

ANNUAL REPORT

on the activities of the National Institute of Criminology (OKRI)

in 2008

I. UTILISATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS

Much attention has also been paid to the utilisation of the findings of research work carried out at the Institute in the reporting period. Researchers have been involved in the creation of theories and in the preparation of background documents necessary for setting out major directions in criminal policy. Research results have been used in university and college education, in postgraduate training and in the further training of associate prosecutors and legal secretaries. Research findings have helped us to satisfy the request for our participation in codification and legal interpretation activities carried out by the Prosecutor General's Office. The professional prestige of researchers has had a positive impact on the professional knowledge and popularity of scientific organisations and also the journals where they were active as authors, editors or proofreaders. Our researchers also fulfilled an important role by presenting our research findings, views and opinions to the public with the help of the media this year.

1. Lectures

In 2008, researchers from the Institute gave a total of **108 lectures** at different conferences and professional forums, **15** of which were presented in a foreign language and **8 abroad**. The large number of invitations to present at conferences is a sign of the professional recognition our researchers enjoy. The **lectures presented in Hungary** included 51 presentations given at conferences and 49 at other events. (The total of lectures in Hungary – just like in previous years – does not include lectures presented as part of ongoing or ad hoc educational activities.)

2. Publications

In the current year, our researchers authored a total of **100 publications**, **15** of which were **in a foreign language**. (Out of the latter 15, six appeared abroad.)

This is a significant achievement, even in comparison with the figures of the previous year, when the number of publications was 74, with five being published in a foreign language. This year's results deserve even more recognition in the light of the fact that the majority of scientists working at the Institute are young researchers, one fifth of whom are not active at the moment as they are on maternity leave.

The publications include **eight books (seven monographs**, apart from the traditional **Studies in Criminology** prepared by the Institute) and **47 chapters of books**. 24 studies appeared in professional journals, 14 as part of the Studies of Criminology and four articles were published in different volumes of conference papers. It must be mentioned that the number of publications regarded by professionals as "more valuable" was much higher than the previous year. (Last year, researchers published one monograph and authored three chapters of books.) Researchers at the Institute are increasingly making use of the flexible opportunities for publication on the Internet: there were 16 professional publications that appeared on the Internet this year.

As we can see, there was a significant increase in the number of publications in 2008. Knowing that in recent years the Institute has lost professional, well-experienced researchers, this provides a special pleasure, since it shows that young researchers have "matured" and their thoughts and views appear at professional forums thanks to their publication activities.

Note: written media appearances that belong to the category of journalism continue to be listed under another heading, media appearances.

3. Appearances in the mass media

As far as media appearances are concerned, it has to be noted that we cannot provide an exhaustive list of the statements, interviews and other media appearances with the participation of OKRI researchers. It is mostly the researchers themselves who draw up a list of such appearances. This year, research projects and researchers received a lot of attention from the mass media – this was partly as a result of the several very successful press conferences held at the Institute. Our presence in the media increased, even compared to the previous years. According to our registry of media appearances, there were in total **258 occasions** when researchers of the Institute appeared in the written and electronic media as experts. This figure can be broken down as follows:

- ◆ 85 appearances in the written press,
- ◆ 63 appearances on one of the television channels,
- ◆ 55 appearances on the radio,
- ◆ 55 appearances on the Internet.

For a comparison, see the data of the previous two years:

	2006	2007	2008
The total number of appearances registered by OKRI:	138	204	258
<i>Of which:</i>			
TV	39	80	85
Radio	29	13	55
Written press	28	51	55
Internet	42	54	63

II. Domestic and foreign ties

1. OKRI's domestic ties

The Institute's *Hungarian ties* continued in accord with previous years.

The closest possible collaboration was again realized with the Prosecutor General and in general with the prosecution service apparatus. This year we proceeded with research in accordance with seven work schedules directly based on the initiative of the Prosecutor General, six of which were completed while one is in process.

We have retained continual professional ties with the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement and with the National Crime Prevention Board. In 2008 one research project was carried out on the commission and with the support of the Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement.

OKRI's researchers use the results achieved in the research in their work as instructors. The Institute held lectures during the course of the year within the framework of the secretarial and legal assistant training organised by the Hungarian Prosecutors' Training Centre).

Our researchers traditionally participate in the work of various institutions of higher education, and many of them have academic titles. One of them (*Dr. habil. Lenke Fehér*) is a university professor at Miskolc University. Two (*Ferenc Irk PhD habil.*, and *Géza Finszter PhD habil.*) are

university lecturers at JPTE, Pécs and one person (*Klára Kerezsi PhD habil.*) holds the same rank at ELTE's Faculty of Law and Political Science. Two of the institute's senior employees (*Géza Finszter* and *Klára Kerezsi*) work at ELTE as university docents.

