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SUMMARIES

TÜNDE BARABÁS – SZILVIA GYURKÓ – GYÖRGY VIRÁG

Media and the administration of justice

There is an increasingly growing number of studies on the connection between media and crime, making up a whole library by now. Studying and evaluating the amount of aggression in the media as well as the extent of its brutality, people's sensitivity to it and the impact of "media aggression" is an important area of psychological, sociological and media research. We carried out a comprehensive analysis of the practical implementation of the connection between media and the administration of justice in 2005 on the initiation of the Chief Prosecutor's Office. We performed a comprehensive study of the relevant materials in the printed and electronic media together with the longitudinal media analysis of some of the most significant crimes that had huge media coverage. Our present study is the short summary of the results of the empirical research.

GÉZA FINSZTER

The current situation of criminal records and the opportunities for development

This study makes a distinction between records of criminalistics, procedural law and public administration based on an overview of the systems of criminal records. It comes to the conclusion that the distinction between these three social functions is not reflected clearly enough either in legislation or in the organizational order of data processing. The author objects to the situation in which the records that serve the purpose of criminalistics belong to the administration of interior affairs instead of the investigating authorities. He emphasizes the importance of expertise in criminal technology in the course of collecting and using information on criminalistics. The study argues against interpretations of the new law on experts in the administration of justice that endanger the technical support of law enforcement.

SZILVESZTER PÓCZIK

Introduction to the criminology of terrorism

The first part of the study to be published now focuses on the basic aspect of the criminology of terrorism: how terrorism can be defined. It comes to the conclusion that no generally valid definition can be made and the definitions of social and legal sciences leave a lot to be desired, creating difficulties for the interpretation. Therefore the author prefers to opt for a typological approach and in his argument for this approach besides the individual historical phenomena he also discusses each area of administration related to the prevention of terrorism and the fight against it as well as the things to be done.

SZANDRA WINDT

The characteristics of irregular migration in Hungary

The phenomenon of irregular migration can be approached with due care only on the basis of the different data available. The comparability and the usefulness of the different figures are far from being perfect; still, they provide some information on the trends in Hungary. It is not possible to define the size of irregular migration owing to its complexity. It is not easy to define the concept itself either but owing to its social and political significance it is necessary to assess the information available. Besides presenting different statistics, this study aims at portraying the characteristics in Hungary relying on the results of an empirical survey.

LÁSZLÓ TIBOR NAGY

The characteristics and the present situation of football hooliganism

Football hooliganism is a criminal phenomenon casting a shadow all over the world on football – a wonderful and uniquely popular game. Hungary is no exception and violence in the stadiums started to become more intense in the nineties and the recent events have even led to measures at the government level. Our Institute – commissioned by the Chief Prosecutor’s Office – carried out research on this topic. The research project involved the extensive exploration of facts in criminal documents; discussing them, however, would go beyond the scope of the present study. This study focuses on the origins and the spread of football hooliganism, its characteristic features, the development of the situation in Hungary and its recent manifestations. It also relies on the opinions of some organisations and individuals concerned, whom we met in the course of our research.

MÁRIA HERCZOG – SZILVIA GYURKÓ

Dating and violence – abusing partners before living together as a family

Dating and going out together is fully accepted among young (and not so young) people; presumably everyone has dates several times before their relationship turns into lasting cohabitation. In 2005 a survey was carried out on dating and violence among 206 university and college students and according to the results a very high percentage of boys and girls use or experience mental, emotional, verbal and physical violence in these relationships. We also found that 24% of the adult students, who mostly grew up in families with a high social status, were physically abused in their childhood, more than one-third of them were abused mentally and around 20% were sexually abused. This research project is closely related to other forms of studies on violence within the family, an issue that has become increasingly well-known and researched in recent years.

KATALIN PARTI

Forbidden pornography on the Internet – introduction to the empirical research

The research project entitled “Misuse of illegal pornographic recordings on the Internet” is part of a programme launched in 2002, the aim of which is to examine computer- and Internet-related crime. Similarly to the previous research projects, the primary purpose of this project is to help the work of the legislators. The present study – before the publication of the results of the empirical study that lasts until the end of 2006 – takes a look at the nature of the phenomenon, the content of the problems that have arisen and highlights the issues related to the regulations.

SZILVIA ANTAL – DÁVID VIG

An empirical study of the way juvenile offenders are treated in prisons

Different opinions can be heard about the situation of penal institutions. Some say that conditions in prisons are intolerable and inhumane, while others think that the conditions among which convicts live are too good. In its research, the National Institute of Criminology tried to adopt an objective approach to the issue and examined the situation in Hungary on the basis of international documents in young men’s penal institutions (covering the following topics: receiving, categorizing and dividing the convicts, the records kept about them, their medical and psychological examinations, work, education, free time activities, keeping in touch with others, freedom of conscience and religion, disciplinary punishments, relationship to the staff, preparation for release). While it was impossible for the study to cover the whole procedure of the research, it contains the processing of the answers received to our questionnaires, the opinions of the employees of the institutions and the experience gathered – although in a condensed form only.

KLÁRA KEREZSI

Opinions on crime and punishment – the experiences of a survey on the attitudes of the public

The study presents the results of a survey carried out with the help of questionnaires on 1200-strong sample of the population in the spring of 2005. This survey used questionnaires to identify the attitudes that are indicative of trust between people, compliance with the law, breaking the law and relationship to ethical rules. The study reveals whether a conservative or liberal attitude influences the opinions on certain social problems and socio-political issues. On the basis of empirical data collection the author shows what people know about the “reality” of crime and the application of criminal law, and furthermore what they expect of the operation of penal administration of justice and also what they think of the system of instruments available for restitutive administration of justice. The study presents and analyses people’s opinions about legal sanctions, about the relationship between the tendencies in crime and the punishments that go with a given crime and about the actual role of imprisonment.

ANNA KISS

On the procedure of mediation

In the nineties more and more people called for a restoration of the victim’s proper place and role in the drama we call the penal procedure. This was only possible by extending the rights of the victim. The international documents on the legal position of the victims increasingly called the attention of the legislators to the need of bringing about changes. At the dawn of the new millennium we still have debts concerning the improvement of the victims’ situation. The study analyses the chances for the procedure of mediation in Hungary, with reference to the different aspects of restorative systems of administration of justice.

GABRIELLA KÁRMÁN

The rules of using DNA for the purpose of criminalistics in Germany and Hungary

The introduction of the use of DNA into criminalistics put a versatile means in the hands of law enforcement. DNA is the most efficient means ever to detect and identify offenders and to exclude those who are innocent and it also helps to reveal connections between crimes and to prevent further crimes in the future. At the same time, its use in the criminal procedure with such emphasis on the unique characteristics of men and women requires special guarantees. In Germany the debate about the conditions of its use lasted more than 10 years. The author discusses this process and analyzes the situation in Hungary in view of it. The issue is topical in Hungary as well: after more than a decade of DNA-expert practice they started to build a DNA database. There are diverse opinions on the laws concerning this issue in Hungary, too. Besides, the obligations resulting from the international criminal cooperation raise new aspects to be addressed when considering this issue.