

BOOK REVIEW

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Maria Sandu, *Reacția socială împotriva criminalității. Supravegherea și asistența postpenală (Social Reaction Against Criminality. Surveillance and Postpenal Assistance)*, Pro Universitaria, București, 2017

The authoress, Mrs. Maria Sandu is an associate professor PHD at the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Political Sciences, the coordinator of the master's program “Communitarian Security and Control of Violence” at the Department of Sociology and Social Assistance at “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University Iași. She teaches the following courses: *Criminology and Victimology, Probation and Restorative Justice, Social Assistance for Delinquent Persons, Preparations for Release and Postcriminal Assistance, Protection of Family in the European Context, Social Assistance for Persons with Chronic and Terminal Illnesses. Basics of Social Assistance*, during the bachelor's programs as well as master's programs.

As an authoress and co-authoress she has published books, studies and academic courses, among which we mention: “Service of Social Reintegration and Surveillance – a case study” (2002); *Filiation. Social-Judicial Approach* (2003); “Probation and Protection of Victims in the Reform of Criminal Justice in Romania” (2004); “Probation and Social Reinsertion in the Romanian Transition” (2004); “Assistance Aspects from the Perspective of Developing the Romanian Probation System” (2005); “The Criminological Research Between the Practice and the Anticriminal Policy” (2007); “Social Assistance of Deviant Persons” (2008); “Domestic Violence – A Risk Factor in Juvenile Delinquency” (2008); *Manual of Professional Training on the Work with Convicted Persons Who Are About To Be Released from the Penitentiary* (2009); “Criminological Perspective in the Psychosocial Criminal and Postcriminal Assistance “ (2010); “Surveillance and Postcriminal Assistance” (2011); “Social and Legal Protection of Children whose Parents Serve Custodial Sentences” (2012); *Guide for Solving Ethical Dilemmas in Probation Services* (2013); *Protection of Family in the European Context* (2014); “Parental Responsibility and Religious Values Transmitted by Family” (2016);

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“Victim’s Perspective in the Psychosocial Assessment of the Agressional Behavior” (2016); “*Effects of Secularization on the Relationship between Parents and Children. Case Study in Iași City* (2016); “Medical- Legal and Social Premises on the Individualization of Taking and Performing Safety Measures that Have a Medical Character and Apply to Psychiatric and Non Psychiatric Patients” (2017).

The volume called *Reacția socială împotriva criminalității. Supravegherea și asistența postpenală (Social Reaction against Criminality. Surveillance and Postcriminal Assistance)* presents to the readers the modern forms of reaction to criminality from the perspective of the evolution of explanatory paradigms in the field of deviation sociology, criminology and victimology, respectively penology. The authoress considers that, until recently the issue of deviation and of criminality was approached by the prism of the so-called “risk-bearer” with all the psychosocial implications, but at present, without neglecting “the relapse risk”, the accent focuses on “relapse” combined with “withdrawal” in a preventive- restorative approach.

The authoress also points out the fact that the current criminological theories focus on the protective factors to “the needs with criminogenic potential” and to “the criminogenic risk” that she names the inhibiting factors of the criminal conduct and that practically represents the premise from which starts the dynamic psychosocial intervention in making efficient the justice act. Consequently, the procedure of the withdrawal represents, as the authoress puts it, a stage indispensable to the process of rehabilitation and social inclusion of the persons who commit deviating and criminal acts, which activates, to an equal extent the leverage of “the personal capital”, but also the ones of “the social capital”.

This new approach practically offers the contents of the communitarian programs to decrease the risk relapse, focusing to an equal extent on the surveillance and on “the criminal psychosocial assistance” as well as the criminal assistance on the principle of continuity and on the principle of the functional collaboration between institutions. For this purpose, the volume of Mrs. Maria Sandu called *Social Reaction against Criminality. Surveillance and Postcriminal Assistance*, proposes alternative models of restorative justice. On the one hand, it gives examples by methods of assessment, surveillance and assistance, made for the aggressor with a view to the assessment and management of the aggression; on the other hand, the authoress refers to the protective factors and to the conduct of the (self) victim that contributes to making a plan of psychosocial juridical rehabilitation for the aggressor and it also contributes to elaborating strategies meant to protect the victim. Thus, in these “assistance fields”, says the authoress, it is necessary to have in view the methodological approach based on the coordinates of the various types of legal activities such as assessing the defendants, the process of surveilling in the community the persons who did not receive a custodial sentence and the psychosocial assistance, the preparations for the release and the postcriminal assistance inserted in procedures specific to

criminal lawsuit stages defined according to the lawsuit capacity of the beneficiaries.

