP TEAM project which concentrates on traffic education for everybody. This project is based on learning by doing approach and allows everybody to participate in a crash test simulator and get basic information regarding new traffic regulations or about various programs of the Ministry of Transport BESIP program. The project is available in all the regions of the Czech Republic and also provides leaflets and other handout materials.
- Publication of „Safety of Cyclist in Road Traffic“ brochure, designed to spread basic traffic rules regarding safe use of bikes in road transport.
- Campaign „Seniors in Road Traffic, designed for this specific group participating in road traffic. This campaign included TV and radio

<sup>104</sup> The worst years - 1969: 1758 people killed; 1994: 1473 killed. The number of fatalities has been decreasing since 2007, when 1123 were killed.

advertises and lectures given in the whole country.

- Active participation in fairs and exhibitions regarding road safety (Motosalon 2014 in Prague, Autosalon 2014 in Lysá nad Labem)

The Ministry of Education (MSMT), in cooperation with the Czech Fire and Rescue Service Directorate, prepared a new methodology

„*Grounds for Teaching about Protection of Human Lives from Common Threats on Elementary Schools.*” This methodology was published on the web pages of both the institutions and also on a webpage [www.rvp.cz](http://www.rvp.cz) belonging to the National Institute of Education.

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### 2.2.13 Civil Aviation Security

The level of safety and protection from illegal activities of civil aviation was generally good in 2014.

Attention has to be paid to training and safety instructions for all the employees of subjects participating in the area of civil aviation. Cybernetic threats will be the subject of raised awareness on national as well as international level.

#### Measures

On national level, the security of civil aviation is debated in National Commission for Civil Aviation Security (in Czech MKBCL). Subjects participating in the activities are Ministries of Transport, Interior, Defense, Exterior and Finance (Directorate of Customs). The main responsibility lies on the Ministry of Transport, whereas the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for Police activities on airports including armed escorts of flights and activities related to the work of intelligence agencies regarding security threats. Cooperation on national as well as international level is highly satisfactory.

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Elevated security measures are accepted on the grounds of evaluation of security threats or following a request from another subject. Some of these request are permanent (flights to USA and Israel), other are reported through the Ministry of Exterior or come from the embassies of selected countries (this regards the flights to Canada and Great Britain). Some of the requests come directly from flight providers or air traffic

authorities from other countries. Such measures could include more demanding security checks of passengers, aircraft controls and aircraft guarding, interviews with the passengers before check in and even escorts including armed escorts of certain flights. These measures are a reaction to terrorist attacks or attempts to complete them.

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Civil aviation security and prevention from criminal acts in this area is the matter of international groups such as Regulatory Board for Security of the EU and security board and commission of international civil aviation organizations ICAO and ECAC. Their meetings are regularly attended by the representatives of civil aviation department.

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New Decree No 274/2014 became effective as an amendment to the Decree No 410/2006. New versions of National Security Program and National Program of Security Training became effective on 1st of February 2014.

**Amended version of Act No 49/1997 on civil aviation** became effective on 11th July 2014, its application will start on 1st February 2015. This amendment reacts to new regulations, decisions and demands originating from the specific conditions of the Czech Republic. New measures are taken to protect the area of civil aviation from illegal acts and the amended part better reflects new needs to increase security controls of relevant actors.

### 3. Public order and internal security policy

The security of the Czech Republic is based on the security of individual, protection of his/her life, health and property. These values are considered a priority by the coalition government.

The internal security policy is based on the **Constitutional Act No 110/1998 on the security of the Czech Republic**, while respecting relevant EU documents (for instance, the EU Internal Security Strategy).

The government wants to promote such form of criminal proceedings that would ensure fair, effective and fast hearings in criminal matters, including more **effective ways to confiscate the proceeds of crime**. The government will strive to support the application of legal provisions on the **protection and compensations to victims of crime**.

The change in criminal policy is supposed to bring a reduction in crime and repeated crime: more prominent role for preventive programs, particularly as regards youth crime, and focus on localities most hit by crime, penitentiary reform, introduction of electronic monitoring system that would be an inexpensive and reliable way to check upon individuals sentenced to house arrest and could, in certain cases, replace custody.

The government puts emphasis on a more resolute fight against organized crime and corruption, it will therefore use its best endeavors to ensure that accused person has the obligation

to prove the origin of his/her property in all cases of suspicion of a serious economic and financial crime and organized crime (in particular tax crime, corruption, drugs and human trafficking).

The primary function is to stabilize the security forces. It wants to improve the security of the country by reinforcing the direct performance of policing.

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Materials that concern the security of the Czech Republic, including public order and internal security, are discussed by the State Security Council (Bezpečnostní rada státu - BRS) and also by the Internal Security Committee (Výbor pro vnitřní bezpečnosti - VVB).

In 2014, a total of 5 meetings of BRS took place together with 4 meetings of the board of BRS: The meetings were on Russian-Ukraine crisis, the Ebola epidemics, extremism, organized crime and the explosion of munitions depot in Vlachovice-Vrbětice in the Zlín region.

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This chapter mentions primarily measures taken by the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police as the bodies in charge of internal security and public order. These measures include legislative, preventive, economic, personal, educational and research and development activities.

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#### 3.1 Legislative activities

*(Further legislative actions are elaborated in relevant chapters.)*

On 1st of August the Act No 141/2014 on change of Act No 141/1961 on criminal proceedings (Criminal Procedure Code) as amended and Act No 418/2011 on criminal prosecution of public entities as amended by Act No 105/2013 came into effect. The new legislation aimed to harmonize Czech law with new EU directives.

#### Criminal Code

Two new criminal acts were defined in the **area of sexual abuse and exploitation** – criminal act of a participation in pornographic performance (section 193a of the Criminal Code) and criminal act of unlawful contacts with a minor (section 193b of the Criminal Code). More precise definition of production and other operation with child pornography was established, broadening the scope of the criminal activity to gaining access to child pornography by the means of ICT. This change reflected the Directive of the European Parliament and Council No 2011/93 EU on the fight against child

abuse, exploitation and child pornography from 13th December 2011, which replaces the framework decision of the Council No 2004/68/SVV.

In the area of **trafficking in human beings** a change was introduced to the definition of the criminal act trafficking in human beings (section 168 of the Criminal Code). This change reflected the adoption of the directive of the European Parliament and Council No 2011/36/EU on preventing trafficking in human beings, fight against it and the protection of victims from 5th April 2011, which replaces the framework decision of the Council No 2002/629/SVV. The above mentioned section was amended to include the criminalization of accepting a victim of human trafficking into service.

In the area of **extremism** a change was introduced to the definition of the criminal act defined under section 405 of the Criminal Code – denying or celebrating and defending of genocide. This change reflected the provisions framework decision of the Council No 2008/913/SVV on fight against certain forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia from 28th November 2008. The above mentioned section was amended to include other crimes against humanity, not just Nazi and communist crimes, war crimes and crimes against peace.<sup>105</sup>

## **Criminal Procedure Code**

One of the main objectives of the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code was establishing the preparation of tax or other compulsory payment (as defined in section 240 of the Criminal Code) evasion as a criminal act. If tax or other compulsory payment evasion is to be prosecuted by the police, the criminal proceedings have to start early and monitoring and documentation of the fictitious operations has to be available in early stages of the crime in order to secure evidence for court hearing.

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<sup>105</sup> Crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes defined in sections 6,7 and 8 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court (published as No 84/2009 in a Bulletin of International Treaties) and crimes against peace defined under the section 6 of the Charter of International War Tribunal that was included in the London Agreement of 8th August 1945 (published as No 164/1947) are to be prosecuted if they are targeted against a group of people or members of such group based on race, skin color, religious beliefs, national or ethnic origin and if these acts could incite violence or hatred against such group or against a member of such group.

Tax evasion causes significant damage to the society and its preparation was not sanctioned by the criminal proceedings before the amendment, giving the perpetrators ample possibilities to complete the crime. Another related problem is the confiscation of machinery used to illegally produce tobacco products and alcohol.

Another objective was to motivate subjects to report corruption. This amendment aims to achieve this objective by giving the Police the possibility to temporarily postpone criminal proceedings and allowing the public prosecutor not to indict the suspect.

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According to the Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office the Criminal Procedure Code has become hardly applicable in criminal prosecution and investigation due to its uncounted amendments. **With regard to various problems with the legislation regarding criminal procedure, the Ministry of Justice established Commission for New Criminal Procedure Code, which started its activities in 2014:** Public prosecutors are also represented in the Commission. In November 2014 the Commission approved Grounds for the New Criminal Procedure. The **objectives of this new Criminal Procedure Code include:**

- faster criminal proceedings in all its stages
- stronger position of public prosecutors in the preparatory stage of criminal proceedings
- responsibility of public prosecutors for not presenting evidence in required complexity in order to prove the guilt of the suspect in court proceedings
- ability to use property confiscated in criminal proceedings by the state to support the victims of crime

## **Misdemeanors**

Draft Act amending Act No 200/1990 on misdemeanors was approved by the government on 27th October 2014 by a Government Decree No 864. The draft was submitted by the government to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament as Paper 368. The main goal of this amendment is to register selected misdemeanors in Criminal record and punish repeated perpetration of such misdemeanors by a higher sanction. Other selected misdemeanors should also be registered in order to provide data for security clearances of individuals.

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The Ministry of the Interior prepared in 2012 a draft **project of a law on misdemeanors, responsibility thereof and misdemeanors procedure**. The proposal was debated and adopted by the government on 3 April 2013. Ministry of the Interior prepared detailed proposal of the law on misdemeanors, responsibility thereof and misdemeanors procedure, which is now undergoing legislative process and should come into effect at the beginning of 2017.

The main objective of the proposal is to provide for a comprehensive regulation of fundamentals of administrative liability of legal and physical persons for misdemeanors and to specify administrative penalties, protective measures and principles for the imposition thereof and establish procedure pro its application.

### **Register of citizens and personal numbers**

Ministry of the interior proposed several alterations that are compiled in a draft legislation that changes Act No 133/2000 on the register of citizens and personal numbers as amended, Act No 328/1999 on identity cards as amended, Act No 329/1999 on travel documents as amended and others related legislation.

The draft includes changes in the mechanism of application for and issuing of identity cards.<sup>106</sup>

### **Law on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters**

**Act No 104/2013 on international judicial cooperation in criminal matters** entered into force on 1st January 2014. The Act provides for regulation of procedures of judicial and central and other bodies in respect of international judicial cooperation in criminal matters. Furthermore, it implements the EU regulations relevant for this area.

Existing regulation of the matter was no longer satisfactory; therefore a new separate act was chosen in order to regulate the issue in a comprehensive and detailed manner.

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<sup>106</sup> Application can be handed in at any local authority with extended jurisdiction, but the documents will only be issued at the same office. Similar limitations will apply for travel documents.

