

## **Abstract**

This thesis concerns the development and structure of youth crime in the Czech Republic and the various ways it has been dealt with. The aim of the thesis is to provide the reader with a true picture of the development and structure of youth crime in the territory of the Czech Republic over a relatively extensive period – from 1993 to 2020.

The first two chapters offer the reader theoretical insight into the issue of youth crime that is necessary for understanding the subsequent parts of the thesis, making use of the available professional literature. Chapter One focuses on crime in general (not youth crime) and the science that studies it – criminology. It explains basic terms (the state, structure and dynamics of crime; real, registered and latent crime etc.) and describes the different sources that provide information on crime, focusing on the – for this thesis, crucial – crime statistics of the Police of the Czech Republic. Chapter Two is a theoretical introduction to youth crime and it describes the distinction between the terms "child under fifteen years of age" and "juvenile". Furthermore, it outlines the historical development of the approach to youth crime, presents the peculiarities of youth crime (as opposed to adult crime), and explains the causes of youth crime.

The mainstay of this thesis represents Chapter Three, which offers the reader conclusions from the analysis of youth crime statistics. To provide a better understanding, tables and graphs accompany the verbal description. The evaluated period from 1993 to 2020 is divided into four seven-year periods (from 1993 to 1999, 2000 to 2006, 2007 to 2013, and 2014 to 2020). Each period is described in its own subchapter, where the author focuses on a detailed description of the state, structure, and dynamics of youth crime. Then, the entire period is evaluated as a whole, with a particular focus on explaining the causes of the observed development of youth crime.

Chapter Four is mainly an analysis of contemporary legislation. It presents the possibilities of approach to delinquent youth, the means of dealing with them and the methods of sanctioning them from the perspective of the family, school, the Civil Code, the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and the Act on Judiciary in Suits of Youth. It also focuses on diversions of criminal proceedings and alternatives to punishment.