

Low legal awareness as a criminogenic factor

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Abstract— The subject of the presented paper is the issue of low legal awareness, which has long been described by experts as a significant criminogenic factor in the population living in the Slovak Republic. Based on current data obtained from the public opinion survey conducted through a questionnaire, the primary goal of which was to determine the level of legal awareness in the Slovak population, it is possible to obtain at least a partial overview of the level of legal awareness in the general public. Civil and criminal law are the main interests of the presented article, as the knowledge base of the particular field is an integral part of the daily existence of an individual living according to the law in the society. The acquired knowledge and interpretation of relevant information obtained from research is undoubtedly important for the needs of practice, as the authors provide insight into current problems in the particular field, the authors also present a proposal for specific recommendations for the system of further education

Index Terms— legal awareness, research, level of legal awareness, criminogenic factor, criminal liability

I. INTRODUCTION

[...] Legal awareness is part of social consciousness and as its subculture necessarily interacts with other forms of social consciousness. By social consciousness, we understand, for example, politics, philosophy, religion, morality. Together with them, it forms a system of values that members of society should adopt. We could express the relationship between legal consciousness and social reality mathematically by means of an indirect relationship: "The higher the level of knowledge of law, the legal consciousness of the individual, the weaker the tendency to violate social interests, the content of which is expressed in legal norms. (Bakošová, Vaculíková 2003, p. 54)

Awareness is the basis of human realization. Awareness is a term sometimes used in the sense of being aware of a relationship to a certain community, to a social phenomenon: national, social, European consciousness; to have good language skills. However, for the purposes of our contribution as well as the latter public opinion survey, the use of the term

consciousness (legal consciousness) is more precise.

Legal awareness is awareness of the existence of law, but it does not mean knowledge of law. It is an independent system of opinions on what is rightful and what is not rightful. It is an assessment of human behaviour and behaviour can be assessed in the same or different way from applicable law. Its content is qualities that the individual perceives in their own and individual way. (Knapp, 1995)

According to the Security Report of the Slovak Republic for 2018, criminal activity continued to be an important factor in the development of the security situation, while their frequency changed with a stable spectrum of crimes. The situation in this area has been comparable to the previous period with developments in various types of crime, with a decrease in the overall level of registered crime. With regard to the total number of crimes registered in the Slovak Republic (SR) and their clear-up rate, the development of the security situation in the Slovak Republic can be assessed positively in comparison to the previous period (Dworzecki, Nowicka 2020, p. 696). The trend of a gradual decline in the total number of crimes continued in 2018, while the total number of crimes registered in 2018 (61,392) was the lowest since 1989 (69,827). (Security, 2019).

As a department, we mainly deal with the teaching of criminology, but criminology without research stagnates. Our intention has been to contribute to the creation of a security environment through our activities, for example in the form of research aimed at identifying factors that affect the environment, or activities aimed at directly or indirectly affecting these factors and thus affecting environmental safety. One of such activities is the implementation of a project, part of which is research aimed at determining the level of legal awareness of the population of the Slovak Republic, with emphasis on drug crime (Dworzecki, Nowicka 2019, p. 1769), which will benefit - primarily - the whole society by increasing the level of legal awareness is expected to eliminate a significant criminogenic factor and the presumption of an increase in social control - and secondary - of persons



responsible for the education of young people and persons responsible for crime prevention at local, regional and national level and researchers of the Academy of the Police Force and crime prevention staff.

We agree with the opinion that "the higher a person's level of knowledge of the law - the level of legal awareness of individuals, the greater the presumption that he will not violate the interests of society, which have their content expressed in legal norms." People's legal awareness is an important part of life. Each of us should be informed about our rights, obligations, but also about the penalties that may affect us for non-compliance with the set rules. (Mikuška, Nestorová Verešová 2015)

Legal awareness can be characterized as the level of knowledge of law. It is part of the social consciousness and, as its subculture, necessarily enters into interaction with other forms of social consciousness (politics, philosophy, religion, morality, etc.). Together with them, it forms a system of values by which members of society are "compulsorily" equipped. The higher a person's level of the knowledge of law - the level of legal awareness of individuals, the greater the presumption that they will not violate the interests of society, which have expressed their content in legal norms. (Andacký 2000)

Based on the opinions of experts in criminology and law, as well as on the basis of our knowledge and experience, or information obtained in the past from surveys, aimed at determining the level of legal awareness, we dare to say that low legal awareness is a significant criminogenic factor. The lower the knowledge of the law among the inhabitants, the greater the presumption that they will commit illegal actions, and thus also affect the security of the area, in our case especially the territory of the Slovak Republic.

