

STRATEGY FOR COMBATING EXTREMISM

I. THE ISSUE OF EXTREMISM IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC IN 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

The Report on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2008 (hereinafter referred to as the “Report”) is submitted under Government Resolution No. 1506 of 24 November 2008 as an integral part of the Strategy for Combating Extremism, as well as under Government Resolution No. 549 of 14 May 2008 concerning the Report on Public Order and Internal Security in the Czech Republic in 2007. The Report was compiled by the Ministry of the Interior, however, representatives of the intelligence services, the police of the Czech Republic and other governmental authorities have also contributed to it.

The concept of extremism, crimes having an extremist context, and other terms used in the Information are identical with the definitions of such terms as formulated in previous Reports dealing with the issue of extremism.¹

2. Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2008

Problems pertaining to extremism are associated predominantly with the right-wing extremist scene and its activities. Its main representatives were in 2008 the same as in 2007. As regards the neo-Nazi scene, most prominent were the National Resistance and the Autonomous Nationalists, whilst the ultra-nationalistic scene was represented mainly by the National Party and the Workers’ Party. The latter, however, was more opened to the neo-Nazi spectrum of the scene and unambiguously began to cooperate with the National Resistance as well as with the Autonomous Nationalists. Such cooperation was best evidenced by different public events and, in particular, by the autumn regional elections in which the Workers’ Party enabled persons associated with neo-Nazi organisations to become candidates.

In 2008 the process of overall qualitative change in the right-wing extremist scene, mainly the breaking through of the neo-Nazi spectrum, was completed. However, this

¹ The last of these was the Report on the Issues of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2002 which was approved by Government Resolution No. 669 of 9 July 2003. See www.mvcr.cz, section: Documents. Extremism

process did not build only on acquired experience of one generation of right-wing extremists, it was a multi-faceted process. The ever increasing educational level of activists related, among other things, to an increasing number of supporters from the middle class, revived efforts to return to political life. Therefore neo-Nazis strove to obtain the support of the general public, began to make their movement accessible to the widest possible range of supporters, and sought topics suitable to address the general public. They fully realised that they would be able to win recognition within democratic society only if they carried out their activities in compliance with valid law. They started to adapt their life style, image, activities as well as topics upon which they built up their profile to in accordance with such situation. Professionalism and preparations of concepts began to be apparent in their activities and were supported by the exchange of experiences with foreign partners, enabled by the deepening internationalisation of the European right-wing extremist scene. They presented themselves and their radical views in a cultivated manner with the aim of improving their image and to obtain the support of a certain sector of the public. They tried to achieve this aim by selecting topical issues relevant to all-society which did not have at first sight show any connection with right-wing extremism

In 2008, neo-Nazis confirmed their return from “behind closed doors to the public stage” through a number of events the aim of which was to enhance their visibility. Among these were different assemblies, demonstrations, marches, and “reverent” events where the real objective of the event was concealed by an innocent title. A new element was represented by “spontaneous” events. Extremists did not hesitate to enter into conflict with the “system” in a legal way and endeavoured to use (or more accurately, to abuse) the law and freedom guaranteed by the democratic state.

Activities of the Workers’ Party and neo-Nazis were intentionally devoted to the every day problems of common people to create the false impression before the public that neo-Nazis are “the only ones in who they can find protectors”.

It is a paradox that long-term pressure from the side of state bodies helped to bring about professionalism, to activate and relatively unify the neo-Nazi scene. Such pressure caused extremists to be reassured in their conviction and to strengthen their hate against the state and its institutions as represented chiefly by the Police of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “Czech police”)².

The fact that in 2008 support for right-wing extremists within Czech society increased may be perceived as the largest security risk.

2.1 Brief Characteristics of the Extremist Scene

2.1.1 Right-Wing Extremism

2.1.1.1 The Neo-Nazi Scene

Situation in 2008

In 2008 the neo-Nazis completed their transformation in the Czech Republic. Although the current model of unofficial local groupings based on the principles of autonomous nationalism was still the prevailing structure, the official political party – the Workers’ Party - started to openly support neo-Nazis. This party became a “gateway” for neo-Nazis to the political scene in the fashion of the German extremist National Democratic Party of Germany (Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands - NPD).

² For example the prohibition of marches, which were then abolished by a court, rather increased their self-confidence and reassured them of “righteousness of their struggle”.

An autonomous part of the neo-Nazi scene was created mainly by activists of the National Resistance and Autonomous Nationalists. They were followed up by some of the supporters of the National Corporatism which as a result of internal disputes terminated its activities in March 2008. Some former members of the National Corporatism joined the Workers' Party which opened itself also to neo-Nazis having political ambitions. After being recommended by the foremost representatives of the Party, a number of persons from the National Resistance became members of the Workers' Party

The Workers' Party, in an effort to attract also more militantly oriented individuals, commended on 1 February 2008 the activities of the Protective Brigades of the Workers' Party (PB WP). When giving public presentations, they were obviously inspired by a media response to the establishment of the National Guards. The brigades were described as the security force of the Party, which is not only to protect party leaders and to guard public events but also to monitor local problems in regions and to be of assistance to citizens.

Cooperation between the Workers' Party and neo-Nazis was visibly reflected in public activities organised by these entities in 2008.

Activities

On 19 January 2008 a march by right-wing extremists for the freedom of assembly and freedom of speech was to be organised in Pilsen, however, it was banned by the Mayor of Pilsen. Upon a decision by the regional court, which found such ban illegal, the march was finally held on an alternate date – 1 March 2008. More than 200 right-wing extremists participated in the march and representatives of the National Resistance, the Resistance Woman Unity³ and the Workers' Party held speeches. Several hundred persons opposed to the march and protested against it. As a response to the course of current events, the Autonomous Nationalists held on 3 February 2008 a demonstration with the aim of supporting Serbia and expressing disagreement with the declaration of independence by Kosovo. About 200 persons participated and among the demonstrators were also representatives of the Workers' Party, the Resistance Woman Unity and the National Resistance.

Cooperation between all entities was most markedly seen during a joint demonstration held on 1 May 2008 at the square of Jiri Z Podebrad in Prague. This demonstration was essentially a follow up to the previous demonstrations organised as 1st May marches by the National Resistance. This demonstration was this time officially announced by the Workers' Party and was supported by approximately by 600 right-wing extremists, predominantly supporters of the National Resistance and the Autonomous Nationalists. In addition to speakers from the above-mentioned organisations a representative of the National Democratic Party of Germany (Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands - NPD) took the floor. A cultural programme was provided by musicians who perform at neo-Nazi concerts. The participants behaved, also during the subsequent march, subserviently and respected the instructions of organisers. The smooth course of this event was, nevertheless, mainly a consequence of the fact that this neo-Nazi demonstration was not disturbed by left-wing extremists, who after several years of confrontations organised their own 1st May events.

Public events held during the second half of 2008 clearly showed that the Workers' Party associated with neo-Nazis and became an umbrella for their public activities.

³ A woman neo-Nazi organisation which denotes itself as an autonomous group with links to the National Resistance. It was established in 2007 and focuses on, *inter alia*, help to the POW (the Prisoners of War) and provides health emergency services during demonstrations.

The “Freedom Day”, which was supposed to be held in Hradec Kralove on 16 August 2008 as a political and cultural meeting of the Workers’ Party, was to have had a slightly untraditional form. Apart from speeches of representatives of the Workers’ Party, Autonomous Nationalists and National democratic Party of Germany, an afternoon music performance was planned which should have been provided, as on 1st May, by bands having links to the neo-Nazi scene. This event was probably inspired by the traditional festival “Fest der Völker”⁴ organised by the National Democratic Party of Germany alongside an association known as the Young National Democrats (Junge Nationaledemokraten - JN). Nonetheless, this event was cancelled since the lessor of the venue where this event was to be held withdrew from the lease contract. Despite this, about 300 activists met in the town and, without giving an advance notification, demonstrated in front of the Hradec Kralove city hall building.

On 28 September 2008 the fourth year of the St. Wenceslas demonstration, held in Kladno and organised by members of the Autonomous Nationalists and Patriotic Front in previous years, took place under the auspices of the Workers’ Party. About 300 right-wing extremists coming from the whole of the neo-Nazi spectrum met at the peaceful demonstration which, year from year, welcomes more visitors.

The “Day of National Unity” convened by the Workers’ Party on the occasion of the national holiday on 28 October 2008 in Prague had a similar course. Approximately 200 activists listened to the speeches.

Whereas the above described public events of neo-Nazis were, with several exceptions, peaceful, their activities, covered in the second half of 2008 by the Workers’ Party, which aimed at a problematic coexistence with citizens of Roma origin, gradually grew into violent conflicts with the police. In an effort to become more visible, representatives of the Workers’ Party were involved during the summer months, i.e. before the autumn regional elections, in “tackling” the situation at the Janov housing estate in Litvinov where the inhabitants had been experiencing long term problems with some less adaptable socially excluded families, in particular families of Roma origin.

Due to the fact that negotiations between the management of the Workers’ Party and municipal representatives did not lead to any improvement, twelve members of the Protective Brigades of the Workers’ Party arrived on 4 October 2008 at the Litvinov housing estate Janov. There they met Litvin Romas who were carrying for their defence sticks, golf clubs and axe helms. One of their leading representatives in the course of the clash, which was held in the presence of cameras and journalists, called out racist names against a present female member of the Protective Brigades. Video recordings and news from this incident, which the Mostecky denik (a local press) placed on the internet, aroused considerable interest not only among right-wing extremists but also among a part of the Czech general public.

As a response to this incident, a “protest assembly against Gipsy terror” was called in Litvinov on 18 October 2008. Although the event was supported by the Workers’ Party it was presented as a mere civil protest by people unsatisfied with the situation in Litvinov and thus the Party was able to avoid being politically discredited. The unannounced assembly was attended at Litvinov Peace Square not only by about 350 extremists but also by several hundred local inhabitants. After speeches by representatives of the Workers’ Party the Mayor dissolved the assembly due to the threat of a security. When radical participants of the dissolved assembly decided to set off towards Janov, the police used blind artillery ammunition and other coercive means against them. During the police

⁴ In September 2008 the Chair of the Workers’ Party had a speech during this event.

intervention local inhabitants who had come to personally support the demonstrations were present at the square.

During the demonstration as well as in the course of the march to Janov it was apparent that the local inhabitants appreciated their efforts to tackle problems with the local Roma community. During the whole demonstration local inhabitants were unambiguously on the extremists' side and supported them by all available means, not only verbally but also materially. The police prevented clashes between right-wing extremists and Romas in Janov.

As a consequence of the persisting lack of a solution to the problematic coexistence of the Janov inhabitants and at the same time as a response to the police intervention against supporters of the Workers' Party, a demonstration, announced in advance, "against positive discrimination and police violence" was held in Litvinov on 17 November 2008. In order to avoid the possibility of compromising themselves the Workers' Party organised under its own auspices only the announced demonstration, which was held in a peaceful atmosphere and without any incidents. Only after the official termination of the demonstration did several hundreds right-wing extremists set off, under the leadership of the Autonomous Nationalists, on a march to Janov which ended up in violent clashes with the police. This event was a large success for right-wing extremists since, as during the previous demonstration, they were supported by the local community.

On 13 December 2008 a peaceful assembly, attended by about 1,540 persons of whom about 40 were radicals, was held in Litvinov.

The fact that the Workers' Party enjoyed in 2008 the relatively high support of a section of the general public was confirmed by the results of the regional elections where it stood together with the marginal Democratic Party of Social Justice. The Workers' Party achieved an indisputable success in the elections not only if comparing the results to those of 2004, but also in comparison with other ultra right-wing parties⁵.

During the course of 2008 neo-Nazis adapted to difficulties accompanying the announcement of public events, by a change to their tactics. Apart from the aforementioned events they also held several so-called spontaneous events which should be considered as a new phenomenon. These were mainly small scale events organised as classical demonstrations for the purpose of showing certain attitudes. When compared with traditional events, these were neither announced or advised in advance and usually lasted only for several minutes, and not longer than for several tens of minutes.

Despite the apparent political ambitions of the neo-Nazi scene and the high number of public activities, neo-Nazis continued in 2008 to organise concerts. In particular, small scale events were attended on average by 100 persons so that they did not call attention. However, their nature did not change when compared with previous years.

2008: New Trends in the Neo-Nazi Scene

- An effort by a large number of activists to enter the political scene.
- Organisation of "spontaneous events", usually demonstrations the topic of which conflicted in the majority of cases with the law and the manifestation of which was more aggressive than that of demonstrations announced beforehand.
- Increase of violence from the side of participants during public events where the major adversary is the Czech police as a representative of the "System":

⁵ In total it received 28,865 votes which accounted for 1.02 % of the vote, which is almost 25,000 votes more than in the previous elections. Thus it became the tenth most successful party in these elections.

- participants do not hesitate in “arming” themselves in advance and in preparing for clashes; and
- incidents of individuals receded; events are usually planned as militant “protests” with an attack against the Czech police and fight with them.
- Radicals wore clothes in black-bloc style in order to make their identification by the police and ultra left-wing groups more difficult.
- The use of the legal assistance of attorneys when organising music performances and legal assistance served at the place of the event also as protection against alleged police persecution and as protection against the entrance of the police into the venue where an event was being held.

2.1.1.2 Ultra Nationalistic Groups

As regards ultra nationalistic entities, the National Party and the Workers’ Party were most visible in 2008.⁶

Activities

Representatives of the National Party directed their activities intentionally to maintain the interest of the general public and mass media, which they had enjoyed towards the end of 2007 in the context of the establishment of the National Guards. This project was totally unrealistic with respect to the capabilities of the National Party, the membership of which has been for a long time made up of several tens of persons. Despite purposefully stated lies with regard to the National Guards, by which the National Party strove to become more visible and to promote itself, the National Party remained, de facto, merely a virtual organisation and not a functioning entity.

In June 2008 the National Guards, or the National Party respectively, were engaged in coping with a problematic situation in Karlovy Vary where they made use of a topic, perceived as sensitive by the general public, publicised as the “bullying” of local school pupils by children of Roma origin. Even though only a very closed group of persons was involved here they again managed to attract the wide attention of the mass media.

In the course of the year reviewed the National Party several times announced that it was drawing up a study dealing with “solving the Gypsy issue in Bohemia and Moravia”, nonetheless this was not published in 2008. The prepared study is another example of the ability of the National Party to intentionally use “taboo topics” which address a certain section of the general public to enhance its visibility.

Another controversial topic for representatives of the National Party is the penetration of Islam into the Czech Republic. Therefore on 24 September 2008 seven party members protested in Brno against Islam and required an apology for the death of the Czech ambassador in Pakistan. Although they selected a popular media topic about which they assumed that the public would be interested in, the result of this event was really “painful” for the party.

Under the framework of international cooperation, representatives of the National Party entered into close collaboration with the ultra right-wing political party the British National Party – the BNP. Its chair Nick Griffin himself participated in a demonstration organised by the National Party on 28 October 2008 at Wenceslas Square in Prague. They also continued to cooperate with the Swedish ultra right-wing political party the Nationaldemokraterna. The media also reported on a meeting of representatives of the

⁶ Activities of the Workers’ Party are, due to its close linkages to neo-Nazis, described in sub-chapter 2.1.1.1 and will be analysed here in more detail.

National Guards with representatives of the Hungarian Guards which was held on 21 July 2008 in Bratislava. However both entities did not enter into close cooperation.

A protest against an assembly supporting the visibility and equality of social minorities “Rainbow Wave - Queer Parade 2008” held in Brno on 28 June 2008 was considered as an important activity by the Czech ultra right-wing scene. More than 160 neo-Nazis and ultra right-wing extremists protested against the event. They had been preparing for this protest for a long time and thanks to the “common enemy” they entered into unusual close mutual cooperation. Several physical assaults against the participants of the Queer Parade were seen during the protests, however nobody was seriously injured.

Activities of other entities were, when compared to those of the National Party and Workers’ Party, marginal. Entities such as the Patriotic Front, the National Unification or Right and Justice did not independently organise during 2008 any important event. Only their co-participation in the protest against the Queer Parade 2008 might be mentioned. Their other activities concentrated mainly on solving internal affairs and problems which occurred within their activities.

2.1.1.3 Application of State Powers as regards the Right of Assembly

The Ministry of the Interior dealt with a proposal to register a civic association – the National Home Defence - and further, in cooperation with police bodies it paid great attention to activities carried out by the National Party and the Workers’ Party.