The Institute's domestic and foreign ties are realized through conference participation, presenting at conferences, both in Hungary and abroad, and tuition, as well as holding offices in and being an active member of organisations. Point III/4 contains more details on the last of these. The broad domestic and foreign ties demonstrate that the researchers from OKRI are not merely members of the listed illustrious domestic and foreign professional organisations and bodies but in many cases senior and liaison officials for Hungary.

Our researchers have taken part in conferences held in Hungary as well as at roundtable discussions and professional talks where, upon special request, they **gave lectures on 100 occasions**, and in addition they have taken part in conferences in Hungary on **126 occasions without holding lectures**.

2. OKRI's international relations

International relations are of importance for every research institute. The researchers receive feedback through foreign ties but this also facilitates the evaluation of OKRI's research activities, since invitations to participate in international projects or the opportunities offered for joint tenders all indicate that the international scientific community constantly "measures" and evaluates the research activities and professional findings of the OKRI. International relations make it possible to acquire broader experience and knowledge, while reciprocal ties foster the national and international recognition of findings.

The researchers **held presentations organised abroad on eight occasions**. At the same time they **held presentations in a foreign language on twenty occasions**, i.e. they had the opportunity to hold presentations for foreign colleagues at international conferences held in Hungary. They took part in conferences abroad **on seven occasions without giving presentations**, but even at these events a number of them were section chairs. The researchers covered most of the expenses for conference participation from scholarship or grant money and from other sources, or the inviting party financed it; however, the Prosecutor General has also financed conference participation.

Study trips abroad facilitate professional experience to be gained by young and older researchers alike. Last year **four researchers** were invited to spend a shorter or longer period of time abroad. The researchers normally use their paid leave to go on study trips, and in many cases they supplement this with unpaid leave.

The Institute is a place of research with traditionally good international ties. One of the oldest and best working ties is that which links us to the Max-Planck Institute in Freiburg, with which we have had a successful exchange of experiences and information and joint conference organisation for decades, and MPI received and continues to receive OKRI researchers on scholarships on numerous occasions. In 2008 three of our researchers received scholarship invitations to the institute in Freiburg.

In addition to its conference participation abroad, the Institute's international profile is also raised by research projects across borders. During the past years OKRI's participation in numerous international studies proved that it is capable of holding its ground and is well-suited to fulfilling a strong, regional role as a research centre. Throughout the years the Institute has participated in several international research projects (e.g. AGIS research, ISRD research).

In relation to international ties, mention must be made of the reception of foreigners who come to Hungary and the related information service rendered. On 6 February 2008 we welcomed a delegation of Serb prosecutors and informed them of the research work and operation of the Institute. On 21 February 2008 a delegation of French prosecutors visited the OKRI, while on 5 June the Bavarian Prosecutor General and his colleagues were our guests.

On 4 August 2008 Eduardo Luis Aguirre from Argentina made a visit to the Institute. Professor Aguirre is the director of the Institute of Criminal Science at the Faculty of Law and Economics at the National University in La Pampa, and the government commissioner for crime policy for the province of La Pampa. On 27 October 2008 we held an information session about the work of OKRI for a delegation from the Catholic University of Leuven.

III. Library information

With the help of our library database, our revamped homepage is accessible to the public and shows what kind of publications and journals are available in our library. We also keep our colleagues constantly informed on what's new in our library in our weekly internal Newsletter. In addition to our Newsletter – thanks to the active involvement of our researchers – every researcher can access several online professional journals that can be read on the Internet as well as the contents of journals that have newly arrived at the Institute.

This year, as in earlier years, we have to emphasise that the cost of ordering both foreign and Hungarian books and journals is constantly rising. This fact has the greatest impact with regard to foreign language literature that can be ordered.

We continue to place great emphasis on the acquisition of specialist literature. Our library stock presently consists of over 11,000 volumes. Despite diminishing resources, limited development and the acquisition of books were still possible in 2008: we bought 55 books (the majority of which were in English and German).

As compared to previous years, we cancelled one journal (Journal of Criminal Law).

IV. OKRI's internal training system

We continue to regard the Institute's internal training system as being of the utmost importance in fostering the development of the Institute and the researchers, as well as in maintaining ties with practice and the disciplines related to criminology. Our internal professional training was updated and expanded in the second half of 2006 – the system and principles of which had been presented earlier – and continued into 2008. The internal training structure includes the following elements occurring at monthly intervals:

1. “**OKRI Workshop**,” the objective of which is the professional training of young researchers in the narrow sense,
2. “**Forum on Law Application**”, in the framework of which external experts from various areas of law application hold lectures on topical issues of practice,
3. “**Social Sciences Forum**” (“**Open Workshop**”), where external lecturers examine the issues in the social sciences, and give an account of related research,
4. The traditional “**Professional Day**”, in which the Institute's researchers give a report on partly finished or completed research.