For years, officials and lawyers have been saying that people in Slovakia have a very low level of legal awareness. There is no real number of confirmations or refutations of these assertions about the level of legal education, i.e. checking the assertions whether we have a higher or lower level of legal education than in the surrounding states. However, experts agree that the low level of legal awareness is a disadvantage for thousands of people. This is due to an insufficiently established civic education, but also to constant changes in the law. (Krajčovičová 2014)

Due to low legal awareness, citizens often get into complex legal relationships that cause them problems that are difficult to be solved, says Minister of Justice Tomáš Borec. (Krajčovičová 2014)

Pupils should learn about their rights and responsibilities in civics and social science lessons in schools. However, these subjects are currently badly set, admits the director of the National Institute for Education, Viliam Kratochvíl. In addition, the system allows civics to be a secondary subject in some schools. (Krajčovičová 2014)

Our effort was, as mentioned earlier, to contribute to finding out whether the inhabitants of the Slovak Republic really have as low a legal awareness as it sounds from experts. We also wanted to verify this statement through information obtained

from research conducted in the period from September to December in 2019, some of which we will also present in our paper.

II. METODOLOGICAL BASES OF RESEARCH TO DETERMINE THE LEGAL AWARENESS OF THE POPULATION OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC, WITH A FOCUS ON DRUG - RELATED CRIME

The basic content of the research task was to determine the level of legal awareness of the citizens of the Slovak Republic, t. j. knowledge of criminal liability and related issues, such as when capacity for rights and obligations under civil law arises and ceases, or when capacity for legal acts arises, knowledge of the division of criminal offenses under applicable criminal law, and whether the general public is aware of the limit, over which the theft of property of another person is already classified as a criminal offence and, in our opinion, elementary knowledge of secondary drug crime. The basic content goal of the scientific research task resulted from the intention to eliminate secondary drug crime by increasing the legal awareness of all citizens of the Slovak Republic with emphasis on youth and persons involved in the education and training of youth and youth workers.

The first phase of the project was expected to summarize the results through quantitative research carried out by processing information from the System of Crime Records and Statistics on individual types of crime, with a more detailed analysis of information on drug crime and information obtained from researchers' experience on secondary schools and previously conducted surveys. Subsequently, on the basis of the acquired knowledge, a questionnaire for public opinion survey was prepared to "Determine the level of legal awareness of the citizens of the Slovak Republic about drug crime". When compiling the questions of the questionnaire, we relied mainly on the content of Civics for the 8th year of primary school and the 3rd year of grammar school with eight years of study. (Ďurajková, Vargová 2012)

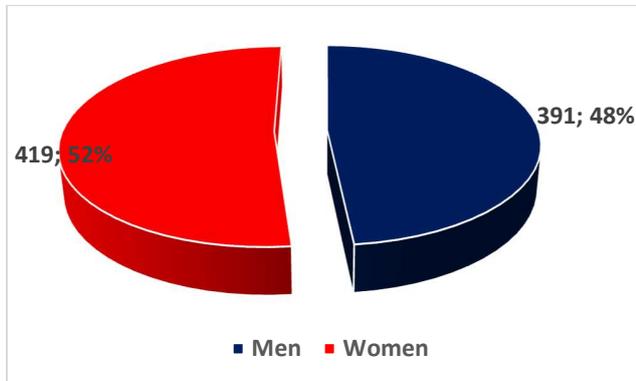
The research itself was carried out in the second phase on a representative sample of respondents through a questionnaire of their own design. The questionnaire, in addition to questions aimed at identifying basic socio-demographic features, consisted of questions aimed at finding basic knowledge in the field of constitutional law, criminal law, civil law, and the last questions were aimed at finding basic information on drug crime.

The research aimed at determining the level of legal awareness of the population of the Slovak Republic, with an emphasis on drug crime, was carried out through the agency Medián sk, Ltd. on a representative sample. The sample consisted of 810 respondents from all over the Slovak Republic (N = 810), of which 391 were men, which represented 48% of the total number of respondents and 419 women, i.e. 52 %.

