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## The International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISR3) in the Research Areas of the Białystok School of Criminology

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The extensive research conducted over the last 20 years by a team of penal law specialists and criminologists at the Department of Criminal Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok (UwB) has given the Białystok School of Criminology (BSC) an established reputation in this field. Most of the BSC research projects, which have been carried out on a national and/or international scale, concern areas such as legal, organizational and technical solutions for the combating of organized crime and terrorism; interdisciplinary studies on citizens' security viewed from the current perspective and in retrospect; monitoring, identification and prevention of threats to citizens' security; forfeiture of goods and benefits resulting from a criminal offense; and legal and criminological aspects of implementing and applying technologies for the protection of security. The BSC is also interested in studies relating to the application of modern technologies and the potential for their employment in criminal proceedings. We are devoting a considerable amount of attention to research on social exclusion and initiatives to prevent the phenomenon. One of our recent initiatives is our participation in the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISR3, an ongoing international research study on delinquency and victimization among juveniles which uses standardized instruments and data collection

procedures. The project started in 1992, and data for the ISRD study were first collected in 1992-1993 in 13 countries (ISRD1), and later between 2005 and 2007 in 31 countries (ISRD2). The BSC joined the third data collection sweep (ISRD3), which is currently being conducted by 35 partners worldwide.

The aim of this article is to give a broad outline of some of the BSC's achievements, and thereafter to present the premises and most important results of the ISRD3 Poland research project.

## 2. THE RESEARCH AREAS EXAMINED BY THE BIAŁYSTOK SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY

The UwB Faculty of Law, and in particular its Department of Criminal Law and Criminology, is one of the leading academic institutions in Poland conducting research on criminology<sup>1</sup>.

The UwB Department of Criminal Law plays a leading role in research on terrorism, organized crime, money laundering, and a broad range of national security issues in Poland<sup>2</sup>. In 2003-2006, the Department conducted "Legal and organizational and technical solutions in countering organized crime and terrorism, with special emphasis on problems related to court evidence and the institution of the immunity witness," which is considered to be the largest commissioned research project undertaken in Poland so far. Significantly, it was the first joint project undertaken by Polish academics, law enforcement institutions, and the Polish judiciary.<sup>3</sup>

In October 2007, Prof. Emil W. Pływaczewski was asked to direct another commissioned research project entitled "Monitoring, identifying, and countering threats to citizens' security." The project was carried out

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<sup>1</sup> E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, M. DĄBROWSKA, A. STACHELSKA, *The Achievements of Białystok School of Criminology*, «Internal Security» 10.1/2018, p. 85.

<sup>2</sup> E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, E.W. PŁYWACZEWSKI (eds.), *Current problems of the penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie*, Warszawa 2017, p. XXIII ff.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibidem*.

in 2007-2010 by a consortium established between the University of Białystok and the Warsaw Military University of Technology, and its primary goal was to create a set of integrated computer tools to support various activities for public security<sup>4</sup>.

The first part of the project, “State-of-the-art technologies in criminal proceedings and their technical, forensic, criminological and legal use,” involved in-depth technical research on the enhancement of citizens’ security. Its aim was to create solutions to support law-enforcement agencies, secret services, and the judiciary in the performance of their tasks, both in operational reconnaissance and in work associated with proceedings<sup>5</sup>.

Security, particularly public security, is one of the Department’s main areas of research, as shown by its participation in a project entitled “Elaboration of a system for the detection of threats to the safety of the blind and visually-impaired, with particular focus on road safety: criminal-law and technological aspects.” This project was a unique undertaking, as hitherto no other venture of its kind had been conducted in Europe. Our research encompassed three fields, information technology, law, and criminology, and its purpose was to design methods of ensuring road safety for blind and visually-impaired people, particularly in urban areas. This is an important issue, because it addresses a danger that always confronts the blind and visually-impaired whenever they go out<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> E.W. PŁYWACZEWSKI, Z. RAU, *The Polish Platform for Homeland Security – a pioneer initiative for up-to-date security in the European Union*. [in:] *Current Problems of Penal Law and Criminology. Aktuelle Probleme des Strafrechts und der Kriminologie*, E.W. PŁYWACZEWSKI (ed.), Białystok 2009, pp. 445-473; E.W. PŁYWACZEWSKI, E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, *Polish Platform for Homeland Security and its place in the research on security in Poland* [in:] *Selected aspects of internal security*, J. DWORZECKI (ed.), New York 2015, pp. 219-234.

