

**Law and
criminal
justice**

**towards
research
minded
policy-
making**

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Research and Documentation Centre
Ministry of Justice
The Hague, 1976.

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Research development in the Ministry of Justice*

Introduction

True to yearly tradition the September issue of 'Justitiële Verkenningen' (Judicial Reconnaissances), a documentation periodical concerning criminal law and criminology published by the department of Justice, is devoted to research financed by the Ministry. The issue contains a summary of the projects carried out both internally and externally, setting out the subjects investigated, the persons or institutions conducting the projects and the research methods deployed. Together these studies comprise the research programme of the Ministry of Justice.

The present article examines the research work of the Ministry in some detail. Among the points considered are the organisation of research, the problems which can arise in its promotion, the function and working methods of the Research and Documentation Centre (W.O.D.C.), the principles underlying the research programme of the Ministry and last but not least, the question of the objectivity of departmental research sections.

First, however, it is relevant to consider the scope of the present research programme. Comparison of this programme with those of previous years reveals a number of differences. First and foremost it is evident that there has been an increase in the number of projects undertaken, and an improvement in their quality. There has been a decline in the number of studies based on documents, while the number of projects in which the researcher personally collects the required data is perceptibly greater. Such changes do not only benefit the quality of the research data to be compiled. Perhaps more important is, as already has been stated in the 'Memorie van Toelichting' (Explanatory Memorandum) accompanying the Ministry of Justice Estimates for 1976, that in this way the policy planners get more latitude (which is proportional to the increase in the number of problems which can be researched). It must not be forgotten, however, that the promotion of policy-supporting research is not exclusively a question of

* This article by Dr. W. Buikhuisen, the general research consultant of the Ministry of Justice, was originally published in *Justitiële Verkenningen* vol. 19, nr. 7, September 1975.

technique. As the Explanatory Memorandum referred to above says, before a project can be authorised, first it must be established that the problems in question lend themselves to research. In this connection the Ministerial research staff have an extremely important task to fulfil which might be described as a translational function. At an early stage they must point out to the policy planners the advantages which research has to offer. To be able to do this they must take part from the outset in the process of analysing problems. This requires not only good communication between policy and research departments, but above all, sound organisation of the research undertaken in a ministry.

The organisation of scientific work

Formally the scientific work in the Ministry of Justice is co-ordinated in the so-called communication committee, a body consisting of representatives of the scientific advisory sections and of those departments to which no such sections are attached. Other members of this committee are the psychiatric advisers of the Ministry, the general psychological adviser, the Secretary of the Coordinating Committee for Child Care Research and staff members of the Research and Documentation Centre. The chairman of the communication group is the Head of the Centre.

The purpose of this committee is amongst other things, the mutual exchange of information in the field of research and the discussion of the Ministry's research programme; at the same time participants may put forward new suggestions. The group does not concern itself with the question how science could contribute to the solution of problems which arise in the various policy making departments. These are 'internal' matters which are generally dealt with by the departments concerned. For those departments which have separate scientific advisory sections or special advisers such as psychological or psychiatric consultants (Prison service, Care of criminal psychopaths (Offenders detained at the Government's pleasure = TBR) / Probation and after-care, and Child care, research activities can be channelled through these sections or experts. The remaining departments can call upon the services of the Research and Documentation Centre which are available to all departments of the Ministry. Most sections of course have their own experts as well.

We now come to the manner in which scientific work

is organised. The existing organisation is certainly not to optimum, as will become apparent. The points meriting special attention here are the 'reticulation' of the departments and the 'proximity' of the research staff, two interrelated aspects of the organisation of scientific work. What is the meaning of these concepts? An adequate reticulation of the department is achieved when the network of scientists has branched out to such an extent, that the organisational gap between this category on the one hand and the policy planners and administrators on the other, is reduced to the point where they are within each other's 'field of vision'. Put in this way, it seems though reticulation and proximity relate to similar concepts, but, although the latter is indeed inseparable from the notion of distance, the two words in fact express different concepts.

'Proximity' refers to psychological distance, which is hardly determined by organisational or physical aspects. The essential point is whether those responsible for the development of policy, feel that research is an aid to them. Is the scientist considered to fulfil a useful function or, to put it in a more extreme form, are his ideas found to be too abstract, his approach too abstruse, his choice of words too complicated, his methods too complex and, above all, his projects too long drawn-out? Reticulation and proximity are both essential to the infrastructure of scientific work and are therefore in need of immediate attention. So far as the organisation of research is concerned, this is ultimately a matter for the top echelons of the Ministry. The situation is different, however, with regard to proximity, which does not lend itself to formal organisation. The scientists themselves must make their value to the decision-makers amply clear. Unfortunately, efforts of this kind are by no means superfluous. Nor can it be termed a simple task. Capacities can only be demonstrated while there is the opportunity to do so, and this may be hampered by a negative image of the scientist, or the real or imaginary fear that research might upset the balance of things. Breaking out of a vicious circle of this kind will require a great deal of effort.

The Research and Documentation Centre

The ultimate aim of improving the infrastructure of scientific work is naturally to foster the closer involvements of research in the formulation of policy, wherever this would be meaningful. As we have already stated, the scientific staff must help to bring this about

by stimulating the interest of the policy-planners. There is no point in attempting to do so, however, without sufficient resources of scientific workers, internal or external, to meet any demand created in this way. The research programme presented in this issue shows that considerable use is made of external experts. As the following table shows, the funds made available for this purpose in 1975 have been increased by not an insubstantial amount.

Sums allocated for research in the years 1970 - 1975:

1970	D.Fls.	792,000.00
1971	D.Fls.	970,000.00
1972	D.Fls.	1,000,000.00
1973	D.Fls.	1,035,000.00
1974	D.Fls.	1,035,000.00
1975	D.Fls.	2,000,000.00

However, it would be wrong to work exclusively with outside institutes. It is not always possible to contract research and for well known reasons, there may even be certain drawbacks attached to it. Sometimes there is no interest in the field to be investigated. In other cases there may be interest, but the project cannot be given the priority which the principal deems necessary.

Sometimes it appears subsequently that the researcher has not complied strictly with the question, while in other instances the Ministry judges the topic to be too delicate. Often the research takes too long and the reports are found to be too academic. For these and other reasons Ministries should have their own research institute, which in the case of the Ministry of Justice is the Research and Documentation Centre. As the name indicates the Centre consists of two departments, one for documentation and one for research. The documentation department is staffed by a team of documentalists, a number of literature researchers and a group concerned with crime rate figures. This department is also responsible for the journal 'Judicial Reconnaissances'. In brief, the function of this department is to make available literature of importance in the legal field, to compile abstracts of the literature, to conduct literature studies, to collect data on the growth of criminality and to publish a documentation periodical.