The research itself, as mentioned above, was carried out, among other methods and techniques, with the use of a "questionnaire" designed by us. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gain an overview of the public's legal

awareness of the legal system in the Slovak Republic, with a focus on knowledge of civil and criminal law.

CHART 1. THE COMPOSITION OF THE RESEARCH SAMPLE BY GENDER



Source: own processing based on research results

Through the questionnaire and the answers of the respondents, we want to contribute to uncovering possible undesirable developments within the legal system and thus improve (increase) the knowledge that needs to be taken into account when informing the public with the intention of influencing the level of legal awareness. The questions in the questionnaire were formulated in such a way that they reflect exactly what we believe a common citizen of the Slovak Republic should know or what he or she might have already encountered in common social life.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE RESEARCH

At the beginning of this part of the article we would like to state that, based on the analysis of the individual answers, the respondents had the biggest problem with one third of the total of 24 questions. The most significant problem and also the least correctly answered was seven questions aimed at determining, in particular, the classification of the branch of law into the group of private law, the determination of the lower limit of criminal responsibility or the origin of the claim to rights and obligations (under civil law) and the ability to distinguish the amount of damage caused, which in the case of property crimes represents the imaginary limit between the classification of property crimes and minor offenses against property. The last question that respondents had trouble answering was from a group of questions aimed at finding out the basic information related to drug crime. The percentage of answers is processed in graph no. 3.

Part of the content of this article is the presentation of information obtained from respondents aimed at verifying the claim that *residents of the Slovak Republic are not aware of the emergence and termination of legal capacity (according to civil law) and the emergence and termination of legal capacity (under civil law). The residents of the Slovak Republic have low*

legal awareness in the field of civil law and also about the lower limit of criminal liability and categorization of damage in the case of property crimes. The partial goal of the research carried out by means of the questionnaire was to determine the level of legal awareness of the creation and termination of legal capacity (according to civil law). We also aim to determine legal awareness in criminal law, specifically to find the lower limit of criminal liability of natural persons and the knowledge of the amount of damage caused, which represents the boundary between the commission of offenses against property and criminal offenses recorded in property crime as theft. For this purpose, two of the three working hypotheses were proposed, i.e. hypothesis no.1 and no. 2.

In the content of our paper we will pay special attention to the evaluation of answers to questions aimed at gaining knowledge *about the creation and termination of legal capacity (according to civil law) and about the creation and termination of legal capacity (in accordance with civil law). The inhabitants of Slovak Republic have a low level of legal awareness in the field of civil law, i.e. answers to questions that help us to verify hypothesis n. 1. The eligibility for rights and obligations (according to civil law) arises for a natural person at birth and expires at death. A conceived child has this ability even if it is born alive. This ability expires with death. (National...1964)*

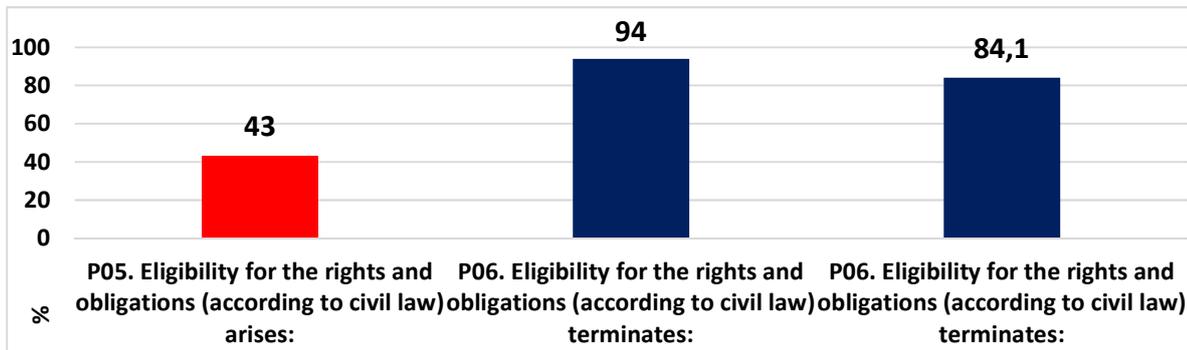
The Civil Code also regulates the establishment and termination of legal capacity, sometimes called autonomy. According to civil law, legal capacity comes into existence when the person reaches the age of majority (at 18 years of age) and expires when the legal capacity is withdrawn. (National1964)

Based on the comparison of the answers, we can initially state that less than 1/2 of the respondents answered correctly that the eligibility for rights and obligations (according to civil law) arises from the birth of a natural person.

