

Crime prevention Strategy in the Slovak Republic

by

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Crime prevention Strategy in the Slovak Republic

The Government of the Slovak Republic approved the national Crime Prevention Strategy. The implementation of this Prevention Strategy has brought a positive shift in ensuring crime prevention in particular with respect to the following aspects.

Crime prevention strategy consists of three basic parts. The first part consists of basic terms, principles and the organisations of crime prevention. It is the general part of the document. The second part contains information about the current systems in place and the state of the central body of crime prevention. The third part includes appendices like documents of the Council of Europe, United Nations Organisations, and the prognosis of the development of crime in the Slovak Republic.

The coordinating **prevention bodies** have been established at various levels:

- at a national level – The State Council for Crime Prevention of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "Council for Prevention"),
- at the level of 12 selected ministries – crime prevention divisions (in fact divisions with cumulated functions),
- at the level of local state administration (regional authorities and district offices) – commissions for the prevention of antisocial activities (hereinafter referred to as "district and regional prevention commissions"),
- at a local level (in particular, regional and district centres) - commissions for the prevention of antisocial activities (hereinafter referred to as "local prevention commissions").

The main responsibility of prevention bodies at all levels consisted of performing tasks in the field of prevention set out on the basis of the Prevention Strategy, coordinating preparation, implementation and evaluation of preventive activities within their scope of authority, and involving the relevant entities into this process on the principle of partnership.

The functions of prevention coordinators as practitioners in particular areas have been established. Prevention coordinators are trained for their work through a specialised training programme – the basic training course conducted by the Institute for Public Administration (128 hours), under the auspices of the Council for Prevention, which also arranged the publication of the necessary study materials for the participants of the training course.

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At all the levels, where the prevention bodies and prevention coordinators existed and functioned, the tasks of the Prevention Strategy were developed and tailored to their own conditions in the form of prevention plans and programmes. Priorities for particular years were set out. Task performance was discussed with the prevention bodies. Special attention was paid to the prevention programmes of regional and district centres.

International cooperation in the field of prevention was provided through an expert group of the Council for Crime Prevention.

Contents of the document:

Introduction

1. Theoretical and practical background to Crime Prevention Strategy
2. Prevention system in the Slovak Republic
3. Main tasks of the Council for Crime Prevention
4. Main tasks of the central government bodies
5. Main tasks of regional authorities
6. Main tasks of regional centres
7. Annexes
8. Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic

1. Theoretical and practical background of prevention strategy

1.1. Terms in Prevention Strategy

(this part consists of the main definitions and classifications of crime prevention:

- **crime prevention**
- **criminality prevention**
- **crime repression**
- **crime control**
- **criminal law and other legal measures:**

The definition of target subjects represents a basis of **prevention classification** defining social prevention, situational prevention and victimisation prevention:

According to the **criterion of a crime problem development, the social** prevention, situational prevention and victimisation prevention may be implemented as:

- Primary prevention
- Secondary prevention
- Tertiary prevention

1.2. Principles of prevention

Prevention strategy will be implemented in compliance with the following principles:

- 1. Principle of constitutionality and legality of prevention**
- 2. Principle of the unity of repression and prevention**
- 3. Principle of the scientific approach to prevention**
- 4. Principle of the comprehensiveness of prevention**
- 5. Principle of prevention coordination.**
- 6. Principle of institutional and personnel coverage and technical equipment of prevention and professionalisation of prevention**
- 7. Principle of active community involvement in prevention**
- 8. Principle of financial coverage of prevention**
- 9. Principle of information coverage of prevention**
- 10. Principle of international cooperation in prevention**

1.3. Objectives and means of prevention

The **primary objective** of the implementation of preventive actions is to **promote to the largest possible extent the reduction of the scope and seriousness of criminal and other anti-social activities, and subsequently to reach an improvement in our citizens' feeling of safety and reduce their fear of the threat of crime, and thus contribute to improving the quality of life of citizens, communities and society as a whole.**

1.4. Focus of prevention

Our focus on prevention at all levels will **come from the following sources of information:**

1. analysis of development so far and the current situation, structure and dynamics of crime and other antisocial activities;
2. evaluation of crime as perceived by citizens (surveys focused on feelings of safety or threat of crime, respectively);
3. social demographic analysis;
4. prognosis of the development of crime and other antisocial activities;
5. public opinion polls;
6. experience from implementation and evaluation of the prevention activities carried out.

1.5. Forms and methods of practical implementation of prevention

Preventive activities may be carried out in different ways depending on the goal, target subject, implementer, his available resources and experience, etc. The forms and methods of prevention below are not of a normative character, however they should be considered as suggestions to be creatively applied in practice.

