

REGIONAL DIFFERENTIATION OF CRIMINALITY IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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Abstract: *The issue of regional development is closely related to the security of the region, because a region facing security problems is not usually able to provide conditions for the required level of development and living standard of the population. This paper deals with the issue of regional differentiation of crime in the Czech Republic. The aim of the contribution is to assess the variability of crime at the regional / district level in the Czech Republic between 2008 and 2016, to identify and characterize the districts with the highest crime rates. The state and development of crime is examined using the crime index, the crime structure is based on the tactical-statistical classification of the Police of the Czech Republic. At the regional level, the highest levels of crime are reported by the capital city of Prague, Ústí nad Labem Region and Moravian-Silesian Region, the safest being on the contrary in Zlín Region, Vysočina Region and Pardubice Region. Crime is further investigated at district level, from the calculated result order, ten districts with the highest rate of crime index were selected and analysed (Ostrava-City, Brno-City, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Teplice, Česká Lípa, Liberec, Kolín and Karviná). These districts are concentrated mainly in regions with high levels of crime. Depending on the structure, there is a dominant property crime, on the contrary, moral criminality is the least represented. The district of Ústí nad Labem is specific to the high level of crime committed by children and juveniles.*

Keywords: *Regional development, regional disparities, regional security, criminality, crime index.*

JEL Classification: *R11, H56.*

Introduction

The development of the individual regions does not proceed evenly, there are advanced and underdeveloped regions, with more or less dynamic of development and different quality of environmental conditions. The regions, as territorial units formed in the process of regionalization, show these differences in the form of regional disparities, which are most often seen in different natural conditions, demographic structure of the population, economic development of the region or the number of committed crimes, i.e. in crime.

These differences have an impact not only on the behavior of the population, but also on the activities of the regional self-governments that try to address these imbalances, both within the region and at the interregional level. The development of the region is conditioned by several factors, one of which is also the area of security. The issue of regional development is therefore closely related to the security of the region, as a region that is facing security problems is not usually able to provide the conditions for the required level of development and living standard of the population. Criminality is generally understood as an undesirable phenomenon against which the state is actively struggling. Effective crime prevention is therefore an essential step in promoting sustainable development.

1 Regional security and crime

Different levels of economic, social, environmental and technological factors in the region are the cause of regional disparities. Such manifestations of difference can be understood in two ways. In the first case, this is a competitive advantage, a positive factor that the region uses to

its advantage, thus increasing the quality of living conditions for the population. In the case of the second, the negative, it is a manifestation of a threat to the security of the region, for many different reasons. From this point of view, it is necessary to look at the issue of regional development in the context of regional security as an interdisciplinary science.

Security is a basic concept of security terminology. It can be understood as a general element, which is never absolute, or as the conscious activity of safety authorities that ensure security. Security can be defined as *"a state where threats to the object and its interests are eliminated to the minimum, and this object is effectively equipped and willing to co-operate to eliminate existing and potential threats"*. (Zeman, 2002: 13)

Security is defined in terms of the nature of the threats that cause it, the authorities and institutions that provide it and, finally, the objects to be secured. The Constitutional Act No. 110/1998 Coll. On the Security of the Czech Republic, as amended, implies that *"securing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Czech Republic, protecting its democratic foundations and protecting life, health and property values is a fundamental duty of the state"*. In particular, the security policy serves to ensure security, which assesses the urgency of individual threats and the associated risks and the state security system, which is an institutional instrument for securing the objectives of security policy. The state security system covers the central authorities of the Czech Republic (the President, the Parliament, the Government, the State Security Council, the central administrative authorities), the Territorial Authorities of the Czech Republic (municipalities and regions) and the executive bodies (armed forces, security services, intelligence services, rescue services and emergency services).