A follow-up Act No 105/2013 on the amendment of certain Acts related to the Act on international judicial cooperation entered into force on 1 January 2014. The following acts were amended:

- Act No 141/1961, the Criminal Procedure Code. Relevant provisions of the Criminal Code were amended and in particular the whole Title 25 in Part IV „Legal relations with foreign countries“ (§ 375 to 460zp) was deleted as it has for long been unsatisfactory.
- Act No 40/2009, the Criminal Code. The amendments concerned in particular its provisions on extraditions of Czech nationals, limitation period, conditional release and recognition of time in custody or prison.
- Act No 418/2011 on criminal liability of legal persons and proceedings against them. Sections regulating international relations were deleted with the reference to the use of the above mentioned Act in these circumstances.

### **Migration**

**Two amendments were made in 2014 in the Act No 326/1999 on residence of foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic.** These amendments were implemented by the following acts:

- Act No 1010/2014 on the change of Acts No 326/1999 on residence of foreigners in the territory of the Czech Republic, No 435/2004 on employment and other related acts. This new act came into force on June 24th 2014 and its main purpose was the establishment of the so-called „employment card“ which changes the conditions of the stay of foreigners on the territory of Czech Republic for the purpose of employment.<sup>107</sup> This act also amended Act No 325/1999 on asylum.<sup>108</sup>
- Act No 267/2014 on the change of Act No 586/1992 on income taxes and other related

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<sup>107</sup> This acts implements the Directive No 2011/98/EU on uniform process for the evaluation of residence and employment permits on the territory of member states for citizens of third countries a on the charter of rights of third country nationals employed legally in member state. This act also revoked the Decree No 29/2013 on the list of countries, whose nationals were allowed to apply for a green card, since this instrument no longer exists.

<sup>108</sup> The new amendment declares that if a court of justice revokes a resolution of a ministry concerning the mandatory stay of an asylum seeker in an institution for the detention of foreigners, the ministry has to allow the asylum seeker to leave the institution without undue delay.

acts came into force on 31st December 2014. This act revoked changes in relevant acts concerning the establishment of the single collection point, which should have come into effect on 1st January 2015. Part of the Act referring to the residence of foreigners was under section 46 7) d) and e)

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Two amendments are accepted in 2014 to the Decree No 428/2010 that list the foreign nationals that are allowed to stay in transit area of an international airport in the Czech Republic only with an airport transit visa.<sup>109</sup>

Another amendment was made to the Decree No 88/2014 on technical specifications and processes of obtaining biometric data and signatures of foreign nationals for the purpose of issuing residence permits documents. This amendment established a new method of quality review for fingerprints that allows for fingerprints of lower visual quality to be used.<sup>110</sup> Similar reasons were behind the amendment to the Decree No 415/2006 on technical specifications and processes of obtaining and processing biometric data included in travel documents.<sup>111</sup>

### **Tax crimes**

In the area of fight against tax crime, Act No 201/2014 on the change of Act No 353/2003 on excise taxes came into force on 1st of July 2014, with some of its provisions coming into effect on 1st of December 2014.

The objectives of this law are to increase excise tax on tobacco products in accordance with the Directive of the Council 2011/64/EU from 21st June 2011 on the structure of excise taxes on tobacco products and restoration of the so called „green diesel“, which allows producers using mineral oils such as petrol for primary agricultural production to have their excise tax on these oils returned to them.

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<sup>109</sup> These amendments ruled out that possibility for the nationals of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (Decree No 20/2014, coming into effect on February 15th 2014) and Jordan (Decree No 198/2014, coming into effect on 1st October 2014.)

<sup>110</sup> Decree No 194/2014, coming into effect on 1st January 2015.

<sup>111</sup> Decree No 206/2014, coming into effect on 1st January 2015.



## 3.2 Crime prevention

The prevention policy includes in particular non-repressive measures to prevent crime and mitigate the consequences associated with crime while increasing the security of the citizens. The inter-ministerial Crime Prevention Committee is charged with overall coordination of the policy (hereinafter „Prevention Committee“). The committee has the right of initiative and coordinates policy papers submitted to the Czech government. It also decides on the allocation of funds on programs and projects designed in the framework of the Crime Prevention Strategy of the Czech Republic for the years 2012 to 2015 (the „Strategy“).

### I. Crime prevention on international level

In 2013 the Czech Republic focused its crime prevention activities mostly on the cooperation within the EU. The Ministry of the Interior represents the country in the EUCPN - *European Crime Prevention Network* established on the basis of Council Decision 2009/902/JHA. This network sets out tasks for member countries by means of a multi-annual strategy in order to strengthen the role of prevention and make the prevention more effective across the EU.

The EUCPN Council held four meetings in 2014. The main objective for the whole year was the prevention of trafficking in human beings and illegal migration which constitute an acute problem for both presidency countries (Greece, Italy). The European Crime Prevention Prize was also dedicated to this topic. On 4th to 5th December 2014 **EUCPN Good Practice Conference** took place in Rome, awarding the best European prevention project. The prize was won by a Danish project called „HopeNow“, dedicated to a complex system of education on human trafficking on secondary schools and universities. Each member state can nominate one project for the prize. The winner of Czech national round in 2014 was the project called **Employment of Foreigners in the Czech Republic and Legalization of their Residence Status** – Seminar for Cooperating Institutions organized the Police Directorate of Region South Bohemia (Alien Police Department). This project was presented at the conference together with other winning projects from other EU member states.

The MoI participated in the annual conference of the **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** of the OSN in Vienna, in a FRONTEX conference in Finland and a **conference dedicated to the search mechanisms for the localization of missing children** in Germany and Belgium.

The MoI is also in charge of the agenda of the **EU DAPHNE Program**. The program aims to contribute to the protection of children, young people and women against all forms of violence. In order to raise public awareness of the DAPHNE program the OPK MV regularly participates in regional promotional events.

### II. Crime prevention at inter-ministerial level

A report was submitted to the government in the first quarter of 2015 on the **Implementation of tasks stemming from the Crime Prevention Strategy of the Czech Republic** for the years 2012 to 2015 – reporting period 2013“. The document will be submitted for information to the Chamber of Deputies together with the Situation Report on Public Order and Internal Security in the Czech Republic in 2014..

The 2014 priorities in crime prevention focused on the prevention of crime by children and young people, prevention of crime and other related problems in socially excluded communities, prevention of over-indebtedness, support for the victims of crime, particularly victims of domestic violence, security of senior citizens and reducing risks coming from cybercrime. Emphasis has been put on the improvement of analytical activities, evaluation of quality and effectiveness of preventive programs and education.<sup>112</sup>

The Prevention Committee discussed in May 2014 „**Analysis of the Necessity of Legislative Regulation of Crime Prevention**“ which was prepared by IKSP together with the Crime Prevention Department of MoI. Debates about

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<sup>112</sup> The Crime Prevention Committee regularly discussed draft government policy papers and legislative documents, proposals for preventive measures, methodical manuals or various state authorities, outputs of research projects (e.g. extremist trends in the Czech Republic). In addition the Committee considered the applications for EU subsidies individual projects for systematic crime prevention.

the topic were held in 2013 and 2014 will all the relevant actors (including the Union of cities and municipalities of the Czech Republic), but no conclusion was reached, since opinions of experts on this matter differ. Some of the experts proposed new legislation on the matter, others proposed only minor changes and the rest concluded that the actual state is perfect. The Prevention Committee accepted following recommendations:

- based on the analysis continue with minor amendments to the existing legislation regulating crime prevention and its subjects, with the aim to establish more stable and effective conditions for crime prevention
- include the topic of crime prevention into strategic documents of the Czech government concerning criminal justice

In May 2014 a Working Group on Socially Excluded Localities was formed by deputy ministers of relevant ministries and representatives of municipalities and regions. The Working Group discussed necessary legislative and non legislative changes needed to improve the situation of the socially excluded localities (social security system, social services, crime prevention, metal theft, etc. The government was informed about the activities of the group.

### III. Prevention of crime at local level

Based on the priorities set out by the Strategy, MoI continued to run the **Crime Prevention Program in regions and municipalities**. Main goals of the Program are security of the citizens, elimination of criminal activity and protection of local communities from crime. Two rounds of the subsidy program were published in 2014 by the MoI in order to promote the safety of citizens and implement preventive measures.

**A total of 265 projects were supported in 2014, their overall value equaled CZK 51 735 000.** The social prevention projects dealt primarily with risky groups of children and youth, security of seniors and other vulnerable groups, prevention of over-indebtedness and cybercrime prevention. These projects were not covered by other state subsidies. Most projects concerned placing surveillance CCTV camera networks in towns, their connection to the Czech Police and the protection of municipal property and premises (the area of situation prevention

receives funding only from the Crime Prevention Program). Complex measures included in the crime prevention projects help to solve local security issues especially in problematic regions and municipalities.<sup>113</sup>

The MoI, following a request from regions and municipalities, simplified the procedure of application for a subsidy and updated the main methodological materials for the preparation of crime prevention programs **The Principles for the allocation of state budget subsidies to cover expenses incurred in the framework of the Crime Prevention Program**. Seminars were held in all the regions in order to help all the relevant actors to prepare crime prevention programs for 2015 with participants from the Crime Prevention Department, representatives of regions and municipalities and the Czech Police.

### IV. Specific crime prevention projects

The support of specific projects implemented by regions and local councils or NGOs continued in 2014. Main focus was on child and youth offenders, socially excluded groups, victims of crime and victims of domestic violence.

#### Prevention of crime in socially excluded communities

Specific project improving the security situation in socially excluded communities, preventing extremist behavior and motivating citizens and municipal administration to search for positive solutions is the **Crime prevention assistant** (hereinafter APK) implemented across the country since September 2009 by the Crime Prevention Department.

The APK project was implemented in **53 municipalities in 2014, with 170 (22 more than the previous year) assistants** active in the field. Each municipality has municipal police officer serving as a mentor to the assistants, giving tasks to them and evaluating their performance and

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<sup>113</sup> An important criterion of effectiveness is the evaluation of the supported projects. Apart from direct indicators of the project, the long term security situation is followed together with crime index and risk index in the relevant municipalities and regions. In 2014 MoI continued to evaluate data from the Czech Police, Ministry of Labor and other relevant state institutions and prepared a matrix to gather more detailed data from municipalities that would allow for a more precise method of evaluating the potential risk status of a locality and help to focus the projects on the most important issues.

helping them to overcome obstacles and fulfill all the tasks. The Czech Police also helps to implement the project in relevant localities.

The APK project is financed from two sources. The first is the MoI chapter of the state budget, Crime Prevention Program subsidy, the other one is the European Social Fund, operational program Human Resources and Employment. In 2014 a Methodology for the selection, training and work of the crime prevention assistant was published. Another project improving the security situation of municipalities and also helping to improve housing situation is the prevention program „**Domovník preventista**“ (Preventive Caretaker), which started already in 2013 in five cities. In 2014 a total of 25 preventive caretakers positions were financed by the Crime Prevention Program in 12 municipalities.

