

# **Criminological Aspects of Organised Crime**

## **Abstract**

The aim of this thesis is to comprehend the topic of organised crime in its entirety and to create an overview that will help to understand this phenomenon in the context of the contemporary world. The thesis analyses the phenomenon primarily from the criminological point of view but also from the criminal law point of view.

The thesis is divided into two parts. The first part is a general treatise on organised crime. The second part pursues organised crime in the Czech Republic.

The first chapter deals with the concept of organised crime from several perspectives. In addition to the legal and criminological definition, it also explores how this concept is defined in foreign literature. Furthermore, this chapter introduces the concept of transnational organised crime, the understanding of which is crucial for current criminology. At the end of the chapter, the differences between certain types of group criminal activities are explained.

The author would like to highlight significance of the second chapter, which examines the subjects of organised crime, because chapters focused on victims and perpetrators are rather sporadic in the literature on organised crime. One of the subchapters is dedicated to the criminal organisation itself – it states what types of criminal organisations exist and what their specifics are.

The third chapter of the first part presents the manifestations of organised crime. It deals with selected forms of organised crime; compares organised crime with some other types of crime; and discusses the negative consequences of organised criminal activities.

The first chapter of the second part deals with the development of organised crime in the Czech Republic. In the first subchapter, there is a discussion of the origins of organised crime; the following subchapter focuses on the criminogenic factors in the Czech social system; and the final subchapter presents some of the milestones in the history of Czech organised crime.

The next chapter analyses the structure of organised crime in the Czech Republic: first in general terms and then focusing on the years 2020 and 2021. The source for the analysis was, *inter alia*, statistics provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic. The chapter also contains an important subchapter on the participation of foreigners in organised crime in the Czech Republic, with an emphasis on Russian-speaking organised crime, Asian organised crime and Balkan organised criminal groups.

The third chapter of the second part considers the fight against organised crime in the Czech Republic. The author deemed it important to include a discussion of the prevention of organised crime and international cooperation in the fight against organised crime in this chapter. The legal instruments in the Czech legal system used to combat organised crime are presented in a brief overview.

The thesis is concluded with a chapter that uses social network analysis to outline a specific case from 2012 – the so-called Methanol affair. This reflection in the final chapter connects the knowledge about organised crime presented in the previous chapters with the real case.