Based on the answers obtained, which are shown in graph no. 2, we found that 43% of the total number (N = 810) of respondents incorrectly stated when eligibility for the rights and obligations of natural persons arises. On the contrary, up to 94% correctly stated when the legal capacity and obligations of natural persons expire and also more than 81% correctly stated when the legal capacity arises.

We will deal in more detail with the analysis of the answers to the question *“When does a natural person's eligibility for rights and obligations (according to civil law) arise?”* We also compared the findings within the eight age groups of respondents (specifically aged 14 to 18 years, from 19 to 21 years, from 22 to 30 years, from 31 to 40 years, from 41 to 50 years, from 61 to 65 years and last category over 65 and years). Given the fact that the research was based on the content of the curriculum for 8th grade, we assumed that this issue will be closer to the age category of respondents from 14 to 18 years, and taking into account the relationship between answers and age of respondents, we assumed that the respondents aged 14 to 18 years will have still fresh knowledge in their minds.

CHART 2. OVERVIEW OF THE ANSWERS OF THE RESPONDENTS TO QUESTIONS NO. P05 TO P07 EXPRESSED IN %



Source: own processing based on research results

Based on the processed answers, we found that the most frequent correct answers were persons aged 22 to 30 years (52.4% N = 30). The second group of respondents who most often correctly stated when a person's eligibility for rights and obligations arises were respondents aged 61 to 65 (49.2%, N = 55) and aged 31 to 40 years (48.4%, N = 40).

On the contrary, respondents aged 14 to 18 were among the age groups that answered the least correctly (36.5% N = 28). The last group were people over 65 years (28.6% N = 145).

In the course of our research, we have also observed the relationship between education and knowledge in the field of criminal liability, although our original assumption that the higher the level of education, the higher the level of legal awareness, i.e. knowledge of the ability of the natural person to exercise rights and duties, has not been confirmed. Only 11.1% (N = 17) of the responses of respondents with III. university degrees were correct. More than 50% of the respondents in each educational group of the persons participating in our study, those with full secondary education without a school-leaving examination, had the most correct answers (50.8% N = 284), followed by persons with higher professional education (with the right to use the title of a graduated specialist with the abbreviation DiS) (50.2% N = 5), and respondents with a bachelor's degree (50.2% N = 53).

Taking into account the regions from which our respondents came, respondents from 3 regions answered the most correctly (50% to 57%), namely 57% (N = 103) of the Žilina Region and 56% from the Trnava Region and 53.4% (N = 91) from the Trenčín Region. Respondents from the Košice and Prešov regions answered the least correctly.

Taking into account the social status expressed by job classification, the most frequently correct (almost 56% N = 91) were people with entrepreneurial activities and more than 50% of respondents from the ranks of employees in the field of administration and management answered correctly, as well as education workers and managers.

The agency also classified the respondents into individual groups on the basis of their monthly financial income. Thus, we

can state that the most often correctly answered questions came from people with the income higher than 1,200 euros and unspecified income, on the contrary, at least with the income up to 400 euros and the income from 401 to 600 euros.