Socio-economic security is defined as respecting social standards, both written and unwritten (legally codified or uncodified), and maintaining the region's economic resilience, provided that the resulting state is a secure social and economic environment. *"Socio-economic security is a prerequisite for the region's versatile development, since it has a major impact on the quality of life in the region, as well as its attractiveness and the cost of securing security. The ideal status in terms of socio-economic security is the absence of crime and sufficient economic resilience in the region."* (Kraftová, 2016: 51)

The issue of crime is explored by a field of science called criminology. Criminology is a multidisciplinary science, as it uses knowledge from many fields of science (criminal law, sociology, forensic psychology, psychiatry, medicine, victimology and penology), but also empirical and theoretical science, as it encompasses its own special terminology and research methods. Basic functions and tasks of criminology include the explanatory function that explains the phenomena associated with crime and its control, a descriptive function that characterizes empirical crime facts from the area of crime and a prediction function that generates predictions of crime development that can be used to take appropriate action. Other features of criminology include the systematic storage of criminological knowledge or the creation of definitions. (Holcr, 2009)

Criminality generally constitutes an offense, committing offenses and criminal offenses (CO) in a given territory at a certain time. However, these can also be actions that are not unlawful but are undesirable for society. Criminality in the broader sense also includes the field of crimes committed by criminals (juveniles) who were not more than 15 years old at the time of committing the act and were therefore not criminally liable. Such acts are referred to as delinquencies.

Criminality can be distinguished from apparent (registered), hidden (latent, unregistered) and actual (total). Apparent criminality provides information that is documented in the official statistics of law enforcement agencies (LEA). These are mainly police crime statistics, judicial statistics issued by the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic, statistics of the Czech Probation and Mediation Service and statistics of the prison service issued by the General Directorate of the Prison Service of the Czech Republic. Statistical data on crime often distorts

or influences legislative changes, amnesty, time lag between committing a CO and its registration with law enforcement agencies (LEA) or artificial latency. Hidden crime is not backed up in official statistics because it is linked to difficult detection, proofing and is represented by so-called black and gray numbers. Black numbers are represented by COs that have not been discovered by the law enforcement agencies. Gray numbers, sometimes referred to as artificial latencies, describe LOs that have been detected by the law enforcement agencies, but have not yet been reported in official statistics (the perpetrator was captured but not convicted). The last group is real crime, which is a clear summary of apparent and hidden crime.

The Criminal Code is described in Act No. 40/2009 Coll., The Criminal Code which, in § 13 paragraph 1, describes CO as "*an offense referred to as criminal by the Penal Code and showing the features stated in such a law*". The offender's criminal liability is then considered when intentional fault or neglect. "*Criminal offense is also understood as its preparation, attempt, organizing, instruction or assistance in committing a criminal offense.*" (Czech Republic, 2009) However, to be a CO, its features must be fulfilled, including wrongdoing, type features of CO which characterize the object, the subject, the objective and the subjective aspects of the CO, as well as the general features established by the Act No. 40/2009 Coll., the Criminal Code (age and sanity) and with juveniles their intellectual and moral maturity. (Svatoš, 2012)

The level of crime is constantly changing and pulsing. Therefore, it is important to find, for its description, examination, evaluation and comparison, such indicators that will have a sufficiently large informative character to illustrate the development of crime in a given territory. These indicators help to elucidate the causes of crime, to form appropriate methods and forms of criminal policy and, finally, to evaluate effectiveness.

Basic crime indicators include the state of crime, which is the extent of the infringements recorded by the LEA. These are, therefore, those COs whose condition is bound to specific territory and time. This indicator is expressed in absolute values, it is the most used and at the same time the most variable. The second indicator is the level of crime (crime rate), the ratio of the total number of COs to the total number of the selected population, taking into account both the state of crime and the demographic indicators (age, sex) and is usually stated in indexes of 10 thousand. Inhabitants (sometimes 100 thousand), depending on the size of the area under consideration. The Crime Index (hereinafter CI) thus expresses an objective level of the population's burden by crime in the given area. (Rumlová, 2016)

Criminality is also characterized by a different structure that describes the overall distribution of crime by type (violent, property, moral, economic), according to the form of its understanding (traditional and organized), by the characteristics of perpetrators and victims (gender, age, social status) and finally according to the nature of the damage caused, the severity of the CO, etc. The total criminal activity can be broken down in the Czech Republic according to the tactical statistical classification of the Czech Police for the acts of violence, moral crimes, property crimes, other crimes, remaining criminality and economic crimes. The most important group is property crime. Another possible indicator of crime is its dynamics, its volatility over time. This indicator brings important insights into the area of predicting future developments in crime and can be described by the direction and speed of ongoing criminality changes (increase, decline or stagnation of crime at a certain time, seasonal manifestations and trends in crime development). (Rumlová, 2016)

The criminality indicators are closely related to criminogenic factors that can be imagined as risk factors that trigger or facilitate committing a CO. Criminogenic factors can be broken down into objective that affects the entire society (political, economic, moral) and subjective, which are closely related to the structure of the personality, the psychological and physical mentality of the individual. Objective criminogenic factors can be further divided into four groups of sociodemographic characteristics (sex, age, offender's residence), social economic

status, degree of education and environmental impact (mass media, addictive substances, mental disorders, etc.).