### **National coordination mechanism of search for missing children**

The MoI has continued in 2014 with the implementation of the project of National coordination mechanism of search for missing children (hereinafter „NKMPPD“)<sup>114</sup>

In the end of 2013, the **NGO Ztracené dítě** (Missing Child) which runs the **European emergency hotline for missing children 116 000** became another partner of the project. The 24/24 hotline is designed primarily to help the missing children, their families and friends. The operators of the 116 000 hotline give preventive counseling relevant to the issue. Emergency hotlines in Europe form a network which enables effective transfer of information between participating countries. The same service is available in all the participating countries after dialing the 116 000 to everybody in need of it.

Interdepartmental working group founded by the MoI in March 2014 consists of ministerial experts and representatives of NGOs and its main task is to ensure the sustainability of the 116 000 hotline in the future.

In January 2014 a partnership agreement between NKMPPD and the European platform **AMBER Alert Europe** based in Brussels was signed. This agreement included the NKMPPD in a unique transnational network of police subjects and NGOs working together, sharing best practices and improving the effectiveness of search mechanisms in EU member states. This platform prepared a **Memorandum for the European Parliament and European Commission – Recommendations for an effective European approach to transnational problems related to endangered children and child abduction.**

In February 2014 the MoI presented NKMPPD during a meeting of experts and police officers concerning the search for missing children in Hamburg, organized by the Amber Alert Europe together with German provider of the 116 000 hotline Initiative Vermisste Kinder. The objective of this meeting was to inform German colleagues with various phases of search mechanisms in neighboring countries and discuss possible cooperation in the cases of trans-border searches for endangered missing children.

**Information leaflets on NKMPPD and European hotline for missing children 116 000** were printed on the occasion of International Children's day (1st June). The leaflets were distributed to all the prevention and communications departments of the Czech Police, all the regional crime prevention managers and to relevant cooperating organizations. The leaflet is also available for download on the webpage of NKMPPD at [pomoztenajit.cz](http://pomoztenajit.cz).

Since the official launch of NKMPPD in May 2010, the **mechanism has been activated in 122 cases** (13 cases in 2014).<sup>115</sup> Evaluations of the system confirm that the system is effective and accomplishes its objective.

### **Early intervention system (SVI)**

In February 2013 the government discussed a Report on the progress made in the implementation of the project of National early intervention system as part of the reform of the system of care for vulnerable,<sup>116</sup> submitted by the

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<sup>114</sup> The NKMPPD is based on the search capacity of the Czech Police, reinforced by the Integrated Rescue System if needed. The system improves the existing mechanisms for collaboration between the relevant bodies, makes an effective use of existing communication channels and coordination of responsible bodies. The project counts with a broad involvement of the public and a psychological support to the families of missing children.

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<sup>115</sup> As of 12th December 2014.

<sup>116</sup> The report follows on the Government Resolution No 191/2011, which stipulates that the Early Intervention System („SVI“) is an inter-ministerial project having for objective to prevent the risks of delinquency in children. Its

Ministry of Labor. It was stated in the report that the system will be integrated into the information system for the social and legal protection of children and that it will be co-financed from the EU funds. In 2014, there was no progress in the implementation of SVI.

### **Domestic Violence**

The issue of domestic violence stays on the agenda of the MoI. Based on a Government Resolution No 262 of 13th April 2011, the MoI prepares a yearly report on **National Action Plan of Domestic Violence Prevention of 2011-2014**. This material includes tasks not just for the Czech Police and MoI, but also for other state subjects (various ministries including Labor, Education, Justice and Agriculture) and NGOS. The 2014 report was submitted to the government in December 2014 and was discussed by the government in January 2015.

On 18th February 2014 a subsidy committee of the program **Prevention of domestic violence and crime against elderly persons for 2014** held its meeting. A total of 7 proposed projects were discussed and all of them were awarded with financial support. The total amount awarded was CZK 1 526 000 with 6 organizations receiving the funds (Centrum nové naděje, o. s., Diakonie ČCE – středisko západní Čechy, proFem – Konzultační středisko pro ženské projekty, o.p.s., ROSA – centrum pro týrané a osamělé ženy, Prosefona, o.s., Život 90). The awarded projects focused on activation of elderly citizens in domestic violence prevention, education of the public activities on media coverage of domestic violence perpetrated on the elderly in home and institutional environment and media coverage of crime against the elderly.

### **Prevention of risks related to virtual communication**

Risks of virtual communication (cyber bullying, child pornography and extremist propaganda) endanger especially children which are not aware of such potential risks. The MoI is since 2011 a partner of the **E-Synergie** project, carried out by the Pedagogical Faculty of Palacký University in Olomouc and financed by the EU funds. The project concluded successfully in 2014. Its main goal was to reduce risks of virtual

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implementation is the Ministry of Labor with the support for the MoI.

communication for the youth generation. Teachers to be were educated in cybercrime prevention measures whereas cybercrime investigators were also trained. Another objective of the project was the inclusion of cybercrime prevention in police training and education.

### **Prevention of over-indebtedness as a criminogenic factor**

The **Alliance against debts**, founded by the MoI, the Probation and Mediation Service and Rubicon Centre non-profit organization in 2011, continued its activities in 2014. It focused on the protection of citizens against overindebtedness and on the prevention of crime related to indebtedness. Consumer rights were reinforced with the amendments of Act No 145/2010 on consumer loan which came into effect in 2013 and 2014. The Alliance has several priorities which include alternative measures against over-indebtedness, creation of a remediation fund and account protection against execution.<sup>117</sup>

MoI has supported the activities of local authorities and NGOs in the area of overindebtedness prevention, public financial literacy awareness and counseling in the area of overindebtedness and debt payment under the Crime Prevention Program. In 2014, regional projects from Central Bohemia, Plzen Region, Vysočina region and cities Nový Jičín, Olomouc and Beroun were supported.

### **Program Safe housing – safe locality**

**Program Safe housing – safe locality** organized by the Prevention Committee continued in 2014. This project aims to introduce mechanical protection systems, raise public awareness and support the production of Czech

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<sup>117</sup> The MoI prepared a project in order to provide objective, affordable a guaranteed counseling for citizens in the area of overindebtedness and its prevention. The project is called „Creating a Universal system in the Area of Financial Literacy and Overindebtedness Prevention“and is registered under CZ.1.04/4.1.00/B6.00040. The costs of the project should be partially covered by the EU funding. The project was put forward and should commence before the end of 2014. Its main focus is the education and long term professional support of municipal and regional officials, who in turn will counsel citizens. The scope of the project was to train more than 1100 officials. However in the public tender, no offer was made and the public tender had to be cancelled, partly also due to insufficient time frame for its preparation. The MoI will try to bring this project up once again in the new Program Period of 2014 – 2020.

industry. The projects help citizens to secure their property and real estate with functional security components and combination thereof and also help to put in practice general recommendations of the MoI with the practical experience of the Union of Czech Mechanical Locking Systems Producers.<sup>118</sup>

In January 2014, the Prevention Committee approved the methodical text „**Manual for Safe Housing**“. This manual offers complete information for securing property, citizen protection and safe conduct by the means of uniting technical, social and legislative measures.

## V. Information activities and media coverage of crime prevention

The MoI focused on the presentation of preventive measures coming from regional and local crime prevention programs and their specific projects. Successful preventive activities were given coverage and general public was also informed about the crime trends in order to give them relevant information in the area of public order and property protection.

Information for the general public is presented not only on the website of the MoI, but also on a specialized webpage [www.prevencekriminality.cz](http://www.prevencekriminality.cz), which focuses on mutual communication with regional crime prevention managers, police prevention officers, NGO staff and other relevant actors. Practical tips and helpful articles are also published on this website.

The MoI publishes an electronic newsletter titled **Prevention for every family**. Apart from expert articles it seeks to shape the public opinion and influence the attitude of the public to the issue of personal safety and security. This newsletter is distributed to crime prevention managers, police officers and also to citizens with the help of municipal officials.

In 2014 a new series of articles called **PrevTour** was created in order to publish information about successful crime prevention projects put forward in Czech cities and municipalities. This series is published monthly on the web [www.prevencekriminality.cz](http://www.prevencekriminality.cz) and

serves as an inspiration for crime prevention staff by spreading good practice.

In September 2014 a sixth year of international fair on newest trends in security mechanism, systems and services **FS Days** took place. MoI staff cooperated closely with the Union of Czech Mechanical Locking Systems Producers and the Czech Police in the activities of a support centre. This centre presented the Safe housing project and also gave general information about prevention activities.

In March 2014, results of the third year of the **Best Prevention Projects of Regions, Cities and Municipalities** competition were announced. This competition aims to award the best prevention projects of 2013 and support knowledge and good practice sharing. The theme of the competition was „Complex approach to crime prevention focusing of vulnerable citizens“. The winning project „Service in the community“ was nominated by the Prague Magistrate and conducted by Proxima sociale NGO. In October 2014, fourth year of the competition was announced and the results will be known in March 2015.

## Prevention of crime in the portfolio of the Ministry of the Interior

In April 2014, the Czech Police Presidium adopted strategic material „**Conception of Crime Prevention of Czech Police for years 2014 to 2016**“ (hereinafter Conception). The Czech Police clearly states the aim to strengthen the role of crime prevention in its activities and change the internal processes so that crime prevention would be present in all the levels of police work. New **Methodical Council of Czech Police for Crime Prevention** was created by the Conception as the collective body for the methodological guidance of the system of crime prevention and its coordination in the activities of the Czech Police. The Council will also work as an advisory body pro the police president in the area of Crime Prevention.

The MoI in accordance with the Crime Prevention Strategy announced **Crime Prevention Program of the Ministry of the Interior** in May 2014. The program and its priorities for 2014 were consulted and approved by the Methodical Council of the Czech Police. 8 Police regional directorates and two bodies of the Police Presidium applied in the program. A total

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<sup>118</sup> Main outcome of the joint effort of the MoI and the Prevention Committee are the publications „Methods to Set Security Standards of Property and Businesses in order to Protect them against Burglary according to the European Standards“ and „Catalogue of Recommended Products for Safeguarding Property“.

of 14 projects amounting to 1 200 000 CZK were supported.<sup>119</sup>

## Projects funded by the EU OPLZZ program

1) In May 2014 the project **Integrated Education for the Security of Senior Citizens** (registered under CZ.1.04.1.00/B6.00026) was commenced. Its main purpose is establishing an educational system for the public and municipal officials in order to train them in the areas of crime prevention and prosecution of crimes against senior citizens. The project duration is 18 months. Following activities were undertaken in the project:

- establishment of educational programs for public and municipal officials (especially Police officers, judges, public prosecutors and municipal official in the areas of crime prevention and prosecution of crimes against senior citizens
- training of future trainers of these courses in secondary police schools
- realization of pilot courses that test educational courses in practice

2) Since June 2014 the MoI runs a project called **Maps of the Future – Modern Tool to Improve Effectiveness and the Quality of Public Governance in the Area of Crime Prevention based on the Analysis and Prediction of Crime** (registered under CZ.1.04/4.1.00/B6.00041). The aim of the project is to map the use of crime analysis, prediction and mapping tools abroad with the use of international comparative study and expert workshops. The costs and benefits of the tools and their application should be assessed. Recommendation on the use of such tools for the Czech Police and also municipal polices should be the outcome of this project.