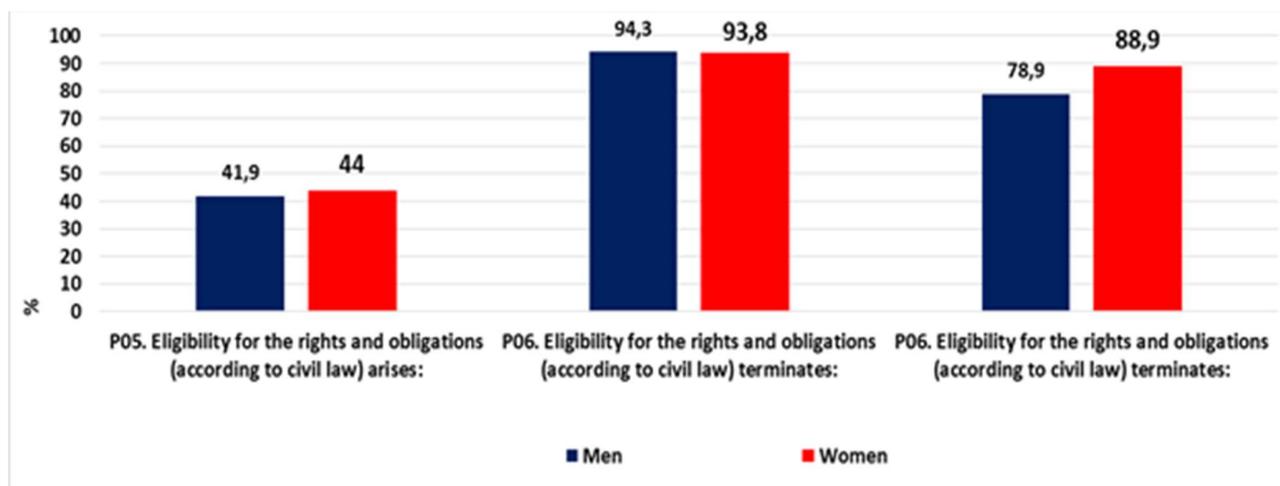
By taking into account the gender of the most frequently correctly answering respondents, women answered correctly most often, with the exception of the answer to the question *When does the natural person's ability to rights and obligations arise*. More details are provided in graph no. 3.

As part of the content of our paper in the following section, we also draw attention to the analysis of the part of the information that verifies our working hypothesis no. 2: *The residents of the Slovak Republic have low legal awareness in the field of criminal law*. We verified the assumption on the basis of the obtained answers to questions P10 to P17. Of these 8 questions, 4 questions were answered correctly (more than 50% of respondents). Among the four incorrectly answered, respectively marked the lowest share of respondents of individual categories, two were focused on finding out whether the respondents are aware of the age, which limits the lower boundary of criminal responsibility, the knowledge of the amount of damage in property crimes.

Why property crimes? Based on long-term findings as well as monitoring of crime indicators, property crime has for many decades been one of the most registered crime, i.e. it most significantly affected the "developmental curve" of total recorded crime in the Slovak Republic. It belongs to the type of crime, which is characterized by the lowest level of clear-up rate and it is property owned mainly by citizens, i.e. property that they have often saved for years, that is residents most often become secondary "victims" of this type of crime. The amount of damage caused is very closely related to property crime, which has influenced the development of property crime for decades.

The amount of damage caused affects whether property crimes (such as theft) are classified as criminal offenses or as minor offences against property

CHART 3. OVERVIEW OF RESPONDENTS' ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS NO. P5 TO P7 EXPRESSED IN % BY GENDER



Source: own processing based on research results

Note: § 125 par. 1 TZ defines four categories of damage. The categorization of damage is based on graduation according to the amount of financial expression of the damage caused. These categories are: a) minor damage - is damage exceeding the amount of 266 euros, b) major damage - is damage that amounts to at least ten times the amount of 266 euros, c) significant damage - is damage that amounts to at least a hundred times the amount of 266 euros, d) large-scale damage - is damage that amounts to at least five hundred times the amount of 266 euros.)

In graph no. 4, the answers of respondents from the research are processed, taking into account the correct answers to questions aimed at determining the level of awareness of the population of the Slovak Republic / respondents / in the field of criminal law.

In the next part of the paper, we will pay attention to the analysis of answers to the other two of the group of questions. The first question, which was specifically, *"From what age is a person considered criminally liable in the Slovak Republic (according to the Criminal Act No. 300/2005 Coll., as amended)?"*, in which respondents had a choice of four options, of which one was correct and they were also offered the option, *I can't decide*.

Based on the comparison of the answers, we can state that less than 1/5 of the respondents answered correctly. Thus, only one fifth knows that the lower limit of general criminal liability of natural persons, i.e. 14 years. (Note: The above-mentioned lower limit of "general" criminal liability of a natural person is negatively regulated in Section 22, Paragraph 1 of Criminal Code. This means: A person who had not yet reached the age of 14 at the time of committing the crime is not liable to prosecution. The lack of age is a circumstance that excludes criminal liability.)