2 Purpose of the contribution and methods of processing

The paper describes the issue of crime in the Czech Republic and its development during the period 2008-2016. In this timeframe, an analysis of crime for the whole territory of the Czech Republic and consequently regional differentiation of crime at the level of regions and districts is carried out, based on the available statistics of the Czech Statistical Office (CSO) and the Police of the Czech Republic (PCR). Using the crime index ranking of the regions and districts most affected by crime is compiled. Based on the established values, the districts with the highest crime rates are further analyzed.

The aim of the contribution is to assess the variability of crime at the regional / district level in the Czech Republic between 2008 and 2016, to identify and characterize the districts with the highest crime rates. In connection with the stated objective of the contribution, three research questions have been formulated, which relate to the districts with the highest crime rates. Their answer is always related to the verification of hypotheses formulated by them.

Research Question 1: Are the districts with the highest degree of CI in the regions, which in terms of this indicator (except for the Capital City of Prague) are placed in the first three places?

Hypothesis H1: Highest crime index districts are in most cases located in the regions with the highest crime rates. To accept the hypothesis, it is necessary that at least 7 out of 10 analyzed districts with the highest Crime Index rate belong to regions that ranked in the first three places in terms of CI and thus exhibited a long-term high crime rate.

Research Question 2: Is the distribution of crime according to the tactical-statistical classification groups in the districts with the highest crime rate differentiated?

Hypothesis H2: The representation of individual groups of COs according to the tactical-statistical classification is very similar in the ten districts with the highest crime rate, characterized in particular by the highest representation of the property crimes and the lowest representation of moral crimes. To accept the hypothesis, it is necessary for all monitored districts with the highest Crime Index rate of the property crime to show at least 50% share of the total crime, which confirms the nationwide trend in terms of distribution of crime according to the tactical-statistical classification. At the same time, it is necessary that moral crime is represented the least in all districts.

Research Question 3: Is the structure of crime offenders significantly influenced by the number of children and juveniles?

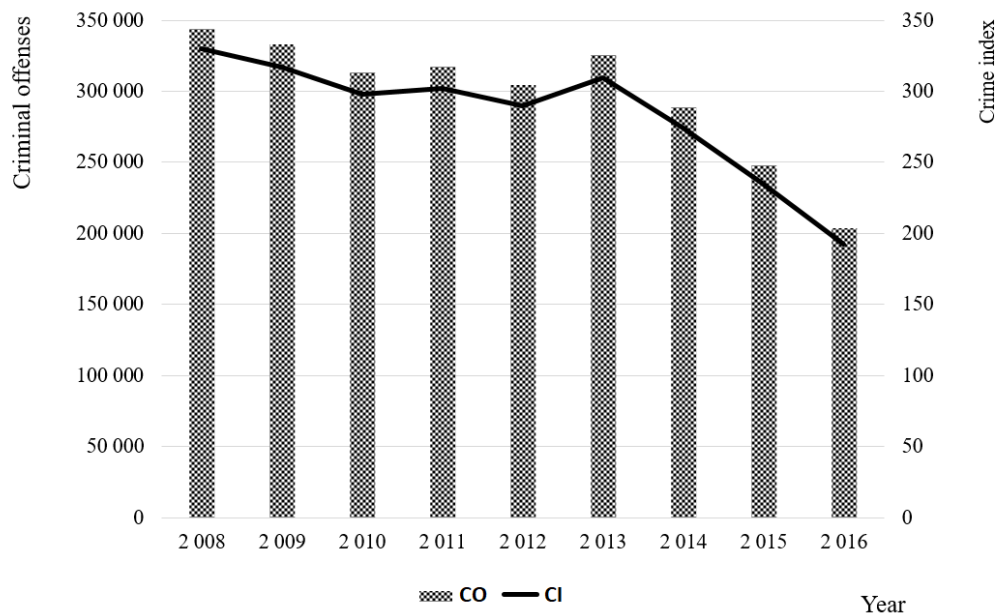
H3 Hypothesis: The proportion of child and juvenile offenders is insignificant in districts with the highest crime rates. To accept the hypothesis, it is necessary that the proportion of child and juvenile offenders does not represent more than 10% of the total number of perpetrators in any of the 10 districts surveyed.