Second individual project ESF OP LZZ **Crime Prevention Assistant** (registered under CZ.1.04/3.3.00/C5.00001) started in 2014. Its purpose is to reduce the number of criminal offences and misdemeanors committed in socially excluded regions, enhance the rule of

law, prevent neighbor disputes as well as latent crime and help the Czech Police and municipal polices promote law and order. Chosen Crime Prevention Assistants (hereinafter APK) are trained and employed by the municipal police or the municipality itself.<sup>120</sup>

The project will end in October 2015. In August 2014 the selection process for the service supplier for „Support for the Work with Target Group and Mentors“ and „Project Administration Support“ was finalized. The project includes training of mentors, entry training of APK, continuous education of APK, individual counseling of APK and continuous education and supervision of mentors.

<sup>119</sup> Priority was given to the projects covering the whole area of Czech Republic that react to actual security threats and conform to the priorities of the Crime Prevention Strategy and have established effectiveness indicators. These projects focused mostly on crime prevention for vulnerable groups of citizens and victimization prevention.

<sup>120</sup> 75 APK positions were created in 20 cities (11 regions) as of 1st September 2014. The following cities take part in the project: Aš, Bílina, Brno, Bruntál, Břeclav, Duchcov, Frýdek – Místek, Jaroměř, Karlovy Vary, Nový Bor, Pardubice, Rotava, Rumburk, Sokolov, Šternberk, Ústí nad Labem, Vimperk, Vsetín, Vysoké Mýto, Žďár nad Sázavou.

### 3.3 European Union and International Cooperation

#### Asylum and migration

Measures created in order to **control increased migration flows** were implemented in 2014, based on the humanitarian and migration crisis in the Mediterranean area. Legislation creating the Common European Asylum System was also implemented. This system is one of the main tools that constitute effective reaction of the EU to the increased migration flows. The debate on another measures used to regulate migration continued with the focus on solidarity. The EASO (European Asylum Support Office) helps the member states in successful cooperation in the area of asylum and migration. The Czech Republic was not targeted by the increased migration flows from the Mediterranean area. However it will be part of the solution on the European level with the possible future effects of the crisis in mind.

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Discussion continued on the proposed directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, pupil exchange, remunerated and unremunerated training, voluntary service and au pairing, which aims to highlight the EU as a centre of research and education and facilitate entry and stay of third-country nationals.

Several measures aimed at reducing the abuse of free movement of persons in the EU were taken by the European Commission as a reaction to the debate started by several EU member states. One of such measures is the **Handbook on addressing the issue of alleged marriages of convenience between EU citizens and non-EU nationals in the context of EU law on free movement of EU citizens**, which was published on September 26th 2014. The aim of this handbook is to help EU member states and their authorities to recognize the abuse of free movement caused by marriages of convenience without prejudicing the free movement of EU citizens and their family members based on good faith.

On 17th February 2014 the Council for Agriculture approved Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2014/36/EU on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as

seasonal workers. On May 13th 2014 the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2014/66/EU on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer was approved.<sup>121</sup>

#### Schengen area and visa policy

The **debate on the functioning of the Schengen area** and the benefits and some negative consequences of the free movement of persons continued. The EU member states agree, that the freedom of movement in the Schengen area is one of the most important achievements of European integration. In the context of increased migration flows measures have to be adopted in order to allow the full functionality of the Schengen area in the future.

In the area of Schengen evaluation, the role of the European Commission will be strengthened. In 2014 there was no progress on accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area. There has to be a unilateral decision of all the Schengen countries taken on a ministerial level.

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In April 2014, the government approved **National Schengen Plan 2014**. It is a strategic document for the area of Schengen cooperation and border protection, which aims at securing a high standard in all the areas of Schengen cooperation, which is assessed by regular Schengen evaluations.<sup>122</sup>

The Schengen evaluation process regarding the Czech implementation of Schengen standards was completed in 2014. Objectives given by the evaluation committee are now being completed and evaluated.

The Czech legislation was harmonized with the EU law in the case of transport companies and their obligation to systematically check all the persons that cross inner Schengen borders.

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<sup>121</sup> The directive on seasonal workers has to be transposed in national legislation before September 30th 2016 whereas the directive on intra corporate transfers before 29th November 2016.

<sup>122</sup> The plan should envision new development of the Schengen acquis, including the evaluation of financial means and creation of national strategy for the purpose of budgeting and the use of EU funding.

Therefore the European Commission stopped the infringement proceedings.<sup>123</sup>

### Visa information system (VIS)

The legislative package on visa issues, which aims among other things to streamline common visa policy and facilitate the visa application was discussed in 2014. **Reworking of the Visa Code and the introduction of a new so-called Travel visa** should be part of the process among other measures.

The **annexes to the Regulation No. 539/2001, establishing the list of third countries whose nationals need visa when crossing the external borders, were changed**, as well as list of the third-countries whose nationals are exempt from that requirement. This "positive list" was extended.

Currently work is underway to modernize the existing visa program, MVP / EVC (Modernization of the Visa Process/ Evidence of Visa Aliens), which responds to the requirements of the full operation of the Visa Information System (hereinafter referred to as "CS-VIS") and the demands of the Ministry of the Interior, which launched its visa system NS-VIS ČR.

Modernization of the Visa Program MVP / EVC is necessary mainly because of the capture of biometric identifiers (fingerprints) at the embassies of the Czech Republic, respectively the embassies of the Member States of the Schengen cooperation. In 16 regions and on border crossings, prints of all 10 fingers of every visa applicant are taken.<sup>124</sup> Implementation of the process is gradual, CS-VIS is initiated in individual regions in a predetermined order.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> In the reporting period, there were four cases of temporary reintroduction of internal border controls by Schengen Member States. The Netherlands introduced controls from 14th to 28th March 2014 in relation to the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague. Another temporary reintroduction of internal border controls was implemented by Belgium from 1st to 6th June on the occasion of the G7 summit. Norway used the same measures from 24th to 31st July 2014 due to terrorist threats. Estonian authorities decided to carry out border controls from August 31st to September 3rd because of the visit of the US President.

<sup>124</sup> The fingerprints will be used to identify persons (search in the database) and verify their ID (comparing one to one). Obligation to take biometric data falls on all states of the Schengen cooperation.

<sup>125</sup> In 2011 the visa system of the Czech Republic was connected to the CS-VIS of all countries of the Schengen cooperation by the connection of the diplomatic mission in 1st region - Northern Africa. In 2012, the connection was broadened to the 2nd region - the Middle East and the 3rd

During 2014, the system was implemented in regions 12 to 16 (Central America, North America, The Caribbean, Australia and Oceania, Western Balkans, Turkey and others). Agreement was reached regarding the deadlines for the VIS in the remaining regions 17 to 23 (Caucasus, Ukraine, Russia, China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, The United Kingdom, the Schengen countries and others).

In March 2014 the EU Agency for large-scale IT systems (eu-LISA) released the report on the functioning of the VIS. The system is evaluated positively and serves the purposes for which it was created. The report also contains statistics of the system usage including the statement that during the evaluation period, there were no security incidents.

### Internal Security Strategy

In June 2014 the European Commission published a **Communication on the Implementation of the EU Internal Security Strategy for the period of 2010-2014**. The Commission stated "substantial progress" was achieved in meeting the basic strategic objectives and commended in particular the strengthened operational cooperation between Member States. In the second part of the communication, the Commission mentioned future challenges, among them the rapidly growing threat of cybercrime, crimes against the environment and energy frauds. The European Commission established strengthening ties between internal and external security of the EU as a cross-cutting objective.

Given the current threat level, the Italian Presidency initiated the debate on the review of the existing internal security strategy. Conclusion adopted in June 2014 by the European Council to a Post-Stockholm program will have to be taken into account in the debate. The debate resulted in the **Council conclusions on the updated Internal Security Strategy**, approved in December 2014. European Commission Communication on the new Internal Security Strategy is expected in spring 2015.

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region - the Persian Gulf. In 2013 Czech diplomatic missions were gradually connected to the VIS in the 4th and 5th region - West and Central Africa, the 6th and 7th region - Eastern and Southern Africa, the 8th region - South America, and 9th to 11th region - South and Southeast Asia and the Palestinian territories.



## **The fight against organized crime and terrorism**

The influx of **foreign fighters** into Syria and other areas in which there is a "security crisis", is perceived as one of the major security risks from the perspective of the EU. The severity of the threat is also confirmed by the increasing number of recruits from European countries who fight in the conflict zones (by the end of 2014 an estimate of 3 500 persons).

Several aspects of possible responses to this problem were discussed throughout 2014. The main topics were the possibility of criminal prosecution of such persons, the exchange and sharing of information, the prevention of radicalization and cooperation with third countries. In September 2014, the UN Security Council adopted the Resolution No 2178 (2014) on threats to international peace and security posed by terrorist acts. According to the resolution, states should penalize foreign fighters traveling to conflict zones for terrorist purposes. In December 2014, a **network of contact points for foreign fighters** was established, with 10 member states, including the Czech Republic joining the network by the end of 2014.

An important element in the fight against terrorism is the transmission of data in Passenger Name Records (PNR) used in air travel services. In 2014, the **proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the use of Passenger Name Record data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime** (EU PNR) was still blocked in the European Parliament.<sup>126</sup>

On April 8th 2014, European Court of Justice annulled the EU Directive on data from 2006, which established the obligation of mobile operators to retain specified data for the purpose of detecting serious crime. The Court named a number of shortcomings in the EU Directive, namely the storage of data on a large number of people, regardless of whether they had committed any crime, and concluded that the Directive is not in conformity with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. However, the European Court of Justice acknowledged that, given the

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<sup>126</sup> The draft directive proposes that air carriers transmit the information on passengers to the police (contact numbers, seat reservations, special requirements, etc.). The data will be kept of all passengers and evaluated in order to detect certain types of crime (typically human trafficking in minors, drug trafficking, terrorism, organized crime). Data from flights within the European Union can also be stored.

increasing importance of electronic communications, the data retained under this Directive help relevant national authorities to investigate serious crime, and therefore the data is valuable for law enforcement. **The European Court of Justice thus did not reject data retention as such, but criticized some of the shortcomings of the directive.** The European Commission is considering new legislative approach to this issue. The annulment of the Directive should not affect the Czech national legislation.

## **Protection of personal data**

The EU attributes great importance to the protection of personal data. In the course of 2014 intense deliberations on the draft regulation on **the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the proposal for a directive on the protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters** took place at all levels of the European Council. Both proposals were submitted to the Commission in January 2012.