The research department consists of six sections, which are divided into two groups. Group I comprises the following sections: alien affairs, the police, the judiciary and general criminology. Group II comprises the sections prison service, care of criminal psychopaths (TBR) / probation and after-care and pro memoria for

the time being, child care. In addition, the research department includes a legislation section. Finally, the Centre contains an external research section which maintains contacts with outside researchers. This will be considered in more detail later.

How does the Centre work?

As stated before, the services of the Centre are available to the various judicial departments of the Ministry, and as such it may be described as a service institute. The purpose of the Centre is by means of research to accumulate, or help to accumulate data of importance for the development of policy. This starts from the principle that the optimum development of policy is achieved by the maximum utilisation of possibilities offered by science.

Naturally opinions may differ on this point. Indeed, it does not have to be accepted absolutely and without question; instead it should be regarded as a kind of credo serving as a guideline for the Centre's activities. Obviously this point of view must preclude the notion of passively waiting to be consulted by the policy planners. It generates instead a desire to accomplish more in the field of research. Ways will have to be found of fostering those research projects which are deemed to be of importance because of the problems related. This will only be possible, however, when the research staff are sufficiently well informed about the problems dealt with by the various policy making departments. Unfortunately, this is still altogether out of the question. It may even be wondered whether that stage will ever be reached. However, this situation must be regarded as a major obstacle to the development of scientific work and must therefore be paid maximum attention. It has already been shown that improvement of the infrastructure of scientific work ('reticulation') and closer 'proximity' must be considered prerequisites. However, this cannot be accomplished overnight. What then are the short-term prospects?

Attempts are already being made to improve the situation with the aid of the Centre's research sections. The intention is to man each (research) section with two researchers, of whom the senior will liaise with the relevant departments. The employment of such specialists has various advantages. The researchers concerned can not only familiarise themselves as a theorist with the literature relevant to their field, but at the same time they become acquainted with the practical aspects

of the sphere of activities entrusted to them. In this way they can develop that degree of expertise which will make them acceptable as discussion partners to the departments concerned. The presence of a permanent contact will also improve the communication with the Centre, which in the end will establish a more informal relationship between the policy department and the Centre. This can release a flow of information which will afford the research staff more insight into what is afoot in the various departments and thus widen their range of action. Additional activities of the Centre which are directed toward the various departments include one connected with the research programme to be drawn up each year. To prevent the programme being unduly influenced by current events (prisons escapes, kidnapping and such like), and thus acquiring too much of an ad hoc character, the Centre has started to draw up surveys of topics of potential relevance in the various spheres of activity (police, Department of Public Prosecutors, etc.).

These surveys are in fact comprehensive inventories which indicate in a systematic manner per area (recruitment, training, work performance, organisation, etc.) the points that could be investigated. They allow for a more deliberate choice to be made while at the same time they facilitate planning a number of years ahead. Research lists of this kind have been compiled for such fields as the police, the judiciary, the prison service, probation and after-care, etc.

The connective function of the Centre

A number of the Centre's activities referred to in this introduction may be regarded as fulfilling a connective function. They are:

- the identification of potential fields of research
- the analysis of problems confronting the administration in order to make clear which aspects of those problems are suitable for further study with the aid of research.

Another function of the Centre is what might be called the 'translational function'. The contents of research reports must be submitted to the department heads concerned in a manner which will be intelligible to them. The reports in their original form do not always satisfy this requirement, and it is therefore unwise to forward them without amendment. Too many researchers fail to realise that administrators apply different criteria when judging research reports than do fellow-researchers.

Administrators wish to read brief reports which avoid the use of jargon and which confine themselves so far as possible to practical matters. With few exceptions, they have little interest in exhaustive, methodological discussions, the weighing up of the advantages and disadvantages of statistical analyses, extensive factfinding in the literature, historical reviews and the like. In short, anything what wil prove to be of no relevance for them later should not be dealt with at any length in the report.

Such a frame of reference clearly offers researchers few opportunities of allowing their talents full reign in their projects. They must decide whether they wish their work to be read appreciatively by the administrators or by their colleagues and those wish who to impress both groups will be obliged to write two reports.

The centre can also fulfil an important connective function in its contact with outside institutions and researchers, which is channelled through the External Research Section. Here too, a passive role must be avoided, as one of its primary tasks is to foster contact with research institutes. The aims of this are twofold. Firstly, the institutes can in this way be informed of the potential areas of research in which the Ministry is interested, thus affording them greater insight into the problems under consideration in the Ministry and directing their interest towards major policy problems. A second, and no less important function is to assist in the formulation of those questions which outside researchers would like to see investigated and which must be presented in the manner most likely to elicit a positive response from the appropriate authorities. Thus the departmental staff members have a translational function to fulfil as well, but now in relation to the researchers. It is their job to advise the researchers of the best approach to be adopted, to indicate the objections which can be excepted and to show at the same time how these can best be overcome. Ideally the parties concerned should work out a joint strategy to ensure that the project is piloted through the Ministry as efficiently as possible. Important points here are: to reduce so far as possible any anticipated resistance, to establish the phassing and to solicit the support of those people whose cooperation is indispensable to the success of the project.

The above presupposes a relationship of mutual confidence between the staff researchers and those outside. The external researchers must feel assured that the

ministerial research staff is prepared to promote their interests. This is not always the case because the departmental staff often choose to remain uncommitted, not deciding about the fundamental question of whether or not to support a particular project, and because polarisation occurs too frequently between the parties, with too much emphasis being placed upon the supposed points of difference and too little attention being paid to their common interest during their discussion of their respective positions. Frequent contact, preferably in the form of the joint implementation of research projects, can help overcome these undesirable barriers between external researchers and internal staff members.

The research staff, in their connective function, must ensure that the research methods and techniques utilised are of the required standard. They must also try to effect, wherever possible, that research requested by external bodies is as relevant as possible to ministerial policy. This 'guidance function' in helping to deal with subsidy requests is the responsibility of the External Research Section of the Centre.

Basic criteria of research policy

It has already been seen that the research programme of the Ministry of Justice is divided into research carried out within the Ministry and external research. The internal research programme is usually established after discussions between the various departments of the Ministry and the Centre, in which the scientific advisory sections have an important part to play. So far as the external research is concerned, studies in the field of child care are channelled through the Coordinating Committee for Child Care Research. The remaining projects are dealt with by the Centre's external research section.