<sup>5</sup> E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, E.W. PŁYWACZEWSKI (eds.), *Current problems...*, pp. XXV-XXVI.

<sup>6</sup> E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, *Sprawozdanie z konferencji inauguracyjnej projektu badawczo-rozwojowego poświęcony bezpieczeństwo w ruchu drogowym osób niewidomych i słabowidzących* [Report from a conference inaugurating a research and development

The UwB Faculty of Law is also involved in other important nationwide projects. One of them was “SIC: The Modular Multi-Task Foreigner Identification System to identify victims of human trafficking,” which was conducted in 2014-2016. Its key objective was to develop a smart network-centric system to identify evidence of crime and victimization factors among foreigners (viz. persons who are not Polish citizens). The project used a database for information on human trafficking involving foreigners. The system also incorporated a training component for the staff of operational and investigative departments, departments handling matters relating to foreigners, and border control departments<sup>7</sup>.

In 2014-2016 the UwB and its partners conducted a research project entitled “Infrastructure and equipment, and technical and legal procedures related to the protection and storage of ‘difficult’ court evidence.” The other members of the partnership were the Szczytno Police Academy, the Industrial Research Institute for Automation and Measurements (PIAP), the Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry, and Przedsiębiorstwo Sprzętu Ochronnego Maskpol S.A. (a Polish company manufacturing protective equipment). The aim of the project was to develop the infrastructure and equipment needed to handle “dangerous” court evidence during its transportation, examination, storage, and ultimately disposal. The partners also worked on and developed technical and legal procedures required to handle evidence of this kind<sup>8</sup>.

Another nationwide project in which the Department’s staff is involved is entitled “Development and creation of an information management system for Centrum ds. Urowadzeń (the Polish Center for the Prevention of Abduction).” This project is funded by the National Center for Research and Development, and its main objective is to elaborate the principles and construct an analytical and management

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*project devoted to the road safety of blind and partially sighted people*, «Paragraf na Drodze» 5/2012, pp. 77- 80.

<sup>7</sup> E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, E.W. PŁYWACZEWSKI (eds.), *Current problems...*, p. XX.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibidem*, p. XXI.

unit to support detection in abduction cases involving ransom, and to test proposed solutions in simulated conditions conducted at the Center<sup>9</sup>.

The National Center for Research and Development also awarded funds for a project entitled “Pilot implementation of a Community Court module in Poland as an institutional bridge between the judiciary, local and regional governments and community organizations, to facilitate the practical implementation of restorative justice” in the 1st round of the Social Innovations Program. The UwB was one of the institutions which implemented this project in 2014-2016. The aim of the project was to elaborate and conduct a pilot implementation scheme for an innovative social service like the Community Court model widespread in English-speaking countries, in which the court cooperates with a community organization (or a coalition of such organizations) to ensure that the principles of restorative justice are applied as fully as possible<sup>10</sup>.

The high rating of the academic and research achievements of the staff of the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology has led to the design and introduction of a new course in criminology for the degree program offered by the Faculty of Law. The new course started in the 2014/2015 academic year, and students can now take criminology as a subject on the 3-year undergraduate syllabus and continue it on the 2-year postgraduate syllabus<sup>11</sup>.

Another major area of our Faculty’s involvement is the field of law and medicine. The UwB Department of Criminal Law and Criminology is currently intensively expanding its interest in medical criminal law<sup>12</sup>, which has led to the establishment of our Academic Forum on the Legal and Medical Aspects of Human Health. The Forum is a venue for

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<sup>9</sup> *Ibidem*, p. XXI.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibidem*, p. XXI.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibidem*, p. XXII.