- In 2008 a proposal to register a civic association under the name of the National Home Defence was filed. Within the administrative proceedings the Ministry of the Interior came to the conclusion that it was an illegal civic association since its genuine aim was to support violence or otherwise infringe the Constitution and laws. In this context they took into account the call of the preparatory committee: *“The nation must defend itself – to establish home defence guards and to stand for armed resistance and not to sit back with arms folded, not to wait to be beaten and exploited. The Government, which has dragged families into poverty and suffering and now sends against them bailiffs and public officials, must be deposed and must return to families what has been seized. The National Home Defence must be stronger than the state police in order to protect citizens. Join us and get done with what is happening here...”* An action was lodged with the City Court in Prague against the decision concerned on 24 July 2008. The Court adopted a resolution by which the case was closed on 10 December 2008 because the plaintiff did not pay relevant court fees.
- As regards the establishment of the National Guards initiated by the National Party this group is seen, on the basis of gathered findings, as a non-formal grouping existing outside the legal regime of both Act 83/1990 Coll. and Act No. 424/1991 Coll. According to publicly available sources (pursuant to the Articles of Association of the National Party and its web pages) the National Guards are not presented as being part of the organisational structure of the party in question. A respective intervention by state authorities into their activities can be carried out only in the case of illegal conduct by participants at events organised by the National Guards. The same applies to some suggestions requiring the dissolution of the National Party which were delivered to the Ministry of the Interior in the course

of 2008. These were not found to justify drawing up a relevant proposal of the Government to the Supreme Administrative Court.⁷

- As regards the Workers' Party, the Ministry of the Interior found reasons to submit a proposal for its dissolution – violations of the Constitution and laws, in particular of the Act on Assembly. The Czech Government decided to lodge the proposal concerned with the Supreme Administrative Court by its Resolution No. 1506 of 24 November 2008 and the proposal was lodged on 5 December 2008.

On 4 March 2009 the Supreme Administrative Court dismissed the Governmental proposal to dissolve the Workers' Party as unjustified. The Court reasoned its decision as follows: "...the proceedings did not prove that activities of the Workers' Party would justify, in the scope of evidence provided by the Government, the reasons for its dissolution (Section 4 and Section 13 (6) of the Act on Political Parties)".⁸ This negative decision regarding the proposal to dissolve such political party, however, does not exclude another proposal for dissolution of the same political party being filed in the future.

With regard to the fact that such a proposal to dissolve a political party pursuant to Section 4 of Act No. 424/1991 Coll., on Political Parties had been lodged for the first time in history the Supreme Administrative Court focused, apart from the decision on the matter itself, also on general criteria which must be satisfied when dissolving any political party.

2.1.2 Left-Wing Extremism

2.1.2.1 The Anarcho-Autonomous Movement

Situation

The year 2008 was not exceptional in the anarcho-autonomist scene. The Congress of the **Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation** was held, however it did not adopt any substantial decisions. Thus the trend of stagnation of its activities continued and it may be stated that this situation is the same within the whole anarcho-autonomist scene. In general it may be said that the anarcho-autonomist movement has been seeing a decline in the Czech Republic and its significance has considerably decreased when compared with previous years.

The **Antifascist Action** was the most active and also militant ultra left-wing organisation. It first and foremost, and currently exclusively, concentrated on protests against right-wing extremists. Such protests absolutely changed their form, as the organisation left it to other entities to express disagreement publicly and itself concentrated on attacking persons from the ultra right-wing scene, in particular where no police measures are taken.

⁷ In order to have complete information it may be stated that in the context of lodged criminal information regarding crimes of defamation of a nation, ethnic group, race or conviction and the crime of incitement of national or racial hatred lodged with reference to the data published on the internet portal of the National Party, the competent public prosecutor's office stated that the police body had not made a mistake when discontinuing investigations.

⁸ Judgement of the Supreme Administrative Court of 4 March 2009, ref. number: Pst 1/2008-66. The full text of the decision is available on the web pages of the Supreme Administrative Court (<http://www.nssoud.cz>).

Activities

In 2008 supporters on the anarcho-autonomist movement managed to organise several public events.

The most important was an event held on 1 May 2008. In previous years 1 May demonstrations by supporters of the anarcho-autonomist scene were a mere reaction and anti-action against marches by right-wing extremists. In 2008 anarcho-autonomists changed their strategy and organised their own culture-oriented “open-air” festival held in an anti-fascist spirit on Cisarka louka in Prague, which was preceded by a march by several tens of anarchists from Strelecky Island.

Attacks against right-wing extremists still remain the dominant activities of this part of the left-wing extremist scene, while their aggression and intensity was higher than in the past. Left-wing extremists often were the first to make an attack, and in many cases they assaulted also moderate ultra nationalists and person who were not prepared for such clashes. These actions by militant left-wing extremists were usually well planned in advance by using information obtained through the monitoring of right-wing extremists.⁹

The demonstration “Against Racist Pogroms, against Social Exclusion and for a Dignified Life for All” can be mentioned. It was organised by the Antifascist Action in Prague on 13 December 2008 as a response to the events in Litvinov. It was attended by about 500 persons and became one of the largest events of the anarcho-autonomist scene in 2008.

Militant left-wing extremists strove, at least outwardly, to rid themselves of the label of rioters who stand up against right-wing extremist only through the use of violence. Inspired by the ultra right-wing who, with the aim of raising their profile within Czech society, endeavour to operate legally, left-wing extremists tried several times to attract to their events “common” citizens in order to present themselves as serious opponents to right-wing extremists.

As an example of such strategy an exhibition at the Memorial in Lidice held from 3 October until 31 December 2008 can be mentioned, since the Antifascist Action participated in its organisation. By co-organising the exhibition on victims of neo-Nazism the association enhanced its visibility and it partially managed to legitimise its activities. This event was undoubtedly successful for the Antifascist Action because the association managed to present its ideas on the grounds of a state institution and thus it was able to inspire the feeling within a section of the general public that it could be perceived as a trustworthy entity in the fight against neo-Nazism.

2.1.2.2 Marxist-Leninist Groups (Neo-Bolshevism and Trotskyism)

Situation

As regards this spectrum, the Communist Union of Youth was the most notable entity. On 19 March 2008 the City Court in Prague as an administrative court confirmed that a decision adopted by the Ministry of the Interior in October 2006 on the dissolution of the Union was in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Czech Republic and

⁹ These events are targeted where approximately 15-20 persons from the AFA attacks in an advance selected group of persons rating among ultra right-wing extremists, which has always less number of persons, and by using weapons for hitting others cause serious injuries to such right-wing extremists as well as considerable material damage. The event last only for several minutes and the attacked are not able to efficiently defend themselves and in many cases they are not abler to identify the attackers.

the activities of this organisation were formally terminated. The cassation complaint filed by representatives of the Communist Union of Youth does not have a suspensive effect.¹⁰

Activities

Despite the above-mentioned facts, members of the dissolved Communist Union of Youth continued in their political activities, often under the heading of the Communist Union of Youth. For example they participated in a demonstration held on 12 September 2008 in front of the US embassy in Prague and the Festival of Halo Noviny (the communist press), organised on 20 September 2008 at Vystaviste (an area for fairs and exhibitions) in Prague.

It may be stated that the situation within the Communist Union of Youth is considerably influenced, in addition to the prohibition on its activities, also by interpersonal relations and conflicts between some of its foremost representatives. These contributed to the fact that the ideological and methodological disputes within the membership base, which had so far been welded together by their fight against the prohibition of their organisation, had been overlooked and became an overwhelming problem. A competitive struggle between factions within the Communist Union of Youth, which started to accuse each other of usurping power and of “non-Comradely” attitudes, led in autumn 2008 to the registration of several civic associations which might be generally considered as successive organisations to this dissolved civic association.

2.1.3 Dangerous Sects and Pseudo-Religious Organisations

With respect to sects and pseudo-religious organisations operating in the country, the situation in the Czech Republic in 2008 was in no way different to that in other European countries. In 2008, as well as in previous years, no demonstrable crimes carried out by dangerous sects were recorded in the Czech Republic. In terms of intelligence services, sects could be dangerous if their activities go against the principles of the state. According to the police, a destructive sect is one whose declarations and whose members' actions are in conflict with criminal law.

However, still there is a problem in revealing this kind of crime due to its latency. In the majority of cases the aggrieved are not willing to provide testimony or to file criminal information. At the same time it is very difficult to draw the line between the situation where the members of a sect operate voluntarily and where the leader's conduct meets constituent elements of a crime for example pursuant to Section 209 of the Criminal Code (harm done to the rights of another) or other criminal offences.

To determine the social danger of a sect it is first of all necessary to assess from all points of view its nature and potential. This means to possess fundamental data such as the number of members of a sect and their locations, the internal structure of the group, contacts abroad, attitude towards the state, sources of income, and extension of economic activities. In addition to these questions, the list of which is not in any way exhausting, the following facts appear to be important:

- whether a sect tries through its members or its influence to take a key position within the state administration or in other important institutions of enterprises;

¹⁰ As a follow up to the information concerning dissolution, the civic association the Communist Union of Youth which was provided in the previous Report on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic, we wish to state that the Supreme Administrative Court has not yet decided on the cassation complaint filed against the decision taken by the City Court in Prague which dismissed the action by which the said association claimed to cancel the decision of the Ministry of the Interior.

- whether sect members are linked to members of terrorist, extremist and other criminal organisations which can cause even a small, less numerous and unorganised sect to become a dangerous entity;
- what deployment there is of their members, which may be in some cases very important; there is the possibility in a community or ghetto to influence other people more easily, with all consequences that may arise from this (for example the Manson group, or the community of Jan Dvorsky in the Czech Republic).

The legal existence of churches and religious societies is regulated in the Czech Republic in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and Act No. 3/2002 Coll. on Freedom of Religious Conviction and the Position of Churches and Religious Societies.

In addition to registered churches and religious societies, various religious alternative movements established mainly after 1989 operate in the Czech Republic. However it is mainly young people who become members of such movements. Some of them may profess unacceptable views in terms of standards recognised by the society. Sometimes such movements attract attention through their behaviour towards their members, or the environs in which they operate. Their manifestations may be then assessed as acceptable only with difficulty, and may be assessed sometimes even as socially wrong or as extremists with respect to generally recognised social standards.

2.2 The Issue of Concerts of Right-Wing Extremist Music Bands and Right-wing Extremist Demonstrations; Abuse of the Internet

2.2.1 The Issue of the White Power Music Concerts

In 2008 the Czech police registered 30 concerts held throughout the whole of the Czech Republic. In comparison with 2007 the number of concert increased (in 2007 there were 25 concerts). Nonetheless, such a rise cannot be attributed only to the increased activities of the ultra right-wing scene, but mainly to the fact that the Czech police had exposed more local actions than before. It was apparent with regard to such concerts that thanks to the pressure from the side of the Czech police in past years these events were fragmented and participation was on average from 50 to 150 persons. A certain exception was the concert held on 2 August 2008 in Ochoz which was attended by 300 persons. Another concert which displayed increased participation (more than 200 persons) was the Memorial of Ian Stuart Donaldson which was held on 27 September 2008 in Sardice (the district of Hodonin).

Persons having links to the National Resistance or the Autonomous Nationalists were behind the organisation of neo-Nazi concerts. Although participation at these concerts was lower, the Czech police managed to detect the organisation of such concerts and to obtain information on the place, time, organisers and music bands which were to perform.

When arranging such concerts the organisers continued to use techniques to conceal their communication. Only a very small group of organisers knew the place where the relevant concert was about to take place. They often applied information embargos on participants relating to the place of the performance until several hours prior to the beginning of the concert. Information embargos were also applied to the members of white power music bands who were invited to perform. The only known place was generally a meeting point which could be quite far from the place of the performance. As a

consequence this situation led to lower numbers of participants than there had been in the past since not all interested people had access to the relevant information. This, of course, leads to the lower profits of the organisers.

Another trend relates to the organisation of neo-Nazi concerts. This trend was identified as being highly significant - namely it is the assistance of a legal attorney at the place of the concert. An attorney works also during the preparation of the event concerned, whereby he/she professionally draws up different contracts concerning the organisation of the concert so that it would not be possible to withdraw from such contract, and if such contract is terminated then this is done under disadvantageous financial conditions. Such an attorney serves organisers both as a legal advisor and as protection against alleged police persecution and against police entering the place where the event is being held. With the assistance of the legal advisor they gain the feeling that they “legally disseminate neo-Nazism”.

In 2008, as in previous years, a strong trend was seen during the organisation of concerts – an effort to show coexistence with European and even global neo-Nazi movement. Signs such as Blood and Honour, or Combat 18, are often hung on the walls. This fact was recorded in a large extent when foreign neo-Nazi music bands participated in performances and when these concerts were promoted on foreign web servers. According to police findings the aforementioned organisations do not operate in the Czech Republic, thus the display of such signs demonstrates only a wish to show coexistence with this movement. Czech neo-Nazis are not perceived abroad as equal partners. As regards foreign music bands it may be mentioned that in the Czech Republic there are only several individuals who are able to invite such bands to concerts held in the Czech Republic and to ensure that such an invitation will be accepted.

2.2.2 Demonstrations of Right-Wing Extremists

In 2008 there were 39 demonstrations and marches (27 demonstrations in 2007) organised by different ultra right-wing organisations. When compared to the previous year, an upward trend continued and fully confirmed the **transfer from “behind closed doors to the streets”**. The largest number of individual events were organised by the National Resistance and the Autonomous Nationalists as well as the Workers’ Party when individual representatives were “flowing” between one organisation and another. Events organised by other ultra right-wing organisations such as the National Party or the Patriotic Front were, when compared with the rallies of the above-mentioned entities, insignificant.

2.2.3 The Issue of the Internet

The issue of the internet is becoming, year from year, more and more acute and its solution more urgent due to new available technologies and increasing computer literacy, as the internet has become a simpler and cheap tool to propagate ultra right-wing as well as ultra left-wing views. The internet represents a welcome means of communication between involved groups having the same interest.

In the Czech environment, the issue of punishment of authors of publicly accessible web pages with neo-Nazi topics which are placed on US servers where there is a different legal environment concerning the dissemination of racial or other manifestations of hate or in countries with which the Czech Republic has not signed relevant agreements has not yet been solved. Thus offenders of such crimes are given an advantage over the police since these person are fully aware that they are well ahead of the police and that they can make

use of this advantage. If it is not possible to enter into agreements with countries where there is a legal environment favourable for the offenders of cyber-crime with an extremist subtext, it is necessary to develop software which would enable the solution of this situation directly in the Czech Republic and help to restrict the establishment of such web pages. Such a kind of website is for example represented by the website of the National Educational Institute. This website contains racist, anti-Semitic, revisionist and other similar texts of hate. These web-sites are hosted by servers in the USA. In this specific case it is not an organisation, but activities carried out by several individuals, a small virtual group, focusing on the “promotion” of the above ideas. This group is also behind the book *‘Auschwitz – Facts versus Fiction’*, distributed also in the Czech Republic. Similar texts are disclosed on the home website of the National Resistance. The fact that both above-mentioned web sites are placed abroad means that the Czech police cannot commence the prosecution of particular individuals.

Internet communication is currently widely used among radicals and extremists also on Czech servers and their messages are frequently encrypted (by a software ciphering tool known as PGP or by other systems), and they also use locked-in chat groups. The authors of such texts used different methods to prevent their identification, such as proxy servers, anonymisers and others. This made the exposing of offenders of extremist activities more difficult.

Another problem relating to the internet is the impossibility of removing web pages for which concrete persons were lawfully sentenced. Such pages are not maintained by Czech providers and are placed abroad, i.e. in countries having a different legal environment. Thus there is a paradoxical situation where a person was convicted of the crime of creating and disseminating such web pages, however there is no legal tool to block or cancel such pages.

2.3 Crimes Having an Extremist Context in 2008

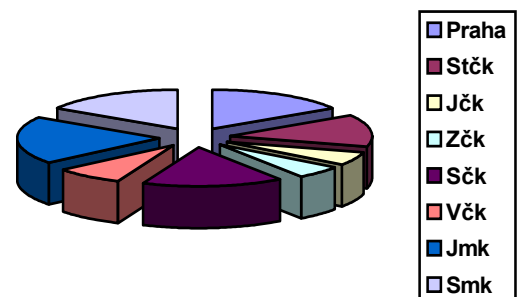
2.3.1 The Situation Republic-Wide and in Individual Regions of the Czech Republic¹¹

2.3.1.1 Overall Situation

Of the total number of 343,799 criminal offences detected in the Czech Republic, 217 registered crimes had an extremist context, which accounted for 0.06 % of total criminal activities recorded (0.05 % of total criminal activities recorded 2007).