It may be wondered what basic criteria underlie the ministerial research programme. This question has been posed before, and indeed Professor Schuyt has already discussed it in his article 'Policy and Research' (1973). An analysis of the research programme of the Ministry of Justice in which he refers, amongst other things, to the lack of coherence and balance in the programmes put forward and the need to develop certain basic points of departure for further research activity. Though this criticism is not unwarranted in itself, it may nevertheless be asked whether it is reasonable to require outward coherence in view of the diversity of the work carried out by the Ministry of Justice. (The research programme

of this Ministry will always be characterized by its extensive scope and diversity of problems). However, this does not imply that the scientific work should not be supported by a basic philosophy. The prime philosophy could be called (so to speak) a realistic philosophy. It means maximum promotion of research. This can only be achieved when the policy planners and the administrators feel that they can obtain some benefit from research.

Research workers cannot simply pick and choose as they wish. Some of the projects undertaken will not be selected primarily for their relevance, but because they constitute a first and important step in the further extension of policy-supporting research. In such cases the major factor will be the creation of goodwill and the fostering of sound interrelations.

A practical approach of this kind is essential at the present time, when opinions vary so widely on the value of research for the development of policy. However important this point of departure may be, it is clear that it can and may never be fully definitive for the policy concerning research and by extension, for the research programme. What other criteria can then be applied? Naturally an essential point is that research must be relevant to the policy. In effect it means that it has its own part to play in the identification of existing needs, that it must be directed toward evaluation of the organisations concerned with the administration of justice and the systems forming part of them, that it must provide the information needed to remove the bottlenecks encountered in the day-to-day conduct of affairs, and that it must contribute to the development of policy in the long-term.

This philosophy has resulted in studies such as that of Professor Melai and his associates on the need of detainees for legal aid in civil proceedings and that of Professor Schuyt on the need for legal assistance.

A similar investigation into the provision of help at an early stage in the process of probation and after-care is a further example of the tracing of existing needs. The intention of carrying out an evaluation of various aspects of justice and law explains the institution of such projects as the evaluation of primary police-training, an analysis of detection and prosecution activities, various studies of the prison service, studies connected with legislation such as an investigation of the implementation of the Annual Reports Act and an analysis of the effectiveness of measures aimed at the protection of the environment.

Studies concerning legislation (e.g. the law of succession and the law of copyright) and the development of sentencing policy are examples of research devised to serve as a contribution to future policy.

Research into arresting policy, training problems, prisoners serving medium-term sentences and problems attaching to the care of criminal psychopaths is designed to support the development of policy in the long term. Another example of this kind of research is the projected study concerning more structured social inquiry reports.

Also of great importance are the inquiries, conducted yearly, in order to gain a deeper understanding into the extent and development of criminality in the Netherlands. Such studies are of great significance. They provide not only a valuable supplement to the data published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, but at the same time act as a sort of barometer, indicating developments which require the attention of the Government. While it may be observed, and perhaps not unjustly, that there are other subjects to be researched and more pressing problems to be considered, it should be born in mind that Rome was not built in one day. The research conducted within the Ministry of Justice is in the process of development and is receiving careful attention. To echo the sentiments of the department staff, 'Don't shoot the pianist, he's doing his best!'

Departmental research and scientific objectivity

A question which may certainly not be omitted from a consideration of the Ministry and its research is whether the fact that the Research and Documentation Centre is a ministerial research department poses any threat to its scientific integrity. In principle such a threat is always present. Both the administrators and the research staff will have to be aware of this. They must appreciate the fact that objectivity is of prime importance and that they are not working for each other but for the community.

In principle it must therefore be accessible to all who are concerned with the future of justice and law and its expertise must be made available to persons and institutions outside the civil service. This ideal is perhaps still far from being realised. Numerous obstacles are still to be overcome. In addition to material obstacles such as the lack of sufficient funds, the more abstract problems, such as potential doubt of the capacity of civil service departments to act impartially in affairs to

which the Government is a party, should not be underestimated.

The saying 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating' is here particularly relevant.

The Centre must become aware of its role as trend setter and it must remain accessible to all whose interests lie in this field. The question of whether or not this form of open management will eventually be achieved is of decisive importance for the further progress of the research conducted by the Ministry of Justice.

Research*

Summary of the research projects

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III Child Care Research. Projects sponsored by the Coordinating Committee for Child Care Research page 38

* This review has been compiled by the Research and Documentation Centre in May 1976.

I Research in co-operation with institutes or experts in the Netherlands

1 **Recidivism (1964)**

A project set up to ascertain on the basis of sentences imposed on first offenders the relationship between their punishment and any subsequent recidivism. The study was initiated by the Central Bureau of Statistics and Professor Ch. J. Enschedé, under whose direction the project was carried out by the Hamel seminar of the University of Amsterdam.

An interim report by D. M. van Dijk on the methods used in setting up the project appeared in June 1971 in *'The Netherlands Journal of Criminology'*.

2 **Persons remanded in custody (1970)**

A project devised to supply the answers to two key questions: how do people who have been remanded in custody experience their imprisonment and what are the effects of the imprisonment upon their relationships with their family, their neighbours and their fellow-workers? The study was initiated by the Ministry of Justice and was carried out at the Institute of Criminology of the State University of Groningen under the direction of Dr. D. W. Steenhuis. Four reports have been published.

3 **The consequences of imprisonment (1972)**

The object of the study is to examine the effects of imprisonment on the social relations of prisoners and their families and the significance which the length of sentence may have in that respect. It was instituted by L. M. Moerings of the Institute of Criminology of the State University of Utrecht under the supervision of Professor R. Rijksen. The final report will be published in 1976.

4 **The upbringing patterns of offenders convicted of crimes of violence (1972)**

The main purpose of this project was to ascertain the manner in which aggressive behaviour is passed on from one generation to the next and the role which variables connected with personality and environment play in this phenomenon. The project was run by the Institute of Criminology of the State University of Groningen and the researcher was Dr. H. L. W. Angenent. The final report was published in 1975.

5 **Offenders detained at the Government's pleasure (1972)**

A project set up to ascertain the efficacy of this measure in aiding the resocialisation of the offenders detained under it during the period 1958-1962. A further question is whether it is possible to distinguish particular types of offenders on the basis of their personal data, their criminal records and recidivistic tendencies. The project was jointly initiated by the Selection Institute in Utrecht and the researcher H. Hamers, and is being conducted under the supervision of Dr. J. van Weringh, professor of criminology at the University of Amsterdam. The research will be concluded in 1976 with the publication of a doctoral thesis.