<sup>12</sup> See, e.g., E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, *Transplantacja narządów, tkanek i komórek. Wybrane aspekty kryminologiczne i prawnokarne [Transplantation of organs, tissues and cells Selected criminological and criminal aspects]*, Białystok 2016; EADEM, *Transplantacja organów, tkanek i komórek w ujęciu prawnym i kryminologicznym. Studium porównawcze [Transplantation of organs, tissues and cells in legal and criminological terms. A comparative law study]*, Białystok 2008.

cooperation between the legal and medical sciences. Law and medicine are representatives of the social and life sciences respectively, and as such are inseparably bound<sup>13</sup>. An academic network agreement entitled “Research network: scientific research and development projects to solve legal and medical problems of human health” was signed on November 8, 2014 within the framework of the Forum. The partners to the agreement are the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom; leading Polish medical universities, such as the Medical University of Białystok, the Silesian Medical University in Katowice; and the UwB Faculty of Law, which is the network leader<sup>14</sup>. Our research and development cooperation covers a broad area of the legal sciences (in particular criminal law, criminology, and the forensic sciences, health care law and civil law), and the medical sciences. We hold regular meetings, symposia, and academic conferences<sup>15</sup>.

The BSC’s young criminologists also conduct research on child grooming, stalking, homelessness, surrogacy, and other cutting-edge subjects<sup>16</sup>. Our research interests are diverse and interdisciplinary. We undertake research projects on the most pressing problems in modern criminology. Examples of our innovative research topics include “Perpetrators and victims of homosexual homicide: a criminological

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<sup>13</sup> E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, M. DĄBROWSKA, A. STACHELSKA, *op. cit.*, p. 88.

<sup>14</sup> E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, E.W. PŁYWACZEWSKI (eds.), *Current problems...*, p. XXV-XXVI.

<sup>15</sup> E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, J. SZAMATOWICZ, V. SKRZYPULEC-PLINTA (eds.), *Wybrane prawne i medyczne aspekty ginekologii dziecięcej [Selected legal and medical aspects of pediatric gynecology]*, Białystok 2015; E. JURGIELEWICZ-DELEGACZ, E.M. TRUSKOŁASKA, *Międzynarodowa konferencja „Prawne, kryminologiczne i medyczne aspekty wykluczenia społecznego” (Supraśl, 11–14.5.2015) [International conference “Legal, criminological and medical aspects of social exclusion” (Supraśl, 11–14.5.2015)]*, «Prokuratura i Prawo» 4/2016, pp. 174- 183; E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, E.W. PŁYWACZEWSKI (eds.), *Wybrane prawne, kryminologiczne i medyczne aspekty wykluczenia społecznego [Selected legal, criminological, and medical aspects of social exclusion]*, Białystok 2016.

<sup>16</sup> See, e.g., M. DĄBROWSKA, *Grooming – Wybrane aspekty prawnokarne i kryminologiczne [Grooming – selected legal and criminological aspects]*, Warszawa 2018; A. STACHELSKA, *Przestępstwo stalkingu w świetle badań białostockiej szkoły kryminologii [Research on the Offense of Stalking by Białystok School of Criminology]*, «Zeszyty Prawnicze» 18.2/2018, pp. 157-193.

study,” “Legal, criminal and criminological aspects of auto theft,” “Police corruption and methods to combat the phenomenon,” “Countering money laundering with special consideration of financial market institutions,” “HIV/AIDS and detainees with prison sentences or held on remand: a criminological and penitentiary study,” “Legal and criminological aspects of hunting,” “Criminological aspects of foreigners’ criminality on the eastern border of Poland,” “Criminological and legal aspects of hostage taking and detaining (Article 252 of the Polish Penal Code),” “Poland’s counter-terrorism information policy: a tool to prevent terrorist offenses and their aftereffects,” and “The criminality of Polish citizens in London.”

One of the BSC’s most recent initiatives (2016) has been the creation of an International Center for Criminological Research and Expertise (ICCRE)<sup>17</sup>. The ICCRE’s founding principles entail cooperation with government bodies, private sector entities, and NGOs in Poland and abroad; the compilation of expert opinions for the needs of government bodies, private sector entities and NGOs in Poland and abroad, and publishing and promotion activities. The ICCRE’s objectives include conducting and coordinating inter-disciplinary studies on criminology, initiating and coordinating the University’s participation in national and international research consortia, and organizing conferences, seminars and research projects.

