

## Factors associated with Recidivism The Albanian case

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### Abstract

Recidivism is a term that was for the first time used in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It comes from Latin, *recidivus*, which means "to reoccur" or fall again prey of a bad habit or crime. Even nowadays, recidivism means to relapse into a previous condition or criminal behaviour.<sup>1</sup> It refers mainly to a person's relapse to a criminal behaviour after having served a previous punishment. Recidivism is measured by the criminal offences that lead to the person being re-arrested, re-punished, or re-imprisonment within a three-year period after his first release from prison. (Gjerasi and Tafaj, 2014:5).<sup>2</sup>

Reducing recidivism or reoccurrence of criminal offences by offenders is one of the main goals of both criminal justice and institutions where punishments are served, be it closed or community-based. "Recidivism is also seen as a tool to measure the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in prisons and to make an overall evaluation of such programs. The measurement of recidivism in many countries of the world is made as a separate process or advance study in assessing the effectiveness of prison management or prison services. Lawmakers and policymakers consider recidivism-related data as criteria in evaluating and correcting the performance of the system" (Gjerasi and Tafaj, 2014:6).

The purpose of studying recidivism is to change the attitude and behaviour of criminal offenders. Such change means at least a change of behaviour towards the law and non-repetition of criminal offences in the future. However, before change mechanisms are examined, sufficient data must be collected to show that the risk factors may change and that such change will lead to reducing negative results. (Kroner & Yessine, 2013). Andrews & Bontà (2010) think that appropriate interventions by the criminal justice are effective in reducing negative results.

**Keywords:** The Albanian case, Recidivism, factors.

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European Journal of Economics, Law and Social Sciences ISSN 2519-1284 (print) ISSN  
2510-0429 (online)

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