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THE EFFICIENCY OF PRE-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS – RESEARCH, EVALUATION, CRITERIA AND INFLUENCE OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES (BRATISLAVA, 4 AND 5 NOVEMBER 2021) / Patrícia Krásná, Stanislav Mihálik, Veronika Marková

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An international scientific conference organized by the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava entitled: "The Efficiency of Pre-Trial Proceedings – Research, Evaluation, Criteria and Influence of Legislative Changes" was held on 4th and 5th

November 2021 at the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava, within the project APVV-19-0102 "The Efficiency of Pre-trial Proceedings – Research, Evaluation, Criteria and Influence of Legislative Changes" under the auspices of Dr. h. c. prof. JUDr. Lucia Kurilovská, PhD., Rector of the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava and prof. JUDr. Jozef Čentéš, PhD., Head of the Department of Criminal Law, Criminology and Criminalistics, Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Law.

The subject of the international scientific conference was the exchange of knowledge in the field of pre-trial proceedings as well as related areas of criminal law, while the meeting was divided according to the program into two negotiating days.

The first day of the international scientific conference began with a speech by Dr. h. c. prof. JUDr. Lucia Kurilovská, PhD., Rector of the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava. This fact added value to the international scientific conference and convinced the conference participants of the need to address the issue of "the efficiency of the pre-trial proceedings, its research, evaluation, criteria and the influence of legislative changes". In professional as well as academic circles, the question of the efficiency of the pre-trial proceedings is very current and requires a direct correlation between the discussion within the academic community and application practice. The members of the research team within the project APVV-19-0102, whose principal investigator is prof. JUDr. Jozef Čentéš, PhD., took part in the professional discussion in particular. The ideas and outputs of participants will undoubtedly contribute to the dialogue on the efficiency of the pre-trial proceedings but also to the efficiency of the criminal proceedings and criminal law.

During the second day of the meeting, the participants of the conference were also able to get acquainted with some specialized workplaces of the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava, which are to assist in the development of several activities in the field of pre-trial proceedings, such as, e.g., a special interrogation room which, by its nature, is aimed at interrogating particularly vulnerable victims, or a specialized workplace of the Criminalistics and Forensic Science Department with a focus on teaching crime scene inspections. The second day of the meeting was also devoted to a panel discussion on selected application problems of criminal proceedings associated with the efficiency of the pre-trial proceedings, while the subject of the panel discussion was the presentation of activities in science and research, as well as other current issues related to the research area. Members of individual law faculties or other institutions who accepted the invitation to the conference took part in the discussion, and these were representatives not only from the Slovak Republic but also from the Czech Republic.

The importance and justification of this international scientific conference lay in the effort of experts, through such important events, to encourage the society to think about the realisation of pre-trial proceedings, but also criminal proceedings in the conditions of the Slovak Republic. Nevertheless, despite the efforts of many experts, it is clear that the efficiency of pre-trial proceedings has its shortcomings, and in view of the above, it is therefore extremely important to gradually build general public awareness of this issue.

Peer-reviewed proceedings will be published from the conference, through which it will be possible to disseminate the ideas expressed during the conference to the professional as well as the general public.