During its relatively short period in operation, the ICCRE has taken a number of initiatives in basic interdisciplinary research and development work, both for domestic security in the broad sense of the term, as well as in the judicial system. The projects our team of academics and PhD students from the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology has conducted have involved contributions from specialists of many disciplines, such as computer science, cybernetics, or thye life sciences.

One of the ICCRE’s key initiatives in 2019 was the foundation of a Virtual Department of Ethics and Law linked with several other entities. The agreement on the creation of the Virtual Department of

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<sup>17</sup> E.M. GUZIK-MAKARUK, M. DĄBROWSKA, A. STACHELSKA, *op. cit.*, p. 91.

Ethics and Law was signed by Mr Marek Zagórski, Polish Minister of Digital Affairs, representatives of NASK (Naukowa i Akademicka Sieć Komputerowa, Poland's Research and Academic Computer Network, which is supervised by the Polish Ministry of Digital Affairs), the Polish Academy of Sciences, and a group of Polish universities and institutions of higher education (the Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Academy, Kraków; the University of Białystok; the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University; the University of Łódź; Opole University; the University of Silesia at Katowice;; the University of Warsaw; and Warsaw University of Technology)<sup>18</sup>. The ICCRE is the partner responsible for the development of the criminal law and criminological aspects of the application of artificial intelligence and automation within the Department. The initiative combines the knowledge and experience of leading Polish technical universities and distinguished law specialists with extensive experience in the management and implementation of scientific and research projects for national defense and security. The primary goal of the Virtual Department of Ethics and Law will be to advise and recommend operations supporting the development and application of new schemes using artificial intelligence. In addition to monitoring and research, its tasks will also be to propose amendments to existing law to adapt it to changing realities and issue ethical guidelines. The Virtual Department of Ethics and Law will be a forum for a continual process of the exchange of views and ideas for the development of an efficient, effective and responsible state based on modern, safe and transparent ethics and legal regulations in this area. We consider this initiative a globally unique undertaking.

Thanks to the dynamic growth of the BSC in the Faculty of Law at the University of Białystok, and the establishment of the International Center of Criminological Research and Expertise in Białystok, we have managed to create favorable conditions and the potential to participate in the third edition of the ISRD project. ISRD3 is an international

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<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Digital Affairs official website, *Rusza Wirtualna Katedra Etyki i Prawa* [Virtual Department of Ethics and Law has started its operations], <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfrizacja/rusza-wirtualna-katedra-etyki-i-prawa> (accessed Oct. 2019).



collaborative study on delinquency, victimization, substance use among 7th, 8th and 9th graders.

### 3. BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF ISRD3 POLAND

The Białystok School of Criminology joined the ISRD project in the third edition of the study, and signed an Agreement of Collaboration with the ISRD3 Central Coordinating Team on March 24, 2017. Representatives of Poland participated in ISRD2 as well; that study was carried out by Instytut Wymiaru Sprawiedliwości (the Institute of Justice)<sup>19</sup>, which is not contributing to the third edition. In view of the BSC's vigorous evolution within the Faculty of Law at UwB, as well as of the launch of the ICCRE, a research team headed by Professor Ewa Monika Guzik-Makaruk was appointed to conduct the Polish contribution to the project on behalf of the BSC, and started its work straightaway in March 2017.

ISRD's two fundamental aims are to observe and compare similarities, differences, and trends in crime and victimization between the countries participating in the research, and to examine theoretical questions connected with juvenile delinquency, bearing in mind the purposes of crime prevention<sup>20</sup>. The corresponding goals of ISRD3 Poland are to examine the prevalence, incidence, and the structure of crime and victimization of minors in selected Polish cities, and to identify contributing factors. The results of our research will allow us to explore and test different delinquency theories, helping to prevent juvenile

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<sup>19</sup> J. CZABAŃSKI, B. GRUSZCZYŃSKA, M. MARCZEWSKI, A. SIEMASZKO, *Poland* [in:] *Juvenile Delinquency in Europe and Beyond: Results of the Second International Self-Report Delinquency Study*, J. JUNGER-TAS, I. H. MARSHALL, D. ENZMANN, M. KILLIAS, M. STEKETEE, B. GRUSZCZYŃSKA (eds.), New York 2010, pp. 279-292.