The first part of the volume called *Social Reaction against Criminality. Surveillance and Postcriminal Assistance* focuses on the criminological and victimological approach from the perspective of “models of social reaction against the criminality phenomenon”. It includes suggestive chapters such as: “Criminological research between the practice and the anticriminal policy”; “Evolution of explanatory theories in the criminological research” (based on “the bio-psychosocial cultural determinism” in complementarity with “the perspective of the dynamic criminology”); “Elements of aggressology and victimology”; “Modern forms of social reaction against deviation, delinquency and criminality”. For this purpose, the social control associated to the forms of social justice becomes a premise to humanize the repression system during the psychosocial specialized intervention, either from outside the criminal justice system (social prevention and negotiation of conflicts), or from inside the criminal justice system (surveillance and psychosocial assistance).

The first part of the volume called *Social Reaction against Criminality. Surveillance and Postcriminal Assistance* continues by analyzing “the probation system” as “a modern form of social reaction and community protection”. It is made up of sub-chapters as follows: “Probation - definition and conceptual evolution”; “Sources of regulating community measures and sanctions” (defining the concept of “probation” at the European level, developing the normative framework at the national and international level in the field of probation, modernizing the juvenile justice system and promoting alternatives to detention for minors, technical assistance and developing the practice in the field of probation). Another sub-chapter is “The probation system and the paradigm of the restorative justice” (social mission, values and ethical principles of probation, the role of probation to protect the victims of certain offence categories, the personnel categories in the probation system, the beneficiaries of the territorial structures in the probation system”, doing probation activities); “The assessment of the probation services - EFQM Excellence Model”.

The second part of the volume *Social Reaction against Criminality. Surveillance and Postcriminal Assistance* is called “Surveillance and psychosocial assistance of delinquent persons and groups”. It focuses on the procedural aspects in the Romanian probation system in collaboration with the freedom depriving environment. Some suggestive chapters are: “Verifying the compliance with measures and the execution of the community sanctions” that approach introductory and conceptual notions, as well as the extension of the surveillance process in the community (the surveillance process of the grown-ups in case of individualized sentences: coordinating the surveillance process in case of postponing the enforcement of the sentence, coordinating the surveillance process in case of suspending “the enforcement of the sentence under surveillance”, coordinating the surveillance process in case of conditional release); “Coordinating the unpaid work for the community” (in case of grown-

ups); “The surveillance process of the minors sanctioned by educational measures in the form of custodial sentence” (coordinating the surveillance process in case of “civical training stage”, the surveillance of the minors as “an educational measure”, in case of “registration at the end of the week” and finally in the case of “daily assistance”).

The second part of the volume proposed by Mrs. Maria Sandu also contains a chapter called “Psychosocial assistance in probation and collaboration with the freedom depriving environment”, in which the authoress presents introductory notions and stages related to “the criminal psychosocial assistance” at the level of the probation system, namely: “the case management in probation”; “the initial assessment of the defendants” (the assessment of the minor defendants, the assessment of the grown-up defendants); “the assessment and management of the criminogenic risk in probation” (the assessment of the minors who serve a non freedom depriving educational measure, the assessment of the minors who serve an educational measure in the form of a custodial sentence, the assessment of grown-ups under the surveillance of the probation service) ; “the relevance of estimating the (self) victim conduct during the psychosocial assessment made for the aggressor” and “the collaboration with the communitarian institutions in order to manage the case in probation”. The last part of the 5th chapter of the volume shows “the specific of the psychosocial assistance made in the freedom depriving environment”, by reference to “the planning and management of serving the imprisonment sentence”, respectively to “the preparations for the release, surveillance after the release and the postcriminal assistance”.

The end of the volume *Social Reaction against Criminality. Surveillance and Postcriminal Assistance* proposes a practical - applicative chapter called “Postcriminal assistance and the decrease of the relapse risk after the imprisonment” that refers to aspects related to the criminological approach in the paradigm of the sentence withdrawal, the surveillance after the release and the postcriminal assistance, by reference to models of psychosocial intervention in the postcriminal assistance exemplified in the program “The decrease of the relapse risk after imprisonment”.

The volume *Social Reaction against Criminality. Surveillance and Postcriminal Assistance* points out the methodology and the legal procedures in the Romanian system of probation but also the novelty of the approach in the penitentiary system that, says the authoress, is in full reform oriented to the social reintegration. For this purpose, the surveillance and the assistance of the aggressor are types of activities related to the competence of the probation services but also to the departments of psychosocial assistance within the educational centres, detention centres and penitentiaries. They practically represent the first step to the mediation between the victim and the aggressor, aspects that are also confirmed by the legislation in force, by reference to the protection of the victim and to the mediation in the criminal jurisdiction.

In conclusion, the volume of Mrs. Maria Sandu, *Social Reaction against Criminality. Surveillance and Postcriminal Assistance* is a real manual of theory

and practice that can be used as a practical guide to elaborate strategies and “action directions circumscribed to criminal policies”, being a genuine work instrument for researchers, professors, students and specialists in the field of social juridical rehabilitation. In essence, the volume of Mrs. Maria Sandu wants to be useful to all the actors involved especially in the social rehabilitation of vulnerable people in order to make and keep the communitarian security.