6 **Concealed criminality among discharged prisoners (1972)**

A project devised to determine what value can be placed upon data concerning the recidivism of discharged prisoners obtained from the relevant documentation. This project is part of an extensive follow-up study of discharged prisoners organised by the institutes of criminology of the State University of Groningen, the University of Amsterdam and the Free University of Amsterdam. This particular project is being carried out under the supervision of Professor J. van Weringh and will be completed this year.

7 **The victims of crime (1973)**

A study intended to reveal the nature and extent of damage sustained and suffering endured by victims of crime among the Dutch population, and to ascertain the readiness of the public to lodge complaints, their appreciation of the police, their attitudes towards crime and such like. The project was initiated by the Institute of Criminology of the Catholic University of Nijmegen (Professor C. I. Dèssaur) and is being carried out by J. P. S. Fiselier. An interim report has been issued.

8a **General deterrence I (1973)**

The aim of this project was to determine whether the legal sanctions imposed for driving under the influence of drink or drugs have a general deterrent effect and if so, to what extent and in what way. The Ministry of Justice commissioned the Institute of Criminology of the State University of Groningen to carry out this study. The researcher, Dr. D. W. Steenhuis, was assisted by

an advisory committee under the chairmanship of the Public Prosecutor of the Court of Appeal in Leeuwarden. The report was published in 1975.

8b **General deterrence II (1975)**

The aim of the second part of this project is to establish the nature of the deterrent effect of new legislation popularly referred to as 'the Act of November 1st'. The fieldwork was carried out in the spring of 1975 and the final report was ready in the end of 1975.

9 **Judicial documentation (1974)**

The object is to ascertain how Dutch legislation concerning judicial documentation is juridically conceived and how it is applied in practice. The inquiry, which has not yet progressed beyond the stage of collecting material, is being conducted by Mrs. H. Singer-Dekker of the Institute of Criminology of the Catholic University of Nijmegen under the supervision of Professor W. H. A. Jonkers.

10 **The social organisation of legal aid, Phase I (1974)**

A project designed to identify the organisations concerned with providing legal advice, the manner in which the aid is given and the extent of the need for such help. The investigation, is being carried out at the Institute of Criminology of the Catholic University of Nijmegen under the supervision of Professor C. J. M. Schuyt.

11 **The views of senior students of Dutch law about career opportunities in the judiciary (1974)**

An inquiry designed to ascertain the views of various categories of students about the judiciary, the training course for judicial officers and the selection procedure preceding it. It has been conducted by the Institute for Applied Sociology at Nijmegen and the final report was published in 1975.

12 **Victims of grave offences against property and of aggressive offences (1974)**

The questions under investigation are:

- 1 What is the extent of the material, bodily, mental and social injury sustained by the various victims?

- 2 What is their attitude towards the offender, the crime and the judicial and police authorities?
- 3 Are the victims aware of the possibility of receiving compensation and to what extent is this right exercised? The project, which is still in the opening stages, is being carried out by G. J. A. Smale at the Institute of Criminology of the State University of Groningen under the supervision of Professor R. W. Jongman.

13 **The powers of supervision exercised by group leaders in prisons for young offenders. Part 1: the way in which the young prisoner experiences his environment (1975)**

The aim is to identify the problems experienced by these prisoners as a result of their imprisonment and to ascertain how they deal with them under different types of regime. Data is still being collected for this project, which is being conducted by the Institute of Clinical and Industrial Psychology at the State University of Utrecht. The researcher is J. E. Rink and the supervisor is Professor J. W. F. Kok.

Applications for grants for the following projects in the course of preparation are currently under consideration.

14 **The provision of legal aid (in civil proceedings) for prisoners**

The provision of legal aid for prisoners in civil proceedings is viewed in the context of their overall problems as classified on a general basis. The project will be carried out at the Institute of Criminology of the State University of Leiden by Professor A. L. Melai and associates.

15 **The incidence of fraud in relation to public transport**

The origin and extent of the commission of fraud by users of public transport. Possible preventive measures and the cost of controls are to be examined together with the question of whether free public transport might be preferable to that for which a charge is made. The study is being conducted at the Institute of Criminology of the State University of Leiden by A. R. Hauber under the supervision of Professor W. H. Nagel.

16 **The growth of crime in the Flevo polder**

One of the aims is to compare the crime rate in Lelystad

with that in Almere. The project was initiated by Professor J. van Weringh of the Institute of Criminology of the University of Amsterdam.

17 **An assessment basis for annual reports**

Three commissions concerned with the filing of annual reports are currently preparing an investigation into administrative practices in connection with the Annual Reports Act.

II Research conducted by the Research and Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Justice

18 The extent and growth of crime (1975)

To gain more insight into the growth of crime, the Centre has drawn up a questionnaire which is submitted yearly to a large number of people. The data are collected by the Dutch Institute for Public Opinion and Market Research by means of a random sample structured according to the size of the provinces and municipalities and to the distribution of housing. There are some 3 000 respondents each year. The respondent is asked to state whether he/she has been the victim of any of the criminal offences listed on the form

- at any time
- in the year preceding the inquiry
- in the current year.

The offences in question are such common offences as pickpocketing, theft of bicycles and mopeds, theft of and from cars, and burglary. Other questions deal with the filing of the complaint and the circumstances under which the offence took place. The questionnaires will be continued in the next few years in an extended form as regards both content and scope, which will yield more information for statistical analysis.

19 Crime committed against the retail trade (1974)

A representative sample of retailers in towns with a population of more than 100,000 has been asked to answer the same questionnaire in four consecutive periods in 1975, with the object of determining the nature and extent of the crime confronting this group. The project is being conducted in close cooperation with the consultative authority of the central employer's organisations for medium and small-sized business firms the Central Board for the Retail Trade, the Central Registration Office for the Retail Trades and Crafts and the Institute for Economic Research for Small and Medium-sized business firms. The data were processed in January, April, July and October 1975. The final report will be published in Summer 1976.

20 Crime and the Dutch municipalities (1974)

The project was actuated by the anxiety about the crime

rate, which was expressed during the parliamentary debate on the Ministry of Justice budget for 1974. Its purpose is to determine the extent to which such fears about the growth of crime are apparent at the local level. For that purpose a survey has been conducted among 180 municipalities, in which the mayor was asked whether any special attention has been paid to crime during the financial year 1973/1974. With the aid of the minutes of the council-meetings it was determined to what types of crime attention had been devoted and how this had been done. One of the findings is that the great majority of Dutch municipalities give no special consideration to crime. A correlation was found to exist between the size of the community and the amount of attention devoted by the municipal authorities to the subject. In virtually all municipalities with 100,000 or more inhabitants the authorities are concerned about the subject of crime. In smaller municipalities they sometimes refer to the national crime rate. A preliminary report was published in 1975. The final report will be published in the Summer of 1976.

