

Svetlana Justickaja

IMPLEMENTATION OF EVIDENCE-BASED CRIME PREVENTION POLICY: FOREIGN EXPERIENCE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITS ADAPTATION IN LITHUANIA

Summary

The main problem of modern crime prevention in Lithuania and other countries is its inadequate efficiency. The increase of victimological safety of population has become one of the main directions of the national policy, the prevention of crime is given great attention and considerable money, numerous programs are being implemented at the national and local levels. However, due to the lack of effectiveness of all these measures, all these efforts do not have any significant impact on the level of crime. To solve this problem, first of all, it is necessary to control the effectiveness of the proposed and implemented prevention programs, which can be ensured by prevention based on evidence.

In the studio, based on the review and analysis of the prevention in the most developed countries, in the world as a whole and in our country, the trends and problems of creating evidence-based prevention are examined. The first part deals with the theoretical problems of ensuring the effectiveness of the prevention of crimes. In the second part, based on the generalization of scientific publications and the experience of the prevention in the US, Canada, Australia, Scandinavia, Great Britain, the main features of the national system of prevention based on evidence are described. This is primarily the existence of an institution, organization or other center that administers funding for prevention projects and ensures the selection of the most effective projects, monitors the results of their implementation, summarizes experience, disseminates knowledge, and provides methodological assistance in ensuring the effectiveness of prevention measures. In the third part, based on a survey of crime prevention in 192 countries, a broad panorama of the development of evidence-based prevention around the world is given. It is shown that in each country the development of the national crime prevention and its transition to a prevention to a evidence based passes through three regular stages.

The first one is the countries where the mastering of the ideas of prevention (and, above all, the very need to implement such prevention) has just begun. This is the largest group of countries (141 out of 192).

The second is a transitional group-countries in which the need for prevention is already understood and its implementation has begun (implementing prevention projects and at least occasionally assessing their effectiveness). This is 25 countries.

The third group is countries that are oriented towards the application of effective prevention measures. This group includes the most developed countries (USA, Canada, Great Britain, etc.), is discussed in the second part of this studio as well as Chile, Mexico, Argentina, South Africa, etc. It is shown that Lithuania belongs to the second group of countries.

The studio shows that each group of countries faces special problems characteristic of its stage, especially when ensuring the effectiveness of prevention. In particular, it is shown that a significant part of the problems that Lithuania faces today are characteristic of all countries of the second group.

The review of the problems faced by the third countries, the largest of the developed group, makes it possible to foresee the problems that our country will face in the next stage.