<sup>20</sup> I. H. MARSHALL, D. ENZMANN, M. HOUGH, M. KILLIAS, J. KIVIVUORI, M. STEKETEE, *International Self-Report Delinquency Questionnaire 3 (ISRD3). Background paper to explain ISRD2-ISRD3 changes. ISRD3 Technical Report Series #1*, Vilnius 2013. Available at <http://www.northeastern.edu/isrd/isrd3/> (accessed Oct. 2019).

delinquency and victimization, particularly in the area covered by our research.

The research methods which will allow us to achieve these goals are our self-report and victimization survey. They will help us not only to estimate the dark figure of crime, that is unreported or undetected offenses of this type, but also to examine their intensity and the structure of their correlates, enabling us to achieve several other aims. Self-report studies have only recently been adopted as a research method in Poland<sup>21</sup>, and despite the fact that they are generally considered a reliable and effective research device for modern criminology<sup>22</sup>, they are not in widespread use. Victimization surveys have fared better, and many have been dedicated to juvenile victimization. However, the ISRD project puts special emphasis on the standard survey questionnaire, which it considers a particularly wide-ranging research instrument for the examination of crime correlates (for example, age, gender, family background, school factors, neighborhood and lifestyle) as well as for the verification of various criminological theories; it also highlights the international nature of this method, which can be applied to compare similarities, differences and trends in crime and victimization in the diverse countries participating in the survey<sup>23</sup>. This makes the ISRD3 project a unique undertaking both on the Polish and international scale.

We carried out our 2017 research program for ISRD3 in June, which is the last month of the school year in Poland. Or – more precisely – it was done in the week from the 19th to the 22nd, the last week of classes. This is a difficult period in Polish schools, because it is the time when students are graded and there are no regular lessons as specified on the

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<sup>21</sup> J. BEACHUT, A. GABERLE, K. KRAJEWSKI, *Kryminologia [Criminology]*, Gdańsk 2007, pp. 229-231.

<sup>22</sup> J. JUNGER-TAS, I. H. MARSHALL, *Introduction to the International Self-Report Study of Delinquency (ISRD-2)* [in:] *The many faces of youth crime: Contrasting theoretical perspectives on juvenile delinquency across countries and cultures*, J. JUNGER-TAS, I. H. MARSHALL, D. ENZMANN, M. KILLIAS, M. STEKETEE, B. GRUSZCZYNSKA (eds.), New York 2012, pp. 3-20.

<sup>23</sup> D. ENZMANN, J. KIVIVUORI, I. H. MARSHALL, M. STEKETEE, M. HOUGH, M. KILLIAS, *A Global Perspective on Young People as Offenders and Victims. First Results from the ISRD3 Study*, Cham 2017, pp. 4-5.

timetable. The truancy rate in this period is usually very high. But it was our last opportunity to conduct the research before the introduction of an education reform act at the beginning of the following school year. The changes that were to occur involved a major reshuffle in the school structure (the phased-out abolition of middle schools), and this might well have impeded our research if we had postponed it to a later date. Moreover, the Representatives of the Education Superintendent assessed the end of the summer semester as a good time for our research, because the children could fill in the questionnaire forms online in their school computer labs and there would be no disruptions to their lesson timetable. To compensate for the high level of absenteeism we anticipated would occur during our research period, we decided to select a proportionally larger research sample of participants.

We opted for a city-based survey and chose two large cities (with a population of not less than 100 thousand) situated at opposite ends of Poland's eastern border: Białystok (population 296 thousand) in the north, and Rzeszów (population 189 thousand) in the south. The decision to conduct a city-based survey was coherent with our research goals, particularly the special emphasis we put on delinquency and victimization, which let us test some of the contemporary criminological theories as well as to identify local threats. The data we collected are not representative for the whole country but only for the selected cities<sup>24</sup>. Notwithstanding, they will allow us to study the crime correlates and compare them with the data obtained in other cities worldwide within the framework of ISRD3, thanks to the project's methodological coherence.

#### 4. THE ISRD-3 POLAND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

As we have said, given the school structure in place in Poland at the time of the survey, our research sample included children drawn from two levels, elementary and middle school. After making the

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<sup>24</sup> *Ibidem*, p. 10.

necessary adjustments in grade level, we selected two 6th grade groups from elementary schools, and from the 1st and the 2nd middle school grades for our research. The age range of the children selected was 12-16, corresponding to grades 7, 8 and 9 in most other education systems.