3 Criminality in the Czech Republic and its regional differentiation

The development of total crime and the crime index throughout the Czech Republic for the period 2008-2016 is shown in Fig. 1. It is evident that the number of detected COs has been gradually decreasing since 2008, with exceptions in 2011 and 2013. In 2013, there was a significant increase in the monitored variable. This fluctuation caused an increase in the number of COs in the Capital City of Prague, it was about 10 thousand COs, more specifically in the field of property crime (simple theft). An increase of 2 thousand COs was recorded this

year in the Central Bohemian Region. In the other regions, there was only a slight increase in police statistics.

Fig. 1: Development of total crime and CI in the Czech Republic in 2008-2016



Source: own processing based on data CSO (2017), PCR (2018).

At the end of 2016, there were 40.8% less COs than at the beginning of the reference period. The total crime rate decreased by almost half, from the initial 343 799 offenses to 203 574. Decreasing trend of CI was also recorded during the monitored period, which, unlike the detected offenses, takes into account the development of the population and is given in thousands. CI ranged from an initial value of 330 to 193 at the end of the period. On the basis of these data the development of total crime can be assessed positively as the number of COs and CI are decreasing.

Regional differentiation of criminality at the level of regions of the Czech Republic was carried out similarly with the help of Crime Index calculations. At first, the average population levels were determined, followed by the number of COs found for all regions for the whole reporting period. Then, the calculation of Crime Index (the share of the middle status of the selected part of the population and the number of detected COs per 10,000 inhabitants) was followed. From the calculated values, the order of the individual regions was created, where the first place is the region with the highest crime rate, Crime Index had the highest value here. On the other hand, the fourteenth position belongs to the region which is considered the best in terms of safety. The development of Crime Index in individual regions of the Czech Republic is shown in Tab. 1. For comparison, the development of Crime Index in the Czech Republic is complemented.

Tab. 1: Development of CI in regions of the Czech Republic for the period 2008-2016

Region/year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
PHA	678	677	591	599	582	659	574	508	411
STC	350	332	304	296	277	288	238	193	156
JHC	251	224	240	233	220	236	231	198	161
PLK	268	250	242	241	224	239	209	183	157
KVK	293	287	258	267	251	272	224	192	155
ULK	397	355	352	366	332	361	314	256	210
LBK	355	335	313	312	296	318	285	254	195
HKK	226	206	201	199	195	195	185	156	123
PAK	196	179	172	177	174	176	162	132	109
VYS	172	174	169	168	167	172	159	135	111
JHM	277	262	254	257	253	255	232	203	172
OLK	232	222	214	225	225	232	221	199	170
ZLK	176	170	160	156	151	157	150	136	120
MSK	328	334	319	345	331	350	305	250	204
CR	330	317	298	302	290	310	274	235	193

Legend (Tab. 1 and Tab. 2): PHA – Prague, the Capital City; STC – Central Bohemian Region; JHC – South Bohemian Region; PLK – Plzeň Region; KVK – Karlovy Vary Region; ULK – Ústí nad Labem Region; HKK – Hradec Králové Region; PAK – Pardubice Region; VYS – Vysočina Region; JHM – South Moravian Region; OLK – Olomouc Region; ZLK – Zlín Region; MSK – Moravian-Silesian Region; CR – the Czech Republic.

Source: own processing based on data CSO (2017), PCR (2018).