21 Fear of crime among the Dutch population (1975)

The purpose of this investigation is to note the extent, distribution, intensity and possible consequences of feelings of disquiet about crime and violence among the public. In order to form a solidly-based opinion regarding the growing alarm which is being suggested by various media and which has been penetrated into parliamentary circles, a systematic inventory of feelings of disquiet in general and of those relating to crime in particular is currently in progress. The points to be elicited are the extent of these feelings, their distribution among various population groups, and whether the degree of disquiet affects personal behaviour (e.g. reluctance to go in the streets at night) or results in the adoption of extra security measures (the installation of security equipment). Attention is also being given to the extent to which the views of those expressing different degrees of alarm differ upon such matters as the treatment and sentencing of offenders, the conduct of the police, the character and background of 'the criminal'. Also questioned is the influence which personal experience with various types of crime has upon the views of the individual.

To obtain this information a partly structured questionnaire has been presented to approximately 1,200 people who constitute a representative section of the Dutch

population. The sample, the fieldwork and the initial processing of the data were entrusted to the Research and Marketing Institute at Heerlen. The subsequent analysis is now at an advanced stage.

The final report will be published in the Summer of 1976.

22 **Analysis of crime reporting in the Dutch press (1974)**

Articles about crime published in eleven newspapers in the years 1965 to 1974 have been analysed. Of these articles a large number of variables including those relating to the lay-out and the type of article have been measured. The study also extends to whether the articles contain suggestions or remarks about, amongst other things, an increase or decrease in crime, feelings of concern among the public, safety on the streets and the conduct of the police. A number of characteristics of newspapers and other media, and of the eleven researched newspapers and their readers in particular, are given. The growth of crime, so far as this can be judged from the police and district court records, is compared with the picture presented in the papers. The report goes into more deeply underlying factors, such as the in fact committed crime and the reports of them and the effect of articles about crime upon the reader. It is hoped that the following questions can be answered: Have there been any changes in crime reporting over the years? Does crime reporting vary from paper to paper? Is there any relationship between the reporting of crime in the newspapers and the official records? The report will be published in the Summer of 1976.

23 **Robbery (1973)**

This research project, which is being carried out in collaboration with the Institute of Criminology of the State University of Groningen, consists of two parts. The first is a descriptive study based upon the quarterly reports of the Central Criminal Information Department from 1968 to 1975.

It considers many aspects of this offence and its growing incidence, and examines in more detail the sentencing of offenders convicted in the period under review.

The second part comprises an explanatory study based upon interviews with fifty offenders convicted of raids upon banks, post offices and petrol stations, in which attention is devoted, among other things, to their backgrounds, their financial situation and their expectations of the future. A report on both parts of the

project will be issued in 1976, following upon the partial report presented at the Criminology Congress in Amsterdam in 1975.

24 Car theft (1974)

The purpose of this investigation into car theft (and joy-riding) is to examine the circumstances and conditions under which the offence is committed with a view to taking preventive measures. The project focuses more especially on situational factors such as the time and place of the offence and the techniques deployed. Other points include the factors promoting the offence, the types of cars that are susceptible to theft and the reasons for this. The data were obtained by means of an analysis drawn from the official reports of complaints registered during the years 1970 to 1974 inclusive.

In addition, a number of victims of car theft have been interviewed, and further interviews are to be held with offenders convicted of this offence or of joy-riding. The final report was published at the beginning of 1976.

25 Arresting policy (1972)

At the request of the Working Group on Arresting Policy, the Centre has carried out an investigation into the policy underlying the drawing up of official reports. It was conducted in two stages, the first of which was decision to press charges or not, and that the perceptual between the assessment of the police and that of the public prosecutor of the gravity of 50 summarised offences. This was based on the supposition that the gravity of an offence could be an important factor in the decision to press charges or not, and that the perceptual element in this respect underlies differences in behaviour. The second part of the study comprised a simulation-experiment in which law enforcement officers were presented with ten complaints from which they were asked to select the information they needed for decisions affecting the investigation. The results showed that the differences in their subsequent decision, which were not significant, could not be attributed to differences in the information given, since each officer had received exactly the same information. Nor could they be explained by such factors as age, experience, rank, position or membership of the national police corps or municipal police forces.

The final report was published at the beginning of 1976.

26 **Crime detection (1975)**

The object is to arrive at a more precise classification of the statistics regularly published by the Central Bureau of Statistics concerning the investigation of crimes known to the police. Special attention will be devoted to the analysis of a number of cases with a view to tracing the qualitative relation between solved and unsolved crimes. The percentage of crimes in which the offender is identified by members of the public will also be ascertained. The study is still in a preparatory stage.

27 **Avoiding prosecution by paying a fine to the police (1976)**

People may avoid being prosecuted for certain failures in observing the traffic regulations by paying a fine to the police officer who established the fact. On the basis of the fines which in the course of 1973 have been collected in this way by the various police forces, it will be determined what percentage of all established breaches of the traffic regulations has thus been dealt with.

During the second phase of the research the chiefs of police forces that show a strongly deviating percentage of transaction cases will be interviewed. The final report will be published in the autumn of 1976.

28 **Sentencing in cases of serious crime (1976)**

On request of the Chief Public Prosecutor at the Court of Appeal in The Hague a nation-wide inquiry will be made on the basis of the following issues:

- 1 how did the sentencing policy in cases of serious crime develop in the Netherlands during the last few years;
- 2 which characteristics of the offence and of the offender determine the height of the sentence demanded and the penalty imposed;
- 3 does sentencing policy differ regionally?

The data required to answer these questions will be collected from the court records. The report will be published at the beginning of 1977.

29 **The policy underlying the investigation of opium cases (1975)**

On the basis of the quarterly reports published by the

Central Criminal Investigation Department, a survey was made of the nature of the offences under the opium laws, which were investigated in the period from 1971 until September 1974. A report titled 'Prosecution in Respect of Offences Under the Opium Act During the Years 1971-1974' was published in February 1975. The investigation shows that the percentage of accused who were in possession of soft drugs only (hemp products) fell from 71% in 1971 to 62% in 1974, while the percentage of those in possession of hard drugs only, rose from 12% to 22% in the same period. The percentage of accused upon whom both soft and hard drugs were found remained much the same throughout the period.

