

# THE DYNAMICS, ETIOLOGY AND PREDICTION OF THE JUVENILE CRIMINALITY IN ROMANIA

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*The study approaches aspects of the juvenile criminality, debating on the significance of the 'criminality' notion; the criteria that qualifies an act committed by a minor as illegitimate or illegal; the difference between sanctioning systems from different countries etc. The main part of the study consists in presenting the tendencies and the evolution of the juvenile criminality phenomenon in Romania, between 1990-2000, and the relevant etiological factors that determined this evolution.*

## The dynamics and evolution of the juvenile criminality phenomenon before 1989

During the totalitarian regime in Romania the juvenile criminality constituted a social problem and a complex phenomenon resulted from the interaction of both social and individual causes and some favorizing conditions which were ignored or even denied sometimes by the factors having responsibility functions in the field of law application or youth moral socialization.

Although, sometimes the existence of some criminal manifestations within the young people as admitted, they were minimized as compared to the situation of juvenile criminality in other countries (especially the capitalist ones), the social control factors insiting upon the necessity of increasing the "firmness and combating of the bourgeois ideology influence, towards the manifestations of an old, backward and with mystic influences mentality". For this reason the politics of criminality combating and prevention among the young was based, predominantly, on the educational and conscience factor intervention, on the necessity of respecting 'out of belief' the socialist norms of work and life, on the education of the young in a "revolutionary spirit" etc<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Plenary meeting of the Central Committee, No. 29- Dec.1, 1967, regarding the tasks of the party, state and public organizations of the Union of Communist Youth for the improvement of the educative work among the youth, Bucuresti, Editure Politica, 1967, p.7.