In 2008:

- in comparison with 2007, an increase, by the number of 21 crimes, in detected crimes with an extremist context was registered, i.e. this was an increase of 10.7 % (217 crimes – in 2008, 196 crimes – in 2007);¹²
- 126 criminal offences were solved, which accounts for 58.1 % (119 crimes in 2007, which accounted for 60.7 %).



¹¹ A basic breakdown of police statistical records (SRS-PP) – seven regions and the capital city of Prague - in compliance with Act No. 36/1960 Coll. on Territorial Division of the State, as amended.

¹² When compared with 2007, when a decline in these types of criminal offences was recorded – by 21 % (when compared with 2006), the year 2008 brought about the opposite trend.

- 195 persons (+14 persons; 181 persons in 2007) were prosecuted for committing the aforementioned crimes.

The total number of crimes with an extremist context recorded in the Czech Republic from 2006 to 2008

(according to the Statistical Recording System of Crime at the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic – SRS-PP)

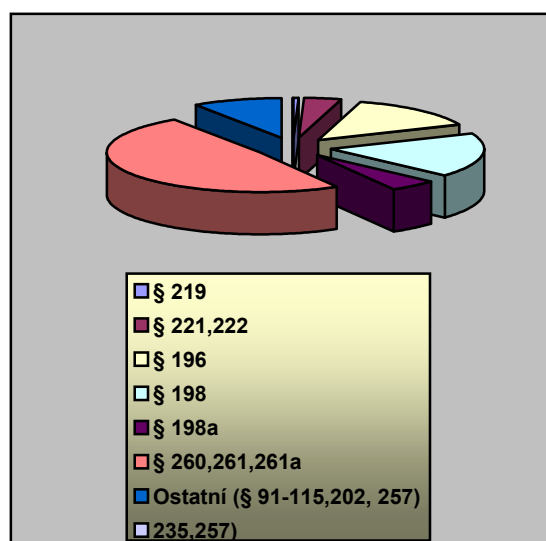
Year	Number of crimes recorded	Share of total crime (%)	Number of solved crimes	Number of persons prosecuted
2006	248	0.07	196	242
2007	196	0.05	119	181
2008	217	0.06	126	195

- Most of such crimes were committed in the South Moravian Region – 43 (19.8 %), followed by Prague (the capital city) – 35 (16.1 %), the North Bohemian Region – 35 (16.1 %) and the North Moravian Region - 35 (16.1 %).
- The most visible growth in this kind of crime was reported in the North Bohemian Region (+52.2 %)¹³, followed by the South Moravian Region (+48.3 %) and the Central Bohemian Region (+45 %).
- The lowest number of such criminal offences was registered in the South Bohemian Region (5.5 %) and the West Bohemian Region (5.1 %).

2.3.1.2 Composition of Criminal Offences

In 2008, when compared with 2007 as well as with previous years, no substantial changes were recorded in the composition of crimes having an extremist context.

- Crimes under **Sections 260, 261, and 261a of the Criminal Code** (support and propagation of movements suppressing human rights and freedoms) continued to considerably prevail – the total was **111 (51.2 %) crimes**, of which 63 criminal offences (56.8 %) were solved. **In total 110 persons (i.e. 56.4 % of all detected offenders of crimes with an extremist context) were prosecuted.**
- The share of crimes under **Section 198 of the Criminal Code** (defamation of a nation, ethnic group, race or conviction) – **41 (18.9 %)** was much lower; **33 persons** were prosecuted. The same applies to crimes of violence against a group of people or an individual under Section 196 of the Criminal Code – **32 (14.7 %) - 27 persons** were prosecuted for such crime.



¹³ In 2007 the most visible decline in this kind of crime was reported from the North Bohemian Region (-56.6%; 2007 – 23 crimes.; in 2006 – 53 crimes).

- According to SRS-PP, if taking into account the statistical period of January – December 2007, **nine crimes** pursuant to **Sec. 221** and **Sec. 222 of the Criminal Code** were reported (intentional serious physical injury), for which **9 persons** were prosecuted; **eleven crimes** under Sec. 198a of the Criminal Code (inciting hate against a group of persons or restriction of their rights and freedoms) were recorded for which **nine persons** were prosecuted; and one murder was prosecuted pursuant to **Section 219g**
- No terrorist activities occurred in connection with extremism.

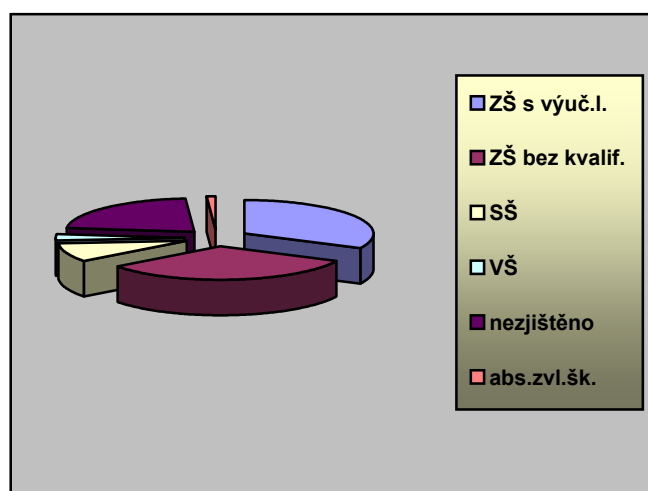
An overview of extremist crimes involving attacks on a nation, nationality or race or on members thereof, and crimes committed in relation to the incitement of national or racial hatred – total numbers in 2007 and 2008 (according to the constituent elements of the crime)

(according to the Statistical Recording System of Crime at the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic – SRS-PP)

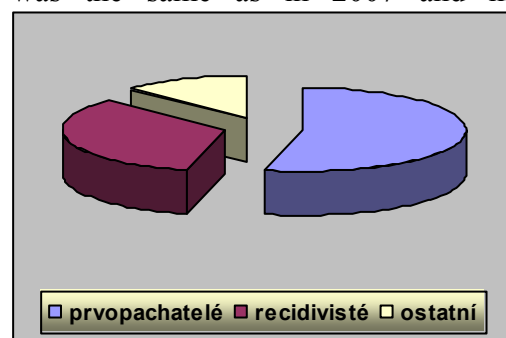
Year/Sec.	196 (2)	198	198a	198b	219 (2g)	221 (2b)	222 (2b)	235 (2f)	236	238a	257 (2b)	259	260	261
2007	18	28	13	0	1	7	4	0	0	0	2	0	47	63
2008	25	41	11	0	1	4	2	2	0	0	1	0	42	68

With regard to closing criminal procedures relating to police investigations of crimes having a racist or other extremist context and investigations of their perpetrators, the submission of an indictment prevailed – 119 offenders (61 %), and within summary proceedings pursuant to Sec. 179c (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure 21 offenders (10.8 %) were prosecuted, 23 offenders (11.8 %) are still being investigated, and nine cases (nine offenders, i.e. 4.6%) were suspended under Sec. 159a (2) and Sec. 159a (3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The prosecution of twelve offenders (6.2%) was conditionally discontinued pursuant to Sec. 307 and Sec. 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Two offenders (1%) were prosecuted within proceedings for juvenile offenders under Sec. 166 (3). In three cases (1.5 %), a proposal to commence proceedings before the Court for Youth, under Act No. 218/2003 was filed.

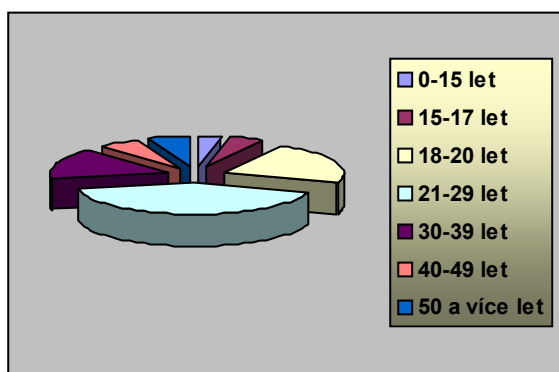
2.3.1.3 Offenders



In 2008 the composition of offenders of crimes having an extremist context was the same as in 2007 and in



previous years. Offenders of the above-mentioned crimes were both activists and supporters of extremist movements as well as citizens of the majority society who do not have any apparent links with any right-wing extremist movements, however in exceptional cases such crimes were also committed by persons of Roma ethnicity. The structure of offenders as regards their educational level did not change either. Offenders having only a basic education and an apprenticeship



certificate prevailed – 63 persons (32.3 %) the same applies to offenders having a basic education and no qualification totalled – 63 persons (32.3 %). However, there were also 22 (12.2%) offenders having a secondary education - 18 persons (9.2 %), and 6 offenders (3.1 %) having a tertiary education.¹⁴ There were also 46 (22.1%) other offenders who were either children or foreign nationals whose educational level was

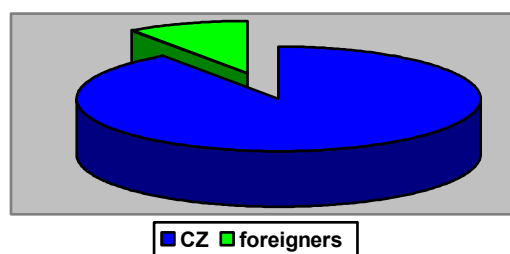
not ascertained. Among the offenders there were two who had accomplished special school (1%). There were 105 (53.8 %) first-time offenders and 65 (33.3 %) repeat offenders.

The composition of offenders in terms of their age did not display any visible changes. Also in 2008, as in 2007, offenders of the 21 - 29 years age category prevailed (82, i.e. 42 %), followed by 18 – 20 year old offenders (43, i.e. 22.1 %), 30 – 39 year old offenders (32, i.e. 16.4 %) and 40 – 49 year old offenders (11, i.e. 5.6 %). The lowest number of offenders fell into the categories of under 15 years of age (6, i.e. 3.1 %), between 15 and 17 years of age (9, i.e. 4.6 %), between 50 and 59 years of age (7, i.e. 3.6 %), and over 60 years (4, i.e. 2.1 %). With regard to solved crimes, male offenders prevailed (182, i.e. 93.3 %), whilst there were only 13 female offenders (which accounted for 6.6 %).

44 persons, which accounts for 22.6 % of the total number of offenders, committed crimes while intoxicated

There were 19, i.e. 9.7 %, foreign offenders. These were citizens of Slovakia (6), Poland (4), Russia (1), Ukraine (1) and Germany (7).

Share of foreign nationals in recorded criminal activities with an extremist context in 2008



2.3.1.4 Crimes with an Extremist Context Committed by Members of Police Forces¹⁵

In 2008, when compared with 2007, the Inspectorate of the Minister of the Interior (now the Inspectorate of the Police of the Czech Republic) investigated two cases demonstrating that crimes having an extremist context had been committed. However, in

¹⁴ Under Act No. 561/2004 Coll., on Pre-school, Basic, Secondary, Tertiary Professional and Other Education (the Education Act) the following terminology applies: *those who completed basic school and then received an apprenticeship certificate are equal to those who completed secondary school and at the same time received an apprenticeship certificate*, and offenders with secondary education are *offenders who completed secondary education by passing a school-leaving examination* (see Sec. 58 of the Act cited - 561/2004).

¹⁵ The Inspectorate of the Police of the Czech Republic (in 2008 Inspection of the Minister of the Interior) is involved in investigating crimes committed by police officers. According to the reports of this body they very rarely encounter during the performance of their duties manifestations of extremist attitudes. However not always must the behaviour of a police officer having an extremist subtext lead to the committing of a crime investigated by the Inspection of the Minister of the Interior.

neither of the cases was an extremist subtext in the behaviour of the suspects proven. The same applied to the evidence of inclination of the suspects towards extremist movements or membership in them. In both cases investigation was terminated by submitting a proposal to commence prosecution under section 162 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure for suspicion that a crime of hooliganism under Section 202 (1) of the Criminal Code had been committed.

2.3.1.5 Crimes with an Extremist Context Committed by Members of the Army of the Czech Republic

In 2008 the Military Police investigated in total five cases where there was suspicion of crimes having an extremist context. The investigations of these cases were commenced by the Military Police themselves, through cooperation with commanding bodies and also on the basis of information provided by a journalist and published in the mass media. In one case the offenders' conduct was classified as causing suspicion of the committing of a crime of defamation of a nation, ethnic group, race or religious belief pursuant to Section 198 of the Criminal Code – an army member insulted a soldier of the same military unit regarding his colour of skin. The case was transferred to the Criminal Police and Investigation Service in Tabor for further investigation. Another four cases should be mentioned; the findings which were examined concerned, in one of the cases, the possible active involvement of an army member in an extremist movement, in two of the cases investigations regarding the use of symbols of extremist movements, and in one of the cases investigations concerning the business undertaking of a soldier in active service in the area of selling trademark clothes popular among extremists. Such findings were not confirmed and their examination was discontinued and military intelligence authorities were informed to this end.

2.3.1.6 Court Statistics

In 2008 courts of the Czech Republic sentenced by final and conclusive judgement a total of 75,751 persons, which is a minimum increase, in comparison with 2007, of 23 persons, i.e. about 0.3 %. Of this number, **in total 97 persons were sentenced for 192 crimes with an extremist or racist context**. This number accounts only for 0.1% of the total number of lawfully sentenced persons. In comparison with 2007 a growth was seen in the number of persons lawfully sentenced for a crime having a racist context, since in the previous year 72 persons were sentenced, and in 2006 96 persons were sentenced. As a result of such increase the share of this type of crimes increased from 155 criminal offences in 2007 to the aforementioned 192 criminal offences in 2008. The growth in the number of crimes with an extremist subtext in the last year does not necessarily signal a turn in the quantity of such crimes. From the perspective of the Ministry of Justice, this is considered to be a relatively small set of data on the basis of which it is impossible to determine a development trend. Trends could be seen within several years. This is rather a fluctuation in the opposite direction, after the number of this kind of crimes had substantially dropped.

Offenders were most often convicted of the criminal offences below:

Support and propagation of movements suppressing human rights and freedoms	Sec. 260, Sec. 261	Number of persons 2008 / 2007		Number of persons 2006
Defamation of a nation, ethnic group, race or conviction	Sec. 198	47	24	34
Violence against a group of people or an individual	Sec. 196	15	13	14
Hooliganism	Sec. 202	14	14	21
Injury to health	Sec. 221	8	4	7
Assault against a public official	Sec. 155	6	6	3
Extortion	Sec. 235	0	0	2
Dangerous threats	Sec. 197a	0	1	1
Inciting hate against a group of persons or restricting their rights and freedoms	Sec. 198a	0	1	2
Support and propagation of movements suppressing human rights and freedoms	Sec. 260, Sec. 261	0	0	1
Serious physical injury	Sec. 222	1	1	5
Theft	Sec. 247	0	1	1

As regards the above-mentioned results it must be stated that the reporting of a criminal offence as a crime having a racist context is dependant on the decision of the relevant judge, taking into account the circumstances of the case.

For the aforementioned criminal offences, seven persons received unconditional sentences of imprisonment, which accounts for 7 % of lawfully sentenced persons. Even though this is a small sample of offenders the trend could mean the alleviation of criminal repression. Of these seven sentenced persons, for four of them the sentence was up to one year, for two of them the sentence was between one to five years of imprisonment, and one of them received an even stricter punishment. In 2008 in total 51 persons, i.e. 52.5 % of sentenced persons, received suspended sentences. When compared to the previous year, courts substantially used alternative punishments, namely the punishment of community work. While in 2007 only ten persons were sentenced to community work, which accounted for 14 % of sentenced persons, in 2008 courts imposed community work for racist offences in total on 29 sentenced persons, which accounts for 29.9 % of sentenced persons.

Of the total number of sentenced persons, 46 persons (47.4 %) were first-time offenders, and nine persons (9.3 %) were, according to the courts, repeat offenders. Only six juveniles were sentenced which accounts for 6.2 % of the total number of persons lawfully sentenced for criminal offences having a racist context. And again only three female offenders were sentenced, which accounts for 3.1 %.