A random sample was selected from a list of all the groups in the schools for each city. We determined the size of the sample, taking into account the specific time of the survey, and estimated the response rate at 40%. The sample for the two cities amounted to 4,572 children, 2,286 in each city. To carry out the research, we had to obtain the consent of the head teachers of each of the schools, and of each child taking part in the survey. We conducted an auditory survey during a normal 45-minute lesson period and in the presence of a teacher.

In accordance with the requirements of the ISRD project, we used a standardized survey questionnaire, modified suitably but only to a slight and acceptable degree<sup>25</sup>. We decided to use the online questionnaire rather than the paper and pencil option, which made data collection much easier. We back-translated the questionnaire. There were a few minor problems, due mainly to language specificity, however, this had no bearing on the final form and substantive sense of the questions.

Beside the standard content prepared by the ISRD3 Central Coordinating Team, the questionnaire the children were asked to complete also contained additional questions intended to help us identify local threats. The national module on grooming was placed at the end of the questionnaire. The questions included in it are, in a way, a continuation of the research on grooming being carried out by Marta Dąbrowska, a member of our research team<sup>26</sup>. The module she designed allows for an in-depth examination of this phenomenon as well as the experiences of children using the Internet and the actions they take.

Table 1 gives the respondents' demographic breakdown.

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<sup>25</sup> *Ibidem*, pp. 14-15.

<sup>26</sup> See: M. DĄBROWSKA, *op. cit.*

**Table 1: Basic demographic characteristics of the ISRD3 Poland sampling units**

	abs.	%
N (total)	2164	100
Gender		
Girls	1102	50.92
Boys	1062	49.08
Grade		
7. (6 th elementary)	840	38.82
8. (1st middle)	670	30.96
9. (2nd middle)	654	30.22
School level		
Elementary school	840	38.82
Middle school	1324	61.18
City		
Białystok	1030	47.60
Rzeszów	1134	52.40

Source: ISRD-3. Unweighted data, valid percentage.

Nearly 51% of the respondents were girls. The largest groups were children in the 6th (final) grade of elementary school. They accounted for nearly 39% of the total number of respondents. Children in the 1st and the 2nd grades of middle school accounted for nearly 31% each of all the respondents. About 5% more children took part from Rzeszów than from Białystok.

## 5. RESULTS OF THE ISRD3 POLAND PROJECT

One of the project's aims was to establish whether the children participating in the survey had ever committed a crime or been a party to a crime within the scope of the selected categories of offenses. The offenses were divided into the following groups according to type and nature of the infringement: property offenses, violent offenses, and other offenses. It is important to note that the "other offenses" included vandalism and illegal downloading, while both could be considered

property offenses. "Other offenses" also included drug dealing. Table 2 presents the distribution of responses.

**Table 2: Lifetime prevalence of individual forms of delinquency**

<i>Have you ever in your life ...</i>	Yes (%)	No (%)	Number of valid answers
Property offenses			
... stolen something from a shop or department store? (shoplifting)	4.6	95.4	N=2135
... broken into a building to steal something? (burglary)	0.8	99.1	N=2132
... stolen something off or from of a car? (motor vehicle break-in)	1.3	98.7	N=2133
... stolen a bicycle? (bike theft)	1.0	99.0	N=2133
... stolen a motorbike or car? (car theft)	0.6	99.4	N=2133
... stolen something from a person without using violence or threats?	4.0	96.0	N=2130
Total % of property offenses prevalence	12.3		
Violent offenses			
... taken part in a gang fight in a football stadium, on the street, or in another public place? (gang fight)	4.0	96.0	N=2130
... carried a weapon, such as a stick, knife, gun, or chain? (carrying a weapon)	4.7	95.3	N=2129
... hurt or beaten someone up with a stick or knife, so badly that the person was injured? (assault)	1.1	98.9	N=2126
... used a weapon, violence or threat of violence to get money or things from someone? (extortion)	1.1	98.9	N=2130
Total % of violent offenses prevalence	10.9		
Other offenses			
... daubed graffiti on a wall, train, subway or bus? (vandalism)	5.2	94.8	N=2134
... deliberately damaged something, such as a bus shelter, a window, a car or a seat in a bus or train? (vandalism)	3.0	97.0	N=2135

<i>Have you ever in your life ...</i>	Yes (%)	No (%)	Number of valid answers
... illegally downloaded music or films from the internet?	27.2	72.8	N=2124
... sold any drugs or helped someone sell drugs?	0.9	99.1	N=2126
Total % of other offenses prevalence	36.3		

Source: ISRD-3. Unweighted data, valid percentage.