From the autumn the “**OKRI Workshop**” lectures again dealt with methodology issues. This training programme, led by one of our colleagues, teaches the theory and practice of database management programmes indispensable to modern research, particularly of the - currently most broadly used - SPSS statistical analysis software. The program will continue in 2009.

The programmes below were organized within the Institute's internal training system in 2008:

I. Workshop in Criminology Issues (1st Wednesday)		
9th January	László Korinek	Methodology, Research Techniques
13th February	Erzsébet Tamási	Men and Prostitution – Clients and Prostitutes
2nd April	Miklós Lévay	Criminology of Young Offenders in the 21 st Century
6th May	Katalin Gönczöl	Reforms and Needs on National Criminal Policy
4th June	Edwin Rekosh	Actual Challenges and Problems of Legal Education
24th September	József Kó	SPSS – Training I.
1st October	József Kó	SPSS – Training II.
29th October	József Kó	SPSS – Training III.
5th November	József Kó	SPSS – Training IV.
3rd December	József Kó	SPSS – Training V.

II. Workshop in Jurisdiction (2nd Wednesday)		
16th January	László Majtényi	Ombudsman and law protection
5th March	Ákos Farkas	Criminal Law at EU
12th March	Klára Kardos	Forensic Psychology in criminal procedure
8th April	Péter Deák	Actual Challenges of Defence Policy – Changes in the Definition of 'Safety'
14th May	Károly Papp	The work of the Stand-by Police Force and Terrorism
10th September	Katalin Ligeti	Criminal Legislation and Policing
8th October	Mihály Tóth	Legal Aspects of Crimes against Economy
12th November	Károly Bárd	Criminal Justice in Europe
10th December	György Vókó	About the legislation of criminal law enforcement

III. Workshop in Social Sciences (3rd Wednesday)		
23rd January	Judit Sándor	Bioethics
20th February	Sándor Fülöp	Environment Protection
19th March	Mátyás Bencze	Roles behind of Criminal Judgment
15th April	Ferenc Krémer	Police sociology in Hungary
21st May	Péter Popper	Continuing Tales...
17th September	Zoltán Somogyi	Actual Political Analysis
15th October	János M. Rainer	The Imre Nagy Case
19th November	Angéla Kóczé	Roma (Gypsy) Policing
17th December	László Csaba	Hungarian Economy – analysis and alternatives

IV. OKRI Workshop (4th Wednesday)		
30th January	Antal Miks	Current Human Relations Issues
27th February	Ágnes Solt	„Youth at the border” – risk factors and criminal indicators in childhood
26th March	Ágnes Fülöp	About the Bail
23rd April	Petra Bárd	The European Arrest Warrant
30th April	Szilveszter Dunavölgyi – Katalin Tilki	Environment Damages
28th May	Katalin Parti	Virtual Communities and their Personality Changing Force
22nd October	József Kó	Trend Analysis of Crimes
26th November	Tünde Barabás – Szandra Windt	The Results of Postponement of Accusations

V. Institutional publications

1. Institutional volumes and publications

During the reporting period, 500 copies of volume 45 of *Studies in Criminology* were published. We sent the volume to the prosecutorial organisation (the Prosecutor General, regional and municipal prosecutors), and also mailed out complimentary copies based on the Institute's protocol list.

A summary volume published within the framework of the AGIS research appeared as an institutional publication with EU financing: *Tünde Barbarás (ed): Épített környezet – bűnözés szituációs bűnmegelőzés* [The Built Environment – Crime Situational Prevention], OKRI, Budapest, 2008.

Financed by the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA), the paper presenting the findings of the ISRD2 research appeared as a joint publication of ELTE AJK and OKRI: *Klára Kerezsi – Katalin Parti (ed): Latent Juvenile Delinquency. Study on self-reported latent juvenile delinquency "ISRD-2"*, Faculty of Law ELTE – OKRI, Budapest, 2008.

In 2008 the institute also published a volume introducing itself to the international community.

2. Institutional Newsletter

In addition to the above, the Institute also publishes several online journals providing the results of the researchers' independent activities. As an innovation this year, by request we started publishing the news content of two "external" newsletters on a regular basis; dependent on the topicality of the themes contained in the publications: at a domestic level we distribute the information from the International Criminal Cooperation Centre (NEBEK), and we also distribute the 'Criminology Criminal Justice Newsletter < CJ News >' of Tübingen University (ed. Hans-Juergen Kerner) to our fellow researchers.