2.3.1.7 Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office Statistics¹⁶

As regards criminal offences committed with racist, national or other hateful motives, the data is included in the table below

¹⁶ Statistics of the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office as well as court statistics differ from police statistics with respect to the time period within which a crime is reported. The time when the crime was committed is not what is decisive, but rather the time when the State Prosecutor prepares a criminal charge, or decides to drop charges, and so forth.

Table 1: Criminal offences committed in 2007 and 2008 with racist, national or other hateful motives

Crimes motivated by racial or simile hatred	Total number of persons prosecuted	Total number of persons charged
2007	204 (+36 ZPŘT)	197 (+36 ZPŘT)*
2008	215 (+41 ZPŘT)	198 (+40 ZPŘT)

Table 2: The total number of persons prosecuted, charged and sentenced in the Czech Republic in 2007 and 2008

Year	Prosecuted	Charged	Sentenced	ZPŘT
2007	78,545	67,186	75,728	35,268
2008	73,722	63,078	-	3,685

Table 2 enables the comparison of monitored values contained in Table 1, in terms of the total number of persons prosecuted or charged and persons involved in accelerated pre-trial proceedings, as well as persons against whom a motion for punishment was lodged, for the years 2007 and 2008.

The preliminary data for 2008 shows a growth in all indicators, however, this increase was not substantial. As regards the constituent elements of specific criminal offences, a marked increase, when compared with 2007, occurred mainly in relation to the crime of violence against a group of people and/or against an individual pursuant to Section 196 (2) and (3) of the Criminal Code¹⁷ and the crime of supporting and propagating movements suppressing human rights and freedoms pursuant to Section 260 of the Criminal Code. As regards other crimes, the situation in 2007 remained unchanged.

The composition of crimes in 2008 did not see any substantial change when compared with previous years. **Non-violent conduct prevailed** in 2008, meaning that **attacks were mostly verbal**. Public prosecutors' offices reported more crimes committed via the internet.

In 2008 public prosecutors' offices followed **General Instruction No. 1 of the Supreme Public Prosecutor of 29 January 2008 on criminal proceedings**, which replaced General Instruction 4/2006 on punishing offences motivated by national, racial, political and religious intolerance. This Instruction is significant in terms of the clarification of this type of crime as being one of the priorities for public prosecutors' offices. However, it is also important in the area of procedural law (in carrying out supervision, court proceedings, and reviewing cases with the option to lodge an appeal or to prepare a draft complaint against a breach of law).

¹⁷ Although it is almost 100%, this fact cannot be overestimated – it is de facto the level from 2005, and the level from the mid-1990s when these kinds of crimes displayed a considerable growth was not by any means reached.

Currently the Supreme Prosecutor's Office is drawing up guidelines concerning the issue of extremism, the final version of which will be available at the end of the first quarter of 2009 and will be published on the Supreme Prosecutor's Office web pages.

2.3.2 Criminal Activities with an Anti-Semitic Subtext

In 2008, as in previous years, **No serious anti-Semitic attacks were reported in the Czech Republic.** Nevertheless, when compared with 2007, a growth in the number of this kind of crime was reported – namely by 50 % (27 crimes in 2008; 18 crimes in 2007). Criminal offences under Section 261 of the Criminal Code (the crime of supporting and propagating a movement suppressing human rights and freedoms) accounted for approximately 41 %. Most of these crimes were committed in the South Bohemian Region – 11, i.e. 67 % more than in 2007 (five crimes), whilst the lowest number of these crimes were committed in the East Bohemian Region (one crime).¹⁸

2.4 Security Risks

In 2008, when compared with 2007, the number of public events organised by ultra right-wing groups, such as the neo-Nazi National Resistance, the Autonomous Nationalists and the Workers' Party, increased. Thus the trend of ever increasing numbers of participants at such events increased, including radicalisation of their behaviour and preparedness for confrontation with the Czech police.

It may be assumed that:

- neo-Nazis will continue to incline towards violent actions and confrontation with police forces;
- the above-mentioned groups will continue in their efforts to obtain the sympathy and support of the majority population in problematic localities; and
- they will strive to win recognition in public life and to enter political life.

The following are perceived to be the main security risks:

- continuing radicalisation;
- possible transformation of virtual half-military organisations into real entities;
- an effort to penetrate into the security forces, in particular into the Czech police;
- the acceptance of extremists by the general public.

Actions taken by the left-wing part of the extremist spectrum concentrated in 2008, as in 2007, more or less on combating ideological opponents, i.e. militant campaigns against neo-Nazis and their most visible representatives. Despite certain passivity the following was and remains obvious:

- efforts by persons who participate mainly in actions carried out by neo-Nazis to violently clash not only with their ideological opponents but also with the Czech police; and
- in the context of such efforts, members of ultra left-wing organisations are also armed.

2.5 Changes in Possible Legal Procedures

¹⁸ See Annex 2: Table .2 and Diagram .3

2.5.1 Criminal Offences with a Racial Subtext under the New Criminal Code

In 2008 a Government draft of a new Criminal Code was discussed and approved. The Government draft Code did not encompass, when compared to the current Code, any essential amendments to the wording of extremist crimes. In the course of the debate over the new Criminal Code new constituent elements of the crime of establishment, support and propagation of movements suppressing human rights and freedoms were added which allow the use of a stricter sentence if a crime stipulated in Section 403 (1) is committed by a soldier. Further constituent elements of crimes pursuant to Sections 380, 382 and 383 (in accordance with the approved Criminal Code) were made more precise.

The amendment to the Criminal Code was passed by the Chamber of Deputies as well as by the Senate and on 26 January 2009 was signed by the President. The new Criminal Code was published in the Collection of Laws (Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code). The Criminal Code will come into effect on 1 January 2010.

2.5.2 New Act on the Police of the Czech Republic and New Options

Meetings of persons from the extreme right-wing environment are often held under the pretext of the birthday of a baby, the celebration of a birthday and so forth, in restaurants and as private events. By adopting the new Act on the Police of the Czech Republic (Act No. 273/2008 Coll. on the Police of the Czech Republic), which came into effect on January 2009, the police obtained authorisation to enter business premises. Therefore, it is not valid anymore that by declaring that because there is a private event organised in the business premises the business undertaking loses the nature of a business undertaking and becomes a private space. The new Act on the Police of the Czech Republic in its Section 41 gives police officers the opportunity to enter such premises. A police officer shall be entitled to enter a business undertaking and to enter rooms in which he/she can reasonably assume that there are individuals. A police officer shall be entitled to do so even after such business undertaking, in the case of a shop, is closed, or after the working hours of a business undertaking which is not a shop. Thus the Act enables the Czech police to enter warehouses, kitchens and other facilities where they could not enter prior to the adoption of the Act in question since such rooms were determined only for customers.

2.5.3 The Amendment to Some Provisions of Act No. 84/1990 Coll. on the Right of Assembly: “the End of Masked Faces”

Participants at assemblies had often their faces hidden so that their identification was not possible. The duty to uncloak their faces was imposed only on them when the police took action against them. By adopting Act No. 274/2008 Coll., amending some acts in relation to adoption of the Act on the Police of the Czech Republic, some provisions of Act No. 84/1990 Coll. on the Right of Assembly were amended. **The provisions of Section 7 (4) of the said Act lays down that assembly participants must not cover their faces in a manner making difficult or preventing their identification for the time of the assembly concerned.** If the participants of an assembly do not satisfy this obligation it is possible to dissolve such assembly in compliance with Section 12 (5) of the Act cited.

2.5.4 The Amendment to Act No. 119/2002 Coll. on Firearms

Act No. 484/2008 Coll. on Firearms amending Act No. 119/2002 Coll. on Firearms can be also important as regards the fight against extremism. The Act was discussed and approved by the Parliament of the Czech Republic in 2008 and came into effect on 1 February 2009. Precise obligations and corresponding classification of minor offences should be a preventive element in combating extremisms too.¹⁹

2.5.5 Experts in the Field of Extremism and the Issue of Expert Opinions

The Ministry of the Interior considered the excessive use of expert opinions used within criminal proceedings to be an essential problem. There were more and more cases where experts were used in proceedings which did not require any expert assessments and or where expert opinions were required in cases in which a relevant law enforcement authority was empowered to adopt decisions on its own.

In relation to Act No. 273/2008 Coll. on the Police of the Czech Republic and Act No. 274/2008 Coll. amending some acts concerning the adoption of the Act on the Police of the Czech Republic, a crucial change was adopted in the field of expert opinions required within criminal proceedings. Experts should be used only for complex issues where their opinion appears necessary and not always to explain, for example, the motto “Arbeit macht frei”. Questions formulated for court experts are in many cases directed to legal assessment which is not admissible. Until now police bodies have basically not had the option to reject the use of a court expert to develop obviously useless opinions, who are then paid from the budget of the Czech police. Under the new provisions of Section 105 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, court experts must always be hired by whichever law enforcement authority considers it necessary.

3. Summary

As it is generally known, extremism is a phenomenon which will always be present in a democratic society, and moreover in the era of globalisation it is of supranational nature and affects all European countries. Although it may appear to be an imaginary threat to democratic establishments it must not be underestimated. As is known from number of professional studies and as can be derived from historical experience, extremist ideologies are able to profit from social or economic crises, i.e. from difficult periods for people. Whether or not we want it, populism and ideologies identify “enemies and originators of all nuisance and evil” in society. And it is just during such “constellations” when extremist ideologies and their bearers can achieve their goals.

The year 2008 can be perceived as the “breakthrough” year since it symbolises a qualitative transformation of the right-wing extremist scene and its neo-Nazi spectrum respectively. The danger of this scene cannot be simply characterised through recorded criminal offences, their decrease or growth. In a number of cases offenders, who are often

¹⁹ However there are questions as to whether we should be inspired from abroad and forbid the carrying of long offensive knives or machetes in public places, as for example in neighbouring Austria.

under the influence of alcohol, are not identified as members or active supporters of an extremist group. This scene is dangerous for society mainly because it supports a specific ideology which also spreads and attracts new supporters to fight against the “system” for a “better future and just society”. Therefore it can be expected that neo-Nazi activists will continue in their efforts to obtain positions in the official political scene under the support of a certain section of society. This means that they will stay “in the streets”, their radicalisation will continue and they will seek clashes with the “System”, namely with the Czech police. It can be expected that the extremists will concentrate on further “problem localities” among unsatisfied members of the majority society, similar to Janov, or they will try to make use of the adverse economic situation in some localities. The fact that in 2008 right-wing extremists, for the first time, managed to get on their side a section of the general public, is a warning and represents quite a large security risk. These are qualitatively new trends which must be paid attention to and it is important to modify and redefine the current anti-extremist policy so that the year 2009 is also a “breakthrough” year, but to the detriment of the neo-Nazi scene and their current ambitions. Measures encompassed in the Policy for Combating Extremism, which are an integral part of the Strategy for Combating Extremism, are directed towards this aim.

II. POLICY FOR COMBATING EXTREMISM

Extremism will be always a part of society. The objective of the Policy is not the total eradication of extremism from the political map but rather the setting of limits to bind its existence, within democratic mechanisms of the Czech Republic. The ambition of this document is to provide guidelines which result in marginalising extremists to such an extent that they cease to represent a security risk.

Five Pillars of the Policy

1. The power of extremists is based on human ignorance. The only option to fight against their baiting propaganda is communication, openness, and the offering of alternatives.
2. Knowledgeable people are able to create defence mechanisms against dangerous ideas. Schools are the institutions to explain advantages of a democratic alternative.
3. Combating extremism is a matter that concerns not only the Ministry of the Interior and the police, but also other, governmental and non-governmental, organisations. Extremists can be side-lined and left with the role of an unimportant political actor only through mutual cooperation.
4. Experts who fight against extremism must know what to do and must be given enough competence to carry out the required actions. Professionalism is more beneficial than universal repression.
5. Particular offenders of criminal activities need to be uncompromisingly sanctioned with the effective use of readily available means mechanisms.

1. Using Communication against Demagogy

Objectives:

The most effective weapon of current extremists is that of elaborated and targeted propaganda. Its effects are multiplied since, essentially, no state institution has been able to systematically debunk the substance of extremisms. The target of the Ministry, the Police of the Czech Republic as well as all other stakeholders must be to openly, simply and comprehensibly **deliver the following information to the general public:**

- Who extremists are, what they intend to achieve and how and what consequences can arise from their activities – an explanation of where their security threats are rooted.
- That security forces as partners of the general public protect the public from such threats.

- That the manner of such protection needs to be brought nearer and explained to citizens so that they can understand that this is more favourable and fairer for them than populist and unsubstantial offers of “assistance” from extremists.

The general public who are delivered this message will trust and respect the security forces, who will in turn receive the feedback that their work is meaningful and beneficial.

Means:

Communication should be considered in advance. It must take into account to whom, what and how to provide information, and what a message should be communicated. Thus it is important to:

- evaluate the effectiveness of current media information;
- determine potential areas concerning which it would be beneficial to become more active (in particular with respect to areas which extremist propaganda focuses on);
- develop more effective communication strategies.

Specific Tasks:

1.1. Open and Responsible News Service and Public Relations

- The general public as well as the mass media require prompt and intelligible provision of information. The web pages of the Ministry of the Interior and of the Police of the Czech Republic as well as of other governmental authorities must contain easily accessible **materials encompassing information on the extremist scene and its composition, explanations about what its members proclaim, what they want to achieve, and how they intend to achieve it.**

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.

Interim deadline: 30th September 2009.

- **It is necessary to consistently distinguish who extremists are and to denominate them precisely.** Generalisation (for example using the term “radicals”) can be misleading for the general public.
- In the case of large demonstrations requiring police intervention it is important to provide information to the public and mass media on the development of the given situation on an ongoing basis, responsibly, and completely. **It is necessary to put disinformation to rights.**
- A range of actions is taken against extremism. It is necessary to provide information about this and to concentrate on presenting preventive and informative events, and the results of professional conferences and seminars which may be published.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior and other state authorities concerned, in particular the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.

Deadline: on an ongoing basis.

- The message “extremists represent a threat and the police are partners who protect the general public from it” should be delivered mainly to **children and youth** – this means to the group which ranks among those most endangered by extremism. In doing so, **it is appropriate to make use of the media favoured by young people (particularly the internet) and effective methods of public relations.** Such communication must be considered in detail in advance, must be targeted, and must contain simple and comprehensible messages.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Interim deadline: 30th September 2009.

1.2. Mapping How Extremist Ideas and Extremists Themselves Are Perceived

Relevant sociological data focusing on the general public’s perception of extremism and of extremists is not available in the Czech Republic.

- It is necessary to acquire specific statistical data concerning the perception of neo-Nazi ideas, racism, anti-Semitism, anti-Islamism, anti-foreigner opinion and other manifestations of xenophobia. The planned **survey** should be carried out throughout **all society**. It should gather the attitudes of both genders in all regions and within all age and education categories, covering the urban as well as rural population. The survey must help the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech police as well as other state authorities to formulate concrete, non-declaratory solutions for those problems which are abused by extremists to collect political points. It must offer recommendations for the wider application of community policing and diversion from repression to prevention. The survey must also be applicable to the case of integration of the minorities and foreign nationals.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- It is necessary to carry out a well-prepared **survey** to find out to what degree stereotypes and prejudices concerning extremism and racism occur; in particular it is important to find the roots of such stereotypes and prejudices, the reasons why some people show a liking for extremist attitudes, and it is important also to map the process of gradual identification with extremist attitudes **among pupils and students.**

Responsible party: the Ministry Education, Youth and Sports.

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

1.3. Internet without Hatred Propaganda

Placing illegal content on the internet must be consistently and unconditionally punished. Thus it is important to concentrate on the following areas:

- With regard to webhosting in third countries it is crucial to cooperate at the European level. It is necessary to continue discussion on “undesirable content” and what type of content cannot be (in terms of human rights) restricted (for example political proclamations).
- It is important to analyse and adopt measures to **remove web pages** with illegal content placed on servers in third countries.
- In combating illegal and undesirable content placed on servers in third countries it is necessary to consistently use available legal regulations or **legal assistance**.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

There are agreements and conventions at the international level the ratification of which would considerably contribute to combating illegal and undesirable content on the internet.

- It is necessary to satisfy national conditions and to ratify **the Convention on Cybercrime**.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- It is important to meet national conditions and to ratify the **Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems**.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- It is necessary to implement in a timely manner and within the relevant competence of the Ministry of Justice **Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA** of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Justice

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- It is necessary to ratify the **Agreement between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the United States of America on Strengthening Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Serious Crimes**.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

Internet service providers must also be involved in combating hatred propaganda.

