

## **Doctoral Dissertation Outline**

### ***Juvenile delinquency as a threat to public security in Silesian Voivodship after the administrative reform in 1999***

#### **I. Research objectives:**

My doctoral thesis aimed to understand the specificity, scale and impact of crimes committed by juvenile offenders in Silesian Voivodship after 1999. There are two main objectives of this study. The first was to measure the impact of juvenile crimes on public security in the region after 1999. The second was to understand how the local and central administrations attempted to fight against juvenile criminal activity. Aside from them, this study attempted to understand: factors that influenced the character and scale of juvenile crimes in Silesia between 1999 and 2018; dominating types of juvenile crimes in Silesia between 1999-2018; specific traits of the Silesian juvenile offenders; corrective measures that were applied to juvenile offenders in Silesia; strategies employed by the Police to fight against this phenomenon; and means that were utilized by the central and local administration to curb this problem.

This study also aimed to verify the primary and secondary hypotheses. The primary hypothesis stated that juvenile crimes had a measurable impact on public security in the Voivodship after 1999. I assumed that it was especially visible when it came to acts against inhabitants' life, health, and property. The frequency of crimes committed by minors between 1999 and 2018 did not change despite their decreasing participation in the Silesian society. I also assumed that between 1999 and 2018, new forms of criminal activity of juvenile offenders emerged, including the exploitation of computers and crimes related to the use and distribution of drugs.

#### **II. Methodology**

This doctoral dissertation was founded on several research methods and techniques that are applicable to social sciences, including analysis of documents, case study, and statistical methods. First of all, a method of analysis of documents was exploited. It mostly referred to the analysis of the database consisting of 200,000 raw records related to juvenile

offences that the Provincial Headquarters in Katowice provided. The research technique that I exploited here was content analysis. Analysis of documents was also useful in examining official government strategies on juvenile delinquency and court records, provided by the court in Zawiercie. Secondly, a case study method was utilized to analyze specific types of crimes committed by minors. Single, outstanding cases were examined in detail, based on the Police database and court documents. Finally, statistical methods, mostly applied to the aforementioned database, were exploited.

### **III. Conclusions**

The primary hypothesis of this study was confirmed partially. Juvenile crimes impacted public security in the Silesian Voivodship in a limited way. The only significant type of crime of minors that seriously influenced the security of inhabitants was a robbery. Murders, as well as other grave crimes, were infrequent. The most common types of serious offences were related to the wealth of inhabitants. Other popular included: insults of public officials, punishable threats, forgery of documents and unlawful acts related to drugs. As for other findings, I discovered that the most important factors leading to juvenile crimes were related to pathologies in a minor's social environment, including his/her friends and family. Moreover, boys over 15 years old constituted the most frequent group responsible for violations of law in Silesia. However, the participation of girls in juvenile delinquency grew over time. There were no significant differences between correctional facilities operating in the Voivodship. Finally, amongst all institutions tasked to curb this phenomenon, the Police was the most active in preventing and fighting juvenile crimes. It was responsible for carrying multiple preventive programs that adopted a grass-roots perspective. The Police was even active in kindergartens and elementary schools. Unfortunately, no integrated and long-term strategy to tackle juvenile delinquency was discovered.