We also compared the findings within the eight, previously mentioned age groups of respondents. Given the fact that we also based these questions on the content of the curriculum for 8th grades, we assumed that this issue closely affects the age category of respondents from 14 to 18 years, and taking into account the relationship between answers and age of

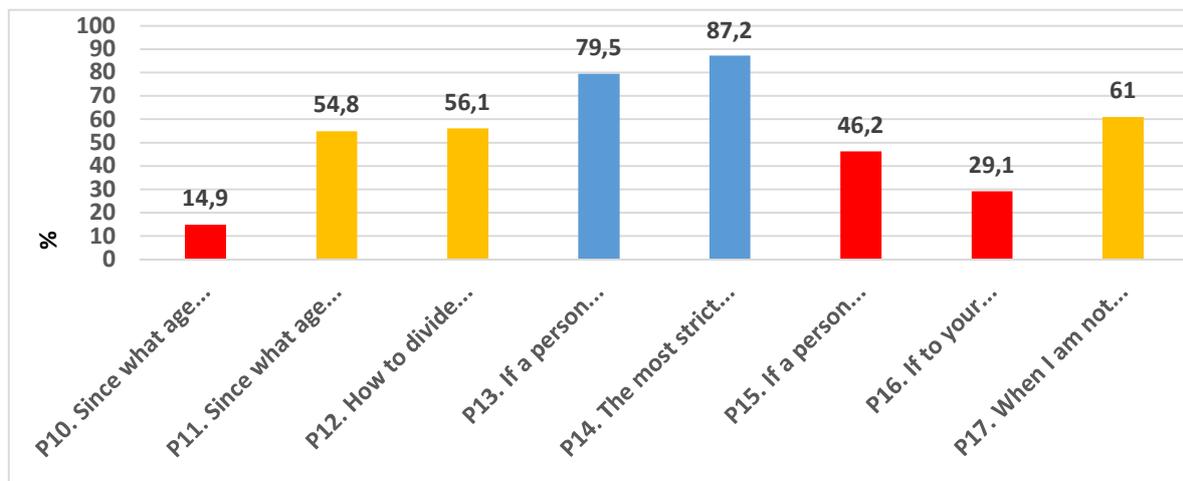
respondents - that respondents aged 14 up to 18 years will have the so-called "Fresh knowledge", as the lower limit of criminal liability is very closely related to this age group, and we assumed "fresh" knowledge about the age in the case of liability for offenses.

It has been confirmed to us that the opposite is true. Only 25% of the group of respondents aged 14 to 18 have knowledge of the lower limit of criminal liability, but their answers were most often correct compared to other groups. The answers of the remaining seven groups ranged from 13.8% of correct answers out of the total number (145) of respondents aged 61 to 65 to almost 18% of correct answers out of the total number of 116 respondents aged 22 to 30 years.

On the contrary, a total of almost 55% of respondents stated 15 years of age as the lower limit of criminal liability. Responses to the lower limit of criminal responsibility of 15 years, by age group, ranged from almost 42% of responses out of the total number of respondents over 65 to 64% in the total number of (130) respondents aged 41 up to 50 years. Out of the total number (28) of respondents aged 14 to 18, almost 1/2 stated that the lower limit of criminal responsibility was 15 years.

As part of our research, we also monitored the relationship between education and knowledge in the field of criminal liability, where our original assumption that the higher the education, the higher the level of legal awareness, i.e. knowledge about criminal liability, was not confirmed. Only 11% of the answers of respondents with a university degree were correct. Respondents with higher professional education (with the right to use the title of certified specialist with the abbreviation DiS) answered correctly, i.e. more than 17% of the number of people participating in our research within their group of education. If we considered the region from which our respondents came, the respondents from 4 regions, namely from the regions of Prešov, Banská Bystrica, Trnava and Trenčín, answered correctly most often.

CHART 4. OVERVIEW OF RESPONDENTS' ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS NO. P10 TO P17 EXPRESSED IN %



Source: own processing based on research results

Taking into account the social status expressed by the occupational classification, students and persons with entrepreneurial activity most often answered correctly.

The agency also classified the respondents into individual groups on the basis of their monthly financial income, thus we can say that the most correct answer came from people earning more than 1,200 euros and with the income from 401 to 600 euros, and the least with the income up to 400 euros and the income from 801 to 1 200 euros.

Next, as mentioned above, we will analyze the answers to the second question *"If a person stole property of another person worth more than 266 euros, under the applicable law in the Slovak Republic the person committed"*, in which respondents again had a choice of four options, one of which was the right one and they were also offered the option, *I can't decide*.