- It is important that **Internet service providers** regulate the content of hosted web pages and block, in the interest of maintaining their reputation, web pages with provably illegal content.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Industry and Trade in cooperation with Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

2. Using Knowledge to Fight against Totalitarians

Objectives:

Teaching must be carried out with an emphasis placed on critical thinking so that school students are able, on the basis of their own opinions, to understand the substance of extremist and, as a matter of fact, totalitarian ideologies and the motives of persons who espouse such ideas. School students should repeatedly be confronted with, at the different levels of the education system, the issue of extremism. An emphasis should be put on an individual approach.

Means:

A comprehensive approach based on joint action affecting all parts of the system has proved to be valuable in combating extremism, for example it can be included in the content of education of pupils and students, in further education of teachers, in pre-graduate preparation of teachers, and in targeted support of NGOs and other organisations. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports will continue such an approach and at the same time it will update certain regulations, accentuate a more individual approach towards pupils, enhance and broaden the further education of teachers, increase the awareness of the general public regarding the current situation of the issue in question, and support projects aimed at improving textbooks.

Specific Tasks:

2.1. Education of Teachers

As regards education of teachers, it is necessary to meet the following tasks:

- **To implement further education of teachers in the field of education against extremism, racism and xenophobia** through organisations directly managed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Seminars must focus on professional insight into the topic (information based on framework education programmes) and on establishing teachers' competences (development of critical thinking, media training, removing negative stereotypes, solving particular model situations during class instruction, skills for work with groups and group dynamics, self-knowledge and self-acceptance, development of the ability to resist manipulation and to cooperatively solve conflicts, and use of experiences of mediators).
- **To amend guidelines concerning education against manifestations of racism, xenophobia, and intolerance.**
- To implement seminars relating to the promotion of examples of good practice at schools and school facilities.
- To concentrate **thematic inspections of the Czech School Inspectorate** on the education of pupils and students in the area of prevention of racist, xenophobic and extremist attitudes, education towards tolerance, and respecting human rights, which are based on framework education programmes.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- **Through qualitative research to map seminars organised in individual regions of the Czech Republic aimed at the issue of extremism, racism, xenophobia, tolerance, and human rights.** This research will also include a qualitative analysis of the content of used teaching procedures and tools, evaluation of large scale programmes focused on influencing attitudes of pupils and students in the area concerned, and a qualitative analysis of procedures used in the issue of extremism at schools. The research will be the basis for establishing a republic-wide overview of activities of schools in the issue of extremism, racism, xenophobia, tolerance and human rights in individual regions.
- To map **examples of good practice from abroad.**

Responsible party: the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

2.2. Education and Cultural Materials

It is necessary to improve approach to the issues of multiculturalism, equal opportunities and depicting stereotypes in textbooks and other documents for basic and secondary schools. The following tasks must be met:

- to develop **guidelines for publishers, textbook authors, teachers, and the general public;** and
- to further elaborate and continue to publish **documents of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports containing information** concerning topical social science issues and to propose further topics.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- To continue **subsidising the development of guidelines and other similar documents produced by NGOs and other organisations to be used for instruction in schools.** It is recommended to draw up teaching materials concerning not only right-wing extremism but also left-wing extremism and radical Islamism.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- To draw up teaching material concerning homophobia.

Responsible party: the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

2.3. Preventive Actions

The following tasks must be met in the area of prevention:

- **To continually support media activities** in the area of prevention of racist, xenophobic and extremist attitudes, education towards tolerance and respect for human rights; and to specifically address all age groups of society with a specific focus on pupils, students and teachers.
- **To intensify guidance for regional school prevention coordinators** in the area of racist, xenophobic and extremist attitudes; to include the issue of extremism in coordination meetings; and to commence multidisciplinary cooperation at the level of regions and municipalities.
- **To support projects carried out by NGOs and other organisations** aimed at preventing racist, xenophobic and extremist attitudes and multicultural education through grant and development programmes of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports as well as European structural funds. To incorporate into appropriate development programmes of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports the topic of “a positive climate at schools”.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- To support **cooperation with police specialists on prevention as well as supporting cooperation with the public sphere, i.e. NGOs and academics.** The aim of such activities will be to **inform pupils and students about the extremist scene** and **the danger its exponents represent** as well as about activities carried out by the Ministry of the Interior and the police within the public service to that effect

Responsible party: the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

3. Single Anti-Extremist Platform

Objectives:

The fight against extremism is not just the task of the Ministry of the Interior and the police. **The objective is to actively involve further ministries and also towns and municipalities, the academic sphere, and NGOs.** This will send a positive signal to the general public and increase capacity to react to the shift and changes occurring on the extremist scene.

Means:

It is in particular necessary to set specific forms of cooperation and communication between the police and local and regional authorities as well as with other involved entities.

Specific Tasks:

3.1. Coordination Agreements

Act No. 273/2008 Coll. on the Police of the Czech Republic stipulates in its Section 16 cooperation with municipalities and the option to enter into a **coordination agreement**. This tool is highly recommended for cooperation in keeping extremist events under control. Coordination agreements enable the precise definition of cooperation between the Czech police, municipalities, the municipal police and other entities respectively. Individual points of such agreements should concretise forms and instruments of cooperation, tasks, liaisons and checks on how such agreements are used. The contractual parties must have balanced rights and obligations resulting from the relevant agreements.

- It is necessary to further elaborate the topics and requisites of such agreements and to distribute such guidelines to the Czech police, municipalities, and the municipal police and/or other entities.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Deadline: 30th September 2009.

3.2. The Municipal Police

Securing public order in the context of manifestations of extremism falls preferably within the competence of the Czech police. **The municipal police meet in such situations only a subsidiary role in particular when protecting the security of people and property.** The municipal police may implement, along with the Czech police, relevant measures of a security nature, both preventive and repressive. Cooperation with the municipal police should be recognised in coordination agreements. Municipal police officers (constables) can contribute to exposing extremist crimes, for example by means of monitoring through CCCs. On the other hand, directors of municipal police units should receive, on an ongoing basis, fresh information concerning the extremist scene in a municipality or its near environs.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Deadline: on an ongoing basis.

3.3. Towns and Municipalities

A key for keeping extremist events under control is also timely communication between the police and mayors. With regard to the requirements of municipalities it is important to draw up the following documents:

- **A handbook for assemblies** which will provide a list of practical measures and standards which should be met within securing the public order.
- **A calendar of risk days** which should help reveal the genuine purpose of events announced under fictitious names.

The both documents will be probably attached to the document submitted to the Government.

- **An analysis of the current Act 84/1990 on the Right of Assembly.** This document will take into account, in particular, the issue of the length of the time limit for issuing a decision on the prohibition of an assembly and the length of the time limit for announcing an assembly in advance to a relevant authority.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Deadline for providing the document to municipalities: 31st May 2009.

- The Ministry of the Interior will organise a **consultative day for those who process assembly issues at the regional level.** Representatives of the City Council of Prague and regional authorities will obtain, within this activity, information on current court judgements and possibilities to solve problems with the application of the law which the authorities have to cope with when executing delegated competences of the state in the area of the law on assembly.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Interim evaluation deadline: 31st May 2009.

4. Expertise and Immunity

Objectives:

The aim is to prepare experts who have sufficient background for executing their competences. Professionalism must not be disturbed by efforts of extremists to infiltrate security forces and to abuse acquired know-how for their own needs. Infiltration is especially dangerous not only with respect to specific work of the security forces, in particular of the police, but also with regard to the overall image of the police before the public.

Means:

Professionalism can be achieved through targeted education. In order to prevent the penetration of extremists into the security forces, and in particular the police, efficient mechanisms based on communication between and inside individual security forces and their internal departments may be used.

Specific Tasks:

4.1. Training of Commanders Responsible for Measures

A qualitative shift of extremists in organising their events requires the professionalism of, in particular, commanders responsible for security measures/actions.

- The Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the Police Presidium is preparing **training for the management of police units in the context of extremist threats.** Course participants will become familiar with the following topics:
 - a) Legal standards and internal management acts.
 - b) Importance of the body for managing security measures/actions.

- c) The procedure and position of the police within the Integrated Rescue System.
- d) New possibilities of utilising connecting technology.
- e) Logistics of safeguarding security measures.
- f) Latest findings gathered from security actions by the Czech police as well as foreign security forces.

NGOs will be also involved in lecturing. Both partners (the police and NGOs) will provide information to each other on their anti-extremist activities, and exchange recommendations regarding their procedure during mass events. The objective of the cooperation is also to increase mutual trust. In the interest of **enhancing services provided to the public** an emphasis is placed, in addition to training on intervention tactics, on training regarding **communication with**

- a) the media;
- b) a crowd by using negotiators from anti-conflict teams;
- c) affected inhabitants, through psychological departments of Regional Police Directorates;
- d) representatives of NGOs monitoring the situation.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- With regard to the necessity of systematic and thorough preparation of future commanders of police actions, the **Police Academy of the Czech Republic** has been recommended to **introduce a new subject** focusing on developing capabilities and skills for **managing and commanding large-scale police actions**. Security measures relating to extremist activities should be taken into account in the framework of the proposed subject.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

4.2. Training of Police Specialists

A basic condition for successful detection and prosecution of extremist activities is the specialisation of police experts. Therefore it is necessary to:

- **continue using the current model of training** of experts with the participation of academics and representatives of the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office;
- complete such training courses with **findings from political sciences and law** with regard to current trends in the field of extremism. This training must be delivered by qualified university teachers possessing knowledge of the real situation. One of the aims of this specific training course is to prevent excessive use of court experts.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

4.3. Stabilisation and Hiring Police Specialists

Specialists must have a very good overview of the situation concerning extremism in their region, they must perfectly know persons involved in extremism and they should examine the activities of such persons. **It is necessary to take into consideration that this**

kind of work is long-term work and its results should be evaluated by a so called “bar code system”. In the interest of maintaining the motivation of such key officers it is necessary that they are not overloaded through solving other criminal activities. The fact that a given territory does not see extremist events does not mean that there is not any group planning such events in another locality.

- Due to a substantial lack of specialists in some units it is necessary to **stabilise such officers and gradually complement open positions.**
- It is recommended, within Regional Directorates of the Czech police, to establish **multi-member groups of specialists.** The duties of such working groups should be to manage operative and investigative activities and prosecution against extremist groups.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior.

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

4.4. Training of Judicial Officials

In the past the media pointed out some surprising decisions taken by judicial bodies in the case of alleged extremist criminal offences. Such information can have a double negative effect. In the case of extremists, there can be a feeling of impunity from prosecution and the general public may think that judicial authorities are benevolent.

- It is necessary to further **deepen the education of judges, public prosecutors and also auxiliary judicial professions** and to provide them with information, on an ongoing basis, on the most recent trends in the area of extremism, including new aspects of criminal offences having an extremist subtext, profiles of offenders and changes in the image of members and supporters of extremist movements.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

4.5. Systemic and General Prevention of Infiltration by Extremists

Setting up of a functional and effective “immunity system” against the infiltration of extremists forms a necessary part of professionalisation. It is desirable that protective mechanisms would start to work within the police and are used also by other units, i.e. by the army, customs administration, and the prison service.

In order to prevent the phenomenon in question, systematic and thorough work of human resources specialists is expected when recruiting new applicants for jobs within the security forces. **The current means and knowledge seem to be sufficient to recognise the most risky applicants. However, communication channels appear to be insufficiently set.** The Ministry of Defence dealt with this issue in 2008 and some measures could be inspiring for other ministries:

- As regards the **Ministry of Defence** it is recommended to continue in current preventive and training activities focusing on pathological social phenomena including extremism. Signing a statutory declaration during the interview (or when joining the

Army of the Czech Republic and when extending the service of professional soldiers) seems to be beneficial as it regards not supporting or publicly showing a liking for movements suppressing the rights and freedoms of people or professing mainly national and racial hatred. Furthermore, it is important to continue cooperation between the Military Police, the Military Intelligence Service and the Czech police. It is necessary to adopt preventive measures against the abuse of material and weapons (safe storage of sensitive material, setting rules for treating and using such material, checks by commanders and the Military Police).

Responsible party: the Ministry of Defence

Deadline: on an ongoing basis.

- **The Czech police** must draw up clear and comprehensible guidelines (establishing forms of cooperation and communication inside individual police units) in order to restrict the infiltration of extremists among police officers.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior.

Deadline: 31st December 2009.

- As regards the **Customs Administration of the Czech Republic**, clear and comprehensible guidelines in order to restrict the infiltration of extremists among customs officers must be drawn up in the form of internal measures and by establishing tools for cooperation with other security forces.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Finance.

Deadline: 31st December 2009

- As regards the **Prison Service of the Czech Republic**, clear and comprehensible guidelines in order to restrict the infiltration of extremists among customs officers must be drawn up in the form of internal measures and by establishing tools for cooperation with other security forces.

Responsible party: the Ministry of Justice.

Deadline: 31st December 2009

- In cases of reasonable suspicion that extremist ideas can occur it is recommended that HR specialists or other officials responsible for recruiting applicants for jobs within the **municipal police** contact the Czech police.

5. To Proceed Effectively and Fairly against Violence

Objectives:

The objective of the Strategy is not to set up a general action against extremists by means of repression. There are reasonable concerns that such strategy would bring about a wave of radicalisation. The ambition of the Strategy is not to implement, because of

extremists, new measures which could restrict the rights and freedoms of other groups who want to present their views.

Success is seen only in targeted and severe punishment of individuals who violate the law and in preventing such activities.

Means

With respect to legislative changes, it is necessary to amend relevant internal management acts of the police. It is important to assess the current situation and to incorporate new requirements into instructions. As a follow up to the shift in the extremist scene it is important to introduce innovations into or newly draw up guidelines for investigating extremist criminal offences, including clear and justified procedures. Some provisions of Act No. 276/2008 Coll. on the Police of the Czech Republic appear to be very beneficial.

Specific Tasks

5.1. Consistent Monitoring

Specialists involved in investigating extremism must continue to consistently monitor extremists and extremist groups. Their findings must be usable when preparing respective security measures, when investigating particular criminal activities, and when forecasting possible forms of attacks.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior.

Deadline: on an ongoing basis

5.2. Coping with Extremist Events

- It is required to **amend internal management acts** of the Czech police with regard to legislative changes and development in the extremist scene. At the same time it is appropriate to build on proven procedures adopted to cope with extremist events and to take into account the following recommendations:
 - a) Communication with specialists - timely provision of operative information.
 - b) To establish a staff responsible for calculating the number of people and other resources to be deployed, to earmark resources to be used in emergency situations, specifying the principle of cooperation with other forces and units such as the municipal police, municipal authorities, and units of the Integrated Rescue System. A precise definition of competences is important.
 - c) It is recommended to develop a “Type Plan” with generally earmarked forces and resources of a security nature.
 - d) To ensure a “warning service” and prompt exchange of information. To determine rules for communication.
 - e) To earmark a relevant number of police officers by using the aforementioned activities.
 - f) To ensure absolute participation of specialists in the event.
 - g) To consistently document events through the use of audio and video technology.

- h) To carry out checks on persons and vehicles.
- i) To provide information to public prosecutors' offices and courts.
- j) To consistently utilise anti-conflict teams.
- k) To analyse and evaluate each event, including documentation, an analysis of activities of deployed resources of the Czech police as well as all other units and forces involved. To provide a guidance department with such documentation.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior.

Deadline: 31st December 2009.

- It is necessary to **introduce innovations or to draw up new guidelines for investigating extremist criminal offences** both for the needs of the police and for public prosecutors' offices including clear and justified procedures.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice.

Interim deadline: 31st October 2009.

- It is necessary to **complete equipment of public order police units** to combat so-called "urban warfare" tactics and for the mass apprehension of persons including documentation and connecting technology; to specially furnish police cars and mobile cells.

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior.

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

- It is necessary to ensure harsh and timely action against members of extremist groups who violate the law during their events. This means in particular to place an **emphasis on prompt apprehension and punishment of perpetrators within accelerated prosecution**. If considering cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice, state-of-the-art means could be used (for example cars equipped with mobile cells and sufficient room and technical background for an immediate "court trial").

Responsible party: the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice.

Interim deadline: 31st December 2009.

5.3. Using the New Act on the Police of the Czech Republic

Excessive use of court experts for notoriously known cases and to repeatedly ask the same questions relating more to legal issues is unjustifiable in the future. Moreover, such experts are becoming publicly known persons and endangered by targeted attacks by extremists.