The results of the survey show that respondents usually admitted to committing offenses such as illegally downloading music or films from the Internet. Nearly one in three respondents had done it. Approximately 12% of the respondents admitted to committing property offenses, usually shoplifting and stealing something from a person without the use of violence or threats. Almost 11% admitted to having committed violent offenses, usually carrying a weapon or taking part in a gang fight. For the “other offenses” group, around 8% admitted to taking part in vandalism, and 1% to drug-related offenses.

Another of the project’s aims was to identify the degree of victimization. Respondents were asked if they had ever been victims of one or more acts in the selected categories of delinquency. Table 3 presents the distribution of responses.

**Table 3: Lifetime prevalence of victimization**

Have any of the following things ever happened to you?	Yes (%)	No (%)
Someone wanted you to give them money or something else (like a watch, shoes, a mobile phone) and threatened you if you refused?	5.1	94.9
Someone hit or hurt you so violently that you needed to see a doctor?	10.1	89.9
Something was stolen from you (such as a book, money, a mobile phone, sports equipment, bicycle...)?	16.6	83.4

Have any of the following things ever happened to you?	Yes (%)	No (%)
Someone threatened you with violence or committed physical violence against you because of your religion, the language you speak, the color of your skin, your social or ethnic background, or for similar reasons?	4.3	95.7
Has anyone ever made fun of you or bullied you using e-mail, instant messaging, in a chat room, on a website, or in a text message sent to your mobile phone?	12.4	87.6
Has your mother or father (or your stepmother or stepfather) ever hit, slapped, or shoved you (including those times when it was punishment for something you had done) `	13.2	86.8
Has your mother or father (or your stepmother or stepfather) ever hit you with an object, punched, or kicked you violently or beaten you up? (include times when it was punishment for something you had done)	4.4	95.6

N=2164

Source: ISRD3.

The study showed that children often fall prey to theft. Nearly 17% of the respondents admitted having had something stolen from them, e.g. a book, money, a mobile phone, sports equipment, a bicycle, etc.

The second most frequent offense to which the children fell prey was light corporal punishment administered by a parent or legal guardian, including smacks, slaps on the face, or pushing. 13.2% admitted having experienced such situations.

The distribution of responses to the question concerning victimization experiences shows that one of the rarest, albeit the worst offense, respondents had experienced was being the victim of severe corporal punishment administered by a parent or legal guardian, such as a severe hiding or being kicked. 4.4% admitted to having experienced this.

A similar percentage, 12.4%, had been victims of cyberbullying, and admitted that someone had made fun of them or bullied them in an



e-mail, instant message, in a chat room, on a website, or in a text message sent to their mobile phone.

Somewhat surprisingly, a large number of respondents, a staggering 10.1%, admitted to having been beaten so seriously that they needed medical treatment.

Approximately 5% had been subjected to bullying, typically in an extortion attempt (someone tried to extort their personal possessions, e.g. their watch, shoes, or mobile phone).

Slightly over 4% admitted that they had been threatened with violence or physically maltreated because of their religion, use of another language, social or ethnic background, or for similar reasons.

The results of these studies show that the most common type of offense to which the respondents fell victim was property theft. Another frequent experience of victimization was cyberbullying. Quite a large group of respondents had experienced physical violence from their parents or legal guardians. One in ten said they had been beaten up by people who were not members of their family.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The research we carried out within the framework of the ISRD3 Poland project is an important part of the BSC initiative. Our results let us establish a catalogue of the most frequent juvenile offenses in the 12-16 age group in two Polish cities. Our next statistical analyses of the empirical material we obtained will focus on identifying the demographic, personal and social variables affecting the commission of particular offenses by the children participating in the survey.