The report contains further data concerning the average quantity of drugs seized each year; various particulars of the suspects such as age, sex and nationality, and the reasons for their arrest. During the discussion of the report mentioned above it became apparent that it would be advisable to examine in more detail the policy behind investigations arising from the seizure of small quantities of hemp products. The results published in the report has raised the question: Why and through what a relatively large number of proceedings were instituted against people with relatively small quantities of hemp products in their possession when, according to the 1969 directives, the main emphasis of investigations and prosecutions should be placed on drug trafficking and the use of hard drugs.

To answer this question one hundred cases involving the possession of less than fifty grammes of hemp products, were drawn from Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam, Tilburg, Eindhoven and Groningen for further study. The processing of the official reports was followed by interviews with the arresting officers. The analysis of the data obtained was focused on the reasons for, and the background of the arrest.

30 Experiment concerning shop-lifting in Almelo (1973)

At the request of the Public Prosecutor in the district Almelo, an experiment involving a disposal procedure for cases of simple theft was set up and evaluated by the Centre. From 1st April 1973 to 1st January 1974 all cases of shop-lifting in the municipalities of Almelo, Hengelo (Overijssel) and Enschedé involving adult first offenders who had misappropriated goods valued at less than 50 guilders without the help of accomplices and without the use of threats or violence were dismissed after a brief interview by police officers, acting in

the capacity of assistant public prosecutor. The purpose of the interview was twofold: to warn the offenders and to obtain a description of the offence, and to refer them to welfare organisations. The evaluation of the shortened disposal procedure involved 37 women and 18 men. The data were obtained from the official reports of the cases, a specially prepared supplementary information list and a group interview with the police officers concerned. The following step was to analyse the case records in an attempt to ascertain who had not come within the scope of the experiment or, to be more precise, to examine the situation of shop-lifters whose offence had been considered too serious to be dismissed by the police. The evaluation report appeared in its final version in November 1974.

31 **Prosecution policy: the dismissal of criminal cases by the Public Prosecutor in the The Hague district (1975)**

A study set up with a view to help to clarify the current policy concerning the non-institution of proceedings and thus to facilitate any adjustment of the coordination of that policy, which may be necessary.

This study is divided into two stages:

- 1 The first stage comprises an analysis of 3,000 cases of assault, malicious damage to property and theft in the year 1974. It will be examined which factors related to the offender (such as age, social background, criminal record and civil status), which factors related to the offence (seriousness of the crime, relation offender victim and such) and which factors related to the process (such as the time between the act and the decision to prosecute or not and the person of the prosecutor) actually affect the decision to prosecute or not. The relation of these factors and the specific grounds upon which prosecutions have been dropped will also be examined.
- 2 During the second stage of the study the results of the first stage will be discussed by the public prosecutors of the The Hague district. These prosecutors will be asked to make a decision whether to prosecute or not in twenty selected criminal cases and also to give the reasons for their decision. Two methods to facilitate a possible co-ordination of the prosecution policy will be examined during this stage. These methods are:
 - a discussion about their decisions with other public prosecutors and

a written confrontation with the decisions of their colleagues.
The first stage will be completed in the summer of 1976.

32 **The deterrent effect of short prison sentences
(14 days or less) (1972)**

Comparison of recidivism statistics of convicted offenders to whom pardons were granted on the occasion of the marriage of H.R.H. Princess Beatrix with those of similar defendants who had to complete their sentences. The research population consists of 1,000 pardoned prisoners and 1,000 unpardoned prisoners who were sentenced at the end of 1965 and the beginning of 1966 for traffic offences, offences against property or crimes or violence. Further points under investigation defendant is brought to trial and with which the prison are the deterrent effect of the speed with which the sentence is executed, and of differences in the lengths of the prison sentences and the driving disqualifications imposed. A report will be issued in 1976.

X 33 **Crime 1966 (1972)**

Two subjects are covered by this project. The first relates to the factors connected with sentencing and with the imposition of fines in particular. This part was dealt with in the final report of the Commission on Monetary Penalties (1972).

The second point being researched is the deterrent effect of criminal proceedings as such and of various types of sentence of various categories of offences, among them simple theft, simple assault and burglary. A report on the deterrent effect of the speed with which offenders are brought to trial has already been published (1974). The final report will appear in 1976. The research population consists of a sample drawn from the irreversible convictions for criminal offences registered in 1966. The data have been taken from the Registers of Information and from the General Documentation Register of the Documentation Service of the Ministry of Justice.

X 34 **The effect of unconditional and conditional individual pardons (1973)**

For a purposeful and effective policy of pardoning, information about the recidivism of prisoners who have been pardoned is required. The object of the first part

of the project is to determine whether the granting of individual pardons is favourable or unfavourable from the point of view of deterrence. It is based on a sample of offenders convicted of crimes in 1966 (see no. 31 above), plus nearly all offenders convicted in 1966 from whom a request for a pardon was received and granted. The second part of the investigation is a comparison of the effect of unconditional and conditional pardons upon a group of some 350 people who received pardons in 1966 or 1967. The basic material consists of pardon orders together with extracts from the General Documentation Register of the Documentation Service of the Ministry of Justice. The report appeared in May 1976.

35 The administration of criminal justice in cases involving traffic offences (1975)

The cantonal court judges requested two of their number, J. H. Saelman and J. M. Vellinga, to institute an investigation into the amount of time required to deal with simple traffic cases, which means, inter alia, cases where there are no witnesses and no adjournment of the proceedings. Since it proved impossible to process the 15 to 20 items of information adequately without mechanical aid, the researchers requested the Centre to take over the analysis of the data.

To pinpoint the bottlenecks occurring in the course of time-consuming, what regional differences exist and which type of traffic offences take up the most time. time-consuming, what regional difference exist and which type of traffic offence take up the most time. About 1,400 traffic offences, distributed over the 19 districts, are being investigated.

36 Comparison of prison regimes (1974)

This project is designed to determine the short- and medium-term significance and effect of two different regimes for and upon the prisoners, prison officers, professional staff and administrators of two institutions for medium-term prisoners. The work is still in the preparatory stage. The research area and methods are being further defined in close collaboration with all parties concerned.

37 Foreign prisoners (1975)

At the request of the United Nations Social Defence

Research Institute, research has been carried out among more than 100 foreigners detained in houses of detention and prisons in the Netherlands. They were interviewed in accordance with a questionnaire drawn up by the Institute, in which special attention was paid to the way in which they experienced imprisonment and to the language and other problems which they encountered. In addition, discussions were held with the heads of institutions housing comparatively large numbers of foreigners.

The findings have been forwarded in their unprocessed form to the Institute. The results of the interviews held in the Netherlands have been reported in Spring 1976.

38 Experimentation with structured social inquiry reports (1975)

Consultations are at present under way concerning the feasibility of experimenting with structured social inquiry reports with a view to determining by practical means the extent to which structuring is desirable and possible and, once that is established, the form of structuring which would be most effective.