- In compliance with new legislative regulations the presence of an expert is not necessary during an extremist assembly. **The police have at their disposal a number of officers specialising in the issue of extremism and must be able themselves to assess the situation on the spot.** Court experts should be used only for more complex questions for which an expert's opinion appears indispensable. In more difficult cases it is recommended to contact renowned academic institutions such as the Institute of Modern History or departments of political sciences at individual universities.

Responsible party: *the Ministry of the Interior*

Deadline: *on an ongoing basis*

- It is necessary to establish for police needs an accessible **database of experts' opinions.**

Responsible party: *the Ministry of the Interior.*

Deadline *30th September 2009*

- In the context of new legislative regulations, representatives of towns and municipalities as well as the police are recommended to use the option of dissolving an assembly where its participants hide their faces in a manner which makes their identification difficult or impossible during the time of the assembly.
- In the context of the adoption of the Act on the Police of the Czech Republic, the authorisation of the police to enter a business undertaking has changed. As of 1 January 2009 police officers have been entitled to enter a business undertaking and to enter rooms in which they can reasonably assume there are individuals. They are entitled to do so even after working hours in the business undertaking concerned. They may enter also warehouses, kitchens and other similar rooms. It is appropriate to use such options also in the case of meetings of persons from the extremist environment which are held under different pretexts.

Responsible party: *the Ministry of the Interior.*

Deadline: *on an ongoing basis*

**The Most Important Activities Carried Out by
the Ministry of the Interior, the
Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of
Education, Youth and Sports, the
Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of
Labour and Social Affairs
in 2008**

1. Ministry of the Interior

The Ministry of the Interior has devoted to the issue of extremism and related phenomena its long-term attention.¹ The Ministry meets tasks arising from Government resolutions. In doing so it cooperates with intelligence service, the Czech police, other governmental authorities as well as with academics and non-governmental organisations and it seeks, on an ongoing basis, to find new ways to optimise anti-extremist policies. Activities concentrate mainly on the area of prevention where the Ministry also collaborates with other ministries which are also involved in solving the issue of extremism. It also supports projects financed from EU structural funds aiming at prevention and punishment of extremist manifestations within cross-border cooperation where police bodies operating on the both sides of the border equipped with efficient devices to document all manifestations of extremism during different street rallies and assemblies.² The Ministry of the Interior also pays all-round attention to police education system and professional training of police officers and implements relevant research projects. The Ministry of the Interior is the body responsible for registration of civic associations and new political parties. As regards extremism it also deals with legal issues and possible changes in legal procedures. As regards combating extremism the Ministry of the Interior applies wide-ranging cooperation both at the national and international levels.

1.1 The issue of Extremism in the Prevention System of the Ministry of the Interior

1.1.1 Crime Prevention Programme

The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the activities of an inter-governmental body - the Republic Committee for Crime Prevention, which has among its principal tasks the implementation of the programme which involves cities with the highest crime rates and culmination of other pathological social phenomena. The essential conceptual document for the prevention policy of the state in the field of crime is the '**Crime Prevention Strategy for 2008 - 2001**' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Strategy'), approved by Government Resolution No. 1150 of 15 October 2007. The Strategy priorities are as follows:

- victims of crimes motivated by racial, nationalist or religious hatred,
- high-risk individuals who could become potential offenders or victims (socially excluded individuals and groups; foreign nationals, members of national and ethnic minorities; inhabitants residing in socially excluded localities),
- criminal offences and delinquent conduct related to radicalisation of sport spectator violence; crimes motivated by racial, nationalist or religious hatred, and unlawful conduct in socially excluded localities

¹ See documents of the Ministry of the Interior concerning the issue of extremism submitted to the government on an annual basis since 1998; namely the Report on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic, since 2003 the Information on the Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic. All relevant documents are accessible on web pages of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (www.mvcr.cz, bookmark Dokumenty, subbookmark Archiv).

² A prerequisite of such type of cross-the-border cooperation is to enter into partnership agreements between police forces on joint deployment of personnel and technology at places where such events/rallies and assemblies are being held – on the both sides of the border.

In the framework of the Strategy the system of prevention was newly divided into three levels: republic, regional, and local. Within regional and local(municipal) levels Strategies for Crime Prevention in Regions³ and Strategies for Crime Prevention in Municipalities⁴ Strategies for Crime Prevention in September 2008. The Strategies cover the years between 2009 and 2011. The following priorities are among many others included in regional and local Strategies: prevention of racism and xenophobia, inclusion of socially and otherwise excluded people, and combating extremism. Since priorities of individual Strategies are met every year the Crime Prevention Programme consists of individual, specific projects aimed at crime prevention. The objective of projects is to eliminate or at least to mitigate social exclusion of Roma communities as such exclusion can lead to increased threats of racist and extremist moods. Projects focus primarily on children and young people whose system of values and habits is opened to positive changes. **In 2008 in total ten preventive projects⁵ were supported and these were subsidised by the amount of CZK 1,575,000.** The condition upon which projects were supported was that of co-financing by a municipality and the active participation of Roma in their implementation.

In 2008 a call within public procurement for recording a film document with the aim to inform professionals dealing with the issues of indebtedness in its different phases was published. The documentary film was to provide them with guidelines for prevention, solution, and elimination of negative consequences of running into debts and, at the same time, to provide the general public with information on pitfalls and consequences of high indebtedness. The film should be comprehensible for social groups who are at the lowest levels of a social ladder and exist outside a wide social framework. They can be individuals, families, groups, and communities which are addicted to drink or to drugs, commit criminal offences, are lonesome, uneducated, half-literate, suffer from long unemployment or come from or live in single parent families or pathological families. These target groups are becoming, inter alia, a target of extremist ideologies and events.⁶

1.1.2 Cooperation

In the framework of cooperation between the Ministry of the Interior and the Government Council for Roma Communities the Ministry organised in October 2008 a panel discussion ‘**Feeling Safe in the Environment of the Roma Community**’ with the aim to define cases and manifestations of objective and subjective feeling of Romas to be endangered and to try to find way how to increase and feeling being safe and to objectively ensure its higher rate. The discussion with the participation of the Minister for Human Rights, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech Police as well as Romas came to the conclusion that the Czech society has prejudices towards Romas which may be perceived by Romas as racism and they also feel that they are discriminated in their every day public life, they see increasing radicalism also within the general public and not only within ‘prophetesses’ of extremist attitudes. Romas miss thorough intervention, attitudes and statements of the state which would guarantee that the fundamental rights of citizens will be

³ All 13 regions and the capital city of Prague developed their Strategies.

⁴ Towns with population exceeding 25,000 inhabitants drew up Crime Prevention Strategies and were included into the municipal level of crime prevention until 2011. There are in total 45 towns.

⁵ The following cities implemented the Strategy: Brno, Česká Třebová, Frýdek-Místek, Jablonec nad Nisou (2), Kroměříž, Nový Bydžov, Olomouc, Orlová, Prague 3.

⁶ The public contract was awarded to People in Need organisation which will develop the film in two versions and will develop also relevant manuals for education needs. The Ministry of the Interior will receive the film in the first quarter of 2009.

respected and they also miss clear distance of the state from extremist and racist attitudes presented by some individuals or legal entities.

1.1.3 Education and Training

Police colleges and training facilities of the Ministry of the Interior focus mainly on basic professional preparation of police officers, on education provided by police colleges within the education field ‘Security and Legal Activities’, implementation of specialising programmes and other programmes of life-long learning .

The issues of extremism continues to be part of training programmes provided by police schools of the Ministry of the Interior, by police training centres maintained by individual regional police administrations and it is also reflected in other training courses. Individual training modules pay attention to the content of extremism, its categories, manifestations and extent of their danger. Class instruction includes also discussions, participants attend exhibitions and participate in other similar events. Extremism is taught and lectured in specialised courses by renowned experts who are directly involved in combating extremism which means that the content is continuously updated by the latest findings from the area of extremism both in the Czech Republic and abroad.

The Centre for Education towards Human Rights also devotes appreciable attention to the extremism. The same applies to the Police Academy which organises on the annual basis thematic training courses.

1.1.4 Integration of Foreign Nationals

Integration measures can be, to a certain extent, prevention against extremist activities. Inclusion of foreigners into society, development of relations between foreign nationals and the majority society, mutual recognition and communication, enhancement of inter-cultural competencies – all these activities can help decrease rate of xenophobia and/or racism in the society. Mutual recognition and understanding increase people’s receptivity of diversities and mitigate the risk of clashes caused by lack of understanding of cultural differences. At the same time it is also prevention that foreigners will be closed in their own communities where they can identify themselves with violent views against the society which could be a pretext for extremist manifestations.

1.1.4.1 Integration Coordination

Implementation of the policy of integration of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic on the basis of Resolution every year approved by the Czech Government – in 2008 Government Resolution No. 259 of 17 March 2008 concerning the Report on Implementation of the Strategy of Integration of Foreign Nationals in 2007 and on Further Action (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Integration Strategy’). The responsibility for coordinating foreigners’ integration was in August 2008 transferred from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA) to the Ministry of the Interior (Government Resolution No. 979 of 23 July 2008 on transferring some activities carried out by the MLSA to the Ministry of the Interior). The main reason was an effort to connect immigration and integration policies⁷.

⁷ The Ministry of the Interior coordinated all Strategies from 200 to 2003 from 2004 it has been responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Starting from August 2008 coordination of Strategies was again transferred (by the government Resolution) to the Ministry of the Interior.

1.1.4.2 Report on Implementing the Strategy for Integration of Foreign Nationals in 2008⁸

Integration objectives for 2009 respond to the changes in the issue of foreigners: growth in the number of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic, restriction of production – mainly foreign workers are being dismissed, critical situation especially at places with high concentration of foreign nationals - industrial zones, tendencies to pauperisation of part of former foreign workers including their social exclusion, and so forth.

The aim of the Ministry of the Interior in the field of integration of foreign nationals in 2009 is in particular to prevent problems in immigration communities and in relations between foreigners and the majority society. Integration measures should prevent establishment of closed communities. One of the integration priorities is an emphasis put on involvement of regional and local authorities into integration policies, on practical cooperation of all stakeholders who can contribute to successful integration (setting up platforms), on integration of persons of the second and third generations, it means children and young people - migrants, and on the effectiveness of integration measures.

Ministry of the Interior as a responsible authority of the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in 2008 prepared a proposal of a multi-annual programme as well as one year programme for 2008 which must be approved by the European Commission. A measure ‘Establishment and Operation of Centres to Support Integration of Foreign Nationals’ (**Integration Centres**) seems to be particularly crucial. Such Centres will be gradually set up in all regions of the Czech Republic and will become a tool of one of the principal objectives on integration policy – **implementation of integration policy at regional and local levels.**

1.1.4.3 Projects

The Ministry of the Interior provided in 2008 subsidies from the state budget to support integration of foreign nationals. Money was used for projects implemented by non-profit making organisations and other entities. Projects aimed at providing free legal service to foreigners and at supporting further development of relations between foreigners and their communities with citizens of the Czech Republic (for example activities to prevent xenophobia and racism and to create information programmes).

1.1.4.4 International Cooperation

In 2008 cooperation between National Contact Points on Integration and expert working group of the European Commission established in 2002 under Council decisions continued.

A representative of the Ministry of the Interior was involved in activities of an international expert group established to support intercultural dialogue as a means for strengthening integration⁹ chaired by Germany. Meetings of this group of experts focused primarily on two areas of the dialogue – the system of regular exchange of experience in the field of multicultural dialogue between Member States and on the establishment of flexible procedure (or the system of early warning) in order to tackle intercultural problems, or conflicts with potential supranational dimension, particularly in relation to Muslim communities.

⁸ The Report will be submitted to the Government of the Czech Republic at the end of January 2009.

⁹ The ministerial conference in Potsdam (DE PRES) assigned the Member States to develop an intercultural dialogue. On the basis of the meeting of the expert group and the results of a survey carried out through distribution of questionnaires Germany developed a report ‘Intercultural dialogue as a Tool for Strengthening Integration’ which was presented as one of the conclusion of the ministerial conference on the integration held in Vichy (FR PRES) in November 2008.

1.1.5 Media Activities

The documents of the issue in question were regularly published on the internet pages of the Ministry of the Interior in the section called 'Bezpečnost a prevence' (Security and Prevention) on <http://www.mvcr.cz/docDetail.aspx?docid=47368&docType=ART&chnum=4&lang=cs>.

In 2008 officials of public relations regularly answered questions of journalists and citizens concerning events pertaining to the area of extremism, migration and asylum policy and other activities relating to the fight against xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism. Particular questions concerned mainly different extremist assemblies, the issue of spectators' violence or the proposal of the Minister of the Interior for dissolution of the Workers' Party. Further press releases were published as a response to actual events concerning extremism. Media were monitored on an ongoing basis to register articles published in selected foremost Czech media, both paper and electronic, and writing about the Ministry of the Interior and the issue of extremism.

In the framework of the 5th year of a preventive and security project carried out by the department of Press and Public Relations of the Ministry of the Interior (a contest for children – 'World Through Children's Eyes') a topic 'The one who is foreign is not bad!' was announced. Works of almost 120 children selected by the commission were awarded, however nearly 1,500 works were sent and divided into four contest categories (fine arts, literary works, audio-visual works and IT). The works picked up one of the three topics reacting to current social phenomena and problems. The first topic called 'Who is destroying it here?' was devoted to vandalism and its manifestations, while the second topic 'who is foreign isn't bad!' reflected xenophobia in the society. The third topic, 'Danger on the web' paid attention to threats arising from chatting and irresponsible behaviour on the internet.

The Ministry of the Interior communicated with the general public also through ministerial journals **Policista (Police Officer)** and **Kriminalistika (Forensic Criminal Sciences)**, a periodical of the Crime Prevention Department - **Informační servis prevence kriminality (Information Service of Crime Prevention)** and by distributing informative leaflets.

1.2 Working Groups

1.2.1 Working Group for Legal Aspects of the Issue of Extremism

The Working Group for Legal Aspects of the Issue of Extremism followed up by its fifth meeting held on 2 October 2008 activities of the Working Group Dealing with the Issue of Concerts organised by right-wing extremists. The former was established by the Decision of the Minister of the Interior and the Police President on the basis of conclusions of the round table held on 14 July 2005 in Usti nad Labem. The subject of the October meeting was in particular to point out the changes in the extremist scene, current legal problems relating to extremism, namely the right to assemble and its abuse, criminal law aspects of extremists symbols and the issue of hiring court experts. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Czech police and academics. In autumn 2008 two more meetings of representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the Czech police with representatives of NGOs, universities and research institutions, the Association of Towns and Villagers, the Prague City Council, and the Federation of Jewish Communities were held. The aim was in particular discuss current problems concerning extremism from the point of view of non-governmental sector, to listen to views of all

stakeholders on the issue of assembly, using court experts, abuse of the internet and some others. Such discussions will continue also in 2009.

1.3 Covering the Issue of Extremism within the Czech Police

The issue of extremism is covered both at the republic-wide and regional levels.

The Unit of Extremism subordinated to the Terrorism and Extremism Department of the Unit for Combating Organised crime of the Criminal Police Service (UCOC CPS). As of 30 June 2008 police departments were reorganised and this unit is not any more responsible for guidelines (methodology). This part of work was transferred to the competence of the General Crime Department of the Criminal Police and Investigation Service of the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic which will deal with it at the republic-wide level and will safeguards methodological activities of police specialists dealing with the issues of extremism.

Police specialists dealing with criminal activities having an extremist subtext and activities of extremists worked at individual Regional Administrations of the Czech police as well as at the level of district directorates. Approximately 140 police officers are now involved in working on the issue concerned.

1.4 International Cooperation in Combating Extremism

1.4.1 The Working Group of the V4 Countries and Austria for Combating Extremism

In compliance with the plan of events to be organised within the Presidency of the Czech Republic of the Visegrad Four a closed meeting of the Working Group of the V4 Countries and Austria for Combating Extremism (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Working Group’) was held on 9 and 10 April 2008. This Working Groups operates under the responsibility of the Czech Republic, namely of the Security Policy Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, at the supranational level, and works as an expert group. After comprehensive evaluation of the current situation the participants agreed that V4 Countries and Austria did not see in 2007 such changes in extremism which could signalise threats to democratic fundamentals of these states from the side of leading personalities of extremism. Despite this fact and with regard to danger of extremist ideologies and a potential threat of radicalisation of bearers and supporters of such ideologies perceived in Europe as a whole they set priority topics of the Working Group for the period of 2008/2009 and expressed their opinions on mutual secondments at the level of ministries of the interior and police forces, on organisation of joint training courses concerning the issue in question as well as events aimed at exchanging opinions and experience with the countries of West Balkan and Ukraine.