At its meetings on June 6th, October 10th and December 4th the Council gradually reached a partial agreement on some specific aspects of the draft regulation. The European Parliament adopted in March 2014 its opinion on the draft regulation at first reading with amendments.

Negotiations on the directive are not given as much attention as the discussion of the regulation, and thus the proposed Directive is not yet ready for adoption of a partial general approach.

## **Fight against narcotics**

The most important developments in drug policy at European level included the first reading of the **Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on new psychoactive substances** in the European Parliament and the negotiation of the **minimum quality standards for drug demand reduction**. An expert advisory group composed from the scientists, the European Commission, Member States, EMCDDA and UNODC representatives was established regarding the second theme.

## **European Strategy for the Danube Region**

In 2014 started the implementation of the project **"South-East Danube"**. This project

follows the work done by the working group Southeast. The submitter of the project is the Bavarian Criminal Police Office and the project partner is NPC Prague. The project focuses on drug smuggling and increasing mutual cooperation among participating states. The project is co-financed by ISEC and will continue in 2015.

In 2014 the second call for proposals in the TAF ("*Technical Assistance Facility*") project took place. Its main objective was to provide assistance by consulting activities in designing projects so that they can get financial subsidies. A Czech **project by the Pyrotechnic Police Service** participated in this second call. The project successfully passed the selection process and from July to November the Pyrotechnic Police Service collaborated with the assigned consultant.

The first call for proposals of the financial program START, which was intended to co-finance smaller projects with a budget of up to 44 000 Euro was open. **Czech project focused on cybercrime**, submitted by CZ.NIC company, which is responsible for the functioning of the national security team CSIRT.CZ, was considered in the final round of evaluations in one of the 11 priority areas of the Danube Strategy. Results of the call are not yet known.

Finally, in 2014, two meetings of the coordinating group for the priority area 11 of the Danube Strategy were held. During these meetings all planned and ongoing projects were discussed, including those mentioned above.

### **Multiannual program for justice and home affairs (Stockholm program)**

The European Council adopted conclusions regarding its strategic guidelines for legislative and operational planning for the coming years in the area of freedom, security and justice (i.e. Post-Stockholm Program) in June 2014. At the same meeting, the European Council also approved a document called Strategic agenda for the EU in times of change, which sets among the five priority areas the area of freedom, security and justice. In both documents, the European Council confirmed the importance of several key priorities in this area, which are:

a) **better management of migration** in all its aspects (efficient legal migration responsive to the needs of the EU economy, consistent fight against illegal migration including better cooperation with third countries, the common

asylum policy and reinforced management of the external borders of the EU);

b) the **prevention of crime and terrorism** (consistent fight against organized crime, e.g. human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and cybercrime, the fight against corruption, the fight against terrorism and radicalization with the respect of the fundamental human rights and values, including the protection of personal data) ;

c) the **improvement of judicial cooperation** between Member States (building bridges between judicial systems and traditions, strengthening common tools including Eurojust, mutual recognition of judgments).

### **International contractual activities**

Cooperation with other countries in the area of internal security and public order is based on the **agreements on police cooperation**. In recent years, the priority of the Ministry of the Interior was the countries of the Western Balkans and Western and Southern Caucasus with regard to visa liberalization for those countries.

In 2014, the following agreements on police cooperation entered into force:

- **Agreement between the Czech Republic and Montenegro on Cooperation in Combating Crime**, signed 22 June 2012 in Podgorica (published as 1/2014 Coll. of international treaties on January 1 2014);

- **Agreement between the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina on Cooperation in the Fight Against Crime, Especially Terrorism, Illegal Trafficking in Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and Organized Crime**, signed on 12 September 2013 in Sarajevo (published as 40/2014 Coll. of international treaties on August 1)

- **Agreement between the Czech Republic and Israel on Cooperation in Combating Crime**, signed on October 7, 2013 in Jerusalem (published as 41/2014 Coll. of international treaties on August 1)

In 2014, the following contracts were signed:

- **Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Fight against Crime** (30 January 2014)

- **Agreement between the Czech Republic and Austria, which amends and supplements the Agreement between the**

**Czech Republic and Austria on Police Cooperation and on the Second Amendment to the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 20 April 1959** (5 December 2014).<sup>127</sup>

In 2014 the negotiations on the text of the Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on Police Cooperation and Amendments to the Treaty between the Czech Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on Amendments to the European Convention and the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 20 April 1959 and the Facilitation of its Application dated February 2, 2000 were nearing completion.<sup>128</sup>

In the end of 2014, the ratification process of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was completed.<sup>129</sup> The instrument of ratification to the Protocol was issued and will be deposited at the earliest opportunity by the UN Secretary General.

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On June 19, 2014 the Protocol between the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria on the Implementation of Joint Patrols to Protect Public Order and Security in Resorts in the Territory of the Republic of Bulgaria during the Peak Tourist Season was signed in Modra and entered into force on the same day. The Protocol regulates the activity of Czech policemen in Bulgaria during the tourist season.

On November 13, 2014 the Protocol on Pyrotechnic Education between the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic for the

Implementation of the Agreement between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic on Cooperation In Combating Crime, Protecting Public Order and the Protection of State Borders was signed in Čepce and came into force on the same day. The Protocol enables the training of Slovak pyrotechnics at the Police College of the Ministry of Interior for the Criminal Police.

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In the area of **combating illegal migration**, negotiations on Readmission agreements (agreements on readmission of persons residing in the territory illegally) negotiated on behalf of the Czech Republic.

In February 2014 the government approved the Draft **Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Readmission and Transit of Persons** and the protocol for its implementation.<sup>130</sup>

In November 2014, notification was made on the negotiation of the **Implementing Protocol between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to the Agreement between the EC and Ukraine on Readmission** to the joint readmission committee set up under Article 15 of the Agreement. The Protocol entered into force on 1 January 2015.<sup>131</sup>

The Ministry of the Interior also participates in the creation of texts of the EU readmission agreements. In 2014 agreements on readmission of persons residing without residence permits between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey came into force.

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The Ministry of the Interior will continue to take part in the preparation of MODE 4 texts in the EU FTAs (in 2014 with Japan, Canada and Vietnam). MODE 4 lays down the conditions for

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<sup>127</sup>The contract significantly expands the possibilities for the deployment of police officers on the territory of another state, broadens cooperation in the area of misdemeanors and cross-border surveillance with the use of technical means. This is a presidential category contract that will be submitted for ratification to the President after the assent of both chambers of the Czech Parliament.

<sup>128</sup> The forthcoming agreement would comprehensively regulate the area of police cooperation both at national level and in the border areas and replace the existing arrangement. Remaining details should be resolved during the first quarter of 2015. Contract signature is expected in the first half of 2015. At the same time negotiations on two implementing arrangements for the contract will commence.

<sup>129</sup> The protocol was submitted to the Parliament in mid 2013, but the approval process was not completed due to the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies.

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<sup>130</sup> This is a standard readmission agreement governing the return of individuals who are illegally staying on the territory of the state, primarily to the state of origin or to another state in which they have residence permit. The contract should have been signed during the visit of Uzbek president in the Czech Republic, but the visit was postponed.

<sup>131</sup> Implementing protocol determines the competent authorities for the implementation of the Agreement and the means of communication between them, determines the border crossings for the transfer of people, governs the details for the interview with a person who is to be transferred, and the conditions for the transfer of persons and their transit.

cross-border provision of services in the field of trade and among other things addresses the issues of entry and residence of selected categories of persons.

### **International police cooperation**

International police cooperation took place in 2014 on different levels and touched many areas of police work.

Compared to previous years there has been a significant increase in activities in the framework of the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the EU (Frontex), in response to migratory pressures in Italy, Greece, Spain and Hungary. A total of 24 police officers have been deployed in Frontex joint operations and 21 in its training activities.

It is appropriate to highlight the activities of the Czech Police during the deployment of security officers to international peacekeeping operations, which took place in 2014. The number of police officers deployed in three foreign peacekeeping operations (Kosovo, Afghanistan, Georgia) was between 20 to 30.

### **Programs co-financed from EU funds and other kinds of international assistance**

In 2014, the Czech Police continuously implemented projects co-designed and co-financed from EU structural funds, community programs of the EU, the Swiss-Czech cooperation and Norwegian funds.

Within IOP the implementation of projects of Contact and Coordination Centers - II. Stage, Improvement of Border Police Systems and the Creation of Relevant Data Resources for ROB, Localization and Recording Equipment of Regional Directorates of Police and the project Modern Engineering and Technology in Czech Police was finished in the second half of 2014.

The implementation of projects of regional directorates of police and the Police Presidium **Integration of Operational Centers** aiming to streamline and increase the efficiency of operational management and deployment of forces and resources, including interoperability at the regional level continued in 2014.

In late 2014, several new projects with a total volume of approximately 1 950 903 thousand CZK - Operational Management of National Police Departments, Upgrading Communication Infrastructure, Development of PEGAS System, Unified Police Technology Platform and Improve

Police Response in Emergency Situations were approved. Their implementation is planned for 2015.

In the Operational program Cross-border Cooperation, the scope of completed projects in 2014 is comparable with the year 2013.

Projects belonging to the Solidarity general program and the management of migration flows were the main projects supported by the European funds.

The projects co-financed by the Financial Mechanisms continued in 2014 with the implementation of projects of the **Swiss-Czech cooperation**, whose budgets reach the total value of around 299 420 thousand CZK. These projects are mostly focused on the acquisition of protective suits for law enforcement and emergency units, construction of multi-functional simulator training and upgrading the training complex. The general benefit of the project should be improved prevention and management of disasters, reinforced fight against organized crime, economic crime and corruption.

Six projects under the EEA/Norway program in a total volume of 185 941 thousand CZK were approved by the end of 2014. These projects are aimed primarily at strengthening anti-corruption measures, information sharing within the international police cooperation, acquisition of e-Gate technology, building a mobile layer of geo-information system, etc. Implementation of these projects is planned for 2015.

*(More details on individual programs and projects co-financed by the EU are listed in section 3.4.4. Economy and ICT systems)*

### **Joint police and customs cooperation centers**

Joint centers for police and customs cooperation play an increasingly important role in international police cooperation.

On February 13, 2013 the Agreement between the Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Establishment of the **Joint Czech-German Center for police and Customs Cooperation Petrovice – Schwandorf** came into force. The Agreement was signed in Hof on 13 February 2012.<sup>132</sup>

<sup>132</sup> The Agreement contains the basic rules of functioning of the Joint Center and the status of its personnel (the Joint Centre has worked since 2007 on an interim basis).

At present there are a total of 6 joint centers for police and customs cooperation – two with Poland (Kudowa Slone and Chotěbuz) and Germany (Petrovice and Schwandorf) and one with Slovakia (Hodonin-Holic) and Austria (Mikulov-Drasenhofen). The Customs Authority of the Czech Republic participates in the activities of those centers either through direct involvement or through contact persons.

