

## Community service - a new way of re-educating juvenile delinquents in Slovenia

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Community service was introduced to the Slovene model of dealing with juvenile delinquents in 1995 as an autonomous educational measure and as a form of diversion from criminal proceedings. Ten years after its introduction, community service has still not entered judicial practice. In order to establish the reasons for such a situation, the Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana conducted a study in 2002 - 2005 "»Introduction of social trainings and community service as a type of educational measure". The central part of the research consists of an analysis of 86 cases, in which prosecutors (59 cases) and judges (27 cases) imposed the measure of community service on juveniles between 2002 and 2005. In 75 % of the cases, this measure was imposed on juveniles who had committed property crimes. The majority of juveniles had to perform their work amounting to 20 to 25 hours, although in accordance with the current legislation, the extent of work determined by a judge can be a maximum of 120 hours and by a prosecutor 60 hours.

In the cases analyzed, the work was successfully completed in 83 % of the cases; in 12 % of the cases, a Centre for Social Work refused the organization of community service in spite of the judicial decision, ordering the Centre to organize and implement this measure in accordance with the Slovene legislation. In justification, the Centre invoked systemic problems regarding payment of accident insurance for juveniles while performing work. It was found that some organizational questions concerning the implementation of this measure have not actually been systemically regulated, though not to such an extent as to make the implementation of this measure impossible. The most important finding of the research is that Centres for Social Work are the most appropriate agencies for the implementation of community service for juvenile delinquents and that the establishment of special agencies for the implementation of this measure could shift the stress to the punitive character of this measure rather than its re-educational nature.

Key words: victims of crime, assistance to victims, property crime, police proceedings, assessment, police officers, work with victims of crime

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