1.6. Evaluation of prevention

Individual preventive measures and also comprehensive prevention programmes will be subjected to a continuous and final evaluation.

2. System of crime prevention in the Slovak Republic

2.1. Levels of prevention implementation

In the Slovak Republic a **three-level system of crime prevention** has been formed, consisting of:

1. national level,
2. regional level,
3. local level.

At the national level the following tasks are performed: legislative, conceptual, economic, coordinating and executive.

At the regional level the following tasks are given priority:

- a) conceptual and programme tasks,
- b) coordination,
- c) economic tasks,
- d) executive.

At the **local level** tasks equivalent to those at regional level are performed, and these are modified with regard to the scope and conditions of cities, municipalities, municipal districts etc.

At all three levels:

- a) coordinating bodies of prevention;
- b) executive prevention units;
- c) financial resources to support prevention are allocated.

At all three levels the **prevention agencies** exist and function. They are the implementers of prevention activities.

2.2. Coordinating bodies of prevention

2.2.1. National level

State Council for Crime Prevention in the Slovak Republic is the coordinating body at a national level. It is an advisory, planning and coordinating government agency in the field of prevention.

2.2.2. Regional level

Coordinating prevention bodies at a regional level include:

- a) **Regional Commission for the prevention of antisocial activities.**

It is an advisory, initiative-making and coordinating body of the management of the Regional Authority and of the management of the self-governing region;

- b) **District Commission for the prevention of antisocial activities**

It is an advisory, initiative-making and coordinating body of the management of the District Office.

2.2.3. Local level

At the local level the coordinating bodies are represented by the **Town or Municipal Commissions for the prevention of antisocial activities**. They are advisory, initiative-making and coordinating bodies to the Mayor of a town or municipality.

2.3. Executive prevention units at a national, regional and the local level.

a) National level

The Secretariat of the Council is an executive unit at the Council for Prevention, which is an organisational unit in the Cabinet of the Minister of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

b) Regional level

At regional and district commissions for the prevention of antisocial activities, the executive units of prevention are represented by **prevention coordinators** integrated in an office of the relevant statutory body.

c) Local level

The executive prevention units at towns and municipality commissions for the prevention of antisocial activities are represented by **prevention coordinators** integrated in metropolitan authorities, town and community authorities.

2.4. Financial coverage of prevention

The main resource of funds for the implementation of prevention **at all levels** shall be the resources of the competent prevention bodies and agencies. **A supplementary resource** shall be provided in the form of grants, donations etc.

2.5. Legislative coverage of prevention

A bill on the prevention of crime and other antisocial activities will be drawn up in order to establish a general obligation of state authorities, self-governing bodies, the Police Force and other entities to cover prevention and related tasks. The legislative study should take place in 2008.

2.6. Research on prevention and transmission of information

It is necessary to build up a prevention information system and establish scientific research in the field of prevention. Because of this the Council for Prevention shall initiate a proposal on how to ensure the implementation of the following tasks, in particular using the capacities of the Police Academy.

2.7. International cooperation in prevention

This international cooperation will be carried out in particular in the following areas:

- Tasks with regards to the United Nations
- Tasks with regards to European institutions
- Bilateral cooperation

3. Main tasks of the council on crime prevention

This part consists of the 12 main tasks of the council on crime prevention.

4. Main tasks of Central State authorities

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

A. Police Force

B. Section of Public Administration

C. Office of Civil Protection of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

D. Fire Brigade and Rescue Squad

E. Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Transport, Postal Services and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic

Joint task of the central bodies of state administration:

To implement measures in order to prevent the leakage of information of classified materials.

5. Main tasks of Regional Authorities

In *Bratislava, Trnava, Trenčín, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov, and Košice.*

6. Main tasks of regional centres

Capital City - Bratislava

Regional centre – city of Trnava

Regional centre – city of Trenčín

Regional centre – city of Nitra

Regional centre – city of Žilina

Regional centre – city of Banská Bystrica

Regional centre – city of Prešov

Regional centre – city of Košice

7. Annexes

This part consists of:

The Vienna declaration on crime and justice: Meeting the challenges of the 21st century

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRIME

8. Resolution of the government of the Slovak Republic

Conclusion

Crime prevention is not adapting in Slovak Republic law. It is still in the phase of legislative preparation and is still being considered by the Government of the Slovak Republic. It has to be passed as a law in a programmed proclamation. The law is expected to pass in 2010. The partial solution revolves around the Crime Prevention Strategy in the Slovak Republic. It aims to aid crime prevention for several years in advance. The next Crime Prevention Strategy will assist crime prevention for the period of 2007 – 2010 and it will be established in July 2007. The content of this Crime Prevention Strategy was drawn up at the 2nd International Conference on Youth Crime in Nitra, on 25-27th October 2006.

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