In 2014, the office of the liaison officer of the Customs Authority of the Czech Republic coordinated 241 cases. The largest share consists of combating drug related cross-border crime (99 cases), as well as the illegal production and smuggling of tobacco and tobacco products (28), fraud with mineral oils (15), violation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (11), smuggling of arms (7) and support of judicial and administrative cooperation (8).

### **The role and results of the Czech Customs Administration in the EU structures for customs cooperation**

Within the framework of the Customs Cooperation Working Party (CCWP) the Czech Customs Authority actively engaged in discussions regarding the reform of the management of the customs union in the European Council and three actions under the 7th CCWP Action Plan. The Plan consists of a total of 11 actions, which are mostly tied to the priorities of the EU policy cycle to combat serious and organized crime for the period of 2014-2017.

The political cycle in the European Council is governed by the Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI). Czech Customs Authority is also involved in the EU policy cycle in the priority 'Fraud on Excise Duties'. The aim of this priority is to disrupt the activities of organized criminal groups involved in committing the above mentioned crime and strengthen cooperation between competent authorities at national and EU level in the relevant areas.

### 3.4. Activities of the Czech Ministry of the Interior in the field of security research and development, police training, personnel issues, economy and ICT systems

#### 3.4.1. Security research, development and innovations

The MoI is in charge of national security research and development (hereinafter „security R&D“). The Ministry fulfils the tasks of provider of state support to R&D pursuant to Act No 130/2002 on the support to research, experimental development and innovation from public funds and sets out the substantive focus and methodology of security research tasks according to the Reform of the Research, Development and Innovation in the Czech Republic (Government Resolution no. 287/2008).. In addition the MoI sets out subject focus and methodology of security R&D. The MoI participated in the drafting of the following significant strategic documents related to R&D:

- **National policy for research, development and innovation** (updated in 2013, Government Resolution No 294/2013), defines long-term strategic guidelines for the development of R&D, sets out coordination principles and gives tasking to individual providers in their specific scopes of competence.
- **National priorities for the oriented research, experimental development and innovation** (Government Resolution No 552/2012), a document, which identifies six priority areas and key directions for the allocation of state support with outlook up to 2030.

Year 2014 brought important R&D policy changes, which caused a significant prolongation of the process of creating and approving the budget. For the MoI, this issue is of key importance in the long term because there is a downturn in programs announced in 2010 and new programs are being introduced. Budget outlook for the years 2015-2017, however, does not allow for the volume of funds approved by the government and there are substantial financial cuts (in public tenders by 50% in 2016 and 2017). Thanks to the activity of the Ministry of the Interior in this area, it was possible to avert the most pressing problem and obtain funding for the launch of public tenders for the years 2015-2020.

#### **Policy, strategy and legal framework**

The security R&D is based on the „**Interdepartmental policy of security research and development in the Czech Republic to 2015**“, approved under ref. 743/2008, and subject to regular updates, which are summarized here:

With the implementation of short-term measures it was possible to build up and consolidate mechanisms and institutions to ensure a transparent and professional selection of projects, their monitoring and evaluation.

The content of the Conception (priorities) is adequately reflected in the programs of security research, and other documents, making it possible to focus the research potential and needs in security research to address current security threats.

Potential of the Czech Republic in security R&D has been identified at the level of research subjects and the level of experts. Therefore a professional selection, evaluation and implementation of projects are possible.

Processes established within the security R&D system create conditions for the effective identification, selection and implementation of needs and projects. This system among other things helps to eliminate duplicities in the needs of public authorities, submitted projects and between programs. Processes are continuously reviewed and improved.

Based on the recommendation of the **Advisory Committee for Safety Research**, the Minister of Interior awarded the team at the **Center for Natural Language Processing, Faculty of Informatics of the Masaryk University** for the results of the project "Analysis of natural language in the Internet environment." The results of the research have the potential to expand the portfolio of capabilities of the security forces and improve the outcomes of their activities.

#### **International cooperation and communication with partners**

Year 2014 brought a significant expansion of activities of the Ministry of the Interior regarding

international cooperation and participation in the activities of partner organizations. OBVPV department assumed representation of the MoI in the European Network Law Enforcement Technology Services (ENLETS) in 2014. The ENLETS organization began to heavily contribute in the field of development of European research agenda, in particular the Horizon 2020 program, which also falls within the scope of the department.<sup>133</sup>

In the framework of other activities in the field of international cooperation OBVPV pursued following activities:

Participation in the work of the expert advisory group of the MŠMT for security research in Horizon 2020 program, OBVPV also secured the representation of Prague Institute of Criminology, National Institute for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Protection, the Association of Defense and Security Industry in the advisory group;

Setting minimum standards of cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior and a delegate to the Program Committee for security research in Horizon 2020 program;

Active support of international projects in the field of research on the basis of calls for foreign partners (*ENLETS Disseminates Best Practices, Assessing the value of Mounted Policing*).

In the field of cooperation with partner organizations several important developments took place in 2014. Relations were improved between the MoI and the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (Memorandum of Cooperation), and the MoI and the Association of Defense and Security Industry (bilateral involvement in advisory bodies and working groups). In total OBVPV participates in 8 working groups and advisory bodies, other than

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<sup>133</sup> Within ENLETS in 2014 the following occurred: active involvement of the Czech Republic in the preparation of management documents network; acquisition and transfer of contacts to project promoters in the European security research funding program Horizon 2020 (OBVPV forwarded a total of 14 bids to participate in projects submitted under this program to various departments of security and rescue services); closer cooperation with Luxembourg officials to enforce changes in the direction of the network, elimination of activities that shatters its capacity and focus on enforcement activities adequate to the mission of the network; establishment of constructive cooperation with the Department for International Police Cooperation of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic in the coordination of positions of the Czech Republic in ENLETS and Law Enforcement Working Party).

those established by the Ministry of the Interior for the research agenda.

### **Implementation of the security research programs**

The Ministry of the Interior launched **two security R&D programs for the period 2015-2021** in connection to the **Implementation of the National Priorities of Oriented Research, Experimental Development and Innovation** (Government Decree No 569/2013), and the implementation of the measures explicitly stemming from the text (hereinafter referred to as "national priority") in 2014. **The implementation of the programs announced in 2010 continues.**

**The program "Security Research of the Czech Republic 2015-2020"** (Government Decree No 593/2013) is implemented through a public tender with the initial volume of state funding of 2,2 billion CZK.<sup>134</sup>

- Security Research of the Czech Republic 2010-2015 (Government Resolution No 50/2009)

The program is implemented through a public tender, with the initial volume of state funding amounting to 2,3 billion CZK. In the course of the program, there was a reduction to 1,88 billion CZK. The program aims to increase the safety of the citizens with the use of modern technology, improve the identification of threats to critical infrastructure, improve crisis management and stimulate the market for security technology.<sup>135</sup> A total of 134 projects worth 1 878 430 thousand CZK is currently financed. The program is in its final stage and final inspection and evaluation of completed projects was carried out in 2014.<sup>136</sup>

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<sup>134</sup> The program was amended in response to requests from the European Commission and the changes in European legislation. The nomination process led to the creation of the Program Council as required by Act No 130/2002, on support of research and development. First public tender was prepared and announced (deadline for submitting applications ended January 16, 2015). Changes were made in the evaluation process, emphasizing the potential use of the results and separating it from the evaluation of the scientific quality of the proposal.

<sup>135</sup> Three public tenders were announced in the project: the first public tender was announced in 2010 (received 202 proposals, approved 68 projects), the second in 2011 (received 267 proposals and approved 34 projects) and the third in 2012 (received 273 proposals, approved 32 projects).

<sup>136</sup> Two projects achieved excellent results in international comparisons. These projects were: Application of Advanced Statistical Methods of Assimilation Model Predictions with Field Observations as a Means of Modern Support to

Security Research for the State 2015-2020 (Government Resolution No 49/2009)

The program is implemented through public procurement in research and development with the original total volume of funds allocated 800 000 thousand CZK (the budget was later limited to 607 900 thousand CZK). The program identifies the needs of the state administration in areas related to internal security of the state, protection of the stability of the economic and financial system of the state and civil emergency planning focused on crisis management and disaster management.<sup>137</sup> **Currently, a total of 39 projects implemented through public procurement with the amount of 496 709 thousand CZK are financed.** Other tenders are in various stages of the procurement procedure. The program was extended in 2014 for the purpose of allocation of all the available funds and will end on 31 December 2016.

All projects, including annotations, are available on: <http://www.mvcr.cz/bezpecnostni-vyzkum.aspx>

### **Institutional support**

Since 2010 the MoI has been the **provider of institutional support to research organizations and organizational units of the state focusing on R&D**; in the past these entities were supported from three different headings of state budget (MoI, Ministry of Justice and State Office for Nuclear Safety).<sup>138</sup>

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Decision Making in Crisis Situations and Methodology for Assessing the Resources of the Emergency Water Supply on the Basis of Risk Analysis.

<sup>137</sup> The program lead 4 rounds of identifying research needs of the public authorities. First round of needs identification took place in 2009 (150 demands delivered, 28 chosen for implementation), the second round took place in 2010 (88 demands delivered, 12 chosen for implementation) third round took place in 2012 (68 demands delivered, 5 chosen for implementation), fourth round took place in 2014 (37 demands of limited scope delivered, due to the need to allocate the funds within the allotted time the scope of individual was limited to 3 000 thousand CZK). Given the available balance of funds at various stages of the program, the Ministry of the Interior announced public tenders of additional research needs in accordance with the results of the third identification of needs until the announcement of the fourth round of identification.

<sup>138</sup> Institutional support for the development of research organizations is provided for these 8 research organizations: Czech Police - Forensic Institute; Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic - Population Protection Institute Lázně Bohdaneč; Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic - Technical Institute of Fire Protection; National Archive;

In 2014, decisions granting the aid totaling 55 159 thousand CZK were issued. Financial support is given and used in accordance with the development concepts of individual institutions, which were approved by the Minister of Interior or other responsible bodies. The Ministry of the Interior performs financial and material controls of the funding use.<sup>139</sup>

### **Control activities**

In accordance with section 13 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Act, the Ministry of the Interior conducted in 2014 factual checks in 58 projects as a part of the ongoing project evaluation.<sup>140</sup>

Minor deficiencies especially in the area of fulfilling the formal characteristics of the results were identified. Remedial measures are subject to further controls by the provider.

52 financial controls in location of the project were carried out. 39 projects (including projects with multiple participants) were evaluated and one check of the recipient of institutional support was executed. The plan of inspection activities was fulfilled by October, 2014.<sup>141</sup>

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Police Academy of the Czech Republic; The Institute for Criminology and Social Prevention; National Institute for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Protection; National Radiation Protection Institute.

<sup>139</sup> The volume of funds allocated is determined annually based on the evaluation of the performance of previous research by the Government Council for Research, Development and Innovation using the Methodology for Evaluating the Results of Research Organizations. This methodology has been a source of controversy and problems with regard to its efficiency, its results and their representativeness. The Ministry of Education with the use of European funding launched the Ipn Methodology project, which aims to significantly reform the evaluation system. The MoI actively participated in the public consultation process over the proposals that have emerged from this project in 2014, and coordinates its involvement with organizations that are supported by it.