Based on the comparison of the answers, we can initially state that less than 1/2 of the respondents answered correctly, i.e. that the person commits a crime against property (property crime). More than 1/3 of the total number of 810 respondents answered that they would commit only a minor offence against property.

As in the first of the two questions, we compared the answers in eight age groups of the respondents. The respondents aged between 31 and 40 years answered correctly most often, if the comparison of the age of the respondents is taken into account (in total 60.4% of N = 153). Younger respondents answered correctly more often, i.e. almost 2/3 of the correct respondents were younger age groups; up to 40 years. The number of correct answers of the lower age groups ranged from 37% to the mentioned 60% and the number of correct answers of the lower older age groups ranged from 37% to almost 44% within the individual age groups of the respondents. Only 1/3 of the

respondents in the mentioned groups from 14 to 18 years and over 60 years answered correctly.

As part of our research, we also monitored the relationship between education and knowledge of the amount of damage caused to a small extent, where our original assumption that the

higher the education, the higher the level of legal awareness, i.e. knowledge of the damage, was not confirmed in this case either. On the contrary, up to 100% of the answers of respondents with basic education were correct / N = 137 /. Almost 83% of the respondents with full general secondary education or full vocational secondary education (with a school-leaving examination) / N = 284 / answered correctly. Almost 60% of the respondents with a bachelor's university degree (B.A.) / N = 53 /, less than 50% (48.1% each) of the respondents with a second university degree (Ing., M.A.) N = 97 / and with a third university degree (Ph.D., CSc., Assoc.Prof. etc.) / N = 17/.

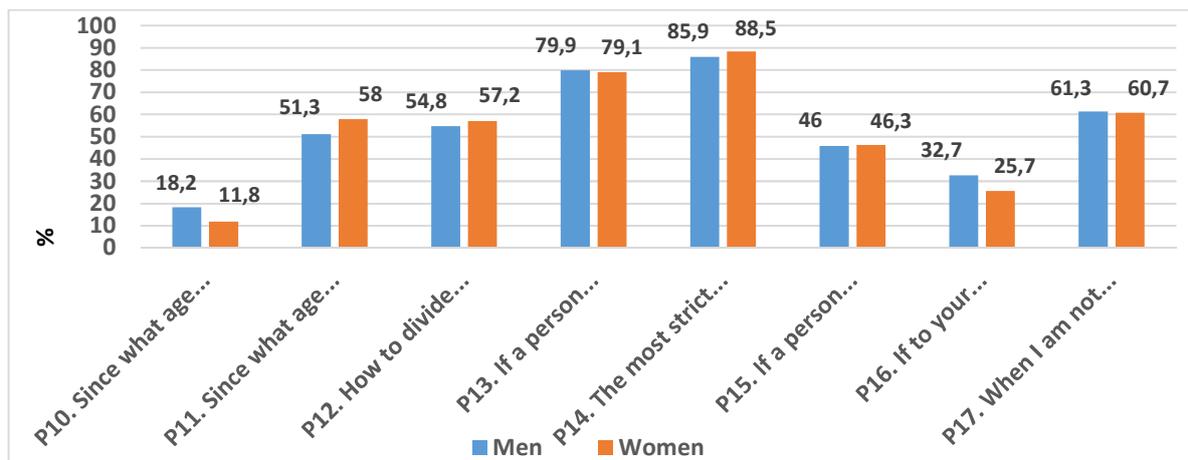
Taking into account the correct answers and the regions from which the respondents came, the respondents from the Bratislava region (almost 60%), then from the Trenčín region (58%) and the Košice region (54.5%) gave the most correct answers. Slightly more than half of the respondents from the Nitra region answered correctly.

Taking into account the social status, expressed by job classification, respondents answered correctly most often in the household or ML (82.2% N = 41) and employees in management and administration (57.7% N = 46). The least frequent, 29.6% working pensioners / N = 6 /.

As with the previous question, we can see that most people with an income above 1200 euros and at least with an income of up to 400 euros have the most frequent correct answers.