A next regular meeting of the Working Group was held on 26 and 27 November 2008 with presence of guests from Sweden and Germany. Newly recorded trends in extremist scenes were discussed as these must be paid special attention to. It was stated that it was necessary to actively approach problems they entailed. The conclusions of the previous meeting were supplemented with these new facts. The following problems were mentioned: involvement of ultra right-wing nationalistic or small unimportant political parties into extremist activities and penetration of such political parties with extremists or even neo-

Nazis; ever increasing radicalisation of extremist groups and their supporters accompanied by preparedness to commit violent acts; high professionalism while using or, better to say, abusing the internet and other means of communication for disseminating extremist ideologies, opinions, literature, video recordings and for mutual communication but also the need to cope with the issue of possible overlapping of right-wing extremism and terrorism since the most serious forms of right-wing extremism are, due to its nature and potential, able to threaten the democratic establishment by using violence.

1.4.2 Cooperation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; OSCE – ODIHR

The Ministry of the Interior / the Security Policy Department is a national focal point for the ODIHR report issues. In 2008, as in previous years, the Department drew up the informative document for the ODIHR Report on hate crimes – ‘Annual report for 2007 on ‘Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region – Incidents and responses’. The information encompassed in the document is taken into account also herein. The Security Policy Department also developed an opinion on this Annual Report for 2007.

On 5 May 2008 a **consultative visit of ODIHR delegation** headed by the director for the Tolerance and Non Discrimination Programme - Anne - Jo Bishop to the Ministry of the Interior which was an expression of appreciation of cooperation with the Czech Republic or the Ministry of the Interior respectively. The topic of the visit was combating crimes motivated by hatred but it also focused on exchange of experience and participants of meetings discussed opportunities for future cooperation. A handbook for police officers concerning the current extremist symbols developed by M- Mares and published by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic was highly appreciated.

1.4.3 The Issue of Radicalisation

Representatives of the Czech Republic participated in 2008 in expert meetings, seminars and other activities aimed at combating terrorism or the issue of radicalisation. Findings of such working meetings were shared with relevant entities.

The issue of radicalisation is more and more considered to be crucial with regard to combating terrorism and extremism. The EU as well as individual Member States more intensively than before concentrate on prevention of this phenomenon and on the fight against it. It can be proven by a number of approved or proposed measures. To this end mainly ‘old’ Member States carry out many activities. This topic will be discussed also during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU. The issue is directly or indirectly addressed in a number of EU documents. Therefore it is necessary to mention in particular the following documents. To this end the following documents should be mentioned:

- The European Union Counter Terrorism Strategy and the EU Action Plan on Terrorism and its updates.
- The EU Strategy for Combating Radicalisation and Recruitment to Terrorism
An EU Counter-terrorism Coordinator regularly evaluates how the aforementioned EU strategic documents are met. Such evaluations are first discussed within the relevant working groups and then they are submitted to the JHA Council.

2. Ministry of Defence

2.1 Social and Crime Prevention Programme for 2008 - 2011

A preventive section is based on the Social and Crime Prevention Programme for 2008 – 2011. The Programme is implemented in compliance with Government Resolution No. 409 of 16 April 2008 and in accordance with the ministerial ‘Strategy for Preventing Pathological Social Phenomena for 2005 – 2009’ approved by the Order of the Minister of Defence No. 20/2005 and current ministerial regulations. The tasks arising from these documents were met on an ongoing basis in 2008.

The Ministry of Defence primarily develop prevention of undesirable social phenomena. Attention was focused mainly on prevention of negative influences and phenomena which could restrict achievement of the required level of key capabilities of the army but also on quality of life of military professionals as well as civil employees of the Ministry including their family members.

The Social and Crime Prevention Programme has been used within the Ministry of defence for a long time and it deals with the extensive issue of undesirable social phenomena. Attention is also paid to professional soldiers, pupils and students of military schools, civil employees and their family members. In 2008 primary prevention aimed at, particularly, physical training and sports, cultural activities and at educational, diagnostic and other interest oriented activities.

2.1.1 Commission for Prevention of Undesirable Social Phenomena

Commissions for Prevention of Undesirable Social Phenomena were established within military units, military facilities and military rescue units. As regards Ministry Defences units advisors for prevention of undesirable social phenomena were appointed. During the reviewed years these official successfully met tasks of prevention within their scope of competences. A Programme for Prevention of Undesirable Social Phenomena became a fundamental document for military units and facilities. In 2008 130 projects were developed. Under approved projects of prevention of undesirable social phenomena military units were allocated funds from the budget of the Ministry of Defence. In 2008 it was the amount of CZK 6,321,000. If funds to cover prevention of undesirable social phenomena were not required tasks concerning this area were included in the documents for an exercise year.

Permanent attention is devoted to professional preparation of chairs and those who work on guidelines for commissions for prevention of undesirable social phenomena as well as to advisors of prevention of undesirable social phenomena. In the reviewed period in total 392 persons were trained. As regards its content professional preparation focused, *inter alia*, on the issue of combating extremism, respect for human rights and freedoms, communication and relations within working teams of the Ministry of the Interior and military units. Members of the Chief Command of the Military Police and the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Defence are predominantly involved as lecturers.

2.1.1.2 Training Activities

In February 2008 the Chief Command of the Military Police organised a seminar ‘Extremism in the Army’ the part of which were lectures of doc. JUDr. PhDr. Miroslav Mareš and members of the UCOR of CPIS of the Police Presidium, namely of the Terrorism and Extremism Department. However other employees from the Ministry of Defence, who are engaged in similar activities, were invited.

In May a member of the Police Academy, doc. Dr. Štefan Danisc, Ph.D, had his lecture in the framework of professional preparation of chairs and those who work on guidelines for commissions for prevention of undesirable social phenomena as well as to advisors of prevention of undesirable social phenomena .The lecture concentrated on the issue

of prevention against movements professing national and racial hatred and suppression of human rights and freedoms.

Training of employees of the Ministry of Defence laid down by the Order of the Minister of Defence No. 20/2005 was held in the scope of four hours. The courses were organised by the management of the Ministry. Most often the issue of combating extremism and corruption, the level of mutual relations among people at work places and abuse of drugs and their effects were discussed.

Evaluations of projects implemented in the field of prevention of undesirable social phenomena and long-term work of commissions for prevention of undesirable social phenomena working within military units and facilities showed that units where garrisons were changed appeared to be the most risky environment for occurrence of undesirable social phenomena.

2.2 Inspectorate of the Minister of Defence

The Inspectorate of the Minister of Defence participated, within primary preventive measures pertaining to the area of prevention of undesirable social phenomena, in training of chairs and employees developing guidelines for commissions of prevention of undesirable social phenomena. Such training focused mainly on the issue of respect for human rights and education towards them. Members of the Inspectorate aimed their planned and ad hoc inspections within the Ministry of Defence on extremists manifestations, racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism. They reviewed the area of prevention of undesirable social phenomena at military units and facilities.

Activities carried out by the Chief Inspector for Protection of Human Rights working within the organisational structure of the Inspectorate of the Minister of Defence focused on monitoring or exposing cases of violations of human rights, it means also manifestations of extremism, racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism. In 2008 the Chief Inspector did not record any complaints by which professional soldiers or civil employees claimed protection of their rights on the grounds of racial discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia, or anti-Semitism. Such manifestations were not pointed out by the general public either. No facts indicating respective violations of rights of soldiers or employees on the ground of race or skin colour were not ascertained during preventive inspections, including managed interviews with soldiers and employees of inspected facilities.

The Military Police tackles repression. An integral part of measures adopted to combat extremism, racism and xenophobia was close cooperation between the Military Police and Military Intelligence together with the Unit for Combating Organised Crime of the Czech police.

The Military Intelligence is involved in obtaining, collecting and evaluating intelligence on possible penetration of extremism in the units of the Ministry of Defence. They, of course, closely cooperate with the Military Police.

3. Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

3.1 Legislation

In 2008 the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (hereinafter referred to as the 'MEYS') continued to carry out activities commenced in previous years. Implementation of legal provisions amended in 2007 was underway (in particular these were the amendment No. 343/2007 Coll. to Section 2 (1) (a) of Act No. 561/2004 Coll. on Pre-school, Basic, Secondary and tertiary Professional Education, as amended).

In 2008 the Guidelines of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports ref. number 24246/2008-6 was amended in order to focus on prevention and coping with bullying among pupils of schools and school facilities. Methods for the diagnosis of bullying were made more precise and two procedures which differ by their seriousness and intensity of bullying were described. The network of specialised institutions were cooperating with schools was updated. The terminology was made more clear and precise so that it is in compliance with the Education Act. A new Article 10 regulating a procedure to cope with bullying in the case of passivity of school was added. However it is Article 4 which brings about the largest change in the updated Guidelines. It invites schools to develop their own programme for addressing bullying. And at the same time it provides an instruction how to create it and incorporate the Programme against Bullying into the Minimal Preventive Programmes of Schools..

3.2 Curricula

3.2.1 Framework Educational Programmes

Curricular reform in pre-schools, basic and secondary schools continued. Texts of approved framework educational programmes are published in the MEYS Journal, on MEYS web-pages. Programmes were also provided to the Research Pedagogical Institute and the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training. Manual and other guidelines supporting curricular reform are available on web pages of these aforementioned institutes.

Framework educational programmes lay down in particular specific goals, forms, length, and compulsory content of education. They are obligatory for development of school educational programmes (SEP), evaluation of results of education of children and pupils, development and assessment of textbooks and teaching texts, and they are also an obligatory basis for the amount and allocation of funds.

All framework educational programmes encompass the issue of extremism, racism, tolerance and human rights developed so that they are appropriate for the age of pupils from different aspects and in various educational areas as well as cross-cutting topics of such programmes. Framework educational programmes focus on development of key competences which represent a set of knowledge, skills, capabilities, attitudes and values important for personal development and the ability of each individual to compete in the society. Their selection and concept are based on values generally accepted in the society and on generally shared ideas which competences of an individual can contribute to his/her education, satisfactory and successfully life and to strengthening of functions of a civil society .One of the key competences is civil competence. Thus at the end of basic education each pupil should respect conviction of other people, to respect their internal values, to be able to understand situations of other people, to refuse any suppression and rude treatment, and to realize an obligation to stand up to physical as well as psychological violence.

The Joint Czech-German Working Group for History textbooks pays attention to overcoming problems in education on Czech-German relations. This Working Group expresses its opinions on topical issues, prepares textbooks and is also an advisory group established by the MEYS on behalf of the Czech Republic and by Georg-Eckert-Institute in Braunschweig on behalf of Germany.

3.2.2 Recommendation to Schools and School Facilities in 2008/2009

Schools are recommended to include in class instruction a cross-cutting topic – Multicultural Education – in a sufficient extent. There is a reference to comprehensive information on holocaust of Romas and Jews which may be acquired at special seminars ‘How to Teach Holocaust’ and within a documentary project for pupils ‘Lost Neighbours’ organised by the Training Department of the Terezin memorial and the Educational and Cultural Centre of the Jewish Museum in Prague. The Museum of Roma Culture and its training programmes can be another source of information on history and holocaust of Romas.

At the same time the MEYS notifies of publications of deniers of holocaust. An opinion of the president of the Association of Historians of the Czech Republic and the president of the Czech section of the Czech-German Commission for History Textbooks on the brochure ‘Auschwitz. Facts versus Fiction. New and Undisclosed Findings on Holocaust’ by R. Seidl, is published on MEYS web pages. It is also recommended to accentuate in class instruction the topic of Czech-German relations, including objective information on transfer of Sudeten Germans as well as culture, language and everyday life of other nationalities and ethnic groups living in the Czech Republic. Pupils should be informed on current extremist groups of youth, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, neo-Nazism, and right-wing and left-wing extremisms. If growth in xenophobia, extremism and racism is seen in any locality teachers will be sufficiently and immediately notified by authorised professional trainers both about problematic groups and on specificities of a minority or ethnicity culture against which xenophobia is aimed in the given locality.

3.2.3 Feelers and Analyses Concerning Cultural Identity and Differences; History Textbooks

The Ministry certifies and withdraws certifications of textbooks and teaching texts for basic and secondary education on the basis of assessment whether they are in compliance with educational goals stipulated by law, framework educational programmes and other legal regulations. In 2008 a publication ‘Feelers and Analyses Concerning Cultural Identity and Differences; History Textbooks’ was drawn up.

This publication contributes to improving textbooks. Its objective is to provide teachers with information necessary for decision-making to select from the offer the best and the most appropriate textbooks, whilst publishers, book reviewers and textbook authors obtain information necessary for drawing up and reviewing textbooks. The publication also follows up documents drawn up in previous years in cooperation with the Council of Europe. They are, for example, translation of publication written by R. Stradling ‘Multi-perspective: Teaching 20th Century History’ which, on the example of one subject – history, shows one of the approaches to multicultural education at schools.

3.3 Prevention of Pathological Social Phenomena

The issue of socio-pathological phenomena including the issue of xenophobia, racism, intolerance, and anti-Semitism, is dealt with in MEYS documents – ‘Strategy of Prevention of Pathological Social Phenomena among Children and Youth within the Scope of

Competence of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports between 2005 and 2008’ (Ref. No.:10844/2004-24) and ‘Guidelines on Primary Prevention of Pathological Social Phenomena among Children and Youth at Schools and School Facilities ‘ (Ref No.: 20 006/2007-51). This issue of socio-pathological phenomena will be also part of newly prepared ‘Strategy of Prevention of Pathological Social Phenomena among Children and Youth within the Scope of Competence of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports between 2009 and 2012.’

3.4 Further Education of Teachers

Training of teachers, mainly their further education, was organised within seminars accredited by the MEYS.

The National Institute for Further Education (NIFE), an organisation directly managed by the MEYS, organised a number of seminars. Another organisation directly managed by the MEYS, the Institute for Pedagogical and Psychological Advisory Service (IPPA) organised a training programme- ‘**Extremism as an Educational Risk – Prevention and Assistance**’ determined fro educational advisors, authors of school prevention guidelines, teachers of social sciences, psychologists and teachers for children with special training needs, for employees of psychological and pedagogical advisory centres and centres for educational care. Prevention of intolerance and extremisms is part of a five year programme – ‘Self-experience which was commenced in Long-term Exercise for Managing Problematic Classes’ commenced in 2007 in IPPA and will be completed in 2011.

The year 2008 was the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. A number of activities and programmes was held within this year. One of them was also a seminar – ‘The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue’ held in the premises of the MEYS on 11 December 2008. The objective of the seminar was to provide teachers of basic and secondary schools with information on activities of organisations dealing with intercultural education. The seminar inspired organisations and schools to support mutual cooperation in this field. At the same time it was a unique opportunity for entering new contact and exchange of experiences.

3.4.1 MEYS Group for Social Programmes in the System of Education

A group dealing with the issue of social programmes in the system of education was newly established within the MEYS. It focuses on disabled or socially excluded children, pupils and student as well as on foreign nationals, recognised refugees, minority members, on prevention of pathological social phenomena or social sciences and multicultural areas. To this end the aforementioned issues are better coordinated inside the MEYS and its subordinate organisations. This group also administers subsidised programmes.

In 2008 a working party for multiculturalism and foreigners’ education was established with the aforementioned MEYS group. It consists of experts in the issue of multiculturalism and education of foreign nationals, representatives of NGOs and organisations falling under the direct responsibility of the MEYS, employees of the Czech School Inspectorate, asylum facilities, and teachers. The working party deals with current multicultural issues within the system of education and with education of foreign nationals.

One of the main tasks of this working party assigned to the MEYS by Government Resolution No. 259 of 17 March 2008 is to establish a discussion platform for teachers and other basic school employees with high numbers of pupils – foreign nationals from third countries which would enable mutual meetings and discussions of teachers, improve orientation of teachers in the issue of pupils – foreign nationals and exchange of experience

and good practice examples in the area of Czech language instruction in the classes with foreign nationals.

Topics of individual meetings are divided into the different areas of education. Tasks arising for member of the working party are as follows: to define goals for the area concerned, to give examples of good practice, to show problematic topics in this area of education, and to show what could be dealt with within this group.