<sup>140</sup> Continuous monitoring of the project focuses on: examining the performance of its individual stages, monitoring the implementation of scheduled activities, compliance verification process of the project, checking the results achieved and the status of the planned outputs and outcomes, assessing the use of the financial aid and its cost-effectiveness and the quality of the research team.

<sup>141</sup> No criminal offenses, intentional misuse of aid, fraud, misappropriation or infringement of such gravity that would require stopping the project, return of financial assistance granted or a fine were detected during the controls realized in 2014. Minor flaws identified in the financial controls were corrected.



### 3.4.2 Police training

The priorities of police education and training have for long been based on the missions and tasks stemming from the Czech EU membership, the reform of the Czech Police and priorities in the area of security policy and public order.<sup>142</sup>

#### Police training events

Events organized in 2014 reflected current trends in crime and the security policy priorities.

A new basic professional training (ZOP) is currently considered a flagship priority. Other important courses include those focused on **corruption and other serious crime, in particular organized crime, seizures and confiscation of the proceeds of crime**. These courses take place in Police Schools of the MoI.

#### Secondary education concluded by a school leaving exam of a subject matter No 68-42-M/01 Security and legal activity

The branch of study titled „**Security and legal activity**“ (68-42-M/01) can only be studied at school established by the Ministry of the Interior or at school authorized to do so by a cooperation agreement with the MoI in order to ensure the same level of competences of graduates.

#### Institutional arrangements for police education and training

The Ministry of the Interior has a specialized department to manage police education –

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<sup>142</sup> The MoI police schools (VPŠ MV) follow the **Policy of life-long education of officers of the Czech Police**. In addition to the standard education the schools (VPŠ MV) provide also the basic professional training (ZOP), qualification preparation, language and other preparation. To a limited extent the schools provide education to MoI personnel and civilian staff of the Czech Police. PČR formulates its demands in the Graduate profile, according to which the school creates an educational program.

The educational process keeps up with the latest developments in respect of the fight against corruption, crime prevention, anti-drug policy, fight against trafficking in human beings, terrorism, organized crime and a very topical issue of extremism. A great deal of attention is paid, *inter alia*, to human rights and gender issues, integration of foreigners, domestic violence, financial and cyber crime, emergency management, National Schengen Plan, etc.

Security Research and Police Education Department (OBVPV MV) that works closely with the Police Education Unit of the Czech Police Presidium.

#### International cooperation

International cooperation in the field of education and training takes place in the framework of multilateral and bilateral relations with e.g. the following institutions:

- **CEPOL** – (*European Police College*) – a network of national highest-level education institutions in the EU. Based on a system of agreements between EU bodies (CEPOL, Europol, Frontex, Eurojust, OLAF) its objective is to harmonize European police education and to support cross-border cooperation in the fight against organized crime. Each year around 100 educational and training events take place (residential courses, conferences, webinars, etc.).
- **MEPA** (Mittleuropäische Polizei-akademie) – a seven-member educational institution - (Austria, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia). The MoI of the Czech Republic is represented at the governing board. The MEPA’s annual work plan includes a three-month MEPA Headline course devoted to cross-border cooperation against organized crime. During the course its participants work on three practical workshops and present the results before an international expert commission. The workshop outputs can subsequently be used at national level. The MEPA Special four-week course is another important activity focused on border and immigrations police. In addition the MEPA organizes between 12 and 15 thematic workshops each year as well as language courses, etc.
- **Marshall Center** (European Centre for Security Studies) at the U.S. Embassy in Prague. The Center focuses particularly on civil security, terrorism threats and the U.S. – Europe cooperation in these areas.

### Recognition of results of further education (authorization)

OBVPV is in charge of so-called „Authorization“ pursuant to Act No 179/2006 on the recognition of results of further education for the following ten professional qualifications: Warrant officer (68-008-E), Detective trainee (68-009-M), Dog handler Security Service (68-001-H), Locks specialist (69-038-H), PC technician (26-023-H), Software engineer/designer (18-002-N), Mechanic obstacles technician (69-050-H), Staff of

supervision centre (69-045-H), Programmer (18-003-M), Lead detective (68-002-T).

Most authorized persons have the authorization of a Warrant officer and Detective trainee. Sentinel, as well as for PC Detective clerk. The number of professional qualifications is constantly increasing and implementation of new qualifications is in the making.

*(More on police education activities can be found on the MV – OBVPV website.)*

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### 3.4.3 Human resources and personnel

#### Personnel and staffing of MoI, Police of the Czech Republic and the Fire and Rescue Service

As of 31 December 2014 the whole of MoI department counted 66 231 staff. Annually the overall staffing increased by 1273 persons (783 police, 265 firemen and 225 civilian employees).

As of 31 December 2014: 39 795 police (60,1%), 9 369 firemen (14,1%), 17 067 civilian

employees (25,8%). Out of the total of 66 231 there were 17 678 women, i.e. 26,7%, of them 6 784 women under duty contracts (i.e. 13,8% of the total number of police and firemen) and 10 894 women under standard work contracts (i.e. 63,8% of all work contract staff).

In 2014 a total of 982 police and firemen terminated their duty contracts (1 061 in 2013). 1 980 police and firemen entered the duty contract in 2014 (1 435 in 2012).

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### 3.4.4. Economy and ICT systems

The Ministry of the Interior has its activities in the area of public order and internal security defined by the law, and its activities in these areas relate to the operations of the entities operating within the MoI.

The table below shows the comparison of approved budgets of the Czech Police and Czech Fire and Rescue Service, including total income and expenditure within the MoI budgetary heading for the years 2013 to 2015:

Approved budget	2013	2014	<i>difference</i> <i>2014–2013</i>	2015	<i>difference</i> <i>2015–2014</i>
<b>Income MoI</b>	<b>6 762 545</b>	<b>7 035 517</b>	<b>272 972</b>	<b>7 904 049</b>	<b>868 532</b>
<b>Expenditure MoI</b>	<b>52 292 118</b>	<b>53 684 661</b>	<b>1 392 543</b>	<b>55 071 982</b>	<b>1 387 321</b>
of that PCR	27 185 916	28 108 389	922 473	29 215 823	1 107 434
HZS ČR	6 853 434	6 827 567	-25 867	7 224 658	397 091
in CZK thousands					

Proposal for salaries for 2015 calculated in comparison with 2014 includes a 5% annual growth in the volume of salaries of officers totaling 911 315 thousand CZK and 3,5% annual growth in volume of salaries of civil servants. Furthermore, 78 000 thousand CZK was transferred to the budget of HZS ČR for outbound firefighters included in the first group of a special supplement based on a decision of the Minister of Interior in mid 2014. The Fire and Rescue Service changed 30 positions of officers into civil servants. The corresponding funding for their salaries in the amount of 11 146 thousand CZK was transferred to the relevant budget heading. Proposal funds for salaries for 2016 and 2017 include an additional 1% annual growth in salaries for both categories of employees compared to 2015. Similar growth is also projected into funds for other payments for work done.

Further financial means for the Czech Police are allocated annually to a centrally procured property and ICT services within the MoI budgetary heading.

In this context the following budgetary transfers were made in 2014 (examples):

#### **From the General Budget Administration chapter:**

18 370 thousand CZK designed for extraordinary expenses associated with the purchase of tankers, fire engines and repairs of firefighting equipment for the Fire and Rescue Service,

12 902 thousand CZK designed for expenses related to the explosion of a munitions depot in Vrbětice (PČR 12 414 thousand CZK, HZS ČR 488 thousand CZK)

1 476 thousand CZK designed for the purchase of materials and material resources to provide humanitarian assistance in the regions of West Africa affected by Ebola hemorrhagic fever (Government Decree No 806/2014) for the Fire and Rescue Service

13 005 thousand CZK designed for the reconstruction of a wrecking a car for the Fire and Rescue Service of Vysočina, Central Bohemia and Olomouc Region and 756 thousand CZK designed to repair technical equipment damaged by a lightning strike for FRS of Pardubice and Liberec regions

30 613 thousand CZK designed to finance the participation of Czech citizens in civilian structures of the EU and other international governmental organizations and election observation missions

#### **From other state budget chapters**

1 012 thousand CZK designed for international development cooperation projects in Moldova, "Improving Agility and Competence Moldovan Firemen", which will take place in cooperation with the Moldovan Fire Department; transferred from the chapter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

13 862 thousand CZK designed to provide air medical rescue services in connection with an agreement on cooperation in the provision of air medical rescue service concluded between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Interior; transfer from the chapter of the Ministry of Health

3 295 thousand CZK designed for the protective activity on Administration of State Material Reserves property implemented by the Fire and Rescue Service on the basis of the Agreement on the Method of Financing Expenses Related to the Protection of Emergency Reserve"; transferred from chapter of the Administration of State Material Reserves

MoI budgetary heading expenditure in 2014:

Overview	In CZK thousands
MoI approved budget expenditure for 2013	53 684 661
Released from the General Budget Administration chapter	1 033 464
Transferred from other headings	744 105
Transferred to other headings	-67 809
As of 31 December 2014	55 394 421

Adjusted Czech Police budget as of 31 December 2014: CZK 29 400 819 thousand, i.e. the budget was increased during 2014 by CZK 1 292 430 thousand.

Adjusted budget for the Fire and Rescue as of 31 December 2014: CZK 7 161 129 thousand, i.e. budget increased during 2014 by CZK 333 562 thousand.

Internal security and public order in the Czech Republic continued in 2014 to benefit from the support from EU funds, particularly from the structural funds, Integrated operational program and Operational program Cross-border cooperation, Community programs and Swiss-Czech cooperation program.

Eight projects were implemented thanks to the support from the EU sources, within the operational program for cross-border cooperation Czech Republic – Austria, CZ – Poland and CZ – Saxony. The objective of the projects was to improve cooperation in border areas; a total of CZK 2 597 thousand were spent in 2014.

The MoI, Czech Police and the MoI Detention Facilities Administration participated in the support from **Community programs**: In the framework of the generic program „Solidarity and migration flows management“ the following amount were used:

European refugee fund – CZK 12 070 thousand in 2014,

External borders fund – CZK 112 634 thousand in 2014,

European fund for the integration of third-country nationals – CZK 66 286 thousand in 2014,

European return fund – CZK 23 702 thousand in 2014.

**Program financing** in 2014: the financial allocations were used for the purchase and technical improvement of assets, including related non-investment expenditure primarily on security and internal order. Examples of project co-financed by external sources (EU and other):

Under the Integrated Operational Program (IOP) continued the building of Contact and Coordination Centers II of regional Czech Police Directorates. Total financial means drawn in 2014: CZK 1 651 thousand.

Under the IOP: continuation of a project Border Police System change and creation of a relevant data fund ROB. Claims from unspent expenditure were drawn at: CZK 1 391 thousand.