Based on Crime Index values for the whole Czech Republic, Tab. 1, the Crime Index values of regions are highlighted, those exceeding the national representation of this crime indicator. Throughout the monitored period, it was Prague, Ústí nad Labem Region, Liberec Region, except for the first year Moravian-Silesian Region and Central Bohemian Region in the first three years. From the values found in Tab. 1, the order of the regions according to the Crime Index level was established, shown in Tab. 2. In the first place in all monitored periods, the Prague with Crime Index was well above the national average.

Tab. 2: Rank of the Czech Republic regions by size of Crime Index in 2008-2016

Rank	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
Region	PHA	ULK	MSK	LBK	STC	JHM	KVK	JHC	PLK	OLK	HKK	PAK	VYS	ZLK

Source: own processing based on data CSO (2017), PCR (2018).

In 2008, the Crime Index value in the Czech Republic was 330 and in Prague 678, at the end of the monitored period Crime Index in the Czech Republic was 193, but in Prague it was more than doubled, namely 411. From the point of view of the average, the City of Prague comprised 24.6% of the total number of COs. This fact is due to the high concentration of the population and the fluctuations of foreign tourists. In second place was, based on the size of Crime Index, the Ústí nad Labem Region throughout the whole period under review. On average, crime in this region reached 9% of the total number of detected COs. The third place was occupied by the Moravian-Silesian Region with 12.7% of the Czech Republic's total. On the contrary, the most secure region of the Czech Republic was the Zlín Region, which was followed by the Vysočina Region. The two regions together accounted for an average of about 5.7% of the total number of detected COs in the Czech Republic.

4 Differentiation of crime at the level of districts of the Czech Republic

The regional differentiation of criminality at the level of the districts of the CR is carried out similarly to the regional level with the help of Crime Index calculation. Tab. 3 describes the order of the ten districts of the Czech Republic which have the highest Crime Index values in

the monitored period. In the Ostrava-city district, the highest Crime Index was measured over the whole monitored period, therefore it has long been the region with the highest crime rates in the Czech Republic.

Tab. 3: Rank of the ten districts of the Czech Republic with the highest Crime Index in 2008-2016

Rank	District	Rank	District
1.	Ostrava-City	6.	Teplice
2.	Brno-City	7.	Česká Lípa
3.	Ústí nad Labem	8.	Liberec
4. - 5.	Chomutov	9.	Kolín
4. - 5.	Most	10.	Karviná

Source: own processing based on data CSO (2018), PCR (2017).

Tab. 4 again shows the order of ten districts with the highest crime rates. This time, however, Crime Index development is included for the whole period under review. Measured Crime Index values show a declining trend in crime. In all the districts monitored here, there has been a significant decline in CI since the beginning of 2008, of the order of 30-50%.

Tab. 4: Development of CI in the districts of the Czech Republic with the highest crime rates in 2008-2016