VI. Maintaining ties, popularising science

1. OKRI completed the following tasks in 2008 with the aim of popularising its activities:

- continuous updating of the OKRI webpage in Hungarian and English
- preparation of a new volume of Studies in Criminology
- English language publication on OKRI
- editing the Institute's weekly internal newsletter
- organising tuition within the Institute four times a month
- holding press conferences
- maintaining contact with the press, organising one-to-one interviews

2. Press conferences

1.) 21 April 2008, 10.30 a.m. – National Institute of Criminology

Immigration, human trafficking: increasing risks, diminishing feeling of security

(Szilveszter Póczik, Szilveszter Dunavölgyi, Lenke Fehér, Tamás Jagusztin, Szandra Windt)

2.) 14 October 2008, 10.00 a.m. – National Institute of Criminology

Presentation of the volume entitled *Latent Juvenile Delinquency – As They See It (ISRD2 Study)*"

(Klára Kerezsi, Katalin Parti, Orsolya Bolyky, Csaba Györy)

3.) 4 November 2008 – National Institute of Criminology- HVG-Orac Ltd.
Presentation of the volume entitled *International Migration – International Risks*
(Szilveszter Póczik, Szilveszter Dunavölgyi, Lenke Fehér, Tamás Jagusztin, Szandra Windt)

4.) 16 December 2008 – National Institute of Criminology
Presentation of the book entitled *Literary Heroes Fallen into Crime*
(Dr. Anna Kiss)

3. Professional focus group discussions

We tailor our institutional research projects to the needs of professionals working in the field. In order to facilitate this, there is a growing trend of holding focus group discussions as an organic part of the research process:

- We held several focus group discussions during the research entitled “*DADA is 15 years old. An evaluation of the prevention programme by the police*”, partly at the Institute and partly at locations outside of the capital.
- Two professional focus groups were organised in the framework of the research entitled “*The role of the prosecutor in mediation. The experiences of a year.*”
- Two professional roundtables were organized directed at the research entitled *Examining the Life Sentence* in order to explore the problem at the beginning of the research and to disseminate its findings at the end.
- On 21 March 2008 a roundtable discussion was organized to conclude the research focussed on *human trafficking and prostitution*.
- On 30 March 2008 a roundtable discussion was held within the framework of the research entitled *A study of the criminal characteristics of illegal migration*.
- On 16 June 2008 researchers explored the *problems of law-application activities by the Customs and Finance Guard in relation to environmental protection* through a focus group discussion.
- On 6 November 2008 a professional roundtable discussion took place with the title *The role of the Internet, the opportunities for its utilisation and further development in crime prevention*.

4. Other events:

Beyond the focus group discussion that fitted into the framework of the research activities, the Institute provided the venue for several important events during the reporting period:

- OKRI regularly provides the venue for the Prosecutors’ Journal roundtable discussions
- The event entitled “*Victimology and Psychology*” organized by the Victimology Section of the Hungarian Society of Criminology took place at the Institute on 7 February 2008.
- The institutional debates of the PhD dissertations of OKRI researchers also take place at the Institute. The workshop discussing Katalin Parti’s PhD dissertation took place on 19 June 2008.
- The event entitled “*Peremhelyzetből helyzetbe*” [From Being Marginalized to Being Recognized] organized by the Hungarian Society of Criminology and the Central Office of Justice was held on 4 September 2008.
- The Hungarian Society of Criminology held a roundtable at OKRI on 25 September 2008 entitled *Pre-trial detention of juvenile perpetrators*.
- The project discussion with the title “Secure browsing” took place on 18 December 2008.

VII. Webpage

We continuously update our webpage which was revamped in 2006. The management of the administration interface and updates are carried out by our colleague working in the Communications and Education Department.

Utilising the essential benefits offered by the Internet, our modern webpage is refreshed on a weekly basis to be enjoyed by everyone who visits the site.

- accounts can be read on the diverse activities of the Institute (e.g. main directions, completed research projects, yearly schedule);
- we continuously provide news on topical events both at home and abroad (Events);
- all of our researchers have their own page where they can refresh their data, upload their studies and share other information;
- we popularise our publications on a separate tab (Publications);
- we document the history of the Institute and illustrate some of our memorable events with photos, (About Us, Gallery);
- we offer advanced search options (Publications, Library) and provide key data to optimise the results of international browsers such as Google, Yahoo, etc.;
- the English language version of our webpage allows foreigners to browse;
- the positive feedback we receive shows that our webpage is informative and user-friendly, and the statistical data indicates frequent visits.