39 The early provision of aid (1975)

A project devised to investigate the effect of the amendments to Sections 59 and 62 of the Code of Criminal Procedure which came into force on January 1, 1974. Provisions were added to these sections to the effect that the Secretary of the Probation and After-Care Council should be immediately informed of every preventive custody order issued by the public prosecutor and that, if as a result a report is drawn up, the public prosecutor should take cognizance of that report before applying to the court for a remand order. The study is at present in a preliminary stage and has still to be translated into operational terms. Attention will be most probably be devoted to the following aspects: the functioning of the foregoing provisions in practice, contact between the police, the probation and after-care council, probation officers and clients, the nature and extent of the problems of persons held in preliminary detention, the possibility and desirability of providing assistance through probation officers and others, and social inquiry reports. The project is scheduled to be completed around August 1977.

40 Psychiatric reports (1975)

An investigation into the need existing in the judicial system for the provision of psychiatric reports on persons waiting trial. It has been occasioned by the apparent decline in the number of such reports coupled with an apparent increase in the application of the prison regulations under which prisoners can be transferred from penal institutions to psychiatric institutions for the care of criminal psychopaths (TBR = Offenders detained at the Government's pleasure). The inquiry will comprise two parts, the first of which will consist of an analysis of cases involving prisoners serving long sentences and prisoners sentenced to detention in a special psychiatric institution for treatment (TBR). It is anticipated that this will provide an insight into the actual procedures and the need for psychiatric reports and placement in TBR institutions. In the second part, research will be conducted into the attitudes of public prosecutors, judges, psychiatrists, probation officers and their potential clients to the functioning and desirability of TBR. It is expected that the data thus obtained will provide insight and guidelines for the policy to be adopted with regard to requests for psychiatric reports and the planning of the capacity of TBR institutions. The study is still in a preparatory stage and will take about two years to complete. Interim reports will be issued at regular intervals.

41 Research Van der Hoeven Clinic (1976)

This research project will be directed on the influence which treatment has on the patients in the TBR-institution at the Van der Hoeven Clinic, Utrecht.

The project will cover the following subjects:

- the determination of typical characteristics of the patients who have undergone treatment in the course of years;
- making an inventory of the particular modes of treatment which have been applied in the clinic with their basic philosophies;
- follow-up research regarding former patients: what has become of them after their release, how do they experience their present situation?

The search for correlation between the three aspects mentioned may contribute to an evaluation of the work at the Van der Hoeven Clinic.

42 **The relation between the primary police-training and practice (1975)**

In order to keep the functioning of the police in tune with the different conditions in these times of sweeping social changes, the need arises to evaluate the primary police training. The questions should be answered in what way young police officers function in practice after completing their training and whether the training forms an adequate preparation. The research is expected to facilitate the making of recommendations for adjustment of the training. The research, which comprises seven phases, will be done in three training-schools (1 state police school, and 2 community police schools) in co-operation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and an independent institution for social research. The seventh phase covers a public opinion poll on the demands and expectations of the public regarding the police. Comparisons will be made with the internal requirements of the police. The final report is expected to be completed in the end of 1977.

43 **Police handling of emergency calls (1974)**

The aim of this pilot study was to obtain as complete a picture as possible of the nature and extent of the requests for help and assistance reaching the Hague police on their emergency telephone number. Attention was also given to the response to these requests and to the amount of time and manpower involved in providing assistance, when required, at the scene of the event. The researchers monitored and logged all telephone and mobilophone calls received in the police control room during one whole week, day and night, in October 1974. Data were also recorded by the crews of the patrol cars about each assignment emanating from the control room. The report was published in March 1975.

44 **The law of succession (1975)**

In connection with the enactment of new legislation governing the law of succession prior to the introduction of Book IV of the new Civil Code, the Centre was asked to undertake research into the views of the public concerning a number of alternative systems for a law of succession. These systems differ from the present system as regards the position of the surviving spouse. Their principal mutual difference concerns the nature of the children's rights (money and chattels) and the

moment at which these rights can be enforced (immediately after the death of the first spouse or after that of the surviving spouse).

In October 1975 a representative sample of the population has been asked to state their views concerning the law of succession. The survey deals with the extent to which people are conversant with the present law and will record their opinions on possible amendments to the law. The report has been published in the beginning of 1976.

45 **The law of copyright (1974)**

In collaboration with the Private Law Legislation Division of the Ministry the Centre is conducting research into the use of photocopying machines with the object of gaining some idea of the number of copies made of works protected by copyright. During three periods of observation of about one week, during the end of 1974 and the beginning of 1975, a count was kept of all copies produced by the photocopying machines in use at the Ministry to ascertain their nature and content.

The results have been reported to an interministerial working group late in 1975.

III Child Care Research*

46 **Catamnestic research on therapy effects at Zandwijk (1967)**

The dual object is firstly, to ascertain the validity of the personality factors described in a previous study of the relation between personality factors and tendencies towards delinquency in puberty and, secondly, to establish with which psychological test battery a psychological diagnosis can best be made. This project, like the one preceding it, was initiated and carried out by Dr. J. A. M. Schouten.

The final report and the definitive test battery have been published in 1975.

47 **Adjustment and adjustment prediction (AEPRA I 1965)**

The predictability of adjustment to the institutional environment on the basis of environmental, personal and behavioural data collected in an observation centre. The project was initiated by the Eikenstein State Institution in Zeist. The researchers W. Brinkman and H. Kars summarised their 21 constituent reports in a final report which was published in 1974.

48 **Diagnosis of behaviour of minors in institutions (1964)**

The behavioural patterns displayed by children in institutions and the way in which the identification of those patterns can further diagnosis, treatment and evaluation of the latter. The research was initiated and conducted by A. W. Vermeul-Van Mullem of the then Institute for Applied Research in Planned Change and Social Psychology (INTAGON). The final report, supplemented by factor analyses and comments based on observation, appeared as a doctoral dissertation in 1974, and the behaviour assessment instrument in 1975.

49 **Volunteer family guardians (1969)**

The focal point of this study carried out by N. Schelvis on behalf of Interact B.V. shifted gradually from 'What are the reasons explaining the decline in the number of volunteer supervisors?' to 'What image does the volunteer family guardian have of the conceptions,

* All projects listed below were sponsored by the Co-ordinating Committee for Child Care Research.

experiences and motives underlying his sense of satisfaction?'. Reports were published in the year 1971 to 1974 inclusive. No decision has yet been taken about a follow-up study.