As can be seen from the information processed in graph no. 5, women answered half of the questions that focused on criminal consciousness, namely on determining the age of criminal responsibility or the criminal classification of crimes, and on the severest punishment that can be imposed on criminals, somewhat more often correctly, and somewhat more often the answers were entered into the question that we used to find out whether the inhabitants knew what value the stolen property must have in order for a person to commit a property crime.

CHART 5. OVERVIEW OF RESPONDENTS' ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS NO. P10 TO P17 EXPRESSED IN % BY GENDER



Source: own processing based on research result

IV. CONCLUSION

The issue of low legal awareness among citizens is a very current issue, which provokes many further discussions about the need for a continuous increase of knowledge and understanding of national legal systems that directly affect the daily existence of man in society.

The priority of the provided education at all levels is to provide an interested person with relevant information for real life, practice. By gathering basic data through the conducted public opinion survey, it was possible to enrich the current knowledge base in the field. Furthermore, the obtained information provides possibilities for further processing.

The processing of the particular subject of interest, i.e. issues related to civil and criminal law, enabled to obtain a more comprehensive overview of the level of legal awareness among citizens of the Slovak Republic. Analysis of the particular issues also confirmed the expected results on the current state and level of legal awareness among Slovaks.

Among the questions focused on the knowledge of the field of civil law, the absence of elementary knowledge about the beginning of a person's eligibility for rights and obligations in the field of civil law was shown in more than 50% of respondents. More than 94% of respondents were able to correctly answer the question about the termination of eligibility for rights and obligations under the Civil Code. Similar results were found in the third question focused on the beginning of legal capacity - this question was correctly answered by 84% of respondents. In summary, we can state that the results obtained in the field of civil law of citizens of the Slovak Republic are sufficient, despite the fact that a low percentage of success was shown in the issue of the beginning of a person's eligibility for rights and obligations.

The number of successful answers of respondents to questions related to criminal law was significantly lower compared to knowledge of civil law. The lack of knowledge in the field of criminal law was obvious in more than 80% of respondents in a specific question concerning the lower limit of criminal liability, to which only 14% of respondents could

answer correctly. Less than 30% of respondents answered correctly the question regarding the person's right to use a weapon, if a person enters their residence illegally or stays in it illegally and it is not a necessary defence. Exactly 46% of respondents correctly answered the question about the amount of damage caused in property crime (i.e. theft). Only 55% of respondents answered correctly to another question aimed at determining the level of legal awareness in the field of criminal law, i.e. from what age the person is responsible for committing an offense in the Slovak Republic. The other four questions that were focused on the knowledge of the criminal field, the analysis of which was not processed in the content, more than 56% of respondents answered each of the four questions correctly. We recorded the most significant number of correct answers- 87.2% when asked what the most severe punishment is possible to be imposed on a criminal offender in the Slovak Republic.

Based on the obtained information, lack of knowledge about criminal liability, particularly the lower limit of criminal liability of a person, issues of caused damage and lack of knowledge about the possibility of using a weapon for criminal purposes, pointed to insufficiency in the educational system of the Slovak Republic, especially in criminal law. The analysis of the information obtained from the research also pointed to the absence of basic knowledge of civil law concerning the beginning of a person's competence for rights and obligations in the field of civil law.

It was our ambition to propose the following recommendations for the practice in the field of education and prevention of criminality:

Civil and criminal law were the main interests of the presented article, and therefore we would like to point out the need to improve legal awareness via better education, e.g. at elementary schools, particularly in the subject taught in the 8th grade- the Civics, the content of which is basic information needed for orientation in legal disciplines with emphasis on categories of law, such as civil, criminal, family, constitutional, etc.

Certainly another recommendation is to improve the training of future teachers, i.e. focus on the preparation of students-future teachers during their university studies and provide them

with at least the basic information needed to have a sufficient overview of legal disciplines, especially in the field of constitutional law, civil law, administrative law, criminal law, family law, labour law, etc.

The acquired knowledge and interpretation of relevant information is undoubtedly important for the needs of police practice, especially in the context of crime prevention. Therefore, our next recommendation is directed to lecturers and those who work in the field of crime prevention. We would like to recommend the implementation of preventive activities to increase legal awareness aimed at people of working age.

V. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The paper was prepared on the basis of information from research to determine the legal awareness of the population of Slovak Republic, with a focus on drug-related crime for the scientific research task registered by the Department of Innovation and Acquisition of Presidium of Police Force in Bratislava under number 3/2019.

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