Continuation of build-up of Integrated Operational Centers of regional Police directorates. Primarily ICT equipment and the installation of ICT technologies. Total amount of CZK 131 438 thousand drawn

Another IOP project is the Modern technology for the Czech Police. In 2014 funds were drawn in the amount of 189 389 thousand CZK. The project is aimed at equipping specialized departments of the police.

As part of the Swiss-Czech cooperation funds totaling 58 828 thousand CZK were drawn. These projects focused on theoretical and practical training and technical support, among other Central Weapons Registry, Effectively against Corruption and Financial Crime, Increasing the Security of Citizens by Strengthening the Capacity of police in the Fight against Organized Crime and Terrorism and Improving the Training and Activities of Intervention Teams were supported.

Within the External Borders Fund the Czech Police received a total of 79 148 thousand CZK in 2014. Projects supported included Restoration of Infrastructure and others.

The Czech Police included the following activities in the area of program funding:

In the area of securing the renewal of official vehicles for the PCR a total of 202 712 thousand CZK was invested.

In the area of immovables a total of 452 524 thousand CZK was invested.

In the field of ICT the amount totaling 297 663 thousand CZK was invested especially in securing integrated security operations centers and the implementation of other activities for regional Police Directorates and addressing other security challenges in the field of communication and information technologies.

**Crime prevention** grants were provided to municipalities and local authorities to address the challenges of situational and social prevention. The subsidies were supporting the acquisition, expansion and modernization of CCTV and security systems. Risk area lightning was provided, children's playgrounds and sports playgrounds for leisure activities of young people were constructed. In the area of program funding a total amount of 12 001 thousand CZK was drawn.

## **Information and Communication Systems (ICT)**

### **European Information Systems**

During 2014 continued the launch of the Visa Information System in Central America, North America, the Caribbean, Australia and Oceania, Western Balkans, Turkey and other regions. Agreement was reached regarding the deadlines for the VIS in the remaining regions.

## **Information and Communication Infrastructure of the Czech Police**

In the area of communication services the MoI continued its cooperation with the Czech Post Office, the branch of ICT services in 2014. Both partners focused on increasing quality of service with the more efficient use of non-public communication system PEGAS. New users of the network include Czech Electricity Transmission System, Water Rescue Service of the Czech Red Cross and the Municipal Police of Liberec. With the gradual modernization of the system and increase in its capacity and service portfolio, various emergency medical services of regions enter the system at operational level.

In the field of telecommunications services the Ministry of the Interior launched a project to renew the radio communication system PEGAS in 2013. The physical implementation of the project started in July 2014 and its first phase was completed in October 2014. The amount of resources used from the project budget reached 64,2%. Modernization of 14 base stations of the first generation, modernization of cipher text economy, upgrade of the system software or new localization server, which enables the use of geolocation service for up to 30,000 end devices were part of the project. In subsequent phases of the project (which is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund No CZ.1.06 project /4.3.00/21.09287), the project will be moved to IP-based solutions and the final realization of a more efficient method of communication in an environment of talk groups will take place.

System renewal project is in line with global trends in the field of private radio communications and radio communications network PEGAS and its parameters becomes comparable to radio networks of the national security of other developed countries. At the same time, steps were taken in order to prepare a development project of the IOP for years 2014+, which includes a comprehensive technology upgrade of the PEGAS radio network.

## **Production of basic ID documents**

During 2014 a routine operation of traffic data processing, procurement requests and basic identification documents delivery (passports, travel documents, residence permits for third-country nationals and identity cards) continued. In accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 2252/2004 testing of the communication system

SPOC for the exchange of certificates for the access to the fingerprints databases of EU Member States continued.

In 2014, tests were carried out with Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Ireland, Romania and Spain. The tests were initiated with France and Hungary. In June, the Federal Police of Germany (Bundespolizei) was provided a certificate for the access to fingerprints in identification documents (passports, travel documents, residence permits for third country nationals) in the production system. On the basis of Commission Decision K (2011) 5499 dated 4 August 2011 and Commission Decision K (2011) 5478 of the same day the implementation of a new way of capturing and evaluating the quality of the fingerprint commenced. Simultaneously a new system of SAC / PACE entry into the chips of passports, travel documents and residence permits for third-country nationals was introduced.

## **Basic Registries Information System**

In accordance with the Act No 111/2009, on basic registers as amended, the Information system of basic registers (hereinafter ISZR ) serves since 1 July 2012 as basic reference interface that connects individual basic registers and public administration agenda information systems. The Information system ensures safe and reliable transfer of reference data from basic registers and safe updating of changes to reference data in information systems of public administration.

Management of basic registers, which is the administrator and operator of ISZR and operator of the Population register, Register of persons and Register of rights and obligations, is currently preparing for the fulfillment of the obligations it has under the Act No 181/2014 on cybersecurity and amendment of related laws.

On 30 November 2014, in accordance with section 5 of the Act on basic registers, a total of 2,682 public authorities (hereinafter "OVM") could use reference data from basic registers. A total of 3795 of agenda information systems (hereinafter AIS) was connected to ISZR. In the 29 months of functioning, 2430 OVM completed 479 735 848 data transactions. By the end of 2013 1905 OVM with 2864 AIS were connected to the system. The number of transactions in 2013 amounted to 156 646 391, while for the year 2014 (as of November 30, 2014) the number reached 225,652,442 transactions. Of the OVM

to register any of its AIS in the Information system of public administration information systems, 83.9% OVM cooperates with the basic registers. Most key OVM are already connected, e.g. all regional administrations, statutory cities and public health insurance companies.

From May 2014 eGON ISZR services provided the municipalities with voter lists broken down by polling stations.

On the basis of the Law on municipalities, the municipalities frequently utilize a new composite service to issue records from the population register and records from the information system of the population by territorial units for the needs of local governments, which since March 2014 replaced the previous practice of providing so-called "Event Reports" by municipal offices with extended competence to the municipalities of I and II type in analog form. This service is constantly being improved; in the foreseeable future the capacity to issue data from the information system on foreigners will be implemented.

Basic register of agendas of public authorities and certain rights and obligations

The basic register of agendas of public authorities and certain rights and obligations (hereinafter "RPP") plays a key role in the information system of basic registers. RPP collects current data on legislation that precisely defines the scope of authorization to access the data of other basic registries, and allows automatically connection to the interface of the information system of basic registers. This is particularly important in relation to personal data, contained in the basic population register.

In 2014 all the data provided by the RPP over the years 2012 and 2013 to central administrative authorities was checked. The control mechanism of the MoI regarding the validity of data on

access to personal data was reinforced. The agenda information system registry in 2014 served well for the routine disclosure of information on legally valid range of activities and permissions that are granted to all the 7580 registered public authorities. The process of registry editing launched in 2014 will simplify the transparent flow of information to public authorities and will allow for universal connection between all the agenda information systems of public administration of the Czech Republic.

Application "Information System on Public Administration Information Systems" helps to collect and provide information on public administration information systems (hereinafter referred to as "ISVS"). The application collects the basic information on ISVS and its availability. The SZR registration closely monitors the registration of Agenda information systems in the application. Registration in the application is one of the conditions that public authorities have to fulfill in order to ask for access to the reference data in the basic registers. The public authorities that register their information system in the application become a potential applicant for a certificate valid for each of registered systems.

### **Economic information system of the MoI**

Following the approved Act No 234/2014 on the civil service, steps were taken to further develop the information system EKIS MV, which provides support in the areas of economic, personnel and other processes not just to the MoI as a central authority also to Czech Police and Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Czech Post Office, the branch of ICT services.

## 4. Abbreviations and notes

BIS	Security Information Service (Bezpečnostní informační služba)
CS ČR	Customs Authority of the Czech Republic (Celní správa České republiky)
ČR	Czech Republic
EU	European Union
GIBS	General Inspection of Security Bodies (Generální inspekce bezpečnostních sborů)
GŘC	General Customs Directorate (Generální ředitelství cel)
HZS ČR	Fire and Rescue Service of the Czech Republic (Hasičský záchranný sbor ČR)
IOP	Integrated operational program (Integrovaný operační program)
IKSP	Institute of Criminology and Social Prevention (Institut pro kriminologii a sociální prevenci)
IZS	Integrated Rescue System (Integrovaný záchranný systém)
MD	Ministry of Transport (Ministerstvo dopravy)
MMR	Ministry of Regional Development (Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj)
MO	Ministry of Defense (Ministerstvo obrany)
MŠp	Ministry of Justice (Ministerstvo spravedlnosti)
MŠMT	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Ministerstvo školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy)
MV	Ministry of the Interior (Ministerstvo vnitra)
MZ	Ministry of Agriculture (Ministerstvo zemědělství)
MZV	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí)
NBÚ	National Security Authority (Národní bezpečnostní úřad)
NNO	Independent non-governmental organizations (nezávislé nevládní organizace)
NPC	National Counter-Drug Centre (Národní protidrogová central)
NSZ	The Supreme Public Prosecutors' Office (Nejvyšší státní zastupitelství)
OPLZZ	Human Resources and Employment operational program (operační program Lidské zdroje a zaměstnanost)
PČR	Police of the Czech Republic (Policie České republiky)
PMS	Probation and Mediation Service (Probační a mediační služba)
PP ČR	Police Presidium of the Czech Republic (Policejní presidium ČR)
SKPV PČR	Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Czech Police (Služba kriminální policie a vyšetřování Policie ČR)
TZ	Act 40/2009, Criminal Code (trestní zákoník)
ÚOKFK	Anti-corruption and Financial Crime Unit of the Czech Police (Útvar pro odhalování korupce a finanční kriminality SKPV PČR)
ÚSKPV PP ČR	Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic (Úřad služby kriminální policie a vyšetřování Policejního prezidia ČR)
ÚOOZ	Czech Police Unit for Combating Organized Crime (Útvar pro odhalování organizovaného zločinu SKPV PČR)

Notes:

*Crime statistics of the Czech Police are supplemented by the statistics of the **Ministry of Justice**, which contains statistics of public prosecutors' offices and courts. The crime statistics data for a given year are not comparable with the Ministry of Justice statistics. This is caused primarily by the time gap, sometimes of several years, before a criminal case is closed in particular phases of criminal proceedings. The police statistics retains the case at the beginning of criminal proceedings, while the court statistics at the very end of it.*

*The court statistics does not feature acts nor perpetrators, whose case was postponed pursuant to § 159a of the Criminal Procedure Code before the start of criminal prosecution (e.g. due to lack of age, amnesty or insanity), or the criminal prosecution was suspended pursuant to § 172 of the*

*Criminal Procedure Code (e.g. if it could not be proved that the act was perpetrated by the accused person) or interrupted. A **sentenced person is understood as a person against whom a court ruling had been pronounced and took legal effect.** The court statistics indicates the numbers of persons charged and sentenced; police statistics is the only one to also show crimes with unknown perpetrator, which makes it possible to take a broader perspective of the crime situation in the country.*