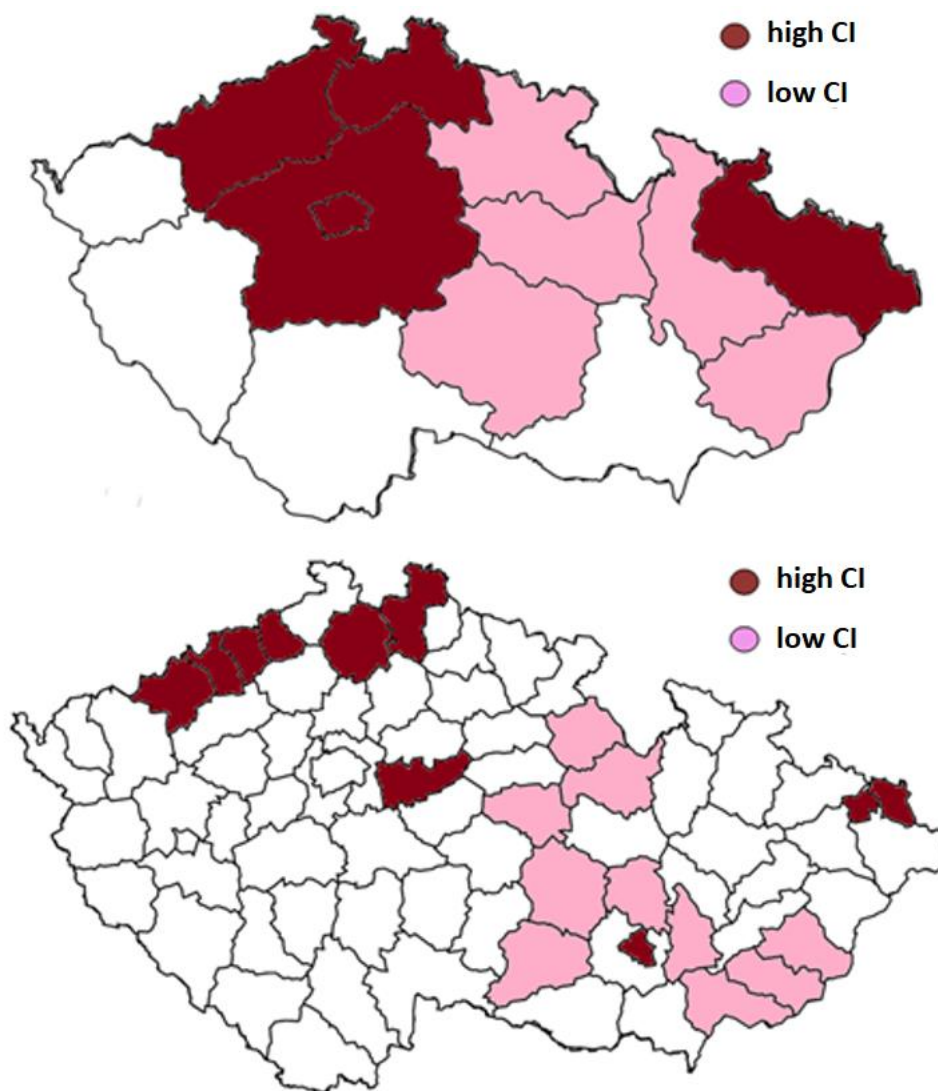
District/year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Ostrava-City	535	572	555	551	510	539	464	384	345
Brno-City	471	432	426	408	408	412	364	330	299
Ústí n/Labem	433	390	409	410	382	394	363	301	269
Chomutov	468	429	391	422	351	397	331	248	225
Most	434	371	363	354	371	469	358	315	243
Teplice	475	411	395	397	324	417	319	268	240
Česká Lípa	449	426	387	390	338	370	293	290	238
Liberec	341	332	312	331	332	360	322	293	240
Kolín	353	360	404	383	328	368	301	208	176
Karviná	326	324	298	371	349	347	313	249	210

Source: own processing based on data CSO (2018), PCR (2017).

Interestingly, the ten districts with the lowest crime rates are Žďár nad Sázavou, Hodonín, Třebíč, Uherské Hradiště, Vyškov, Ústí nad Orlicí, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Blansko, Chrudim, Zlín. The safest district is, in terms of Crime Index ranking, clearly the Žďár nad Sázavou district, located in the Vysočina Region, which is generally considered to be very safe from a criminal point of view. In 2016, the value of Crime Index was only 87, which is the least of all districts for the entire reporting period. On the tenth place is Zlín district in terms of crime. In the districts described here, there is also a significant decrease in Crime Index since the beginning of the measurement.

For visual comparison of Crime Index measurement results at regional and district level Fig. 2 can be used. The maps of the Czech Republic are shown in this figure, first for the regional and then for the district level, where the regions and districts with the highest and lowest Crime Index in the long run are highlighted.

Fig. 2: Map of Regions and Districts of the Czech Republic showing Crime Index



Source: own processing based on data CSO (2018), PCR (2017).

Here we can find the answer to the first question of whether the districts with the highest degree of Crime Index are in the regions, which in terms of this indicator (except Prague) placed in the first three places. To accept the H1 hypothesis it was established that at least 7 out of 10 analyzed districts with the highest degree of Crime Index would belong to Ústí nad Labem Region, Moravian-Silesian Region and Liberec Region. The H1 hypothesis has been confirmed in the work, since the highest Crime Index districts have been confirmed in 8 out of 10 districts with the same crime indicator. These were the districts of Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Teplice (from Ústí nad Labem Region), Česká Lípa, Liberec (from Liberec Region), Ostrava-City and Karviná (from Moravian-Silesian Region).