3.5 Integration of Foreign Nationals and Support for Recognised Refugees

The MEYS meets tasks resulting from the Strategy of Integration of Foreign Nationals adopted on an annual basis by Government resolutions. The Programme supporting activities in the area of integration of foreign nationals in the Czech Republic supported in 2008 in total 13 projects by the amount of approximately CZK 1.5 million.

Project topics focused on:

- a) promotion of multicultural education of children and youth;
- b) support for teaching Czech as a foreign language; and
- c) studies aimed at education of migrating foreign nationals, organisation of a seminar concerning education of foreigners.

The MEYS creates conditions for basic education of minor recognised refugees, persons enjoying subsidiary protection, international protection seekers in the Czech Republic and children of foreigners placed in foreigners' detention centres.

The objective of the programme is to take into account specific problems of schools educating these groups of foreign nationals which are usually in close neighbourhood of asylum facilities.

3.6 Subsidised Programmes and Selected Projects Funded from the ESF

The MEYS supported, as in previous years, within its policy of subsidies, the fight against extremism, racism and xenophobia through the below stated programmes which were published in compliance with Government Regulation No. 98/2002 Coll.:

- Programme of Supporting Education in the Languages of National Minorities and Multicultural Education. In 2008 the MEYS financially supported about 60 projects in the amount of approximately CZK 9.5 million.
- Support of the Integration of the Roma Community. The MEYS along with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs invites applicants to participate in this programme. In 2008 in total 87 projects were supported in the framework of the programme for supporting the integration of the Roma community by the total amount of about CZK 14,5 million.

Activities aimed at preventing manifestations of racism and xenophobia are a natural part of the majority of projects.

A number of activities were implemented within ESF projects which relate to prevention of extremism. Apart from the projects called VIP-Career in the framework of which school psychologists and specially trained teachers were working for three years in schools (their importance for prevention of extremism is described above) these were

activities carrying out within the project ‘Centres for Integration of Minorities – SIMs’ which contribute to combating extremism and suppressing intolerance through the work of a multicultural team including a cultural ‘anthropologist’. Concurrent activities of a cultural anthropologist with other professions help reflect rooting in the situation and conditions and by focus on social processes in their wide context it can contribute to clarification of some implications which are outside the area of interest of psychologists, teachers and social workers and can help to more adequate approaches to be taken in school practice.

Workers of centres within their activities organised training seminars in schools where they work with topics such as racism, intolerance, multiculturalism, mutual coexistence. Further there were motivation programmes for children from socially excluded localities for the purpose of their active and successful integration in the process of education or later in labour process, and so forth.

4. Ministry of Culture

4.1 Regional Culture and Culture of Different Nationalities

The Ministry of Culture supports by means of subsidised programmes some cultural events and activities with the aim to cultivate the society in particular through recognition of cultures of different nationalities and ethnic groups.

Members of national minorities living in the Czech Republic obtain finance through public procurement for subsidies. Thus they can finance development of their culture and cultural activities. A special grant programme is determined to support integration of foreign nationals living in the Czech Republic and another one to support integration of Roma community members. The task to implement such grant programmes every year is defined in Government Resolution No. 40 of 10 January 2001 concerning the update of the ‘Strategy of More Efficient State Support of Culture – the Cultural Policy’. Subsidies of cultural activities of national minorities and the Roma community was regulated by Government Resolution No. 122 of 21 February 2007 amending Government Regulation No. 98/2002 Coll. laying down conditions and manners of providing subsidies from the state budget for activities of national minorities and to support integration of the Roma community.

Projects of Czech citizens of Bulgarian, Croatian, Hungarian, German, Polish, Roma, Russian, Greek, Slovakian, Serbian, and Ukrainian nationalities as well as projects of Jewish culture are supported in the framework of the Programme on support of cultural activities of national minorities living in the Czech Republic. Subsidies are also provided for cultural multi-ethnic events contributing to mutual recognition of different national cultures and prevent xenophobic phenomena. In 2008 this Programme supported in total 86 projects for implementation of a subsidy totalling to CZK 9,960,000 was provided.

Promotion of integration of Roma community is very important for development of ethnical culture but also for education of the multicultural society towards removing prejudices, racism and xenophobic attitudes. The Ministry of Culture invites every year applicants to participate in the programme aimed at members of the Roma community. Projects subsidised within this programme can focus on artistic, cultural, education and similar activities, studies of Roma culture and traditions, documentary and editorial activities, development and distribution of valuable films contributing to integration of the Roma community, and multi-ethnic cultural events. In 2008 this programme supported 31 projects with subsidies amounting to CZK 2,000,000.

4.2 Churches and Religious Societies

In 2008 the Ministry of Culture as an authority for registering churches as well as religious societies and associations of churches and religious societies and for maintaining the register of religious legal entities did not report any problems with extremist or racist manifestations coming from registered or recorded entities or their representatives.

In 2008 no new church or religious society was registered. The proposal for registration was submitted by New Hope church. Currently the Ministry of Culture, within its registration administrative proceedings, collects information on respective extremist, xenophobic, racist or other dangerous manifestations of groups applying for registration. Therefore the decision on registering the New Hope Church as a legal entity operating in the Czech Republic has not been yet issued.

The provisions of Sec. 5 of Act No. 3/2002 Coll. on the Freedom of Religious Belief and the Status of Churches and Religious Societies and on the Amendment to Some Other Acts (the Act on Churches and Religious Societies), as amended, lays down conditions preventing the influence of dangerous religious groups striving to manipulate people, to develop pressure, to use people's weaknesses or dependency, and so forth. Conditions stipulated in Section 5 are obligatory not only for registered entities but also for religious associations which are not registered with the Ministry of Culture.

The Ministry of Culture does not monitor the activities of unregistered religious groups. Neither is it authorised to monitor the activities of registered churches and religious societies, however it is obliged to react to all information which demonstrates that such churches or religious societies are carrying out dangerous, unlawful activities by requiring them to discontinue such activities. If the respective church or religious society continues such activities, the Ministry of Culture shall commence proceedings to terminate its registration.

4.3 Media and Audiovisual Area

The year 2008 saw no legislative change in the Czech Republic pertaining to the media and audiovisual area. The provisions of Section 31 (4) of Act No. 231/2001 Coll. impose on operators of radio and television broadcasting an obligation to ensure that broadcast programmes do not incite hatred on the grounds of race, gender, religious, nationality or membership of a certain ethnic group. Pursuant to Sec. 32 (1) (i) every broadcasting operator and any operator of broadcasting taken from other operators is obliged not to include into programmes parts which could support stereotype prejudices concerning ethnic, religious or racial minorities. Under the provisions of Section 2 (c) and (d) of Act No. 483/1991 Coll. on the Czech Television Broadcasting, as amended, the Czech television provides the public service, *inter alia*, by developing and distributing programmes and by providing a balance offer of programmes for all groups of inhabitants whilst taking into account freedom of religious conviction and belief, culture, ethnical or national origin, national identity, social origin, age or sex so that such programmes reflect diversity of opinions and political, religious, philosophical and artistic aspects with the aim to strengthen mutual understanding and tolerance and to promote cohesion of plurality society by developing a cultural identity of population of the Czech Republic, including members of national and ethnical minorities. Such obligations are also imposed on the Czech Radio Broadcasting, namely by Act No. 484/1991 Coll. on the Czech Radio Broadcasting, as amended. The Czech Radio broadcasts also in foreign languages both in the Czech Republic and abroad. The Council for Radio and Television Broadcasting is responsible for supervising the above-mentioned activities.

Within a grant programme for supporting dissemination and reception of information in languages of national minorities, or predominantly in languages of national minorities the Ministry of Culture financially supports publishing of periodicals and radio and television broadcasting in languages of national minorities or providing information about such minorities. This form of state subsidies can be considered to be prevention against occurrence of respective extremist moods resulting from opinions and feelings that national minorities have only a limited option to develop their own languages and that they are under pressure to assimilate into the society.

In 2008 in total 24 projects were supported within the above-mentioned programme. The total amount of allocated subsidies amounted to CZK 30,000,000

As regards media and cinematography grants are not explicitly aimed at projects dealing with extremism. However, projects which, *inter alia*, deal with this issue, are traditionally supported. The festival 'One world' /in 2008 this festival was supported by the amount of CZK 4,000,000) and the festival 'Nine Gates' (a festival of Czech – Jewish – German culture – in 2008 supported by the amount of CZK 2,000,000).

4.4 Art and Libraries

Activities involving art and libraries supported by the Ministry of Culture, namely by its Department of Arts and Libraries, have only an indirect relation to the issue concerned. Activities contributing to human integrity, to cultural dialogue, and to mutual recognition of distinguished cultures, are supported. The Ministry provides funds to organise cultural events which could help decrease negative social phenomena not only through specific grant programmes (such as the support of members of national minorities, the support, dissemination of and receiving of information in languages of national minorities, support for integration of foreigners, and support of Roma communities), but also through the awarding of grants specifically focusing on the support of professional art. In 2008 the Ministry supported 17 projects in the framework of the above-mentioned programme by an amount totalling CZK 3,640,000.

As every year also in 2008 a grant programme 'Library of the 21st Century' specified for libraries registered under Act No. 257/2001 Coll. One of the subjects of support through this grant is to promote work with national minorities and the integration of foreign nationals. Funds are provided to applicants (i.e. libraries registered under Act No. 257/2001 Coll., the Act on Libraries, or civic associations the purpose of which is library and informative activities or their promotion, under Act No. 83/1990 Coll.) to enable them to organise discussions and exhibitions with the aim of recognising different cultures and purchasing books for national minorities. In 2008 altogether 16 thematic projects were supported through the 'Library of the 21st Century' programme. The total amount of subsidies was CZK 142,000.

4.5 Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage, Museums and Galleries

A range of museums and galleries of the Czech Republic included in their programmes education and training towards ethnic and religious tolerance with the aim of eliminating a number of negative social phenomena relating to extremism.

This issue was regularly dealt with by the following organisations receiving contributions from the state budget: the Museum of Roma Culture, the Terezin Memorial, the National Museum – the Naprstek Museum of Asian, African, and American Culture, the National

Gallery – Collection of non-European Art and the Jewish Museum in Prague, but also associations of legal entities whose founders are the Ministry of Culture and the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic. Their projects aim, in particular, at education towards tolerance, against racism and xenophobia and other forms of extremism. It is also appropriate to include culture, history and present affairs of nation and ethnicities of other countries in to education against different forms of intolerance.

4.6 The Most Important Events in 2008

- The **Terezin Memorial** prepared a cycle of one-day and multi-day seminars for teachers (from the Czech Republic as well as from abroad): ‘How to Teach about the Holocaust’. Further, the Terezin Memorial organised cycles of lectures, seminars, workshops and contests for children and youth, for example ‘The Role of the Ghettos during the War’, ‘Children and Youth in Ghettos’, ‘A typical Day of Ghetto Prisoners’, ‘Effects of Concentrations Camps on the Development and Psychological State of Prisoners’, and ‘Famous People and their Destinies’, ‘From a Number to the Name’, ‘Searching for Tracks’, and ‘Art in Repressive Facilities’. These seminars are attended every year by more than 7,000 persons (both from the Czech Republic and abroad). A number of topics are prepared for seminars taking several days. Discussions with witnesses of the events: ‘Testimony of Witnesses’ were organised.
- The **Jewish Museum** in Prague also organised seminars for teachers - ‘Jews, History, and Culture’ including topics such as ‘Anti-Semitism and Soah’ or ‘Jews and Presence’. The projects ‘Lost neighbours’ continued in 2008. It was developed specifically for young people (between 12 and 18 years) in order to search for their neighbours, who disappeared from their neighbourhood during the Second World war. It is an independent literal and documentary project which was back in 1999 officially under auspices of the Office of the President of the Republic announced by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports within the Conference on the Holocaust Phenomenon. In 2008 it was awarded a prize of the European Commission – ‘Golden Star of Active European Citizenship’. In the context of unfortunate already 70th anniversary pogrom known as Crystal Knight the Institute of the Terezin Initiative prepared alongside the Jewish Museum in Prague n extensive web presentation containing texts of historians. Photographs, reminiscences of witnesses, and archive documents.¹⁰ As in previous years an important role in informing people on holocaust was played by a range of mobile exhibitions. In 2008 these were, for example, ‘A Story of Children’, ‘Lost Neighbours’ ‘Honours to Children Victims of Holocaust’, ‘A Man Who Knew No Peoce – a Story of Josef Polak’ and many others.
- The **Museum of Roma Culture**, the activities of which, as an organisation partially funded from the state budget, have been supported since 1 January 2005, presented in 2008 a new permanent exhibition - ‘The Life of Roma’ - and a range of temporary exhibitions as well ad number of other public events – lectures, open door days, festive ‘baptisms’ of books and CDs (not only) of own production, video projections, fashion shows – for example a cycle of video projections: ‘Magic Eyes’ (Romas in Czech and Slovak films between 1923 – 2002), an exhibition of black and white photographs of Pavel Štěrba ‘Slightly Different World’ and some others.
- A absolutely extraordinary contribution to the issue of extremism and the fight against it in the past year was the **International Congress ‘A Current Threatd of Neo-**

¹⁰ (See <http://www.holocaust.cz/cz2//resources/pres/kristalovanoc70/kristalovanoc70>).

Nazims and Xenophobia Manifestations' which was organised by the Lidice Memorial (an organisation receiving contributions from the budget of the Ministry of Culture) in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. The Congress was held from 1 to 4 October 2008 in Prague, in Lidice and in Lezaky. The Congress itself was organised in the premises of the Faculty of Arts in Prague. The first block of lectures with a follow up discussion was devoted to the topic of **'Racism and the Thread of Neo-Nazism'**, while the second block discussed the topic **'Roma Holocaust'**. This significant international event was accompanied by other supplementary events - for example in cooperation with the Club of Authors of Literature of Fact and with the City Council of Prague the following actions were held: the Conference held in the occasion of 60th anniversary of death of Egon Ervin Kisch, professional lectures and visitation of the permanent display of the Lidice Memorial and its newly opened training centre; sightseeing of Lidice with relevant explanations and with participation of survived Lidice women and children. An important event was grand opening of an exhibition **'Victims of Neo-Nazism in The Czech Republic after 1989'**. The final block of lectures was held on 4 October 2008 in the National Memorial of Lezaky .

5. Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

The issues linked to coordination of implementation of the Strategy of the Integration of Foreign Nationals in the Czech Republic was transferred, as a result of Government Resolution No. 979 of 23 July 2008, from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (the MLSA) to the Ministry of the Interior.

The Government allocated to ministries dealing with the integration of foreigners funds amounting to CZK 25 million in order to support projects of NGOs.

The MLSA called for proposals of projects to be submitted within the Programme for Supporting Activities Aimed at the Integration of Foreign Nationals in 2008. The projects focused on provision of social and legal assistance to foreign nationals, supported activities aimed at knowledge of the Czech language as well as activities targeting competition in the labour market, at informative, training and cultural activities, activities focusing on the integration of specially vulnerable groups of immigrants, and on supporting development of relations between foreigners and members of the majority society.

The MLSA subsidised in 2008 within the aforementioned Programme NGOs' projects by the amount of CZK 800,000. Some other projects were supported within subsidies of the MLSA determined for social services. In addition to the state budget money from EU funds was used, namely from the European Social Fund. The project financed from the ESF were completed. Projects were also funded from the Operational Programme Human Resources and Employment, Education for Competitiveness, Prague – Adaptability and from the Community Initiative EQUAL. Projects aimed at foreigners endangered by social exclusions and at assisting them with the access to the labour market are financed within the above-mentioned operational programmes. The European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals (2007 – 2013) became another source of money. The Fund is administered by the Ministry of the Interior. Further the European Fund for Refugees was used and two calls were published within the Block Grant financed from the Financial Mechanisms of EEA/Norway. The grant was implemented by the Civil Society Development Foundation.

The MLSA is also involved in the integration of socially excluded communities which quite often serve as a front for extremist activities. Such assistance is covered within the subsidy policy financed from the state budget to support registered providers of social

services. Further the MLSA is a manager of selected European funds (ESF, ERDF). Entities dealing with the issues concerned can apply for financial support from these funds. The MLSA will continue such activities also in 2009.

It is the Department for Social Inclusion of the Office of the Government which is responsible for some specific measures in selected socially excluded localities.