

FOREIGN STUDIES ON DEVELOPMENTAL AND LIFE-COURSE CRIMINOLOGY AND PROSPECTS FOR LITHUANIA (2014)

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There are quite many studies conducted in Lithuania to analyse adolescent delinquency and criminal behaviour. There is no doubt that all these studies enlarge our knowledge of the spread and structure of juvenile delinquency and crime. However, they hardly reflect the development of delinquent and criminal behaviour, and do not address such issues as when adolescents get engaged in delinquent and criminal behaviour, when they stop committing criminal offences, and why. These questions could be best answered by longitudinal (long-term) studies on developmental and life-course criminology that have been carried out in foreign countries since the mid-20th century.

The studies on developmental and life-course criminology are important for two reasons: first, they enable to identify the beginning of anti-social behaviour and analyse the factors leading to delinquency or crime, and withdrawal from it; second, examples from foreign countries evidence that risk and protective factors identified on the basis of such studies serve as a basis for effective preventive programmes. Studies conducted by different researchers in Lithuania on the effectiveness of preventive programmes suggest that Lithuanian preventive programmes are not based on modern scientific methods and, despite a large number of preventive measures being implemented, usually have insignificant effects.

The present research study aims at creating a theoretical basis for developmental and life-course criminology research in Lithuania. Relying upon a systematic analysis of secondary sources, this research study provides a developmental and life-course criminological perspective, analyses the benefits and applicability of developmental and life-course criminological studies, and their importance for Lithuania, as well as discusses studies carried out in the perspective of developmental and lifecourse criminology in Lithuania, introduces major foreign studies, and presents potential trends for developmental and life-course criminological research. In Lithuania, such research would contribute to identification of the potential risk and protective factors determining changes in delinquent and criminal behaviour, as well as of the effects of life events on development of delinquency and crime. In turn, this will enable a targeted development of the juvenile justice system and contribute to more effective crime prevention in Lithuania.

The results of research (in Lithuanian): *Giedrytė R., Venckevičienė J., Labanauskaitė I.* Raidos ir gyvenimo eigos kriminologiniai tyrimai užsienyje ir perspektyvos Lietuvoje. Mokslo studija. Lietuvos teisės institutas, 2014.