From the available data of the PCR, the differences in the number of detected COs in individual tactical statistical classification categories are analyzed in the area of crime. These are the average values that were established based on the data available from 2008-2016. The percentage of COs groups according to tactical statistical classification in individual districts is shown in Tab. 5.

Tab. 5: Average shares of COs groups according to tactical statistical classification in the districts with the highest Crime Index rate

District/share CO (%)	Violent	Moral	Property	Other	Remaining	Economic
Ostrava-City	6.0	0.4	71.9	5.2	8.6	7.8
Brno-City	4.7	0.6	66.3	7.3	9.6	11.5
Ústí nad Labem	6.5	0.7	59.3	7.8	14.3	11.3
Chomutov	7.1	1.0	56.4	9.0	16.6	9.9
Most	7.4	0.6	60.0	9.4	12.2	10.4
Teplice	7.5	0.8	59.2	9.1	13.4	10.0
Česká Lípa	7.2	1.4	55.4	10.3	15.7	10.0
Liberec	8.0	0.9	58.9	9.2	14.3	8.7
Kolín	5.9	0.7	62.1	8.7	13.1	9.4
Karviná	8.2	0.7	64.3	7.4	12.0	7.4
Average	6.9	0.8	61.4	8.3	13.0	9.6
Variation range	3.5	1.0	16.5	5.1	8.0	3.7

Source: own processing based on data PCR (2017).

The lowest representation in all districts is shown clearly by moral COs, which accounted for 0.4-1.4% of the total crime rate, with the lowest representation being recorded by the Ostrava-City district and the highest being the district of Česká Lípa. In the second place were violent COs situated in the range of 4.7-8.2%, while the smallest share of this category was recorded by the Brno-City district, and the largest share of the district of Karviná. The third place was occupied by other criminal acts with a share in the range of 5,2-10,3%, the lowest representation of which was in the district Ostrava-City, and the highest in the district of Česká Lípa. On the fourth place were economic crimes, reaching values between 7.8-11.5%, with the lowest representation of this category being recorded by the Ostrava-City district and the Brno-City district. The remaining crime formed the second most frequent group of COs with an average share of 8.6-16.6% of the total number of COs. This category was least represented again in the district Ostrava-City, on the contrary the most in the Chomutov district. In all districts, the category of property crime was the most represented, representing 55.4-71.9% on average. The smallest share of property COs was recorded in the Česká Lípa district, while the highest was in the district Ostrava-City.

This is where the second research question can be answered. The comparison of crime variability in the ten districts with the highest Crime Index rate shows that the composition of crime in the examined districts is very similar. For the above-mentioned H2 hypothesis, it was established that the proportion of property crime must be at least 50% in all the districts monitored and the moral criminality must be represented the least. The hypothesis H2 was accepted. No extreme values were found to indicate that one of the districts would deviate from the average. Only the districts Ostrava-City and Brno-City were different in terms of the number of detected COs. It was in the first mentioned district that the highest Crime Index was measured, which was caused by the highest number of property COs in all monitored districts. In other categories of criminality, the district of Ostrava-City had logically lower representation. This was also the case in the Brno-City district, which ranked second in terms of property crime.

The districts are further compared based on the proportion of child and juvenile offenders from the total number of prosecuted and investigated persons. Although these numbers may seem negligible in some districts, attention must be paid to them, since child and juvenile delinquency often starts with property crime in the form of minor thefts, but they can easily change into organized crime if they are not given enough attention aspects of preventive and support programs that seek to eliminate this issue. The average share of child and juvenile offenders in individual districts is shown in Tab. 6.

Tab. 6: Share of child and juvenile offenders of COs in districts with the highest Crime Index

District/offenders	Children (1-14)	Juveniles (15-17)
Ostrava-City	2.0	5.0
Brno-City	1.3	3.6
Ústí nad Labem	4.1	10.0
Chomutov	1.8	3.3
Most	2.1	3.2
Teplice	1.5	2.9
Česká Lípa	1.9	4.5
Liberec	1.7	3.1
Kolín	1.0	2.3
Karviná	1.5	4.4
Average	1.9	4.2
Variation range	3.1	7.7

Source: own processing based on data PCR (2017).