The BSC's research plans for the forthcoming period are connected with the development of the ICCRE. They include the following topics: interdisciplinary research in criminology, especially in areas such as the security of the state and its citizens, the most serious categories of offenses and social pathologies, current threats connected with societal and technological developments, and the way Polish law enforcement authorities, special services and the judiciary work.

The subjects we have addressed within the ISRD3 Poland project are a salient area of BSC's research. Currently a doctoral dissertation on the criminological and legal aspects of child grooming is being compiled on the basis of the research material we obtained. Moreover, work is underway to draw up a scientific description identifying the correlates of delinquency and victimization discovered in the study. Even though BSC has only recently joined ISRD, the project which began in 2012 is moving on toward its conclusion in 2020. The BSC team is looking ahead and plans to take part in the next, ISRD4 round of research.

INTERNATIONAL SELF-REPORT DELINQUENCY STUDY 3 (ISRD3)  
W BADANIACH BIAŁOSTOCKIEJ SZKOŁY KRYMINOLOGII

Streszczenie

24 marca 2017 r. podpisana została umowa o współpracy pomiędzy Wydziałem Prawa Uniwersytetu w Białymstoku a Centralnym Zespołem Koordynacyjnym projektu badawczego International Self-Report Delinquency (ISRD). Białostocka Szkoła Kryminologii jest obecnie jedynym polskim przedstawicielem uczestniczącym w ISRD3. Badanie mieści się w szerokim zakresie badań przeprowadzonych przez Białostocką Szkołę Kryminologii, która rozpoczęła tworzenie swojego dorobku 1994 r. Badanie ISRD-3 zostało przeprowadzone przez Białostocką Szkołę Kryminologii w czerwcu 2017 r. w dwóch miastach wojewódzkich: Białymstoku i Rzeszowie wśród uczniów klasy szóstej szkoły podstawowej oraz klas 1 i 2 gimnazjum (odpowiednik klas 7, 8 i 9 w większości krajów), stąd przedział wiekowy respondentów wynosi od 12 do 16 lat. Kwestionariusz wypełniony przez uczniów, oprócz standardowych treści przygotowanych przez ISRD-3 CCT, zawierał również pytania mające na celu lokalną identyfikację zagrożeń, takich jak grooming lub sexting. Wyniki badania ISRD-3 przyczynią się do zdiagnozowania różnych zagrożeń i zostaną porównane z wynikami innych krajów uczestniczących w projekcie. Wartością dodaną projektu będzie możliwość opracowania odpowiednich programów

profilaktycznych i pedagogicznych w szkołach w Białymstoku i Rzeszowie objętych badaniem.

THE INTERNATIONAL SELF-REPORT DELINQUENCY STUDY (ISR3) IN  
THE RESEARCH AREAS OF THE BIAŁYSTOK SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY

Summary

On March 24, 2017, the Faculty of Law of the University of Białystok entered into a collaboration agreement with the Central Coordinating Team of the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISR3). The Białystok School of Criminology is currently the only Polish representative participating in ISR3. The ISR3 study addresses a wide range of issues examined by the Białystok School of Criminology, which launched its research work in 1994. The Białystok School of Criminology conducted its contribution to the ISR3 research project in June 2017, in Białystok and Rzeszów, two Polish cities, regional capitals of their respective voivodeships. Each of these cities has a population of approximately half a million. The survey was conducted among pupils in their sixth year at a Polish primary (elementary) school (i.e. aged 12+) and in their first or second year at a Polish middle school (the 14+-16+ age group). In addition to the standard content prepared by the ISR3 CCT, respondents filled in a questionnaire with questions intended to identify local levels of risks such as grooming or sexting. The results of the Polish ISR3 study will help to diagnose various risks and will be compared to the results obtained in other countries participating in the project. The project's added value will be the opportunity to develop appropriate preventive and educational programs for the schools in Białystok and Rzeszów which took part in the survey.

**Keywords:** juvenile delinquency; juvenile victimization; self-report survey; victimization survey.

**Słowa kluczowe:** przestępczość nieletnich; wiktyimizacja dzieci i młodzieży; badanie typu self-report; survey wiktyimizacyjny.

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