50 The isolated individual in institutions (1971)

The personality traits of isolated individuals in institutional groups, the social relations prevailing in those groups; and the consequences of these factors from the point of view of treatment or transfer to other institutions. Sociometric and psychological test data are being deployed. The investigation has been conducted by J. van der Ploeg in collaboration with the Psychological Laboratory of the University of Amsterdam. It was concluded in 1975 with the publication of a doctoral thesis.

51 Adjustment and adjustment prediction II (AEPRA II 1973)

The practicability, effectiveness and validity of the advisory procedure developed in AEPRA I (see No. 47). Follow-up and psychological data are being used in the project. K. Mesman Schultz (Inter-University Institute for Social Research, SISWO) conducted the research, which was initiated by W. Brinkman. The final report will appear in 1976.

52 Adjustment and adjustment prediction III (AEPRA III 1975)

A project consisting of five parts aimed at the constant adjustment of the processes of prediction, the development of differential procedures of prediction for certain institutional settings and the study of the advantages and disadvantages of practical possibilities, including forms of co-operation between various institutions. The researcher is K. Mesman Schultz. The final report is not expected to be completed before the end of 1978.

53 The consequences of the traumatism of Jewish war orphans (1973)

A study being conducted by the psychiatrist H. Keilson into the age-specific after-effects of the stress endured by living in hiding and living with foster parents, based on data derived from the records of the Jewish Board of Guardians. The final report is expected this or next year.

54 **Foster homes II (1973)**

The nature of relations formed in the foster home. The researcher, A. M. Weterings of the Pedagogics Institute at Leiden, is utilising data from a previous project, Foster Homes I, whose final report appeared in 1971, and from follow-up interviews. Internal reports appeared in 1973, 1974 and 1975. The final report will be published in 1976.

55 **The placing of children in foster homes (1974)**

The researcher, A. C. C. van den Oever of the social psychology teaching and research unit of the State University, Leiden, is seeking to identify those factors which will enable a forecast to be made of whether fosterage will be successful. Internal reports appeared in 1973, 1974 and 1975. The final report will be published in 1979.

56 **Maladjusted girls (1971)**

The identification of subgroups which are suitable for differential treatment techniques. The research material consists of tests, interview data, anamnesis and follow-up interviews. The researcher is K. Frans of the State University of Groningen. The final report is expected this year.

57 **Supervision of group leaders in child care institutions (Phase I 1973)**

A study devised to provide the insight required to improve the functioning of group leaders. The researcher M. Klomp, is using interviews, observation and descriptive techniques and is also carrying out a literature study. The preliminary investigation report was published in 1975. The final report will appear in 1976 or 1977.

58 **The use of questionnaires for social inquiry reports in criminal cases (1974)**

The development of an improved system for the reports drawn up by the child care boards for the judicial and prosecuting authorities and child care organisations. The project was initiated by the Child Care Board at Rotterdam and is being carried out by H. M. Willemse of the Institute of Criminology at Leiden by means of discussions, a literature study and a statistical analysis of information obtained from completed questionnaires. The final report is to appear in 1977.

59 **Behaviour therapy (1973)**

A study initiated by the Ministry of Justice and being conducted by A Bartels of the Institute of Pedology at Amsterdam. The first part of the investigation consists of a project complying with the requirements of a scientific experiment which sets out to determine the effect of a treatment method (in the present case, extramural behaviour therapy) for 'pre-delinquent' boys by means of the statistical analysis of measurements of dependent variables obtained during treatment. Four internal reports were produced in both 1973 and 1974, and one in 1975. The final report is expected in 1976.

60 **The caseload of social workers in guardianship and family guardianship institutions (1975)**

The establishment of what constitutes a workable, normative caseload by means of the available data, comparative research, case analysis and the listing of contacts. The work is being carried out by the De Galan and Voigt Organisation Development Bureau on the initiative of the Caseload Working Group set up by the Ministry of Justice and the National Federation for Child Care. The project is still in a preparatory stage. A preliminary memorandum was issued in 1975 by the researchers and the supervisory committee.

The following projects are still in the preparatory stage.

61 **Discussions between family guardians and the families in their care (1975)**

The Ministry of Justice has proposed to the Co-ordinating Committee that a project be set up to assess the validity of the conclusions drawn by Pro Juventute Amsterdam in its report entitled 'Family Treatment Project'. The aims would include:

- the establishment of criteria for those cases in which the family discussion method is applicable and the improvement of diagnostic methods;
- study of the results produced by these methods.

62 **Effectiveness of treatment in institutions**

The Ministry of Justice had informed the Co-ordinating Committee that the extent to which it is possible and desirable to prepare a reasonably elaborated research

proposal is under consideration. The word 'effectiveness' refers to the degree to which treatment in an institution contributes to the solution of the problems occasioning hospitalisation.

63 Behaviour rating instrument

An investigation to be carried out with Dr. A. W. Vermeul-Van Mullem of the Institute for Applied Social Research, Advice and Assistance (ITOBA) into the extent to which the use of the results of her project 'Diagnosis of behaviour of children in institutions' could be improved by means of grants covering the introduction of her behaviour rating instrument. An evaluation project could perhaps be added.

64 Approach to the ill-treatment of children in the Netherlands

Dr. J. E. Doek of the law faculty of the Free University of Amsterdam has submitted a preliminary plan for a project in three stages:

- 1 Is there any system to be found in the advisory and mediatory work of the so-called 'confidential doctors'? * If so, to what extent is it consistent with the relational disturbances which underlie the ill-treatment of children?
- 2 What happens before and after the intervention of the doctor as regards the organisational process, the methods and the effects?
- 3 Systematic application and evaluation of the methods established under 1.

65 The caseload of supervisors in guardianship and family guardianship organisations

In consultation with the Supervisory Committee for Social Workers Caseload Research, the De Galan and Voigt Organisation Development Group has proposed that the caseload of supervisors be subjected to investigation.

66 Processing of information: Valkenheide

This project forms part of a wider research programme. The Valkenheide residential training school wishes to adopt a type of organisational structure which will enable it to determine which pedagogical tactics are best

* A small number of regionally appointed doctors who at as reference point in cases of child abuse.

suited to the various problem categories. One of the aims of the project is to establish the identity of the institution and its inmates so that the methods of treatment can be brought into harmony with that identity (improved help) and the categories that do not benefit from treatment can be excluded (better selection).

67 The application of supervision orders

Dr. J. E. Doek of the law faculty of the Free University of Amsterdam has submitted a preliminary plan for a study of the nature (and changes in the nature) of supervision orders, including the testing of a number of hypotheses concerning the causes of the sharp decline in the application of this measure.