The share of child offenders (1-14 years) in the examined districts reaches values ranging from 1-4.1%, with the lowest proportion of this category being recorded by the Kolín district, while the highest was recorded in the district of Ústí nad Labem. In terms of representation of juvenile offenders (15-17 years), these are shares in the range of 2.3-10%, of which the lowest is the juvenile delinquency in the district of Kolín and most in the Ústí nad Labem district.

Now we can answer the third research question, which is related to the significance of the proportion of child and juvenile offenders. Tab. 6 shows that criminality of children and juveniles does not represent a significant problem in the districts, except for the district of Ústí nad Labem. The hypothesis H3 has not been accepted. It was in Ústí nad Labem district that the total number of child and juvenile offenders was almost double the average values. The children and juveniles in the Ústí nad Labem district accounted for 14.1% of the total number of perpetrators. Especially in the juvenile category, these were very alarming values, as offenders aged 15-17 years, according to the statistics of the Czech Police, accounted for 10% of the total number of prosecuted and investigated persons. These are smaller organized groups of offenders, which focus mainly on property crime.

Conclusion

The issue of regional disparities reflects several economic, environmental, but especially social factors that incite inequalities between regions. Such factors include criminality which, in connection with other sociopathological phenomena, differentiates the territory of the Czech Republic and creates disparities. The development of crime in the Czech Republic in 2008-2016 can be assessed positively. During this period there was a significant decrease in the number of identified COs, the decreasing trend of crime was disrupted only in 2011 and 2013. Overall, however, crime has fallen by more than 40% since the beginning of the monitored period. A marked decline was also observed in terms of Crime Index, which considers the crime in relation to the number of population. In the period under review, this indicator decreased from an initial value of 330 to a final of 193 of COs per 10,000 residents.

The regional differentiation of crime, which was based on the established values of Crime Index, determined the development of criminal activity in the individual regions of the Czech Republic. The ranking of regions according to the level of Crime Index showed that the highest values of this indicator were recorded for a long time by Prague, whose criminal activity occupied an average of about 24.6% of the total number of COs in the Czech Republic. The second place was held by Ústí nad Labem Region, third place was occupied by Moravian-Silesian Region. The Liber Region ranked fourth, followed by the Central Bohemian Region.

The lowest values of Crime Index were recorded by Zlín Region, Vysočina Region, Pardubice Region, Hradec Králové Region and Olomouc Region.

Crime variability was further investigated at district level according to Crime Index, where 10 districts from the final ranking with the highest Crime Index rate were selected and analyzed. These districts were Ostrava-City, Brno-City, Ústí nad Labem, Chomutov, Most, Teplice, Česká Lípa, Liberec, Kolín and Karviná. The hypothesis H1 was confirmed, which supposed that the regions with the highest CI value would be also in the regions with the highest value of this indicator. From the mentioned districts it was possible to state that the problem of high criminality was mainly in the Ústí nad Labem Region with four districts represented, the Moravian-Silesian Region and Liberec Region, represented here by two districts. It is in these regions that the presence of criminogenic factors has been reflected. These included a high rate of unemployment, the presence of a large number of socially excluded localities, the negative impact of border areas, the criminality of children and young people, and, last but not least, the high number of people dependent on state support.

The development of crime according to the tactical-statistical classification categories was considerably uneven in all districts, which does not apply to the share of these categories in the overall criminal activity investigated by the second research question. The hypothesis H2 was confirmed, which did not predict significant differentiation in all the analyzed districts. The ranking of individual groups of COs was also confirmed, with property crime, which averaged 61.4%, followed by remaining criminality with 13% share and economic crime with a share of 9.6%. The smallest representation had moral crime in all the districts mentioned. From the point of view of individual groups of tactical-statistical classification and their share, there were no bigger differences between the districts, only Ostrava-City districts with 71.9% of the represented property crimes was different. This fact was also affected by the fact that the Ostrava-City district had the highest Crime Index, the highest number of detected COs, and had long been faced with all the mentioned criminogenic factors. Similarly, this was also the case for the number of child and juvenile offenders. In all districts, these categories were represented very similarly, only in Ústí nad Labem district their double share in criminal activity was recorded. Therefore, the H3 hypothesis was not confirmed here. In the district of Ústí nad Labem, 14.1% of these offenders were found to be total criminals, which exceeded the 10% threshold of the hypothesis.

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